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*Book #16*

*1982*

*By*

*Catherine McMullen Mann*

# Shed petition well received

By SUZANNE HANSON

A petition circulating against the proposed construction of a central works department for Norwich Township has been well-received, said Norwich area resident Norm Marshall.

He said Monday no one he had approached with the petition had refused to sign it and the response has been the same in other areas of the township where the petition is circulating. Mr. Marshall initiated the petition against the construction of a central shed, to be located south of Burgessville, to bring the concerns of the ratepayers to council's attention.

He will be presenting the petition to

council at its next meeting on Monday, January 11 and he hopes all concerned residents will be there at 10:30 a.m. to offer support.

Mr. Marshall said the main concern for residents is the cost of the project. "I think council has to take a close look at things under the present economic conditions," he said. "I'm not saying it's right or wrong," said Mr. Marshall, but he pointed out another area that attempted centralization has now gone back to local sheds in the country.

In his petition, Mr. Marshall states the construction of a central shed for Norwich Township "is an expense not warranted." It

is also his feeling that service, particularly in the area of snow removal, will be adversely affected by the move.

Former township mayor and Oxford County Warden Ken Peers was one of the individuals who signed Mr. Marshall's petition. From what he has been hearing, people are primarily concerned about the loss of service and Mr. Peers thinks Norwich might be more affected when the equipment is moved out to a central shed.

Mr. Peers said he personally has no complaints about the level of service his area (Ward 4) has received from the Burgessville shed but he also pointed out there hasn't been a real bad winter in the

last two years since the Oxford Centre shed was destroyed by the 1979 tornado.

He also questioned the accuracy of statements that suggest the cost to the taxpayers for the shed will be only \$50,000. "It would look to me that it would cost about \$500,000 to develop that site," he said, and that would mean a greater cost to the municipality. "We see so many figures bandied about we don't really know what's going on."

The lack of information on the proposal may account for some of the opposition to the project, he added. "A lot of us haven't got as much information as we would like on

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this." He said council should put out more hard facts and figures on the proposal to give its residents a clearer picture.

"I think council has probably weighed all the possibilities," said Mr. Peers. But he added, "I sometimes wonder if we can afford all the things that are supposed to save us money."

Township roads superintendant Ron Smith said Monday the cost estimate on the project was \$250,000. The price has "gone up and down" several times and council won't have a firm figure until the architect, Leonard Dickson, completes the detailed plans for the building sometime this month.

The township has already received a 50 per cent subsidy from the ministry of transportation and communications (MTC) on the \$50,000 purchase price for the 10-acre property, located about one mile south of Burgessville on the Middleton line. He said the MTC will also put in 50 per cent of the cost of the building's construction.

Mr. Smith said figures given by Councillor Mel Smith in a recent letter to the editor were misleading and he did not know where the councillor got the \$354,000 figure quoted as the estimated cost of the project.

The roads superintendant said the MTC has been encouraging the township to centralize its operations since about 1977 because of the extremely high overhead involved in operating the local sheds. A representative of the MTC, Howard Greenly, who addressed council in November, said the township's overhead costs in comparison to other municipalities have been high.

A study conducted by the MTC showed that other area municipalities comparable to Norwich Township were also making the move to centralization, including Norfolk Township, said Mr. Smith.

The move to a centralized yard was originally expected to save the municipality

\$90,000 a year. Mr. Smith said that figure was realistic when the plan was first discussed, but council has since approved a larger and better building. He said council wouldn't see any savings during the first year of the new shed's operation but there would be substantial savings in the following years through the reduced overhead. Those savings will become larger over the years as inflation increases.

Mayor Jack Burn said he doesn't have any problem with the petition that is circulating against the proposed central shed. People are just exercising their democratic right, he said.

He did say, however, that the whole proposal is an "economical and feasible position" for the township to take. He said the project is one of the better things council has undertaken.

Mayor Burn said the net cost to the municipality will be about \$50,000 for the project after the sale of existing properties and the ministry subsidies have been received.

He also said he does not believe the service to the municipality will be adversely affected by centralization. The county operates road patrols that range from 17 to 37 miles but the longest road patrol in the entire township will be only 13 miles with centralization, said Mayor Burn.

Councillor John Eacott agreed. The decision made by council was based on facts, not a lot of conjecture, he said. He pointed out the township is now heating a total of eight road shed bays with the three existing buildings. The new building will have only five heated bays with four unheated for equipment storage.

Mr. Eacott said the township would be heating 10 bays if an addition were built onto any existing buildings or if a new building were to be built in Oxford Centre. Estimates for a new building there in 1977 were \$100,000, he said. Those plans were shelved because of the cost.

## Tenders may determine the success

# Shed petition still making the rounds

From the Jan. 4 Sentinel-Review

A petition opposing the construction of a centralized road shed in Norwich Township is still making the rounds, but whether it will do any good may not be known until tenders are called on the project.

Norm Marshall, one of the organizers of the petition, said Sunday he won't know how many people have signed it until Wednesday, when the well-scattered papers will be collected.

Marshall, along with a group of eight citizens, have circulated copies of the petition throughout the township. He said he doesn't know how response has been in the northern end of the township, but south of Burgessville residents have been supportive of the group.

The residents would like to see the construction of the road shed set aside. Their petition states the project is too expensive to be handled by the township in times of economic hardship.

A delegation will present the

petition to township council at the meeting next Monday.

### NOT DETERMINED

Mayor Jack Burn said Sunday, it is "unfortunate the proper information has not reached the people."

The cost of the road shed has not yet been determined, he said, and won't be until council has received tenders on the project.

Burn said the maximum direct cost to the township will be \$50,000. He said because the centralized road shed will be more economically efficient, that cost will be recovered in two years.

"It will perpetuate a savings of a minimum of \$25,000 a year thereafter," he said.

He said the new building will be more energy efficient than the three existing sheds it will be replacing, it will be managed more efficiently, there will be less janitorial costs, less repairs and maintenance, less duplication of tools and equipment, and a reduction in the number of heating bays.

"I'm confident that centralization will not interfere with the level of service provided," said Burn.

Whether the project will go ahead or be scrapped will depend on the actual costs, known when the project is tendering. Burn said he expects council will tender the project toward the end of January.

# Crowd protests shed, action deferred

NG  
Jan 13

By SUZANNE HANSON

It was no doubt one of the most controversial issues to come before council in some time and the discussion Tuesday of the proposed central works shed for Norwich Township threatened, at times, to severely divide council.

The issue came to a head at Tuesday's council meeting when a delegation of about 200 ratepayers appeared in support of a 1,484-name petition opposing construction of a central shed at this time.

Council, in a later recommendation, recognized and accepted the petition delivered by Norm Marshall of RR 1, Norwich and acknowledged the comments made in presentations by other ratepayers

in the delegation. After lengthy, and at times heated, discussion by council, it voted to reconsider the proposal for the construction of the shed in the face of the public opposition to it and to delay further action on the matter until more facts and figures are obtained.

In a majority vote, council refused to support a motion to let the taxpayers voice their opinion for or against the proposed township shed in a plebiscite (vote by the people) in the next municipal election, voting instead to table the matter until more information is available.

Council also voted to table a motion, put forward by Councillor Robert Pettigrew to

abandon the project altogether, until more information is available.

"We had a delegation present their concerns and we have got to deal with them before we make any decision on the issue of the shed," said acting mayor Carman Sweazey. "We have to look at all the facts and figures before we make a decision one way or the other on the township shed," he said.

The petition presented by the group's spokesman, Mr. Marshall, stated those who had signed it feel the construction of the shed would be an unwarranted expense. The residents also fear a reduction in service, particularly in the area of snow removal if the project proceeds.

"This proposal has created more interest in the township than any other that I know of," said former township mayor and county warden Ken Peers in his address to council Tuesday morning. He said council cannot help but be impressed by the concern of the people who signed the petition and those who attended the meeting to question the need "to close three sheds and build an expensive central one."

Mr. Peers said while council is always being approached with requests for money or support for various groups in the township, the unique situation now exists where a group of interested taxpayers are

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asking council "to stop spending so much money for our supposed benefit."

"The people of Norwich Township feel this council has been overly generous to several groups and communities in the last year or so and it's time now to stop spending unnecessary tax dollars," said Mr. Peers.

He said there are also other costs involved in the project, such as security, which council has not considered. In his opinion, the proposed development of the central shed site could cost up to \$500,000.

The second speaker to address council, a former council member and local real estate agent Bill Sanders, questioned the accuracy of figures presented by council on the cost of the centralized shed and the actual cost to the taxpayers.

Mr. Sanders also made reference to a 1980 report of the London regional office of the ministry of transportation and communication (MTC) which appraised the present patrol yard sites. It was from that report township council obtained its estimates of the individual property values, he said. According to that report, the present structures are "in very good condition" but because the individual inspecting the sites "could not even get in to see them" the estimates of their value could be subject to considerable error, said Mr. Sanders in reiterating the contents of the MTC report.

Mr. Sanders said MTC representative Howard Greenly has said the savings from construction of a central shed may be considerably less than council's suggested \$90,000 per year, and will likely be closer to \$40-45,000 per year. "We would like to point out also there is no guarantee we will receive the MTC subsidy," said Mr. Sanders.

"The savings, in fact, are probably nil and the service which is now at least satisfactory, will be greatly diminished."

Mr. Sanders said it is obvious the recorded council vote which approved the

proposal was "made on conjecture and misinformation and certainly not based on facts. Thank God some of our councillors have the presence of mind to reverse their decision in the public interest and we applaud them and all others who wish to join them," he said.

Another member of the delegation to address council, Dave Arthur of RR 2, Otterville, said council does have the ability to control their capital expenditures and, as councillors, they have an obligation to hold the line on spending.

He echoed Mr. Sanders suggestion that if the present buildings have a high overhead and are not heat efficient that council take action to improve them.

"If we live in an uninsulated home we don't move out of it; we insulate it and make it more heat efficient."

The motion by Councillor Mel Smith to put the matter to a vote by the people in a plebiscite at the next municipal election was tabled by council in a tie vote, broken by the acting mayor, Mr. Sweazey.

"If there's so much concern, let the people vote on it," said Mr. Smith. "Do we give the choice to the people or take the choice away from them?"

Mr. Pettigrew, in putting forth his motion to scrap the project altogether, said he "cannot agree with this central shed. It was brought up in too much of a hurry."

"These present locations give faster service on less fuel to more people where they are located right now," said Mr. Pettigrew. "The main thing I'm looking at is safety and service."

Councillor John Eacott responded that it would be premature to "squash" the project when council is still trying to find out what the direction is. "We don't have all the information yet." He suggested council must do its homework before making any decision on the proposal.

Mr. Sweazey agreed. "Maybe all of us will be voting against this proposal but we've got to look at all the information first."



## Over-crowding

Norwich Township council was forced to change its mind on at least one issue Tuesday. A refusal by council to change the location of its meeting to the town hall in Otterville had to be reversed when the roughly 200 people who turned up to hear a delegation on the proposed central shed poured into the council chambers to demonstrate their numbers to council. (NG Photo).

ANY COINCIDENCE!!

## Otterville shook up

JAN 13 NG

Things that went thump in the night caused some Otterville residents concern Sunday night.

Several Otterville and area residents reported hearing two thumps during the evening Sunday that made their homes shake without any explanation.

Dave Finch, of RR 1, Otterville said he was watching television with his wife around 7 p.m. when there was a loud thump and the chair he was sitting in bounced around. "The whole house shook," said Mr. Finch. He at first thought a tree had fallen but on checking around outside, couldn't see anything. His wife later felt the tremor again around 10 p.m. while he was out.

"At first I thought that the house had shifted on the foundation," said Mr. Finch. "It was quite a jolt."

Otterville resident Gord Shearer said he

and several of his neighbors also experienced the tremor that made their homes shake, around 10 p.m. "I was working on a jigsaw puzzle when the whole house just shook," said Mr. Shearer. He said they thought a tree had fallen but found no evidence to show what had happened.

"It scared the tar out of a lot of us," said Mr. Shearer.

Violet Smith, who also lives in Otterville, said all she and her daughter heard was a bang around 10 p.m. The house shook but they had no idea what it was. She said they heard a similar noise earlier in the evening but it was a bigger bang the second time.

There have been no reports of anything that would have caused the tremors in the area and residents who experienced them have been left scratching their heads wondering just what it all was.



### Concerned citizens

About 200 Norwich Township ratepayers filed into a township council meeting in the Otterville town hall, Monday morning, to

hear a presentation by a delegation representing them in their opposition to the construction of a centralized works shed for the township.

TN JAN 13

# Mayor Jack Burn resigns

JAN 13 NG



By SUZANNE HANSON

Members of Norwich Township council were stunned by news received Tuesday afternoon during a council session that Jack Burn was resigning from the position of mayor of the township due to personal health reasons.

Council accepted Mr. Burn's resignation, made in the form of a letter, with deep sadness and regret. The letter was delivered to council in the mayor's absence by his wife Shirley.

In a conversation following council's meeting Tuesday evening, Mrs. Burn said there were a combination of health problems that led to her husband's decision to resign from council. He has been ill for several days and came to the final decision to resign from the mayor's chair Monday.

"When things are going to affect your health, you know it's time to quit," said Mrs. Burn. She said it was not an overnight decision but one that was made after a great deal of thought and consideration.

The letter of resignation was received by council in closed session, but on its return to open session, council passed a motion to appoint Councillor-at-large Carman Sweazey as acting mayor of the township for the next special meeting of council to be held on Thursday, January 21 at 7 p.m. for the purpose of filling the vacancy created by Mr. Burn's resignation.

Members of council were quick to express their deep respect and regard for Mayor Burn at the close of the meeting.

"I will probably never meet another man that was more dedicated to his job in this township and I'm proud to have worked under him," said Councillor Helen Smith.

Acting mayor Sweazey said Mr. Burn had always had the best interest of the whole township at heart and everybody realized that. "We are all saddened by his resignation."

Councillor John Eacott said the mayor had had a great influence on him per-

sonally and "I've learned the value of him as a friend."

In accepting the duty of acting mayor of the township, Mr. Sweazey asked council's co-operation in carrying out the task. "Council, I just want to say to you, I plead with you, to abide with me; give me all the help you can in this. I cannot do it alone," said Mr. Sweazey. He said he is depending on council's support and, with direction from the township clerk, "I'll try to do the best job I can for you. But I need the support of a council that's not divided and I need support on every issue."

Mr. Burn was in his second term as mayor of Norwich Township with a long history of service on municipal councils.

Before his election to the position of mayor, he served as councillor-at-large and member of county council for Norwich Township, and prior to that he was a member of council representing Ward Four.

Prior to the restructuring of the township, he served on the former East Oxford township council for two years.

## Mayor Burn quits for health reasons

OTTERVILLE (Bureau) — Jack Burn has resigned as mayor of Norwich Township for health reasons.

Council accepted Burn's resignation in his absence Tuesday and appointed councillor-at-large Carman Sweazey to serve as acting mayor for a meeting Jan. 21 to appoint a permanent mayor.

It is expected a mayor will be chosen from the remaining council members, which will require the appointment of another councillor.

Burn, 51, has been mayor for three

years and was first elected to council in 1973 as a representative of the former township of East Oxford. He served as councillor-at-large for two years before his mayoralty victory.

His wife Shirley said Tuesday night her husband was sick in bed with a flu ailment and could not be disturbed. She said the decision to resign was well thought out and was strictly for health reasons.

Mrs. Burn said her husband still plans to run his business — Jack Burn Auto Body Ltd. — at 55 Springbank Dr. in Woodstock.

L.F.A. JAN 13

## Orderly group

Large and emotional groups of people can get out of control when they're excited, but fortunately that did not happen Tuesday when about 200 Norwich Township ratepayers appeared before township council to voice their opposition to the proposed central works shed.

A delegation of four individuals, representing some 1,484 citizens who signed a petition opposing the move to centralize the township sheds, presented well-organized, well-researched positions to council in an orderly fashion. Such a presentation can be accepted, with respect, for consideration.

But since council willingly heard the case presented by those citizens Tuesday and agreed to give it full consideration, those people should also permit council to do just that. To have made a decision to scrap the entire proposal merely because of unpleasant public pressure would have been unwise and not in the best interest of the township these people have been elected to represent.

There may have been a lack of concrete information when the initial decision was made but making another decision without hard evidence again does not improve the situation and in fact may make it worse.

It is never easy to sit on council when 200 people face you in strong opposition and some may find it easy to bow to public pressure in the face of such opposition. But one must admire the individual who strives to discover the full picture before making a decision.

In its examination of the matter, council may discover it was wrong and may well vote against the proposal to centralize but it may also find that there are substantial savings to be made and that service will not be seriously affected.

There are many unanswered questions and council should be given an opportunity to come up with those answers before making a final decision on the matter.

# Council in uproar needs leadership

By John Surgeoner  
Staff Writer

NORWICH — A divided council and angry taxpayers are the major problems facing the councillor elected mayor of Norwich Township tomorrow.

About 200 Norwich residents were on hand at last Tuesday's council meeting to support a 1,484-name petition calling for the withdrawal of a plan to centralize the public works shed. The issue sparked some emotional debate and revealed a decided difference of opinion on the matter in council.

Stepping in to solve these problems is not an enviable task, but Carman Sweazey, councillor-at-large and acting mayor, said he would be interested in succeeding Jack Burn as mayor of the township.

"If I was given the election, well I would accept the position," Mr. Sweazey said.

Mr. Sweazey is the only councillor interested in the mayoralty, but both councillors Helen Smith and John Heleniak have expressed interest in becoming councillor-at-large should Mr. Sweazey vacate that position to become mayor.

"I am interested in the councillor-at-large position," Mr. Heleniak said, "and as far as the mayor is concerned, I am supporting Carman Sweazey."

Mrs. Smith echoed the thoughts of Mr. Heleniak.

"I think Mr. Sweazey is our most capable member. I would be sure that he would be who I would vote for (as mayor). I am showing some interest in the councillor-at-large position. I would be willing to give it a go."

Councillors Lyle Davis and Hardee Richardson said they would also cast their vote in favour of Mr. Sweazey as mayor, which could lead to a race for the councillor-at-large spot.

Remaining councillors preferred not to mention their choice for mayor while Bob Pettigrew has announced plans to resign from council altogether.

"I'm so sick and tired of this council," Mr. Pettigrew said. "I'm just going to finish my year and give it up."

The current term of office for Norwich councillors ends in November when the next election will take place.

Mr. Pettigrew's remarks reflect the emotion that was evident at the last council meeting regarding the centralization issue.

Headed by Norm Marshall, RR 1, Norwich, the large delegation of residents argued that centralizing the public works shed was a waste of taxpayers money, would provide less efficient service and that the sheds currently in use were in good condition.

"I think I can honestly say that the great majority of the taxpayers in the

township are satisfied with the service we are getting from the sheds we have now," Ken Peers, a former township mayor and county warden, said in addressing council.

The plan the delegation is so opposed to, calls for the construction of one large public works shed one mile south of Burgessville. Since 75% of the township's residents are located south of this site, the delegation argued, the crews would take much longer to service the entire township.

The delegation also argued that the cost of the whole project would be about \$500,000, not \$130,000 as projected by council.

"Expansion is not necessary and totally unwarranted," Bill Sanders, former township councillor and another speaker for the delegation, said. "Insulate your existing buildings, install ceiling fans, make them more efficient, and get on with work," he said.

Mr. Pettigrew agreed totally with the delegation, calling for council to support his motion to scrap the whole project. The motion was tabled, by a slim margin of 6-4, while a motion by Mel Smith to conduct a plebiscite of the township to find out how many residents are in favour of the centralization plan was defeated by the same margin.

Council made no decision on the matter intending to review the costs and feasibility of the project before considering further action.

# Letters to the editor

## CANNOT BUY ARGUMENT

Dear Editor:

I cannot buy council's argument that they can build a building estimated to cost \$235,000 on the rather high priced farm land they purchased, for "total new revenue not to exceed \$50,000."

They are overlooking the fact that almost everyone in Norwich Township will be helping pay whatever our over-generous Ontario Government is going to "give" Norwich Township to pay this cost.

As for selling the surplus buildings for a considerable portion of the cost I would like them sold in advance to the purchasers at the estimated figures on a nominal option basis to be concluded when and if the buildings are available.

I do not favor giving the existing facility in Norwich to the police department. The protection budget is increasing annually fast enough now without giving this department any room for further expansion which would only accelerate the budget rate of increase.

Spouses who wish should certainly go to conventions. I'm aware the extra cost for two is only very little more than one and therefore it should be no trouble for the spouse going at taxpayers' expense to pay the small difference.

And while I'm objecting on two counts I'll make it three. Our garbage has to go somewhere and as long as Holbrook is reasonably environmentally safe it should continue to go there. The money, time and ef-

fort being spent to prevent this might better be directed to reducing what is now going. Our family used to put out two to three 50 pound fertilizer bags of garbage every Friday. By utilizing the present available means, including papers for the Scouts, glass for the Junior Farmers and composting we have reduced ours to what will go in one grocery bag every four to six weeks.

Support County Council in any move to separate, collect and recycle or better still start a program for Norwich Township.

Paul M. Moore  
Norwich

## QUESTIONS DECISION

Dear Editor:

In the December 30, 1981 Norwich Gazette we read two letters pro and con for the proposed new centrally located public works building. In the second letter, entitled "presenting the facts", as a ratepayer I see some facts that have not been included.

Yes, Ward four has been serviced from Burgessville since the 1979 tornado. The supposed adequacy of this service has been judged by members of council over the past two years without regard to the fact that the last two winters have been open ones.

Also, how many people realize that Ward four has many roads that are not serviced by our own public works department? Our east and west boundary roads, except for two miles, are serviced by adjoining townships or county crews. The County services

Towerline Road (Concession 2) from Highway 401 to Highway 53; County Road 14 from Towerline beyond our boundary, Concession 6 from our western boundary to County Road 14 and County Road 4 from Highway 2 to Towerline.

The Department of Highways crew services Highway 2, the northern, most boundary, Highway 53 from Highway 2 to our boundary with Brant County and of course Highway 59 from the northern boundary of our ward to its southern boundary.

On a population map, I'm sure that you would find that these main arterial roads have the larger concentration of population. Oh! but you say you have forgotten Oxford Centre. That is not the case as this is our crew's arterial road and is the first one to be cleaned out, so that they may have a clear north south route open first.

As to the three members of council who live in this area, one lives within a few hundred feet of a county road, one lives on a county road and number three lives on the north-south ward four arterial road. Interesting!

As a contender for a council seat in the last two elections, I had the audacity to preach restraint. I'm thankful for my own peace of mind I was not elected because restraint is not council's theme in my opinion.

One councillor informed me to my face that our public works people weren't worth their wages. The raise covered inflation.

How many members of council have ever spent any time out plowing snow with the men? How many have ever been in all the existing barns? But a majority of them want the taxpayers to pay for their spouses expenses to accompany them to two conferences a year.

Do you know how much of their pay as councillors is not taxable? Do you even know what they make? A penny saved is still a penny earned especially when you are spending someone else's hard earned money.

In closing I wonder, five years from now which of our councillors will still be in a position to have to answer for today's decisions? I know I won't have to, but I'll still be paying my taxes. How about you!

A concerned resident  
S.G. Wood  
RR 4,  
Woodstock.

## "EXPLAINS PURCHASE"

To the Editor:

Please allow me your media to clarify the main reasons as to why the Township of Norwich purchased the Treffry Mill property in Otterville.

When the Treffry property was made available to us it was determined that the pedestrian bridge to the Otterville Lions park and pool was located on Lorne Treffry's property, and further, the PUC water main serving the west end of Otterville was also on Mr. Treffry's property, both without registered agreement.

The property was professionally appraised for \$60,000 and was offered to the township in one package consisting of the Treffry Mill and 2.6 acres on the south side of County Road 19, plus the Dam, Mill Race, and 39 acres on the north side of County Road 19.

While we support the historic preservation of the site, the reasons for purchase were because of the legal position we found ourselves in pertaining to the park bridge and the water main.

Our plans for the property are to:

1. Apply for a \$15,000 provincial recreation grant.
2. Negotiate a water main agreement with the PUC and thus eliminate an estimated \$25,000 relocating cost.
3. Sign an agreement with Ducks Unlimited to reinforce the dam with eight inch stone to a value of \$20,000 without cost to the Township of Norwich.
4. Lease the 2.6 acres and mill to the South Norwich Historical Society which will develop the site as funds become available without cost to the Township.

Trusting my comments will place the matter in its proper prospective, I remain  
Yours truly,  
Mayor Jack B. Burn.

## SUFFERING TAXPAYER

Arise! Arise! Good citizens of Norwich Township:

Some of our Councillors have run amuck. They have put the straw on the camel "that broke his back." The Norwich Township ratepayers "will pay" for trips of the Councillors' wives. I have never heard of anything so damned, downright, dilaceratingly, dim-witted in my life.

They deny adequate funding for sidewalks in the business area. They won't assure proper snow removal. For example; approximately three days before Christmas a heavy snowfall arrived. No action was taken until a councillor was called and when busy shoppers were trying to slush and mush their way through the mess, the crews were cleaning the streets. A scene of bedlam in downtown Norwich. Our tax dollars could be put to a better use in this area instead of spending local dollars in a city far away and for which the taxpayers will get very little, if any, benefit.

We "taxpayers all" pay for the councillors registrations, hotel accommodations, mileage, meals and parking costs. Now they have the unmitigated gall to pass a motion that we will pay for their wives' expenses in addition.

Councillors are elected to

office to make decisions on how tax money will be "wisely" spent. If this is an example of wise spending, then we are in trouble.

I think Mayor Jack Burn and Councillors Heleniak, Lester and Mel Smith should be given a hearty thank you for having the common sense to vote against such a motion.

Disgustingly yours,  
George E. White  
Suffering Taxpayer.

## ADDED EXPENSE

To the Editor:

With the economy facing, or possibly being in a recession, I am "pleased" to see the taxpayers of Norwich Township will be given an added expense by paying for spouses to attend two conventions per year.

It is not even necessary to pay the expense of two or more councillors at one convention, let alone the several conventions attended throughout the year. Why not pay the expense of one councillor and provide him with a tape recorder to tape the sessions, thus all councillors will have equal opportunity of hearing all sides of the topics discussed.

It is reassuring to know our Mayor and at least three councillors (according to another newspaper's write-up) are on the taxpayers side and have the right approach to the present economic situation.

There are other people in the township who donate free time, mileage and labor for the betterment of their community. Many wives support their husbands in their respective vocations and don't receive, or expect to receive, a paid holiday for their support.

Should this recommendation not be rescinded in the near future, then perhaps each taxpayer should submit to council an itemized account for payment of spouses' 1982 holiday expense.

Let's hear the opinion of other taxpayers.

Yours truly,  
A CONCERNED  
TAXPAYER.

C. MANN  
OTTERVILLE

# Letters to the Editor

TW JAN 4/82

## COUNCIL MISLED

Dear Editor;

I would like to comment on Norwich Township's proposed new public works building to be located one mile south of Burgessville.

I never thought it was necessary and now that some of the figures are coming in on the cost of this project, I now definitely know this project isn't necessary.

The council was misled at the start of this project and were told that the cost would be \$130,000. We now have the figures such as: 10 acres of land, \$50,000; estimated building cost \$235,000; site preparation, \$30,000; engineer's fees, \$13,000; well, \$6,000; fuel tanks, \$20,000.

This does not cover the cost of heavy hydro service and security fence and a lot of other unknown factors.

I cannot understand people thinking they would want to spend \$354,000 to build one new building to replace another new building that is a mile away in Burgessville. The approximate value of that building is \$65,000. In addition, the building in Otterville is worth an approximate value of \$90,000. Half of the money from the sale of these buildings would have to be returned to the Department of Highways.

The way our buildings are located at this time, employees can drive to work on cleared roads during a snow storm, whereas the new location is the worst road in the township to blow full of snow.

In times of fuel prices increasing and financial crisis this country is in, this is no time to be going into an unsound and expensive project like this.

I would hope the taxpayers of the Township of Norwich would support me on this issue.

Mel Smith,  
Councillor for  
Ward One.

## PRESENTING THE FACTS

Dear Editor;

What are the facts concerning the proposed central works building for the Township of Norwich? Why is the plan a sound one? What is the current situation?

Every ward, except ward four, has a works facility. The ward four shed was destroyed in the August 1979 tornado. A sum of \$30,000 insurance money from that facility is in a township account. Ward four has a greater snow and drifting problem than any other part of the township. Yet for over two years satisfactory service has been given from ward three.

The existing facility in the village of Norwich can readily be used by the police department. Wards one and three have facilities which are saleable and which could be sold to cover a significant part of the costs of the new shed. Expansion of existing facilities was ruled out because of location and proximity to residential areas and because of lot sizes.

A central building does raise costs in moving equipment. A study shows this to be minimal, and more than offset by having a consolidation of equipment at one site.

The new facility will be much more energy efficient and will provide for far more efficient management of materials, resources and manpower. This is not only the belief of council but also of the ministry of transportation and communication who heartily endorse this project. Since they pick up 50 per cent of the costs, Norwich gets a portion of its provincial tax money returned.

Building this facility costs little more than replacing a shed in ward four. It is true that

the original estimates are higher than expected. However, the total new revenue needed by the township for this project ought not to exceed \$50,000. Our original study showed a net saving in public works of \$90,000 per year. This is not likely a realistic figure, but it does illustrate the fact that there are savings by centralizing.

The new revenue needed for this is not great when compared to some of our other costs. This shed, while not a bargain, is a sound investment for 1982.

Every councillor, in a recorded vote, supported this project. The record shows it. Council has made a decision based on facts and the public interest. Those who disagree with our decision have forgotten, did not know or have other reasons than council's for their opinion.

We the undersigned, wish these facts to be made known.

Sincerely,  
John Eacott,  
Hardee Richardson,  
Jack B. Burn,  
Jack Lester,  
H. Carman Sweazey,  
Helen Smith,  
Darrell Force.

N.C.

JAN 13

# Letters

## SUPPORTS COUNCIL

Dear Editor:

It is usually with great interest that I receive The Gazette to read the 'Letters to the Editor'. Not so this past week! Never before have I been prompted to write one myself. On reading the January 6 issue, it was with shock and dismay that I read some of

these letters, obviously written by misinformed citizens.

On the one issue - the councillor's spouses attending two conventions on the taxpayers' money. Now really! Anyone who has attended any Convention will know there are special interest events, luncheons and speakers planned

especially for these spouses. Many of these ideas and brochures etc. are in turn often brought back to the relations. Such luncheons etc. are usually planned to bring in the name of communities such as Norwich and Otterville resulting in an interest created in the same, and eventually a visit. All of

this would cost the taxpayers an extra \$20 at the most (not \$50,000).

Many hours a councillor spends worrying and being concerned for his community and those worries are shared with who? His spouse. While this councillor is spending his time at meetings, or on the

(Continued on Page 5)

(Continued from Page 4)

phone listening to a concerned citizen, who is either home alone or driving her children to a community activity? His spouse. It is understandable why the one Councillor objected - being a bachelor. After all this nit-picking, the way it has snow-balled, Norwich Township will be fortunate if a spouse ever attends a convention on their behalf, paid for and served on a silver platter!

When you elected your councillors, you gave them the power to make decisions on your behalf. Remember? It would appear that the court held in the Coffee Shops and in a few homes after the meetings has caused certain councillors to change their mind on issues already decided on, resulting in petitions being passed around to cause people to doubt their council. Sour Grapes!

For example, our Mayor found it necessary to explain the purchase of the Treffry property in his letter. Well done! Once again an excellent decision made by council was questioned after the council meeting. I am sure that if these questioners would just attend these meetings everything would be clear.

Come on Township of Norwich citizens, let's back these people we voted for. When the man with the gossipy tongue appears with his story of evil and strife, we surely should look him square in the eye

and ask his mission in life.  
More Concerned  
Citizens

## INSULT TO INTELLIGENCE

Dear Editor:

Having read with much amusement what was told to the taxpayers of this township, I consider it an insult to their intelligence, the article in The Norwich Gazette, December 30, 1981.

I would think the Department of Highways would heartily agree to endorse this project when half the money from the sale of these buildings would be returned to the ministry of transportation.

At this time with our spiralling inflation and the purchasing power has been at 50 per cent and many large industrial industries lying idle and the unemployment so high and farmers losing money on beef and pork etc., it frightens me to think that our society would possibly have reached the point when our Norwich Township council has the power to buy land to build public buildings that are not necessary, then the time has come to relieve them of this power.

The philosophy of "get more for doing less" has even reached the municipal level. We the taxpayers must not plant the seeds for our own destruction or must the ratepayers of this township live in fear and insecurity. We the taxpayers must pay the cost of welfare, crime, broken homes etc. You the taxpayer of this township must show deep concern in the way your councillors conduct your business and

the way they spend your tax dollars for they are your servants which you elected to office.

With the present day economic ills, we're fast approaching the situation of the dirty 1930's. There is no room for bloated inflation spending on the part of our present council because of late the spending has mushroomed and the inefficiencies have multiplied. The taxpayers of this township must not be asked at this time to carry an even greater tax burden.

There is no need for anymore white elephants for the present. And I agree with Councillor Mel Smith we have adequate buildings at present.

This council is becoming arrogant, insensitive, self-interested and greedy when they want the taxpayer to pick up the tab for their spouses on these conferences.

We must bring inflation under control for it is the source of instability which will plague us indefinitely. We must also come to grips with deficit spending. Let us all combine our efforts to fight inflation and work for the revival of our free enterprise system.

D.C. Smart,  
Norwich.

# Letters to editor

## GREAT LOSS

Dear Editor:

It was with a great deal of regret I learned that our mayor Jack Burn has resigned as mayor for health reasons.

While I did not always agree with Mr. Burn's views, I certainly did respect his views and his integrity. The Township of Norwich has lost a good representative and I'd like to say that while I'm sorry to see him leave, I understand his reasons for his decision and to say thank you for a job well done.

Jim Butler,  
Norwich.

## DISAGREE WITH EDITORIAL

Dear Editor:

In reply to your editorial in the January 13, 1982 Norwich Gazette I find we are in disagreement on several points, the most important being "that council willingly" heard the case from the delegation.

Council did not willingly hear the case as presented but refused to hear the speakers Norm Marshall had, by recorded vote. Those speakers were: Ken Peers, Bill Sanders, and Dave Arthur. Further, council did not want to allow the people to hear both the presentation of the petition or the council's

response to it.

There were approximately 200 people present and the council chamber, at this point, was full with standing room only in the halls, stairwells and upstairs. Many people could not get inside the building and the large number was pointed out to council many times.

The acting mayor Carm Sweazey said he could see nothing wrong with moving to the Otterville hall then by recorded vote voted against moving.

Both requests, firstly to speak to the petition and secondly to change location, were soundly denied by council with only four councillors willing to act in a democratic fashion. Those councillors were: Bob Pettigrew, Mel Smith, John Heleniak and Lyle Davis. All others voted against both listening to the people and allowing the people to hear their response. This situation changed after the council chambers became very over-crowded and extremely unsafe and the move to the Otterville hall was made. Consent to hear the speakers was then grudgingly given.

The action taken by council to this point was most **OUTRAGEOUS** and **UNACCEPTABLE**. In the

(Continued on Page 5)

(Continued from Page 4) past we have received delegations, allowed them to be heard, changed location when numbers warranted and even after the main speakers were finished the chairman asked if anyone from the audience had any comment on the subject. (They were not so invited at last Tuesday's meeting.)

It is my understanding a council either acts on a procedural bylaw, which we do not have, or by precedent, which has always been to let the people be heard and should have happened at last Tuesday's meeting but unfortunately did not.

Former Councillor,  
William Smith,  
Otterville.

The following letter from former councillor William Sanders of Otterville is being reprinted here since it was published with an incorrect signature in last week's (January 20) issue of The Norwich Gazette. Our apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Former councillor  
William Sanders,  
Otterville.

## CONTINUE OPPOSITION

Dear Editor;

The question of the proposed Township shed is not dead. We must continue to oppose this blantly irresponsible position of the majority of our Township councillors, supporting the proposed central shed.

A great number from our Township were allowed to attend a meeting, in which our acting mayor continually refused to answer questions, also in which every attempt by councillors who were opposed to the shed, to openly discuss it, were promptly tabled.

The councillors who support one central shed claim it will save us greatly in energy costs. If they are so aware of saving energy, why to date haven't they had the existing buildings insulated?

Energy savings in one central shed are greatly outweighed by the effect it will have on the efficiency of our road service. We must all consider the safety of our children who, even if they live on county or provincial roads, still have to travel many miles of Township roads to attend school.

Each councillor of this Township has to ask if this is the right direction we should be taking to "save" money. What price do they put on a bus load of our children?

We must all be more aware of what is going on in our local government, find out what is going on in these council meetings. You should be witness to the conduct of your representatives. Do not blindly elect and leave them at their will.

Floyd A. Lewis  
Gail Lewis  
RR 2, Otterville.

## VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Dear Sir;

It was with great interest I viewed the televised presentation to the members of Norwich Township council regarding the geographical centralization of road works facilities in the township.

The presentations were logically thought out and concisely presented. It gives one renewed hope that the "common sense" of the people may still be heard despite the ob-

jections of some members of council.

Although my local town is Norwich, I live in Haldimand-Norfolk, a bureaucratic jungle where the detrimental effects of centralization and regional government have resulted in such high-priced fiascos as the Townsend new town project and The City of Nanticoke.

Meanwhile, in the name of saving money, we have lost our central school and lost much of our local representation.

It often appears that the voices of high-priced planners, both county and provincial, are louder than the voices of the people.

I applaud the community of Norwich in remaining awake-awake, aware and alive to local issues and setting an example of participatory democracy that other communities would do well to follow.

Ken Weston,  
RR 3, Scotland.

## GRAVE CONCERN

Dear Editor:

I attended the council meeting on January 12 regarding the removal of our local shed and services to the centre of Norwich Township. Two incidents cause me grave concern.

1. I thought that council was unfair in attempting to deny the delegates supporting Mr. Marshall's petition their right to speak.

2. When council was made aware of the large delegation supporting the petition, it refused to relocate to a larger facility next door.

There was no reason for this refusal for it had been done previously for large meetings.

The acting mayor said he did not see any reason why the meeting could not move to the larger hall, however, later on a recorded vote to relocate he voted NO.

WHY?  
Fortunately, the decision to move was not decided by

council, but when the large crowd packed council chambers beyond capacity they had to respond.

Is this council aware of its democratic responsibilities?

Keith Arthur  
RR 2, Otterville.

## RESPONSIBLE APPROACH

Dear Editor:

Somebody tried to throw out the baby with the bath water! When council passed a resolution concerning conferences it took a stand for the first time on controlling convention expenses. Until now, any councillor could go to any, and as many conferences as he wished and could take his spouse for as long as was desired and claim expenses.

The recent resolution by council was one which decided that council should regulate who should go to which conferences, for how long and how many should be sent. In future spouses will be limited to registration and any differences in room costs.

While these restrictions may not satisfy everyone, they do reflect a responsible approach to getting the greatest value out of conferences.

Sincerely,  
John M. Eacott

## CONCERNED CITIZEN

Dear Editor;

I was one of the concerned citizens at the Norwich Township council meeting held January 12, 1982 at the Township Hall.

While listening to the presentation of the Norm Marshall Delegation, regarding the new Township garage, Bill Sanders pointed out that there were two resolutions omitted in a council meeting held in April 1981. (Resolutions No. 35 and No. 36). I think the people of the township would like to

## SERVE ALL TOWNSHIP

The Editor:

Recently we, along with a lot of other Norwich Township residents, had the privilege of sitting in on one of our council meetings. Several who attended felt it was a waste of time. We felt it was a very educational day. It was a very sad experience for us to realize our township is being governed by a clique.

It is common knowledge that a clique in anything, whether it be the classroom, an organization or an elected body, will ruin it. It is truly sad that this has happened in our council. Our Mayor has asked for unity and co-operation, which we fully agree with.

We, in Ward 1, are paying 33 per cent of the tax dollar (before reassessment this year it was 38 per cent) and yet if we want a project undertaken or our services improved it seems we fall on deaf ears

unless we band together and have a large public meeting.

We have lived our entire lives in South Norwich Township and were well looked after with a slow steady growth in both community projects and services before the county was restructured. Never was there a need for a public meeting. They were just unheard of. We have never had any respect for anyone who demanded personal attention by pounding the table. Likewise we have no respect for anyone who fails to recognize anyone unless they do.

We urgently request each member of council take a good look at themselves and start serving us, the people of all the township, getting on with township business and forget personal projects and goals.

Lurene McMullen  
William A. McMullen

ALL IN  
NORWICH  
GAZETTE  
JAN 20, 1982

Editor



# Sweazey, Smith move up

H. Carmen Sweazey, former councillor-at-large, was sworn in as mayor of Norwich Township, at a special meeting of council Thursday night in Otterville.

The 45-year-old Sweazey, a Norwich businessman, succeeds Jack Burn, whose surprise resignation January 12, resulted in Councillor Sweazey being appointed acting mayor.

There were no other nominees for the top municipal office.

In a dual swearing-in ceremony, Norwich village Ward 2 councillor Helen Smith became the new councillor-at-large for the balance of the 1981-82 term, defeating fellow nominees, Councillor John Heleniak and Councillor Bob Pettigrew.

Though not present to take the oath of office, Norwich insurance agent Norman Lusk was appointed to the post of Ward 2 councillor, defeating Paul Wood of Nor-

wich and former councillor Bill Sanders of Otterville, in the voting by council.

In a brief address to council, the new mayor expressed his gratitude at being elected, while noting, "It's a big position to fill; we're definitely in hard times right now".

"I plead with you to assist me", said Mayor Sweazey, "and I'm going to need all of you to assist me".

Alluding to the various disagreements that have split the township council in the recent past, he said "if we've got a problem we've got to discuss it amongst ourselves ... after we discuss it, we'll all shake hands. It's a lot nicer to have friends than enemies".

"I'm going to try to do my best", Mayor Sweazey concluded, "and I thank you from the bottom of my heart".

The newly-elected councillor-at-large,

echoed both his gratitude and his plea for assistance.

"I'm going to need help from all of you", Mrs. Smith told the council, "and the mayor needs support from all of us".

Mr. Sweazey, who owns a dry cleaning and laundromat establishment, was elected to Norwich village council in 1970, and served until the municipal restructuring in 1975. He subsequently gained a seat on Norwich Township council.

In an interview following Thursday's meeting, Mayor Sweazey was asked what his priorities will be as he serves the remainder of the 1981-82 term of office.

"I would also like to get the confidence of the people back, regarding the council of the Township of Norwich. This is a time of restraint, and I'd like to get our committees working together".

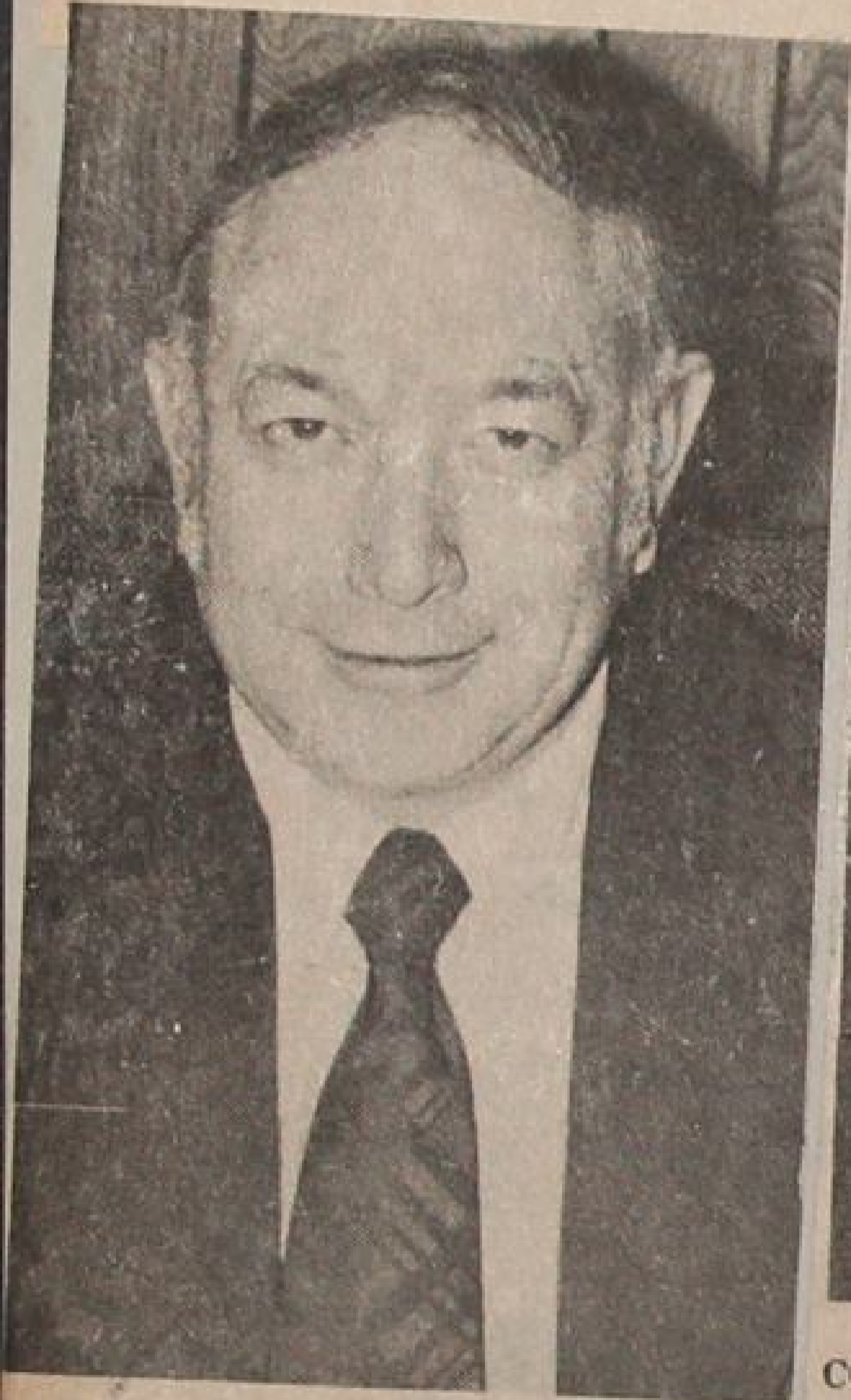
Mayor Sweazey emphasized that while

he definitely has had ambitions to work his way up to the position of mayor, "it was with great shock and dismay that I took over so suddenly from Jack (Burn). Norwich has lost the best mayor it ever had.."

Mayor Burn's resignation was delivered to council last week by his wife, Shirley, who explained that her husband was stepping down, due to personal health reasons.

Councillor-at-Large Smith, 51, a resident of Norwich village and a mother of three, has occupied a seat on township council for three years.

Of her new posting, she commented, "there's going to be a lot of learning on my part", while admitting she has thought about someday occupying the councillor-at-large position, ever since she was first elected.



MAYOR H. CARMAN SWEAZEY



COUNCILLOR-AT-LARGE HELEN SMITH

T.N. JAN 22

## Planning for South Norwich 175th birthday

T.N.  
JAN 4

Planning is progressing for the former South Norwich Township's 175th anniversary celebrations to be held in July in conjunction with Norwich Township's Canada Week celebrations.

A weekend of celebrations are planned to celebrate the settlement of South Norwich in 1807. The events will be kicked off on July 1 as the Canada Week activities culminate on that day with a parade, barbecue and garden party to be held in Otterville.

The anniversary-home coming celebrations continue throughout the weekend of July 2, 3 and 4. The anniversary planning committee, which has already met three times to discuss the celebrations, plans a variety of events to take place in South Norwich.

Such events include The Canada Day parade in Otterville, followed by a barbecue and garden party to kick off the celebrations; a school reunion of all former pupils of the nine South Norwich schools, baseball tournaments, an antique

auction, a beard growing contest, a special inter-denominational church service, a soap box derby, a beauty contest, an antique car show and another barbecue have been considered.

Consideration has also been given to conducting a logo contest to come up with an anniversary logo for use in promoting the homecoming events and to be used on souvenir items.

The organizing committee is endeavoring to involve the entire South Norwich community as well as the Township of Norwich in the celebration of the 175th anniversary.

The organizing committee for the entire township's Canada Week celebrations will be formed in the new year to begin planning the events for that week, scheduled for June 24 to July 1.

The next meeting of the South Norwich anniversary celebration committee will be held on Wednesday, January 13, at 7 p.m. in the council chambers in Otterville.

## Committee planning for community's 175th anniversary

OTTERVILLE — A four day celebration is being planned to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the founding of South Norwich Township and the Otterville settlement.

A 12 person committee is meeting regularly to work out the events for the celebration, which will include everything from a parade to a beard-growing contest.

Committee member Catherine Mann said today there is only a rough schedule at present, but the four days will be filled with events sponsored by local clubs and organizations.

The celebration is scheduled to kick off July 1 with a parade in conjunction with Canada Week celebrations in Norwich Township. The day will include a barbecue sponsored by the Norwich-Otterville Lions Club. Other activities not yet

scheduled are a garden party involving local talent, another barbecue sponsored by the South Norwich Historical Society, a dance sponsored by the Spring-Otter Optimists, a soap box derby, a demonstration by the Norwich Township firefighters, and an antique car rally.

A school reunion is being organized as well. Mrs. Mann said any former South Norwich residents interested in participating should contact Boyd Little of Otterville.

Those interested in joining a choir which will perform during the celebration should contact director Jean McClintock.

Noon lunches will be provided by local church groups during the four day event, she added.

One of the last events will be an inter-denominational church service to be held at the Anglican Church.

W.S.R. JAN 20

## Beards sprouting for South Norwich

A few scruffy faces are beginning to appear around the former South Norwich

Township as members of the male populations enter into a beard growing

contest connected with the 175th anniversary celebrations of the set-

tlement of the former township.

The contest, which was to have started January 1, is being organized by the Spring-Otter Optimist Club and entrants' furry faces will be judged during the anniversary celebrations in July.

A variety of other special events are also in the planning stages and work on finalizing those events and putting together a schedule was carried out last Wednesday evening by the anniversary planning committee.

The celebrations are kicked off in Otterville on July 1 with the Canada Day parade, the culminating event of Norwich Township's Canada Week celebrations.

Other events planned for that day include a chicken barbecue, sponsored by the Norwich-Otterville Lions Club, a garden party featuring local talent, a demonstration by the township's firefighters and tentative plans are also being made for an antique car show.

Anyone who is interested in assisting with the entertainment for the garden party should contact that committee's chairman Ed White.

The celebrations continue over four days in South Norwich and former residents are encouraged to return for the homecoming-anniversary celebrations. A reunion of students from all former South Norwich schools is being planned and anyone interested should contact committee chairman Boyd Little.

Anniversary committee secretary, Catherine Mann, has sent out 100 letters to newspapers across Canada advising people of the celebrations.

While a firm schedule has yet to be drawn up, a variety of other events are planned, including a dance on July 2 sponsored by the Spring-Otter Optimists, a soapbox derby on Saturday morning July 3, a minor baseball tournament for July 3, and an interdenominational church service to be held on the final day of celebrations, July 4, in Otterville. A mass choir, headed up by Jean McClintock will perform at that service and anyone interested in taking part in the choir should contact Mrs. McClintock.

A barbecue, sponsored by the South Norwich Historical Society, will also be held at the Treffry mill on July 4. Noon lunches throughout the other days will be provided by ladies of the Otterville churches.

A beauty contest is being organized by the Sunshine Club and it will be judged sometime during the four-day celebrations. Elementary school children in Ward 1 are being encouraged to get involved by taking part in a logo contest to design a logo for the South Norwich 175th anniversary. That logo could be used on promotional and souvenir items for the celebrations.

An antique auction and

an oldtimers baseball game are other events being considered for the anniversary celebrations, as well as a swim show at the Otterville pool and tours of the Oddy House and Treffry mill.

Businessmen and residents throughout the township are also being encouraged to participate through beautification projects to spruce up the appearance of the properties for the celebrations in July.

Further planning of the events will take place at the anniversary committee's next meeting to be held on Wednesday, January 27 at 7 p.m. in the council chambers of the

township office in Otterville.



### Dressed for the occasion

Dr. Murray Downing had an appropriate thinking cap on for the meeting of the planning committee for the South Norwich 175th anniversary celebrations. Dr. Downing, chairman of the planning committee, had his top hat on when members of the committee met last week to discuss the events being planned for the celebrations in July. (NG Photo)

Mr. and Mrs. Rod Taylor were in Toronto Sunday as guests of Velma and Paul Burley. The Burley's entertained for Scott and Lynn Taylor who returned home after spending two weeks in Russia and Scandinavia. Scott teaches at Trinity College School in Port Hope and is the assistant hockey coach for the school team. The boys played in Stockholm, Helsinki and Leningrad. There were about 30 on the tour including players, parents, friends and teachers.

TAN

## Entering float

OTTERVILLE (C) — The next meeting in January of the Otterville Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. W. Harris on Friday afternoon with 12 members present.

Mrs. Harris was convener of the meeting and gave an interesting talk from a book she had read on China. The book is the possession of the local library and the speaker urged the members to visit the library frequently, where they would find top reading material.

Correspondence included a "thank you" letter for the donation which was sent in aid of the exchange student.

The next meeting in February will be held at the home of Lurene McMullen, the second Friday in February at 2 p.m.

Members had suggestions in regard to planning for the 175th anniversary celebration which will be held in Otterville July 1. The Institute will be entering a float. Suggestions will always be welcome in regard to any activity at this time.

The hostess was assisted in serving a lunch of Christmas goodies and a social time completed the first Institute meeting of the year.

# Lions honor 30-year member

The regular meeting of the Norwich-Otterville Lions Club was held Monday, January 18 at the Legion Hall, Norwich, a week late due to weather conditions the previous week.

Lion President Norm Fidlin called the meeting to

order with 42 members present.

Lion Everett Jenkins, formerly a member of Newcastle Lions Club, was introduced and welcomed to the Norwich - Otterville club. Lion Everett is a past-president and past Zone Chairman.

Lion Secretary Paul

Wood reported a total of 17 Christmas basket vouchers were dispersed at a total cost of \$1,094.

Lion Mel Smith announced a meeting of the park board committee to be held at his home Wednesday, January 20. Lion Dr. Murray Downing reviewed briefly plans for

the 175th Anniversary celebrations of South Norwich to be held in Otterville July 1-4.

Lion Alf Lossing received a 30-year membership chevron, and it was confirmed that Lion Albert Cornwell will receive a 30-year perfect attendance pin.

Four members will be attending a membership seminar at Caledonia January 28.

Tickets for the Fish Fry, to be held March 27, will be available at the next meeting.

The convention draw was won by Lion George Klosler.

# Local Lions club plans fish-fry

OTTERVILLE (C) — The regular meeting of the Norwich-Otterville Lions Club was held in the Community Hall, Otterville, on Monday evening January 25.

There were four members visiting from the Langton Lions Club and three from the Tillsonburg Lions Club with 37 Lions present.

Lion Art Dewaele, Deputy District Governor from Langton, spoke to the club asking for support in his campaign for District Governor in the coming year.

Plans are underway and tickets for the annual fish-

fry were distributed to all the members. This will be held March 27 in the Norwich Community Centre.

Lion Colin Cope also reported on a recent meeting of the Lions Park Committee. Plans are underway for the operation of the community park and the rebuilding of the swimming pool bath house.

The Club approved an expenditure of \$384 to Can Save to support two children for the coming year.

A donation of \$500 was also approved for Norwich Township Minor Hockey.

The Convention draw was won by Lion Bill Orth.

## Sunshine Club

OTTERVILLE (C) — The members of the Otterville Sunshine Club met at the home of Margaret Shearer for their first meeting of the new year on Thursday evening, January 14.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read by Mrs. Shearer, the secretary-treasurer of the club.

Thirteen members responded to the roll call which was suggested by Muriel Kozuch.

Sandra Hussey conducted the business with plans for the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Luncheon on February 23.

The Sunshine Club will be forming a committee for the Beauty Contest for the South Norwich 175th anniversary celebrations which will be held in Otterville July 1-4.

Many "thank-you" notes, conveying good wishes, were read from shut-ins in Otterville and area.

The special activity was a tape of exercises to music by "Barbara Allen" which was enjoyed by all. This was presented by Doreen Mountain.

Mrs. Mountain then invited the members to her home on January 28 when Nancy Batson will suggest the roll call and Stephanie Durkee will be in charge of the lunch.

Jean Dow gave the courtesy remarks to Mrs. Shearer for the pleasant evening and to Etta McSkimming for the enjoyable lunch.

## Sunshine Club holding annual pancake luncheon

OTTERVILLE (C) — The members of the Sunshine Club met at the home of Doreen Mountain on Thursday evening, January 28.

Thirteen members responded to the roll call which was suggested by Nancy Batson.

The president, Sandra Hussey, presided for the business and announced that tickets for the annual pancake luncheon, which will be at the parish hall of the St. John's Anglican Church in Otterville February 23 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. are now on sale, adults \$3 and children 10 years and under \$1.50. Tickets will also be on sale at the door.

The equipment for the park playground, which has been purchased by the club, will be installed in the park by July 1 for the Anniversary Celebrations coming up.

The committee for the "Beauty Pageant" for the former South Norwich Township Anniversary celebrations July 1-4 will have forms ready in the near future.

The members approved of the suggestion of the Fall Bazaar for 1982 and members will start working making many interesting items for it.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Evelyn Picknell on February 11 at which time Inga Irie will be in charge of the social.

Courtesy remarks were

given by Lillie Chisholm to Mrs. Mountain and Stephanie Durkee for the enjoyable evening and lovely lunch.

## Leisure treasurer resigns

OTTERVILLE (C) — The first meeting of the year for the Leisure Club was held on Wednesday afternoon at Woodlawn Community Centre. Owing to the weather conditions the first two meetings were cancelled.

The president Annie Pritchard presided and all members were pleased to be back for the enjoyable afternoon. There were five tables of euchre in play.

Following the games, a short business meeting was held. The treasurer Fred Cole resigned from office due to ill health and Mel Beecroft was elected to fill this vacancy.

Anne Arthur was elected as first vice-president of the club and a letter was read from the Salvation Army in Tillsonburg thanking the club for their generous donation of canned goods given to them at Christmas time.

As a project for their part in the 175th anniversary celebrations of South Norwich this summer, the club will start collecting recipes for a Cook Book which will also contain "Useful Hints".

This concluded the business and a social time followed during which the members passed along suggestions for the 175th anniversary Celebrations.

## Lorraine Downing speaker at meet

First meeting of the Springford Women's Institute for 1982 was held at the home of Sherrill Babbey. Roll call was answered by stating whether it is necessary to have a resolutions convenership.

Sherrill Babbey presented a booklet intended for new families moving into the Springford area. This booklet has business, church activities and social organizations listed. The family will be visited by a member of the Institute and will be presented with this booklet. Anyone knowing of new residents in the area should contact Sherrill, Nancy Lester or Esther Smith.

Sherrill Babbey convener of resolutions, opened her meeting with the motto "The Importance of the resolutions convenership." She introduced Mrs. Lorraine Downing of Otterville, convener of resolutions for South-West Oxford. Mrs. Downing, in her excellent and informal talk, stated that a resolution is a statement of judgment and means an improvement. Institutes teach you how to make resolutions and how to present yourself when making a presentation to a group. One of her resolutions is to make a presentation to the Norwich council regarding the

mill at Otterville. She has done much research concerning fire alarms mandatory in homes. Public relations improve by passing resolutions through the Women's Institute.

Sherrill thanked Mrs. Downing and presented her with a gift.

Lunch was served by Daisy Stroud.

Next meeting will be held on February 16 with Margaret Lee convener of agriculture and Canadian industry in charge of the program. Women in agriculture will be the topic and all members are asked to bring a friend.

## Otterville UCW

OTTERVILLE (C) — The January meeting of the Otterville United Church Women was held in the schoolroom of the church on Thursday evening.

The program conveners were Isabel Harris, Lorraine Downing, Dorothy Neale, Betty Jean Arthur and Orris Beecroft.

The meeting was opened with prayer by the president Jean Gehring. A presentation was made to the outgoing president Isabel Harris by Lorraine Downing.

The worship service, led by Dorothy Neale, was based on the theme that God calls us to be one and yet many to recognize what we have in common yet to celebrate our own individuality.

The Scripture Romans 12:9 and James 5:7-9 was read by Betty Jean Arthur followed by prayer and a hymn.

A special message was read by Orris Beecroft on the expectations of being a United Church Woman.

The program for the evening was "Garbage is NOT garbage, it's sometimes just TRASH". It was a timely topic at this time of year in Oxford County.

On the spiritual side, the reminder was that we carry petty grievances and hurts in our hearts and it would be well to clean out the garbage and to start anew. On the practical side, what we as women and consumers can do to eliminate all that unnecessary garbage was to bring our clean, flattened tin cans, our bottles, newspapers and suggestions on what to do with the plastic bottles and other things that do not decompose.

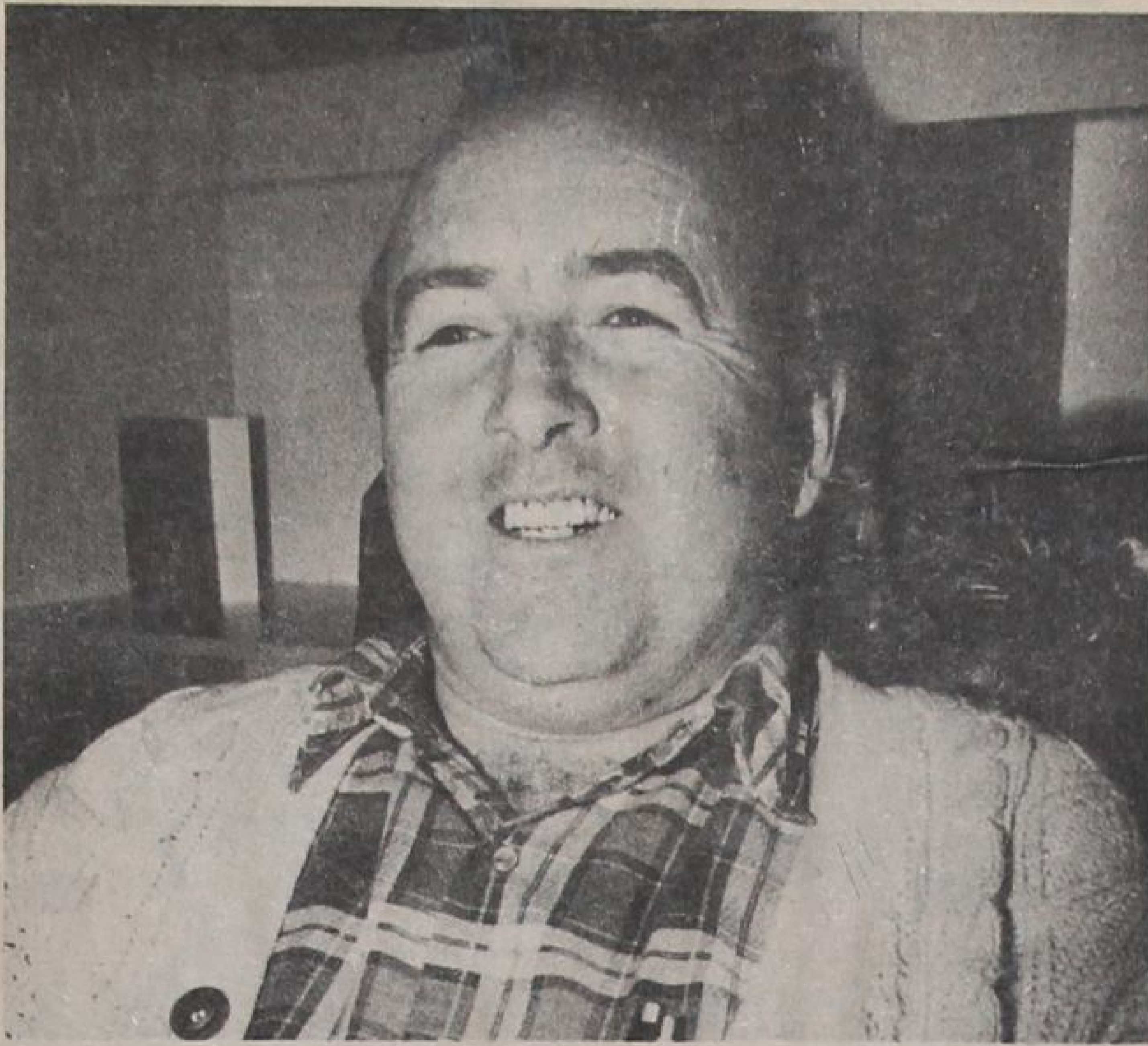
After the practical demonstrations, the individual members shared what they did as consumers to cut down on garbage.

Do you remember that during the week of January 19, 1972:

The Haldimand-Norfolk Roman Catholic Separate School Board approved the purchase of 1.4 acres of land adjacent to Our Lady of LaSalette, School at a cost of \$700 plus expenses. The land was purchased from the Diocese of London.

Lawyer John D. Kapusta was acclaimed chairman of the Delhi Public Utilities Commission for 1972.

In a township ballot, a total of 63 percent of the Township of South Norwich voted in favour of the sale of liquor or beer on licensed premises to which both men and women may be admitted.



### New owner

Otterville businessman Bob Carney is the new owner of the Otterville Home Hardware store. Mr. Carney, who owns and operates the Country Store furniture store east of Otterville, is taking over the hardware store from its owner of 6½ years, Colin Cope. (NG Photo).

## New store owner

The Otterville Home Hardware store has a new owner. Otterville resident Bob Carney, who purchased the business, took over the ownership of the store from Colin Cope the first of this month.

Mr. Carney, who is also owner of The Country Store furniture store in Otterville, said he was looking for an opportunity to expand in the business field and when he heard the hardware store was for sale, decided to buy it.

He will continue to operate the furniture store but plans to expand the hardware store with more lines and increased stock available. Mr. Carney said he will eventually add a line of household appliances and plans to carry a line of woodstoves.

The move to purchase the Home Hardware store tied in well with the changes planned for the furniture store. He said he is

now in the process of joining with the Homeland Furniture group and with the Home Hardware store he will be able to offer a complete range of goods for the homeowner.

The move to join the Homeland Furniture group will mean increased buying power, said Mr. Carney as all the dealers can offer better prices on their goods. "The better we can buy at, the lower we can sell at," said Mr. Carney.

With the new hardware business, Mr. Carney will be employing a total of five full-time employees and a couple of part-time people between the two stores.

The former owner of the Home Hardware store, Mr. Cope of Otterville, said he has no definite plans for the future at this point but he does plan to remain in Otterville.

Mr. Cope owned and operated the hardware store for 6½ years.

JAN. 1980



# A. DeWachter Electric

R.R. No. 1  
Phone 519-879-6636  
OTTERVILLE, ONTARIO  
N0J 1R0



In 1959 I purchased a few switches and plugs from the local hardware store to be used on my fathers tobacco farm. They asked if I would be interested in installing outlets for other people. This part time job grew into a full time job in a matter of two years, so I decided to leave the tobacco farming and pursue the Electrical Business. I attended night school at H.B. Beal Technical School in London, every night for three years and obtained my Electrical Licence.

In the Spring of 1962, I purchased 2½ acres of land from Mr. Charter Davis, on the first road west of Otterville and half mile north on the Middle Town Line of South Norwich Township. In the fall of 1962, I began building a shop for storage of equipment and a truck. In the fall of 1963, I started to build a home on the same property, and completed this in the fall of 1964, doing most of the work myself, nights and weekends.

On October 24, 1964, I married the former Jean Oatman, and gained a wife and bookkeeper, my first employee. About this time I started doing Hydro work for the Police Village of Otterville. In 1966, I purchased my first Hydro Line Truck and also started working for the Burgessville Hydro Electric System, during this time I had one full time employee.

In the year of 1970, I took two courses in Lineman Training in Toronto and in 1971, completed the final two courses on Lineman Training, receiving my Linemans Licence Certificate.

On June 1, 1972, we had an addition to our family, a daughter, Julie. By this time we had a full time employee and one part time employee.

On March 16, 1979, our son Michael was born. During 1979, we had three full time employees and I purchased a new line truck and expanded our service to other electrical contractors, supplying poles and building hydro lines.

In 1980 we entered into a dealership for Winco Generators. In 1981, we took on three more dealerships for Generators, giving a total of four complete generator lines; Winco, Kohler, Mandem and Fidelity. Also, in 1981, we designed a new Hydro Panel for use on Farms and Trailer Parks, with obtaining full C.S.A. approval in the summer of 1981, we started to manufacture these panels at our shop. In 1982, we hope to have 3 to 4 full time employees and two part-time.

I have enjoyed serving the people of this area for the past 23 years and look forward to the future.

*Compiled by  
August DeWachter*



### 90 years young

Sam Croker, a resident of Norvilla Nursing Home in Norwich, has received many cards and letters in honor of his 90th birthday which he celebrates today. (NG Photo).

## Missed Titanic sailing, lives to see 90 years

By SUZANNE HANSON

Sam Croker admits he is stubborn and even bull-headed at times, but that stubborn streak, mixed with a little luck, is a large part of the reason for Mr. Croker's success in overcoming the obstacles of a limited education and a physical impediment to live a long and successful life that many would envy.

Mr. Croker celebrates his 90th birthday today and he has no regrets about his life, nor would he do anything any different if he had it all to do over, with one small exception. He said he would never get involved in farming again.

Mr. Croker was born in January, 1892, in Hereford County, England, the middle child of 10. Mr. Croker found life difficult as a child, having a speech impediment that made him stutter and stammer. The children at school, and sometimes even his brothers and sisters, ridiculed him and so it was at the age of 12 years, that Sammy stubbornly refused to return to school. He would face the ridicule from the children and the scoldings from the teacher no longer.

Mr. Croker then went to work on a large farm with his father and he continued to work at that and other odd jobs until the age of 18. But his speech problem seemed to bar him from obtaining a job of any significance and he became determined to emigrate to Canada and greener pastures.

Mr. Croker was originally booked to cross the Atlantic on a boat called the Titanic, but over-booking of the boat meant he had to be placed on another, slower liner. Luck was with Mr. Croker then. He saw the Titanic pass the liner he was on but it was not until he reached Montreal that the captain told the passengers the Titanic had struck an iceberg and sunk.

It was 1912 when Mr. Croker landed in Montreal and from there he headed to Toronto where he caught a train and headed for Brownsville. But on arriving he learned the job he had expected to find waiting for him on a farm had been given to someone else.

But as luck would have it, the cheese factory in nearby Verschoyle was in need of another man and Mr. Croker went to work there from April until October when the factory shut down for the winter. He then went to work on another farm near Delmer but was there only a short time before he landed a job at the Bordens milk plant in Tillsonburg.

The Bordens plant in Norwich was just nearing completion at that time and when it was finished, Mr. Croker was transferred there about six months after starting his job in Tillsonburg.

"The dirtiest jobs there were I got in my first years at Bordens," said Mr. Croker. But once his employers knew he was a worker they gradually kept moving him up until he reached the position of foreman. The pay in those early years was meagre in comparison to today's wages. A ten-hour day of hard work earned him only \$1.75.

It was 1914 when he started work at the Norwich plant and he soon sent for his fiancée Beatrice back in England. The two were married in the Norwich United Church with only four people present, the minister, the couple to be wed and one witness. Those first years were lonely years, said Mr. Croker, until they got to know the community.

In June of that year the first World War broke out but Mr. Croker was exempt from service as he worked in a food production plant, an essential service to the war effort.

But he still recalls that first winter of his married life in Norwich as the hardest in his life. "We lived on bread and water," he said.

But despite some ups and downs in the job at Bordens, Mr. Croker remained with the company for 40 years until it closed its doors. He then went to work for the Bordens plant in Ingersoll for five more years until he reached the age of 65 and retired. But there were no old age pensions from the government then, said Mr. Croker. He did receive a small pension from the Bordens company but it was still necessary for him to work doing odd jobs around town to support himself and his wife. He did that for five more years before the government began to supply an old age pension and it was only then that Mr. Croker really retired.

Mr. Croker, who describes himself as a self-educated man, is proud of his achievements, accomplished in spite of his lack of education. He was able to go through the Masons, the Forresters and Eastern Star as well as being a member of the former Norwich Credit Union's board of directors and a former head of the Anglican church society.

"After all is said and done, I haven't done too bad," said Mr. Croker, who is also quick to point out what remarkable shape he is in for a man of 90 years. He said he still has his wits about him and he doesn't need to wear glasses.

Throughout his life, Mr. Croker has been perseverant and stubbornly independent. And his independence is still of utmost importance to him. It was that independent nature that made him decide last year to enter Norvilla Nursing Home in Norwich, no longer able to fully care for himself and not wanting to burden his family with his care. "They live their lives and I live mine," said Mr. Croker of his four children.

His wife Beatrice passed away about six years ago after she and her husband had celebrated 60 years of happy married life.

He said he has really enjoyed life and fondly recalls the old days gone by. "Those days were better than they are now. People were more friendly than they are now and more willing to help one another," he said.

Looking back on his life, Mr. Croker said with satisfaction: "I haven't done too bad for a greenhorn coming to this country."

And Mr. Croker is still independent, happy and content with his life.

FEB 1982

MESSAGE FROM  
NORTH NORWICH CONCERNED CITIZENS  
COMMITTEE

WE appreciate the Support you have given, in our efforts to date, to ensure a safe environment for the residents of the Township of Norwich.

WE appreciate the inconvenience, and in some cases, hardship being placed on those persons who have depended on others to dispose of their wastes.

WE solicit your CONTINUED SUPPORT of our attempts to preserve the quality of water, property values, and above all, the protection of the health of the residents of this County.

**Otterville Fire Fighters Club**

— DRAW FOR —

**TEXAS MICKEY**

DRAW WILL BE MADE FEBRUARY 27, 1982

Proceeds to Restore 1940 Fargo Fire Truck

TICKETS

\$1.00 Each

NO

371



## Anniversary celebration

The Norwich Women's Institute celebrated its 75th anniversary with a special dinner and program at the Norwich United Church last week. The highlight of the dinner was when life member Florence Scott Moore (left) cut the anniversary cake. Showing off the cake with Mrs. Moore is the current president Johan Hopkins. Mrs. Moore has been an Institute member for 71 years. (NG Photo).

## Ministry labels actions illegal

BY SUZANNE HANSON

They were lined up to get into the Ward 1 landfill site near Otterville on Saturday. But those dumping their garbage weren't all the usual residents of the former South Norwich Township who normally dump at the site.

Since the garbage pick-ups to the Holbrook site have been suspended in Norwich, Otterville and Burgessville, residents have been advised to take their own garbage to the two other sites in the township, located in Ward 1, on Highway 59 south of Otterville, and in Ward 4, south of Oxford Centre.

According to township clerk Bob Watkins, there are no restrictions on the licences for operation to state the amount of garbage that can be dumped there or the number of residents that are permitted to take their waste to the two sites.

But Jim Janse, district officer of municipal and private abatement for the environment ministry's London office, said the action is illegal and letters stating

that position have been sent to Norwich Township and its lawyer Harry Poch. When the Holbrook site first closed on January 11 the township attempted to have its waste disposed of at the two sites near Otterville and Burgessville, but the ministry advised it then such action would be illegal.

He said Tuesday morning they have reiterated in a letter sent out last week that it is illegal to redirect waste from Norwich or Burgessville to either of those two sites.

While the county is the owner of the two sites, the township operates the sites and has control over the wastes that go into them, he said.

Mr. Janse said the township is in the position to give direction to how the site is operated and whether the garbage is picked up in a formal way by a disposal company or whether individuals take it there themselves, it is the source of garbage that is the issue and the township is

(Continued on Page 2)

## Fire damages home

A Holbrook-area farmer and his family were turned out of their home last Wednesday when fire severely damaged the interior of the house.

Greg Scheurman, of R.R. 3, Norwich, said the fire, which started accidentally, was burning out of control by the time it was discovered by his wife and son about 2 p.m. The North Norwich fire department and neighbors were quick to respond, however, and the fire was soon under control. Mr. Scheurman had praise for the firemen who were able to keep the house from being totally destroyed and for the neighbors who helped his family remove their household effects from the burning building. He said they got everything out and, with the exception of a couple of broken plates, nothing was severely damaged.

Mr. Scheurman estimated the damage to his home to be about \$40,000.

"Everything has to go," he said Monday. The roof was completely gutted inside and the reconstruction will virtually mean a new house. "Everything has to be replaced," he said. What wasn't damaged by the fire was damaged by the smoke and water.

The reconstruction has already started on the house with the clean-up of debris and Mr. Scheurman hopes they can be back in their home within three months. In the meantime they will be living out of the workshop and with neighbors.

But despite the heavy loss, Mr. Scheurman said they were "very fortunate." It could have been a lot more serious, he said. "Everything could have been wiped out." The house is located very close to the workshop on the farm and had the wind shifted, the outcome of the fire could have been much worse.

# Institute celebrates 75th anniversary

The Norwich branch of the Women's Institute celebrated its 75th anniversary with a special dinner and program at the Norwich United Church on Thursday, February 12.

Sixty members and their guests enjoyed the turkey dinner served by the ladies of the church after Rev. David Fearon asked the blessing.

The highlight of the meal was the cutting of the anniversary cake by Florence Scott Moore who has been an Institute member for 71 years, having joined as a child with her mother in New Durham. During her years as a member, Mrs. Moore served as branch president, district president and area president, a total of 10 years.

The anniversary cake was made for the occasion by Winnie Thorne and beautifully decorated with the Institute crest and

yellow roses by Gladys Attlebury.

Mrs. Douglas Reeves and Mrs. Lossing were in charge of the decorations which consisted of candles and silk flower arrangements generously supplied by White's Flowers.

The head table bouquets were later presented to two past presidents, Mrs. Atkins and Mrs. Tolman, who were unable to attend the get-together.

Johan Hopkins conducted the meeting which was opened in the usual manner with the Institute Ode and repeating the Mary Stewart Collect.

Mrs. C. Lossing read a poem entitled, "The Women's Institute," written by Lillian Holland Fields, a former Norwich resident.

A skit was then presented in two scenes. The first scene entitled, "The Beginning"

was acted by Mrs. D. Carroll, Mrs. C. Taylor, Mrs. D. Chambers, Mrs. G. Kibler and Mrs. H. Thorne. In the skit they invited Adelaide Hoodless, the founder of the Women's Institute in 1897 and portrayed by Mrs. D. Jull, to their meeting to explain the purpose and procedures of W.I. work. During the course of their meeting many humorous items from long ago days were related. The group decided to form a W.I. with Mrs. Jacob Moore as the first President.

Scene two explained the highlights and achievements of the intervening years. This was explained by four past Presidents: Mrs. Reeves, Elma Haight, Mrs. C. Lowes and Mrs. D. Chambers.

Greetings were then read from Mrs. K. Hammerton, president of Oxford South District.

A most interesting and timely message was given by the guest speaker, Mrs. A.E. Dale, vice-president of Oxford South in which she reminisced on the benefits she had received through involvement with the W.I.

The title of her address was: "The Purpose of an Anniversary". Celebrating creates enthusiasm which is contagious, she said. It provides publicity; it involves committees, providing an opportunity for teamwork and co-operation.

An anniversary is a time for remembering. It lets members take a backward glance at the history which has been made and allows them to give credit to the women who devoted their time and efforts to getting the organization started.

Remembrance gives us standards by

(Continued on Page 2)





# The Norwich Gazette

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Norwich, Ontar

Mr. Ken Mann,  
Box 14,  
Otterville, Ont,

Feb. 5/79

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## Council committed to fight

By SUZANNE HANSON

Norwich Township council has committed itself to "massive expenditures" to obtain the closure of the Holbrook landfill site but while it fights to close the site down its own garbage will be going there.

Garbage collection in the township had been suspended since January 11 when the Holbrook site first closed and the township had boycotted use of the site since it was purchased by Oxford County and re-opened February 2. That left residents in Norwich, Otterville and Burgessville with no place to take their garbage except two smaller sites in Wards 1 and 4. But the

environment ministry has suggested those sites may also have environmental problems.

This, said the township's lawyer John Willms, left council "caught between a rock and a hard place." He said the citizens of the township require waste disposal services, which may mean taking garbage to Holbrook, while on the other hand council is taking legal action to close the site down. At a press conference Friday, Mr. Willms compared the garbage dilemma faced by council to a Rubik's cube puzzle which appears to be almost insoluble.

He said council will have to decide within the next few weeks what it plans to do about garbage disposal with warmer weather approaching. (At Tuesday's meeting, council voted to resume pick-ups on Friday. See other story on this page). Mr. Willms admitted it may appear to be an inconsistency for the township to allow its waste to go to Holbrook while it is fighting to close it, but he added that the county is responsible for such sites and if no alternatives are provided the township has no choice but to take its waste there.

The township had refused to this point to take its garbage to the Holbrook site, convinced that it is not safe. Mr. Willms

said there is every indication environmental standards are not being met at the site and leachate is migrating from it. He said ministry tests in 1979 indicated that fact and ministry officials recommended then the site be closed.

"We of the Township of Norwich feel there definitely is a problem at the Holbrook site and we, as a council, are prepared to take action to solve it," said Mayor Carman Sweazey.

In a prepared address, Mayor Sweazey stated the lack of action by the former site owner, the county and the environment

(Continued on Page 2)

## No garbage pickups in Norwich

T.N.  
FEB 3

While garbage trucks started rolling again in other parts of Oxford County this week, pick-ups in Norwich Township were still suspended at press time.

Township Clerk Bob Watkins said

Wednesday morning council has been advised by its lawyer not to take its garbage to the Holbrook landfill site and members are now looking for alternatives to that site.

county resumed Tuesday when the Holbrook landfill site re-opened under new ownership. Oxford County became the owner of the site on Friday, purchasing it from Laidlaw Waste Systems in Mississauga for \$275,000.

An emergency certificate of operation issued by the environment ministry Monday allows the county to use the landfill site until June 30, but Norwich Township will not be sending its garbage there as township officials do not want to jeopardize their legal position with regard to the dump.

There may be further discussions today with the township's lawyer Harry Poch and an alternative solution to the problem may come forth at that time. But in the meantime, Norwich residents are asked to be patient.

Township mayor Carman Sweazey said Tuesday night residents have been very patient while their garbage collection has been suspended in the past weeks, but council wants to thoroughly examine its legal position before making any moves.

Council has voiced its opposition to continued operation of the site and its

restrictive bylaw passed last year to regulate the site is why the former owner, Laidlaw Waste Systems, refused to re-open the site after it reached its capacity and closed on January 11. By purchasing the site, the county overrules the township bylaw.

While garbage continues to accumulate in the basements and garages of Norwich Township residents, commercial pick-ups got underway Tuesday in Beachville and Sweaburg. Regular pick-ups also resumed in Woodstock and Ingersoll and South-West Oxford Township.

Some Norwich Township residents have found a solution to the present problems by taking their own garbage to the two other landfill sites located in the township in Ward 1, near Otterville, and in Ward 4, near Oxford Centre.

To operate the Holbrook site on an emergency basis, the county must have a contingency plan prepared for the environment ministry by March 15 outlining its plans for garbage disposal after the June 30 deadline.

The county plans to apply for a site extension lasting up to two years which calls for piling of the garbage at the existing Holbrook site. The peaking of the garbage will allow better runoff and reduce the leachate production at the site, according to engineering consultants.

## Garbage pickups resume

N.G. FEB 24

The mounds of garbage that have been accumulating in the basements, garages and backyards of Norwich Township residents since pick-ups were suspended January 11 will soon disappear as regular pick-ups resume on Friday.

Norwich Township council made the decision to instruct Burnett Sanitation of Courtland to resume domestic and commercial waste pick-ups in Norwich, Otterville and Burgessville in closed session at its meeting Tuesday evening.

The recommendation put forward by Councillor John Heleniak was presented in the open session of council but referred by vote for discussion in committee of the whole. The only two councillors voting against the camera discussion were Councillors Helen Smith and John Eacott.

Mr. Heleniak made the motion to resume normal garbage pick-ups out of concern for the safety of landfill sites in

Wards 1 and 4 where many residents have been taking their garbage during the period pick-ups have been suspended.

"If we continue taking waste to Otterville (in excess of the normal deposits) we're creating quite a problem," said Councillor Mel Smith. "If it is used under normal use, the site will last another four to five years." But with extra waste going into the site, he said it will fill up faster and create additional expense by requiring garbage pick-ups for residents now using that site to take their waste elsewhere.

While normal pick-ups are to resume on Friday, February 26 in the township, the resolution did not state where that waste is to be taken. Deputy-clerk John Gnoert said the operator of the collection service, Burnett Sanitation, will be taking the waste to the site for which he is licenced. Mr. Burnett is taking waste picked up in other areas of the county to the Holbrook landfill site.

# Council fights to close Holbrook

(Continued from Page 1)

ministry in correcting what the township sees as "obvious and serious pollution problems", has led council to realize "that if they don't act to clean up this situation in our backyard, nobody will."

"It is for that reason, and with great reluctance, that our council has decided to take any legal action available to close the Holbrook site, obtain compensation for any pollution damage to wells of surrounding residents and force a clean up," he said.

Mr. Willms said the county will be served "shortly" with notices of the legal action being taken against it. "It's up to

the township council to take action, as private complainants, for the violations under the Environmental Protection Act (EPA)," said Mr. Willms.

Norwich Township's lawyers will either prosecute the county through the provincial court or obtain a judicial review of the county's purchase of the site in the Supreme Court of Ontario.

Mr. Willms said the township has several legal concerns it is looking at, including sections of the EPA that are not being met.

Mr. Willms refused to put a figure on what such a legal battle might cost the township, but he said council is prepared

to see the matter through to the end. Mayor Sweazey said the cost could be as high as \$10,000. Mr. Willms said a lot depends on the length of time involved in the legal battle with the county and the ministry.

"Legal actions of these sort are inevitably expensive because they are very time consuming," he said.

Mr. Willms said council would like to see the county take a "responsible, environmentally sound approach" to the problem by acting to comply with the terms of the regulatory bylaw passed by the township before the county purchased the Holbrook site.

With the purchase by the county, the bylaw no longer applies, but Mr. Willms said the conditions in it are the same as those contained in ministry regulations. He said council would like to see the county spend the \$250,000 necessary to make the site safe by meeting basic environmental standards.

In the meantime, residents can continue to dump at the Ward 1 site near Otterville and the Ward 4 site north of Burgessville

until council is told they are unsafe, he said.

Ministry of environment officials have warned such action is illegal and that it could lead to charges under the EPA.

"The ministry has a right to lay charges under the Environmental Protection Act... (but) we are fairly confident that should charges be laid they could be dealt with in court," said Mr. Willms. He said he would hope the ministry would act sensibly in the matter. "The matter should be dealt with reasonably on an environmental basis," he said. "I don't see what would be gained by laying charges."

Mayor Sweazey said council has appreciated the support of the residents throughout the garbage crisis who have put up with the aggravation created by the suspension of pick-ups. He stated it is a prime time now for starting a separation program. Council is already examining the establishment of such separation and recycling programs for the township and some residents are already making an effort to reduce their waste by separating out such material as newspapers, glass, tin and compost material.



# Want Treffry plans

T News

FEB 17

Plans for the proposed work on the Treffry mill dam are being requested from Ducks Unlimited before any work is done on the dam.

10-year lease, the township would agree to insure the building for loss and liability but the main-

tenance and restoration of the mill would be the total responsibility of the historical society.

Council made the decision to request the plans in order to have an idea of the type of work that will be done by Ducks Unlimited to reinforce the dam.

At its last meeting, council authorized the organization to proceed with the construction of a weir (reinforcing pile of rocks) at the dam on the Treffry Mill pond in Otterville to provide additional support to the structure.

Ducks Unlimited has offered \$20,000 to fund the construction project, using the existing dam structure as a core. The organization is interested in the Treffry mill pond for the establishment of a waterfowl management area.

Norwich Township council purchased the property last fall from Lorne Treffry but details of a lease agreement with the township and the South Norwich Historical Society, which has agreed to manage the mill, have yet to be finalized.

Under the terms of the

# Norwich council shows way, gives up 1982 pay raise

L.F.P. FEB 25/82

WOODSTOCK (Bureau) — Norwich Township councillors have decided to give up a pay increase this year in the name of economic restraint.

Coun. John Heleniak, who urged

forgoing an annual raise for the first time in several years, said Wednesday council should set an example in an attempt to cut costs.

Mayor Carman Sweazey agreed, noting the township faces hefty costs in its proposal to build a centralized public works shed and in its battle against the Holbrook landfill site.

In 1981, council granted itself a 12-per-cent wage increase. Members are paid for each meeting, with the mayor getting \$103.70 a council meeting and \$74.06 a committee meeting. The lone councillor-at-large gets \$98.11 for council and \$68.06 for committee. The nine councillors get \$88.87 for council and \$59.25 for committee.

Council meets twice a month. The mayor sits on all four committees and each councillor is on two. Committees usually meet twice a month but recently have tried to meet monthly to save money.

Council also decided Wednesday to lower the interest penalty on unpaid taxes to 18 per cent a year from 24 per cent. The higher rate was set in September and had to be adjusted by March 1 when the new rate takes effect.



This arctic scene is none other than the Otterville Dam after one of the heavy snowfalls which have become commonplace to area residents this year. While the snow plays havoc with driving conditions, it does add to the beauty of the well-known dam. (Staff Photo)

D.N. FEB 10

# Otterville couple wed 25 years

OTTERVILLE (C) — On the occasion of the 25th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Melbourne Smith, Dover Street Otterville, 25 relatives and several friends met at their home on Saturday evening for a surprise get-together.

The evening was planned by members of their family. Mel and Vi welcomed all who came to bring their greetings to the social evening.

The couple was married at Old St. Paul's Anglican Church in Woodstock, February 2, 1957 with Rev. Lethbridge conducting the ceremony.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith have lived in the village for the past 23 years. They have four daughters Mrs. Allan (Debra) Lee, Darlene and

Marty all of Otterville and Cheryl of Edmonton, Alberta.

Mr. Smith is a member of the Norwich Township council and Mrs. Smith is a member of the Summerville Women's Institute.

During the evening, Mr. and Mrs. Smith were presented with a family group picture for which they expressed appreciation as well as for the arrangement of the evening, all of which was a complete surprise.

# Norwich celebrates birth date

DELHI NEWS

FEB 10

NORWICH — Otterville-South Norwich marks its 175th anniversary this year, and four days have been designated to celebrate the event.

The celebrations coincide with Canada Week, beginning July 1 and ending July 4. Dr. Murray Downing, chairman of the anniversary committee, said the planning of events is going very well and that the anniversary should be a very entertaining occasion.

"Certainly everything looks favourable," Dr. Downing said. "Things are shaping up and will be well in hand by July."

A parade is planned to kick off the celebrations at 10:30 a.m., July 1. Other events planned for the opening day celebration include an antique car rally, a garden party and a barbeque at the town park.

Friday will see a dance during the evening, and Saturday will feature a soap-box derby and a bake sale and bazaar.

Events on the final day of celebration will include an inter-denominational church service and another barbeque.

Other events yet to be scheduled are, a beard growing contest, a beauty contest, an old-timers baseball game, and a youth parade.

Preparations and plans for the four-day celebration have been underway for several months, with concerned residents of the township gathering information and setting up a timetable for the various happenings. A number of the area service clubs and organizations are sponsoring events during the anniversary.

There is still a lot of work to do, however, and members of the anniversary committee urge anyone with suggestions, or anyone who is willing to participate in the committee, to attend the next committee meeting, Feb. 24, at the council chambers at Otterville.

SOUTH

## compiled for book

## History of Norwich Township

By John Surgeoner  
Staff Writer

SPRINGFORD — Otterville-South Norwich is 175 years old this year, and in all that time, no one has ever written a history of the township.

But the South Norwich Historical Society is about to change this situation. Sometime this year, around the time of the 175th anniversary celebrations, the society is going to publish a book detailing the history of the township.

Although no official title has been given to the book just yet, it will deal specifically with the township's history from the first day of settlement in 1807 through to World War I.

Joyce Pettigrew, of Springford, is a member of the historical society and one of the chief initiators of the history book project. She said she became

involved in the history of the township when she served on the 150th anniversary celebrations committee, but it wasn't until the formation of the historical society in 1975 that any action was taken on the project.

"Nobody bothered to write anything down," Mrs. Pettigrew said. "It really had to be done."

The research for the book has been a long and arduous process with numerous residents taking part in the investigation. The research has been helped along by three government grants; two from the provincial government, and a recent Canada Community Development grant.

The hard work is paying dividends, Mrs. Pettigrew said. "It's amazing what we've turned up. The material is there if you go to work on it."

The writing of the book is a united effort as well,

with each contributor dealing with a specific topic of the township's history.

"We've drawn in almost anybody who will do some writing for us," Mrs. Pettigrew said. Mrs. Pettigrew is personally dealing with the settlement of the black community in the township, but is having problems finding any residents or descendants to discuss the matter with.

The tardiness of the book project is the major problem facing the researchers, Mrs. Pettigrew said, in that there are very few people around who could give personal accounts of occurrences in the township's history.

When published, Mrs. Pettigrew expects the book to be about 200 pages, complete with various charts, maps and old pictures of the township's history. She doubts that the book will be hardback, however.

Although the publication of the history book is the major project concerning Mrs. Pettigrew at this point in time, it is far from the only one.

A member of the South Norwich Historical Society since its formation, Mrs. Pettigrew is serving her first term as a member of the Ontario Heritage Society. She serves on the preservation committee at the OHS, and is responsible for the column in the society newsletter.

Although she was surprised by her appointment to the OHS six months ago, Mrs. Pettigrew said she is impressed with their objectives.

"The object of the OHS is to pull the heritage groups together. The province is so large, people feel the distance and feel isolated," Mrs. Pettigrew said.

Other objectives are to promote communications and the interchange of ideas between the various groups, and to try to create new societies. Quite a challenge for a group of 15 members representing the whole province of Ontario.

"It's been going a long time, but it's not huge," Mrs. Pettigrew said of the society, formed in 1898.

The OHS also sponsors workshops and programs for youth involvement in history, which ties in with the South Norwich society's plans to promote youth involvement in the township's history. Once the history book is complete, it may be offered to schools as a history text.

With the various responsibilities and projects, Mrs. Pettigrew has become somewhat of an expert in

the field of history.

"I'm not a history

graduate," Mrs. Pettigrew is quick to point out. "My

history, I'm learning as I go along."

## IS YOUR FAMILY INCLUDED?

Anyone whose family helped pioneer settlement in South Norwich Township before 1860 and who wish to have a brief account of their family included in the upcoming publication of the history of the Twp. by the South Norwich Historical Society are requested to call or write

Juanita DeRoo  
Box 62, Otterville  
879-6860

## Accident victim dies

An Otterville area man is dead following a motor vehicle accident on County Road 13, at Concession 10, Norwich Township, at 7:27 p.m., Friday (February 12).

Gordon Wase McMullen, 70, of RR 1, Otterville, died at Victoria Hospital in London, Saturday evening (February 13).

According to Tillsonburg OPP, Mr. McMullen's vehicle, travelling westbound on Concession 10, was in a collision with a southbound vehicle at the intersection of County Road 13.

Driver of the second car was Richard W. Ladosz of RR 1, Otterville, whose 1975 Oldsmobile sustained an estimated \$4,000 damage in the crash. Damage to the

McMullen car, a 1975 Pontiac, was also about \$4,000.

The accident was investigated by Constable F.L. Abbott of the Tillsonburg OPP, along with Coroner Dr. R. Green of London.

Mr. McMullen was predeceased by his wife the former Viola Williams in 1977.

Surviving are one daughter Mrs. Richard (Juanita) DeRoo; a grandson Patrick DeRoo; and a brother, William McMullen of Otterville.

Resting at the Nelson F. Gleason Funeral Home, Otterville, where service will be held Tuesday, February 16, at 1:30 p.m. conducted by Rev. Grant Darling.

Interment in Otter Cemetery.

## Gordon McMullen

Funeral service for Gordon McMullen, who passed away Saturday, February 13, 1982, was held Tuesday, February 16, at the Nelson F. Gleason Funeral Home, Otterville.

Mr. McMullen was born

in Otterville on October 18, 1911, son of the late Arthur and Florence McMullen and lived on Main St. in Otterville for the past 41 years.

He was employed by his brother, William, as a machinist, retiring a short time ago. He was well-known for his interest in machines of the past, and had a large collection.

He was predeceased by his wife, the former Viola Williams, in 1977. Surviving are his brother, William; a daughter, Mrs. Richard (Juanita) DeRoo, and grandson, Patrick DeRoo, of Otterville.

The funeral was largely attended by family and friends. Rev. Grant Darling of St. John's Anglican Church conducted the service. Mrs. William McMullen, Jr., played hymns before and after the service. There were several donations to the Heart Fund and Canadian Cancer Society.

Pallbearers were George Davis, John E. Davis, Charles Weeks, Dave Walters, Michael Ash and John W. Davis.

## Nancy Caie Maloney

Mrs. Kenneth Maloney of Otterville passed away suddenly at her residence on Saturday, February 13, 1982, in her 63rd year.

She was the former Nancy Caie Watt.

Surviving, besides her husband, are three daughters, Rhona of London, Maureen of Delhi and Michaela of Edmonton; four granddaughters; and three brothers and two sisters in Scotland.

Resting at the Nelson F. Gleason Funeral Home, Otterville, where service will be held Tuesday, February 16 at 3:30 p.m. conducted by Rev. Grant Darling.

Interment in Otter Cemetery.

Memorial donations to the charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family.

## Mrs. Kenneth Maloney

Funeral service for Mrs. Kenneth Maloney, who passed away February 13, 1982, was held Tuesday, February 16, at the Nelson F. Gleason Funeral Home, Otterville.

Rev. Grant Darling of St. John's Anglican Church, conducted the largely-attended funeral. Mrs. Wilma Butler played hymns before and after the service. There were several donations to the

Heart Fund and Canadian Cancer Society.

The former Nancy Caie Watt, Mrs. Maloney was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, August 22, 1919, daughter of the late Robert and Nancy Watt. She came to Otterville after World War II.

Surviving are her husband; three daughters, Rhona of London, Maureen of Delhi and Michaela of Edmonton; three brothers and two sisters in Scotland, and four grandchildren.

# DELIHI NEWS

## Otterville Optimists are young but industrious

OTTERVILLE — has become the most profitable venture of its creator, the Otterville Optimist Club.

Once a week, at 7 p.m., numerous township residents turn on their TV sets and play TV Bingo on Nor-Del Cablevision. The program has proved to be an overwhelming success, and

December 2, 1981, marked the first birthday of the Otterville Optimists and was cause for celebration of the achievements in that first year. Although the Optimists can boast of only 30 members, the club has quickly established itself as

a viable organization to contend with the much larger service groups in the area.

Among the club's accomplishments are, the construction of a children's playground at the community ballpark in Springford, as well as financial assistance to the area minor hockey association, minor league baseball and the Judy Anderson Twirlettes in Delhi.

The Optimists have also inherited the responsibility of organizing the annual Santa Claus Parade in Otterville, with the assistance of local merchants. Add to this the first ever Bicycle Rodeo last spring, and the first free community Street Dance for last year's Canada Day celebration, both sponsored by the Optimists.

"They've been a pretty active group considering the

number of members," Jim Countryman, secretary of the club, said.

The street dance was so successful last year that the club plans to run another for the upcoming Canada Day and South Norwich-Otterville 175th anniversary celebrations, along with a soap box derby.

President of the organization is Otterville resident Aubrey Babcock and the club is still actively looking for new members. Meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of each month, with the first meeting held at the Springford Women's Institute Hall, and the second a dinner meeting at the Community Hall in Otterville.

Eligible members must be at least 19 years old and anyone interested in joining should contact Mr. Babcock.

## Lions make donations

Oxford MPP Dick Treleaven was the guest speaker at the regular meeting of the Norwich-Otterville Lions Club held at the Norwich Legion hall on Monday evening, February 8.

Mr. Treleaven talked of his experiences and impressions of activities as an MPP as well as the demands on a provincial member's time. He said one surprising aspect of serving as MPP is the ability the constituents think a member has or doesn't have as a MPP to influence the legislature.

He emphasized the importance of all members being present at all times, but this prohibits members from the distant ridings commuting, except on weekends, and interrupts family life considerably. The absence of any member from the House at the time of any vote may be critical, said Mr. Treleaven.

He also mentioned the tremendous number of reports and communications that are delivered to his Toronto office daily, many of which have to be passed over quickly for lack of time. He hastened to assure the club, however, that all constituents' letters are read and answered in due

course.

Another special guest at the meeting was Jim Brown, president of the Oxford chapter of the Victorian Order of Nurses. He was presented with a cheque for \$500 by the Lions to assist in the purchase of a car for the nurses' transportation. Mr. Brown thanked the club for the donation and briefly reviewed the activities of the VON and the financial assistance necessary to carry on their work.

Another cheque for \$500 was presented by the Lions

club to the president of the Norwich Minor Hockey Association, Fred Christo, to assist with the operation of minor hockey teams.

There were 45 members and two guests present at the meeting over which Lion President Norm Fidlin presided.

Lion George Klosler expressed appreciation to Mr. Treleaven for his time at the meeting. A motion was passed to donate \$150 to the Norwich and District Figure Skating Club.

The convention draw was won by Lion Ray O'Neil.

## Youth exchange program outline

OTTERVILLE (C) — The regular meeting of the Norwich-Otterville Lions Club was held in the community hall, Otterville, on Monday evening, February 22. Lion president Norm Fidlin presided.

There were 40 members present, including three members from the Grantham Lions Club and one member from the St. David's Lions Club.

Lion Colin Cope introduced the guest speaker, Lion John Shepherd of the Grantham Lions Club, Youth Exchange chairman for District A-2.

Lion John spoke upon the Lions International Youth Exchange and began his presentation with an explanatory film. This program began in 1961 and has grown steadily. Exchange students are

carefully chosen by a host club's youth exchange committee and are in the 15-21 year age group.

Exchange students coming to Ontario will arrive July 10, attend a Youth Exchange Camp in St. Catharines for one week, then spend the next three weeks visiting local host clubs.

It has been found that exchange students can develop mutual trust, learn other nations' traditions and culture and foster a genuine feeling towards world peace.

To take part in this exchange, students must have some basic knowledge, may be children of lion members, or children of non-Lions.

The speaker was thanked by Lion Colin who presented the speaker with a gift.

Nominations for the new

executive for the coming year were presented by Lion Gordon Shearer with new executive as follows:

Two year directors - Rick McKim, Art VandeByl, Ray O'Neil and Bill Martin (two to be chosen); past-president, Norm Fidlin; president, Colin Cope; first vice-president, Les

Dickson; second vice-president, Jack Walther; third vice-president, Paul Wood; secretary, Aloys Sanders; treasurer, Tim Moore; tail-twister, Tony Drescher; Lion tamer, Mark Gilmore; first year directors, Gary Walther, Don Miller; bulletin editor, Gord Shearer.

The annual Ladies' Night will be held on Sunday, April 4 in London at "The Grand Ole Oprey Show" in the evening at the London Gardens with dinner before.

The next regular meeting on March 8 will be a Family Night to be held in the Norwich Legion Hall. A program has been arranged.

The convention draw was won by Lion Mark Gilmore.

## Negro community topic for society

February meeting of the South Norwich Historical Society was held at Woodlawn when a brief discussion was held on various topics including the upcoming celebrations for the 175th anniversary of the settling of the former Township of South Norwich.

