

Around the campfire

Camping games

The following ideas have been collected from a number of sources—Scouts Canada, outdoor educators and camping acquaintances. They have been used to train individuals as well as reinforce previously taught outdoor skills. Primarily these games and activities are meant to be fun.

At a designated campsite with fireplace:

1. Light a fire using only one match (no paper or barbecue fuel allowed).
2. Light a fire without matches. Alternatives: a magnifying glass or "metal match" available at sporting goods stores.
3. Light fires in the rain, or wet the wood and the ground.
4. A fire must be built and lit so that it burns through a string stretched horizontally 30 cm. above the ground. Scouts are required to use flint and steel for this exercise. First individual with string burned through wins.
5. Hold a water boiling race. The winner has the privilege of brewing you a cup of tea.
6. Cook a meal without utensils. Examples: baked potatoes, meat and vegetables skewered on a stick, eggs in onion or orange shell over hot coals.

Crafts

1. Create a mobile—use shells, feathers, pine cones, pieces of bark, leaves, pebbles, twigs, dried weeds, acorns, etc.
2. Carve a spoon, wooden cup, miniature animal, etc.
3. Collect, mount and identify edible weeds.
4. Make cooking pots out of tin cans. Sterilize cans and use to cook a meal.
5. Make candle holders out of tin cans. Crimp sharp edges.
6. Pendant necklace
—get a log of hardwood with a diameter of about 5 cm.
—slice log so that discs are about 5 mm. thick and drill small hole in each.
—sand both sides of disc
—print name and decorate by carving or burning
—finish with shellac

Miscellaneous

1. A, B, C Hunt
—find objects in woods beginning with each letter of the alphabet.
2. Find north by means of sun and watch, and at night by the pole star.
3. Construct a miniature survival camp—lean-to, reflector fire, snares, tools.
4. Find compass directions using a stick and the sun.
5. Tie various knots—behind your back or blindfolded.
6. Make small bags with drawstrings to store camping items—toiletries, clothing, sewing kit, cooking pots.
7. Learn and practise artificial respiration.

Bot wins MTC road contract

Transportation and Communications Minister James Snow has announced the award of a contract for Highway 401 in Hamilton district.

The contract is for grading, drainage, granular base and hot mix paving on Highway 401 at Campbellville Road Interchange for ramp modification.

Work on the project is scheduled to begin in August, 1978 with completion set for early fall, 1978.

The contract is awarded to Bot Holdings Limited; Bot Construction Limited; Bot Construction (Canada) Limited; and Clarkson Construction Company Limited of Oakville, Ontario at a cost of \$222,909.

U.S. visitors at 4-H meeting

By Eartha May

The Halton 4-H Horse Club held its July meeting at the farm of Les King in Hornby. The meeting was opened with the 4-H Pledge, followed by the roll call and the minutes of the last meeting. Kim Peddie introduced our three guests from Wisconsin who were over on exchange visits. A report was given on the Fun Day which had been held at Scott's. The day had been successful and it was decided that the Fun Day would become a yearly event.

Martha Corker gave more details on helping the wagon train that will be passing

through Milton on Aug. 13. This wagon train is travelling to the C.N.E. from Niagara Falls. The Horse Club is gathering 125 bales of hay to feed the horses while they are in Milton. A phoning committee was formed to ask local farmers for this hay.

After discussing this business, members judged a class of Thoroughbreds. Mrs. Amos gave the official placing. Next we judged a class of half-bred Hunters and each of the members gave reasons for their judgement. Again Mrs. Amos gave the official placing and reasons.

Milton Then and Now
Our meandering creek

By Mel Robinson

The course of the Sixteen Mile Creek through our town has changed considerably since the 1820's when the town began its growth as a cluster of homes and business establishments around the original grist mill. These changes are not easy to trace or to fully understand.

Phil Roffey and some of the other fellows downtown have mentioned that at one time the creek flowed behind the old shoe factory (the building occupied by the Lido Restaurant, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, and other concerns at 181 Main St.) and behind the stores between that building and Martin St. There are stories of people residing in homes in that block being able to fish from the waters of the creek flowing behind their homes.

This puzzled me greatly. There is an atlas of Halton County which was first published in 1877. The map of Milton in that book was apparently based on original plans filed at the Registry Office. It shows the course of the creek to be roughly the same as I remembered it in the teens and twenties. In 1877 the Hamilton and Northwestern Railway line (now the C.N.R.) had been laid through the town. The right of way for the Credit Valley Railway (now the C.P.R.) had been acquired. Both were shown on the map.

