Allendale trip will be long remembered: participants

By FANNIE SUNSHINE
The Champion

It was a chance for Allendale residents to spend a few days in a quiet resort up north, surrounded by nature and plenty of socializing.

The 22 residents, nine day-program members and Allendale staff ventured off to the Stanton House in Port Stanton June 4 for three nights.

"It was just like a vacation," said Ron MacKinnon, supervisor of resident/outreach services at the long-term- care facility. "People talk about this trip for months afterwards."

The vacationers spent their time taking walks, playing board games and participating in sing-a-longs, he continued, adding Allendale has organized the annual trip for the past 18 years.

The cost of the trip was split between the residents and the Allendale Foundation, Mr. MacKinnon said.

"The trip provides something for the residents to look forward to, and that's important for their well being. They look forward to the planning and packing of the trip. It's a really positive and valuable experience for the residents who go."

For Eleanor McKeown, the trip provided an opportunity to get away for a few days and a change of scenery.

"I got to know residents I never met before," she said, adding this was the third time she's gone on the trip with Allendale. "Everyone got up and danced. The socializing was my favourite part. It was wonderful."

Dorothy Dickie even managed to catch a few fish while up north, but threw them back, she said.

Allendale resident Dorothy Dickie throws in a line with the help of staff member Ron MacKinnon.

She said she signed up for the trip because she heard from others it was fun and the food was excellent.

In between the good food and activities, Ms Dickie tried her luck at the slots at Casino Rama.

"I won $80," she said with a smile.

Like Ms McKeown, Ms Dickie enjoyed meeting other residents and spending time outdoors.

"I loved it. I would go back tomorrow."

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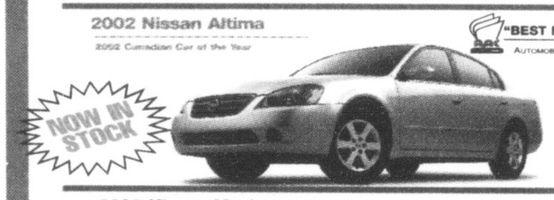

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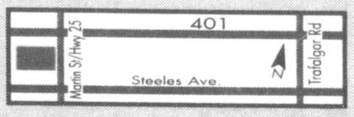

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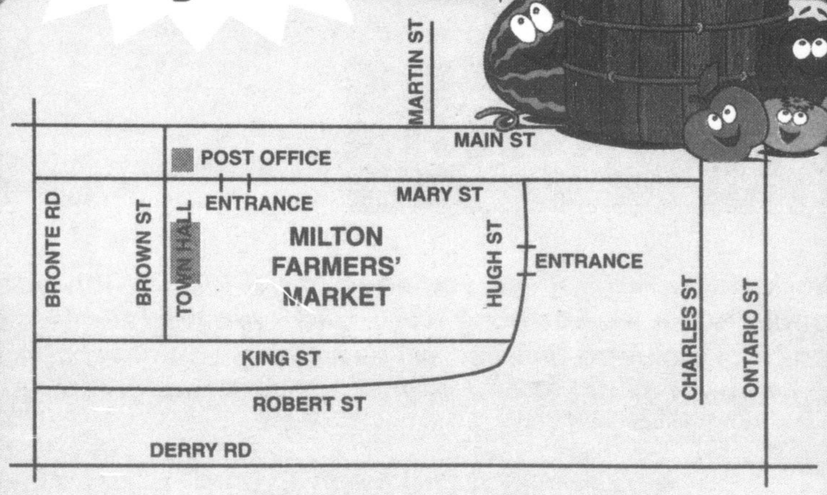

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