Speaker for the evening was Joyce Pettigrew, who gave an interesting talk on the history of the negro community in South Norwich Township from research she has been doing for a book soon to be published by the Society. Joyce was thanked by Rick Singer.

# Institute trip announced

OTTERVILLE (C) — Eight members attended the February meeting of the Otterville Women's Institute which was held at the home of Mrs. William McMullen, North St., on Friday afternoon.

A "thank-you" note was read from Laura Pettigrew who celebrated her 91st birthday on Thursday.

A letter from the district stated the quilt block to be made is to be taken to the board meeting, March 28 at Culloden.

A letter from the W.I. officer said the Officers' Conference will be May 4, 5 and 6th for a fee of \$80. No one will be going from

Otterville.

Mrs. Pickersgill and Mrs. Treffry volunteered to be responsible for the quilt block.

It was decided the April meeting would be held April 2 and a Rummage Sale, April 3.

Lorraine Downing moved that Mrs. McMullen feel free to ask someone to assist in the name of the Institute float for the bicycle parade for the 175th Anniversary.

Mrs. Downing announced the Institute trip would be June 16 to Port Dover to the theatre.

A card was signed by the members for Mrs. Pet-

tigrew. Mrs. McMullen, convener for Canadian Industries, gave an interesting talk on a trip she and her husband had taken

to the Yukon this past summer.

The president conducted an interesting quiz on Canada.



Otterville Brownies shown with new leaders Chris McMullen and Karen Dow.

1st Otterville, Thursday 6:30-8:00 p.m., Otterville Public School - Chris McMullen, 107 Main Street West, Otterville N0J 1R0, 879-6934, Junior leader Karen Dow, Mill Street, Otterville N0J 1R0.



Two members of the First Otterville Girl Guides received the distinction of being presented with their all round cords at the annual awards night and dinner last spring. District

Commissioner for North Tillsonburg, Dora Sykes, presented the awards to Donna VanBesien (right) and Tammy DeGroot. (NG Photo)

## Otterville Sunshine Club plans pancake luncheon

OTTERVILLE (C) — Members of the Otterville Sunshine Club met at the home of Evelyn Picknell for the February 11 meeting.

Fourteen members responded to the roll call which was "A favorite saying or proverb" suggested by Robbie Horsburgh.

The business was conducted by president Sandra Hussey. All the members were appointed to their selective duties for the annual Pancake Luncheon which will be held at the St. John's Anglican Church Parish Hall, February 23 from 11:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Tickets for adults are \$3 and children 10 and under \$1.50. Tickets are available from club members or at the door.

Playground equipment catalogues were shown to the members as to the choice of which to purchase for the Sunshine Club's corner for the children's section in the Otterville Community Park.

Doreen Mountain reported she has written the History of the Sunshine Club for the South Norwich 175th anniversary book.

The Valentine Cake, donated by Muriel Kozuch, was won by Lillie Chisholm. Etta Mc-Skimming invited the club to her home for the next meeting February 25. Lillie Chisholm will suggest the roll call and Nancy Batson will be in charge of the lunch.

Courtesy remarks were given to Ingra Irie for the lovely lunch and to Evelyn Picknell for the enjoyable evening by Doreen Mountain.

The February meeting of the United Church Women was held under the direction of Shirley White.

On Thursday evening, 30 women attended the show "Joni" which was held in the theatre in Tillsonburg. A number returned to the church where a short devotional service was held after which the convener was assisted by the committee in charge for a social time.

The regular meeting of the Otterville Leisure Club was held at Woodlawn Centre on Wednesday and was well attended.

The members are continuing their project by compiling a Cook Book to be ready for sale at the 175th anniversary celebrations July 1-4. Ladies who are interested in contributing a recipe to the book should have donations in by March 31.

Games of cards were enjoyed throughout the afternoon by some of the members and the af-

ternoon closed in a social way.

Donations for the cook book should soon be on their way to the president Annie Pritchard, Norwich.

# Sunshine club checking playground equipment

OTTERVILLE (C) — The regular meeting of the Sunshine Club met at the home of Etta McSkimming on Thursday evening, February 25.

The minutes were read by the secretary-treasurer Margaret Shearer who also reported on the Pancake

Luncheon, held on Shrove Tuesday in the St. John's Church parish hall.

The members were pleased to have the large attendance which made the annual event a financial success. They were also pleased and thankful for the great assistance which

was given to them in cooking and serving.

Business was conducted by the president Sandra Hussey who brought a volunteer from the members for a chairlady for the "Beauty Pageant" which will be held during the 175th anniversary celebrations of South Norwich July 1-4. Jean Dow offered her services,

within the club. More information will be available at a later meeting.

A committee was named to inspect playground equipment as to what would be suitable and also repairs to the equipment already in the Sunshine Corner in the Otterville Park.

The roll call, which was suggested by Lillie Chisholm, was answered

by 12 members on "What Gives You a Lift." In the month of February, or anytime, this could include an elevator, an interesting hobby, achievement of same, being greeted with hugs and kisses from the grandchildren, a beautiful morning, a letter from home, a school chum's letter, going out to dinner, winning some money, and many others.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Dow on March 11 at which time roll call will be suggested by Evelyn Picknell. Margaret Shearer will be in charge of lunch.

Courtesy remarks were given by Mrs. Chisholm, to Nancy Batson for the enjoyable lunch and to Mrs. McSkimming as hostess.



## Shrove Tuesday

Even the husbands of Otterville Sunshine Club members were put to work preparing pancakes for the club's annual Pancake Luncheon held on Shrove Tuesday at St. John's Anglican Church. About 250 people were expected for the luncheon which ran from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Bob Pettigrew manned the flipper as he cooked pancakes for the event. (NG Photo)



Dolly Graham, right, receives her District Guider pin from Linda Hoffman, the new district Girl Guide commissioner. Mrs. Hoffman assumes the role from Mrs. Graham, and her executive consists of, Norma Lefevre, secretary-treasurer; Jean Studiman, badge secretary; Mrs. Graham, Blue camp representative; and Bonnie DeJonghe, Brown camp rep. (Staff Photo)

## New District Guide Commissioner named

Linda Hoffman of Otterville has been named the new District Commissioner of Girl Guides of Canada.

Mrs. Hoffman brings with her an impressive record of involvement with all three levels of Guiding in this area. She co-founded the LaSalette Brownie pack five years ago and then founded LaSalette Guides two years later. Her latest accomplishment is the founding of the LaSalette Pathfinders two years after the Guides.

"I am very excited about the new position although I think it will involve a lot of hard work," she said. This district includes Guides in Port Rowan, St. Williams, Delhi, LaSalette and Langton.

The Commissioner is responsible to her district and director's council for the satisfactory administration of the district. She acts as chief executive officer to promote the formation of units and direct the affairs of Girl Guides of Canada.

Mrs. Hoffman said she expects to depend upon support from Dorothy Graham, commissioner for the past five years. Mrs. Graham has been named this area's first District Guider. She will assist Mrs. Hoffman and help to train new leaders.

Mrs. Graham had nothing but praise for her successor. "She has accomplished a lot in five years and is very, very efficient."

There are 17 Brownies in the LaSalette pack, 12 Guides and 12 Pathfinders. They have been involved in a wide range of community activities since their inception including the origination of a local art exhibition and the organization of different trips such as their excursion to Parliament Hill last year to represent this area.

The Pathfinders group was founded on a national basis only three years ago. They are developing an exchange program that could bring some Ottawa based Pathfinders to the area this summer.

# Lodge chair came from Queen's Park

There's a chair in the St. John's 104 Masonic Lodge room that would have a story to tell if it could talk.

The chair, which has been sitting in the lodge room for 32 years, had grand beginnings as it served as the speakers chair in the Ontario legislature from 1905-1907.

The Conservative government of Sir James Whitney defeated the

Liberal Ross government in 1905 and Joseph Wesley St. John, father of Norwich resident Cameron St. John, was re-elected as member for West York. He was then appointed speaker of the new government by Premier Whitney, a post which he held until his death in 1907.

Mr. St. John said it was the custom then when the speaker died in office, that

his family was presented with his chair and so the chair was presented to his mother, Mrs. St. John. During her life, it served as a hall chair in her home and after her death it was left to her son, Mr. St. John, in Norwich.

He said the chair is "a ponderous piece of furniture" and it would have been quite out of place in his home. Since he was a member of the masonic lodge in Norwich, he approached the officers of the lodge and asked if it would be a useful addition to their lodge room furniture. The lodge willingly accepted the chair as a gift in 1950 and it has remained there ever since.

The chair, which was at that time in Toronto, was brought to Norwich by the late Beryl Hamner, the operator of a local long distance cartage business.

Mr. St. John said he still appreciates the fact that Mr. Hamner, who was also a member of the masonic lodge, made the long trip to Toronto to get the chair but could not be persuaded to accept any payment for the service, "or more correctly kindness."

Another lodge member, the late William Colchester, also took an interest in the chair and typed a brief history of it which he attached to the underside of the chair in order that its identity would not be lost to future generations. Mr. Colchester was a former manager of the Bank of Montreal "and quite a keen mason", said Mr. St. John. The information on the chair has since been placed on a plaque and now hangs above the chair in the lodge room.

The chair was made to order for the Ontario legislature by the Rawlinson Furniture Company in Toronto. Mr. St. John said he believes the coat of arms displayed on the chair was changed sometime after 1907 to the present coat of arms of the province.

Mr. St. John said he was delighted the lodge had received the gift of the chair and that it would continue to be useful in an appropriate atmosphere with an assured future.



**THE HONORABLE J.W. ST. JOHN**  
Speaker of the Legislature  
1905-1907



## Historic chair

This imposing piece of furniture, which now graces the lodge room of St. Johns Lodge 104, once graced the provincial legislature when it served as the speakers chair from 1905-1907. The chair was donated to the lodge by Norwich's Cameron St. John whose father was the speaker of the house during that period. (NG Photo).



# WMF marks 25th anniversary

OTTERVILLE (C) — The Women's Missionary Fellowship of the Otterville Baptist Church held its 25th anniversary meeting on Tuesday evening, February 2 in the Sunday school room of the church.

The president, Wilma Butler opened the meeting by reading 1 John 1:7, "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanseth us from all sin."

Mrs. Butler welcomed the members and visitors to fellowship with each other and with Christ. Mrs. Butler read the hymn "Leaning on The Everlasting Arms" and led in prayer. The roll call was answered with a verse of praise from Psalm 103.

It was announced that the "Family Night" supper will be held on Friday, March 5 at 7 p.m.

Mrs. Fred Hill read a letter from the Pollards, the missionaries in Africa and Mrs. Butler received word that Dr. Hazel Wrigglesworth had 92 per cent of the New Testament translated into the Philippine language.

Missionary prayers were offered by Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Bruce Stover, Mrs. Earl Cooper, and Hilda Stockmans. All joined in singing "Great is Thy Faithfulness".

Mrs. Butler had prepared a review of the past 25 years since the group was formed by Mrs. Walter Nicholls, a former pastor's wife.

The group's aim is to support missions and to have fellowship with each other and the community. At the first meeting 18 ladies were present, six

have gone to be with the Lord, some have moved, and seven charter members remain as well as several new members.

There is a missionary meeting once a year, also a family supper.

In 1975, support of a missionary child, Hilda Bello in Africa was started.

Mrs. Murray Treffry favored with a solo "Because He Lives". Mrs. Ted Oenema read Psalm 27.

Mrs. Butler introduced the guest speaker, Mrs. William Smith from Mississauga, who brought word from Mrs. Nicholls of how sorry she was that she could not attend on the group's Silver Anniversary.

Mrs. Smith then compared Christian character with sterling silver. When silver is tarnished it is dull and not as valuable just as a tarnished character brings disgrace to the Lord. As Christians, the silver core in us is Jesus and this radiates good works. It takes work to

restore the shine to silver and it also takes good thoughts and kind words, true repentance to restore a Christian character.

Mrs. Butler thanked the speaker and Mrs. Treffry brought another message in song.

A delicious lunch was served by the social committee: Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Dwight Davis and Mrs. Jack Walters which was followed by a social hour of reminiscing with former members.

Mrs. Stover gave the courtesy remarks.

## Robert Pettigrew

Bob Pettigrew enjoys creating and it was his inventive nature that led him to develop a system that would revolutionize tobacco curing in Canada.

Having lived in Otterville since 1923, after serving in the army overseas in the Second World War, Mr. Pettigrew returned to the area to work at various occupations including electrical and carpentry work. About 1949 he went in to the plumbing and heating business, working on oil heating and furnaces. And that is what led him to come up with the idea of developing an automatic curing system for tobacco.

It was about 1952 when he perfected the first automatic oil-curing system to be manufactured in Canada. He named it Sav-Oil because of the reduced amount of oil used in the system. The development of the automatic system cut the cost of curing tobacco completely in half, said Mr. Pettigrew, and did away with the need for curers who came up from the United States to do the tobacco curing for the farmers.

The new system enabled the farmer to take over his own curing and resulted in great savings both in time and money. The first year, Mr. Pettigrew produced only four of the Sav-Oil burners but they caught on quickly and he was soon dealing with approximately 50 per cent of all tobacco farmers in Canada.

Mr. Pettigrew formed his own company to manufacture the unit calling it Pettigrew Sav-Oil Burners Ltd., of which he was owner-president. In addition to the Sav-Oil burners, the company manufactured tobacco kiln air vents and made a furnace-humidifier that heated the strip room while at the same time humidifying the tobacco in the steam room.

Mr. Pettigrew also did some experimenting in bulk cured tobacco but in the 1960's it was not an economically feasible system and the work was purely experimental.

At peak times, the plant in Otterville employed about 60 men with a permanent staff of about 17. They also made some natural gas and propane curing systems around 1959-60, as well as doing all their own hydro work to wire kiln yards and their own installation of gas lines in the yards.

At that time, the company was the only manufacturer in South Norwich.

In 1967, Mr. Pettigrew sold the company to its present owner Powell Agri-Systems, maintaining an interest until 1969 or 1970 when he ended his involvement in the company and turned his attention to growing crops on his farm near Springford.

The company is still the major employer in the area, concentrating its efforts now in the bulk curing systems.

Mr. Pettigrew and his wife Marion have

raised five children, two of whom are still at home. Now that he is retired from the company, Mr. Pettigrew finds more time to concentrate on his hobbies and work around their home in Otterville.

He took an interest in council when the townships were restructured in 1975 and at the urging of members of the community, sought a seat on that council which he has held ever since, now the only original member of the new restructured council.

## Mel Smith

Otter Contracting is a family business, passed on to Mel Smith from his father, Martin Smith, who started the business in 1936.

Mr. Smith went to work with his father Martin in 1955 and in 1961 took over the ownership of the construction firm which specializes in building roads, drainage work and the clearing and levelling of agricultural land.

Mr. Smith's entire life has been devoted to the business which he has watched grow steadily over the years. It now employs 14 to 15 people and was changed to a limited company about nine years ago.

Keeping tabs on the company and its various operations is a job that keeps Mr. Smith busy and on the road much of the time. But the number of capable employees working for him enabled him to consider running for township council in the last municipal election.

Mr. Smith said he had considered seeking a seat on council for five or six years before he actually threw his hat in the ring and his concern about the manner in which the township was being run finally made him decide to make the move. He is now completing his first term on Norwich Township council and has found the experience to be extremely educational.

"I was amazed at the amount of everyday business that goes through that (township) office," said Mr. Smith. Until a person is involved on council, you don't realize the volume of work that exists. There's certainly more involved than just a couple of meetings a month, he said.

But in spite of the demands on his time, Mr. Smith has enjoyed the experience and believes it is something everyone should experience. It also made him realize that the work the township used to be able to do cannot be done anymore because of inflation and declining grant dollars that don't cover that rising inflation rate.

"Every year the services drop because the township coffers can't keep up with the inflation rate," he said.

Mr. Smith said there's little time away from council business even at home. "There's hardly a night goes by that the phone doesn't ring," he said. He usually spends about two days a week on council business and also spends a lot of time

driving around the township to familiarize himself with problems, concerns and other matters such as minor variances that come before council.

In spite of the hours he must spend on council business, he said his family appreciates what he is doing.

He and his wife Violet have four daughters and have lived in Otterville since 1958. Mr. Smith first lived at Pleasant Valley, moved to Woodstock after he was married for a year in 1957, before returning to Otterville in 1958.

In addition to his construction business, he has a small farm in Burford Township and owns a car wash in Otterville. He has been active in community organizations, serving as director on the Otterville park advisory board through the Norwich - Otterville Lions Club to which he belongs. He is also a member of the Independent Order of Oddfellows in Otterville and a member of the library board. On township council he brings his expertise in agriculture and construction matters to the agriculture and public works committees that he sits on.

And when time and council matters permit, in the winter you may find Mr. Smith quietly fishing through the ice down at the lake. "There aren't any telephones or doorbells in the ice huts," he joked.

## Lyle Davis

Running a tobacco farm, raising six children, being involved in various community organizations as well as township council fills most of Lyle (Butch) Davis' time.

Born at the Norwich Gore, he moved with his family to his present home east of Otterville in 1944. He took over the management of the 100-acre tobacco farm 11 years ago.

While his position on council means he and his family have less time together with the numerous meetings he must attend, the family is pretty understanding knowing Mr. Davis has been interested in politics for many years.

Interested in the challenge of serving on council and managing affairs relevant to the area, Mr. Davis had seriously considered seeking a seat on council for two to three years before he actually ran in the last election. When one of his sons came home full-time to aid with the work of the farm, Mr. Davis felt he could take that step into the political arena with someone there to manage affairs at home.

He said he couldn't have done it without that extra help at home, as the numerous council meetings and committee meetings mean a lot of time away from the farm.

As well as serving on the recreation and agriculture committees of council and attending regular council meetings, Mr. Davis must also serve on the Otterville parks advisory board, the arena advisory

board, the Woodlawn advisory committee, the Treffry mill advisory committee and the South Norwich 175th anniversary committee. On the average he will attend about three meetings a week, he said. While the duties involved were what he expected, Mr. Davis finds the extra burden of special meetings add significantly to the load councillors must carry.

But in spite of the volume of work involved, Mr. Davis said he has enjoyed his first term on council. It was something he had thought about for some time before taking the plunge into politics.

Throughout his years in the community he has always been active, particularly in the area of minor sports. He himself played hockey in his younger years and was active as a minor hockey coach for two to three years. He coached minor ball locally for about eight years but no longer finds enough time for it. He was a member of the Norwich - Otterville Lions Club for 12 years but is now a member of the Spring - Otter Optimists and the charter president of the newly-formed organization, dedicated to youth work.

He said his sports and agricultural backgrounds aid him in making decisions on the recreation and agriculture committees on which he serves.

Conflicts between council meetings and work to be done at home, sometimes mean extra help must be hired during busy seasons and Mr. Davis must often operate on a tight schedule, particularly during planting in May and harvest in August and September. At those times, he keeps his fingers crossed that no breakdowns occur at home on the farm.

Serving on council has made him aware of many aspects of the township's operation he was not aware of before, particularly the fact that there's a lot of money collected by the township that it has very little control over. The county and the school boards take a large chunk of the taxes before the township gets its share.

It's a demanding and time-consuming job, but Mr. Davis still finds some spare time to spend on his hobby of restoring antique tractors and cars and a particular 1957 Chevrolet Impala he hopes to have reconditioned and ready for the 175th anniversary celebrations parade this summer.

### Carman Sweazey

Carman Sweazey has always been actively involved in his community and it was that interest in the community that first got him involved in local politics.

But that involvement on municipal councils has also meant he has had to curtail some of his other activities in the community because of the demands the duties of council and running his business place on him.

Mr. Sweazey was born in Norwich but at the age of 11 moved with his family to a town near Chatham. At the age of 16 he came back to his hometown, however, to aid his older brother Don in operating a dry cleaning business here.

In 1973 Mr. Sweazey bought out his brother Don who turned to the insurance business and the dry-cleaning business became known as Carm's Cleaners. In 1974, he expanded the operation with the addition of a laundromat.

In the early days of the business, everyone had dry cleaning to be done and Mr. Sweazey soon came to know every householder in Norwich. At that time he was also active in both hockey and baseball playing for the Norwich Maroons hockey team and the Norwich Combines ball team.

In 1958 he married his wife Darlene when she finished her education in nursing and as the family began to arrive, Mr. Sweazey switched his focus in local sports to coaching instead of playing. He said coaching was a very gratifying experience, being able to watch the kids progress over the years.

But when he got involved on council, he was forced to give up the coaching jobs as too many meetings conflicted with the ball games. He still does a bit of umpiring in an emergency, however, just to keep a hand in the sport.

Mr. Sweazey has also had to give up his position on the minor ball executive because of the demands of council but his wife has carried on where he left off to continue their involvement in the community's minor sports.

He said his wife and family have been supportive of him in his job on council and his other community activities throughout the years. While spare time is limited, Mr. Sweazey also belongs to the local St. Johns chapter of the Masonic Lodge and is a past-chairman of the community centre club, which went to work in the past to raise funds for the construction of the new community centre complex in Norwich. Mr. Sweazey is also a past-president of the Norwich figure skating club.

Mr. Sweazey said he is fortunate to have a capable employee, Marsha Wallet, to handle his business while he is away on council matters and attending meetings. That assistance made it possible for him to re-enter municipal politics. He had dropped out after serving one term on the former village council, withdrawing from politics as the restructuring of the county was taking place in 1975. With the recent addition to his business, in the form of the laundromat, he did not think at that time the demands of his business would permit him to continue his involvement in politics with the great changes taking place as a result of restructuring.

But after an absence of only one term, Mr. Sweazey was back into the political arena and back on the new township council where he has remained ever since.



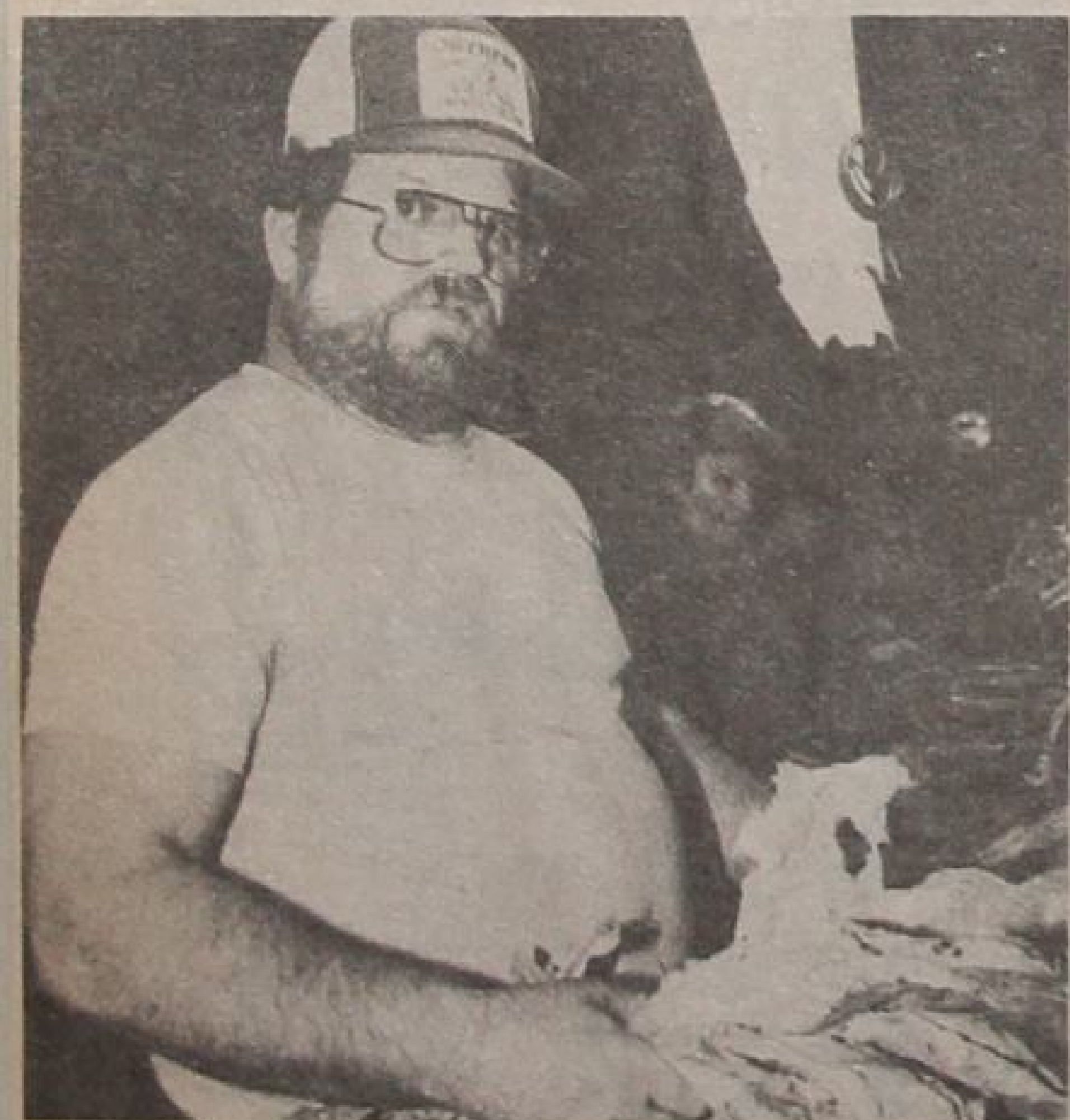
The job of mayor is a demanding one and one that can be trying at times, but Norwich resident Carman Sweazey enjoys the challenge and the opportunity to represent the citizens of Norwich Township. (NG Photo).



Norwich Township council's Ward 1 representative Bob Pettigrew likes to keep busy. When he's not occupied with jobs around home, or council business, he's busy making remote-controlled glider airplanes from scratch. (NG Photo).



Mel Smith, a Ward 1 representative on Norwich Township council, keeps busy running his local contracting business when he's not tied up with council business. He took over Otter Contracting from his father who had started the business. (NG Photo).



Another Ward 1 representative on Norwich Township council, Lyle (Butch) Davis can be found at home, busy on his tobacco farm when he's not attending meetings on council business. (NG Photo).

It's a dirty job, but . . .

# New mayor Carman Sweazey enjoys post

"It's a dirty job but somebody has to do it." That might be how some people view the position of mayor in our township but despite the political pressures and problems directed at him personally, Mayor Carman Sweazey enjoys the job.

While he had had the position of mayor in his

sights for somewhere in the future, he did not expect to be put into the position quite so quickly as he was with the resignation of former mayor, Jack Burn.

As he stepped into the position, Mayor Sweazey quickly established his priorities. They are to get people working together as one community, to en-

courage council to practice restraint in a time of deep recession and to meet the problem facing Holbrook residents, with respect to the landfill site, head on.

Mayor Sweazey said it is important for all forms of government to practice restraint even though it may mean some services have to be cut. He said

some capital items may have to be put on the back burner until the economic situation improves. He has asked all committees and boards to look at every capital item to assess the priorities and ways of cutting back when drawing up their budgets for 1982.

"One area that will feel the brunt of more cutbacks

is recreation," said Mayor Sweazey. While recreation is necessary for the children of the community it is one area that could suffer in a time of restraint, he said.

Mayor Sweazey also said there has got to be more communication between council, its committees, department heads and township employees if there are problems. "Communication is important to solving those problems," he said.

In his address to council on taking over the mayor's seat, Mayor Sweazey stressed the need for unity within council and the Township of Norwich.

"To make this township work smoothly and right we, council and the township, have got to get along and be a family unit to strive for the betterment of the township as a whole," he said.

"If we can get this feeling of unity we may be able to accept more easily the aggravations that may result from situations within our township."

Mayor Sweazey said he is ready to meet the challenge of mayor and to do the best he can on the job. "With times the way they are it's going to be hard and I would appreciate the support of the people to bear with us to try and solve the problems of the township for the betterment of the whole township," he said.

Mayor Sweazey has always been actively involved in his community and it was that interest in the community that first

got him involved in local politics.

In the early 1970's, Mr. Sweazey had gone as an interested citizen to a nomination meeting for the elections to local village council. Because he was well-known in the village through his business, he ended up being nominated himself as a candidate. While he didn't accept the nomination right away, after thinking it over he decided to give it a try and was later elected to his seat on council.

Mayor Sweazey later took one term off from serving on council when the restructuring of the township took place in 1975, due to the pressures of his expanding business. But once the business was going well and he had assistance in keeping it running smoothly, he decided to step back into the political area to serve as councillor for Ward 2 on the new restructured council.

He has remained on council ever since, moving up through the ranks from councillor, to councillor-at-large and finally into the mayor's chair.

As mayor, he is involved in about 16 regular meetings a month plus special meetings when they are called. The responsibilities of mayor are greater, he said. There are more areas to be investigated personally and more problems with both the township and the county council position to be examined.



## Council representatives

Each ward of Norwich Township is represented with members on township council. Those members are: (rear, left to right) Lyle (Butch) Davis, Ward 1; Jack Lester, Ward 3; John Eacott, Ward 4; Norman Lusk, Ward 2;

Hardee Richardson, Ward 4; Darrell Force, Ward 2; (front, left to right) John Heleniak, Ward 3; Helen Smith, councillor-at-large; Carman Sweazey, mayor; Robert Pettigrew, Ward 1 and Mel Smith, Ward 1. (NG Photo).

# Ministry cuts back on roads subsidies

Norwich Township is going to be paying a greater portion of its road budget if its residents want to enjoy the same level of service they have been accustomed to.

Because the ministry of transportation and communication is cutting back on the amount of money it provides in the way of subsidies to various municipalities the municipalities are having to bear a greater percentage of the cost of maintaining their roads.

Norwich Township roads superintendent Ron Smith said the township must match in dollars whatever amount the ministry provides to it in subsidies, but the township is now at the point where it is putting up more money than the ministry to maintain the same level of service.

The subsidies from the ministry just aren't keeping up with the rate of inflation, said Mr. Smith.

He is at present working on drawing up preliminary budget estimates for 1982 and the rising inflation is one of the major problems he is faced with.

Some items used in road

maintenance, such as calcium, are running at about a 16 per cent inflation rate. With those rising costs, it means much of the roads budget is consumed just with maintaining the roads. Maintenance costs seem to be consuming about two-thirds of the total budget, said Mr. Smith.

He said they try to do some new construction every year because if you don't you fall behind on the roads. But it is getting to the point where less and less can be done every year, because of those rising costs, he said.

The amount in this year's budget allowed for other road work depends on the number of capital expenditures. Last year about 12 miles of road were surface treated and Mr. Smith hoped the work would be finished this year but it looks like it may have to wait until 1983. The stone and tar mixture used on the surface work is all oil-related and with the frequent jumps in the petroleum prices those increases are passed on to the township.

The increased snow removal costs this winter may also cut into this

year's budget somewhat, said Mr. Smith. He said the total snow removal costs for 1981 were about \$25,000 but in January alone this year it has cost \$24,000.

Mr. Smith said the biggest snow removal months are in January and February so the worst should now be behind us. If things hold where they are, things should be okay for this year, he said. This year has been one of the township's most expensive winter maintenance years and Mr. Smith gave his men credit for the job they did. "They worked some long hours for five weeks steady, seven days a week," he said.

The new loader purchased last year by the township helped the crews tremendously in getting the snow cleared away. "I don't know what we would have done without it," said Mr. Smith.

While the heavy snows kept the men busy, there was adequate manpower to do the job, he said. The township employs 13 men and two foremen in its road crews, in addition to Mr. Smith who supervises all the road work in the township.

In doing that job he tries to get out on the roads every day to assess their

condition and determine what work needs to be done.

There are 222.6 miles of road in the township, 63.5 of those hardtop.



## Out on the road

While township road superintendent Ron Smith is usually found out driving the township roads to assess their condition and needs, he is now busy much of the time in his office in Otterville working on this year's budget. (NG Photo).

## No major increases for township budget

Township treasurer Fred Lowes does not foresee any major increases in this year's township budget. The annual increase is usually in keeping with the current rate of inflation, he said.

Local committees and boards are working on their budgets now and council should soon be getting into its preliminary budget deliberations. Mr. Lowes said he would hope the committees would go over those budgets carefully to eliminate any unnecessary expenditures before submitting them to council, to make the process of budget approval a little smoother. Last year's final budget did not receive council approval until the end of May, providing for an increase of about 12.5 per cent.

Mr. Lowes said he does not anticipate any increase this year in the capital items over other years and there is a possibility there may be a decline in those items since several projects have been completed.

It is up to council to

determine which projects will go ahead but he does not believe there are any new programs being suggested for 1982.

Mr. Lowes said with that in mind, he would anticipate about the same percentage increase in this year's budget as last year.

The portion allotted to the roads department for maintenance and capital costs consumes the largest portion of the township's budget after the county and school boards have taken their share, said Mr. Lowes. Following the roads, is recreation and protection as the other major areas of the budget. Mr. Lowes said there has been a bit more stress on recreation in the past with the arena project and the new Oxford Centre hall, both projects that are now completed. But he added there is still a considerable amount of consideration given to recreational needs in the township in the budget.

In the agricultural end of township operations there is very little direct cost to the ratepayers as the

majority of the work done is on individual's drains which is charged back to the affected ratepayers.

Mr. Lowes said the mill rate in Norwich Township compares favorably with other similar municipalities but added more industrial assessment is desirable from a local point of view.

He said at least two-thirds of the taxes collected in the township go to the county and the two school boards leaving the remaining one-third to be used for township purposes.

Mr. Lowes said the percentage of tax arrears has risen slightly in recent years as a reflection of the current difficult economic times.

Taxation in the township is done on a more equal basis now, however, with the implementation in 1980 of Section 86 assessment, based on the 1975 market value assessment on a property. Last year's tax bills were based on the new Section 86 form of assessment, said Mr. Lowes.



## Efficient staff

It takes an efficient office staff at the municipal offices in Otterville to keep the affairs of the township running smoothly. The office staff are: (standing, left to right) Yvonne Harrison and Connie Cox and (seated) Jean Dow. (NG Photo).

# New municipal inspector starts work

Doug Wilson of Springford will be checking into buildings, drains and plumbing throughout the township in his new capacity as municipal

inspector for Norwich Township.

He took on the duties of the new job on February 15 but was away last week on a basic building official's

course. So this week is only his second on the new job.

As municipal inspector for the township, it is his responsibility to oversee the administration of the

provincial building code as well as plumbing and drainage work carried out in the township. These duties previously were handled by several part-time people.

The decision to combine the jobs into one position was made by council in order to be better informed on what is taking place in the township and to promote better communication of those facts to council.

Council did not have that direct contact with the part-time employees of which there were several - one for administering the building code, one for plumbing and a minimum of two on drainage matters.

With one full-time person, council should have better information on current matters, not just on

special things, but on inspections, in general, said deputy-clerk John Gilbert. "It ties up the loose end with one man," he said.

If time permits, Mr. Wilson may also be able to look at areas that have been neglected in the past, such as the maintenance and inspection of township-owned buildings.

"He will be able to coordinate a lot of heretofore fragmented inspection services," said Mr. Gilbert.

With the part-time people, many of the communications took place between them and the office staff at the township offices and then were passed on to council. Now there will be a direct link from the on-site inspections to the council table rather than second hand in-

formation. That makes for better decision-making on council's part, said Mr. Gilbert.

Mr. Wilson, who resides with his family in Springford, was formerly self-employed in the construction business for the past seven years and prior to that worked for the Water Survey of Canada conducting hydrological surveys.

He graduated from the University of Waterloo in 1969 with a civil engineering degree and will now be attempting to bring all his formal training and expertise together for this new position.

Mr. Wilson said he has always been interested in these areas and looks forward to the job as inspector as a new challenge.

## Making mill historic site

The historic Treffry mill in Otterville was approved for designation as a building of architectural and historical value with the passing of the bylaw by Norwich Township council at its last meeting.

The designation means the mill would be eligible as a historic site, for grants from the Ontario Heritage Foundation. Such grants could be used to conduct feasibility studies on the property, to determine possible uses and the best way to develop it.

The designation by bylaw must be advertised for three weeks after which it will be registered. Once the designation is in place, the property can be sold but it cannot be significantly altered without the agreement of the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) and township council, said Councillor John Heleniak, a member of the LACAC committee.

The designation means the structure must be maintained relatively similar to its existing form, said Township Clerk Bob Watkins.

MAR 3

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, 1974 S.O. CHAPTER 122. AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AND PREMISES AT THE FOLLOWING MUNICIPAL ADDRESS IN THE TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

### NOTICE OF PASSING OF BY-LAW

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Norwich has passed By-Law Number 5-82 to designate the following property as being of architectural and historical value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, 1974 S.O. Chapter 122:

#### ADDRESS OF PROPERTY:

Treffry Mill - Lots 145 and 146, Plan 388, Otterville.

#### REASON OF DESIGNATION:

Frame, three storey, early 19th century grist mill of simple post and beam construction with field stone foundation. The ground floor posts are chamfered for decoration, some are 17 inches square. The purlins are 8 inches by 11 inches by 40 feet. Most of the windows are early 20 and 24 pane construction. The eaves have a wide overhang and returning cornices. The mill is operated by water turbine.

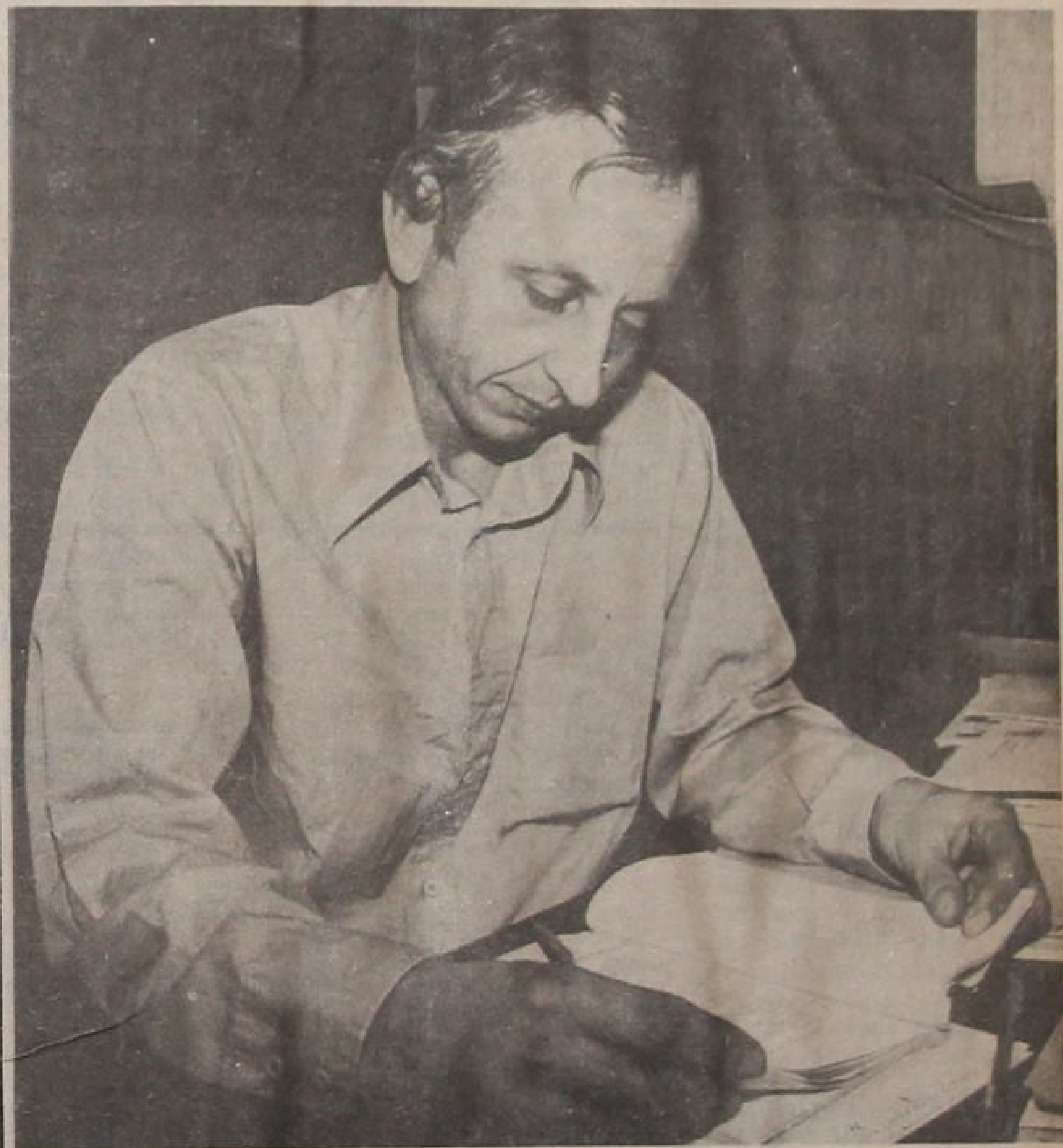
Build in 1845 by Edward Bullock as a grist and flour mill, it originally had three pairs of stone and an annual capacity of 20,000 bushels and was powered by a wooden water wheel. It is built near the site of the first mill on the Otter River - built 1807 by Earle and Avery. It is believed to be the oldest continuously operated wheel powered mill in Ontario.

The wooden augers and flour equipment are still in the mill.

The original owners are responsible for much of the early commerce of Otterville over a period of 55 years.

Dated at Otterville this 24th day of February, 1982.

Robert C. Watkins, Clerk  
Township of Norwich  
P.O. Box 100,  
Otterville, Ontario  
NOJ 1R0



### New inspector

The new municipal inspector for the township, Doug Wilson of Springford, is getting into his new job after spending a week away on a training course. (NG Photo).

# Council considering bath house tenders

Norwich Township council will give consideration to four tenders received Monday on the pool bathhouse project for the Otterville Lions Park at a special council meeting to be held March 18.

The four tenders were opened Monday afternoon during council's meeting by project architect Leonard Dickson. The tenders ranged from \$29,963 at the low end up to \$39,180. The estimated cost of reconstructing the bathhouse had been \$37,300

if tendered by April 1. Coming in with the low tender was Michael Ash Construction of Otterville, with a bid of \$29,963; followed by Latos General Contracting of Tillsonburg, with a bid of \$31,900; Alex Wilkins and Sons, Woodstock, at \$33,950 and finally Tru-Con Construction, Aylmer with a tender of \$39,180.

Mr. Dickson said there is about a 20 per cent difference in his estimate of \$37,300 and the tendered low price but added it is

more difficult to price a smaller project. "We don't build these size of projects everyday," he said.

Mayor Carman Sweazey pointed out the low bid on the project is close to the earlier estimates council had on the project. "Council was chastised for the estimated \$37,000 price," he said. "I'm glad to see it close to the original price."

Council delayed making a decision to accept a tender until the March 18 meeting in order to first confirm the commitment from the Norwich-Otterville Lions Club on the project.

Mr. Dickson said he would like to hear within a couple of weeks as to council's decision on the tenders. "I hope we don't waste too much time," he said. "I wouldn't want to see us run late in June." He said materials must be ordered and they can't just be picked up.

Mr. Dickson said access to the park must be made from the north across Mary DeWachter's property and it may be a month before that access can be obtained and work begun on the reconstruction project. However, he said he could

forsee no problems in completing the project for the first of June.

The completion date given by Michael Ash Construction was six weeks on the project while Alex Wilkins gave four weeks and the other two contractors listed eight weeks required to complete the job.

Mr. Dickson said the main thing is for the contractor chosen to get in and out in a hurry as they must negotiate an access to the park with the adjacent property owner, Mrs. DeWachter.

He said each bidder was required to contact Mrs. DeWachter prior to submitting a bid on the project

to arrange that access with her.

Mr. Dickson said there should be no extras required in the work unless the contractor runs into something unforeseen that requires extra work. "If there are no problems this (the tendered price) should be the finished cost," he said.

## Norwich Township Council Briefs

### Street closed

T.N. MAR 12

Norwich Township council approved a request from the Norwich minor ball association to have the portion of South Court Street running south of the ball park, blocked off to through traffic for all league baseball games between the hours of 6:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. this season.

Residents on the street advised council by letter they have no objection to the closure of the street during the ball games, done as a safety precaution.

### Minor variance

A minor variance was approved by township council for Donald Gee, of RR 8 Woodstock, to allow Mr. Gee to rebuild a garage on his property.

A setback of 105 feet is required by the township bylaw and Mr. Gee needed a variance of 40 feet to give a setback of 65 feet. He plans to build the new two-car garage on the same site as the present garage which is in poor condition. The garage will be no closer to the road than the present building and will not be as close to the road as Mr. Gee's house is.

### New copier

Council will be leasing a new Pitney-Bowes photo copier for use in the township offices in Otterville for a fee of \$416 a month. The new copier will save a considerable amount of time and manpower required in putting documents together as it has an automatic collater attached to the machine.

### Community recreation centre

A bylaw passed by township council Monday established the North Court Park in Norwich as a community recreation centre in order to make it eligible for government grants. Before the park and the new washroom facilities constructed there can be eligible for ministry grants, the facility must first be designated as a community recreation centre, said deputy-clerk John Gilbert. The park is now officially known as the North Court Park, according to the bylaw passed by council.

### Official appointment

Bylaws were passed by township council Monday to confirm the appointment of Doug Wilson of Springford as the township's official building inspector and drainage superintendent.

### Metric on hold

Norwich Township council passed a recommendation Monday to be sent to the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, Oxford MP Bruce Halliday, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association and Metric Commission Canada, asking that further conversion to the metric system be put on a delay basis. Councillor John Eacott said in light of the fact that 70 per cent of Canada's trade is with the United States and that country has shelved metric conversion for the time being, Canada would be wise to do the same.

## Norwich must decide soon if it wants central shed

A decision will have to be made this month by Norwich Township council on whether it will proceed with the proposal for a central works shed for the township.

Submissions to the ministry of transportation and communications for supplementary funding for the shed's construction would have to be made by March 31 if the money were to be available for this year.

Architect for the proposed project, Leonard Dickson was at council's meeting last week to outline the plans but no decision was made at that time on whether to proceed

with the controversial project.

Mr. Dickson said he now has a complete set of drawings and specifications for the central works shed, which road superintendent Ron Smith, said Mr. Dickson has estimated will cost about \$272,900 with exterior work listed at \$21,300.

Mr. Dickson told council at the meeting last week, he thinks he has zeroed in on the low man with his estimates on the project and believes the township would get eight to 10 bids for the job if it was put to tender.

"We see our estimate at about the low man," said Mr. Dickson, who did not believe the estimates would be very far out from the tendered price for constructing the building.

He said "prices are going up quite dramatically."

In response to a question from Councillor Mel Smith on the potential cost of unforeseen extras once construction was underway. Mr. Dickson said:

"We have an iron-clad set of drawings and they're extremely detailed so the less there is for the contractor to pick apart. You can rest assured that before you proceed, the price you sign on will be the price you end up with," he said.

Mr. Dickson defied anyone to slash the price of the project without slashing the quality. "This is the bare bones," he said. "We haven't even got a paint brush on this job except for a few door frames."

Council will be making a decision before the end of the month on whether to proceed with the project which has met with strong public opposition. Concern over what is seen as an unnecessary expenditure and the loss of service has prompted the public response in the form of submissions to council and the presentation of a petition bearing the names of 1,484 township residents who have asked that the project be abandoned.

TN MAR 26/82

# Norwich abandons plan for central works shed

By SUZANNE HANSON

Heavy financial commitments to the Holbrook landfill site legal battle have caused Norwich Township council to abandon plans for a central public works shed for the township.

Council made the decision Wednesday morning at a continuation of its Tuesday night council meeting when it accepted one of two public works budgets proposed in a committee report.

The central shed proposal has met with continued, strong opposition from hundreds of township residents who felt the project to be an unwarranted expense and who feared a loss of service through the move.

The proposal initially received the unanimous support of council but several of the members changed their minds when public opposition to the project grew and the projected costs continued to rise.

The need for restraint in a time of recession and other pressing priorities facing the township were the major reasons councillors gave for scrapping the

project but there were still those who argued the move was a sound one.

Discussion of the shed issue arose Tuesday night when the public works committee report was presented for approval by council. In it was a recommendation that budget number one, eliminating the central works shed, be accepted.

Councillor Darrell Force suggested Tuesday night that council hold off making a definite decision on whether to scrap the shed proposal until new appraisals could be done on the existing sheds in Wards 1 and 3.

He reiterated that position Wednesday morning but the public works committee report, with the recommendation eliminating the project, was approved in a 6-4 recorded vote. Voting against the adoption of the committee report were Councillors John Eacott, Darrell Force, Jack Lester and Helen Smith. Councillor Hardee Richardson was absent when the vote was taken.

Councillor Force, in arguing that the

decision on whether to proceed with the project be delayed until more information is available, reminded council that when the project was initially proposed, council members had a report stating there would be an estimated \$90,000 savings a year to the township through centralization.

"It would be naive to think that figure is correct now but initially we voted for the project unanimously because we thought it would save money," he said.

"At this point we still don't know if there are savings to be had by going ahead with this project and until we do get more information we should not scrap the project," said Mr. Force. "If there is a savings to the township we should look at it because we are in restraint and it may put money in the coffers."

Mr. Eacott also continued to argue in favor of the shed proposal. In a speech to council Tuesday night, he pointed out that delaying the project will mean the township's public works costs will continue to rise. "Hence undertaking the central

(Continued on Page 14)

(Continued from Page 1)

shed now would be, in the long run, the least expensive route."

He said it would also allow the township to consolidate its operations sooner and to implement major cost-saving activities at an earlier date.

"At this time we are faced with a works budget \$67,000 overspent and with few visible benefits for that expense," he said. "It seems this council needs to face up to its responsibilities."

Mr. Eacott pointed out to council that \$50,000 had been spent on land for the project, another \$14,000 for architects' fees and several extra thousands for survey and legal fees.

If the project is abandoned now, as an earlier council's proposal for a Ward 4 shed seems to have been, council is guilty of "an irresponsible waste of over \$70,000" without making any progress toward a more cost effective form of public works, said Mr. Eacott.

"The township must be run like a business; must set attainable long-range goals, provide cost effective service and must quit wasting taxpayers'

money by submitting to pressures which result in waste," he said.

"If we are faced with extraordinary costs this year then we should pay attention to the principle of 'short term pain for long term gain' and not to the principal of 'anything for a vote'," he said.

Councillor Mel Smith argued in return that the township cannot take on the Holbrook situation and justify the expense of some

\$328,000 for a central shed too.

Mayor Carman Sweazey agreed: "We are into a recession and we have to practise restraint," he said. "Our number one priority is to protect the people of the township with respect to the Holbrook landfill site."

"People must realize we are practising restraint and we may have to cut back on some of the services they are accustomed to," he added.

Councillor Jack Lester said he believes the central shed proposal to be a "worthy project" that would, in the long run, save the township money. He said that is what restraint means, whether it is in the long run or the short run. "I'm all for restraint," he said but: "The word restraint has been abused. If we don't want to do something, we push restraint."

Mr. Eacott said a little short term paying will, in the long run, save a lot more money for the people of this township. "Sometimes it's better in a time of recession for some people to go ahead and do things," he said. If everyone sits on their money they will contribute for a further downturn in the economy. "By using your money you create jobs and a better economic climate," he said.

Councillor John Heleniak said Wednesday council does represent the taxpayers in the municipality "and it was proven it was very unpopular to proceed with this project and we should take into consideration their feelings." "There won't be an elected official left in our ward or any ward if this goes through," said Councillor Robert Pettigrew.

Councillor Eacott stated if council voted to scrap the central shed, local service should then be provided with a shed in Ward 4. "If it's fair for Ward 1 then it's fair for Ward 4."

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## Plans taking shape

Plans for the South Norwich 175th anniversary celebrations are beginning to take shape.

A meeting of the planning committee was held last Wednesday evening, February 24, in the council chambers in Otterville under the chairmanship of Dr. Murray Downing.

The weekend of anniversary celebrations is being kicked off on July 1 with the Canada Day parade, the culminating event of the entire Norwich Township Canada Week celebrations.

The Norwich - Otterville Lions club has planned a barbecue to be held on that day also, Thursday, July 1, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Otterville community park.

The Spring - Otter Optimists are organizing several events, including a dance, a beard-growing contest and a soap box derby for the youngsters.

The dance is scheduled for Friday evening, July 2, in the parking lot behind the municipal offices in Otterville with people of all ages welcome.

The soap box derby will be held Saturday morning, July 3 starting at 10 a.m. with two age groups participating; 6 to 9 years and 10 to 14 years. Entry forms are available from

Jim Countryman, Otterville.

On Saturday afternoon the young people can also participate in the Women's Institute's tricycle and bicycle parade.

On Sunday morning, July 4, area residents can attend an outdoor ecumenical church service to be held in the Otterville community park. Jean McClintock is acting as choir leader and is organizing the musical portion of the service. Choir practice will be held weekly in the Otterville United Church, starting Tuesday, March 16 from 8 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. All "singers" of the area should plan to participate in this mass choir.

The unveiling of the plaque and cairn to be erected at the site of the Negro cemetery will take place on Sunday afternoon, July 4, at 2 p.m. The South Norwich Historical Society and Treffry mill advisory committee's barbecue will be held later that day from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m.

Dates and times of other events being planned for the weekend anniversary celebrations are tentative but a reunion of all former pupils of South Norwich schools is being organized as well as a contest for a South Norwich anniversary beauty queen to reign over

the events.

And those fellows who haven't got involved in the beard-growing contest may find themselves being charged for shaving.

The July 1 parade committee is looking for entrants as is Ed White for the garden party to be held in conjunction with the barbecue on that day. Any local talent is welcome to take part. Anyone interested in taking part in the parade or the garden party should contact the organizers of the parade: Gord Shearer, Bob Scott and Rick Jones; and Ed White for the garden party.

Anyone who attended the 1907 centennial celebrations will be admitted free to all July 1 events by contacting a committee member.

The next meeting of the planning committee will be held Wednesday, March 24 in the council chambers at 7 p.m. Please bring reports and suggestions.



# Holbrook battle takes its toll shed is scrapped

From the March 25 edition of The Sentinel-Review  
By LINDA HULME  
Sentinel-Review staff writer  
OTTERVILLE — The con-

troversial proposed centralized public works depot for Norwich Township has been deleted from the 1982 public works budget. The deletion of the capital

project was decided Wednesday, to allow for other township priorities to be met, primarily, the Holbrook landfill site legal battle.

But the decision didn't go without final arguments.

The road shed was strongly opposed by hundreds of township residents, who didn't want the centralization to take place. Even some township councillors who agreed on the project initially, reneged on their decision, calling the project too costly.

The architect's estimates exceeded \$300,000 for the construction of the proposed 11 bay shed.

During council's Tuesday night session, discussion resurfaced when the public works budget was introduced.

Coun. Darrell Force said he wanted to see more accurate appraisals on existing sheds, for a more definite estimate of their market value, before approving the budget.

### COSTS WILL RISE

But before much discussion was heard, Coun. John Eacott read a statement in support of the road shed. He said last year council spent \$50,000 on a 10 acre lot in a central location, intending to go ahead with the project, and another \$14,000 on architect's fees for plans.

"If we delay," said Eacott, "our costs will probably continue to rise and hence, undertaking the central shed now would be, in the long run, the least expensive route. It would

also allow us to consolidate our operation sooner and to implement major cost saving activities at an earlier date."

He said abandoning the project is "an irresponsible waste of more than \$70,000."

He said the township should be run like a business, with long range goals.

"If we are faced with extraordinary costs this year, then we should pay attention to the principle of 'short term pain for long term gain'," he said.

### CAN'T AFFORD BOTH

But Eacott's submission was met with opposition from Coun. Mel Smith, who said the township couldn't afford the Holbrook dump fight and the shed in one year.

Mayor Carm Sweazey agreed. "We are into a recession...and we have got priorities. I think our number one priority is to protect the people of the township pertaining to the Holbrook landfill site," he said. "The people are going to have to realize we are practising restraint."

Discussion continued on the proposed shed Wednesday morning, when Force reiterated his position that new appraisals of two existing sheds be done before deciding on whether to scrap the centralized proposal.

"We still don't know, at this point, whether there's a savings to be had," said Force.

Once last words were spoken, a recorded vote was taken and the decision to delete the shed was accepted with the public works report.

## Rummage sale for Institute

OTTERVILLE (C) — The March meeting of the Otterville Women's Institute was held on Friday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Lorne Treffry.

Mrs. Treffry was the convener of the program which was based on agriculture and many interesting items were given by three of the members, Mrs. Treffry giving a reading on "Shifting the Gears assisting in Agriculture." Mrs. William A. McMullen read a paper on "Small Dairy Farms" and Mrs. Harold Durkee presented her paper on Farm Safety Rules and a reading on St. Patrick's Day.

The April meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Murray Downing. Members were invited to meet at her home for a potluck luncheon at 12 noon after which the business meeting will be held and following the members will return to the Community Hall to arrange the donated clothing and other things for the Rummage Sale which will be held in the community hall April 3 from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Announcement was made for the Quilting Summary Day which will be held Wednesday, April 7 at the Fairview Centre,

Woodstock. The quilt block was handed in for the quilting at the Erland Lee Home in June.

The Spring Board meeting will be held March 29 at Culloden Hall.

Mrs. Harry Pickersgill president presided for the meeting which was attended by 10 members.

Members responded to the roll call by naming a tree and its uses.

The president welcomed Mrs. Harold Durkee and Evelyn Waring who had been absent for the past few meetings.

Mrs. Waring read "Thank-you" cards from Grace Squance and Edith Petch who were shut-ins.

The meeting closed with the singing of "O Canada" and "The Institute grace". Lunch was served by committee. Mrs. Lorene McMullen was the pianist.

The cup and saucer which was marked was held by Vera Welsh who was presented with an Ivy potted plant.

### 35 YEARS AGO MARCH 13, 1947

Ronald Young, formerly employed by J.S. Leitch on one of his tobacco farms, is moving to a tobacco farm owned by George Daiken, on the Otterville Road which he will work on shares.

## Clubs increasing role in aid to handicapped

OTTERVILLE (C) — The regular meeting of the Norwich-Otterville Lions Club was held in the community hall, Otterville on Monday night, March 22. Lion vice-president, Colin Cope presided.

Attendance numbered 51 with three members from the Merritton Club, two from the Hagersville Club, one prospective member and two lady guests.

Lion Fred Thompson introduced Lion Bob Kane from the Hagersville Lions Club, chairman of the District A2 Hearing of the conservation committee.

Lion Bob introduced his speech by showing an explanatory film on the hearing impaired, especially the young and very young handicapped. Multiple Lions District A is

playing an increasing role in aiding the hearing impaired in the district (Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador).

Lion Gord Shearer thanked the guest speaker and presented him with a gift.

Lion Les Dickson introduced Shirley McKee and Elaine Spyksme representing the Norwich Girl Guides and Pathfinders who were presented with a cheque in support of their organizations.

Donations were approved at the March executive meeting to the Norwich Boy Scouts, Brownies, the Skating Club and the N.D.H.S. French Club.

It was decided to raffle a Pontiac Firebird at the Fall Carnival. The Lions Ladies' Night will be held on Sunday, April 4 when the club and ladies will attend "The Grand Old Opry Show" at the London Gardens.

## Sunshine club

OTTERVILLE (C) — The members of the Sunshine Club met at the home of Mrs. Ross Dow on Thursday evening March 11.

Twelve members were present and responded to the roll call, was suggested by Evelyn Picknell.

The minutes were read by the secretary-treasurer Margaret Shearer. The business was conducted by the president Sandra Hussey.

A cake, in keeping with

St. Patrick's Day made by Mrs. Batson and on which tickets were drawn, was won by Mrs. Picknell.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Dorothy Neale, March 25 at which time Doreen Mountain will suggest the roll call and Dorothy Wardell will convene the social.

Marjorie Pearce gave the courtesy remarks to the hostess and to Mrs. Shearer for the lunch on behalf of the members of the club.

## Planning picnic

OTTERVILLE (C) — The annual Lions chicken barbecue will be held in the Community Park, Otterville, Saturday evening, June 19.

Lion George Hostick from the Merritton Lions Club was in attendance and spoke to the meeting in his bid to become Governor of District A-2.

There was a lengthy discussion after which it was decided that the club would commit itself to a substantial financial amount towards completion of the rebuilding of the bathhouse at the Memorial Swimming Pool be built this spring before the official opening in later June.

It was also emphasized that financial support from other organizations within the community would be encouraged toward the bathhouse project.

Lions Art VandeByl and Ray O'Neil were elected as two year directors.

The Convention draw prizes were won by Lions John Sandham and Bill Martin.

## Court rejects retrial bid

A crown bid to retry Hedwig Stockmans, an Otterville area farmer found not guilty in the murder of his wife was rejected by the Ontario court of appeal Thursday. Mr. Stockmans was found not guilty of second-degree murder in a December, 1979 trial in

Woodstock. His wife had been found shot to death September 7, 1979.

The crown claimed Mr. Justice Dennis O'Leary, trial judge, had improperly charged the jury. The three-member court of appeal rejected his claim. No reasons were given for the decision.

MAR 3  
T.N.

## Historical society

### buying plaque

The South Norwich Historical Society met at Woodlawn on March 8 at 8 p.m.

President Lorne Treffry presided and secretary Mary Murray read minutes.

Bill McMullen, Sr., reported on the plaque which the society is purchasing to commemorate the negro cemetery just north of Otterville. The plaque, is to be placed in a curn and unveiled during anniversary celebrations in July.

Doreen Mountain reported that tickets are now available on the society's quilt a gold and pale yellow Dresden plate design, and tickets may be purchased from society members.

Joyce Pettigrew introduced the guest speaker, Martie Avey, who gave an interesting talk on the life of Dr. Emily Jennings Stowe. Dr. Stowe, who was born in Norwich Township, probably in the Hawtrey vicinity, in 1831 was this country's first practising woman doctor and was a leader of the suffragette movement in the late 1800's.

She studied medicine in New York State, having been denied entrance to the University of Toronto, graduated in 1867 and returned to Toronto where she practised medicine without a license for several years, as no Canadian medical school would permit her to attend a required lecture series. She finally obtained her license in 1880, while a protege of hers, Dr. Jenny Trout, was licensed in 1870.

In 1877, Emily organized the Toronto Women's Literary Club, a suffragette organization which lobbied and demonstrated for women's rights both in the work place and regarding the right to vote.

One of the most interesting activities of the society was the holding of a mock parliament, in which the all-female government insisted that men were only suited to physical labour, and therefore should not be allowed to meddle in politics.

Kathy Davis thanked Marie for her informative talk and a delicious lunch was provided by Sandra Russey.

## Ward 1

# Work nearing completion

Seven years of work by the South Norwich Historical Society will culminate this year in the publication of a book covering the history of the former South Norwich Township from its settlement 175 years ago.

While work is still underway on the research and writing of the book, members of the historical society hope it will be published and available for the 175th anniversary celebrations of the former township held July 1-4.

The history book has been the focus of the society since it formed and the membership began to work in earnest on it when the nearness of the 175th anniversary was realized.

"Both things sort of ripened at the same time," said book committee chairman Juanita DeRoo of Otterville. When the members realized the anniversary was coming and plans for a celebration took hold, they decided to try and complete the book for that event.

Mrs. DeRoo said there was very little to start with when the group undertook the project and they never imagined there would be so much history the group would turn up in researching the entire South Norwich Township.

"Most of what was needed for this book was pure research, right from scratch," said Mrs. DeRoo. But with the aid of summer students working under the government's Experience programs and others working under the federal government's winter works projects, many areas were covered and a lot of things that had been hidden away for years were unearthed, said Mrs. DeRoo.

She said the entire process is a bit like being Sherlock Holmes and being part detective herself, she fully enjoys the work of poring over old records, census records, cemetery records and other statistical and written sources for information that helps to build a picture of the early community.

The two students working under the Experience '80 project really got the work off the ground, however, said another historical society member working on the book, Joyce Pettigrew. Those students spent the summer researching such areas as Little Ireland, Moore's Mills, Cornell, Rock's Mill, New Road, Rosanna, the Millers, Mildale and Hawtrey. The students also spent much time interviewing long-time residents of the area to get their reminiscences down on paper.

Mrs. Pettigrew said the older people in the community are great sources of information and it is unfortunate that a lot of them have been missed over the years.

Mrs. DeRoo said there are often times when you encounter a dead end in your search but "there's always another way." She said it is difficult to know

when to cut off the research and begin the compiling of information for writing.

Mrs. Pettigrew said most of the digging for information has been completed now and a good portion of the book is written. Members of the historical society have been doing most of the writing with the help of some volunteers and the individuals working under the winter works project.

Mrs. Pettigrew said the history is the most comprehensive work ever done on South Norwich and touches on many areas never covered before. One such unique area is the history of the township's black settlement, which Mrs. Pettigrew herself has spent a great deal of time researching. She said it was a difficult area to research as there were very few articles written that dealt with the blacks in this area. There was a fairly large black settlement in the area numbering about 100 in 1850 but it had begun to decline by 1880.

The book commences with the pre-settlement history of the area dealing with the Neutral Indians who inhabited the area before white settlers arrived. The early Quaker settlement will then be discussed, the black settlement, lumbering, agriculture, transportation, government, villages, education, entertainment, including social life, sports, music

and the temperance movement, industries and businesses.

While some areas of the history do come up to the present, local government ends at 1975 when the township was restructured and became part of Norwich Township. Many of the other areas covered go only up to 1920.

Mrs. Pettigrew said the local newspapers up to 1920 were a great source of information for the history.

The work that is being done will not only aid in writing the South Norwich history, it will also be a valuable source of information to others doing family research or research into various subjects. A great deal of information was uncovered by the students working on the project and all that information was recorded on file cards that are kept at the Norwich archives. Mrs. Pettigrew said all the items in the index will be cross-referenced to a family name for easier access. She said there must be about 3,000 file cards on individuals alone who came to live in South Norwich.

While the project is extremely time consuming and at times frustrating, the work is interesting and rewarding. "I have had so much enjoyment out of this working with the older people," said Mrs. DeRoo. "It's really become a township project involving the whole community in drawing the information

together."

For her, finding time to do the research is the biggest problem. Mrs. Pettigrew said she loves to do the research but when you don't come up with the answers you're looking for, that's when it gets frustrating. "There's no great trick to writing it if it's all there. But if there's too many maybe's, then it's difficult."

## Otterville

Mrs. Harold Waring  
Otterville 879 4455

OTTERVILLE (C) — On Sunday, March 14 Mr. and Mrs. Ed Douma of Woodstock entertained a number of relatives and friends at a surprise party held at their home.

The evening honored Mr. and Mrs. Joe Lees of Otterville who celebrated the 40th wedding anniversary of their marriage who were married in Delhi March 7, 1942.

Mr. and Mrs. Lees are parents of Mrs. Douma.

Among those present were Eva Deveney of Otterville, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lees of Brantford, Glen and Minerva Lees of London, and Mr. and Mrs. Lees' three grandchildren Troy, Jennifer, and Collin Douma of Woodstock. An enjoyable time reminiscing was had by all.

## Coming Events

The family of Harold and Katie Pearce invite relatives and friends to an Open House in celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary, to be held Sunday, March 14, 1982 at the Cornell Hall, 2-4 p.m. Best wishes only please. 1

The family of Mr. Edward Moore of Otterville would like to invite relatives, friends and neighbors to an Open House held in the honor of his recent marriage, on March 21, from 2-4 p.m. at Woodlawn Adult Community Centre in Otterville. Best wishes only please. 1

## World Day of Prayer service at Otterville

On Friday, March 5, the World Day of Prayer service was held at Otterville United Church with a good attendance. As is customary, it was a joint service with the Anglican Church ladies participating.

The theme was "The People of God, gathered for worship, scattered for service."

Otterville U.C.W. conducted part one of the service, "Gathered for Worship", with Mrs. Jean Gehring as leader and Mrs. Elaine Oliver and Mrs. Bertha Gehring assisting. Part two, "Service Through Living", was presented by the Anglican

Church Women with Mrs. Dorothy Durkee as leader assisted by Mrs. Violet Howse and Mrs. Ann Rachar.

Mrs. Marion Taylor gave a very interesting message in keeping with the theme which had been prepared by the women of Ireland. The Christian faith was brought to Ireland by St. Patrick who became their Patron Saint. An Irish girl, Brigid of Kildare, was so inspired by his preaching, that she left her comfortable life to care for the poor and afflicted. She formed a community of women and men to minister in Christ's name, much like our modern-day, Mother Theresa.



### Tedious work

Poring over census lists and old account books may appear to be tedious work but the bits of information garnered from them helps to give Ken Avey an insight into the people and the communities of areas of South Norwich in early years for the history book being published by the South Norwich historical society. (NG Photo).

## Researching history book

BY SUZANNE HANSON

Ken Avey knows William Cromwell very well. Although the man who was one of the early residents of Otterville, lived more than a hundred years ago, Mr. Avey has come to know him quite intimately by researching him and other South Norwich personalities for the South Norwich history book coming out this year.

"It's like you almost know them. I know what they're like and what they did for a living," said Mr. Avey. From dry, historical data you can draw images of some very colorful figures, he said.

Mr. Avey is one of three people who have been working on research at the Norwich archives since January 4. They are employed under one of the federal government's winter works projects, a

Canada Community Development Project. The three researchers work five-days a week for a total of 74 weeks, researching material for the South Norwich history and indexing and cross-referencing various information at the Norwich archives.

When the South Norwich history book has been completed, the researchers will be working on three projects for the Norwich and District Historical Society. Those projects include going over old issues of The Norwich Gazette to extract the births, deaths and marriages to be indexed for easier accessibility. The researchers will also be working on indexing the information transcribed from area cemetery stones and copying the information from the 1851

census from microfilm into book form to be more for easier access by the public.

The grant, which expires in mid-June, employs two people for 25 weeks and one for 24 weeks, paid with the \$16,442 grant which covers salaries and any expenses such as office supplies.

Mr. Avey, who is working primarily on the research for the South Norwich history, is researching the early businesses in that area. In order to validate the information he checks various sources, indexing whatever information he finds on cards to be filed at the archives for future reference.

A lot of the information sources are population or census lists which give clues to where people moved and what they did for a living. From the information on the people it is possible to determine

what the business and commerce of the area was like at that time, said Mr. Avey.

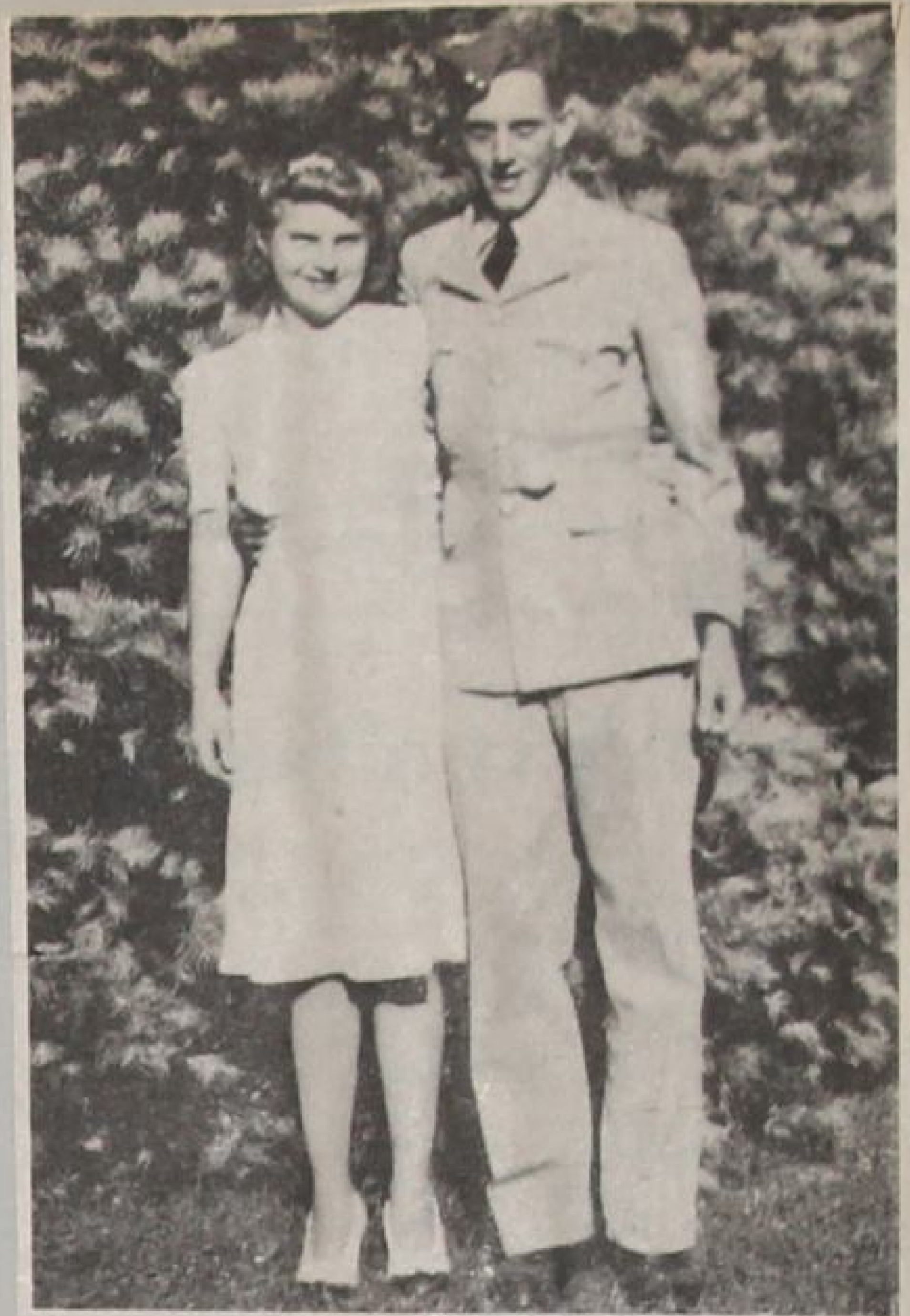
He said it is possible to trace "who was where right back to day one. Then you have the history of the community."

Newspapers are an invaluable source of information and help to provide the color to the sometimes dry statistical information. Once he has the information gathered together he will begin to write a chapter of the book on the business of the early settlement.

After reading so much about the various people, you actually feel like you know them and would recognize them if you met them on the street, said Mr. Avey. "They become very real."

Mr. Avey, a journalist for many years, has also nurtured an interest in history for many years, a hobby he picked up from his father.

In his work at the archives, he is attempting to bring the history of South Norwich business from day one up to as current as it is possible. However, the earlier history is the most interesting as you get more of a feeling for the people, he said.



The family of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Lewis would like to invite friends, relatives and neighbours to an Open House in honour of their parents 40th wedding anniversary to be held at their home, RR 2, Otterville, Sunday, March 7, from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Best wishes only.

## Bid to retry farmer in wife killing fails

TORONTO (Staff) — The Ontario court of appeal Thursday quashed the crown's bid to retry Otterville area farmer Hedwig Stockmans in the September, 1979, shooting death of his wife Sandra.

Stockmans, 44, was acquitted in December, 1979, by an Oxford County jury on a charge of second-degree murder after his 33-year-old wife was shot three times in the head on Sept. 7.

The three-man court of appeal rejected Crown Attorney David Watt's arguments that Mr. Justice Dennis O'Leary had improperly instructed the jury. The court gave no reasons for its judgment.

## Otterville UCW plan luncheon, sale

OTTERVILLE (C) — The March meeting of the Otterville United Church Women was held in the schoolroom of the Church last Thursday evening.

President Jean Gehring presided and opened the meeting with the United Church Women's Purpose.

A reading, written by the late Helen Steiner Rice -

"Some Cannot See" - was read by June Ash. The minutes of the previous meeting were read by the secretary, Elaine Oliver and reports were given by the conveners.

Thank-you notes were read by Mrs. Moore and Evelyn Waring.

Announcement of the Spring Luncheon, Craft and Bake Sale was made to be held in the Church hall, April 22 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Betty Walther was convener of the program presided and introduced

the program when a skit was presented on "The Meaning of the Cross".

A dialogue using hymn titles was given by Jean Stewart and Jean Carney. The Scripture lesson was presented by Mrs. Ash.

A dialogue on the hymn "Take My Life and Let It Be" was given by Mrs. Stewart and Mrs. Carney. The skit, presented with

an interviewer and persons on the street, was given by Mrs. Carney, Mrs. Gehring, Mrs. Ash, Mrs. Stewart, Grace Gehring, Mrs. Waring and Mrs. Walther.

The service closed with the benediction. Hymns were sung throughout the service by the congregation. A social time was enjoyed.

L.F.P. MAR 19/82

# Area woman travels India

By SUZANNE HANSON

India is a place for travellers not tourists, said Julie Vandenberghe of RR 1, Otterville, who has recently returned from a one-month sojourn to that country of many contrasts.

Those who travel to India should be prepared for what they will find there — millions of people and coming face to face to poverty and the harsh realities that accompany it.

Mrs. Vandenberghe said she had always had an interest in the country since she was about 13 years old after having made a speech on India. The research for the speech, given when she attended Otterville public school, sparked her interest in India and she dreamed of someday visiting the country.

The opportunity for such a trip arose when friends from Burlington, who were

originally from India, decided to return home for a visit. Having left a month earlier than Mrs. Vandenberghe they met her on her arrival in New Delhi and acted as her tour guide throughout her month-long visit.

Because Mrs. Vandenberghe was travelling with her friends who were native to the country, she was privileged to visit parts of the country's interior few other people

have an opportunity to see.

Mrs. Vandenberghe said the children in the interior villages they visited were quite enthralled by her, having never before seen a white person.

She said she was fortunate to have friends who could take her into such areas of the country but advised others making such a trip not to do the same unless accompanied by someone who knows the people and the country.

Mrs. Vandenberghe and her friends travelled into the state of Punjab where the language and religion is Punjabi. That was the home state of her Burlington companions and they made visits to their villages in the interior.

While the land there is suited to farming with rich soil, producing crops of sugar cane, cotton, rice and beautiful vegetables and fruit, the people still live quite primitively, said Mrs. Vandenberghe.

"I don't think things have changed in 100 years," she said. Water buffalo, goats, sheep and chickens also abounded in the villages and the sacred cows — the white Brahmas — wandered about freely, fed and cared for by the people. Mrs. Vandenberghe said the main source of the villagers' milk was the water buffalo.

While the turbaned people of Punjab live relatively well off their land, there are many areas throughout India where there is a great deal of poverty. Part of the reason for that poverty is the vast number of people the country must support.

"There are people everywhere," said Mrs. Vandenberghe.

She said many people do not even have homes and in the winter months of January and February such people suffer because of the cold nights. Those who live outdoors will burn anything they can find, including grass, weeds and sticks at night to keep warm.

Mrs. Vandenberghe said she spent approximately two weeks touring the interior of the country. On her arrival in India, she spent a few days in New Delhi to see such sights as the presidential palace and the residence of Indira Ghandi. From there she travelled to Agra to see the world famous Taj Mahal.

"Looking down on it was the most fantastic thing I had ever seen," said Mrs. Vandenberghe. "It takes your breath away. It really is one of the seven wonders of the world," she said. It was built in the 1600's by a Muslim king for his favorite wife and the two were entombed there together on their death.



## Treasures from India

Julie Vandenberghe shows off some of the treasures she brought back with her from a recent month-long trip to India, including a carved wooden vase, a camel carved from walnut, a carved wooden elephant, a pottery vase and a picture of the Taj Mahal made with rice straw. (NG Photo)

From there Mrs. Vandenberghe and her friends travelled to Jullundur where they visited a place where teak and rosewood furniture was made with inlaid brass and ivory.

But it was the interior part of the country that Mrs. Vandenberghe was most interested in as she really wanted to see the country and its people. With her friends she was able to visit parts of India that most people rarely see.

Some days, travel was slow in the interior as the roads were crowded with people and animals with no one in any hurry to move out of the car's way.

"In India time doesn't mean anything to the people," she said. "In the country people work everyday and everyday is the same to them."

She also said a person's life in India doesn't seem to mean too much to the people because there are so many people. There is also the Hindu belief in reincarnation — that in dying one moves on to a higher plane of life.

On leaving the interior of the country, Mrs. Vandenberghe travelled to the City of the Golden Temple — Amritsar. Few Westerners are found in India and even fewer are found at Amritsar. Most of the people visiting India are eastern peoples, many from China and Tibet, some from Europe, but few from North America.

Mrs. Vandenberghe then travelled to Sahnipur in the north of the country and from there on to Ghandigar, one of the newest cities in India, only about 30 years old. It is quite a modern city and a great contrast to the rest of the country, she said. She and her friends then returned to New Delhi and from there travelled to Ceylon to visit Bombay, "a very beautiful city right on the coast."

Mrs. Vandenberghe wanted to make the trip to Ceylon to go up into the mountains to Kande to visit some people who were penpals with other friends back home in LaSalette. It is up in those mountains that the tea bushes grow. Mrs. Vandenberghe saw how the teas were made and what makes the more expensive quality teas.

The lower the leaves are on the bush, the lower the grade and the less expensive the tea is, she said, but the lower the leaves the more bitter the tea is.

The people of India are all tea drinkers and there were many tea rooms in Ceylon.

From Ceylon the travellers flew to Madra, India, a beautiful coastal city. From there it was back to New Delhi and on to Cashmere, up into the rocky, snowy Himalayas to visit the city of Sirangar, a place where furniture is made from walnut and many beautiful Indian carpets are made. She said one carpet measuring six feet by eight would take a family about six months to complete. The best carpets are made of silk, she said, and the single-knotted carpets are the strongest.

Mrs. Vandenberghe then left Cashmere to go to Simla, another city in the Indian Himalayas. There she spent the last week of her holiday with a 76-year-old Roman Catholic bishop who has been in Simla for the past two years, prior to which he had spent 34 years in Sirangar.

The Roman Catholic Church at Simla is one of the earliest Catholic churches in India, said Mrs. Vandenberghe. In India there are a maximum of about 10 million Roman Catholics in addition to numerous Chinese Catholics. Other major religious groups include Hindus, Muslims and Punjabis.

The bishop told Mrs. Vandenberghe it is almost impossible to convert an Indian to Catholicism — their religion and way of life is too inbred.

He also told Mrs. Vandenberghe he had never seen a country with so much corruption at all levels, from the government officials, to the public servants to the police. The corruption and the high population are part of the reasons for India's lack of advancement, he said.

Mrs. Vandenberghe said the trip to India was the experience of a lifetime and one she does not regret taking. While the lifestyle and food are very different, she soon grew accustomed to the spices and the slower pace.

Progress will come slowly to India but it is that primitive way of life that holds so much of the country's appeal for visitors such as Mrs. Vandenberghe.

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO MARCH 1957

Representatives of all organizations in the district met in the community hall in Otterville to plant a gala affair for the July 1 weekend marking the 150th anniversary of the first settlement of Otterville.

## ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 1882

The five Phelps children of Eden, mentioned in March 22nd paper, who died from diptheria, were Austin age 17, Andrew 13, Clinton 10, Charley 8 and Alonza 2. They were the sons of Fanny and Othnie Phelps.

The nailer, the principle machine used in making cigar boxes, has arrived and is at work in the cigar box factory. Four or five hands are at present employed.

Otterville built a new lock-up some weeks ago and some speculation was indulged in as to who would be the first occupant. The Guide of that village says that Mr. John Roantree of Springford had that honor on Monday of last week. He was taxed about \$4 for it.

# Family night supper

OTTERVILLE (C) — The annual Family Night Supper of the Women's Missionary Fellowship of the Otterville Baptist Church was held in the school room of the Church. The president, Mrs. Wilma Butler thanked the social committee - Mrs. Dwight Davis, Mrs. Jack Walters and Mrs. Ken Lee for arranging the meal.

The president opened the devotional by reading Psalm 96:1-9 and said it is important to thank God for His love and care. Everyone joined in the singing of some choruses with Mrs. William Hansford at the piano. A letter was read from Helen Bello of Africa, a girl whom the group helped to support. A cable was received from Dr. Hazel Wrigglesworth informing everyone that she had finished translating the New Testament into the Philippine language. Mrs. W. Hansford and Mrs. Ted Oenema offered missionary prayers.

Mrs. Earl Cooper told a Missionary story to the children - seven and under, followed by a song by the children. Everyone joined in singing "Happiness is the Lord".

Mrs. Butler took the lead in presenting a skit in which she was a reporter asking several people the question "What does the Cross mean to you?"

Those taking part were Mrs. Cooper, Glen Marshall, Mrs. John Hansford, Mr. Paul Babcock, Mrs. Ted Oenema, Mr. David Pathy, and Miss Rhonda Treffry. During the play the ladies' choir sang appropriate hymns in the background. Mrs. Butler thanked those who took part in the program and Mrs. Lee thanked her for all her work to make it an enjoyable evening. Mrs. Bruce Stover closed with prayer.

We would like to thank our family and friends for the happy afternoon held in our honor at Woodlawn on Sunday, March 21. The many kind words and good wishes will always be remembered and deeply appreciated. Thank you. - Jean and Ed Moore. 7

# Lions increasing aid to hearing impaired

OTTERVILLE (C) — The regular meeting of the Norwich-Otterville Lions Club was held in the community hall, Otterville on Monday night, March 22. Lion vice-president, Colin Cope presided.

Attendance numbered 51 with three members from the Merriton Club, two from the Hagersville Club, one prospective member and two lady guests.

Lion Fred Thompson introduced Lion Bob Kane from the Hagersville Lions Club, chairman of the District A2 Hearing of the conservation committee.

Lion Bob introduced his speech by showing an explanatory film on the hearing impaired, especially the young and very young handicapped. Multiple Lions District A is playing an increasing role in aiding the hearing im-

paired in the district (Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador).

Lion Gord Shearer thanked the guest speaker and presented him with a gift.

Lion Les Dickson introduced Shirley McKee and Elaine Spyskme representing the Norwich Girl Guides and Pathfinders who were presented with a cheque in support of their organizations.

Donations were approved at the March executive meeting to the Norwich Boy Scouts, Brownies, the Skating Club and the N.D.H.S. French Club.

It was decided to raffle a Pontiac Firebird at the Fall Carnival. The Lions Ladies' Night will be held on Sunday, April 4 when the club and ladies will attend

"The Grand Old Opry Show" at the London Gardens.

# St. John's ladies present skits

OTTERVILLE (C) — St. John's Ladies held an evening of Inspiration and Fellowship on Monday evening, March 29.

Violet Howse welcomed the ladies and opened with scripture sentences after which the minutes were read. Rev. Darling led in prayer.

Mrs. Harold Durkee read the scripture from St. Matthew 25:34-40. The ladies presented a play "Brigid of Kildare". Those taking part were Mrs. Bob Furlong, Mrs. August

DeWatcher, Mrs. Roy Rachar, Janet Ryerse and Mrs. Bob Picknell.

Hymns were sung and collection taken to be given to the Primitis World Relief Fund.

The meeting closed with prayer and the Blessing after which a skit, The Rich Man Who Died was presented in Pantomime. Mrs. W. Davis, Mrs. Ivan Pickering and Rev. Darling took part.

Refreshments were served and a time of fellowship followed.

# Local couple wed 50 years

CORNELL (C) — Mr. and Mrs. Harold Pearce celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on March 12, 1982, with an "Open House" arranged by their family at the Cornell hall on Sunday, March 14.

The day began with a family dinner catered by Cornell W.I. in which about 40 members partook. Present at the meal were some of the couples' brothers and sisters, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Gray, Mr. Fred Broad, Mrs. Marion Broad, Mr. Frank Broad, Mrs. Lillian Broad and Miss Mae Broad and Mrs. Ruby May of Toronto.

Mrs. Pearce was the former Catherine Broad, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Philip Broad of Springford. They were married by the late Rev. George Shields and were attended by Miss Gertrude Pearce, now Mrs. Jesse Gray, and the late George Broad. Following the wedding they journeyed to Stratford, then on to Toronto.

Mr. and Mrs. Pearce have seven children, Arthur at home, Philip, who now owns the home farm, Earl of St. Thomas, Hugh of California, Mrs. Hank Cowenburg (Kaye) of Burgessville, Mrs. Joe Oatman (Lois) of Columbus, South Carolina and Mrs. Doug Wardle

(Linda) of Dorchester. The couple has 17 grandchildren who presented their grandparents with a very unique family portrait tree.

Mr. and Mrs. Pearce have resided in Cornell all their married life.

There were about 200 guests attending the "Open House".

# Want a steam tractor for someone special?

WOODSTOCK (Bureau) — With only 287 shopping days left until Christmas, you may have begun thinking about what to buy for the man, or woman, on your

shopping list who has everything (except perhaps a job, times being what they are).

If that's the case, mechanic Jim Porter may offer a solution. The Woodstock man

has for sale a 1910 Sawyer-Massey steam-powered tractor which, though not running, could easily be restored with a bit of work — and cash — he says.

"Just how much it would cost to get her running again is a pretty hard question to answer," Porter said Friday. "I would guess that you could probably put \$4,000-5,000 into it to put it into condition."

The tractor, technically referred to as a steam-traction engine, belongs to Porter's mother, Jean Porter of RR 5, Woodstock, and originally belonged to his father, the late Bernard Porter. It has belonged to the family since it was purchased more than 15 years ago by the senior Porter, who at one time owned four of them and, with Mrs. Porter, toured Ontario historical shows with them.

Jim Porter recently sold two of the engines to a Windsor man and once the unit now for sale is gone Porter will be left with just one similar machine — a 1917 50-horsepower Case steam tractor. That one is in perfect running order, says Porter, and was in fact used to tow the 1910 unit out of storage and onto the gravel patch it now sits on beside Highway 2, in Woodstock's east end.

"I have another one and that's all I really need," Porter said when asked why he is selling the machine. "They really take up quite a bit of space and it's a lot of work to look after them."

In addition to the two steam tractors, Porter and his mother also have in storage a 1925 Brook's steam car — made in Stratford — which has been in the family longer than either can remember. And then there are the various stationary steam engines the senior Porters used to proudly exhibit at historical shows across the province. One was once used as a water pump in England, while another once powered an Otterville cannery.

As for the steam tractor now on the block, Porter says he has had "about half a dozen" inquiries, but so far no one has come up with the \$4,500 he is asking.

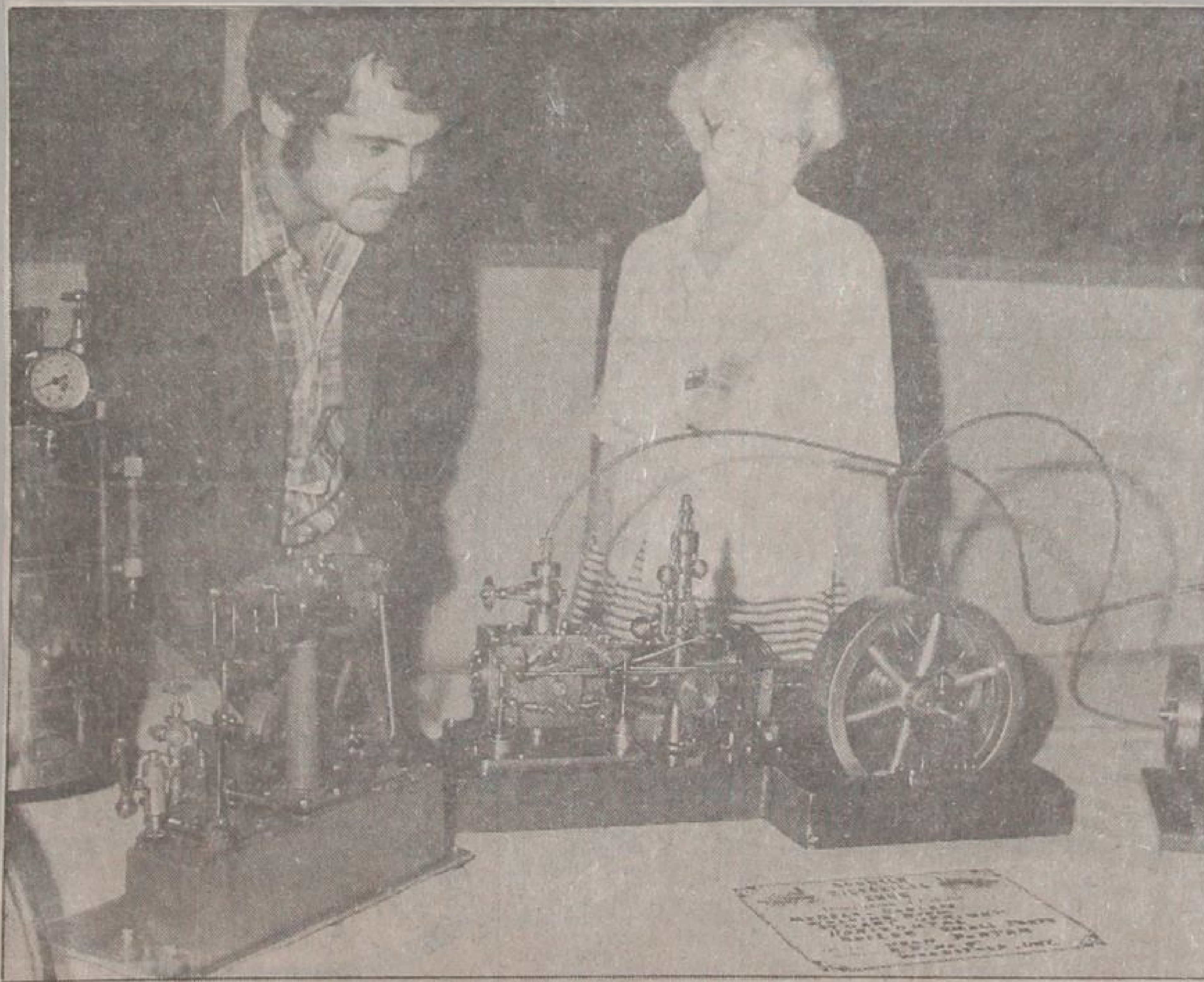
"Every once in a while somebody gets really excited about it. Once it's restored and running, a machine like that could bring \$10,000-12,000, maybe more. It depends on how much a person wants to put into restoring it."



Woodstock Bureau

Jim Porter and his mother Jean of RR 5, Woodstock, are parting with a 1910 steam tractor that once belonged to Mrs. Porter's late husband, Bernard.

LONDON FREE PRESS MARCH



The Norwich Historical Show on Saturday was somewhat of a reunion for at least two steam engine buffs as Jean Porter of RR 5, Woodstock, talks about her replica of the Corless steam engine

with Brian Darby of Simcoe. Darby's grandfather, Dudley Darby, built the replica of the engine that once powered the Otterville cannery. (Photo by Williams)

L.F.P. JUN 5



One of the delights of Ken Mann's life is his interest in things from the past. He and wife Cathy are shown here sitting in a buggy that was completely restored by Ken. Ken, who has been a tobacco farmer since 1979, had an extensive background in all aspects of the tobacco industry. He had his best crop last year. (Staff Photo)

## Former board employee likes growing tobacco

For Ken Mann of RR 1 Otterville, growing his own crop is like a dream come true and his wife Cathy shares that sentiment. The two took over the 75 acre family farm in 1975 and had a grower come in for the first four years, but finally, in 1979 they decided to grow a crop themselves.

Ken worked for the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board for 21 years and he "really liked working for them", but there's nothing that compares to growing your own crop.

Why did they decide to grow their own crop after having a grower for the first four years? "You've got upkeep on the buildings and so forth even if you have a grower. If you're working out, you're making a living true enough, but with the maintenance around the farm you've got no free time for yourself," says Ken.

Still, growing on their own hasn't been easy for the couple. The first year that they grew was in 1979 and that year the blue mold hit. "The

odour from the mold was so bad that the neighbours complained," Cathy said about that experience.

"We called a director from the tobacco board and asked him to come out and look at the crop and he said not to spend another cent on it. I had a 20½ acre crop that year and if I

(continued on page 59)

Ken Mann and his wife Cathy of RR 1 Otterville are seen looking at some of their 1981 crop. Ken started growing in 1979 after working for the tobacco board for many years. His first year he got hit by blue mold and the second year by frost, but he says that he wouldn't trade the life of a farmer. (Staff Photo)



Cathy and Ken Mann of RR 1 Otterville are both history enthusiasts. Here they look at Ken's fine collection of Indian arrowheads. Cathy is working on a history book commemorating the 175th anniversary of South Norwich. (Staff Photo)



# Likes growing tobacco

(continued from page 6)

hadn't had crop insurance I wouldn't have harvested more than three or four kilns," Ken said.

Next year's crop wasn't much better. "We had an A-1 stand out in the fields and then we got hit by frost on June 17. I had about 20 acres planted. The frost froze out six acres completely and I lost about 40% of the rest of the crop. I started planting on May 22 and I finished planting again on June 22," says Ken.

"After those two years we kind of wondered what we were getting into," Cathy said. But tobacco growing was in Cathy's blood. Her father was one of the first growers in the area. He started growing tobacco in 1928 on the family farm.

Last year's crop was fine and the only problem with it was that it was "a heck of a lot of work". The twenty acre crop which the couple grows suits them just fine. "It's the ideal size for the two of us," they said.

Last year, Ken planted 22 acres on the 75 acre tobacco farm. About 50 acres of the farm is good tobacco land. Both rye and wheat are used as rotation crops. He says the soil is A-1 tobacco land, but that you could plant any kind of crop on it. The land around Otterville is just excellent.

He plowed his land with a standard plow not wanting to get involved in the controversy surrounding the chisel plow. "Some think that its o'okay and others think that its not. Personally, I don't think that its been around long enough to make a decision on. I have the grain stubble custom disced to turn it into the ground better," Ken said.

Ken and Cathy grew Nordel for the past two years and prior to that grew Delhi 76.

"That 76 is a good variety and is very heavy, but we had a lot of sucker problems with it. Nordel is a good selling variety because it's kind of organgy. I think it's a lighter variety weightwise, but it sells good," says Ken. Ken seeds the greenhouses with his own pump set-up. He spends about 20 minutes spraying the 30 gallons of water and seed on each bed. He goes up and down each bed about four times and uses 1½ ounces of seed for 4,000 feet of greenhouse.

"I use about ¾ of an ounce of seed per greenhouse where most guys use one ounce. I think that if you sow them a little thinner you get better quality," says Ken.

Cathy looks after the greenhouses and her father taught her how to do it to perfection. "She does a pretty good job on the greenhouse," Ken says.

Ken irrigated twice last year and says that he is fortunate to have a spring fed creek running right through the middle of the farm. He uses guns to do the job, powered by p.t.o. pump driven by a diesel tractor. He can irrigate one side of the farm from one side of the creek and the other side from the other side of the creek.

He uses one application of sucker control put on right after topping and says that he has had real good luck with it. With good weather, he estimates that he has had a 90% kill.

The crop is hand-harvested and Ken uses an all girl crew.

"The labour situation around here is good. I'll tell you why I like girls. You can tell them something and they don't complain a lot. Guys come in here and they have hangover and such. With the girls, I just start the machine down the row and I don't hear another thing from them," Ken said.

He uses a half crew that puts in 625 sticks per day because of the small size of his crop.

He has six standard forced-air kilns and says that he has no plans to go to bulk for two reasons. First, the cost is prohibitive. Second, if you go to bulk kilns, stripping must be done during harvest and that means hiring extra people. It took him 30 days to do his stripping this year, working five days per week.

The crop yielded 2,400 pounds per acre last year and the quality was good in spite of the rainy conditions. "It always seemed to rain a lot right after we had irrigated. Too much rain means sucker problems," according to Ken.

"I would say that this market hasn't encouraged anyone to grow higher grades because all of the higher grades are selling at the minimum grade price," Ken says. "The previous year higher grades sold well. Last year was an exceptional year for quality and the companies have us where they want us because of the abundance of tobacco."

"I honestly think that the marketing board has done a good job but their hands are tied with this price setting thing. The companies control the setting of prices. I'd like to see them figure in the cost of production," he says.

The quota should be kept among the producers according to Ken. "I really can't see renting quota if you have to pay 50c and by the time you figure in the interest you're paying 55c and 60c, I can't see how you can make any money. The quota rental system is out of control, but the board has taken a step in the right direction by trying to control it."

Both Ken and Cathy are kept busy in their spare time. Cathy is working on a history book for the 175th anniversary of South Norwich which will be held later this year. Ken has an interesting and unusual hobby. He salvages and restores old farm equipment. So far, he has fixed up a buggy which he estimates to be older than 75 years and he has done a good job of restoring a 1952 tractor. Both of these things will be used to take part in parades and other festivities.

