

Important living skills

Handicapped being offered unique college program

John X just received his driver's license. For most of us, that's a major achievement - the beginning of our independence. For John it's an even greater achievement, because he is developmentally handicapped.

Like many of his peers, John isn't letting this hold him back. He registered himself in a driver's education course advertised by Georgian College through its Community Living Skills project. After a number of lessons behind the wheel with a registered driving school instructor, he tried for his driver's license and passed.

Driver's education is one of many courses made available through projects such as Community Living Skills being operated in Simcoe County by Georgian College in cooperation with the Ministry of Community and Social Services who provide funding for the venture. The project is the result of a survey completed in 1979 which showed there were some 300 developmentally handicapped adults who would directly benefit from continuing education courses designed to enhance their independent functioning in the community.

Courses, from four to 100 weeks in duration, are offered in Barrie, Orillia, Midland, Alliston and Collingwood/Stayner. Some 20 courses have already been completed with more than 100 people taking part. Initially, seven courses were offered from January to March 1981, with an enrolment of 64 people. Twelve courses were offered between April and June with 85 registered. Class sizes are kept small to maximize learning.

Supervisor of the project, Miss Reet Luup, who was hired by the College in September, 1980, to develop, implement, administer and evaluate the project, says its success so far is excellent. "Response from students and community agencies is generally very positive and encouraging."

Miss Luup says the topics of the courses offered result from requests made by developmentally handicapped individuals themselves as well as

suggestions put forth by community agencies who deal with the population on a regular basis. Therefore, courses arranged are the priorities that students see for themselves.

Topics thus far have included introductory cooking, dance fitness, self improvement, clothing repair, communications, introductory crafts, driver's education and contemporary dancing. Some courses have been offered in more than one location and some students enroll in more than one course. Plans for approximately 15 courses during the fall session include budgeting, woodworking, job search, babysitting, community leisure awareness, a home "fix-it" course, making Christmas presents/decorations and some repeat courses from the first two sessions. About 100 students are expected to enroll.

The major goal of the project is to provide courses which cannot or are not being offered in existing programs for the developmentally handicapped. These courses are aimed at creating a more productive citizen who is reasonably independent in his/her community. Many students are formerly from institutions, now living on their own, and having to make choices and decisions that were previously made for them.

At the completion of each course, students receive a certificate of participation. Miss Luup says she hopes that eventually, students will gain the confidence and skills to integrate into programs offered in the community to the general population.

Asked about the future of the project, Miss Luup says it is providing a much needed service not otherwise available in the community. "While the Ministry of Community and Social Services continues to view the project as providing a necessary service and as long as funds are available, community living skills courses will hopefully continue."



That was no salesman, that was...?

Customers of the G and M Shoppe on King Street in Midland during last week's summer sidewalk sale were confronted with seven mustached and bowler hatted "salesmen." - Front

from left are Donna Bolt, Gladys Bath, Leta Collins. Standing from left are Lynn Davy, Rona Johannesen, Linda Moseley, Alice Brandon.

Port man ends in ditch

Alfred Recollect, of Port McNicoll, was slightly injured early last Friday morning when he was forced to evade another motorist and his car went into a ditch near County Road 37 and Tay Township's Con. 4.

Midland OPP report that Recollect, 26, was eastbound on County Road 37 when a vehicle driven by an unknown person came onto the road from Con. 4, forcing Recollect to swerve left to avoid a collision.

The unknown other driver did not stop at the scene, the OPP said.



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Wyebridge

The Canada Fitness Program was held on Saturday, July 11 and although a less than desirable turnout was experienced, those that did participate earned their crests and can be proud of their efforts to achieve physical fitness and stamina.

Some crest winners were Laurel Gedge, Susan Scott and Steven Scott all from Wyebridge.

A special note of thanks is extended to those that helped supervise the Canada Fitness Program, Sherry Lowes, Sandra Crawford, Brian Leonard, Andy Cran-

ford and Alan Dennis. Birthday greetings are extended today to Jennifer Crawford who along with family members will be celebrating her birthday today.

The Wyebridge Adults played the Waverly Adults recently at home in Wyebridge in a regular season game of the Adult Fun Softball League. Waverly won that game 30-10.

Then on Friday evening at C.B.O., Wyebridge took the home team 21-4. Home runs were hit by Milt Ellery and Joy Maynard.

This past Sunday,

Canada Fitness

Wyebridge hosted the Perkinsfield Adults. Wyebridge played a solid game and ended up the winners in an 18-5 game.

The Wyebridge Squirts played against Elmvale last Wednesday. The final score was Elmvale 27, Wyebridge 10.

The Middlets travelled to Vasey this past week but did not bring good luck with them as they lost 6-1 against their Vasey rivals.

The Wyebridge Warriors lost two close games last week as they travelled to Vasey last Monday night and lost 9-7 after building up a 5-1 lead.

Then, the following Thursday in Wyebridge they hosted Elmvale. Once again, Wyebridge built up a lead this time 4-0 only to have Elmvale win 11-8.

This past weekend, the Warriors entered a league tournament in Hillsdale.

In the first game, they beat Wyevale 9-1. Then they tangled with Elmvale in the very next game and lost 1-0. The tournament winners were the Midland Athenian Raiders as they won the final over Vasey Twin Lakes 4-2.

Station wagon stolen

Midland OPP are looking for a stolen Chevrolet station wagon, licence number RXT 926, black in colour, that was stolen either July 16 or 17 from near the home of its owner, Elizabeth Pauze, Con 4, Georgian Bay Township.

Friday at 3:15 a.m., a single car accident took place, on Woodland Drive near Concession 1-2 road, resulting in \$500 damage.

Paul Drysdale of Elmvale was driving southbound on the road when his car went off the shoulder of the road, hit some boulders and ended up on a residential lawn.

There was \$150 damage to the lawn and shrubbery but no injuries were reported.

Other business attended to by Elmvale OPP included a total of 16 liquor-related charges between the period of July 14 and July 20.

Also, Mrs. George Snyder of Elmvale lost a hereford cow and calf in the area of Highway 400 and 93.

The loss is still under investigation and anyone having seen the missing cow and calf is asked to call Elmvale OPP.

A theft, of sorts, occurred Sunday when Margaret McCallum of

Toronto left her wallet in the Barrelworks in Balm Beach.

When she realized her loss, she returned to the Barrelworks only to discover her wallet was not there.

She lost \$60 in cash and her identification.



Happy?

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Extension

Midland council has approved the extension for six months from Aug. 6, 1981, to Feb. 6, 1982, of the draft plan for GAL Developments Ltd.

Council was told that the draft plan for development of property east of King Street near Lakeview Cemetery has been in hand for years.