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MONDAY - FRIDAY

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Beavers invade Bruce's Mill

Bruce's Mill Conservation Area in Whitchurch-Stouffville played host to more than 500 Beavers for this year's South Lake Simcoe Area Beaveree.

Many of the youngsters, who are between five and seven, stayed overnight for the May 24 weekend despite two rainy mornings. They came from Toronto, York Region, Simcoe County and from as far away as the Parry Sound area.

York Region Police officers "deputized" the Beavers after making presentations on how to be safe at home, on the streets and in traffic.

Many of the safety lessons will be taught to school children from throughout York Region in a child-sized setting once the Community Safety Village, administered by York Region Police, opens at Bruce's Mill in the fall.

LITTLE PERSON TEAM

The Canadian Half Pints, a professional basketball team of "little people" played against a team of Venturer Scouts, who are between 16 and 18 years old. Members of the Half Pints talked to the Beavers on being tolerant of differences.

The Venturers, who came from all over York Region and included the First Stouffville Venturers, provided security at the event. The Med-Vents, Venturers trained in First Aid and CPR, were on hand to deal with minor medical problems. The Beaveree, which has

Our Town

with Hannelore Volpe

taken place at Bruce's Mill on Stouffville Road for the past eight years, was organized by Carol Holt.

Museum's day on the pioneer farm

The farm tools, back-breaking work and social diversions of the municipality's early settlers are highlighted at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum's summer exhibition in Vandorf.

Viewers of TVO got a glimpse into A Day on the Farm last week when assistant curator Stephanie Foley took a number of historic items to the TV studio for the filming of a live program. The artifacts included a book that folds out to reveal a candle used to light the way home in the days before electricity.

The exhibition was opened last week by MPP Frank Klees and museum board chairperson Johann Aaltink and continues until Sept. 12. Two museum volunteers, Tracey Forrest and Anne Gollard, received Ontario Heritage Foundation Awards from Mr. Klees.

Ms. Forrest has been a youth volunteer since 1998, contributing more than 65 hours during that time.

Mrs. Collard has been a member of the Friends of the Museum (FOM), the volunteer auxiliary of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum, since 1984.

Wine for the opening was donated by the Applewood Winery and Willow Springs Winery.

Most of the items in the summer exhibition are from local residents and include farm implements dating back to the early 1800s.

The hard labour involved in clearing the land is shown by the hand plow that was operated by a farmer pushing it along.

This type of plow was used because the cost of horses and oxen was often prohibitive.

Books and photos illustrate the social life of mainly home-bound pioneer women who formed the Women's Institutes over a century ago.

Memorabilia and photos show the activities and events of the 4H Club and the early fall fairs, including the Markham Fair, which dates from the mid-1800s.

SUMMER SEASON

The exhibition signals the start of the museum's summer hours, which are Wednesdays to Sundays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The museum is in Vandorf at 14732 Woodbine Ave.

More information on the museum and the current exhibition is available by calling 905-727-8954 or 1-888-290-0337.

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