

KING CITY, OAK RIDGES LAKE WILCOX

"The Liberal" is always pleased to publish items of interest regarding people and events in the Oak Ridges - Lake Wilcox and King City districts. Our news correspondent in Oak Ridges - Lake Wilcox is Mrs. Lillian Atcheson, Wildwood Avenue, 773-5479, in King City Mrs. Theo Dawson, 773-5448.

Socially Speaking in King City

At this writing, we are in the first week of our annual vacation, and while the weather is somewhat cool, I must admit we are enjoying ourselves just doing what we want to do at our own time and pace. We are not campers, we can't adjust to cottage living, and to sum up the matter we like the comforts of home and just being together.

This may sound a little monotonous to most of you but as the well worn cliché goes "One man's meat is another man's poison". Mind you we don't stagnate! For diversion on breezy days, we head to Lake Scugog and find our pleasure in our 17' sailboat. My husband and the boys love her as I do but in a different way. I am not a sailor and do not participate in the sport, my pleasure is derived from watching her sleek lines and billowing sails caught by the prevailing winds and heading down the lake with her crew of four diminishing in size with each minute.

I can find perfect peace and relaxation just enjoying the scenery or trying to catch elusive fish. (haven't caught one in

the three years we've been up there). On calm days we pack picnic lunches and just explore the countryside, maybe watch boats going through the locks at Peterboro, still marvel at the majesty of the mighty Niagara, or take a swim at one of the local conservation areas. I have always stated, and I firmly believe that a vacation is really a state of mind. If you feel that you need a complete change, then by all means rent a cottage, take a camping trip or do what we're doing.

It depends on the individual, and being individual in our pursuits makes a more interesting world, doesn't it. I often wonder if it is not I that is the "odd one" when I hear "thank heavens the holidays are over, now I can get back to some kind of routine around here". Routine? ... Not my cup of tea!

Village Park

It doesn't seem possible that two months have passed since "The Happening" at the village park, when King City was almost bursting at the seams with people. Well it has indeed been two months, and the signs of progress are evident. The ground at this moment is being levelled, the first step in the preparation of park improvements, and setting the scene for the proposed ball diamond and tennis court. All the hard work and participation of each and every one of you will seem even more worthwhile as the work continues.

Kingcrafts

On Wednesday of last week, the electronic age moved into King City in the form of TV

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD

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Tough Luck Rain Falls But Carnival Goes On

Once again the carnival has come and gone and once again the weatherman failed to cooperate. Several times during the afternoon and evening it rained. Most of the hard-working people, who manned the many attractions, were a bit bedraggled by the closing hour. However, they accepted it in good humor and continued to work in spite of the weather. The event was held in the Lions Park August 19.

Lake Wilcox Recreation Committee members Charlotte Brockton, Hilda LaRivière, Jerry Lahey, Gerry Cook, Muriel LaBelle, Lil Atcheson, Mary Lahey, Lilian Peters, Viola Windsor, Merle Johnson, Anne Collins, Teenagers Danno and Ron Lahey, Lee Peters, Lillian Wilson, Vicky Willis, Terry LaRivière, Betty and Barbara Cook and President Doug Lennéville of the teen council all were very busy.

Frank Johnson installed and dismantled the electric equipment, Jim Peters made several trips, picking up bingo tables and chairs and Alex Brockton carted boxes, booths and other articles.

During the day very tasty refreshments were sold at the food booth loaned by the Oak Ridges Lions Club.

Winners of the penny sale draw were: Mrs. V. Vollette, Newmarket, lounge chair; Mrs. Muriel LaBelle, Wildwood Avenue, clothes hamper; B. Davidson, Downsview, card table; R. Sweeney, Wildwood Avenue, barbecue; Mrs. Dawn Willis, Rosemary Avenue, patio table.

May Close Newmarket Main St. To Vehicles

Consideration is being given to closing Newmarket's Main Street to vehicular traffic by Proctor, Redfern, Bousfield and Bacon, town planners, in their report on downtown renewal. This would entail establishing a ring road system and access of cars from Yonge Street and Highway 404 to that section of the town.

In the planners' first report redevelopment of the downtown area was recommended. It also contains recommendations about storm and sanitary sewers, water pressures and traffic patterns.

Their survey revealed that Main Street had an accident rate of 14.05 per million vehicle miles, compared to 1.1 for other streets in the town. Main Street carries the greatest amount of traffic in the downtown area, especially on Saturday, Friday, Sunday (in order of volume). Because the stores are closed, Monday sees the lightest traffic.

