



REUNION! Anna Allison Wilmot, left, and Dorothy Wallace Feigen reminisce about family history at the Storey Family Renion held last Sunday at Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church. Some 130 Storey family members attended. (Ken Russell photo)

Belwood camp filling up quickly

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Rockwood Miller

It may be the oldest camp of its type in Canada, but there's an abundance of spirited youngsters.

The Belwood Lodge and Camp recently opened for its 38th year on the shores of Belwood Lake with very few of the 80 weekly spots available for the remainder of the summer.

The camp, a special facility for the developmentally handicapped, has both adult and children's programs. The two-week children's program is more structured as all the children do the same activity (crafts, swimming) at the same time, whereas the adults have a

choice during the one to four-week program. They can join the boating program, play baseball or head to the common room with a staff member and write a letter to home.

"The campers have an excellent stay. We cater to all their needs, but we're not a training facility," cautions Howie Emerson, who's in his first year as camp director.

"I'm excited. It's a great place. The entire focus is on fun and personal development in an unstressed environment. I started here as a senior counsellor in 1991, so I'll see the friends I made here and expect to have a lot of fun.

"My parents and sister have been involved in the field, so it's in my blood."

The campers, who range in age from seven to 70, play baseball,

visit the animal farm, enjoy camp fires and take trips to Canada's Wonderland and Blue Jays' games, to name a few.

Emerson spent hours paring down piles of resumes to get to his current staff of 35. Most of them are university graduates or students in their senior year.

"The staff is where everything starts. You can have the best site, program and equipment, but without a proper staff none of that means anything. Everyone is committed and excited," says Emerson, a Wilfrid Laurier graduate.

"The people here are treated like individuals. Out in the community when they're walking down the street they're stared at. People see the handicap first. That doesn't happen here. They're treated with respect."

Poker run to attract 400 bikers

BY DOUG HARRISON
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An anticipated 400 people will be shining up their Harley-Davidson, Yamaha and Kawasaki motorcycles and putting on their best poker face for the ninth annual 101 charity poker run set for Saturday.

The fund-raiser, which raised over \$4,000 last year and \$10,000 in the eight years for the Life Can't Wait program at Guelph General Hospital, will see motorcyclists ride a path from Prospect Park in Acton to Erin, Loretto, Arthur and finish at the Rockwood Hotel.

Participants, who pay a fee of \$10 before the ride, will pick up a card at each stop and in the end will have developed a poker hand. Their donation is for new equipment at the hospital and to help upgrade the building.

Following the rain or shine ride, games on bikes and raffles will be held at a farm on Fourth Line in Nassagaweya for those 19 years of age and older. In all, 11 trophies—all sponsored—will be handed out from the games that include Best Poker Hand, Worst Poker hand and the longest hauler (who drove the furthest for the event).

Also, one of the top prizes is a \$500 leather jacket.

"I like getting the event pre-

pared and seeing the looks on people's faces as they finish their ride," says Louise Johnston, who is co-organizing the event with locals John Popp, Bill McCabe, Lee Hayes and numerous volunteers.

It all started in 1986 when less than 30 riders covered the 101-mile course. Last year, 268 riders enjoyed the countryside excursion.

"It's a lot of word of mouth, but each time it gets bigger we put up fewer posters to see if we can handle (the large numbers)," Johnston says.

"It's interesting," she quips. "It's not just a straight ride, because you stop in different towns. It's a great way to spend a Saturday and a great cause."

"It's a lot of work, but it's all worth it. It makes me feel good that the money is being put toward a good cause. I've had to spend a lot of time in that hospital."

Although most businesses were hurt through the spring donating to other causes, the poker run committee was able to grab more than 20 sponsors.

The following Rockwood and Acton businesses are sponsoring the poker run: Rockwood Hotel, Rockwood Musicland, Ray's Variety, Petty Bros., Village Video, Rockwood Variety, Four Seasons

Restaurant (Acton), Flathead Indian Motorcycle Shop, Acton Restaurant, The Meeting Place, Station Hotel, Freezer Frenzy, IGA, Acton Foodland, Marzo Glove and Village Variety.

Interested bikers can sign up at Prospect Park on Saturday between 10 am and noon.

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