

Public swimming

It's still a good buy

By CONNIE RAE
Times Staff Writer

The cost of keeping cool has more than doubled this year at public swimming pools, but Doug Collison, co-ordinator of physical recreation at Mississauga recreation and parks department still feels it's a bargain compared to other forms of entertainment.

Although the price hike took effect in January, summer swimmers are just finding out about it and his office has received several calls from irate parents who were previously getting their children "looked after" for \$6 a summer. Now it's \$20, but you can't even get a baby sitter for those prices, Collison remarks.

Last year's single admission has increased from 25 cents for a child to 50 cents for those 17 and under. Last year it cost students over 17 years 50 cents and now it's \$1 for this age group. Family swim has increased from \$1.25 to \$2.

Cost of a summer season book is \$30 for anyone over 18 (up from \$12.50). Last year the whole family could swim all summer for \$27.50 but this year's cost is \$50. The family rate was pegged at \$70 in January but was lowered by council last week after protests.

Annual passes now cost \$40 for youths, \$60 for adults (over 18) and \$135 for a family.

Strip tickets of 10 cost \$4 for youths and \$9 for adults, and tickets are valid at all five indoor pools and all eight outdoor pools.

The pass books still make it economical for large families to swim, and if you have a family member that swims almost every day, a season or annual pass is certainly worth it. A \$20 pass gives 230 swims.

If you're just a once-a-week swimmer, the book of ten might be your best bet. Each family has to decide what's the best bargain for it, Collison says.

In spite of the price hike, Collison points out that the taxpayer is still subsidizing the program to the tune of \$350,000 a year. Total expenditures for pool operation, including lifeguards (who make \$3.25 to \$3.75 an hour) is \$935,000.

To pay for themselves, pools would have to have 200 swimmers in them at all times, and that's impossible since maximum capacity is 185, Collison says. The net budget has tripled in the last five years, he adds.

"In today's economy it's not realistic to pay less," Collison says. "The important thing is that Mississauga has good lifeguards and we've never had a drowning at our pools since we opened in 1966. In the Ontario Lifeguard competitions, our guards rated second and they're a pretty dedicated bunch, he says.

Groceries

We're spending more and getting less

By JO ANN STEVENSON
Times Staff Writer

The Times visited the supermarkets of Mississauga and peeped into the shopping carts of some of the buyers.

Few carts contained luxury items like steaks, roasts and baked goods, although the peeping was conducted on a mid-week afternoon when stores were not busy and presumably the more careful shoppers were in evidence.

Gail and Norm Duchesne said, "Prices are out of this world. We can hardly keep up with them. Since spring, the Duchesne grocery bill has risen from about \$35 per week to \$60 per week. We've started blending left overs for the baby instead of buying baby food."

Norm Duchesne said "The reason for the high cost is there are too many middle men trying to make a buck off the farmer and it's getting worse."

From the consumers interviewed, it seemed that the increase in beef costs had affected some more than others. About half the shoppers interviewed owned freezers and either bought beef at special prices or purchased hind or sides of beef. The others had entered into a spirit of sacrifice. They felt beef (tender cuts especially) had climbed past the point of purchase.

"Prime rib roast is our favorite, said Isabelle

Kennedy," but I haven't bought one in ages." The Kennedys entertain a family of eight every Sunday. "I'm using my imagination more in planning meals. Sometimes my husband and I have soup and a fish sandwich for dinner."

Carol Salerno was busily placing pork chops into her buggy when questioned. "These pork chops are a treat. I don't normally buy them. We use our freezer for specials and these will vary that diet a little." The Salerno's refused to buy lettuce until its price came down under \$1.

Florrie and David McShane are pensioners. "We've had to stop buying some of the goodies. It's not too bad for each item because we just buy a little bit of things to do us and we're not big meat-eaters."

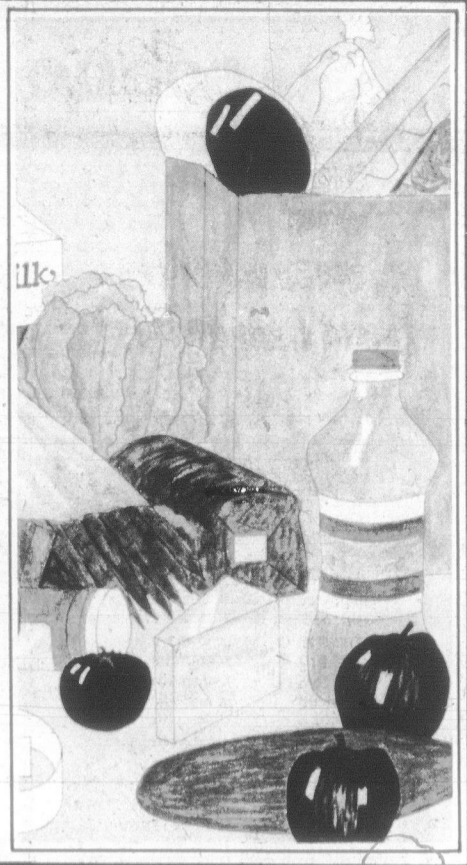
The McShanes find they can provide themselves with an adequate diet with few frills if they pay attention to their purchases.

