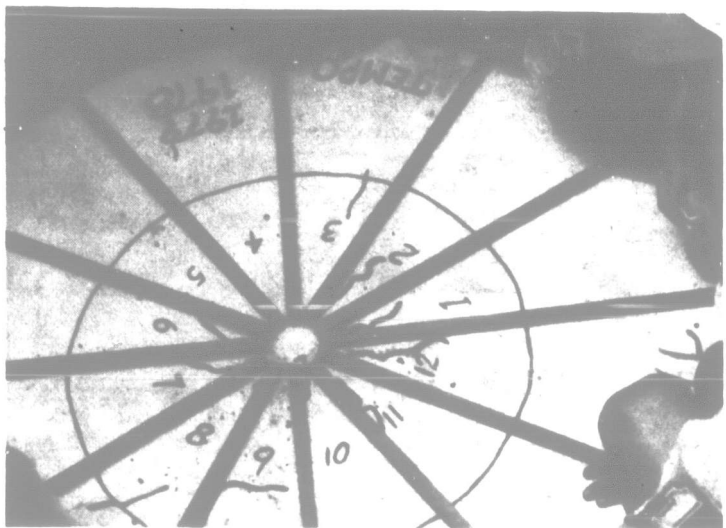


They're off and wriggling in Erin Mills



The racing worms are more than fish bait

By DIANA MCGOWAN

Amid shouts of "they're off", Harold slowly left the starting line. He inched forward and even detoured several times. Some of the other racers never even got over the starting line. Some ended up sideways and refused to move.

The racers paid no attention to the cheers of the onlookers or to the encouragement of their trainers. Finally, Harold made it over the finish line, winner of the Second Annual Great Erin Mills Worm Race.

You can witness more of this action at this year's Great Race, Sunday, Aug. 17 at the Erin Mills TEMPO Picnic in Brookmeade Park starting at noon. There will even be a supply of worms for those who can't dig up their own.

The Egg Race and Toss is another highlight of the day. Picnic chairman Ray Weiss has arranged for 10 dozen fresh eggs to be on hand this year.

The winners of last year's tug of war from the Brookmeade neighborhood will be defending their championship. The tug of war pits Erin Mills neighborhoods against each other in friendly hand-blistering competition. The picnic committee is hopeful that all eight neighborhoods, old and new, will enter this year's competition.

The usual races for all ages are on the program. The winners of each race will not only be winning for

themselves but for their individual neighborhoods. Cadillac-Fairview Corporation will again present a trophy to the winning neighborhood.

Folksinger Shirlee Smith, the mime group Fantasy and Fairy Tales and the Big Bad and Ugly Band with Ward 8 Councillor Steve Mahoney will again entertain this year.

Yakachuk, the talking police car, a Mississauga fire truck and McDonaldland characters will delight the youngsters. The Mississauga gymnastics club will perform throughout the afternoon.

Each Erin Mills family with an Erin Mills Homeowners Association (TEMPO) membership card will be given free refreshments tickets. Memberships will be available at the gate for \$2 per household. Residents from outside Erin Mills are welcome to enjoy the events and partake of hot dogs and soft drinks for a nominal charge.

The planning and work involved in the picnic is done entirely by volunteers, creating an atmosphere of community spirit and participation which is seldom found in other communities — about 1,200 people attended last year's picnic and 2,000 are expected this year.

Residents wishing to help with TEMPO's eighth annual picnic or those wishing more information can call Ray Weiss at 828-2679.

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Sherway court plans stall

Parents in the Sherway community have temporarily abandoned their plan to take legal action to try to keep Sherway Drive Public School open beyond next June.

In April, a committee of concerned parents announced they had hired a lawyer to try to overturn a Peel Board of Education decision to close the school in June 1981. Lawyer Don Gardner said

there was a small chance of success by appealing to the courts on the basis of natural justice. The parents felt the board had not given their arguments, and an alternative proposal they made, adequate consideration.

Leo Cahill, president of the residents' association, says the group has decided to "just leave it (the legal action) for the

moment."

The troops are regrouping," said William Karda, one of the parents serving on the committee. "In my personal case, I think we should pursue every avenue open to us until they put a lock on the door of the school."

The Peel board decided to close Sherway because of declining enrolment. Next year, only three classrooms at the school

will be used. Some parents have already transferred their children to separate or private schools because of the decision to close Sherway, Karda says.

The Peel board has already closed two other schools in the Gordon Graydon family of schools: Applewood and Orchard Heights Public Schools closed in June.



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