

Halton Regional museum stresses hands-on activities

The Halton Regional Museum in Milton boasts displays and exhibits totalling over 35,000 artifacts which make up and represent the history of Halton from the earliest days of settlement to present day.

All programs focus on "hands-on" activities stressing the learning-by-doing technique, with a focus on artifact study. The Museum contains numerous old books on medicine,

school, religion, law and children's stories. Aside from containing ledgers from the old Halton County Courthouse from the late 1800s and early 1900s, the Museum has various letters, maps, plans, post cards, cash books, bills and receipts dating back over a century. The photographic collection consists of family photos from many communities in Halton.

The Museum itself is located at the

foot of the scenic Niagara Escarpment in Kelso Conservation Area. This property used to belong to the Alexander family who originally settled there in 1836.

The Museum covers years of Halton's history. Admission is free. The Museum is located 7 km northwest of Milton in the Kelso Conservation Area. Hours are Mon.-Sun. 12-4.



Group camping is offered at Rattlesnake Point Conservation Area. For those who just want to visit for the day, they can take advantage of the other activities at the large-scale park which consists of 616 acres of land. These activities include hiking, scenic viewing, pic-

nickling and even rock climbing. Located at the top of the escarpment on Derry Road, the name of the Conservation area need not worry those who fear reptiles. A snake hasn't been spotted in the area since 1952.

(Photo submitted)

No 'rattlers' at Rattlesnake Point

Rattlesnake Point Conservation Area offers a variety of different things for groups, families and couples to enjoy. There are 5.5 km of hiking trails, spectacular scenic viewing from four lookouts, group camping, picnicking as well as rock climbing (which requires a permit).

The 616 acre parcel of land is very diverse in terrain, vegetation and wildlife. Rattlesnake Point was acquired to preserve the protect its natural features, such as its unusual plant associations and wildlife communities.

Back in October of 1965, Rattlesnake Point received its first buffalo herd, consisting of one bull and four cows. Today, the herd is maintained at approximately 10 animals.

Rattlesnake Point has long been identified as being environmentally sensitive as the variety of vegetation in the area reflects the transition between two distinct forest regions.

The escarpment face varies from 30 to 80 feet so parents should make sure they know where their children are at all times. Rattlesnake Point encompasses three features of geologic significance: the Escarpment proper, the Milton Outlier and the Nassagaweya Canyon. The Canyon, a former river gorge, once served as a spillway for glacial meltwater during the last ice age.

Although the name suggests otherwise, Rattlesnake Point's last sighting of a snake was in 1952.

Many years ago the commonly known massasauga rattlesnake made its home in the Niagara Escarpment, but its area of habitation and size of the species has been dwindling. It is now more commonly found along the shores of Lake

Huron and Georgian Bay. The timber rattlesnake once made its home in Halton Region as well, but it has become extinct in Ontario, making it a provincially endangered species. It used to be found anywhere from Niagara northward to Manitoulin.

Most people feel the name "Rattlesnake Point" came from the old township road which "curled in switchback fashion, reminding one of a

rattlesnake's coil."

From Highway 401, take Highway 25 south to Steeles Avenue, west on Steeles to Appleby Line, south on Appleby for 3 km.

From Q.E.W., take Appleby Line north; 1 km north of Derry Road on top of escarpment. The drive is approximately 45 minutes from Toronto and Hamilton. The park is open every day from 8:30 till dusk.

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SATURDAY - Horse and Cattle Shows. Demolition Derby 8:00 p.m. Admission - Adults \$4.00, \$5.00 after 4:00 p.m.

SUNDAY - Children's Entertainer Sandra Beech - 1:00 p.m. Demolition Derby 2:00 p.m. Admission - Adults \$5.00, Children 6 to 12 \$2.00, under 6 Free.

COME AND JOIN THE FUN!



The Halton Regional Museum offers a lot of hands-on activities for both young and old to get involved with. Here some eager children watch with interest the weaving process from older days.

(Photo submitted)

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