

Mount Nemo marks Master Plan

by DONNA DANIELLI

In a series of open houses held August 20 and 23, Conservation Halton gave the public a chance to comment on the Master Plan for Mount Nemo Conservation Area. The plan, which has received a preliminary approval by Conservation Halton's Board of Directors, was well received by those attending the meetings.

"It's not proposing any new significant buildings or development," explained Bob Burchett, Director of Conservation Lands. "We'd like to put in a gatehouse with electricity and a toilet for the attendant, and the plan calls for a number of acres that have been traditionally leased out to be re-forested at the end of the lease. As well, we'd like to upgrade the trails and interpretive signs."

The plan also calls for some extensive studies in the bat population. The current bat studies are twenty years out of date, with a number of species being identified at that

time at Mount Nemo. "We'd like to see if they're still there and whether they hibernate. Bats only eat when mosquitoes are in season, then they have to live on the fat of the body until the next season. If they are hibernating in our caves, we need to close those caves off so that bats can hibernate without being disturbed and burning off the little resources they have."

The Mount Nemo Conservation area is a relatively low usage park compared to other Conservation Halton properties. The 12 Mile Creek Conservation Authority, which eventually became Conservation Halton was originally created for the express purpose of buying the Mount Nemo property. Mount Nemo is popular with hikers and offers some rock climbing under strict conditions.

Anyone interested in the Mount Nemo Master Plan is encouraged to contact Conservation Halton.

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GATEWAY, SIGNAGE & COMMUNITY IDENTITY PROGRAM PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2002

The Town of Milton is currently developing a town-wide Gateway, Signage & Community Identity Program with immediate and long-term implementation opportunities. Conceptual designs will be available for public review and input during a Public Information Session to be held:

Tuesday, September 10, 2002
Hugh Foster Hall
53 Brown Street (next to Town Hall)
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Presentation at 7:00 p.m.

A brief presentation will commence at 7:00 p.m. We value your input and hope that you can join us.

For more information on this project contact: Jeff Fraser, Project Manager, Parks, Community Services Department, Town of Milton at 905-878-7252 ext. 2169.



Givin' you the dirt

By SEAN JAMES

For Ideas...

We've reached the time of year when gardeners often run out of ideas. We don't know what to do to finish the summer and we often didn't know what to plant in the spring to give fall interest. A simple solution for both might be to organize a garden tour for the family or friends.

We are very fortunate here in Southern Ontario to be surrounded by wonderful garden. Milton's Horticultural Society has provides us with the Library, Town Hall and Millennium Gardens. Acton's hard-working volunteers have given us the Memory Garden by the Acton Public

Library, restoration along the Black Creek as well as the Gateway Garden at the corner of Hwy 7 and Regional Rd 25. In Georgetown, we can visit the Lucy Maud Montgomery Garden and the new gardens at the old Dominion Seed House yard.

There are several large botanical gardens within an hour's drive. The Niagara Parks Botanical Garden and in fact the whole Niagara Parks Commission show us much. The Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington/Hamilton is a great place to visit. Allen Gardens, Edwards Gardens, The Civic Garden Center, Spadina House, Casa Loma, and even the Toronto Zoo are all phe-

nomenal places to visit with the kids or with friends. If you want to look at trees, Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Toronto has one of the best mature arboretums in Canada. Public gardens don't usually have many new types of plants but they showcase mature specimens in a garden setting.

Visit friends' gardens or drive around for some great ideas. While there are exceptions, when a private garden looks intriguing, go up and tell the owner (no liability will be accepted by this author for personal injury sustained by... just kidding,) that their garden looks lovely and ask to take a look. Any true gardener would be flattered to be asked.

We can learn many things checking out plantings at this time of year. What works, visually and what doesn't will be apparent. Which plants can handle drought and which cannot will also show up. Look for nice texture and leaf colour combinations.

Keep a special eye out for shrubs and perennials that are flowering in late summer and early fall and even more for those that are flowering in adverse conditions such as shade or dry hillsides.

Tip of the month

If you're thinking about moving a shrub, now is the time to root prune. Root pruning involves digging a trench around the tree one and a half or two feet out from the trunk and a foot and a half deep. This will expose and sever many roots. Cut these cleanly with a pair of secateurs and fill the hole in with topsoil. This will prompt new root growth. Next spring you will have a good chance of success at digging and moving the shrub. Try moving it before it leafs out.

Kathy Gastle Mayor

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Chris Denich

The Milton Fair Board

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"There are some families that have been exhibiting here for many years, and you hope that the young people move up into the adult exhibits," explains Mrs Heath. Mrs Comber nodded her agreement to this and added, "We get entries for canning and quilting from Toronto, Oakville, and Burlington. We have kept our agricultural component constant over the years."

Often, as in the case of Evelyn Oates, who has served as President of the Society as well as being a Board Member, exhibitors can become integral parts of the Agricultural Society structure. "We've been exhibiting for about fifty years, and I guess about 24 years ago, there was something I was concerned about and I asked Robert Marshall about it, and the next thing I knew, I was on the Board."

"We have one core group of 24 volunteers that serve as our Board," explains Mrs. Comber. "But there are many other people involved. The Halton Agricultural Society is a non-profit organization and this is our annual fundraiser to raise the funds needed to maintain the grounds. Most of our volunteer time is done in the week before the fair and it is a lot of work, but it's also an uplifting and exciting way to volunteer." The 149th Milton Fair takes place the last weekend of September and offers horse, livestock, and poultry shows, as well as crafts, a petting zoo, and a 4-H show. Milton can count itself fortunate that for 150 years, it has had such dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes to bring us the magic that is the Milton Fall Fair every year.

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