

Friday, July 12, 1991

# Camp Can-do offers more than just fun

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT  
The Herald  
Bethel Christian Reformed Church in Acton is overflowing -

not only with Sunday worshippers - but with kids of all ages from the Acton community who are taking part in the church's Vacation Bi-

ble School. Over 140 community children registered for the week-long camp called Camp Can-Do which

centres around the theme, "I can do all things through Christ." It ended Friday.

Camp organizer, Cindy Woudstra said this is the first time in the camp's eight-year history that membership has exceeded 100 children and she thinks its great.

"We're having a wonderful time," she said Wednesday after all the campers, aged 4 to 12, dispersed to their classrooms after the morning sing-song.

Given the influx of students this summer, she wonders why or what has attracted parents to register their children.

"We've been asking ourselves if it's just a babysitting service because it is a free camp or if it's something more meaningful," she said.

"We know the kids feel safe here and love to take part in the singing and crafts but we'd like to believe that people are starting to realize today's children need something of substance in their lives."

Substance, meaning values, morals and Christian teachings is certainly what the kids have been learning.

In their classrooms, Christian teachers from the community and the church are leading the children in Bible reading, studies of scriptural passages and songs focussed on the love of God. Crafts such as T-shirt painting, making fridge magnets and weaving keep the children busy and interested, along with installing values of sharing and co-

operation.

One of the things Mrs. Woudstra is excited about is that approximately three quarters of the campers are not from the church's denomination.

"It's a good community outreach program," she said.

Because the camp isn't strictly for Christian-Reformed Church members, teachers offer interdenominational teaching without any indoctrinational focus.

The community has responded in turn by donating cookies, juice and food supplies to feed the children since the church has already expended its Vacation Bible School budget on curriculum.

A daily collection has also been successful. Money raised from the collection will be sent to Camp Horizon in Bracebridge, a camp for physically and mentally handicapped children and adults.

Friday was the last day for campers at the church but they'll be able to meet again from August 19-23 when the Acton Baptist Church on Mill Street, in partnership with the Bethel Christian Reformed Church, will host another Vacation Bible School.

"This is the first time two denominations have interacted to provide a summer camp," said Mrs. Woudstra. "We've been lucky to have the pastor of the Baptist church and his wife perform a puppet show for us and we'll help them out by donating the remainder of our craft supplies to them."



Campers Steven Thompson (front), Dave Coles (left) and Brady Straw (right) make full use of the camping site their teacher Emmy Henrickx-V.D. Leest, designed in the Bethel Christian Reformed Church in Acton for Camp Can-Do, the church's Vacation Bible School. In their woodlot camp set-

ting, this class of children have been learning about God and making crafts with teacher Emmy Henrickx-V.D. Leest during the week long camp with ended Friday. (Herald photo by Lisa Boonstoppel-Pot)



Camp Can-Do organizers (left to right) Cindy Woudstra, Diane Leferink and Debbie VanEgmond spent three months preparing for the 140 children that registered for the Vacation Bible School Camp

at Beth-El Christian Reformed Church in Acton from July 8-12. The camp activities centred around the theme, "I can do all things through Christ." (Herald photo by Lisa Boonstoppel-Pot)

## Hospital did benefit

Dorothy Hunt, producer of the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital show "Operation 91," and Maureen Walker, co-producer, presented a cheque for \$5,000 to the Georgetown Hospital Wednesday morning. Of the seats available at the Georgetown Little Theatre, a respectable 88 per cent of them were filled - 469 people.

The cheque was presented to Hospital Board representatives Graeme Goebelle and John Oliver, and the Chairperson of the 30th Anniversary Committee for the hospital, Linda Dawson.

The \$5,000 raised is a tremendous increase from the first hospital benefit that took place in 1975. The play was called "Move Over Mrs. Markham", and it raised just \$500.



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