



Nine year old Melanie Collins of Ottawa was in her element on Sunday afternoon when she won a first in the sack race. Melanie and a host of other children were taking part in games and activities at the Ontario Trappers Summer Rendezvous at Mal's Campgrounds, near Lanark over the long weekend.



Wade Foster of Perth warms up prior to competing at the 8th annual Lanark Pioneer Fiddling and Step-Dancing Festival. The event was held at the Lanark Community Centre over the weekend and participants came from all over the Ottawa Valley and as far away as Massachusetts.



Everyone got into the act in Lanark Village last weekend, including Lavant, Dalhousie and N. Sherbrooke Deputy-Reeve Jacques Rubacha who donned a clown outfit and helped with library fundraising.

# Business is booming for Three Buoys

By Michael Taylor

Just over a year ago battle lines were drawn on the Rideau Lakes between area cottagers and the "new boy on the block", Three Buoys Houseboat Vacations Limited.

But this year, hostilities between the two factions have subsided somewhat and a resemblance of order and mutual co-habitation seems to have replaced the often bitter verbal battles that were common practice between the two parties, at least that is the opinion of Joyce Kayser, manager of Three Buoys at Muskrat Bay.

"Business has been great, in fact super this year", she stated, "and so far to date we have rented about 500 vacation packages."

According to Mrs. Kayser, the success of the company on the Rideau waterways can be directly attributed to the good weather and to the number of repeat customers from last year, which has amounted to about 25 percent of this year's business.

"If last year's repeat business is any indication Three Buoys is looking forward to an even better season next year. Probably 90 percent will be returning customers", she stated.

Unlike last year when houseboat renters reported several incidents of vandalism, no such occurrences have taken place so far this summer.

"There have been a few reports of minor damage and complaints from people on the lake but they have all been looked after expeditiously", noted Mrs. Kayser.

She went on to comment that on the long weekend Three Buoys had rented 50 houseboats and described business as fantastic.

"The public has given us a good welcome on the lake this year and we are thoroughly pleased with the overall development of our renters", she stated.

Rideau Canal superintendent John Bonsor was in agreement with Mrs. Kayser when she stated that few incidents had been reported this season regarding the conduct and boat operation of Three Buoys' renters.

"We (Parks Canada) have not received any complaints recently but logged a few early in the season", said Mr. Bonsor.

He did point out, however, that most of the complaints involved houseboat renters who did not obey the rules of the waterway, but Three Buoys management took quick and appropriate action.

"Currently renters seem to be more aware of what is required of them and Three Buoys Houseboat Vacations are demonstrating it can be an integral part of the Rideau waterway", commented Mr. Bonsor.

Narrows Locks, between the junction of Big Rideau Lake and Little Rideau Lake is one of the busiest lock stations on the waterway. Lockmaster Gord McVeety reported that none of his staff had encountered any trouble with Three Buoys renters.

"Most of the operators who come through the locks are a little nervous and a bit slow in maneuvering, therefore, holding up procedures a little", stated Mr. McVeety.

Because of this tendency to hold up proceedings, lock personnel, according to Mr. McVeety, place houseboat renters in front of the floatilla so as not to cause any damage to other craft while in the locks.

"Other than a few chunks being taken off the dock, which is nothing serious, I have nothing to complain about", he said.

Statistics provided by Mr. McVeety indicate that July boat traffic through Narrows Locks has been the busiest on record.

"This month alone", he stated, "we have had 3,600 boats go through the locks. That means 996 lockages and the bridge has been swung 938 times."

He went on to say that 445 rental craft used the locks including Three Buoys renters. He broke the statistics down even further when he said that of the 3,600 boats, 449 were from Quebec, 428 from the United States and the remainder were from Ontario.

When Three Buoys Houseboat Vacations Limited first made it known that it was going to put 57 houseboats on the Rideau Lakes, a howl of protest went up from area cottagers and boaters.

Several public meetings were held in Perth and Portland under the auspices of the Big Rideau Lake Cottagers Association, in a last ditch effort to ban the company from the lakes, but this was not the case.

Currently, the 57 houseboats are anchored at Muskrat Bay, where a marina and 200 seat restaurant/club are under construction.

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# Conlon Farm project gets dough

By Steve Forster

Perth town council is wasting little time spending provincial grant monies for the Conlon Farm recreation area, passing a flurry of motions at last week's regular council meeting.

Council hired the Toronto firm of L & A Pro Courts Ltd. to construct four tennis courts on the site at a cost of \$54,000 and will spend \$24,000 on playground equipment including a wheelchair swing.

Council also voted to spend \$47,500 on the purchase of fencing and backstops for the baseball diamonds and tennis courts, along with \$5,400 for a sprinkler system.

Commonwealth Historic Management Resources was hired to prepare working drawings of building on the site which includes a chalet

building expected to cost about \$155,000.

James Silversides, of the same firm, was hired as project manager for the Conlon Farm development.

Municipal recreation director Bob Sauer said this week work is on schedule at the site and seeding of two full size and one mini soccer fields is expected in the near future.

"We're just about on schedule, and we're also on budget", stated Mr. Sauer.

The town received over \$500,000 in lottery money from the province to help construct the recreational area.

Currently work is under way on two major parking areas on the site and roads in the area. Drainage and sewer systems are also currently being installed.

Mayor Lowell Yorke this week squashed a rumour that the town is giving priority to Conlon Farm over Drummond Street.

