

Centennial souvenir

Year-end picnic was a smash

by Adrienne Graham Gardner
Wyevale and Regent School Playgroups held a year-end picnic at Little Lake Park last Friday.

The Wyevale and Regent School playgroups have been in operation for four years, and will be beginning again in September, with informal contact over the summer.

Volunteer organizer Julie Barker explains that the playgroups are a parent and child group, with the ideal of the organization "to provide a place where the parent-child relationship can be preserved."

The Regent School and Wyevale playgroups operate two mornings per week, one morning of crafts and one of physical activity, with parents and children participating together.

Organizer Julie Barker attended a national conference at Carleton University in Ottawa on Parent Support Programmes recently "to tackle some of the problems confronting these new groups."

Mrs. Barker reports that she was one of over one hundred delegates to the conference,

representing community and family centres, drop-in centres for parents and children, play groups, playschools, playcentres, play and learn projects and toy libraries.

According to Mrs. Barker, "the conference pointed out the interesting fact that most of the parent support programmes grew out of the parents' own awareness of their needs during the preschool years and developed through their own initiative and skills."

Although consultants are used when appropriate, "Parents are discovering their own ability to strengthen and enrich their family life by working together," says Mrs. Barker.

workshop ideas and information gained at the Ottawa conference will be put to use in the local playcentres.

Mrs. Barker notes that the two local playcentres have attracted a variety of personalities and awareness in their clientele, and that "anybody interested in the care of children in the early years" is welcome to participate.

The Midland centre could be used everyday of the week on the basis

of demand of the facility.

Volunteers to assist in the organizations would be welcome, as well. "With volunteers, more neighbourhood playcentres could open," she says.

Mrs. Barker stresses the importance of adult company in child play. The new family resource provided by local playgroups is a means of counteracting the isolation and loneliness felt by many parents in the home. "The stimulation of ideas and support gained at the playgroups provides a feeling of well-being,

and helps parents to feel better about parenting," says Mrs. Barker.

Parents with preschool children or prospective volunteers who would like to participate in the playgroups at either Wyevale or Regent School in the fall are invited to call Julie Barker at 322-1384 or the Midland Volunteer Bureau at 526-6878.

A garage sale for the local playgroups will be held this Saturday at Regent School to raise money needed to cover insurance policies necessary for operation.

Report of District annual

The Vasey Women's Institute met at the home of Mrs. Doug Wilcox.

Mrs. Orval Edwards gave a report of the District annual.

Mrs. Jeane Lockhart gave a report of the Waterloo Conference, also a contest on trees, won by Mrs. Olive McLeverly, Mrs. Olive Edwards, Mrs. Irene Smitham.

Motto: When you stop to think, don't forget to start again. Roll Call: One thing I would like

the public to know about Women's Institute.

Friendship and flower committee reported sending one gift, four In Memoriams, nine birthday cards, one sympathy.

Flowers were planted at the Park; a new flag was also purchased.

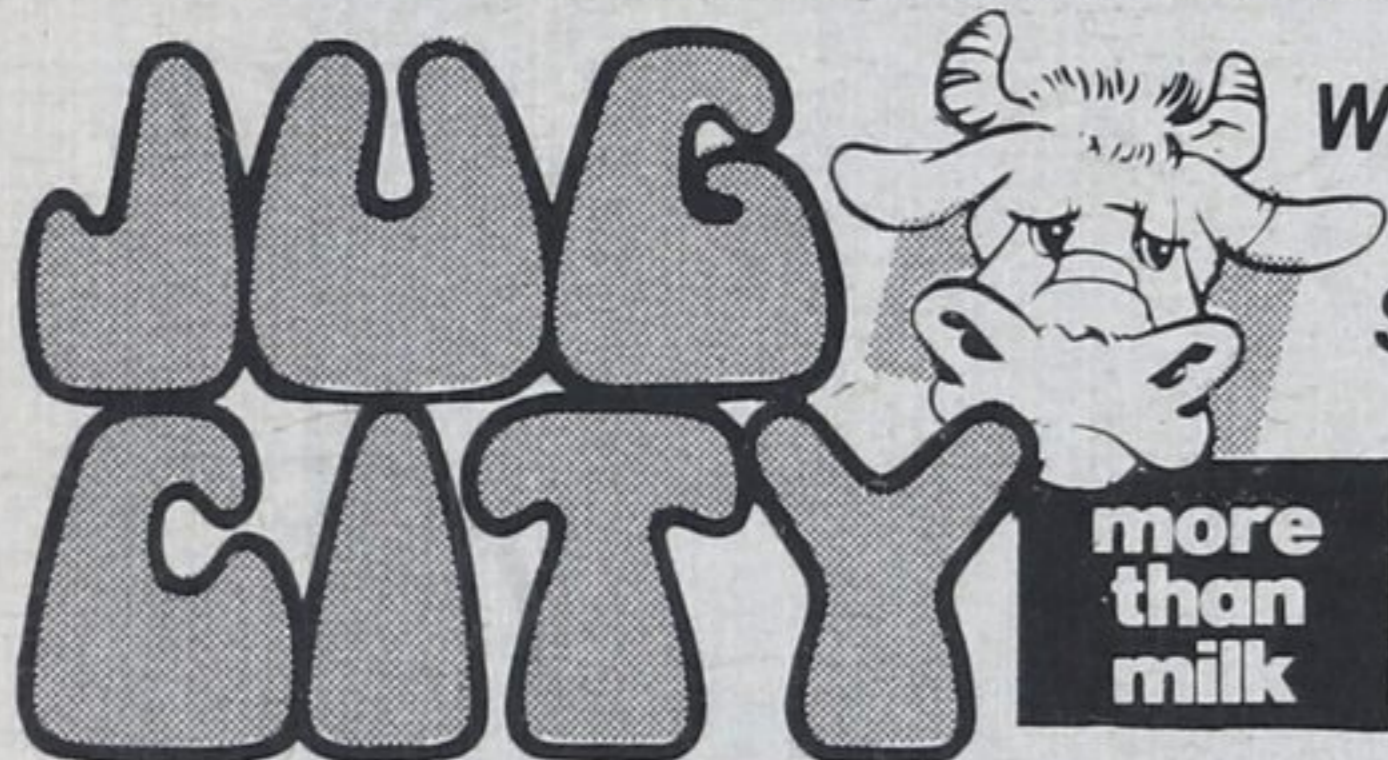
The July meeting is a trip to Cookstown.



Opening night

Opening night at the exhibition of photographs of Penetanguishene photographer Mike Odesse, at the

French Centre. The photographs will be on view in the French Centre until July 16.



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