

Crawford Lake campaign over

A \$700,000 fundraising campaign for Crawford Lake Indian Village and Conservation Centre is now complete thanks to 270 people who recently attended a dinner at the Royal Botanical Gardens.

A series of raffles as well as silent and live auctions held during the event raised more than \$20,000 for the Halton Region Conservation Foundation, said Gary Hutton, secretary of the organization.

"Individuals and corporations from across Halton and beyond donated more than 140 items and services to the Foundation to support the work at Crawford Lake and to benefit the Niagara Escarpment," he said.

Crawford Lake has attracted about 200,000 visitors since the first phase of development was opened in 1984, said Mr. Hutton, making it one of the most popular parks along the entire 450-mile escarpment.

The 20 items sold at the auction, conducted by Waterdown auctioneer Jim McCartney, produced more than \$10,000 during the May 9 dinner.

An original watercolor by Burlington artist and scientist Alfred Chau produced a bid of \$1,775 — the highest of the night. Artist's proofs donated by Robert Bateman sold for \$1,025 and \$1,650.

Meanwhile, the silent auction of about 20 items generated close to \$4,000 for the Foundation. The remaining money was raised through the sale of dinner and raffle tickets.

The Foundation began its fundraising campaign in 1982. The project included reconstruction of a pre-European Iroquois village on its original site and creation of the Conservation Centre, which is now complete, with permanent exhibits.

A nature trail system, scenic lookout and an elevated boardwalk which circles the lake were also part of the development project.

The Halton Region Conservation Foundation, which includes a volunteer board of directors and committee members from across Halton, will now focus on Mountsberg Wildlife Centre, said Mr. Hutton.

Talking taxes by telephone

Taxpayers across the country can check the status of their income tax refunds through a new Revenue Canada information service known as Telerefund.

Through the computerized service, taxpayers with access to a push button telephone can obtain information on their income tax refunds, said Revenue Minister and Oakville-Milton MP Otto Jelinek.

"I am pleased that after three years of development, we are now able to make this service available to taxpayers across the country," he said.

Taxpayers using Telerefund will be required to provide their social insurance number, date of birth and the amount of refund claimed on line 484 of their 1989 return. Telephone numbers can be found in the income tax guides.

More than 17 million taxpayers have filed their income tax returns to date, said Mr. Jelinek. More than 8.5 million returns have already been assessed and more than 7 million refunds have been issued.

The average refund so far this year is \$678, compared with \$640 last year, he added.

Telerefund service is available from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and statutory holidays and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sundays.

Taxpayers who do not have access to a push button telephone can obtain refund information through the Revenue Canada taxation department's regular inquiry service numbers listed in the guides.



Photo by JOHN WARREN

New wheels

OPP Constable Shawn Johnson says the police force's new blue and gold striped cruisers will be in use across the province by 1993. The Milton detachment should get its first new vehicles, which replace the traditional black and white cars, by the fall.

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