Mayor Yorke said workers have been temporarily transferred to Conlon Farm due to a delay in construction of the CPR overpass on Drummond Street.

Mr. Sauer said work has begun on the official Little League diamond and the Civitan diamond, and he hopes fencing will be installed

on the diamonds and tennis courts within four weeks.

The playground equipment should be installed this fall, noted Mr. Sauer, who said he hopes many of the venues will be open for play next year.

The loaggan hill will rise to a height of 35 feet and will be "one heckuva run", says Mr. Sauer.

"The key thing is that the funds are there and we're going full bore", commented Councillor Bill White, who added a final fundraising kick

will take place this fall to secure \$150,000 outstanding.

"We're confident we're going to get it", he added.

### Little Tay River

Paul Turner of the consulting firm of McCormick and Rankin addressed council on the options for the Little Tay River redevelopment, along with work planned for the Rogers Road Bridge, Mill Street Bridge and Craig Street.

A number of councillors expressed disappointment at the small number of people on hand to hear the options and a meeting was scheduled for August 4 to finalize details of the river project.

There are a number of options open to council with regard to the retaining wall and that question was expected to be dealt with prior to press time this week.

Mr. Turner told council the cost of the Rogers Road Bridge work would be about \$42,000.

## Announce NDP platform

New Democratic Party candidate in the September 10 provincial election, Don Page, says his campaign platform in the riding of Lanark-Renfrew will be affordable housing, flexible daycare, preservation of the environment, auto insurance, and other issues.

"Although we thought the minority government was working well for the people of Ontario we are delighted to have this election take place on the heels of our recent NDP by-election sweep", said Mr. Page.

Other campaign issues, he says, will be full employment and education.

Mr. Page says the Liberals have shown "crass indifference" to the environment and "they, like the Tories before them, are ready and willing to trade off clean and healthy air and water for the support and friendship of large corporations."

Mr. Page has served the NDP party in many capacities at the local, provincial and federal level. He is a resident of Montague Township and chairman of the planning advisory committee of that community. He runs a small beef farm and is editor of a national and international magazine.

## Couple are married for 40th time

An Arizona couple was married for the 40th time to each other in a simple ceremony on the shores of Big Rideau Lake last week.

Why would anyone get married to the same person 40 times?

Well, for Ralph and Pat Martin of believe it or not. Nowhere, Arizona, it's a way of promoting the institution of marriage.

"We'd like people to at least listen to the marriage vows again, all too often in the excitement of a marriage people don't listen to the vows", says Ralph.

The couple were first married in Tijuana, Mexico, in 1960 and remarried in the U.S. in 1964 in Colorado to make everything legal in the States.

They've raised two boys and a girl in the interim, and Pat says she thought of the idea of remarrying Ralph when she saw a news item about 16 couples getting a divorce in front of the same judge.

The couple thought it would be unique to see if they could get married in all 50 U.S. states and to date they've said the vows in 39 locations across the U.S. Their 40th wedding was the first in Canada, although they hope to tie the knot in as many provinces as possible.

The only areas of the U.S. where they haven't been married are the New England states and Alaska and Hawaii.

The marriage last Thursday was held at the cottage of Ted and Marg Elliot, a Canadian couple who often winter in Arizona and have known Ralph and Pat for about six years.

Reverend Richard Kehler, visiting the area from Pennsylvania, conducted the service and it was the first marriage the couple has had with friends.

Usually they just "play a hunch" and drop into a location to get married.

"Sometimes we go out of our way, but it always seems to be the right time and place", says Pat.

They describe themselves as "evangelists for marriage" and say, if their numerous marriages give inspiration to one couple to save marriage then it's worth it.

"It helps us spread the word

that love and marriage is alive, but you've got to work at it", says Pat. Her advice to young people getting married is that "you both have to put 100 percent of yourselves into it."

Ralph is a retired electronics technician and he and Pat supplement their income when travelling by

performing as musicians. They played at the Perth Legion on Friday.

On this trip to Canada they might just pop over to Quebec - not necessarily to visit, but to get married again! They're saving Alaska and Hawaii for last, and the pair have official marriage documents from all their ceremonies.

## Block race on Thursday

Runners from all over Eastern Ontario and points beyond are gearing up for the 1987 Glen Tay Block Race, scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. Thursday, August 6, in front of the Perth Museum.

Last year over 70 athletes took part in the meet, which was won by Steven Howard, of Ottawa, with a time of 47:27, just short of the 1976 Doug Scorrar record of 45:30. High humidity was a

problem for many runners last year and several reported slower times because of it. Organizers are hoping for more moderate temperatures for the event Thursday.

The race begins at 6 p.m. in front of the Perth Museum, follows the Glen Tay block and finishes at the museum.

The first block race was won by Edmund B. Code in 1907, in approximately 51 minutes.

## Quiet weekend for cops

Area police forces throughout the region reported that the long weekend came and went with few major incidents, although Perth, Sharbot Lake and Westport OPP detachments stated they were kept busy investigating minor occurrences.

Constable Neil Fennell of the Perth OPP, reported that

two accidents in Lanark Township over the weekend sent three people to hospital by ambulance suffering major injuries.

According to police, responding to domestic arguments, investigating minor traffic accidents and patrolling area highways constituted a major part of the weekend work load.



Ralph and Pat Martin, of Nowhere, Arizona, were married for the 40th time (to each other) last Thursday at a Rideau Lake cottage. The pair, who hope to be married in every state in the U.S., call themselves "evangelists for marriage."