

Haliburton highlands ideal canoe routes for avid paddlers

Set amongst the cottage-infested Haliburton highlands there lies 24,000 hectares of wild lands where a canoeist can spend endless days paddling connecting lakes and rivers - free of charge.

Located just 12 kilometres south of the village of Dorset, the Leslie M. Frost Natural Resource Centre was first developed in the mid 1900s as a Ranger school. In 1969 however, the training centre was closed and then re-opened in 1974, to educate the general public on forest management in Ontario. The centre was named in honor of the late Premier who initiated the idea. Today hundreds of tourists, school children and camp kids visit the centre, and hundreds more head off into its 96 per cent of private lands the Ministry of Natural Resources has custodianship over.

A number of canoe routes can be organized from the centre's excellent map (phone (705) 766-2451 or write to Leslie M. Frost Natural Resources Centre, Dorset, Ontario, POA 1E0).

During the past few weeks I've been spending my free time paddling the area. One two-day route I enjoy in particular is the St. Nora - Sherborne Lake route.

The access point on St. Nora Lake is located right at the Leslie Frost Centre, off Highway 35. From the centre's canoe launching site paddle northeast, toward the large St. Margret Island. I've found in the past

Nature's Way

By
KEVIN
CALLAN



that if there's a strong head wind it's best to keep to the left of the island, but paddling to the right is more direct.

The 813 metre portage into Sherborne is past the island, to the left of a stream. During times of high water I have witnessed canoeists paddling and poling up the stream to just below the Sherborne Dam, shortening the portage to only 100 metres, but they always seem more exhausted than the canoeists that had chosen the well maintained carry over.

The portage makes its way up a steep grade, then levels off, skirting the edge of a pond along a 100 metre boardwalk. It then bears off to the right, following an old tote road to the Sherborne Dam. Make sure on your return trip not to miss the portage turning off the tote road onto the boardwalk.

Sherborne Lake is engulfed by rugged cliffs and gorges, crowned with stout white pine. The moment you exit the small west bay you will be greeted by the local gull population, then later be put to sleep by the resi-

dent loons. The areas wildlife is an integrated bunch, northern species mix with southern inhabitants.

From one of the many designated campsites on Sherborne you can paddle off and explore one of the more secluded lakes nearby.

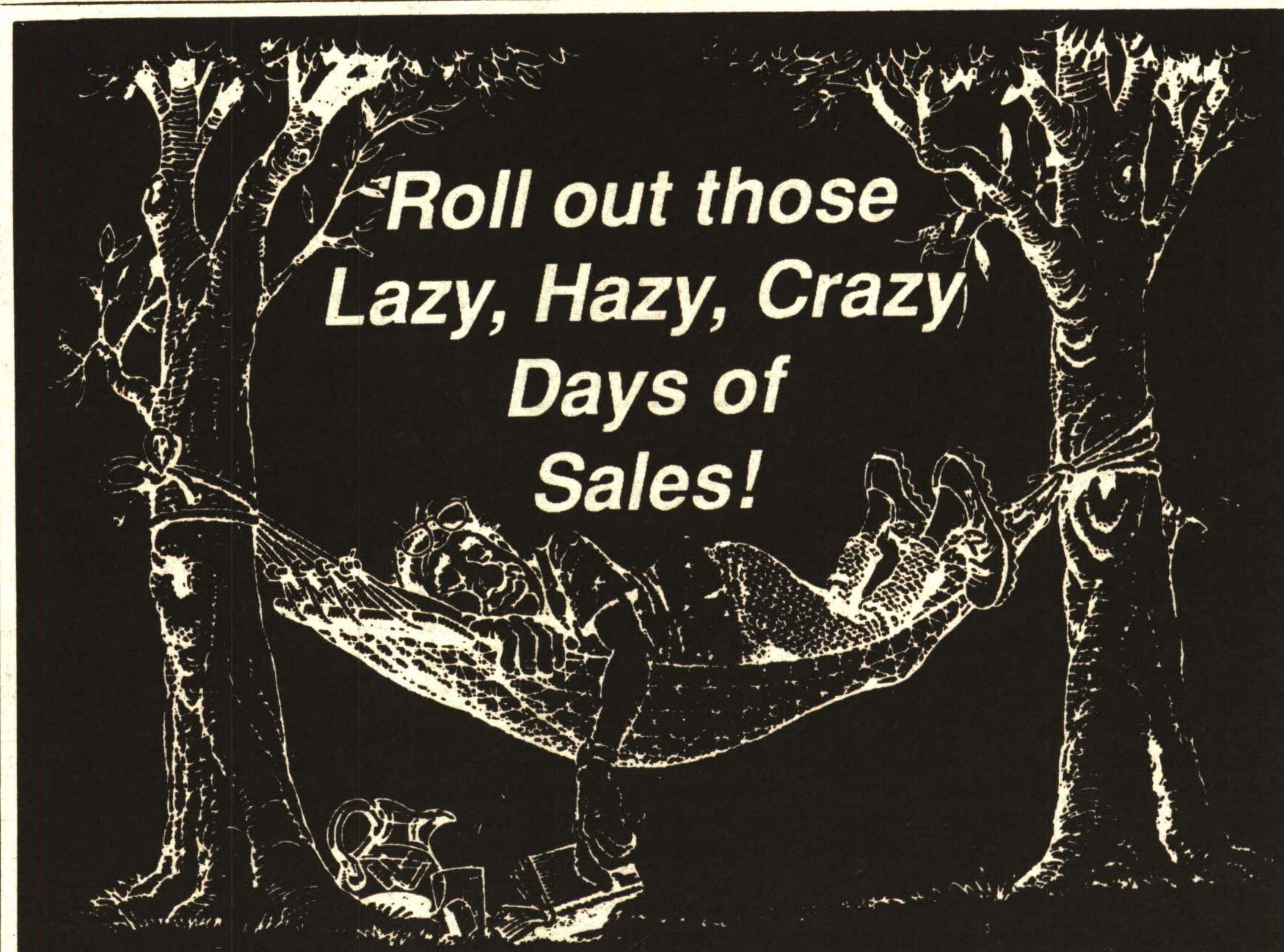
An afternoon can be had northwest of homebase, traveling a loop route connected by a series of portages. This trip is best done, however, during high water. A summer hot spell

