

Campers discover their potential

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

The Rockwood Miller

Camp Brebeuf, on Rockwood's northern outskirts, offers all of the things that make summer camp great - and a lot more.

Besides the prerequisite swimming, crafts and campfires the Catholic Youth Organization camp has a new name - Adventure Learning in the Outdoors - and during the school year it's like an Outward Bound experience on the Eramosa River for students from the Golden Horsehoe area.

The 110-acre camp property, including 30 cabins, a four-acre pond, a 25-metre swimming pool and a newly-

renovated dining hall, is owned by the Catholic Church Hamilton Diocese and operated by the Catholic Youth Organization.

"From September to June we offer canoeing, archery, tree planting, environmental education, adventure-based counselling, high ropes, low ropes, orienteering and mapping," explained camp director John Malcolmson.

Using the low and high ropes is like rock climbing and Malcolmson said they are great for learning group skills because, "the students learn the importance of effective communication, working as a group and making group decisions."

Various separate school boards send their students to the camp during the school year and during July and August the camp is home, for several weeks anyway, to 700, seven to 14-year-old campers, most of whom learn about the camp through their church affiliation.

"We are a Catholic-run agency but we do not discriminate and at any point about 30 per cent of our campers and staff are non-Catholics," Malcolmson said.

"While at camp we expect people to say grace before meals and we have a priest come in for liturgies," Malcolmson said, adding that campers and the staff of 40

"work together, play together and pray together," in an effort to live up to Camp Brebeuf's motto: Discover Your Potential.

Besides the six weeks of camping for kids, Camp Brebeuf also offers a family camp for women and children who are living in shelters and a leadership camp for students heading into high school.

Asked what the best part of Camp Brebeuf is Malcolmson didn't hesitate.

"The best part is getting away from the city and technology and learning about and experiencing and exploring nature and life at a nice, relaxed, caring pace."



THE TALLEST WINS!

Youths at Camp Brebeuf try to play a little basketball, while Tara-Lynn Evans holds the ball over everyone's head. Others pictured here are Lynn Zakrzewski, Ainsley Evans, Taylor de Wal, Stephen Simons, Alicia Brown, Steven Wells, Matthew Barlow and Alex Hicknell. (Eve Martin photo)

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Viewing of artwoTwork begins at 6:30 pm and the auction follows at 8 pm. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the Arboretum. Call 763-2255 for details.

