

October 2005

93 Kids and 59 Pizzas

by Jolanta Linde

The annual Latvian school get-together at Saulaine on the first weekend in October has become an established tradition. This marked the **seventh** time that school children from all over have come to Saulaine. A total of four schools participated: the TLB Saturday School, Valodina, Hamilton Latvian School and teachers from the Ottawa Latvian School who travelled the farthest.

The hubbub of children's voices and the patter of feet resounded throughout the day at Saulaine. The organizers had seen to it that each age group had an appropriate activity. The little ones: face painting, playing in the sandbox and picture bingo and going on the swings. The bigger kids were active with handicrafts- creating images of the sun with little pieces of amber and creating art out of Styrofoam.

For those that were feeling energetic, there was the opportunity to try mountain climbing skills in the barn. Some of the older kids participated in a relay race- the loudest laughter came from that location.

All the kids and adults had the opportunity to fish apples out of a barrel of water with their teeth. For those that hadn't had a chance to wash their mouths, they certainly got to do that at this activity—towels were complimentary.

Before the start of activities, all participants were greeted by Edgars Kirss from TLB school, Ilze Matiss from Valodina and Baiba Bredovska from Hamilton. Maris Stasko spoke from Ottawa.

There was surprise gift from Ottawa-10 exquisite cakes provided by the Latvian ambassador to Canada, A.Sjanits, personally delivered by deputy Dace Rutka. Dace three children attend the Ottawa school and participated in the gathering. All the cakes were consumed in a very short time.

There were a total of 184 participants at Saulaine ranging in age from three months to 80 years—that's why 59 large pizzas!

Saulaine also profited from the event- part of the attendance fees went to the Saulskunis balcony project. Parents and teachers bought books from the bookstore. These sales provided significant additional funds for the balcony renovation project. Any leftover income will be applied to a project common to all schools.