

Kelso Travel
878 0518
350 MAIN STREET EAST, MILTON, ONTARIO L9T 1P6

about town

610 MARTIN ST.
MILTON
878-4137

NISSAN
MAJOR MOTION IN MILTON

AT
NORTH-END
NISSAN

Get rid of the winter blues

Warm up to the season at Mountsberg

Taxidermy, snow snakes, outdoor survival, wildlife art and cross-country skiing had little in common until they became the focus of special events at Mountsberg Wildlife Centre.

Last Sunday, Richard Elop from Scout House in Hamilton provided visitors with the necessary know-how to survive in the wilderness. He suggests the first priority for someone lost in the wilderness is a positive mental attitude.

He was at Mountsberg last week along with others representing upcoming events to promote and detail the winter programs. Each Sunday until the end of February the wildlife centre will offer numerous remedies for the winter blues.

For the cross-country skier there are 10 km. of groomed trails but his Sunday there will be more in store. The expertise of Jim Phillip will benefit beginners and seasoned skiers during the cross-country ski workshop which runs from 1 to 3 p.m.

"A lot of people spend more money than they need to," explained the salesman from Collegiate Sportsworld at Yorkdale.



Albert Green

Although the cross-country craze has reached its peak, Jim still finds there are newcomers to the sport. He recommends waxing for the best performance and "extending your season" but admits waxless skis don't mean much of a sacrifice.

The art of waxing will be explained and according to Jim it is not that hard to learn. For those who have already mastered waxing, Jim will offer base repair techniques.

Proper dress is an important aspect of cross-country skiing. Jim will discuss the theory of layering and what type of material to wear for each layer. One thing he'll suggest is silk socks.

Will they give a hoot?

The wide-eyed Great Horned Owl named Oscar was perched in a papier mache tree constructed by Katimavik volunteers in the interpretive centre. A resident at Mountsberg for more than 10 years, she is utilized in a number of programs including the annual owl prowl.

If she were in the wild, Oscar would be seeking a mate at this time of year by attracting a male with her hoots. Prowlers will play the part of owls looking for mates after their hooting lessons. Before entering the woods they will learn something about the creatures they'll be imitating.

Oscar is an example of a bird which has been robbed of its natural way of life by humans who removed her from her nest when she was young. Terri Smith, a

wildlife interpreter at the centre said this point is impressed upon visitors, especially children.

The four-pound owl will likely live to the age of 25 in its sheltered habitat, ensuring many more years of service to others of her species. She is a natural aid to interpretive programs like the owl prowl which outline characteristics and the role of owls in the food chain.

Wildlife captured

It was only three years ago that Rick Manners picked up his pencil and sketched a wild animal in its natural state. Despite a college education which dealt with animation and audio/visual, the young man from Burlington has directed his talents toward realism. His subjects are those found in nature.

Some of them have been found at Mountsberg, like the Great Horned Owl named Casper and a bald eagle. Visitors to the wildlife centre the weekend of Jan. 26 and 27 will be able to view his models and his work.

"I work from my own photographs. I'll take five or six with some close-ups of different body parts," Rick said.

From these he uses either graphite pencils or acrylic paints to recreate his subjects. About 90 per cent of his work to be part of the exhibition has been sold.

In addition to animals of the wild, Rick's collection includes likenesses of pets. One pet portrait depicts a cat known for its antisocial behaviour. Its negative reaction to being photographed comes through in the cat's bared fangs and glaring green eyes. A collie proved a more sublime subject judging by the end result of Rick's work.

He admits the pets he has painted are treated as members of the family.

A visit to the Metro Zoo provided a more exotic subject in the form of a polar bear lounging on a rock.

The young artist is striving to produce limited edition prints in the near future. The Mountsberg exhibition will be his second there. His art was first exhibited last May at the Kortright Centre, at Kleinburg. Following the two-day display at Mountsberg his work will be featured at the new Mississauga Valley Community Centre until the end of February.

Rick will be on hand at Mountsberg to meet visitors during the exhibition.

Camping isn't cool

Pete McGovern would not recommend an inexperienced winter camper take to the wilderness after a two-hour session on the subject. He will be conducting such a session at Mountsberg however and will suggest further steps in ensuring a safe outing.

The winter camping workshop, Sunday, Feb. 3 will be directed at the intermediate and beginner.

"You can stay very warm and comfortable in the winter," said Pete of camping in this season.

A winter camper for 13 years, Pete has seen this outdoor recreation grow in popularity over the years. He contends some think it is something new but this is because of increased publicity recently.

Reading about the subject is a good idea for novices, according to Pete. He would go so far as to say those



Who else but Oscar the Great Horned Owl could greet members of the press with a gaze like this? The owl was part of a promotion for Mountsberg programs which include an owl prowl.

who attend a workshop "shouldn't freeze to death if they listen carefully".

