

Recreation activities should cater to the environment

By BARBARA HALSALL
Recreational Choices

I hope some of your holiday time has allowed you to get close to nature. We have just enjoyed a week at a cottage in the Muskokas. The quiet in this not too populated lake was wonderful. In fact, it was almost a shock coming from our day to day sounds. In the quiet any sounds that did occur really stood out.

When you go to a lake what sort of pastimes do you choose? Are they a source of air, water or noise pollution? Water skiing can be very exciting, but could you not get as much excitement from skimming over the waves on a sailboard? Gliding silently along the water in

a canoe allows you to hear bird calls and to reach areas that are inaccessible to motorboats. You can also travel into other lakes because you can pick up a canoe and portage.

If kids need a stable boat to enjoy the water, how about a rowboat. It takes some coordination and is certainly good exercise. A peddle boat is another fun item that uses people power and only contributes laughter as sound. In Toronto there is an establishment called Silent Sports. It is certainly worth considering how much noise you will create when you are a choosing a sport.

A sailboat is another adventure worth trying. They come in all

sizes and prices. If sailing catches your interest, you are probably wise to consider a club where you can get instruction for the whole family.

There are many different motorized toys on the water. It is certainly worth looking at quieter alternatives, that give us a break in water and air pollution as well as a noise break.

Motorboats will still be needed for transportation so if you are choosing one aim for a motor that is not a gas guzzler. Take special care with gas and oil to avoid spills in the lake. Remember one litre of gasoline can contaminate 4 million litres of water so that it is not fit to drink (U.S. drinking water standard). Electric motors are something else you might investigate.

Do you need a motor to go fishing? In some American lakes motorized trolling is against the law. If you row, you are less likely to spook the fish. Fly fishing while quite different still has the same thrill with a catch. Fish for many species from shore. This works especially well in the fall. An avid fisherman tells me that some very good catches can be made night fishing from docks when the fish feed shallower.

If you are not ready to give up trolling, try using your motor less. Observe the wind and currents. Don't use an anchor and position your boat so that you wind drift over the best areas. You can also troll from one fishing spot to the next which really lowers gas consumption.

We all make choices around our recreational pastimes. The decisions we make can make a difference.

Terra Cotta ideal site for holidayers

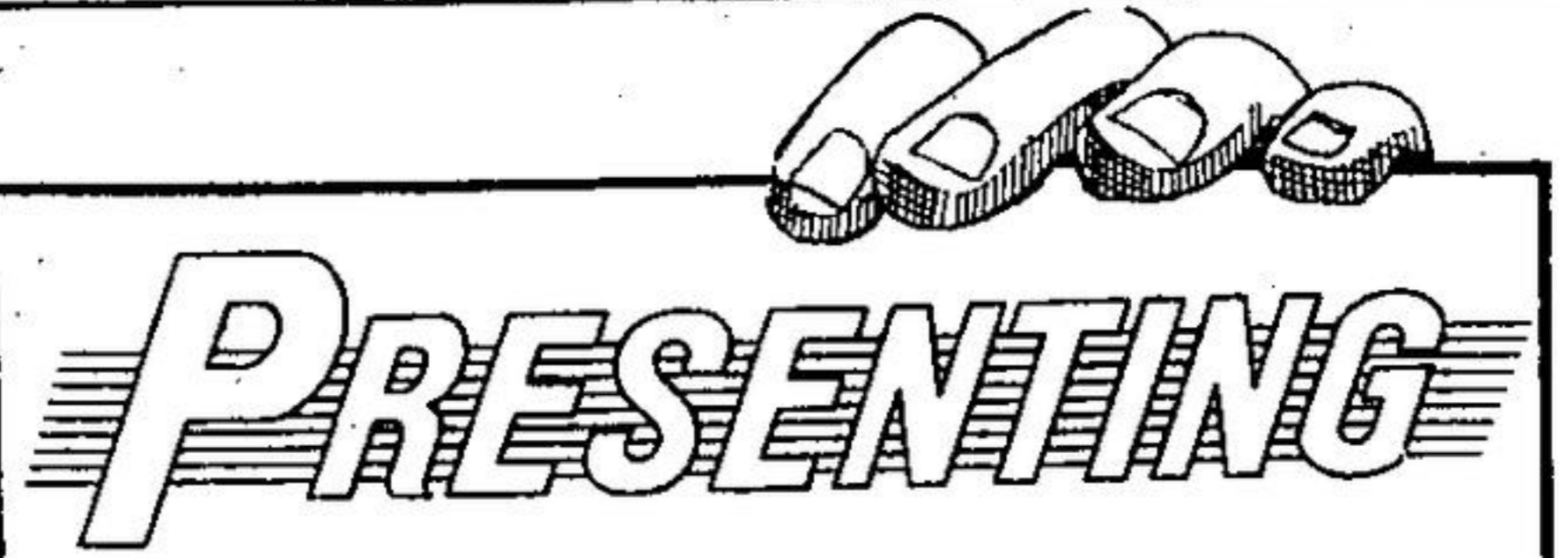
The Labour Day weekend marks the last weekend of summer for many camping enthusiasts in Southern Ontario. If you're still looking for a great place to camp away from it all yet only minutes from home, why not consider the Terra Cotta Conservation Area?

