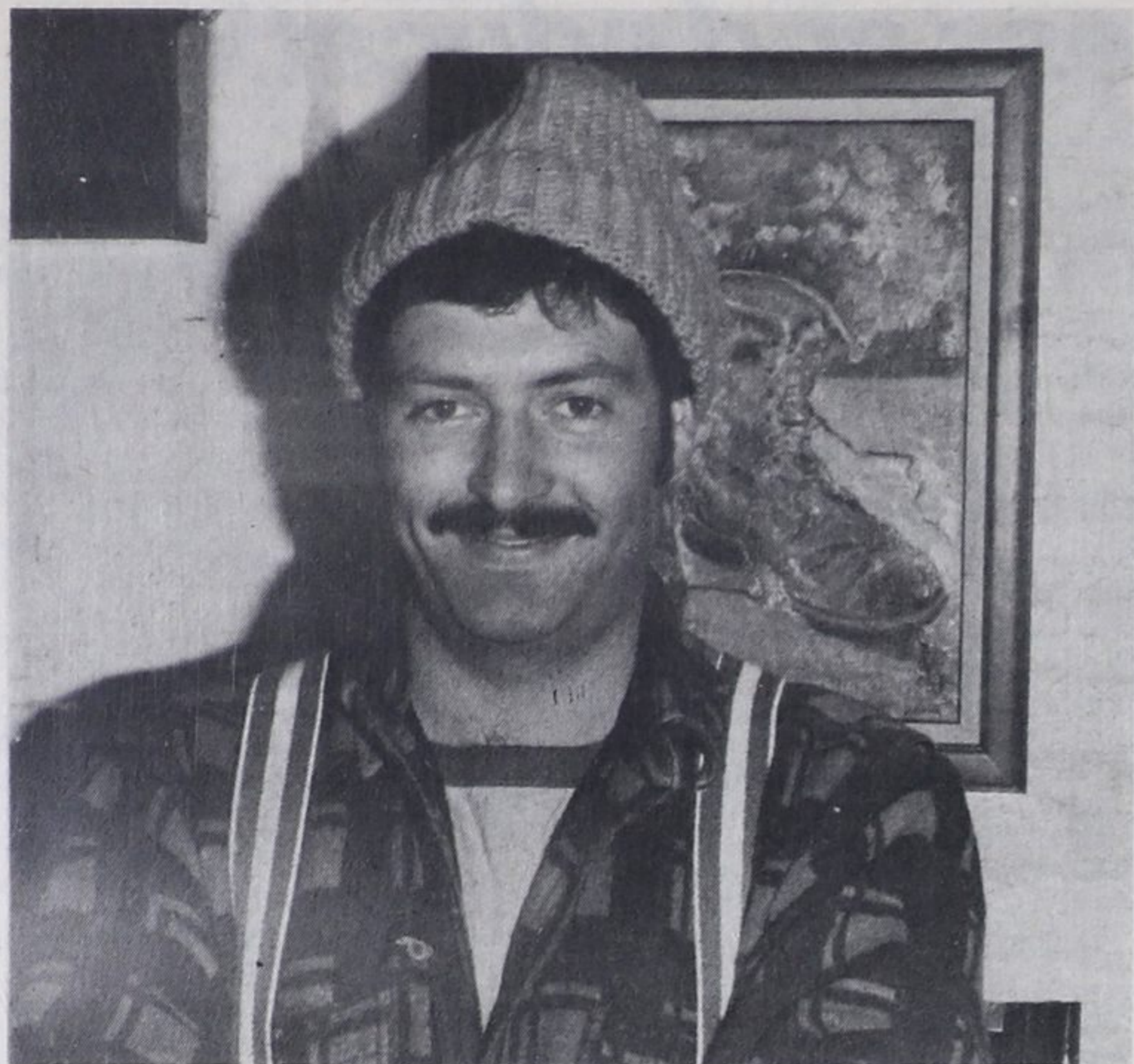


That's My Line



Ken Forget

Lumberjack

Two weeks from tomorrow during Winterama Ken Forget will be running the Lumberjack competition that he initiated at last year's Winterama. Forget attended the first Ontario championship for Ontario loggers, held in 1976 in Renfrew. He holds two all-Ontario records.