The town has provided 548 publicly-owned off-street parking spaces and 105 on-street parking spaces, the report states, with 147 privately-owned parking spaces for the public and 123 for employees. This is described as a good parking system which meets the demand.

A second report from the town planners is expected in September.

Charge Seven Youths Breakins And Thefts

Seven youths have been charged by the Whitchurch Township Police in the wake of an outbreak of daylight robberies and attempted breakins. Charged are Roy Harry Cook, 17, of no fixed address; Wayne Saunders 19, of Aurora; Michael Joseph Nolan, 17, Richard Orton, 17, Peter Lacey and Robert Orton, all of Oak Ridges and Christopher Jones, 19, of Lake Wilcox.

An attempted breakin was unsuccessful at King Cole Duck Farms, Concession 5, Whitchurch.

Heaviest losses in breakins and theft occurred to the home of Thomas Osborne, Concession 10 where \$3,100 in cash was taken in \$50 and \$100 bills. Also stolen was a .22 calibre rifle.

Other breakins were reported at the residences of R. C. Osborne, Concession 3; Dr. Eric Dent, Concession 4, and Walter Becker, Concession 7.

Money was taken from each home along with items such as typewriters, guns, cameras, binoculars and tape recorders.

The loss in total has been estimated at over \$5,000. Each house was ransacked.

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The Holland Marsh Area Is A Study In Pioneering

(The following feature story on the Holland Marsh is reproduced from the June issue of "The Grower" —Editor.)

"A mere ditch swarming with bullfrogs and snakes." This was the Holland Marsh in 1825, according to John Galt. But great oaks from little acorns grow, and that ditch was destined to become the "vegetable garden of Canada."

From ditch to garden was a long way. It was a way paved with adversity, but owing to the foresight of a few, and to the courage of many, the Holland Marsh flourishes in 1967. The Marsh was named after Major S. Holland, the first surveyor-general of Upper Canada. The first crop to be grown in the area was marsh hay. The hay was used in the manufacture of mattresses at the beginning of the century. At that time, an acre of land cost only 88 cents. By 1914; 12,000 acres of marsh land had been cleared for the production of the marsh hay.

But one man had much grander plans for the Marsh. He was William Henry Day, a professor at

the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph. Professor Day recognized good soil when he saw it. He saw it in the Holland Marsh!

In 1911, 4,000 acres of land were bought by Prof. Day, D. P. Munro, and R. L. McKinnon. Prof. Day grew test vegetable crops, until first World War interrupted his plans. The area still had to be drained, however, and for this, capital was necessary. It was no easy matter to obtain support for an enterprise which everyone considered foolhardy.

Prof. Day's efforts were rewarded in 1925, when a contract for the drainage of the Holland Marsh was signed by West Gwillimbury and King Townships, and the Village of Bradford.

Prof. Day was the first to grow crops on the marsh in 1926, after the reclamation. About two years later, G. Green, D. Nolan, and B. Cesare arrived on the scene.

In speaking of the hardships of those first days, William Day, the son of Professor Day says, "We were less fortunate than Nolan and Green and Cesare. Nolan had one tractor and Cesare another. They

worked within sight of each other, and when one saw the other tractor bogged down, he would unhitch his plow and go over and pull it out. Probably an hour later, he would go down and have to be pulled out in his turn. We were alone and had to pry the tractor up with logs when we got stuck."

The main crop in the early days was lettuce. Onions, which later were to become the main crop, did not thrive well, because then, the land was not sufficiently broken down for them. Some carrots grew to be over a foot long.

In 1930, Prof. Day could boast of a \$26,000 crop which was grown on 37 acres.

SETTLERS

The Holland Marsh was now beginning to attract the attention of other people. John Snor, representative of the Netherlands Immigration Foundation recognized the potential of the area as a prospective home for Dutch settlers. And so, in 1934, the first pioneers came from the Netherlands. They named their community, "Ansnorveld" meaning, "on Snor's field". Here, 18 families each worked industriously on their five acres of land, just

as they had done in their homeland. The rich soil was not unlike the Dutch soil they had left behind.

Another marsh village called "Springdale" was similarly settled by people from the Netherlands.

In 1936, still other sections of the Marsh were occupied by settlers from Czechoslovakia. From then on, the population of the eclectic Holland Marsh grew rapidly. Germany, Hungary, Poland, the Ukraine, Japan, and other countries were soon represented.

