

Between
the
Willows



End of the tour

By DON BYERS
Champion Resident Columnist

Before we leave the warm haven of the kitchen to continue our tour of Rose Villa, we'll check out the adjoining back kitchen. Here we find a coal oil cookstove, sink and hand pump. From this room, another door leads to a large shed where firewood and coal are stored.

On the far wall is the entrance to a long, covered walkway. At its end is a brick, two-hole privy. Midway, is a smaller shed that holds garden tools and a lawn croquet set.

I've always felt uneasy out here—especially at night when the coal oil lamp I carried cast strange shadows upon the walls of the passageway. It's even kind of spooky in broad daylight. So let's return to the main house to explore the second floor.

From the front foyer, the wide staircase ascends, bordered by a polished wooden railing, that when reaching the top, turns to border the open, second floor hall.

Every old house has "a room at the top of the stairs" and Rose Villa is no exception. We notice, as we hang a sharp right, that the door is closed. Continuing on our way, we pass another hall which leads to the backstairs.

When we reach the end of the main hallway we are facing an exterior door which leads out onto the long balcony that stretches across most of the front of the house.

Turning left we enter a large, brightly lit bedroom. The large windows at the front look out across the valley, below the bluff upon which Rose Villa stands. The side window looks down upon the broad, green lawn and islands of flower beds and evergreens.

I know this room well. I've spent many nights in the huge bed; freshened up at the wash stand; combed my hair before the mirror on the dresser; hung my clothes in the great wardrobe. I've sat in that chair and stared out of the windows on lazy summer afternoons when I was supposed to be having my compulsory nap. We'd best be getting along—before I become lost in my day dreams.

We have crossed the hall and are now standing in the master bedroom. It is very large and regally furnished. Our eyes are quickly drawn to the massive, polished mahogany dressing table with the green marble top. Brushes, combs and bric-a-bac still rest there, having not been in use for many years.

The matching double-bed is made up. And we feel we are reliving a time of elegance and grace—half expecting former occupants of the room to appear in the doorway.

It's time to backtrack to the hall we passed earlier.

Here we are. That door right there leads up a curving staircase to the attic. Follow me. Let's see what it's like up there.

At the top of the stairs we enter one of three large, adjoining rooms. The dusty floor is of wide, pine planks. The shuttered windows emit sparse light.

Except for the odd piece of stored furniture and crates, the rooms are empty.

No reason to pause here.

On the way to the back stairs, we pass one more bedroom and respect its closed door.

Back in the kitchen and outside, across the verandah, and onto the lush lawn.

As we move towards the front of the house we inhale the fragrance of roses and Sweet William.

Now as we stand on the sidewalk again, we take one last look at Rose Villa.

Like a graceful, old dowager, the house stands tall and proud against the cloud-filled sky, the aging symbol of days that can never return.

Our Readers Write

Foundation says thanks

Dear Editor:

On Sunday, May 2, the Halton Region Conservation Foundation officially started its campaign to raise \$700,000. The money will be used to rebuild the prehistoric Iroquois village that stood on the shore of Crawford Lake 500 years ago, and to create a new conservation interpretive centre.

For the past 10 years, the Halton Region Conservation Authority has deliberately refrained from publicizing Crawford Lake—a perfect jewel nestled in the woods of the escarpment near Guelph Line and Steeles Ave, because without proper maintenance at the site there was a very real danger the unique nature of the lake and surrounding woods would have been destroyed.

The problem facing the 100 or so volunteer fund raisers from all across Halton has been to increase community awareness of Crawford Lake in just a few weeks time—to let everyone know what an important and interesting natural resource it is. To create that sense of awareness, we have depended entirely on the co-operation of the media.

On the first day of our fund raising campaign, more than 1,000 people

came to Crawford Lake to see for themselves what they have been reading about for the previous four months in the newspapers of the community, or hearing on the radio, or seeing on television. The community response is a tribute to both the hard work of the volunteers and the generous coverage you have helped to provide.

