

Shadow Lake Camp

'Heaven on earth'

By Bob Hastings
MUSSELMAN'S LAKE
"They have the same emotional needs for love, for self-respect and for achievement as anyone else. We don't pamper them, we don't talk down to them, we treat them normally." Bruce Hutchinson, Director of the Shadow Lake Camp for the mentally retarded was emphasizing the approach used by his staff in working with the campers.

Shadow Lake, the largest camp for the mentally retarded in Canada and possibly North America, is situated just north of Musselman's Lake. The 302 acres of hills, forests and lakes were given to the Metropolitan Toronto Association for the Mentally Retarded by the Eaton family of department store fame. The area was formerly used by Eaton's employees for

vacation periods. Now, 100 kids arrive every three weeks throughout the summer to "broaden their interests". It is a co-ed camp which segregates according to age to facilitate more effective programming and to meet their needs and interests most effectively.

Mr. Hutchinson refers to the campers as "trainable retarded" which means that they are capable of mastering many of the day to day skills of simple communication, health, safety habits and simple manual skills.

A counselling staff of 36 has been "handpicked". This was made possible when over 160 applications were received for these positions. The staff which is made up mainly of senior high school and university students are a caring, talented and dynamic team. They, in cooperation with the cam-

pers have developed exciting and meaningful programs.

The waterfront program is headed by a girl with an appropriate name, Karen Waterfield. Karen, a student at the University of Toronto and a recent graduate of the College of Art, points out that even the slightest achievement is rewarded with encouragement, affection and a red star. An almost "one on one" ratio for instruction in the water ensures maximum safety and attention to the campers' progress.

The boys and girls are equally at home on land with an experimental tenting program under the direction of Dan Genge. Eight tents provide accommodation for about twenty campers who share their sleeping bags and campfire meals with the mosquitoes as a part of the living and learning experience.

Archery, horseback, riding, arts and crafts, dancing, physical education and out-tripping are among the other activities designed to help the kid discover new interests and develop their present ones as fully as possible.

One of the large attractions is the small menagerie consisting of rabbits, a burrow and a few small animals brought in by considerate farmers in the area.

Many of the campers are mongoloids; several are epileptic and others suffer various forms of brain damage. Yes, they are

handicapped. But only to the extent that society

chooses to ignore or isolate them.

Shadow Lake Camp, a "heaven on earth" for hundreds of mentally retarded children all summer. Here, they

frolic in the water, supervised by a staff of 36 counsellors and director, Bruce Hutchinson. —Peter Harris.

Legion Hall, July 9 (today) from 2:30 to 4:30 and 6:30 to 9 p.m. Most urgently needed is the type O-Rh. Positive, required for an operation, July 10 at St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto.

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Blood donors are asked to attend a Red Cross Clinic in the Stouffville

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Septimus Herbert Foote

Mr. Foote was born on the second concession of Uxbridge, near Siloam, Dec. 30, 1878, the son of Walter James Foote and Grace Shillinglaw.

He received his education at Siloam and Bloomington Public Schools, Markham High School and Newmarket Model School. He taught school at Glasgow, New Hamburg, Lloydminster and S.S.8, Whitchurch where, on marrying Cora Young, he purchased the farm that was to be his home for fifty years.

As a farmer his experience began with oxen in his boyhood and extended to the modern type tractor. Although of a retiring nature, he was always ready to carry his share of community work which included being trustee of S.S.8, Warden of Christ Church, Anglican, Stouffville and participation in elections. He was an ardent Conservative. For many years he was a faithful member of the Orange Lodge.

He is survived by five children - Grace (Mrs. P.G. Powell) at home, Walter, R.R.4, Stouffville, Mildred (Mrs. Lorne Wideman) Birchcliffe,

\$2000 damage

WHITCHURCH TWP. - Damage is estimated at \$2000 following a two car collision on Don Mills Road at the intersection of Aurora Sideroad, June 28.

A 1967 Triumph, driven by David Hugh Chalmers, 22, of Willowdale, was struck broadside by a 1966 model Oldsmobile, driven by Napoleon Palos, 25, of Toronto as Chalmers attempted a left turn.

A passenger in the Chalmers auto, Donna Coups, 20, of Toronto, was taken to Newmarket Hospital by Newmarket Ambulance with a fractured pelvis.

Chalmers has been charged by Whitchurch Township Police with making an improper left turn.

The investigation was conducted by P.C. Douglas Murray.

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