Costume Society workshop hosted by Halton Museum

By Dorinne Belbeck What I am told, I forget. What I do, I know.

proclaims the theme of the Spring Workshop of the Costume Society of Ontario, held March 23 and 24 at the Halton Regional Museum. Dynamically led by Mrs. Eileen Collard, Chairman of the Costume Society of Ontario, the workshop attracted participants from such widespread parts of Southern Ontario as Owen Sound, Barrie and Renfrew. The was limited to 20 people so that maximum benefit could be derived for those attending; 53 ap-

plications were received. David Pequegnat of the University said he had attended many seminars and workshops but that this session at the Halton Regional Museum was by far the best. The organization of the workshop by Mrs. Collard, the warmth and hospitality of the Halton Regional Museum staff and the superb food provided for their lunches were high on his list of outstanding qualities of the session. The gathering of museum curators, members of board of management directors and university

Costumes

representatives also voiced

their enthusiastic approval.

Mrs. Collard had chosen Halton Regional Museum for proposed Spring Workshop in October, 1973. Mrs. Erla Brittain, Curator of the Museum, was delighted to have such a prestigeous event designated for Halton, and at such an opportune time. The title of the Workshop was Organizing a Costume Collection in a Small Museum." Halton Regional Museum had decided to embark on a project that would better preserve the extensive costume collection in the museum and store them in the Alexander Stone House. The project was delayed to allow Mrs. Collard to illustrate her topic in a real situation and to give Halton Museum the benefit of the collective talent that would be Eileen Collard, a vigorous

present at the Workshop. and knowledgeable woman was approached by the Costume Society to present workshops semiannually to meet the demand for information on costumes from museums, education and the theatre. Her training as a designer and her work at museums has enabled her to conduct outstanding seminars covering the costume's contribution to social history, comment on design, storage preservation. She has written several booklets on costume including "The Cut of Women's 19th Century Dress" and "Fashions of the

Seventies (1870-1879)" Reading

This highly organized woman, once she has selected a museum as the host for the seminar and completed the preliminary preparations, moves into high gear 10

Muffin meeting

President Joyce Wilson of the Hornby 4-H club opened the recent meeting with the pledge, then after business had been discussed the girls retired to the kitchen to make three kinds of muffins-also judged by two members. Different kinds of flours

were examined and the meeting closed with the devouring of the delicious

GOLDEN FRENCH FRIES MURRAY HOOD DRIVE-IN ON STEELES AVE.

weeks prior to the session. She "tries to keep it to a full What I see, I remember. day job," but it takes all her nights too. She visited the This old Chinese Proverb Halton Museum once a week examining the costumes in preparation for the workshop. Each participant was sent a list of required reading weeks before the event. They were also given a choice of working on the blueprints of the area chosen in Halton Museum to become the new storage area. or to bring blueprints of their own storage areas they were prepared to work on.

at Halton Regional Museum at 9 a.m. Saturday morning, the group registered, had a coffee and were hard at work by 9.30

Period dress

Mrs. Olive Newcombe, Director, Dundas Historical Society Museum, chaired the workshop. She introduced Erla Brittain who welcomed them to "the barn" where the workshop was held. The very impressive structure has hand hewn beams of whole tree trunks across the lofty ceiling, and a magnificent Stagecoach Inn fireplace. The participants remarked later that it was a truly fascinating

Mrs. Brittain then turned

the workshop over to Mrs. Collard. Mrs. Collard spoke for a few minutes on "Why Clothing Artifacts Should be Preserved" and outlined the topics that would be covered during the session. There was a short visit to the Craft House of the Museum where the costumes are presently dramatic presentation of a "Gift to the Museum" introduced the first topic "Identifying the Silhouette or Period." Using artifacts from the museum's collection plus slides and posters, Mrs. Collard gave an energetic and enthusiastic

presentation. The informal atmosphere of the workshop session and Eilleen Collard's forceful and

dramatic presentation of her viewed the actual ac-next topic "Organizing Suit- commodation proposed for able Storage and Work the Halton Collection and Areas" so engrossed the using the blueprints provided, group that coffee was taken plus a working model, they at their work table. They had designed a new storage and

work area for the Alexander House. The problems of storage in a limited space were illustrated by Mrs. Collard. Shallow drawer storage, hanging storage and



VACUUMING A COSTUME are Ellen Langlans and S. J. Erwood, participants in the Costume Society Workshop this past weekend hosted by Halton County Museum.

(Photo by D. Pink)

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STRENGTHEN ST. JOHN

tend the St. John Ambulance Milton Branch Meeting, at Milton District Hospital's Clinical Classroom, on March 27 at 8 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to strengthen the role of St. John in the Town of Milton. Volunteers are always required. For further information call 878-3259.

MAPLE SYRUP TIME

"Pancake Days" begin at Mountsberg Wildlife Centre to herald the appearance of one of the first signs of spring—fresh maple syrup. During the next three weekends, beginning March 23, from 9:30 to 5 p.m., pancakes and maple syrup products may be purchased. Come out and emjoy this early spring event at only \$1 per car.

See how much car your



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utilizing odd spaces for storage were also included. Social hour

A social hour with slides on "Canadian Costume 1780-1920" was held on Saturday evening in front of a roaring fire made with enormous logs, in the huge fireplace at the Museum. This added to the reputation for hospitality the Museum is rapidly acquiring. The Sunday session began

at 9.30 a.m. and considered "Preserving, the topic Restoring and Cleaning of Costumes." What not to do was included as well as what Vacuuming historical items was illustrated. A constructed wire frame torso and bust and an altered manneguin were used to display the costumes effectively and inexpensively. As finances are a large headache for any museum, Mrs. Collard advocates using all and any materials available. The best solution to a preserving and storing problem is usually the most expensive. Next best was emphasized. Mrs. Jean Van Nostrand, Training Co-ordinator, Ontario Museums Association will be evaluating the seminar and will send her findings to the museum.

