

Nature is all too real at Boyd centre

by Art Robson
PINE GROVE — "And this is the mud room," said Jim Gilliland, indicating a large hall inside a main entrance to the grand old Garfield Weston stone mansion.
 "We call it the mud room because in the spring and fall, when it's real wet out, and you get 40 students tramping in and out after slogging through the woods and along the creek banks, it gets pretty goopy in here."
 Luckily, the floors of the foyer and the room next to it are made of flagstones and the mud doesn't do any damage, just makes a mess.
 The floors in the rest of the stately mansion are of inlaid oak. The rooms are panelled in oak and the windows are of leaded glass.
 This is the Boyd Conservation Field Centre which is operated by the York County Board of Education, the six Metro Toronto school boards and the Metro Toronto Separate school board in partnership with the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.
 Students from schools all over Metro and York Region get to spend up to a week at the centre, learning from nature in a natural environment.

True to life

And sometimes that learning experience can be horrifyingly true to life.
 "We were walking through the woods one day and one of the girls let out a scream," said Gilliland, a teacher at the centre.
 "We had come across a racoon caught in a trap. It had chewed off all the fingers of the trapped foot in its effort to escape."
 Trapping in the conservation area is illegal, but it's done. When traps are found they are confiscated.

More to the students' liking is a different kind of trapping—bird trapping by Terry Carr, the centre supervisor who is also an ornithologist and a licensed bird-bander.
 Cardinals, bluejays and a wide variety of bright plumaged birds are caught in a harmless box trap on which the door drops shut when the bird enters to feed.

Birdwatchers

Students examine the birds in the lab while Carr tells them all about the birds' lifestyle. Then the specimen is banded and set free.
 Those lucky enough to be at the centre last fall were able to follow the

progress of a beaver felling trees and building a dam on the east branch of the Humber near its junction with Cold Creek.

There's not much evidence of the beaver since winter came, but he'll be back at work come spring—like a beaver.

And work he does. One tree he tackled was almost two feet in diameter.

Students also study forestry and botany, do scientific tests on water samples, net biology specimens from the creek (when it's not frozen) and actually work on nearby farms to learn about agriculture.

Teamwork

Orienteering, cross-country skiing, snow-shoeing and problem exercises to develop a sense of teamwork are all part of a full and active program at the Boyd centre.

Last fall, a group of boys from a vocational school built a swing bridge across the creek in two days with materials scrounged from nearby building sites.

"Operating with limited funds," said Gilliland, "we scrounge a lot of stuff around and we find people very helpful and co-operative."

Gilliland is one of two teachers chosen each year from the eight school board areas to spend a year working at the centre. He is from Wexford Collegiate in Scarborough, but he and his wife have just finished building their house in Stouffville.

His team mate this year is Alice Casselman of Thistletown Collegiate in Etobicoke.

Three years old

The centre, on Islington Ave. just south of Major Mackenzie Dr., was opened three years ago when the school boards and conservation authority completed an addition to the mansion to house dormitories and a cafeteria.

The centre can accommodate 40 students with two teachers (man and woman) accompanying them from their school and eight student teachers.

In addition, there's a residential assistant, Mary Lindsay, who is permanent staff and lives at the centre.

Louis Conkin was hired as day caretaker, but he turned out to be such a handyman he is now more of a resource person for the school. He became so involved in the program, he and his wife moved into the centre as



(Photo by Hogg)

Crossing the bridge

Greg Pelenyi, a grade 8 student, crosses the suspension foot bridge at the Boyd Conservation Field Centre. The students in

this picture are from Scarborough. Area school boards are allotted time at the centre according to their relative student enrollment. The centre was formerly the Garfield Weston mansion.

resident staff.
 Student groups visiting the centre come for either a week from Monday to Friday, or for a weekend from Friday to Sunday.

In proportion

Centre time is allotted to school boards in proportion to their total enrollment (the basis on which the centre was built and is operated). Each board has its own method of choosing

which students will get to use that time and when.

The centre has exclusive use of 1,250 acres of the Boyd Conservation Area's 2,100 acres. It's located well away from the public recreation areas.