The two of them are making the most of their opportunity to farm on their own. It's a good feeling after having to work for other people for so many years. "When you work for someone else, they're always telling you what to do. Now we've got a better aim in life and the life of a farmer is so much more relaxing," says Ken.†

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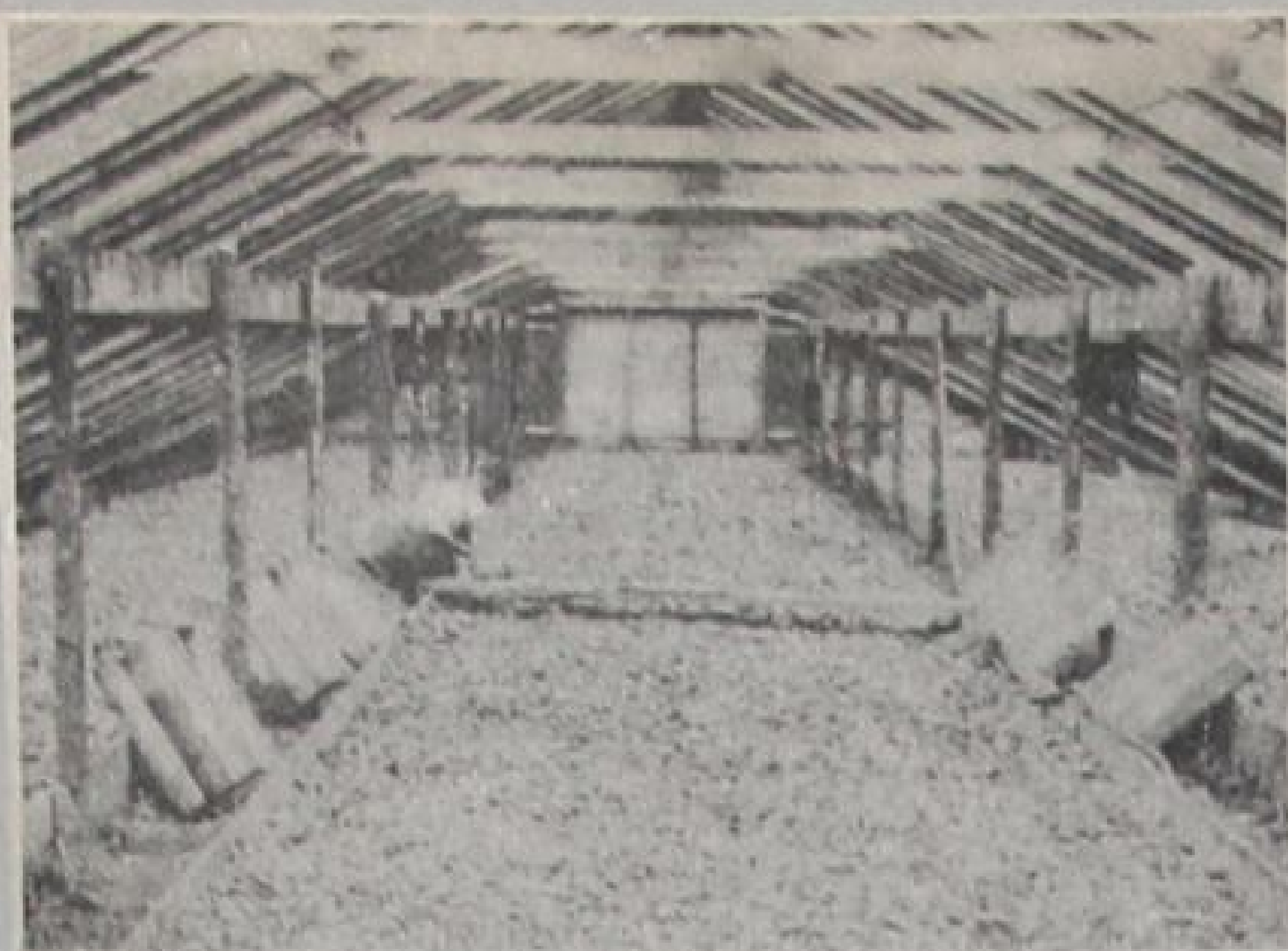
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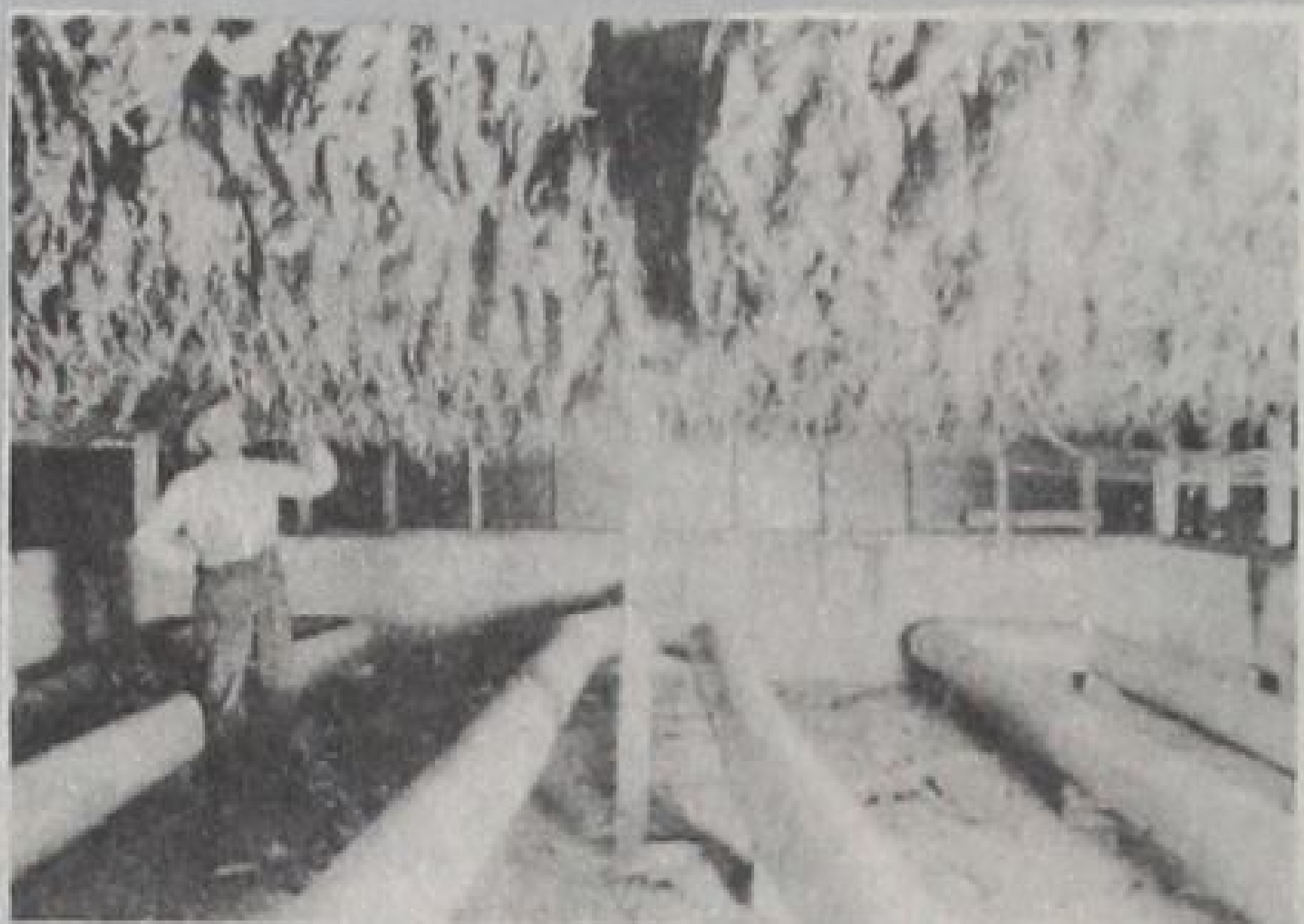
Growing the Tobacco plant in greenhouse.



Cultivating "Flue" Tobacco



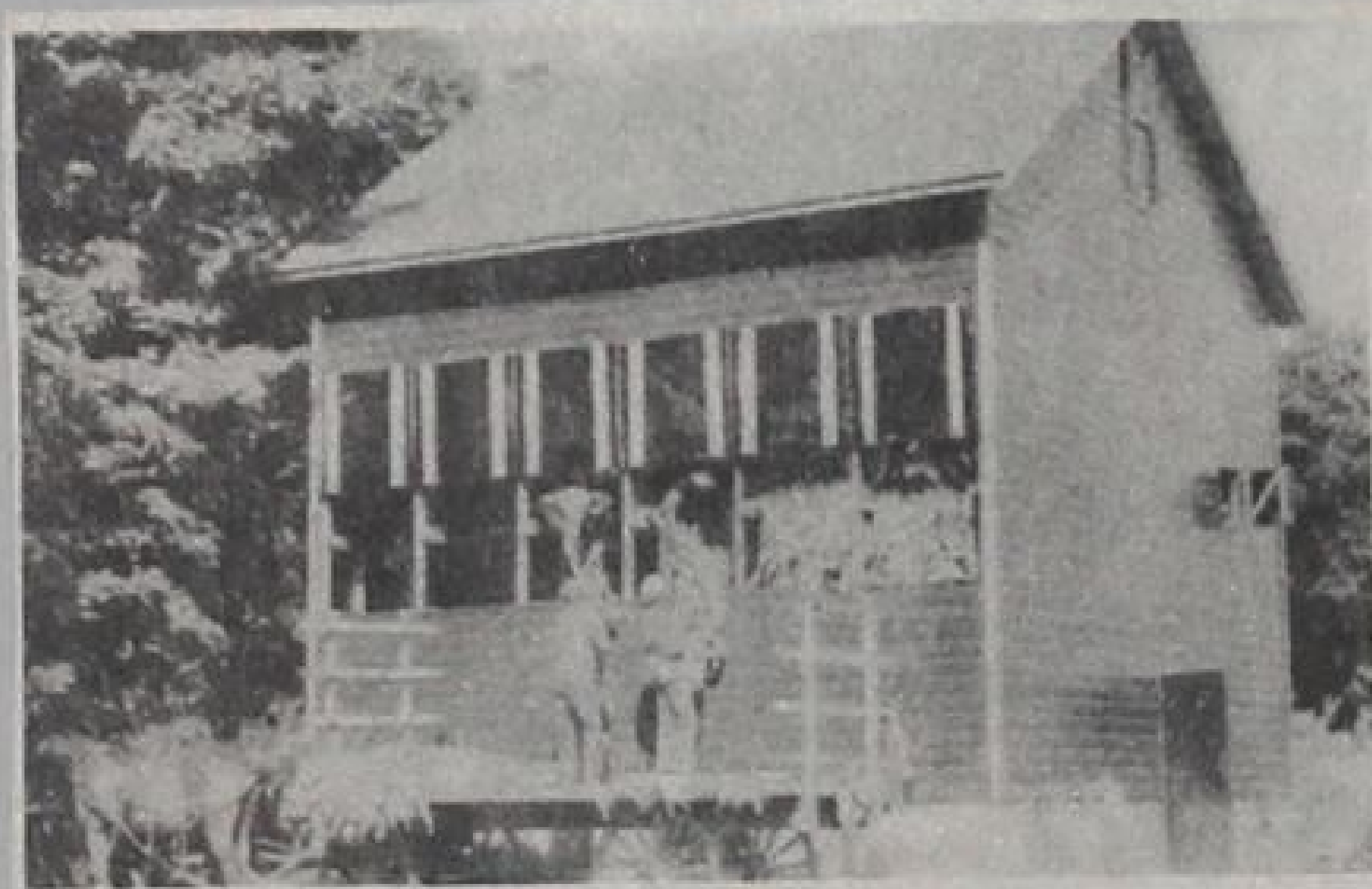
Planting Tobacco.



Interior of kiln showing flue-cured tobacco.



Storing of baled Tobacco, awaiting grading.



Loading "Flue" tobacco kiln



Weighing baled ungraded tobacco



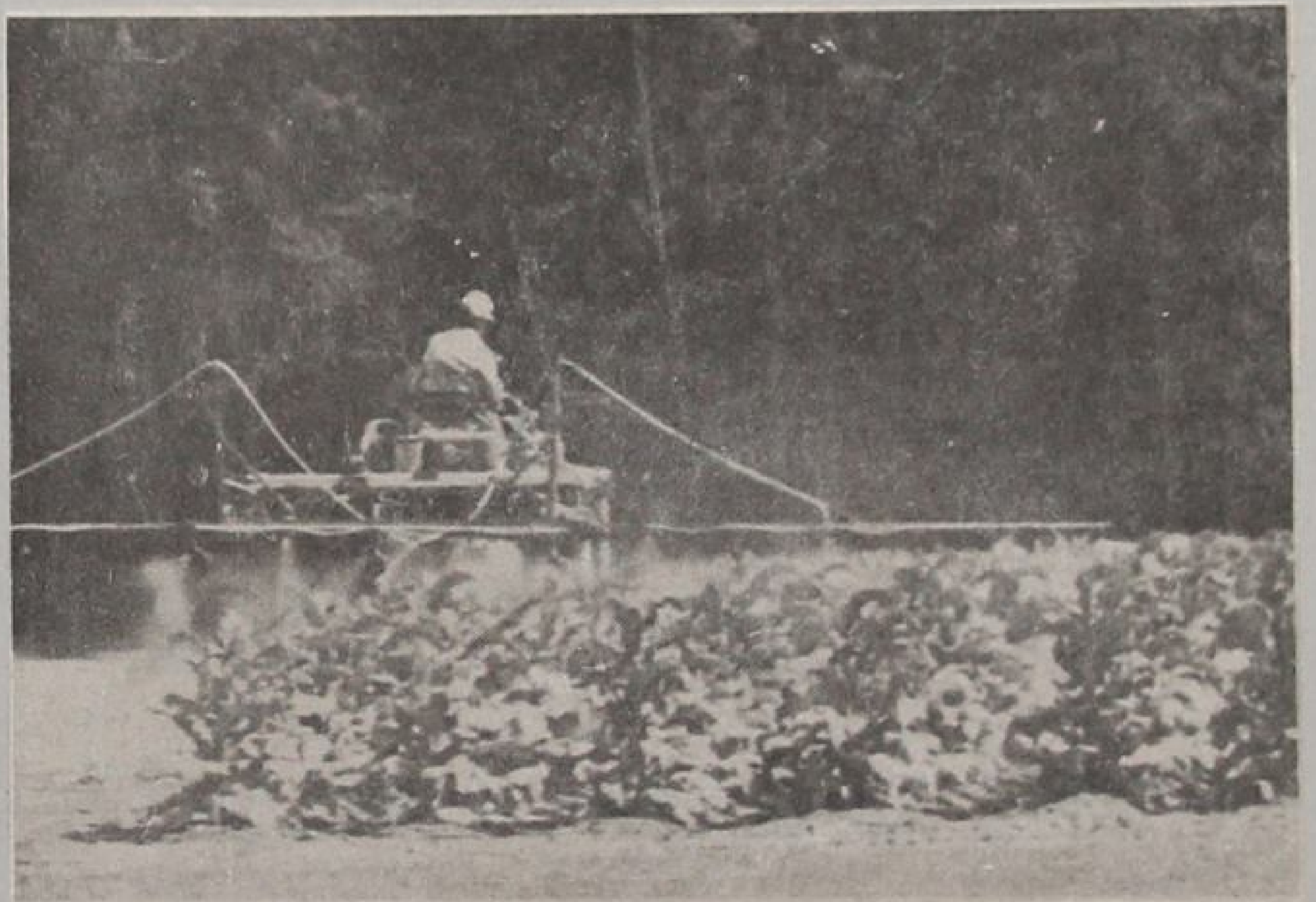
### Almost all in

With 90-95 per cent of the Ontario tobacco crop now in the ground, growers are taking a look at the replanting situation. Indications are that crop damage due to weak plants, frost, maggot damage and excessive rainfall will mean extensive replanting for many area tobacco farmers and even planting partial acreages over for

others. The marketing board has opened plant pools at the Delhi, Tillsonburg and Aylmer Auction exchanges to assist producers who find themselves short of plants. Inquiries to make plants available or to get plants should be made through the exchange where the producer normally deals. (TN Photo)



A hardy transplant, grown with care in the greenhouse, will do well once it is in the field, reducing the amount of replanting necessary.



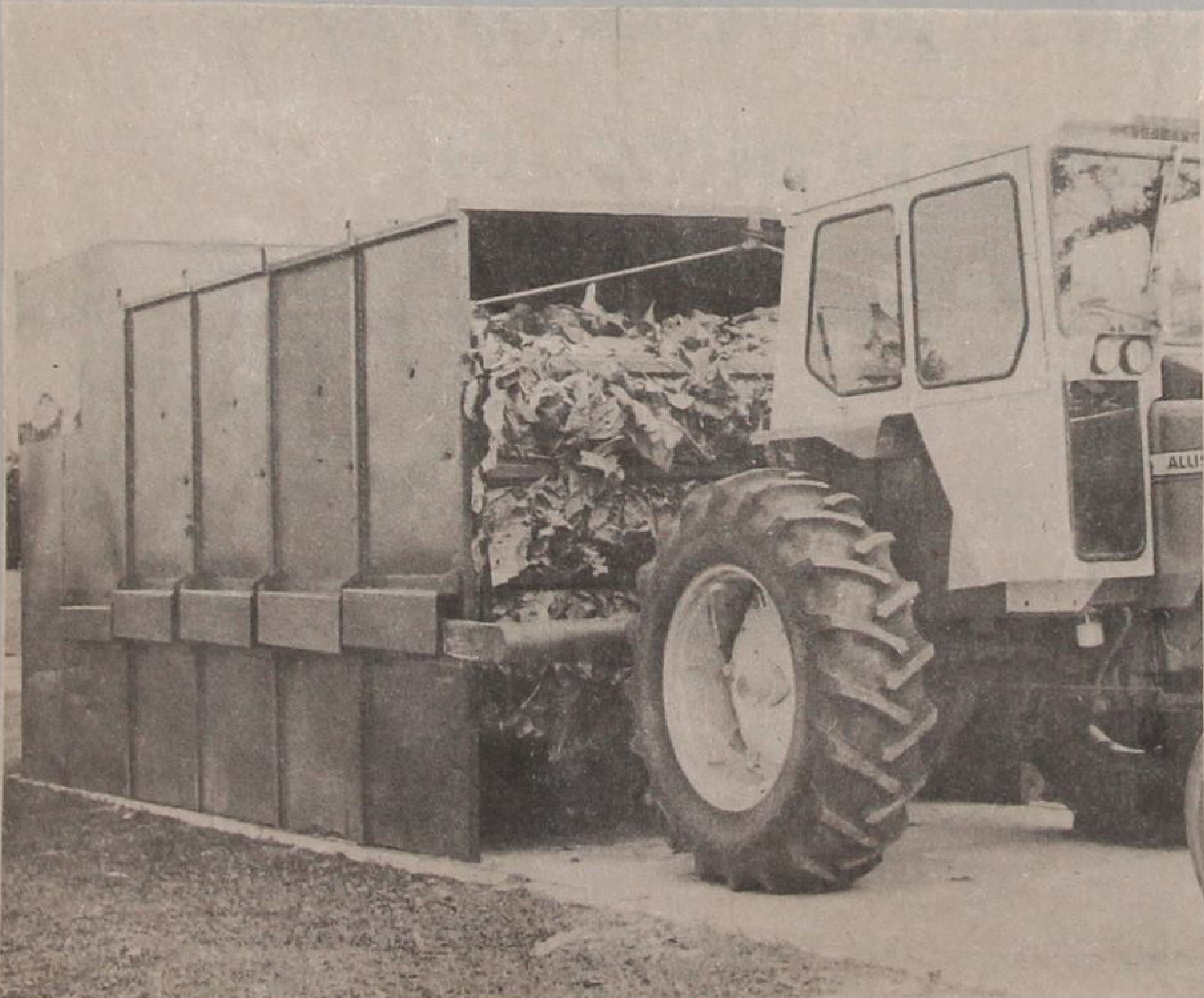
Tobacco farmers must be careful to use only those pesticides approved by the government in order to keep the country's flue-crop free of unfavorable residue that can be left by long lasting materials such as DDT. Low pesticide residue is a strong selling point on the export market.



Although harvest may still seem a long way off, it pays to make plans well in advance for help. (Staff Photo)



Hanging it in. Last year's excellent growing season resulted in a lot of top quality tobacco being harvested and this was complemented by a large switch to the new Delhi varieties which have superior characteristics. (Staff Photo)



Big bins are gaining a growing acceptance with area tobacco farmers. An almost totally mechanized system, they promise to reduce labor problems to a minimum.



Some farmers making their last shipments to the exchanges for the 1981 crop year will be forced to keep excess tobacco at home as carry over weight for next year's quota. (TN Photo)



Farmers examine bales of tobacco at the Tillsonburg Auction Exchange as the 1981 market winds to a close. The market is expected to finish up March 12.

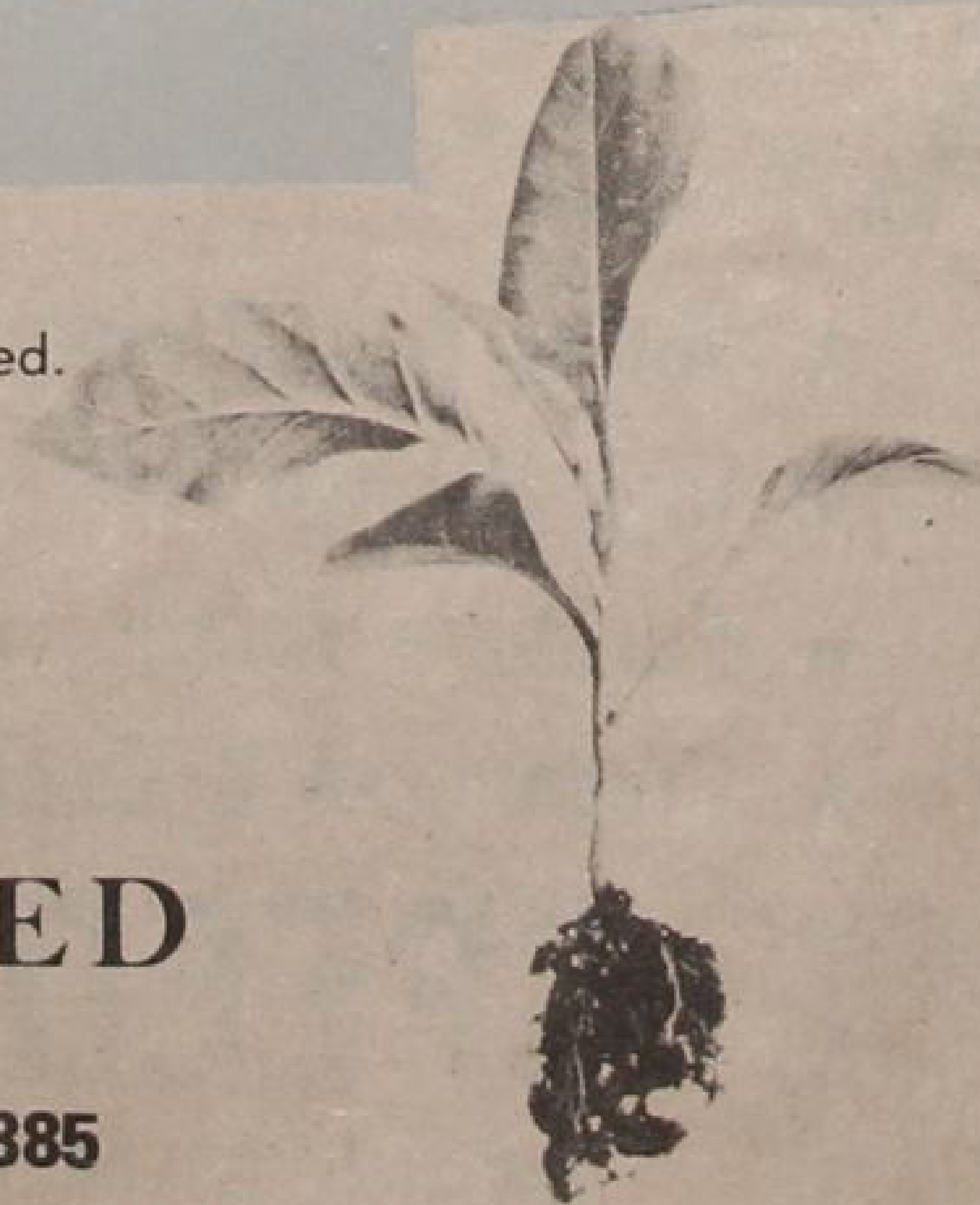
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# Approve tender for bathhouse

TN  
APR 2

Norwich Township council has accepted the tender of Michael Ash Construction Ltd., of Otterville, in the amount of \$29,963, for the reconstruction of the Otterville bathhouse situated at the Lions park in Otterville.

The tender from Michael Ash was the lowest of four received by the township on the project with the high tender at \$33,950.

Council was advised at its last meeting that the local Norwich-Otterville Lions club has made a commitment of \$8,500 over two years to assist with the project.

Council placed \$14,000 in reserve for the project last year and with the funding from the Lions and the provincial recreation grant available to the township for the project, there may be a shortfall in the funding for the project that the township might be able to pick up through a Wintario grant, said deputy clerk John Gilbert.

He said the possibility of obtaining such a grant from Wintario is being explored but there is nothing definite on it yet.

Without a Wintario grant, there could be a shortfall of \$4,500 said Mr. Gilbert, based on a tendered price of \$30,000 plus the \$3,000 architect's fee, allowing for a nine per cent overrun on the project.

Mayor Carman Sweazey pointed out the bathhouse is in poor shape and needs repairs. Councillor Mel Smith said the department of health has been saying for years something had to be done to improve the bathhouse facility with proper drains and showers and last year hinted it would not be allowed to open to the public if those conditions were not met.

The conditions of the tender vote were that construction begin at the site prior to April 15 but the contractor awarded the project, Michael Ash Construction Ltd., expressed concern that the late spring may alter that date. In that case additional funding would be required to cover the increased access payment to be paid to May DeWachter for access to the park through her property.

The access to the park would be increased from \$50 per day to \$200 per day after April 15. A motion that Mr. Ash be provided with \$600 to cover three days of access into the park was tabled until the next meeting. A delegation was to meet with Mrs. DeWachter in the interim to negotiate an improved rate of access for the later date.

# Norwich Twp. sets 11:30 curfew for council meetings

TN  
APR 5

Council and committee meetings that drag on into the wee hours of the morning will be a thing of the past if Norwich Township councillors abide by the curfew they set themselves at their last meeting.

A motion passed at the meeting that all council and committee meetings have a curfew set at 11:30 p.m. unless a vote determines the meeting should continue past that hour.

Councillor Darrell Force agreed with the move. He said a curfew would be an incentive to council to move the meetings along. "We have to have some kind of deadline for our meetings," he said. "We tend to go on and on and we have to have some kind of guidelines to go by."

Mayor Carman Sweazey said he thinks matters are discussed well by council but added county council meetings move much quicker.

"I think that other people who have seen council work have said we do get things discussed and we are dealing with a lot of problems," said Mayor Sweazey, "more than other councils are." But he said council may be re-hashing details of the committee reports too much at the council meetings. Coun-

cillor Helen Smith agreed and suggested councillors could do more homework on the recommendations in the committee reports to clear up questions before the council meeting in effort to speed those meetings up.

While council is paid by the meeting, Mayor Sweazey pointed out councillors deal with many problems during the week as part of their job and he supported the move for a curfew.

"I don't feel you are being just to the people of the township by making decisions when you are tired."

Township clerk Bob Watkins pointed out to council that "probably in the last six years there have been about three such resolutions" passed by councils implementing a curfew on meetings. Council agreed to again try setting a curfew on meetings unless a vote is taken to proceed beyond the stated time.

"Some of us can't always rearrange our time to come back when meetings are cut off at a late hour and we should be allowed the

opportunity to continue them," said Mrs. Smith.

The motion was passed last Wednesday at a continuation of the Tuesday night council meeting which council voted to adjourn at 12:30 a.m. to reconvene the next morning.

# Financial

By SUZANNE HANSON

Despite a net operating deficit of \$51,000 in 1981, Norwich Township is still in a sound financial position heading into its 1982 operations.

Ed Aitken, chartered accountant with the firm of Millard, Rouse and Rosebrugh, presented the annual auditor's report to council at its meeting Tuesday. He said that while there are some problem areas that need to be examined the total picture for the township is not bad.

Council will probably be

able to make up the deficit without too much strain on the budget for 1982, said Mr. Aitken. The total deficit for 1981 was actually \$92,319, but funds from last year's reserve funds were brought in to reduce the amount.

Mr. Aitken said such a deficit is not unusual and he labelled it a small one that could be picked up quite easily. He said part of the reason for the deficit in 1981 was several major, one-time expenditures such as the Treffry mill purchase, that will not happen again. He said there are

VG  
position

still sufficient funds in reserve amounting to about \$300,000. "That is certainly adequate to go with," said Mr. Aitken.

It was also pointed out that the township in its 1980 operations, were able to pick up an \$83,086 operating deficit from 1979 and still head into 1981 with a surplus of \$75,111.

Some areas where Mr. Aitken expressed some concern was in the increase in the percentage of uncollected taxes in 1981 which was up to 8.2 per cent from 7.5 per cent the previous year.

He was also concerned whether the township is including sufficient funds

in its roads budget to allow for capital expenditures for equipment.

While Mr. Aitken admitted there are certain expenditures beyond council's control, he advised the members to keep a closer eye on all expenditures, month to month.

Mr. Aitken was pleased to see assessment in the township up three per cent but stressed that the township only has control of 31 per cent of the taxes collected in the township. Of those taxes, Oxford County gets 11 per cent and the school boards get a total of 52 per cent. Six per cent goes for telephone and special charges.

# Salaries up

Norwich Township council approved a 12 per cent pay increase for its salaried employees at a lengthy closed door session last month.

The 12 per cent increase applies to all full-time township employees, with the exception of truck drivers, grader operators and office staff. The increase awarded to the grader and truck operators of 96 cents per hour amounts to about 12½ per cent over 1981.

The clerical staff were given a 90 cent per hour increase which amounts to about 13½ per cent more than last year.

Township clerk Bob Watkins said the increases have yet to be formally approved by council with the passing of a bylaw. There are 31 full-time township employees.

# Township study completed

NC  
APR 7

A study of Norwich Township's organizational structure and operations has been completed and a report, prepared by an advisor for the provincial intergovernmental affairs ministry, should be presented to the task force which conducted the study sometime in early April.

The study was aimed at improving the municipal operations in the township with representatives of council and its administration serving on the special task force under the supervision of intergovernmental affairs advisor Keith Glaze.

Township clerk Bob Watkins, a member of the task force, said Mr. Glaze's report will be presented to the task force this month. If one meeting is sufficient for its members to discuss the report it will then go to council for consideration. The task force will look at the need for additions to or deletions from the report before its presentation to council. Council as a whole will then deal with the report and decide its fate, said Mr. Watkins.

He said the report at this point is only available to members of the task force which include Mayor Carman Sweazey, Councillor-at-Large Helen Smith, Coun-

cillors John Eacott and Darrell Force, treasurer Fred Lowes, Mr. Watkins, road superintendent Ron Smith, deputy-clerk John Gilbert and Mr. Glaze who served as the technical advisor to the group.

The review of township operations got underway in November. The first steps of the study involved interviewing councillors and administrative staff to identify both negative and positive aspects of the township's operations. The summary of that information is presented to the task force by Mr. Glaze and the special committee will then determine what

(Continued on Page 3)

(Continued from Page 1)  
recommendations should come forward to improve the township's operations.

The service is provided by the ministry of intergovernmental affairs free of charge to those municipalities who wish to avail themselves of it.

internal examinations are becoming standard management practice in many Ontario municipalities, particularly among those which have amalgamated or restructured over the past five or six years. Norwich Township was restructured with Oxford

T.N.  
APR 26**Additional funds**

Norwich Township will be requesting supplementary funds on the excess dollars over and above the township's normal road subsidy from the ministry of transportation and communications. The request for \$39,500 from the MTC could be obtained at no extra cost to the township if approved. It would provide an opportunity to lower the amount the township must requisition from the taxpayers if the supplementary funds are received, said Township Clerk Bob Watkins. He said the extra funds could improve the mill rate for 1982.

**Advertise for tenders**

Norwich Township will be advertising for tenders on one new tractor loader to add to its road equipment. The tractor loader for Ward 2 would replace one that burned last summer. Council has given tentative approval to the township's road budget which included the item.

**Planner retained**

A Toronto planner, Mike Dorfman, has been retained by Norwich Township council at a rate of \$60 per hour or \$450 per diem, based on a 7.5 hour day, to represent the township at the Salford landfill site hearing which begins today. The planner was chosen by the township's solicitors, Vaughn, Willms, to do the job for the township. The law firm will also be retaining a hydrogeologist for the hearings.

**Minor variance**

A minor variance was granted to Andy VanWyk, RR 1, Burgessville, by Norwich Township council at its last meeting to permit Mr. VanWyk to park the tractor from his tractor trailer unit at his residence. Under the township bylaw, the practice is not permitted in a rural-residential zone, making the minor variance necessary. A condition attached to the minor variance states the truck cannot be parked within the 30-foot sight zone at the intersection where Mr. VanWyk's property is located.

**Greenhouse approved**

Norwich Township council granted a minor variance at its last meeting to Jim and Edith Avey, RR 3, Norwich, to allow the construction of a greenhouse closer to the line fence than is allowed in the township's zoning bylaw. The minor variance will also allow an addition to an existing greenhouse. The variance is required since the farm unit is only two acres, less than the required acreage for a commercial farm unit.

**Advertise property**

Norwich Township council voted to advertise the 10-acre property originally purchased for the proposed central works shed, for rent to grow crops. The purchase of the \$50,000 Bailey property south of Burgessville was approved by council last May to provide the site for a new central shed for the township. Plans for that project have been shelved as council is faced with a program of restraint.

**Back on the road again**

Norwich Township councillors will take to the highways and byways of Norwich Township on Thursday for their annual road tour and inspection of township facilities. Councillors will depart from the township offices in Otterville at 9 a.m.

**Donate to student exchange**

Norwich Township councillors voted at the last meeting to make a donation of \$150 toward the Sherbrook student exchange program being hosted by French students at Norwich District High School. The donation could be used to apply to some official function honoring the students from Quebec while they are in the township from April 29 until May 3. Council also offered the free use of the Norwich Community Centre to the students if it is required.

**Contract signed**

Norwich Township council voted to proceed with the signing of the contract with Michael Ash Construction Ltd. for the reconstruction of the Otterville park bathhouse. Council also agreed to provide an extra \$600 to Mr. Ash to aid in covering the extra access costs incurred because of the delayed entry into the park across the DeWachter property. The \$600 will provide for three days access to the park, at a rate of \$200 per day.

# South Norwich celebrations schedule begins to take shape

N.C.  
APR 7

There will be something for everyone at the South Norwich 175th anniversary celebrations to be held in Otterville July 1-4.

The schedule of events for the celebrations is beginning to take shape following a recent meeting of the anniversary planning committee.

The four days of activities will be kicked off on Thursday, July 1 with a parade down Main Street, starting at 10:30 a.m. The parade kicking off the anniversary celebrations also marks Canada Day and the end of Norwich Township's Canada Week celebrations.

Efforts are being made to obtain marching and musical bands for the parade and any others interested in getting involved in that event should contact parade organizers Gord Shearer, Bob Scott or Rich Jones for entry forms and further information.

The official opening ceremonies for the anniversary celebrations will take place in the Otterville park at 2 p.m. on July 1, followed by a parade of beauties taking part in the Sunshine Club's beauty contest. The sesquicentennial queen, crowned in 1957, Marianna (Hanson) Smith will be on hand to place the crown on the head of the new queen.

Other events that have to date been scheduled for July 1 include a chicken barbecue, put on by the Norwich - Otterville Lions Club at the Otterville park between 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. Following the barbecue will be an old-fashioned garden party featuring local talent. Anyone with talent to offer for the two-hour outdoor program should contact that event's organizer Ed White at his store 863-2140 or at home 863-3014.

On Friday evening, July 2, the Spring - Otter Optimists are hosting another old-fashioned event with dancing in the streets, or more exactly, the parking lot behind the municipal offices. Music for all ages will be provided by a live band with admission free

and food available. Also at that event will be the judging of the beards being grown now for the anniversary celebration.

Judging of the beards will be organized into three categories: most well-groomed, longest and most comical. For those who weren't confident they could grow a good crop on their chins and wish to remain clean-shaven throughout the celebration days, they will be required to purchase razor permits to allow them to shave during those days. Those permits will be available on July 1.

Saturday, July 3 is kids day in Otterville, starting with a soap box derby at 10 a.m. Entries for that event are available from the sponsoring group - the Spring-Otter Optimists - or local merchants and should be submitted by the end of May. One dozen trophies will be handed out to the winners in the various categories in the race which starts downtown on Main Street, in front of the Royal Bank and finishes by the dam.

There will be four categories for the soap box derby, two different age groupings in each of the boys and girls races. Trophies and posters will be on display in local stores with information and entry forms.

Between 1 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. on the Saturday a children's parade is scheduled for decorated bicycles and tricycles, sponsored by the Women's Institute. Following that will be other events just for children with the possibility of a penny carnival and a swim show.

That evening will be an Oldtimers baseball game in the Otterville park.

The school reunion of former students from South Norwich schools is tentatively planned for

Saturday and Sunday, July 3 and 4 with special displays and a chance to reminisce at the Otterville public school.

The events wind up on Sunday, July 4. At 11 a.m. a combined ecumenical church service will be held in the park with an interdenominational choir headed up by Jean McClintock.

At 2 p.m. Sunday afternoon the black cemetery will be dedicated with a plaque unveiling ceremony. Also in the afternoon will be tours of the public school, Oddy House, the Treffry mill and Innisfree farm. It is also expected that an antique display will be set up in the community hall throughout the four days.

The historical society will help wind up the events with a chicken barbecue at the mill meadow from 5 to 6 p.m. on Sunday. The 50-50 draw will also be made at that time. There is also the possibility of a band concert in the park that evening.

The local senior citizens group the Leisure Club is also putting together a special cookbook to commemorate the 175th anniversary of settlement in the former South Norwich Township.

The organizing committee for the celebrations hopes to have a complete schedule of events settled by mid-April and ready for printing on a program. As yet there has been no word from township council or the provincial government on the grants available to assist with sponsoring the various events.

Anyone with ideas or who would like to assist with the planning of events can contact members of the executive of the planning committee chaired by Dr. Murray Downing with secretary Catherine Mann.

## FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 1932

The Standard Tobacco Co. of Canada has commenced operations in Otterville with a present staff of 20 employees. Residents of Otterville are to be congratulated on their new industry.

# Otterville Public School

## School in grampa's time

Grampa's school house was a two-storey building with three rooms - two upstairs and one downstairs. There were approximately 10 to 12 kids to a class.

They wrote using slates, a chalk (slate pencils), paper and pencil, ink well and fountain pen and went to school five days a week. They weren't supplied by the school but the parents bought supplies for them. Senior fourth name was given to grade 8. The subjects taught in the school were Math, Spelling, History, Art, Nature Study, Literature, Hygiene (health), English Grammar and Writing. They had to take all these subjects. They had one day a week they had to sing songs without the assistance of a piano or organ.

It wasn't that much different except the rules were strict. The teacher was very strict. When they got the strap there was no warning. Here are some reasons: first swearing; second mouthing back; third not keeping their work complete. For sanitary reasons they had to bring their own cup to get a drink from the pump.

My Grandfather walked to school in all weather conditions. Even if a snowstorm occurred they still had to go to school. Occasionally a farmer would give them a ride on his snow cutter in the winter. My Grandfather's teachers names were Miss Scidmore and Mr. and Mrs. Tompson. Mrs. Tompson was the school principal.

On Arbor Day (Queen Victoria's birthday, May 24) all the children would take their shovels, pitchforks, wagons and rakes

and clean up the school yard. They got holidays like Thanksgiving, one week off for Christmas, Easter weekend and two months for summer holidays.

My Grandfather swam in a pond in his summer vacation. An event that they put a great amount of work and enjoyment into

was their Christmas concert (songs and dialogs mostly). They were in the class room from 9 until 10 o'clock. They had recess until 10:20, then worked until 12. Recess until 1:15 worked till 2:30, recess until 2:50, worked until dismissed at 4 o'clock.

My Grandfather did chores everyday on his

father's farm. After he was done school he worked on the farm fixing things for Great Grandfather and later he left and went to work at the canning factory and then the shoe factory.

My Grandfather didn't like any of his teachers. In conclusion I would prefer our ways of school better.

Nancy Dow, Gr. 6  
Otterville P.S.



### Otterville School history

One of the older schools in Norwich Township, the Otterville Public School, was built as a continuation school in 1927.

## History of school

### A SCHOOL WITH A TRADITION The First School

The first Otterville School was built at the end of the lane behind Dr. A.J. Collver's house. It was considered one of the best schools in the county in the 1830's. One of the first teachers was Chauncey Wilcox.

### The Two-storey School

The old two storey school was built in 1857. It was built on property which is now owned by Mrs. George Slaughter.

H.N. Courtland was the first teacher in the upper room and Miss Hattie Stover was the first teacher in the lower room. The continuation school was opened in 1924.

### The Present School

The present school was built in 1927. It was a continuation and a public school. In 1947 it was made into a central public school with six smaller schools in the area closing. In 1952 a new addition of four rooms was made.

At the present time there are 13 teachers and nine rooms. The pupils in grades six, seven and eight are on the rotary system which means we move from class to class for

different subjects.

There are approximately 185 students in the school right now. For secondary schooling the students will be sent to Delhi, Norwich or Tillsonburg.

Through the years Otterville has had a tradition of excellent schools. And hopefully they will keep their tradition growing.

Suzy Kramer, Grade 6,  
Otterville P.S.

### SCHOOL CHANGES THEN AND NOW

In 1927 the Otterville School was built which consisted of eight classrooms and one gym. In 1958 a new addition of four classrooms was built.

Both of my parents went to this public school. When my parents went to this school they did not have a kindergarten like today. Most of the schools built back then were only a one room school and one teacher taught all the grades.

There have been a lot of changes in my seven years attending Otterville school. There have been three principals and a number of new teachers. I think most pupils have a favourite teacher, I feel that Mrs. Berenz was one of my

favourite teachers.

In September of '81, we came back from the summer break and found that they put a P.A. system in our school. The P.A. system is really handy for our principal if he wants to call someone down to the office. The P.A. system plays O Canada and tells us the announcements for the day.

I think I am very fortunate the we live as close to the school as we do. I walk to school and I come home for dinner. The thing I like about living close to the school, is I don't have to get up as early as some.

Dana McMullen, Grade 6  
Otterville P.S.

### CONDITION OF OTTERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL

In 1927 the second Otterville School was built. The original one was destroyed by a fire.

Today, the second school has eight classrooms, a library, a gym and three restrooms. Just recently a P.A. system was installed but has broken down twice. There is a good fire alarm and lights that turn on when the electricity turns off.

There are many rules to

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(Continued from Page 12)

punish people that can't behave on the playground but there is a reward for people who can behave. Every Friday at noon hour a short dance is held. If you don't want to go to the dance there is a movie that you can watch. Pop and chips can be bought for both activities for a good price.

Besides its good points, the school also has its bad points. The gym has cracks that could be dangerous on the floor and beams that hang low making some sports difficult to play. One of the tiles in the ceiling of

the gym is sagging and is very unstable.

In one of the classrooms paint is slowly peeling off the ceiling. Most of the desks are very marked up but still can be used. One of the film projectors doesn't run very well; luckily there is a spare.

The condition of the school could be a lot better. I hope that some time my school will change for the better. My overall decision is that the school is in fair condition and it will have to do.

Jeff Harrison,  
Otterville P.S.



# Still going strong

NG  
APR 28

By SUZANNE HANSON

At 86 years of age, Dr. Harold Batson is still practicing medicine, receiving about 150 calls a month from his 50 to 60 patients.

While he has tried to retire several times, the Otterville doctor just isn't able to do it -- partly because his patients don't want him to and partly because he himself enjoys helping people.

"I don't think I'd be happy if I quit," he said. "I like to help people and to practice medicine is one way to help many people." Besides, there are some people who just don't want to go to any other doctor. Some of his patients have been with him for over 50 years, ever since he started practicing in Otterville in 1925, and they just don't want to go to another doctor now.

Dr. Batson said he doesn't take on any new patients now but he will continue to practice and help those he has as long as he is able to.

The appreciation and thanks of a patient he has helped are still the greatest rewards of being a medical doctor, said Dr. Batson. The extra effort and extra attention he gives to the patient are "what makes you satisfied with yourself," he said.

In all his years of practicing, Dr. Batson said he has only had one night call that he had to refuse and that was because his

car had been in an accident and he wasn't able to get there.

"That was the only call I ever had to refuse in my life," said Dr. Batson, who said he will never put a patient off.

Many are the times when the doctor was called out of bed in the middle of the night in all sorts of weather to go to the aid of a patient, and Dr. Batson always went. He still continues to make many house calls and hospital visits today, but he prefers not to drive at night, so the family of his patients often offer to come and pick him up.

That kind of personal attention is still a priority for Dr. Batson but it is often lacking in today's medical care, he said. He used to make house calls 30 to 40 miles away, travelling through all sorts of weather to get there.

Dr. Batson recalled one trip out in the snow with a horse and cutter to assist with a tonsilectomy that took him most of the day to get there and do the operation. He only got \$10 for that day's work, he laughed.

Dr. Batson also remembers the depression days when he practiced in Otterville -- a time when many patients simply had no money to pay the bills. Those were the days long before the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) and Dr. Batson was happy to be paid in whatever way the patient could. Often it was in the form of goods -- meat, poultry, eggs, potatoes and other vegetables.

"They didn't have any money and they had no other way to show their appreciation," he said. "In those days I considered a

patient to be honorable until I found out that he wasn't." Today, Dr. Batson says it's almost the opposite.

But in all the years he has practiced medicine, he doesn't suppose he has sent out more than 100 to 150 bills to patients for his services. Most get around to paying him some time. One patient took 10 years before she finally sent him the money owing on her bill, said Dr. Batson.

While he has seen many changes and improvements in the medical profession over the years, Dr. Batson said some of those changes aren't always for the better. With increased technology and more equipment and devices, there has been a decline in the personal contact between patient and doctor, he said.

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"When we didn't have all those devices to help us ascertain the cause of an illness or disease, a doctor would spend more time with a patient, talking with them to get their history and that of the members of the family to determine whether there were any hereditary tendencies."

Dr. Batson said through talking with the patient he often had the problem diagnosed before the patient even got on the examination table -- "just through talking to him". The examination would then merely confirm the diagnosis, said Dr. Batson. He said doctors today don't spend a great deal of time talking to their patients, losing that personal contact between them and their patients.

Born near Brantford on a farm, Dr. Batson started public school at age seven. He attended there for four years after which he attended Brantford Collegiate for five years. On his graduation he didn't know definitely what he wanted to go into as a profession so he worked for four years at home and on area farms.

Two friends from the collegiate who had gone on to college urged him to join them and Dr. Batson was given encouragement by his family doctor who believed Harold should become a doctor. That career was one that had been considered by Dr. Batson for some time and in 1918, without much prodding he entered the School of Medicine at the University of Toronto.

Somewhat of a pessimist, Dr. Batson agreed to attend college but if he didn't make his first year, he was determined to quit. Well, there were 240 registered in medicine and he plugged along for five years, graduating in 1923 with his Bachelor of Medicine.

After graduation he interned for a year at St. Luke's Hospital just outside of New York city, then he headed north to Chapleau where he worked with another doctor for a year. The life there was rough, with cold winters hitting 60 below. Many of their patients were the men in the lumber camps and the only access to them was by train. Some of the camps were seven miles from the train depot and conditions were often primitive with many men injured in accidents on the job.

On completion of the year in Chapleau, Dr. Batson returned to take on a position with five other doctors at the Welland Clinic. But he was only there for a few months when the doctor in Chapleau notified him he

was retiring for health reasons and heading west to Vancouver. He wanted Dr. Batson to take over his practice full-time. Dr. Batson took up the challenge returning to Chapleau for another eight months.

After that, he returned, bought a Ford coupe and made plans to start a practice of his own somewhere "I didn't know where," said Dr. Batson.

It was the car salesman who sold him his new Ford coupe who suggested Dr. Batson go to Otterville. One of the doctors there had died some time ago and his widow encouraged him to take over the practice.

Dr. Batson decided in 1925 to give it a try and he has never looked back. He liked the look of Otterville that day he first arrived there and he has never

regretted the decision to set up his practice there.

At the time he started, conditions were much different than they are today. At that time he received \$1.50 for an office call and dispensed his own medication. An outside call in those days brought him \$2.50.

Now former patients who have moved away from the community as well as former public school classmates still travel to Otterville to see their Dr. Batson. And as long as he is able to, he will continue to see them.

"There was a lot of work I never got paid for but the patients were good to me," said Dr. Batson. "If there is a heaven and I had to live it on earth, the last 50 years I would like to live over again. That would be heaven for me," he said.



## Still practicing

At 86 years of age, Dr. Harold Batson still maintains a thriving practice seeing about 50 to 60 patients and having about 150 calls a month. Dr. Batson has been practicing in Otterville since 1925. (NG Photo).

# Norwich planning for Canada Week

With the official proclamation of the Canadian Constitution by the Queen Canadians will have even more reason to celebrate Canada Week this year and Norwich Township is already busy planning for that week's events.

The first meeting of the Canada Week planning committee for the township met last Wednesday evening at the township offices in Otterville to begin organizing for the second annual Canada Week celebrations locally. The planning committee has been formed to spark groups within the township to organize events for the celebration, dedicated to Canadian Unity.

Last year's celebrations proved to be very successful, particularly the culminating events held on July 1 in Oxford Centre. About 36 entries took part in the Canada Day parade and a sell-out crowd turned out for a chicken barbecue and garden party that topped off that day.

Events this year will again be held throughout the township with the culminating event -- the parade -- to be held in Otterville. That parade will also kick off the South Norwich 175th anniversary celebrations that continue from July 1 to 4 in and around Otterville.

The past chairman of the Canada Week planning committee Carman Sweazey urged the committee to work hard at organizing an equally successful celebration this year.

"We definitely need this Canada Unity activity going on in our township... to try and draw our

township together," he said. One way of pulling the township together is to get people from every end of the township working together on the Canada Week celebrations, he said.

The week runs from June 25 to July 1 with the highlight of the week being the parade and celebrations on July 1 in Otterville.

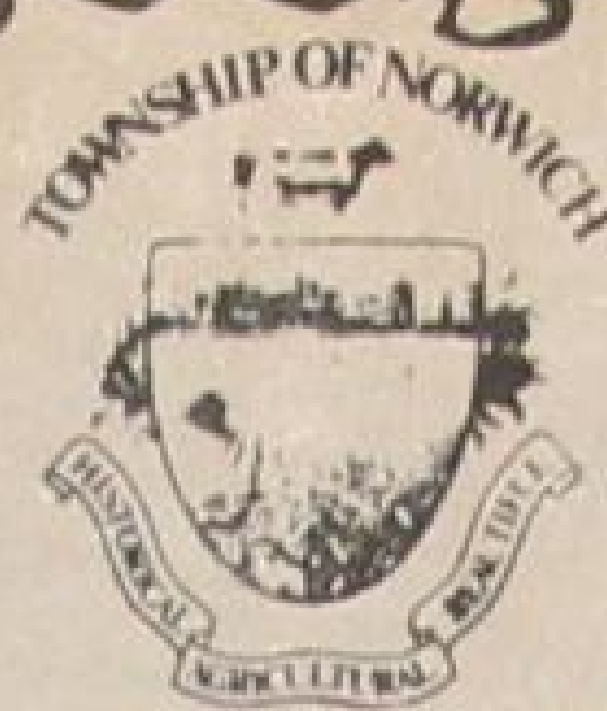
Township residents, businesses and organizations are being encouraged to get their parade entries in now. The theme is "History in the Making". The categories include: organizations, commercial - businesses, schools, families and an overall best entry. It is hoped that certificates can also be presented to each parade entrant commemorating their involvement in the parade which is slated for 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 1.

A chicken barbecue put on by the Norwich-Otterville Lions Club is also slated for July 1 along with a garden party in the evening.

Other events confirmed for Canada Week include an interdenominational open air church service at 11 a.m. on June 27 in Oxford Centre, followed in the afternoon with a garden party.

The next meeting of the Canada Week planning committee will be at the township offices on May 5 at 9 p.m., following the planning meeting for the South Norwich celebrations to get underway at 7 p.m. the same evening.

Chairman for the Canada Week committee is Ken Peers.



# Canada Week

You Are Invited To Participate In The

## Second Annual Canada Day Parade

Organizations, Families,  
Commercial and Business, Schools

Theme - "History In The Making"

Place - Otterville

Date - July 1st, 10:30 A.M.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Representative \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Entries should be returned to Rick Jones 863-3301; Gord Shearer 879-6814 or Bob Scott 863-2401.

Further details will be forwarded to those participating. Deadline for entries July 1st, June 10 (if possible).

## Plan beauty pageant

OTTERVILLE (C) — The ladies of the Otterville Sunshine Club met at the home of Dorothy Wardell on April 8, with the members answering to roll call suggested by Jean Dow.

The secretary-treasurer, Margaret Shearer, read the minutes of the previous meeting. Items of business were conducted by the president Sandra Hussey.

Volunteers were welcomed by Jean Dow to

assist with the Beauty Pageant which will take place during the 175th anniversary celebrations of South Norwich Township, July 1-4.

The next meeting of the club will be held at the home of Marion Pettigrew. The hostess will suggest the lunch and social hour.

Appreciation on behalf of the club, was expressed to Mrs. Wardell as hostess and to Lillie Chisholm for the lunch and social time.

## Otterville UCW meet for Easter

OTTERVILLE (C) — The Easter meeting of the Otterville United Church Women was held in the Sunday school room of the Church, April 15 at 8 p.m.

The president, Jean Gehring, presided and the meeting opened with the purpose of the U.C.W. which was followed with prayer.

The minutes of the March meeting were read by the secretary Elaine Oliver and Mrs. John Walther gave the treasurer's report.

Isabel Harris volunteered to take on the duties as editor of the "News and Views" edition which is printed each month. Mrs. Harris is replacing Kathy Davis who is attending Fanshawe College in London.

Mrs. Earl Moore, convener of the worship service, presided for this part and used Easter hymns.

The offering was presented by Mrs. Ethel Arthur.

Kathy Davis sang a solo "He Touched Me", accompanied by Betty Walther, pianist for the meeting.

Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Walther read a Litany of Supplications. Mrs. Moore gave the talk for the meeting, based on Revelations 20: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." She showed a slide of the painting by Holman Hunt, "The Light of the World".

This part of the meeting closed and the ladies enjoyed a social repast around the table.

## Otterville Sunshine Club

OTTERVILLE (C) — Ella Scott of Norwich was the guest speaker at the April meeting of the Sunshine Club on April 22. The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Robert Pettigrew.

Mrs. Scott gave a talk on classes she would like to start for groups of young girls and women on skin care, cosmetics and wardrobes. Mrs. Scott, who has been invited many times to help with this project finds it very rewarding.

The speaker was introduced by Doreen Mountain and was presented with a lovely corsage. The members thanked her for her interesting talk.

The roll call given was an accomplishment of a craft or something you wished to do in the winter months. Roll call was suggested by Mrs. Pettigrew and answered by 12 members.

The minutes of the past meeting were read by the secretary - treasurer Margaret Shearer.

In the absence of the president, Sandra Hussey, the meeting was conducted by Lillie Chisholm.

The hostess, Mrs. Pet-

tigrew, served a dainty lunch and Mrs. Fred Pearce gave the courtesy remarks.

The next meeting will be held May 13 when the members will meet at the home of Dorothy Wardell at 6:30 p.m. for a night out.

On their return they have been invited to the home of Mrs. Fred Pearce for the remainder of the evening for "Court Wist" and refreshments.

## Institute holds annual meeting

OTTERVILLE (C) — The annual meeting of the Otterville Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. Murray Downing on Friday. It was preceded by a potluck noonday luncheon.

The meeting opened at 2:00 p.m. and was conducted by the president, Mrs. Harry Pickersgill. All repeated the Opening Ode, Mary Stewart Collect and followed with "The Lord's Prayer."

Minutes of the previous meeting were read as well as

the financial report. Members paid their membership fees of \$3 and donations were given by celebrants to the "birthday jar."

Reports were given from the conveners of standing committees and officers were re-instated for the coming year.

There was much discussion in planning for the 175th Celebration in July from 1st-4th. A social time followed.



### Pin winners

The Norwich-Otterville Lions club was honored at a recent District A-2 convention for having won first place in the Lions Club pin design competition. District Governor Jim Kenyon was on hand at the local club's meeting Monday night to present Club President Norm Fidlin (right) and pin designer Howard Fleming (left) with their award for the club. The pin features a steam engine, pulling a thrashing machine and a water wagon. (NG Photo).



### Best bulletin

Past-president of the Norwich-Otterville Lions Club John Sandham presented the award for winning second place in the Lions Club bulletin competition Monday night to club members Fred Thompson (left), editor of the bulletin and Don Miller (right), assistant editor. The winners were selected from among the 46 clubs in District A-2. (NG Photo).

## Lions have best pin

The Norwich - Otterville Lions Club has been singled out from 46 clubs in District A-2 as the winner of a competition for the best Lions club pin design.

A plaque recognizing the club's first place victory was presented at the regular monthly meeting held in Springford Monday night. The Norwich - Ot-

terville Lions also won second prize for best bulletin at the same convention. The editor of the bulletin, Fred Thompson and assistant editor Don Miller were presented, on behalf of the club, with a plaque Monday night by the District Governor Jim Kenyon.

Mr. Fred Welsh quietly observed his 92nd birthday at his home on Thursday, April 1. Several neighbours and close friends called in the evening to bring him birthday greetings and were pleased to see him in usual good health. Mr. Welsh was the recipient of many birthday cards.

OTTERVILLE (C) — Mr. and Mrs. Max Avey were guests at the wedding of their granddaughter Cheryl May Avey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ross Avey of Paris, to David John Brown of Paris. The wedding took place April 3rd in the Presbyterian Church, Paris. Reception was held in the Agricultural Hall, Paris, and was attended by upwards of 300. Mr. and Mrs. Avey accompanied their son, Howard, and Mrs. Avey of Tillsonburg to the wedding.

Mr. and Mrs. James Squance were weekend guests with Mr. and Mrs. Brian Hagerman and Mr.

## Craft display at noon luncheon

OTTERVILLE (C) — The outstanding work of residents of the Otterville area made up an interesting craft display for the large number of persons attending the annual United Church Women's noonday luncheon on Thursday, April 22.

The event was held in the schoolroom of the church and was another successful day for the U.C.W. of Otterville United Church.

Paintings, needlepoint and other crafts were nicely displayed

throughout the room and the goodies on the bake table were in great demand keeping the clerks busy.

Citizens were surprised to learn of the talent which came to light on that very successful day.

Jean Gehring, president of the group, and Mrs. Earl Moore welcomed the visitors at the door.

The enjoyable luncheon was convened by the social convener, Mrs. Boyd Little, and many of the members were on hand to assist.

Howard Fleming of Springford was largely responsible for the pin design which illustrates a steam engine pulling a thrashing machine and a water wagon.

Attendance at Monday's dinner meeting, catered to by the Springford United Church Women, numbered 52, including four visitors from the Welland Lions Club and four from the Innerkip Club. There were two other visitors, including a potential member.

Lion Howard Fleming introduced Lions Governor Jim Kenyon from the Welland Club. Governor Jim spoke on various timely topics concerning Lionism. He also presented a special membership pin to Paul Wood for having sponsored a recent new member. He was thanked by Lion President Norm Fidlin.

Lion Don Pettigrew introduced the guest speaker Rev. David Fearon, the United Church minister from Norwich, who is a sixth generation Quebecer. He presented an interesting and detailed history of the founding of New France, its takeover following the Treaty of Paris and its effect on the present day.

Lion George Klosler thanked the speaker and presented him with a gift.

The convention draw was won by Lion Tony C. Drescher.

## Otterville Missionary Fellowship

OTTERVILLE (C) — Wilma Butler was the hostess for the April meeting of the Women's Missionary Fellowship of the Otterville Baptist Church.

The call to worship was from Matthew 27:27-29 given by the president Mrs. Butler, about Christ being mocked with a cross of thorns on his head. She likened it to the curse put on Adam and Eve to work among the thorns which was a separation from God. "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" was sung.

Minutes of the last two meetings were read by the secretary. Invitations were received from Shenstone Baptist, Brantford, and North Broadway Baptist in Tillsonburg to attend their women's meetings in May.

A letter from the Herbert Pollards was read by Mrs. Fred Hill and a letter from Hazel Wrigglesworth by Mrs. Bert Hill, also one from Roy Hirons by Mrs. Bruce Stover.

A letter telling of the work of the Christian Service Centres in district schools was also received.

Plans were made for a

baby shower for Jason Hill. Prayers for missionaries were offered by several ladies.

Mrs. Jack Walters opened the devotional part of the program with "The Old Rugged Cross" and prayer. Mrs. Murray Treffry gave a reading followed by a reading of the Scripture by Mrs. Dwight Davis. Mrs. Earl Cooper gave a reading entitled "Beside the Cross of Jesus." Mrs. Butler played a medley of Easter hymns on the electric organ.

Mrs. Ted Oenema brought the Easter message by telling how each step of the crucifixion has a message for us. In her remarks Mrs. Oenema concluded that Jesus revealed God and redeemed man and that we are set free by the finished work of the cross. The ladies joined in singing "Ten Thousand Angels" and Mrs. Butler thanked everyone who took part in the program.

A social time followed and the hostess was assisted by Mrs. Bert Hill and Mrs. Dwight Davis in serving lunch.



### Family business

Frank Finch of C.L. Finch and Son Pro Hardware in Otterville, started out in the business with his father in 1944. The business, run now by Mr. Finch and his son David, at that time was a general store but the grocery line has since been eliminated and the store is now basically a hardware store. (NG Photo).

## Store one of a kind

NG  
APR 28

By SUZANNE HANSON

If you can't find it in Frank Finch's hardware store, it probably doesn't exist.

While it may take a bit of searching to unearth just what you are looking for in the myriad of merchandise stacked throughout the store, persistence pays off and no doubt whatever you are looking for will be found there.

Mr. Finch prides himself on having one of the largest and varied stocks in the area and said people will come from quite a distance to his Otterville store just because they know he will have whatever they are looking for.

The store, called C.L. Finch and Son Pro Hard-

ware, was started up by his father, C.L. Finch when he brought his family to Otterville in April, 1944. Mr. Finch joined his father in running what was then a general store, offering a complete line of merchandise, including groceries.

Mr. Finch said his father died in 1964 and he took over the store's operation, which he now runs with the aid of his son David.

The grocery line of goods was phased out the same year provincial sales tax came into being, but just

(Continued on Page 17)

(Continued from Page 16) about everything else imaginable can still be found somewhere in the store, including some horse harnesses and pads, a carry-over from the days when horses were used to do the farm work. Mr. Finch said the old hitching post can still be found at

the rear of his store.

While product lines have expanded and grown over the years, the basic nature of the store and its proprietors has remained unchanged over the years. And that is part of the attraction the store holds for its customers. Many of the people who come into

the store tell Mr. Finch they hope he never changes the store. Many of the village and area residents who have dealt with him for many years still enjoy dropping in for a morning visit just to have a chat.

While it might take someone unfamiliar with the store's unconventional layout to find just what he is looking for, Mr. Finch or his son is always there ready to serve their customers: "I know right where everything is," said Mr. Finch. "If anybody straightened things up I'd be lost."

Stores such as Mr. Finch's are few and far between these days as old-fashioned general stores fall in the wake of larger specialty stores. The only other one like Mr. Finch's was Beck's general store that used to be in Hawtrey but it too has long since closed its doors.

Travellers unfamiliar with the store are amazed at the variety of stock found in the store, said Mr. Finch, who said he has one of the largest stocks in the area. "No one carries the variety we do," he said. While he made the changeover to join the Pro Hardware group about five years ago, the store still carries many items not found in other hardware stores.

Mr. Finch said it is

important to have such variety in a small farm community as people don't have time to go into two or three different places to get what they need. He said the villagers and the farm community in the area have been very supportive of his business over the years.

With a business record, of 38 years continuous service to the community, C.L. Finch's has been operating the longest of any store in Otterville.

# Happy Bluebird club marks 34th birthday

OTTERVILLE (C) — The Happy Bluebird Club, perhaps one of the oldest organizations in the area, celebrated its 34th anniversary on Tuesday evening, April 27.

The birthday, which marked another milestone for the club, was held at the home of Rosalie Wilson, daughter of the president Daisy Ash, who was hostess for the evening.

Members arrived shortly after 6 p.m. to enjoy a potluck meal from a well-filled table of goodies which was most appealing to the eye of the 14 members present.

Through the years the club has reached out to help those in need with their finances raised through bake sales, plays, picnics, and the sale of quilts, to name a few.

It would seem that Mrs. Ash, who started the ball rolling thirty-four years ago, has filled the office as president for almost half of that time. When a new slate of officers was appointed it was often the wish of the club to re-elect Mrs. Ash.

The first meeting was held at the home of the former Mrs. Martin Smith now Mrs. John Pritchard and the latter also took her part both in office and in giving freely of her car and time.

Following the supper, a short business meeting was held when the members were given the opportunity to express their wish as to whether to continue the club or disband. The club will continue for a time at least.

Officers appointed were: past president, Mrs. Ash; president, Dorothy Daniels; first vice-president, Josepha Rosehart; secretary, Jenny Mitchell; treasurer, Helen Davis; press, Evelyn Waring.

Owing to the loss of members in the groups which at one time numbered five in Norwich, Otterville, Milldale, Cornell and Springford, only two groups now remain, Norwich and Milldale members of Otterville joining with these groups. The next meeting will be held on the regular date, the fourth Tuesday in May and will be in charge of Milldale.

A short program was enjoyed when piano music was given by Nellie Taylor and Merla DeMontmorency. A reading was given by Dorothy Daniels.

Lillian Morris, on behalf of the club, expressed appreciation to Rosalie Wilson for the use of her home, to Mrs. Ash as

hostess and for the many acts of service given through the years.

Mrs. Ash replied thanking the club for their assistance and wishing the

best for the in-coming president Mrs. Daniels. She assured her the club, though not big in number, would give of their time as in the past.



### Quiet sentinel

This cannon in the Otterville park stands as a quiet sentinel overlooking the mill pond. Made about 1807, it was donated to the village by the federal government to commemorate

the 100th anniversary of the former South Norwich Township. The community is celebrating again this year with a variety of activities planned for the 175th anniversary of settlement in the township. (NG Photo).

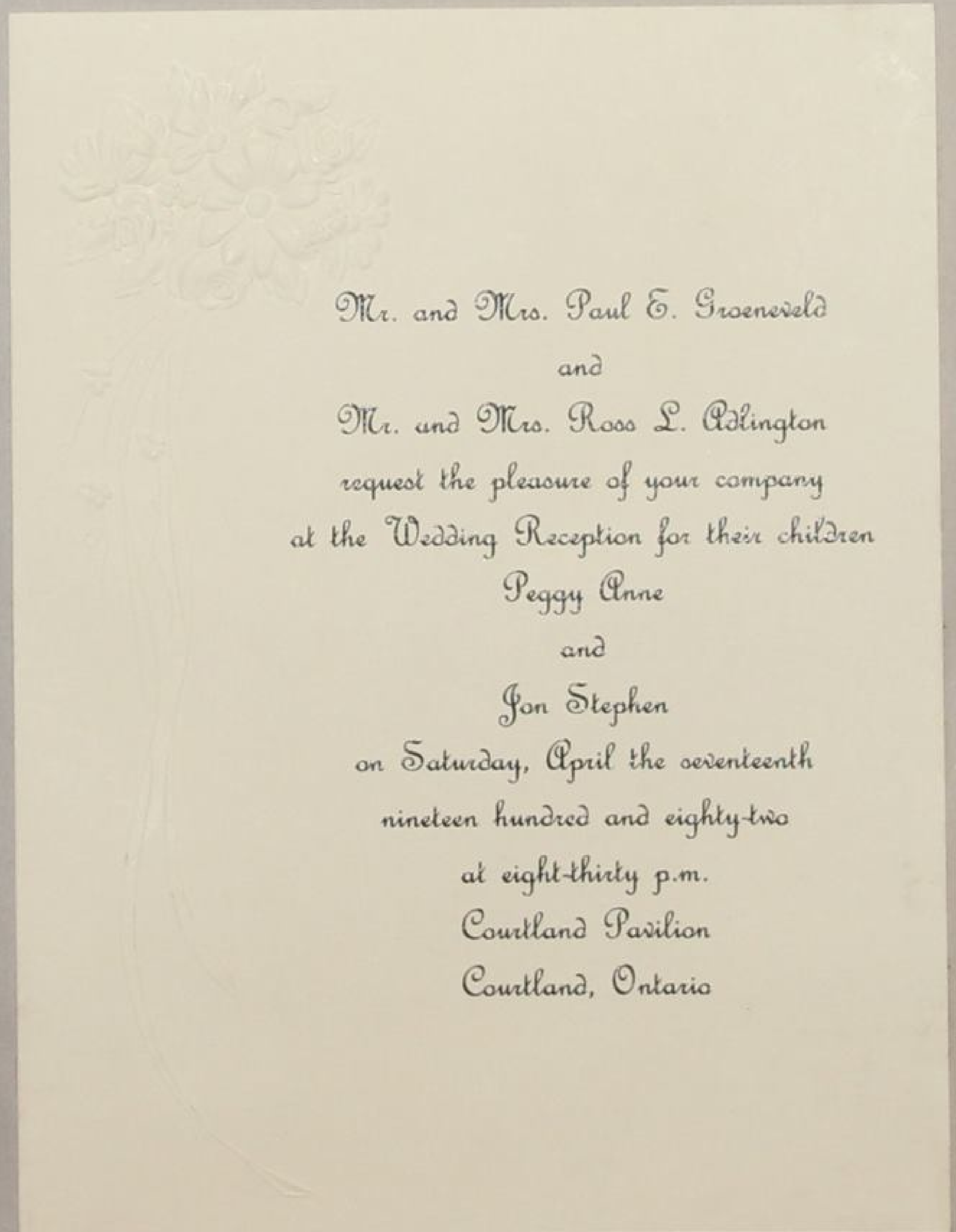


Mr. and Mrs. Paul Groeneveld, Sr., and Mr. and Mrs. Ross Adlington are pleased to announce the forthcoming marriage of their children Peggy Anne and Jon Stephen to be held on April 17, 1982 at 3 p.m. at Otterville United Church. (Fred's Photography).



### Spring sports

Spring may seem far away now with the recent return of Old Man Winter, but students at Otterville Public School were certain it was just around the corner when they got out their baseball bats, balls and gloves last week for some outdoor exercise. Above Jim Davis, Grade 8, pitches them in. (NG Photo)



Mr. and Mrs. Paul E. Groeneveld  
and  
Mr. and Mrs. Ross L. Adlington  
request the pleasure of your company  
at the Wedding Reception for their children  
Peggy Anne  
and  
Jon Stephen  
on Saturday, April the seventeenth  
nineteen hundred and eighty-two  
at eight-thirty p.m.  
Courtland Pavilion  
Courtland, Ontario

# Norwich cuts projects

T.N.  
MAY 19

By SUZANNE HANSON

Major capital expenditures have been eliminated by Norwich Township council in drawing up the township's budget for 1982.

But despite cuts made during two closed-door budget sessions last week, Norwich residents with an average residential assessment of \$5,000 can still expect an increase of about \$139 in their property taxes this year.

Township treasurer stressed the figures for mill rates in the township are still not definite as the requisitions for funds from the Oxford and Brant County separate school boards are still outstanding.

The total township levy as it now stands is \$1,173,380, down \$3,400 from last year's levy. Mr. Lowes said the decline is due to the transfer to the township of the provincial grants for policing and density. Those grants formerly went to the county and were deducted from its levy to the township. This year the grants, totalling \$166,800, came directly to Norwich Township and were calculated in the township's revenue.

Mr. Lowes said the change means the county's mill rate shows an ab-

normal increase while the township's shows an abnormal decline. Mr. Lowes said the township's mill rate at this point is down .9 mills over last year representing a 1½ per cent decrease.

With the grant out of the picture, Mr. Lowes said the increase in the township's levy for 1982 is 13.3 per cent. He said the only really outstanding expenditure this year is the anticipated legal costs associated with the Holbrook landfill site battle. Council has included \$100,000 in its budget for those and all other legal costs incurred during the year.

Another factor in the increase in the budget this year was the \$70,000 deficit carried over from last year, which resulted in a net deficit of \$29,000. The deficit was attributed to unexpected costs in the roads department.

While there were limited areas to cut the budget, said Mr. Lowes, cuts in the area of recreation helped bring the budgetary increase down to the 13.3 per cent from 19.5 per cent. Virtually all road reconstruction projects were eliminated this year with only gravelling and maintenance included.

The cuts in the recreation budget included the

elimination of \$16,000 worth of lights for the park at Curries, a \$5,000 concession booth at the Springford park and \$13,450 worth of lights at the Otterville park. A public address system, exhaust fan and refrigerator, totalling \$3,100 were also cut from the Oxford Centre community hall budget.

A request from Norwich senior citizens groups for \$10,000 to aid in expanding their centre was also turned down by council.

The township council is investigating the possibility of reducing the number of weekly fire meetings for volunteer firemen per year at each fire station from 52 to 26 meetings per year.

Township staff have also been asked to report on whether there is any surplus public works equipment that might be sold.

Mayor Carman Sweazey said Monday council has cut the budget as much as it can. "If you cut it anymore you're cutting essential services."

He said Holbrook was the big item in the budget this year, "but we've got to protect our people," he said. "Hopefully the economy will be better next year and we can look at these items again."

Mr. Lowes said the maintenance and operating costs of the township were left relatively untouched in the township's budget.

The county requisition was up 12.2 mills this year, the public school requisition up 6.2 mills and secondary schools 10.3 mills. The increase in the secondary school mill rate, 28.2 per cent is fairly steep, said Mr. Lowes.

On a \$5,000 assessment, the average public school supporter would be paying increased taxes in the amount of \$61.30 to the county, \$30.93 to public schools and \$51.60 for secondary schools, making up the increase of approximately \$139.

When the separate school levies are approved and sent to the township, a bylaw approving the budget will be passed by township council.

## Announcement



Inge Irie

William Sanders Real Estate is proud to announce the appointment of Inge Irie to our sales staff. Inge is a welcome addition to our staff and looks forward to serving her many friends and neighbours for all their Real Estate needs. Inge is fluent in English, German, French and Portuguese and will be a great asset to our office. Inge may be reached by calling our office.

**SANDERS**  
REAL ESTATE "INSURANCE"  
842-6900 or 879-6411

25 YEARS AGO

May 1957

This Sunday at 3 p.m. St. Luke's Lutheran congregation of Tillsonburg will conduct its cornerstone laying service and ceremony.

Otterville - The two old cement water towers which served Otterville for many years, were brought down with resounding crashes this week to make way for a parking lot at the rear of the community centre.

25 YEARS AGO

May 1957

Delmer - Mr. and Mrs. Ken Mansion have purchased the store from Mrs. S.F. Jacob.

Otterville Baptist Church anniversary services were held Sunday. The church is 99 years old.

75 YEARS AGO

May 1907

Ostrander - Fred Hyatt had a most successful barn raising on Tuesday afternoon.

Otterville - Entertainment was provided several evenings last week in the town hall by one of the travelling medicine companies making its periodical visit.

100 YEARS AGO

May 1882

Courtland can congratulate itself on the acquisition of a most desirable citizen, in the person of Dr. Walter McKay of Binbrook, who has recently taken up his residence there.

Mr. Dake of Norwich is making preparations to erect a \$10,000 hotel. It will be immediately alongside the Pitcher clock.

100 YEARS AGO

May 1882

Bear street has been stumped and levelled, and the unsightly roots are piled up in the centre of the street, at a point but a short distance from Broadway. The pile will make a glorious bonfire.

The Otterville Guide threatens to stop publication in that village and to move to a more enterprising place if it does not receive more generous support.

# Township approves budget

NG  
MAY 24/82

Norwich Township council approved its 1982 operating budget with the passing of a bylaw at Tuesday night's council meeting.

The total township levy of \$1,173,830 represents an approximate 13 per cent increase in the budget over last year. The total tax levy to be raised in the township for 1982, including county and school board levies, is \$4,049,425.

Farm and residential mill rates in the township have been set at 58.043 with business and commercial at 68.285. The special area rates for Otterville and Burgessville, covering such expenses as

garbage collection and street lighting, have been set at 16.429 for general and 19.328 for business and commercial. In Norwich those special rates have been set at 14.092 and 16.579 for business and commercial.

The major reasons for the increase in the budget this year are the anticipated legal costs associated with the Holbrook landfill site battle as well as the \$70,000 deficit carried over from 1981. That resulted in a net deficit of \$29,000 which was attributed to unexpected costs in the roads department.

The county levy amounted to \$635,535 of the total levy to be raised through taxation in the township, elementary schools for \$1,074,867; separate schools for \$106,105; secondary schools for \$1,059,088; Norwich Township general for \$1,106,830 and special area rates in the township for \$67,000 of the total \$4,049,425 levy.

Councillor John Eacott suggested budget matters should be dealt with earlier in the year. "You should be able to do a good job (setting the budget) when you have nearly six months to look back on," he said. There should be a more ef-

fective way of dealing with the budget so that it is not being set when the year is half over. "We're talking about expenditures that have already been made."

Mayor Carman Sweazey said there are a lot of factors and unknowns such as township wages, county and school board levies that delay the budgetary process. "I can't see where it's hurting us that our taxes are set now."

All budget deliberations were carried out by council in closed sessions and further comment on the budget was not available Tuesday night.

# South Norwich ready for big birthday party

Plans have been finalized for the South Norwich 175th anniversary and Canada Week celebrations to take place June 27 and July 1 through 4.

At a meeting of the Canada week committee and the anniversary committee, Wednesday, it was decided that an interdenominational church service will kick off the celebrations at the Oxford Centre at 11 a.m., with a garden party at 2 p.m.

The site of the celebrations will then shift to Otterville, Thursday, with the second annual Canada Day Parade of Norwich Township at 10:30 a.m. There will be a lunch in Otter Park at noon, followed by the 175 anniversary opening ceremonies featuring distinguished guests and a beauty contest. The Norwich-Otterville Lions will hold a barbeque at 4:30 p.m., with a garden party and fireworks at 8 p.m.

Friday will see the Slo-Pitch Ball tournament at Springford park at 7 p.m., with the Optimist Street Dance in Otterville at 8 p.m. and the judging of the Beard Growing contest.

The celebrations will start early Saturday, with the resumption of the Slo-Pitch tournament at 8 a.m. The Rebekah Bake sale will begin in Otterville at 9 a.m., with the Optimist Soap Box Derby at 10 a.m. Lunch will be served in the park at noon, with the children's parade on Dover Street at 1 p.m.

Children's sporting events will take place in the park at 2:30 p.m., with a swim show at 4 p.m. Meanwhile, the school reunion of all South Norwich Township schools will be taking place at the Otterville Central School from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

There will also be guided tours of Woodlawn, the Treffry Mill and Innisfree Conference Centre throughout the afternoon, beginning at 1:30 p.m. and ending at 5 p.m. There will be a hot air balloon demonstration in the park from 6-8 p.m., followed by the Oldtimers Ball game, which will be followed by a Weenie Roast.

Sunday's celebrations will begin at 11 a.m. with an interdenominational church service at Otter Park and the completion of the Slo-Pitch tournament at 1 p.m.

The Black Cemetery Plaque will be unveiled at 2 p.m. at Church Street, Otterville, with the school reunion at 2:30 p.m. Guided tours will continue throughout the afternoon beginning at 2:30 p.m., with the South Norwich Historical Society barbeque at the Treffry Mill at 5 p.m. Sunday's events will conclude with the Norwich Community band concert at Otter Park at 7 p.m.

While all these events have been finalized, there are still more features being planned for the Canada Week Celebration.

# Great Lakes discussed at Women's Institute

OTTERVILLE (C) — Mr. Kenneth Mann of Otterville was the guest speaker at the May meeting of the Otterville Women's Institute which was held at Woodlawn Community Centre on Friday evening.

The speaker dealt with his experiences with the Freighters on the Great Lakes. This proved most interesting and at the close of his talk several of the members were asking for more information.

The speaker was introduced by Mrs. Fred Cole, convener of the meeting and appreciation was expressed on behalf of the members by Mrs. Jean Gehring, who also presented him with a gift.

Mrs. Harry Pickersgill presided for the meeting and welcomed the members

and visiting menfolk of the village.

The meeting opened with the "Opening Ode" followed with The Lord's Prayer. Mrs. Jack Walther was the pianist for the meeting.

Members responded to the roll call by giving a fact they knew of The Great Lakes.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read as well as the treasurer's report of the past year.

Cards were signed for Mrs. Nelson Gleason and Mrs. Marion (Fish) Lee who were shut-ins.

Mrs. Downing who is the convener for the day's outing to Port Dover in place of the regular meeting requested names of those who wished to go.

The members will be leaving the village at 9:30

a.m. and anyone wishing to go may contact her at 879-6982.

Mrs. Cole gave the motto entitled "Contentment." Mrs. Pickersgill announced the plans for the birthday celebration on July 1, 2, 3 and 4th are going well.

Mrs. Cole who has been the curator for the Tweedsmuir History has retired from this office and Miss Vera Welsh has been appointed as the new curator for the books. The Tweedsmuir books were on display and members enjoyed turning back the pages of time and many memories were brought to mind.

The meeting closed with the Institute grace and Mrs. Cole was assisted in serving a dainty lunch by Mrs. Max Avey and Mrs. Jean Gehring.

OTTERVILLE (C) — Cindy Williams of Simcoe spent the weekend with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Durkee.

Those interested in treatment for Foot Care are reminded the V.O.N. will make her regular call in the village on Monday, May 31 in place of the regular date which would be the fourth Monday in the month. Treatment will be at the home of Evelyn Waring.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Durkee enjoyed dinner in Tillsonburg on Wednesday evening with Mr. and Mrs. George Watkins of London.

Mrs. Douglas Jones of Port Stanley was a recent guest with Daisy Ash. Mrs. Ash accompanied Mrs. Jones to Burgessville where they were guests with Mrs. Jack McCready.

Recent guests with their parents Mr. and Mrs. James Squance were Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Squance of Brantford, Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Miller of Paris, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Krohe of Woodstock, Mrs. Marjorie McClintock of Springford and Mr. and Mrs. Rick Krohe and Angela of London.

Dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Durkee on Mother's Day were Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Newstead and family of Brantford, Mr.

and Mrs. John Williams and family of Simcoe, Mrs. Violet Grass of Tillsonburg, Mr. and Mrs. Jay Durkee and sons of Otterville, Mrs. Aubrey Babcock and son Paul, Rhonda Treffry, Mr. and Mrs. John McMann, Jim and Kathy Durkee, all of Otterville.

Recent guests with Evelyn Waring were Ada Morley of Burgessville, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Jull of Waterford, and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Keller of Glen Meyer.

Many persons from out-of-town including as far as Brantford attended the delicious turkey dinner served in the Parish hall of St. John's Anglican Church, Otterville on Sunday evening. A number of the visitors counting on a special Sunday dinner were turned back and had to choose another place for their Sunday night dinner because of the full house. Visitors were very pleased with the dinner and marvelled too, how the ladies though not so many in number, gave the visitors their best in catering to the large crowd.

**McMULLEN** - In loving memory of a dear husband and father, Nate McMullen, who passed away two years ago May 15, 1980. We miss you Dad and always will Your place on this earth no one can fill. You were loved and cherished beyond compare For you were one of the very rare. You were a wonderful husband, father and friend And you did your best till the very end. — Deeply missed by wife Winnie, daughter and son-in-law Catherine and Ken.

# Ralph Cook speaker at historical society

The South Norwich Historical Society met on May 10 at Woodlawn with approximately 25 attending.

President, Lorne Treffry called the meeting to order and secretary Mary Murray read minutes of the last regular meeting and an intervening executive meeting.

The society's bus trip to the Indian Archaeological Museum at the University of Western Ontario has been tentatively set for early October.

Kathy Davis read correspondence and David Hussey gave the treasurer's report.

The society will be publishing a pamphlet to be sold during the July 1st celebrations. The pamphlet was written by William McMullen Sr., and is about Tip Top Canners, which for

many years was a dominant industry in Otterville. The book being published by the society will be ready for sale next fall.

After the conclusion of the business portion of the meeting, Joyce Pettigrew introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Ralph Cook, who gave an interesting talk about British militaria of which he is an avid collector.

Among the items of interest that Mr. Cook brought with him were muzzle loaders, Snyder and Lee Enfields, knives, ammunition and hand guns.

He was thanked for his interesting address.

Lunch was provided by Juanita DeRoo.

Next meeting of the society will be held on June

7, when the guest speaker will be Dorothy Duncan, executive director of the Ontario Historical Society,

who will speak about the United Empire Loyalists and the upcoming provincial bicentennial.

## Mothers honored by UCW

OTTERVILLE (C) — Mothers were honored at the May meeting of the United Church Women on Thursday evening in the schoolroom of the church.

The president, Mrs. Jean Gehring, presided and the secretary, Mrs. Elaine Oliver, conducted the business.

Among the reports given was a letter read by Mrs. Earl Moore from Mrs. Barbara Cope, thanking the members for the plant which was sent to her while in hospital.

Mrs. Evelyn Waring reported for the cards which had been sent out to shut-ins.

Treasurer's report was given by Mrs. Walther. Further discussion was on the holiday celebration.

Mrs. Marion Taylor convened the worship service. Mrs. Batson and Mrs. Clara Arthur were chairpersons.

## Lyle John Cassidy

Lyle John Cassidy of RR 3, Norwich, passed away at his residence on Monday, May 3, 1982, in his 76th year.

Surviving are his wife, the former Nina Blanche McMullen; one daughter, Mrs. Cecil (Audrey) McFarland of

Burgessville; two grandchildren Terry Hill and Randy McFarland; and one sister, Mrs. Vera Parker of Woodstock.

Rested at the Arn and Son Funeral Residence, Norwich, where service was held Wednesday, May 5, at 2 p.m.

Interment in Quaker Street Friends' Cemetery

# White-Visser vows said at Springford

Springford Baptist Church was decorated with greenery on Saturday, May 1, 1982, at 4 p.m. for the

wedding of Wendy Ann Visser and Wesley Edward White. Rev. Gibson Brown officiated. Mrs. L. Broad of

Springford was organist and Ruthann Haley and Doris Haley, friends of the bride and groom, sang a

duet during the service.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. Henry Visser of RR 1, Norwich and the late Mrs. Visser. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward White of 33 Main St., Norwich.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride chose a floor-length gown of white georgette, trimmed with lace, worn with a white hat trimmed with lace and carried an arm bouquet of burgundy orchids.

Hilda Vos of Woodstock, friend of the bride, was maid of honor and wore a floor-length, burgundy gown trimmed with lace, worn with a silk burgundy orchid in her hair. She carried a silk arm bouquet of burgundy orchids.

Ben White, brother of the groom, was best man and ushers were Nick Visser, brother of the bride, and Bill Hansford, brother-in-law of the groom.

Reception was held at the Otterville hall, decorated with baskets of spring flowers for the occasion. Rose bowls decorated the guest tables.

Following a wedding trip to Peterborough, the couple is residing at 37 Main St., Norwich.

The bride is employed at White's Flowers and made her own flowers for the wedding.



Mr. and Mrs. Howard Wells of Otterville and Mr. and Mrs. James R. Leslie of Embro are pleased to announce the forthcoming marriage of their children, Marianne and Jim. The wedding will take place on May 7, 1982 at 4 p.m. at St. John's Brebeuf R.C. Church, Delhi. (Photo by Wilson's Studio, Delhi)

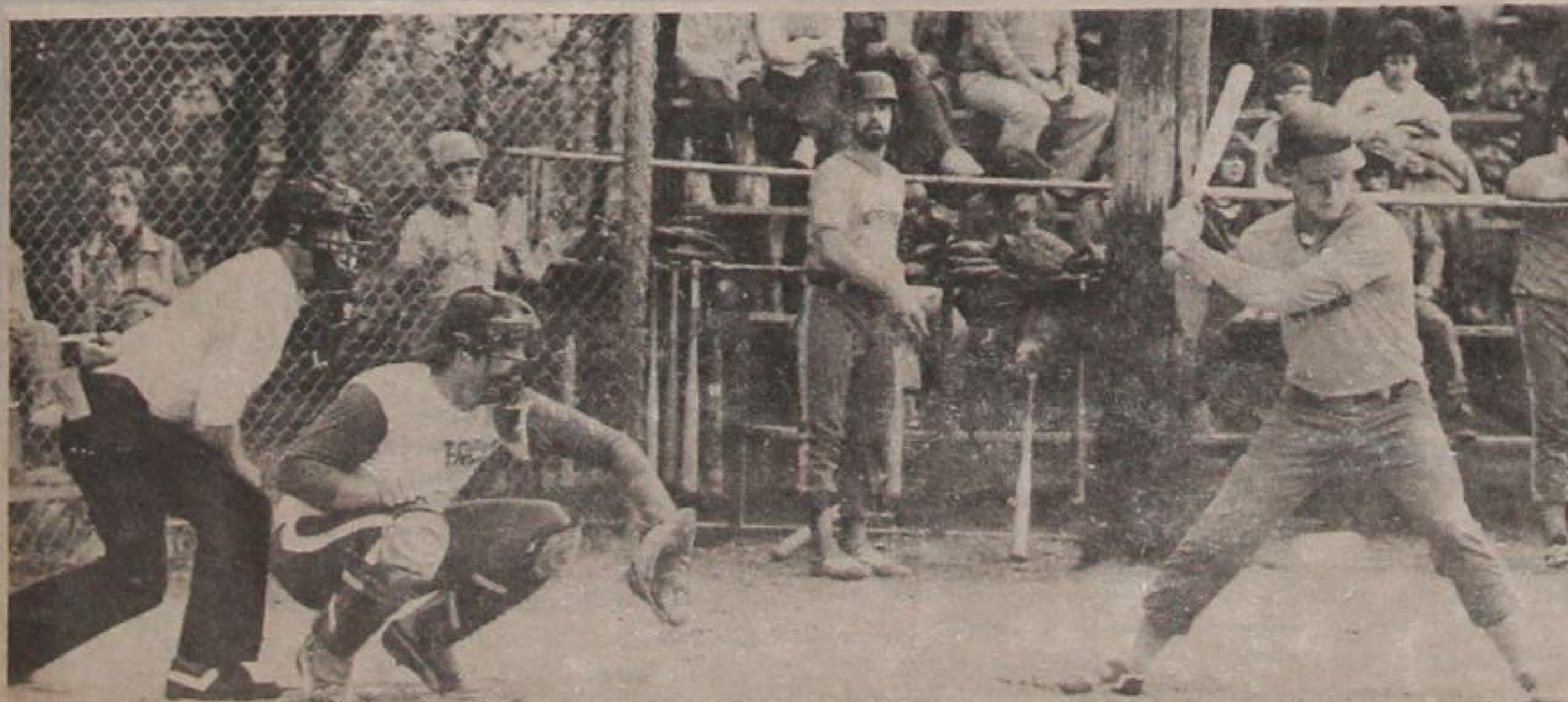
## Engagements



Mr. and Mrs. Robert Furlong of Otterville are pleased to announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Cheryl Ann to Craig Durle Richardson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Richardson of Otterville. The wedding will take place Saturday, May 22, 1982, at St. John's Anglican Church. (Wilson's Studio, Delhi).



MR. AND MRS. WESLEY EDWARD WHITE



## Otters win

There was a capacity crowd on Monday evening when the Hometown Otterville Otters took on the Hellyer Farms

team from Waterford before the annual fireworks display in Otterville park. The Otters downed the Waterford team 9-4. (NG Photo)

NORWICH-OTTERVILLE LIONS



ANNUAL  
**FIREWORKS**

DISPLAY  
OTTERVILLE PARK

Monday, May 24th  
Baseball Game  
Held at 7:00

## Fireworks at Dusk

— Draw for 8 pc. Patio Set  
Tickets still available at Fireworks Display

ADMISSION: Adults \$2.00  
Students 12-15 yrs. \$1.50  
Children under 12 yrs. FREE

— FREE PARKING —



# WI wins top prize for history

By C.B. HERMAN

The photo of a lady's first automobile ride and the story of one family's journey from England to the new land are just part of the award-winning history presentation prepared by the Springford Women's Institute.

The audio-visual display consists of 82 slides and a

running commentary on cassette tapes. It was entered in the Ontario Women's Institute Tweedsmuir Competition and awarded first prize.

The presentation, titled *The Birth and Development of a Small Community in Southwestern Ontario*, will be sent on to the Federated Women's

Institute of Canada (FWIC) convention in the Maritimes next month to be judged against the other provincial winners.

But the Springford Women's Institute has more than competitions in mind for the project.

"We thought that it would be valuable for schools," said Lillian White, curator of the Springford Tweedsmuir history. Mrs. White, along with Barbara Wilson and Joyce Pettigrew prepared the award-winning display.

"The kids would get quite a bit out of it," she added, "it makes their history come alive."

The half-hour presentation covers the complete history of the area with slides of Indian artifacts found in the area, to life as it is now in the village.

Among them is a picture

of Mrs. Mahoney, definitely the first girl and possibly the first baby born in South Norwich, taking her first ride in an automobile.

The Women's Institute also made use of the diary of a member of the Bell family to tell its history.

"They had a really good detailed story of their trip from England to Upper Canada," said Mrs. White, "we tell that story with pictures."

The Bells later built the first brick house in South Norwich, getting their supplies from a brick and tile factory located in the village.

Pictures of the factory and another house the Bells built in 1898 are included in the slides.

Other photos in the collection include the Otterville mill, various

farm operations and their progression through the years, a model of the first school in Springford and the development of the railway.

The pictures were found in the Institute's Tweed-

smuir history, various local publications and through contributions from Institute members.

Mrs. White said it took about three months to organize the presentation.

## History of Springford

SPRINGFORD (C) — The Women's Institute held its May meeting at the hall with president Sherrill Babbey presiding. Margaret Lee and Daisy Stroud read minutes and financial report and roll call was answered by telling a pioneer task that your grandmother did.

The ladies were asked to volunteer to walk with the children in the bicycle parade in Otterville on July 3.

It was decided that the Institute would sponsor the Springford 4-H club.

Due to the fact that so many letters were written to Dennis Timbrell, the agricultural minister, the Institute short courses will be continued.

Springford ladies were asked to make cookies for the Otterville school reunion to be held Sunday, July 4, at 2:30 p.m.

Lillian White, Institute curator, was in charge of the program. Clara Wardle read two poems, "Look Back; Give Thanks" and "Look Forward; Take Courage". These poems were written by her

## Happy Bluebirds get donations

OTTERVILLE (C) — Dorothy Daniels, newly-elected president of the Happy Bluebird Club, presided for the May meeting which was held at the home of Josepha Rosehart, Norwich.

The meeting opened with the Housewives' Creed followed with The Lord's Prayer.

It was moved that Daisy Ash continue as convener for the Good Cheer in remembering shut-ins. The Club received a substantial cash donation from Mrs. Worrall in Norwich who had been the composer of "The Bluebird Song", used by the members for a long

time. The club members deeply appreciated the gift of money as well as the song.

Mrs. Daniels invited the members to her home for the June meeting which will be the fourth Tuesday in June.

In appreciation of the past president, Mrs. Ash, who has served in this term of office for many years, Lillian Morris on behalf of the club presented Mrs. Ash with an arrangement of seasonal flowers.

Mrs. Ash thanked the club for their kindness and their help they had given to her during the years, and wished for the same assistance to Mrs. Daniels.

The evening continued with a program which included a reading by Mrs. Rosehart, "Help yourself to Happiness." Tune McNally gave readings "Causes of Accidents and The Road to Life."

Other readings were given by Mrs. Daniels, Mary Vankerbroeck, and Lillian Morris.

## Otters open on losing note

Otterville Otters started their Tri-County Fastball season on a losing note as they dropped their home opener 3-1 to Caledonia Friday night, and then on Sunday travelled to Grimsby where they came

up short 5-2.

Friday, the Otters managed just three hits. Joe Webb scored the lone Otterville run while Jim Myles went the distance on the mound.

Sunday, the visiting

Otters improved in the hitting department banging out eight singles. Doug Furlong scored both runs.

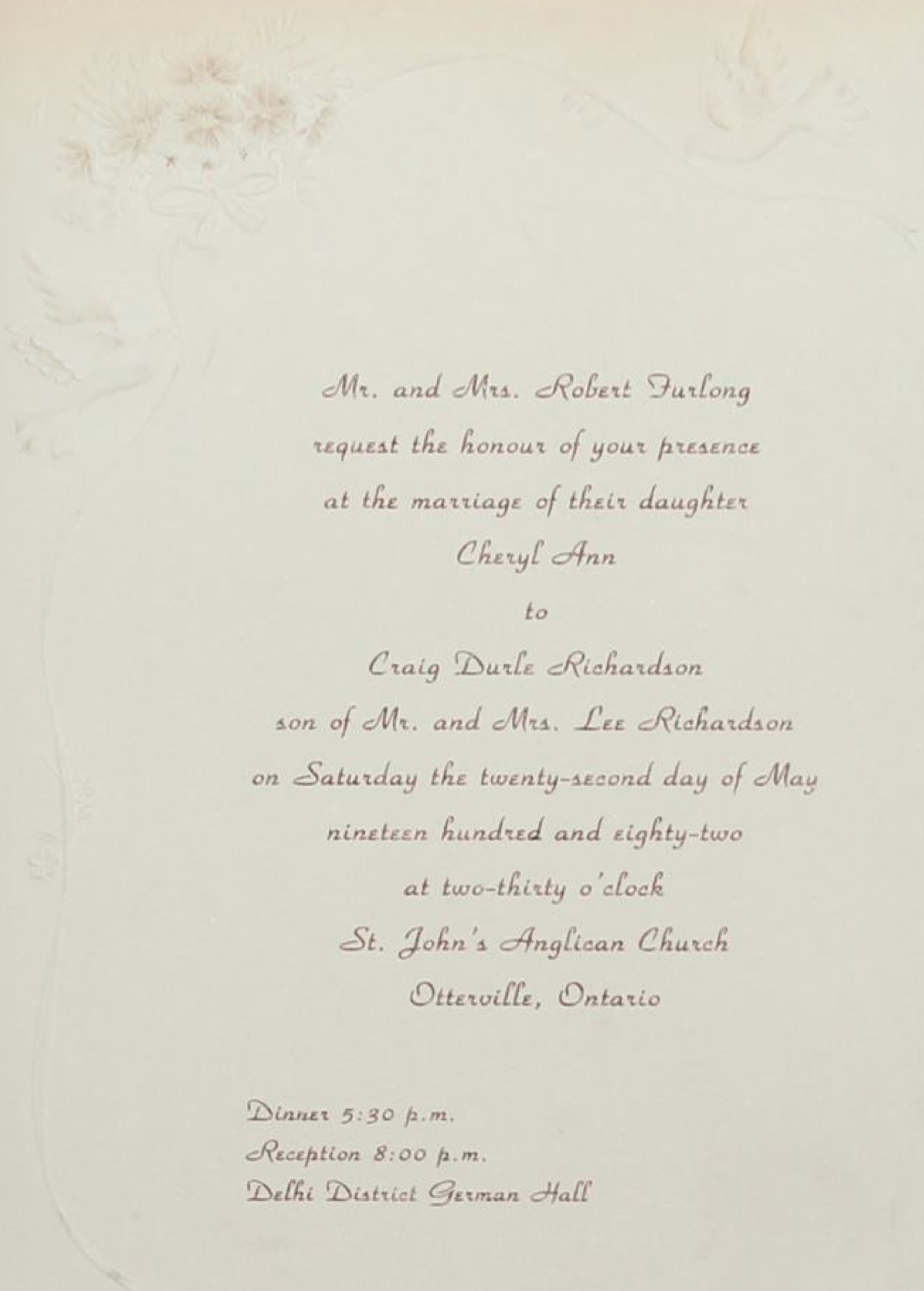
Brad Griffin started on the mound for Otterville before giving way to Myles.



### New addition

There is a new addition to the playground equipment at Otterville Public School. This climbing apparatus was installed by parents and students on Friday for children in the primary grades. Money for the project was raised by the primary students through a variety of projects. The equipment was designed by a parent, Floyd Lewis. DeWachter's Electric donated their services to dig the holes for the apparatus and McMullen's Machine Shop helped with the metal work. (NG Photo).

T.N  
MAY 31



*Mr. and Mrs. Robert Furlong  
request the honour of your presence  
at the marriage of their daughter*

*Cheryl Ann*

*to*

*Craig Durlé Richardson  
son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Richardson  
on Saturday the twenty-second day of May  
nineteen hundred and eighty-two  
at two-thirty o'clock*

*St. John's Anglican Church  
Otterville, Ontario*

*Dinner 5:30 p.m.*

*Reception 8:00 p.m.*

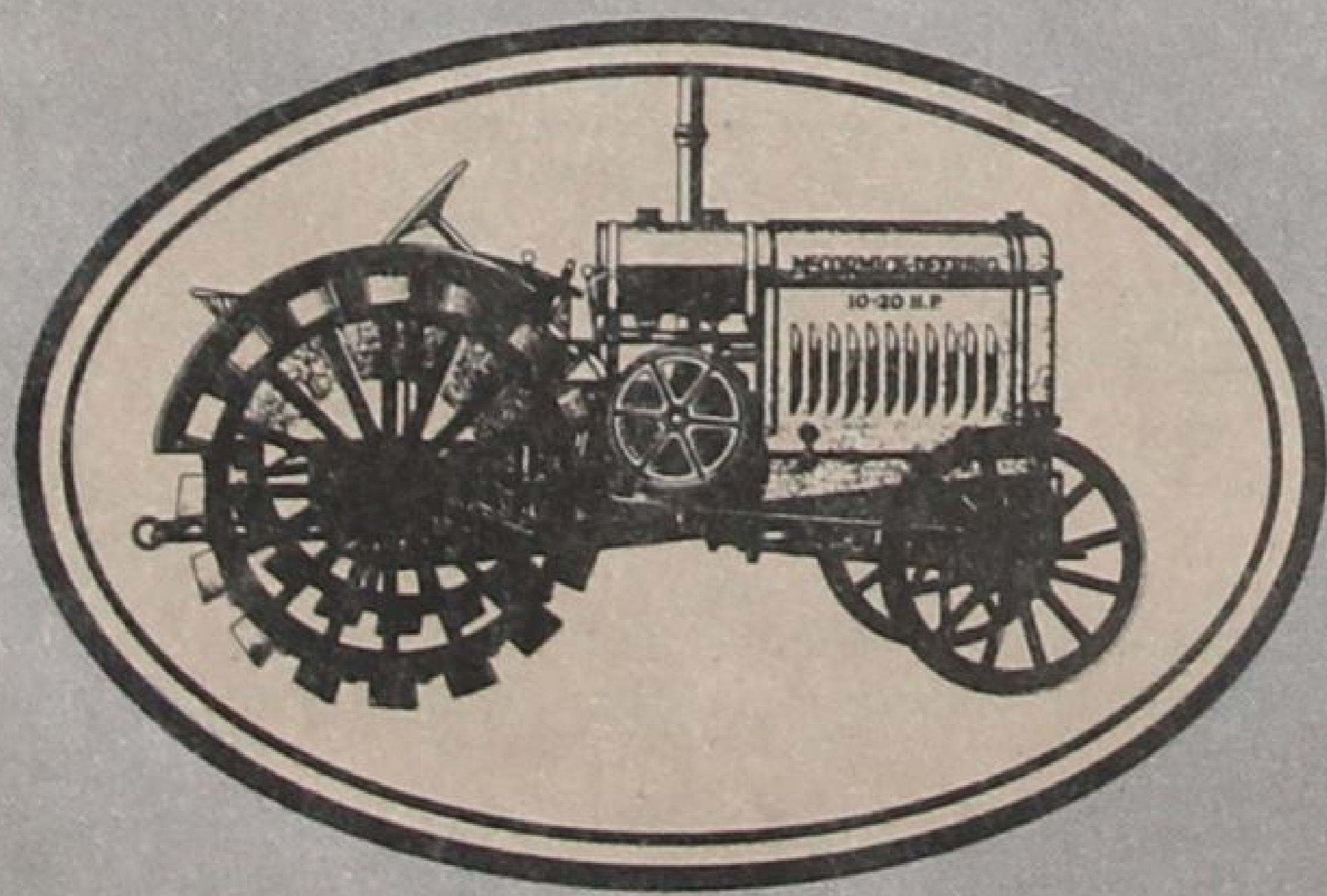
*Delhi District German Hall*

*Turn back the  
Hands of Time*



*At The 1982  
12th Annual Norwich*

# HISTORICAL SHOW



*We welcome you  
to come and  
Relive the Past*

June 4, 5 and 6

— sponsored by —

**THE NORWICH and DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

# Short Stop

by Suzanne Hanson

NG  
JUNE 23



Norwich Township council has decided to ask the Ontario Police Commission to conduct an adequacy study of its police force in Norwich (Ward 2). Some councillors were opposed to the move and others had doubts about the real value of such a study.

The service is provided free of charge to all police forces and their governing bodies on a continuing basis to conduct adequacy studies, surveys of police needs, as well as workload analyses and manpower deployment studies.

Sounds pretty good, especially for the price tag but one wonders if it might be opening a whole can of worms by asking the OPC in. One thing is for sure, everyone should be prepared for a thorough examination of the police force and be prepared for what the findings might be. They might not be quite what some people would like to hear and the recommendations, though valid, may not be practical in a budgetary sense.

Chief Robert Knight would probably be the first to agree that another full-time police officer is needed in the town to provide 24-hour policing and relieve the burden on the existing men. But are the taxpayers of this township prepared to carry the burden of that extra man? And it is the entire township that must help pay the cost of the police force that serves only one ward of this four ward township. The rest of the wards must rely on the Ontario Provincial Police for police protection.

