

# Barbecue, corn roast promote "pick your own" food concept

Young and old alike came out to a "pick your own" supper Sunday at the Chudleigh Farm on Highway 25, R.R. 3 Milton. Some in jeans, others in suits, hand picked over 75 cobs of corn and numerous bushels of apples. Sixty to 70 press and family members attended the outing, which ended with a steak barbecue and corn roast.

Fresh air, fun and quality apples are the concepts of this Pick-Your-Own farm. Here people select their own apples, which means that the bags they take home contain the best from top to bottom. With this concept the consumer avoids waste and saves money.

Looking around this pick-your-own farm you'll find 80 acres of dwarf apple trees, no higher than six or seven feet tall. These dwarf trees make for easy picking as even the smallest children can pick from bottom branches. "The shorter the tree, the more apples it produces," says owner Tom Chudleigh.

Mr. Chudleigh's father Eric started to grow dwarf apple trees in 1939 on his farm in Dixie. He experimented, imported quality trees from Europe, and began the development of today's best varieties. By 1955 this booming business had expanded and the Chudleigh family was forced to move to Milton.

In 1963 Tom Chudleigh graduated from the University of Guelph with his B.S.A. degree and in the same year came into the business.

"People are assured apples are at the peak of their maturity here," said Tom. "Different varieties are picked on different days. I like to think of the apple as a sponge. When the leaves

have fully matured the apple is ready for picking. Any apple that is picked before this time contains only 60 to 70 per cent of the full sugar content," he said. "Why would people want to pick an apple when they are getting less than what they paid for? This is the idea behind our concept. When the public pick their own they are assured of fine quality apples."

Every attempt is made to get apples maturing at different



EATING AROUND the apple is six-year-old Kelly Foster of Burlington. Kelly and her parents came out to enjoy an afternoon of apple picking and a steak barbecue at the Chudleigh farm north of Milton, Sunday.

times on the Chudleigh farm. The McIntosh group are picked on Sept. 18; Courtland Sept. 25; Red Delicious, Oct. 3; and Northern Spy, Russet and Golden Delicious on Oct. 10. Apple pickers are transported to the picking sites on hay wagons or the nature lovers can walk to the site, which is marked by a helium balloon. "If people don't travel to the site on the wagons, we find they get lost and wander all over the orchard looking for the picking site. This way, a helium balloon suspended in the air is readily seen and gives them the general direction to follow," said Tom.

All apples are picked in half bushel bags which make it handy for carrying the load. Price per bag is listed on a bulletin board just inside the gates of the farm. Dates and types of apples being picked also appear on the board.

Tom Chudleigh admits he doesn't do much experimenting with new varieties on his own. "We don't have enough equipment here to do much experimenting. Pruning trees can result in a certain amount of personal experimentation, but with all the modern equipment and techniques today, I'll let the government do the experimenting," he laughed.

The trees and their fruit have to be nurtured and protected to cope with the many natural enemies such as weeds, blight and frost. Trees are pruned during March and April; sprayed to protect from skin blemishes during May and June; and regularly sprayed with phosphate chemicals all through the summer months to ward off insects. In total the orchards are sprayed 12 to 15 times throughout the summer.

"The sprays are poisonous but only for a short period of time," said Tom. "After three to five days the apples can be safely eaten."

Business at the Chudleigh farm is booming at this time of year. People for miles around come out for a Sunday afternoon outing to pick the "in season" apples. Last year traffic was so heavy I had to hire a police officer to direct traffic," said Tom.

For storing apples, Tom Chudleigh urges everyone to keep the fruit at a 35 degree temperature. Failing this an even temperature of 40 to 50 degrees will do. "Never let the temperature fluctuate any more than 10 degrees or the condition of the apples will be affected."

Each year thousands of new trees are produced on the farm. These trees are sold to orchards across Canada in early spring. The Chudleigh farm offers a variety of 18 trees to choose from. Trees can be purchased from the farm in April and early May just in time for spring planting. Aside from apples, the Chudleigh farm also produces other fruit and vegetables. Tomatoes and pears are just two of the many.

