

Plenty to do at Mountsberg

Gary Hutton teaches life at conservation centre



GARY HUTTON tries to calm the timid fox who recently made its home at the Wildlife Centre at Mountsberg. Gary teaches groups of children who visit the centre the importance of good conservation to maintain a balanced ecology.

By Joyce Beaton
Gary Hutton is the biologist with the Mountsberg Wildlife Centre. Operated by Halton Region Conservation Authority, the Centre offers a variety of educational and recreational activities. The 25-year-old Gary is in charge of the education programs at Mountsberg as well as on all HRCA lands. He co-ordinates the wildlife program, is a resource person visiting in schools, teaches visiting children at the centre, and edits a monthly newsletter, "The Heron Herald" to promote appreciation of the natural world.

Gary commutes to his job from his home in Cambridge. A graduate of the University of Waterloo Lutheran, he majored in biology and minored in geography. He has studied animal ecology at Guelph University and survival techniques at Conestoga College.

Well trained for his position with HRCA, he worked at seasonal jobs with the Ministry of Natural Resources in Hespeler as assistant to the district biologist and at the Ontario Waterfowl Research Foundation in Guelph, raising 600 wood ducks. The ducks were released in different parts of Southern Ontario to help pioneer the population.

Gary began with HRCA last January on the winter works program and then continued on at an hourly wage job. With the resignation of Frank Timmermans, former wildlife technician, two job openings were formed. Gary looks after the educational and recreational aspects and Martin Wernaart is in charge of the animals.

The education program is designed to provide comprehensive interpretation of the natural world and its relationship to man and conservation. Hoping to nurture conservation-minded citizens for future generations, the program teaches, by practical involvement and demonstration, the importance of wise use and proper management of our valuable natural resources.

Various categories
There are eight different study categories in the Student Interpretation Program. They are World of the Marsh, Earth Sciences, Stream Ecology, The Forest Community, Field Ecology, Nature in Winter, Maple Syrup Time, and Kiddy Curriculum.

The Kiddy Curriculum is for younger students under grade five. It consists of an appropriate film, followed by a short guided nature hike. Complete Teacher's Guides for day-long programs are provided with future programming to include ornithology (bird) study, fresh water ecology, astronomy, farm management and pioneer probe.

A Girl Guide-Boy Scout program will be developed by Gary to coincide with the conservation and naturalist badge requirements by these organizations.

Winter programs
Winter nature programs include guided sleigh rides, looking for animal tracks, tree and plant identification, bird identification, winter orienteering (with compass), and measuring the properties

and function of snow. A survival mission will also be held showing how to survive in winter if lost in the woods.

Winter recreation programs at Mountsberg begin Jan. 5 and run each Saturday and Sunday until it is time for the Maple Syrup Festival in March. Each day begins with a sleigh ride from 12 to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays. These rides continue every half hour on a sleigh pulled by two horses.

Cross country skiing is supervised on three trails throughout the 1,300 acres of woodland meadows. A snowshoe hike begins each

day at 1 p.m. and snowshoe orientation is offered by Gary beginning with a slide presentation.

Gary also wants to introduce snowshoeing to the nature classes. He hopes to have a supply of snowshoes on hand to take small groups of children into the woods to study bird and animal tracks.