As was pointed out at the recent council meeting, the township may not be able to afford to implement possible recommendations from the OPC. Then what happens? If they determine that our policing is not adequate and we can't afford to improve it, will they perhaps return to the suggestion put forward a number of years ago by the province that Oxford adopt regional policing, eliminating small town forces such as that in Norwich altogether?

The trend in all sectors of the government seems to be toward centralization in an effort to reduce manpower and operating costs and the fear of some councillors that we may be inviting a step toward a regional force by requesting such a study. A regional force would end up costing us all a lot more money locally.

Sometimes you wonder if it's not better to leave well enough alone. While there are no doubt complaints about the operations of the police force, those certainly aren't unique to Norwich. Every centre has its grumblers when it comes to policing. But would a regional system, operated out of Woodstock be any better? What about those areas in the rest of our township who must now rely on a few men from Tillsonburg to keep law and order in their area?

Norwich, it would seem does have an advantage over the rest of the municipality and we should perhaps not attempt to rock the boat or everyone may get dumped into the water. Probably the ideal situation would be to have more policing, possibly throughout the whole township, but economically it's just not possible - it would just require too many more men that the taxpayers can't afford.

And as Mayor Carman Sweazey pointed out, the township could wind up looking silly if it doesn't implement the resulting recommendations because it doesn't want to spend the money.

There comes a time when you have to draw the line on spending, particularly in these times. While the study may show Ward 2 is over-policed, few people would agree with that point, considering the number of merchants who are in favour of 24-hour policing.

What the study may do is open up questions to which we don't want the answers at the moment and provide answers that we aren't at this time prepared to deal with.

# Beating around the bush

By John Gardiner

DELHI NEWS



One old fellow that I was out talking to the other day was lamenting long and loud the decline of local government in this area and its replacement with regional government.

It seems that many people in this area have the same complaint. They feel that regional government is just too big and too unruly. It's too far away from the local municipality and it's too difficult for people to control the purse strings of this monster known as regional government.

Regional government is a new commodity to me because I come from one of those areas where local municipalities control their own fate, so to speak. Of course, no municipality really controls its own fate anymore. Not with the deluge of government agencies and the tangle of red tape that is necessary to accomplish anything.

I really have to wonder, though, what it is that regional government is supposed to accomplish? It doesn't seem to me that anything useful could be accomplished with that particular form of government that could be accomplished without it.

That's why the return of planning powers to the township of Delhi could be regarded as such an essential step. It must have been a terrible inconvenience to the people of this municipality to have to travel all the way to the regional

centre of government to get something approved.

Of course, one of the advantages that regional government has over the municipal form of government is that it should be able to have better planning staff. After all, there is a lot more money in the pot to pay for the salaries of the staff. The budget of a region would surely be much greater than the budget of a local municipality.

Then again, those regional planners would not have as much of a feel for the area as a strictly local planner would have. They wouldn't be able to cater to the needs of individuals in the community in all circumstances because they just wouldn't know the individual circumstances.

The reasoning behind regional government must be the same as that behind the creation of regional school or, in most cases, county school boards. It puts more money in the pot for bigger and better facilities for the area. The problem is that I'm having a hard time imagining what a region could buy that a county couldn't. The counties where regional government hasn't been implemented seem to be having a fine time of it and, although they are suffering through financial constraints these days, so are the rest of us.

Could it be that the implementation of regional government was the

provincial government's way of saying that more is better or, loosely translated, bigger is better? That's what people in the old days (circa 1900) used to think. They used to practice an interesting phenomena known as "boosterism". Individual towns and cities used to "boost" themselves in the effort to attract new industry or, in some cases, existing industry. There was little concern for the quality of life because only the size of your community mattered.

The one thing that really irks me about regional government, even though I've only been here a short time, is the continued reference to things as the former this, or the former that. An example of this would be the constant reference to the town of Delhi as the former town of Delhi or to the former township of Charlotteville.

I would be a little upset if I lived in a town and suddenly it lost its identity. It seems to me that this doesn't allow for much historical tact.

Still, I imagine that all of this has been talked about and talked about since the implementation of regional government in 1974. There is the possibility that I may be able to shed some fresh light on the subject and, after all, regional government is so new to me.



### Former mayor honored

Norwich township councillors paid tribute to their former mayor Jack Burn and his wife Shirley with a special presentation made at Monday's council meeting. Mr. Burn stepped down from his post as mayor due to health reasons in January. Making the presentation on behalf of council was the present mayor Carman Sweazey (left). (NG Photo).

## Township councillors honor former mayor

By SUZANNE HANSON

Norwich Township councillors paid tribute to the most "conscientious and capable representative" the township has ever had, when they honored their former mayor, Jack Burn, with a presentation on Monday.

"Jack has done a tremendous job for the township of Norwich and the people do appreciate the service you have given them since 1973," said the present mayor Carman Sweazey in making the presentation to Mr. Burn.

"You were a hard worker and ready and willing at any time to assist the people and I think you have really done a job for the township," said Mayor Sweazey.

Mr. Burn, who stepped down from the mayoralty in January for health reasons, apologized Monday to council for "bailing out of the job" he would like to have finished. "The risk was a little more than I wanted to assume at that time," he said.

Reflecting on his service on council, Mr. Burn said there seem to be far too many people in the township who are perpetual complainers. "It would be nice if people would come forth and try to assist the situation ... rather than always being on the negative side," said Mr. Burn. Those perpetual complainers are "becoming a cancer to the Township of Norwich."

While he acknowledged many people in

the township were probably opposed to restructuring, it has been seven years since the townships were amalgamated "and we have to make that work."

He said people throughout the township must join the team and stop putting up internal boundaries. "Let's get together and get on with the job."

Mr. Burn said it is unfortunate more people don't realize what a big job serving on council is and that more people don't appreciate what councillors are doing.

He said it is a wonderful experience for anyone to serve on council, but also admitted your own business and family life inevitably suffers while you're in office.

"I sure miss my work here but I'm glad to be rid of it also," said Mr. Burn.

Many councillors voiced their appreciation of Mr. Burn's efforts throughout the years he served on council.

"If each one of us was as dedicated as you were we would certainly move ahead in the right direction," said Councillor Helen Smith.

Councillor John Heleniak said he could not think of anyone since he has served on council "that has been any more fair to the people of the township than Jack Burn."

Mayor Sweazey also thanked Shirley Burn, who accompanied her husband Monday, for her supportive role while Mr. Burn served on council.

## Norwich reduces employees' hours

Starting next week, Norwich Township's public works employees will be working a 40-hour week instead of the present 44-hour week in an effort to cut costs.

Effective June 7, all employees will begin working the 40-hour week with an overtime rate at one and one-half the regular hourly wage for hours worked in excess of the eight hours per day or 40 hours per week.

The move was recommended by township council's public works committee and was adopted but not unanimously in that committee's report. In a recorded vote all councillors voted in favor of the move with the exception of Councillors Norm Lusk and Mel Smith.

By reducing the work week, \$23,000 in salaries would be eliminated but Mr. Smith opposed the move on the grounds the \$23,000 is not realistic. He also believes council is cutting back on their services.

"If you think you're going to save \$23,000 you're talking through your hat," said Mr.

Smith at last Tuesday night's council meeting.

Public works committee chairman Robert Pettigrew admitted there may not be a total savings of \$23,000 but at least that sum would not all be spent on wages. Mr. Smith said additional costs would be incurred through the resulting overtime that would be worked with reduced hours. However, Mr. Pettigrew pointed out that based on a 44-hour work week the total overtime paid out last year only amounted to about \$2,000. The largest amount of overtime paid to one man last year was only \$450 over four weekends.

Councillor John Eacott voiced his support for the move on the grounds that it will save money and the men are agreeable to the change.

Mr. Smith said another problem he has with the reduced work week is that the men will be going home from work at 3:30 in the afternoon. However, it was pointed out that there were no starting and finishing times specified in the changeover.

### Still want property cleaned up

Norwich Township council has met with little success in its efforts to have the former Spicer's Bakery property in Otterville cleaned up for the South Norwich Township 175th anniversary celebrations this summer.

The Main Street property, owned by Floyd Kyte of Tillsonburg, has progressively deteriorated in the years since it was vacated.

The property was placarded as unfit for human habitation by the Oxford County health unit last year but subsequent efforts to have the property cleaned up or removed have failed.

Mr. Kyte offered at an April public works committee meeting to clean up the building to the satisfaction of the municipality if a settlement of \$800 was made for tax arrears on the property.

Another proposal from Mr. Kyte was to sell the building to the municipality for \$10,000 from which the amount of the total tax arrears of approximately \$5,000 could be paid.

Council voted at its meeting last Tuesday night to advise Mr. Kyte the township is not interested in purchasing the property.

# Hope to join fire alert system by fall

Norwich Township hopes to have its fire departments hooked into the county fire alert system by September 1.

The township is now awaiting delivery of 65 pagers for its firemen and will hook into the county's fire alert system once the repeater stations are installed and operating, sometime in August. The repeater stations will be installed on Bower Hill Road near Woodstock to boost transmission signals from Woodstock to any area of the county.

South-West Oxford Township has been on the system since last August 1 and the system is now working well. Under the system, calls are co-ordinated through the Woodstock fire station and fire vehicles are dispatched, using the pocket pagers carried at all times by the firemen. The location of the fire is quickly and easily located through a special numbering grid system.

The county system at present services only South-West Oxford Township and the

city of Woodstock. East-Zorra Township and Zorra Township are now in the process of preparing to join the system and have already received the telephone numbers linking them to the Woodstock station where they call and quote their special fire number in the event of a fire.

Telephone lines have been installed in each of those two townships as well as Norwich Township and crews have been busy throughout the township ensuring residents have their special numbers for

the new system.

The special six-digit number given to all rural residents matches a mapping grid system of the county. The number will pinpoint the location of a fire to within 300 feet. Residential areas are identified by street name and house number. The new numbering system used in the rural areas means a much quicker location of a fire.

The township's pagers, being purchased from Oxford Communications Ltd. at a

cost of \$375 each, will mean the need for the fire siren on the Norwich fire department is no longer needed under the new fire alert system as each fireman wearing his pager will be notified of the location on his pager through the central dispatch in Woodstock.

The present telephone system now in place in the township has meant the firemen have had to babysit their telephones day and night in case of a fire.



## Teeter-tottering

Primary students from Otterville Public School enjoyed an

afternoon in the Otterville Park following their picnic in the park, Friday. (NG Photo).

*N.G. JUNE 30*

# Pool sodding debated

After an hour and a half of heated debate and several resolutions, Norwich Township council finally accepted a solution to the mud problem in front of the newly renovated Otterville pool bathhouse.

The renovations were completed last week on the bathhouse in preparation

for the pool's opening on the weekend, but an expanse of mud in front of the bathhouse raised the concern of several township councillors.

Council argued the matter after Councillor Mel Smith put forward a motion that a local contractor be paid \$1,000 to lay sod in front of the bathhouse in the Otterville park. Mr. Smith suggested the funds for the sod be taken from the capital provided for the purchase of a tractor and mower.

Mr. Smith said it was possible to get a tractor and mower for less than was budgeted and suggested the extra funds could go toward sodding the area in front of the bathhouse.

Councillor Darrell Force pointed out that no decision had been made on the purchase of a tractor and mower and council cannot divert funds allocated in

the budget for one project to another project.

"We're talking about \$1,000 bill to finish the park. The tractor should have nothing to do with that at all" said Mr. Force.

Council questioned spending an unbudgeted \$1,000 for the sod but Mr. Smith argued that something had to be done before the July 1 official opening of the pool bathhouse. "Right now it's a sea of mud over the filter bed," in front of the bathhouse, said Mr. Smith. "If we have the July 1 opening of the pool, about 300 people there will be standing in mud up to their knees," he said. "If you're not going to sod it, cancel the official opening July 1 and cancel the Saturday opening or the kids will be up to their ankles in mud."

Mr. Smith said the 800 square yards of sod over the filter bed would keep the area dry until the heavy rains subside but Councillor Jack Lester question-

ed what shape the sod would be in if the heavy rains continue. "Would it not be muddy too?"

During the discussion, the resolution proposed by Mr. Smith was defeated, reintroduced and defeated for a second time. Several other resolutions also came forward and were either defeated or withdrawn before council finally accepted the solution proposed by township inspector Doug Wilson who suggested sodding the areas with the most traffic, grass seeding the rest and fencing off those seeded areas.

Council finally agreed to lay sod in front of the new bleachers, with a path across the front of the building and a sod walkway into the pool bathhouse with the rest of the area seeded, the roads superintendent was authorized to carry out the work in time for the pool's opening last weekend.

## Do you remember that during the week of June 21, 1962:

Otterville Otters defeated Ingersoll 5-0 in a Memorial Softball League game. Best for the winners were Bob and Tom Furlong with two hits each, followed by singles from Archie McDougall, Ted McElhone, Bob Gillespie and Garnet Scott.

## Do you remember that during the week of June 23, 1972:

South Norwich passed a bylaw providing for drainage work in the township and for the borrowing on the credit of the municipality the sum of \$6,882 for the reconstruction of the Kent Drain.

## 100 YEARS AGO

June 1882

Otterville numbers 21 widows, three "grass-widows", six old maids and one old bachelor. - Guide.

Jno. Thompson, harness maker, has put a cotton screen around the upper part of the verandah surrounding his store.

could be imminent

# Agreement on Treffry mill restoration

By SUZANNE HANSON  
Norwich Township council has stalled on signing a lease with the South Norwich Historical Society that would let the society get on with renovating the historic Treffry mill in Otterville. But an agreement could

now be imminent following last Tuesday night's council meeting.

Council's solicitor had earlier advised against signing an agreement with the historical society as he claimed the society was not legally incorporated.

As Councillor John Eacott pointed out, signing a lease with the body if it wasn't incorporated, would be like signing a lease with no one.

Council had therefore been pressing the historical society to undertake steps

to become incorporated but the society had balked at the time and expense involved, claiming the group's affiliation with the Ontario Historical Society was sufficient protection for the township. Council did not agree, however, until historical society

member Joyce Pettigrew appeared before council at its last meeting to clarify the issue.

Mrs. Pettigrew, who is also a director of the OHS and chairman of the local societies committee for the OHS, pointed out the South Norwich Historical Society is already incorporated through its affiliation with the OHS.

Mrs. Pettigrew referred council to comments made by the minister of consumer and corporate affairs, Thomas Wells, who stated any society may be incorporated by affiliation with the OHS. He said it poses a unique situation, established in 1899, and no other organization in the province has the same privilege.

Mrs. Pettigrew said that since the South Norwich society is already incorporated and has its own corporation number through affiliation with the OHS, it would not be possible to have another without discontinuing the affiliation.

As she understood council's objections, members were concerned about what would happen if the local society disbanded and there would be the OHS to deal with. She assured council there would be no need for concern, however, as the OHS is not allowed to hold any more than \$4,000 worth of real estate in a year, which proves they are not interested in real estate.

Should the local society dissolve, the mill property would be retained by the OHS until another society with the same objectives as the South Norwich society were formed in the same community. "The last

thing the OHS is interested in is restoring a mill," said Mrs. Pettigrew.

Its priorities are the promotion of historical societies and the preservation of the province's history, she said. "I can see no way anyone should fear the OHS with regard to what would happen to the mill."

With a second historical society in the township, Mrs. Pettigrew said she could see no problem in handing the mill over to the Norwich and District Historical Society if another society wasn't formed in the South Norwich area.

She said she could only see the affiliation with the OHS as a plus rather than a minus.

Former South Norwich society president Rick Singer said he believes some of the confusion arose over the misconception that a common corporation number was shared by the OHS and the South Norwich society. That is not the case, however. Each body has their own individual number.

Regarding any fears the township might have about being left responsible for any debts the South Norwich society might incur, "all you have to do is write into the lease that the historical society cannot do any major restoration without getting the permission of council," said Mrs. Pettigrew. She said there could also be members of council on the mill restoration committee to keep tabs on any work being done.

"All we're trying to do is aid the municipality in restoring the building and improving it," said Mrs.

Pettigrew. "We're trying to co-operate but it seems we're being misinterpreted," she said. "If we get together on this I think it would be of advantage to both parties. We really are

just anxious to get on with the job if we are permitted to do so, so hopefully we can get together on it."

Several councillors said they were not aware the society has its own cor-

poration number and after the meeting with Mrs. Pettigrew agreed to reconsider the lease agreement after consultation with their solicitor.



## Oldest operating

The Treffry mill in Otterville is one of the oldest continuously operating water-powered mills still remaining in Ontario. The mill is now owned by Norwich Township with the

South Norwich Historical Society as its caretakers. The mill will be open for guided tours on Saturday and Sunday, July 3 and 4, during the 175th anniversary of settlement in South Norwich Township. (NG photo)

# Norwich applies for projects

Norwich Township will be making application to the ministry of municipal affairs and housing for funds to cover the cost of labor for a variety of maintenance and repair projects throughout the township.

A total allocation of \$26,825 is being made available to the township for such projects as part of a government employment incentive program. It is designed to assist local governments in creating jobs for unemployed persons while at the same time accelerating repairs and renovations to public property in the municipality.

The project, to be completed by December 1982, must create additional work and em-

ployment but only the labor costs are eligible for grant. Council set a limit of \$1,500 on materials to be purchased for the projects which could be approved by the ministry.

Municipalities are encouraged to give preference in their hiring to unemployed people, particularly those on welfare or unemployment insurance benefits and those registered with local Canada Manpower Centres.

Township clerk Bob Watkins said he has been involved in similar government programs, such as winter works, several times, and "the quality of people obtained (to do the work) is sometimes hardly worth the effort of getting in-

involved."

With the present employment situation, he said council should be able to find local people to employ through the program if it is allowed to pick and choose those it employs. Mr. Watkins said many of those available through the manpower centres are not qualified for the jobs they are supposed to do.

"There are a lot of people layed off right now that are darn good people and if we can get some of those people we will have some good workers," said Mayor Carman Sweazey.

Some of the projects proposed by council for funding under the program included painting and caulking in township buildings where it is required and any other

labor intensive projects which may be requested by boards or commissions within the township.

The township is to notify the ministry no later than June 30 whether it intends to use any or all of its allocation. The allocation to each municipality was made in proportion to the number of people receiving social assistance in each jurisdiction. All eight municipalities in Oxford County and the county itself received allocations totalling \$365,000. The province's total program, offering \$35 million to municipalities in the province, is expected to create 7,500 jobs.



# Lions appoint historian

The Norwich - Otterville Lions Club held their regular meeting Monday, June 14 at the Legion Hall, Norwich.

Forty members and six visitors from Woodstock Lions Club enjoyed a roast beef dinner, served by members of the Eastern Star.

An expression of appreciation was made to the Eastern Star members by Lion Chief Norm Fidlin for their excellent meals for the past year. Response was made by Lillian Oatman.

Donations of \$1.50 per registered member were authorized to the Minor Ball Association and to the Minor Soccer Association.

Capital Bookkeeping Services has been engaged to audit the club's books for the year.

The Lions are selling tickets for their annual chicken barbecue on June 19, also tickets for another to be held July 1, both in the Lions Park, Otterville.

Installation of new officers will be held at the next meeting, June 28, at Otterville. Incoming Deputy District Governor Chester McNall will officiate.

The convention draw was won by Lion Mark Gilmore.

Lion Bob Scott has been appointed Club Historian. Anyone having information and-or pictures, pins or other material, from past

years are asked to contact Mr. Scott.



## Lions installed

A new slate of officers for the Norwich-Otterville Lions Club was installed last Monday evening in Otterville. The officers for the coming year are: (rear left to right) Gary Walther; two-year director; Paul Wood, third vice-president; Mark Gilmore, Lion Tamer; Art VanDeByl, one-

year director; Don Miller, one-year director; (front, left to right) Jack Walther, second vice-president; Les Dickson, first vice-president; Norm Fidlin, immediate past-president; Colin Cope, president; Aloys Sanders, secretary; Tim Moore, treasurer. Absent were: Tony Drescher, Tail Twister and two-year director Ray O'Neil. (NG Photo).

# Lions install executive

OTTERVILLE (C) — The final regular meeting of the Norwich-Otterville Lions Club was held in the Community Hall, Otterville, last Monday evening, June 28.

Lion president Norman Fidlin presided. There were two visitors present and an attendance of 37, including Lion Deputy-District Governor Chester McNall of the Waterford Lions Club.

New Lion officers were installed for the coming year by Lion Chester McNall, assisted by Zone Chairman Lion Peter Potter of the Long Point Lion Club. The new officers are as follows: past-president, Norman Fidlin; president, Colin Cope; first vice-president, Les Dickson; second vice-president, Jack Walther;

third vice-president, Paul Wood; one-year directors, Don Miller and Gary Walther; two-year director, Ray O'Neil; secretary, Aloys Sanders; treasurer, Tim Moore; bulletin editor, Gord Shearer; Tail Twister, Tony Drescher; Lion Tamer, Mark Gilmore.

Lion Jack Walther expressed the thanks of the club to the ladies of the Eastern Star for their fine catering services during the past year.

A new member, Lion Jim Poole, was introduced. This ceremony was performed by Lions Don Pettigrew, Les Dickson, Andy Vandenberghe, Ed McFarland, Aloys Sanders, Chester McNall, Gord Shearer and Colin Cope. Lion Norman Fidlin was the sponsoring Lion. Lion Gord Shearer

reported the annual chicken barbecue held in the Community Park, Otterville, June 19 proved quite successful.

Lion Art Van de Byl

described a proposed "Block Parent" organization for Norwich. The club decided to assist the new organization financially.

Page 6 THE NORWICH GAZETTE June 30, 1982

## Seniors end season

OTTERVILLE (C) — Members of the Leisure Senior Citizens Club closed meetings for the summer months at their regular meeting on Wednesday.

The day was spent in a special way with members enjoying a potluck dinner featuring fried chicken served in smorgasbord style.

"Happy Birthday" was sung for Ethel Arthur, a celebrant for the day. Two cards were signed for

members in hospital - Mrs. R.E. Pettigrew and Fred Cole.

Following the dinner members were invited outside where games were enjoyed, convened by Anne Arthur. Other members enjoyed their games of cards inside. The afternoon closed with members wishing each other "Happy Holidays", and promising to meet at the next meeting in September at Woodlawn.

# Approve plaque for Stowe

The directors of the Ontario Heritage Foundation have agreed to proceed with the erection of a bilingual provincial plaque to commemorate Dr. Emily Stowe.

John Heleniak, president of the Norwich and District Historical Society and member of the Norwich Council, requested at a council meeting last February that a plaque commemorating Dr. Stowe be installed in the Norwich area. Two possible locations for the installation of the plaque are available at the residence of Cornelius VanVliet of Norwich or at the Museum.

Mr. Heleniak advised council that a

plaque be ordered from Nelson Bronze and that an application be made for a grant from the Ministry of Culture and Recreation to pay for the casting and installation and an archivist be requested to assist with the inscription on the plaque.

Dr. Emily Stowe, the first Canadian woman doctor, was born in South Norwich, in 1831. She began teaching at age 15 and later graduated from teachers' college with high honors to become the first woman principal of a school in Canada. After marriage and three children, Stowe decided to study medicine. She felt that female patients should have female doctors.

She herself needed a higher income to support her three children and ailing husband. She received her degree from a United States medical school in 1868 and, because it was difficult for a woman to obtain a licence, practiced without one in Toronto until 1880.

Stowe crusaded vigorously for equal rights for women, especially voting rights. She founded Canada's first women's suffrage society.

Because of the commitment to other plaque projects for the next two years, the scheduled erection of the plaque to Dr. Stowe will take place in 1984.

## Speaks

OTTERVILLE (C) — Mrs. William Hansford was the hostess for the June meeting of the Women's Missionary Fellowship of the Baptist Church.

The call to worship was from Matthew 24:6, "And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars; See that ye be not troubled for all these things must come to pass but the end is not yet." It was read by the vice-president, Mrs. Ted Oenema commenting, that He will never fail us. The reading of a poem followed entitled "But God".

Each member answered the roll call by bringing something old and telling its history. Mrs. William Butler said she had received letters from missionaries in Africa and the Philippines. Mrs. Oenema read parts of a letter from Ruth Groh and Harriet Wallace and the Children's Bible Mission from Hamilton.

Mrs. Charter Davis, Mrs. Wilma Butler, Mrs. Bruce Stover and Mrs. Oenema led in Missionary prayers.

The devotional program was opened with the national anthem and prayer as members remembered that the 175th anniversary for South Norwich is coming up soon.

Mrs. Butler, speaker for the evening, spoke on South Norwich Churches. The first time the churches were mentioned in the records was 1831 when Dyer Wilcox donated land for a church. Springford Baptist is the oldest church in the township, started in 1832.

# Board celebrating 25 years

By ELLEN H. EFF

Twenty-five years after it was swept into power with a 2-1 majority on May 21, 1957, the force behind the Tri-County tobacco industry, The Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board, is observing the quarter century of its formation, with a 25th anniversary celebration.

The event, in form of a banquet, will be held Wednesday, June 23, 1982, in the Tillsonburg Auction Exchange. Speaker will be the Hon. William G. Davis, P.C. Q.C., who will unveil a bronze tobacco plant, in recognition of directors who have given service to the Board since its inception. Ladies of the Hungarian Hall,

Delhi, will serve the meal, slated for 7 p.m., with the program scheduled for 8 o'clock. Music for the dance, to conclude the evening, will be provided by the Steve Kamenar Band.

Invited to attend are producers, sharegrowers and their families, friends and all those who were associated with the

tobacco industry in the past 25 years. An official invitation has been sent out as a memento of the occasion, along with a gift from the Board, in conjunction with the 25th anniversary, a new logo lapel pin. Its design, a flared tobacco leaf, symbolizes the future: and a red maple leaf, patriotic fervour (I am proud to be a Canadian). And, each person in attendance at the dinner, will receive a 25th Anniversary zippo knife.

Proceedings leading up to the formation of The Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board, are now history.

Back in 1950, dissentient tobacco farmers began to seek improved marketing conditions. Dissatisfied for years with the profits from their annual tobacco crop, under the old tobacco marketing plan of their regime, The Flue-Cured Tobacco Marketing Association of Ontario, they commenced to hold secret meetings. There, with resolve, they decided to take the matter into their own hands, and find a solution to their dilemma. Secret meetings followed as they went into action and finally, as result, a plan was formulated

(Continued on Page 10)

(Continued from Page 1)

for a new type of a marketing agency, one that would be under the jurisdiction of federal and provincial legislation. This suggested plan, for improved marketing of their tobacco, along with their grievances, was sent to Ontario Agriculture Minister W.A. Goodfellow.

Secret meetings continued during January 1957, when the original tobacco marketing plan was revived: and a Provisional Committee organized to proceed with it. Named on the committee were Ted Raytrowsky (now chairman of The Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board), Marcel Reneboog, Bert VanLoon, Alex Dobias, John Tarr, Dennis Kovacs, Lyal Tait and Stan Smith.

Public meetings began in February, 1957. These were held throughout the tobacco belt, under the direction of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, when a petition was circulated, requesting the Provincial Government to arrange a vote on the tobacco marketing question. Response on the petition, signed by some 25 per cent of tobacco farmers, was had from Ontario Agriculture Minister W.A. Goodfellow, who announced a vote would be held March 31.

A solicitation for votes by both sides went into full swing, the Provisional Committee unveiled its new tobacco marketing plan at mass meetings throughout the tobacco belt at all the leading centres: while the old board dismissed its merits, declaring it a disaster: and received a blow when three of their directors, J.F. Gray, Rene Strobbe and E.R. Adams, resigned, and joined the other side in promoting the new tobacco marketing plan at growers' meetings, urging the farmers to support it.

Vote Day, slated for March 31, 1957, was postponed to May 21, 1957 and it turned out to be a momentous day for The Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board, for it received a two-to-one majority on its new tobacco marketing plan, when 92.3 per cent of the total eligible voters cast their ballots. Official count showed 2,116 votes for, and 1,055 against the new tobacco marketing scheme that brought in the auction system and ended whole crop sale. Only two of the 24 polling places recorded a majority for the old board, The Flue-Cured Tobacco Marketing Association of Ontario, that was ousted after 24 years of service to tobacco farmers (1933-1957).

Series of nomination meetings, next in the offing, were staged in the 14 districts of the tobacco belt June 3-7, 1957. Elected on the 15-man Board of Directors, namely, Ernest Duckett, Zone 1; John Lysko, Zone 2; Stan Smith, Zone 3; K.C. Emerson, Zone 4; Rene Strobbe, Zone 5; J.F. Gray, Zone 6; Gerard Vanden Bussche, Zone 7; Adam Brietenbach, Zone 8; Michael DeMaitre, Zone 9; Bert VanLoon, Zone 10; Henry Catry, Zone 11; Stan Proracki, Zone 12; E.R. Adams, Zone 13; R.H. Cook, Zone 14; Marcel Reneboog (chosen to represent the

First three head officers were elected at the initial meeting of The Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board, June 12, 1957, held at the Municipal Hall, Delhi. Elected were J.F. Gray, chairman; R.H. Cook, vice-chairman; Ted Raytrowsky, secretary (now chairman), who resigned July 30, 1957, and was replaced by Charles N. Heath. And, T.L. Redfern, was elected secretary-treasurer.

When elections were completed, a new system was in effect for marketing tobacco in Ontario: and a new Board in charge, who now faced a tremendous task of making the new scheme work. The plan called for auction exchanges, a system of bale grading, and other features new to the tobacco industry. On June 21, 1957, in a 9-6 vote, the new Board chose as temporary headquarters, the Tillsonburg Curling Club.

First general manager, namely, Dr. F.A. Stinson, was appointed to the post, June 25, 1957 and announced at the meeting that the sites of the three Auction Exchanges would be at Tillsonburg, Delhi and Aylmer, all of the same design.

New marketing plan on July 5, 1957, was legally constituted in the Dominion Government.

Letting of the contracts for the three Auction Exchanges was announced by Chairman J.F. Gray, July 27, 1957. Successful bidder was Astra Steel Structures of Hamilton. Gilvesy Construction Co., received the contract for foundations, floors and finishing. J.B. Carroll Electric installed the Dutch Auction Clock.

Chairman of the finance committee, R.H. Cook, announced July 30, 1957, that the Auction Exchanges estimated cost would be \$800,000 and instructions were issued for the purchase of the three Dutch clocks.

The announcement that all tobacco would be sold through the Auction Exchanges in 1957, was made August 7, 1957, by Ontario Minister W.A. Goodfellow.

Named on the first price setting committee, August 28, 1957, were J.F. Gray, K.C. Emerson and R.E. Strobbe: and appointed buyer representatives on the price setting committee, October 31, 1957, were R.A. Parham, S.B. Lassister and E.D. Allan.

Opening of the three Auction Exchanges at Tillsonburg, Delhi and Aylmer, November 10, 1957, was a red-letter day for The Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board. Official opening ceremonies were held at the Tillsonburg Auction Exchange, situated at the west end of Bond St., one block west of Tillson Ave., and one block south of the New York Central tracks. An estimated crowd of 15,000 tobacco growers, well-wishers and friends attended. The Auction Exchange was declared officially open by Harry Allan, M.L.A., for Middlesex, who represented Premier Frost, Ontario Agriculture Minister W.A. Goodfellow and the Ontario Government: and made the official declaration that the auction system was now in effect for marketing tobacco in Ontario toward which The

Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board had been striving from the time they first began to campaign for a new system of marketing tobacco in the tobacco belt.

First tobacco auction in Canada was held December 10, 1957, in the Tillsonburg Auction Exchange of The Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board: and it was the first time a Dutch auction clock, developed in Holland, had been used to market tobacco anywhere in the world! Auction by clock is in reverse to most auctions in that the clock is started at a high price and works down to a lower price. The first bidder to press his button and record his bid will be the buyer of the tobacco. In the Tillsonburg Auction Exchange it is in the office section of the building, centrally located, and fixed six feet from the floor, it was set lower later for better visibility. The Control desk was also moved to one side instead of directly under the clock as formerly: and the button was attached to a long extension cord rather than to the desk itself so that the buyer can place his bid immediately with no tell-tale signs to the other bidders.

Connected to both the auction room and Auction Exchange floor is the computing room where a staff of nine receives the information and records it with two calculating machines and a billing machine. Office manager in the Tillsonburg warehouse when it opened was H.D. Patterson.

Auction market closed at the three Auction Exchanges, April 18, 1958. Estimated 147,873,775 pounds were sold at an average of 50.32 cents, the highest price paid to tobacco farmers in history!

1982

## Minimum Grade Prices

BL1	172.25	CL6	131.75
BL2	167.25	CF2	175.00
BL3	155.00	CF3	160.00
BL4	145.25	CF4	145.25
BL5	120.50	CF5	129.00
BL6	90.75	CF6	115.75
BF2	175.00	CK4	73.75
BF3	164.50	CK5	61.25
BF4	156.25	CK6	35.75
BF5	137.75	CGL3	145.25
BF6	92.25	CGL4	116.75
BM4	178.50	CGL5	96.00
BM5	139.00	CGL6	61.25
BM6	80.00	CGF4	106.75
BK3	90.75	CGF5	79.00
BK4	80.00	CGF6	55.25
BK5	61.25	CCR	127.75
BK6	43.00	XL2	166.00
BGL3	145.25	XL3	151.00
BGL4	114.25	XL4	120.50
BGL5	94.75	XL5	96.00
BGL6	66.50	XL6	80.00
BGF3	145.25	XF3	130.50
BGF4	108.50	XF4	103.25
BGF5	81.50	XF5	84.50
BGF6	45.50	XF6	76.25
BCR	135.25	XK4	61.25
CL1	172.25	XK5	49.25
CL2	167.25	XK6	37.00
CL3	160.00	XGL5	86.25
CL4	148.75	XGL6	55.25
CL5	141.25	XCR	86.25

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25<sup>th</sup>



*Anniversary*  
1957-1982

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The Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco  
Growers' Marketing Board



Ken Mann CIG Jan 84  
North St.  
OTTERVILLE, Ont.

25<sup>th</sup>



*Anniversary*  
1957-1982

The Ontario  
Flue-Cured Tobacco  
Growers' Marketing Board



May 4, 1982

Dear Friends:

1982 is a special year in Otterville, as South Norwich is celebrating its 175th birthday. Many activities have been planned including an "Oldtimers" Ballgame which will be played on Saturday, July 3 at 8:00 p.m. We are inviting former players from the years 1957-1967 to play the present Otters as a fun night.

Please find enclosed, a flyer including other events planned for the weekend.

Please reply to Bob Butler, 879-6807 or Pierre Pinnoy, 879-6408 by June 1, 1982 in order that further plans can be made. We hope that this game will be as successful as the game two years ago.

Yours truly,

Bob & Pierre

# TIP TOP CANNERS

Otterville, Ontario



Tip Top Cannery 1936 — Otterville

1925-1964

Written By  
Mr. Bill McMullen Sr.

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# Otterville Canning Plant History

There was a cannery in Otterville around 1875-1880 where, no one seems to know, Jimmy Scott who was Carman Scott's grandfather, used to tell about soldering cans at this factory. Clarence Tickbourne told me that his uncle Jim Tickbourne worked there.

Juanita Deroo saw an account of this place on micro film at the Tillsonburg library, apparently the place was in financial trouble.

In 1924 and 1925, Otterville had some industry such as the Otterville Manufacturing Company, which was manufacturing hand corn planters, piano stools, small tables etc. Also, the Tredrite Shoe Company which made a complete line of Men's and Women's shoes as well as the famous "Bunny Foot" for children.

There were a number of shops featuring the different trades such as Ruben Springay who was grinding chop and making some flour; Charles Forman Electric and Bicycle Shop; Addison Carriage Works which had turned to doing garage work, and Jack Tomblin who was shoeing horses and blacksmithing as well as some work on cars, — although Jack was not much of an automobile mechanic.

In 1924-1925 Doc Bell who was a retired farmer living in Otterville and selling some real estate, learned that Hyslops of Greensville were planning on setting up another factory in the old Bell plant in St. George. After some negotiations, he persuaded them to build a factory in Otterville.

The Hyslops were canning tomatoes in Greensville before 1925. The building they were in was an old Brewery at one time, and Hyslops made fruit baskets there before they started canning tomatoes. David Hyslop told me when they started, they pedalled canned tomatoes from store to store in Hamilton. In this way they built up a market.

The new factory was called "Otterville Cannery" during the first years, and later became "Tip Top Cannery". This made three factories — one at Burlington canning fruit and jam; one at Greensville canning peas and tomatoes; and the new one at Otterville canning peas, green beans, tomatoes, corn, pumpkin, carrots, beets and apples.

A great deal of interest was aroused in this venture as it meant jobs for local people and also as a chance for local farmers to sell some cash crops.

Work was started on the new building as soon as the frost was out of the ground. I remember Sam Treffry, Jack Wilson and others cutting the tall pines on the property and pulling out the stumps and grading the ground to get ready for the foundations.

Frank Quinn was hired as manager; Lorne Husted as foreman; and Sam McBride, a millwright, was in charge of building and installing machinery. All three men came from Port Dover. Some of the first men hired were: Norm Pickersgill, Ken Griffin, John Cole, Steve Sapelak, Elam Snyder, Jim Peacock, Herb Bean and Rubin Springay.

During construction, it was necessary to put up a smoke stack. This job fell to Jim Wardle who had the job of standing a steel pipe, three feet in diameter and 60 feet long, up on a brick base 20 feet high. Many people came to watch this job being done. The steel pipe weighed 4,360 pounds.

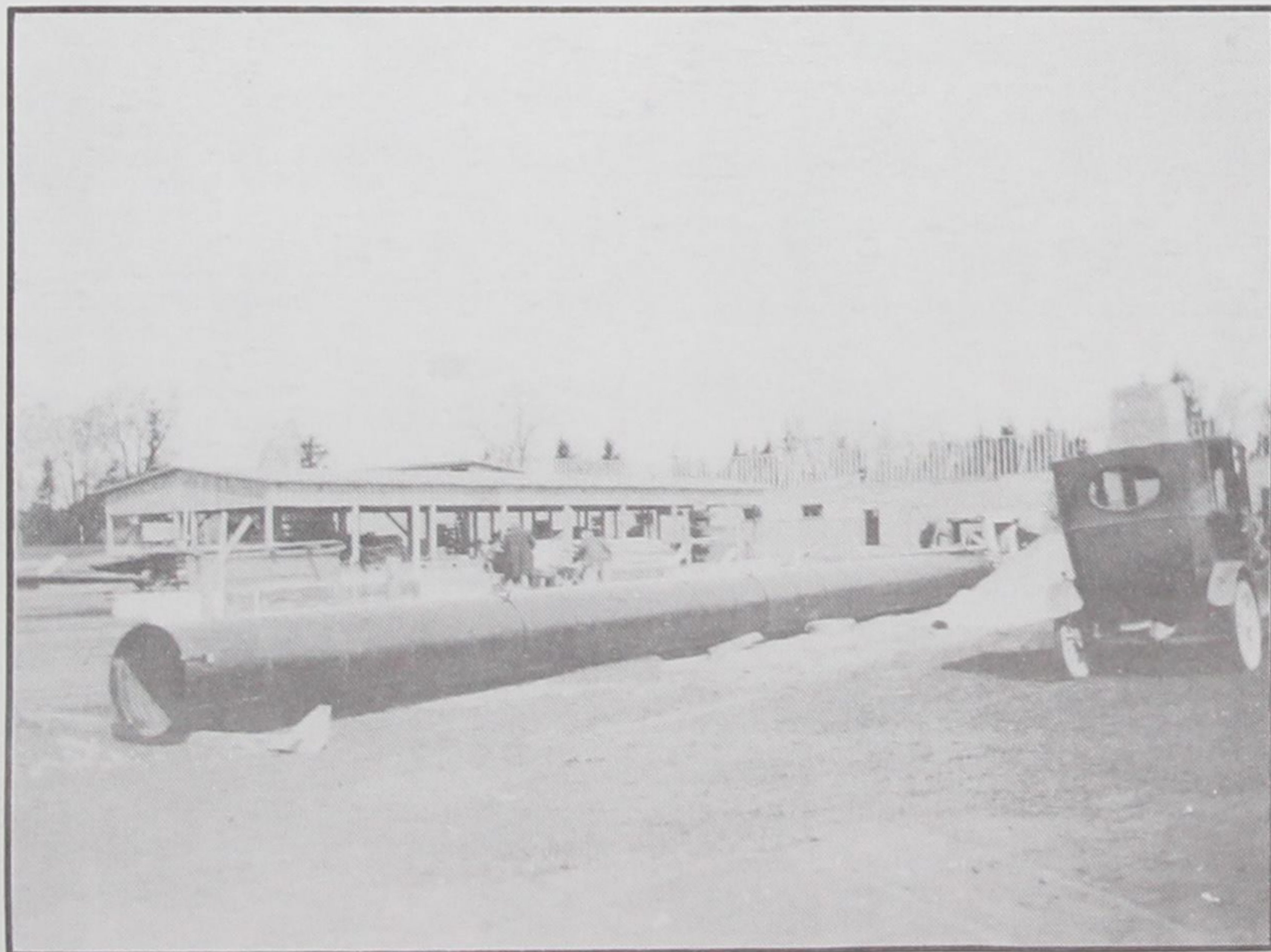
At that time all heavy machinery came in on the train such as boilers, engine, viners, etc. Charles Daiken trucked a lot of the smaller machines such as recleaners, bucket conveyors, blanchers, etc. which were manufactured by Huntley Manufacturing in Tillsonburg. This plant (the Huntley plant) was in the old brick part of the present Livingston's plant.

The first year the Company had only two viners, so they must have had 150-175 acres of peas the first year; a viner handles about 75 acres per season.

Canning started the last week in June and lasted until November, apples being the last thing canned.

Canned food had no additives other than sugar and salt in the corn. Starch was also added. Tomatoes, just salt. Pumpkin, nothing was added.

Cans came in box cars. They were stacked in tiers and unloaded with can forks. Each can fork picked up about 14 cans at a time and placed them on a track in the car which went from there to the can filler in the factory. Three or four people would be unloading cans and they were really busy for as the car became empty, cans had to be carried from the end of the car to the centre. Help was always worked out so that no one had time to rest, but, there was always a way. Just put three or four cans on the track the wrong way. When they arrived at



NEW SMOKE STACK READY TO BE PUT UP 1925

the filler and seamer wrong side up, they would jam up in the machine and you could get a few minutes rest. But, when questioned, no one ever did it. You would lose your job if caught because there was no shortage of help and no unemployment insurance.

In 1926 two more viners were installed and also another steam engine. Then in 1929, two more viners were added making a total of six viners. Then about 1948, four more viners were installed at Holbrook making a total of ten machines. This meant 750 to 800 acres of peas could be handled. By this time, 90 to 100 cans a minute were being canned, plus the 110-ounce cans for hotels and restaurant trade.

Threshing peas started at 6:30 in the morning and canning started at 7 a.m.; and went on until 10 at night, some nights being as late as 11. This meant 1 a.m. before the cans arrived at the warehouse. Days were long and hot as the heat radiating off the canning machines and cookers and boilers kept the temperature and humidity high all day.

People would call around in the evening to see what was going on and to talk. I think the worst time of the day was when these people left and darkness fell — it made you feel alone as no one came to talk. Everyone was tired and if you sat down you went to sleep. When you woke, you felt as though you had slept for hours.

About 600 tons of coal was used per season, all unloaded by hand, wheeled to the boiler room by hand and fired by hand. This also made about 60 tons of ash to be handled by hand per season.

Some of the wage rates in the 30's were as follows: 1931 — 15 cents to 40 cents per hour; 1939 — 22 cents to 40 cents per hour; 1948 — 40 cents to 75 cents per hour; 1951 — 75 cents to 85 cents per hour and 10 per cent bonus.

A shipment of tomatoes went to Victoria Hospital in London and soon word came back that there were flies in the tomatoes. Ed Turner, Fred Furlong and myself were detailed to go up and see how serious this was. Turner tried to tell the man that it was impossible for flies to be in the tomatoes, so he sent for the dietician who brought a can with her. When it was opened, it produced a number of fruit flies. The dietician refused to accept the shipment as she explained they had a number of patients in the hospital just looking for something to complain about. Fred agreed to have the truck

pick up the tomatoes and send some from another day's pack to replace them. This solved the problem.

At first, most corn canned was Stoles Evergreen. This was white corn on large ears. Golden Bantam corn was not popular and was hard to sell. I remember a carload of Bantam corn went out labelled "Wentworth Brand". It came back, and the labels were all torn off and relabelled with another label. This seemed to solve the problem with Wentworth Brand corn. The label seemed to sell the product.

In the first years of canning corn, all husking was done by hand. The corn shed would be full of men and women and children husking corn by the bushel. When you filled a bushel, your ticket would be punched.

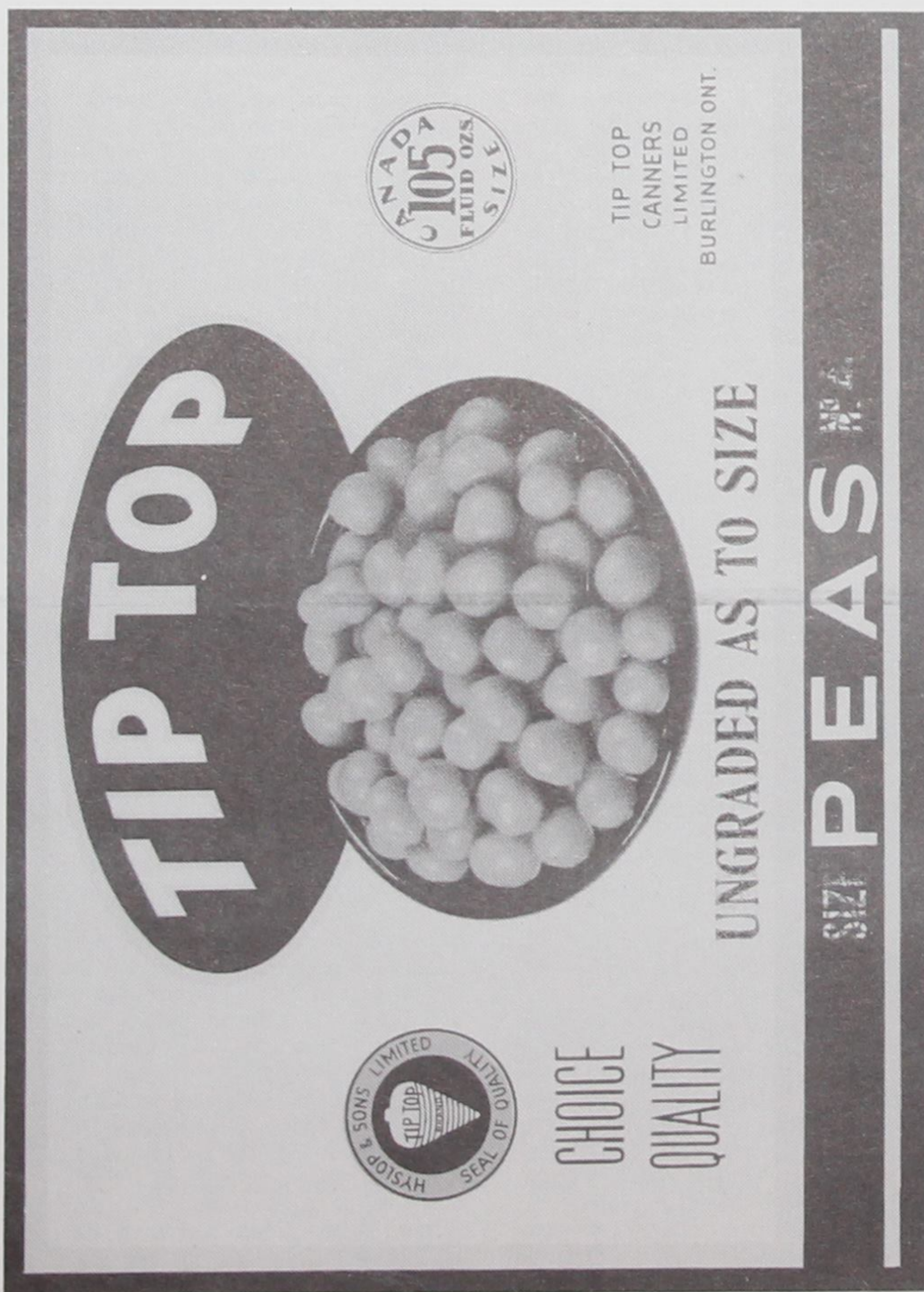
Then came the first huskers. These were Morall Machines, secondhand, and had a lot of worn out roller chains on them. They were always falling apart and every time a chain went into the silo filler with the husks, it went through the top of the silo pipe instead of going in the silo. This meant a repair job right away for the husks went through the hole as well and would be on the roof and in the yard — it was like a storm.

It was not long before New Food machinery huskers were installed and 16 women could husk more than a whole shed full of people could husk by hand. Indian women were the best at feeding huskers and corn cutters.

In 1928 most of the corn pack spoiled and it was a great loss to the cannery. They called it cold corn as it was put in the cans at about 160-180 degrees and corn won't keep unless it is up to about 200 degrees before going in the can. The filler operator had to keep constant watch on the thermometer and if the temperature dropped he would stop for a minute or so till the heat came up again. He also watched for the filler tank to boil over as hot corn would make a bad burn.

Carloads of corn were shipped back to Otterville and all cans with swelled heads were sour. Most of this was given to the farmers for pig feed. This was a job every night opening cans of corn for the pigs. Some of the corn was put in the retorts and heated. A small hole was punched in the lid and when the gas and steam came out the hole was soldered over. The corn was sold to someone as "Polka Dot" brand.





CAN LABEL CIRCA 1925

Next came pumpkins, then apples. By the time October and November came, the place was always cold and wet with steam hovering in the building, and continuous trouble with belts shrinking and slipping. When they came off they were hard to get back on as they were short and pulleys would be wet. We were always putting a piece in the belts and if the weather warmed up the piece had to come out again. According to today's standards, it was a very primitive place, but you got a lot of experience making things go.

In the first years, green beans were snipped by hand some at the factory, but most were taken to people's homes and families would snip beans in the evening to get extra money. The beans were picked up next morning and taken back to the canners. Later mechanical bean snippers were purchased.

The company kept a supply of oil lanterns on hand as it was quite common for the electric power to go off in a thunder storm. Canning could be carried on for some time because everything was run by the steam engine. Electric motors ran the pumps at the spring and when all water was gone, canning had to stop until the power was restored.

One Sunday evening about July 15, 1935, the town fire bell started to ring. On looking around we saw a heavy cloud of black smoke going skyward close to the smoke stack at the canners which was soon followed by flames. By 10 p.m. there was not much left of the factory.

The viner shed was saved as the buildings were all bricked up and not damaged. It was not long before a new steam pipe was installed to the shed engine, boiler trim replaced, and peas were threshed in Otterville and taken to Greenville to be canned nights. William McMullen, Harry Treffry, Alex Thurlby, John Cole, Had Chrysler and some others were sent to Greenville to can nights. The Greenville boiler room was partly below ground level and the boilers were small and had very poor draft. I was glad to be out of there.

By 1940, Hyslops had bought the ol' Otterville Manufacturing building and the shoe factory for

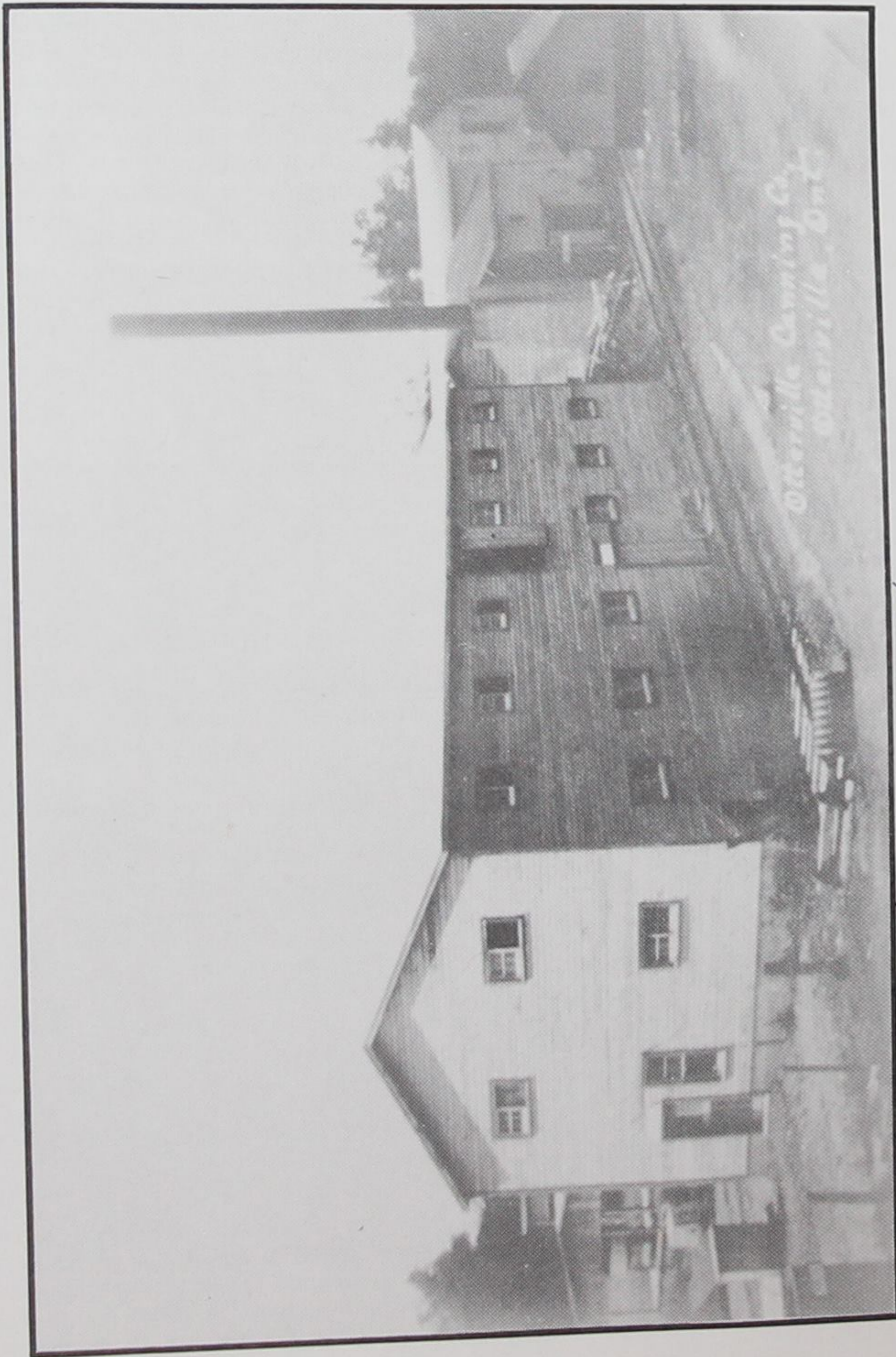
warehousing and storage. It was then decided to make fruit pectin in the shoe factory.

Dave Hyslop made an appointment for myself and Ed Turner and Fred Furlong to visit a plant in Cobourg. We had instructions to keep our eyes open and find out as much as we could about their process. But before the time came to go, word was received that there would be no visitors at their factory. It was easy to understand why. However, Dave decided to go it on his own, so cook tanks and a cider press and filter were set up in the shoe factory.

At that time, Canada Vinegars were kiln drying apple pulp for the pectin trade, so truck loads of pulp were bought and stored in the shoe factory. The apple pulp was cooked in wooden tanks, pressed out in the cider press, then pumped through the filter and put up in barrels. It looked good and tasted good. The reason for making pectin was that it could be used at the Burlington factory in processing fruit. This operation only lasted a couple of years and was discontinued. Rats were a problem in the bags of pulp. Occasionally a dead rat would get cooked up in the cook tank and that batch had to be dumped and the tank scoured out.

I well remember the Depression years when the train came in to the factory. There would be 15 or 20 men riding on the box cars and when the train stopped, most would get off and set up camp around the old coal shed. Most of the men that had been there for several days would get on the train and leave. They would come over to the boiler room in the evening to get some hot cans of peas which I always had on hand for them. There were a lot of good men with nothing to do. Some like to talk politics or history or different trades. Some went to people's houses for a hand out or to a garden to help themselves. Some would be asleep and have a sign up "do not disturb".

Norm Pickersgill went out and hired two transients to work on the pea straw stack. Norm gave each one a fork and took them out to the stack. When they looked up and saw men up there lugging the tangled straw coming up from six



1925

threshing machines, they handed Norm the forks and went back to the coal shed. They were wise for that.

By 1960 things at the Cannery were on the decline. Borden Roberts had replaced Ed Turner as manager and he found it difficult to get the equipment in proper repair and had a lot of lost time due to breakdowns.

I think it was in 1961 the pea crop was planted and about May 15, Hyslop decided not to can another crop and the growers took the factory over and canned the pea crop. This did not prove successful for the farmers. Equipment in the plant was now reduced to scrap and they had difficulty with sales.

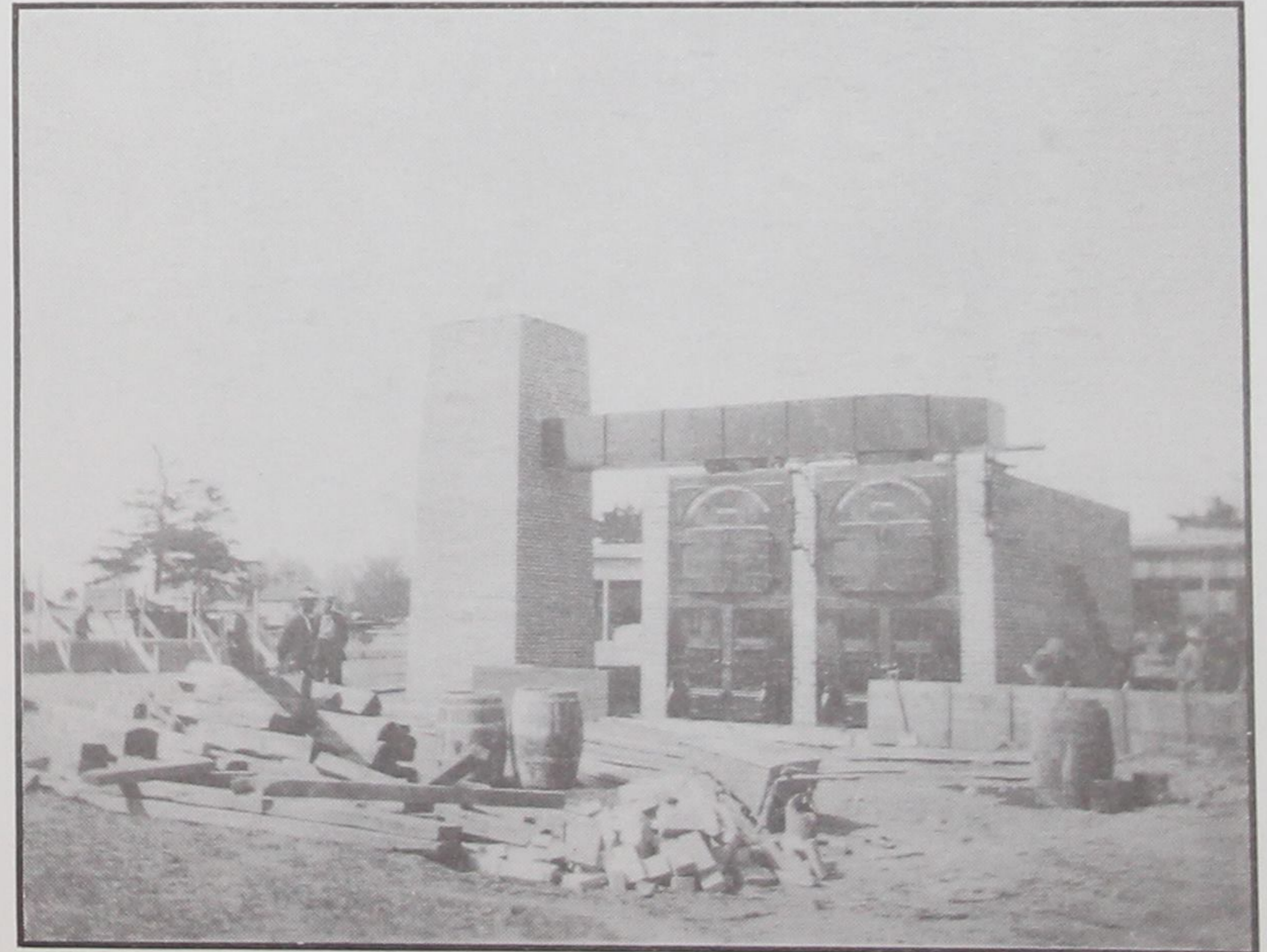
While the closing of the cannery in Otterville was a loss to the community, it was not nearly as bad as if it had happened in the depression years.

The depression did not affect the canning industry to the extent that it did other industry. And through the depression years, Otterville and the surrounding area was fortunate to have the Tip Top Cannery provide summer employment for many and permanent employment for a few. Before the advent of tobacco growing it was also of particular advantage to the farmers of the district.

The canning factory in Otterville was idle for a number of years, and was then sold to Hans Sollinaer in Toronto. He established a process for drying barnyard manure in the building.

This did not last long. The building was struck by lightning about 7:30 one summer evening and burned to the ground.

All that is left of a once thriving business is an old smoke stack and some foundations.



CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BOILER ROOM 1925

**TIP TOP BRAND**



**CHOICE QUALITY**

**SIZE FINE SIFTED PEAS No. 2**



**EMPTY  
CONTENTS  
SOON  
AS OPENED**

EMPTY CONTENTS INTO A SAUCEPAN  
ADD A TABLESPOONFUL OF BUTTER  
AS DESIRED AND HEAT SEASON TO  
TASTE THE ADDITION OF MILK WILL  
FURTHER IMPROVE THE FLAVOR.

**TIP TOP CANNERS, LTD.**  
HAMILTON, ONTARIO.

**CAN LABEL TIP TOP CANNERS**

# Otterville man on PUSH council

An Otterville man has been chosen to represent this area on the regional council of an organization designed to help disabled people.

Richard Picknell is one of 10 people chosen to serve on the council of Persons United for Self Help (PUSH) in this area. PUSH is for all types of disabled persons including those who are physically disabled, those who are emotionally disabled and those with unseen handicaps. Mr. Picknell is himself a paraplegic.

PUSH is a new movement designed for disabled people who have a desire to organize themselves and get political action on a wide variety of issues. Ontario is the only province which doesn't have an

advisory council for the disabled. The local organization is currently operating through the Tillsonburg Multi-Services Centre until it gets its own umbrella organization at the provincial level.

The new body is being set up to help disabled people have a political voice. It is the hope of PUSH that it will help smaller organizations, which are formed to help the disabled, to better accomplish their purpose.

An area meeting of PUSH will be held on Tuesday, June 22 at the St. John Ambulance building in Tillsonburg and anybody who is disabled and has a problem should come forward and the organization will help to seek a solution.



## Send in the clowns

It was fun day at Otterville Public School on Thursday afternoon as the senior students put on a variety of special activities for the younger students. Suzy Kramer, Grade 6, was kept busy turning some students into clowns. Jennifer McMurchy, Grade 4, was one of the students who let Suzy make-up her face. (NG photo)

## Reunion held

The 19th annual McMullen reunion was held Sunday, June 13 at Spring Creek Farm, Otterville, with a good attendance in spite of inclement weather.

Following a delicious potluck meal, Mrs. Fred Thompson presented her aunt, Winnie McMullen with a birthday cake. All sang Happy Birthday to Mrs. McMullen who celebrated her 80th birthday on June 15.

President Ken Mann called the meeting to order whereby the officers elected for the next three-year term are: President, Bill McMullen; vice-president, Fred Thompson and contest chairperson, Karen Dow.

The next reunion will be held at Spring Creek Farm on Sunday, June 12, 1983.

Karen Dow then presided over the program with a peanut scramble for all. Contest winners were: Heather Moyer and

Catherine Mann for guessing the number of candy in jars. Patrick DeRoo was the winner of the water balloon contest as well as the shoe kicking contest. Gary McMullen won the birthday draw. Kathy Moyer received a prize for the youngest in attendance. Heather Moyer won the ladies shoe kicking contest while husband Mat Moyer won the men's. Heather and Mat also won the adult water balloon contest.

Those attending came from Sarnia, Woodstock, Norwich and the Otterville area.



## Plate painting

Jean Davis was busy at the Norwich Historical Show on the weekend painting local Otterville scenes on ceramic plates. Orders for the hand-painted plates were taken and one-half the proceeds goes to the Otterville mill restoration fund. Mrs. Davis said she has painted about 50 mill plates and sold them. She sketches the designs on the plate, paints them and then fires them in a kiln. It takes close to an hour to do the painting. (NG photo)

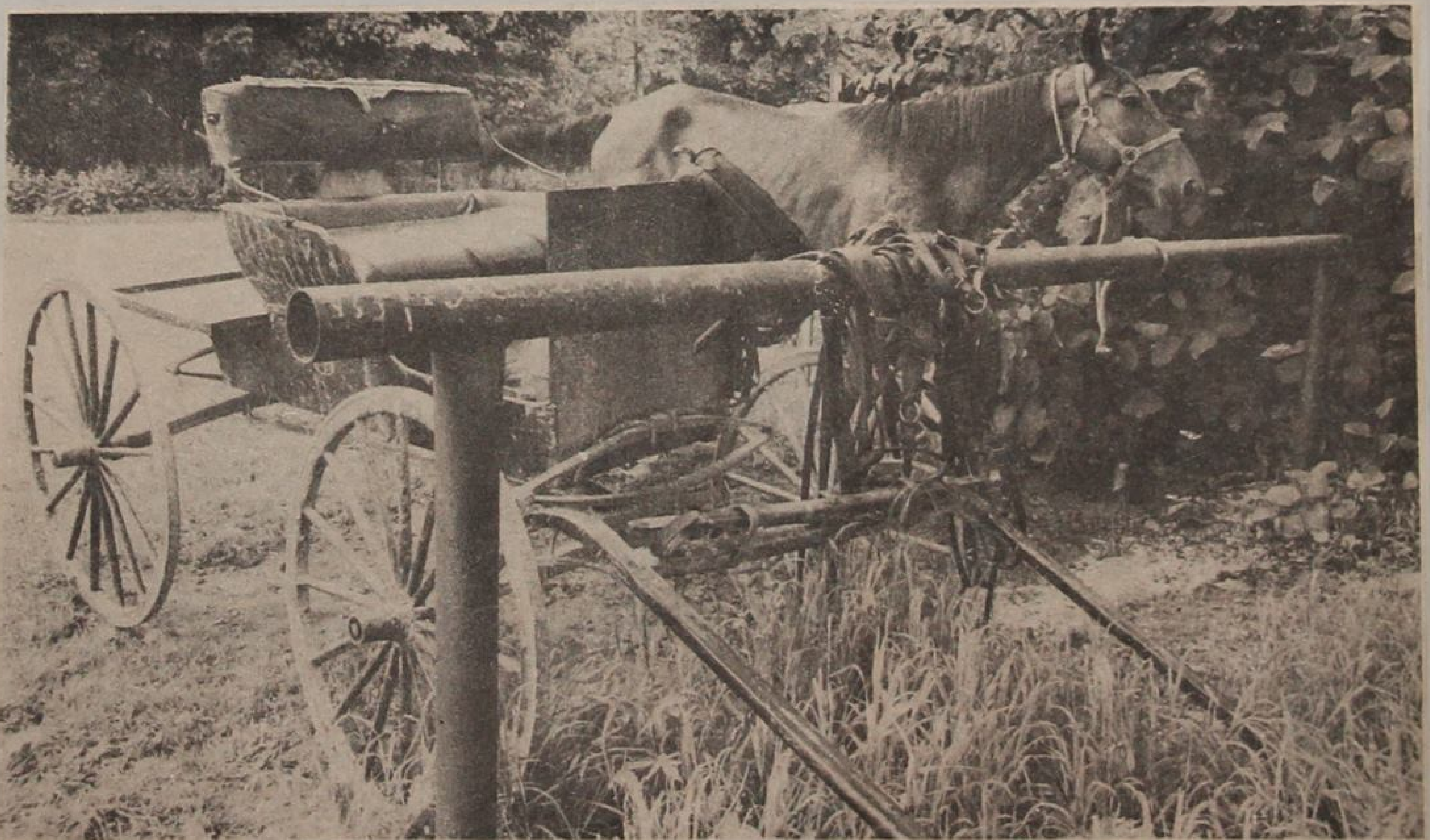
### Going' fishin'

It could have been Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer, but it wasn't - it was Craig Rachar (front) and Larry Hussey both of Otterville who were found enjoying a leisurely Sunday morning fishing off this cement wall at the base of the Otterville dam. While they hadn't caught anything yet, they were enjoying the sunny weather and privacy their fishing spot provided. (NG Photo).



### Wet business

Grade 6 student David Braun got a little wet during the sponge throw at Otterville Public School's fun day last Thursday afternoon. The senior students put on a variety of special activities for the younger students in the school.

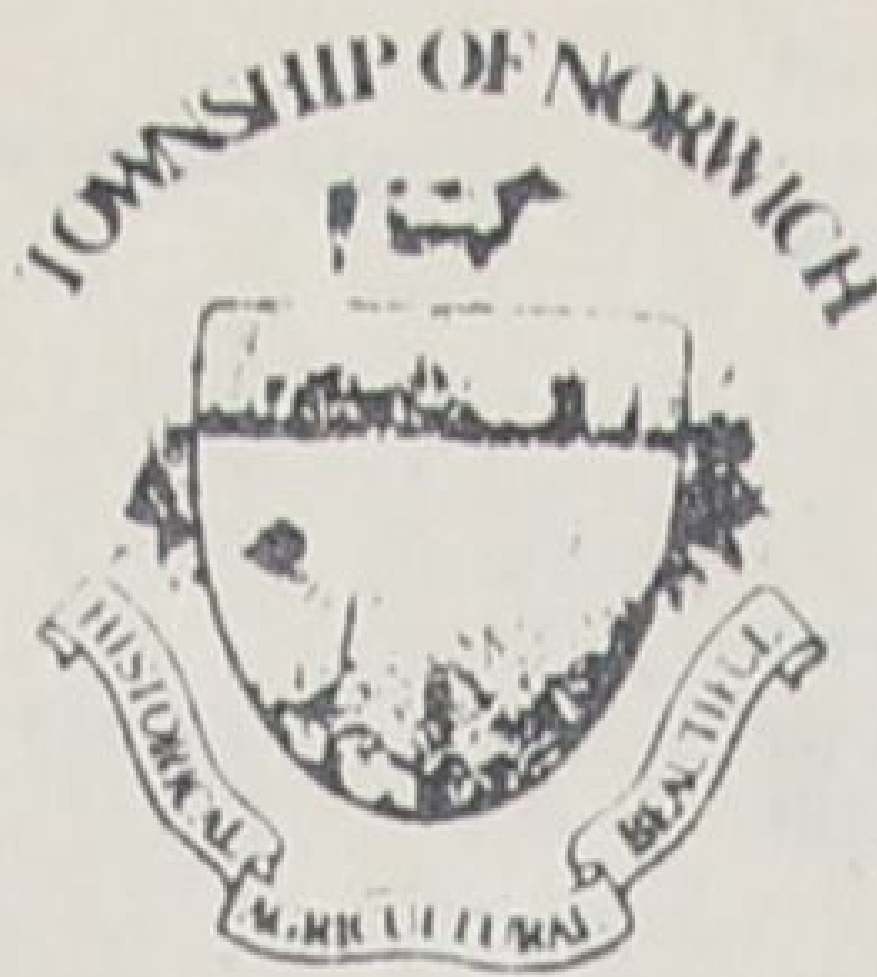


### The waiting game

This horse waited patiently tied to the hitching post off North Street while the driver of the buggy and his friend took time out to try their luck at fishing from the footbridge to the Otterville park last week. With some oats and a shady spot, the horse didn't seem to mind the wait. (NG

PO BOX 100  
OTTERVILLE, ONTARIO  
N0L 1R0

879 6560 879 6440  
863 2709



CLERK  
ROBERT E. WATKINS, A.M.C.T.

DEPUTY CLERK  
JOHN GILBERT, A.M.C.T.

TREASURER  
FRED C. LOWES

25 November, 1981.

To: Representatives of Community Organizations interested in  
OTTERVILLE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AND CANADA WEEK 1982  
-----

In 1982 Otterville celebrates its 175th anniversary. In 1982 the Township of Norwich celebrations honoring Canada's birthday during Canada Week will wind up with a parade in Otterville.

It has been suggested that the two events be held simultaneously so that the efforts aimed at each of the events will contribute to the success of both programs.

Your name has been recommended as a person who might be in a position to offer the assistance needed to get as many people as possible involved in the celebrations.

A "fact-finding" meeting will be held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Office Building in Otterville, on Wednesday, December 2, 1981, to discuss preliminary plans for the 1982 celebrations.

The persons whose names are shown on the enclosed list have received a copy of this letter. If you know of someone who should attend the meeting, would you please invite them on my behalf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Gilbert".

John Gilbert

OTTERVILLE CELEBRATIONS 1982

A meeting to discuss plans for celebrations to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the settling of South Norwich Township was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Office Building of the Township of Norwich on Wednesday, December 2nd, 1981, at 8:00 P. M.

The meeting had been requested by the South Norwich Historical Society with arrangements for the meeting to be co-ordinated by the chairman of the Township of Norwich Canada Week Celebrations committee, Carman Sweazey.

John Gilbert, deputy-clerk for the Township advised that notices of the meeting were sent to representatives of 21 organizations in Ward 1 (South Norwich); to 9 members of the Canada Week committee, and to Suzanne Hanson of the Norwich Gazette.

10 of the organizations were represented at the meeting. Several persons volunteered to contact those organizations whose representatives were not present to urge them to attend future meetings and to promote the celebrations involvement.

Carman Sweazey, Councillor-at-large and Canada Week chairman, indicated that he would like to see the anniversary celebrations held at the same time that the Canada Week celebrations were held in order that Township unity and complete participation by the residents would be encouraged. He advised that the Canada Week celebrations during the week June 25th to July 1 would culminate in a parade decided by the Canada Week committee to be held in Otterville.

It was considered that a chairman should be appointed to co-ordinate the plans and activities of the anniversary committee and Dr. Murray Downing was urged to accept the responsibility. Invitations to a meeting to be held on December 9th to form the co-ordinating committee will be sent to Jean Davis, Rick Singer, Murray Downing, Gordon Shearer, Joyce Pettigrew, Wm. McMullen Jr., Cathy Mann, Ken Peers, Carman Sweazey and Suzanne Hanson. The committee will decide at that time the date of the next general meeting.

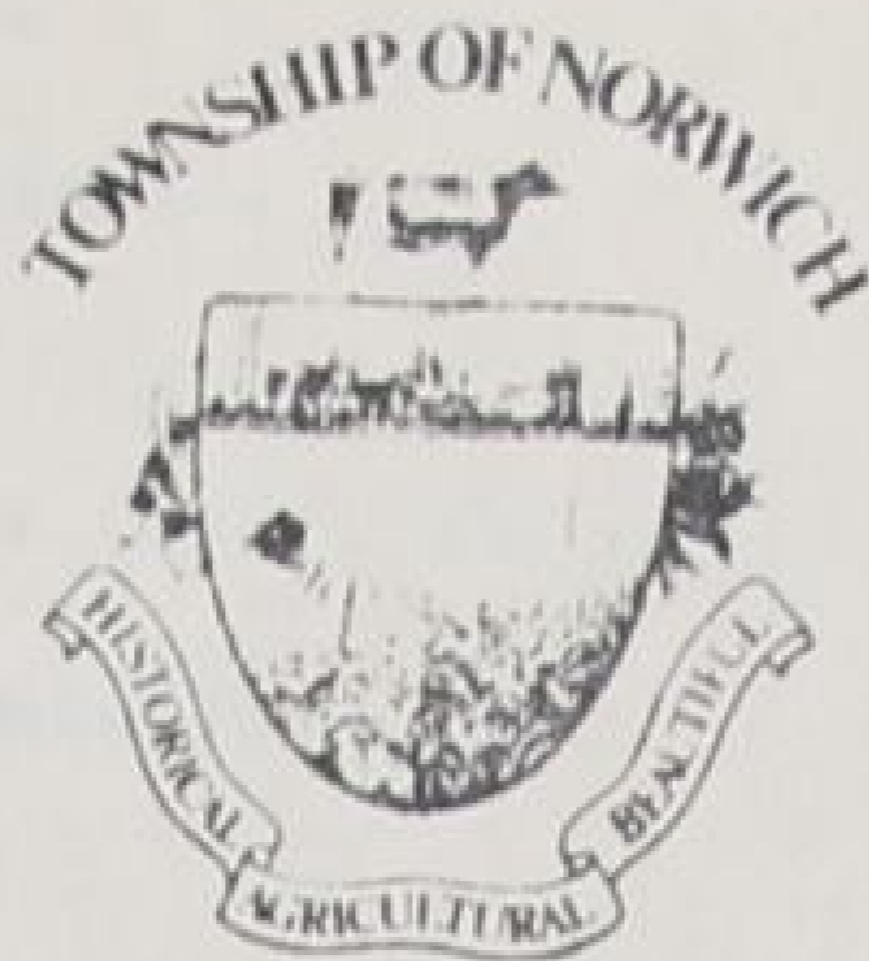
A majority of those present agreed that the Canada Day holiday should be observed on July 1st and that the parade would be held on that date. The Otterville celebrations will be held July 1, 2, 3, 4, so that persons coming from some distance would be able to attend some of the week-end activities.

In attendance were:

Esther Smith	Jean McClintock	Christine McMullen
Eleanor Turnbull	Isabel Harris	Carman Sweazey
Elsie Marshall	Jean Davis	George Amey
Lyle Davis	Mel Smith	Don McPherson
Lurene McMullen	Murray Downing	Suzanne Hanson
Betty Walther	Cathy Mann	John Gilbert
Lila Freeland	Jack Walther	
Rick Singer	Lorraine Downing	

P.O. Box 100  
OTTERVILLE, ONTARIO  
N0J 1R0

879-6568 879-6440  
863-2709



CLERK  
ROBERT C. WATKINS, A.M.C.T.

DEPUTY CLERK  
JOHN GILBERT, A.M.C.T.

TREASURER  
FRED C. LOWES

December 3, 1981.

OTTERVILLE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting to discuss plans for the celebrations to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the settling of the former Township of South Norwich will be held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Office Building on December 9th, 1981, at 7:00 P. M.

It would be appreciated very much if you could attend the meeting along with the others whose names are shown on the list attached.

It is hoped that an executive committee can be formed to co-ordinate the anniversary plans and that a date can be set for a general meeting.

Yours truly,

John Gilbert

on Dec. 14th, the date of the barbeque.  
- suggested that on-going barbeque be held during  
afternoon of July 1.



OTTERVILLE CELEBRATIONS 1982

A meeting to plan for the celebrations to be held July 1, 2, 3, and 4, 1982, was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Office Building on Wednesday, December 9th, 1981, at 7:00 P. M.

Present were: Dr. Murray Downing, Joyce Pettigrew,  
Cathy Mann, Jack Walther,  
Wm. McMullen Jr., Carman Sweazey,  
Rick Singer, Ken Peers,  
Jean Davis, Gordon Shearer,  
John Gilbert.

Dr. Downing had requested the attendance of those present to form a co-ordinating committee which would be responsible for the over-all arrangements for events for the celebrations.

The following items were discussed:

- (1) Parade - July 1st at 2:30 P. M.
  - Canada week Comm. to head up, one person from Ward 1 to also serve on parade committee.
  - good size marshalling area needed.
  - more prizes needed for children (bicycle entries etc.) than were available for 1981 parade.
  - need good parking facilities.
  - need to make arrangements for bands early.
  - Pioneer Corn Co. has antique corn popper for parades.
  - need parade marshall.
  - old car clubs can be contacted.
  
- (2) Financing - possibility that Wintario funds can assist.
  - try for Canada Week grant.
  - approach Township Council.
  - sponsoring organizations to retain profits.
  
- (3) Barbeques - Historical Society: No program has yet been planned but if possible a barbeque will be held.
  - Lions Club: Might possibly hold annual dance and barbeque during Celebration Days instead of in June. Gord Shearer will confirm at the Lions meeting on Dec. 14th, the date of the barbeque.
  - suggested that on-going barbeque be held during afternoon of July 1.

- (4) Garden Party - approach Springford Women's Institute about sponsoring garden party.
  - local talent is preferred to imported talent.
- (5) School Reunion - M. Downing will contact Boyd Little to find out if a group of retired teachers would make the necessary arrangement for a reunion.
- (6) Antique Auction - suggested as project for the Historical Society. Rick Singer will explore possibilities.
  - not necessary to hold auction during Celebration Days, but could be held before July 1.
- (7) Ball Tournaments - Bob Butler has been asked to contact George Amey about a tournament.
  - Bill McMullen will contact Pierre Pinnoy to consider arranging for an O<sub>1</sub>dtimers Ball Game.
- (8) Logo - perhaps a competition to design an appropriate logo for the celebrations could involve the school students.
  - promotion and souvenir possibilities.
- (9) Publicity - perhaps a "Heritage Corner" column in the newspapers.
  - Cathy Mann in charge of publicity assisted by Jean Davis.
  - letters to the editor about celebrations (in out-of-town newspapers).

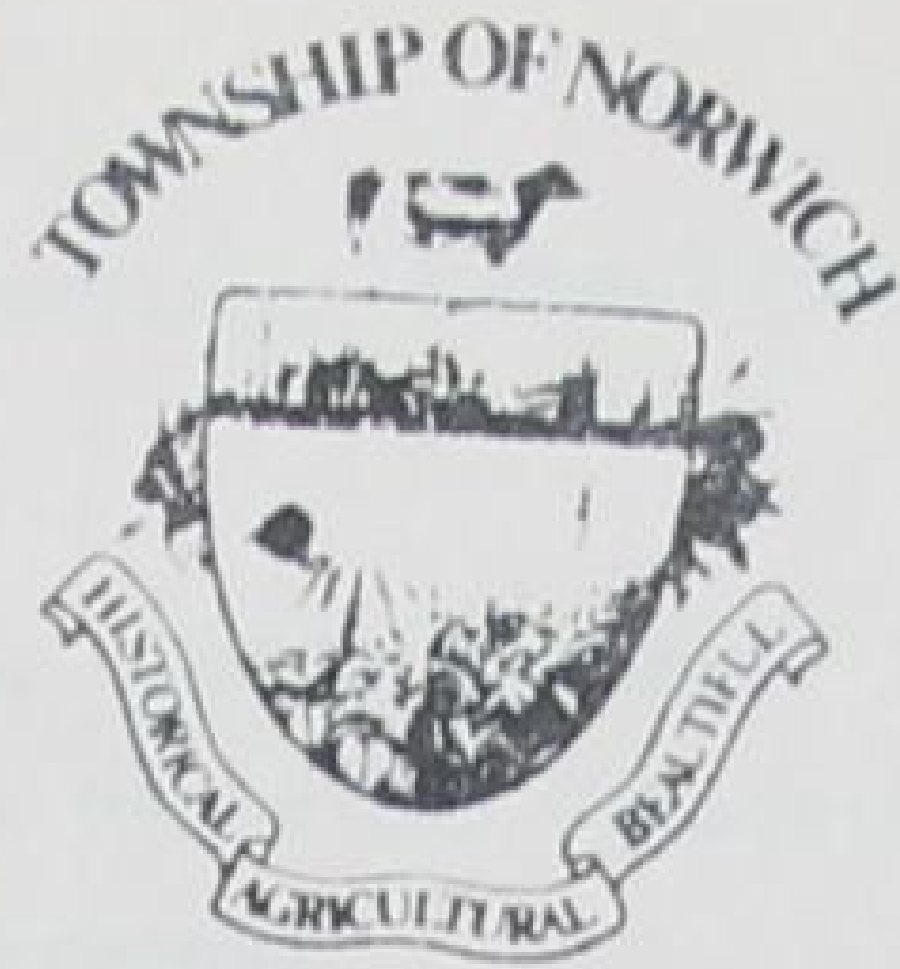
Other items discussed:

- (1) Beer tent.
- (2) Tours of Oddy House.
- (3) Tours of Treffry Mill. (Insurance coverage to be checked.)
- (4) Firefighters Demonstrations.
- (5) Swim Show at Otterville Pool.
- (6) Woodstock Flying Club fly-past.
- (7) Hot air balloon demonstration.
- (8) Downtown beautification program.
- (9) Church Choir (Jean McClintock interested in arranging).
- (10) Invitations to Dignitaries and Celebrities.
- (11) Soap Box Derby
- (12) Car Rallies for teen-agers.
- (13) Involvement by Senior Citizens groups.
- (14) Plaque and cairn at Darkie Cemetery.

A general meeting of the representatives of the celebrations organizations and the co-ordinating committee will be held on Thursday, December 17th at 7:00 P. M. in the Township Council Chambers.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 P. M.

P.O. Box 100  
OTTERVILLE, ONTARIO  
NOJ 1R0  
879-6568 879-6440  
863-2709



CLERK  
ROBERT C. WATKINS, A.M.C.T.  
DEPUTY CLERK  
JOHN GILBERT, A.M.C.T.  
TREASURER  
FRED C. LOWE

11 December, 1981.

OTTERVILLE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS 1982  
\*\*\*\*\*

DR. MURRAY DOWNING WILL CHAIR A GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS  
REQUESTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EVENTS TO COM-  
MEMORATE THE 175th ANNIVERSARY OF SOUTH NORWICH  
TOWNSHIP IN 1982.

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17th,  
1981, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL  
OFFICE BUILDING. YOU OR SOMEONE ON YOUR BEHALF  
ARE CORDIALLY INVITED AND URGED TO ATTEND TO DISCUSS  
PLANS FOR THE CELEBRATIONS.

DETAILS OF THE DECEMBER 2nd MEETING TOGETHER WITH  
A REPORT OF THE DECEMBER 9th MEETING OF THE CO-OR-  
DINATING COMMITTEE WILL BE AVAILABLE.

*John Gilbert*  
JOHN GILBERT

*Thursday  
December  
17<sup>th</sup>, 1981.*

*7:00 P.M.*

OTTERVILLE CELEBRATIONS 1982

A planning meeting was held on December 17th, 1981, at 7:00 P. M. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Office Building. Notice of the meeting had been sent to 31 persons.

Present were: Dr. Murray Downing, Mrs. Marg. Shearer,  
Mrs. Jean Davis, Mr. Boyd Little,  
Mr. Rick Singer, Mr. Lyle Davis,  
Mr. Gordon Shearer, Mrs. Evelyn Picknell,  
Mrs. Joyce Pettigrew, Mr. John Surgeoner,  
Mrs. Cathy Mann, Mr. Lorne Treffry,  
Mr. Carman Sweazey, John Gilbert  
Miss Suzanne Hanson,

Chairman Murray asked for a review and up-date of the items discussed at the December 9th meeting.

- (1) Parade - Gord. Shearer will be the Ward One representative on the parade committee.
  - honorary parade marshall to be named.
  - parking - firefighters to arrange.
  - trophies will be required for entrant prizes.
  
- (2) Financing - a 50/50 draw will be held. Lyle Davis and Jean Davis will make arrangements. The draw will be held July 4th at the Historical Society barbeque.
  - possibility of admission charge to the park.
  - advertising booklet pays little more than actual cost of publication.
  
- (3) Barbeques - the Historical Society will hold a barbeque at the Treffry Mill on July 4th
  - the Lions Club will hold its regular annual barbeque on June 21st. the Lions will also hold a barbeque on July 1st.
  
- (4) Garden Party - Murray D. will approach Ed. White to see if he will act as Chairman for a Garden Party
  
- (5) School Reunion - Boyd Little will co-ordinate and has contacted Wilma Butler, Don Neale and Juanita DeRoo for assistance.
  - A Guest Book should be available.
  - Women's Institute may look after billeting, and may assist with reunion arrangements.
  
- (6) Antique Auction - Historical Society cannot arrange auction but Rick Singer will see if the Mill Committee can do something.

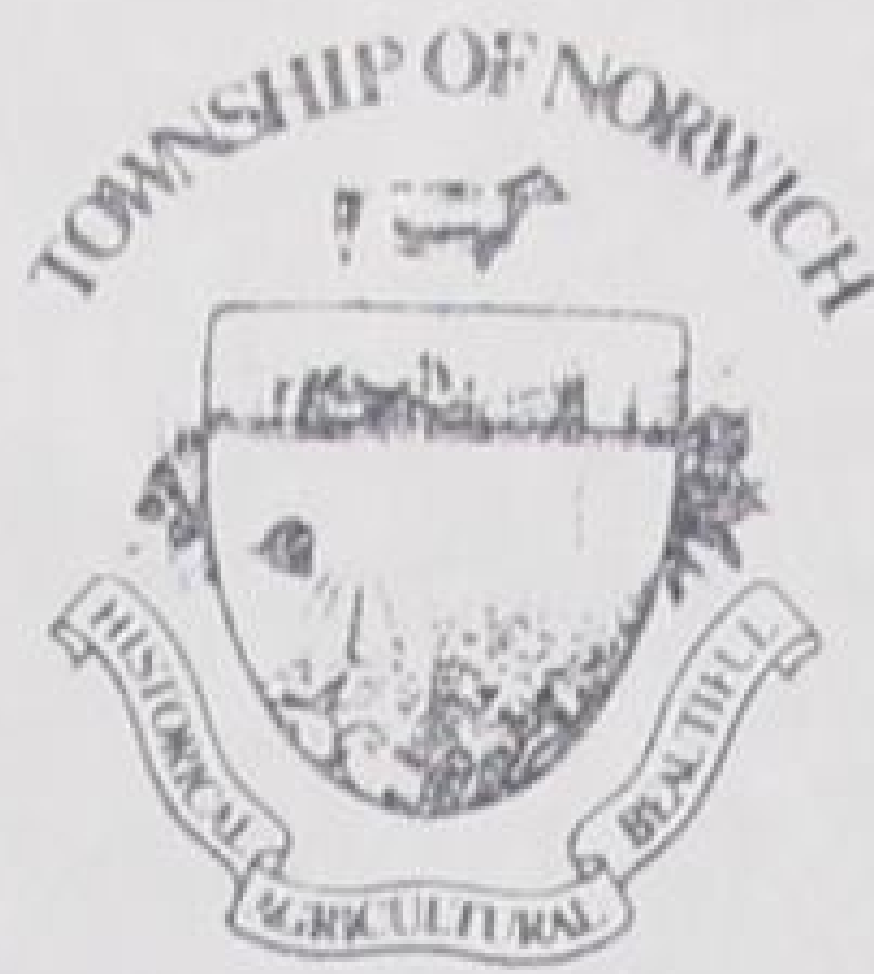
- (7) Ball Tournaments - Dr. Downing will contact Wm. McMullen.
- (8) Logo - Boyd Little will contact the Otterville School for a logo competition.
- (9) Publicity - Cathy Mann, Suzanne Hanson/Norwich Gazette, John Surgeoner/Delhi News-Record.
- (10) Beard-Growing Contest - Optimist Club will promote.

Other items discussed:

- (1) Beer tent - Optimists may assist with beer tent.
- (2) Tours of Oddy House - Historical booklets are available.
- (3) Treffry Mill tours -
- (4) Firefighters demonstrations - John Gilbert will contact Brian Workman, Fire Chief.
- (5) Swim Show at Otterville Pool - 1982 season lifeguard has yet to be hired.
- (6) Woodstock Flying Club fly-past - John Gilbert will contact Jos. Hampson to try to arrange.
- (7) Hot air balloon demonstration - John Gilbert will contact Ken Peers for information.
- (8) Downtown beautification program - Jean Davis will contact June Ash.
- (9) Church Choir -
- (10) Dignitaries and Celebrities - members of parliament.
- (11) Soap Box Derby - Lyle Davis will contact Wm. Redman.
- (12) Car Rallies - Suzanne Hanson will contact Jr. Farmers.
- (13) Senior Citizens Involvement - Dr. Downing will contact Seniors.
- (14) Plaque & Cairn at Black Cemetery - Harry Armstrong has been contacted and is proceeding with plans and estimates for erection of a cairn in 1982.
- (15) Beauty Contest - Marg Shearer will contact Sunshine Club to promote.
- (16) Antique Car Show - Lorne Treffry will contact Al Lewis about cars for parade and display.
- (17) Calendar of Events - John Gilbert to design.
- (18) Special Church Service - Anglican and United Churches may participate as premiere of annual special service.
- (19) Springford Area - Canada Week Committee to concentrate on this area.

A general meeting will be held on Wed. January 13th, 1982, at 7:00 P. M. in the Township Council Chambers. Doug and Cheryl Babbey are to be invited. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 P. M.

P.O. Box 100  
OTTERVILLE, ONTARIO  
N0J 1K0  
879-6568 879-6440  
863-2709



CLERK  
ROBERT C. WATKINS, A.M.C.I.  
DEPUTY CLERK  
JOHN GILBERT, A.M.C.I.  
TREASURER  
FRED C. LOWES  
PUBLIC WORKS SUPT.  
Ron Smith

6 January, 1982.

OTTERVILLE CELEBRATIONS 1982

=====

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING OF CELEBRATIONS TO BE HELD IN SOUTH NORWICH, AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICE ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13th, 1982, at 7:00 P. M.

IT IS HOPED THAT YOU CAN ATTEND TO BRING THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE UP-TO-DATE ON THE PROGRESS OF PLANS AND EVENTS BY THE VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'John Gilbert'.

John Gilbert

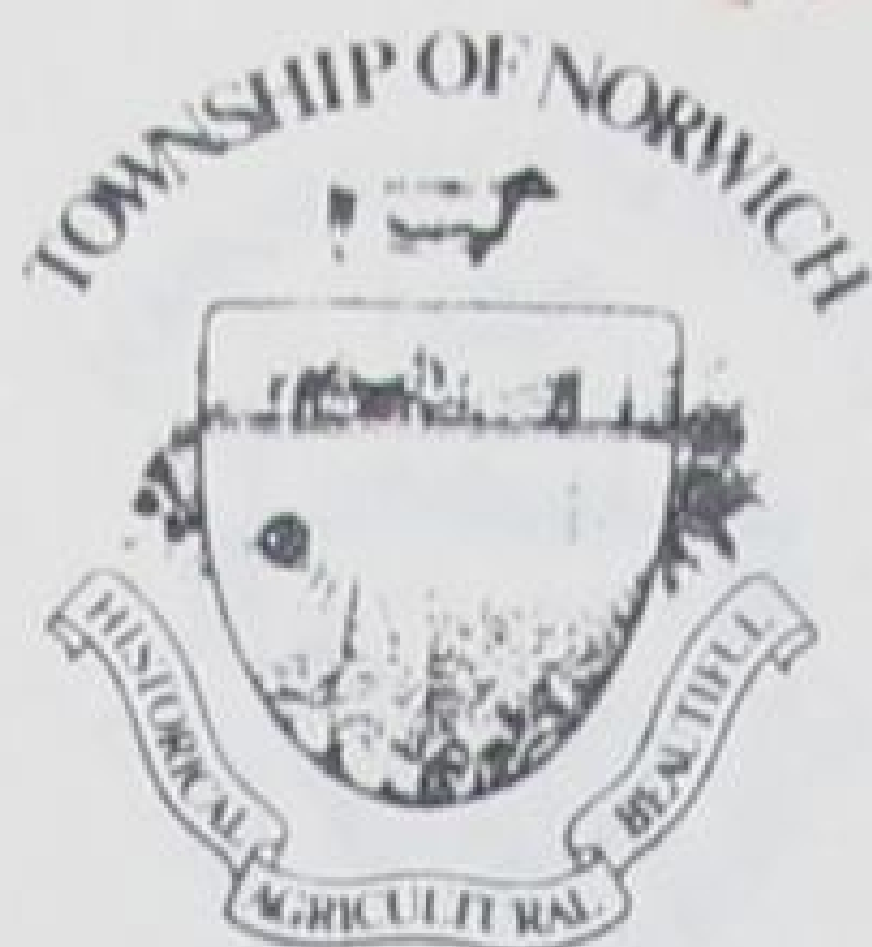
P.S. Copies of minutes of previous meetings will be available.

be used for camping-trailers.

- (6) Antique Auction - Lorne Treffry will discuss with the Historical Society.
- (7) Ball Tournaments - Bill McMullen has contacted Pierre Pinnoy about old-timers' game.
- (8) Logo - should be ready by Feb. 15th if to be used on manufactured items.  
- South Norwich Elementary Pupils to participate in design contest.
- (9) Publicity - Cathy Mann has sent out letters (100) to papers across Canada.  
- Local newspapers have included interesting articles.
- (10) Beard Contest - an entry form and some advertising are needed.

P.O. Box 100  
OTTERVILLE, ONTARIO  
N0J 1R0

B79-6568 B79-6440  
B63-2709



CLERK  
ROBERT G. WATKINS, A.M.C.T.

DEPUTY CLERK  
JOHN GILBERT, A.M.C.T.

TREASURER  
FRED C. LOWES

PUBLIC WORKS SUPT.  
Ron Smith


January 22nd, 1982.

OTTERVILLE CELEBRATIONS 1982

THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING OF CELEBRATIONS TO BE HELD IN SOUTH NORWICH, AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICE ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27TH, 1982, at 7:00 P.M.

SOME OF THE ORGANIZATIONS HAVE NOT ALWAYS BEEN REPRESENTED AT THE PAST MEETINGS. TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF THE CELEBRATIONS IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF ALL PERSONS TO WHOM THIS INVITATION IS SENT, COULD ATTEND THE MEETING.

THANKS.

  
JOHN GILBERT.

JG:yh

Main Street,  
Otterville, Ontario.  
NOJ 1R0.

December 28, 1981.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

Otterville and the former South Norwich Township will be celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the founding of their settlement from July 1st to 4th, 1982.

If any of your readers are, or know of former residents and area school pupils, would they please send name and address to Mr. Boyd Little, Box 52, Otterville, Ont., NOJ 1R0 as we wish to invite them to the reunion and celebrations.

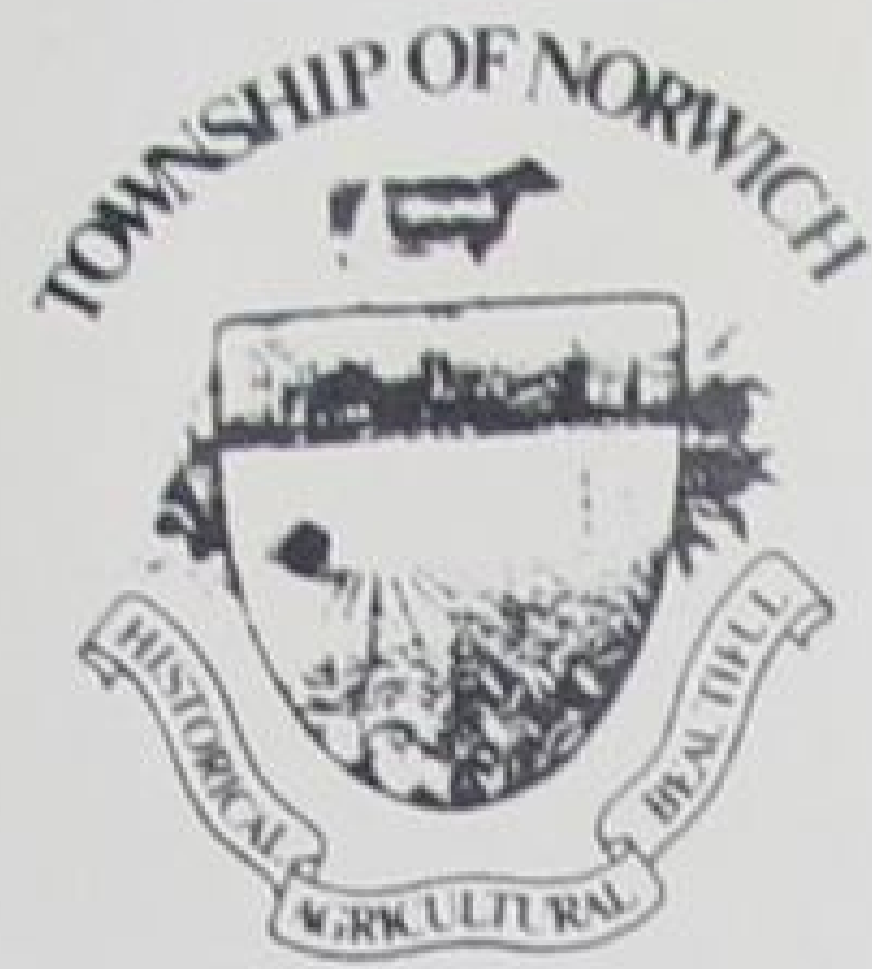
Thanking you in advance for printing this letter,

Yours truly,

Dr. Murray Downing, Chairman.

Per Catherine Mann, Publicity.





**THE TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH  
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE**

with financial support by the  
Provincial Committee for Canada's Birthday  
and the Government of Canada



**INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE**

**CANADA'S BIRTHDAY**

OTTERVILLE

**July 1, 1982**

**PARADE 10:30 a.m. — CEREMONIES 2:00 p.m.  
BARBEQUE 4:30 p.m. — GARDEN PARTY 8:00 p.m.  
FIREWORKS**

<p><b>2nd ANNUAL CANADA DAY PARADE</b> July 1st Otterville, Main St. Bands, Floats, Clowns, etc.</p>	<p>June 27, 1982 <b>GARDEN PARTY</b> Oxford Centre 10 a.m. — Outdoor Church Service Noon — Baconburger Luncheon 2:30 p.m. — Garden Party</p>	<p>July 1st <b>LIONS CHICKEN BARBEQUE</b> 4:30-7:30 p.m. — Otterville Park Adults \$8.00 Children \$4.00 (Tickets from Lions members)</p>	<p><b>OPENING CEREMONIES</b> July 1 — 2:00 p.m. in Park Distinguished Guests Representatives of Ont. Gov't.</p>
<p><b>OPTIMIST CLUB STREET DANCE</b> Friday July 2, 8:00 p.m. at parking lot beside Community Hall Music by — Destiny Free Admission</p>	<div> </div> <p><b>SLOW-PITCH TOURNAMENT</b> in Springford</p> <p>July 2 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>July 3 8:00 a.m.</p> <p>July 4 1:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>GARDEN PARTY</b> In Otterville Park July 1, 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>featuring mainly local talent</p> <p>Admission \$1.00 (12 yrs. and under free)</p> <p><b>FIREWORKS AT THE CONCLUSION</b></p>	<p><b>FREE SWIMMING</b> Otterville Pool 2:00 p.m. July 2nd</p>
<p><b>REBEKAH'S BAKE SALE</b> at I.O.O.F. Hall, Main St., Otterville — July 2, 9:30 a.m.</p>			<p><b>BEARD GROWING CONTEST</b> Judging July 2, at street dance Razor permits for local clean shaven residents \$2.00 Sponsored by Optimist Club</p>
<p><b>SCHOOL REUNION</b> Otterville Central School July 3, 2:00-4:30 p.m. July 4, 2:30 p.m. Renew old friendships — Refreshments</p>			<p><b>CHILDREN'S PARADE</b> July 3 — 1:00 p.m. Anglican Church — to the Park Prizes for best decorated bicycles tricycles, wagons, etc. Sponsored by Women's Institutes</p>
<p><b>CHILDREN'S SPORTING EVENTS</b> July 3, 2:30 p.m. in Otterville Park Public School Age</p>	<p><b>GUIDED TOURS</b> July 3 &amp; 4 Otterville — Woodlawn Adult Centre — Treffry Mill — Innisfree Conference Centre</p>	<p><b>OPTIMIST SOAP BOX DERBY</b> July 3, 10:00 a.m. Main St., Otterville Ages 6-10 yrs. &amp; 11-15 yrs. 12 trophies Details: Wm. Redman 879-6445</p>	<p><b>SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT</b> July 2, 3, 4</p>
<p><b>SWIM SHOW</b> in Park Pool July 3, 4:00 p.m. Free admission — Free children's swimming to follow</p>	<p><b>HOT AIR BALLOON DEMONSTRATION</b> July 3 — 6:00 p.m. Otterville Park Launching — weather permitting</p>	<p><b>OLDTIMERS BALL GAME</b> Otterville Oldtimers (1957-67) vs Otterville Otters 8:00 p.m. — July 3 Adm. \$1.00 — Children free Wiener Roast following (50c)</p>	<p><b>CANOE RACE</b> July 3 — 1:30 p.m. Milldale to Otterville 12-16 yrs. — 16 &amp; over Contact Lee Richardson 879-6482</p>
<p><b>FIRE FIGHTERS' COMPETITION</b> Otterville July 2, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>BEAUTY CONTEST</b> Otterville Park July 1st — 2:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>HISTORICAL DISPLAYS</b> Otterville July 1-4 at Harv Miller's Store</p>	<p><b>UNVEILING OF BLACK CEMETERY PLAQUE</b> July 4 — 2:00 p.m. Church St., Otterville North of Otterville Cemetery</p>
<p><b>INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH SERVICE &amp; CHOIR</b> in Otterville Park 11:00 a.m. Sunday July 4</p>	<p><b>NORWICH COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT</b> Otterville Park July 4 — 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>SOUTH NORWICH HISTORICAL SOCIETY CHICKEN BARBEQUE</b> 5:00-6:00 p.m. July 4 Adults \$6.00 — Children \$3.00 Advance tickets — Ph. 879-6932</p>	<p><b>LUNCH AVAILABLE IN PARK</b> July 1, 2 &amp; 4th 12:00 — 1:00 p.m.</p>



175th

Anniversary



# Sportsday

## SA TURDAY July 3, 1982

### for kids of all ages

#### OTTERVILLE

1:00 p.m. BICYCLE PARADE ( ANYTHING ON WHEELS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL AGE AND UNDER) FROM ANGLICAN CHURCH LAWN TO PARK. PARTICIPANTS PLEASE BE AT THE CHURCH BY 12:30.