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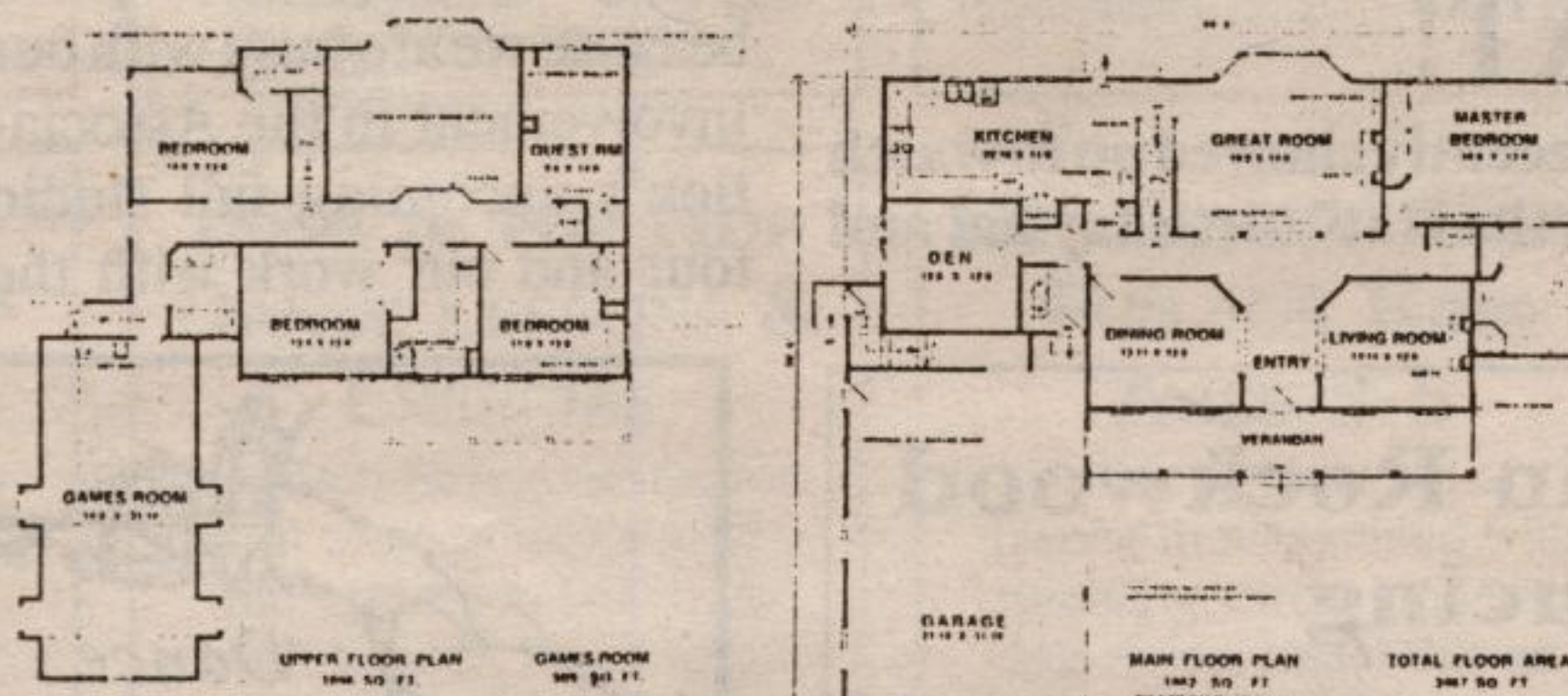
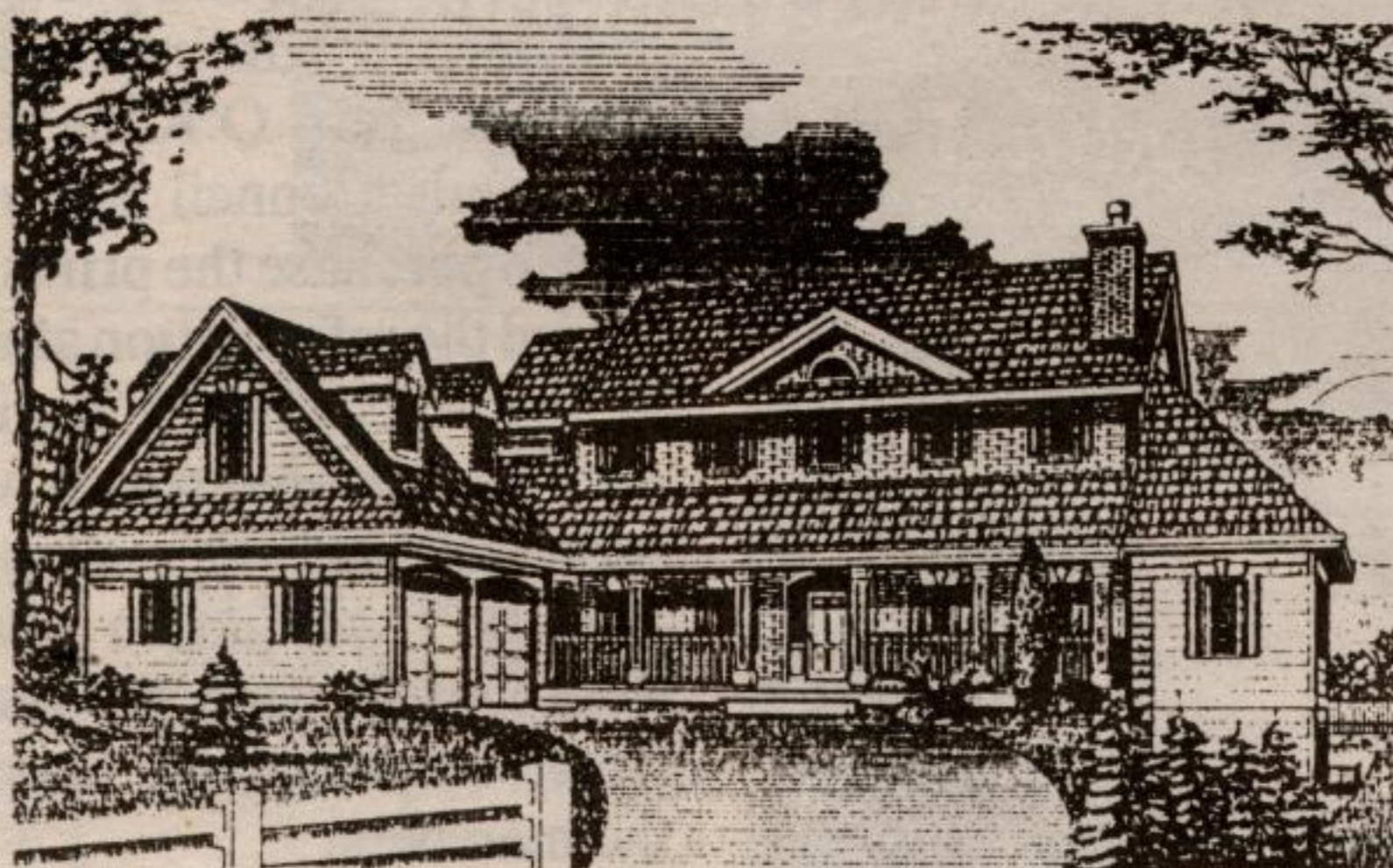
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Upstairs, the games room can be accessed from two separate staircases. Featuring a wet bar and a spacious layout, the games room could also be a nanny's quarters.

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