can change this afternoon outing into a bug infested nightmare.

A much shorter route is located to the south of Sherborne. A 530 metre portage into Silver Doe Lake, then a short 154 metre portage will take you to the scenic Silver Buck Lake. A small island to the south makes an excellent lunch site, especially if you hook into a pan-sized bass.

The St. Nora - Sherborne Lake route is just one of the

many weekend trips one can enjoy in the rugged highlands of Haliburton. If you're interested in other canoe routes in cottage country come out to Bronte Creek Provincial Park on July 20 and 21. I will be there helping the staff put on their annual 'Parks Day'. I'll be showing slides of Killarney Provincial Park and giving a presentation on canoe routes of cottage country along with low impact camping. The event starts at 11 a.m. Hope to see ya there.



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A TED BIT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

a family of four kids, on the second last day of vacation. The old wallet was beginning to look like Mother Hubbard's cupboard.

Should I use plastic? Hmmm, the Visa was getting to the limit as well.

And I was in Tobermory, and still had to put gas in the car to get us home.

Nope, I decided, Tilley Endurables were not going to make any profit from me this time.

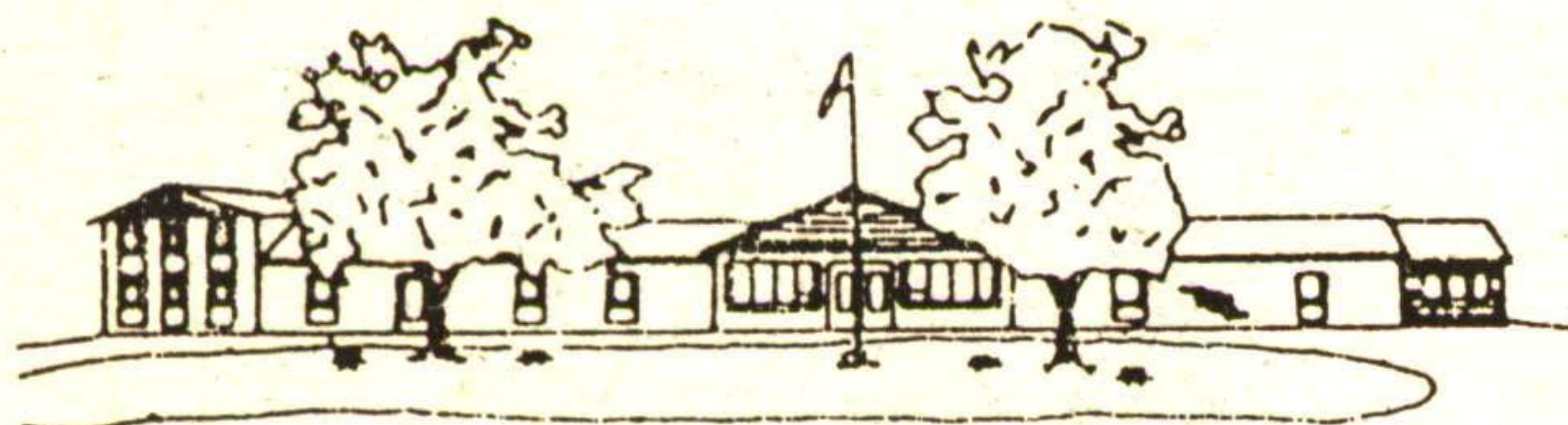
So I replaced the hat on the shelf, and walked, dejected and disappointed, out the door, while eldest daughter breathed a sigh of relief.

But maybe another time, when I have the cash, (and no kids around to dissuade me,) I just might take the plunge and become a "Tilley man."

After all, Tilley products are described as "Adventure Wear" and lately, I need all the help I can get. I'm about ready for a half decent "adventure."

Especially if it's in "Bongo Wongo" land.

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