1:30 p.m. CANOE RACE STARTING AT MILLEDALE BRIDGE WITH FINISH AT OTTERVILLE PARK BRIDGE.

TWO AGE CLASSES \* 12 - 16 YRS. \* OVER 16 YRS.

CONTACT LEE RICHARDSON, OTTERVILLE, PH. 879-6482

TED CHURCH, OTTERVILLE, PH. 879-6633

(Must have own canoe)

1:30 p.m. JUDGING OF PARADE ENTRIES. CLASSES AS FOLLOWS:  
PRETTIEST \* FUNNIEST \* MOST UNUSUAL \* ORIGINAL

2:00 p.m. TOM KUBINEK, MAGICIAN CO-SPONSORED BY LAKE ERIE REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM & THE LOCAL LIBRARY.

DUNK TANK OPERATED BY OTTERVILLE MINOR BALL  
PET CORNER

LEMONADE STAND & HOMEMADE CANDY SALE BY GUIDES & BROWNIES

PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES FOR 14 YRS & UNDER

FRISBEE CONTEST 16 YRS & UNDER \* 16 YRS - ?

DRIVE A NAIL IN A LOG 16 YRS & UNDER \* 16 YRS - ?

LOG SAWING 16 YRS & UNDER \* 16 YRS - ?

(For Contests, Please Register At Announcer's Table)

4:00 p.m. SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING FOLLOWED BY SWIM RACES

SPONSORED BY

OTTERVILLE, SPRINGFORD, SUMMERVILLE

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES



SOUTH NORWICH SETTLEMENT



SPORTS DAY

JULY 3, 1982

*Participant*

# HEY KIDS!

## ENTER THE

# SOAP BOX DERBY

Saturday, July 3, 1982

10 a.m. Sharp In Otterville

The Thrill of downhill racing – in a "Soap Box" Car you build yourself! Or get a friend to help and you can BOTH race it!

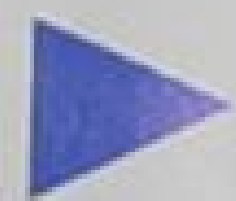
### RULES

1. You must be able to steer your car. If rope is used, it must be 1/2" rope or larger.
2. ALL SOAP BOX RACERS MUST HAVE BRAKES
3. HELMETS MUST BE WORN  
(IF YOU DON'T HAVE A HELMET, DON'T RACE)



LET'S GET STARTED NOW!  
WE'LL SEE YOU AT THE  
CHECKERED FLAG!

### NOTICE TO PARENTS



In the past several years, the racing community has been made to ensure the utmost safety of your child's soap box racer. We do not want to have to tell you that your child's racer is unsafe. We do not want to have to tell you that your child's racer is unsafe.

Fill out the attached registration card and give it to your teacher or mail it to:

WILLIAM REEMAN  
P.O. BOX 92  
OTTERVILLE, ONT.  
N0J 1R0

**ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 28, 1982**

**Start Building Your SOAP BOX RACER NOW and GOOD LUCK!**

Registration card for the SOAP BOX DERBY – Saturday, July 3, 1982. (Please Print Clearly)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ SEX: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsored By The:

SPRING  OTTER OPTIMISTS

South Norwich Historical Society

## Chicken Barbecue

SUNDAY, JULY 4th, 1982

At THE MEADOW BY THE MILL

Otterville, Ontario

SERVING 5 to 7 P.M.

ADULTS – \$6.00

South Norwich Historical Society  
Otterville, Ontario

## HANDMADE QUILT DRAW

DRESDEN PLATE PATTERN – 80" x 100"

TO BE DRAWN JULY 4th, 1982 AT THE MEADOW BY THE MILL, OTTERVILLE, ONTARIO

TICKETS

50 Cents

Three for \$1.00

No

135

LOTTERY LICENCE No. T300

WON BY HOPE HARVEY  
OTTERVILLE



# Camada Week

June 25-July 1

THE TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH

2ND ANNUAL CANADA DAY PARADE

OTTERVILLE

JULY 1st, 1982

ENTRY NO. 11

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARADE ENTRIES:

The Marshalling Area is at the Works Depot yard at the east end of Otterville.

The Parade will start at 10:30 A.M. on the route beginning at the Marshalling area, heading west on Main Street in Otterville, ending at the Public School west of Otterville.

Parade entries must be ready at 9:00 A.M. at the Marshalling area for pre-judging at 9:30 A.M.

The Parade commences at 10:30 A.M. SHARP.

Your Entry Number should be displayed on your entry.

The Judges Stand and TV area is in front of the Township Office, Main Street.

Please maintain a distance of 50 feet behind the entry in front of you at all times.

Float winners will be advised at the Public School.

Awards will be presented at the Garden Party in the evening. If you are unable to attend please appoint a delegate to receive the trophy.

We are hoping to provide a TV replay of the parade at the BBQ following the Parade.

Yours truly,

Don Miller,  
Parade Marshall.

DM: yh

*Ken & Kathleen Moran*

879-6412

# Catherine Mann

COMMITTEE

Otterville July 7/82

Mr. M. Downing  
President of 175<sup>th</sup>  
Birthday Organizations.

Dear Sir's and Madam's

I would like to "Thank You" for  
Crosage, presented to me, also  
for Complimentary ticket for  
Barbecue.

Everything was very well  
arranged, and enjoyed by all.

Thank You.

Edna Luning.



HAPPY 175<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OTTERVILLE  
YOU ARE ONLY A LITTLE TOWN -  
WE MOVED TO YEARS AGO.  
BUT YOU GAVE TO US SO MANY THINGS,  
WE WANT THE WORLD TO KNOW!  
YOU GAVE US FRIENDLY NEIGHBORS,  
WHO SHARED OUR EVERY CARE.  
A CHURCH, A PARK & STORES TO SHOP -  
WE FOUND IT ALL RIGHT HERE.  
BUT MOST OF ALL DEAR OTTERVILLE,  
OUR CHILDREN WERE RAISED HERE,  
ON GOOD OLD COUNTRY SUNSHINE -  
AND THEIR ROOTS WITH YOU THEY SHARE!  
SO AT THIS VERY SPECIAL TIME -  
YOUR 175<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR  
MAY WE SAY WE'RE FOREVER GRATEFUL  
THAT OUR LIFE WITH YOU WE SHARED

WRITTEN FOR

Lilly & Don Chisholm

By SISTER CARRIE



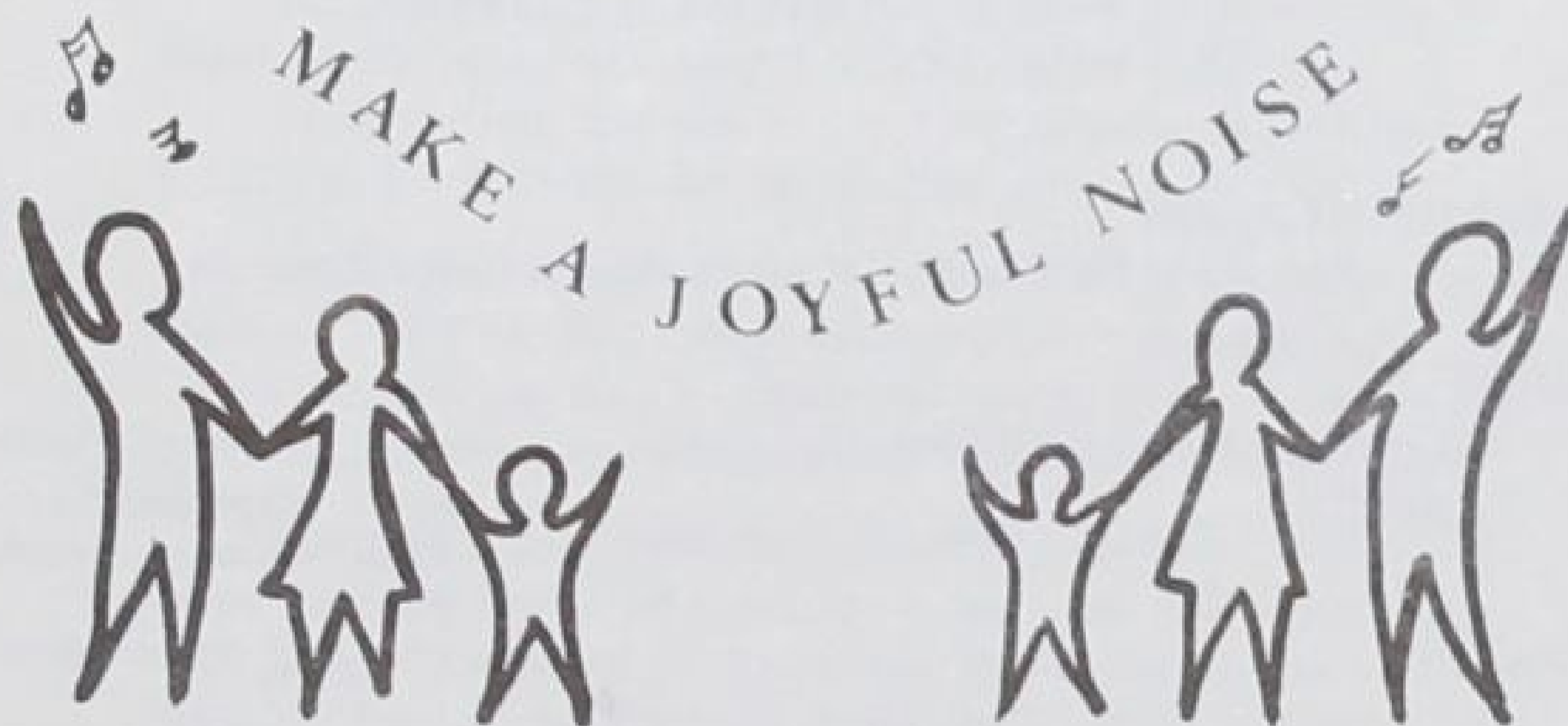


## **INTER-CHURCH SERVICE**

OTTERVILLE PARK

**SUNDAY, JULY 4, 1982**

11:00 a.m.



— PARTICIPATING CHURCHES —

New Road United Church  
Otterville Anglican Church  
Springford United Church  
Otterville United Church  
Springford Baptist Church

*Inter-Church Choir — Directed by Mrs. Jean McClintock*

PLAQUE UNVEILING

\*\*\*\*\*

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CEMETERY

OTTERVILLE, ONTARIO

SUNDAY, JULY 4th, 1982

2:00 P.M.

1. Chairman's Remarks -

2. Introduction of Special Guests -

3. Speaker -

- Mr. Daniel Braithwaite - Ontario Black  
History Society.

4. Unveiling -

- Mr. Ray Lewis - Stoney Creek descendent of  
Issac Gray.

- Mr. Alvin Duncan - Oakville descendent of  
Jeremiah Wayner.

5. HYMN -

Blest be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love,  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
Is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne  
We pour our ardent prayers,  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
Our comforts and our cares.

6. Benediction -

7. O CANADA -

# South Norwich beauties to vie for 175th crown

June 9

The young beauties of the former South Norwich Township will have the opportunity to vie for the queen's crown in the beauty contest being held in conjunction with South Norwich's 175th anniversary celebrations.

Any young lady residing at present in the former South Norwich Township is eligible to enter the contest as long as she is single and between the ages of 16 and 21, as of June 30, 1982.

The actual judging for the competition will be carried out following the official opening ceremonies at the Canada Day celebrations being held July 1 in Otterville. Those celebrations also kick off the four-day 175th anniversary celebrations over which the new queen will reign.

Contestants will be judged on personality, poise and on a private interview with the judges. Each contestant will also be required to give an impromptu speech about two minutes long before the audience assembled to watch the contest.

Crowning the new queen will be the Sesquicentennial celebrations queen, Marianna (Hanson) Smith who reigned over the 150th anniversary celebrations in 1957.

Entry forms and additional information on the

contest, which is sponsored by the Sunshine Club in Otterville, are available at the township office from Jean Dow.



JANE FURLONG



BRENDA BARNIM



HEATHER HANSON



ROBIN DAVIS



JO-ANNE THOMPSON



JUDY SANDHAM

## Six candidates for queen

T.N.  
JUNE  
23

Six young beauties from South Norwich Township will vie for the crown in the competition for queen of the 175th anniversary celebrations of South Norwich Township.

The judging of the girls competing for the crown will take place on Thursday, July 1, following the official opening of the anniversary activities in the Otterville park at 2 p.m. Each girl will also ride on the Sunshine Club's float in the morning parade, which gets underway from the township yard at 10:30 a.m.

The parade, which marks Canada Day for Norwich Township also kicks off the 175th anniversary celebrations for South Norwich which continue throughout the four days - July 1-4.

Whichever young lady wins the crown will reign over all activities planned for those celebrations. The girls competing for the title, all single and between the ages of 16 and 21 are: Brenda Barnim, 19, Otterville; Heather Hanson, 16, RR 2, Ot-

terville; Robin Davis, 17, RR 1, Otterville; Jane Furlong, 19, Otterville; Judy Sandham, 20, RR 1, Otterville and Jo-Anne Thompson, 20, Otterville.

As part of the competition, each girl will be interviewed by the judges and be required to give an impromptu two minute speech before the audience gathered to view the competition. The girls will be judged on personality and poise and they

must be a resident of South Norwich Township to qualify.

On hand to place the crown on the queen's head on July 1 will be Otterville's sesquicentennial queen, Marianna (Hanson) Smith who won the crown 25 years ago during the 150th anniversary celebrations.

The contest is sponsored by the Otterville Sunshine Club.



# Garden party set for Otterville

BY ROBERT ABBOTT

Music will fill the air Thursday, July 1, as local musicians, dancers and singers perform in an old-fashioned Garden Party in the Otterville park as part of the celebrations for South Norwich's 175th anniversary.

The square dance group will provide some toe-tapping music and dance in a contemporary square dance fashion.

Eva Rae and Madge Graydon will provide the crowd with laughter from a comical act the two plan to perform. The two will be

dressed up as cats while singing the ever popular "The Cat Song". Mrs. Rae will then perform an act relating back to the Gracey Fields era. Miss Fields was an English entertainer for the British troops during the war. Mrs. Rae will be dressed up as a pregnant

bride singing the song, "Waiting at the Church".

Some of the lone entertainers at the show will include Allen Lee of Otterville, singing three or four songs accompanied by his guitar. Scott, Allen's brother, might also be performing alongside him.

Lisa Lofthouse, a talented young singer from Tillsonburg, also plans to perform at the show. Lisa, who recently placed third in a singing contest in London, will be doing a total of six numbers, some of which she wrote herself. The accomplished singer

and pianist will be singing such songs as "Childhood Days", by Stevie Wonder and "I Am Not Ashamed", a song she wrote herself.

Admission to the show will be \$1 (12 years and under free) with fireworks following the conclusion of the program.

Ed White, organizer of the program, has spent numerous hours organizing the program and setting up entertainers for the show. "The program should have a good variety in it", said Mr. White. He expects the program will last approximately two hours.

Entertainment for the show will include such talented performers as Billy Stewart, playing the banjo, accompanied by Benny White on the bass guitar. The duo will be singing traditional and contemporary songs. Cathy Scheurman, Oxford County's dairy princess, will also be singing in the show. Miss Scheurman also plays the guitar and will be entertaining the crowd with some folk, modern-rock and classical music.

Sixteen girls from the Norwich and Otterville area, under the direction of Ella Scott, will perform a precision type dance routine to the music of "Forty-second Street". Following that performance, two girls from the 16-member dance group will do a song and dance routine to a number entitled, "Me and My Shadow".

The Scotland Village Squares will also be on hand to provide entertainment for the show.

## Gearing up

N.G.  
JUNE 16

Otterville is gearing up for what may be its biggest celebration ever.

Not only is this peaceful hamlet on the banks of the Otter Creek the location for the major Canada Week event in the township -- the Canada Day parade and celebrations on July 1 -- it is also the focus for the 175th anniversary celebrations commemorating the settlement of South Norwich Township.

Residents of the former South Norwich township have been busy for months preparing for these two big events that are expected to attract many former residents and others to the community for the four day celebration.

The July 1 parade marking Canada Day and South Norwich's 175th anniversary has as its theme "History in the Making" and is scheduled to get underway at 10:30 a.m. There's still time to enter for anyone interested in taking part.

Following the parade and lunch, the official opening of the celebrations will take place in the Otterville Park, after which the contestants for 175th anniversary queen will be judged and the winner crowned. A highlight of the crowning ceremony will be the presence of the sesquicentennial queen, Marianna (Hanson) Smith who will place the crown on the new queen's head.

Any young ladies now residing in the former South Norwich Township, between the ages of 16 and 21 as of June 30, 1982, are eligible to compete for the title. The winner will reign as queen over the an-

niversary celebrations.

Hungry parade goers will be able to satisfy their appetites in the afternoon at the Lions' chicken barbecue after which a full line-up of entertainment is offered in the form of an old-fashioned garden party in the park.

Canada's Birthday is closed out with a bang as a fireworks display brings that evening to a close.

Numerous other activities are planned for the remaining days of the celebration that will appeal to many people. The Optimists street dance Friday night shouldn't be missed as the bearded males of the township will be judged on the crop they have nurtured since the new year.

Earlier that evening, the township's finest -- its firemen -- will be demonstrating their skills in a pumper competition with four teams competing. It will begin around 6:30 p.m. in front of the Otterville firehall.

A slo-pitch tournament will also get underway in Springford Friday evening, continuing through Sunday.

Saturday is a day planned for children and the day gets off to a roaring start with the Optimists soap-box derby in the morning. After lunch there's a children's parade for bicycles and prizes going to the best decorated. That event is followed by some children's sporting events, after which a swim show will be staged later in the afternoon at the Lions Pool in Otterville. Those who have come back to reminisce about the good old school days will have an

opportunity Saturday afternoon at the Otterville public school where displays and photographs will be set up.

There will also be guided tours of several historic locations in the former South Norwich Township, including the Woodlawn Centre, the Treffry Mill and Innisfree.

A highlight of Saturday afternoon will be at 1:30 p.m. when some daredevil paddlers take to the mighty Otter for a canoe race. That race starts at Highway 59 (Milldale) and ends up at Otterville.

Early in the evening, a special treat for all will be a hot air balloon demonstration in the park, weather permitting. Following that, the Oldtimers step into the limelight for an Oldtimers ball game against the Otterville Otters. A get-together is planned following the game.

The final day of celebration gets underway Sunday morning with an interdenominational church service featuring a mass choir of singers from the area under the direction of Jean McClintock. After lunch, the unveiling of the plaque and cairn takes place at the Black Cemetery in Otterville. The school reunion also continues Sunday afternoon as do the guided tours of the area.

The celebrations draw to a close with the South Norwich Historical Society's chicken barbecue on the Treffry Mill meadow, followed by a band concert, performed by the Norwich Musical Society Band.

## Canada Week

Canada Week, a week-long festival in honor of our nation's birthday, is designed to rekindle our imaginations and stimulate a new sense of national pride and understanding across our country.

Here in Norwich Township, our own Canada Week celebrations are kicked off in Oxford Centre -- the scene of the first annual township Canada Day celebrations last year. That community this year is sponsoring an interdenominational church service and garden party on June 27.

The church service in Oxford Centre is scheduled to begin at 10:30 a.m. conducted jointly by the Oxford Centre United and Christ Churches. Following the service, lunch will be provided by the East Oxford - Oxford Centre

Optimists and youngsters will be entertained with games conducted by the churches' youth groups.

Other noon-hour entertainment will include a model airplane dog fight display, the fire department's dunk tank and a visit from two clowns. Musical interludes will also be interspersed throughout the lunch hour and visitors will be able to attend open houses at the two local churches.

The afternoon garden party gets underway at 2 p.m. running until 4:30 p.m. Headlining the program are the Paul Brothers and Shirley. Organizer of the garden party, Joe Hampson, said the Paul Brothers' half-hour show is a combination of music and comedy. He described it as "traditional garden party en-

tertainment". The focus of the program is on local entertainment including a Sunday School choir, a magician, folk singers, a washboard band, a chorus-kick line, a gospel singing group, a bluegrass group and a soloist.

The culminating event of

Canada Week in the township is the second annual Canada Day parade and accompanying celebrations held this year in Otterville on July 1. That event is also the kick-off event for the 175th anniversary celebration of South Norwich, which runs from July 1 through July 4.

BRANFORD  
EXPOSITOR

# Otterville to mark 175th anniversary

OTTERVILLE - Parades, fireworks, and a slow-pitch ball tournament are planned to help celebrate the 175th anniversary of the settlement of Otterville and former South Norwich Township from July 1 to 4.

Otterville has been given a festive look with a banner strung across Main Street and the creation of colorful floral displays to mark the event.

Canada Day festivities on July 1 will feature a parade down Main Street at 10:30 a.m. A beauty contest, barbecue and garden party featuring local talent are planned for the afternoon, says Catherine Mann, who is in charge of publicity for the celebrations.

A night-time fireworks display at Otterville Park is planned to cap off the day's activities, she says.

Some other events planned for the four-day long celebration are:

— On July 2, a slow-pitch ball tournament starts at 7 p.m. The games will be played over three days at Springford Park. There are 14 teams scheduled to play.

Judging of a beard-growin

contest will be held outside the Community Hall starting at 8:30 p.m. Razor permits will be sold to people who arrive clean shaven.

— On July 3, boys and girls, 6 to 15 years old, can drive their soap boxes in a derby at 10 a.m. on Main Street. Nearly 100 entrants are expected to compete for trophies.

Guided tours of Woodlawn Cottage, built in 1861, start at 1:30 p.m.

A reunion of Otterville Central School for all of South Norwich Township will start at 2:30 p.m.

— July 4, a plaque honoring the black settlement in the township will be unveiled at 2 p.m. at the British Methodist Cemetery on Church Street. Representatives from local government and the black community are expected to attend.

For advance tickets to events requiring admission contact: Lorne Treffry at 879 — 6932, Lorraine Downing at 879 — 6852 or Alice Turnbull at 842-2698.

Campers wanting information about camp sites in the area can contact Margaret Shearer at 879 — 6814.

B.E. JUNE 21

# Mounted Scouts plan ride

T.N. JUNE 18

By SUZANNE HANSON

On July 1, 1957, the First Springford Mounted Scouts rode in their first parade -- the South Norwich Sesquicentennial parade in Otterville.

It's been 25 years since that first parade but the Mounted Scouts plan to ride again for this year's Canada Day parade in Otterville which also marks the commencement of the 175th anniversary celebration of settlement in South Norwich.

The mounted scout troop was a popular item for parades in their heyday for they made up the only such troop in existence, before or since. The organization of the troop also marked the beginning of the Scouting movement in Springford.

The way the troop started was really quite unplanned. Al Rice, then a Springford resident, had a son Ken who was interested in joining Boy Scouts. A friend and neighbour Scotty Carroll was working with the Norwich Scout troop and soon Ken was travelling to join that group with Mr. Carroll in Norwich.

Each week he would set out on foot to Mr. Carroll's where he would catch a ride with him to Scouts. That was until his parents bought him a young colt and he took to riding down to the Carrolls'. A friend eventually joined him in going to Scouts and soon the two of them were riding off down the road on horses, all dressed up in their Scout uniforms. There were soon about five young lads who were riding off down the road together to go to Scouts. "It looked kind of cute seeing them riding along on their horses in their Scout uniforms,"

recalled Mr. Rice and with the growing number of boys from Springford going to Scouts the idea soon came to them about starting a troop right in Springford. Since the boys looked so cute on their horses in their Scout uniforms, he and Mr. Carroll decided to set up a mounted troop -- the first ever in Canada.

While it was the Mounted Scouts who captured the limelight, Mr. Rice said the boys were still expected to maintain the normal Scouting procedures. "This was just a sideline," said Mr. Rice. "The regular Scouting had to be up to par or the mounted work was over."

The publicity and attention focused on the unusual group of Boy Scouts soon made the group a popular item for parades and local fairs. They even captured Walt Disney's interest and Mr. Rice recalls a representative of Disney Studios from Toronto coming down at one time to make a 20-minute newsreel of the troop in action. It was called the Mickey Mouse News Reel and Mr. Rice said the group did have a copy of it at one time but he doesn't know what happened to it in the intervening years.

The group also captured world wide attention after publication of an article on them in the worldwide Scouting magazine and the mounted troop was soon a familiar sight with their stetson hats and short trousers, in many parades near and far.

At the time it was organized, the troop had about 22 members but at its peak it reached a high of 32. The manoeuvres the boys did on parade were similar to those done by the

Mounted Police, concentrating on the footwork of the horses. Some of the drill parades were even taken out of an old First World War drill book.

The troop was active from 1957 to about 1961 or 1962 when it started to decline. As the boys grew up they grew out of Scout age and the new boys coming in needed horses to take part. As that was not always possible, the group began to dwindle in experienced riders and horses, and it soon faded out. The boys started to tire of the parade circuit and they got very little enjoyment out of the events they took part in. Then when they hit the age of 16 they were old enough to drive cars and "the horses were done", said Mr. Rice.

Now, 25 years after those first Mounted Scouts rode in their first parade, they are mounting up again for the Canada Day -- 175th anniversary parade in Otterville July 1.

Mr. Rice has contacted as many of the original members as he could and he's guessing he might have about 20 of those with six to eight horses ready to ride again. He's encouraging the now grown men to try to find as much of their original uniform as possible for the parade. He's also keeping his fingers crossed that everything goes smoothly.

"The horses coming for this have never seen each other before," said Mr. Rice, so they are planning to meet early before the parade for a dry run to ensure things go smoothly. He's also trying to get as many other Scout troops together for the parade as he can to highlight Springford's 25 years of Scouting.

KEN MANN  
OTTERVILLE  
FARMALL A.V  
TRACTOR

NORWICH  
HISTORICAL  
SHOW

12TH ANNUAL  
JUNE 4,5,6

1982

EXHIBITOR

## Student essay : It's number 175

By DAVID COPE

Gr. 7 Otterville Public School

Otterville, a village in Norwich Township, has quite a history behind it that goes back to around 1807.

As a village today, it has many interesting sites and memorial structures.

The Lions' Club park here is adjoined to the streets by a bridge which can withstand a weight of three tons. The first bridge built, a footbridge, was built due to 1,000 shares of stock by Robert Paxton. He sold this for \$1,000 and used this money to clear one acre of land and build the bridge. About 1920 the footbridge was replaced by a larger one which was in turn replaced by the now present steel bridge.

There are many memorial structures in Otterville. Three of them are three memorial structures in the park. These are the Memorial Cannon placed in 1907,

and the memorial to the men in the World War I built in 1932. Going back to the cannon, made about 1807, like Otterville it too is 175 years old. It was placed in 1907 by the Federal Government.

The earlier history of Otterville shows many more businesses. Scattered between the 1800's and now there has been Lossing mills, a manufacturing company, a train station, grocery and hardware stores, an insurance company, and other small businesses and a grist mill (became a historical site in 1981).

The grist mill, built in 1845 by Edward Bullock plays an important part in South Norwich Township. The mill was last operated by Lorne Treffry. The mill was powered by the Otter Creek and its dam.

For 175 years Otterville has been Otterville and has changed. This summer it will be its birthday again. But it's special this time. It's number 175.

# Soapbox champ enters Otterville derby

By ROBERT ABBOTT

Soapbox champion, Scott McKay of Woodstock, will be racing in the upcoming soapbox derby in Otterville, July 3, as part of the South Norwich 175th anniversary celebrations.

Renegade, the fastest soapbox derby vehicle in Woodstock, will be one of many derby vehicles from across the county expected to participate in the event. Renegade is the pride and joy of 12 year old Scott and his father, John McKay.

Scott will be racing in the class "A" division, which is open to boys from 11 to 15. He said he is looking forward to the Otterville race, as competition should be tough, providing him with a real challenge. Several of Scott's friends from Woodstock will also be racing in the Otterville derby.

Brian Walker of Otterville with his soapbox named "Chuck Wagon" hopes to provide Scott with some tough competition. Brian is looking forward to the race and is confident he will do well. His soapbox, built by Brian and his father, Harold, has been carefully prepared so it may attain the fastest possible speed during the race.

Main Street in Otterville will provide the route for the soapboxers' race. A hill, covering a distance of approximately two-tenths of a kilometre begins at the Royal Bank and ends at the Otterville bridge.

There will be two major classes for both boys and girls. Boys aged 11 and 15 will race in the class "A" division, while boys aged 6 to 10 will race in the class "B" division. The same class divisions are used for the girls' races also.

Winners will be determined by the process of elimination, with trophies being awarded for first, second, and third place finishers in each division of the boys and the girls.

Before any soapboxers are allowed to race they must make sure their soapbox machines comply with safety regulations set for the race. All soapbox racers must have brakes and all riders must have helmets.

A total of 32 entries have been received so far. If anyone is interested in racing their soapbox in the Otterville derby please contact Dale Cheney of Otterville for entry forms.

## South Norwich history to be published soon

BY JUANITA DEROO

A birth is imminent! The South Norwich Historical Society is eagerly awaiting the arrival of its publication of the history of South Norwich Township.

Research has been conducted over the past several years by both members of the Society and their assistants hired through the "Experience" and "Canada Community Development" grants. An imposing array of file cards containing research notes and references has been generated by this extensive research program which will be made available to the public at the Norwich archives for general use and reference, compliments of the Society.

Articles and chapters for

the book have been written from the research notes and information by a "book committee" appointed from the general membership of the South Norwich Historical Society.

To date, most of the book has been written and typed; photos have been chosen and maps and sketches prepared. The material is expected to be in the hands of the publisher by the first week in July, and the proposed date for the "birth" of the book is early September, 1982.

The publication will be the first concise and extensive presentation of the history of South Norwich Township. Chapters will offer a variety of reading, including early settlement,

lumbering, local government, agriculture, the 1837 Rebellion, railroads, temperance, schools and each of the settlements and communities within the boundaries of South Norwich will be highlighted. A most interesting and surprising chapter regarding the black community which once flourished within the Township is also included.

The array of photos, maps and sketches has been designed to please the non-reader as well as the avid "bookworm", and includes many views of township life never before published.

The book will be a hefty 325 pages, more or less, and will be printed in hard cover as well as soft cover.

Wednesday, June 23, 1982 THE TILSONBURG NEWS Page 11

# Parade kicks off celebrations

A 91-member marching bugle band from Kitchener will be one of the many highlights of the July 1 parade in Otterville this year.

The parade, which marks the Norwich Township Canada Day celebrations, also kicks off the 175th anniversary celebrations of South Norwich settlement which run July 1-4 in Otterville.

Parade entries from throughout the township have been received but there is still room for more floats in the parade which promises to be one of the biggest events Otterville has ever seen.

The theme for the parade is "History in the Making" and the parade itself will be making history as it marks the 115th birthday of Canada and the 175th birthday of South Norwich Township.

The parade is scheduled to get underway at 10:30 a.m., leaving from the township yard and moving down Main Street to the Otterville Public School. Following the parade and lunch, the official opening of the celebrations will be held in the Otterville park with various visiting dignitaries taking part. Following the opening the

various contestants for the 175th anniversary queen will be judged and the winner crowned.

At the cut-off date on Friday, five young ladies from South Norwich Township had entered the competition for the crown and the chance to reign over the four-day anniversary celebrations. The former sesquicentennial queen of 25 years ago, Marianna (Hanson) Smith will also be in attendance to place the crown on the new queen's head. She will take part in the official opening of the newly-renovated park pool bathhouse.

Those who have worked up an appetite during the day's activities can satisfy their hunger at the Lion's chicken barbecue, from 4:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. in the Otterville park, after which they can be entertained at a good, old-fashioned garden party with a variety of top-notch local entertainment.

Canada's Birthday is closed out with a bang as a fireworks display brings the evening to a close.

Friday features free swimming at the Otterville pool and a pumper demonstration by the township firemen, commencing at 6:30 p.m. in

front of the Otterville firehall. Then there's dancing in the streets with the Optimists' street dance, scheduled to get underway at 8 p.m. behind the township offices. During the evening the contestants in the beard growing contest will have their unshaven mugs judged.

Saturday features a variety of activities for the youngsters starting with the Optimists soap box derby on Main Street at 10 a.m. Following lunch, the children can take part in a children's parade with prizes for best decorated bicycles, tricycles, wagons and whatever else moves on wheels. A variety of sporting events will then get underway in the park for the youngsters at 2:30 p.m.

While the children play, their parents can get together and reminisce about the good old school days at the school reunion at Otterville Public School. There will be displays of old photographs and memorabilia and a chance to get reacquainted with old friends.

Tours will also be offered throughout both afternoons - Saturday and Sunday - of Woodlawn, the Treffry Mill and Innisfree Farm. A

swim show will also be staged in the Otterville park pool at 4 p.m. Saturday, followed by a hot air balloon demonstration and launching in the park at 6 p.m., weather permitting.

Saturday is closed out with the Oldtimer's baseball game against the Otterville Otters with a wiener roast following in the park.

Everyone can gather together in the park Sunday morning for an interdenominational church service featuring a mass choir from the area. After lunch the slo pitch tournament continues in Springford and at 2 p.m. the unveiling of the plaque and cairn in the African Methodist Episcopal Cemetery in Otterville takes place.

A full four days is brought to a close Sunday evening with the South Norwich Historical Society's chicken barbecue to be held on the Treffry Mill meadow from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m., followed by a concert in the park featuring the Norwich Musical Society Band.

For further information on events or tickets to barbecues, contact the township office in Otterville.

# Misconception surrounds Blacks

T.N.  
June 30

There is a popular misconception that the early Blacks in South Norwich came as runaway slaves on the underground railroad. While that may be true of later arrivals, the early Black settlers in the area appear to have been free Blacks.

Blacks were first brought to Canada as slaves by the British when they raided the French colony in the early 1600's, at the same time as they were being imported by the boatload to the colonies along the Atlantic seaboard.

However, by the 1770's, the British were finally changing their attitude and began to denounce slavery. During the American Revolution, freedom was offered to all who fought for Britain. Consequently in the 1783 exodus to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, 500 Blacks, many of them part of a regiment known as the Black Pioneers, were among those to receive land grants.

Later the same promise was issued for participants in the War of 1812 and again, besides the Blacks who served in other regiments on the side of Britain, there was a regiment known as "Captain Runchy's Company of Coloured Men."

Early in the 1800's, the "Road to Freedom" by following the North Star to Canada became heavily travelled and the movement became known as the "Underground Railroad." Blacks were aided en route especially by the Quakers. But many from the southern states were fearful of the cold climate in Canada, a point that was emphasized by the slave owners to scare slaves out of making a decision to escape in this direction. Consequently, many who escaped found interim freedom in the northern states.

In 1829, the increasing

number of Blacks in Cincinnati caused fear on the part of the white population and earlier laws against the Blacks were again enforced. These laws required Blacks to hold a certificate of freedom from a United States court and a \$500 bond in order to settle in that city. This resulted in a movement north again.

Arrangements were made to form a colonization society, aided by American Quakers and land was purchased two miles north of London for the establishment of a settlement.

This settlement, which became known as the Wilberforce settlement, had as its land agent, Frederick Stover, a Quaker from Norwich Township. The township at that time was not divided into north and south.

It was Mr. Stover who was the likely link between the Blacks who settled in this area. He no doubt knew many Blacks from his work in settling them and through him many no doubt became aware of this area in south Norwich Township. That is how they came to settle there instead of going to the Wilberforce settlement. Of an expected 2,700 Black people, only 450 actually arrived at the settlement north of London, the rest dropping off in a variety of locations along the way.

The three earliest families were the Wayners, Joiners and Jones who appear to have been free Blacks from northern New York state. The Wayners and Jones immediately purchased 150 acres of land to start farming and set up a sawmill. It is assumed the Joiners did the same but there are no records of the purchase.

About the same time as these people settled on the Seventh Concession, several other families settled in the Summerville-Hawtrey area about 1829. The date of 1829 for the

establishment of the settlement, given by local historian Mrs. Charlie Snell, coincides with the establishment of the Wilberforce settlement and the break out of the Cincinnati riots.

In 1831 a school was established with the assistance of Quakers in the U.S. known as the American Missionary Association with assistance from the Canada Mission. Education was a much-sought after item by the Blacks as it had been denied them in the United States.

Statistics in 1853 list 26 Black families and 90 Black children of school age in the township. Most of these attended the school on the Seventh Concession but some most likely attended Summerville School. That northern school became known as S.S. No. 18 and was comparable to the rest of the schools in the township.

With the split of the township into north and south in the 1850's, and the rearrangement of the schools, S.S. No. 18 disappeared. At the same time more families were moving toward Otterville for employment.

Land was purchased in 1856 for a church on the outskirts of Otterville but it was not built until 1861. The congregation was established in 1852, taking as its name the African Methodist Episcopal Church. That name was later changed by the congregation to British Methodist Episcopal Church to show their support for the British.

The church, known to be a white-frame structure, was said to be free of debt by 1864 and services and large camp meetings (often referred to as bush meetings) were held at the church until the early 1900's.

Blacks attended those camp meetings from a radius of 50 miles as well as

large numbers of the white population. There were probably from 100 to 250 Blacks in the area until the 1880's. With the abolition of slavery in the United States, some returned there and others moved on from the area with the decline in the lumbering industry to look for work in other cities.

About half a dozen families still remained in the 1900's however, many of whom are still fondly remembered by the older

members of the present South Norwich community. Several are remembered especially for their outstanding musical ability including the Williams family and Ida Gray who sang in many area churches.

Descendents of those early Black settlers in the area have been invited to take part in the official unveiling of a plaque at the African Methodist Episcopal Cemetery in Otterville the afternoon of July 4 to pay tribute to the

early Black settlement in what later became South Norwich Township. It is hoped as many of the descendents as possible can be in attendance as well as a representative from the Ontario Black History Society and the British Methodist Episcopal Church.

An extensive chapter on the Black settlement in South Norwich will be included in the South Norwich history book to be published later this year.



## Finishing touches

Rick Rusnak of "Brick" Rusnak was busy last week putting the finishing touches on this cairn he erected for the South Norwich Historical Society to hold a plaque commemorating the Black Settlement in South Norwich. The plaque, erected on the site of the African Methodist Episcopal Cemetery in Otterville, will be officially unveiled during the 175th anniversary of South Norwich settlement on Sunday, July 4. (NG Photo).

## Barbecue at Treffry mill Sunday

# Mills played big part in history

By SUZANNE HANSON

To the first settlers of the area, rivers and streams meant adequate water supplies for livestock, crops and homes. But to the miller, the flowing water meant a source of power, income and the ability to turn raw goods into a finished product.

At one time there were many mills in the area and around those mills were the homes of the owners and millhands. Soon whole towns and villages sprang into being to service the commercial needs of those thriving communities.

Mills came in all shapes and sizes, being built of wood, brick or stone, depending on the materials at hand and the mills produced all manner of goods, depending on the needs in the immediate area.

The first mills constructed in an area were usually sawmills, for the vast stands of forest provided a limitless source of lumber with which to transform the lowly log cabin into a substantial frame home.

As the timber lands were cleared, mill sites were often converted for the

grinding of grain as supplied from the burgeoning farm lands. Many of the better mill sites were later adapted for the production of woolen goods.

But no matter what the design or purpose of construction, all mills had one common denominator - they used the basic principle that the energy in falling water could be harnessed and used to power the wheels of industry.

Like many other river communities, Otterville, first known as Otter Creek Mills, grew up around mill. But the settlement was also unique to this area as it was settled by waterway instead of by highway. Its settlers came up the Otter River looking for the mill sites they found in the Otterville area. For that reason, the mill portrays an unique aspect of the area's history as the north end of Norwich Township and county were settled, as many other areas were, by settlers who came by waterways or across country.

In 1807 the first known settlers in Otterville, John Earl and Paul Avery established a grist and saw mill there. These two mills

were located on the south side of Main Street, near the present Treffry mill.

The second mills in Otterville were built in 1808 by Cook and Calloway who purchased land on the north side of Main Street. In 1815, those mills were sold to Hugh Webster who sold them again in 1819 to the Cromwells. In its early days Otterville was also known as Cromwell Mills.

These same mills were sold again in 1845 to Edward Bullock who maintained the saw mill but changed the old grist mill to a custom woollen mill on the west side of the river. On the east side, he built the present Treffry grist mill now owned by Norwich Township. That mill was built to replace a previous mill which stood north of the road on the east side of the Otter Creek. The original mill, built in 1807 was destroyed by flood or fire.

The new mill brought the number of mills owned by Bullock to three. He had purchased the Cromwell grist and saw mills the same year as he built the new mill.

In 1877 the mills were sold to E.M. Schooley. The Treffry mill, after Schooley's brief ownership, passed into the hands of Solomon Lossing in 1880. The mill was run by three generations of Lossings, including Solomon, LeRoy and Reginald.

The father of the last owner, Lorne Treffry, took over the mill in the 1940's restoring the mill's operation. It took Ernest Treffry several months to restore the machinery that had been idle for four to five years. From 1952 to 1981 his son Lorne Treffry was the owner of the last

remaining Otterville mill. He operated the mill until April 1980 at which time he ceased operations and retired.

While he has retired, the mill is still operable and commercially viable. The South Norwich Historical Society has plans for its restoration as a museum and historic site.

On June 29, 1980, a plaque erected at the mill site by the historical society commemorating 135 years of the present mill's history was unveiled. The mill was then offered for sale and subsequently purchased by Norwich Township which wished to preserve the historic nature of the structure. The historical society is in charge of maintaining the structure.

In the 1850's such mills were the economic and to a lesser extent the social nuclei of this region. Today, the mill is still a focal point of the community. It is one of the oldest, continuously-operated, water-powered mills still in existence in the province.

The village of Otterville exists because of the choice of the junction of Sweets Creek and the Otter River

for mill sites, because of the available energy and the foresight of their owners from Earl and Avery in 1807, through to the Treffrys.

The age of the mill is perhaps over, but the mill site and its dam still exists as a picturesque reminder of the important role it has played in our heritage. Visitors to South Norwich and Otterville for the 175th anniversary celebration of South Norwich settlement July 1-4 will be able to take a trip back in time when they tour the old structure on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, July 3 and 4.

The South Norwich Historical Society will also be holding a chicken barbecue Sunday afternoon from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., July 4 on the mill meadow to help raise funds for the mill restoration project. All are welcome to attend and reminisce the past as the river meanders by.

## Canoe race Saturday

By ROBERT ABBOTT

If you have a canoe and are not afraid of getting somewhat wet, Otter creek on Saturday, July 3 is the place for you. A canoe race will be held there as part of the celebrations for South Norwich's 175th Anniversary, July 1-4.

The race will get underway at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 3 on the banks of the Otter Creek at Milldale. The race will cover a distance of four miles and paddlers will have several portages to make along the route.

The race, which is expected to take one hour to complete, will end at the park footbridge in Otterville. Check points will be set up along the route to discourage canoers from taking possible short cuts.

Lee Richardson and Ted Church of Otterville are organizing the race and would like to see all canoers wear life jackets. Mr. Richardson said how winners are determined would depend on the number of entries they

receive. If a large number of people enter the race, winners will be determined by the time in which they complete the course. If entries are few, winners will be determined by order of finish.

There will be two different age groups involved in the race. Ages 12 to 15 race first then contestants 16 and older will race. Four trophies are expected to be given out to first and second place finishers from each division.

Mr. Richardson believes it will be a fun day for everyone and is expecting a large number of entries. Canoers are asked to dress in the fashion of the days of Davey Crockett.

"If this year's races goes well, plans will be made to have the race every year," said Mr. Richardson. If any canoers are interested in competing in this year's race, they are asked to contact either Mr. Richardson or Mr. Church.

T.N. JUN 30

# Full weekend of festivities for South Norwich 175th

By SUZANNE HANSON

The Canada Day parade in Otterville just keeps on growing as parade entries continue to come in.

At last count, more than 60 entries had been received for the parade which marks the Norwich Township Canada Day celebrations as well as the start of the 175th anniversary celebrations of South Norwich settlement.

One of the parade organizers, Gord Shearer, said they could end up with as many as 75 to 80 floats in the parade making it the largest ever for the village.

One of the many highlights of the parade will be a 91-member marching bugle band from Kitchener - the Kiwanis Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps. As well as par-

ticipating in numerous parades and competitions in Canada and the United States, the Cavaliers are particularly proud to have been the only Canadian Drum Corps to have entertained at Walt Disney World, Florida, for the 1976 U.S. Bicentennial celebrations. The band, which is in constant demand, is made up of boys and girls between the ages of eight and 18 from the Kitchener and Toronto areas.

An 18-member band from the Varnavair Royal Canadian Air Cadets, Squadron 153, Tillsonburg, will also be on parade in Otterville Thursday. In addition to the band, will be a group of cadets on the march with a variety of vehicles and uniforms from the Second World War, in

keeping with the historical theme of the parade.

At least half the cadet squadron of 20 to 30 cadets will be taking part in the parade which gets underway on Otterville's Main Street at 10:30 a.m. The parade forms up and leaves from the township yard, moving down Main Street to the Otterville Public School.

Following the parade and lunch, the official opening of the celebrations takes place in the Otterville park with various visiting dignitaries taking part. Following the opening, the contestants for the 175th anniversary queen will be judged and the winner crowned.

Six young ladies from the former South Norwich Township have entered the

competition for the crown and the chance to reign over the four-day anniversary celebrations, July 1-4. The former sesquicentennial queen of 25 years ago, Marianna (Hanson) Smith will also be in attendance to place the crown on the new queen's head. The new queen will then take part in the official opening of the newly-renovated pool bathhouse in the park.

Those who have worked up an appetite during the day's activities can satisfy their hunger at the Lion's chicken barbecue from 4:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. in the Otterville park, after which they can be entertained at a good, old-fashioned garden party with a variety of top-notch local entertainment.

Canada's Birthday is closed out with a bang as a fireworks display brings the evening to a close.

Friday features free swimming at the Otterville pool and a pumper demonstration by the township firemen, commencing at 6:30 p.m. in front of the Otterville firehall. Then there's dancing in the streets with the Optimists' street dance, scheduled to get underway at 8 p.m. behind the township offices. During the evening the contestants in the beard growing contest will have their unshaven mugs judged.

Saturday features a variety of activities for the youngsters starting with the Optimists soap box derby on Main Street at 10 a.m. Following lunch, the children can take part in a children's parade with prizes for best decorated bicycles, tricycles, wagons and whatever else moves on wheels. A variety of sporting events will then get underway in the park for the youngsters at 2:30 p.m.

While the children play, their parents can get together and reminisce about the good old school days at the school reunion at Otterville Public School. There will be displays of old photographs and memorabilia and a chance to get reacquainted with old friends.

Tours will also be offered throughout both afternoons - Saturday and Sunday - of Woodlawn, the Treffry Mill and Innisfree Farm. A swim show will also be staged in the Otterville park pool at 4 p.m. Saturday, followed by a hot air balloon demonstration and launching in the park at 6 p.m., weather permitting.

Saturday is closed out with the Old-timer's baseball game against the Otterville Otters with a wiener roast following in the park.

Everyone can gather together in the park Sunday morning for an interdenominational church service featuring a mass choir from the area. After lunch the slo pitch tournament continues in Springford and at 2 p.m. the unveiling of the plaque and cairn in the African Methodist Episcopal Cemetery in Otterville takes place.

Taking part in the official ceremony will be Ray Lewis from Stoney Creek, a former Olympic runner. Mr. Lewis is descended from Isaac Gray, one of the trustees of the church when land was purchased for its construction. His father was a first cousin to Ida Gray, another well-known member of the Otterville Black community.

## Township school reunion

By ROBERT ABBOTT

Have you ever wondered whether you would ever see your old classmates, teachers or students from years ago when you attended public school? That chance is possible for former South Norwich Township residents at the 175th anniversary celebrations of South Norwich settlement July 1 through 4.

Boyd Little of Otterville, and a committee working with him, started planning the reunion in February. The committee has been working hard, sending out invitations to as many old acquaintances that could be thought of that once attended the area public school's years ago. Mr. Little said the whole township has got involved collecting old class pictures and reading material, so it will be on hand to help bring back those memories of public school years ago.

The reunion, which will take place at Otterville Public School, has had inquiries from all over Canada and parts of United States. It will involve all South Norwich public schools, existent and non-existent. Some of the schools are now used as private residences or for other purposes, but most have stood idle and abandoned over the years.

The S.S. No. 1 saw three

schools on Lot 1, Concession 8 of South Norwich. The last school remains but it has been remodelled into a private residence. Pupils attended S.S. No. 2 located at Milldale up until 1947. That school has also become a private residence. The S.S. No. 5 at Miller's Corners had three schools. The final school, being of red brick built in 1908, closed in 1947. The area Amish children now attend this school.

The S.S. No. 8 at Summerville was vacant in 1834 but had 53 pupils in 1851. S.S. No. 9 at Cornell saw its log school house replaced in 1865 with a frame building at Lot 17, Concession 9. New Road saw its first school in 1859. The white frame school was erected on Lot 25, Concession 10. The Rosanna school closed its doors in 1947 and was later torn down. The Hawtreys school was built in 1911 and is a private residence today.

Two of the last remaining schools were Springford and Otterville. Springford closed its doors for the last time, in June of last year. The Otterville Public School was built in 1927 and remained as a Public or Continuation School until 1947 when the "High School" students were then bused to Norwich, Delhi and Tillsonburg.

Mr. Little became the Otterville Public School principal in 1947. He first started teaching in 1941 at a school called Holiday in East Nissouri Township, seven miles North-West of Ingersoll. Mr. Little recalls being paid just \$750 a year when he first started

teaching.

Mr. Little was principal of Otterville Public School for 31 years. He holds close, many fond memories of his years teaching and hopes to see some former pupils and teachers at the school reunion during the 175th anniversary celebrations.

A full four days is brought to a close Sunday evening with the South Norwich Historical Society's chicken barbecue to be held on the Treffry Mill meadow from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m., followed by a concert in the park featuring the Norwich Musical Society Band.

For further information on events or tickets to barbecues, contact the township office in Otterville.

# Garden party feature of Otterville festivities

BY ROBERT ABBOTT

Music will fill the air Thursday, July 1, as local musicians, dancers and singers perform in an old-fashioned Garden Party in the Otterville park as part of the celebrations for South Norwich's 175th anniversary.

Ed White, organizer of the program, has spent numerous hours organizing the program and setting up entertainers for the show. "The program should have a good variety in it", said Mr. White. He expects the program will last approximately two hours.

Entertainment for the show will include such talented performers as Billy Stewart, playing the banjo, accompanied by Benny White on the bass guitar. The duo will be singing traditional and contemporary songs. Cathy Scheurman, Oxford County's dairy princess, will also be singing in the show. Miss Scheurman also plays the guitar and will be entertaining the crowd with some folk, modern-rock and classical music.

Sixteen girls from the Norwich and Otterville area, under the direction of Ella Scott, will perform a

precision type dance routine to the music of "Forty-second Street". Following that performance, two girls from the 16-member dance group will do a song and dance routine to a number entitled, "Me and My Shadow".

The Scotland Village Squares will also be on

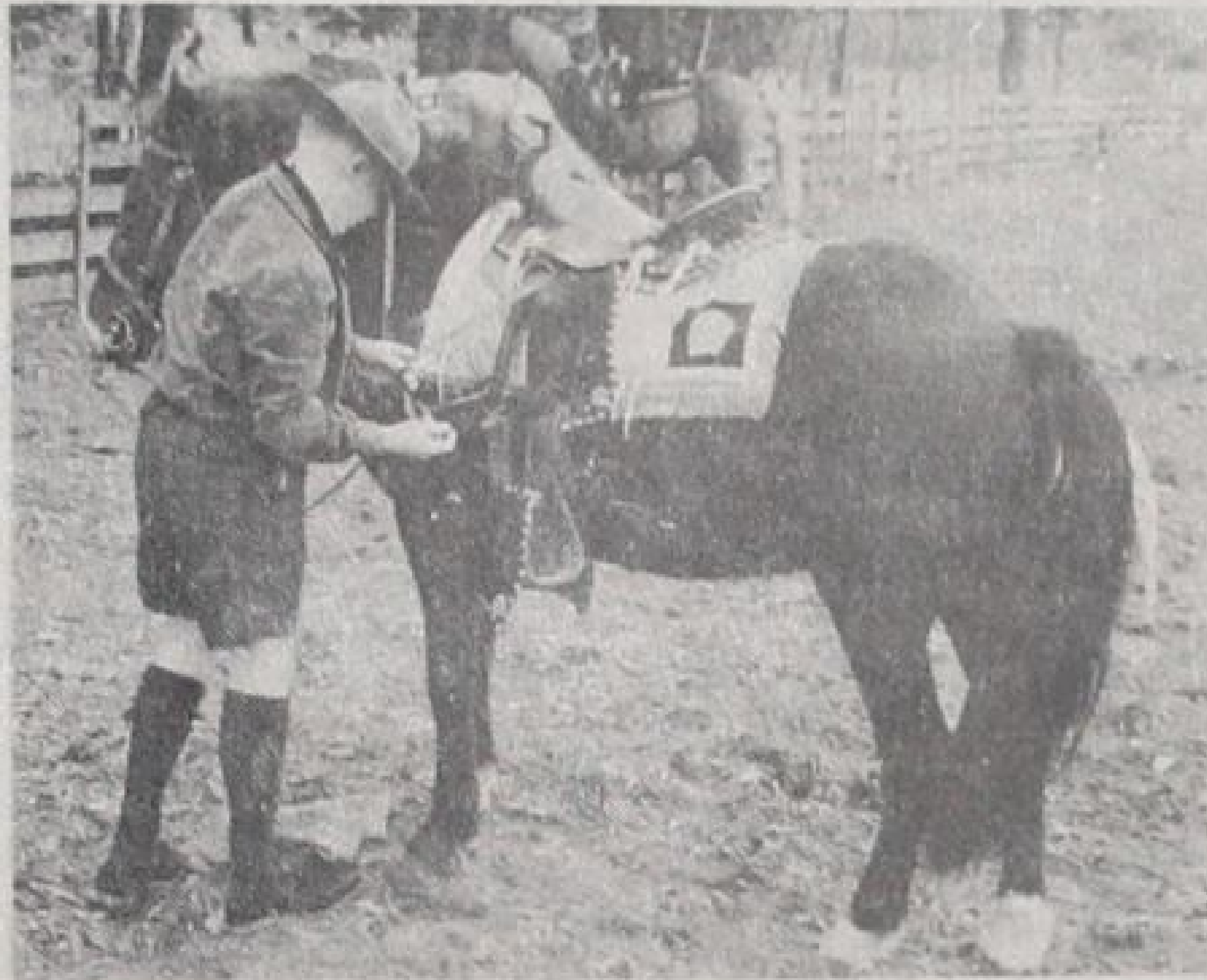
hand to provide entertainment for the show. The square dance group will provide some toe-tapping music and dance in a contemporary square dance fashion.

Eva Rae and Madge Graydon will provide the crowd with laughter from a comical act the two plan to perform. The two will be

dressed up as cats while singing the ever popular "The Cat Song". Mrs. Rae will then perform an act relating back to the Gracey Fields era. Miss Fields was an English entertainer for the British troops during the war. Mrs. Rae will be dressed up as a pregnant bride singing the song, "Waiting at the Church".

Some of the lone entertainers at the show will include Allen Lee of Otterville, singing three or four songs accompanied by his guitar. Scott, Allen's brother, might also be performing alongside him. Lisa Lofthouse, a talented young singer from Tillsonburg, also plans to perform at the show. Lisa, who recently placed third in a singing contest in London, will be doing a total of six numbers, some of which she wrote herself. The accomplished singer and pianist will be singing such songs as "Childhood Days", by Stevie Wonder and "I Am Not Ashamed", a song she wrote herself.

Admission to the show will be \$1 (12 years and under free) with fireworks following the conclusion of the program.



## Ready to ride

Ron Kittle was one of about 32 Mounted Boy Scouts who took part in the Boy Scout movement in Springford 25 years ago. Now grown men, many of the former Scouts will return to Otterville for the July 1 parade and celebrations.

LONDON FREE PRESS  
July 2

# Canada's just a pup in old South Norwich

By Eric Reguly  
Woodstock Bureau

OTTERVILLE — Norwich Township had Canada beat by 60 years Thursday.

Dominion Day here was celebrated along with the 175th anniversary of the South Norwich settlement, one of the first in Ontario.

"I haven't heard of too many communities celebrating 175 years," said local history expert Catherine Mann.

A parade kicked off both the town-

ship's and the country's anniversaries. The 70 parade entrants took more than one hour to snake through town, passing spectators who took time out from sunbathing to wave small Canadian flags.

Leading the parade was one of the township's most venerated residents. Harold Batson, an 86-year-old doctor and honorary parade marshal, waved from his perch on the trunk of a convertible car wearing the same outfit he wore 60 years ago when he graduated in Toronto with a medical degree.

Batson, who has been practising here since 1925, hasn't given up medicine yet. "I've retired a couple of times," he said. He still has two patients — both older than he is.

Parade judge Helen Dickson said the parade was "bigger and better" than last year's. In 1981, Oxford Centre played host to the township's first Dominion Day celebrations.

The parade appeared to double as an antique show. Antique cars, tractors and trucks filed past, some pulling antique trailers carrying antique furniture to complete pioneer village scenes.

Norwich was originally settled in 1807 by John Earl and Paul Avery who built a sawmill at Otter Creek. In 1855, the township was divided and North and South Norwich existed until the mid-1970s when Oxford County was restructured.

Mann said until the 1900s the township's economy depended on its rich white pine forest. When the trees were depleted, the township turned to tobacco growing.

The township is known for its sense of history and community spirit, she said. This fall, a 300-page book on the history of the township is being published. The South Norwich Historical Society has been working with the community for several years to compile information, artwork and photos for the project.

Parade winners, in four categories, were: families, Nellie Robinson of Norwich; commercial and business, Scott Big V Drugstore, Norwich; schools, Oxford County Museum; organizations and over-all winner, Summerville Women's Institute.

Jo-Anne Thompson, 20, of Otterville, was crowned Miss South Norwich 1982 at the opening ceremonies. The township anniversary celebrations end Sunday.



Michael Szabl, 3, and sister Lisa, 12, of London relax in an antique Otterville fire department truck following a parade in the village Thursday. It was

By Rick Eglinton of The Free Press  
the first of four days of celebrations to mark the 175th anniversary of settlement in the former South Norwich Township.



# Kick off celebrations

By DAVE STOVER

A weekend of celebration got underway Thursday in Otterville — and, for a change, even the weather was co-operative.

The sun shone down from a cloudless sky and hundreds lined the town's main street as a parade kicked off festivities, marking both Canada Day and the 175th anniversary of settlement in South Norwich township.

Dr. H.H. Batson, who has practised medicine in Otterville for more than 50 years, was honorary marshal of Thursday morning's parade. Also present to lead off the procession were Oxford M.P. Dr. Bruce Halliday, Oxford M.P.P. Dick Treleaven, county warden Ross Livingston, and Norwich township mayor Carmen Sweazey.

Following them were more than 65 entries, including a varied and colourful array of floats as well as a marching band from Kitchener, fire trucks, vintage automobiles dating as far back as 1917, and clowns riding bicycles and motorcycles. The parade took nearly an hour to pass any given point.

Theme of the parade was "history in the making", and a number of the floats entered reflected just such an historic theme. The entry from the Oxford County museum school in Burgessville was a recreation of a turn-of-the-century classroom, with teacher Marie Avey and her students dressed in the clothing of the time. St. John's Anglican Church of Ot-

terville entered a float with the theme "that old time religion", with a minister (actually Sunday school superintendent Carl Howse) and his congregation in old-fashioned costume.

A large number of antique and vintage automobiles were entered in the parade, some dating from the 1920s and '30s, as well as some lovingly-restored models

(Continued on Page 4)



## Queen for Canada Day

Jo-Anne Thompson was chosen as Miss South Norwich at Otterville's Canada Day celebrations Thursday afternoon. She was crowned by Marianna Hanson Smith, the queen of Otterville's sesquicentennial celebrations in 1957. (TN Photo).

(Continued from Page 1)

from the 1950s and early '60s. Bringing up the rear of the parade was "Donzo the clown", alias Don Miller.

The parade began at the township works yard at the east end of Otterville, and proceeded to Otterville Public School at the west end. Later, Don Pettigrew was to say that "we don't have many traffic jams in Otterville, but this morning (after the parade) there was one we can all be proud of."

After the parade, the focus of attention moved to Otterville Memorial Park, where the program of activities got underway at 2 p.m. Canada Day chairman Don Pettigrew, mayor Carmen Sweazey, warden Ross Livingston, and M.P.P. Dick Treleaven all gave brief speeches and paid tribute to the efforts of the organizing committee, especially Dr. Murray Downing. Then it was on to the important business, the final judging of the beauty contest, with six young ladies from the township — Brenda Barnim, Robin Davis, Jane Furlong, Heather Hanson, Judy Sandham and Jo-Anne Thompson — vying for the Miss South Norwich title.

Ken Peers was the able master of ceremonies, as each contestant gave a short impromptu talk on a question she selected from a top-hat. And then the judges began their final deliberations.

The winner was at last announced by Mr. Peers, and it was Jo-Anne Thompson. Miss Thompson said "part of the contest was judged on poise, and I think I've just lost mine," as she accepted the crown. Second runner-up was Robin Davis, and first runner-up was Judy Sandham.

Mr. Sweazey also announced winners from the morning's parade at the conclusion of the afternoon program. Sum-

merville W.I.'s float of scenes from times past and members in period costume was first in the organizations category, with the entry from St. John's Anglican Church placing second. Nellie Robinson, dressed in a colorful clown outfit and riding her flag-adorned bicycle along the parade route, was first in the family class, followed by the horse and buggy owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ken Mann. In the commercial category, the winner was Scott's Big V, followed by Harrison's Service Centre. And in the schools category, the entry from Oxford County museum school placed first and the float from Otterville Public School was second.

Judges Jean Stewart, Mae Leonard, Helen Dickson and Rev. Fearon of Norwich United Church decided the best overall entry was that of the Summerville W.I.

Later, in the park, Mr. Treleaven and the newly-crowned Queen Jo-Anne Thompson presided over the opening of the town's new bath-house and change-rooms beside the municipal swimming pool.

The Otterville Lions Club held a chicken barbecue in the park from 4:30 to 7:30, after having spent the afternoon tending (quite literally) more than a hundred feet of slowly-roasting chicken. The night was ended with a garden party in the park, featuring local entertainment and variety acts.

Celebrations continue all weekend in Otterville. Tonight (Friday) there is a street dance behind the municipal offices, where winners of the beard-growing competition will be announced, and a fire truck-pumper display and competition at the firehall at 6:30. Saturday and Sunday afternoons a reunion of all those who attended school in the township is slated from 2 to 4:30 at Otterville Public School.

## SHARE FEELINGS

To the Editor:

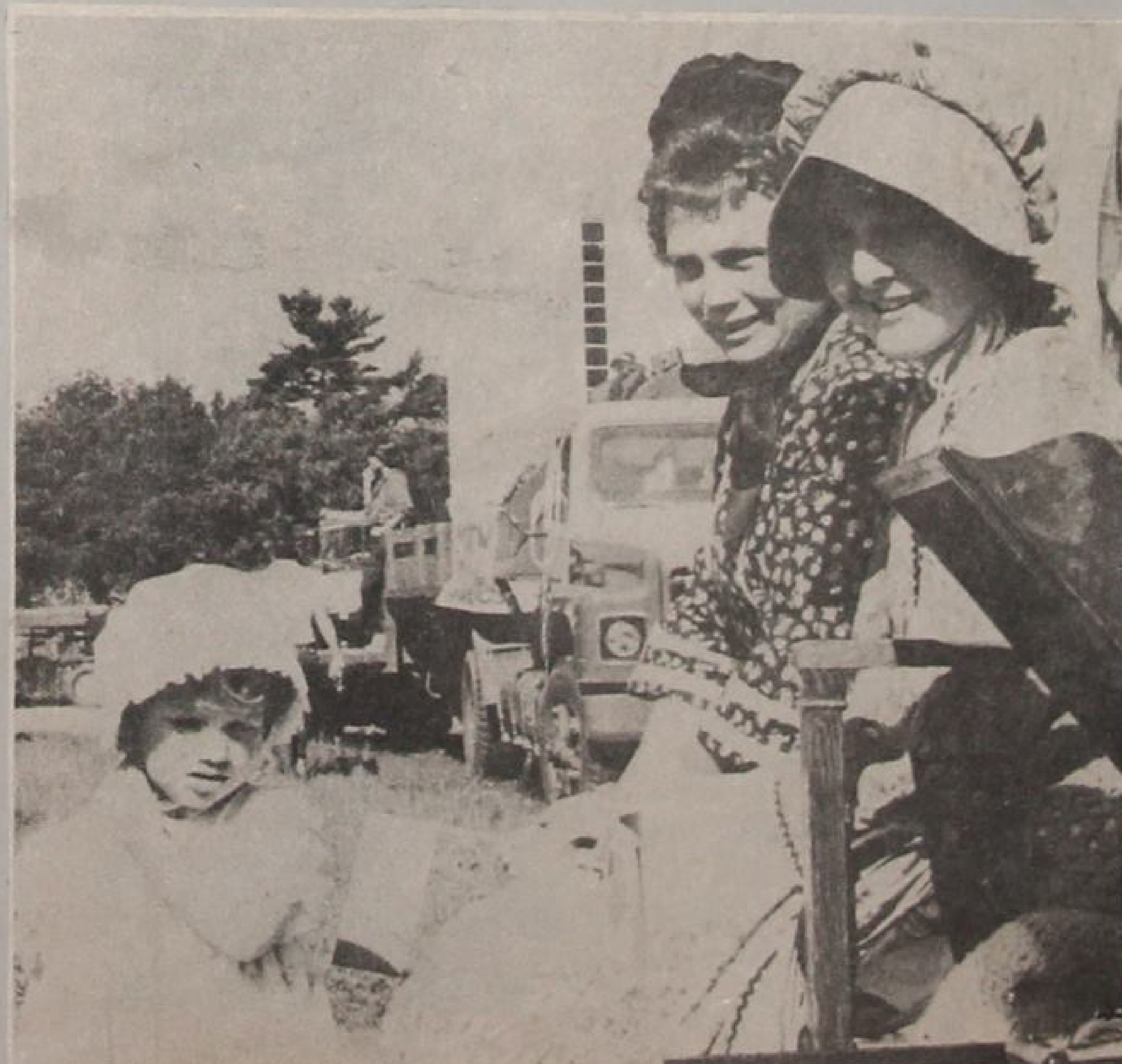
Thirty years ago Lilly and Don Chisholm moved to Otterville from the city

with the intention of staying there for a year. They have, however, been residents of the community ever since, enjoying the friendly neighborhood they found there.

Mrs. Chisholm's sister, Carrie Carson of Brantford, wrote the following poem for them, summing up their feelings for the village which recently, along with the former South Norwich Township, celebrated its 175th anniversary.

### HAPPY 175TH ANNIVERSARY OTTERVILLE

You are only a little town  
We moved to years ago.  
But you gave to us so many things,  
We want the world to know!  
You gave us friendly neighbors,  
Who shared our every care;  
A church, a park and stores to shop—  
We found it all right here.  
But most of all dear Otterville,  
Our children were raised here,  
On good old country sunshine,  
And their roots with you they share!  
So at this very special time—  
Your 175th anniversary year,  
May we say we're forever grateful,  
That our life with you we shared.



## Dressed up and ready to go

Jolene Hutchison (left), Laurie Barnim (right front) and Betty Arthur were a few of the many people aboard the Summerville W.I. float in Otterville's Canada Day parade. The float took first place in the parade's organizations category. (TN Photo)



### **Downtown with Donzo**

Donzo the clown (Don Miller) brought up the rear of Otterville's Canada Day parade Thursday morning. (TN Photo)



### **Not Groucho Marx**

Nellie Robinson was all decked out to celebrate Canada Day as she rode in Otterville's parade Thursday. Her clown costume and flag-decorated bicycle won her first place in the parade's family category. (TN Photo)



### **Beautiful balloons**

Employees of the Royal Bank in Otterville were awash in a sea of balloons

as they got their entry in the village's parade ready to roll Thursday morning. (TN Photo)

# South Norwich celebrates

NC  
July 7

BY DAVE STOVER

The rain came down Sunday morning but failed to dampen the spirit of celebration as the South Norwich 175th anniversary celebrations continued in Otterville over the weekend.

"It went better than any of our expectations," planning committee member Catherine Mann said as the weekend came to an end, adding she couldn't believe how well things had gone.

For hundreds of former students of South Norwich schools, Saturday and Sunday afternoons were times to renew old friendships and recall old schooldays. Capacity crowds attended the school

reunion held at Otterville Public School.

Organizer Boyd Little said that the gymnasium at Otterville could hold 900 and that the planning committee expected that many each day. As crowds streamed in, it became obvious the goal would be met.

"This is fantastic," Juanita Deroo said as she signed people in at the door and greeted old acquaintances. Her sentiments were shared by those attending the reunion, some from as far away as Pittsburgh or Florida. For most it was a time to remember school days spent in one of the township's one-room schools and to harken back to names now long-gone -

Cornell, New Road, Summerville, all sites of schools now disappeared.

"The school reunion is the best event of the weekend," Mrs. Ken Shellington of Hanover said. "You meet more people you know at such a function."

Her husband told of his school days in the early part of the century, noting that he'd attended the old three-room public school in Otterville. Getting to high school was difficult business in those days, Mr. Shellington said. He had to board the train to Woodstock every morning at 7:20 to attend Woodstock Collegiate, returning

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

home at 6 p.m.

The Shellingtons, like everyone else, found their interest absorbed in the nearly 250 class photographs displayed around the gym, as they hunted for the faces of old friends. Mr. Shellington added he wished he'd brought his public school class picture from 1914-15 along.

For area teachers it was a chance to meet old students. "I hope not too many people say 'Do you remember me?'" Don Neale, a teacher at Otterville Public School said. "I expect I'll meet a lot of people today."

Besides the reunion, there was a number of other well-attended events over the weekend.

Saturday morning, youngsters tested their courage and driving ability in the soapbox derby, held on Otterville's main street. Entrants were divided into classes by age-group, with everyone getting a chance to run the course. Some of the racers stalled out on a level stretch halfway down the hill, while others got moving too fast for their own good, with one boy taking a spill just as he reached the finish line. All entrants wore helmets to prevent serious injury, and the St. John Ambulance was on hand.

"We expected a few cuts and bruises, a few minor flesh wounds," the St. John's attendant said. "And maybe some of them like to be treated - it makes them feel more professional."

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Sunday afternoon, a large number of people were on hand to witness the official unveiling of a plaque in the African Methodist Episcopal Cemetery, recognizing the former black settlement of Norwich township. Two descendants of early Otterville black families took part in the event, Ray Lewis of Toronto and Alvin Duncan of Oakville. Mr. Lewis is an Olympic medal holder in track.

Following the unveiling of the plaque and cairn, a reception was held at the Woodlawn Community Centre after which the South Norwich Historical Society's chicken barbecue got underway on the Treffry mill meadow. A sell-out crowd attended the barbecue, and the weekend's festivities were brought to a close by the Norwich Musical Society's concert in the park Sunday evening.

And mention must be made of the beard-judging contest held during the street-dance Friday night. Delores Moore, Suzanne Crosby and Ruthann Alexander were called on to judge the more than 30 entries, eventually picking three winners in each of three classes: best groomed, longest and bushiest, and most comical. - After which, perhaps, the losers (and the winners, too) may have been quite willing to apply the razor and return to normal ... another sign the weekend was over.

# Parade kicks off events

NC  
July 7

Everyone loves a parade and that couldn't have been more evident than it was last Thursday as hundreds of people turned out to watch the parade in Otterville, marking both the 175th anniversary celebrations of South Norwich and Norwich Township's Canada Day celebrations.

Even the weatherman co-operated by providing hours of sunshine and warm weather for the huge parade that moved down Otterville's Main Street, Thursday morning. Spectators lined the street as more than 65 entries passed by during the hour-long event, highlighted by varied floats and marching bands, many of which portrayed the theme "History in the Making."

Leading the parade as honorary parade marshal was Dr. H.H. Batson, who has practised medicine in Otterville for more than 50 years. He was dressed in the same historic attire that he sported in the village's sesquicentennial parade held 25 years ago.

Also present to lead off the procession were Oxford MP Dr. Bruce Halliday, Oxford MPP Dick Treleaven, Oxford County Warden Ross Livingston and Norwich Township Mayor Carman Sweazey, perched on the seats of vintage convertibles.

Following them were the more than 65 parade entries, including a 100-member marching bugle band from Kitchener - the Kiwanis Cavaliers, antique fire trucks, vintage automobiles dating as far back as 1917, clowns on bicycles and motorcycles and members of the former First Springford Mounted Boy Scouts troop which rode in their first parade 25 years ago during the sesquicentennial celebrations.

Reflecting the historic theme of the parade were floats such as the Oxford County Museum School in Burgessville with its recreation of a turn-of-the-century classroom, complete with teacher Marie Avey and her students all dressed in period costumes.

Another float with a historic theme was that entered by St. John's Anglican Church of Otterville with "that old time religion" their particular theme. The minister (actually Sunday School superintendent Carl Mowse) and his congregation were all dressed in old-fashioned attire.

After the parade, the focus of attention moved to Otterville Memorial Park, where the main of activities got underway at

2 p.m. Canada Day chairman Don Pettigrew, mayor Carmen Sweazey, warden Ross Livingston, and M.P.P. Dick Treleaven all gave brief speeches and paid tribute to the efforts of the organizing committee, especially Dr. Murray Downing. Then it was on to the important business, the final judging of the beauty contest, with six young ladies from the township - Brenda Barnim, Robin Davis, Jane Furlong, Heather Hanson, Judy Sandham and Jo-Anne Thompson - vying for the Miss South Norwich title.

Ken Peers was the able master of ceremonies, as each contestant gave a short impromptu talk on a question she selected from a top-hat. And then the judges began their final deliberations.

The winner was at last announced by Mr. Peers, and it was Jo-Anne Thompson. Miss Thompson said "part of the contest was judged on poise, and I think I've just lost mine," as she accepted the crown. Second runner-up was Robin Davis, and first runner-up was Judy Sandham.

Mr. Sweazey also announced winners from the morning's parade at the conclusion of the afternoon program. Summerville W.I.'s float of scenes from times past and members in period costume was first in the organizations category, with the entry from St. John's Anglican Church placing second. Nellie Robinson, dressed in a colorful clown outfit and riding her flag adorned bicycle along the parade route, was first in the family class, followed by the horse and buggy owned by

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Mann. In the commercial category, the winner was Scott's Big V, followed by Harrison's Service Centre. And in the schools category, the entry from Oxford County museum school placed first and the float from Otterville Public School was second.

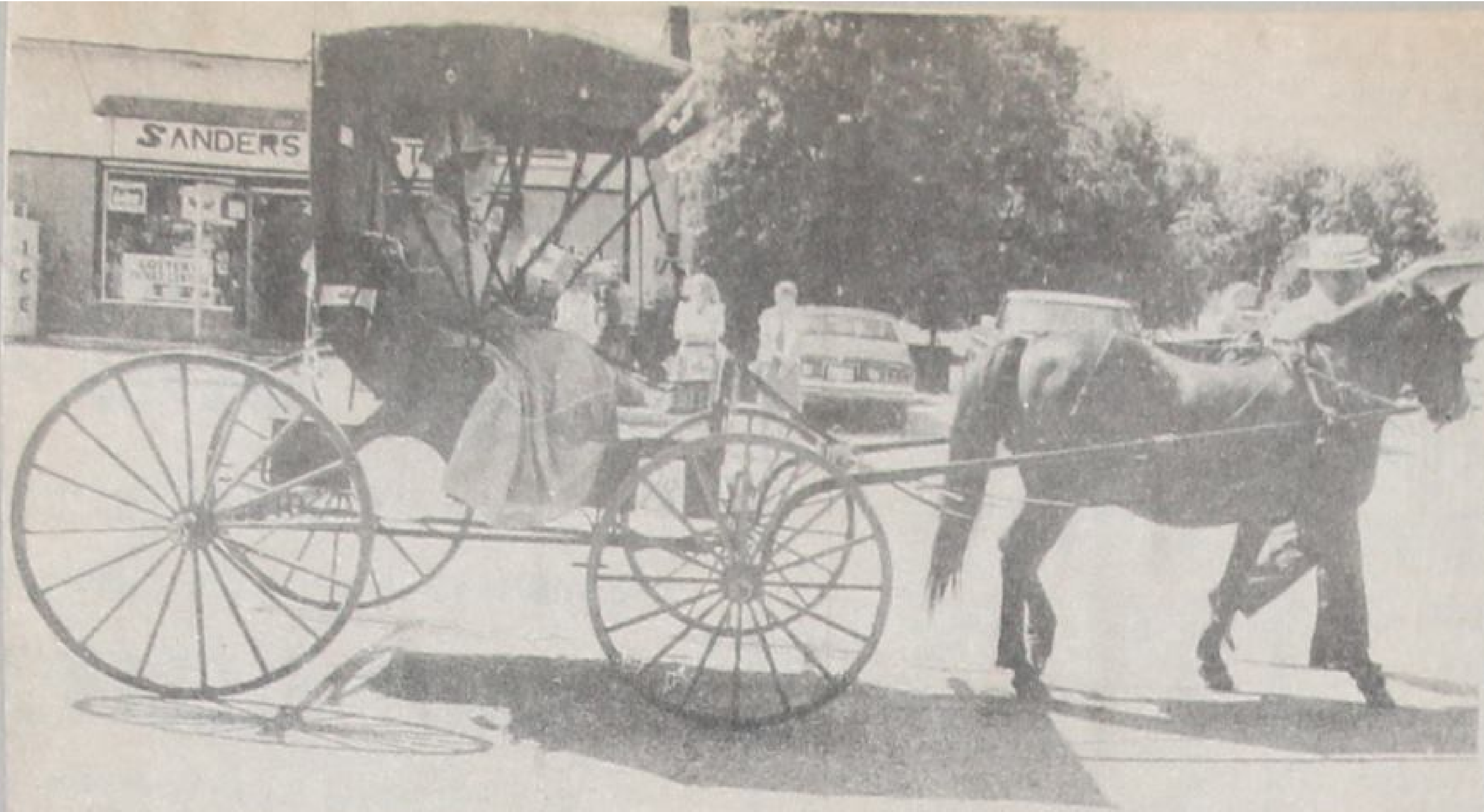
Judges Jean Stewart, Mae Leonard, Helen Dickson and Rev. Fearon of Norwich United Church decided the best overall entry was that of the Summerville W.I.

Later, in the park, Mr. Treleaven and the newly-crowned Queen Jo-Anne Thompson presided over the opening of the town's new bathhouse and changerooms beside the municipal swimming pool.

The Otterville Lions Club held a chicken barbecue in the park from 4:30 to 7:30, after having spent the afternoon tending (quite literally) more than a hundred feet of slow-roasting chicken. The night was ended with a garden party in the park, featuring local entertainment and variety acts.

The draw for the 50-50 prize money was made Sunday evening at the barbecue with \$556.50 going to Doug Collver, Woodstock and an equal amount going to the South Norwich 175th anniversary committee fund to help cover the cost of putting on the celebrations.

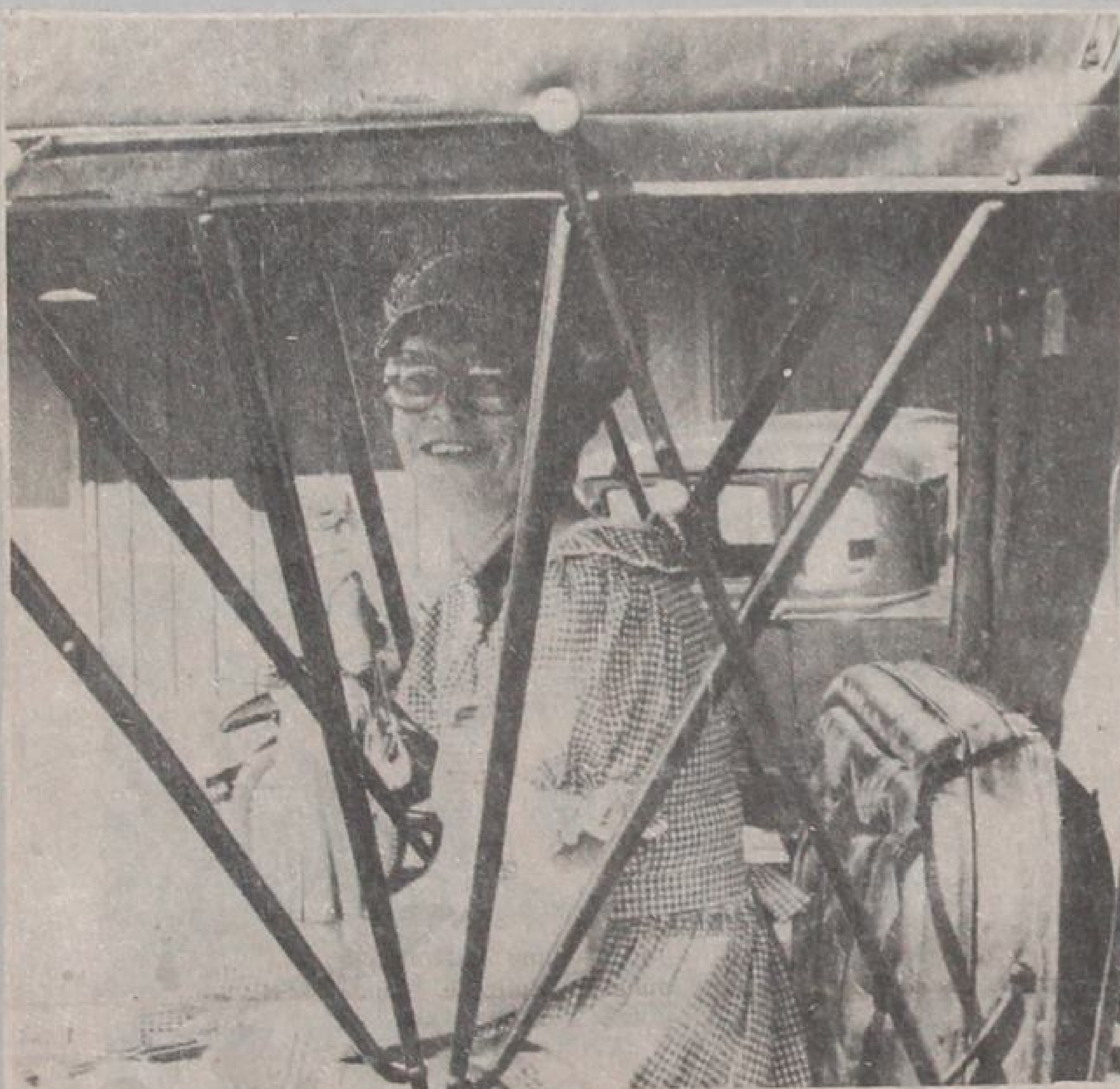
The South Norwich Historical Society's own quilt draw was won by Hope Harvey of Otterville and the draw for two lions donated by the Royal Bank in Otterville were won by Margaret Ireland, Tillsonburg and Harold Brayley, RR 2, Otterville.



**Dressed for the occasion**

Catherin and Ker *GRIFIN* dressed in historic attire to

drive their horse and buggy in the July 1 parade in Otterville with the theme, "History in the Making."



**Riding in style**

Mrs. Catherine Mann rode through Otterville's Canada Day parade in high style Thursday morning, aboard an 80-year-old restored buggy. The entry took second place in the families category of the parade.



**It's not easy being green**

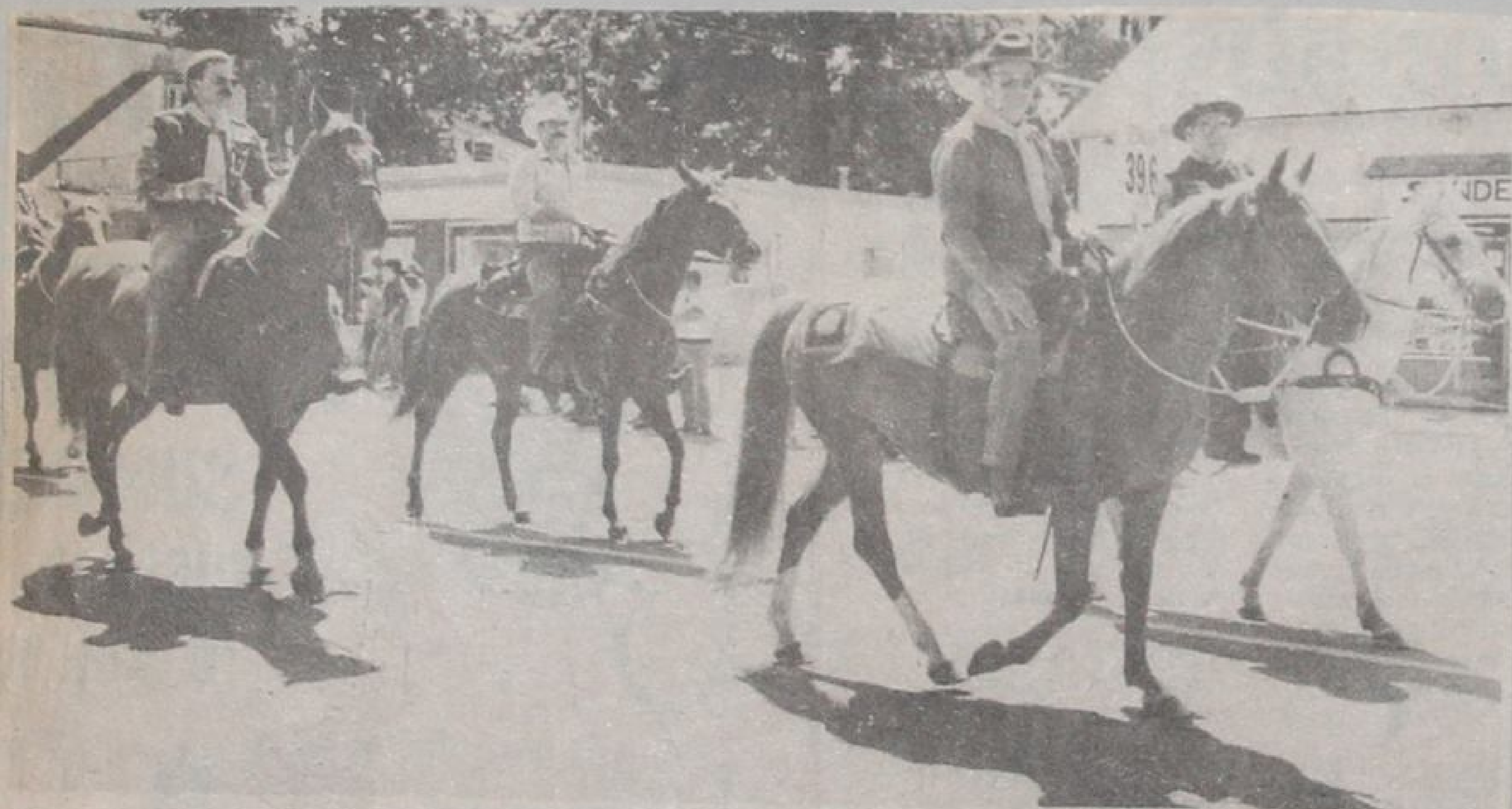
It looked as though Ryan Griffin had second thoughts about his Kermit-the-frog costume when The News met him at the public works yard east of Otterville along with all the other entries preparing for the morning's Canada Day parade.



**Red's express**

This little group of father, son and man's best friend made up one of the entries in the family section of the Canada Day - South Nor-

wich anniversary parade held Thursday morning in Otterville. (NG Photo).



**Ride again**

The First Springford Mounted Boy Scout troop mounted their steeds to take part in the July 1 parade in Otterville.

The Scout troop rode in the July 1 parade in Otterville for the first time 25 years ago. (NG Photo).



**Cooking up a storm**

Art Van De Byl was busy tending one section of the long barbecue in the Otterville park, Thursday afternoon, as the Norwich-Otterville Lions Club prepared for their chicken barbecue.



**Jailbirds**

The Spring-Otter Optimists had two victims to display in their jail during the Canada Day - South Norwich anniversary parade, Thursday morning in Otterville. Those who

refused to buy a razor permit in connection with their beard-growing contest saw the inside of the old jail for a short time. (NG Photo).



**Cutting the ribbon**

Oxford M.P.P. Dick Treleaven and Jo-Anne Thompson, queen of Otterville's Canada Day festivities, cut the ribbon

to officially open the new bathhouse adjacent to the Otterville Memorial swimming pool. The opening took place Thursday afternoon. (TN Photo).



**Ready to race**

Robert Sherman, 9, of Otterville, was all set to go during the soapbox derby held Saturday as part of South Norwich 175th anniversary celebrations in Otterville.



**Last minute repairs**

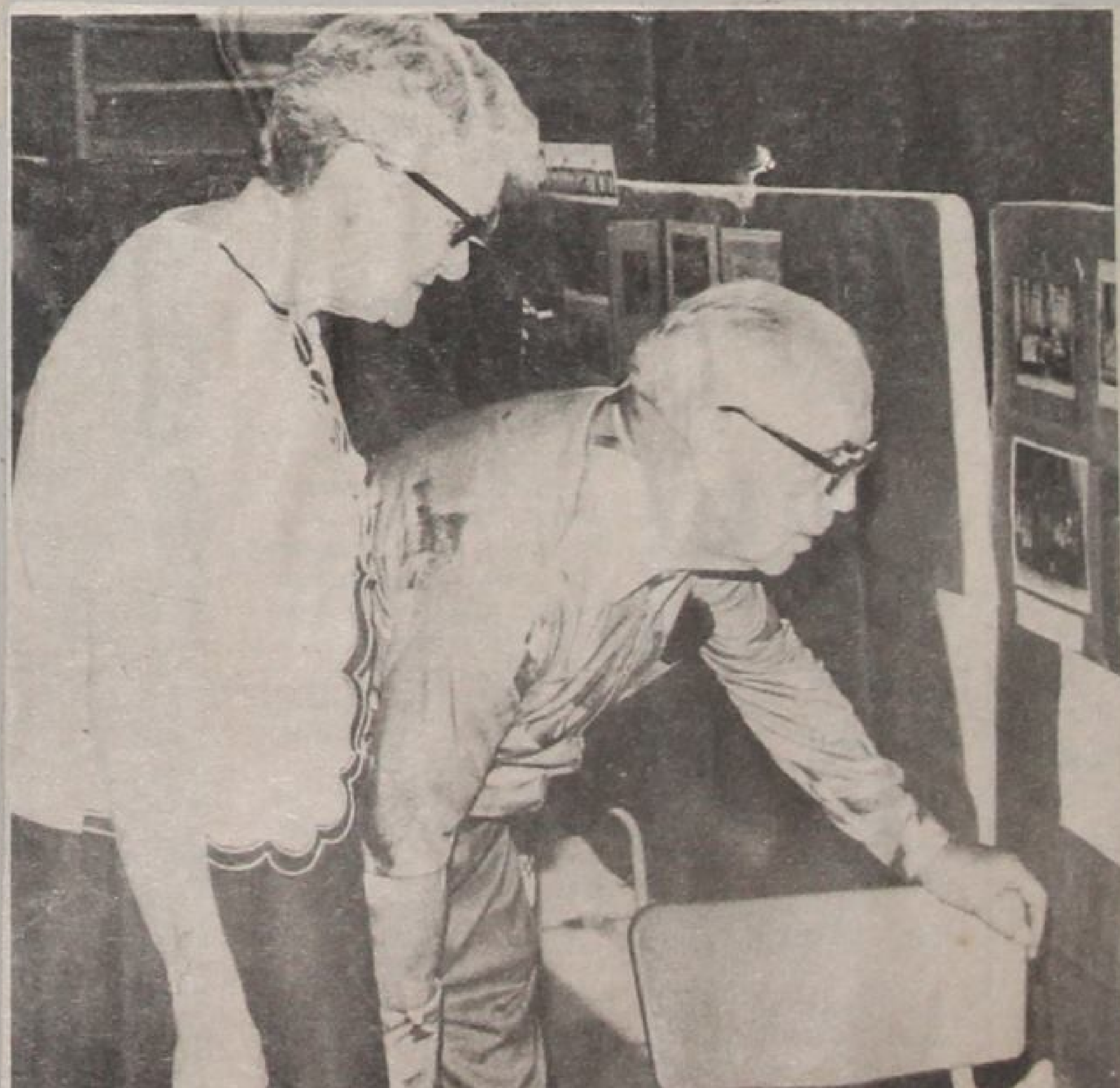
There are always last-minute repairs to make on any race car, and Craig Moseley, 11, of Woodstock, was busy removing stones from his tires as post time for Otterville's soapbox derby approached Saturday morning.



**Turtle wins again**

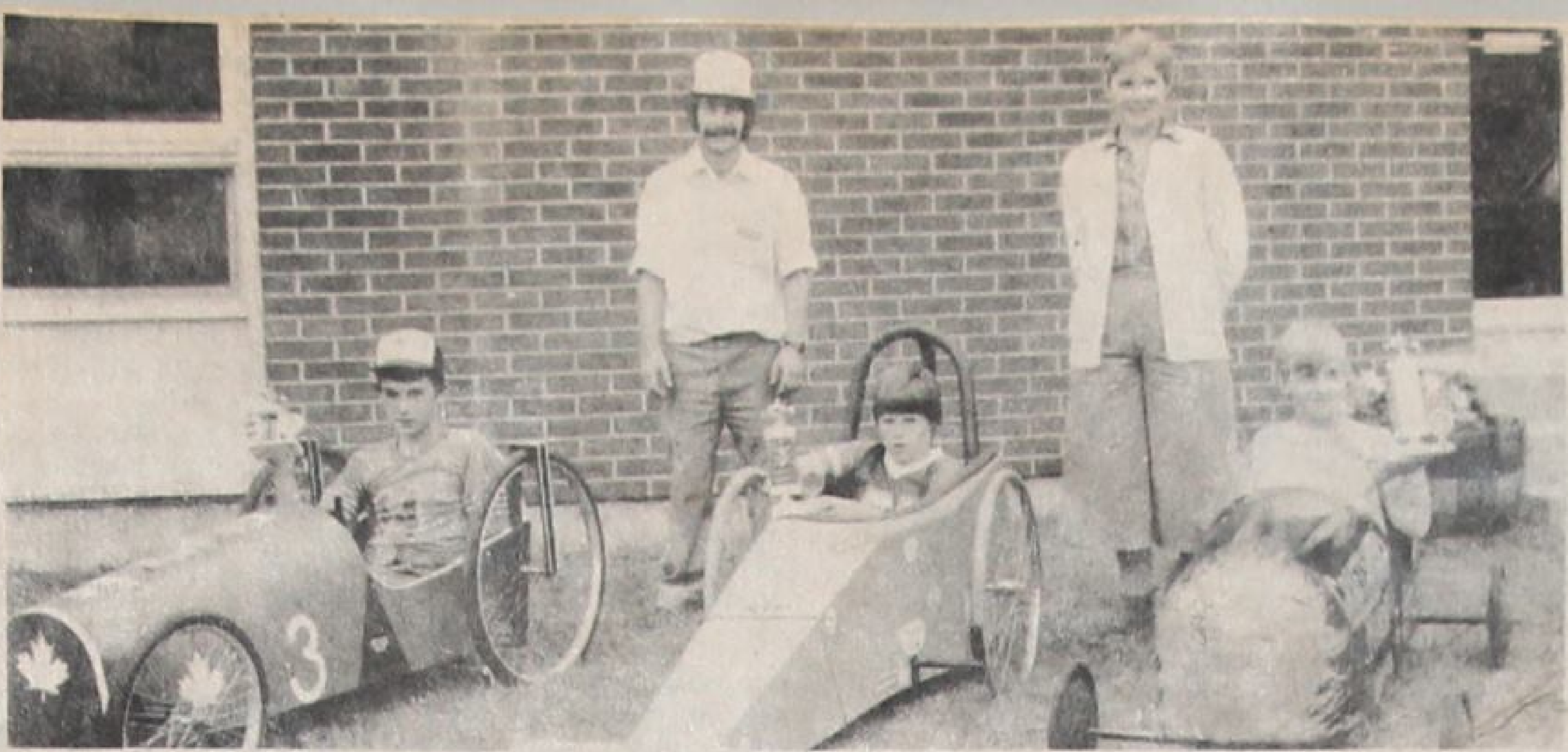
— Young Dean Kowalchuk from Woodstock proved the old adage that the old way is the best way, at the first annual soap box derby put on by the Otterville Optimists on Saturday. Dean scorched his way to the finish line first time every time with a 25-year-old car, nicknamed the Turtle. A field of more than 40 contestants in the derby highlighted some of the many Canada Day and 175th birthday celebrations for South Norwich Township. For more photos and results see sports pages. (Staff Photo)

*ON July 7*

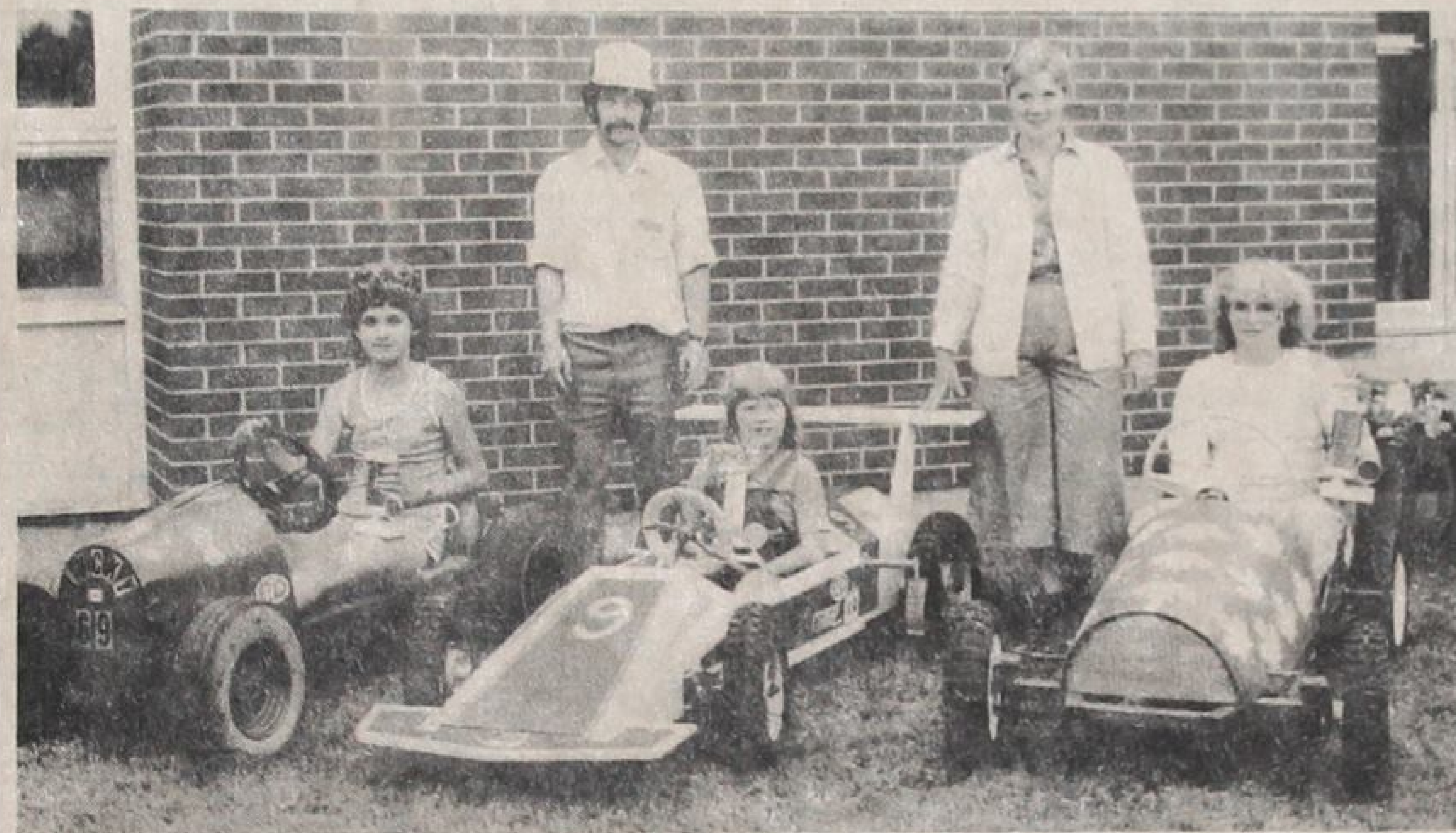


**Of times gone by**

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Shellington of Hanover were busy examining old class pictures and remembering old times when friends met at the South Norwich school reunion, held in Otterville Saturday and Sunday afternoon. (TN Photo by Dave Stover)



The top three racers in the A class of the first annual Otterville Optimists soap box derby are from left to right, John Zaharchuk, who placed third, Dana McMullen, second place and Dean Kowalchuk who captured first place. Looking on are Bill Redman, Otterville Optimist and Joanne Thompson, Queen of the 175th anniversary celebrations. (Staff Photo)



Girls were right in there racing with the best of them in the annual Soap Box Derby in Otterville Saturday. Taking home some of the brass are from left to right Brenda Caldwell who placed second in the A division, Marci McMullen, first in the B division and Pam Tisdale, first in the A class. Standing are Bill Redman from the Otterville Optimists and Joanne Thompson, Miss South Norwich Township. (Staff Photo)

*D.N. July 7.*





**Best groomed**

George Duma (left), Paul Groeneveld (centre), and Jay Durkee were winners in the "Best Groomed" category of the South Norwich beard-growing contest, the judging of which was held Friday night in Otterville. (TN Photo)



**Most unusual**

These gentlemen were singled out by the judges as having the most unusual or comical beards. From left to right, Lee Richardson, Wilf Lenares and David McKibbin. Judging was part of Otterville's street-dance Friday night. (TN Photo)




**And the longest**

Butch Davis (left), Larry Wilcox (centre) and John Sandham achieved distinction in South Norwich's beard-growing contest as having the bushiest or longest beards. (TN Photo)



**Ready to rise**


The hot air balloon was soon ready to rise when the hot air was blown into it during the demonstration with the balloon by Phil Dunbar in Otterville park, Saturday evening.