But snowmobilers disregard this and roar through the property scaring the wildlife away and damaging the natural forest. Their passing is still starkly evident in midsummer

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Printer's work pours from suitcase

By Marilyn McDonald

Jack McBride's suitcase provides ample proof that the aim of the first printer—to have works of art and the written word easily and inexpensively available to all—has been achieved.
 Print after print appeared from the seemingly bottomless bag: a North Carolina six-dollar bill, dated April 2, 1776 "by the authority of congress at Halifax"; a woodcut depicting a 15th century German version of the birth of Christ, an Eskimo print, a copy of a page, printed in 1485, from Caxton's edition of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, an intricately detailed ad for a 1915 Maxwell (priced at \$695, fully equipped) and scads of beautifully etched notepaper.

"There's legislation coming out this year to make the reprinting of some of this material illegal," said the Willowdale printer during a recent visit to Thornhill Community Centre Library.

Print money

"At present," said McBride, "there is nothing in the law to prevent the reprinting of old money."

Canada's current copyright laws cover printed matter for only 50 years. For example, paper money printed in the 1800s, and quite valuable to a collector, could be accurately reproduced by a skilled but unscrupulous printer and sold for profit.

"We're about 150 years ahead of the U.S. in the production of money," said McBride, casually passing around samples of authentic Canadian \$20 bills.

He rubbed a rumpled twenty across a sheet of white paper, leaving behind a smudge of green. That part of the bill was still wet.

"But feel this," he said, touching the circular orange glow surrounding the coat of arms on the left side of the bill. It felt dry.

McBride described how several different printing processes are used to

produce Canada's new-style paper money.

It is impossible to reproduce them photographically, the forgers usual method.

Current copy

"Our Canadian bills have completely confounded the counterfeiters," McBride explained.

"There hasn't been a successful counterfeiter since our new money was brought out."

McBride, who got interested in printing as a teenager, "because my father wanted me to be a lawyer", has been involved in the printing business for over 40 years.

Now 69, he spent 36 of those years as a technician with the Toronto branch of Addressograph-Multigraph.

McBride saw one of the first models of a multilith press in 1936 and "fell in love with it".

Upon retirement in 1971, he began playing the part of a pioneer printer at Black Creek Pioneer Village.

Best example

"It's the best example of an old working print shop before 1867," said McBride.

The emphasis was on the word working.

There are many models of old time print shops around, but as McBride said, none of them work.

Last Wednesday, McBride was busy with an iron pot, casting pieces of type in the kitchen off the library auditorium.

He handed them out as souvenirs to those who had come to hear him lecture on the history of printing.

It was a bad night for weather and what the five people who showed up got instead, were intriguing anecdotes about the printing business, a smattering of history, an explanation of how lithography works (understood, at last, by at least one person present), and an intimate look at a man wholeheartedly in love with his trade.



(Photo by Hogg)

Picture from wood

Jack McBride holds woodcuts and the tools used to make them. Woodcuts were used to make

illustrations in printing up to about the 1930s.

Low cost home push

RICHMOND HILL — Mayor David Schiller told the Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce last week he is trying to encourage lower cost housing development in town.

One developer, Cadillac-Baif, has responded to his offer. There is a possibility of a second participating in the Ontario Housing Action Program, Schiller said.

Under the program, the municipality can get grants for planning, plus a grant of about \$500 for each unit built from the province.

Builder advantage

The developer gets the advantage of top priority on cutting through red tape and getting the houses off the ground.

The proposed OHAP project is a condominium high-rise of 240 units on Yonge at Weldrick, Schiller said later. Schiller said at another point in the

meeting he did not know of any way of guaranteeing when housing units would be built.

He referred once again to over 2,000 units (most of them are apartments or

high rise condominiums) which he said have already been approved but not built in town "because the developers do not think they can make money on them."

Regional Chairman Garfield Wright and York Centre MPP Alf Stong were even more emphatic in pushing for housing development.

"The big pipe (the York-Durham sewer) is coming; the province is charging us for it," said Wright.

"If the development don't come, we won't be able to pay for it."

Stong said development was coming to Markham and Vaughan. As a businessman in Richmond Hill he

wanted Richmond Hill to get its share. He wanted his children to be able to buy homes of their own someday.

Liberals criticized

Stong was asked by one chamber member if he could conduct an education process among the members of his own party who all seemed anti-development.

Mayor Schiller was asked to tell the staff at the town hall he favored development.

"With the exception of the switch board operator, they won't talk to you," said one businessman.

The mayor said planners were working on the Official Plan. He could understand why they would not want to drop it to work on something else that probably would not meet approval anyway.

