

Weekender Entertainment



Picnic business booming here

The picnic business is booming and that's good news for the management of Pleasure Valley recreation park.

Corporations and other groups — ranging in number from a handful of people to thousands — are quickly filling the facility's reservation book for the summer of 1986.

"It looks like companies have discovered the fun and benefits of a picnic," says co-owner Ken Murphy of Toronto. "It should be a good season."

Mr. Murphy — who operates the sprawling Uxbridge Twp. park with partners Gerry Horan and Bill Moreau, both of Markham, Uxbridge's Gary Convery and Jacques Roy of the Clarendon area — says the recent closure of Swiss Chalet Park near Greenwood has directed even more picnic business Pleasure Valley's way.

But he says most of the eight or nine key summer weekends still have some openings for groups wishing to visit the scenic 600-acre spread.

Picnicking is, by no means all Pleasure Valley has to offer.

Horseback riding is now available to the public by appointment, but the park's other major attractions — namely a heated 400-foot waterslide, paved woodland roller skating trail and petting farm — won't spring into action until

the gates officially open Saturday, May 17.

Park hours through Sept. 2 are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekends and holidays, with a 6 p.m. closing time effective weekdays.

Summer day passes, good for the use of all facilities except miniature golf and animal rides, cost \$8 for adults and \$7 for children 12 and under. General admission is \$4 and \$3.

For more information on rates or hours contact 471-5070.

A new feature this summer is an 18-hole miniature golf course featuring a nature theme. It's now being constructed in an area formerly occupied by Big Sid, believed to be one of the world's largest horses until his death last year at age 12.

And Mr. Murphy says special four-wheel ATV rides will be offered for children if management is able to obtain the necessary insurance coverage.

Soaring liability rates are also responsible for the demise of the park's Frontier Flag adventure game. It opened last year but will not return in 1986.

Immediately following the hectic summer season, Pleasure Valley launches a fall schedule. Making its debut Sept. 20 will be a Scottish Festival, complete with pipe bands, highland dancing and a sheep dog demonstration. The touring Rough Stock Rodeo

show is also expected in this autumn.

Students — most ranging in age from 12 to 17 — will again form the backbone of Pleasure Valley's 40-strong summer work force.

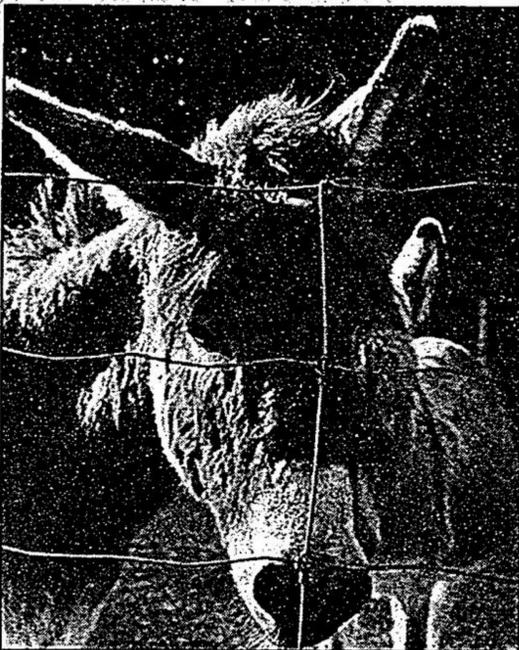
"We really try to get the young people who, by working here, be-

nefit in their career development," Mr. Murphy explains.

Most of the teenage staff live in nearby communities like Clarendon and Uxbridge, while at least a half dozen come from Markham. And three University of Waterloo recreation students are

on staff for four months as part of their co-op studies.

Pleasure Valley also offers an educational opportunity to area schools in the form of its rapidly expanding French Language Excursion Programs.



With the 1985 demise of mega-horse Big Sid, this burro and other assorted beasts have catapulted



into the spotlight at Pleasure Valley's petting farm. — Chris Shanahan

New musical at Deer Park Inn

Theatre in the Park (Deer Park Inn on Hwy 47 north of Stouffville) is presenting Hooray for Hollywood, a musical comedy. Call 640-6060 for reservations. Dinner is at 7:30 p.m. for this engagement.

The show runs on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings with matinees on Wednesdays.

