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Green Acres is the place to be

By KATE GILDERDALE
Correspondent

If you're having trouble deciding what to do for your child's birthday party this year, Green Acres Outdoor Education Centre may have just the answer.

The centre has been in existence for the past three years, both as a farm and outdoor education facility for young people, and as a summer day camp for children aged three to 13.

The camp also offers a leader-in-training program for 14-year-olds and a counsellor-in-training program for 15-year-olds.

Program Director Angela Tucker describes the newly introduced country birthday parties as "an educational experience," where children visit the barn and poultry house and get acquainted with Miss Moo, the cow, Annabelle, the goat (and

her two kids), and three friendly sheep. One of the sheep, who follows visitors everywhere, is affectionately known as Rover.

From the barn, children go on a hayride around the beautiful 70-acre farm accompanied by Clarabelle the clown, returning to enjoy a variety of activities from co-operative games and nature walks to fun on the water slide. Games are geared to suit the age group at the party.

To round things off, a birthday tea is provided in the century farmhouse, which is colorfully decorated with balloons and streamers. A choice of food is available and the tea includes birthday cake and ice cream. The parties are a year-round service, while winter activities include snow shoeing and tobogganing.

At the end of the party, everyone gets a loot bag to take home. Large parties pose no problem, Ms. Tucker notes.

"My staff are highly qualified. We have early childhood education graduates and people who have been teachers and worked with children for a number of years," she says.

Green Acres also offers a summer camp program, which provides a wide variety of activities, including horseback riding, which is an optional extra for those in Grade 1 and up.

Red Cross instructional swimming programs are offered daily, with additional leisure swimming time for each group of children.

The emphasis, says director Eddy Bogomolny, is on enjoyment.

"My mandate to the staff in all

our programs is for the kids to have a safe, happy, enjoyable summer," he stresses.

If a child doesn't enjoy a certain activity, says Mr. Bogomolny, he or she has the option to do something else. "This is their summer vacation, the time they're supposed to have fun and be free."

Converted barns and attractive wooden buildings, which fit in perfectly with the rural surroundings, provide shelter and indoor activities and include a computer facility. There is also an air-conditioned infirmary, run by two registered nurses.

To learn more about the different programs offered, contact Angela Tucker at 887-1400 or 887-1500 weekdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.



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York job fair a major success

The recent York Region Job Fair attracted more than 4,500 people, with some of the 25 firms that participated hiring four or more people before the second day.

The event, planned by the Career Exchange Opportunities Group, featured more than 1,200 positions ranging in salary from minimum wage to \$75,000 a year. Held at the

Sheraton Parkway Hotel, there were more than 300 people present when the doors opened.

The CEO group intends to run this event at least twice a year, with the next Job Fair scheduled for September. The CEO group will also run a Data Processing and Engineering Career Exchange around the same time.

Florence Lewis

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