It showed the Sixteen Mile flowing into town through the Credit Valley's right of way—just about where it still flows under the C.P.R. bridge. Passing over the dam at the northern end of the neck of the pond, the surplus water flowed directly across the flats to the bottom of the slope at Bronte St. Then it flowed along the base of that slope past the old cemetery and the plant of the P. L. Robertson Co. back to the pond bank, where it passed under the bridge of the Hamilton and Northwestern (as it still does) and along the side of the pond bank to the bridge at Martin St.

In recent years the water passes over the dam at the neck of the pond then turns and follows along the pond bank directly to the railway bridge. The flats between the creek's course and Bronte St. have been flooded to form a pond for the treatment of the cleaning room waste, etc. from the Robertson Fasteners plant.

This is quite an improvement from the waste treatment in the days of my boyhood. In those days the plant had a small catch basin for this material which was mostly

rust. Much of it seeped into the creek. From that point down through the town and on into the country the water was discolored. The rocks and mud of the creek bed were covered with a rusty slime. When we returned to town in the fifties the sight of the creek with reasonably clean water and normal looking mud and stones was quite a novelty to us.

The course of the creek along the pond bank between the bridge of the Hamilton and Northwestern (C.N.R.) and Martin St. is what really bothered me about the old map. If the creek flowed along the pond bank between those points in 1877, how could people remember stories about fishing from those back doorways along Main St.?

I do not think I have a good answer to that puzzle yet, but I did obtain some background information when I examined a copy of Registered Plan No. 15 for Milton, dated about 1855, at the Registry Office. The creek at that time flowed from the pond toward the downtown business area instead of alongside the pond bank. It passed through what is now Rotary Park—and what we used to call the "Flats". Apparently it flowed along what is now the western boundary of the Tennis Court.

It crossed Mill St. near the boundary line between the homes at 141 and 147. In the lots on the other side of the street it began to swing toward Martin St. It passed along the rear of the buildings as far as the one occupied by the Lido Restaurant, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and other concerns. Then it swung over to, and partly on, Main St. at about the location of Christie and Wood's real estate office at 189 Main St. The course was away from Main St. as it approached Montgomery Lane. It passed along the rear of the properties from there to the one occupied until recently by a hardware store at the corner of Martin.

As it crossed Martin St. it swung over to Main St. and along it past the locations now occupied by our old Post Office and the Town Hall. It then turned and joined the flow from the head race and the tail race of the mills. The combined waters flowed along the present course of the creek to the Main St. bridge and under it.

Thus, up to about 1877, it was quite possible to fish from the waters of the creek as they flowed behind many of the buildings on the north side of Main St.



Between the Willows

Hoodoos and other things

By Don Byers

Continuing the "Great Canadian Adventure" we rejoin the Byers Clan as we settle into our cabin on Tunnel Mountain, Banff.

The day following our arrival we picked up a rented car. Driving up the main street I took advantage of a red light to engage the window washers. It felt much to the dismay of the couple in the top-down convertible next to us who received most of the spray from our misdirected squirters.

We headed for the hot springs for a swim, then drove to the Vermillion Lakes. There we had the interesting experience of standing in a village of busy gophers while watching a moose grazing in the water.

Back on Tunnel Mountain more adventure awaited us. When the Black bears became a nuisance or a menace in the Park, the Rangers put them to sleep with a dart-gun, place a colored tag on one ear, load them onto a truck, and drive them 50-miles or so into the wilderness.

Wandering through our community of cottages, followed by two romping cubs, was a black mother bear with colored tags in both ears. (She had made the trip out and back twice. It felt bad news.)

Much excitement as a bear whacked away at the garbage pails, having her cubs, Orville and Spenser, up two, tall lodge pines. The camp dog was barking furiously from a safe distance. People were shouting and throwing rocks.

The bear, ignoring the clamor, proceeded with the garbage, then, grunting to signal her two babies from their perches, turned her back on all of us and ambled up the path and into the forest.

A short drive from our cabin was the Bow River flowing

swiftly and majestically through a deep valley. Here is where we found the Hoodoos—tall sandstone formations, sculptured by the wind and water to resemble human forms. Legend has it that they are the petrified bodies of the wives of Indian braves, still watching and waiting for their men to return from a far away battle.

One day we packed a lunch and drove to Lake Louise, that picture-post-card paradise.

What a disappointment! It was crowded and noisy. Trash littered the ground. Old tires and rusty tin cans defiled the clear water. We made a hasty retreat and found our own picnic spot near a small, roaring cataract just to the side of the highway.

Days exploring. Nights before the fireplace. Time slipped quickly by.

Soon we were on the train again and Rick was up to his old tricks in the Dining Car... ordering everything on the menu.

Fifteen years have passed since our great Canadian adventure.

But I don't think any of us will ever forget it.

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