

# At Home in Old Homestead

Jacqueline Davis GR. 4-1230

Jack and Betty Gavzoda returned from a ten day vacation with friends at a cottage on Star Island in the St. Clair River. This is a Canadian possession just south of Sarnia, Ontario. There is no bridge to Star Island, all contacts are made by boat, as a result there are no cars and no traffic problem. One of the regular pastimes of the Gavzodas is watching the freighters pass the island on their way up and down the river.

**THE SHOES** also saw freighters while on their vacation. Al, Ruth, Kathy, Susan and Bradley visited the Welland canal and also spent a day and night at Niagara Falls among other stops after starting their vacation by visiting relatives at Hamilton, Ontario.

The weekend before last found

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# Recreation Program Grows; More Money Needed

An important part of growing up for any normal young boy or girl includes participation in some types of organized recreational activities.

Some such activities are included in the school system but are secondary in nature to the principal task of any school program to provide sound academic training. Thus, there is a need for some type of recreational program in every community beyond that provided through the schools.

**IT IS DURING** the summer months when schools are closed and youngsters have a considerable amount of leisure time on their hands that the need for a community recreation program is needed most.

It was with the thought of providing a satisfactory summer program and eventually a suitable year-round program that the Farmington Area Recreation Commission was organized 11 years ago. Through the generous efforts of many in the community the program has been kept going over the past 11 years. That it has not developed into the type of year-round program that a community such as Farmington should provide is due solely to the fact that sufficient funds have not been provided.

**FROM THE** beginning, as is the case today, the major portion of FARC efforts, due to this lack of funds, are concentrated on the six-week summer program.

It became obvious within a few months after the FARC was formed that swimming would have to be included in any successful summer recreation program. From the very beginning it was the chance to go swimming which appealed

most to the youngsters. Such is still the case today. A day at the lake with the youngsters (depicted pictorially here) can give ample proof to this accepted fact.

Although swimming is the thing most enjoyed by youngsters taking part in the present program, it is quite certain that other activities (including both indoor and outdoor winter activities) could be equally as enjoyable to them. That funds are not allocated for this in the community is unfortunate.

**BESIDES** swimming at Kent Lake in Kensington Park two days a week on the present summer schedule, youngsters have an opportunity to take part in supervised play and arts and crafts work at school playgrounds two other days of the week. The fifth day of the week is reserved for field trips. Trips to the Detroit Zoo, Briggs Stadium to see a baseball game and an excursion to Bob-Lo Island were taken this year.

With little money left, only a modest winter program can be offered. Last year the two junior high school symposiums were opened for supervised play Saturdays for ten weeks. During Christmas vacation the gyms were also opened to youngsters for two weeks with supervision of activities being provided by the FARC. Much more could have been offered but the cash box was empty.

**WITH THE** rapid growth of this area, the number taking part in the recreation program has naturally accelerated equally as fast. A total of 5,380 were transported to the lake last year.

for swimming during this summer's program, just concluded. Approximately 3,000 were handled at the eight school playgrounds used by the FARC during the six-week schedule. Another 2,100 were taken on the three field trips.

At the present time the program is open to children 8 through 15 years of age. FARC Director Warren Piche said. Since it must be geared to meet requirements for a handful of youngsters (8-11), very few of the older children (12-15) take part in the present summer program. If funds were available with which to conduct two separate programs—one for the younger children and another for those in the older age group—it is quite certain that the participation would be taking part, Director Piche indicated.

**THE TOTAL** amount of money which the recreation commission has allocated for its year-round program is approximately \$8,400. More than half of this comes from the United Foundation. Last year the FARC received \$4,700 from this source.

Farmington township contributed \$2,100 and the city of Farmington, \$750. Based on an estimated population of 25,000, this means that the township is contributing about 8¢ per capita for recreation a year. The city, with an estimated population of 6,000, is contributing between 10¢ and 11¢ per capita.

A gratis contribution of \$450 yearly by the Farmington Board of Education boosts this total slightly. The board also

permits the use of school playgrounds and facilities at the school as well as buses for transportation.

**EMPHASIZING** the fact that Farmington is doing far too little in the way of providing adequate recreation program are these statistics. A recent study of 17 other communities in Oakland County revealed that their average outlay for community recreation was 63¢ per capita.

Both Macomb and Wayne county communities do much better. The average per capita outlay for recreation in communities in Macomb is \$1.16 and in Wayne it is \$3.82.

These figures were compiled by a leading planning consultant and firm serving communities in these counties.

