

SWEEP gang makes sweeping improvement

By Janet Braida

More than 2,000 students are "sweeping" the province this summer, working with 37 Conservation Authorities throughout Ontario in a program called SWEEP (Students Working in an Environmental Enhancement Program). These high school and university students are concentrating on park improvement projects, cleanup of parks and conservation areas, lakes and river banks; stream improvement projects, tree planting and other related activities.

The Halton Region Conservation Authority is employing 53 high school and university students within the local watersheds. Entirely sponsored

by the Ontario Government, the students were hired by the Department of Lands and Forests and by the Department of Energy and Resources Management through its Conservation Authorities branches.

Heads up program

Last week marked the beginning of the full operation for SWEEP. Although the university students began work June 14, the SWEEP program did not get into full swing until July 5 when the high school students began work. Of the 53 total, 23 are high school laborers, 22 are university laborers, five are (university) foremen and three make up the clerical staff.

Supervisor Gord Hadley of Milton is head over the entire

program. He administers duties, checks time sheets, supervises projects and even gets into the "nitty gritty" work himself.

A graduate of the four year Wildlife and Fisheries Program at the University of Guelph and a one year teaching course at Althouse Teachers College in London, he plans to further his career as a teacher at T. A. Blakelock High School in Oakville in September. "I am very pleased with the progress of the program during its first week of initiation," said Hadley. "I have very good foremen to work with. They are a sociable group, carry the load and make my job that much easier."

Plenty of workers

"At least 200 applications were

received for the 53 jobs available at the HRCA this summer," Hadley noted. "We were pleased with the response to the program."

Approximately one third of the students hired through HRCA are girls. They receive the same privileges as the male employees and must wear the Department of Highways' regulation outfits, the same as the men. "There's no women's liberation in this operation," he said.

The DHO outfits include white "boss" hardhats, orange fluorescent vests with the SWEEP insignia monogrammed across the back, heavy duty safety boots (which the students had to supply themselves) and heavy men's work gloves.

Pay scale

Actual work in the conservation parks and lands began this week, with the full work force. All laborers and the clerical office staff receive \$2 an hour for their efforts in a 40 hour week. The five university foremen in charge of the five work crews are paid \$80 a week and the supervisor receives \$100 a week. Each conservation department within Ontario has hired 1,000 students and received \$1.2 million to cover the cost of wages and equipment.

This week the crews have been building gabion baskets for erosion control at Sixteen Valley Conservation Area, cleaning up roadsides and the shoreline of Mountsberg Reservoir and working on a development plan and an historical report in the Milton Field office. As well, the group have been working on the cleaning out and reconstruction of a small dam on Sixteen Mile Creek. The work has involved the facing of banks in places with small concrete slabs, building weirs ("dams on an angle") to deflect the course of the water and reduce the rate of washout, and building step-dams with large stones to increase the oxygenation of the water.

Clean roadsides

Mr. Hadley explained the four main aspects of Sweep individually. "The roadside cleanup involves trying to remove any flagrant waste problems on public lands and within the watershed," he said. "The students go into their act by donning their DHO outfits and

putting up SWEEP signs along the roadway to alert approaching motorists. The group then foot patrols the roadsides, picking up litter and discarded garbage and loads it into trucks. The HRCA SWEEP program received three Ford trucks from the Ford Motor Company of Canada. Ford supplied the Ontario government with 90 brand new 1971 Ford trucks for the summer program. With a retail value of \$275,000, the trucks are all painted white with the SWEEP emblem in green.

Also involved in the roadside cleanup, Mr. Hadley explained that if the students should stumble upon a private dump or junkheap, they will suggest to the owner a cleanup of his garbage. "The students will also make a point to suggest that should the owner not want to clean it up, they will do so if they have time at the end of the summer's program."

Prevent waste

"The stream improvement program," said Hadley, "is primarily to prevent mass wasting of stream banks. By this we mean to slow down erosion and remove old refuse from wherever the stream crosses public lands." His explanation included the building of the gabion (large wire baskets filled with heavy stones), baskets to help stabilize the stream banks. "The small deflector dams," he continued, "are to protect the eroding banks and small step-dams improve the oxygen content of the water."

The improvement of parklands is the third aspect of the SWEEP program. Examples of the program include the clearing of new conservation properties such as the clearing of Hilton Falls and the proposed clearing of other Authority lands.

Education too

"The educational aspect is the remaining program the students are concentrating on," he added. "To make their employment an educational experience, the students will work with Authority staff in wildlife, forestry, planning and conservation activities as well as taking part in a program of tours and guest speakers."

Also as part of their summer employment program, the



RETRACING THE COURSE of Hilton Falls development plan, (left to right), Nick Morgunov of Oakville, Philip Quinn, Craig McDougall and Dan Duval of Burlington prepare notes on the area. The students are working with Forestry Technician Mauno Marttala in the dam area. —(Staff Photo)



A GARBAGE DUMP along the roadside of Sixth Line, Nassagaweya is cleaned up by students working for the summer SWEEP (Students Working in an Environmental Enhancement Program) program. The students are employed by the HRCA through the Department of Energy and Resources Management. —(Staff Photo)

Ceremony opens Kelso Music Centre

Kelso Music Centre was officially opened Sunday afternoon with opening ceremonies being conducted on the lawn at Ontario School for the Deaf and a concert with the Orford String Quartet following at the school auditorium.

Bill Bateman, commissioner of parks in Oakville chaired the opening ceremonies. Mrs. P. M. Thompson and Mrs. Jean Caine of Oakville spoke briefly and Oakville Mayor McLean Anderson declared the function officially open. Rev. R. W. Foster of Milton offered a prayer.

A group of 32 young musicians from across Quebec and Ontario were chosen to take part in the pilot project. The Orford Quartet will be on hand for the three week project, serving as the faculty for the centre.

Founder

Mrs. Thompson of Oakville, president and founder of the centre hopes the Music Centre will be able to establish a permanent educational cultural centre in the area. The centre is currently canvassing for more funds.

"The need for the centre is clear. There is a growing demand for young talented string players in both amateur and professional organizations," Mrs. Thompson said.

The Kelso Music Centre was so named because it originally was to be held at the Kelso

Conservation area but plans were altered and the three week pilot project is being staged at OSD.

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Four houses

Four residential permits were issued in the Township of Nassagaweya during the month of June bringing the total value of permits for 1971 to \$486,500.

At this time last year permits for the year totalled \$486,695.

The four residential permits were valued at \$91,000.

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