**RAZOR LICENCE** 

*KEN MANN*

having paid a \$2.00 fee is hereby authorized to use a RAZOR during the South Norwich Township 175th Anniversary celebrations and may remain clean shaven during the period July 1-4, 1982.

Signed *Al Caldwell*


Spring  Otter Beard Marshall

**RAZOR LICENCE** 

*MURRY DEN DOWNING*

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Signed *Al Caldwell*

Spring  Otter Beard Marshall



**Descendents return**

Two descendents of the early black pioneers of South Norwich came back to the home of their ancestors on Sunday afternoon to take part in the official unveiling of a plaque and cairn commemorating the black settlement in Norwich Township. Taking part in the ceremony were Ray Lewis, of Toronto, a descendent of Isaac Gray and Alvin Duncan, a descendent of Jeremiah Wayner. The cairn has been erected in the African Methodist Episcopal Cemetery on the edge of Otterville.

The Municipal Council  
on behalf of the people of the  
Township of Norwich  
extends a special

*Thank You*

to all those persons who contributed to the success of the celebrations commemorating Canada Week, Canada's Birthday and the 175th Anniversary of the settling of the former Township of South Norwich. Your participation in the various events which took place throughout the Township are greatly appreciated.

Mayor Carman Sweazey,  
and Members of Council.



**Greetings**

Oxford MPP Dick Treleaven brought greetings on behalf of the province to the official ceremony marking the unveiling of a commemorative plaque and cairn recognizing the ear-

ly black settlement in South Norwich. The cairn was erected on the site of the African Methodist Episcopal Cemetery. (NG Photo).

**ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**

The Editor: We wish to convey our sincere appreciation to the editor and to the staff of The Norwich Gazette who gave so diligently their time and effort, previous to and during our celebrations. It is 'coverage' like you

gave our committee that makes celebrations such a great success.

Once again our sincere thanks to all of The Norwich Gazette.

Catherine Mann,  
Publicity, South  
Norwich 175th  
Anniversary Committee

**Letters to the editor**

**WELL DONE**

Dear Editor:  
The celebration on the first of July weekend for the 175th anniversary of South Norwich Township was a tremendous success.

From the first turn of the wheel in the grand parade on Thursday, to the last note of the Sunday night band concert, everything

was very well done.

Congratulations and a big thank you to the organizers and all those behind the scenes who gave us an event of which we can be proud.

Shirley White,  
Norwich

## South Norwich celebrates

# Events top expectations

BY DAVE STOVER

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"It went better than any of our expectations," planning committee member Catherine Mann said as the weekend came to an end, adding she couldn't believe how well things had gone.

For hundreds of former students of South Norwich schools, Saturday and Sunday afternoons were times to renew old friendships and recall old schooldays. Capacity crowds attended the school reunion held at Otterville Public School. Organizer Boyd Little said that the

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Following the unveiling of the plaque and cairn, a reception was held at the Woodlawn Community Centre after which the South Norwich Historical Society's chicken barbecue got underway on the Treffry mill meadow. A sell-out crowd attended the barbecue, and the weekend's festivities were brought to a close by the Norwich Musical Society's concert in the park Sunday evening.

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By Dave Stover

## How to celebrate Canada Day (and how not to)



A couple of things set me thinking about Canada Day and about how Canadians celebrate it. One was the extremely successful celebration held last weekend in Otterville. Another was a press release put out by the federal government.

Together, they symbolized what our national birthday should be -- and what it by all means should not be.

First, the positive side of the coin. The people who planned the Canada Day festivities in Otterville did an extraordinary job -- and, quite deservingly, got extraordinary results. The July 1st parade was both long and good -- many of the entries obviously were the result of a great deal of work.

Indeed, a good deal of work went into all of the weekend's events -- the street dance held Friday night, the school reunion which packed Otterville Public School's gymnasium Saturday and Sunday afternoons, the chicken barbecues, the church service Sunday morning.

I suspect the key to the success of the whole thing can be found in the fact it was a local effort. The people of South Norwich decided that they were going to celebrate both Canada Day and the 175th anniversary of settlement in the township -- and they did. One visitor at the school reunion remarked on how a small town had managed to host such a large number of events. I think she was surprised it had all turned out so well and on such a large scale.

And I guess she had every right to be. But then again, when a group of people attack a project with enthusiasm and spirit they can often achieve miracles -- whether they are many or few in number. The people of Otterville and South Norwich wanted to celebrate, and they made their festivities a weekend to be proud of. Enthusiasm was the crucial ingredient; once it is there, competent planning and preparation are bound to follow.

From that I conclude that Canada Day celebrations are worth something only if the desire to celebrate is genuine. In South Norwich the spirit to celebrate the nation's birthday was real; it came from the heart. That is why the weekend succeeded; that is why, when it was all over, the people of South Norwich perhaps felt a bit more pride in themselves and their country.

But there is another way to celebrate Canada Day --. The federal government has been trying to foist its own ideas about our national holiday upon us for years now. Three or four years ago it sponsored TV superspectaculars, showing July 1st celebrations from coast to coast. Those have mercifully disappeared (low ratings?), but the government is still busy promoting its own ideas about July 1st -- trying to get us all to sing "O Canada" at the stroke of noon, producing sugar-sweet television commercials (cute little children singing "It's your birthday, Canada"), grinding out endless reams of bilingual press releases.

One such release crossed my desk just before the holiday. It was cleverly disguised to look like new, with a dateline and an underlined FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE glaring up at the reader. Then the headline: "Barrie Patriot Puts Words Where Heart Is," followed by one of the worst poems I have ever read. I shall not burden you by repeating it here.

My question is: Why should the federal government spend uncounted dollars in postage sending this junk to every weekly newspaper in the country? Why choose this poem? Surely they do not believe that by reading this poem all the disbelievers in our midst will be converted to true and patriotic Canadians?

I don't think our government should be in the propaganda business, and I don't think it should be spending your money or my money or any taxpayer's money mailing out inept patriotic poems. If people want to celebrate Canada Day, they will celebrate it. If they don't want to, all the press releases in the world won't put them in the mood to do so.

And so two reactions to this Canada Day. To the people of South Norwich, congratulations on a fine job. To the federal government -- you really should be ashamed of yourselves. Failing that, next year you could save a bit of money and not bother mailing any more bad poetry to celebrate the nation's birthday.

### Anniversary committee

We wish to convey our sincere appreciation for the coverage previous to and during the celebration.

Your 'accounts' certainly helped in making the celebrations such a great success.

Once again our thanks for your participation.

Catherine Mann  
Publicity  
South Norwich 175th  
Anniversary Committee  
Otterville

join  
us in  
celebrating



175

*Anniversary*

SOUTH NORWICH  
SETTLEMENT

JULY 1-4



OTTERVILLE, 1982

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY CANADA"

Supplement to The Norwich Gazette, Wednesday, June 23, 1982

# A time to remember

Once again, we as Canadians pause in our busy lives to look at our heritage and celebrate "our" Canada's Birthday on July 1.

We as Canadians, united as one, from every nationality around the globe, have the same sense of pride in Canada -- our true promised land. With this same sense of Pride and Unity, we as residents of the Township of Norwich strive to do our bit in celebrating Canada's Birthday.

## Anniversary

It is a great pleasure to welcome all visitors, local citizens and participants to the 175th anniversary of the South Norwich Settlement, to be celebrated this year, July 1 to 4, in Otterville, in conjunction with Canada's 115th birthday.

Each year we are becoming more aware of this area's outstanding heritage and more concerned with preserving as much as possible.

A great number of local citizens have joined together, enthusiastically, to make this celebration interesting and enjoyable. The program includes information regarding the school reunion and three interesting tours as well as many other attractions.

The four-day celebration should provide an ideal opportunity to meet many old acquaintances and renew friendships.

We hope that as many as possible can join with us in making this a most happy occasion and participate in most of the activities.

Dr. Murray Downing, Chairman,  
South Norwich Settlement  
175th Anniversary Committee

The more we work and pull together on different activities, within our township, the stronger our ties together are. A truly united people within our Township of Norwich can do nothing but make a stronger community.

This is the second year for the Township of Norwich to organize events throughout the whole township in the name of Canada Unity Week, leading up to July 1. So I, as Mayor of the Township of Norwich, urge each and every resident to join in and participate in each event taking place within our township.

Also, please welcome all of our many visitors and guests with open arms of true friendship, making them feel at home and wanting to return again to renew old acquaintances.

To each and every Canadian, I say: "Join hands and sing 'Happy Birthday Canada!'"

H. Carman Sweazey, Mayor,  
Township of Norwich

## Welcome

Welcome to the Township of Norwich's Second Annual Canada Day celebrations.

Once again the Canada Week committee's work has been made easier by the tremendous work of the volunteers who have put together many events centring in Otterville, July 1-4, and in Oxford Centre, June 27.

The committee hopes that as many people as possible will support Canadian Unity and local history by attending both the Canada Day and South Norwich Township's 175th anniversary of settlement.

Ken Peers, Chairman,  
Canada Week planning committee.

# History book on its way

by Juanita Deroo

A birth is imminent! The South Norwich Historical Society is eagerly awaiting the arrival of its publication of the history of South Norwich Township.

Research has been conducted over the past several years by both members of the Society and their assistants hired through the "Experience" and "Canada Community Development" grants. An imposing array of file cards containing research notes and references has been generated by this extensive research program which will be made available to the public at the Norwich archives for general use and reference, compliments of the Society.

Articles and chapters for the book have been written from the research notes and information by a "book committee" appointed from the general membership of the South Norwich Historical Society.

To date, most of the book has been written and typed; photos have been chosen and maps and sketches prepared. The material is expected to be in the hands of the publisher by the first week in July, and the proposed

date for the "birth" of the book is early September, 1982.

The publication will be the first concise and extensive presentation of the history of South Norwich Township. Chapters will offer a variety of reading, including early settlement, lumbering, railroads, temperance, schools and each of the settlements and communities within the boundaries of South Norwich will be highlighted. A most interesting and surprising chapter regarding the black community which once flourished within the Township is also included.

The array of photos, maps and sketches has been designed to please the non-reader as well as the avid "bookworm", and includes many views of township life never before published.

The book will be a hefty 325 pages, more or less, and will be printed in hard cover as well as soft cover.

The South Norwich Historical Society anticipates this book will be eagerly sought after both for its valuable information as well as a keepsake. Watch for the announcement of its arrival and plan to include it on your Christmas list.

# PROGRAM OF EVENTS

— for the —

## 175th Anniversary

— of the —

### South Norwich Settlement and Canada Week

Canada Week Committee Chairman  
Mr. Ken Peers

175th Anniversary Committee Chairman  
Dr. Murray Downing

#### SUNDAY, JUNE 27

OXFORD CENTRE INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH SERVICE - 11 a.m. GARDEN PARTY 2-4 p.m., lunch available.

#### OTTERVILLE THURSDAY, JULY 1st

10:30 A.M. SECOND ANNUAL CANADA DAY PARADE Main Street. Bands... Floats... Clowns... Antique Cars... etc.

12:00-1:30 P.M. LUNCH Available in the Park Pavillion.

2:00 P.M. OPENING CEREMONIES in the park. Distinguished Guests - Representatives of the Ontario Government. Beauty Contest.

Official Opening of the Bath House.

4:30-7:30 P.M. LION'S CHICKEN BARBECUE in the park. Adults \$8.00, Children \$4.00, price includes admission to the evening entertainment.

8:00 P.M. GARDEN PARTY in the park, featuring mainly local talent. Admission \$1.00 (12 years and under free). FIREWORKS AT THE CONCLUSION.

#### FRIDAY, JULY 2nd

2:00 P.M. FREE SWIMMING in the Otterville Pool.

6:30 P.M. PUMPER COMPETITION - NORWICH TOWNSHIP FIREMEN - in front of Otterville Fire Hall

7:00 P.M. SLO-PITCH TOURNAMENT at Springford.

8:00 P.M. - OPTIMISTS DANCE Featuring the DESTINY BAND at the parking lot beside the Community Hall in Otterville. Music for all ages. Free Admission.

BEARD GROWING CONTEST JUDGING and prizes for the best groomed, longest and most comical. Razor permits for local clean shaven residents \$2.00.

#### SATURDAY, JULY 3rd

8:00 A.M. SLO-PITCH TOURNAMENT at Springford.

9:30 A.M. REBEKAH'S BAKE SALE at the I.O.O.F. Hall, Main Street, Otterville.

10:00 A.M. OPTIMISTS SOAP-BOX DERBY Main Street, Otterville, boys and girls events. Ages 6-10 years and 11-15 years, 4 trophies. Entries and details from Wm. Redman, Box 97, Otterville.

12:00-1:00 P.M. LUNCH available at the Park Pavillion.

1:00 P.M. CHILDREN'S PARADE (Public School age and under).

Prizes for the best decorated bicycles, tricycles, wagons, etc. Sponsored by the Women's Institutes of the Township. Assemble at the Otterville Anglican Church, proceed to the park.

2:30 P.M. CHILDREN'S SPORTING EVENTS in the Park (Public School age).

2:00-4:30 P.M. SCHOOL REUNION Renew old friendships at the Otterville Central School. Display of pictures of former township schools. Refreshments.

1:30-5:00 P.M. GUIDED TOURS of Woodlawn, the Octagonal Cottage, west end of Otterville, the Treffry Mill, south of the bridge and Innisfree Conference Centre East of the Village.

4:00 P.M. SWIM SHOW in the Park Pool (free admission), free swimming for children after.

6:00 P.M. HOT AIR BALLOON DEMONSTRATION and launching (weather permitting) in the park.

8:00 P.M. OLDTIMERS BALL GAME in the Park. Otterville Oldtimers (1957-67) vs Otterville Otters. Admission \$1.00. Public school children free. Wiener roast to follow (only 50c).

#### SUNDAY, JULY 4th

11:00 A.M. INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH SERVICE and CHOIR in the Park.

12:00-1:00 P.M. LUNCH available in the Park.

1:00 P.M. SLO-PITCH TOURNAMENT at Springford.

2:00 P.M. UNVEILING of the BLACK CEMETERY PLAQUE, Church St., Otterville, just North of the Otterville Cemetery.

2:30 P.M. SCHOOL REUNION OTTERVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL a time to visit. Display of pictures of former township schools. Refreshments.

2:30-5:00 P.M. GUIDED TOURS of the Treffry Mill and Innisfree Conference Centre.

3:00-5:00 P.M. GUIDED TOUR Woodlawn.

5:00-6:30 P.M. SOUTH NORWICH HISTORICAL SOCIETY CHICKEN BARBECUE at the Mill. Adults \$6.00, Children \$3.00. Advanced sale of tickets from Lorne Treffry (879-6932), Mrs. Turnbull (842-2698), Lorraine Downing (879-6852). 50/50 Draw will take place.

7:00 P.M. NORWICH COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT in the Otterville Park.



# OTTERVILLE, 1982

CELEBRATING CANADA'S BIRTHDAY

## 50 - 50 DRAW

Proceeds For—

*175th Birthday*

Of Former

**South Norwich Township  
July 1st to 4th, 1982**

Draw will be made Sunday, July 4th, 1982  
At OTTERVILLE MILL BARBECUE

TICKETS

\$1.00 Each

LOTTERY LICENCE No. T29.

No

45

No 2859

Name DAUG CALDER

993 NESBITT CRES.

Address WOODSTOCK

P.O.T.

Phone 537-2688

## 50 - 50 DRAW

Proceeds For—

*175th Birthday*

Of Former

**South Norwich Township  
July 1st to 4th, 1982**

Draw will be made Sunday, July 4th, 1982  
At OTTERVILLE MILL BARBECUE

TICKETS

\$1.00 Each

LOTTERY LICENCE No. T292

No

2859

## OTTERVILLE THURSDAY, JULY 1st

- 10:30 A.M. **SECOND ANNUAL CANADA DAY PARADE** Main Street. Bands... Floats... Clowns... Antique Cars.. etc.
- 12:00-1:30 P.M. **LUNCH** Available in the Park Pavillion.
- 2:00 P.M. **OPENING CEREMONIES** in the park. Distinguished Guests - Representatives of the Ontario Government. Beauty Contest. Official Opening of the Bath House.
- 4:30-7:30 P.M. **LIONS' CHICKEN BARBECUE** in the park. Adults \$8.00, Children \$4.00, price includes admission to the evening entertainment.
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- 2:00 P.M. **FREE SWIMMING** in the Otterville Pool.
- 7:00 P.M. **SLO-PITCH TOURNAMENT** at Springford.
- 8:00 P.M. **OPTIMISTS DANCE** Featuring the **DESTINY BAND** at the parking lot beside the Community Hall in Otterville. Music for all ages. Free Admission. **BEARD GROWING CONTEST JUDGING** and prizes for the best groomed, longest and most comical. Razor permits for local clean shaven residents \$2.00.

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OXFORD CENTRE INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH SERVICE - 11 a.m. June 27. GARDEN PARTY 2-4 p.m., lunch available.

## SATURDAY, JULY 3rd cont'd.

- 2:30 P.M. **CHILDREN'S SPORTING EVENTS** in the Park (Public School age).
- 2:00-4:30 P.M. **SCHOOL REUNION** Renew old friendships at the Otterville Central School. Display of pictures of former township schools. Refreshments.
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- 7:00 P.M. **NORWICH COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT** in the Otterville Park.

# Otterville to mark 175th anniversary

BRANTFORD EXPOSITOR

OTTERVILLE - Parades, fireworks, and a slow-pitch ball tournament are planned to help celebrate the 175th anniversary of the settlement of Otterville and former South Norwich Township from July 1 to 4.

Otterville has been given a festive look with a banner strung across Main Street and the creation of colorful floral displays to mark the event.

Canada Day festivities on July 1 will feature a parade down Main Street at 10:30 a.m. A beauty contest, barbecue and garden party featuring local talent are planned for the afternoon, says Catherine Mann, who is in charge of publicity for the celebrations.

A night-time fireworks display at Otterville Park is planned to cap off the day's activities, she says.

Some other events planned for the four-day long celebration are:

— On July 2, a slow-pitch ball tournament starts at 7 p.m. The games will be played over three days at Springford Park. There are 14 teams scheduled to play.

Judging of a beard-growin

contest will be held outside the Community Hall starting at 8:30 p.m. Razor permits will be sold to people who arrive clean shaven.

— On July 3, boys and girls, 6 to 15 years old, can drive their soap boxes in a derby at 10 a.m. on Main Street. Nearly 100 entrants are expected to compete for trophies.

Guided tours of Woodlawn Cottage, built in 1861, start at 1:30 p.m.

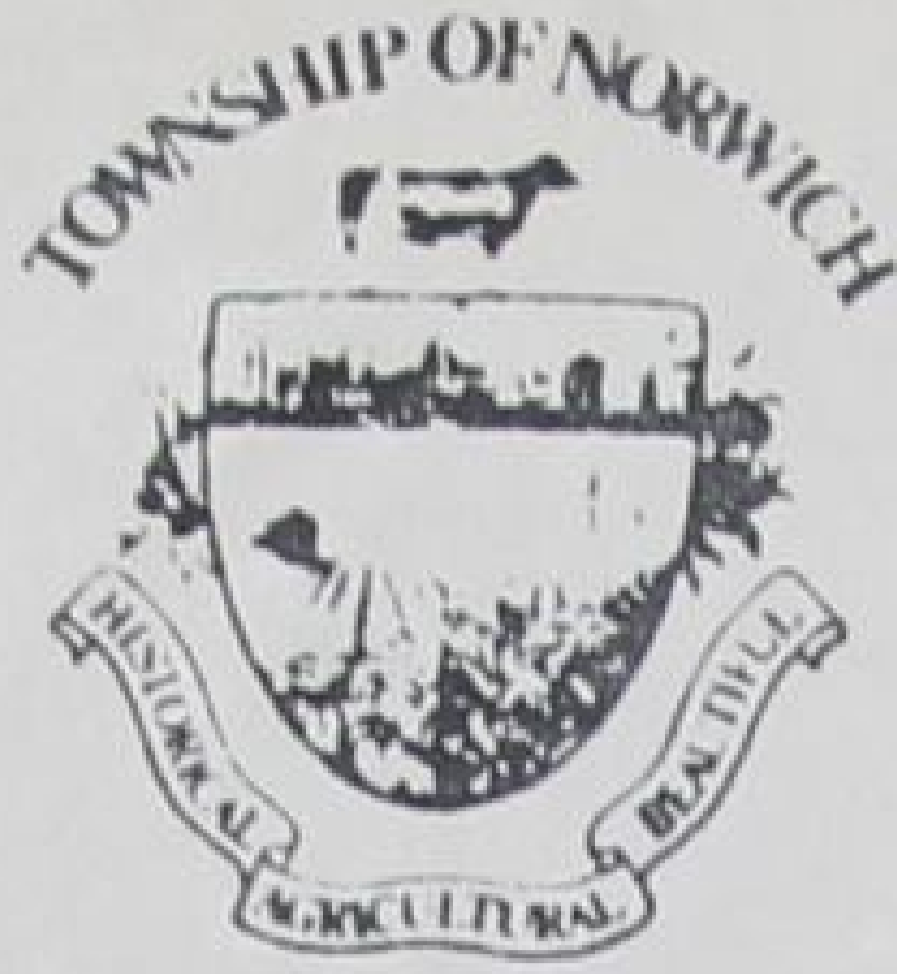
A reunion of Otterville Central School for all of South Norwich Township will start at 2:30 p.m.

— July 4, a plaque honoring the black settlement in the township will be unveiled at 2 p.m. at the British Methodist Cemetery on Church Street. Representatives from local government and the black community are expected to attend.

For advance tickets to events requiring admission contact: Lorne Treffry at 879 — 6932, Lorraine Downing at 879 — 6852 or Alice Turnbull at 842-2698.

Campers wanting information about camp sites in the area can contact Margaret Shearer at 879 — 6814.





# Canada Week

June 25-July 1

THE TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH

2ND ANNUAL CANADA DAY PARADE

OTTERVILLE

JULY 1st, 1982

ENTRY NO. \_\_\_\_\_

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARADE ENTRIES:

The Marshalling Area is at the Works Depot yard at the east end of Otterville.

The Parade will start at 10:30 A.M. on the route beginning at the Marshalling area, heading west on Main Street in Otterville, ending at the Public School west of Otterville.

Parade entries must be ready at 9:00 A.M. at the Marshalling area for pre-judging at 9:30 A.M.

The Parade commences at 10:30 A.M. SHARP.

Your Entry Number should be displayed on your entry.

The Judges Stand and TV area is in front of the Township Office, Main Street.

Please maintain a distance of 50 feet behind the entry in front of you at all times.

Float winners will be advised at the Public School.

Awards will be presented at the Garden Party in the evening. If you are unable to attend please appoint a delegate to receive the trophy.

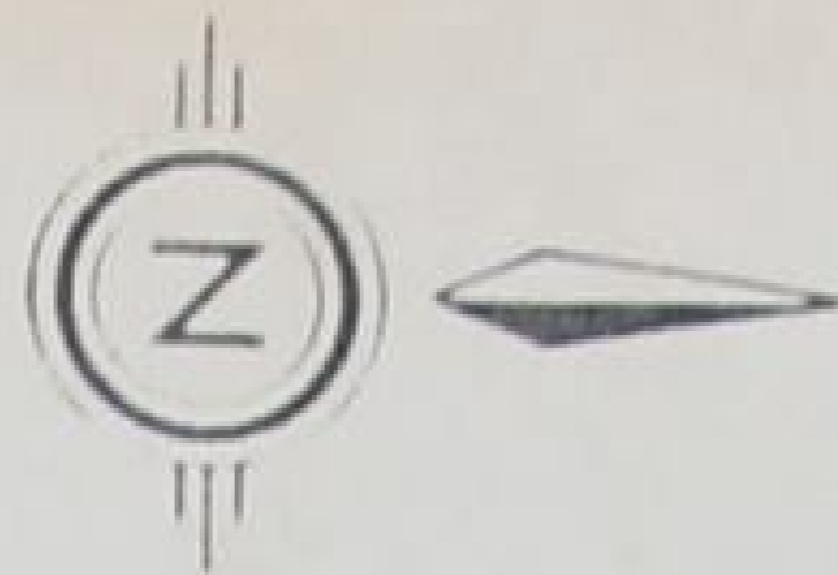
We are hoping to provide a TV replay of the parade at the BBQ following the Parade.

Yours truly,

Don Miller,  
Parade Marshall.

NICH

OTTERVILLE



START

FINISH

TO HWY 59

HWY

59

# The Event Of A Lifetime

1982

Isabel McAlpine

When my cousin called me from Otterville, in Oxford County, to tell me he was coming to take me to the 175th anniversary of Otterville, the first police village in Ontario, I was so thrilled I just sat there on the little step ladder under the phone and thought about all the old times and places I had known.

I was born and lived there until I was seventeen years old - I had been present at the celebration in 1907 when Otterville was one hundred years old and also in 1957 Jack and I had gone up to join the Merry Makers celebrate 150 years and now it was 175 years.

Well, I was excited to say the least. He came on Tuesday and we left on Wednesday. It was 326 miles to drive, but we had a lot of reminiscing to do and the miles slipped by in no time.

Next day was the beginning of the four day celebration: The huge parade was first. It was the largest I have ever seen. There were 107 participants. The floats were beautifully made. One had a huge birthday cake with 175 candles on and a party of people all dressed in clothes of older days. Another had the dam with water actually flowing over it, and re-cycled so it kept flowing. Also twenty-five men, riding horses, they had all been in the parade twenty-five years before, as cubs. A St. Bernard dog trotted along and pulling a small wagon. The town doctor drove the tiniest pony, drawing a cart. He was sitting in the cart, dressed in a swallow-tailed, black suit and Christie stiff hat and also a beard. The first fire truck and the new modern one came along, side by side, and made quite a comparison, and on and on. The street was lined with people for the mile long parade and they enjoyed every minute of it.

That afternoon another first cousin, from Sudbury arrived. It was the first time the three of us had been together under the same roof since World War II, so we had a lot to talk about.

In the evening we went to

the old park for the concert. It was much the same as it was when I was a youngster. The big swings were gone, but it seemed to have the same big, tall, trees with the rough roots sticking up to trip you. The entrance to the park is different. There is a beautiful stone entrance built by my uncle, Alfred Moore, and a war memorial, with the soldiers' names on, stands just inside. The two tributaries of the Otter River join here and flow down to the wide dam.

After we were seated in the grand stand, I noticed an elderly man seated beside me so I said to him: "Do you remember when George McLean had the hardware here?" he replied, "I certainly do." "Well" I said "I am his daughter." He turned quickly and stared at me and then said "Well, you are no chicken, then." I had the honor of being the oldest native to come to the celebration and had a nice corsage pinned on my jacket and also a complimentary ticket to the barbecue.

The second day was for the young folks, with races and swimming events, so we went to Tillsonburg to see old school mates. One was in the Chateau and when I saw her I asked: "Do you remember Isabel McLean?" She said: "Oh, yes, I remember her but I don't know you." She insisted, so we went on to see another. We three had tried our Entrance together in 1909 in a class of seven girls - four of whom had the name Edna. We went on to Norwich then and spent the rest of the day with a life long friend.

Well, Saturday, was a big day. We were to all go to the Central School, and try to find someone we knew. Being the oldest, I had quite a job on my hands. There was one woman from Burgessville that remembered a lot of people I had known and we had a good visit. A man came along, I noticed his name was Scott, so I asked him if he were any relation to little Jimmy Scott. He said, "Yes, he was my grandfather." Well little Jimmy, he was a very small man, had been the tinsmith

in my father's hardware store for years and had his dinner with us each day. In those days people worked six days a week, year in and year out. Another man, George Smith, I had a good visit with. He was the grandson of the butcher where I used to go daily with a copper to get some juicy scraps for the cat. The odd time I'd have five cents for a slice of liver. He was in a beard contest and sported a big, well-trimmed, fancy beard, so it was hard to tell really what he did look like -- but he was a lot smaller man than his grandfather was.

One lady was walking around saying "Does anyone remember the Madison's." I said "Yes, I do." Well, she was anxious to talk about them as her husband was a grandchild and had been given the name of Madison. The one she was interested in was Lena Madison, who worked in the hotel almost across the road from where we lived. The walls of the schoolroom were covered with pictures as far back as when my grandfather was a trustee.

At one time Otterville had a lot of resident, darky folks and on Sunday morning they has a dedication for them. A large monument had been erected in the old churchyard which was right next to Grandpa Moore's property - and lo! and behold! I was the only one that remembered the old church.

I well remember quickening my steps as I passed there going to Grandpas. It was just an empty building at that time. The lady that looked after that part of the program was glad she had sketched the building from what she had heard and nobody knew if there were windows in the front or not. She had gone to a lot of trouble trying to find descendants. There were quite a few there: Descendants of the Wayners, Williams and Grays. One lady sang "Blest be the tie that binds." She had a beautiful voice and it sounded so nice in the open air. After the dedication was over we all went to the Oddy

House for lunch. This is a house built in 1881 out in Milldale which had eight sides. It was moved to the west end of Otterville and made into a Senior Citizen House and there we had a chance to talk to the families and take pictures.

Later, we all went to the school again to finish our visiting and I did see several I missed the day before. One, especially, was Leane McIntosh. She was working at my farm for her Entrance and I was spending my holidays there. During the First World War students with a certain percentage of marks could get their Entrance by working on a farm from Easter til summer holidays.

She had not changed that much. I could not get enough of looking at her. I just could not find words to talk. We had told each other many a secret in those old days.

Fred Fish and his sister, Marion, represented that family. His father, had been the town printer. He was still doing it when he was ninety years old.

Well, from there we went to the barbecue for the last event, a delicious half chicken for each one and of course salads galore. There were exactly six hundred tickets turned in so the six hundred were there. It was held in the flats below the old mill. It was a lovely place in the last hours of sunlight with the river on one side. As we walked out to the sidewalk and waited for our car to come, we were standing over the old race, which was still there. It is a small canal dug from the deep part of the river, running to the mill to operate the big waterwheel. It runs under the sidewalk and highway and I never will forget how frightened I used to walking over it and seeing my shadow in the deep, dark water on my way to and from public school.

Well, it's over. It's kind of sad for me because one thing is sure I'll never celebrate another twenty-fifth anniversary. But the present one has a lot of happy memories to think about and that's life anyway.

CANADA WEEK - SOUTH NORWICH 175TH CELEBRATIONS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1982

A) EXPENDITURES:

Equipment Rental		738.00	
Printing Design, Mailing		1,298.00	
Barbeques:	Lions Club	1,665.00	
	Historical Society	<u>2,000.00*</u>	3,665.00
Fireworks		251.00	
Garden Party:	Otterville	1,064.00	
	Oxford Centre	<u>750.00*</u>	1,814.00
Parade		1,055.00	
Prizes		696.00	
Optimist Club Activities		1,829.00	
Sodding		591.00	
Schools - prizes		<u>250.00</u>	
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES		<u><u>12,137.00</u></u>

B) REVENUE:

Barbeques:	Lions Club	4,290.00	
	Historical Society	<u>2,500.00*</u>	6,790.00
Garden Party:	Otterville	1,429.00	
	Oxford Centre	<u>600.00</u>	2,029.00
50/50 Draw (net)		592.00	
Pin Sales		151.00	
Ball Game		405.00	
Optimist Club Activities		1,036.00	
Federal Grant		<u>3,000.00</u>	
	TOTAL REVENUE		<u><u>14,003.00</u></u>

C) SURPLUS

1,816.00

SOUTH NORWICH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

\* Estimated

RECEIPTS

Garden party gate	\$829.00
Pins	128.86
	<u>957.86</u>

EXPENSES

Signs	263.01
Barrels & Flowers	109.02
Banner	115.60
Programs	268.25
School reunion & logo	44.58
Name tags etc (Guides)	50.16
Expenses-childrens day	48.65
Stage Decorations	209.72
Beauty Contest	182.95
Badges	10.56

\$1,302.50

MAR 3

# Heritage Corner

By Catherine Mann

Springford was originally called Springbrook until 1852 when the post office was established in the hamlet with H.A. Wright being the first postmaster.

In 1831, Dyer Wilcox donated land for a church building and parsonage with the understanding that any orthodox congregation might use it. The church was first used by members of the Congregationalist Church and later by the Methodists. In 1894 the church was moved, bricked, and remodelled and with church union in 1925 became known as the United Church of Canada.

In 1832 the First Regular Baptist Church in Norwich Township was organized with monthly meetings being held on Saturdays as ministers were not always available on Sundays. The meetings were held in the schoolhouses until 1842 when a chapel was built and in 1858 a larger frame building was erected on the present Baptist Church grounds.

The year 1887 saw the present church building constructed and the frame building sold to the community for a Town Hall. It was moved across the road, with the active Literary Society of Springford raising the \$100 for the purchase. With the Hall on rented land and in need of repair, in 1928 the three trustees offered the building to the Springford Women's Institute who had the Hall torn down and rebuilt on its present site on land donated by William Bell.

In 1830, Squire Haley was a Town Warden of Norwich Township and through the years other local residents appeared on the political scene. In December 1914, with the coming of hydro, the residents petitioned South Norwich Township council for street lights. Fifty years later, in 1966, they were still trying to have the lights installed. Approval came in 1977 when the Women's Institute approached Norwich Township council, who then took a pool of the residents as the project would be financed by the taxpayers.

The residents also had a problem with sidewalk maintenance. Each time council was approached, the ownership was in question as the walks had been laid under the Statute of Labor and later when the road became a County road, the department of highways entered the scene.

About 1855, Dr. Francis Cameron was the first doctor in the village, followed by Dr. A.J. Messacar.

In 1870 the first school was built from brick, made at Jenvey's brickyard near Springford. This school closed in June 1952 with the children bused to the Otterville Centre School until 1959 when a six-room school was built in Springford. Students attended this school until June 1981 when the Oxford County board of education closed its doors.

By 1875 the Brantford, Norwich, and Port Burwell Railway was completed through Springford and in the following year there were three hotels to accommodate the travellers. An 1869 accounts list James Rice and Charles Nelson as hotel proprietors. In 1895 the only hotel is listed with W.R. Smith proprietor. By 1852 Sydney Wright was operating the first store and by 1857 there were five stores.

An 1869 account states the population as 450 with William Gillard, A.H. Hamilton and A.L. Wilcox as merchants, John Crossett and W.W. Oatman as boot and shoemaker, E.C. Haley, cabinet maker; Lucas Woodward, Alex and Peter McFarlane as blacksmiths. Also in this account the Cheese Factory built in 1867 lists Wilcox and Collins as the proprietors. This cheese factory was in operation until the 1950's.

An 1892-3 account advertises stages daily to Cornell - fare 25 cents, population 400, telegraph and daily mail. Of the five stores operation in 1857 all but one had closed by 1917 and the remaining store is still in operation by the present owners of 35 years, Bill and Eleanor Mowatt.

Springford, along with the former South Norwich Township, will be celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the founding of their settlement from July 1-4 this year.

# Heritage Corner

By Catherine Mann

"The pleasure of your company and that of your lady, is respectfully solicited at a Social Ball and Supper at T. Moore's Hotel in Otterville on New Year's Eve, 1873. Committee of management Walter Reavely, Springford; E.J. Pilkey, Brantford; Edward Robinson, Little Lake; and N. Brady, Norwich. Music by J. Lounsbury's Quadrill Band. Tickets \$1."

It was not all work and no play for the early South Norwich residents. Entertainment and sporting events were also on their agenda and in 1882 horse races were held on the track at William Holmes' farm.

The 1882 Otterville Guide newspaper reports 'There's a bell so silent and still, High in the wooden tower at Otterville,' the bell rang on Wednesday, March 5, 1884 when the Otterville O.C. Club held a Leap Year Concert with 27 events listed as the ladies had previously raised money to hire a bell ringer.

The Otterville Drama Club of 1882 was an ambitious group participating in such productions as "Queen Esther" and "David The Shepherd Boy."

Throughout the years, many organizations have sponsored dances in the Community Hall. Possibly the most noted orchestra to entertain was the Lombardo Orchestra in 1917 for \$40. Several times they entertained in the hall staying overnight at Wilson Young's Revere House. I have been told the Downings' loved to dance, Tina playing suitable music and Dr. H.G. Downing teaching the young people the Lancers dance.

In the 1920's valuable members in the Cultural life of the area were Mrs. J.C. Robarts, and Tina Downing musicians; Tom Harp and his gramophone entertaining the children; the Otterville Band, elocutionist Marietta Ladell and many others; along with a Springford based male quartet consisting of Fred Lee, Truman Wilcox, Barney Smith and Forest Kenney.

Following the First World War a Debating Club was formed but held only one debate - "City Girls Make Better wives than County Girls." Elgin Scimore and Keith McIntosh of the affirmative side won over George Davis and Mabel McFarlane for the negative. We wonder why there were no more debates!!

The Otterville Literary Society, organized in 1912, met once a month for mutual enjoyment but produced minstrel shows and plays from these meetings.

The Agricultural Society formed in 1865 and held successful fairs on the first Friday and Saturday in October with the Otterville Band performing throughout the day. In later years, the school children of the township, participated at the fairs with keen competition. The last Otterville fair was held in 1922 but in 1980 the newly-organized Springford Area Agricultural Society revitalized the fair 'spirit' by holding its first annual fair on September 20, of that year.

In the late 1930's and 40's a large decorated Christmas tree was erected in the middle of the village of Otterville and Santa duly arrived to distribute bags of candy to the children. The first annual Santa parade was held Saturday, December 16, 1978.

In 1968, the South Norwich Sports Day program was strictly for the young with a parade of wheel-decorated tricycles, bicycles and wagons, followed by races and minor ball games, ending with a teenage dance in the park.

A historic day was July 24, 1907, the 100th Anniversary celebration of the founding of the settlement. The celebrations held in the Otterville Park were of a happy and reminiscent character with ball games, races and swim races across the pond and back, well-contested and the Otterville - Kelvin football game ending in a tie.

In 1957 the 150th Anniversary celebrations continued for three days with the home aptly decorated for the occasion and the store windows displaying many antiques. A parade, beauty and beard contests, sporting events and dances were held throughout the celebrations, culminating with an interdenominational church service in the Otterville Park.

A local newspaper in 1958 stated Otterville and district residents staged the only area celebrations of Dominion Day when great numbers turned out for picnics, fireworks, a ball tournament and dancing.

In 1967, a Centennial Ball was held in the Otterville Park pavillion, decorated for the occasion, with over 200 attending and prizes for period costumes being awarded to Dr. and Mrs. H.H. Batson for the couples award; Mrs. Donald Clifford - ladies and Grant Mountain for the best men's costume. Howard Wells won the beard contest.

Let's retain the festive spirit of our ancestors at the 175th Anniversary Celebrations of the founding of the settlement to be held July 1-4 this year at Otterville.

# Heritage Corner

By Catherine Mann

Perhaps the only indication of a once thriving community in rural Ontario may now only be a cemetery, a former school house or a commemorative plaque. In many instances there is not even a road sign to inform the traveller that the area was a former community.

Miller's Corners at the intersection of the 7th Concession of (South) Norwich Township and the Dereham (South) Norwich Townline is evidence of this. The red brick school Amish children now attend is the only indication of the former Miller's Corners community.

Although they were not the first settlers, the Miller family emigrated from England and obtained two hundred acres of land in the area along the 7th Concession. They later donated land for the erection of the Miller Methodist Church which was erected circa 1870. Services were held in the church until 1907, when during a windstorm, the roof was demolished, and the residents then attended church services in nearby areas. The church was later sold and remodelled as a residence.

As the timber supply on the Miller land waned, the early saw mill moved on to other areas. With land cleared, crops and orchards were then planted. Grain to be ground was then teamed to Rock's Mills.

For many years the Wilson Apple Factory at Miller's Corners produced cider and vinegar. After the closing of the factory it was moved to Tillsonburg.

The excess milk from the area farms was processed into cheese at the Miller Cheese Factory until its closing in 1906.

One of the mainstays of a community appears to be a store which Miller's Corners did not have, thus, the residents travelled to Springford and Tillsonburg for their groceries and wares as well as their mail, until the advent of rural mail delivery in 1912.

The first school at Miller's Corners was in Dereham Township, approximately ¼ mile west of the Townline on the 7th Concession. The three school sections, Dereham, South Norwich and North Norwich united in 1857. Two years later saw the completion of a new frame school house which remained for nearly 50 years. This school house eventually became the St. Charles Anglican Church AYPAs hall until it burned in 1930.

The present day red brick school, built in 1908 saw its last pupils under the Public School System in 1959 at which time the pupils were then bused to the Springford school. But the school bell still tolls at Miller's Corners for the Amish children.

Another example for a once busy community in South Norwich Township is the area of Lots 14 to 20 on Concession 11. Although the community was to be called Rosehill, it became Rosanna in 1896 when the post office was established in that area.

John H. Armstrong was the first postmaster receiving mail twice weekly from Courtland, and later from Tillsonburg until the arrival of rural mail delivery in 1912.

The first school was erected west of the present Rosanna Cemetery in 1865. Thirty years later a new red brick school was built east of the cemetery. The first school was eventually taken over by the Canadian Order of Foresters. The brick school closed in 1948 and was later torn down.

In 1884, Calvary Church was erected by the Evangelical Methodist residents. This church was later purchased by the Baptist Congregation who held services until the 1930's. In later years Calvary Church was torn down and moved to Tillsonburg.

As there was no store operating in Rosanna, those residents also travelled to other communities for their groceries and wares. Eventually came the decline of community activities.

The present day, row on row of neat markers in the cemetery are the only remaining indicators of this once active community of Rosanna.

# Heritage Corner

By Catherine Mann

The following poem was written by a former Otterville resident around 1930. It illustrates a more humorous aspect of our heritage.

## THE PASSING OF THE BACKHOUSE

When memory keeps me company and moves to smiles  
and tears,  
A weather beaten object looms through the mist of  
years.  
Behind the house and barn it stood, a half a mile or  
more,  
And hurrying feet a path hath made, straight to its sw-  
inging door.  
It's architecture was a type of simple classic art,  
But in tragedy of life it played a leaving part.  
And oft the passing traveller drove slow and heaved a  
sigh,  
To see the modest haired girl slip out with glances sly.

We had our posey garden that the women loved so well,  
I loved it too, but better still, I loved the stronger smell,  
That filled the evening breezes, so full of homely cheer  
And told the night or token tramp, that human life was  
near.  
On lazy August afternoon it made a shady bower,  
Delightful where my grandsire sat and whilst away an  
hour.  
For there the summer morning, its very cares entwined  
And berry bushes reddened in the steaming sore behind.

All day fat spiders spun their webs to catch the buzzing  
flies  
That flitted to and from the house where ma was baking  
pies.  
And once a swarm of hornets bold, had built a palace  
there  
And stung my unsuspecting aunt - I must not tell you  
where.  
Then father took a flaming pole, that was a happy day  
He nearly burned the building down but the hornets left  
to stay.  
When summer's bloom began to fade and winter to  
carouse  
We banked the little building up with heaps of hemlock  
boughs.

But when the crust was on the snow and sullen skies  
were gray,  
En sooth the building was no place where one would wish  
to stay.  
We did our duties promptly then, one purpose swayed  
our mind,  
We tarried not nor lingered long on what we left behind,  
The torture of that icy seat could make a spartan sob,  
For needs must scrape the gooseflesh with a lacerating  
hole.  
That from a frost encrusted nail was suspended by a str-  
ing,  
My father was a frugal man and wasted not a thing.

In order for these former communities to retain their identity and preserve our heritage, let us hope that in the not-to-distant future there will be a road sign or a commemorative plaque to honor these early pioneers throughout rural Ontario.

When grandpa had to go out back and make his morning  
call,  
We'd bundle up the dear old man with muffler and  
shawl.

I knew the hole on which he sat, t'was padded all around,  
And once I dared to sit there, t'was all too wide I found.  
My Loins were all to little and I jackknifed there to stay,  
They had to come and get me out, or I'd have passed  
away.  
Then father said Ambition was a thing that boys should  
shun,  
And I must use the children's hole till childhood days  
were done.

But still I marvelled at the craft that cut those holes so  
true,  
The baby hole, the slender hole, that fitted sister Sue.  
That dear old country landmark, I've tramped around a  
bit,  
And in the lap of luxury my lot has been to sit.  
But 'ere I die I'll eat the fruit, of trees I've rolled of yore,  
Then seek the shanty where my name is carved upon the  
door.  
I ween the old familiar smell will soothe my faded soul,  
I'm now a man but none the less I'd try the children's  
hole.

Composed by the late William Hartford  
Otterville (Circa. 1930)

This too is Heritage!

JAN 6

# Heritage Corner

By Catherine Mann

## Heritage is our past

Otterville and the former South Norwich Township will be celebrating the 175th anniversary of the founding of their settlement this year from July 1 to 4.

In 1807, John Earl and Paul Avery, the first known settlers in Otterville, established a grist and saw mill. In 1812 the first school in the township was built on Lot 19, Concession 7 on the eastern banks of the Spitler Creek. In 1855 it was decided the Township of Norwich should be divided into two sections thus the formation of South Norwich Township and North Norwich Townships.

Letters were mailed in November to representatives of community organizations notifying them of a "fact-finding" meeting on December 2, 1981 in the council Chambers to discuss plans for the 175th Anniversary and Canada Week celebrations in the township. Canada Week Chairman Carman Sweazy advised that the 1982 Canada Week celebrations in Norwich Township would be held from June 25 to July 1. Since Canada Week celebrations culminate in a parade, it was decided the parade would begin the 175th Anniversary celebration of South Norwich on July 1.

Under the capable leadership of chairman Murray Downing, the following coordinating anniversary committee was formed: Jean Davis, Rick Singer, Gordon Shearer, Joyce Pettigrew, William McMullen, Jr., Catherine Mann, Ken Peers, Carman Sweazy, John Gilbert and Suzanne Hanson.

The second meeting of the anniversary committee was held December 9. The following were discussed as possible activities: parade, barbecues, garden party, school reunion, beauty contest, antique auction, ball tournaments, old-times ball game, anniversary logo competition, historic tours, plaque and cairn unveiling at the Black Cemetery, church services and a choir and organ recital, an antique car rally, a soap box derby and other possible events.

The third meeting was held on December 17, at

which time it was decided the parade committee will be under the leadership of Rick Jones and Bob Scott of Norwich and Gordon Shearer of Otterville.

The Norwich - Otterville Lions Club will be holding a barbeque in the Otterville Park on July 1 and the South Norwich Historical Society will hold a barbeque at the Treffry mill on Sunday, July 4.

A beard growing contest will be held under the sponsorship of the Spring - Otter Optimist Club. All contestants are urged to register immediately with the Club. The Optimist Club will also be holding a dance during the celebrations.

Since there were nine schools in the former South Norwich Township, it was decided a reunion of former pupils and residents would be held. Boyd Little is chairman with Wilma Butler, Juanita DeRoo and Don Neale assisting. Mr. Little would appreciate receiving names and addresses of former pupils and residents. Times of events will be decided at a later meeting.

All organizations of the former township are asked to participate in the Anniversary celebrations. Any suggestions on how to make this 175th Anniversary Celebration the BIGGEST and BEST in the history of the former South Norwich Township will be appreciated by contacting any committee member or by attending the next meeting on Wednesday, January 13 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

More to come in Heritage Corner.

# Heritage Corner

By Catherine Mann

One hundred and seventy-five years ago in 1807, John Earl and Paul Avery were the first settlers to establish grist and saw mills in Otterville on the south side of Main Street, near the present mill.

In 1808, Cook and Galloway purchased land on the north side and built the second mills. In 1815 the mills were sold to Hugh Webster, who in 1819 sold them to the Cromwells. In 1845, Edward Bulloch bought these properties, maintained the saw mill, changed the old grist mill to a custom woollen mill on the west side of the river and built the present grist mill on the east side of the river.

In 1877 the saw and grist mills, formerly owned by E. Bulloch, passed into the hands of E.M. Schooley who conducted a milling business until 1880 when Solomon B. Lossing became the owner. Later Roy Lossing took possession of the grist mill, followed by George Graves of Tillsonburg and later by George Springay. Reg Lossing operated the mill for a number of years.

In 1943 Ernest Treffry purchased the mill, which had been closed for four or five years, and it took him several months to restore the machinery. From 1952 to 1981 his son Lorne Treffry was the owner and operated the grist mill until April 1980 at which time he ceased operations.

On June 29, 1980, a plaque erected at the mill site by the South Norwich Historical Society, commemorating the 135 years of the present mill's history, was unveiled by Lorne Treffry and Bert Lossing. A large crowd attended the unveiling, followed by a barbeque sponsored by the South Norwich Historical Society and the Mill Committee.

The mill property was then for sale but the Long Point Region Conservation Authority, who had previously shown interest, would now make no commitment unless they had local input from Norwich Township and local residents. A meeting was called by concerned residents on March 23, 1980 with over 120 in attendance to see whether or not there was interest in preserving this historic site.

On March 25, a delegation in excess of 100 interested persons, met with Norwich Township Council to pursue the matter as it was not only the historic mill at stake, but also the dam site, the footbridge access to the park and the watermain to the west end of the village.

In September, 1980, Norwich Township Council took a one year option to purchase the property. Later reports from the L.P.R.C.A. indicated they had no funding for the purchase and were not interested in the property. Thus September, 1981, Norwich Township purchased the 41-acre site for \$60,000.

In January 1981, Ducks Unlimited, an organization who cannot purchase property but can make donations to preserve and restore wildlife habitats, offered up to \$20,000 for repairs to the dam. The South Norwich Historical Society is prepared to lease the mill and the society, along with the Mill Committee, is at present looking into possibilities for future uses of the mill.

In the year 2007 - the 200th anniversary, it is hoped a Heritage Corner by another writer will present a resume of the mill restorations and operations - their heritage preserved.

On Sunday, July 4 of this year, the South Norwich Historical Society and the Mill Committee will be holding their annual barbecue at the mill site, to commemorate the 175th anniversary celebrations of South Norwich. As a quote from Robert Louis Stephenson's poem *The Keepsake Mill* says: "Here we shall meet and remember the past."

# Heritage Corner

By Catherine Mann

This is the time as we approach Heritage Day on February 19 to remember our ancestors. I realize some people may say forget the past, think of today and the future, but our future may depend on the past which shows the trials, tribulations and the happy events of our ancestors.

Perhaps through their errors and their guidance we can make a better future. We think we are facing bad economic times but pause a moment to think about the first settlers to this area. Could you decide what to put in a wagon as your most "prized" possessions to start a new life in an unknown territory? Food and clothing for many days and nights of travel, no automated appliances, no chain saws to blaze a trail, no blueprints to erect a dwelling. Are we really facing the hardships of our ancestors?

Today, more people are aware of preserving their heritage and we must continue to do so for future generations. Before discarding old minute books, diaries, photos or documents, check with your local historical society, archives or museums as there may be pertinent information in these records which could save hours, months and even years of time for someone researching history or genealogy. If you wish to loan documents to one of the above organizations they will gladly give you a receipt stating on loan or donated.

All documents going to provincial archives in Toronto through transfer of ownership, become the property of The Crown, thus researchers must go to Toronto or purchase a microfilm of the documents. Provincial archives do not lend any material to local archives but the Federal Archives in Ottawa does have a lending service.

Newspaper clippings in scrap books are very informative providing any typeographical errors have been corrected and the month and year have been noted, as many articles state last Wednesday instead of the actual date. Fortunately many newspapers have microfilmed their older editions so one can read more than one version as each reporter has different opinions. We are fortunate in this area that the press gives much coverage to local events.

Although microfilm readers are in short supply and in much demand in this area, all minute books, diaries and documents should be either microfilmed or photocopied in order to have a second record in case of the loss of the original documents so heritage is preserved.

The former South Norwich Township will be celebrating its heritage from July 1-4. July 1 activities include a parade, barbecue, Garden Party and other events to be held in Otterville culminating Canada Week and beginning the anniversary celebrations of South Norwich. More will follow on the celebrations at a later date.

We wish to thank the local newspaper for their cooperation in the coverage of local events and especially for their columns "Looking Back" - these too are heritage preserved.

## Heritage Corner

By CATHERINE MANN

By 1792, the province of Upper Canada was divided with Norwich Township attached to the County of Norfolk until 1798 when it unofficially became part of the County of Oxford with royal assent received in 1800.

The first survey in 1799 divided the township into 12 concessions and lots of 200 acres. In that same year, Upper Canada council advertised for sale the townships of Dereham and Norwich with land to be sold in lots of 3,000 acres, each exclusive of Crown and Clergy Reserves.

In 1804, London District council showed the population of Norwich Township as nil. Townships initially shared a neighbor's town meeting as 300 inhabitant householders were required before a town meeting could be called.

The first Norwich town meeting was held in 1816. In 1830, the first recorded minutes available state a town clerk, two assessors, a collector, two town wardens, two pound keepers and 24 roadmasters were appointed. The meetings were annually in private residences or public inns. In 1835 there were 39 overseers of roads, 11 fence viewers and three commissioners, one from the north, one from the middle and one from the south appointed, indicating the growth of the township.

In 1839 by proclamation, the Township of Norwich became a separate and distinct district by the name of the District of Brock until 1849 when districts were abolished and counties took effect. With the Act of Union of 1841, the township's main concern was to carry out the orders of the district council as the townships were unable to tax their residents for local improvements. Townships could petition county councils for local needs but the taxes were raised by county council until 1849 when the Baldwin Municipal Act was passed. Thus the mainstay of municipal government was the township and incorporated village, no longer the county council. The basis of the Municipal Act of 1849 remained in effect until the 1960's when regionalized government came into being.

On January 7, 1850, five persons were elected to serve as Norwich Township councillors who could elect from amongst themselves a chairman and a reeve. If there were more than 500 freeholders and householders, a deputy reeve could be elected.

John Tidey, land surveyor, recorded in his diary on March 10, 1855 that he was employed by town council to draw three petitions to the three branches of the Legislature to get the Township of Norwich divided into two municipalities to be called North Oxford and South Oxford. By an Act of Parliament of this province applied from May 13, 1855, the Township of Norwich was divided into two municipalities being North Norwich Township and South Norwich Township.

In January 1856, the first meeting of South Norwich Township was held at the Town Hall, Otterville, with Asa Durkee as reeve, John Cornell, R.B. Cromwell, Chauncey Wilcox and David Randall as councillors. The Municipal Act of 1849 governed the duties of township councils being to build and maintain schools, roads, bridges and animal pounds, to appoint animal keepers, fence viewers, road surveyors and overseers, regulate taverns, inns, travelling shows, the running of animals at large, enforcing statutes of labor, to raise taxes, tolls and to borrow money when required for local improvements. The bylaws under the previous township were still in effect until rescinded by the new townships.

The councillors' remuneration in 1857 was \$1.50 per day for attendance, increasing to \$2 in 1875 and by 1940 it was \$5 per day and \$4 for special meetings, with councillors in 1973 receiving \$25 for regular meetings and \$20 for special but \$25 should specials last all day. In 1859, bylaw 37 divided South Norwich Township into five wards for electoral purposes.

In 1906, a bylaw to extend councillors' terms from one to two years was defeated.

Regional government came into effect in January 1975 for the two Norwich Townships thus the circle was completed - from one in 1792 to two in 1855 and back to one township in 1975.

Plan to attend the 175th anniversary celebrations of the founding of the settlement of the former South Norwich Township in Otterville from July 1-4 of this year.

The writer is also urgently requesting ANY information on Norwich Township from 1850 to 1855 inclusive as council minutes have not been located. Kindly telephone 879-6412.



# Heritage Corner

By Catherine Mann

Milldale, located between the 7th and 8th Concession of (South) Norwich Township on Highway 59, was originally called Newton.

In 1838 Michael Stover sold 100 acres of land to William P. Barker who built three mills, a saw and a grist mill, on the Otter Creek and a woolen mill on Crystal Creek. Both of these creeks flow through Milldale. Five years later, upon accumulation of 600 acres, Mr. Barker, by survey, divided part of the land into 10 village lots on the 7th Concession bordering on Stover, Concession and Penn streets.

In 1847 Mr. Barker sold his mills to Hiram Corless who, the following year, sold the woolen mill on Crystal Creek to Jane and Luther Dodge with John Tidey purchasing the saw and grist mills, two years later. They eventually sold them back to Mr. Barker who rebuilt the grist mill which had previously burned.

Mr. Barker retained the mills until 1873, selling them to Moses and Nelson Bowman who called them The Eureka Mills. By 1880 the saw mill had ceased operation and two years later the Bowmans sold their mills to John Pettit. From then on ownership changed several times until the demise of the mills.

Unknown is the actual beginning of the Big Red Mill, as remembered today, but for several years in the early 1900's Duncan McNaughton operated the Red Mill, selling to the Bowermans who tore it down in 1918.

Thomas Wright in 1961 built his home 'Woodlawn' on the Mill Road. Along with household furniture he made wagons, oxen yoke and patented his 'new dominion spinning wheel.' Fifty years later John Oddy purchased Woodlawn and in the 1970's sold it to Rina and McKay Davis.

In 1976 Woodlawn was moved from its original site to the former Erbtown, west of the Otterville village limits, where, after being restored, the octagonal house is now the meeting place of many local organizations.

In the mid-1860's South Norwich Township council minutes the road between Barker and Wright's property was a 'popular' topic - Mr. Barker closing the road and Mr. Wright wanting it kept in good repair and open to public traffic, with Mr. Wright eventually on the winning side.

For five years Mr. Barker operated a grocery store in Milldale. The store was robbed twice "of its most valuable articles." A meeting house being required for the Society of Friends in one week he sold his entire stock and had the store converted for that purpose.

A larger meeting house was build by 1877 on the site of the former Norris Bachelor Hall and Store. Forty years later the meeting house and property was for sale.

From the Rules and Regulations of the Friends' Buriel Ground at Milldale, printed at The Gazette Office in 1887 with written revisions "as of first day of second month at 1900" we learn William Barker, by a Deed of Conveyance gave the land to a Committee of Trustees of the Society of Friends, stating excess funds (after Sexton's caretaking) shall be used for "tree planting and fencing" of the grounds. Each Society family is entitled to a plot "free of charge except a fee of \$2 for each grave to be made." A section was laid out for non-members of the Society with plots being "\$16 or \$8 per half plot plus \$2 for grave made." Monuments were to be "three feet, 6 inches in height and 20 inches in width" unless other rules were adopted at the yearly meeting of the Society of Friends. To the present day the grounds are well maintained by the Milldale Cemetery Board.

The Milldale School Trustees of 1861 purchased land on which to erect a school to replace the original log school house built in 1846. For over 80 years children attended the one room school with Florence Smith being the final teacher in 1947. The school building remains in Milldale but has become the attractive residence of Sam and Elsie McSpadden.

During the war years, the patriotic society of Milldale participated in many township events.

# Heritage Corner

By Catherine Mann

School days, from the little log school to the frame building and later the little 'red' brick school to the present day larger buildings indicates the changes in time.

The first school was built in South Norwich Township on the eastern high banks of Spitler Creek in 1812. Another school opened in 1830 west of Springford on Concession 9 and became known as the 'Old Block School.' In 1849 a new school was built in Springford near the Baptist Church, but was destroyed by fire in 1869. The white brick school on County Road 13 opened the following year and remained as a school until 1952 when the children were then bused to Otterville. Seven years later a six room school was built in Springford on County Road 19. Pupils attended until June 1981 when the doors were closed and the children bused to South Ridge Public School north of Tillsonburg.

S.S. No. 1 saw three schools on Lot 1, Concession 8 of South Norwich Township from the early 1850's when in 1893 the last school was erected and saw many pupils and teachers until its closing in 1947. The school remains but has been remodelled into a private residence.

S.S. No. 2 located at Milldale saw its first log school in 1846. Land was purchased in 1861 for a new frame school to which pupils attended until 1947. This school too has become a private residence.

S.S. No. 5 at Miller's Corners had three schools. The original log school was replaced in 1859 with a frame building. The final school, being of red brick built in 1908, also closed in 1947. The Amish children now attend this school.

S.S. No. 8 at Summerville follows the trend of having three schools. Due to the lack of a teacher the school was vacant in 1834 but had 53 pupils in 1851. The following year a frame school was built on Lot 7, Concession 10. The red brick school was built in 1873 south of Summerville Corners and saw pupils until its closing in 1947. This building later was used for tobacco storage.

S.S. No. 9 at Cornell saw its log school house replaced in 1865 with a frame building at Lot 17, Concession 9. After its closing in 1947 the school became the present day Community Centre.

S.S. No. 10 at New Road saw its first school in 1859. The white frame school was erected on Lot 25, Concession 10 and replaced in 1914 with a red brick school which was eventually torn down.

Although trees and underbrush now grow along the river banks the Milldale and area residents had many happy times skating on the pond and picnicking along the banks of the Otter and Crystal Creeks which have now become a popular area for fishermen.

The gradual decline of the Milldale business activity may have been due to the severe spring floods causing the dams and roads to be washed out, thus adding problems and more expense to the mill owners.

The area now mostly agricultural, has a fine residential section surrounding the former school and the cemetery.

Milldale residents will be joining in the 175th Anniversary celebrations of the founding of the settlement of the South Norwich Township from July 1-4 this year.

S.S. No. 13 at Rosanna in 1865 saw its first school replaced 30 years later by a red brick building erected east of Rosanna Cemetery. This school also closed in 1947 and was later torn down.

S.S. No. 14 at Hawtrey had its first school built in 1871 burn in 1910. The red brick school erected the following year remains as a private residence.

S.S. No. 6 is located in Otterville. In 1825 reference is made to a log school in the northern part of the village but now often Otterville's first log school is referred to in the 1830's as being located in the heart of the village on land south-east of the corner of Main and Dover Streets. In 1857 a new two-storey brick school was built on the north-west corner of Main and Grove Streets. It became a Continuation or High School in 1924. The present day brick school was built in 1927 and remained as a Public or Continuation School until 1947 when the 'High School' students were then bused to Norwich, Delhi and Tillsonburg. 1952 saw a four room addition to the present Otterville Central School.

Let's recall those good school days of South Norwich Township at the School Reunion in the Otterville Central School on July 3 and 4 from 2-4:30 p.m. Boyd Little and committee have put much time and effort into obtaining photos of the South Norwich Township schools, pupils and teachers.

Thanks to F. Bruce Pearce of London, who lived at Miller's Corners in the early 1900's, some of my dates which were incorrect in Heritage Corner have been corrected.

The Methodist Church roof was demolished in 1916 or 1917 after which church goes travelled to Ostrander for church services. Over the Miller Methodist Church Shed was a community hall where Christmas Concerts and Church suppers were held. The school was situated on the northwest corner of the 7th Concession and Town Line. As Mr. Pearce stated, the Cheese Factory did not close in 1906, further research indicates it remained open until 1923.

All corrections are greatly appreciated as the South Norwich Historical Society has almost completed compiling the history of the Township to be published later this year.

Hope to see all former pupils and teachers at the school reunion during the 175th Anniversary Celebrations from July 1 to 4.

# Heritage Corner

By Catherine Mann

## OTTERVILLE BOARD OF TRADE

On February 14, 1913 some 30 men attended a banquet at Wilson Young's Revere House to form the first Otterville Board of Trade with F.G. Bulloch as president; S.R. Lee, vice-president; H.E. Smiley, secretary; and R.A. Howes as treasurer. No stone was to be left unturned as the Board appointed industrial, publicity and improvement committees.

At the January, 31, 1917 annual banquet in the Town Hall, the slate of officers were: president, F.G. Bulloch, vice-president, William Holmes; secretary, Dr. H.G. Downing; and treasurer, A. Bryson. These energetic men held office for three years. Their first endeavor was to have the village limits extended easterly to include 10 more acres, but to no avail as this was agricultural land.

Through petitions circulated throughout the residents they obtained better train service, as at that time the morning and afternoon service of the Grand Trunk Railway had been discontinued and 6:23 p.m. was too late for same day mail and freight delivery. Passengers had to remain overnight and all day for the next train.

On April 27, 1917, the Board held a concert in the Town Hall with musical entertainment and discussions on improvement. As this was in the war years, the Board proposed acquiring 10 acres of land for growing potatoes and turnips. Not being farmers, much preparation was put into this project.

Ten local boys agreed to work for 10 days and the girls were also willing, if required. As the Park Committee did not wish their land to be used, only 6½ acres throughout the village were plowed, disced and rolled. Although one farmer in the village complained if his street was used, couch grass would spread to his farm, this did not deter the businessmen as they had five acres of potatoes planted and the balance in beans. The cost of seed etc., amounted to \$238, financed by the Board.

The potato yield was 324 bags to be sold at \$1.50 per 90 pound bag but the price averaged \$1.36 per bag, with a market being sought in October for 84 unsold bags. No mention is made of the bean crop results. This 'gardening' project continued the next year but in 1919 the "back" streets and lots were put back to the original good condition.

The big event of 1917 was a Gala Garden Party sponsored by the Board along with the Patriotic Societies of Springford, Cornell, Milldale and Otterville. To have the party, the Board had the Park electrically wired and more booths built. The musical entertainment for the evening was the Lombardo Orchestra hired for \$40.

Also in 1917 G.L. Williams of Toronto, through the Board, made a proposition to the citizens of Otterville to locate a shoe factory in the village. The Board canvassed the citizens and raised \$7,000 in stock subscriptions for the Shoe factory which was established that same year.

Also through the 1917 Board of Trade, a Horticultural Society was formed. Thus came the beautification of the village and the Park entrance and in 1918 once again through the Board's efforts, a Literary Society was formed. This Society was instrumental in the many concerts and plays held in the Town Hall throughout the years.

The Board also published a booklet in 1917 containing all the names of the men in the Township who have enlisted in the C.E. Forces.

Throughout the years many publications were issued promoting the business.

In later years, the Board of Trade was instrumental in having the "dark spots" on the streets better lighted, improving telephone service in the area along with obtaining better fire and police protection. In the early 1930's the Board looked into the feasibility of a Brantford Tractor factory locating in the village but apparently the financial assets of the company did not meet the Board's requirements.

# Heritage Corner

By Catherine Mann

## OTTER PARK

Ho, Otterville takes off its cap,  
Broadcast the news, its on the map.  
Come one, come all, from far and near  
And you will find it pleasant here.  
To those on quiet pleasure bent  
Mid sulvan glades and leafy bower  
To hear content some quiet hours,  
While children swing and romp and lark  
Amid the pines in Otter Park.

The nymphs in true artistic Greek  
Resort themselves in Otter Creek.  
And when the evening shades prevail  
The moon takes up the wonderous tale  
Of lovers luck and happy chance  
To trip the light fantastic dance.  
Across the creek, along the shore  
In numbers ever more and more  
The pleasure cars are parked along  
With laughter, honks and joyous song  
The wel'king rings both loud and strong.  
So if you want your pleasure fill,  
Just board your car for Otterville.

Author Unknown.

Many parties with a band in attendance were held in the Boys Park in the north side of Otter Creek in days past. From a June 27, 1888 party invitation we learn boats carrying the guests left "Prison Wharf" at the foot of William Street every five minutes.

In 1890 Robert Paxton and Sam Smiley, two Otterville businessmen were farsighted enough to realize this natural beauty spot should be preserved for future generations. Thus the original Charter for the Otter Park Company is dated July 21, 1891.

With \$1,000 raised by selling shares, the money was used to purchase and clear one acre of land at the junction of Otter and Sweets Creek and to build a wooden footbridge across the Otter that same year.

May 24, 1892 saw the formal opening of the new Park, with sporting events, boating and an evening concert being held.

When the spring floods swept away the one-year old footbridge and the Lossing dam gave out, the Park company took advantage of the low water to clean the pond, erect another footbridge, a 70 by 100 foot bathing platform and to lay iron pipes across the river bed to have "an inexhaustible supply of pure spring water in the Park to refresh the thirsty."

The Board of Trade unfortunately became inactive for some years but was reorganized in 1951 with over 30 attending the meeting. The officers of this Board were: Chairman Earl Peter; vice-chairman, George Slaght and secretary-treasurer, Cecil Finch.

For a number of years, this Board of Trade promoted the village but membership declined. Thus in January 1973, the Otterville Businessmen Association was formed with president, Jim Auger; secretary, Mel Smith and treasurer, Nelson Gleason.

This association in later years was carried on by the ladies of the village.

The footbridge remained for nine years when the Otter Park completed another wooden bridge which was 'wrecked' in 1920 by high water and ice. To rebuild was too large an undertaking for the Otter Park Company, thus the grounds were turned over to South Norwich Township with Bylaw 641 establishing a "Community Hall and Athletic Field" committee. At this time the Park was enlarged to 10 acres and a new footbridge was built but no provision was made for a road to the Park.

The footbridge remained for 50 years when the present steel structure was erected at a cost of \$11,000.

In 1907 the federal government presented a cannon cast in 1807 as a 100th anniversary commemorative gift to the village. This cannon was 'teamed' to its present location in the Park by resident George Childs who received \$7 for his work.

Local masoner A.E. Moore built a stone cairn at the Park entrance as a First World War memorial. The two stone posts at the front of the memorial were enhanced for many years by an Iron Lion and Unicorn donated by local businessman Mr. Gallard. The flower bed behind the memorial was well kept by the local Horticultural Society and later by the Women's Institute.

In 1945, the Park Board and local organizations organized a Memorial Swimming Pool Fund. Four years later on July 1 a most impressive dedication of the South Norwich Memorial Swimming Pool took place in the park. This pool remained for 25 years until the South Norwich Township and Norwich-Otterville Lions Club demolished the old and erected a new pool. Chairman Dr. G.M. Downing presided at the official opening on August 5, 1974.

It was that same year the Lions Club signed a 10-year lease to maintain the park which they have continued to do to the present day, with the Sunshine Club installing children's playground equipment in their corner of the park.

Through the years, the park has witnessed numerous celebrations - the 100th and 150th Anniversary, Canada's Centennial and this year will be the scene of the 175th Anniversary of the South Norwich Settlement as well as Norwich Township's Canada Day celebrations.

This is the final Heritage Corner column by the writer who has certainly enjoyed her "work". Unfortunately all areas of South Norwich Township were not covered but will be in the history to be published later this year, by the South Norwich Historical Society.

Hope to see ALL present and former residents and others at the Canada Day and 175th Anniversary Celebrations July 4 to 4.

# Otterville News

OTTERVILLE (C) — Many fine comments have been returned to the residents of Otterville for the four days of celebration marking Canada's Birthday in the village and area and the South Norwich 175th celebrations.

Every meeting place was filled with enthusiasm. Everyone was happy to

meet school chums and seniors meeting seniors. It is readily agreed that folk in every walk of life, numbering well over the 2,000 number, will have many pleasant memories of those happy days spent July 1, 2, 3 and 4th in the village of Otterville.

It would almost seem impossible to note the

visitors who stayed when and where but accommodation was gladly given to the folk with trailers and this made the four days one grand holiday for the visitors and the hosts of the village.

Mr. and Mrs. James Squance, who recently celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary, were

entertained at the home of their daughter, Jean McClintock and Mr. McClintock for a family dinner last week.



## Examining history

The history of the Norwich post office from its beginnings to the November 1978 fire and subsequent reconstruction caught the eye of Jack and Lila Freeman of Otterville when they attended the official opening of the post office facility in Norwich on Friday. The scrapbook has been put together by Postmaster Gordon Shearer and is on public display in the post office. (NG Photo).



## Essay winners

These young ladies from Otterville Public School were the winners in the recent history essay sponsored by The Norwich Gazette. The winners, who wrote essays on South Norwich history, were: first, Janet Arthur; second, Elizabeth Hornyak and third, Cindy Marchuk (left to right). (NG Photo).



## OTTERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Would Like To Thank...

Floyd and Gail Lewis, DeWachter Electric, McMullen's Machine Shop and all parents and students for their SUPPORT and HARD WORK in making our NEW CLIMBER possible.



## Geese on land

The geese at the mill pond in Otterville were caught by the photographer during a brief foray onto land -- but decided to leave after a quick picture session. (NG Photo).

# Likes the work

LONDON FREE PRESS

July 9

## Doctor's lengthy career far from over

By Eric Reguly  
Woodstock Bureau

OTTERVILLE — Harold Batson's handshake is steady and firm, as a doctor's should be. It takes you by surprise, though, because he's frail looking and slight. He's also 86.

If you were born in the Otterville area, chances are the first person to touch you was Batson. "I just missed delivering a fifth generation because the mother moved away from here," he says. Batson has "doctored" four generations in this town.

The country doctor is one of the oldest practising healers in the province, says the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. Batson, born in Brantford, graduated in medicine from the University of Toronto in 1923. He came here two years later.

Batson says he still has about 250 patients, two of whom are 92. In the last four years he has retired twice. "I had too many patients depending on me. I wasn't crazy about retiring."

"There's a great gratification in doctoring patients you've had from the day you landed here."

Nancy, his second wife, was at a July 4 picnic in Otterville when someone asked how many there had been delivered by Batson. "Three-quarters of the table put up their hands. They were all his babies," she says.

Batson says "I don't think I lost a baby in all the babies I delivered in homes."

A doctor who still makes house calls is rare. But Batson considers them all part of a day's work.

Of course, house calls 50 or so years ago, especially in winter, were more like expeditions. And poor paying, too.

He recalls one he made in the dead of winter in 1928. A fellow doctor needed Batson and his portable steel operating table for a tonsillectomy in nearby Norwich. Batson got there, partly by car which became

stuck in the snow, and partly by horse and sled. For this all-day effort he earned \$10.

"When I started here I got \$1.50 for an office call." And, during the Depression in the 1930s when money was scarce, Batson says, patients often paid with part of a cow or a sack of potatoes.

Modern doctors have the proper tools and tests to handle most medical emergencies, says Batson. In the 1920s, however, doctoring often relied on a good guess and a prayer. For example, Batson says broken bones were sometimes set without x-rays.

A one-man operation meant being a one-man emergency force. Years ago, a four-week-old girl next door stopped breathing. Batson knew he had only seconds to save her life. "I held her up by her feet and put a catheter down her throat and sucked some of the phlegm out. I put the tube down a little farther and she breathed through it."

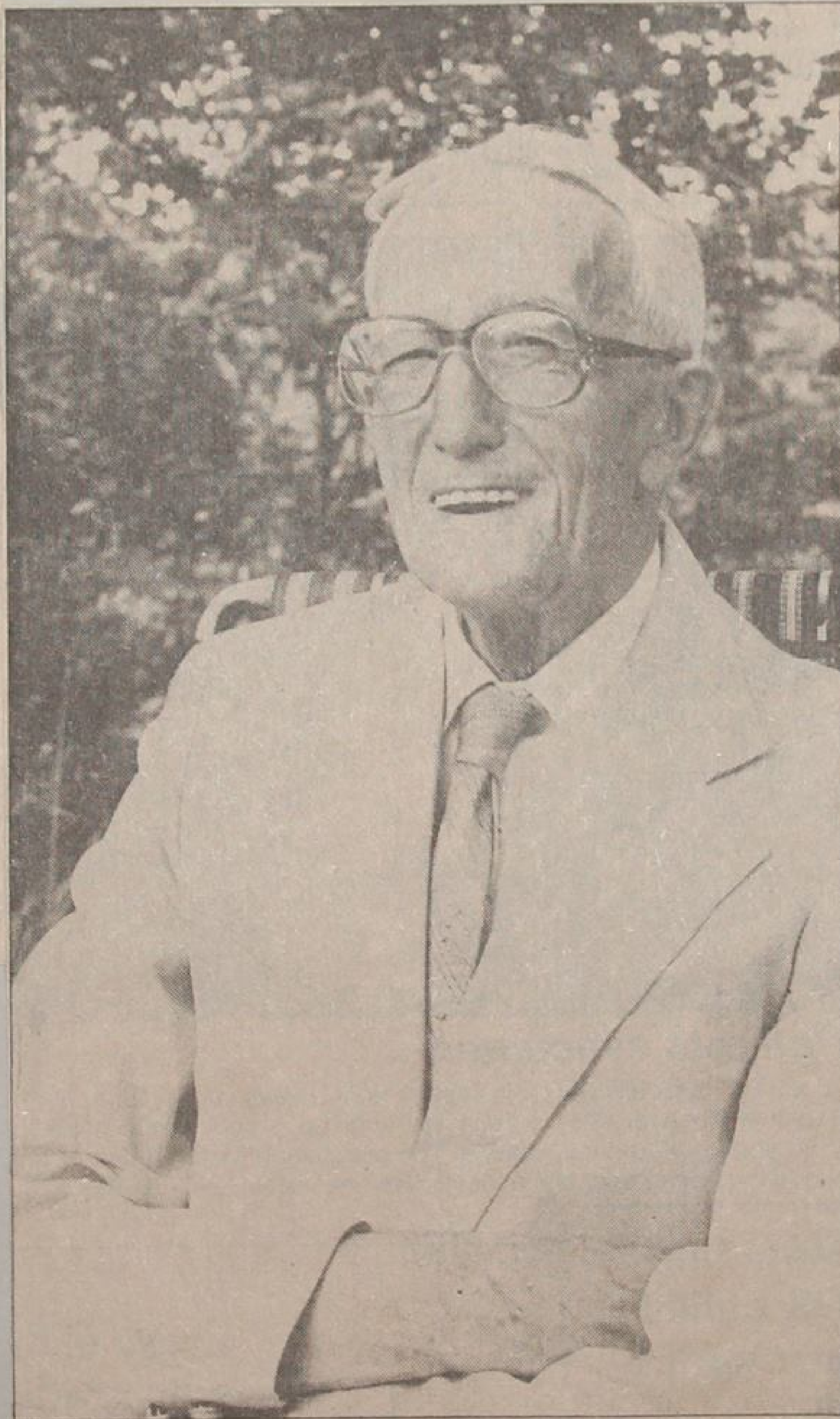
Batson says the girl, now in her 30s, still thanks him for saving her life.

"I'm just an ordinary doctor," Batson says modestly. But his wife

says he's venerated to the point of being a community institution. On July 1, Batson was named grand marshal of Otterville's Dominion Day parade, "the highest honor they could bestow on him."

As long as his health holds out, he'll keep up his practice, he says. "I like doing the work."

His long career has made him a respected guest as well as a respected doctor. "I remember delivering 10 or 12 babies from one womb. They had large families back then. . . . I get a lot of invitations to weddings now."



Woodstock Bureau

Dr. Harold Batson, 86, of Otterville.

### Fred Cecil Cole

Funeral service for the late Fred Cecil Cole of Otterville, who passed away on July 15, 1982, was held at the Nelson F. Gleason Funeral Home, Otterville, on July 17 at 2 p.m. conducted by Rev. Earl Moore of Otterville United Church.

Mr. Cole was born in Simcoe, son of Bruce Cole and the former Sadie Adams. He had resided in Otterville for 36 years.

Surviving are his wife the former Violet MacDougall; three daughters, Mrs. Donna Kiss of Oakville, Mrs. Gilbert (Wilma) Durham of Barrie and Mrs. Lawrence (Thelma) Beal of RR 1, LaSalette; one sister, Mrs. Hazel Winters of Simcoe; two brothers, Howard Cole and Erland Cole, both of RR 1, Simcoe; and eight grandchildren.

He was predeceased by two brothers Beverly and Walter.

Mrs. William McMullen played hymns before and after the funeral service.

Pallbearers were Chris Durham, Craig Durham, Curtis Durham, Scott Kiss, Paul Beal and Walter Cole.

Interment in Salem Cemetery.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr. Julius Narancsik will commence family practice in Otterville, Ontario, on July 19, in association with Dr. G.M. Downing, by appointment.

Phone 879-6939



Woodstock Bureau

Joyce Pettigrew of the South Norwich Historical Society points to a plaque commemorating the black settlement in Norwich Township.

## Death leads to book chapter on black settlement's history

By Eric Reguly  
Woodstock Bureau

LONDON  
FREE PRESS  
JULY 10

SPRINGFORD — Sherman DeGroat's death in Tillsonburg four years ago ended a little-known era in Oxford County history.

DeGroat was the last descendant of Norwich Township's black settlement of the last century still in the area, says a local historian. He died alone at 85 and is buried in the New Road Cemetery east of Tillsonburg.

Joyce Pettigrew, 53, a member of the South Norwich Historical Society, has been studying the settlement's history for three years. She was "interested in solving the unknown and this was one of the unknowns" about the township.

While there are still many gaps, Pettigrew has scraped together enough on the settlement to write a chapter for the society's 300-page book on Norwich history coming out this fall.

"The information has been a long time coming," she says. Pettigrew searched archives, old directories and township records for a lot of her information.

Her research has dispelled at least one romantic belief. The blacks weren't slaves travelling the "underground railroad" to find freedom in Canada. They were freed families who dropped off on their way from Cincinnati to Lucan's Wilberforce settlement in 1829.

Wilberforce, documented in Daniel G. Hill's recent book *The Freedom Seekers*, was a sort of promised land after the 1829 Cincinnati racial riots caused a "general exodus," says

Pettigrew. The blacks' land agent was Frederick Stover, a Norwich Quaker.

The settlement, north of County Road 19 between Springford and Otterville, never thrived. In 1833 only two black families, the Jones and the Wayners, were registered land owners. However, a school for blacks built two years earlier indicates there were more families. Statistics for 1853 list 26 families and 90 children in Norwich.

The black settlement started to ail in the 1880s. When "slaves were freed in the States after the Civil War, a good number went back," says Pettigrew. Many who worked in sawmills left when the area's white pine forest got logged out.

A plaque commemorating the Norwich black settlement was unveiled July 4 at the African Methodist Episcopal Cemetery in Otterville. "The highlight was meeting some of the descendants of the original settlement," says Pettigrew. A few blacks, located by the British Methodist Episcopal Church in Hamilton, attended.



Woodstock Bureau

Norfolk-Haldimand MP Bud Bradley, left, hands over a certificate signed by the Queen Elizabeth and Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau to Norwich postmaster Gordon Shearer at ceremonies marking the opening of the town's new post office.

L.F.A.  
JULY 10

## Norwich's post office links old with the new

NORWICH (Bureau) — H. S. Moore would have been proud.

Moore, the postmaster in 1914, saw Norwich's two-storey brick post office and clock tower erected, but did not live to see the fire that destroyed the office in 1978, or the lengthy negotiations to build a new office.

But current postmaster Gordon Shearer lived through it, a period which included a three-year stint in mobile trailers attempting to keep up with the mail. Now Shearer and his staff have a spanking new building which complements the clock tower left standing after the fire.

At official opening ceremonies Friday, London-Middlesex MP Garnet Bloomfield praised the combined

efforts of township council, the federal department of public works and Canada Post in linking the old with the new.

"I think the results are clear today that everyone concerned was committed to providing the best of postal service while preserving a valuable past so important to Norwich," he said, pointing to the compact new building and restored tower housing a display of original works.

The \$390,000 project, including \$45,000 to restore the clock tower, was designed by Dickson Architects of Woodstock. As Bloomfield cut the ribbon, the electrified clock works sounded the original chimes to the crowd's delight.

# Township treasurer resigns



Norwich Township council accepted with regret the resignation of township treasurer Fred Lowes, at a special meeting held Monday night in Otterville.

Mr. Lowes, who has been township treasurer since 1976, agreed to continue as treasurer until September 30 if needed. He said Tuesday morning it was time for a career change and he has other plans now for his future. "You always have reservations about such a move," said Mr. Lowes but added it was time for a change.

He began working in the area as the former village of Norwich treasurer in the fall of 1968, a post he held until the restructuring of the townships in 1975. At that time he became deputy-treasurer of the new Norwich Township, taking over as treasurer in 1976.

July 7

# Buildings get spruced up with grants

July 14

By SUZANNE HANSON  
Norwich Township is making use of the allocation provided by the provincial ministry of municipal affairs and housing to get some painting and maintenance work done on township owned buildings.

While final approval has yet to be received from the ministry for the projects under the new make-work program, work got underway this week in several areas of the township.

Norwich Township was allocated \$26,825 under the program, pending ministry approval of the projects proposed by council. The allocations made available to municipalities throughout the province are to cover the cost of labor for a variety of maintenance and repair projects as part of the government's employment incentive program.

The program is designed to create jobs for unemployed persons while at the same time accelerating

repairs and renovations to public property in the municipality.

All projects undertaken must be completed by December, 1982. Only the labor costs are eligible for the grant.

The township's deputy clerk, John Gilbert, said Monday about six people are working now on the painting and maintenance projects throughout the township. If council gets project approval, other jobs will be undertaken such as the mapping of a township cemetery and, the indexing of historical documents such as bylaws, minutes and other documents. The total allocation for the township will be used if all projects are implemented said Mr. Gilbert. He said there are no plans at the present time to apply for an additional allocation.

He said preference in hiring people for the jobs is to be given to those persons who are at present unemployed and receiving unemployment benefits or welfare payments.

# Not done yet Old Treffry grist mill to be leased by society

By Luisa D'Amato L.F.P.  
Woodstock Bureau July 26

OTTERVILLE — The historic Treffry grist mill here is finally on the verge of getting some badly needed repairs after years of standing with broken windows, warped siding and a sinking foundation.

Norwich Township Mayor Carman Sweazey said township council is ready to lease the mill to the South Norwich Historical Society, an agreement that would allow the society to start repairs.

The 137-year-old, wood-frame mill

was bought by the township for \$60,000 from Lorne Treffry in October. The purchase included the mill and 17.2 hectares (43 acres) of land on its north side, including the mill pond and Otter Creek Dam.

Believed to be the oldest operating water-powered mill in Ontario, its three-storey pine frame is strong but some of the timber is warped with age. Its foundation is slowly sinking into waterlogged ground. It is crammed with artifacts, including a flour sifter dating from 1900 — when the mill was used to grind flour — and a cast iron water turbine dated 1875.

Rick Singer, chairman of the society's mill committee, said the organization has raised more than \$7,000 to pay for restoration work but won't start repairs until a lease is signed. Since the township bought the property, the society has maintained the mill and kept it open to the public on an appointments only basis.

He said top priority is draining the land on which the mill stands so the foundation will be on firmer ground. Next should come repairs for the siding and windows to weatherproof the building.

But government money doesn't seem to be forthcoming and most of the repair work will probably be done by volunteers, Singer said. "We aren't in a position for a big budget. We're going to work on it as funds become available."

Singer said the society has held three barbecues at the mill to raise money for the repairs. "We've had tremendous turnouts. Last time, 600 people came and we were turning them away."

"I love this place," he added, as he stood next to the mill and watched Otter Creek flow by. "What we really want to do is just preserve it."

Sweazey said the township had intended to lease the mill to the society earlier, but that there had been a four-month delay over legal problems about the society's status.

Council's lawyer had said the society was not incorporated and had advised against signing an agreement with it. Society members said their group is incorporated through its affiliation with the Ontario Historical Society in Toronto.

But after council received a letter early this month from provincial Consumer and Corporate Affairs Minister Tom Wells confirming the society's incorporated status, it was willing to sign an agreement, Sweazey said.

# Attends London music workshop

OTTERVILLE (C) - Mrs. Henry Kozuch spent the weekend of July 23 to the 25th in London for the workshop for piano teachers and senior students at Western Ontario Conservatory of Music, London, Ont. The session was held at the facility of Mt. St. Joseph of Music.

The program started Friday evening in the recital Hall with Devina Bailey, soprano, and Carl Duggan, tenor "Principal of Western Conservatory of Music" with H. Alex Clark on piano who accompanied their singing concert.

Saturday was filled with lectures by Sister Collistus, on the Music of J.S. Bach. Alma Brock-Smith, one of Canada's most distinguished piano teachers, also gave a lecture on performance, memorization, psychology and imagination.

A duet and duo piano ensemble with Tina Yanchies and James Hibbard was also performed. The evening

concert by Valerie Tryon, a pianist of international stature, was a very enjoyable event lasting 2 hours.

Sunday with more lectures and classes by Alma Brock-Smith Piano and a study in "Beginning Keyboard Harmony" by Sister Caroline Bering on her new book. Richard Ketson also lectured on teaching Grade III Harmony. Marie Devereux with her new teaching books on Technical Requirements, Grade I to VIII, also lectured. Gary Spilsted did a lecture demonstration of piano music by Jean Coulthard, Canadian composer.

Muriel Kozuch was enthusiastic about the guidance and encouragement that is given to the many new friends she met at this event, who are all studying for teaching skill in music. And it is certainly very fulfilling to know this help is available.

# Major change in store for Norwich township

By SUZANNE HANSON

More than eight months of hard work and study has culminated in a massive report that should result in major changes in Norwich Township's management and operation.

Council undertook the organizational review of the township's internal operations last October to examine the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities that have emerged since the establishment of the township in 1975.

The review was conducted by an internal task force composed of members of council and senior administrative staff. Resource assistance was obtained from the Cambridge field office of the ministry of municipal affairs and housing.

The result of the study is a series of 38 inter-related recommendations that will guide the continued development of the township, said Keith Glaze, a municipal advisor with the field services branch of

the ministry who worked closely with the task force during its term of operation.

Several recommendations will result in visible changes in the township's organization while the implications of others will be more subtle.

"It was really a business re-organization," said Acting Mayor Helen Smith at Monday's council meeting when the report was outlined to council and administrative staff.

"I would hope the public would think we have done everything we can to improve the township as a whole," said Mrs. Smith.

Among the recommendations approved by council for implementation September 1, 1982, was a move to enact a procedural bylaw to guide parliamentary practice at council and committee level and defining public accessibility to meetings and municipal information. That move has been considered several times in the past, said Councillor Hardee Richardson who was pleased to see it will finally be put in place.

In order to improve the township's system of government the number of council's standing committees will be reduced from four to three. The new committees will be a management policy committee, a community services committee (merging the present protection and recreation committees) and an agriculture and works committee (merging public works and agriculture).

The formalization of organization and streamlining of committees involved in the reduction of committees may actually reduce the volume of committee work, said deputy clerk John Gilbert. Mr. Gilbert has been appointed to fill the vacancy of treasurer created by the resignation last week of Fred Lowes.

As well as treasurer, Mr. Gilbert will act as deputy-clerk under the new system. The township is also making the changeover to the clerk-administrator form of administrative management with clerk Bob Watkin's title and job description changing to that of clerk administrator. He will also have the added responsibility of deputy-treasurer. A new position, that of clerk-treasurer's assistant will be created as council endeavors through the new system to keep better track of where the township's money is going.

Also toward that end was the approval of the purchase order system for the township, centralized under the treasurer. That system will reduce the number of people authorized to purchase things for the township giving better control over the budget. Tender and quotation policies will also be established with a view to establishing uniformity.

Task force member John Eacott sees one of the most important aspects of the report as the emphasis on long-range planning and the establishment of capital priorities that will improve budgetary management and control. That is an area he has long urged council to examine.

In keeping with the moves to more effective management of the township, advisory committees will be re-organized and the number of the present advisory committees reduced to be more functional.

At present there are 14 advisory boards or committees, which under the task force recommendations, will be reduced to four. Those four new committees will be given an entirely new and broader range of responsibilities. They will be taking in

areas that have never been looked at by any committees previously, said Mr. Eacott.

The four new advisory committees will be cemeteries, Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC), medical centre and culture and recreation which will be a very large and important committee looking after libraries, halls, community and social services and recreation programs in the township.

The new committees will have nothing to do with management or administration, said Mr. Eacott.

Acting Mayor Smith said the task force didn't want to downplay the role of volunteers on the committees or people to feel council doesn't want input on local issues. They can still be brought before council, she said. But some of the boards were so large with people not turning out that they were no longer functional.

There are many other changes to be implemented as of September 1, 1982 and all are outlined in the more than 40-page report prepared by the task force. That report will be made available to any members of the public at the township office for their examination and study.

Acting Mayor Helen Smith said Monday the review enabled council to find out a great deal about the strengths and weaknesses this township has.

Mr. Glaze said it is most significant that the need for the review was identified by council, which realized that periodic reviews are beneficial to the organization.

The study recognized both the quality and competence that does exist in the township as well as identifying its weaknesses, said Mr. Glaze in his summary of the report Monday. "The intention (of the study) is to build confidence, improve accountability and identify methods for permitting a well-run municipality to manage its affairs more effectively," said Mr. Glaze.

More specifically, the review aimed to suggest ways that a busy council could structure itself to establish clean and consistent policy and remove itself from the day-to-day administrative detail.

All of the recommendations put forward by the task force have been accepted by council, said Mrs. Smith. While some councillors not on the task force were skeptical about the review at first, "they have accepted it very openly."

Mr. Eacott said the review was conducted "to examine how an organization of this sort should really be run with an analysis of the problems we were having."

"It's a \$5 million corporation that is now to be run more like a business," said Mr. Eacott. There was a concern that the township operate as one township and not a series of parts as there is some evidence that some are still fighting amalgamation. He said it is his hope the recommendations will aid in establishing a more consolidated unit.

Mr. Glaze said several municipalities have undertaken similar reviews in the last two to three years as a lot are in the same boat as Norwich Township which underwent restructuring in 1975.

"Taking the time that is required (to carry out the review) reveals a high level of competence on the part of council," said Mr. Glaze. "I think the task force did an excellent job."

In carrying out the review, all councillors, staff members, employees and

members of advisory committees throughout the entire system were interviewed as individuals or groups.

Mr. Glaze said results of the recommendations, once implemented in September, will probably not begin to be

apparent for about six months. The implementation date of September 1 was designed to allow the present council to get the new systems working before a new council comes in with the November municipal elections.

# Millsum - Riches vows at Otterville

## Otterville swimmers compete in meet

Following are results of the swim meet held in St. Thomas July 14, with performances of Otterville team members listed.

### BUTTERFLY

GIRLS - 12 and under: Nancy Dow (4th), Shari Barnim (5th), 16 and under: Karen Dow (4th).

BOYS - 12 and under: Mark Bruggeman (1st), Burt Bruggeman (5th), 14 and under: John Bruggeman (2nd).

### BACKSTROKE

GIRLS - 10 and under: Hali Walters

(2nd), 12 and under: N. Dows (4th), 16 and under: K. Dow (4th), 17 and over: J. Armstrong (3rd).

BOYS - 10 and under: Brent Rochus (3rd), 12 and under: M. Bruggeman (2nd), B. Bruggeman (5th), 14 and under: J. Bruggeman (3rd).

### BREASTROKE

GIRLS - 10 and under: H. Walters (1st), S. Barnim (5th), 12 and under: N. Dow (4th), 16 and under: K. Dow (4th), 17 and over: J. Armstrong (2nd).

BOYS - 10 and under: B. Rochus (3rd), 12 and under: B. Bruggeman (2nd), 14 and under: J. Bruggeman (1st).

### FREESTYLE

GIRLS - 10 and under: H. Walters (2nd), S. Barnim (5th), 12 and under: N. Dow (4th), 16 and under: K. Dow (4th).

BOYS - 10 and under: B. Rochus (2nd), 12 and under: M. Bruggeman (2nd), 14 and under: J. Bruggeman (3rd).

OTTERVILLE (C) — Heather Jean Riches and Brian Robert Millsum were united in marriage at Otterville United Church on July 24, 1982, at 2 o'clock by Rev. Earl Moore, before a setting of ferns. Betty Walthers of RR 1 Otterville organist, rendered *I Believe and Song of Joy* during the service.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Riches of 48 Dover St., Otterville, and the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Millsum of 37 Stover St. S., Norwich.

Escorted by her father, the bride wore a floor-length, white, bridal gown

with long train, worn with a white veil and headress held with flower matching her bouquet, and carried a fan arrangement of blue roses and white carnations with white lace.

Maid of honor was Joanne Fairbairn of Burford, friend of the bride, who wore a pink, floor-length gown with matching lace jacket, worn with a matching pink bridal hat. She carried an umbrella with pink daisies. Bridesmaids, Michelle Millsum of Norwich, sister of the groom, and Sally Oullette of Tillsonburg, friend of the bride, were gowned similarly, only in blue.

Best man was Richard Barnim of Otterville, friend of the groom, and ushers were Julian Christians of Ottawa, cousin of the groom, and Ben Smith of Springford, friend of the groom.

Reception for 50 guests was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. N. Riches decorated with floral decoration for the occasion. Bride's table

featured bouquets of flowers and wedding bells, and guests' tables were decorated with floral arrangements.

Waitresses were Ernalene Heaslip and Darlene Peeters, both of Otterville, friends of the bride.

For receiving guests, the bride's mother chose a green and white, satin street-length dress worn with a corsage of yellow roses. Groom's mother chose a blue and white, satin, street-length ensemble worn with a corsage of yellow roses.

Brides's gifts to her attendants were umbrellas and groom's gifts to his attendants were after shave.

For a wedding trip to Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Toronto, the bride chose a blue and white, satin, street-length dress, worn with a matching jacket and a corsage of yellow roses.

Mr. and Mrs. Millsum are residing at 12 Hincks St., Brownsville.

## Otterville swim team

After a few weeks of practise, the Otterville swim team is back "in the swim of things" with two recent competitions at St. Thomas and Tillsonburg.

Coaches Rhonda Oatman and Joanne Armstrong are pleased with the team's showing and enthusiasm.

"Not only has the enthusiasm and potential increased from last year," Ms. Armstrong said, "but enrollment has doubled since our first competition July 14th.

With a strong group of

veterans and "many promising rookies," the swim team should provide "some tough competition in the tri-county league," Ms. Armstrong said.

There are still spots open on the team for anyone wishing to join. All that's needed is to show up at the pool. Team practises are scheduled for Monday and Thursday from 4 to 5 p.m. and Tuesday and Friday from noon til 1 p.m.

Swim meets are held every Wednesday through August 18.

## At Otterville pool

With the weather as warm as it's been lately, thoughts turn to a refreshing swim in the nearest pool.

The Otterville pool holds an open swim every day from 1 to 4 p.m. and from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Every Tuesday and

Friday afternoon, a bus leaves Norwich at 1:30 to transport swimmers to the pool. The bus leaves Otterville to return to Norwich at 4 p.m.

And children can still be registered for swimming lessons at the pool. Lessons run from 9 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday, and a ladies' fitness class is held every Tuesday night from 8 to 9 p.m.





### In need of repairs

A lease between Norwich township and the South Norwich historical society is expected to be signed soon, so that restoration work on the Treffry mill may begin. One of the priorities will be replacement of the warped siding (easily seen in this front view of the mill) and the weatherproofing of the building. (NG Photo).

## Mill progressing

By DAVE STOVER

"Things aren't finalized but there's progress all the time."

That's how Norwich township deputy clerk John Gilbert characterized the Treffry mill situation.

The 137 year old wood-frame mill needs major repairs and renovations, and the township is expected to sign a lease with the South Norwich historical society, enabling the society to get on with the repairs.

"We're hoping it (the lease) will be signed right away, so the society can get on with repairs," Norwich township mayor Carman Sweazey said.

But signing the lease has been delayed by a number of legal factors.

At first, township council balked at signing a lease with the society, which is not incorporated directly.

But historical society member Joyce Pettigrew told council the society is already incorporated through its association with the Ontario Historical Society (OHA). She pointed out the society

has its own incorporation number through the OHS, and that were the South Norwich society to disband, the OHS would only hold the mill until another historical society was found or formed to take over the mill.

A letter early this month from provincial consumer and corporate affairs minister Tom Wells confirmed the South Norwich society's incorporated status.

Mr. Gilbert said the letter from Mr. Wells allayed fears over the society's status, but he said the township's lawyer was still considering the situation. A lease is likely to be signed, but it could be "a couple of weeks" before a decision is made, though Mr. Gilbert emphasized no exact timetable for the decision exists.

He added that an agreement with the Ducks Unlimited organization is being considered in relation to the historical society's position. The Ducks Unlimited organization could be involved in work on the dam in Otterville and on creating a "duck sanctuary," Mr. Gilbert said. How

this proposal would compliment the historical society's plan is being examined, he said.

The township bought the Treffry mill and 43 acres of land, including the mill pond and dam, last October for \$60,000.

The mill is believed to be among the oldest in Ontario, and is showing its age. The foundation is slowly sinking into waterlogged ground, and Rick Singer, chairman of the historical society's mill committee, said the first priority after the society signs the lease would be to drain the land the mill is located on so the foundation will be on firmer ground.

Repairs to broken windows and warped siding are also needed.

Since Norwich township bought the mill, the society has maintained it and opened it to the public on an appointment-only basis.

The society has raised \$7,000 towards repairs from three barbecues held at the mill and other sources. The last barbecue, over the Canada Day weekend, attracted more than 600 people.

But major repair work won't proceed until the lease is signed, Mr. Singer said.

Mr. Singer said most of the work will likely be done on a volunteer basis, as money from higher levels of government for the restoration project does not seem to be forthcoming.

# Profits down for society steam show

By DAVE STOVER

"We're still solvent," Don MacPherson of the Norwich and District Historical Society said Friday, after an executive meeting Thursday night. And he added the society "was really tickled" about acquiring one of the few items ever to be manufactured and patented in Norwich township.

Mr. MacPherson said "it appears as though we're near the break-even point as far as the steam show (held early in June) is concerned."

That's good news, but only moderately so. Last year the show returned a \$5,500 profit to the society, but exceptionally rainy weather this year kept attendance down and left organizers fearing they'd lose money on the event.

In other business, Mr. MacPherson said the society has not received any bids on a photocopier and a piano offered for sale.

"We were surprised there were no bids at all," Mr. MacPherson said. "If anyone's interested, they could give us a call."

## NEW ACQUISITION

One of the recent additions to the collection of the Norwich museum is a unique cast-iron fence post. Mr. MacPherson described the new acquisition as "a real find".

The posts were manufactured by Thomas Wright of Milldale, with the design being patented in 1830. The wide base on the

post meant it wouldn't sink into sandy land and "the farmer wouldn't have to dig too deep in stony land to place the post," Mr. MacPherson said.

The post was found in a fence line near Thamesford and brought to the society's attention by Les Dickson. Mr. MacPherson said they're now on the lookout for more of the posts, particularly gateposts and endposts, which would differ in design.

"It must have been in the ground a hundred years or more," Mr. MacPherson said, but the post shows little sign of corrosion.

Wright, who also built the octagonal house that now is the Woodlawn community centre in Otterville, was described by Mr. MacPherson as "a true craftsman". "The house is a real example of his ingenuity," Mr. MacPherson said.

Wright also patented a variation on the spinning wheel, but otherwise "not very many" patented inventions have come out of the township.

## OTHER EXHIBITS

Mr. MacPherson said he's pleased with other additions to the society's collection of farm equipment and artifacts, stored in a building behind the museum.

