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Camp a different world

By MARTIN MELBOURNE

For many city kids, the Willowgrove Centre may seem like a different world from the one they're used to.

Willowgrove's a world of cows, hens, sheep, scavenger hunts, streams and acres of farmland. And according to Program Director John Harder, that's what kids respond to and enjoy.

"This is a place for people to come and enjoy the atmosphere with a friendly staff," Mr. Harder said. "There's a lot to offer."

A non-profit organization established in 1976, Willowgrove is set on 92 acres of farmland just outside Markham.

The centre is owned and funded

by four area Menonite churches as an out-reach program. It was formed with the idea of giving students, especially those from the city, a chance to visit a rural setting and learn about life on a working farm, according to Mr. Harder.

Set on the farmland spread are two barns, a classroom and special activity huts. There is also a baseball diamond and a hockey rink.

"It is great for kids," said outdoor education director Kathy Smith, who adds the centre is usually very busy. "There's rarely a day we don't have a booking," she said.

Willowgrove offers two major programs.

Operating year-round, the Farm Program combines learning and recreation according to Mr. Harder, who has worked at Willowgrove for 18 months.

During the last school year, he says about 17,000 students experienced the program.

"Kids especially enjoy the animals," Mr. Harder said. "Being able to get right up and pet and feed them."

Willowgrove's staff, mostly made up of former teachers, instruct children about the animals and how to take care of them.

And, depending on the season, the Farm Program also offers sleigh or wagon rides, skating, a visit to a vegetable garden and maple syrup tapping.

The other major Willowgrove program is Glenbrook Day Camp, open to kids aged five to 12. The camp offers similar activities to the Farm Program and includes a daily bus pick-up service for campers.

Costs for the camp are \$79 a week if the bus service picks the child up each day at a school and \$89 if the child is picked up at home.

While not religious in operation, staff members try to incorporate a "Christian perspective" in the camp, said Mr. Harder.

Most camp games are co-operative not competitive, he said, adding that the staff talks about children with disabilities and also operates a special integration



JOHN HARDER
Program Director

program for handicapped kids. "It's so kids are aware we're all different just as we're all the same in some ways," he pointed out.

Throughout the year, groups and individuals can rent some of the facilities at the centre on weekends. The centre is just about always in use according to Mr. Harder.

Willowgrove is located on McCowan Rd. about 4.5 km. north of Major Mackenzie.

Oops, we goofed

The exhibition of paintings by students of Nancy Magnish will be displayed Thursday May 8, not May 7 as was reported in the April 30 Community Calendar.

The paintings will be featured at the Markham Community Library Program room throughout May during normal library hours. The official opening will take place from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

CORRECTION NOTICE

Due to an error in the Beaver Lumber April 30 to May 24, 1986 flyer the following were incorrect.

Pg. 8 The black fibreglass window screens. Reg. prices should be 60 cm x 2 m \$3.89, 75 cm x 2 m \$4.59, 90 cm x 2 m \$5.39, 120 cm x 2 m \$8.99.

Pg. 19 The 24 inch framing square illustration and logo are incorrect.

Pg. 44 The Beaver chrome wall soap dish and 18 inch towel bar prices are reversed. The wall soap dish sale price is \$3.19, reg. \$4.69 and towel bar is \$5.59 reg. \$7.99.

Beaver Lumber sincerely regrets any inconvenience that may have been caused.



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