"The pick your own concept is becoming more and more widespread," said Tom. "This even applies to vegetables."



PICKING IS A FAMILY AFFAIR for Vince Devitt and his four daughters. The Devitts joined numerous other families at the Chudleigh barbecue and pick-your-own apple outing Sunday. About 70 people attended the event.—(Staff Photo)

## Health Unit rules on new subdivision draw council's ire

Health Unit requirements for Eden Mills Subdivision proposed at Eden Mills drew the ire of Councillor Alan Ackman at Nassagaweya Township Council meeting Monday.

"Virtually the entire village of Eden Mills is on rock. If six feet of soil is required over the rock nothing would have been built there," he declared.

System "archaic" "Why do we restrict our thinking to archaic systems. There are systems which eliminate sewage. Why aren't these being considered?"

The councillor was commenting on a letter from the Halton County Health Unit to Harold Williams regarding a proposed village subdivision. The Unit required a communal water supply approved by the OWRC and the township engineer which would be taken over by the township on completion of the subdivision.

It was also pointed out on rock areas or rock outcroppings in field tile beds six feet of soil would be required. Preparation of an area which would permit later doubling of the size of the tile bed would also be a requirement of the subdivision, the Health Unit noted.

Pretty expensive Reeve A. MacArthur suggested it looked like the subdivision was

going to be expensive for the township. "If there's a gravel pit in the area it should be used for a sanitary land fill site and forget the subdivision", she observed. At the suggestion of Councillor A. Gibson, Councillor Ackman will discuss the requirements with Health Unit officials.

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## Religious education report is attacked

Halton County Board of Education received the presentation of the report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Education at their meeting in Oakville Thursday. The board told the committee the report would come before the board at a future meeting, to be approved or sent back to the committee for further consideration.

The committee has worked for a year studying the MacKay Report. In some cases the committee endorsed recommendations of the MacKay report and in others rejected them. The report deals with religious education in the schools, opening exercises and what, if any, religion should be taught or made available in public schools.

Keep exercises The committee favored keeping opening exercises with modifications rather than dropping it like the MacKay report advocates.

The report endorses the McKay recommendation calling for principals and teachers to call on the resource personnel in the community.

The committee recommended the formation of a committee of trustees, teachers, principals, representatives from the ministerial associations,

students, parents and representatives from the community at large to develop a suitable curriculum.

The report advocates leaving the principal responsible for choosing proper courses of study in religion suitable to the community in which his school is located.

The committee noted no program should be innovated until specialists in religious education are available.

Trustee Dick Goodin attacked the report, asking that it be sent back to the committee for further study. In a lengthy speech he said the report represented another symptom in the breakdown in society. "Society is sick and I'm worried about lack of development of good citizenship," Goodin said, adding that "we are living in a world of big budgets, big buildings and big machines and we're neglecting basic causes," he said.

Send it back Goodin said there would be little accomplished if the report was adopted and strongly urged it be sent back to committee.

Brian Coupland who presented the report told the board Goodin represented a conservative, sincere concern felt by many, but added that the committee had tried to compromise and ride between the position Mr. Goodin represents and the position outlined in the McKay Report.



WATCHING AND SAMPLING fresh corn on the cob are Tom Chudleigh, his wife Carol and Michael Ruigrok of Milton. Everyone got together to pick the corn and while it roasted, apple picking was on the agenda. Mr. and Mrs. Chudleigh own the Pick-Your-Own farm at R. R. 3 Milton.—(Staff Photo)

## Seat belts reduce collision injuries

Seat belts are credited by Milton Police with saving Mr. and Mrs. Charles Woods of St. Catharines from serious injury or death, after they were involved in an almost head-on collision Saturday at the corner of Ontario St. and Derry Rd.

A car driven by 17-year-old Raymond Mitchell of Burlington collided with the Woods vehicle. The St. Catharines couple were taken to Milton District Hospital and later released. Mr. Woods was treated for facial injuries, his wife for stomach pains.

