

ORONO WEEKLY TIMES

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Unexpected guests become new friends

By Bev Caswell

On Wednesday, July 6, Lakeshore Road locals Kim and Ted Lang answered a knock on their door and were surprised to find two spandex-clad cyclists from the Netherlands (each of their bikes laden with 50-kilogram packs) asking if they could pitch a tent on their front lawn.

Linda and Ben, intrepid cyclists from the Netherlands, decided to do something out of the ordinary for their retirement. They set a goal of cycling 100,000 kilometres through 80 countries over seven years, raising funds for local projects and conservation efforts. They left the Netherlands on June 15, 2020 and have already clocked 25,000 kilometres and travelled through twenty-seven countries.

While some of us who cycle along Lakeshore Road from Newcastle to Port Hope find it a bit of a grind in the hilly spots, Linda and Ben don't find it hilly at all – compared to traversing the Alps!

Imagine cycling seventy

to eighty kilometres a day. Imagine knocking on strangers' doors asking to pitch a tent on their lawn or spend a night in their home. Imagine friendly faces responding affirmatively to the request in various countries throughout the world. That is what Linda and Ben have been experiencing in their journey over the past two years.

As Ben explains, "Every day, we cycle about seventy kilometres and then at around four o'clock, we start looking for a welcoming house. And we just knock on the door and tell our story and ask if we can stay for one night. We have no problem with camping but when it rains, we prefer to stay in the house. Most of the time people say Oh, you don't have to camp, we have a spare bedroom."

Linda adds, "People do need to see the bicycles because the bicycles are the magnet. People are very happy when they see us with the bicycles." In

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Photo By Karen Cashin

Finn, Rory, and Kaleb were at the Bond Head Parkette on Sunday to complement the Lloyd Johnson Band, with their lemonade stand. Cookies and flowers were also offered. The boys raised \$344.50 for Hospice. A neighbour dropped in another \$20, yet another neighbour matched the \$344.50. The boys had a blast and hope to come back next week.

Fair Ambassador a unique opportunity for young adults

By Frances Mallon

Most of the country fairs throughout Ontario offer a program called 'Fair Ambassador', including the Orono Fair. After a two-year hiatus, this popular contest returns in-person on Thursday, September 8 at 7:30 p.m. indoors on the arena stage.

Committee Co-chair Deanna Porco, a former Brooklin Spring fair Ambassador herself, along with Andrew Iceton

are organizing the event. "It's a great opportunity for young people between the ages of 17 and 24 to get out there, meet new people and share the thoughts they have about the importance of community and agriculture," states Porco.

She goes on to further say, "we're looking for someone who is proud of their town, who is outgoing and wants to be part of the community life and represent the Orono Ag-

ricultural Society." The fair booklet describes the guidelines for potential ambassadors as having to be a resident of Canada for at least two years, and a resident of Clarington for at least six months prior to the competition. The contestants will need to submit a resume and be able to speak to the contents through an interview process by a panel of three judges. They will be looking for candidates who are

involved in their community and understand about the importance of the fair and agriculture.

The next hurdle for the ambassadorial candidates will be to deliver a prepared speech on the arena stage in front of an audience. "Some of the topics are on agriculture, the Orono Fair or what community means to them, but the topic is their choice. Each competitor will get a detailed package

well before the competition, they'll have about a month to go through it. They don't have to memorize it, cue cards or a piece of paper is fine to bring up with them," Porco notes.

She adds, "we usually get a good crowd, there are lots of family and friends there for support, and everyone likes to see the new face of the Orono Fair."

An ambassador will be

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Holidays

The Orono Weekly Times will be closed Thursday, July 21 - Friday, August 5 for our annual summer break. No publications will be produced July 27 or August 3.