He will have a host of equipment for the winter camper at the workshop including special tents, sleeping bags and boots from a sporting goods store in Waterloo. Anyone wishing to further investigate camping in the cold should drop into the store. Pete suggested.

Snakes take to snow

They can travel at speeds of up to 100 miles per hour and distances of close to a mile. They are snow snakes and have been around for centuries. Albert Green of Brantford is a "shiner" or snow snake maker and the man behind a special event at Mountsberg.

His visit to the wildlife centre, Sunday, Feb. 10 will provide a look at this ancient Indian winter sport. Many of the snow snakes he has fashioned will be displayed and he will demonstrate the technique behind throwing the slender shafts of wood.

Hickory, swamp oak, ironwood and juneberry are among the young trees which yield the wood snow snake makers desire. According to Albert, different types of wood adapt to the various snow conditions. The long narrow snakes come in two sizes - the shorter version is about three feet and the others are approximately seven feet in length.

A lead tip is fastened to the end to prevent the wood from splintering. The pointed end is tapered to stabilize the snake as it races along a track in the snow. Albert will demonstrate the precise skill of making snow snakes while at Mountsberg as well as his throwing ability which has won him many tournament prizes.

A careful craft

It is hard to imagine road kills serving a purpose but for Jim Jackson, the birds which meet their end on the roadways are treasures. He is a prize-winning taxidermist who has dedicated 10 years of his life to the craft of preserving wildlife.

Exhibiting his work at Mountsberg Sunday, Feb. 17 will give him a chance to promote the art of taxidermy. He likes to explain how to prepare a specimen for a taxidermist as often they are not handled properly before he receives them.

Jim preserves fish mainly but the bird-watcher also lends his talents to that species. He uses the finished products as models for wood carvings, however these take on other forms as well. Jim began carving at the age of five.

He doesn't like the idea of people hunting birds simply to "pull them apart and eat them". More game should be preserved through taxidermy, according to the Hamilton resident.

Before preserving a bird, Jim studies photographs of the particular type of bird and tries to spot some in the wild. It is important that he pose them naturally and paint the beaks the proper colours.

"Most of the beaks are painted because they lose colour after they are killed," he said.

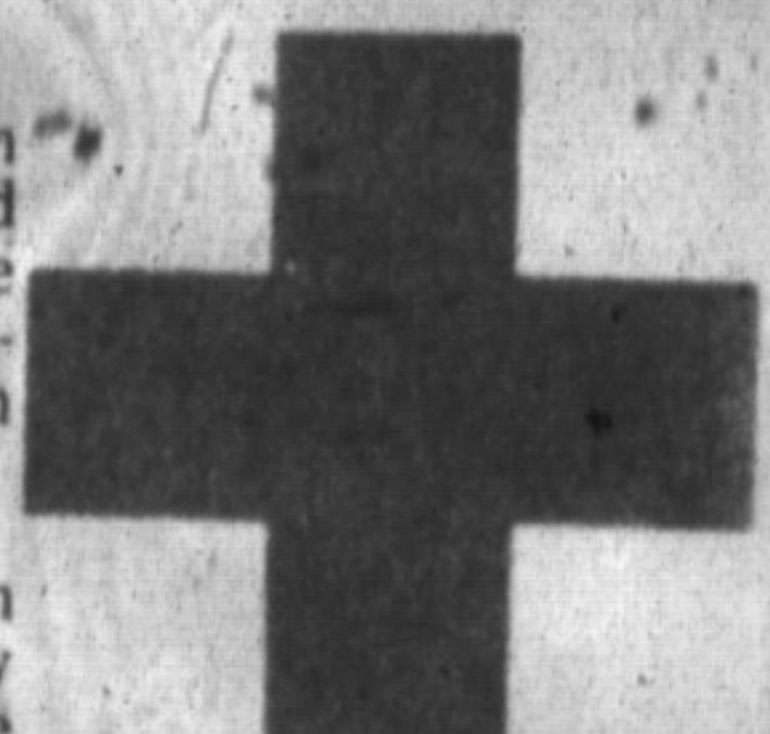
In explaining his craft to people he has found many don't realize how long it takes to complete a fish or bird. A wood duck he had with him at Mountsberg for the winter program preview took him more than 10 hours to complete.



The carving skills of Jim Jackson have been honed since the Hamilton man was five-years-old. He began to taxidermy birds at the age of 13 and has used the products of this craft as models for wood carvings. He will be at Mountsberg along with many examples of his work Sunday, Feb. 17 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Don't look here for disaster aid

If disaster struck in Milton, residents would have to rely on the volunteer efforts of outsiders to man evacuation centres.