By 1953, the number of families living on the Holland Marsh was 700. Their 7,000 acres of land were now bringing in over \$6,000,000 a year. The value of an acre of land was now anywhere from \$600 to \$1,000!

HURRICANE HAZEL

On October 15, 1954, the flood water of Hurricane Hazel devastated the Holland Marsh. Three thousand residents were driven from their homes. The waters rose steadily, reaching 12 feet in some areas. Sea gulls hovered over what had once been solid ground. Crops still remaining on the fields were completely destroyed.

The Holland Marsh Emergency Relief was set up. Financial aid was also received from the Netherlands, a country which has itself often experienced floods.

The gigantic "Operation Mop Up" was begun in its turn. An attempt to restore a semblance of order. Machinery pumping at over 200,000 gallons of water per minute, was worked day and night, for almost four weeks.

In spite of the disaster, when spring came, the growers were ready again to resume their tasks.

Today, there are over 7,200 reclaimed acres, almost one-third of which are devoted each year to the production of onions, alone. The produce of the Holland Marsh has found markets not only in Canada and the United States, but also in Guyana, Northern Ireland, Norway, the United Kingdom, and the West Indies.

Truly, the Holland Marsh is Canada's "heart of the vegetable industry." Its success story is a tribute to the many people who toil diligently upon its soil. It is people like these who are making Canada a country in which we are proud to live.

Oak Ridges - Lake Wilcox News

About People

Our best wishes are extended to Mr. and Mrs. V. Piirto, who will celebrate their 25th anniversary, September 4.

Birthday congratulations are sent to Mark Jo Jo King, five years, August 27; to Mrs. Windsor, August 27; to Danno Lahey, August 28; to Joyce Stevenson, August 29, and to Bruce Penley, who will be one year old, August 31.

Lake Wilcox Brownies will meet at the recreation hall September 5, the first day of school, at 3:30 pm, and will resume Monday meetings from then on. The Niagara Falls trip has been postponed one week to September 16.

Lake Wilcox Guides will re-assemble September 11 from 6:30 - 8 pm and will meet in the recreation hall under the leadership of Mrs. Mary Ellen King. For the past two years the Lake Wilcox Guides have been combined with the Oak Ridges group under the leadership of Guide Captain Lydia Findeisen. Oak Ridges Guides will resume their Monday meetings at the Oak Ridges Public School.

Last week a day's outing was enjoyed by Eva Willis, Vicky Willis and Lil Atcheson when they visited the CNE on food products day. It was a very nice day, but during the evening, the three became separated and reached Oak Ridges on different buses.

We are very glad to hear that Mrs. Isobell Ground is now home from hospital and feeling much better.

Mr. and Mrs. John Lloyd and son Kenny are home from a three week holiday, enjoying several stops along the way out to the west coast, and the ferry trip to Vancouver.

They camped along the way and one evening almost lost tent and all their equipment when a small tornado levelled their camp.

Our Ladies' Guild will hold their final meeting of the season, September 5, at 8 pm in the separate school auditorium, Bond Avenue.

Fall Activities

The local association for Guides and Brownies will resume meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at St. Paul's United Church at 8 pm. The first meeting will be September 12 and will be a pot luck supper.

Thursday Afternoon Ladies' Bowling League members are asked to meet at the ABC Bowling Lanes, September 7 at 1:30 pm. You are invited to bring along a friend to join this friendly group of bowlers.

Lake Wilcox Mixed Bowling League will be starting September 8 at the Aurora Bowl at 9 pm.

Bingo will be held every Wednesday evening at the Lake Wilcox Recreation Hall and the euchre games will be held Thursday evenings, starting September 14.

A jewellery fashion show will be held to boost the building fund for the recreation hall, at the hall, September 7 at 8 pm. A door prize and a variety of

Sympathy

Sympathy of the community is extended to the family of Albert R. Hutchinson, Wilcox Road, who died very suddenly August 20, leaving his wife, Lorraine Currie and children, Billy, Michael, Mary and Lorraine, in his 37th year. Funeral services were held last Thursday. Interment was made at Holy Cross Cemetery.

Sympathy is also extended to Oiva Holikka on the loss of his mother, Riitta, August 17. The funeral was held August 19 with interment in Aurora Cemetery.

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We, in the automobile insurance industry, provide training courses, bursaries and technical assistance to high school instructors to help them teach safe driving to their students.

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At present, only 14% of high schools across Canada have these driver training courses.

Parents, teachers — just ask yourselves: Must a classroom be wiped out next week?

You can help prevent such tragedies by supporting driver training programmes in your community.

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