Lunches Friends of the Halton



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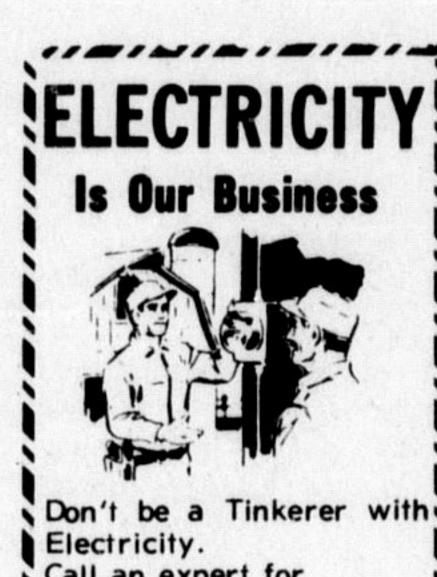
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Museum provided lunches both days. All volunteers, the friends prepared the lunches in their homes and delivered

them to the Museum. Under the direction of Bonnie Dowdell lunch was served Saturday and Sunday with fresh coffee cake for breaks.

Tossed Salad, Consomme au Crouton, Flemish Carbonnade de Boeuf, Coq au Vin, Home Made Bread and Fresh Fruit Cocktail Rose. French Tourtiere, Quiche Lorraine, Tossed Salad and Brandied Fruit and Ice

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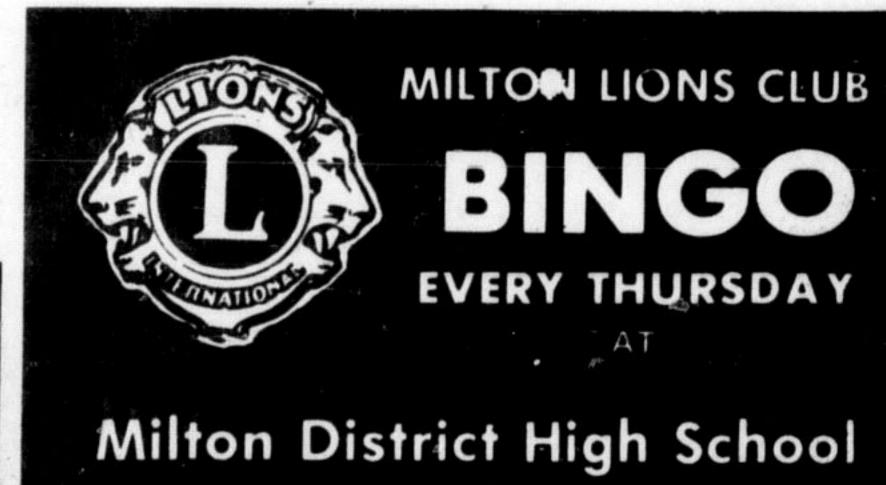
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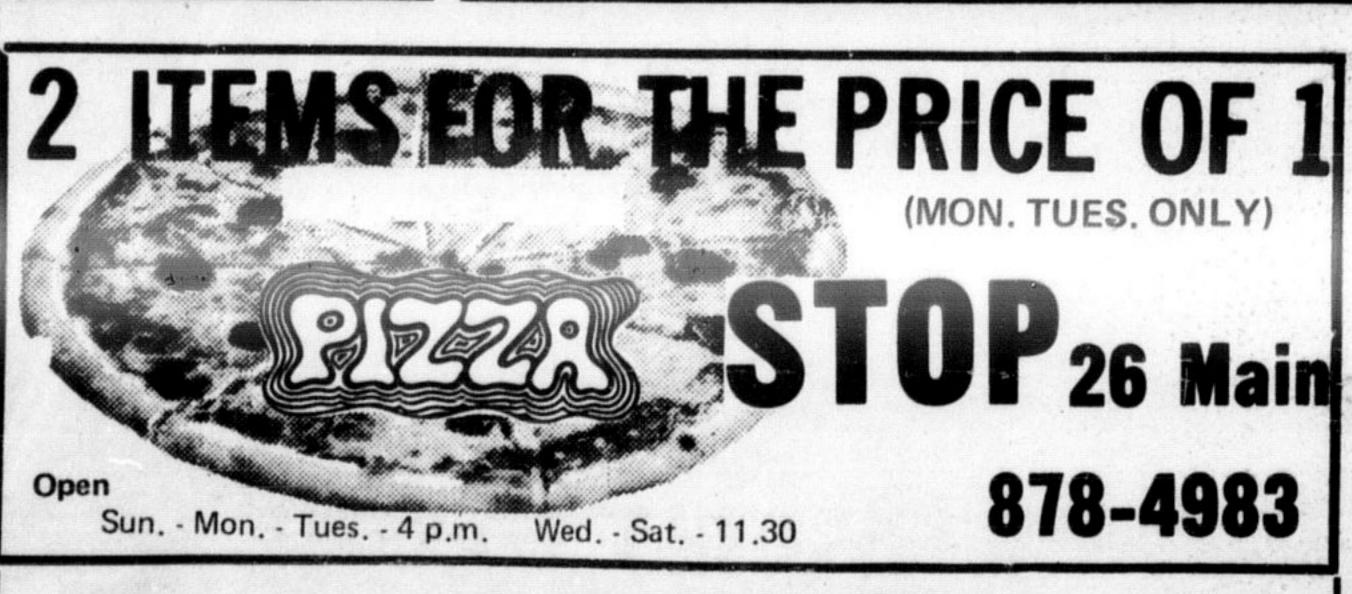


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