

NORTH LEEDS

Appropriate Technology Group

by Alan Dolan

The North Leeds Appropriate Technology Group consists of farmers, homesteaders, and other rural people who meet together regularly to share information and skills related to appropriate technology.

Some of the topics that we have covered in meetings or in workshops may seem at first to be only obscurely related to appropriate technology. For example, topics have included: wood heating, woodlot management, chain saw maintenance, solar greenhouses, organic gardening, bee-keeping, pruning and grafting of fruit trees, putting up food, small animal husbandry, slaughtering and butchering, nuclear power etc.

The vast majority of our group are involved in some aspect of self-sufficiency, whether it be producing our own food, heating our houses with wood, looking after our own health or just learning rural life-skills that will enable us to live more freely.

Our meetings are advertised monthly in the Lantern. Anyone who is interested in coming is welcome.

We do have an address and phone list that has been used to publicize meetings but this is costly and we have no money.

We have recently decided to divide the group into four geographical regions:

North (Elgin, Portland, Westport & area) - contact Allan & Ellen Bonwill-359-5491

Central (Seeley's Bay, Lyndhurst) - contact Alan Dolan & Susan Clarke-387-3902

East (Athens, Delta) - contact Barb & Dave Alguire 928-2850

South (RR Gananoque) - contact Dave & Leah Adams 2961

Each region will have one meeting per year. If you are interested in joining, contact the contact person in your area.

FARMING FOR THE FUTURE

In the spirit of appropriate technology, we believe that all of the things that we do should have minimal environmental impact.

Many of us are involved in farming of some sort, from a few field crops and hay to support our livestock and ourselves to some full-time farmers. We share a common concern that many of the agricultural practices currently being employed in Leeds County and elsewhere are ecologically unsound.

The fertility of the soil is certainly not improving. The application of chemical fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides and the absence of varied crop-rotation schemes and the lack of proper manure management are all indications that we are taking very poor care of the land.

It is for this reason that the central group has decided to organize a conference titled "Farming for the Future".

We look upon the conference as a kind of community outreach, not a confrontation. Hopefully a wide range of farmers will attend and talk with each other about their problems.

We will have a number of resource people there to answer questions.

The conference will include sessions on manure management and soil fertility, subjects which form the basis for sound ecological farming.

The conference will be held at the Seeley's Bay Firehall on Friday November 16 (evening) and Saturday November 17 (all day). Registration is \$5.00 and includes coffee and snacks. On Saturday, there will be a cash lunch (\$1.50) and a pot-luck dinner.

For further information, please contact...

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RIDEAU CRAFT'S CHRISTMAS MARKET

Circle Nov. 24 on your calendar! That's the date of Rideau Craft's Seventh Annual Christmas Market. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. approximately 55 exhibitors will present a wide variety of handcrafts at Rideau District High School.

Organizer Brys Scovil says she is pleased with the high quality of crafts in this year's market. The range of goods includes: macrame, jewelry, wood-working, quilts, batik, children's clothing, weaving, china painting, pottery, painting and much more.

As usual, there will be several special exhibits. For instance, St. Paul's ACW will have a display of quilts, many of them their own work.

The School (RDHS) Concert Band will play in the Library from noon to 1 p.m. Look for candles by the Special Education class. RDHS students will also be selling nursery plants to raise funds for student activities.

The Rideau Craft Wildflower Group will demonstrate the use of plants and wildflowers in foods, floral arrangements and natural dyes. Of special interest at this time of year is the use of natural materials in swags and wreaths. Materials will be available for sale.

A number of bake tables will be available for sale.

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