

Castle Park near Kilbride serves Hamilton church

By Roy Downs

For the past four years, parishioners of a Hamilton Catholic church have been developing a 50-acre parksite near Kilbride into a beautiful yet functional summer playground. Some day soon, when their dreams for "Bratislava Castle Park" materialize into reality, the park may be open to the public as a summer haven for heat-beaters.

The man behind it all is Rev. Father E. G. Fuzy, pastor of St. Cyril's Methodius Church on Park St., Hamilton.

For the past 17 years Father Fuzy has ministered to the 200 Slovak families who belong to St. Cyril's. Most are city dwellers and Father Fuzy decided they should have a nice place in the country, somewhere not too far from the city, where they could hold their picnics, have a swim, and enjoy the outdoors away from the noisy city.

Today, four years after the church purchased the parksite on McNiven Road two miles north of Kilbride, Castle Park stands as a partially-developed but quite promising answer to their hopes and dreams.

"We hope, one day, this park will be a very nice place where families can come and enjoy themselves," Father Fuzy explains. "My people have voluntarily done all the work in making this park what it is today."

The land was swampy, rocky, mosquito-infested and mostly covered with a heavy stand of maple and cedar trees back in February of 1963 when it was purchased. The parishioners dug in to clean it up, spurred on by their ambitious priest, and transformed the wilderness into a park.

Stone fences lining McNiven Road along the front of the park are both beautiful and necessary. "We had to do something with the rocks," one of the church men explained. With Father Fuzy heading

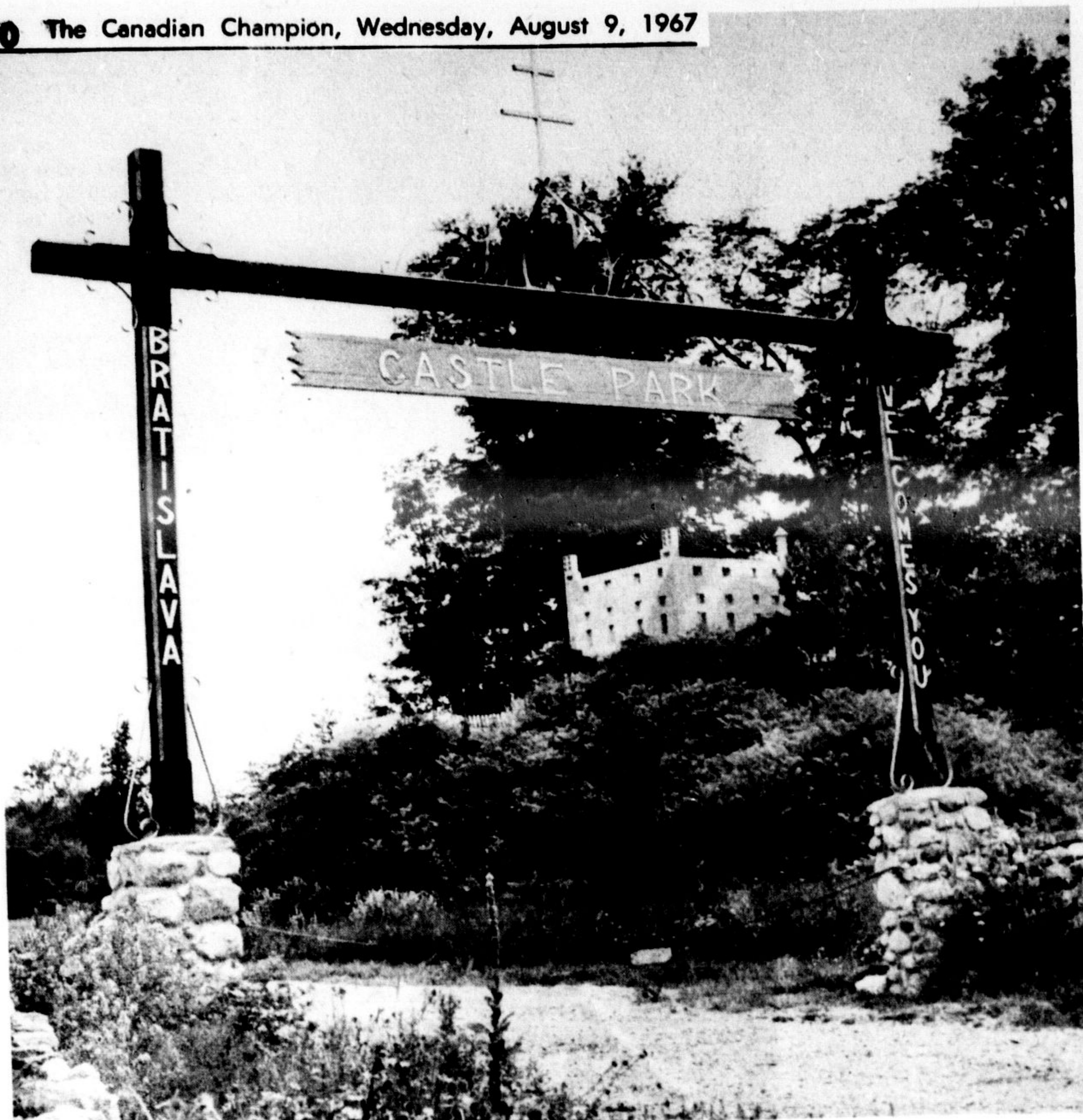
the work details, they bent their backs and lifted the rocks from the fields, piled them by the roadside and built the beautiful stone fences.