I've worked in the bush since Day One. I was almost born with an axe in my hand. My father was a logger and I was out in the bush as soon as I could walk.

When I finished high school I learned of a lumberjack course offered by Algonquin College in Pembroke. Subjects included operation of chain saws, fire fighting, and operation of heavy equipment.

Between 1973 and 1977 I was in Pembroke, taking the one year college course and then working for Consolidated Bathurst out of their Algonquin Park camp. It was during those years that logger's sports started.

Competitions were held all over the province, mainly chainsaw speed bucking-cutting a disc off a log's end in so

many seconds with a chainsaw in the beginning. Axe-chopping was another of the first events.

When I moved back to this area I found that I missed the competitions. I started my own for last year's Winterama.

I don't compete personally. I run the whole show. I do a demonstration before each event. I'll give competitors tips on how to improve their speed and efficiency, then I let them go. I'm also the judge and the timer.

All entrants sign a release form when they enter. If I see someone being careless then I can disqualify them. I have never been injured myself but I know what can happen from seeing it.

I'll also be carving chairs during the competition as an attraction. You start with a block of wood eight to 10 inches in diameter and cut out the legs first, turn it over, and do the back.

Seven events will be run this year: speed bucking, two-man cross cut, one-man buck saw, axe chopping, wood splitting, the wood toss (a four foot block of

wood weighing between 25-30 pounds).

The seventh event will be a new one this year: the log carry. The winner is whoever can carry a 200 pound eight foot long log the greatest distance. This event will be a first. It's not been done at any event that I've attended.

The competition is open to everyone. It's a fun thing. You don't necessarily have to be a logger to compete. Anyone who is athletic can win. A lumberjack may be more familiar with the events, but last year's winner had never been in the bush. He competed in every event and amassed the most points.

The response last year was very good. There were 37 entries. I think the number of entries will double this year.

I will supply all the tools except the chain saws. Competitors will have to bring their own. The idea is to enter as many events as possible and get points in each event. There is an overall trophy as well as individual trophies, but a competitor is not obliged to enter all of the events; he can enter just one if he wants.

Mayor asking college to expand locally

Mayor Moreland Lynn is in Barrie today meeting with the board of governors of Georgian College to ask that the colleges open a permanent campus in Midland.

The meeting was arranged before the mayor learned Wednesday that the college plans to stop offering the few programs that it now does offer in Midland.

The Tiny-Tay Peninsula deserves a permanent campus, he says, because in terms of population, and jobs, this area is second only

to Barrie.

This area is also slightly larger than the Orillia area, he said. There is no sign or visible presence of the college in Midland now, he added, noting that the college cut back its program here twice in the last six months.

Courses offered in the area are associated with Canada Manpower training programs, the English as a second language course, and a trial program in apprenticeship.

Fiddler well received at MSS this week

A small but appreciative audience of "first nighters" attended Wednesday night's performance of Fiddler on the Roof

performed by members of Midland's drama club and the school's concert band.

The action centred around the life and

times of villagers living somewhere in Russia circa 1905 on the eve of the Russian revolution.

The production has taken months to get ready under the guidance of MSS staff members R. J. Holt, Mrs. P. McCullough, Mrs. L. Rutherford, Mrs. J. Roberts and a

host of other staff and students from the Hugel Avenue high school.

If you missed Fiddler on the Roof you still have a chance.

There will be two more performances, tonight and tomorrow evening. Curtain goes up both nights at 8 p.m.

MPP Smith has rival for nomination

The race for the right to represent Simcoe East for the Progressive Conservative party in the upcoming election will be at least a two-way one.

Former Simcoe County warden Al McLean announced this week that he will contest the incumbent MPP, Gordon Smith, for that privilege, when the PC's meet to choose a candidate on Feb. 17 at the Orillia Fairgrounds.

Moreland Lynn, Simcoe East Progressive Conservative Association President, said this week he had considered

seeking the nomination. But he did not want to oppose Gord Smith, he said.

Smith will be in Midland today to pay visits. He has been Simcoe Centre's MPP for 13 years.

The Liberals chose their candidate, Jack Harber, last September at a convention in Coldwater. Harber opened his Midland election office yesterday, moving into the old Toronto-Dominion Bank building on King Street.

The NDP party has yet to produce a candidate.



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