Damages to both vehicles totalled \$1,000.

A two car collision Monday on Martin St. north of Base Line Rd. was also investigated by Milton Police. A car driven by William O'Brien, Rockwood, collided with a vehicle driven by Hans Hansen of Court St. Damage to the O'Brien car was estimated at \$300; \$250 to the Hansen car.

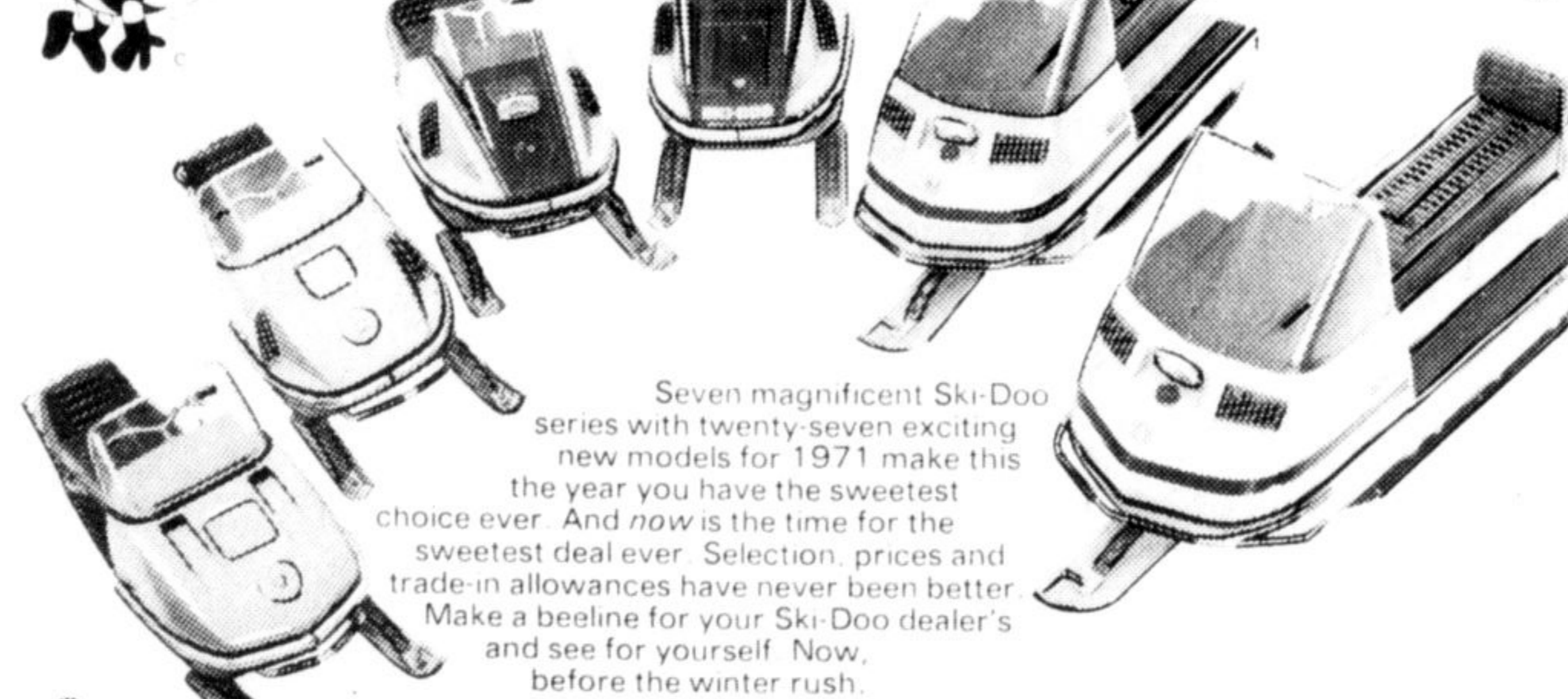
Three minor accidents were also reported. Damages totalled \$300.

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