

Maple tree decline blamed on acid rain: interim report

Acid rain contributes to sugar maple decline in Ontario, but more research is needed to determine how significant a factor it is, reveals an interim report prepared by the Ministry of the Environment.

Sugar Maple Decline in Ontario, was released today by Environment Minister Jim Bradley. It is the product of a one-year study of seven sites in Muskoka and one near Thunder Bay.

The report tentatively concludes that acid rain in the Muskoka area

causes an additional stress to sugar maple trees that have also been plagued by the following factors: a severe forest tent caterpillar epidemic in the late 1970s, spring droughts in 1976, 1977 and 1983, root rot, tree age and site management procedures.

The current mysterious decline of sugar maple trees, what scientists refer to as the "Maple Dieback Syndrome," became evident in 1978 in the Muskoka area. Producers suspected acid rain.

The Maple Syrup Producers of Ontario and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food requested the Environment Ministry to conduct a study to determine the role of acid rain in sugar maple tree dieback.

"My Ministry is seeking to define more precisely how acid rain harms our maple syrup producers. Mr. Bradley said, "I'm not prepared to stand by idly while acidic pollution undermines the long-term viability of Ontario's

forest-based industries."

The ministry's one-year study indicted a need for additional research to investigate the relationship between acid rain and maple tree decline. The ministry will prepare a more comprehensive report for release later this year.

Further work includes a province-wide survey to determine the severity of the hardwood tree decline, and a detailed study to determine historical growth patterns in sugar maple in relation to atmospheric deposition.

Second phase

Molson Ontario Breweries Limited today announced construction of the second phase of development at the Molson Music Concert Site at Molson Park in Barrie.

This past spring Molson completed construction of a 6,000 square foot stage covered by a unique Space Frame roof. The second phase consists of the establishment of an earthen amphitheatre partially surrounding the stage.

Designed to accommodate up to 25,000 people it will provide a clear

line of vision from all vantage points. To be built by Allan G. Cook Limited the amphitheatre will blend into the natural setting of Molson Park providing concert patrons with a pleasant and unique atmosphere.

In the first year of its music programme Molson Park hosted a wide variety of entertainment with the Parachute Club, the Spoons, the Bellamy Brothers, Earl Thomas Connelly, John Prine, K.D. Lang and Murray McLaughlin among the acts performing on the new stage.

Paperbacks

JACK AND SUSAN IN 1953: The first in what the author Michael McDowell intends to be a series of love adventure tales starring Jack and Susan and their dog Woolf. This initial story tells how the long separated couple get together just as each is about to marry someone else. They plunge into their first adventure which takes them from a gambling casino in Manhattan to Havana where their ex's are, surprise, marrying each other. McDowell has written a number of TV episodes and writes in that style -- the type of story TV critics like to describe as madcap. It's light entertainment. (Ballantine, \$4.75)

SMALL CHURCHES OF CANADA: This is a collection of Kim Ondaatje's photographs which are a joy to look at. In describing the churches across this varied land of ours she cannot help but describe our heritage too. A magnificent Doukhobor prayer house in Saskatchewan is included with Ukrainian Greek Orthodox churches on the prairies, the Salvation Army in the outback areas, Methodist, Anglican, or missionary -- they're all here. Quaint, austere, odd or glorious, this is a fine selection of Canada's religious roots. The only drawback is the lack of index (Lester & Orpen Dennys, \$14.95).

THE SKOOK: The first thing English lit students learn when they wander into the realm of symbolism is that a cave, be it Plato's or your own, generally represents the subconscious mind. After reading the front-and-back cover promotion for THE SKOOK which builds up J.P. Miller's story as a masterpiece of whimsy, suspense and imagination, imagine my disappointment when I discover that the cave in which Span Barrman is buried alive represents Span's subconscious. Haven't we been all through this? Span Barrman is a victim. Selected to be a sex sacrifice by a strange coven, he escapes their clutches by crawling into a hole which eventually becomes the cave where Span will spend about half a year because the coven, using dynamite, have cut off his exit. Also housing mythical and or extinct monsters, the primary resident besides Span is the Skook -- a glowing little green creature who can read Span's mind. It helps Span survive the ordeal, makes a man out of him and helps to reunite him and his amoral, wandering wife. Try as I might to like J.P. Miller's latest, I found the scope of the book small, the symbolism blatant and boring. (Warner, \$4.95)

-Patricia Job

12 lots sold

Tannery Cove developer Don Sherk says he is pleased by how the new subdivision on Penetanguishene waterfront is proceeding.

The old C. Beck Company property in the last few months has

seen the building of a road through the middle of the subdivision, installation of services and two new home starts.

To date, 12 lots have been sold in the subdivision. Seven are back lots and five are more expensive waterfront lots. Fifty lots are being made available in the first phase of the subdivision project. An additional 32 will be opened up later.

Sherk said he is ahead

of schedule in sales since he was hoping to sell at least one waterfront and one back lot per month since last June.

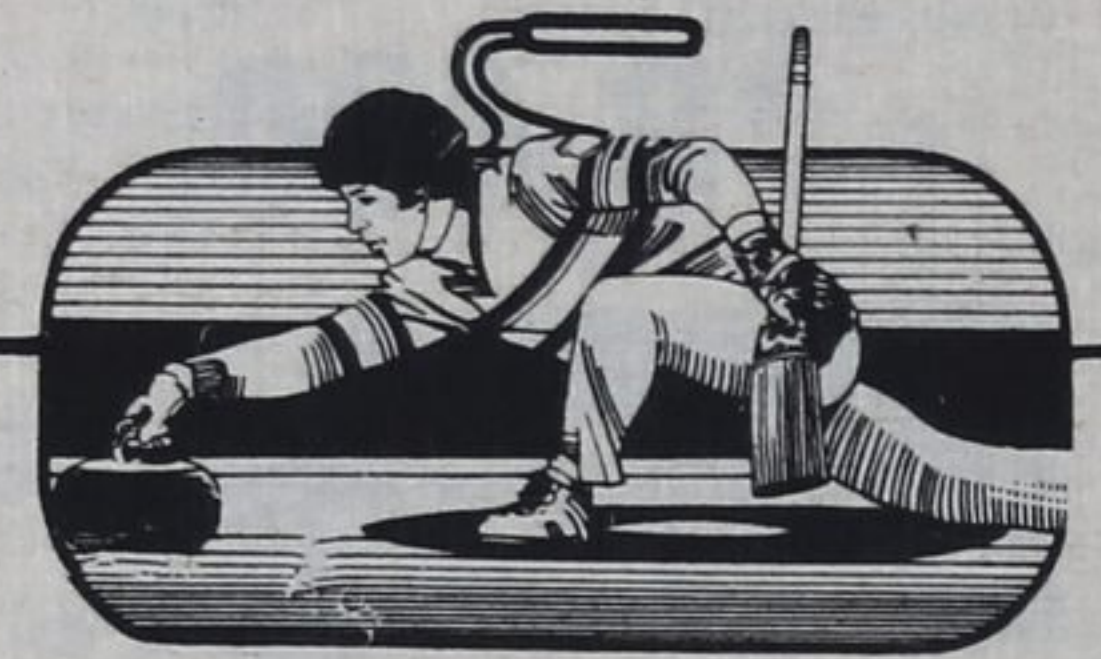
He said 10 of the sold lots have been bought by area residents and two have been sold to people from out of town.

Touching bases

Anyone interested in playing in the Penetang-Midland Ladies Hockey League should contact Cathy Denis at 526-2789. Registration fee is \$60, payable prior to October 12.



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