In the entertainment lounge Saturday night the House Band will be playing a selection of music from big bands to modern. The show starts at 8:45 p.m. and runs until close.

Le Flirt

Le Flirt (located in the Old Town Hall on Main St., Markham) features dancing to Top 40 music until 3 a.m. every Friday and Saturday night. Tonight all Le Flirt patrons who come between 8 and 10 p.m. will receive tickets for the trip to Atlantic City draw. Ten finalists will be drawn for the big draw next month.

Nag's Head

Tonight at the Nag's Head (Woodbine Ave north of Steeles Ave) Teenage Head will be featured.

Markham Theatre

Tonight at the Markham Theatre, the Rotary Club of Markham will be presenting An Evening of International Music, Song and Dance. For more information and reservations, call the Box Office at 479-0201.

Dirty Bert's

Tonight at Dirty Bert's (located

in the lower level of Fernando's on Main St., Markham) White Lightning', a Southern Rock band, will be playing.

Wellington

Tonight, the Wellington (in the Markham Mall) will be presenting Hard Road. The show starts at 9:30 p.m. No cover charge.

Every Sunday night is movie night. Patrons can watch movies on the Wellington's 10-foot screen. There is no cover charge and the popcorn is free. For further information on movie night call 294-3165.

Watch all televised Blue Jay games on the Wellington's 10-foot screen.

This Tuesday night Sweet Emotion, an Aerosmith tribute band, will be playing the Wellington.

Fletcher's

Tonight, Fletcher's (Hwy 48 south of Aurora Sideroad) will be presenting the music of Aardvark D.J. service. Tuesday night participate in Fletcher's Games Nite.

Duchess

Every Sunday is Jam Nite at the Duchess (Main St., Markham) featuring Jane Harvey. All amateurs are welcome.

O'Toole's Roadhouse

Every Saturday win a weekend for two at the Hotel Renaissance. All patrons can pick up free tick-

What's On

Donna Cox 294-2200



ets at the door between 8 and 9:30 p.m. only.105

Old Village Spaghetti

Sunday night is Movie Nite at this Main St., Markham restaurant. See your favorite movies.

Cotton Club

Every Saturday night enjoy the New Music provided by Meester at the Cotton Club (Hwy 48, south of 14th Ave.)

Hobby Horse Arms

Tom Baker, the former musical director of the Second City Revue, will be featured every Saturday night at the Hobby Horse Arms (on Main St., Uxbridge). The piano soloist plays from a collection of pub songs and will also handle requests. Showtime is 8:30 p.m. and there is no cover charge.

Footloose Roadhouse

Every Saturday is the Super Platter Giveaway Nite at Footloose (in Markham's Mr. Grocer Plaza). It will be served at the table.

There will be two chances to

win, and reservations are recommended for the weekends.

Mainstreet

Friday and Saturday night the Bryan Westwood Trio will perform at Mainstreet Restaurant in Markham.

Fernando's Restaurant

Fernando's is presenting The Vaudevillians, a return back to the days of knee slapping 'schtick'. This show features David Jorgensen, Jolene Leon and Daniel Sampson and is for audiences of both young and old.

The show runs Friday and Saturday night. Dinner is from 7 to 9 p.m. and curtain time is 9:15 p.m. The price is \$22.95 per person for dinner and show. The restaurant is on Markham's Main St.

Melba's Restaurant

Dine to the classical guitar sounds of Paul Brooks every weekend at this Washington St., Markham restaurant. Reservations are recommended.

Brodie's Bar and Grill

Thursday through to Sun-

day, Ron Nigrini will perform at Brodie's Bar and Grill (Hwy 7 in Unionville). No cover charge.

Ristorante

Thursday through Saturday dine to the guitar playing of Pino at this Italian restaurant in the Old Town Hall (on Main St., Markham).

Cullen Country Barns

The Cullen Barns Theatre is presenting Vaudeville Sunny Side Up at 1 and 3 p.m. everyday, except Monday. The price is \$3.50 for adults, \$3 for seniors and \$1.50 for children.

Lindner's Dining

Tonight enjoy the music of pianist Myra Forbes. Monday and Tuesday night, this Main St., Markham restaurant will be presenting the music of David Cox.

The Greens of Stouffville

Tonight David Chester will be playing. Showtime is 9 p.m. and the club is in Success Plaza on Stouffville's Main Street.