

The Knights are bold... Jousting at Dragon's Lair

BY MAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY
The New Tanner

Summer's here. Kids are just hanging out. The words "I'm bored" echo through many homes. This weekend a former Acton resident is hosting an event which offers a potential break from that empty flatness.

It should appeal to all fans of Robin Hood, romantic fiction and horses. If you also appreciate the finer points of Olympic calibre sports, there's yet another hook for you. And if all you want is a chance to get out in the fresh air and see something different - well, gotcha again.

Shane Adams is hosting the World Championship Jousting Association competition at Dragon's Lair on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 14-16.

Adams, who used to live north and west of Acton, moved to his new, larger property in Wellington County north of Guelph off Highway 6, in April. Signs posted on the road make the best guide for finding the farm.

His new property offers Adams space for about 30 horses - a mixtures of Percherons, Freisans, Shires, and crossbreeds of Belgians and Clydesdales.

In an interview Tuesday, Adams, the Canadian as well as reigning World Champion, and his American counterpart Patrick Lambke, explained the Association's aim to elevate their sport from mere fun and entertainment to that of an actual Olympic event.

The Association wants to raise the calibre of both judging and competition so that competitors will be ready to participate as a demonstra-

tion event at the Indianapolis Olympics in 2004.

Last year's competition was the inaugural one for the Association. This year an open competition is planned with teams originally expected to come from Sweden, New Zealand and Australia, as well as Britain and the United States.

"But when they heard the whole British team was coming, they (Swedes, Aussies and New Zealanders) backed out," Adams said.

Both men sport long hair for cosmetic effect, Adams said. Knights in the Middle Ages would have kept their hair short to avoid entangling in their chain mail. But authenticity doesn't fit with the current romantic image portrayed in print and film.

Lambke operates his own jousting school in Tarzana, Hollywood. He is also an actor and stunt coordinator for films. His costume is an all purpose type designed to accommodate his armor for jousting, but also suitable for his pirate roles.

Like Lambke, Adams also operates a school and considers his jousting has gone from a hobby to a career.

Mediaeval games - which originated as training exercises - begin at 9 a.m. daily with actual jousting kicking off around 10, and competition lasting through until 7 p.m. Like most sports tournaments, everyone squares off against all the potential opponents in various rounds until a final playoff is held Sunday to declare a 'World Champion'.

Competition will be held in an outdoor arena surrounded by portable grandstands. Parking is in the back pasture. For prices and information call 827-1794.



ALL SET: Patrick Lambke poses with a Percheron stallion from Dragon's Lair which will be used in the world jousting championships near Guelph the weekend. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo

Kiln Society organized

A newly formed Limehouse historical group is asking public help to locate information or photographs of early days in the area's lime industry.

Mary Shier, representing the Limehouse Kiln Society, says the group of six to eight members has been meeting monthly for about a year trying to determine what can be done to preserve sites and artifacts connected to Limehouse's lime production heritage, especially stabilizing the power house and restoring the lime kiln in the village.

An inspection of the area around Limehouse done in May determined there are 15 sites, including four or five near the Blue Circle Aggregate office, three plus the big draw kiln on private property, and seven on Conservation lands, Shier says.

"We are trying to determine what can be done to prevent further deterioration of the kiln," she says. These are in the Conservation area and hikers are literally walking through the kiln and even taking home some of its rocks as souvenirs.

Shier says Blue Circle lands manager Maureen

Miller and her predecessor have both attended meetings and been quite enthusiastic about their work.

"Of course its good P.R. for them," she says, "but they also realize it's their legacy. It was the beginning of major construction in this area for the province. Burning lime to make concrete and cement was the forerunner of the area's major building materials industry. Today it's the aggregate industry."