As chairman of the Halton Region Conservation Foundation—the volunteer organization which is coordinating the fund raising drive on behalf of the Halton Region Conservation Authority—I would like publicly to thank the citizens of Halton who have donated their time and expertise to the campaign. And, I also thank our friends in the media. Without the support of the radio, television, and newspapers in the area, there would be no way to inform the people of Halton about Crawford Lake—a living time capsule of environmental knowledge which will make all our lives richer in the years to come.

Sincerely
Louise Hebb
Chairman

Halton Region Conservation Foundation

Bowlaway
broken into

About \$500 worth of cigarettes, candy and cash were stolen sometime during the weekend from Milton Bowlaway on Pine St. Halton Regional Police report \$200 in cash was taken after thieves forced open a door to the premises.



MILTON
CELEBRATES

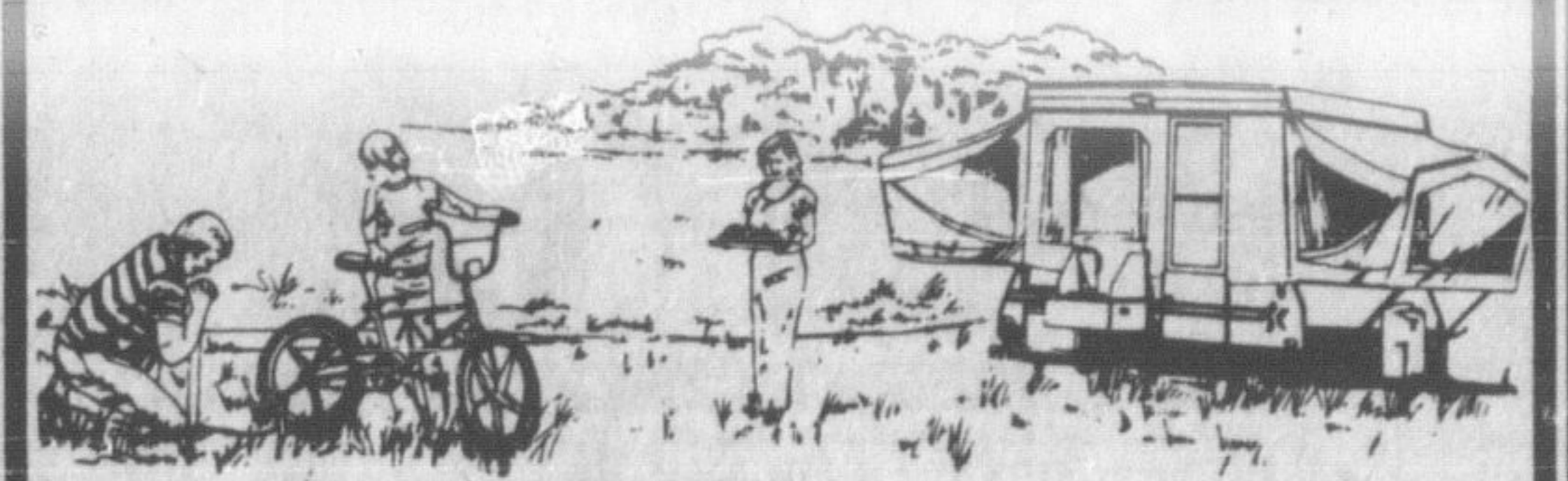
Canada's
Birthday
July 1st

Soap box derby, lawn bowling, family races and games, events at Rotary Park all afternoon, chicken b-b-q and much, much more!!

The day will be topped off by a Fireworks Display over the Mill Pond at Dusk.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE — PLAN TO ATTEND

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HEATHER
MacNAUGHTON

Heather MacNaughton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald MacNaughton, Hornby, Ont., attained her Bachelor of Laws Degree from Osgoode Hall Law School, on the 11th of June, 1982. A graduate of Milton District High School, where she was an Ontario Scholar, Heather attended Brock University in St. Catharines, where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree with distinction. Heather has accepted a position with the law firm of Lash, Johnston in Toronto.

