

Rock picking, haying

Agricrew workers learning variety of farm chores

By Linda Kirby
Rock picking may not be the most glamorous summer job, but for one group of area students, it's not all that bad, either.

"Farming can be boring, but with this job, you get a variety," according to 16-year-old Andrew Illinworth of Milton. For the past two weeks he has been busy roofing, picking rocks, cleaning barns and clearing brush.

He is one of 10 students from the North Halton area to be employed in a special pilot project launched this summer by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

The program is designed to provide summer farm employment for youth, plus help for farmers who want to get some of the jobs done that they are too busy to do themselves.

Karen Minaker, 19, of Hornby has ambitions to be a wildlife and forest technician and is spending her summer as a member of the Agricrew group.

A former resident of the Haliburton region, where her family ran a lumbering business, Miss Minaker finds her summer job demanding, but not overwhelming.

"I can throw a bale around," she stated assuredly, and recalled one of her assignments—clearing a cow barn of one winter's accumulation of manure.

She admitted it was a hard and heavy job, but the task did little to change her view of her summer job.

"It's a good program," she said, adding she felt the job allowed her to realize additional capacities she never knew existed.

"It also extends your knowledge, and you never get bored."

Miss Minaker is one of four students who form one Agricrew group which also has a foreman.

The group goes from farm to farm, wherever their services are in demand, and achieves a variety of farm-oriented tasks.

The program costs a farmer \$55 a day for the group of five, which works out to approximately \$11 a day per person for eight to 10 hours of work.

Now in their second week, the group has already spent time learning the tricks of roofing, haying, painting, and stone picking.

While most admit they do not become terribly enthusiastic about stone picking, they are also quick to state it wasn't a job that killed them.

"It's a job that has to be done, so you do it," said Andrew.

He has a background in farming which includes chicken-catching, so he feels prepared to tackle any job that comes up this summer.

But, he admits, it is not only farming interests that provide the motivation. A cruise in the South Pacific ocean is his dream for next March, and in addition to his farming job, he holds down a second job as a dishwasher in Burlington.

Working alongside Karen Minaker is her sister Nancy, a grade 12 student, who said

her interest in the job is the variety provided by the program.

"It's not walking into one job to do one thing, instead there is a good mixture," she stated.

In fact, the group never really knows where they are going to be until they receive the assignment from Carolyn Bird, area co-ordinator of the project.

Murray Hill, 16, from Lowville, another member of the group, has worked on a market farm in past summers, and has done some chicken catching and landscaping.

It all comes in handy, because each of the members feels they have the necessary experience and confidence to tackle whatever jobs come their way.

"We have had a lot of good feedback from employers, and the more compliments we get, the harder we work," according to Andrew.



FOREMAN Peter De Mers explains the method of thinning an apple tree at a local fruit orchard. A crew of 10 local youths is working this summer on a government-sponsored pilot project of farm employment on North Halton farms. Thus far, this group of five teens has done painting, brush clearing and stone picking.

Mixed in with all that hard labor is a good dosage of camaraderie—and some fringe benefits.

One of their favorite assignments, they recall with lots of smiles, was the job of cleaning brush for one farmer.

They worked hard all morning on the task, and at noon stopped for their lunch—a picnic under the trees—followed by a swim at the farmer's invitation.

Another job left them with longer lasting memories. The crew was assigned to help out with an insulation job at one farm.

Unfortunately some of the prickly insulation material worked its way into the clothes of the students, leaving them scratching for quite some time.

It wasn't as bad as it seemed, though, said Murray.

The group "pulled through" to go on to their next

assignment.

The students, ranging in age from 15 to 21, will be available for summer work on area farms until Sept. 1.

Foreman Paul Dick and Peter De Mars will work along with the crew. They'll be responsible for supervision, making sure the job

Report early

Coyotes, wolves losses \$90,000

By Henry J. Stanley
Agricultural Representative

The pasture season is here and with it, the associated benefits and dangers. Coyotes or wolves are an ever-present hazard in many areas, especially for young animals in a sheep flock or even a cow herd.

Most livestock owners know there is compensation available when losses due to wolves or coyotes occur. Did you also know that the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources operates a predator control program? When a complaint is made to an Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources regional or district office, an independent trapper is hired to catch problem animals. However, any success is dependent upon the trapper being on the scene as soon as possible.

To make sure of this, the livestock owner should personally notify the local Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources office of any damage. In some cases, the township personnel will do this but in many others, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources does not know of the damage until claims are submitted by the township to the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food in Toronto, which in turn, notifies the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources personnel. By this time, months could have elapsed as sometimes claims are not submitted until a number have accumulated.

In 1977-78, approximately \$90,000 was paid out in claims to livestock owners who had suffered coyote and wolf losses. This included 1,102 sheep and lambs, 152 cattle and calves, seven goats, two horses and 127 poultry

specifications are carried out and driving the crews to the farm.

Employers must be farmers who are engaged in farming full time, or greenhouse or nursery operators. One day is the minimum hire period and five days the maximum.

Superior producer

Plumbroke Dora Ormsby, a purebred Holstein cow bred and owned by H. C. Reid of Milton, has completed an outstanding 11-year-old record.

She received a Superior Production certificate from the Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada for both her 305 and 339 day record.

In 305 days she yielded on twice a day milking 10,179 kg. milk, 459 kg. fat and testing 4.51 per cent butterfat or BCA indices of 199-247. She went on to complete her lactation in 339 days, yielding 10,633 kg. milk, 479 kg. fat and testing 4.50 per cent butterfat. Dora Ormsby is classified Good Plus for type.

Dora Ormsby is sired by Spring Farm Reflection Ormsby who is classified Very Good for type and rated a Superior Type sire.

Her dam, Plumbroke Chief Inka is classified Good Plus for type.



AGRICREW members Karen Minaker, 19, Andrew Illinworth, 16, and Nancy Minaker are busy thinning apple trees as part of their summer job with local farmers. The program, sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, will run until Sept. 1.

Pro-Life announces meetings

Halton Pro-Life has announced a series of public meetings beginning in September. Meetings will feature an educational program with speakers, panel discussions, audio-visual slides and movie presentations.

The first meeting in September will be held in Acton and Georgetown. A second meeting will be held in the two communities in March.

Milton public meetings will be held in October and May.

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