Volunteers trained in registration and inquiry by the Red Cross would be provided by neighbouring municipalities as such a group does not exist here. Providing emergency services is a mandate of Red Cross Branches but Milton is without a Branch of this organization and some of its benefits.

Financial difficulties lead to the demise of a Milton Branch several years ago and since that time Red Cross services in town have had unit status and are administered through the Oakville Branch. Executive director of the Oakville Red Cross, Patti Hutchison, is baffled by the lack of interest in Milton.

A successful United Way campaign last year should ensure a financial base for a Branch here. The lack however is in manpower.

"We just really need a couple of people who will take hold of this. There are so many things which could be done up there," Mrs. Hutchison explained.

There are Red Cross Branches in every area of Halton except Milton. Residents here can take advantage of Red Cross services like homemaking and sick room equipment loan service and blood donor clinics are held in Milton four times a year. Red Cross swim program are offered here but those are handled at the provincial level.

"The homemaker service is operating and growing. The equipment loan service is growing too and will have to expand to meet the demand," said Mrs. Hutchison.

With a core of volunteers working in public relations, finance and as representatives on boards of directors of agencies like the United Way, Volunteer Coordinators Committee and Milton Human Service Centre, Branch status would be obtained. Once that step is taken the Red Cross executive would be able to implement other services which fall under the organization's national guidelines.

"They have got to be responsive to community needs," Mrs. Hutchison stressed.

She does not expect Red Cross services to replace ones already existing in town. Duplicating services is not the aim. Although friendly visiting is a nationally sanctioned program, Mrs. Hutchison is aware of such a program established by the Victorian Order of Nurses here.

One need she feels may be felt here is in the area of transportation. Red Cross volunteers can provide a driver service which could take the form of a core of uniformed drivers. First Aid and CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation) instruction can be offered through Red Cross Branches as well as water and small craft safety.

In Oakville a successful service is geared to seniors. A weekly three-hour drop-in center program includes arts and crafts, games and socializing. Another aspect of this program called fun and fitness is also carried out at senior citizen homes in the area. Instructors are specially trained in this type of fitness through the Red Cross.

The organization's youth program includes resource materials to be used by teachers especially in the field of social sciences. The Halton Board of Education promoted one course of study offered by the Red Cross and "masses of orders came from Milton," according to the executive director.

She is currently seeking a volunteer in Oakville who will visit schools there to promote these information packages.

International relief is another role played by the Red Cross. Milton residents recently contributed close to \$2,000 to African relief but those funds had to be passed through Oakville instead of through the town where the money was generated.

Three months ago the office for Red Cross Homemaking service was moved to Milton Human Service Centre.

"The reason we went in is that it's visible and the coordination of agencies is a good thing," Mrs. Hutchison said.

She is "positive" this new exposure is going to help rekindle interest in the Red Cross in Milton.

"I have one woman investigating the sick room loan service and there is someone interested in emergency services," she said.

The loan service provides special equipment like hospital beds and wheelchairs on a temporary basis to those in need. It has been offered in Milton for many years.

Red Cross volunteers were "very much a part of the United Way campaign" last fall, said Mrs. Hutchison. Her organization usually goes into a partnership with the United Way which is a Red Cross funding source.

She feels Milton is lacking momentum in re-establishing a Branch because no one is actively working here toward that end. Despite failed attempts to attract such a person, Mrs. Hutchison is not giving up. Anyone interested in getting involved should call Patti Hutchison or Lyn O'Reilly, Red Cross regional council chairman at the Oakville Branch, 845-5241.

Arthritis pain & crippling can be controlled.

THE ARTHRITIS SOCIETY

The Optimist Clubs of North Halton present

TV BINGO

Every Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. on Halton Cable 4

All Proceeds to Youth and Community Services

MILTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MILTON INFORMATION CENTRE

"MILTON CHAMBER INNOVATIONS" PROJECT

presents

A 2 EVENING INTRODUCTORY COMPUTER SEMINAR

"COMPUTERS: CAN YOUR BUSINESS REALLY USE ONE?"

to be held Tuesday, January 29 and Tuesday, February 5 at Milton Public Library, 7 to 10 pm

This is to be a combination of a learning experience and a hands-on component at a cost of \$35.00 for both evenings.

Register at the Milton Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 52 L9T 2Y3 or call Donna Mae Fleet or John Cooke at 878-0581

INVENTORY SALE

Ends Jan. 31, 1985

AUDREY MEREDITH

Dance Centres Ltd.

25% Storewide (except shoes)

50% Selected Body, Legwear & Swimwear

Special on end of lines

DANCE SHOES - SKATING SUPPLIES - BATONS - PLAIN WHITE RUNNERS

198 MAIN ST. MILTON 878-1363

- 2 LOCATIONS -

214 QUEEN ST. 821-1337 STREETSVILLE