

Letters

More on Wye Marsh saga

Dear Editor:

Enclosed, please find a copy of a letter sent today by the Huronia Tourist Association to the Prime Minister of Canada concerning the closing of the Wye Marsh Wildlife Interpretation Centre.

We would appreciate your reporting this letter to assist us in our efforts to achieve the reversal or modification of this decision.

In an effort to assure the future of the Wye Marsh Wildlife Interpretation Centre as part of the County of Simcoe's tourism attractions and assets, the Huronia Tourist Association is working closely with the Friends of the Wye Marsh, the local municipalities, and other interested groups in an Ad Hoc Committee.

Should you have any questions concerning the importance of this facility to the Midland Area and the entire Huronia tourist industry, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Yours in Huronia Hospitality,
HURONIA TOURIST ASSOCIATION

Doug Little,
Manager

Right Honourable Brian Mulroney,
Prime Minister of Canada,
Parliament Building,
House of Commons,
OTTAWA, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

On behalf of the Executive, Board of Directors, and the four hundred members of the Huronia Tourist Association, I wish to express our concern and regret over the recent decision of Environment Canada to close the Wye Marsh Wildlife Interpretation Centre in Midland, Ontario, as part of cutbacks in the Canadian Wildlife Service, effective April 1, 1985.

While the Association appreciates the general spirit and intent behind the federal restraint programmes, it is our contention that the closing of the Wye Marsh Centre would be counter-productive to the best interests of tourism in Huronia.

For your information, tourism contributes approximately five hundred million dollars each year to the County of Simcoe economy as a result of this region's appealing mix of bountiful natural resources and diverse attractions. As a wildlife sanctuary that attracts 40,000 visitors annually (of all ages), the Wye Marsh Wildlife Interpretation Centre is recognized in this region as a viable part of Huronia's tourism matrix. Yearly operating expenditures of one-quarter of a million dollars is not that significant given the centre's economic and social benefits to the Midland community and beyond.

The Huronia Tourist Association would strongly urge the federal government to reconsider its position on the Wye Marsh Interpretation Centre. Failing a reversal in Environment Canada's position, we would request that consideration be given to a more conciliatory approach such as a gradual phase out over a two-to-three year period. This would facilitate more joint dialogue between

the different levels of government and the private sector in the long-term interests of the centre.

We would be most grateful for your personal consideration of this matter and look forward to an acceptable resolution in the interest of tourism in Huronia.

Yours-truly,
Robert D. Kennedy,
President,
Huronia Tourist Association

CC: Mr. Doug Lewis, M.P. Simcoe North
Madame Suzanne Blais-Grenier, Minister of the Environment

Here come the judge(s)

Just like Santa, four Elmvale villagers have taken on some special duties for the Christmas season.

The tradition of choosing the property with the best Christmas display has been organized again this year by the Chamber of Commerce and the Village Council. Following their own paths within the village limits, the four judges are out taking notes while they compare the decorations at night and during the day.

"I've never seen as high a percentage of lights in other places I've lived," says Judge Carrie Nesbitt, a seven year resident of Elmvale. Nesbitt is impressed by the colour co-ordination of lights while she is scoring each house from one to 10.

Judge Edna Langman, the Chamber of Commerce Treasurer, prefers traditional nativity scenes that portray the real meaning of Christmas.

Councillor Don Hocken also likes the Christmas scenes, but with three years judging experience he is also likely to notice when an owner has taken some original effort to enhance

what is unique about his property.

Another experienced judge and a Chamber member from past year, Ella McKnight, looks for the artistry in each display. But like her three friends, McKnight is judging each property in the categories of design, eye appeal, and originality.

While it will likely take the judges until our next paper to decide upon the winners, they already agree on the difficulty of their task. McKnight remembers how much easier it was to be a judge four or five years ago when people just displayed a tree or a few lights. She believes the annual competition has inspired Elmvale to become more creative and dramatic with its decorating.

Each judge has found it necessary to make three trips down every street all around town. They want to be sure everyone's display is considered, and Hocken claims he has to see each home from several angles to make a fair decision. The winners from past years know that the house with the most lights does not necessarily get the prize.

Winter in the Country is captured on canvas

How often have you marvelled at winter's beauty?

Fifteen Canadian artists have captured it on canvas for "Winter in the Country", an exhibition and sale at the Kortright Centre for Conservation, running daily until Jan. 13.

Each artist has reflected "winter" in a unique manner. Lorne McDermott chose the exacting and time-

consuming technique of pointillism for his works "Snowbound" and "In Search of Sanctuary". Nancy Gray Ogle and W. David Ward, on the other hand, focus on wildlife; Nancy used pastels for her portrayals of percherons and a red fox, while David's bobcat and mule deer were done in acrylic.

Among the realistic landscape artists figure Liz Lesperance, Brent Townsend, Marcello Febbo and Vic Gibbons, all of whom work in acrylic, watercolourists Walter Campbell and

Pie Menger and oil painters Colebrook and Mitch Keirstead and Samir Ghanem.

Winter scenes take on a more abstract look in Terrence Petryshyn's "Winter Landscapes No. 1 - No. 4", Mary Dawn Roberts' "First Snow on the Madawaska" and Lorraine Surcouf's "Watercress in Winter".

All forty pieces of original artwork, which can be purchased through the Gift Shop, express a feeling of rural tranquility.



GREETINGS

Wishing you all the joys of the Season —
Good health, good friends, good cheer!

From the management
& staff at



723 King St., Midland



SEASON'S BEST

We wish you an old-fashioned Christmas full of good cheer. Sincere thanks for your patronage.



Bavarian House

OF MIDLAND TAVERN

Located 2 miles past Martyrs' Shrine, off Hwy 12
Open Daily 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

12 Yuletide days

•Cont. from P6

Today, of course, this ritual, like so many others, is a thing of the past. But it is unfortunate that we do not, for the most part, even remember the existence of customs which were, for our ancestors, of great significance: central to their observance and understanding of their religion.

For, each custom or tradition remembered enriches immeasurably our understanding, and deepens our appreciation of the heritage which has made us what we are.

GOOD TIDINGS



Let happiness and goodwill abound during this most joyous of holidays.

Charlie & Gene Colling,
Yorkton Securities Inc.,
536 Dominion Avenue, Midland, Ontario
526-8449

Merry Christmas



Christmas joy to one and all. Thank you for your loyal support.

45 years of old-fashioned Customer Service

CUMMING-NICHOLSON

239 King St., Midland
526-5861