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Tribune Writer Describes Interesting Tour of Dept. Work in Simcoe Forest

(By A. G. Thompson)

We journeyed out from Barrie to the Orr Lake forest which is one of the Five units making up the Lake Simcoe Forest.

Orr Lake comprises an area of 2,144 acres, which is not all in one block but consists of areas running from 60 to 1100 acres, chiefly in the Township of Medonte with some parcels in Tay and Flos.

The first property in this area was acquired in 1928, with additions in other years that have increased it to present acreage. As the length of time taken to bring a tree to maturity in these forests is 80 years, few persons who saw them start, will see any mature trees.

In the stand of timber at Waverly, not far from the Orr Lake H.Q., we viewed stands of timber that had reached a point at which the removal of each third row of timber was necessary to permit growth. Thus, of the 1,200 seedlings first planted on an acre, the first removal product is not wasted, but sold as pulpwood for \$11.00 per cord. It costs \$7.00 for cutting, \$2.00

to put it on the road, and the balance is profit.

When this removal is completed, it permits of trimming some of the remaining trees. Once the limbs are sawn off even with the tree, nature grows it over and any further growth is of solid timber free of knots. It was mentioned that this trimming was a long and costly operation, as the trimming was to a height of 17 feet. However, the Forester drew to our attention that only the 200 trees that were to be the final stand left to mature of the original 1,200 planted, were to be trimmed.

In another section we viewed the operation of setting out trees with the machine operated by a tractor driver and two men setting — the number is 10,000 seedlings in a day. If over hills, etc., where it is necessary to set by hand, the number for two men would be about 1,000.

On our former tour we saw these seedlings set in large beds and left for two years, after which they were transplanted and left for a further period of

two years. In this planting it was stated the seedlings were four years old.

The question was asked if spring and fall planting were equally successful, and we were told a larger percentage lived if planted in the spring.

Robert Trotter, who recently joined the force at Maple, being transferred from one of the northern districts, is connected with the Wild Life Div. He certainly had nature co-operating with him on this day, for as we were viewing the tree planting operation, a large doe ran up the trail and crossed about 150 yards from the party.

In going on from this section we go further north into the Severn Falls River Management Unit. The headquarters of this Unit is located at Coldwater. The area covers an acreage of 110,000 acres with outposts at Severn Falls, Honey Harbor and Six Mile Lake. As each of these posts is in what is known as the fire area, they each have a number of men employed in prevention and fire fighting. The department has 1,225 portable pumps and 700 miles of fire hose. It was stated that they had fought eleven fires in the Severn area this year. It was considered to have been a good year, fairly free of any large amount of damage and in this the department are quite ready to give the public the proper amount of credit for being more careful of smoking, etc., while in the bush.

In what is known as the fire area no person can set any fire from April 1st to October 1st without a permit from the Fire Ranger, and it is generally under a supervision of someone from the department.

The members of the County Council were quite impressed by the organization but the area was not new to them, as County Council had made a tour of the area in 1958.

In talking with the members, a number considered the program as expensive to the County as it took a considerable amount of land off the assessment roll in that the Conservation area did not produce any tax revenue. The County was under obligation to service the roads in these areas by keeping them in repair in summer and ploughing of snow in winter. It was considered that with an acreage of 25,079 acres in the Lake Simcoe Area, that it was a point on which the government might lend some assistance.

We had lunch at Port Severn, a point used mainly by those in search of a holiday in the summer months, and almost totally deserted in the winter. It is accessible by only one road from Coldwater, and with many more acres that looked as though they would be better utilized for reforestation, the amount of topsoil being at a minimum.

We visited the headquarters of the unit situated at Severn Falls. They have a very efficient building with radio connections from Coldwater. It is required, as we were told that only one telephone was in the area and that was in the general store.

They gave a demonstration of the pumps and stated the force was quite satisfactory with a length of a mile of hose.

The large boat with an in-board motor as well as several other smaller units, was in the large boat house. More of this same equipment was said to be at Honey Harbor and Six Mile Lake, but we did not visit these districts.

The Chief Forester, Mr. Hamilton, stated he covered these points in going over the area about once per month for the entire year. His description of the area in winter would not tempt anyone to go there for Christmas.

On our return trip we called at the Provincial Park at Bass Lake. This was formerly a camp operated by a Co-Op. Society but its use was not extensive and the Directors sold the property to the government.

A large expenditure was necessary to equip the Park with proper buildings. They now have a parking area near the bathing beach, a building or office at the entry gate, a large Picnic Club house, wash room facilities in a near building, a store which is operated in summer months.

The grounds have been extended to permit of the building of a Trailer Camp. A wood has been cleared and divided into camping sites. Water is available at another club house in this area — a well 245 feet deep provides 50 lbs. pressure at the top.

The Park is very popular and it was stated would have to be enlarged, as many persons were turned away each weekend. In speaking of the Unit, one of the Officers said it was generally up to capacity of 5,000 by 1 p.m. on a Sunday. The record showed 100,000 used the Camp in 1958 with an expected 50% increase in 1959.

