

Outdoor adventure game added at Uxbridge's Pleasure Valley

Uxbridge Twp. A new adventure game joins a 400-foot waterslide and outdoor roller skating trails as major summer attractions at Pleasure Valley.

The 600-acre recreation park, located on Brock Road north of Clarendon, is now open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Admission is \$2.50 for adults and \$2 for children 14 and under. A day pass, providing access to both the water slide and roller skating

trails, is \$3 adult and \$7 children. A frontier flag game has been introduced by the park's new management group, Tensilkote Limited of

Markham. The owners, including president Bill Moreau, Jacques Roy and Gerry Horan, took control last December. Previous park operator Gary Con-

very of Uxbridge remains a partner. "We're trying to give the park a higher profile," explained Mr. Roy, adding that Tensilkote is maintaining a "family-oriented" approach.

Adventure game enthusiasts can spend a full day on the rolling 30-acre playing field for a flat rate of \$40 per person. There are also special group rates.

Horses share the spotlight at Pleasure Valley, with trail rides being offered 8 a.m. to sundown. April to November, horse rental is available by the hour or by the day, with experienced guides provided.

There's also a western riding club, with a \$100 yearly fee entitling members to free admission to the park at all times plus seven free riding lessons and reduced hourly rates.

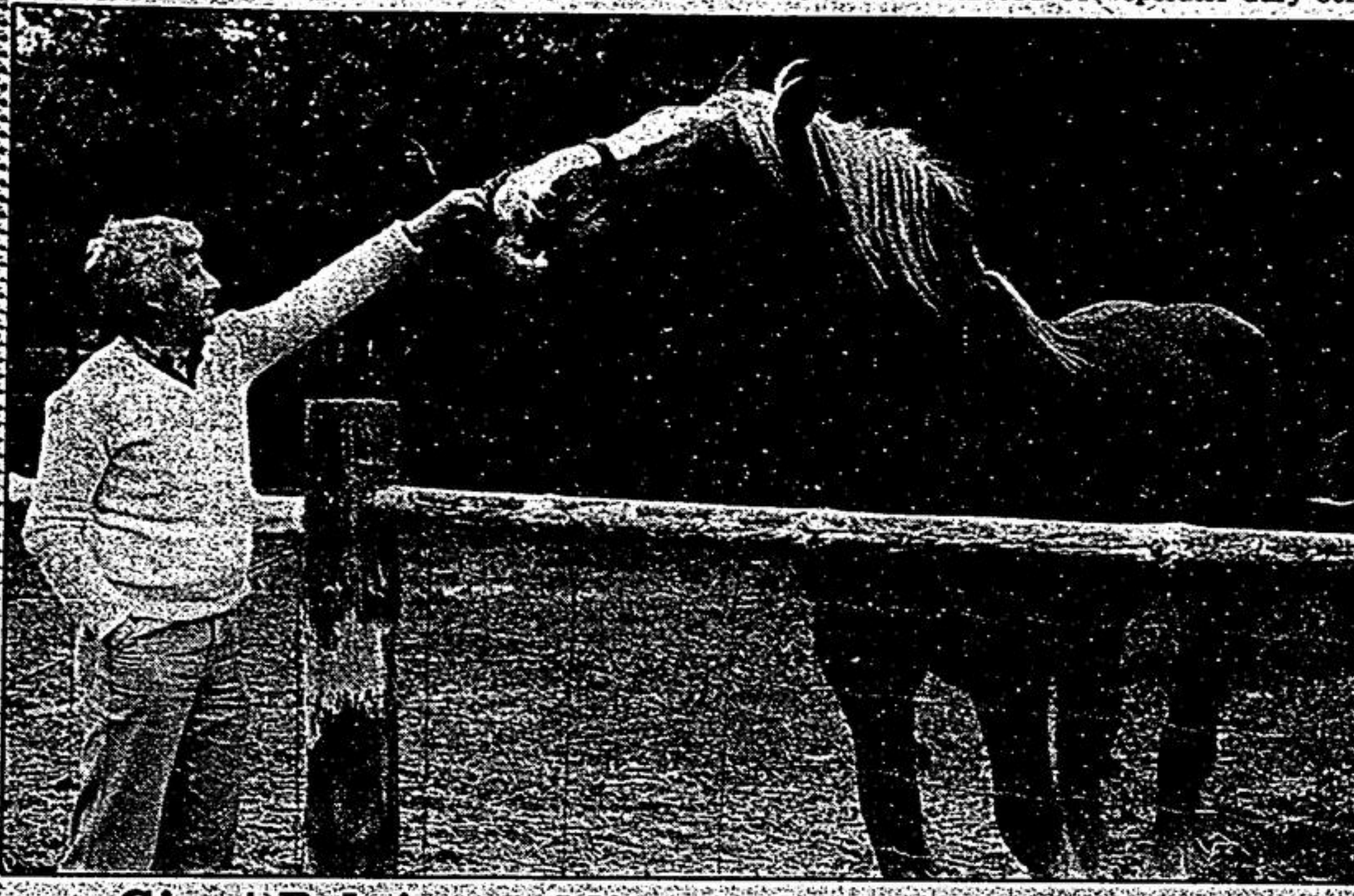
Big Sid, a 3,400-pound Belgian gelding, believed to be the world's largest living horse, is again on display.