MILTON MALL

KITE CARNIVAL

"FLY A KITE"

for Milton's 125th Anniversary, and win prizes in the Milton Mall KITE CARNIVAL June 30, July 2 & 3. Anybody can enter! Anybody can win! Enter as a group — enter alone — compete against friends — parents, get your kids to enter — kids, get your parents to enter!

THREE CATEGORIES:

- 1) Ages 12 & under
- 2) Ages 13 to 18
- 3) Adult

AWARDS IN EACH CATEGORY FOR:

HOMEMADE KITES

- MOST ATTRACTIVE
- MOST UNUSUAL
- LARGEST
- FUNNIEST
- HIGHEST FLYING

BOUGHT KITES

- BEST CONTROLLED
- HIGHEST FLYING

SCHEDULE

WED. JUNE 30

Display of Kites in Milton Mall

FRIDAY, JULY 2

Judging of kites at 7 p.m. in Mall

SATURDAY, JULY 3

Kite Flying Competition 11 a.m.

BRING YOUR KITE TO THE MALL WED. JUNE 30 AT 7 P.M. AND REGISTER FOR THE COMPETITION

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL CLARE HENDERSON 878-3900

Come Join In The Fun!

Salvation Army says thanks

Dear Editor:

Please allow me to take this opportunity to thank publisher Herb Crowther and you and your staff for your support and excellent coverage of our 1982 Red Shield Appeal.

If it is possible for a short news item, we should like to say a "thank you" to the general public and also

announce a final figure of \$37,272.49 for the Oakville, Milton campaign, \$4,569.00 of which came from Milton. Our objective was \$40,000.00

Once again, we are grateful and thank you. God bless you.

Sincerely,
John Norton
Captain

Chief says his peace

Dear Editor:

Now that the time for quotation submissions on the vehicle for the chief of police has elapsed, I feel free to comment upon the matter.

The supply of a vehicle for the personal use of the chief of police is a contractual agreement between my office and the board of commissioners of police and I do not intend to debate the content of the working agreement in the media.

It is true to say that previous senior administrators were supplied with vehicles and it is my recollection that these vehicles, unlike the remainder of the police fleet, were fitted with radios and carpet. Some two years ago, the board of commissioners of police agreed to improve the quality and standard of the vehicle provided for the use of the chief of police. The quoted figure on the proposed cost of the vehicle for the chief of police is alarmingly incorrect. An examination of our program budget will illustrate the fact that \$10,000 plus the trade of a 1978 vehicle estimated at \$1,000 for a total of \$11,000 has been budgeted for the purchase of a vehicle for the chief of police. At today's prices, that hardly represents a luxury purchase. In order to stay within budgeted costs and in an attempt to obtain the options requested, we have requested quotes on low mileage, used cars. Should those quotes be in excess of \$10,000, I am obligated to take the proposed purchase to the board of commissioners of police for their decision.

In any event, the proposed purchase should not exceed the budgeted amount of \$11,000.

The newspaper article and editorial, as written, leave the public with the impression that the board of commissioners of police have washed their hands of the financial control of

this force. If some officer or if some person has advised you of that, you have been grossly misled. The board of commissioners of police exercises its financial control over the administration of the police force through its financial control by-law passed by the board of commissioners of police as a whole and enforced diligently by their authority through my office as the chief of police. Through the medium of this by-law, the whole of the board of commissioners of police retain the financial control of the administration of the force.

To this end, I would advise you that recently the Halton Regional Police Force had its routine audit conducted by officers of the Ontario Police Commission and I would quote a relevant passage from that report which refers to our accounting processes. "The budget preparation and total accounting system of the Halton Regional Police force is in good order. Other municipal police forces should be encouraged to emulate the preparation of their 1982 program budget."

That hardly supports the claim that there is no restraint within the Halton Regional Police force.

The last line of the editorial in The Oakville Beaver newspaper refers to the fact that I have not returned telephone calls in response to questions concerning the purchase of a vehicle for the chief of police.

In addition to the comment regarding the constraints placed upon me by the quotation system, I would like to stress the following fact. It has always been my policy and will continue to be so that I do not respond to anonymous complaints, but treat them with the contempt they deserve.

Chief James Harding
Halton Regional Police