The government has not only provided the place to go but is providing wild life to cover the land and waters. Each year

some 15,000 pheasants are released in Peel, York and Ontario Counties. In connection with fishing, 80,000 yearling speckled trout reared at Midhurst are released.

To those who were on tour for the first time, the work must have appeared as very involved but to those on tour in the previous year, it appeared to be a natural follow-up of the gathering of the seed, the production of seedlings and the general programme of securing good sites at which these might be planted and public parks established.

While many may say the programme is expensive, it would appear from the use being made of the parks that the public appreciate the effort put forth to provide for recreation.

Give Life Memberships in Pioneer Society

Honorary life memberships in the York Pioneer and Historical Society was conferred on Harry I. Price, President of the Canadian National Exhibition; Major A. A. Mackenzie, M.C., M.P.P., and Alfred H. Cowling, M.P.P., at the Society's annual assembly in the Scadding Cabin at the Exhibition grounds. This action was by way of recognition of the services of these gentlemen to the cause of local history and particularly in the preservation of the historic sites of the Exhibition area. Of Mr. Price the citation set forth, in part: "We are happy to state that Mr. Price has an appreciation of the place this area has in our country's history. This year the Bay of the Humber was again the scene of an occasion of historic importance. Nearly a century and a half ago this shore was the landing place of an invading army carried here by a hostile fleet. The naval display of 1959 in the Bay of the Humber was an event marking 146 years of unbroken peace between two nations on this continent."

Of Major Mackenzie it was stated he had "an enviable record of public service, civil and military . . . He has been and is a leader in conservation of York's natural resources, particularly its rivers and their origins. He is also active in the marking of archaeological and historic sites, thereby saving many of the latter from disappearing . . . This Society has reason to be grateful for Major Mackenzie's resolute support of its efforts, in association with similar bodies, for the preservation of Fort York and its site (the spot where this Toronto began) when legislation to use part of that site as an expressway was proposed in a Bill at the last session of the Legislature."

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During that session much pressure was brought, with the strangely unanimous support (for a while) of Toronto's daily newspapers, to authorize an expressway across the site of Fort York. The Toronto Civic Historical Committee, an honorary body appointed by the City Council, strongly recommended against the provision. This Committee advised that not only was the site of Fort York the spot where British Toronto began but also that Toronto was under a perpetual covenant embodied in a Dominion statute to maintain the property as an historic site. Mr. Cowling, as Chairman of the Municipal Laws Committee of the Legislature, declared his opposition to the provision. This and outspoken objections of Major Mackenzie were supported by other government followers with the result that the vandal provision was struck out."

The display in the Scadding Cabin included what is believed to be the only portrait in existence of Alexander Wood, merchant of York and confidant of its leading families. The framed silhouette, regarded as a notable find, was found among the family effects of Col. S. A. Heward who died last year.

1855 104TH 1959

MARKHAM FAIR

OCTOBER 1-2-3, 1959

The Show Window Of York County

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1st

Jersey Show
Landrace Show
HORSESHOE PITCHING
Open Doubles

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2nd

MONSTER PARADE FROM MORGAN PARK, 1 P.M.
MARKHAM GIRLS TRUMPET BAND
BLACK & WHITE SHOW 4H DAIRY 4H BEEF LINDSAY BAND
HORSESHOE PITCHING TOURNAMENT FOR LOCAL PLAYERS GUERNSEY SHOW

OLD TIME SPELLING MATCH
MIDWAY, PONY PARTY FULL CARD OF RACING

EVENING — IN FRONT OF GRANDSTAND

JACK FRASER CALF SCRAMBLE
GYMNASTIC DISPLAY, SCARBOROUGH CLUB GREASED POLE EVENT
PONY RIDING DEMONSTRATION SPECIAL COMPETITION GIRLS & BOYS 12-15 YEARS

Entertainment by Vince Mountford & Sons

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3rd

FAIR OFFICIALLY OPENED BY DR. M. B. DYMOND — MINISTER OF HEALTH FOR ONTARIO.
REGIONAL SHEEP SHOW BERKS & YORKS TAMWORTH REGIONAL SHOW
RED & WHITE SHOW BEEF BREEDS FULL CARD OF RACING
LIGHT HORSES PONIES HEAVY HORSES

— SAFETY PROGRAM DEMONSTRATION —
MARKHAM GIRLS TRUMPET BAND LINDSAY BAND

Horseshoe Pitching — Central Ontario Championship
DRESSED TURKEY AUCTION AT 4 P.M.
VINCE MOUNTFORD & SONS, MASTERS OF CEREMONIES

MONSTER DANCE

IN ARENA SATURDAY NIGHT

MIDWAY — RIDES — FUN FOR ALL.
David J. Tran, Pres. R. H. Brillinger, 1st Vice Pres. H. M. Warriner, 2nd Vice Pres.
Chas. B. Boynton, Livestock Director Fred Spring, Secretary-Treasurer
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