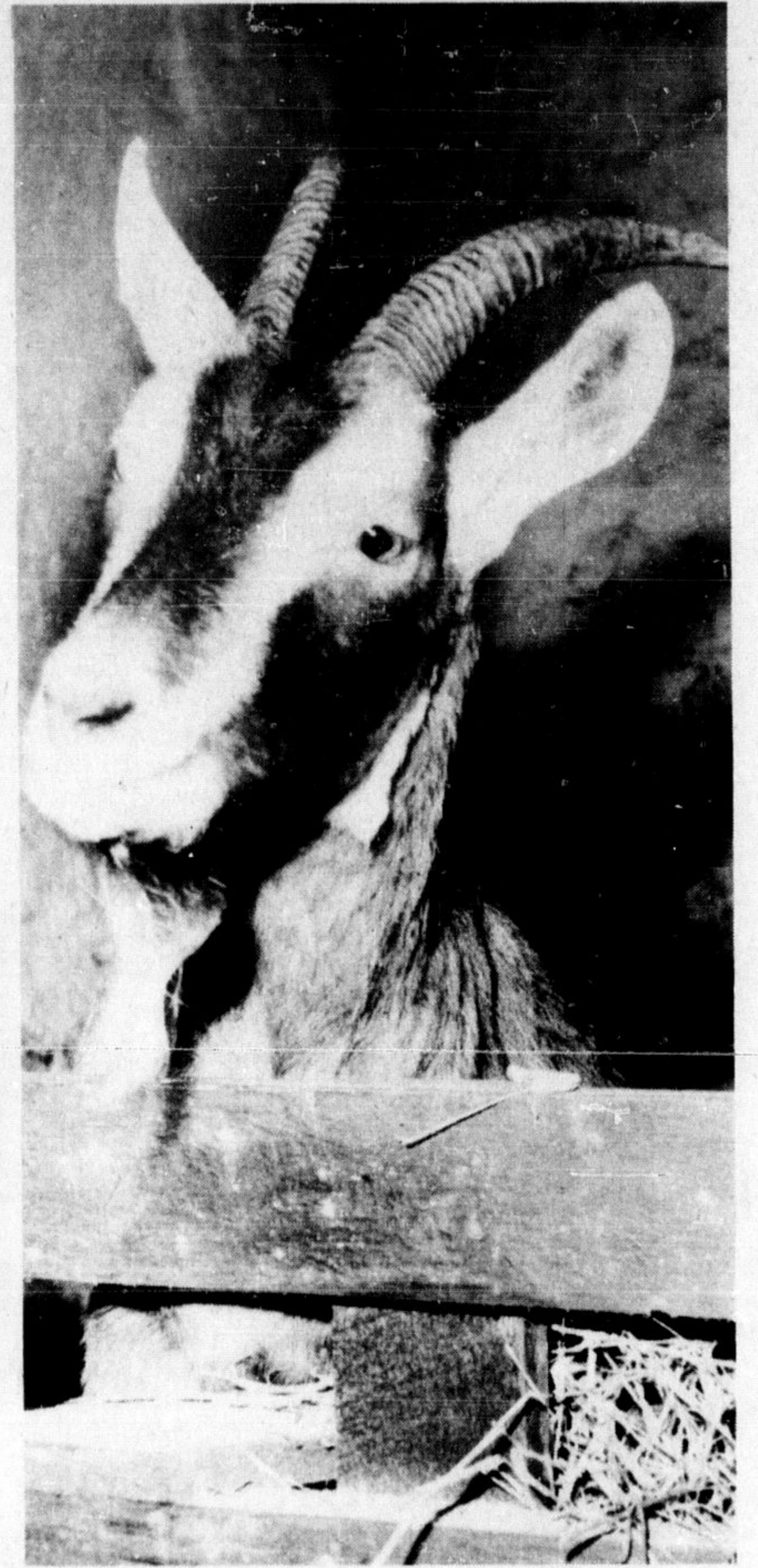
Skating

Skating will take place each weekend at 3 p.m. "Death of a Legend" a film on the wolf will be shown Jan. 5 and 6 and "The Winged World", a National Geographic film on birds, will be shown Jan. 12 and 13.

Admission to the centre is only \$1 per car and includes one or all of these programs.

Gary Hutton is obviously a capable and energetic young man. He is also a warm and interested personality who loves his work with children. Recently a class from Elizabeth Gardens School in Burlington sent a get-well card for "Flash", the seven month old fawn who lives at the centre. Flash had an accident and had to have his leg amputated. The card read, "Our class saw Flash this fall and would like to wish him well."

For Gary this was just one of the rewards of his job.



BILLY GOAT looks wistfully from his stall at the Mountsberg Wildlife Centre. He seems lonely for the children who often visit the centre with their school classes.



A GUINEA PIG is right at home in the rabbit warren at Mountsberg Wildlife Centre. Pigs, goats, sheep, horses, deer and birds all occupy the barn at the centre, a great place to take the children and let them loose to enjoy themselves and learn about nature.

Take 30

Andy Frank provided the "fiddle" music as a background to Take 30, a TV program on channel 5 that was aired Dec. 24

Filmed on the Nassagaweya farms of Henry Best and on the show host's farm of Adrienne Clarkson, the program centred around cutting Christmas trees.

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IT'S COLD sometimes on the job but Gary spends hours outside with children and adults. Besides his educational program, he also takes part in the many recreational activities offered at Mountsberg. (Photos by J. Beaton)

J. Livock heads club

Halton-Peel Jersey Club members recently held their annual meeting and elected Jim Livock of Oakville as president for 1974.

Vice-president is Lorne Ella of Hornby with Bob Mellow of Bolton second vice-president. Secretary-treasurer is Jean House of Meadowdale and past president Bruce Nixon,

Directors are Mac Alexander, Norval; David Davies, Guelph; Mrs. Eva Harper, Georgetown; Jim Livock, Oakville; Bob Mellow, Bolton; Murray McKeown, Caledon; East; Bruce Nixon, Norval; Eleanor Robinson, Georgetown; Myrtle Wright, Brampton.

CHANNEL SWIM
While more than 1,000 have tried, only about 100 people have swum the English Channel. Captain Matthew Webb launched modern Channel swimming in 1875 when he made his way to France by breaststroke and sidestroke in 21 hours, 45 minutes. Gertrude Ederle of America did it in 1926 in 14 hours, 39 minutes. The current record, nine hours, 35 minutes, was set by Barry Watson of Britain in 1964.



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