What he thought was a tobacco press has recently been identified as a paper press. Manufactured by the Jewel Manufacturing Co. of Hamilton, the press was used to make bales of shredded paper, the paper used by businesses to ship

dishes or other breakable items.

Other items on public display include a horse-drawn lawnmower and a Christmas tree tying machine. The tree was pulled through a cone-shaped opening and twine wound around it to hold the branches in place. Mr. MacPherson says the device dates from the 1930s.

## PREPARING FOR SHOWS

The historical society is now preparing for a couple of shows over the next month.

During the civic holiday weekend, the society will be exhibiting a number of its small items at the Golden Horseshoe steam show rally and historical display at Caledonia.

On the 14th and 15th of August the society will be taking a portable steam engine and a grain separator to the Elgin steam show in St. Thomas. The steam engine was manufactured in St. Thomas, "so it will be going home again," Mr. MacPherson said.

The Norwich museum is open from 1 to 5 p.m., Thursday through Monday (closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays), from May 1st through the Thanksgiving weekend. Besides the agricultural exhibits, the museum houses a number of other displays. Admission is \$1 for adults and 50 cents for students. Visitors last week included a 22-member senior citizens' tour from Drumbo.



## "A real find"

Don MacPherson of the Norwich and District Historical Society says he's pleased this fence post -- one of the few patented inventions Norwich township has produced -- has been added to the collection at the Norwich museum. The post dates from the 1830s, and was found in a fence line near Thamesford. (NG Photo).

# AUCTION SALE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14th at 10:30 A.M.

2 Auctioneers

Selling for the Estate of the late GORD McMULLEN - Main St. East, OTTERVILLE (on east side of the Village of Otterville, next to Carney's Home Centre).

## ANTIQUA FARM MACHINERY

### ANTIQUES - TOOLS - HOUSEHOLD GOODS

ANTIQUES -- 30 gallon milk can; settee; com-mode; wooden baby sleighs; early carpet sweeper; two door cupboard; train station trolley cart; ice saw; cross cut saws; overhead driveline; wooden boxes and barrels; school desks; early incubator; large grinding stone; cast iron scalding kettle; cream separator; Quebec heater; copper boilers; BUSHEL COUNTER; sealers and jars; butter churn; coal skuttles; steam pump; surveyor's "chain measure"; EARLY ICE PLOW in the original case; shaft pulleys; countertop scales; collection of brass fittings, gauges, etc.; stone crocks and jug; sad irons; tobacco cutter (lever knife); several old trunks; string of bells; quilting frame; hall trees; small Gurney pot belly stove; 78 rpm records; bookcase; library table; wooden chairs, etc.

### ANTIQUA FARM MACHINERY etc. -- ERNST BROS.

1913 threshing machine with all wood body and in working condition; two fanning mills; wooden water tank; three root pulpers; slush scraper; forge; wind mill pump; Rare! Cockshutt Lever Cutter; walking plows and scufflers; fertilizer drills; Cockshutt binder; binder canvasses; drive belts; hay tedder; "Hamilton" mowing machine; "NOXON" Ingersoll, Ont. grain drill; wooden and steel wheel farm wagons; George White #6 separator (1948 and in working condition); Cockshutt cultivator with steel wheels; M.H. grain drill; single cylinder engine; straw knives; cant hook; valves of all kinds; buzz saw and blades; two two-furrow plows; old cutting box; old machinery tool boxes, etc.

TOOLS, TOOLS, TOOLS -- 14 electric motors; sump pump; pressure system pump; ladders; lawn mowers; wheel barrows; vises; lots of garden tools; pipe dies; grease guns; steel shelving; irons; post hole augers; pipe vise; three wagon loads of everything from implement seats to logging chains to what have you. Hundreds of items. You name it, etc.

HOUSEHOLD GOODS, etc. -- buffet, table and six chairs; luggage; five piece bedroom suite; claw foot table; small wardrobe; 3/4 size bed; set of Johnson Bros. "Regency" dishes; clocks; vacuum cleaner; hi-fi; wringer washers; dehumidifier; parlour table; recliner; pony saddle; set of four wooden kitchen chairs (new); large quantity of dishes, pots and pans, linens and bedding, etc.

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE - Mr. McMullen was a real collector and we're sure there is something for everyone in this very large sale. Two auctioneers will be selling at the same time. Be early and look it over.

WEATHER WATCH - In the event of a BAD STORM, the sale will be held the following day, "Sunday" at the same times.

TERMS -- CASH or KNOWN CHEQUE

LUNCH at the sale provided by The South Norwich Historical Society.

Bob Carney Auctioneer

Phone 879-6420

"For Auctions with Action" - call "Otter Valley Auctions".



One of the largest auctions in recent memory was held in Otterville over the weekend. The estate of Gordon McMullen was auctioned off by auctioneers Laverne Carpenter (left) and Bob Carney (middle). Many antique machines were part of the auction. They included a 1913 Ernst Brothers grain separator and a hoe drill from the 1890's. The area was crowded with people out shopping for bargains for much of the day. (Staff Photo)

Do you remember that during the week of August 15, 1962:

Sgt. P.J. Evans of Delhi police force, has resigned. He is a veteran of 19 years service and served as chief from early 1949 until September of this year.

Delhi Peewee baseball team is Southern Counties Association "B" group champion. In doing so they laced Tillsonburg Peewees 12-4 with pitching by Bob Paisley and Sherman Jones, and a homer by Ian McCallum. They now enter the provincial playdowns.

Delhi Bantams also eliminated Tillsonburg in the first round of the peewee bantam baseball playoffs. Winning pitcher was Jeff Ebdon, assisted by a three-bagger by Doug Addison. In

a second game which resulted 11-7 for Delhi, Barry Boughner was winning pitcher, with brother Rick catching. Hitting for the winners were Dave Roney and Rick Boughner.

Merlin House pitched an 11-10 win over Holbrook for Otterville in a South Oxford bantam softball league playoff. For Otterville, Bob Rachar smacked a home-run and a single, House got a pair of doubles, Gary Rachar and Remi DeGroote a double and Jack Breddy a single.

Winner of Delhi Optimist Club nursing bursary was Miss Barbara Potters of Port Rowan.

### 49 YEARS AGO AUGUST 3, 1913

A fine well was struck on the premises of the Tip-Top Cannery, Otterville.

Drilling operations had been carried on for some

time by Thomas Longstreet, and hope of securing a necessary supply of water at a reasonable depth had been all but abandoned, when an excellent flow was secured.

After almost a week of intense heat, when

thermometers almost reached 100 in the shade, thunderstorms and rain brought relief. With practically no rain for over four weeks vegetation had become very much parched and it will require more rain to bring back the pastures and root crops.

### SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO AUGUST 1907

Mr. C.S. Harris of Otterville has purchased a mill at Port Rowan from Jos. Pitman and will move his family there. Pitman's mill is one of the historic

Do you remember that during the week of August 22, 1962:

Otterville Juniors blanked Norwich 9-0 in a best of seven softball playoff series. Allan Hagerman hurled a two-hitter for the winners. Heavy hitters were: Alex Smith, Brian Jull, G. Walther, M. House and B. Taylor.

Attending hockey school at St. Thomas are Jeff Ebdon, Dave Roney, Rick Boughner, Barry Boughner, Don Haskins, Rod Waldick and Fred Zimmer.

Do you remember that during the week of August 29, 1962:

George Trottier, Delhi IGA owner, announced a \$25,000 expansion for the local supermarket, which will include a non-food section and a snack bar.

Richard Beneff, who is sharegrower for Achiel Vankerbroeck, was judged 1961 champion tobacco grower and received the Rothman gold trophy and engraved silver trays.

About 100 more students will enrol at Delhi schools than last year, bringing the expected enrolment up to 1,500 elementary and secondary school students.

Under the leadership of F.E. Thomas, the Delhi band again finished in the money at the CNE, placing third and winning \$100.

Otterville defeated St. George 19-10 to eliminate them from playoff competition in a best of three series midget "A" Rural Softball Association. Leading hitters for the winners were Al Hagerman, a homer and single, and Gary Rachar, a homer.

# History buff preserves past

By SUZANNE HANSON  
The past and preserving it holds a certain fascination for local

## Lawyer drawing lease for mill property

Norwich Township council was advised at its meeting Monday that its lawyer has been instructed to proceed with drawing up the final lease papers to be signed by the township and the South Norwich Historical Society for its leasing of the Treffry mill.

Council had stalled initially on signing a lease agreement with the historical society as there was some question over the society's incorporation. It was later clarified by Tom Wells, director of the company law branch of the ministry of consumer and commercial relations, that the society is incorporated through its affiliation with the Ontario Historical Society, and has its own incorporation number.

However, Councillor Norm Lusk was still concerned Monday that while the OHS may not have any direct interest in the mill property, council could possibly lose control over the mill property it owns should the South Norwich Historical Society ever disband.

In the event the society did disband, the OHS would retain the property under the lease until another society was found with the same objectives as the South Norwich society to take it over council was told earlier. But that council could be losing its control over which association might take over the property should that occur.

*N.G. AUGER*

historian Bill McMullen Sr. of Otterville. At 72 years of age he is now enjoying his retirement that gives him more time to spend going over the volume of artifacts and material he has collected over the years.

But more important than the relics he has preserved from bygone days, is the written account he has produced of those days as he experienced them, giving future generations a living history and details that would otherwise be lost.

An active member of the South Norwich Historical Society Mr. McMullen turned to writing when asked to relate his experiences working at the former Tip Top Cannery in Otterville to the society members. After compiling his recollections, another society member urged him to have them put together and published with photographs of the cannery in a small booklet.

That is just what was done and those books documenting the history of the cannery were available at Mr. McMullen's historical display of cannery artifacts featured as part of the South Norwich 175th anniversary celebrations in July.

Employed with the cannery for many years, Mr. McMullen is able to relate first hand the experiences there and the factory working conditions in those early days.

Mr. McMullen was born in Otterville but grew up on a farm east of Otterville. He recalls walking the roughly two miles to school, which he started in 1916. After he finished school, he worked with a tin smith in Otterville for a short time before taking a position with Otterville

electrician Charlie Foreman.

The job route then led him on to work in a shoe factory in Ingersoll but Mr. McMullen returned to his home in the spring of 1928 to start work at the Tip Top Cannery. The factory, started by the Hyslop family of Greensville, started operating in 1925 known at that time as the Otterville Cannery. It became known as the Tip Top Cannery, the very year Mr. McMullen came back to Otterville to work there.

The cannery not only provided many jobs for the local people such as Mr. McMullen, it also provided a market for the cash crops of many local farmers.

Mr. McMullen started out at the plant as a fireman in the boiler room, whose responsibility was to keep the steam up in the boilers which powered the cannery. After 10 years at that job, he took on the job of looking after all of another plant in Beamsville.

For about five years, during the off season at the cannery, Mr. McMullen also worked for the Imperial Tobacco factory in Delhi from October through April. Steam was used there for the processing of the tobacco.

Looking back at the old wage records, salvaged when Tip Top Cannery was torn down, Mr. McMullen points to the salary he was paid back in 1931. At 40 cents an hour, "we were top paid men," he said. Wages at that time ranged from a low 15 cents an hour to the high 40 cents an hour and there were even a few employees who worked strictly on salary and boasted about the \$1,100 a year they received.

There was no unem-

ployment insurance then, said Mr. McMullen. You only had a job in the summer but you made enough working in the summer and part-time in the winter to get by. "We got through all right, but you wouldn't do it today," he said.

In 1946 Mr. McMullen made the decision to leave the employ of Tip Top Cannery, however. "To improve my position I would have to move out of town (to one of the other factories) and I didn't want to do that." It was then Mr. McMullen decided to put his knowledge and expertise with machines to work and he opened his own machine shop in Otterville. The machine shop started out adjacent to the cannery and much of the work he did for the factory. But the shop was eventually moved to its present location next to his home.

The business was sold four years ago to his son Bill Jr. and "I haven't worked in the shop this summer at all," said Mr. McMullen who has retired from the business leaving it in his son's capable hands. But he said there's always something to keep him busy, whether it's polishing up the brass on an old gauge, tinkering with his John Deere "D" vintage tractor or going over the huge old stationary steam engine he obtained from the canning factory when it was dismantled. He also looks after the village water works some and spends a great deal of time cleaning up old junk that comes into his possession. He also spends time going over the old photographs, records and historical material he has accumulated in the people,

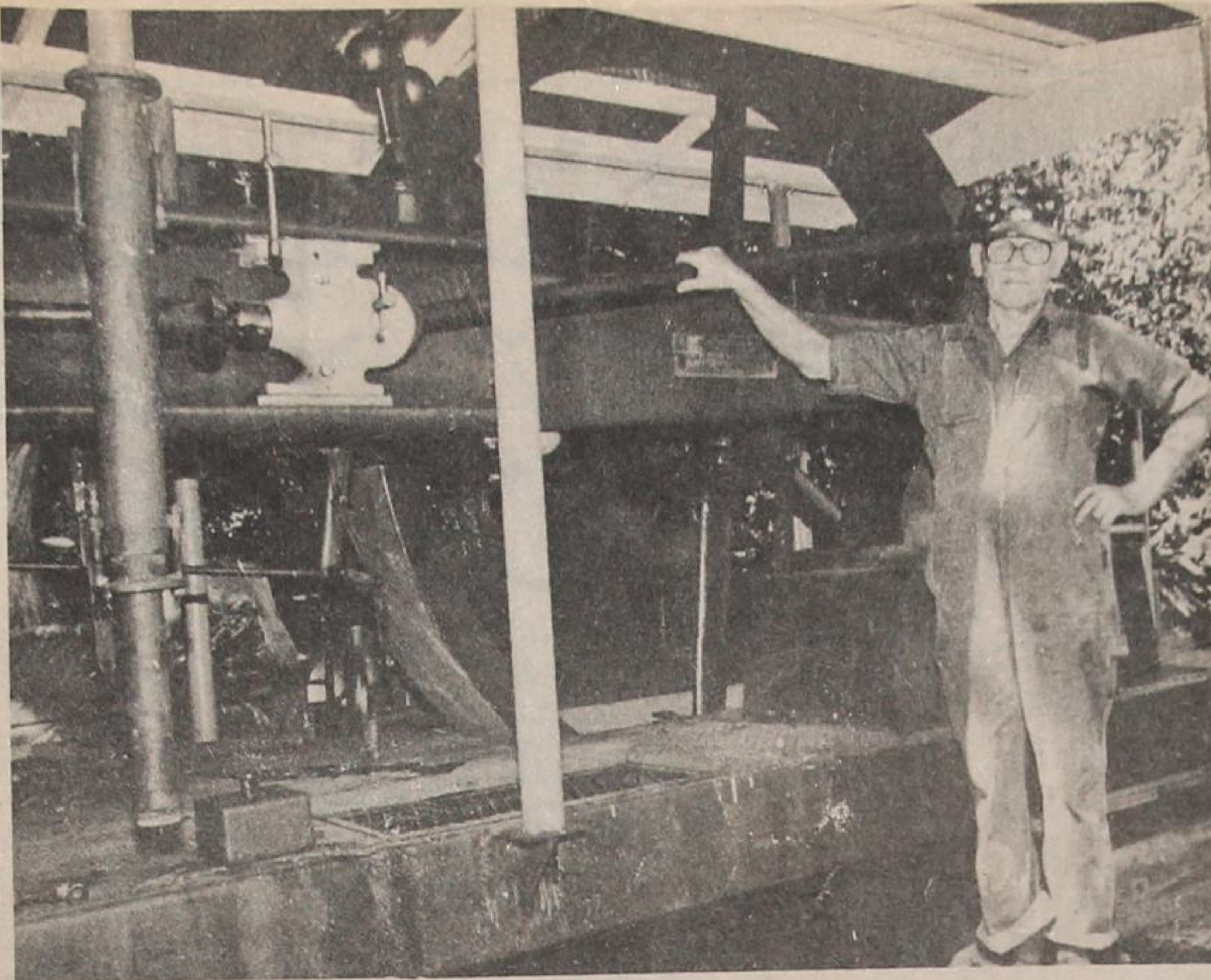
places and business of the area.

But many of the items in his collection aren't so easy to come by today. They are getting scarce and difficult to find as more and more people become aware of their value.

Mr. McMullen considers himself lucky to have a few of the items salvaged from the old canning factory when it was dismantled including some old brass gauges, the factory whistle, some of the record books and labels for the canned produce. Those items join the collection of other antiques and memorabilia that adorn Mr. McMullen's shop and office at his home, helping to preserve part of the area's history that for him is part of his own personal history.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Nelson and Wilma Gleason wish to announce that the Nelson F. Gleason Funeral Home in Otterville will be closing August 27, 1982. To the many families who have placed your trust in us during the eighteen and one-half years we have been in Otterville, our sincere appreciation. - Nelson, Wilma and family.



### History buff

Things from the past fascinate Bill McMullen Sr. of Otterville and that is why he was delighted to have possession of this 1910 stationary wheel-lock engine when it was removed from the former Tip Top Cannery where Mr. McMullen

worked for many years in Otterville. Mr. McMullen is a collector of antique machinery and other material such as old record books and photographs that all help to keep the past alive for him. (NG Photo)

# New doctor Norwich native

By SUZANNE HANSON

Julius Narancsik is no stranger to Otterville. The young doctor grew up only a short distance away in Norwich and he has returned to home territory to join Dr. Murray Downing in his family practice in Otterville.

Dr. Narancsik attended public school and high school in Norwich, after which he attended the University of Western Ontario in London to begin studying to become a doctor. He received his undergraduate degree—an Honors Bachelor of Science—after which he attended medical school for four years before he completed two years in residence at St. Joseph's hospital and its affiliated medical centre. He was then ready to fulfill his dream of practicing family medicine in a small town when he came to Otterville last month.

The position in Dr. Downing's practice represents Dr. Narancsik's "first shot at the official working world," he said. But the office and many of the people he now sees as patients were not entirely

new to him. Dr. Narancsik spent the month of August last year working with Dr. Downing in order to decide if Otterville was the small town he desired to practice medicine in. That month made up his mind and he joined Dr. Downing in his practice on July 19.

Dr. Narancsik's wife, the former Janet Taylor, is also no stranger to the Otterville community where she was raised. The fact that Dr. Narancsik and his wife were both familiar with the area and many of its people had a lot to do with their decision to return here. And it was through friends and family locally that they learned Dr. Downing was looking for someone to share his caseload so he could ease out of the practice and eventually retire, leaving Dr. Narancsik with the practice.

With small town life what he and his wife both preferred, the Otterville opportunity seemed to be just what they were looking for. While they had looked into practices in other centres, "Otterville had just what I wanted in a practice so we decided to

come here."

Dr. Narancsik said a small town family practice has always been in his sights from the time he attended medical school. As well as being more diversified, the small town family practice is "certainly more challenging," he said.

The limitations of distance and time affecting the availability of specialists forces a doctor to be a little more thorough. "You do more yourself before sending your patients off for outside help," he said. "We have to rely on our own resources to a greater extent."

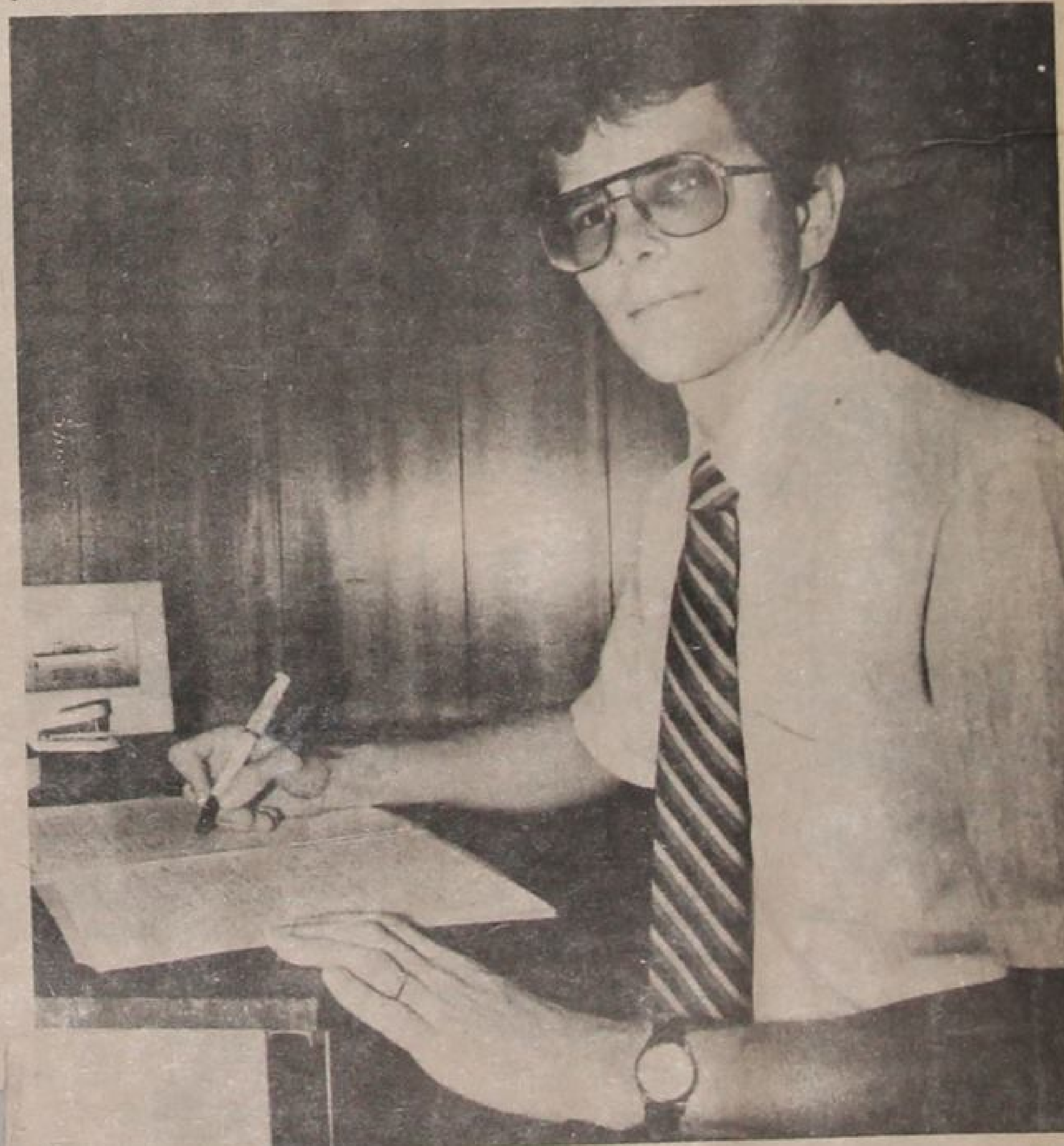
The small town family practice also enables the doctor to get more familiar with the people and their problems. "There are all types of people and medical problems," said Dr. Narancsik, making the day-to-day work more interesting than working as a specialist.

While he has not been on the job long, having completed his third week with Dr. Downing last week, he is enjoying the people and the work and plans to make his presence

in Otterville permanent. He is also looking for new patients to expand the practice. He pointed out the

office has quite extensive hours being open all day Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and

in the morning on Wednesday and Saturday. There are also evening hours on Tuesday.



### New face

There's a new face in the medical office of Dr. Murray Downing in Otterville. Dr. Julius Narancsik joined the family practice on July 19 and will eventually take it over as Dr. Downing retires. Dr. Narancsik is originally from Norwich. (NG Photo)

# TIP TOP CANNERS

Otterville, Ontario



Tip Top Cannery 1936 — Otterville

**1925-1964**

Written By  
Mr. Bill McMullen Sr.

# Exploding chimney shoots out debris

T.N.  
AUG 25

By SUZANNE HANSON

There was one casualty Monday night when Mel Smith's Otter Contracting brought the smoke stack of the former Tip Top Cannery in Otterville to the ground.

Ironically, it was Mr. Smith's wife Vivian who was injured when debris from the blast rained down on the crowd of spectators who had gathered to view the demolition. Mrs. Smith said Tuesday morning that she received a cut to her ankle requiring a couple of stitches and she was taken to Tillsonburg hospital following the accident by her husband where she was treated and released.

Mrs. Smith said it all happened so fast, she didn't realize at first she had been hurt until someone noticed her foot was bleeding. She knew something had hit her, however, as it was quite painful at the time. She thinks it was just a piece of brick from the chimney which was constructed at the cannery about 1936.

The explosion took many of the spectators who turned out for the occasion by surprise. The chimney was just expected to collapse, but instead, pieces of brick and iron supports were thrown outward by the force of the explosion.

"It scared the hell out of a lot of people," said another spectator Bill Sanders of Otterville. "It's luck no one else was hurt." He said a large chunk of brick and iron narrowly missed his son Joe's head who was standing at the end of the old railway station to view the demolition.

The demolition of the chimney is part of a general clean-up of the property last owned by Solinger Industries. The property had been registered with the office of public trustees for tax arrears by Norwich Township and the company's charter was later cancelled when the corporation was dissolved.

The undisposed assets of the company, including the Otterville property, then became the property of the crown in the name of the province with the office of the public trustees assuming responsibility for the property, said Norwich Township's deputy clerk John Gilbert.

The township had contacted that office to arrange an examination of the property to assess its condition and it was the public trustees office that made arrangements to undertake its clean-up in the interest of public safety.

Mr. Gilbert said he expects there will be further clean-up work done at the site.



## It was a blast

A familiar part of the Otterville skyline is no more. The smoke stack of the former Tip Top Cannery came down with a blast Monday night when Otter Contracting demolished the chimney as part of a clean-up operation at the site. (NG Photo)

## Compete in meet

The Otterville Aquaducts travelled to Ingersoll last Wednesday evening where they captured third place in the swimming competition against Ingersoll and Tillsonburg teams.

Despite the cold air, the swimmers continued to put forth a good effort, showing improvement at each meet entered.

An excellent showing was made by the boys relay team who seized first place. The members of that team were Brent Douglas, Brent Rochus, Adam McLees, Mark Bruggeman, Eric Irie and John Bruggeman.

The results of Otterville swimmers in the other divisions of the meet are as follows:

### FREESTYLE

Girls 8 and under: Pam Hussey (fourth); 10 and under: Pam Walther (first), Hali Walters (fourth); 16 and under: Lisa Oenema (third), Karen Dow (fourth); 17 and over: Joanne Armstrong (third); Boys 8 and under: Brent Douglas (second); 10 and under: Brent Rochus (first), Shawn Douglas (fourth); 12 and under: Mark Bruggeman (first); 14 and under: John Bruggeman (third).

### BACKSTROKE

Girls 8 and under: P. Hussey (3rd); 10 and under: P. Walther (3rd); 12 and under: N. Dow (3rd); 16 and under: L. Oenema (4th); 17 and over: J. Armstrong (3rd); Boys 8 and under: B. Douglas (3rd); 10 and under: R. Rochus (1st); 12 and under: M. Bruggeman (1st); 14 and under: E. Irie (4th); J. Bruggeman (3rd).

### BREASTSTROKE

Girls 10 and under: H. Walters (3rd), P. Walther (4th); 14 and under: S. Barnim (4th); 16 and under: K. Dow (4th); open: J. Armstrong (3rd); Boys 8 and under: B. Douglas (3rd); 10 and under: B. Rochus (3rd), S. Douglas (4th); 12 and under: M. Bruggeman (1st), A. McLees (3rd); 14 and under: J. Bruggeman (1st), E. Irie (4th).

### BUTTERFLY

Girls 8 and under: K. Arthur (3rd); 10 and under: P. Walther (2nd), H. Walters (4th); 12 and under: N. Dow (2nd); Boys 8 and under: B. Douglas (2nd); 10 and under: B. Rochus (1st), S. Douglas (4th); 12 and under: M. Bruggeman (1st), B. Bruggeman (2nd); Girls Jumbo Relay (2nd), Boys Jumbo Relay (1st).

# Otterville woman noted for her bread rolls

Mrs. Stuart Harris is noted by some folks in Otterville for her bread rolls.

Isabelle, upon hearing this, just laughs and says there is nothing unusual about her recipe for rolls; it's just an ordinary roll.

We did sample her quick buns while visiting her in August and found them to be light and delicious. Again Isabelle claims the recipe (given here) is ordinary and "in her head" (not on paper).

This cook comes from Cape Breton Island. She and her husband, a Nova Scotian, came to Otterville just five years ago, where he is manager of the Royal Bank. The couple has two children, Ian who is almost 18 and Stephanie, who is almost 16.

Isabelle is active in community affairs including the group that raises funds for the maintenance of the Otterville Mill. She is also a Women's Institute and United Church Women member. In her spare time Isabelle likes to hook rugs.

The Harrises go back to the Maritimes for a month each year to visit their relatives there.

## LUNCHEON DISH

Grease a casserole dish and place in as much or as little as



Isabelle Harris of Otterville checks her recipes for a supper dish. (Photo by Shirley Glendinning)

desired of the following in layers:

egg plant, peeled, sliced or ½-inch cubes  
Mozzarella cheese, grated  
Parmesan cheese, grated  
little oregano  
Ragu spaghetti sauce  
ground lamb, or beef, pre-simmered and drained, optional

Bake at 350 degrees F. till bubbly, about 1 hour.

Serve with a green salad and crusty bread.

## QUICK TO MAKE BREAD

1 cup lukewarm water  
1 tsp. white sugar  
2 tsp. yeast  
2 cups lukewarm water or more  
¼ cup white sugar  
1 tsp. salt  
½ cup salad oil or melted bacon grease  
9 cups all-purpose or bread flour

Dissolve yeast in 1 cup lukewarm water with teaspoon sugar. Mix all ingredients. Knead well and let rise, about 1½ hours. Put in pan and let rise to double again. Then put into 400 degree F. oven for about 30 minutes or until done.

For a change the following could be added (more if preferred).

1 tbsp. cinnamon  
1 tsp. cloves  
2 cups raisins

## GREAT GRANDMA'S SHEEP WAGON CARROT CAKE

1 1/3 cups sugar  
1 1/3 cups water  
2 large grated carrots  
1 tsp. cloves  
1 cup raisins or candied fruit  
1 tbsp. butter  
1 tbsp. cinnamon  
1 tsp. nutmeg

In a middle-sized saucepan put and mix above ingredients. Simmer for 5 minutes. It is important to cover and rest the ingredients for 12 hours or overnight. Then mix in:

1 cup chopped walnuts  
2½ cups sifted all-purpose flour  
½ tsp. salt  
1 tsp. soda  
2 tbsp. baking powder

Bake in a greased, floured tube pan for 2 hours at 275 degrees F. Cool and foil wrap.

## PINWHEEL BISCUITS

2 cups all-purpose flour (or whole wheat)  
1 egg  
milk added to egg to make 1 cup liquid  
½ cup shortening  
1 tsp. salt  
4 tsp. baking powder  
1 heaping tsp. white sugar  
brown sugar  
cinnamon, sprinkling, optional  
chopped nuts or raisins

Beat egg and combine with milk. Cut the shortening into the flour. Combine flour and shortening, salt, baking powder and white sugar with egg and milk, working quickly till just mixed. Knead a few minutes on floured board. Roll out to a half-inch thickness and cover with brown sugar, cinnamon and nuts or raisins. Roll up jelly roll fashion and cut into sections. Place on greased cookie sheet and bake at 400 degrees F. until brown, about 12 to 15 minutes.

## STORIES AND PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY GLENDINNING

Food Editor Of

THE CANADIAN TOBACCO GROWER MAGAZINE



# \$150 million

## Tobacco frost loss tops

One of the earliest killer frosts on record destroyed half of the 1982 flue-cured tobacco harvest in this region early Sunday morning, causing tens of millions of dollars damages. *AUG 29*

Frost devastated an estimated \$150 to \$180 million of tobacco, said Larry Scanlan, area manager for the Crop Insurance Commission of Ontario.

Norman Sheidow, extension agronomist with the ministry of agriculture and food in Delhi, said there is "not very much left" in the tobacco belt of Norfolk, Elgin, Oxford and Brant counties.

Mr. Sheidow said frost in the area east of Burford "was not overly serious," and that the Port Hope region only received a touch of frost.

"Other than that there's not too much left except in a few high areas," Mr.

Sheidow said. "Probably better than half of the crop was still in the fields and a high percentage of that is gone."

Production target for the industry this year had been \$238 million.

He said most of the weight was still in the fields, including the more valuable tips and undertips.

"Many have lost everything," he said. "Some throughout the main tobacco area will still attempt to get a kiln or two or three off but by and large the majority of the tobacco is gone."

Mr. Scanlan said 85 to 90 per cent of tobacco producers in the area are insured.

He does not know yet how much money will be paid out in insurance claims.

Those farmers who have crop insurance will have 80 per cent coverage. For every pound of tobacco short of the 80 per cent

average farm yield, a grower owning his own farm will be paid \$1.17 per pound. A sharegrower will be paid \$.47 per pound and the owner of a share-cropped farm will be paid \$.70 per pound.

The figure of \$1.17 a pound is arrived at by deducting 25 per cent from the negotiated board price for harvesting costs not paid, with labor costs making up the bulk of the deduction.

The early frost is a body blow to harvest workers as well as farmers. Large numbers of workers could be seen hitchhiking out of the area on Sunday — workers for whom there are no more leaves to be harvested.

"As far as we're concerned, we're finished," said Marlene Opdecam, a tobacco farmer of RR 1, Delhi.

Mrs. Opdecam said she and her husband

had Jamaicans come in this year to prime their 42 acres but that today they will begin making arrangements for them to leave. She said there is simply nothing left for the workers to do, estimating that she and her husband lost about \$40,000.

The Opdecams had 22 kilns off and had expected to have another 18.

"It's going to be especially hard on people who just bought farms," Mrs. Opdecam predicted. "People who have been on the edge won't be there any longer."

At the Delhi Tobacco Research Station temperatures dipped to minus 5 degrees Celsius on the ground on Sunday morning and .5 degrees at the four-foot level. Mr. Sheidow said he believed the last comparable August frost was in 1940.

Area growers tried irrigation, smoke bombs and air circulation in a desperate bid to keep plants alive.

Sam Lammens of Lammens Aerial Spraying Service in Langton said his firm alone got 150 calls on Saturday night to fly over fields and try to force warm air down.

Mr. Lammens said that the temperatures were so low that there could only be a "minimal" control of frost and that in some fields the plants were already drooping when they arrived.

Mr. Sheidow said smoke bombs and irrigation don't offer much frost protection. Although wetting plants down can offer protection, Mr. Sheidow said the water can only be kept going on one small area of a field.

Dave Van Hamme of RR 2, Delhi said he didn't even try to save his plants.

"I just went to bed," Mr. Van Hamme said.

Damages to other area crops are still being assessed. However, Peter Brown, associate agriculture representative at the Oxford County ministry of agriculture and food, said today the damage to corn crops was not major. Corn can withstand a mild degree of frost, Mr. Brown said.

Although he had not had a chance to inspect soybean fields Mr. Brown thought that the crop had not been severely affected.

Jim Picard, a peanut grower north of Simcoe, said all his fields were touched by frost but that he won't know the extent of damage until harvest.

Tony Csinos, a director with the Ontario Vegetable Growers Marketing Board in Port Burwell, said there had been some foliage burn to tomatoes in Oxford County.

### Earlier 1940 frost hit district hard

Tobacco oldtimers recall that it was back in 1940 that an even earlier frost wiped out a large portion of the crop in this area.

That frost occurred on the evening of August 22, damaging about 40 per cent of the crop. It was reported at the time that it was the earliest frost recorded in this area.

A late start to harvest in 1940, meant only about 15 per cent of the crop had been harvested when frost struck. The crop had been estimated at 40 to 45 million pounds, and the frost reduced the crop to the 20-25 million pound range.

Tillsonburg to the lake was hardest hit, along with an area east of Delhi. There was light damage in the Otterville-Norwich and Aylmer areas.

The Tillsonburg News of the time reported that the one bright spot was the possibility that unsold tobacco from the 1939 crop would probably find a market. There had been a carryover of 23-24 million pounds from the 1939 harvest.

Southern tobacco curers and transient workers were reported streaming out of the area after the frost.

# NOTICE

## PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

The new fire alert system being initiated in Norwich Township makes it necessary to change telephone numbers for fire protection.

EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 1982, all calls relating to or reporting a fire must be made to the phone number on sticker which accompanies this notice. Place this sticker on or near your phone.

Make sure that your family and-or employees understand its use, and in particular train your children. Give all the information on the sticker clearly and concisely.

If you are reporting a fire at premises other than your own, give your own location number and then add "at my neighbour's across the road" or "so many yards in either direction" as the case may be.

Any further questions relating to this notice please contact the Township office.

## TO REPORT A FIRE

- First — PHONE NUMBER ON STICKER
- Second — GIVE NAME AND ADDRESS
- Third — GIVE FIRE AREA

IN CASE OF FIRE  
PHONE **1-537-3114**  
Give Name & Address  
OTTERVILLE

# New fire alert system for Norwich

By SUZANNE HANSON

The familiar wail of the sirens will no longer sound the fire alert in Norwich Township after Sept. 1. Norwich Township fire department are preparing now to join the new Oxford County fire alert system by that date and that new system will eliminate the need for the sirens.

Firemen will instead carry pocket pagers on their person at all times to receive the fire alert from the central dispatcher in Woodstock. Mayor Carman Sweazey said he received the pagers for the firemen last Tuesday night and they have been distributed to all departments by township fire chief Brian Workman.

Mayor Sweazey said the repeater stations to relay the signal from the central dispatcher in Woodstock to the firemen's pagers are also in place. The station for Norwich Township is located on the water tower in Norwich and "It's working very well," he said.

The fire departments are in the process now of testing out the new equipment and familiarizing themselves with it to be ready for the implementation of the new system on Sept. 1.

At that time all fire emergency calls will be made directly to a central dispatch in Woodstock by calling 537-2722. The dispatcher there will record the message and notify the appropriate

department of the fire location through the pagers carried by the firemen at all times.

Each township resident should have been issued a sticker with the new fire alert telephone number on it. That is to be the only number called in case of a fire after Sept. 1. Those in rural areas should also have received their grid number to be given when reporting a fire so firemen can easily pinpoint the location.

Residents living in urban areas are to be certain their house number is clearly marked and displayed on the front of the building to aid firemen in locating the fire.

The new county-wide system is already in operation in Woodstock and South West Oxford Township. East Zorra-Tavistock and Zorra Townships will also be joining the system along with Norwich as of Sept. 1.

The new system will eliminate the out-dated telephone system used at present in the township whereby firemen are notified of the fires by telephone. That system meant the firemen or a member of their family had to babysit the telephone in the event of a fire. The pagers, to be carried on the firemen's person at all times, will eliminate that need and give the firemen a little more freedom.

## Legal Notices

### TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH FOR SALE

The Township of Norwich offers the following fire trucks for sale by tender:  
1 - 1940 Chevrolet Pumper  
1 - 1956 International Pumper  
The above vehicles to be sold without licence plates and may be seen by making arrangements with the undersigned. Sealed tenders must be submitted by noon, Friday, September 10th, 1982.

Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

ROBERT C. WATKINS,  
Clerk  
Township of Norwich  
P.O. Box 100,  
Otterville, Ontario  
N0J 1R0  
879-6568 or  
863-2709

# Firefighters miss out on vintage truck bid

By SUZANNE HANSON

Members of the Norwich firefighters association were disappointed last week to learn their tender on the 1938 Chevrolet pumper fire truck, offered for sale by the township was not accepted by Norwich Township council.

The 1938 fire truck, formerly used by the Norwich department, and a 1956 International pumper, which originated with the Burgessville fire department, were both offered for sale by tender by the township.

Only one tender was received on the International pumper from the Burgessville volunteer firefighters association. That tender of \$100 was accepted by council.

The other truck, however, received two tenders, one for \$250 from the Norwich volunteer firefighters association and another for \$600 from a private citizen, Don Barnim, of RR 1, Otterville.

Considerable discussion took place at the last council meeting as to whether the truck should be awarded to the highest tender or stay with the Norwich fire department. A motion was made to award the truck to the firefighters and after much discussion, a motion was made to table the matter for further consideration. Both motions were defeated, however, and a second motion to award the truck to Mr. Barnim was passed with a narrow 4-3 vote.

Councillor John Heleniak said he thought special consideration should have been given to the firefighters association of Norwich, adding there was no stipulation in the tender that it go to the highest bidder. However, he pointed out that if council had wanted the firefighters

to have the truck, it perhaps should have been offered to them instead of being tendered.

Mr. Heleniak said he would like to have seen the matter tabled for further discussion as three councillors, Darrell Force, Mayor Carman Sweazey and Jack Lester were absent during the afternoon portion of the council meeting when the issue was discussed.

Councillor John Eacott, who voted to accept Mr. Barnim's tender, said he would also have liked to have seen the matter tabled for further consideration, but when it was not, he felt council had no other option than to deal with it and accept the highest tender received.

Mr. Heleniak said council was not bound to accept the highest tender and it was his opinion that the firefighters should have been given special consideration. It was the original truck of the Norwich department and they had pride in the vehicle, he said.

Since the tender of the Burgessville department was accepted on the other truck, the Burgessville and Otterville firefighters associations both have vintage fire trucks in their possession.

Mr. Heleniak said the matter is out of council's hands now that a decision has been made.

Norwich firefighter Jim Tapley, captain of training for the Norwich department, said the men were shocked to learn they had not won the truck with their tender. He said the men have still not given up the possibility that the truck might be regained by the Norwich firefighters. Mr. Barnim is still giving consideration to the matter, he said.

## Norwich Township Council Briefs

### New position

Norwich Township council gave approval to a bylaw Monday, to provide for the appointment of Robert C. Watkins to his new post as clerk-administrator and deputy-treasurer for the township. The move conforms with the decision made in adopting the recommendations of the recent task force study. This change in position in no way affects Mr. Watkins' present salary.

### New treasurer

Norwich Township council gave approval to a bylaw Monday appointing deputy clerk John Gilbert to his new post as township treasurer and deputy clerk, consistent with the appointment suggested in the township's task force study. Mr. Gilbert replaces Fred Lowes who earlier resigned his post as treasurer. Mr. Lowes agreed to remain on until the end of September to carry out the transition. Mr. Gilbert assumes his new position under the current wage structure.

### Hearing set

The date for the Ontario Municipal Board hearing into the township's proposed industrial park will be held on Thursday, October 21 at 11 a.m. in the township offices at Otterville. The hearing is being held to consider an application for an official plan amendment and accompanying zone change. All parties in opposition to or support of the application should be represented at the hearing.

### Private property

The week of October 3 to 11 has been officially declared private property week in the Township of Norwich as requested by the Ontario Real Estate Board.

## Letters to the editor

Dear Editor: The Norwich Firefighters Association would like to express their thanks to council for a job NOT well done.

We were given the impression that old fire truck would remain in the hands of our fire department. In view of this we tendered a bid which we felt was more than fair. However, we were led down the garden path and now our old truck resides in Otterville. This sure does a lot for the morale of our department.

We would like to know the reaction of the taxpayers regarding this

transaction. Please inform us by writing the editor of this paper.

This truck was bought in 1939 by the taxpayers of the Village of Norwich and we the fire department feel that it only be fitting that it should have been retired here. A few years ago our old ladder truck was sold by council to the Lions Club for a fee of one dollar.

Now we are downhearted as our generous bid is tossed aside and we have had to say good-bye to our old faithful friend. Again we say thanks to our council for NOT supporting

our efforts. May we remind everyone of this as election time grows near. Please let your views be known.

Yours Respectfully  
Norwich Firefighters Association.  
Department Chief  
Les Snow

## TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH

REQUIRES

### Administrative Assistant

Written applications stating experience and qualifications for the position of assistant to the Clerk and Treasurer will be received by the undersigned until September 15th.

This is a new position and requires a person acquainted with advanced accounting, some knowledge of computers and the ability to prepare concise reports dealing with matters relating to municipal operations.

Salary to be negotiated.

ROBERT C. WATKINS,  
Clerk,  
Township of Norwich,  
P.O. Box 100,  
Otterville, Ontario.  
N0J 1R0  
879-6568 or 863-2709

21-2t

NC SEPT 22

# Question police overtime

By SUZANNE HANSON

The Norwich police department's overtime bill is becoming a regular topic for discussion at Norwich Township council meetings.

Councillor Mel Smith raised the issue again Monday when council was asked to approve a list of accounts containing \$1,341 in overtime for police officers during the month of August. Mr. Smith said he discussed the issue of overtime with Norwich police chief Robert Knight following the last council meeting but added: "I still never got a very good answer." Mr. Smith said he received no satisfactory explanation for the overtime other than the men were on holidays and others had to fill in during the time when an officer was off.

"There's no good reason for that every month," said Mr. Smith. "In my mind it wasn't justified."

Councillor Lyle Davis questioned why

the tax burden of supporting a police force is put on all the people of this township when they don't all receive that police protection. "I don't think it's right for the whole township to pay for the police in Norwich," he said.

"If the people have to pay for police protection, then they better get police protection," said Mr. Davis.

Councillor Norm Lusk pointed out that the crime is usually more prevalent in the larger centres. He said since the increase in crime is often caused by transient tobacco workers, then maybe the cost of police protection should be charged back to the area tobacco farmers who bring in that transient labor.

Councillor John Eacott pointed out that a police force to cover the whole township would mean the hiring of 15 men. "If the taxpayers want to double the tax burden that's fine," said Mr. Eacott, but he said the present "limp-along" system is a lot

cheaper than a full police force.

The overtime logged is still cheaper than hiring an extra man, said Mr. Eacott.

Township clerk Bob Watkins pointed out that with the present police force, if anyone is away the workforce is immediately reduced by 25 per cent. When you cover the number of hours the force does, it is difficult to do it without overtime incurred, he said. There are essential court appearances and prisoner escorts as well as callbacks when an officer is off-duty to ensure the village is covered during those circumstances that all increase the overtime bill. Most of that overtime is during the summertime, however, because of holidays.

Councillor Robert Pettigrew, pointed out that council is actually getting what it pays for. He said the cost of policing could be cut by cutting the hours down. "If you want the protection you're getting

it's going to cost you money."

Mr. Smith reiterated his view that Norwich doesn't need 24-hour protection. Acting mayor Helen Smith pointed out, however, that Norwich is not receiving 24-hour protection as there are certain hours when a policeman is only on call but not on duty.

Mrs. Smith said following the meeting, the next step from the present system would be a regional police force which would put a far greater burden on the taxpayers. Mr. Eacott added that based on the grant received from the province for policing now, the township is paid on a

per capita basis to maintain its police force. When the cost of running the force is subtracted from the grant received from the province, the amount left over is approximately the cost of employing one bylaw officer.

Mr. Eacott pointed out that the entire township is already receiving the services of bylaw enforcement from the Norwich police force.

He also pointed out that the Ontario Provincial police forces are attempting to reduce their police forces and would therefore not be anxious to take on a town such as Norwich if the local force were eliminated.

## Dam costs rise

By SUZANNE HANSON

The good news wasn't quite so good anymore for Norwich Township council when it learned of a new turn of events concerning the Treffry mill dam in Otterville at Monday's council meeting.

When council purchased the grist mill last year for \$60,000, it was largely because of a commitment of \$20,000 from Ducks Unlimited to go towards repairing the mill pond dam which has deteriorated over the years. But that repair bill may now have jumped dramatically in price after the recent turn of events, unless council can persuade Ducks Unlimited to opt for a longer lease agreement on the mill pond and a larger commitment of funds.

Ron Scheidel, a bio-technician with Ducks Unlimited, appeared before council to explain the organization's new position. Mr. Scheidel said their original idea was to place concrete or rock to reinforce both sides of the dam wall and were willing to commit up to \$20,000 for the project on condition that the mill pond be maintained as a water fowl management area for the duration of a 21-year agreement with the township.

Mr. Scheidel said he thought that relatively inexpensive concept has merit initially as did their engineers who came up with the proposal. Unfortunately, when the engineer got down to doing the actual studies on the site, he found he could not say with any assurance that the rocks placed as reinforcement would stay there, based on the amount of spring flow over the dam.

Since Ducks Unlimited obtains its funds solely through contributions, Mr. Scheidel said the organization cannot justify putting \$20,000 into the project when it could be washed out by the next year. "If we put money in and we have to replace it year after year, then those funds aren't wisely spent," he said.

Mr. Scheidel said Ducks Unlimited is still prepared to spend up to \$20,000 to aid

in repairing the dam but the alternative proposal of refacing the existing dam has been estimated to cost in the area of \$72,000 in an engineer's report for the ministry of natural resources. "We're still able to contribute \$20,000, but the rock proposal isn't viable," he said. "We can't put \$20,000 in now and in 10 years have the thing (the dam) go out."

Councillor Jack Lester pointed out that the fact council didn't have to spend the more than \$70,000 to repair the dam because of the solution offered by Ducks Unlimited, helped sway councillors in their decision to buy the Treffry mill property. Mr. Scheidel apologized to council. "I didn't think it was going to come to this," he said. "We honestly believed the rock was a viable alternative but when we looked at the hydrology and the flows there was no assurance it would stay there."

Mr. Scheidel said the organization is still willing to commit the \$20,000 to another repair project proposal. Councillor-at-large Helen Smith, who was acting mayor on Monday, questioned whether Ducks Unlimited would consider a more-long term agreement than the 21 years and subsequently a larger commitment of funds. "Is there any chance of a 72-year lease that would give us \$72,000?" asked Mrs. Smith.

Mr. Scheidel replied he could only go back to Ducks Unlimited and ask them to consider a longer term and a larger commitment of funds for the repair project. He said the guidelines for funds are based on the waterfowl that can be produced off a particular site. He said there are some 60 to 70 year leases and some even as high as 99 years although none are made for that length of time any longer.

Mr. Scheidel said Ducks Unlimited must, however, be assured the dam will remain for the length of the agreement if the organization puts money into it.

## Mill costs spiralling

Norwich council has decided to request Ducks Unlimited to increase the amount and duration of a grant for reinforcement of the dam at the Treffry Mill site.

In a presentation to council at a regular meeting, Monday, Ducks Unlimited representative Ron Scheidel said the original plan suggested by Ducks Unlimited, to bolster the dam with rock, was not viable. An engineer's report by the ministry of natural resources estimated the cost of doing the job properly at \$70,000, while the Ducks Unlimited grant to council was for only \$20,000 over 21 years.

The purpose of the work is to influence the growth of waterfowl population in the area, but Mr. Scheidel said Ducks Unlimited feared that if their original plan was followed, the rock would wash away in about five years and there would be no more money to fix the damage.

"The money is still available," Mr. Scheidel said, "but it's just that \$20,000 is not going to do the job."

The Ducks Unlimited grant was pledged to Norwich council last year, when council was considering the purchase of the Treffry Mill site. A few councillors said the reason they voted in favour of buying the site at the time was because the Ducks Unlimited grant was available, and now they are being told it was not enough.

Nonetheless, acting Mayor Helen Smith suggested council consider extending the duration of the contract with Ducks Unlimited to obtain the necessary money for the work. The amount and number of years is to be determined by Ducks Unlimited, council clerk Bob Watkins said.

Under the agreement, council is obliged to manage the Treffry area for waterfowl and the area is to remain a waterfowl site. Mr. Scheidel said the area would have to be operated as a marsh for this purpose.

Mr. Watkins said council was not concerned about the length of the contract with Ducks Unlimited, just as long as the necessary work is done.

*Bob Smith*

## Water power key to early

By SUZANNE HANSON

To the first settlers of the area, rivers and streams meant adequate water supplies for livestock, crops and homes. But to the miller, the flowing water meant a source of power, income and the ability to turn raw goods into a finished product.

At one time there were many mills in the area and around those mills were the homes of the owners and millhands. Soon whole towns and villages sprang into being to service the commercial needs of those thriving communities.

Mills came in all shapes and sizes, being built of wood, brick or stone, depending on the materials at hand and the mills produced all manner of goods, depending on the needs in the immediate area.

The first mills constructed in an area were

usually sawmills, for the vast stands of forest provided a limitless source of lumber with which to transform the lowly log cabin into a substantial frame home.

As the timber lands were cleared, mill sites were often converted for the grinding of grain as supplied from the burgeoning farm lands. Many of the better mill sites were later adapted for the production of woollen goods.

But no matter what the design or purpose of construction, all mills had one common denominator - they used the basic principle that the energy in falling water could be harnessed and used to power the wheels of industry.

Like many other river communities, Otterville, first known as Otter Creek Mills, grew up around mill. But the settlement was also

unique to this area as it was settled by waterway instead of by highway. Its settlers came up the Otter River looking for the mill sites they found in the Otterville area. For that reason, the mill portrays an unique aspect of the area's history as the north end of Norwich Township and county were settled, as many other areas were, by settlers who came by highways or across country.

In 1807 the first known settlers in Otterville, John Earl and Paul Avery established a grist and saw mill there. These two mills were located on the south side of Main Street, near the present Treffry mill.

The second mills in Otterville were built in 1808 by Cook and Calloway who purchased land on the north side of Main Street.

In 1815, those mills were sold to Hugh Webster who sold them again in 1819 to

the Cromwells. In its early days Otterville was also known as Cromwell Mills.

These same mills were sold again in 1845 to Edward Bullock who maintained the saw mill but changed the old grist mill to a custom woollen mill on the west side of the river. On the east side, he built the present Treffry grist mill now owned by Norwich Township. That mill was built to replace a previous mill which stood north of the road on the east side of the Otter Creek. The original mill, built in 1807 was destroyed by flood or fire.

The new mill brought the number of mills owned by Bullock to three. He had purchased the Cromwell grist and saw mills the same year as he built the new mill.

In 1877 the mills were sold to E.M. Schooley. The Treffry mill, after

Schooley's brief ownership, passed into the hands of Solomon Lossing in 1880. The mill was run by three generations of Lossings, including Solomon, LeRoy and Reginald.

The father of the last owner, Lorne Treffry, took over the mill in the 1940's restoring the mill's operation. It took Ernest Treffry several months to restore the machinery that had been idle for four to five years. From 1952 to 1981 his son Lorne Treffry was the owner of the last remaining Otterville mill. He operated the mill until April 1980 at which time he ceased operations and retired.

While he has retired, the mill is still operable and commercially viable. The South Norwich Historical Society has plans for its restoration as a museum and historic site.

On June 29, 1980, a plaque erected at the mill site by the historical society commemorating 135 years of the present mill's history was unveiled. The mill was

then offered for sale and subsequently purchased by Norwich Township which wished to preserve the historic nature of the structure. The historical society is in charge of maintaining the structure.

In the 1850's such mills were the economic and to a lesser extent the social nuclei of this region.

Today, the mill is still a focal point of the community. It is one of the oldest, continuously-operated, water-powered

mills still in existence in the province.

The village of Otterville exists because of the choice of the junction of Sweets Creek and the Otter River for mill sites, because of the available energy and the foresight of their owners from Earl and Avery in 1807, through to the Treffrys.

The age of the mill is perhaps over, but the mill site and its dam still exists as a picturesque reminder of the important role it has played in our heritage.



TREFFRY MILL

Do you remember that during the week of September 26, 1962:

L.S. Vickery, Delhi Experimental Farm superintendent, estimates flue-cured tobacco yield in the Maritimes at between 1,100 and 1,200 pounds per acre for a total yield of about 500,000 pounds.

Delhi town council voted in favour of donating to Big Creek Region Conservation Authority property owned at the site of the proposed new Lehman Dam.

Arthur H. McCart, veteran of nine years on the Delhi police force, has been appointed chief of police at Wiarton.

Otterville Otters won the championship of Memorial Softball League Southern division by defeating Woodstock, in a best of seven series. Outstanding for the winners were Ted McElhone, Bob Smith and Bob Furlong.

## Looking Back

50 YEARS AGO

SEPTEMBER 22, 1932

The residence of Ida Schier, North Court Street suffered several hundred dollars damage by fire.

A.W. DeLong has left at this office 12 Green Mountain potatoes which weigh nine pounds. These potatoes were the product of one hill.

As usual many North Norwich Holstein cattle breeders exhibited their stock at the Western Fair, London. Among the local breeders to share in the honors were: Mrs. Hulet, Clinton Hanmer, C.H. Cornwell, W.J. Cohoe, Frank Griffin and H. Burrill and Sons. The county herd championship at the Western was captured by Oxford.

86 YEARS AGO

SEPTEMBER 21, 1896

Otterville had a surprise last week in the shape of a large number of Dutch ministers, taking the train here on their return from a conference down south a few miles. The surprise was not the preachers, but the fact that all were smoking tobacco. We had thought the time long past when ministers or advanced Christians of any kind used tobacco.

F. Moore of Otterville got second prize at the Dutton Caledonian games recently, for tossing the caber; third in the running, hop-step and jump and third in hitch and kick. E.W. Lossing of the same place got third prize in the vaulting with pole contest.

## Otterville News

OTTERVILLE (C) - A reminder of the visit of the Victorian Order of Nurses who will be at the home of Evelyn Waring the fourth Monday of September at 1 p.m. The date is September 27. There will be no phone calls regarding this date.

The Sunshine Club met at the home of Mrs. Robert Picknell for their first meeting of the fall and winter season. There were 11 members present. An interesting report of the past events was heard and events for the coming term were discussed.

President, Sandra Hussey, thanked the hostess for the pleasant time spent.

Mrs. Fred Pearce invited

the members to her home for the next meeting which will be September 23. Mrs. Pearce will suggest a roll call and convene the social hour.

Muriel Kozuch has accepted the position as organist in the Trinity Anglican Church in Norwich. Service is held Sunday morning at 11:15 a.m. Her duties started September 1.

Edna Buzzell of Quebec spent several days last week with her sister, Mrs. Roy King and family.

Ada Morley of Burgessville spent Sunday with Evelyn Waring.

Katie Mics entertained

guests from Germany and the United States during the past week and also called on Evelyn Waring.

Winnie Leach, assisted by Dorothy Durkee, entertained a number of ladies of the St. John's Anglican Church at the former's home last week.

The afternoon was in honor of Myrtle Riste who was a birthday celebrant that day. The ladies enjoyed meeting again and recalling the events of the summer.

Mrs. Leach, assisted by her neighbor, Mrs. Durkee, served birthday cake for which Mrs. Riste thanked the ladies and those who came to bring birthday wishes.

SEC. 25 ROW 12 SEAT 41

FIELD LEVEL CHAIR  
EST. \$7.02  
STAD. TAX 25  
SALES TAX 73

\$8.00  
Wed. 1 1:00  
SEP. 1 1982



RAIN CHECK: In the event that this game is terminated before 3 innings are played, this coupon will be good for exchange at box office for this price ticket for any future game this season - subject to availability - No cash refund.

DO NOT DETACH

## Bake sale announced for Oct.

OTTERVILLE (C) — The September meeting of the Otterville Women's Institute was held at the home of Evelyn Waring on Friday, Sept 12.

The president, Mrs. Harry Pickersgill, presided.

The guest speaker for the meeting was John Heleniak, a member of the Norwich Township council. The speaker's address dealt with "The Duty of a Jury" which concluded with a question period. The talk was in keeping with the meeting on Citizenship, which was convened by Dorothy Durkee.

The meeting opened with the Institute Ode and the Mary Stewart Collect, followed with "The Lord's Prayer".

The roll call was answered with the members naming an Indian Tribe and its location.

The minutes of the previous meeting and summer activities as well as the financial report were read by Mrs. Jack Walther.

The members decided to hold a bake sale and afternoon tea on Oct. 22 at 3 p.m.

The October meeting will be held at the home of Jean Gehring. The time for the meeting is changed to 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The members are asked to bring a package to the value of \$2 and have it wrapped in newspaper. The meeting will be held on Thursday morning. Members are requested to remember both change of day and time.

The meeting closed with the institute grace and "The Queen". Mrs. Waring was assisted by Mrs. Durkee in serving lunch.

## Sunshine club meets

OTTERVILLE (C) — The members of the Sunshine Club held their regular meeting at the home of Marjorie Pearce, September 23.

The president Sandra Hussey presided for the business. The roll call was answered by 10 members telling "If they had the time and money was no object where would they like to go."

Dorothy Wardell volunteered to make an afghan for the club on which tickets will be sold by the members and the draw to take place in November.

Etta McSkimming invited the members to her home for the next meeting, October 14.

The members thanked Mrs. Pearce for the enjoyable evening and social time which followed. Mrs. Pearce was assisted during the social hour.

## Read missionary letters

OTTERVILLE (C) — The Woman's Missionary Fellowship of the Otterville Baptist Church held their September meeting in the Sunday School room of the church.

The president, Wilma Butler, gave the call to worship from Psalm 147:1, commenting that all should take time to thank God. The chorus "I'll Praise Your Name Lord" was

sung followed by an opening prayer.

Missionary letters were read from Mrs. Herbert Pollard by Mrs. Fred Hill and from Mrs. Roy Hirons by Mrs. Ted Oenema; followed by prayer by Mrs. Bill Hansford and Mrs. Bruce Stover.

Mrs. David Hill was in charge of the devotional stressing "Trust." Hilda Stockmans read the scripture lesson from Psalm 13. Mrs. Hill gave a reading entitled "Promise and Trust" followed by a poem "Suffering" by Mrs. Hill.

Mrs. Earl Cooper brought a message "Ten Rules for Good Mental Health." She opened by saying we should rely on God when things are getting us down. Referring to Psalms 1 and 3, she said we are to be like the tree planted by the river of water and draw our strength from God. The closing hymn was "Near to the Heart of God" followed by prayer from Mrs. Oenema.

A social time followed with Wilma Butler assisting Mrs. Ken Lee in serving lunch.

## Discuss fall rally

OTTERVILLE (C) — Regular meeting of the Norwich - Otterville Lions Club was held in the community hall, Otterville, Monday evening, September 28.

Lion president Colin Cope was in charge and there were 42 members present.

A preliminary report indicates a successful outcome for the recent Carnival and a detailed statement will soon be available.

The annual Lions fall rally will be held in Waterford on Tuesday evening, October 19.

Lion Gord Shearer appealed for "corks" in which to brew sauerkraut for the annual fall Oktoberfest to be held in the community centre, Norwich, on October 23. This year Oktoberfest will feature new music "The Black Forest Band" from Kitchener.

Convention draw prizes were won by Lions Tim Moore and Paul Wood.

## Powell denies closing

OTTERVILLE — An official of Powell Agri-Systems Ltd. Monday denied a persistent rumour that the company is leaving Canada.

Howard Avey, president of the Otterville firm, said Powell is staying in Otterville and will continue to serve Canadian tobacco growers.

Established in Otterville in 1966, the firm will continue to market big bins and kiln rack systems and just this week initiated their own long-term leasing program.

"I don't know where these rumours start, but we are definitely staying in Canada and in Otterville," said Mr. Avey.



### Luck of the draw

Marcel DeWitte of RR 3, Norwich, certainly had the luck of the draw on Saturday night at the Norwich-Otterville Lions Club Las Vegas night when his ticket was drawn as the winner of a brand new Firebird. Lions president turned over the car keys to Mr.

DeWitte (left) on Sunday. The winning ticket was drawn by Benoit DeCooman. Other draws Friday night for boys and girls 10-speed bicycles were won by Fraser Lemon and Karen McKay and the \$25 dolls by Randy Bishop and Bob Knox. (NG Photo)

# Speedy cutdown for frosted tobacco

By MARLENE OPDECAM

Frost-damaged tobacco crops, which have stood as a constant and painful reminder of the financial losses suffered by the majority of farmers in the area, are rapidly disappearing.

Larry Scanlan, area manager for the Crop Insurance Commission of Ontario, reports that the lion's share of frost claims have been investigated and releases granted.

Crop appraisers are now finishing up at farms where some effort to salvage undamaged leaves was being made.

Given the go-ahead to cut, tobacco growers have wasted no time in putting their stalk-cutters to use. Many fields have not only

been cut down but have also been disced under and drilled with rye.

The crop insurance commission rule requiring that released crops be cut within 48 hours partially accounts for the speed with which crops have gone under. The other reason is simple: farmers were anxious to see the last of their ruined crops.

The 48-hour deadline for cutting crops down came as a surprise to many area growers although Mr. Scanlan explained the rule has always been in existence. It is designed to ensure that farmers do not salvage any tobacco which they could then keep or transfer to a neighbor, after a claim has been processed and approved.

"The rule just serves to make the whole process easier," Mr. Scanlan said.

He stressed that adjusters are out there, checking to make sure farmers have complied with the 48-hour limit.

Carry-over tobacco from last year is causing a number of headaches for the crop insurance commission as well, headaches which have led to the formulation of stringent regulations as to how 1981 tobacco must be handled prior to and during shipping.

All over-production must be separated from 1982 production, in storage and on trucks for shipment.

While loading a truck for shipment, growers must record the number of bales of 1981 tobacco according to plant position and color classification.

The carry-over bales must be placed on the truck last to ensure that each bale offered for sale is delivered and not returned as over-weight.

Farmers are also asked to keep copies of all growers' receipts and flat records, as well as all remittance statements.

Mr. Scanlan warned tobacco producers that any attempt to mingle this year's crop with last year's carry-over will result in the commission refusing to

approve insurance payments for this year's poundage losses.

He commented that the program is designed and operated for the farmer, and honesty must play a part if it is to succeed.

Adjusters are also busy measuring acreages of claimants to make sure they had planted enough land to support the number of pounds the individual intended to harvest.

Initially, the commission had planned to check only 50 per cent of the farms with claims. Now, as a number have been found with insufficient acreages, every farm must be measured before claims

will be paid.

Mr. Scanlan said it is impossible to say at this time exactly how much tobacco was lost but estimates it was in excess of seventy million pounds.

It is also too early to ascertain the total dollar value of claims made to the crop insurance commission but Mr. Scanlan guesses the figure will be well over seventy million dollars.

He said premiums for crop insurance will definitely climb next year, in an effort to recoup the 1982 debt, and expressed a hope that the agricultural industry remains disaster-free for at least the next ten years.



Both families are happy to announce the forthcoming marriage of their children, Sandra Lee, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Hart of Tillsonburg and Ronald Joseph, son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Wel's of Otterville. The marriage will take place at 4 p.m. on September 11, 1982, at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Tillsonburg. (Photo by Jim Murphy).

## Major injuries

An Otterville man is listed in satisfactory condition in Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital this morning with major injuries sustained in a two-vehicle accident on County Road 19 in Norwich Township, Thursday (September 2).

Kenneth M. Deroo, 21, of Otterville, was driving a Honda automobile, which sustained an estimated \$5,000 damage in the accident. No injuries were sustained by the driver of the other car, Roger C. Bolduc, 20, of Welland, Ontario, but one passenger in the Bolduc car, 20-year-old David Bech, of Welland, received minor injuries. The Bolduc vehicle, a 1967 Ford, received an estimated \$3,000 damage.

The accident was investigated by Constable Helga Sparks of The Tillsonburg OPP.

## SPRINGFORD FALL FAIR

"1982"

**September 24 -** Dance on the tennis court  
Bingo in the school  
(following exhibit registration in the evening)

**September 25 -** PARADE 11 o'clock

OPENING CEREMONIES noon

PET SHOW

MISS SPRINGFORD CONTEST

GAMES, ETC.

Nail driving

Log Sawing

Tug of War

Horse Shoes

Bingo

BEEF BAR-B-Q

over the supper hours by the  
Springford Area Athletic Club

GARDEN PARTY

during the evening featuring  
LOCAL TALENT

**ADMISSION:** (2 days) Adults \$2.00  
Children (under 15) 1.00  
Pre Schoolers "FREE"

**BRING THE FAMILY AND ENJOY AN OLD FASHIONED FAIR**

# Gearing up for Norwich elections

By SUZANNE HANSON  
Candidates are already gearing up in preparation for this year's municipal elections to be held on November 8.

While the deadline for nominations is October 18, many councillors on the current Norwich Township council have already indicated their intention to seek re-election for another term.

Helen Smith, who has occupied the position of councillor-at-large since the resignation of former mayor Jack Burn put Carman Sweazey into the mayor's chair, has decided to seek re-election as councillor-at-large and the township's representative on county council.

Mrs. Smith said the last two years have gone by quickly and she looks forward to serving for a third term on council. She also said she has enjoyed the input she has had on county council, noting that the few months in the position have been just enough to get her feet wet and convince her she would like to continue that representation.

Ward 1 representative Mel Smith has also announced his intention to seek re-election to council but this time he will be challenging Helen Smith in the race for councillor-at-large.

Mr. Smith, who is finishing his first term on council, said there are some issues that will be coming before county council during the next three years that he would like to have input into. He said he also believes he has valuable expertise in the areas of road construction and drainage work that would benefit county council. He said the budget for roads will have to be seriously examined over the next few years in view of the reduced government subsidies.

Another Ward 1 representative on council,

Robert Pettigrew, has announced he will be stepping down from his position at the end of this term, after putting in eight years on council.

Mr. Pettigrew is the last remaining councillor from the original council elected after the restructuring of the township. "Eight years of it is enough," said Mr. Pettigrew.

Lyle Davis, Ward 1 Councillor, was previously undecided but with pressure from a lot of people to run again he said he decided to seek a second term on council. "There's a lot of work yet to be done here," said Mr. Davis.

In Ward 2, both representatives on the current council will be seeking re-election. Darrell Force, who is finishing his first term, said he is "going to try it again." While he admitted there were times that serving on council was a little trying "like any endeavor you try," but he added: "I'm looking forward to it again." He said "It's been an interesting two years. We've had some pretty major issues come up and we've met them."

Mr. Force said he could foresee no particularly major election issues, stating his main concern was an effort to control the current high level of taxation. The new council will have to look at ways of curbing that increase, he said. However, he pointed out that council does not have control of a major portion of the tax dollars collected for the township, boards of education and the county.

Norm Lusk has also indicated he will be seeking election to the position he now holds as Ward 2 representative. Mr. Lusk was appointed by the present council to fill the vacancy created when Jack Burn resigned from his post as mayor.

Mr. Lusk, who would be serving his third term on council if elected, said there is a lot of work that needs doing in the township and he is dedicated to getting the job done.

In Ward 3, Jack Lester has indicated he will be seeking re-election to his second term on the restructured council. The former reeve of the former North Norwich Township council, said he was in favor of the present two-year council term but the shift to a three-year term for all subsequent councils did not affect his decision to run again.

Mr. Lester said the present council has made some pretty good accomplishments and he desires to carry on that work.

After much serious consideration Ward 4 councillor Hardee Richardson has also decided to throw his hat in the ring and seek re-election to council for a third term. He said he just wants to help the people of the township. The biggest concern he sees facing council is economics. "We're going to have to take a real hard look at this. People haven't got the money."

The other Ward 4 councillor, John Eacott, said he is still undecided as to whether he will run for a second term on council, stating "If things don't change they remain the way they are."

The other Ward 3 councillor, John Heleniak, has already stated his intention to challenge Mayor Carman Sweazey in the contest for mayor.

## Three candidates for Norwich mayor

By SUZANNE HANSON

Three candidates have already declared their intention to enter into the race for the mayor's chair in Norwich Township during the municipal elections in November.

While nominations will not all be turned in until October 18, Otterville resident Bill Sanders and Ward 3 councillor John Heleniak have already indicated they will be challenging Mayor Carman Sweazey in his bid for another term.

Mr. Sweazey, who is finishing his tenth year on council this term, has been sitting in the mayor's chair since he took over that post with the resignation of former mayor Jack Burn in January.

Mr. Sweazey stepped into the position with the vote of council and will now have to fight to retain his seat in the upcoming November 8 election.

"This is what I've been working toward - to be mayor of the township for a full term," said Mr. Sweazey. While he would like to have seen that term remain at two years, the three year term is something the new council will have to live with.

Speaking on the issues to be faced in this election, Mr. Sweazey said the new council will have some cleaning up to do. The hearings on the Holbrook landfill site will be held in November as well as the hearings on the proposed industrial park.

Mr. Sweazey said he could also see no potential for any development over the next year as it will be a year of restraint. There can't be any election promises to take on projects of any kind, he said, as it will be a year of holding the line.

Councillor John Heleniak, who is now completing his second term on council as the representative of Ward 3, said he is

"definitely running for mayor." He said he believes that because of the amount of work he doing now, the number of calls he is receiving at his constituency office and the amount of time he spends on council business, that he is fully capable of handling the job of mayor.

He said he is already spending five days a week on council business and feels he is qualified to sit in the mayor's chair.

The other contender in the race for the mayoralty, Bill Sanders, has served on council for one term as a representative of Ward 1, prior to the present council's term.

He sees his decision to seek the position of mayor as an opportunity to have a little more control and to inject a little more common sense into council matters than if he sat as a councillor.

Mr. Sanders said he has always had an active interest in the workings of local government and is eager to get involved in directing the affairs of the township.

While council has tended in the past to be divided on certain issues, Mr. Sanders said he believes council can only function with the co-operation of council as a whole.

"There's definitely a chance for a unified council but it has to be strongly worked at," he said.

And yet, while the township as a whole should be working together on some areas, there are other areas where the local autonomy should be retained, he said.

Nomination forms can be picked up at the township office by any individuals interested in seeking a position on council and they must be turned in to the township office between October 14 and October 18.



## Norwich Township Council Briefs

### Hallowe'en moved

NC Oct 6

Like most municipalities, Norwich Township has designated Saturday, October 30 as Hallowe'en in the township instead of Sunday, October 31 for trick-or-treaters.

### Administrative assistant

An administrative assistant to work alongside the township clerk and treasurer has been hired by Norwich Township council after conducting a series of interviews with prospective candidates for the job.

A total of 78 applications were received for the job, which were narrowed down to 13 and subsequently 6 through the interview process. The job was finally awarded to Shelley Williams of Tillsonburg. Ms Williams took over the duties of her new job on Monday.

### Study available

Norwich Township council agreed at its last meeting to contribute a copy of the township's organizational study to each of the libraries in the township in order that they will be accessible to interested members of the public.

### Fireman hired

Norwich Township council appointed a new fireman to the Ward 1 firehall in Otterville on one-year's probation as a volunteer firefighter.

Walter VanBesien has been appointed to replace one of two firefighters who resigned from the township department. Township council accepted the resignations from Harvey Miller and Don McMullen.

### Constable promoted

Norwich police constable Mike Ellul will be promoted to the new rank of first class constable effective October 10 in recognition of his work as constable for the Norwich Police Department.

### Water management

Norwich Township council agreed to invite General Manager Jim Oliver to the next meeting of council to discuss the Long Point Region Conservation Authority's water management plan.

### Council day changed

The next meeting of Norwich Township council will be held on Tuesday, October 12 instead of its regular Monday because of the Thanksgiving holiday which falls on Monday, October 11. The meeting gets underway at 9 a.m. in the council chambers in Otterville.

## Norwich Township Council Briefs

### Blue Line club

Norwich Township council has given its approval to the establishment of a Blue Line Club by the Norwich Junior "C" hockey club. The club will be renting the upper room situated south of the auditorium at the Norwich Township community centre for a fee of \$25, subject to approval of the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario. Under the authority of a Special Occasion Permit, beverages will be sold in between periods and from the time the game ends until midnight. The approval is for a two month period, at which time a review will be made by both parties.

### Team to be recognized

A banquet will be sponsored by Norwich Township council at the Oxford Centre hall for the purpose of honoring the Oxford Centre Juniors softball team which won the Ontario Rural Softball Association league trophy this season. A date has yet to be arranged for the banquet at which time plaques will be presented to the team members.

### No charge

Norwich Township council has agreed that formally organized chartered youth groups under supervision be authorized to use township-owned community hall facilities with no rent charged, provided the respective groups tidy the used premises after use and provided meetings are held on evenings other than Friday and Saturday.

### Drain bylaws

Bylaws were passed by Norwich Township council on Tuesday to provide for the construction of three municipal drains in the township. One bylaw provided for the construction of the Overholt drain at a cost of \$83,800; another for the construction of the Glen Davis drain at a cost of \$75,000 and the third for the construction of Branches C and F of the Elliott Drain at a cost of \$10,900.

### Minor variance

Council approved a minor variance requested by Luitje and Everdina Moesker of RR 8, Woodstock, to permit the construction of a second dwelling on his 85-acre farm. The extra dwelling is required to house his hired man who aids in managing the 400 veal calf operation.

### Zone change

A zone change requested by the Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Norwich was approved in principle by township council Tuesday and the Oxford County planning board instructed to prepare the necessary bylaw. The zone change was requested from Residential R-1 to R-2 to permit the conversion of the church's rectory into a two-family dwelling.

Parishioner Earl Gillespie said the house was left vacant when the priest Rev. Herb Herring retired to his own home and because of the rectory's size, the parishioners decided to rent it out as two units to two interested tenants from the parish once the conversion is made.

NC Oct 13

# Firemen on old system

NC Oct 20

After six weeks on the new county-wide fire alert system, Norwich Township firemen have returned temporarily to using their old telephone alert system because of a problem with the pagers used to receive the fire alert signal dispatched from Woodstock.

Norwich Township Fire Chief Brian Workman said Saturday he would be collecting all 66 of the Westpage pagers purchased for the township's firemen earlier this year. The township joined the new county-wide fire alert system September 1, but firemen in various fire departments in the township have had problems with the system since it was implemented.

After several meetings with the supplier, Oxford Communications, and the firemen, township council made the

decision to return the Westpage units and order Motorola pagers, a unit the firemen have found to be more satisfactory and reliable.

Chief Workman said there had been a problem of damaged transistors in the Westpage units and many of the firemen weren't receiving the fire alert when it was sent out over the pager carried by each fireman. There were efforts to rectify the problem, but once the men started having problems with the units, they just lost faith in them, said Chief Workman.

One fireman said the units were unpendable and the men were scared the breakdown in communication could end up costing someone their life.

You just can't take that chance, said Chief Workman. He said the greatest share of the problems with the pagers

were experienced in the three halls in the north end of the township. The signal wasn't coming through clear enough so it could be understood, he said.

When the problem with the pagers was recognized, Chief Workman authorized the re-activation of the old telephone system to work as a back-up system for the pagers. That system is still in operation, but township residents are advised to continue calling the new fire number they were given when the new system was implemented. That number is 537-3114.

Chief Workman said he hopes the new pagers will be available in two to four weeks and the system will be running smoothly. He was not sure what the extra cost for the Motorola pagers would be, but said it was a small price to pay for the security of knowing the system works.

# Business gets approval in principle

T.N  
OCT 20

By SUZANNE HANSON

Norwich Township council has given its approval in principle to a zone change that would permit the establishment of a woodworking business in the former Springford Public School.

John and Ruth Lawrence of RR 3, Tillsonburg, are interested in purchasing the school property from the Oxford County board of education if the zoning is changed to allow them to carry on their woodworking business.

Township Clerk Bob Watkins suggested to council the most appropriate zone designation might be commercial (C-1) with a special industrial designation to allow the Lawrence's to carry out their mill work in the basement of the school while operating a retail outlet in the upstairs. The commercial designation would also allow the

Lawrence's to convert a part of the school into their residence.

Mr. Watkins said that while council approved the suggested zone change in principle, he would be discussing the matter with the county's planning board when they prepare the necessary bylaw to determine whether that is the best route for the Lawrence's to take.

Mrs. Lawrence, who appeared before council at its meeting last week, said the zone change requested by the board of education on their behalf had initially been for an industrial designation but Mr. Watkins pointed out that under the township's zoning bylaws, a residential use is not permitted in an industrial zone, nor is a retail store, unless it is directly related to the industrial use.

As Mrs. Lawrence outlined their proposal to

council, she stated they are considering renting space in the school to other individuals for retail outlets. She agreed the commercial designation that would allow for a residence in the school as well as the retail stores, would be preferable, with the allowance for a special industrial use to accommodate the woodworking business.

Mrs. Lawrence said the greatest percentage of their work at present is in the mill work and resale of the lumber with some amount of lawn chair furniture made in their shop, now located at Five Points.

She said from preliminary discussions with neighbors of the school property in Springford, there doesn't seem to be any objection to the business locating in the school.

"I get the feeling from

the people in Springford they would like to see this happen rather than seeing the building empty," said Councillor-at-large Helen Smith.

Councillor Robert Pettigrew said the operation would all be inside and "I see nothing wrong with it."

Mayor Carman Sweazey agreed that the community of Springford would like to see the building being made use of instead of sitting there deteriorating. He said it would also be

getting more industry into the township.

Councillor Norm Lusk voiced some concern, however, about the amount of mill work that would be going on in the school and how acceptable that would be to neighbors of the property.

## Norwich council hands referendum to Ottawa

By SUZANNE HANSON

They've tabled the issue, accepted and then rejected it and now Norwich Township councillors want to refer it back to the federal government.

Council voted at its Tuesday night meeting to urge the federal government to conduct a national referendum dealing with the question of general disarmament after earlier turning down a request for a municipal referendum on the subject.

Councillor John Eacott stated in his motion that because concerned citizens in the township strongly favor a balanced nuclear disarmament and wish to demonstrate the desire by a public vote, that the federal government, under whose authority such matters as external affairs and defence fall, should be urged to conduct the referendum.

Norwich Township council did vote at an earlier meeting to join other municipalities across the country in adding the question on disarmament to its own municipal election ballots. But council reversed that decision at a special meeting the following day after learning the legal implications of the move.

Not only did the inclusion of the question on the municipal election ballots open the door to the possibility of the election being challenged, but if the election were to be successfully challenged, the councillors would be personally responsible for the costs incurred to conduct a new election.

"The proposition was not without merit," said Mr. Eacott, but the municipality is not in a position to do anything more than add moral support by putting it on a ballot.

He said it is more important to pressure the federal government to conduct the referendum as it is the body with control over such areas and it is there the responsibility lies.

Councillor Helen Smith said she didn't think council's decision not to include the question on the ballot was affected by councillors' personal feelings. "There's nothing wrong with the referendum, it was the legal end of it that bothered us."

Mr. Eacott said he didn't think a lot of people realize that council bears the cost personally of an overturned election.

Speaking on the same matter, Clerk Bob Watkins said he took exception to a letter to the editor which appeared last week in The Norwich Gazette. That letter, condemning council's actions with regard to the disarmament referendum, encouraged people to mark their ballot in a manner other than that

directed by the municipality, said Mr. Watkins. He was concerned that by doing so, electors might spoil their ballots and mean they would not be counted.

However, after obtaining advice on the matter, Mr. Watkins said it was indicated to him that if the usual rule of thumb is applied to this case, a ballot that is clearly marked as to its intent, it will be counted.

"If there is any doubt (about the intent), it will not be counted," he said. "If the intent is clear it will be counted."

Mayor Carman Sweazey said council reversed its decision on the disarmament issue, not because they were against it, but because of the possible legal implications that including the question on the ballot might have.

Councillor Darrell Force suggested that if enough municipalities pass resolutions urging the federal government to take action, it might make an impact and cause something to be done.

## Canada Day parade set

Memories are still vivid in the minds of many of the extremely successful Canada Day celebrations held this year in Otterville in conjunction with the South Norwich 175th anniversary celebrations.

And while those memories are still strong, planning is already underway for next year's Canada Week celebrations for Norwich Township as the planning committee met last Wednesday evening to wrap up this year and chart a course for the coming year's celebrations.

A location has already been selected for the 1983 celebrations, with the Canada Week activities scheduled to culminate on July 1 in Burgessville with the Canada Day parade and other activities yet to be planned for that community.

The Canada Week planning committee has also tentatively picked locations for

the subsequent years with the 1984 parade slated for Springford and the 1985 July 1 celebrations planned for Norwich which will also be celebrating its 175th anniversary that year.

While planning is only in the preliminary stages at this point, the idea of organizing a school reunion in Burgessville to coincide with the Canada Day celebrations is also being considered and local committees will be organized to look into that and other possible events.

The Canada Week planning committee is hoping that with the early start on plans for 1983 celebrations, they will be as successful as those in Otterville this year and the first year Canada Week celebrations were held in the township with the culminating events in Oxford Centre.

# No pressing need for more housing

By SUZANNE HANSON

A housing study conducted in Norwich Township earlier this year has indicated there is no pressing need at this time for government assisted housing for either senior citizens or low income families in the township.

Dave Cowan, a housing analyst with the ministry of municipal affairs and housing presented a municipal housing statement to council on Tuesday outlining the results of the study and the future outlook for the township.

Township council requested the study in February of last year after receiving inquiries about the possibility of establishing senior citizens housing in Otterville. A meeting was held last December in Otterville to outline the survey to interested seniors and tenant families and questionnaires were sent out

to assess the interest in government assisted housing.

Based on the assisted housing survey, Mr. Cowan said it has been determined that there is a demand for only two rent-geared-to-income units and eight market rental units for senior citizens and four rent-geared-to-income and nine market rental units for families to June 1983.

Mr. Cowan said questionnaires relating to the seniors housing needs were sent out to all residents over 58 years of age. Of the 1,032 questionnaires sent out, 273 or 26.4 per cent came back in. That response rate is considered to be pretty good, said Mr. Cowan.

Of the 444 questionnaires sent out to tenant families in the township, 70 or 15.7 per cent, were returned, said Mr. Cowan.

He said the results of the survey show

there is now sufficient housing in the community for the private market, seniors and low income families for the next one to five years. Mr. Cowan said there would have to be a minimum of 25 people identified as being willing to move into a government assisted housing complex for it to be considered viable.

With regard to the senior citizens group, a discounting factor of 75 per cent has been applied, said Mr. Cowan as it has been the ministry's experience that people who own their own homes are less likely to move when rental units are available than people who are already renting. According to the housing study, 80 per cent of the housing in the township is owner-occupied.

Councillor Mel Smith asked Mr. Cowan how a municipality can ever get into an apartment situation when the system works against it. He also said he believes more people will be changing their attitude about living in their own homes with the rising cost of maintaining and heating a home. He said some seniors may be forced to sell because they cannot afford to keep their homes up and without facilities available in the township people will have to go to other towns to get rental housing.

But Mr. Cowan also pointed out that the survey covered the entire township and even if they had come up with 25 people interested in the rental units, there was still a chance those people might not want to leave their home community to move into the new facility. There's a chance that with the required number to warrant a building the total could be split between two or more communities with none of those individuals willing to leave their own community to make up the required total in one centre. According to the survey, of the 22 respondents to the questionnaire who were interested in rental units, seven of them were from Otterville and eight from Norwich.

Mr. Cowan agreed with councillors that it is difficult for a small rural municipality to qualify for the government assisted housing for seniors or families based on the ministry rules, but said all council can do is watch the situation and come back in a few years to try the survey again when they think there will be increased demand.

Councillor Robert Pettigrew suggested the ministry should give consideration to allowing smaller units of eight to 10 in the smaller rural municipalities with lower populations. But Mr. Cowan replied that it became apparent in the mid-1970's that small projects were no longer economical to operate. He said a minimum of 25 units was required to make it possible to operate an economical senior citizen or family project.

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## Radio not removed

# Fire truck not properly released

By SUZANNE HANSON

Norwich Township council's acceptance of a bid on a vintage fire truck belonging to the Ward 2 (Norwich) fire department has raised some questions as to whether the matter was properly handled when the truck was turned over to its new owner.

The 1938 Chevrolet fire truck was offered for sale by the township and two tenders were received last month, one for \$600 from Donald Barnim of Otterville, and another for \$250 from the Norwich Firefighters Association. After considerable discussion of the matter,

the tender submitted by Mr. Barnim was accepted, to the disappointment of the Norwich firefighters who had hoped to retain possession of the vehicle in their association.

Councillor Norm Lusk, who was concerned about the way the issue was handled put forward a motion at council's last meeting asking that the radio equipment left in the 1938 fire truck sold to Mr. Barnim be returned. The motion, which was passed with an 8-2 recorded vote, stated the radio was not standard equipment in that model of fire truck and was not specifically mentioned

in the tender as going with the truck.

The motion also asked that Mr. Barnim be informed that the fire truck had not been released by the fire chief from active service when it was picked up from the Norwich firehall last month.

Mr. Lusk pointed out at council's meeting last week that he had asked that the motion to sell the truck be tabled and when he couldn't get it tabled, he queried whether the vehicle had been released from active service and all useable equipment removed in readiness to be sold.

The radio was apparently not removed and "it represents too large a loss to the township to let it go unnoticed," said Mr. Lusk who said later the radio has been valued at about \$1,300. The two-way radio, tuned to the Oxford County fire alert system, could in no way have been seen to be a part of the truck's system, said Mr. Lusk.

He said in his motion the standard practice in

releasing equipment sold requires the administrative staff to first notify any successful tenderer to confirm their bid has been accepted and to set out a mutually agreed upon time for the release by the fire chief of the active firefighting equipment.

Councillor John Eacott said the problem in this situation is that the truck was not released by the fire chief from active service so, "perhaps the truck was not ready for release." Mr. Eacott also pointed out the fire chief was not present when the truck left the firehall in Norwich.

"I'm certain it was not the intention to let the radio go with the truck, but unfortunately this one wasn't taken out," said Councillor John Heleniak.

Mr. Heleniak said he had spoken with Mr. Barnim and as far as Mr. Barnim is concerned, the radio in the truck is his property as it was in the truck when he inspected it prior to submitting his tender.

"I don't think the radio should have gone with the truck," said Mr. Heleniak, "but he (Mr. Barnim) assumed the radio was part of the truck and part of the property he could take with him."

Councillor Lyle Davis suggested the fire chief "should have been a little more on his toes." But Mr. Lusk asked how the fire chief was to know that council was accepting the tender

Councillor Helen Smith said it was a very unfortunate situation. "I feel badly that this truck had to leave Norwich because the men themselves have been involved with the truck for a long time."

Mr. Eacott reminded council that the fire truck had been put for tender and tenders received. Without a motion to table the matter, the motion to sell the truck to Mr. Barnim had to be dealt with, he said.

"It should be remembered that the truck was put up for tender and the desire to possess is measured by the amount of money one is willing to put up." Mr. Eacott said he thinks the truck is probably worth \$3,000.

He pointed out that no one knew the tenders were going to be opened or accepted that day at council last month as the matter

was not included on the agenda. In earlier discussion he said he felt tenders should not be left off the printed agenda in the future.

A motion was subsequently passed that the township not consider tenders unless such consideration is included on the printed agenda to enable all council members to address the issue. Council members should have foreknowledge of such matters, said Mr. Eacott.

At the time the fire truck tender was accepted, three members of council were absent from the meeting including Mayor Carman Sweazey, Councillors Darrell Force and Jack Lester. The motion accepting the tender was passed by a narrow 4-3 vote.

## FIRE TRUCK

Dear Editor: Regarding the letter in the Sept. 22 Norwich Gazette we would like to point out the letter was not just from Deputy Chief Snow; he signed it as an officer of the Firefighters Association.

Also may we point out that we never said or felt anything against Mr. Barnim. We think it very honorable of him to offer the fire truck to us for parades. For this we are thankful. But we feel it would not be right on our part to accept his gracious offer.

We do not know why the truck was put up for tender but may we point out that in the tender it said highest or any tender not necessarily accepted. We know that if people believed that it was to go to

the highest bidder there would have been many more bids submitted. We did not know that \$350 was worth more than town pride. It doesn't seem to have a price tag in the south end of the township.

We know that Mr. Barnim paid \$600 for the truck but we wonder, did council come out ahead? As for the age of the truck, we may have been misinformed but we were told it was older.

Also would everyone please come out to our open house on Thursday, we would like to see you.

Yours Respectfully,  
Norwich Firefighters Association

## Letters to the editor

### MISUNDERSTANDING

Dear Editor: We the firefighters of the Burgessville association would like to express our opinions regarding the recent sale of township fire apparatus.

There appears to be a great deal of ill feeling directed at the purchaser of the former Norwich Village pumper. This is an unfortunate misunderstanding.

The purchaser extended a higher offer in good faith

and should receive no blame for an error in judgment on the part of council.

The rewards for volunteer firefighters are few, but apparently fewer than we realized. At a meeting with council earlier this year, the firemen and officers declined a raise in pay as an expression of good faith. Our question to council then is just where is their half of this faith?

Oh yes, an offer for the former Burgessville pumper was accepted. It was also the only offer submitted. It is always nice to know where you stand when it really matters.

The Burgessville Fire Department Association

### NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Dear Editor: I am writing to express my keen disappointment that the Municipal Council of the Township of Norwich has reversed its previous decision to include on the municipal ballot this November a referendum question concerning the desirability of world nuclear disarmament.

Municipal councils across Canada are being requested to include this question on their ballots this November, and something like 150 councils have decided to do so, including the following: Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton, Guelph, Kitchener and Waterloo, Cambridge, Brantford and Brant County, London, St. Thomas, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Victoria. (Space prevents listing them all!)

These municipal councils have sought the same legal advice as has our Norwich Council, and presumably have received the same advice. If cities such as Toronto and Ottawa can see no reason not to include the question on their ballots, one can only conclude that the moral courage of Norwich Council falls something short of spectacular!

Do our councillors have such lack of concern for the welfare of our citizens in the event of nuclear war that they dare not take this smallest and most timid of risks to place before the voters this question whose legality is only very slightly grey and untested?

The possibility of nuclear war is no small, theoretical question. The danger of a nuclear holocaust, whether by design or by accident, is a very real danger, and a danger which grows day by day and month by month while this insane arms race continues unchecked. If the citizens of Norwich

Township all die from nuclear radiation or eventual starvation and disease following a nuclear exchange, surely that will be a matter of municipal concern!

Before closing I must emphasize that the nuclear disarmament question does NOT call for any kind of unilateral disarmament; it does NOT call for Canada to withdraw from military alliances such as N.A.T.O. or NORAD. The Municipal Referendum is part of a worldwide grassroots movement of ordinary people of the world, calling for a gradual and balanced reduction of arms, beginning with nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, by all the governments of the world based upon a 1961 Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly which was adopted unanimously by all member states of the United Nations. The 1961 Resolution which was presented and adopted is based upon principles drawn up jointly by John J. McCloy representing the United States, and Valerin Zorin representing the Soviet Union.

The only purpose of the Municipal Referendum approach in Canada and in many other countries around the world, is to pressure the governments of the world to live up to the United Nations Resolution which they endorsed in 1961, but which has never been implemented.

Much more could be said about the background of this Referendum which many Canadian municipalities will be placing on their ballots in the near future but space prevents further elaboration here.

In closing one wonders what would be the reaction of Norwich Council if hundreds or thousands of concerned voters in this Township write in on their ballots this November, "YES TO NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT."

Very truly yours,  
(Rev.) David S. Fearon  
Norwich United Church

### RESPONDS TO LETTER

Dear Editor: In response to the letter in the Sept. 29

Norwich Gazette regarding the old fire truck, by now Mr. and Mrs. Barnim you should know that, if you had read that letter properly, you should have noticed it was signed by the Norwich Fire Fighters Association. The paper needed a signature and I signed it. It was not solely my opinion; they would not be allowed to print mine.

Regardless of what you said (SO LOUDLY) the old truck should have stayed in Norwich. I am sure the difference of \$350 was nothing compared to the new radio that was left in the truck. The Norwich tax payers, bought it years ago, and it should have remained here, regardless of what year it was.

I believe the councillors who were there did, (as you said) what they saw fit to do. They sure knew when and how to do it. I understand it was not even on the agenda for that meeting. I would like to see it made public who it was that wanted the truck put up for tender.

At no time did the fire department blame your Dad for purchasing the truck. Neither did we say or think anything was done underhanded by him. That was your own opinion.

Now Mr. and Mrs. Barnim you have part of my opinion and as the saying goes, YOU ASKED FOR IT.

Norwich Fire Sept  
Dept. Chief.  
Les Snow  
Norwich



## W. SANDERS

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**THIS COLONIAL STYLE HOME** has many features: large kitchen, chestnut wainscotting, acorn oak cupboards, separate dinette, steel beam supports in basement, extra insulation and more. MLS Price \$79,900.



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### STAFF

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Larry Hodgson	863-3236	Dick Sanders	842-8157
Dan Sanders	842-8329	Bill Sanders	Broker

## Auction Sales

### Large Auction

Furniture, Antiques, Household Items & Farm Machinery. Complete contents of home of Myrtle Riste of Otterville and other trust lots, at Shackelton Auctions, 5 miles north of Aylmer and 3 miles east or 8 miles south of 401 Hwy. on Putnam Rd.

THURSDAY, OCT. 21  
6:00 P.M.

FURNITURE, ETC. 6:30 P.M. - early Victorian settee; drop front secretary; console table and chairs; 2 walnut bonnet chests; pr. Ethan Allen love seats; mates bed; dresser, chest of drawers; hide a bed chesterfield (as new); recliner chair; Empire piano; organ stool; cedar chest; chest with tear drop pulls; sideboard; Electrohome colour TV; 2 door refrigerator; gas stove (like new); automatic washer and dryer; Westinghouse upright freezer; fall leaf table; set old press back chairs; 2 hump back trunks; blanket chest; water bed; old rockers, fernery, tea set for 6 Royal Crown Derby dishes; set for 8 Peach Blossom dishes; service for 6 Wedgewood china; set Royal Paragon fine china dishes; lustre tea set; many pcs. old glass and china; Seth Thomas mantle clock; bedding; fireplace; silver tea set; wagon wheel light fixtures; old painting and prints; single and double beds; chrome suite; small roll top desk; Franklin stove; high chairs; Advent 1000A video beam TV; MACHINERY ETC. at 6 p.m. - 1972 Ford 350 with 12' alum van; M.F. 3 pt. hitch discs; M.F. 4 furrow plow; New Idea trail mower; IHC 5' rotary mower; 2 wheel trailer; Danuser 3 pt. post hole digger; Dunham 3 pt. hitch disc; 3 sec. Jacobsen lawn mower; 3 pt. hitch disc; Shield 4 elec. welder; Skee Flee fiberglass hull; mineral feeder; steel I beams; culverts; large heavy roller doors; 200 gal. oil tanks; fire hydrant; alum ext. ladder; step ladder; shelving; chemical toilets; lawn mowers; garden tools, etc.

Terms - Cash night of sale. LES & JOHN SHACKELTON Auctioneers Phone 773-5141 or 773-9718



### Population jump

For years, Otterville has had no official population listed on the sign at the entrances to the village but last week Otter-

ville sign-painter Don Longthorne rectified the problem when he put the figures on the sign, listing the population at 731. (NG Photo)

## Otterville population up

The population of Otterville would appear to have jumped from zero to 731 almost overnight.

At least that's what someone might think if they'd seen the signs at the entrance to the village. For years, the signs erected by Powell Agri-Systems at three of the entrances to Otterville have lacked a population number in the space provided but that situation was changed last week when Don Longthorne got out his sign-painting equipment to fill in the blank.

Mr. Longthorne, of Don Longthorne Signs, said he had often wondered why no one bothered to fill in the population on the signs and this fall when Otterville resident

Lila Freeland carried out the enumeration for the upcoming November election, he got the figure from her. They then asked township council's permission to fill in the figure and Mr. Longthorne donated his services last week to paint the number on all three signs. NG OCT 6

### Surprise party marks birthday

OTTERVILLE (C) — Thelma Garnett, Otterville was honored by her family and friends on Sunday afternoon and evening in the schoolroom of the Otterville United Church.

Mrs. Garnett was accompanied into the church by her family and was taken completely by surprise when a friend stepped up and greeted her wishing her "Happy Birthday."

Long-time friends of Mrs. Garnett were Mr. and Mrs. John Knight of St. Catharines who assisted Mrs. Garnett in receiving the visitors. Other special friends were Mr. and Mrs. Colin Robinson, of Stoney Creek, former neighbors of

Mrs. Garnett.

Coffee was served throughout the afternoon by the family.

At 6 p.m. a potluck dinner was served to 30 relatives and friends at which time other birthdays for the day were revealed, those being Mrs. Garnett's nephew of Woodstock, Jim McCalley of Woodstock, and Dr. H.H. Batson 87 of Otterville.

Visitors were present from London, St. Catharines, Hamilton, Princeton, Innerkip, Tillsonburg and Norwich. Happy Birthday wishes were given to Mrs. Garnett whose birthday was Oct. 19.

### Forrest V. Kent

Forrest V. Kent of Mississauga passed away at his residence on Wednesday, October 6, 1982.

Surviving are his wife, the former Mary Slaght; a daughter Mrs. Howard (Joanne) Quennell of Mississauga; and grandchildren Mary Margaret and Deborah.

Funeral service was held October 8 at First United Church, Lakeshore Rd., Mississauga.

Memorial donations to the Canadian Cancer Society or to the Ontario Heart Foundation would be appreciated by the family.

Turner and Porter Funeral Home, Peel Chapel, Mississauga, in charge of arrangements.

### 40th wedding anniversary



Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Baert of RR 1, Otterville, are celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary on October 6, 1982. Congratulations Mom and Dad. All our love - Linda, Jack, David and Aaron.

# Open house on 60th anniversary

OTTERVILLE (C) — The family of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lee, Otterville, held an Open House on Sunday, October 24 at the Woodlawn Community Centre in honor of their parents who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

They have one son, Donald of Brantford; their only daughter died five years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Lee raised a grandson, Bill Nixon, who lives at Windsor.

Mrs. Lee received guests

wearing a figured navy blue dress and a corsage of carnations. Mr. Lee wore a navy blue suit and a red carnation boutonniere. The flowers were a gift from their son Donald.

Mary (Mrs. Donald) Lee received the guests at the door while the grandchildren were in charge of the guest book. Pouring tea throughout the afternoon were Vera Durie and Iona Hawn of Streetsville, Mrs. Ken Workman of Cobourg and Ruth Lee of Baltimore.

The grandchildren were the attentive waitresses serving tea and cookies.

At 6 p.m. a delicious smorgasbord dinner, prepared by Mrs. Donald Lee and grandchildren, was enjoyed by 80 guests.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee moved from their farm, which was formerly owned by Bruce Alexander, to settle on the corner of Dover and Queen Streets in Otterville.

Mr. Lee is a veteran of the First World War. He

went into the dairy farming after the war and was the proud owner of Jersey cattle.

Following their retirement from the farm, the Lees have lived in the village for the past 15 years. Mr. Lee has devoted much of his time to wood carving and has specialized in the line of animals and his pieces are very realistic.

Mrs. Lee being fond of horses, showed her skill in driving and riding at fall fairs and holds a medal from the Cooksville Agricultural Society.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Lee have been active in organizations, Mrs. Lee being instrumental in forming and organizing the Senior Citizens group

known as the Leisure Club in Otterville of which they have both been members since 1972.



## Celebrate marriage

Three Otterville couples celebrated 60 or more years of marriage together with a special afternoon get-together at the Woodlawn Community Centre in Otterville Sunday. The afternoon party was held in honor of the 60th anniversary of Harry and Bertha Lee, both members of the Otterville Leisure Club and two other couples, also members of the club, were invited to share in the celebrations. Celebrating their 60th anniversary were the Lees (left couple), Max and Edith Avey (centre) and celebrating their 61st anniversary were James and Grace Squance (right). (NG Photo)

## 60th anniversary

OTTERVILLE (C) — The family of Mr. and Mrs. Max Avey entertained members of the family to a dinner in Paris in honor of their 60th wedding Anniversary on Sunday Oct. 17, 1982.

The couple were recipients of gifts flowers and cards from organizations of which they are members.

They also received a telegram from the Queen a plaque from Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, a plaque from the Premier of

Ontario, William Davis, also a letter of congratulations from Mr. and Mrs. William Davis.

Congratulations were also received from Rt. Hon. Joe Clarke, Dr. Bruce Halliday M.P. for Oxford and Dick Treleaven M.P.P. for Oxford.

Max and Edith wish to thank their relatives, neighbors and friends for the lovely gifts and cards expressing "Best Wishes" which made their day long to be remembered.