"If you are looking for a 'back to nature' camping weekend, the Terra Cotta Conservation Area fits the bill," says C.V.C.A. spokesperson Robert Peace. "I guess one of the things that makes us different are the things we don't offer including a lot of noise and a carnival-like atmosphere. If you're looking to get away from it all, then Terra Cotta is the place for

you."

The Terra Cotta Conservation Area has 123 campsites and group camping. All sites are serviced by washrooms, 24 hour showers and fire pits. Terra Cotta is also linked to the Bruce Trail for hiking enthusiasts and has stocked fish ponds for the angler. Mini golf is also available.

Campsites are \$11.00 per night with one vehicle. Group rates are available upon request. Terra Cotta Conservation Area is open for camping throughout September. For more information or to reserve your campsite please call: 1-416-877-9659 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.



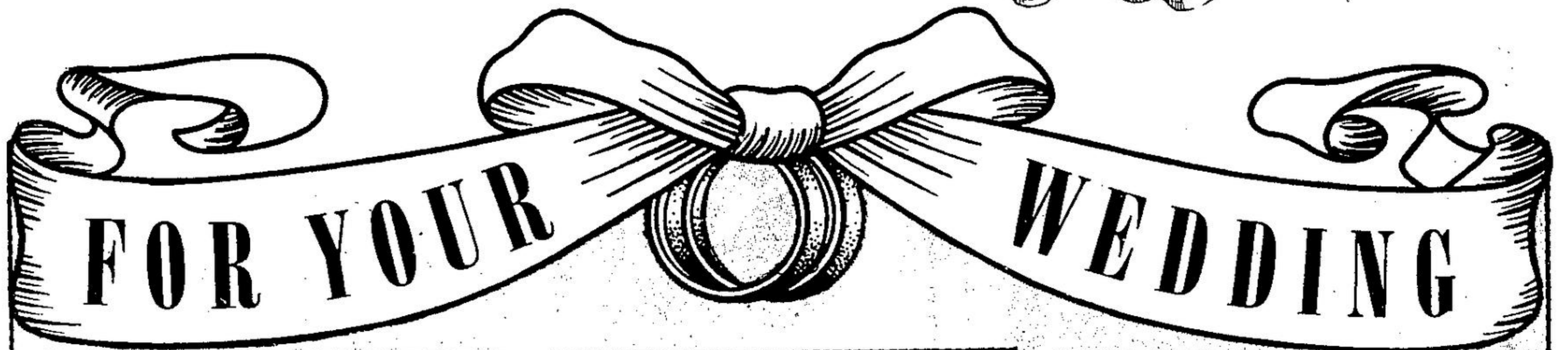
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