

Rural-Urban Exchange

Oakville girl enjoys week with Nassagaweya farm girl

Story and photos
By Dan O'Reilly

Sandra Early and Sandra (Sandy) King are two products of different environments who, though they have similar interests, have slightly different lifestyles.

Both Sandys are grade eight students who are still unsure of what they want to do with their

lives. They're not really worried about the situation, though. Both are 13 years old.

Sandra King attends New Central Public School in Oakville and will most likely enroll at Oakville Trafalgar High School when she completes grade eight. Sandra Early is a student of Brookville Public School, who is planning to go to Acton High

School when she finishes her public school education.

Depend on land

Sandra Early is the fourth generation Early to live on the Early farm (a Century Farm) on 25 Sideroad in Nassagaweya. Sandra's parents Don and Jean Early live through the eyes of people who depend on the land for their source of income.

The other Sandra (Sandy) is a resident of suburban Oakville, where she's lived for the past year. Before that she lived in Preston. That town's tempo was considerably slower than her present hometown, she claims. Miss King's father is an accountant with the Ontario Milk Association.

It was because of this year's Urban-Rural Exchange Program Sandra King was able to stay with the Earlys. In addition to being a fun time, the week-long venture gave her a brief picture of a life different than her own.

Cost is low

The Urban-Rural Program attempts to place an urban youngster on a farm for a week and lodge a farm child with a city family for seven days. Cost is only three dollars per youth and both the host families are covered by insurance.

"We're hoping to improve relations between the urban dweller and the farmer. Through the program the participating children can see that life on a farm or vice-versa is different than what they've been accustomed to," claims Janet Hunter, Halton-Peel Co-ordinator of the program.

Miss Hunter, who operates from the Ministry of Agriculture Building on Main St. in Milton, says very few farmers have indicated interest in the program yet. "I'm optimistic the situation will improve," she states.

Applicants are chosen on such criteria as marks and attitude in school and whether or not the particular student would benefit from the rural outing.

Our Oakville lass, Sandy King doesn't know why she was selected. But she's glad to have had the opportunity to help with the farm chores, even when it means climbing out of bed at 6:30 in the morning to help Sandra herd the family's cows to the barn for milking.

"I've also learned some useful tips on baking from Sandra," remarks Sandy.

All work and no play makes Jack (Sandy) a dull person. The girls didn't have all their time scheduled for work. "We've spent a lot of time bicycling and swimming at the Rockwood Conservation Park," explains Sandra Early.

Why did the Earlys decide to participate in the program? "We heard the organizers

needed host farm families, so we decided to help out," says Mrs. Jean Early.

Different idea

"It gives youngsters a chance to see what farming is really like," adds Don Early. "Some city youths think food comes directly from the can."

While the two young ladies have similar interests, they maintain separate identities. Sandra Early keeps her hair short, while Sandy King's hair cascades almost to her shoulders.

The Oakville girl dreams of becoming an airline stewardess and travelling to Switzerland. Sandra Early wants to enter the home economic profession or work in the secretarial line.

The Early girl wants to tour to other lands too, but she'd keep

her trips restricted to California or Hawaii—Europe has no appeal.

A college or university course is probably in the offing for Sandy King. Sandra Early isn't sure she'll want any more education after completing public and high school.

Plenty to be doing

Last week's experience was a "take things as they come affair" for the girls. They were never lost for something to do, they report. Time was divided between farm and kitchen chores, hiking, swimming, and exploring.

One thing they did not do was plan the next day's events, says Mrs. Early. "When you're on a farm there's just no way you can plan for anything," she concluded for the family.



UTILIZING a boulder as a spot to relax are Early. (Photo by D. O'Reilly) the two Sandys. Sandy King and Sandra

Crops fall short of good prospects

By Evans Estabrooks

Frost on June 10 across Ontario and wet weather in both Ontario and the eastern seaboard of the U.S. has adversely affected production of fruit and vegetable crops.

This spring prospects for a full strawberry crop were good but after the frost of June 10 and the fruit rot which developed as a result of wet weather in late June, this potentially abundant crop turned to one far below average. This reduction of crop was reflected in the higher price of strawberries in the supermarket although pick-your-own operations retained their regular price.

Boost Prices

Adverse weather in the eastern U.S. has resulted in a reduced volume of cabbage and cauliflower being shipped into Ontario. As a result, Ontario suppliers have not been able to keep up to demand resulting in higher prices at the vegetable counter.

The new Ontario potato crop is now being harvested but was set back by the June frost.

Most fruit and vegetable crops

are now developing well in this area and most of Ontario.

Visit Science Centre

By Henry J. Stanley

On Wednesday, July 5, the Halton 4-H Agricultural Club members travelled to the Ontario Science Centre, Toronto, for their annual bus trip. This trip is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of the Kingsway in Toronto. At noon refreshments were provided by the Kiwanians.

The next event for our Halton 4-Hers is the livestock evaluation day at the University of Guelph, July 13. They will have classes of dairy, beef, sheep and swine, and will evaluate the class based on the type of the animal and its performance, rate of gain, milk production, etc.

—Crews are oiling and stoning local roads this week.

NO MEETING

Milton Council held no meeting this week—too many councillors have booked summer holidays


this week and there weren't enough able to attend and make up a quorum for either committee meetings or a full council meeting. A regular meeting may be held next week, depending on how many councillors are still in town.



SANDY AND SANDRA are at work in the Earlys' garden.



WHILE SANDRA EARLY is busy making strawberry jam, Sandy King is pre-occupied with sampling the wares. (Photos by D.O'Reilly)

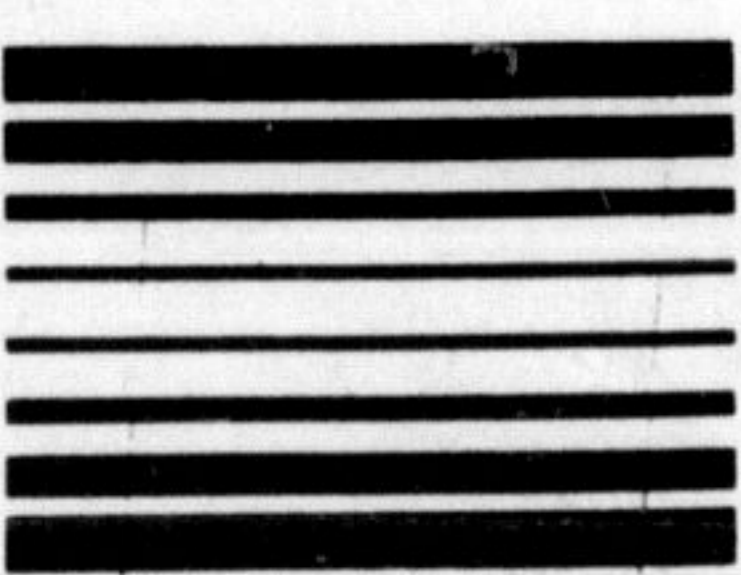


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