



LUNCH ANYONE? Jenny Goy and Pam Olsen whip up a camping meal at the Terra Cotta Conservation area recently. This pair, along with the rest of the AHS group, found out that you have to eat — rain or shine.

## Are your gardens ready for Jack Frost?

BY TRINA VIRGIN

There is no doubt about it — fall has arrived. It brings an end to the gardening season and a time to “put the garden to bed.” My way to do this is by covering the beds with a thick blanket of leaves. I find it’s a lot less labour intensive and gives the added benefit of a nourishing mulch to the garden.

With the fall also brings the start of the 1992-93 Acton Horticultural Society meetings. In October a new Board of Directors was elected and they are a very committed group of people. The purpose of the Horticultural Society, in a nut shell, is to promote and encourage interest in horticulture and the protection of the environment.

The Horticultural Society planted the downtown core with funds donated by the Acton BIA. I must admit, Acton looked very attractive through the summer. Membership is open to anyone, any age. You don’t have to be an expert to join, but if you do have a particular area you are knowledgeable in, we would like to hear about it.

The next time meeting will be Tuesday, Nov. 24 at 7:30 pm at Knox Presbyterian Church. We will be offering a Christmas door

decoration workshop. A small fee will be charged for supplies and a sharp paring knife will be required.

If you have materials, please bring them. You are invited to come grow with us.

## Acton Travel’s Dan King hot

Acton Travel Midgets had two losses and two ties this week in Hub League hockey action. Dan King was the Acton Travel star in Saturday’s 5-3 loss to Waterloo. King had a hat trick and Acton’s Giphon Gunn played a strong game in the net, despite the loss.

Friday night Acton tied visiting Arthur 6-all and again Dan King played well getting a goal and three assists. Acton’s Brad Cripps, Jim Lloyd and Troy MacDougall also

found the net with help from Lloyd, Mike Forbes, Cripps and King.

Wednesday night Acton was shut out 4-0 in Grand Valley and the final score was 6-all in Tuesday’s game in Cambridge.

In that game Brad Cripps scored a hat trick, Mike Forbes found the net twice and Troy MacDougall scored once.

Assists went to Lloyd, Chris Muir, Jeremy Cooney, Dwayne Rhynold and MacDougall.

## Learning where life is really at

BY ERIC BALKIND

“One impulse from a vernal wood May teach you more of man, Of moral evil and of good Than all the sages can.”

— Wordsworth in 1798

When 115 Grade 10 students from Acton High spent five days earlier this term, living and learning together at the Terra Cotta Conservation area, they surely felt the power and the wisdom of Wordsworth’s words. Together with them went 35 senior students (acting as counsellors) and 18 teachers including principal Ozzie Caldarelli — a long-time outdoor education enthusiast.

Outdoor Education ’92 was designed to be much more than an academic exercise; instead, students had the unique opportunity to appreciate the fact that significant learning occurs through all the senses.

The program in which they were involved both extended and enriched the regular classroom, they learned something of health and safety techniques, they learned to participate, they learned the satisfaction of physical activities and — they learned to survive.

Along the way these students gained a number of additional benefits; how to coexist in what was, for many of them, an entirely different manner of living, they also learned mutual respect and had opportunities to show leadership.

Six weeks after returning to the day-to-day business of education within a school setting they were still enthusiastic about their experiences. Stasha Vancek recalled that “I never knew how to read a compass but now I do.” Stasha also remembers freezing at night but even so “it was a lot of fun.”

Jason Lowrie enjoyed spending the time with friends; he remembers the teachers as being “a lot nicer; somehow they were different.” Jason recalled that Outdoor ’92 was a great opportunity to “meet new people and really get to know them.” Coming back to the school after it was all over was like com-

ing back to a different reality.

Sarah Austin remembers a lot of mud and rain and that “if you didn’t make your food you didn’t eat — well, maybe not bread.”

It is probably fair to say that, by the end of their outdoor experiences most students had come to appreciate home living a whole lot more although, as one (who shall be nameless) said: “I liked being away from my parents.” Of course, this writer couldn’t help wondering just what the parents were thinking at about the same time.

While in camp, minor discipline problems were dealt with in counsellors’ court — an opportunity for students to show leadership when dealing with their fellows. This approach was well-accepted by those involved.

History, Geography, Science and Communications were all built into this unique educational experience by the teaching staff. As just one example, the unit on Social Sciences brought students face to face with the demanding challenges which faced pioneers in this country little more than 100 years ago. In the little Boston Mills, they came face to face with the memory of David Williams, who died at age 29 when a tree he was cutting down for his log cabin fell on him. He had arrived directly from Wales just two years earlier and when he came he could speak no English at all. He lies wrapped in the bark of the tree which took his life.

Principal Caldarelli sees the overall experience as an opportunity for students to “get high on living and high on themselves; they find out that they don’t need anything else.” As well, he noted that “the whole experience bonds students, staff and parents; you should have been here for our potluck supper — the room was jammed and the feeling was great.”

No question about it, Outdoor Education ’92 is an experience that these young people will remember for a long time.

Clearly, Mr. Wordsworth knew exactly what he was talking about.

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