



More than 4,600 visitors set new record

Another attendance record bites the dust. For the second time in a month, a single-day attendance record was established last Saturday at the Historic Naval and Military Establishments in Penetanguishene when more than 4,600 visitors attended the fourth annual Descendants' Day.

The turnout shattered the previous mark of 2,200 visitors set on July 24th during the second day of the Liberty Days special event.

Highlighting the Descendants' Day program was the first Georgian Bay appearance by The 1st Marine Band from Howell, Michigan consisting of more than 60 musicians, dancers and ceremonial marines representing the days of President Lincoln.

The unit traversed numerous cultural boundaries in its repertoire of 19th century music including popular American, British, Scottish and French songs.

The Establishments made for an idyllic setting with picturesque southern Georgian Bay providing an attractive "backdrop" to the vibrant red colours of the unit's authentic costumes.

The 1st Marine Band's flair for showmanship was greatly in evidence. Selected arrangements were punctuated by the sound of firing muskets making for a memorable crescendo.

According to Paul Deault, General

Costly crash

One of the most expensive multi-vehicle accidents to occur in Penetanguishene in recent memory left a total of \$18,000 damage in its wake.

Police records show a moving vehicle driven by Herbert Miller, 29, of Leonard Avenue in the town reportedly slammed into five parked cars and a parked motorcycle at around 10:44 p.m. last Saturday.

The driver has since been charged with impaired and excess alcohol.

Manager of Huronia Historical Parks, Saturday's special event was the culmination of several months of extensive planning.

"The staff at the Establishments had been working at bringing the band to the site since last fall and the exceptional turnout was a very nice reward for some diligent work," Deault said.

The Descendants' Day program also featured 19th century folk dancing, wool-related crafts and a most impressive drill demonstration performed by the Establishments' own military guard which drew a warm ovation from the large crowds.

The special event annually recognizes families whose ancestors worked and lived at the remote British defense outpost from 1817 to 1856.

Sharing the spotlight with the descendants this year was The 1st Marine Band that lived up to its billing as a world-class act.

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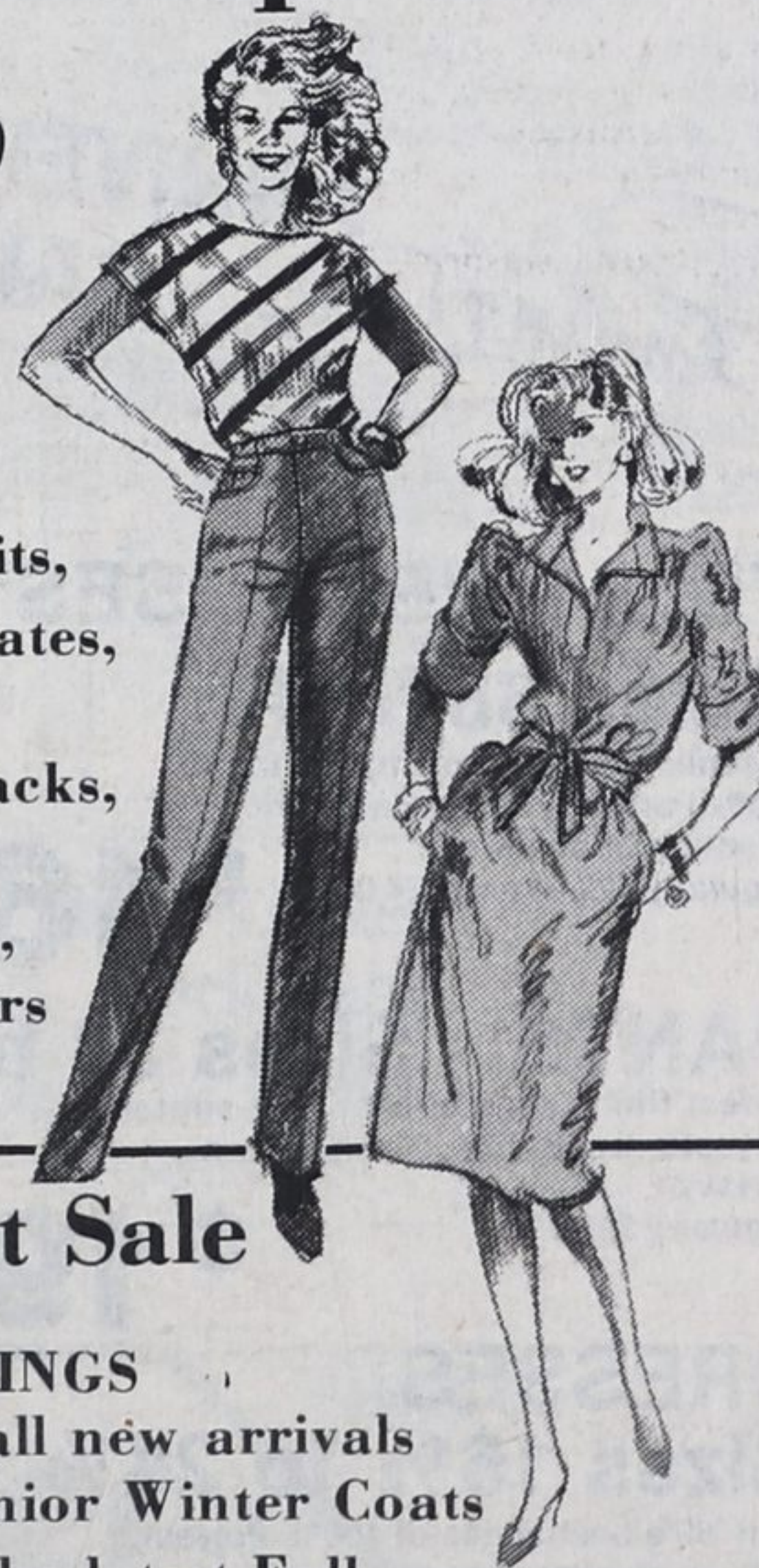


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