

Good weather helps bring residents to Carnival

3—The Canadian Champion Woodstock, February 15, 1989

from CARNIVAL on page 1
astonishment of the crowd gathered.

Saturday night's Broomball Tournament and Dance were big draws. Members of Milton Youth Soccer Club were the winners of the tournament.

Sunday's crowds were large. A brunch with the councillors sponsored by the Ontario Chapter VII Blue Knights Motorcycle Club got the day off to a good start at 11 a.m. at Rotary Park.

There were pony rides, sleigh rides, children's entertainment and various games and races. There was an egg toss, snowshoe race, nail driving contest, doughnut eating contest, sack races, snake toss, snowman building contest, and toboggan pull races.

Demonstrations by the Ontario Barrel Jumping Team and Halton Off-Road Riders were two of the highlights Sunday afternoon. CITY T.V. covered those events and Milton residents had an opportunity to watch themselves on the 6 o'clock news.

The Log Sawing Contest held at the Mill Pond Sunday afternoon was a real crowd pleaser.

The winners in the Men Under 50 category were Bruce Findlay and Jim Smith. Winners in the Husband and Wife category were Brent and Carol Winter.

Mother and Daughter winning team were Miriam and Carol



They flew through the air with the greatest of ease and thrilled the crowd at the weekend's Winter Carnival. Chris Rawnsley and fellow members of the Ontario Barrel Jumping Team put on an exciting show at the Mill Pond.

Winter. Winners in the Father and Son category were Peter and Anthony Jensen.

The Muddy Duck team won the waiter and waitress skating relay,

followed by the team from Swiss Chalet.

The Mutt Show drew some of the most interesting dogs in Milton.

Prizes in the competition held on

Sunday afternoon were donated by The Pet Supply House. Judges were Janice Yelland, Walt Elliot, and Colin Best.

The top three dogs and their

owners in the Longest Tail category were: Murdock owned by Tom Rose, Tessa owned by Josie Taylor, and Coco owned by Sharon Law.

Major Miller, owned by Sandra Miller, had the shortest tail of the day. Silver, owned by Joey Luzinski, had the second shortest. Major Miller also performed the best trick of the show, followed by Murdock.

Silver was the voted the best dressed followed by Murdock and Major Miller.

Lady was voted the dog that most resembles her owner, Joann Thomson. Tessa and Coco took second and third consecutively.

The Hat Show proved to be one of the carnival's most colourful competitions.

Nicole and Scott Churchill took first and second for their hats in the Winter Carnival Theme category.

Kristine and Eran Goodyear's hats were named the most unusual. Jason Wren and Jeff Chapman had the most comical hats.

Although this year's carnival is over there is still an opportunity for participants to win some prizes. Amateur shutterbugs who captured some of the action at the carnival are invited to submit an unlimited number of 5 by 7-inch photos to the Leisure Services Department at town hall by February 25.

Cub's mates asked to be checked for symptoms of the disease

from CUB on page 1
Mrs. Laframboise says Geoffrey's parents were contacted and told he was not feeling well.

"It is not unusual for a kid to be sick or complain of a stomach ache when they are away from home." She says that her husband, and other leaders, checked on the boy throughout the night.

All 24 boy scouts slept in one room on bunks in the heated lodge, while the leaders slept in a neighbouring room.

Mrs. Laframboise says that permission forms had been signed by Geoffrey's parents, and added there was no indication the boy was on any medication.

The boys woke at approximately 7 a.m. Two of Geoffrey's bunk mates attempted to wake the youth. When they couldn't they told Mr. Laframboise.

Mr. Laframboise, who has St. John Ambulance and Boy Scout camp accreditation, attempted to revive Geoffrey.

Geoffrey was buried Tuesday afternoon from St. George's Anglican Church in Lowville.

His parents, who admit they are not deeply religious, say there must be a reason for the tragedy.

"God has done this for a reason," said Mr. Benson.

Their memories of Geoffrey are of a determined boy who loved sports.

"When Geoffrey wanted to do something he'd do it," said Mr. Benson pointing to a wooden fort he had made in the backyard of the family's house on Heslop Rd.

"Geoffrey liked to play soccer, he enjoyed track and was a good down hill skier. He loved to swim."

He had been a boy scout for the past three years. Mr. Benson says Geoffrey was not interested in achieving badges, but enjoyed the

social aspect of scouting. He was a popular youth.

"His little mind was going all the time, you could almost see it. He was energetic and enthusiastic, and a bit of a mystery at times."

Geoffrey was a reading buddy at school, assigned to helping younger students perfect their reading skills. He had been a Champion carrier for the past two years.

Members of the Halton Board of

Education Tragic Events Response Team were in Milton elementary schools this week, to talk to students who are affected by Geoffrey's death.

The Benson family, Nicholas is the couple's five-year-old son, enjoyed many holidays together. Mr. Benson stresses the importance of parents spending time with their children.

"I think it was meant to happen."

said Mrs. Benson. "I know that the scout leaders did everything they could, they feel just terrible." This could have just as easily happened at home.

Along with his immediate family Geoffrey is survived by his grandparents, Fred and Patricia Benson of Campbellville and George and Refee Hardsand of Kilbride, and great grandmother Elva Hardsand.

Hide House aims to lure Dickens theme park

By PAUL DORSEY
Special to The Champion

A multi-faceted theme park based on the literature of Charles Dickens might be built in north Halton if the olde Hide House gets its way.

Proffering a \$24,000 donation to Halton Region which, in effect, doubles Halton's tourism marketing budget for 1989, Hide House president Steve Dawkins said last week he's hoping to persuade a British entertainment development conglomerate to build "Dickensworld" at one of two sites he has in mind in the Acton area or at least somewhere in Halton.

Given the multi-million-dollar success of the Hide House after just eight years, Dickensworld may indeed come to Dawkins' world.

In a wide-ranging presentation to

regional council last Wednesday, Mr. Dawkins also said:

- Frank Grant's "world-class" military museum in Limehouse, one of only two like it in Canada, may soon be lured to British Columbia;

- the Hide House will open Acton's long-awaited "Leather-town" museum sometime in the next 18 months;

- the ambitious golf-course/hotel complex, planned by Blue Spring Developments Ltd., a Hide House affiliate, is still in the works despite "frustrating" delays attributed to bureaucratic municipal demands.

Mr. Dawkins told councillors he was set to meet Ken Edwards, managing director of the U.K.-based Leisureworld International,

who was at that moment viewing potential sites in Hamilton for the proposed Dickensworld, a Canadian version of the Dickensian amusement park planned for the King's Cross area of London, England.

In an interview Thursday, Mr. Dawkins said he'd earlier persuaded Mr. Edwards to visit Acton sometime this month to discuss locating Dickensworld there.

"I'm not the least bit concerned that anything has been lost up to this time," he commented. "It could be a long time before a (North American) site is chosen."

Mr. Dawkins said he knows little about Leisureworld's plans for its first North American theme park. The conglomerate has built major attractions in Sweden and Finland, he said, one of them using a Santa Claus theme.

But as far as Mr. Dawkins is concerned, theatre should be a central part of the development, and the "big bucks" approach favoured by Leisureworld could make Dickensworld "the third node in a triangle with Stratford (famed for its Shakespearean theatre) and Niagara-on-the-Lake (home to a festival based on George Bernard Shaw's plays)."

While Dickens wasn't a playwright, Mr. Dawkins said, productions of his novels from the perennial TV classic *A Christmas Carol* to the recent revival of his final, unfinished work, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (which was turned into a play which required the audience to devise an ending) "are very appropriate and readily adapted to a theme park."

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