Two seniors who preferred to remain anonymous said they live in a home where a flat rate covers their food costs. "We just pay an increase if the cost of food gets higher. This shopping trip is just to pick up a few pieces of fresh fruit we enjoy."

Mike Kitchen said, "We still buy the luxury items like baked goods and the butter. What I notice is the big cry about increases in dairy items and meats but staples sometimes will jump 20 to 30 cents in a week."

Kitchen estimates there has been a 50 per cent increase in his food costs in the last 18 months. "I think prices are rotten," said Evelyn Fullerton, as she heaved a rug shampooer into her car. "You just end up doing more jobs at home yourself instead of paying someone to come in."

Fullerton estimates her grocery costs have risen by one third since Christmas. "I'll bet there is a lot of consumer resistance going on. I know there is in my house."



100-year-old church closes its doors

By CONNIE RAE
Times Staff Writer

"We just have to put her out to pasture. You're darn tootin' it's sad."

The doors of the 104-year-old Burnhamthorpe United Church have closed forever. Everything is being turned over to the Halton presbytery and the dwindling congregation are finding other houses of worship.

Board member, Art Savage, who has been going to the little church on Dixie Road just above Burnhamthorpe for the

past 35 years, says there were just not enough people to carry on. There were quite a few hard feelings when the board made its decision; but they realized, finally, that it was inevitable, Savage says.

The church was built by its congregation in 1874 on land donated by a farmer named Samuel Moore for the grand fee of one dollar. Burnhamthorpe was a rural corduroy road and Dixie wasn't yet paved. George Gill ran the general store and there was a feed mill nearby.

The local cemetery still stands, right in front of the new Burnhamthorpe library and locals are still being interred there, Savage says. The church became Primitive Methodist in 1884, then Canadian Methodist, the Burnhamthorpe Methodist, and finally Burnhamthorpe United.

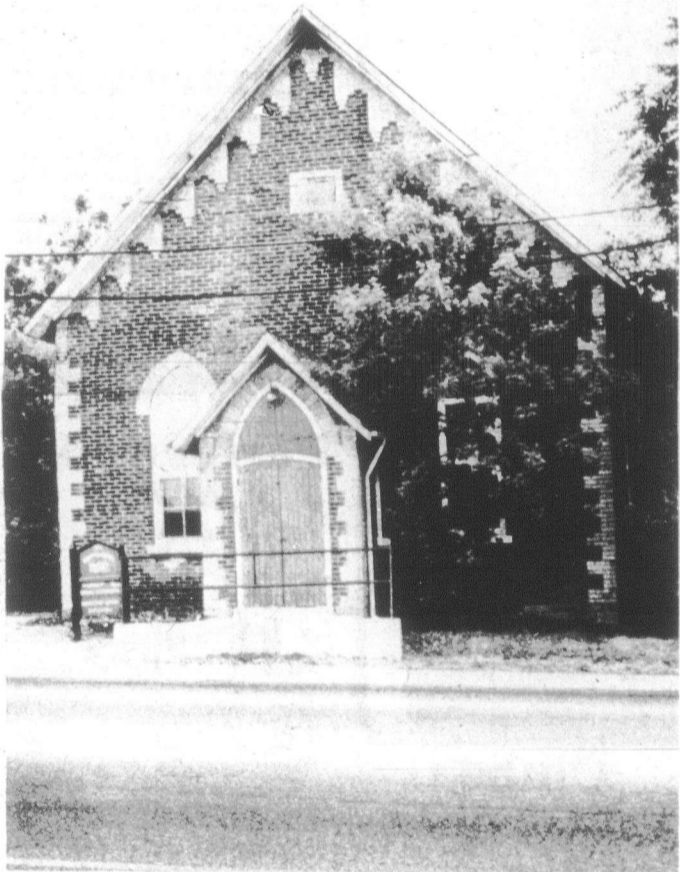
In the old days it was part of the Malton circuit of travelling ministers. More recently, full-time ministers included Rev. A. E. Owen in 1949, Rev. Garnett Lynd in 1951, Rev. Harold B. Andrews in 1955 and Rev. Joseph Stewart until 1974. When Stewart died in 1974, the retired Rev. Dr. Charles Lewis took over.

The church built a Sunday school addition in 1950 when its congregation was thriving. One of the original Sunday school teachers, Mrs. Fanny Scott, who has been teaching at the old church

for 42 years, had a host of memories to bid farewell to on the last Sunday.

"I feel kind of terrible," says Savage. "But in the last four or five years the people have been moving away and the new people coming in just don't seem to have time to come to church. There are other United churches around," Savage says. "There's Bethesda, St. Luke's on the Hill, Applewood United and Britannia."

"We just have to put her out to pasture and find a new home... you're darn tootin' it's sad."



Burnhamthorpe United Church has closed its doors forever. Its memories reach back into the community over 100 years.

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