The park also features: one of Ontario's largest water slides; woodland rollerskating trails (skate rentals available); a playground with trampolines, children's petting farm; pony rides; nature hikes; reserved picnic areas and tables; indoor and outdoor food facilities; plus large outdoor barbecues.

Park management expects to draw approximately 30,000 visitors over the summer season, the majority from the northeast quadrant of Metro Toronto. Markham and Stouffville are two big draw areas.

Company and group visits are a big part of Pleasure Valley's operation. About 150 of these picnics, ranging in size from a corporate group of 2,000 people to a family reunion of 10, will represent roughly half of the park's summer business.

The facility operates year-round, with cross-country skiing featured during the winter months.



Giant Belgian gelding is featured attraction

A 3,400-pound Belgian gelding named 'Big Sid' can't help but be one of Pleasure Valley's biggest attractions. Here, Ken Murphy feeds the 11-year-old animal, believed to be the world's largest living horse.

The 600-acre park, located on Brock Road north of Clarendon, offers a wide range of family-oriented recreational activities, including outdoor roller skating. —Chris Shanahan



Quebec student enjoys stay

Nathalie Parr, an 18-year-old college student from Bromptonville, Que., is part of the summer staff at Pleasure Valley recreation park. She says the group of about 25 student employees have been quick to make her feel welcome in Uxbridge Twp. Nathalie recently won a Terry Fox Humanitarian Award that includes a scholarship to assist her education. A competitive soccer player, she may become involved in Uxbridge's minor program if time allows. —Chris Shanahan

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UXBRIDGE — Although on the job for just over a week, Quebec student Nathalie Parr is glad she decided to take a summer position at Pleasure Valley.

Nathalie, a resident of Bromptonville, Que., learned of the opening through fellow Quebec native Jacques Roy, who happens to be part of the park's management group.

A qualified lifeguard and swimming instructor, she gave up two positions back home to come to Ontario and head up Pleasure Valley's recreational section.

"I work but I have fun," Nathalie says, noting that she enjoys the variety of her position. (She may be seen supervising the park's 400-foot waterslide one day, and helping at the frontier flag game the next).

"I think it's a really good learning experience to come here," she says, adding that the opportunity to improve her English is a big plus.

The youngest of eight children, Nathalie doesn't think homesickness will be a problem during her three-month stay. She's looking forward to seeing her family when they visit the Uxbridge area on an upcoming camping trip.

Upon her arrival, May 23, Nathalie stayed at Woodnewton's bed and breakfast inn. She's now boarding at the home of Marjorie Cowley, First Avenue, Uxbridge.

"I like Uxbridge because it reminds me of my own town of Bromptonville (near Sherbrooke) where everyone talks to everyone," she personable 18-year-old student says.

Nathalie is among a select group of 13 Quebec students, and 55 across Canada, recently named as winners of a Terry Fox Humanitarian Award.

Candidates for this honor — which includes a \$3,000 scholarship renewable up to four years depending on academic performance — are assessed on citizenship qualities as well as academic excellence and their participation in amateur sport, fitness and voluntary community service.

"It's a big encouragement to continue...it's a good chance to study," Nathalie says of the award, adding that she feels it's important to pursue the ideals that Fox represented.

The one-legged runner raised \$23 million for cancer research through his Marathon of Hope, before the cross-Canada run was stopped after cancer spread to his lungs. He died in 1982.

Nathalie, entering her second year in the general sciences program at Champlain College, is interested in a career in chiropractics or sports medicine.

"A versatile athlete," she says, soccer is "her game," and is considering refereeing in Uxbridge's minor league this summer.

Back in Bromptonville, Nathalie is involved with Girl Guides and a variety of other athletic and volunteer activities.

MARKVILLE TOYOTA'S ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

TOM HIGGINS

17-year-old Markham resident won male athlete-of-the-week honors at St. Robert's High School. It is the second straight year he's won it.

MARKVILLE TOYOTA