

## 'Visiting Friends'

# Summer program gives appreciation of early life

Children can experience the lives of the sons and daughters of the men stationed at the Historic Naval and Military Establishments in the early 19th century through a new summer program called "Visiting Friends".

Following the War of 1812, a naval base was erected in Penetanguishene in 1817 to guard against further American aggression. Some of the men stationed at the base brought their wives and children with them to the isolated British outpost. Likewise, when the military was established at Penetanguishene following the secession of Drummond Island to the Americans, many brought their families with them from Drummond Island.

"Visiting Friends" will help add a further touch of authenticity to

the Establishments as the children portray the sons and daughters of the sailors and soldiers stationed there in the early 19th century. This feeling is enhanced by the fact that children wear authentic 19th century clothing reproduced from accurate patterns and made with materials similar to those children would have worn in Upper Canada during the 19th century.

### \$5 Fee

The two-day program is open to children aged eight to 11, with Junior Friends (ages 8 to 9) running on Mondays and Tuesdays and Intermediate Friends (ages 10 to 11) on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The program runs from July 7 to August 28 and costs only five dollars.

"It's an educational and fun program and

will provide a unique experience for all participating children," commented Program Co-ordinator Chris Lafreniere.

The children, wearing authentic period dress, will be taught 19th century crafts. They'll make themselves a small pouch using bargello (florentine stitch), under the direction of a costumed interpreter portraying the wife of the Naval Captain. In addition 19th century domestic activities such as butter churning and hearthside cooking are practiced at the home of the Fort Adjutant, James Keating. Keating, born to a country squire in Ireland, and his wife, lived at the military base until 1859 and had five children, two born at Penetanguishene.

In the carpentry shop "Visiting Friends" will carve their own hull for a miniature boat and attach the rigging to the masts.

Children also learn how to macrame a belt; a craft believed to be invented by sailors as they spent many long hours adjusting ropes and checking them for rot in age-old sailing vessels.

### Nature Walk

After lunch, there is a nature walk along a newly cut bush trail meandering behind the Naval Storehouse. Here, a sailor will recount the lives of the men posted at the naval base and recall the hardships and the isolation of the base. Mail and supplies would arrive at the Naval Establishment every three months from the nearest settlement of York Toronto).

The children will probe many facets of a sailor's life right down to the oatmeal gruel

served for breakfast on the recommendation that it was a "corrective to acid and costive humors". However, most of the men refused to draw their gruel ration, describing it as unfit for human consumption.

At the sawyers pit, the children will help a craftsman saw wood, using an old fashioned pit saw. The craftsman will tell them about the different kinds of wood used for ship repair and construction of the buildings.

### On-Site Drama

The youngsters will make butter the first day to be used for making cookies the next day. There will also be an on-site historical drama to give the children an added taste of life at the naval base.

Summer students who work as costumed interpreters at the Historic Naval and Military Establishments are thrilled with the new program, according to Lafreniere.

The children will return to school in the fall with a greater appreciation of 19th century Canadian history through their personal experiences.

Registration forms for "Visiting Friends" can be obtained at Sainte-Marie among the Hurons and the Historic Naval and Military Establishments or by calling the Establishments at 549-8064.



### Finishing touches

Chris Barrett adds a few finishing touches to his prize Afghan just before judging at the Huronia Dog Show held

at the Midland Centennial arena yesterday. The show will also be on for today until 4 p.m.



### Getting ready

Cathy MGee gets "Jess" ready for the Huronia Dog Show held at the Midland Centennial Arena yesterday. Jess is a 16-month-old English Springer spaniel

who has recently won seven best of breeds out of eight. Jess's owner is Mr. Harry Read of Wainfleet, Ontario.

## O.F.A. asks for increased funding

By Ron Jones, President,

Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture

### Tile drain funding

O.F.A. has asked the provincial government to increase funding to Municipalities for tile drainage loans. This action has produced some results concerning the maximum loan available to individual farmers (\$20,000 per year to a maximum \$60,000 outstanding). However, the provincial budget allocation for this program still falls far short of demand, meaning some Townships just don't have enough loan money to distribute to applicants. This often makes the higher per farmer limits meaningless. Few Government programs produce as many positive results as farm land drainage. Government response is that further funding the drainage program would mean chopping elsewhere within the agriculture ministry budget.

### Deer hunt again!

Many County farmers will recall the 1979 experimental deer hunt which the Ministry of Natural Resources decided Simcoe should host last November. At that time the hunt was opposed by the Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture, Simcoe County Council and some rural Municipal Councils, all of which were ignored by Natural Resources officials. According to press reports another hunt is planned for this year. M.N.R.'s pledge to communicate with farmers on issues such as public hunting seems to have been forgotten. No notice has been received by the S.C.F.A. to date concerning the 1980 hunt.

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