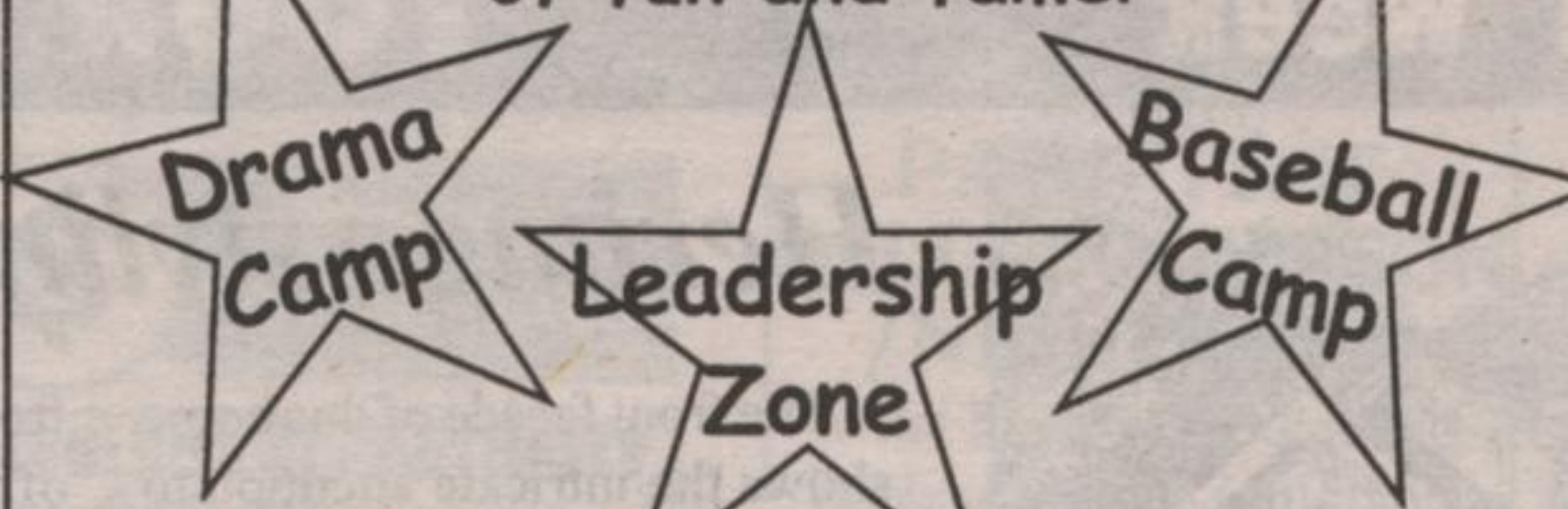
Any material loaned to the group will be copied and returned, Shier promises.

As well as village residents the group has representatives from the Bruce Trail Association, Credit Valley Conservation, and the Town of Halton Hills.

Anyone with information for the group is invited to contact Shier at 877-7710.

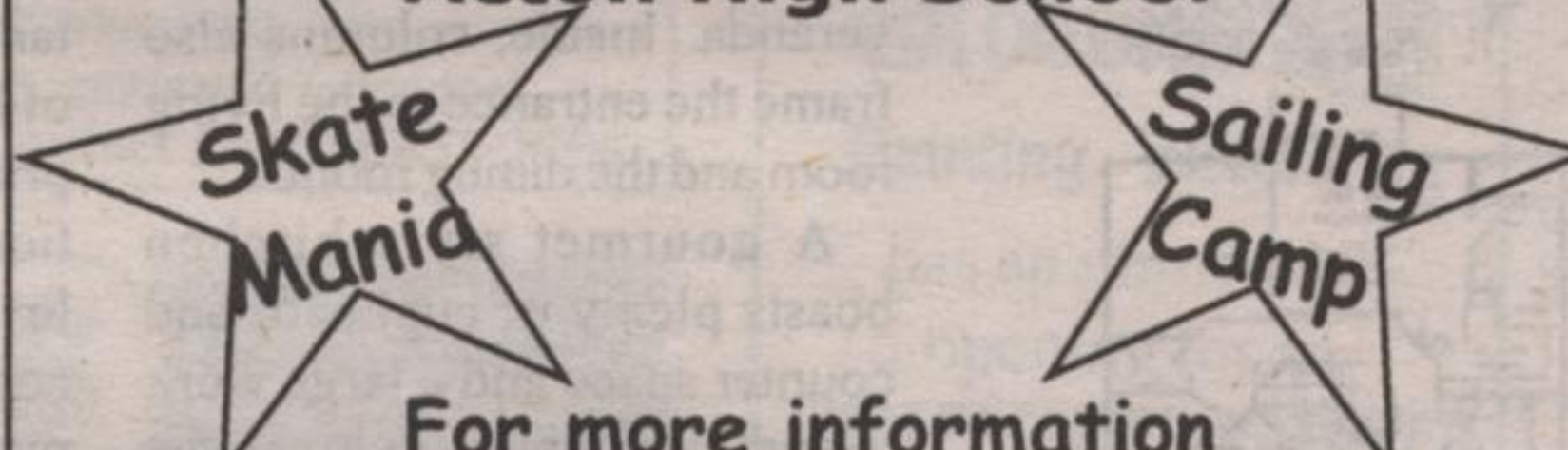
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