"I imagine they have a pretty good idea what areas are likely to develop by now," said the mayor, adding he, himself, had not seen the official plan.

Won't take no

One problem with developers is they won't take a "two-letter (NO) answer," said the mayor.

"Once they have put down a few hundred thousand or a few million dollars, I can understand why they don't."

One man came to him last year and asked about a piece of newly purchased land.

"I told him I didn't think it would be developed for 20 years as least, and possibly never.

He sold it; of course that means the buyer will come along asking the same question."

A less conventional method didn't work last week in Richmond Hill, according to police.

Police said a youth checked into the Black Hawk Inn Jan. 16, but left the next day without stopping by the desk. About the same time another youth reported the theft of his wallet, giving the same name as that used by the youth who had checked into the hotel.

As it turned out, the latter had borrowed the second youth's wallet and used it for identification purposes when

Millie Stewart
 Correspondent
 773-4424

Checked out flag is out

OAK RIDGES — The 6th annual snowmobile races promoted by the Oak Ridges Club 99 snowmobile association will be held Feb. 20 beside Bond Lake Arena.

Registrations will be from 9:30 to 11 a.m. The races will start at noon.

There will be 10 stock and four modified divisions. There will be trophies and purse money for the winners.

Everyone may come out to watch. There will be an admission price of 25 cents for students, \$1 for adults and \$2 for a family.

Hot dogs, coffee and hot chocolate will be available to help ward off the cold.

For more information, please call Tom Simpson at 773-5719 or Rick Mottershall at 773-4110.

Dance for lovers

There will be a Valentine's Dance at the Viking Club on Feb. 12. The tickets are \$10 per couple, available at Rudy's Fish and Chip store.

The admission price includes a hot dinner to be served from 8:30 to 10 p.m.

Coffee house

There will be a movie entitled 'Time to Run' to be held at St. Paul's United Church on Feb. 5 at 8 p.m.

There is no admission, although a free offering will be collected. Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be served.

Hockey dance

The Oak Ridges and District Minor Hockey Association will be having a dance on Feb. 19 at the Bond Lake Arena in the Lions Den.

The tickets are \$8 per couple. They are available at the door or by calling 773-5285.

The music will be provided by Don Holgate.

Soccer anyone?

Are you six years of age or older, and

oak ridges
lake wilcox

would you like to play soccer? Here's your chance. Registration is being taken for the Richmond Hill Minor Soccer Association on Feb. 12 and Feb. 19 at the Bond Lake Arena from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The registration is \$15 per child or \$25 per family of two or more children. This fee will include a jersey, pants and socks. The shoes must be provided by the family.

On the date of registration, the child must bring a picture and his or her birth certificate.

If you are interested and would like more information, please call 887-5627. I hope you noticed, girls, that you can also register to play soccer.

St. John's Anglican

Sunday there will be a hymn sing at 10:15 followed by the family service at which the St. John's Anglican parish will be treated to special music presentations.

Original songs and musical compositions are by Al and Beth Davey of Don Mills and Larry Gates of Richmond Hill.

On Feb. 9 at 8 p.m. the study, share and prayer group will meet at the home of Al and Mike Woodall.

Confirmation classes will resume Thursday at 4:15 p.m. in the choir room.

St. Paul's United

The annual meeting of the congregation will be held Sunday following the service. Everyone who attends is asked to bring a sandwich.

Coffee and tea will be provided, as will baby sitting.

The UCW will hold their January general meeting on Feb. 8 at 8 p.m. The theme for this meeting will be Women in the Church.

civic corner

The following meetings of civic interest have been scheduled during the next two weeks:

Wednesday, Feb. 2 — by-law, procedures, fire & personnel committee meeting regularly scheduled for this evening has been cancelled.

Thursday — Feb. 3 — 8 a.m. office of the commissioner of works — engineering committee

Thursday — Feb. 3 — 7:30 p.m. council chambers — parks and recreation committee cancelled.

Monday — Feb. 7 — 7:45 p.m. council chambers — regular council meeting

Tuesday — Feb. 8 — 7:30 p.m. council chambers — parks and recreation committee

Wednesday — Feb. 9 — 7:30 p.m. committee room "B" by-laws, procedures, fire & personnel committee

Tuesday — Feb. 15 — 4 p.m. deputy treasurer's office, finance committee

Tuesday — Feb. 15 — 7:30 p.m. council chambers — planning committee