They dug two ponds, one of which is near the road and features a large island in the centre; the other farther back in the property and stocked with fighting Rainbows—most of which poachers have removed. They dug a swimming pool and cleaned up a creek that meanders through the park, lining its banks with the plentiful rocks that dotted the grounds. Both ponds are spring-fed.

The church workers cleared enough bush to make spacious picnic grounds and a playing field for ball and soccer games. They constructed 50 picnic tables, and they slaved over a roadway leading into the park site. And they built an artificial hill for winter sports, dug a well and built a small garage on the site.

But the crowning feature of the park is its castle, a cement block structure situated atop a hill near the entranceway. It is a replica of the famous castle built in the year 907 A.D. in beautiful Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, which overlooks the Danube River, 45 miles east of Vienna. The real castle in Slovakia survived the Turks' ravages and today is being remodelled to its full glory as a museum.

Beside the castle, craftsmen from St. Cyril's have fashioned a wooden archway, anchored in stone gates and topped with



BRATISLAVA CASTLE PARK, on McNiven Road north of Kilbride, is being developed by parishioners of St. Cyril's Methodius R. C. Church in Hamilton. The archway entrance and the castle it frames were built by members of the parish.



FATHER E. G. FUZY, priest of St. Cyril's Church in Hamilton, stands beside one of the two man-made, spring-fed lakes at Castle Park near Kilbride. This lake features an island. (Staff Photos by Roy Downs)

Champion

Feature Page



A LADIES' THREE-LEGGED RACE was just one of the fun-filled events on the program when the Knights of Columbus of St. Cyril's Methodius Church, Hamilton, held their annual picnic at Castle Park July 29. The beautiful park, still being developed by the church, is an ideal spot in the country for city-dwellers to enjoy weekends. Many picnics and social functions are held there each year.



NOT EVERY CHILD gets a chance to play around a castle, complete with cannon and turrets. But children from St. Cyril's Church, Hamilton, love Castle Park at Kilbride and its unique castle sitting atop the hill. The castle is surrounded by beautiful rock gardens.

Piper Gail Brown playing in Halifax

Miss Gail Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Brown of No. 5 Sideroad, will represent the girls of Ontario aged 14 and under at a Halifax Centennial project this month. The event, taking place on August 23 through 26, includes folk dancing, Highland dancing and piping. Representatives from each province in the Dominion will compete for medals in the four-day celebration. Gail anticipates her contribution, mainly in the Highland Games, may leave her time to do some sightseeing in Halifax before returning home.

Saxons were the leading miners in Europe during the 16th century.

High incomes

Signs that Halton is still a prosperous county: a recent government study on incomes shows that 423 Halton residents reported incomes of more than \$20,000 in 1965. The study said another 2,464 had incomes between \$10,000 and \$20,000, while over 3000 wage earners earned less than \$1,000 that year.

ASH

Moose Jaw visitors here

By Mrs. George Pelletterio

Corporal and Mrs. Lyle Van Sickle and their three children of Moose Jaw, Sask., are visiting with Mr. and Mrs. James Vansickle during the month of August. They are presently attending Expo and the children are staying with their grandparents.

Darlene MacDougall and Harold Thompson were married at Palermo United Church last Saturday afternoon. The reception was held at the Boyne Community Centre with the ladies of Palermo U.C.W. catering.

Mr. and Mrs. T. Jussila and children of Falconbridge spent last week with Mr. and Mrs. Harold Gowland and boys. Laurie Sewell of Toronto and Janice Rogers of Burlington were visitors on the weekend with the Pelletterios.

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