**WHAT DOES** it cost to conduct the summer recreation program presently provided in Farmington?

Here are figures supplied by Director Piche on the cost of supervision alone for the re-

cently concluded summer program: (1) - Seven bus drivers who also serve as supervisors at the lake and on field trips—\$2,730; (2) - Eight playground supervisors—\$2,880; director's salary—\$600. This makes a total of \$6,210.

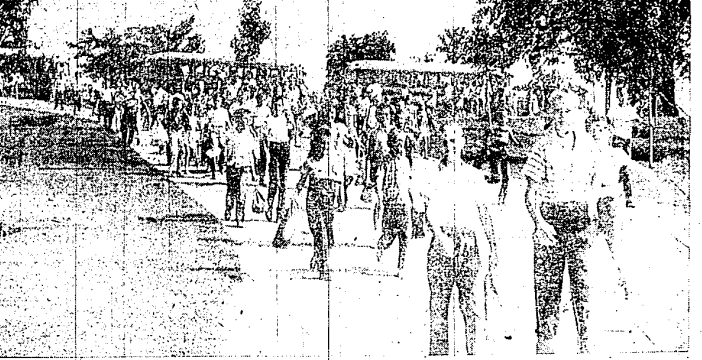
Other expenses included gas and oil for the buses, equipment for use at the playgrounds including arts and crafts materials, and liability insurance for the supervisors as well as social security.

**SINCE ONLY** \$8,400 is provided the FARC for the entire year, it is obvious to see that

little can be provided in the way of recreation for either children or adults the other 46 weeks of the year.

Substantially larger allocations by both the city and township out of present general fund funds, a special voted tax levy specifically for recreation or a program operated privately and paid for by those taking part appears to be the solution.

The latter solution, tried in other communities in the past, has not proven too successful, officials in the community recreation field have indicated.



It was swimming day for this group of youngsters and a lot of happy faces could be seen as they unloaded from the buses and started down the walk to the beach at Kent Lake in Kensington Park.

## C'ville Seniors Call for Paper

With an eye toward easing the costs of their senior class trip next spring, Clarenceville seniors today are conducting a paper drive throughout the city of Farmington and Livonia.

The boys will do the collecting, while the girls bale the one paper collected.

Proceeds from the paper drive will be placed in a senior class trip fund, thus reducing the individual costs for the trip.

Trucks will canvass the area all day collecting. If residents have paper that they desire to have picked up, they are asked to call any one of the following (telephone numbers: GR 4-8381) (Mrs. Ruth Nelson), GR 4-1076 (Mrs. Ann Schools) — or KE 4-8770 (Mrs. Wanda Matasak).

On Saturday and Sunday, August 29 and 30, a truck will be at the parking lot at Clarenceville high school on Middlebelt to receive more paper. Residents may deliver paper to the high school at that time, if they wish, or a phone call will bring a pickup.

It was explained that if the seniors are unable to pick up some paper today, a phone call will bring them out to pick up at a later date.

If you don't use it, give it away, say home management specialists at Michigan State University. This applies to clothes, dishes, toys, magazines and kitchen gadgets. Unused items take valuable storage space and contribute only to clutter in your home.

A man can do what he ought to do; and when he says he cannot, it is because he will not. —James Anthony Froude

## Swimming Suits on, the youngsters then lined up on the beach with their "buddies" (partners with whom they had been assigned prior to leaving the school playground for the lake). While the youngsters were being checked to be sure that all had "buddies," eight adult supervisors were stationing themselves at different points in the water.



Everything in order, the whistle was blown and approximately 150 youngsters (a slightly smaller group than usual) charged off the beach into the roped-off area in the water assigned to the Farmington Area Recreation Commission. Left



After twenty minutes were up on the beach for their first "buddy" check and a rest. With all paired off and accounted for by the adult supervisors, it was not more than 15 to 20 minutes



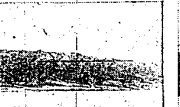
later that all were back in the water for another 20 minutes of fun. The morning was filled with three 20-minute swimming periods with buddy checks at each 20-minute interval.



With the lunch period over, buses were waiting to transport the youngsters back from the picnic area to the beach for an afternoon session of fun in the water. The procedure for the afternoon followed the same pattern as



It was a bunch of mighty hungry youngsters who came out of the water shortly before 11:30 a.m. Picking up their lunches, they were off on a short hike to an assigned picnic area in the park for lunch. Sandwiches, fruit and raw veg-



tables brought from home along with milk purchased at the Park seemed to taste exceptionally good. Recreational activities following lunch included a kickball game for some, horseshoe pitching for others and a guided nature hike for still others.



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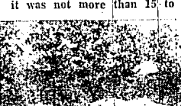
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