

Locals take in Ontario Plowman's Convention

by Susan Stein

On March 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th the Annual Ontario Plowman's Convention was held in Brockville.

Despite the bad weather through which some had to drive, an excellent crowd attended. Those attending from Simcoe County were Walter and Maguerite McCabe-retiring director, Don Priest - new director, Theresa Gould, Ivan DeGeer, Brian Carr, Wib and Beryl Hadwen, Alexandra Thomas - Simcoe County Queen of the Furrows, Bill and Alwyn Thomas.

On Friday the directors held meetings and workshops at the Quality Royal Brock Hotel. Topics included an effective meeting, roles of branch officers, encouraging competitors for the Queen of the Furrows competition.

There were 30 out of 32 Queens in attendance and on Friday evening they had a get-acquainted time and were informed of the exciting time they could expect at the plowing match in September 18th to 20th. Many thanks to Alwyn Thomas for giving her time and experience in taking the girls under her wing with advice and encouragement.

In the evening the President's Reception was held with everyone attending. A good time to visit with friends and to enjoy the musical entertainment.

Saturday dawned bright and early as the participants boarded buses to CJ's Banquet Hall where breakfast was served and the meeting began. Reports, resolutions and

general information regarding the Association were given. The Ontario Queen of the Furrows, Vanessa Klages, gave an update on her activities to date.

On Saturday morning the Queens were treated to a most informative presentation by Ms. Melanie (Babcock) Hunter, former Ontario Queen 2002. At lunch time each Queen was to eat with their county director and Alexandra thoroughly enjoyed her time with Walter and Marguerite McCabe.

In the afternoon the Queens and committee toured the Fulford Place Museum and then back to the hotel and a time for scrap booking. At 4 p.m. it was time to prepare for the evening banquet and picture taking. Then everyone went back to C.J.s for a delicious meal and a great programme.

The guest speaker that evening was Paul Musselman, who was most entertaining. Also at the banquet retired directors were honoured with a plaque or pin. Congratulations to Wib Hadwen and Walter McCabe from Simcoe County, who are now Honourable Directors and to past Judge-in-Chiefs Ivan DeGeer and Bill Thomas who received pins for their years of service as well.

It was busy weekend, but enjoyable. The Thomas' headed for home on Sunday morning in much better weather, than Wib and Beryl Hadwen, who had to brave the stormy day on their way back on Monday.

Many thanks Alwyn for your report and extra thanks to all Plowmen for doing such an excellent job.

M&M Meats grand opening this Saturday

Grand opening and community BBQ raising funds for the New Innisfil Recreation Centre at M&M Meats.

Hosting a neighbourhood BBQ and serving great tasting family meals is going to be easier than ever in Innisfil!

M&M Meat Shops, Canada's largest retail chain specializing in frozen food and prepared meals, is opening its first store location in Innisfil on

To celebrate the grand opening of

Innisfil's first M&M Meat Shops location, franchisees Mac and Linda Rumble will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, March 17, 2007 at 1:00 pm.

The new location will also host a charity barbecue from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with all proceeds going to the New Innisfil Recreation Centre.

The 1020 Innisfil Beach Road location is the second store for Linda, who opened her first M&M Meat Shops in Bradford at 136 Holland Street East, in July 1994.

Youth Noise and News

by Kaitlyn Blair

Four hours there, 10 hours there, and 6 hours here - only 20 more to go! To receive your high school diploma you are required to obtain forty (40) community service hours.

You can obtain your forty hours of community service by performing a service that would not usually be a paying position.

And despite having four years to complete these hours, many students still find themselves approaching the end of their high school careers with a big zero staring at them from their report card! Its panic time - without these seemingly useless hours, there won't be a diploma to collect in the fall! So now what do you do?!!!

Volunteering may not be your cup of tea, but there are lots of ways that you can complete your community service hours, and even have a good time doing it.

When you are

considering where and how to do your hours; try to find placements that interest you. If you enjoy playing soccer, maybe you should volunteer your time as a coach for younger players. Maybe you are interested in a career in health care - why not volunteer at the nursing home?

Your community service hours don't have to be something that you dread doing, or that you think are a waste of time. If you choose something that you enjoy, or maybe something that you are considering as your future career path, you can enjoy yourself and learn while you work!

Another way to obtain your hours to is to have your voice heard. YNOT - Innisfil is a youth driven council that allows students to have an active part of own town and have their voices heard by decision makers! Right now the group is working on preparing a strategic plan for the youth of Innisfil, and a skate park competition.

YNOT also volunteers their time at school events such as Spin- 4- Kids and was supposed to attend the a conference in Belleville this month, but unfortunately where unable to attend due to bad weather.

Not only do you learn about your town and different ways to run meetings and present your ideas - you get your community service hours! Interested? YNOT get involved ... ask for information at the guidance office at Nantyr Shores!

Innisfil may be a small town, but there are a lot of things that you can do to get your hours doing things you enjoy. Try to find something that interests you, or maybe try to find a placement in an area that you are considering as a career in - that way you work, have a good time and learn.

Getting your forty hours doesn't have to be grueling and boring- get out there and make a difference and get them done! Time's running out!



Brian Gibbon, Jennifer & Jeff Howard of Brereton Field Naturalists Club handed over cheque for \$1069.00 to Chris Mishalak from Wye Marsh on February 16th for JJ the infamous injured swan. **submitted photo**

Staff to revisit Large Sign by-law

by Michelle Minnoch
Barrister and Solicitor Marvin Geist made a delegation to council two weeks ago regarding a request to review the Large Sign by-law.

"I appear on behalf of the Alcona Development Group," Geist said, said they are having difficulty with the sign by-law.

Geist stated the by-law is not user friendly, as only one developer can erect a sign per property. He said in the past, the Alcona community was developed by three developers; Crossroads, Previn Court and Maple Lane.

"Your by-law states only one sign is allowed. If you're a builder and a developer, that's not a problem," he said. Geist said there are cases of more than one builder on a site, and therefore only one company can advertise.

"The developer is the party that develops the land. That developer goes to a builder who has to go to the bank and the bank wants pre-sales. If the builder can't promote his product, then he cannot sell his product," Geist said.

He said staff would like one sign with all of the

builder names, but Geist said that will not work.

"Until the builder owns the property, he can't put up a sign. I would like a change in the by-law to help us sell these products. Help us make it more user friendly."

Councillor Lynn Dollin said after the recent election, the town is a little sign shy.

Deputy Mayor Gord Wauchope, who chaired the meeting, stated the sign by-law was worked on for approximately two years.

Geist said he too was afraid of sign pollution, and

appreciated that the by-law took two years, but "things change when you have two to three developers per subdivision."

Asked if the developers were willing to pay for the right, Geist said they could work with something that was reasonable, but to remember it would be added to the cost of the product.

"Houses in Innisfil now cost more than houses in the City of Barrie," he said.

Staff will be looking at the request and it will come back to council.

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