## Mark 60th anniversary

Sixty years of married life is worth celebrating and that is just what three area couples did on Sunday in Otterville. *OCT 24*

An open house was held on Sunday afternoon at the Woodlawn community centre for Harry and

Bertha Lee, who are celebrating their 60th anniversary on November 1. When the family of the Lees, who put on the open house, learned there were two other couples also celebrating 60 years or more of marriage, they invited those two couples to share in the celebrations.

All three couples are members of the Otterville Leisure Club for senior citizens. That club catered to the get-together Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Lee, who were married on November 1, 1922, are celebrating 60 years of marriage. James and Grace Squance, married on July 2, 1921, celebrated 61 years together and Max and Edith Avey, married on October 19, 1922,

celebrated 60 years of marriage.

Mr. Squance, then of Northfield, wed his wife, the former Grace Harrison of Norwich, at Bookton with Rev. William Ottewell performing the ceremony.

Mr. Lee, wed the former Bertha Workman in Streetsville at the bride's residence. They moved to a farm north of Otterville from Streetsville in 1956 and 15 years ago retired to Otterville.

Mr. Avey, then of Norwich, took the former Edith Losee of Burgessville as his bride at the parsonage in Otterville 60 years ago with Rev. Vollick performing the ceremony. They have lived in Otterville ever since that time.

## Engagement



Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Gehring of Otterville and Mr. and Mrs. Blaine Phillips of LaSalette, are pleased to announce the engagement of their children, Mary Gail to Paul James. The wedding will take place Friday, October 22, 1982, at Our Lady of LaSalette Roman Catholic Church at 2 p.m.

# Rusnak-Stephenson vows spoken

St. Pauls United Church, Tillsonburg, was the setting on October 30, 1982, for the wedding of Mary Elizabeth Stephenson and Richard G. Rusnak. Rev. J.H. McAvany of Avondale United Church, Tillsonburg, officiated. Organist was Mrs. Shelley Partington of Tillsonburg and Miss Lisa Lofthouse of Courtland was soloist.

The bride is the daughter of Mrs. Mary A. Stephenson of Tillsonburg and the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Rusnak, Sr., of Delhi.

Mary Elizabeth was escorted by her brother-in-law, Bruce Wilcox of Mississauga, to the altar where she was given in marriage by her mother. The bride wore a custom designed, full length, white chiffon gown with cathedral train, worn with a matching picture hat which held a full length veil. She carried a cascade of white silk gardenias, blue cornflowers, stephanotis and pearls.

Leslie Wilcox of Mississauga, sister of the bride, was maid of honor and bridesmaids were Suzanne Bamford of Tillsonburg, Linda Moffat of London, both sisters of the bride, Linda Mitchell of Tillsonburg, sister of the groom, Terri Rusnak of Delhi, sister-in-law, Jane Verbakel of Simcoe, Bernice DeGroot of Otterville and Linda Hill of Springford, all friends of the bride. They wore sapphire blue taffeta gowns and carried white silk gardenias and sapphire blue cornflowers.

Best man was Don Longthorne of Otterville, friend of the groom and ushers were David Rusnak of Delhi, brother of the groom, Bruce Wilcox of Mississauga, brother-in-law, Brad Kramer of Delhi, Gord Hill of Springford, Peter McKinnon of Kitchener, Brian Hilliker of Tillsonburg and Reme DeGroot of Otterville, all friends of the groom.

Reception was held at the

Hungarian Hall in Delhi for 375 guests.

For receiving guests, the bride's mother chose a dusty-rose chiffon gown and the groom's mother a pearl grey chiffon gown.

Miss Lisa Lofthouse entertained on the piano during the afternoon reception.

Guests attended the wedding from Tonawanda, New York, Burlington, Ancaster, Strathroy, Brantford, London and Toronto.

Following a wedding trip to Mexico, Mr. and Mrs. Rusnak are residing in Otterville.

Prior to the wedding, the bride was honored at a shower given by her aunts and uncles in Burlington; a china shower held in Tillsonburg by her sisters; and a personal shower given by Miss Trixie Vos in Otterville. Both bride and groom were honored at a buck and doe party at the Trail Trotters Club in Springford given by both families and attendants.



MR. AND MRS. RICHARD G. RUSNAK  
(Rose-Le Studio, Simcoe)

# DeWachter-VanOoteghem vows

St. Mary's R.C. Church, Tillsonburg, was the setting on October 9, 1982, at 2 p.m. for the wedding of Gail VanOoteghem and Richard DeWachter. Rev. Fr. Joe Nevett officiated and Barb Reuter was soloist for the service.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph VanOoteghem of RR 1, Norwich and the groom is the son of Mrs. Maria DeWachter of Otterville, and the late Achiel DeWachter.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride chose a

gown of alencon lace and organza, worn with a matching headpiece which held her two tier cathedral veil. She carried a cascade of white gardenias, red roses, rosebuds and mountain gyp.

Maid of honor was Heather Bayne of Delhi, friend of the bride, and bridesmaids were Cecilia Heemskerk of RR 1, Norwich, friend of the bride, Janet VanRyswyck of RR 5, Ingersoll, cousin of the bride, and Donna Murray of Otterville, friend of the bride. The

maid of honor wore pink jersey and the bridesmaids lilac jersey, and they carried nosegays of white carnations, pink roses, mauve rosebuds and mountain gyp.

Lori-Lee Vanexem of RR 1, Salford, cousin of the bride, was flower girl and wore a gown of pink polyester and cotton, designed and made by the mother of the groom. She carried a basket covered in white lace with pink roses, lilac rosebuds and white carnations.

Kevin Sandham of Tillsonburg, friend of the groom, was best man and ushers were Paul Arthur of Otterville, Tony Boerkamp of Waterford and Terry Vermeersch of Tillsonburg, all friends of the groom. Michael DeWachter, nephew of the groom, was ring bearer.

Reception was held at the Belgian Hall in Delhi. Bride's mother received in a gown of dusty rose chiffon, assisted by the groom's mother who wore a gown of terra cotta chiffon.

For a wedding trip to Hawaii, the bride wore a navy blue wool suit with red chiffon blouse.

Guests were present from Toronto, London and Wallaceburg.

Mr. and Mrs. DeWachter are residing at RR 1, Otterville.



MR. AND MRS. RICHARD DeWACHTER

# Zimmer - Hendricks wed at Otterville United

On Saturday, October 9, 1982, at 2 o'clock vows were exchanged between Becky Marie Hendricks, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Hendricks of Otterville and James Clarence Zimmer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Zimmer of Embro, at Otterville United Church

with Rev. Earl Moore officiating. Mrs. Jean McClintock of Otterville was organist and Mrs. Betty Walthers, also of Otterville, was soloist.

Escorted by her father, the bride chose a gown of white organza worn with a western style hat trimmed with lace with a floor-length veil.

Matron of honour was Mrs. Bonnie Harwood of La Salette, sister of the bride and bridesmaids were Charlotte Rosehart of St. Thomas, Mrs. Tracy Jacques of RR 1, Norwich and Joanne Van Nuland of Woodstock, all friends of the bride and Shelley Mudge of Otterville, cousin of the bride.

They wore street length gowns of burgundy polyester crepe.

Best man was Scott Zimmer of Embro, brother of the groom and ushers were Reid Smith of Chatham, Rick Innes of Embro and Paul Bradley of Norwich, all friends of the groom and Doug Zimmer of Calgary, Alberta, cousin of the groom.

Jamie and Craig Harwood of La Salette, nephews of the bride, were ringbearers.

Reception was held at the Delhi German hall.

The bride's mother wore a street length dress of polyester crepe in pumpkin blue. The groom's mother chose a street length dress in burgundy georgette.

For a wedding trip to Niagara-on-the-Lake, the bride wore a street length dress of purple silk with light grey accessories.

Mr. and Mrs. Zimmer are residing at 461 Moore Street, London.

Guests attended from Calgary, Chatham, Tillsonburg and surrounding area



MR. AND MRS. JAMES CLARENCE ZIMMER  
(Rose-Le Studio, Simcoe)

## Otterville News

OTTERVILLE (C) - Ada Morley of Burgessville was a weekend guest with Evelyn Waring. Mrs. John Rennie of Ilderton visited Mrs. Morley and Mrs. Waring on Monday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Gleason spent Sunday evening with Laura Kilgour at Ingersoll.

A number from here attended the anniversary service held at New Road United Church on Sunday afternoon which was well attended.

Mr. and Mrs. Ross McMullen and daughter Ashley entertained to a family Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday evening. Present were Mr. and Mrs. Archie Jull of Norwich, Murray Jull of Cambridge, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Jull and family of Newark, and Laura Kilgour of Ingersoll. On Saturday, October 9

Edith Petch entertained her family to a Thanksgiving dinner and the day was much enjoyed.

Mr. and Mrs. Mel Beecroft accompanied by Mrs. Fred Cole shared in the 100th anniversary of the first service held in the Calvin Brick church near Belgrave on October 3. Following the service, there was a lunch and social time at Belgrave United Church when Mr. and Mrs. Beecroft had the opportunity to visit with many former friends. After the luncheon Mr. and Mrs. Beecroft and Mrs. Cole went to Barrie where Mrs. Cole was a guest with her daughter, Wilma Durham and Mr. and Mrs. Beecroft visited at the home of their son, Dr. John Beecroft and family until Thursday, then returned home.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kozuch celebrated their 34th wedding anniversary on October 16 and were guests with their daughter, Mrs. John McMullen and Mr. McMullen, Otterville.

Mr. and Mrs. Colin Robinson of Stoney Creek were weekend guests in Otterville, spending Sunday night with Mr. and Mrs. Melville Beecroft. They were noonday guests on Monday with Evelyn Waring and called on other friends. They returned to their home on Monday afternoon.

Plans are all set for the Bake and Produce Sale which will be held at Carney's Furniture Store, Main Street West, in Otterville on Friday, October

22. Coffee will be served. The afternoon is sponsored by the Otterville Women's Institute. Come along and bring your neighbors. The sale is at the former hardware store at 3 p.m.

At a recent meeting of the Executive of the United Church Women, plans were made for the annual Turkey Supper of the Otterville United Church which will be held on Monday, October 25 from 5 - 7 p.m.

Six members of the Otterville Leisure Club attended the Senior Citizens' Zone 3 Fall Rally which was held on Wednesday, October 13 at the Agricultural Hall, Paris Fair grounds.

Winnie Leach entertained 35 relatives at her home for a family get-together prior to Thanksgiving. During the evening progressive euchre was played. Mrs. Leach was assisted by relatives during the social hour when the relatives enjoyed visiting and relating back to earlier days. Visitors were present from Paris, London, Toronto, Vanessa, Waterford, Simcoe, Saskatchewan, Little Lake, Harley, Teeterville and other places.

Deborah Haight of Woodstock was a recent visitor with her cousin, Evelyn Waring.

Grace Morris of Woodstock was a visitor with Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Pinnoy and family during Thanksgiving weekend.

## Otterville News

OTTERVILLE (C) — Mr. and Mrs. Jim Claves and son James of Guelph were recent visitors with Mr. and Mrs. John McSkimming. Other guests were Mrs. Andy Burton and children Heather and Robbie.

Ada Morley of Burgessville, Mrs. Charles Singer of Woodstock and Mrs. Clarence Swance of New Road were Wednesday guests with Evelyn Waring.

Tables well laden with homebaking and goodies

and a splendid display of produce was well displayed for the bake sale which was held at the store of Bob Carney Main St. West in Otterville on Friday afternoon.

The sale, sponsored by the Otterville Women's Institute, was sold out in an hour's time and over \$100 had been made.

The room was made most fitting to meet the needs of the sale and appreciation was expressed to Mr. Carney for the space which made a successful afternoon.

## Leisure Club holds meeting

OTTERVILLE (C) — Members of the Leisure Club held their regular meeting at Woodlawn Adult Community Centre on Wednesday, October 20.

The club, of which Mrs. John Pritchard is the president, is justly proud of three couples who have each celebrated their 60th anniversaries of marriage. They are Mr. and Mrs. James Squance who have celebrated their 61st; Mr. and Mrs. Max Avey who celebrated their 60th anniversary and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lee also celebrating their 60th.

In recognition of these events, presentations were made to Mr. and Mrs. Avey by Mel Beecroft giving a short address and Mrs. Fred Cole making the presentation of a plate. Bruce Alexander addressed Mr. and Mrs. Lee and the presentation of a plate was made by Florence Moore. Mr. and Mrs. Squance were previously honored on their 60th. Each thanked the Club for their kindness. Cards were played and the committee in charge convened the social program.

## Hallowe'en celebration

OTTERVILLE (C) - The annual Norwich-Otterville Lions' Hallowe'en party for the children of Otterville and area was held in the Community Hall at 9 p.m. Saturday, October 30. There was a good attendance and hog dogs were served after the prizes were awarded, as follows:

Eight-years-old and under - best dressed boy - Neil Smith, best dressed girl - Corrine Kappan, most comical boy - Michael Kappan, most comical girl - Karla Spicer.

Nine-years-old and over - best dressed boy - Steven Cope, best dressed girl - Heather Picknell, most comical boy - Gary Walther, most comical girl - Jodie Smith.

Acting as judges were Pat Spicer, Mary Farkas and George Smith. The children all enjoyed the evening and the residents of the village and area appreciate the kindness shown to the children of the district.



## Otterville Institute meets

OTTERVILLE (C) — The October meeting of the Otterville Women's Institute was held at the home of Jean Gehring on Thursday morning at 9:30 a.m. This is a new custom which has been suggested by the members with the desire that it may increase the membership.

During the meeting a draw was made from packages which the members had brought wrapped in newspaper. These were won by ticket which proved interesting.

The president Olive Pickersgill opened the meeting and the roll call was answered with the members giving suggestions as to economical uses of food. These ideas were all interesting.

The meeting was strictly on Agriculture with the hostess acting as convener. Mrs. Gehring and Betty Walther each read papers on the theme of Agriculture.

A dialogue on Agriculture shown on the screen was another number on the program showing foods from growth to consumer.

Coffee and cookies were served throughout the meeting by the hostess, assisted by members of her family.

The November meeting will be held at the home of Lorraine Downing on the new date and time on the second Thursday, November 11 at 9:30 a.m.

This meeting will stress the fashion "Come as you are".

# Attendance awards for Lions

OTTERVILLE (C) — The regular meeting of the Norwich-Otterville Lions Club was held on Monday evening, Oct. 25. The Lions met at the Otterville United Church for the much enjoyed annual turkey supper.

Following the supper the Lions met at the Community Hall, Otterville for the business meeting. Lion president Colin Cope presided. There were 37 members and 10 guests present including four members from the

Merriton club and four members from the Springfield Club.

The A-2 District Governor George Hostick was introduced by Lion president Cope. Lion Hostick brought greetings from Lions International.

The governor stressed the Lions International objective for this year is "The Vision of Service." This program includes three parts: expanding sight service, especially the increasing problems of blindness; an international drug awareness program; and keep 'em sharing the vision; the endeavor to keep present Lion members as busy active members.

Governor Hostick also covered many new activities of District A-2 with many new projects all with worthwhile goals for Lions

to be involved in their communities.

The speaker was thanked by vice-president Les Dickson who presented him with a gift of appreciation.

Tickets were distributed for a draw on a new Honda ATC to be drawn at the annual fish fry March 26.

George and Pauline Amey representing the Norwich Minor Hockey Association were present to receive a cheque from the club for \$500.

Lion Bryan Craig of the Springfield Club and Reg Hills of the Merriton Club expressed greetings from their Clubs and special appreciation for the turkey supper.

Governor Hostick presented 100 per cent attendance pins to the following Lions: Colin Cope, Murray Cornwell, Rene DeCooman, Les

Dickson, Murray Downing, Tony Drescher, Norm Fidin, Howard Fleming, Mark Gilmore, Aloys Sanders, Gord Shearer, Nelson Gleason, Don Miller, Fred Thompson, Art VandeByl, Paul Wood, Murray Wardell, Gary Walther, Andy Vandenberghe, Rick McKim, Dick Harrison, Ed McFarland, Grant Orth and Ev Jenkins.

Monarch awards for 100 per cent attendance were presented to the following Lions for 10 years: Ev Jenkins, 25 years; Jack Walther, 35 years; Nelson Gleason and Murray Downing.

The annual Hallowe'en party will be held in the Otterville Community Hall at 8 p.m. Saturday evening, Oct. 30. There will be boys and girls prizes and hot dogs for all.

S P A G H E T T I S U P P E R

Saturday, October 16th, 1982

AT

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

OTTERVILLE

ADULTS - \$3.50 CHILDREN - \$2.50

PRESCHOOLERS FREE

TIME : 4:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M.



### 150th anniversary

The congregation of Springfield Baptist Church will be celebrating its 150th anniversary Saturday, October 2 and Sunday, October 3, 1982. The present church, erected in 1887, is the fourth building to house the congregation.

# Springford Baptist Church celebrating 150th anniversary

Reverend Gibson Brown and the 80 member congregation of Springford Baptist Church are celebrating the 150th anniversary of the church October 2 and 3.

MP Bruce Halliday will be attending the banquet Saturday night and attending the Sunday morning church service.

As well, MPP Dick Treleavan will be attending the Saturday night banquet, where he will present a plaque to the church. The plaque, signed by Premier William Davis, extends good wishes from the government of Ontario on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the church.

Nearly two hundred people were sent invitations to attend the Saturday night banquet. Some of the former members of the church will be coming from as far away as Montreal for the celebrations.

An informal program will be held Saturday night. It will include the plaque presentation by Mr. Treleavan; a slide presentation on the area schools, churches and businesses in the past 100 years by the Springford Women's Institute; and music by the church choir

and the junior choir.

Two church services will be held at 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m. Closed circuit television will be made available to those who cannot be seated in the church. An historic display will be set up in the church.

At the Sunday morning service, Rev. Gibson Brown will be dedicating a communion table, an offering table and chairs.

The communion table is being donated to the church by the Sorbie family in memory of Lenore Vardon Sorbie.

The chairs and offering table are being donated by the Mason family in memory of Pearl Haley Mason.

Rev. Albert Coe, former president of the Baptist convention of Ontario and Quebec, and now the secretary of the department of missions for the Convention, will be attending the celebrations.

The present church, erected in 1887 is the fourth building to house the Springford congregation.

"The First Regular Baptist Church in Norwich" was organized on October 6, 1832 in the "old block schoolhouse" situated on the south side of

the road on lot 23, just west of the village of Springford. The council was composed of elders and delegates from 1st Oxford, 2nd Oxford, Zorra, Nissouri and Blenheim.

In 1842, 10 years after organization, they were able to give up the meetings in the school house and were to be found worshipping in their own chapel. Statistical accounts for 1844 show: added by baptism, 12; by letter and experience, 8; restored, 1; dismissed by letter, 3; excluded, 5; total membership, 58.

A new church was built in 1858 on land sold to the church by William Haley Sr. This white frame building was moved across the road for a town hall and in 1887, the present church was built.

The carpenter who built the church was Stephen Pratt. Someone else laid the bricks, which were made in Springford at the Jenvey Brick and Tile Yard.

On June 22, 1887, the cornerstone of the new church was laid by Mrs. D. Wilcox, Mrs. Clark and Mrs. William Haley. The building was completed in November and dedicated on November 27.

When the church celebrated its one-hundredth anniversary in 1932, it had a membership of 75. The celebrations, held on October 2 and 3, were attended by members and former members of the church. Mrs. Vardon prepared a history of the church, which was made available to members of the congregation.

Mrs. Lilian White of Springford has prepared a detailed history booklet on the Springford Baptist Church, which has a sketch of the church done by Joanne Pettigrew on the cover. This booklet will be sold to anyone interested in a more detailed history of one of the oldest churches in the area.

# Mark 150th anniversary at Springford Baptist

The weekend celebration of the 150th anniversary of the church will long be remembered. Former pastors, old members and friends came from many areas, as far away as Montreal. On Saturday evening over 200 enjoyed the supper together, prepared by the ladies, who were assisted in serving by ladies of Springford United church. The gathering was honoured with the presence of Dr. Bruce Halliday M.P. and Mr. Richard Treleavan M.P.P. and family. An informal program followed with the pastor, Rev. G. Brown leading. Music was provided by the junior choir and by Shelley and Shannon Popham who sang a duet.

Carol Tribe, the church clerk, read greetings from former pastors who could not come, Rev. L. Stebner and Rev. Mr. Pinkerton.

Mr. Richard Treleavan presented the church with a plaque from Mr. William Davis and the Ontario government and brought greetings. Also greetings were brought by Mrs. Amy Saunders, vice-president of the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec, and on behalf of Rev. Dan Filyer,

Moderator of the Oxford-Brant Association; from Rev. Ross Readhead, Rev. David Houghland, Rev. Lawrence Mason, former pastors and from Rev. Earl Moore of Springford United Church.

A slide presentation of the history of Springford, prepared by the Women's Institute was much enjoyed by all.

The church was filled on Sunday morning with an overflow in the basement who watched the service on closed circuit T.V. set up by Mr. Laverne Haley. Lilian Broad and Wanda Mansfield played for the service and ushers were Nick Visser, Carl Wilcox, David Haley and Daryl Mansfield. Rev. Lawrence Mason led in prayer. The musical numbers were one by the Adlington family called "Perhaps Love," a solo by Larry Lester "To God be the glory." The choir anthem "Blessed be the name," and the mixed quartette number named "My daily Prayer." These were Gordon and Ruth Ann Hayley, Dave and Carol Tribe. For the offertory Bill Popham played on his trumpet "The Lost Chord."

Rev. Albert Coe who is in charge of the department of Canadian Missions, spoke from the subject "What mean ye." Following the service almost 300 people had

lunch together and a time to visit. The anniversary cake, made by Lilian Broad was cut by Muriel Patterson and Grant Haley.

The evening service was also well attended and Lilian Broad at the piano was accompanied by Mrs. Ethel Pearce on the organ who was choir director for 40 years.

Rev. James Taylor led in prayer.

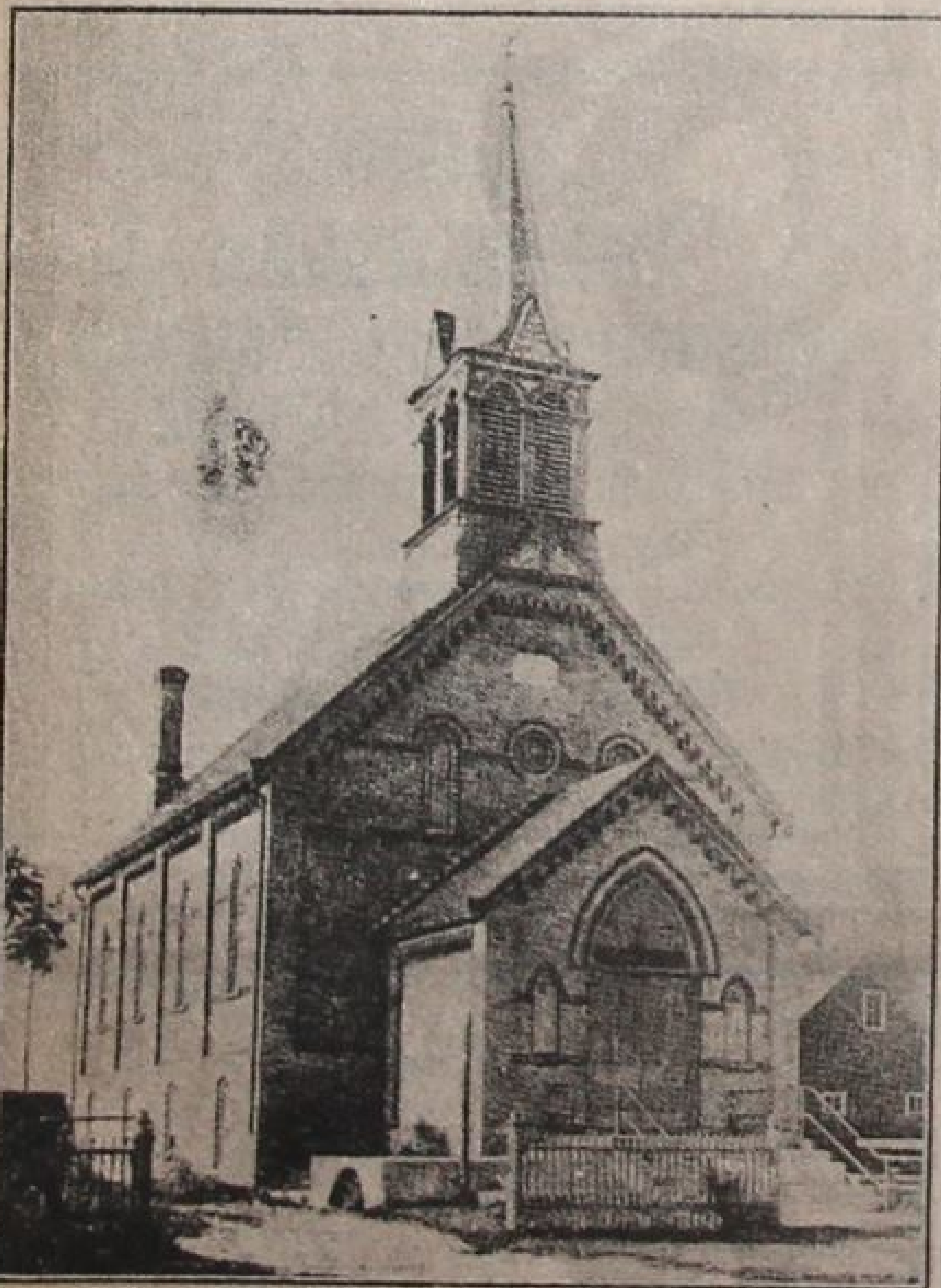
The men's quartette, Larry Lester, Bill Popham, Dave Tribe and Gordon Haley sang "A little Talk with Jesus."

Ruth Ann Haley sang an anniversary song adapted by Norma McKenney to the tune "Bless This House." The choir anthem was "He Lives" and Melody Popham played a clarinet solo for the offertory. Rev. Mr. Coe's message was "Let the church be the Church." The choir sang, "He is Lord" for a benediction.

Everyone who planned and worked so hard to prepare this memorable week-end is to be congratulated.

The W.M.S. will meet on Tuesday evening at the home of Ella Mae Wilcox at 7:30.

Community Bible Study is Wednesday morning at 9:15 a.m. in the Baptist Church, for October.



## Historical church

Springford Baptist Church looks almost the same today as it did nearly 100 years ago. This old photograph shows a cement extension of the front porch (on the left side of the picture) which allowed people arriving in a horse drawn carriage to step out of the carriage onto the front porch.

# Election battles in all wards

N.C.  
Oct 20

By SUZANNE HANSON

Nominations are in and the race is on as candidates square off for the Nov. 8 municipal elections in Norwich Township.

As the deadline for nominations arrived at 5 p.m. on Monday, 20 candidates had put their names forward for positions on township council and none were withdrawn by the 5 p.m. deadline Tuesday.

With at least three candidates declared in each of the four wards in the township, voters are guaranteed an election in each ward as well as for the positions of mayor and councillor-at-large.

While many incumbents are seeking re-election to the various seats on council, a number of new faces have entered the race

with the biggest contest shaping up in Ward 1 where there are five candidates vying for the three seats on council.

None of those candidates running in Ward 1 are incumbents as current councillor Mel Smith of Otterville is seeking the seat of councillor-at-large. Councillor Robert Pettigrew is stepping down after eight years on council and contrary to an earlier decision, first-time Councillor Lyle (Butch) Davis will not be seeking re-election.

The candidates who are in the race in Ward 1 include: newcomers Bob Carney, Michael Oliver, Donald Pettigrew and Dan Wagner as well as a former township councillor Jack Walther.

In Ward 2, incumbents Norman Lusk and Darrell Force of Norwich are being challenged by Paul Wood, of Norwich who ran in the last election as a candidate for Ward 3.

In Ward 3 another race is shaping up with incumbent Jack Lester of RR 1 Burgessville being challenged by newcomers John McNally of RR 1 Otterville, Mark Harrison of RR 3 Norwich and Gord Samways of RR 1 Burgessville. The other Ward 3 representative on the present council John Heleniak, has thrown his hat in the ring for the mayoralty.

In Ward 4, incumbents John Eacott and Hardee Richardson will be squaring off against Larry Martin of RR 2 Burgessville

for those two seats on council.

Challenging Mayor Carman Sweazey in the mayoralty contest will be Mr. Heleniak and former township councillor Bill Sanders of Otterville. And challenging incumbent Helen Smith for councillor-at-large will be Mel Smith.

There will be no election in Norwich Township for the seats on either the Oxford County board of education or the Oxford County Separate School Board as the representatives to both boards have been acclaimed.

October 13, 1982 THE NORWICH GAZETTE Page 3

## Nominations coming in for election

By SUZANNE HANSON

Things are beginning to warm up for the November municipal election in Norwich Township as the Oct. 18 deadline for nominations approaches and some new faces prepare to throw their hats in the ring.

At present, Ward 1 is seeing the most activity with only one of the three present councillors seeking re-election as a councillor, leaving two seats vacant.

Ward 1 councillor Robert Pettigrew is stepping down from his seat after eight years in the political ring and another Ward 1 representative, Mel Smith, is a contender with current Councillor-at-large Helen Smith, for that seat. Councillor Lyle Davis has indicated he will be seeking re-election to his seat as the other Ward 1 representative on council.

The new faces who are putting their names forward for election at this point include MICHAEL OLIVER and BOB CARNEY.

As a candidate for a seat as Ward 1 representative, Mr. Oliver is seeking election for the first time, having made the decision that the time was right to

take a step into politics.

Mr. Oliver is now operating the family insurance business, Adam Oliver Insurance Brokers, which he inherited from his father, now deceased.

While trained as a lawyer, Mr. Oliver said he desired to carry on in the family business to continue the 30-year tradition and remain in the Otterville community.

But as a lawyer, Mr. Oliver said he feels he has some untapped potential that should be turned toward public service. With two vacancies on council in his ward he felt it was time to bring in some new faces and some youth to council.

He believes that less government is better and government should be run more like a business. He looks forward to being able to apply his own business experience to council matters.

Mr. Oliver, 28 said he is also single and therefore has the time to devote to council business.

Also seeking election for the first time is Bob Carney of Otterville, owner of Carney's Home Centre.

Mr. Carney believes his experience as a very successful businessman

over the last seven years in the township, would be an asset to council. He too believes there is a need for some new faces around the council table as without change it can become stale.

Mr. Carney also said that in spite of the current economic conditions, council does not seem to be cutting back on expenditures, pointing to the considerable amount of

money being spent on the Holbrook landfill site battle.

He said he has considered running for council for sometime and believes he is well-equipped and

well-trained to be able to do the township some good.

"We need people who know how a business operates," he said and the township needs "successful businessmen on council."

### VOTE TO ELECT John Heleniak MAYOR Township of Norwich Monday, November 8th



"John shows no hesitation in getting the job done. He has time for everybody in the community without exception."

Francis Fisk

"When I had a roadway problem, John got the job done for me. I can rely on him."

Marilyn McLees

- Four years on Council
- Chairman of Community Services Committee, responsible for Police, Fire and Recreation
- Past President of Oxford County Liaison Committee
- Past President of Norwich Township Chamber of Commerce
- President of Norwich & District Historical Society
- Member of Board for Oxford County Lung Association
- Past Chairman of Christmas Seal Campaign for 1980 & 1981

For ride to poll or further information call constituency office 863-6160

Advance Poll Saturday, Oct. 30, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Archives Building (former Township of North Norwich office).

**"SANDERS"  
FOR MAYOR**  
Township  
Of Norwich

### RE-ELECT Carm Sweazey Mayor Township of Norwich Council



A family man with 10 years of experience and I promise to do my best to represent each and every person equally in the Township of Norwich.

**SWEAZEY, Carman H. X**



### ELECT MICHAEL OLIVER Councillor Ward 1 Township of Norwich

- lawyer and local businessman
- as councillor will work to
  - revitalize rural communities
  - control escalating taxes
  - improve relations between former townships

MONDAY, NOV. 8TH VOTE

MICHAEL OLIVER X

# NOMINATIONS NOTICE TO MUNICIPAL ELECTORS TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH

Take notice that persons may be nominated as candidates in an election between 9 o'clock in the forenoon and 5 o'clock in the afternoon of nomination day, Monday, October 18th, 1982, but nothing in Section 35 of The Municipal Elections Act, 1980 prevents a person filing a nomination paper with the Clerk during his normal office hours during the four days immediately preceding nomination day.

## OFFICES FOR WHICH PERSONS MAY BE NOMINATED:

- MAYOR AND MEMBER OF COUNTY COUNCIL;
- ONE MEMBER ELECTED BY GENERAL VOTE AS A MEMBER OF THE AREA MUNICIPALITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL;
- TWO PUBLIC SCHOOL MEMBERS FOR THE OXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION;
- TWO SEPARATE SCHOOL MEMBERS FOR THE OXFORD COUNTY ROMAN CATHOLIC SEPARATE SCHOOL BOARD;
- THREE COUNCILLORS IN WARD ONE (SOUTH NORWICH);
- TWO COUNCILLORS IN EACH OF THE WARDS TWO, THREE AND FOUR (NORWICH, NORTH NORWICH AND EAST OXFORD RESPECTIVELY).

Electors are hereby required to take notice and govern themselves accordingly, and further take notice that the manner in which said nominations shall be filed is set forth in Section 36 of The Municipal Elections Act, Nomination Forms and full particulars of procedures to be followed, may be obtained from the undersigned.

If a greater number of candidates than required to fill the said offices are nominated and make the required declarations, notice of the time for the holding of the poll, including the advance poll and notice of the last day for making applications for a certificate to vote by proxy will be given forthwith.

And further take notice that where the number of candidates for an office who are nominated at the end of nomination day is not sufficient to fill the number of vacancies to which the candidates may be elected, on the Wednesday, following nomination day, October 20th, 1982, the Clerk may, between the hours of 9 o'clock in the forenoon and 5 o'clock in the afternoon, receive and certify additional nominations for the office in respect of which there was insufficient number of candidates.

Given under my hand the 6th day of October, 1982.

ROBERT C. WATKINS,  
Returning Officer.



Bob Carney

**VOTE**  
to elect  
**Bob Carney**  
councillor  
for Ward 1  
TOWNSHIP  
of NORWICH

Monday, November 8  
11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For a Ride to the Polls: call 879-6420  
879-6996

Advance Poll: Sat. Oct. 30 — 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Archives Building (former Twp. of North Norwich office)

VOTE TO ELECT

# MEL SMITH

Councillor at Large  
Township of Norwich

— experience in road  
and drainage work

— willing and able to  
devote all the time  
necessary to represent  
all wards on local and  
regional council



On Monday, Nov. 8  
your vote would be appreciated for

Mel **SMITH** **X**

ELECT

# JACK WALTHER

Councillor Ward One  
Township of Norwich



This sombre expression shows my sincere  
concern for the people of the Township of  
Norwich.

"ANXIOUS TO SEE YOUR TAX DOLLAR  
USED TO BEST ADVANTAGE"

Jack **WALTHER** **X**

For Information 879-6816

# Meet The Candidates Night



Candidates  
from Ward 1

**Thursday**  
**Nov. 4th**  
**8:00 p.m.**  
Otterville  
Community  
Hall

Come out and hear what the people you are voting  
for have to say.

— sponsored by —

**Otterville Businessmen**

# You DECIDE

NOV  
8TH



## YOUR VOTE WORKS FOR YOU EVERY DAY

# ELECTION '82

• **CANDIDATES IN  
THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION  
EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS  
ON THE ISSUES**

## MONDAY, NOV. 8th, 1982

## POLLING STATIONS

### OFFICES FOR WHICH POLL TO BE HELD:

- Mayor and Member of County Council
- Councillor-At-Large and Member of County Council
- Three Councillors - Ward 1 (South Norwich)
- Two Councillors - Ward 2 (Norwich Village)
- Two Councillors - Ward 3 (North Norwich)
- Two Councillors - Ward 4 (East Oxford)
- Eight Separate School Members for the Haldimand-Norfolk Roman Catholic Separate School Board
- One Separate School Member to represent the Oxford County Roman Catholic School Board on the Oxford County Board of Education

### REGULAR POLLS:

DATE: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8th, 1982

HOURS: 11:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

### LOCATIONS:

#### WARD ONE (SOUTH NORWICH)

- Poll 1 - Residence - Norma Wilson
- Poll 2 - Residence - Harold Arthur
- Poll 3A - Community Hall, Otterville
- Poll 3B - Anglican Church, Otterville
- Poll 4 - Institute Hall, Springford
- Poll 5 - Residence - Aletha Stover

#### WARD TWO (NORWICH)

- Poll 1 - Anglican Church (Parish Hall)
- Poll 2 - Municipal Rest Rooms
- Poll 3 - Public Utilities Office

#### WARD THREE (NORTH NORWICH)

- Poll 1 - Norwich Archives
- Poll 2 - Residence - Glen Yates
- Poll 3 - Can-Do Sports
- Poll 4 - Residence - Howard McGaw
- Poll 5 - Burgessville Fire Hall

#### WARD FOUR (EAST OXFORD)

- Poll 1 - Bluebird Motel
- Poll 2 - Residence - William Bates
- Poll 3 - Curries Community Hall
- Poll 4 - Oxford Centre Community Hall

LONDON FREE PRESS FRI NOV 5

# Norwich candidates in fray over



Bob Pettigrew, one of the Norwich Township councillors who quit over a landfill site issue, offers his views during a candidates meeting at Otterville town hall. Ken Wightman of The Free Press

By Anne Murphy  
of The Free Press

OTTERVILLE — A Norwich Township all-candidates' meeting here Thursday turned into a verbal sparring match between a former township councillor and a candidate for the councillor-at-large seat over the costs of testing the Holbrook landfill site.

More than 200 heads turned each time candidate Mel Smith exchanged verbal volleys with Bob Pettigrew, who resigned earlier this week over the township's decision to hire a consultant to conduct tests at the site for an upcoming environmental assessment hearing.

While Pettigrew charged that the approximately \$22,000 for additional tests was a waste of money and a breach of faith with Oxford County, Smith, an incumbent, felt the money was needed to back up the township's position at the Nov. 30 hearing.

The hearing involves an application by Oxford — which owns the Norwich Township site — to extend the use of the dump for another two years. The township is objecting because it believes the site is environmentally unsafe.

The \$22,000 is on top of about \$75,000 already spent by the township on the Holbrook site dispute, Pettigrew charged. He argued council was swayed by lawyer John Willms of Toronto, who he said stands to gain several hundred dollars a day at the hearing.

Smith said that without the additional testing, "we will look like a bunch of fools if we don't have our homework done."

Asked by an audience member if the testing could be completed by the scheduled hearing date, Smith replied, "If it's not ready, that fellow isn't getting his \$22,000."

Smith estimated the money spent so far on testing works out to \$6 per Norwich

Township resident, a small price for a safe water system, and drew a round of applause with his closing shot to Pettigrew.

"If I've spent \$6 of your money to keep your water safe, and I lose, I'll give you the \$6 back."

The Holbrook site was the main issue discussed at the meeting, which filled the Otterville Community Centre to overflowing.

Helen Smith, who is no relation to Mel Smith, is also running for the councillor-at-large seat, and favors the additional testing.

She likened the further testing to the situation of a mother with a sick child. If the mother isn't sure of a doctor's opinion, it's her duty to get a second opinion, she said.

Mayoral candidate John Heleniak also favors the additional testing.

"At this point in time, there is no reason to accept any agreement with the county unless we have assurances to guarantee our future and to protect our citizens. The only way we can do this is to have all the facts we can get."

Another mayoral candidate, Bill Sanders, said the township should wait for the release of the environmental board decision on the Salford landfill site in South-West Oxford Township before embarking on another lengthy environmental hearing. He said Norwich might save money on a lengthy hearing by studying the rationale of the Salford decision.

A speech by the third candidate, incumbent Mayor Carm Sweazey, was read by his wife, because he is in hospital recovering from an appendix operation. The speech stressed his past record and involvement in the community.

Also speaking at the meeting were candidates for the Oxford County board of education and for the Ward 1 township council seats. Five candidates are competing for the three Ward 1 seats.

## Accept resignations

By SUZANNE HANSON

The formal resignations of two Norwich Township councillors, Lyle Davis and Robert Pettigrew, were accepted by council at its last meeting but two other councillors voted against the move. *Nov 3*

Mr. Davis and Mr. Pettigrew, both Ward 1 councillors, submitted their resignations prior to the November 8 municipal elections in protest of council's actions regarding the Holbrook landfill site. Neither councillor felt extra testing should be carried out at the site when negotiations were underway with Oxford County to resolve some of the issues of concern to the two councils and when testing had already been carried out by the county.

Councillor John Heleniak said he felt very bad about accepting the resignations

as it would leave Ward 1 without proper representation.

But he pointed out that since neither member has any intention of returning to any meetings of the current council this month, there was no alternative but to accept their resignations.

Councillors John Eacott and Norm Lusk both voted against the resolution, however. "I have reservations about accepting the letters from these two gentlemen," said Mr. Eacott. Under the circumstances their letters indicated their personal feelings about the council they are resigning from, he said, but they have an obligation to represent the interest of those people who elected them. Mr. Eacott added that it was unfair and unwise to walk away from their responsibilities

to their constituents.

"It's not a matter where they should be patted on the back for it," he said. Mr. Eacott said Mr. Pettigrew, by resigning, leaves his considerable number of years with this township under very clouded conditions and as years go by, "he will probably regret that he did not accept his position as a councillor and take his victories when they came and his lumps when he got them."

Mr. Lusk, while voting against accepting the resignations, admitted the fact that the two councillors will no longer be present for the remaining council meetings in this term regardless of council's action.

After discussing the matter further in a closed session, council voted to accept the resignations.

Nov 17  
N.C.

Feel money could be saved

# Holbrook tests

Norwich authorizes \$22,500

T.N. Nov 3

## Councillors quit over

By SUZANNE HANSON

Two Norwich Township councillors resigned from council this morning as a protest of action taken by other council members.

Veteran councillor and Ward 1 representative, Robert Pettigrew, was joined by another Ward 1 councillor, Lyle Davis, in submitting their resignations to the township office this morning (Wednesday).

"I do not wish it to stand as a matter of public record that I was an accepting member of a township council that increased taxpayers' rates exorbitantly in a time of severely depressed economic

conditions for what in my opinion, I feel to be an unnecessary expenditure," said Mr. Davis in an interview Wednesday morning.

Mr. Pettigrew and Mr. Davis made the decision to resign from council with less than 30 days left in their term of office, because of a resolution passed at a special council meeting Tuesday night. That resolution, to authorize the spending of a maximum amount of \$22,500 by the township to hire a consultant to carry out additional testing at the Holbrook landfill site was accepted by council in a recorded 7-2 vote. Mayor Carman Sweazey, currently in hospital following an

operation, and Councillor Norm Lusk were not present at the meeting last night.

Neither Mr. Pettigrew nor Mr. Davis felt they could condone the spending of additional taxpayer dollars when the township was in the midst of negotiations with the county to resolve a variety of issues concerning the landfill site prior to the environmental hearing into the proposed extension of the Holbrook landfill site. (see story Page 2).

"I feel I cannot and will not condone the vast expenditures of township funds on a project that could possibly be resolved at a lesser, more reasonable cost to the taxpayers," said Mr. Pettigrew, who said he

could not be an active and accepting member of a council who willingly and unnecessarily increased the taxpayers rates over such issues as the Holbrook landfill site.

Mr. Pettigrew, is one of a three-member township council committee who met with a three-man county committee twice in an effort to resolve the differences between the two councils with respect to the Holbrook landfill site. He said the county should be allowed to come up with an agreement regarding safeguards for the Holbrook site before the township takes any action.

He said the entire township council, with

the exception of one member, met in good faith with county council last week and "all agreed to agree." But Mr. Pettigrew said 15 minutes after the meeting with the county, township councillors held their own meeting in another room to discuss the hiring of a consultant to carry out testing of their own. Mr. Pettigrew said he and Mr. Davis told township council at that time they would both resign from council if such action was taken in the midst of good faith negotiations with the county and no resolution was passed.

That resolution was passed Tuesday night, however, after a surprise meeting with the township's lawyer, John Willms.

Mr. Davis said their lawyer basically put a gun to the heads of council members when he told them he would not represent them at the November 30 hearing unless the necessary preparations for the Environmental Assessment Board hearing were undertaken. According to the resolution passed by council, with Mr. Pettigrew and Mr. Davis voting against it, those preparations include sample collection around the Holbrook site, ground water testing, lab analysis, mapping of the off-site migration of contaminants and interpretation of the results. The consultant hired by the

township, the Lathem Group Inc., will then prepare a report and the necessary documentation to be relied upon in support of the township's case at the environmental board hearing. Voting in favor of the resolution were: Councillors Darrell Force, John Heleniak, Jack Lester, John Eacott, Hardee Richardson, Mel Smith and Helen Smith and Mr. Pettigrew and Mr. Davis opposed.

Mr. Heleniak said after the Tuesday night meeting, the township's solicitor

said the matter would not be settled before the hearing unless the township was prepared. He said Mr. Willms also stated that off-site migration of pollutants has taken place and will continue to take place. The programs to be carried out by the consultant are necessary to outline remedial measures that should be taken in the future, he said. Mr. Heleniak also said after the meeting Tuesday night that their lawyer had stated the McLaren report was misleading and had certain gaps in it.

However, Mr. Davis said Wednesday morning, the McLaren report does recognize the presence of off-site migration of contaminants and he could see no reason for further testing at increased expense to the township.

Mr. Pettigrew stressed that he and Mr. Davis are not going against the people of the township. "We have been fighting to close the dump," he said. And now the township is talking about letting the site remain open. Mr. Pettigrew said one of the township's solicitors, Harry Poch, told council earlier he was going to spend vast amounts of money to close the dump,

"then later on we get a switch put to us and they're not going to close it."

Mr. Pettigrew said the opinions expressed by himself and Mr. Davis were made without prejudice. "For me to quit is an awful hard thing to do," he said. "I feel very bad that I will not spend the next 30 days on council."

"I am resigning in protest," said Mr. Davis.

## On Holbrook committee

Norwich Township councillor John Heleniak (mayor-elect) will replace former councillor Robert Pettigrew as one of the three township members on a special committee of Oxford County and township council members formed to resolve issues surrounding the Holbrook landfill site.

Mr. Pettigrew, one of the three township members on the committee, resigned before the November 8 municipal election because of his opposition to council's approval of additional testing at the Holbrook site. His resignation was ac-

cepted by council on Friday.

The other members of the committee for the township are Councillor John Eacott and Mayor Carman Sweazey. While he is in hospital recovering from an appendectomy, Mayor Sweazey is being replaced on the committee by Councillor-at-large Helen Smith.

The joint committee is endeavoring to reach agreement on several outstanding issues regarding the Holbrook landfill site before the matter comes before the environmental assessment board hearing on November 30.

## Want dump study

The environment ministry will be asked by Norwich Township to carry out a study assessing the potential for off-site impact by the Ward 1 (Otterville) and Ward 4 (Burgessville) landfill sites.

The motion, put forward by Councillor John Heleniak at council's Tuesday night meeting, asks the ministry to carry out the study at no cost to the township.

In another garbage-related motion, Mr. Heleniak moved that council investigate the feasibility of implementing garbage pick-up in rural areas of the township not already served. He said

that during the recent election campaign, many residents had asked about the possibility of establishing such a service similar to that in other townships such as Burford.

Councillor Norm Lusk quickly requested the issue be tabled for future consideration, however. "We are already up to our proverbial ears in garbage," he said, adding that the issue is one that is already being examined by the county, "so let them do the study."

Mr. Heleniak said the question was arising in light of the fact that the Ward 1 landfill site is almost at capacity. Council voted to table the issue.

TO THE CONCERNED CITIZENS OF WARD 1

There has been the contraversial Work Shed at Burgessville, that now as far as I am concerned is a dead issue.

The Township formed a Task Force - which I was not on - to study the needs of the Township. It was kept strictly confidential among that few and Keith Glaze a representative from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. I knew nothing that went on at that series of meetings, until recommendations to change was put in front of us. Some of these recommendations I definitely did not agree on, but had no chance to defend properly. We had big City ideas shoved down our throat. This community does not want to lose control of its money or facilities. I've said repeatedly in Council, that there will be the day we wish we had never heard of Keith Glaze - everytime you get something for nothing from the government - it costs money.

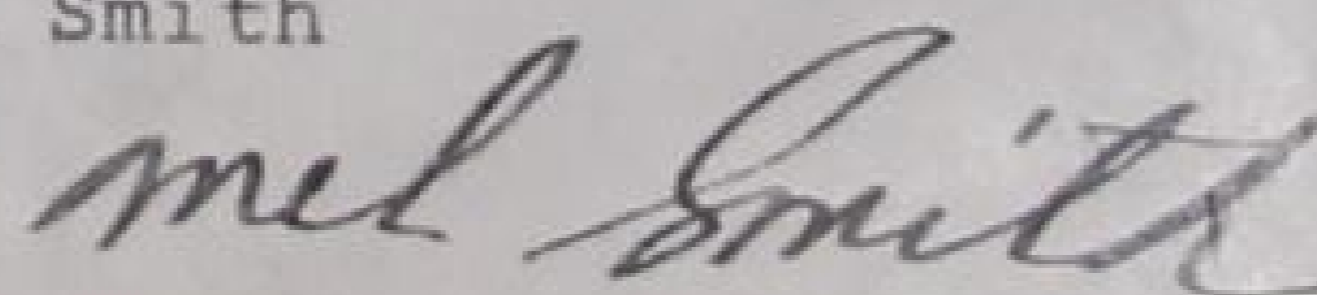
Now we're into the issue of the Dump, to date the Township has spent approximately \$75,000. of which \$20,000. of that money went to guarantee all of us, that the County cannot put a Dump Site on Agricultural (A-2) Land, which would be 95% of the property of the Township of Norwich so that \$20,000. has nothing to do with the Holbrook Landfill Site. We have spent approximately \$20,000. on experts, to do soil analysis and water samples. We have spent approximately \$35,000. on lawyers to prepare for the November 30th Hearing concerning the Dump at Holbrook which guarantees ALL THE PEOPLE in the Township of Norwich potable water, and guarantees good irrigation water for all. Maybe I am looking into the future but that also guarantees the Village of Otterville potable water. Ward 1 Dump Site is less than 2,000 feet from our water supply right now, and the water flows from that Dump Site right down through Albert Belaen's farm and right past the Otterville Well. So we have spent \$55,000. on guaranteeing our water supply, which works out to less than \$6.00 per person. I don't think there is anyone in their right mind that wouldn't pay their \$6.00 to guarantee their drinkable water.

Now to the issue of the two Councillors who resigned, and did not think it was fair that we go to that Hearing in November well prepared and look like we mean business. Mr. Lyle Davis in 1982 was absent seven meetings from Council and left four times without hearing the whole meeting through. Mr. Bob Pettigrew missed seven meetings of Council in 1982 and left early 10 times and did not hear the meeting through - had these members sat through all the meetings maybe they would have some idea of what they were talking about. So if you look at those figures and add them up, and see how many times you only had one representative - when you elected and paid for three members - so maybe the \$6.00 per person doesn't look like much money.

I would ask you for your support at the polls on November 8th and I will be there to represent YOU. - as I have in the past.

Yours sincerely,

Mel Smith





On Monday, November 8th, you, as voters, will be asked to cast your ballots to elect municipal representatives to Norwich Township Council for the next three years. As a veteran of council, I have decided to run for Mayor and I would like the opportunity to serve you again, in a broader scope than in the past.

I was first elected to council four years ago and I feel my service has given me the experience needed to enable me to see, clearly, the issues affecting our community. We need to make wise decisions for the improvement of Norwich Township during the next three years.

I am, at present, chairman of the Township's Community Services Committee, responsible for fire, police and recreation. I am also council's representative on the Business Improvement Area Board of Management and I am serving as president of the Norwich and District Historical Society and as a member of the Township of Norwich Cemetery Advisory Committee. I have served on the Oxford County Liaison Committee, was past president of the Norwich Township Chamber of Commerce and worked for the community on the Oxford Lung Association, serving as Chairman of the annual Christmas Seal campaign in 1980-81.

During my years on council, I maintained a constituency office which I will continue to keep open if I am elected Mayor. I feel it is important during these times to have a Mayor who can work full-time for our community.

Thank you for taking time to read this letter and I hope I can count on your support November 8th.

Yours truly,

*John Heleniak*  
John Heleniak

Oct. 20, 1982.

Dear Resident of Ward 1,

My name is Michael Oliver and I am seeking election to Council of the Township of Norwich as Councillor for Ward 1.

I am 28 years old, single, and reside at 58 Dover Street in Otterville. I am a self-employed businessman operating the insurance business established in Otterville by my late father Adam Oliver some 35 years ago.

I attended Otterville Public School, Norwich District High School, the University of Waterloo and the University of Western Ontario, obtaining degrees in mathematics and law. I received my call to the Bar in 1980.

It was my decision to turn my efforts to the family business in order to remain in the Otterville area where I have my roots.

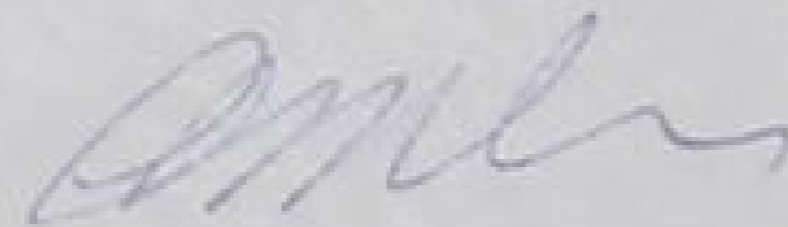
Although not experienced in municipal government, I feel well qualified to effectively represent you on Council. As a local businessman I communicate with the residents of Ward 1 on a daily basis. As a lawyer I am trained in advocacy and the law making process.

Some of the issues to be dealt with in the coming 3 year term are escalating taxes, economic development and police protection. New capital expenditures must be limited to projects which are clearly necessary. Council must pay careful attention to the will of the public it represents before spending public funds. With the increase in crime known to accompany high unemployment, adequate police protection must be maintained throughout the Township.

A co-ordinated effort will be required to meet the challenge of the 1980's. I have the ability and the desire to contribute as Councillor for Ward 1.

Please vote for me on November 8th, 1982.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Oliver



Oct. 27, 1982.  
Otterville, Ont.

To the Residents  
of Ward I,  
Township of Norwich.

My name is Bob Carney and I am running for the position of Councillor for Ward I of the Township of Norwich.

My wife and I have owned and operated a business in Otterville for 7½ years and have resided here for over six years. We have three children, all attending Oxford County Schools. Throughout most of my working life I have been self-employed and I feel confident that this background will provide the necessary expertise to help guide our local government through these difficult times.

I am running because of my deep concern for the future of our Township and consequently, it's residents.

I deplore the apparent lack of control of expenditures during recent years. The amount of time and funds that have been expended on the controversial municipal shed project is just one example that I might mention. We must be prepared to confine our expenditures to absolute necessities.

The people for whom you vote in this election hold a sacred trust - to administer to your basic needs, using YOUR MONEY, as wisely and prudently as possible. If more prudence had been used in the past we would be much better off than we are today.

You, as taxpayers and voters should give careful thought to those who are seeking your endorsement at this election. It is extremely important that you choose those nominees whom you feel will best serve your interests during the coming term of office.

Please don't underestimate my ability. I know there is much to learn about the functions of municipal government, but learn I WILL and quickly. I DO know a good deal about people, their needs and desires, and one of the fundamental requisites of a political person is to possess a sympathetic understanding of the people one serves.

I welcome any open discussion, advice and constructive criticism. Please feel free to approach me at my home or place of business on Main St. E. in Otterville.

If I am elected on November 8th., I make the following pledges.,

- \* To try to hold the line on ever increasing taxes.
- \* To strive for more efficiency in the conduct of municipal affairs.
- \* To work towards disposal of the property acquired for the proposed central municipal shed, which I feel we DO NOT NEED, CANNOT AFFORD, and of which I believe most taxpayers disapprove.
- \* To serve the residents of the Township of Norwich to the BEST OF MY ABILITY.

Your support at the poles on Monday, November 8th. on my behalf would be greatly appreciated. A vote for BOB CARNEY is a vote for you.

If I may be of any assistance or if you should require a ride to the polls, please call 879-6420 or 879-6996.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Carney

**Carney, Bob**



# Norwich gets youngest mayor

By SUZANNE HANSON

Norwich Township has its youngest mayor ever with the Monday night election win by 28-year-old John Heleniak.

Mr. Heleniak, formerly councillor for Ward 3, challenged incumbent Carman Sweazey in his bid for the mayor's chair and took the victory with a margin of 307 votes. Even in the advance poll, Mr. Heleniak led the race with 88 votes compared to Mr. Sweazey's 58 and the 14 garnered by the other challenger for the mayor's chair, Bill Sanders of Otterville.

Overall, Mr. Heleniak won the election with a total of 2,019 votes, followed not so far behind by Mr. Sweazey with 1,712. Mr. Sanders trailed significantly, gaining only 662 votes overall.

Of the total 18 polls throughout the four wards of the township, Mr. Heleniak won in 10 with Mr. Sweazey taking five and Mr. Sanders three, all of those in his home ward, Ward 1. Mr. Sweazey swept all four polls in Ward 4 but lost all three polls in his home riding of Ward 2, the former village of Norwich, to Mr. Heleniak.

The voter turn-out for the balloting on Monday was exceptionally high, reflecting the high interest this election race has sparked from the start of the campaign. About 65 per cent of the eligible voters in the township turned out to cast their ballots, as compared to about 54 per cent in the last election two years ago. That figure was above the average for other areas at that time.

Helen Smith, the incumbent in the race for councillor-at-large, swept to a stunning victory over her challenger, former Ward 1 councillor Mel Smith of Otterville, with a 1,368-vote margin. Mrs. Smith swept 16 of the 18 polls in the township with Mr. Smith

mayor, Mr. Heleniak said he knew the fight for the top seat on council would be between himself and Mr. Sweazey, as it turned out to be.

Perhaps the only disappointment he felt at the end of it all was in the fact that he had expected to do better in his own riding of Ward 3. There Mr. Heleniak won four of the five polls, losing the other poll to Mr. Sweazey.

He said one of his priorities when the new council takes office will be to ensure the Holbrook landfill site is properly closed down and the area residents safeguarded. The new mayor said he was certain the Holbrook landfill site issue had something to do with the high voter turn-out this time around.

"I was pleased to see so many members of council and new candidates taking such an interest (in Holbrook)," said Mr. Heleniak.

Speaking on behalf of her husband, who is still hospitalized following the removal of his appendix last Monday, Darlene Sweazey said Carm believed the election for mayor could go either way. "It's going to be a let down," she said, "but at least now he can start to relax." She said her husband's condition is slowly improving and he hopes to be home again within three to four days.

When Mr. Heleniak and Mrs. Smith resume seats on council, they will be joined by several new faces around the table when the new councillors are sworn in in December.

With the resignation of councillors Lyle Davis and Robert Pettigrew in Ward 1 and Mr. Smith's decision to seek the councillor-at-large position on council, the way was paved for three new members to take up positions on the new council as Ward 1 representatives.

Donald Pettigrew led the way to victory in that ward with 832 votes, followed by Michael Oliver with 798 and Bob Carney getting 555 of the votes cast. The other contenders in that ward, who were not elected, were Dan Wagner receiving 448 votes and Jack Walther 421.

In Ward 2, incumbent Norm Lusk led in two of the

three polls to take one of those seats on council with 716 votes. He was followed by Darrell Force with 676 votes. Paul Wood lost out in his second bid for a council seat, trailing Mr. Lusk and Mr. Force with 352 votes.

Newcomer John McNally won his seat as a Ward 3 representative handily with 666 votes, followed closely by incumbent Jack Lester with 612 votes. Those two will fill the two positions on council as Ward 3 councillors. Mark Harrison had a good

showing in his first election attempt, coming in third with 419 votes. Gord Samways followed with only 178 ballots cast in his favor.

In Ward 4, incumbent John Eacott went down to defeat to be replaced on council by newcomer Larry Martin. Mr. Martin took 455 of the votes to follow incumbent Hardee Richardson back onto council as the two Ward 4 representatives. Mr. Richardson had a strong showing with 483 votes.

## Norwich mayor hospitalized

Norwich Township's Mayor Carman Sweazey is in Woodstock General Hospital following an operation to remove his appendix Monday night.

Mr. Sweazey's wife Darlene said Tuesday morning her husband was experiencing some pain and went into the emergency ward of the

hospital Monday morning. It was discovered then that his appendix had ruptured, probably sometime Monday afternoon, said Mrs. Sweazey.

She said her husband came out of the operation well but added he will probably be hospitalized for a week to 10 days or longer, depending on whether there are any complications stemming from the ruptured appendix.

Mr. Sweazey has been actively campaigning for the past few weeks for the upcoming municipal election on Monday when he will seek to hold on to the mayor's chair but he will now be confined to bed. Mr. Sweazey is also a member of the joint township-county committee appointed to meet to discuss the Holbrook landfill site before the hearing gets underway later this month.

(no relation) taking two polls in his home riding of Ward 1.

Mrs. Smith said she really didn't know what to expect on Monday when voters went to the polls. "I run scared in every election," she said. She did say that she worked extremely hard in the campaign and made the effort to knock on every door in the township, missing only a few over the duration of the five-week long campaign.

"Win or lose, I worked as hard as I could," she said.

Mrs. Smith said it was the first time a woman had run in the race for councillor-at-large in the township and she would do her best to do a good job for everybody in the municipality with the support they have given her.

While she was not overly optimistic about her chances of getting elected at the outset, she said the advance poll can sometimes be an indicator of the election's outcome and she was pleased to see, when those ballots were counted, that she had the early lead with 102 votes to Mr. Smith's 55.

Leaving a victory reception at the Innisfree Farm convention centre, rented for the occasion, Mr. Heleniak commented late Monday evening on his win when the results were in. He said he had expected the race for the mayor's chair to be a close one but he had tried to be optimistic about his chances.

Mr. Heleniak did admit however, that he had been a bit nervous at one point when Mr. Sweazey was only seven votes behind him. Despite Mr. Sanders' entrance into the race for

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### Congratulations offered

Darlene Sweazey, wife of hospitalized mayor Carman Sweazey, congratulated the incoming mayor of Norwich Township John Heleniak, after his victory over the incumbent Mr. Sweazey in Monday's municipal election. (NG Photo)



JOHN HELENIK

# Mel Smith takes parting shot at police overtime payments

Never one to back down from an issue, Councillor Mel Smith took his few

parting shots at police overtime at the last meeting of the current

council last Tuesday evening. Mr. Smith who was

defeated in the recent municipal elections in the township in his bid for the councillor - at - large position, has persisted throughout his two years on council in attacking what he believes is excessive police overtime logged by members of the Norwich Township police force.

Referring to the \$1,888.88 logged in overtime by the officers and auxiliary officers during the month of October, Mr. Smith pointed out the amount was equivalent to one month's pay for a man and a half.

"That's an idle waste of money," said Mr. Smith. "We don't need that much protection." He said the overtime logged wasn't because of a lot of vandalism resulting from the hard times. "If it was then it would be necessary. We haven't had the vandalism but we have had the overtime."

Mayor Carman Sweazey pointed out that a lot of the overtime could be attributed to the extra manpower required with Hallowe'en falling on the weekend.

Mr. Smith replied that he did not think Hallowe'en required that much overtime or the use of the auxiliary officers. "They shouldn't even be there," he said. "It's just one fella babysitting another," he said.

Councillor Darrell Force suggested that perhaps the reason Norwich has not had excessive vandalism is because the township has paid the overtime to its police officers.

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## OK council photos

The present Norwich Township council will have its place in the history of the township. Councillors voted last week to have the usual council photographs taken in order to put together a large group shot of council for posterity.

A quote from Vic Whitcroft in the amount of \$360 was accepted by council but not without question by one councillor. John Eacott did not doubt the warmth of the tradition of having council photographs taken each term, but "I wonder if 300 plus dollars is money well spent."

"I don't really care if my picture hangs on the wall somewhere," said Mr. Eacott but added that he didn't think it was a luxury councils should enter into every two years as the price continues to go up.

Councillor-at-large Helen Smith disagreed with Mr. Eacott. "When I go to the archives I find it very interesting to look at the pictures of the people who have served," she said.

"Those pictures have more value now than when they were taken."

Councillor Darrell Force pointed out that council photographs have been a tradition for years and "I'd hate to see it broken," he said. He also pointed out that the cost of this particular project will be lower by a third because of the longer council term.

Mr. Force also pointed out that even during depression days, councils were still able to carry on

the tradition of having the photographs taken.

Mr. Eacott stressed that if taken, the photographs should be put on display. "The last one is tucked away somewhere in a corner," he said. But township staff assured him when office renovations are complete the photographs will be displayed on the walls of the township office.

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## Norwich applies for \$62,000 in work program

Norwich Township council has made application for \$62,000 from the Canada Community Development Project to carry out work in the township and provide additional employment for its residents.

The program was announced by the federal government to provide funds to carry out projects of benefit to the community and to provide jobs for those who are registered at the Canada Employment Centres.

The township's treasurer and deputy-clerk John Gilbert said \$50,000 was the figure named for funds that might be allocated to the municipality but that figure was increased to \$62,000 by the township by the inclusion of some costs for materials. The \$50,000 was to cover the costs of labor alone, he said.

Mr. Gilbert said he believes extra funds were put into the program this year to help generate employment in the tobacco growing counties that were hard hit by the early frost this fall. Employment in the program will also give those people hurt by the

frost enough weeks on the job to qualify for unemployment benefits instead of putting them on the welfare rolls, said Municipal Inspector Doug Wilson in discussing the program with township council at its last meeting.

Mr. Gilbert said the township is looking to provide 250 man weeks of employment in the township through the program. He said he projects undertaken will be labor intensive as there have been no funds budgeted by council for supplies.

Only those people referred by the Canada Employment Centres will be eligible to be employed in the program, said Mr. Gilbert, adding the township takes no applications from individuals seeking employment. All referrals must come from the government's employment centres.

Mr. Gilbert said the township's application for the \$62,000 will probably be considered this week but it will probably be two to three weeks before a decision is received by the township.

## OK water rate hike

Norwich Township council has given its approval to a request from the Norwich Public Utility for an increase in its water rates.

In a letter to council, the PUC stated it has deemed it necessary to review and revise the Norwich and Otterville water rates to meet increased costs of operations and capital expenditures.

The increases, which are in keeping with the provincial government restraint guidelines of five per cent, increase the Norwich water rates from \$8 to \$8.40 per month and Otterville rates from \$7 to \$7.35 per month. The new rates go into effect as of January 1.

# Norwich Twp. charged in disposal site burning

By SUZANNE HANSON

Norwich Township council has been summoned to appear in Woodstock provincial court next Thursday on a charge of unlawfully operating a waste disposal site.

Council was advised at its meeting last Friday that it has been charged by the ministry of the environment, along with Oxford County, with burning material at the Ward 1 waste disposal site. While the county has no intention of pleading guilty to the charge, township council has yet to make a decision on the plea it will enter on the charge.

Council did decide Friday, after in-camera discussion, to send its clerk Bob Watkins to appear on the township's behalf in court on Thursday, November 25 at 9:30

a.m. in the Woodstock court house. But Mr. Watkins said Tuesday he has received no formal instructions from council as to how he is to represent the township. He said council will probably attempt to obtain an adjournment of the case but he expects to receive further instruction at the next evening council meeting on Tuesday, November 23.

The charge laid by the ministry relates to an incident at the Otterville landfill site on February 20 of this year. But the county is not willing to take any blame in the matter despite the fact that it owns the site, as Norwich Township operates it and another site in Ward 4 on behalf of the county.

Councillor-at-large Helen Smith said Tuesday morning she was puzzled as to why the ministry took so long to lay the charge when the incident in question took place almost nine months ago. "I would hope that they (the ministry) aren't this slow with everything they do," said Mrs. Smith. "If it's a major infraction of the law, you'd think they'd have done something sooner."

A district officer with the ministry of the environment's regional office in London, Jim Janse, said Tuesday afternoon in an interview that when an offence occurs, they prepare a report and forward it to head office for approval to proceed with laying a charge. Under the environmental protection act, the ministry has up to two years from the date of an offence to lay a charge, he said.

Mr. Janse said he couldn't say when the decision was made to press charges against the county and Norwich Township, but he did say the charge did not relate directly to a citizen complaint. He said he and other ministry representatives have paid visits to the site on various occasions and he would not consider the burning

(Continued from Page 1)  
incident on February 20 to be an isolated case.

"There had been burning prior to February 20," he said. "It's not something that just happened."

Mr. Janse said ministry representatives had seen burning at the site and the township had been advised on several occasions that the practice was contrary to the conditions on their certificate of operation. Since the township was in violation of those conditions, the ministry felt it necessary to lay charges under the environmental protection act.

Mr. Janse said there are several reasons burning is not permitted at the site, one being the proximity of a house to the site and the closeness of the landfill site to Highway 59. Burning debris and smoke could be blown toward the house and smoke could cause visibility problems should it drift across the highway, said Mr. Janse. The burning garbage could also be a hazard to people who are dumping waste at the site which is open to the public on Saturdays.

Mr. Janse said the maximum penalty for the offence is a \$2,000 fine per offence. He said he did not know if the ministry would have to lay a charge for each day the offence was committed but suggested documentation of the offences could be found in the ministry's files.

Mrs. Smith said she knows there have been fires at the site but was not aware of how they were set. "I'm not aware of it being a practice to burn at the site," she said. She also said she thought council would be seeking an adjournment to research the case.

"I guess an adjournment wouldn't be out of the way in order for the township to take a further look at it," said Mr. Watkins. "February 20 was a long time ago."

Oxford County Warden Ross Livingston said the township has been warned on several occasions about burning at the landfill site but has failed to heed the warnings. He said his first reaction when he learned of the charges was that the county should take over the site and run it. It's time the county ran all the landfill sites in Oxford, he said.

At Friday's township council meeting, Councillor John Eacott suggested it may not be in the best interests of the township to proceed at this time and suggested that a delay in the case be sought. Councillor Norm Lusk agreed that in light of the upcoming Holbrook hearing, "The timing is rather poor."

Councillor John Heleniak suggested entering a guilty plea at that meeting. "It sounds like we're guilty so I think we should plead guilty to the charge," he said.

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## Departing councillors say their farewells

It was a time for reflection and farewells as some members of Norwich Township council gave a parting swan song at their final council meeting Tuesday night.

Following the November 8 municipal elections in Norwich Township, there are several new faces who will replace departing councillors John Eacott, Mel Smith, Robert Pettigrew, Lyle (Butch) Davis and Mayor Carman Sweazey.

The over-riding message that was aired more than once in the farewell speeches by the mayor and members of council Tuesday night was the need for township unity if the township is to prosper and progress.

"If we're going to make this system work... we are going to have to practise unity," said Mayor Carman Sweazey who was defeated at the polls by Councillor John Heleniak in his bid for the mayor's chair. "If the incoming council will go with that attitude (of unity)... the township of Norwich will move ahead."

Mayor Sweazey also said he never fully realized the pressures of the mayor's job until he took on that job in January. And while he

was sorry he would not be returning to the political arena after 10 years in municipal politics, at the same time a tremendous burden has been lifted off his shoulders, he said.

Mr. Eacott said he had learned a lot about what unity in the township meant during his two years on council. In every area of the township they have opposed the unification that took place in 1975. "Unfortunately their opposition works to the detriment to the good of everyone," he said, adding that it is pointless now to oppose the present system and that it can only be beneficial to co-operate.

Mr. Eacott also said

some attention should perhaps be given in the future to reducing and redistributing the seats on council in order to eliminate the attempts to maintain a liaison with a pre-existing community. "I think in every part of the township there has to be a sincere belief that the (township) community does exist and... we cannot escape the fact that we belong to the same community, pay taxes to the same community and receive the benefits of belonging to that community."

"If all can strive for unity in the township it will be better for the entire township," he said.

## Hiring counsel

Norwich township council will be represented by a lawyer in court Thursday to answer to a charge of unlawfully operating a landfill site by burning.

Council learned at its last meeting that the township and the county of Oxford had been charged by the Ministry of the Environment when it received a summons to appear in Woodstock provincial court.

The charge relates to a February 20 incident at the Ward 1 (Otterville) landfill site.

At its meeting Tuesday night, council instructed Clerk Bob Watkins to retain legal counsel from the firm of Graham, White, Coad and Patience.

"We felt we had a good case," said Councillor John Heleniak after the meeting. He indicated council would not be pleading guilty to the charge.

# Await decision on dump burning charge

By SUZANNE HANSON

Norwich Township and Oxford County will have to wait until Thursday to find out if a charge against them of illegally operating a landfill site will be quashed.

A court case set for last Thursday to hear the charge regarding illegal burning at the Norwich Township Ward 1 (Otterville) landfill site was adjourned to Thursday Dec. 2 for a ruling by Justice of the Peace Henry Cartier.

Appearing last Thursday, Oxford County's lawyer Alex Graham told the court that the charges against both the county and

the township are void because the ministry of the environment took so long to lay the charges. Mr. Graham, who also acted as spokesperson for Norwich Township, cited Section 76 of the provincial offences act which states proceedings shall not commence more than six months after the offence occurred.

The incident cited by the ministry in the charges is supposed to have occurred on Feb. 20 but the charges were not laid until Nov. 10. Because more than six months had elapsed between the offence and the date the charge was laid, Mr. Graham said the

charges should be considered null and void.

However, Ints Plampe, agent for the prosecutor M. L. Khorshed, disagreed, referring to Section 148 of the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) that allows a two-year limitation period for proceedings to commence.

Mr. Plampe argued that two-year limitation period would apply in this case but Mr. Graham said he was not certain the section, contained in the revised version of the EPA was in force at the time of the offence, thus questioning whether it would apply.

The Justice of the Peace, Mr. Cartier, agreed to a one-week adjournment to

look up the statutes and make a ruling on the information presented to him. The court will reconvene at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 2 in the Woodstock provincial court.

Norwich Township clerk Bob Watkins said he did not know whether the township will be represented by legal counsel at that time. Council had approved the hiring of legal counsel from the firm of Graham, White,

Coad and Patience at its meeting last Tuesday night but learned the firm had already been retained by the county and felt it would be a conflict of interest to represent both parties in the case.

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# Council OK's housing statement

After some delay, Norwich Township council has finally given its approval to a provincial housing statement that examined housing needs in the township.

An earlier motion to accept the statement had been tabled by council because of dissatisfaction with the findings contained in the ministry report.

However, Dave Cowan, a housing analyst with the ministry of municipal affairs and housing, had indicated to township council that leaving the matter in abeyance could jeopardize any future requests the township might make for similar housing studies in the township.

Township clerk Bob Watkins pointed out to

council at its meeting last week that there is a three-year time limit before the ministry will do a new study unless council demonstrates that there has been a significant change in the population or other reason that a study be carried out sooner.

"They assume that in a small municipality change does not occur that

quickly," said Mr. Watkins.

The study, completed in June of this year, was initiated at council's request to determine whether there was sufficient demand in the township for government assisted senior citizen's housing in Otterville. The study, while examining that area, also assessed the

need for government assisted family housing and found that there was not sufficient demand for either in the township at this time. There would have to be a minimum of 25 people identified as willing to move into a government assisted housing complex for it to be considered a viable proposal, said Mr. Cowan.

And because so many of the senior citizens in the township own their own homes, a discounting factor of 75 per cent was applied in the study. Mr. Cowan said it has been the ministry's experience that people who own their own homes are less likely to move when rental units are available than those who are already renting.

Councillor Mel Smith said at the time the report was presented that such housing standards worked against small rural municipalities such as Norwich Township. He said that with the rising cost of maintenance and heating some seniors may be forced to sell their homes and without rental facilities available here, they will be forced to move outside of the township to obtain such housing accommodation.

Council reluctantly accepted the statement

# Sign misses township boundary

By SUZANNE HANSON

Norwich Township does have its problems with getting signs erected and getting them erected in the proper spots.

Two sign problems received discussion at the last meeting of the current council last Tuesday night. The much bandied about duck crossing sign issue has landed back in council's lap with a recommendation from the county's public works committee.

Norwich Township council had asked the county to erect duck crossing signs on the portion of County Road 18

which is also Main Street West, in the former village of Norwich, in light of the traffic hazard posed by flocks of ducks waddling across the road, west of Avery's Lane.

The county engineer, Stewart Watts, informed council that in dealing with the problem, public works has resolved that the township be given approval to erect signs posting the location as a duck crossing area.

"My understanding was that we requested the county to erect the signs and it appears they have given us the permission," said Councillor John

Heleniak, who asked whether the county normally supplied its own signs for its roads.

Township clerk Bob Watkins replied that they would normally erect their own signs, "but this is a unique situation and they want the township to look after it."

The road superintendent Ron Smith in response to a question on the cost of the signs said he thought they would be fairly expensive.

"How many accidents will the signs cause?" queried Councillor John Eacott before the matter was referred to council's

public works committee for further consideration.

In another matter regarding signs, it seems the ministry of transportation and communications doesn't really know where Norwich Township begins and ends.

Township population signs were recently erected at the north and south entrances to the township on Highway 59 by MTC but the sign at the south end of the township was placed so as to exclude Ward 1 (the former South Norwich Township) from Norwich Township. Instead of being erected at the border of Norwich Township and Haldimand-Norfolk region in the south, the sign was incorrectly placed less than two miles south of the former village of Norwich.

The road superintendent Mr. Smith said MTC was working from a map of the township when they erected the sign and doesn't know how they came up with the location they did but they have been instructed to remove it and place it in the proper location.

The population of the township, as listed on the sign, is 10,000.

# Fifty attend Otterville UCW meeting

OTTERVILLE (C) — November meeting of the United Church Women was held in the school-room of the church on Thursday evening, with fifty women present.

Guests included members from Norwich United Church, Fellowship Baptist, St. John's Church in Otterville and the Pastoral charge.

Guest speaker for the evening was Mrs. Merrill

James of Tillsonburg. She chose for her talk "Prayer Can Change Your Life," and for Scripture, Matthew 6:6.

Mrs. James told the ladies she believed there would be a new day dawning, perhaps not the reformation of history, but a renewal of the original. She also stated she had been given a vision, a hope of assurance that this is the most dynamic age since

Pentecost.

In appreciation, Mrs. Mary Murray presented Mrs. James with a plant.

President Mrs. Jean Gehring presided and welcomed members and visitors. Meeting opened with hymn "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

Scripture lesson was read by Mrs. Frank Finch from Matthew 6: 1-18 followed with prayer by Mrs. Elsie McSpadden.

Four girls, Barbara Wilson, Eleanor Cowan, Marcella Cowan and Melissa Cowan sang a number.

Meeting closed with hymn "Take Time to Be

Holy," with Mrs. Jack Walther pianist.

A social time was enjoyed.

Mrs. Sam McSpadden was convener of the meeting. Other voices of

appreciation were given by Mrs. Wilma Butler from the Baptist Church and Miss Edna Furlong from St. John's Anglican and Mrs. Janet Slater, Norwich United.

## Philippines missionary speaks at Otterville WMF

OTTERVILLE (C) — The Women's Missionary Fellowship of the Baptist Church held a special missionary meeting in the church with Dr. Hazel Wrigglesworth from the Philippines as speaker.

A good number attended from area churches. President Mrs. Wilma Butler opened with some thoughts from Psalm 40.

It was announced that the December meeting would be the Christmas supper at the church with a gift exchange and an offering for the Pollard

family in Kenya. Mrs. Lois Chipps, with Miss Fran Fletcher at the piano, favoured with a solo "Looking Through His Eyes". Mrs. Ted Oenema led in the reading of Psalm 96 followed by prayer by Mrs. Earl Cooper.

Mrs. Chipps sang another solo "What if Someone had not Shared with Me".

Dr. Wrigglesworth opened her message by saying that Heaven is not prepared for everyone but only for those who accept Jesus as Saviour. She told of her experiences while

learning the language and translating the Scripture in the Philippines. The new testament is now at the production level and there are 56 languages in the country.

Mrs. Butler thanked the speaker and the offering went to help in her support as missionary.

Mrs. Paul Hill and Mrs. Hilda Stockmans were ushers.

Mrs. Butler closed with prayer. Refreshments were served by the social committee, Mrs. Fred Hill, Mrs. Jack Walters and Mrs. Ken Lee.

## Remembrance Day services set for Norwich township

Remembrance Day services for Norwich Township residents will be held in several township communities on Sunday, November 14.

A special children's service will be held on Remembrance Day, Thursday, November 11 at 11 a.m. at the Norwich cenotaph led by Branch 190 of the Royal Canadian Legion and Legion Padre Rev. Herb Herring.

The community service in Norwich will get underway on November 14

with a parade down Stover Street South, ending up at the cenotaph by the high school at 10:45 a.m. for the laying of wreaths. The parade will then continue into the Norwich District High School auditorium for a combined community service of worship for all the churches of Norwich led by Rev. Herring at 11:20 a.m.

The wreath laying service will be conducted by the Legion in Otterville at the war memorial at the Otterville park entrance at 1 p.m. and in Oxford Centre

at the Pioneer Cemetery memorial at 3 p.m.

Legion members will be on the street Friday and Saturday this week selling poppies as part of their annual poppy campaign to raise funds for the support of disabled and needy veterans and their families.

### 35 YEARS AGO November 6, 1947

Man Of War, greatest running horse of all time, died in his stall at Faraway Farms. He had reached the age of 30. This famous horse was owned by Samuel D. Riddel of Kentucky.

Gordon Fish, elder son of Mrs. Paul Fish, left last week for Esquimalt, British Columbia, having joined the Royal Canadian Navy as electrician, male, second class.

The Norwich High School rugby team was defeated by Ingersoll by a score of 13-0.

## Lions club sponsors children

OTTERVILLE (C) - The regular meeting of the Norwich-Otterville Lions Club was held in the basement of the Burgessville United Church at 7:15 p.m. on Monday, November 22.

Lion president Colin Cope presided. There were 40 present including three Lions from the Caledonia Club, four from Long Point Club, one from Tillsonburg, and one Lion who recently

moved to Norwich from the Mitchell Lions Club. Rev. Cyril Dyke was also a guest.

Lion Bill Orth thanked the Burgessville U.C.W. for providing the dinner and Barbara Denby, U.C.W. president, responded.

Zone chairman, Peter Potter of the Long Point Club was introduced by Lion president Colin Cope. Zone chairman Mr. Potter outlined the various

projects which this club has provided for the Norwich-Otterville area as well as Canadian and International endeavors. Mr. Potter explained the International Lions '83 "Red dot" project hoping all club members would strive to make this project successful. Lion Paul Wood thanked the speaker and presented him with a gift.

The club has made recent donations to Hearing Conservation, Leader Dog, Lions L.C.I.F. project, CARE and the Norwich Boy Scouts.

The annual Blood Donor Clinic held at the Norwich Community Centre in Norwich saw 178 units of blood collected. This clinic was sponsored by the Lions Club.

The Norwich-Otterville Lions won third prize at the annual inter-service club curling bonspiel held at Tillsonburg, November 17. Club members were urged to sell the tickets on the ATC now being raffled.

Lion deputy district governor D'arcy Tanner from the Caledonia Lions Club was present to address the club in his bid for district governor. The club once more decided to support two children sponsored by CANSAVE. The club will also participate in the annual Santa

Claus parades in Norwich, December 4 and in Otterville, December 11.

The annual Club Christmas party will be held in the Otterville Community Hall on Saturday evening, December 4 when ladies are invited.

The convention draws were won by Lion John

Leitch and Lion Carl McMahan.

## Morning meeting for Institute

OTTERVILLE (C) — In casual morning dress, members of the Women's Institute met at the home of Mrs. Lorraine Downing for the regular meeting on Nov. 11th at 9:30 a.m. Change in day and time has proved most favourable with members.

Coffee, muffins and cheese awaited the members upon arrival. Mrs. Pickersgill presided.

Two Minutes of Silence was held in keeping with Remembrance Day. Mrs. Jack Walther was pianist.

Roll call, in keeping with Remembrance Day was followed with minutes and the secretary's report which included a most successful bake sale.

Thank-you notes were read from Mr. and Mrs. Max Avey and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lee for remembrances on the occasion of their 60th anniversary.

Mrs. Earle Petch gave a most interesting report from the Consumers magazine.

Mrs. Waring reported on Good Cheer and reminded members to pass along names to be remembered.

December meeting will be held Dec. 10th (Thurs.) at Elm Hurst. Roll call will be answered with members donating something for the Sunshine cupboard in Tillsonburg Hospital.

A report was brought of the London area convention by president Mrs. Pickersgill. This convention was held at St. Marys. Mrs. Pickersgill remarked of the outstanding ovation given Mrs. Downing in a question and answer period.

Mrs. Jack Walther gave a report of the Oxford County conference held at Woodstock.

## Make items for bazaar

OTTERVILLE (C) — Members of the Sunshine Club met at the home of Mrs. Marion Pettigrew on Thursday evening, November 11.

The members were all busy preparing handwork for the annual bazaar which will be held at the Norfolk Mall on Saturday, November 27.

Next meeting will be held at the home of Dorothy Wardell, November 25.

On behalf of the club, Dorothy Wardell expressed appreciation to Mrs. Pettigrew and to Mrs. Dow for the lovely lunch.

## Sunshine club meets

OTTERVILLE (C) — Sunshine Club met at the home of Dorothy Wardell on Nov. 25. President Sandra Hussey conducted business.

An invitation was accepted to meet at the home of Etta McSkimming on Dec. 9 for the Christmas meeting. Names of secret friends will be revealed.

Courtesy remarks were given to the hostess and to Dorothy Neale for the social time by Stephanie Durkee.



# Area inhabited 12,000 years ago

By SUZANNE HANSON

The environment surrounding the early inhabitants of the Norfolk sand plains, which encompass a portion of South Norwich, was very different than that known to its present inhabitants.

While there is not a great deal of evidence of their presence the paleo-Indians are believed to be the earliest inhabitants of the area about 12,000 years ago.

According to Bill Fox a regional archeologist for Southwestern Ontario who has worked extensively in the Norfolk sand plains, the vegetation and terrain were very much different during that early period. But gradual changes occurred, bringing with them gradual changes in the inhabitants.

Mr. Fox, who is locally known for his most recent work on an excavation at the Elliott farm near LaSalette, addressed a meeting of the South Norwich Historical Society last Monday night to summarize the history of the occupation of the Norfolk sand plains. He also gave some insight into the excavation on the Elliott farm where he recently uncovered an early Indian village dating about 900 A.D.

The earliest inhabitants of the area, the paleo-Indians, were rovers and hunters and extremely mobile in comparison with their more sedentary successors whose villages were uncovered by Mr. Elliott. His findings there showed those more recent occupants of the area to have been much less mobile, settling in villages, building long houses and planting crops such as corn and tobacco.

After 40 days on the job at the Elliott farm, Mr. Fox

and his team of archeologists, student archeologists and numerous volunteers, uncovered typical Glen Meyer Indian villages and 448 features of the villages such as hearths and pits had been mapped. About 2,600 square feet of the site were cleared during the excavation with the outline of the villages and the buildings carefully marked out.

From the outline of the villages, Mr. Fox was able to determine that they had classic Iroquoian houses and from the shards of pottery and other artifacts unearthed, he is able to tell much about the life of these early inhabitants. Mr. Fox said he has literally hundreds of artifacts from the excavation to be washed and catalogued that will tell him even more about these Glen Meyer people.

The Elliott farm site is not the first site of occupation in this area to be examined by archeologists, but it is the earliest.

Others that have previously been examined include the Vanbesien site (950 A.D.), the DeWaele site (1050 A.D.), and the Uren site (1250 A.D.). Mr. Fox said they are looking at 7,000 years of occupation in this area on the sand plains.

As the early people developed agricultural techniques, the old dependence on hunting and fishing and the accompanying need for

mobility was lessened, meaning the people could begin living in settlements, said Mr. Fox. And it is the evidence of the early settlements being unearthed that gives a glimpse into the way of life of these early inhabitants. Some sites represent several different periods, new settlements being built on top of older ones.

Unfortunately, as Mr. Fox pointed out, he and his

fellow archeologists don't have the luxury of excavating when and where they like, purely for their own interest.

"Our major responsibility is to rescue sites before they are destroyed," as was the case with the Elliott site. It was to be bulldozed to provide fill to level a depression in a field, but the farmer's action was delayed until the partial

excavation of the site could be carried out. It's exciting being thrown into a site, but it's also draining working under the gun," said Mr. Fox.



## Unique experience

A recent visit to the Terry Fox Youth Centre in Ottawa turned out to be the experience of a lifetime for Norwich District High School students Richard Kicksee (left) of Otterville and Ed Dickinson of RR 1, Burgessville. Each student visited the centre for one week for special programs, lectures, workshops and tours. (NG Photo)

# Ash, Medai families hold first reunion

There were no words of Italian spoken at the Cornell community hall on Sunday, November 21, nor was there anyone to understand it if it had been spoken. But the awesome potluck dinner enjoyed by about 100 persons did include Italian meatballs, lasagna and other pastas, black olives and Italian bread.

The people came to dinner from Otterville, Milldale, Delhi, Simcoe, Tillsonburg, Burgessville, Thamesford, Bornholm, Woodstock, Hamilton, Brantford, Toronto, Port Stanley, St. Thomas, Burford, Sturgeon Falls, Sweaburg and as far away as Utica, Michigan.

It was fitting they met together this year for the first time during the year of the 175th anniversary celebrations of South Norwich, because it took some of them six generations to arrive from the family farm on Concession 11 just south of

Otterville. There it was that 97 years ago an Anglo Ash and his Greek-born wife, Victoria (Ritocco) Ash, and their seven children settled after arriving in Canada from their home in St. George, Italy.

Their son, Alfred, later took over the family farm with his Sicilian-born wife, Frances (Bolone) Ash, and their six children: Mary, Henry, Elizabeth, Gertrude, Joseph and Emma. Alfred later retired to Otterville after tobacco farming with his sons on his farms on the corner of Concession 7 and Highway 59.

While most of Alfred Ash's sisters and brothers married and moved to the United States, his sister Josephine married George Medai and they lived near Delhi and Simcoe with their five children Stephen, Kate, Lillian, Frances and Jim.

It was the descendants of

these two families who held their first family reunion on Sunday, November 21.

The oldest generation of the late Alfred Ash family present included his youngest daughter Emma and her husband Jack McCready, Burgessville; his two daughters-in-law of Otterville, Daisy Ash, widow of Henry, and June Ash, widow of Joe. With this generation were their children and grandchildren and in Daisy Ash's family her two great-granddaughters as well.

The oldest member of his family, 83-year-old Mary (Ash) Brown, Mount Clemens, Michigan, and her descendants were unable to attend the gathering.

Children and grandchildren of the late Henry Ash and Gertie (Ash) DeBlock were also present. The other daughter of Alfred Ash, Elizabeth, and her husband William Stapleton are both deceased.

The oldest generation on the Medai side of the Ash family is Grace Medai, Tillsonburg, widow of Steve who was present with their two children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and with the same three generations of descendants of her late brother-in-law Jim Medai and late wife Catherine of Detroit.

The youngest descendant present was 15-month-old Jodie Lynn, daughter of Louise and Michael Ash of Otterville, and the youngest descendant of Josephine Medai was Katrina Lynn Nutbrown, six-month-old daughter of Ronald and Christine (Medai) Nutbrown, Burford.

The reunion was the result of the planning and work of Marion (Ash) Chambers and husband, Ross, of Otterville. Assisting them as master of ceremonies for the occasion was Dennis Mc-

## Ladies' bazaar success

OTTERVILLE (C) — The ladies of the St. John's Anglican Church held a successful bazaar in the Parish Hall on Thursday afternoon.

The hall was in gay color for the Christmas season and all the goodies for sale were most attractive.

Bake table, was filled with bread, pies, cakes and cookies. Another table was well arranged with knitting, crafts, plants and suggestions for Christmas.

The tea tables gave neighbors an opportunity for a social chat. One of the older ladies of the congregation serving and pouring tea was Miss Edna Furlong, who kept a close eye on the tables and was assisted by other ladies.

Another member who has been a faithful worker in the church, Mrs. Winnie McMullen, assisted by Mrs. Olive Pickersgill, took their place at the table of needlework and knitted goods.

The ladies welcomed several visitors from the Anglican Church in Delhi, which is a part of the local church.

Mrs. Violet Howse was at the door and was in charge of the register, which entitled the ladies to a draw of goodies in a stocking. David McKibbin of Otterville carried home the prize.

Cready, Thamesford, who was happy to announce the 45th wedding anniversary that weekend of his parents, Jack and Emma McCready of Burgessville.

Displays of old photographs added more nostalgia to the gathering.

### James Henry White

James Henry White of 32 North St., Otterville, passed away at Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital on Tuesday, November 30, 1982, in his 51st year.

Born at Otterville, he was a son of Mrs. Verna White and the late Alexander Wilfred White. A life-long resident of Otterville, he was an automobile mechanic. Mr. White was a member of Otterville Fellowship Baptist Church.

Surviving are his wife, the former Glenna Jean Bowerman; his mother, Mrs. Verna White of Otterville; five daughters, Mrs. Patricia Innes of Woodstock, Mrs. Brenda Wall of Straffordville, Mrs. Sandra Ingraham of Delhi, Renee Jean White and Verna Esther White, both at home; three sons, Frederick Charles White, James Gilbert White and Reginald Alexander White, all of Otterville; four sisters, Mrs. Vern Clark of B.C., Mrs. Dorothy Ryder of Springford, Mrs. Esther Stover of Thorndale and Mrs. Muriel Kozuch of Otterville; and three brothers, Fred White of Fonthill, Finley White of

Otterville and Edward White of Norwich; and seven grandchildren.

He was predeceased by two sons, James Douglas White and Renford James White; and his father in November 1965.

Rested at the Arn and Son Funeral Residence, Norwich, where service was held Friday, December 3 at 1 p.m. conducted by Rev. H. Earl Cooper.

Interment in Otter Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Bentley White, Wesley White, James Ryder, Frank Kozuch, John Stover and Bradley Stover.

### Ray Pickersgill

Ray Pickersgill of 2032 Mountbatten St., London, passed away at St. Joseph's Hospital, London, on Tuesday, November 30, 1982.

His wife the former Marjorie Howard predeceased him in August this year.

Surviving are two sons, Kenneth Pickersgill and James Pickersgill, both of RR 2, Ingersoll; grandchildren Trevor, Kyle and Charlotte; and three brothers, Bill Pickersgill of Tillsonburg, Harry Pickersgill of Otterville and Max Pickersgill of Galt.

He was predeceased by six sisters Jessie Palmer, Mary Kavanaugh, Eva Jones, Ida DeMeester, Fern Douglas and Dorothy Robinson; and by two brothers, Cleve Pickersgill and Jack Pickersgill.

Rested at the McBeath Funeral Home, 246 Thames St. S., Ingersoll, where service was held Saturday, December 4, at 11 a.m. conducted by Rev. Clayton Wilhelm.

Interment in Springford Cemetery.

Memorial donations to the Heart Foundation may be arranged for at the Funeral Home



## W. SANDERS

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## Lions host veterans

The Norwich - Otterville Lions Club held their regular meeting on Monday, Nov. 8 at the Norwich Legion hall when they entertained 40 veterans to their annual Armistice banquet. Only two First World War veterans were present, Comrades J.C. St. John and J.E. Waterman.

Lion Chief Colin Cope, assisted by Legion President Colin Slater, opened the meeting. Two minutes silence were observed in remembrance of the fallen comrades. Last Post and Reveille were sounded by Ed White.

Legion Padre Herb Herring offered thanks. The roll call was taken by Lion Chief Cope when veterans identified themselves and their branch of service. Forty veterans and 42 Lions were present and enjoyed a most bountiful supper prepared by the Eastern Star ladies.

Entertainment for the evening was the viewing of some home movies taken by the late Lion Oscar Gare. The movies were mostly of local people and scenes taken in the late 1930's and early 1940's. Several people present were able to see how they used to be. Commentary was provided by Lion D.M. Scott.

A reminder of the upcoming blood donor clinic was made the date of which is Nov. 18 from 5 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at the Norwich Township community centre. A good attendance is hoped for.

Convention draws were won by veterans Roy Racher and Harry Malcolm. The meeting closed with the Queen.

25 TH

Anniversary

### James Henry White

James Henry White of 32 North St., Otterville, passed away at Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital on Tuesday, November 30, 1982, in his 51st year.

Born at Otterville, he was a son of Mrs. Verna White and the late Alexander Wilfred White. A life-long resident of Otterville, he was an automobile mechanic. Mr. White was a member of Otterville Fellowship Baptist Church.

Surviving are his wife, the former Glenna Jean Bowerman; his mother, Mrs. Verna White of Otterville; five daughters, Mrs. Patricia Innes of Woodstock, Mrs. Brenda Wall of Straffordville, Mrs. Sandra Ingraham of Delhi, Renee Jean White and Verna Esther White, both at home; three sons, Frederick Charles White, James Gilbert White and Reginald Alexander White, all of Otterville; four sisters, Mrs. Vern Clark of B.C., Mrs. Dorothy Ryder of Springford, Mrs. Esther Stover of Thorndale and Mrs. Muriel Kozuch of Otterville; and three brothers, Fred White of Fonthill, Finley White of

Otterville and Edward White of Norwich, and seven grandchildren.

He was predeceased by two sons, James Douglas White and Renford James White; and his father in November 1965.

Rested at the Arn and Son Funeral Residence, Norwich, where service was held Friday, December 3 at 1 p.m. conducted by Rev. H. Earl Cooper.

Interment in Otter Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Bentley White, Wesley White, James Ryder, Frank Kozuch, John Stover

### Ray Pickersgill

Ray Pickersgill of 2032 Mountbatten St., London, passed away at St. Joseph's Hospital, London, on Tuesday, November 30, 1982.

His wife the former Marjorie Howard predeceased him in August this year.

Surviving are two sons, Kenneth Pickersgill and James Pickersgill, both of RR 2, Ingersoll; grandchildren Trevor, Kyle and Charlotte; and three brothers, Bill Pickersgill of Tillsonburg, Harry Pickersgill of Otterville and Max Pickersgill of Galt.

He was predeceased by six sisters Jessie Palmer, Mary Kavanaugh, Eva Jones, Ida DeMeester, Fern Douglas and Dorothy Robinson; and by two brothers, Cleve Pickersgill and Jack Pickersgill.

Rested at the McBeath Funeral Home, 246 Thames St. S., Ingersoll, where service was held Saturday, December 4, at 11 a.m. conducted by Rev. Clayton Wilhelm.

Interment in Springford Cemetery.

Memorial donations to the Heart Foundation may be arranged for at the Funeral Home



# W. SANDERS

REAL ESTATE 842-6900 - 879-6411



This 4 bedroom home has built-in oven, Jennair stove, central vac., fireplace, sunken family room with beamed ceiling and more. MLS #R-3922. Price \$76,900.

**DUPLEX - TWO BLOCKS OFF BROADWAY** - Yearly income less utilities, \$6,780. Live in one half, let other half help pay mortgage payments. Included in price - stoves, fridges, lawn mower, etc. MLS #RM-2942. Price \$49,900.

**TRI-PLEX - LOTS OF PARKING** - \$9,660 yearly income less util. MLS #RM-2943. Price \$53,900.

**BUY THIS HOME - WITH BUILT-IN INCOME** - Brick & aluminum ranch style home. Rec room and sewing room in basement. Agreement with Hartz Mountain allows \$3,500 yearly income. **ALL IN THE PRICE.** MLS #3972. Price \$79,900.

**TRY YOUR OFFER - ON THIS 4 BEDROOM HOME.** New gas furnace, wood stove and 100 amp service installed in 1980. To make purchase of this home more appealing **EXTRA LOT - INCLUDED IN PRICE.** MLS #R-3709. Price \$33,500.



This 3 bedroom home has large lot, garage, a well maintained home with covered patio in rear, sunporch in front. **PRICED TO SELL!** MLS #R-4023. Price \$35,500.

#### Staff

Dan Sanders	842-8329	Larry Hodgson	863-3236
Dick Sanders	842-8157	Fred Rochus	879-6643
Ingelore Irie	879-6484	Bill Sanders	Broker

## Lions host veterans

The Norwich - Otterville Lions Club held their regular meeting on Monday, Nov. 8 at the Norwich Legion hall when they entertained 40 veterans to their annual Armistice banquet. Only two First World War veterans were present, Comrades J.C. St. John and J.E. Waterman.

Lion Chief Colin Cope, assisted by Legion President Colin Slater.

Entertainment for the evening was the viewing of some home movies taken by the late Lion Oscar Gare. The movies were mostly of local people and scenes taken in the late 1930's and early 1940's. Several people present were able to see how they used to be. Commentary was provided by Lion D.M. Scott.

A reminder of the upcoming blood donor clinic was made the date of which is Nov. 18 from 5 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at the Norwich Township community centre. A good attendance is hoped for.

Convention draws were won by veterans Roy Racher and Harry Malcolm. The meeting closed with the Queen.

SURPRISE PARTY

No presents

Cash bar

Please try to arrive by 8:00 as Gord & Grace will arrive shortly after.

Thank you

FOR Gord and Grace Gehring

DATE Saturday, November 20th

PLACE Otterville Town Hall

TIME 8 pm.

GIVEN BY Family

*A 25th Anniversary Celebration  
In Honor Of*

ALMA & TOM FURLONG

*Date* NOV 13

*Time* 8pm

*Place* OTTERVILLE HALL

*Given by* LYNN & MIKE

*Phone* LYNN 424-9015

# Inaugural held

There was both pomp and ceremony on Monday as a variety of local dignitaries were on hand to take part in the official swearing in of the new members of Norwich Township council.

The inauguration of the new council got underway in the council chambers at 11 a.m. with provincial court judge Robert Groom on hand to carry out the declaration of office and oath of allegiance by council members.

After being duly sworn in as mayor of Norwich Township, John Heleniak gave a brief inaugural address in which he urged the new council to maintain the pride all members have in Norwich Township.

"We must realize that we represent not

only our individual wards but the community as a whole."

Mayor Heleniak also pointed out council will be dealing with many important issues over the next three-year term of office, which will have serious implications for the community and he charged council to weigh all the facts in order to make wise decisions.

And while council might wish to move their community forward, he said it must also practice restraint in order to keep tax rates from becoming a heavy burden on the residents of the township.

"I am sure we will keep in mind the needs of our municipality while never

(Continued on Page 2)



## Swearing in

Norwich Township's newly elected mayor, John Heleniak, was sworn into office on Monday during a special ceremony presided over by provincial court judge Robert Groom (right). The new council will be in office for the next three years. (NG Photo) *0008*

(Continued from Page 1)

forgetting the wishes of those who elected us."

Others taking part in the inaugural ceremonies included Reverend John Swain of Oxford Centre's Anglican Christ Church, and Father Michael Langan, St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Tillsonburg, who shared in the dedication

of service of the new council.

In a round of comments from councillors following the ceremony, congratulations were offered to the new mayor and welcomes offered to the new council members.

"I know we will have a lot of serious decisions to make but I hope we have a happy time as a group," said Councillor Hardee Richardson.

# New mayor takes office

*Delhi News*

By John Surgeoner  
Staff Writer

NORWICH — John Heleniak was sworn in as the new mayor here at the inaugural meeting of council, Monday morning.

Sitting on council for the first time were Bob Carney, Jack Pettigrew, Mike Oliver, Larry Martin and Jack McNally. Provincial Judge Robert Groom was on hand for the declaration of elected office and to accept the Oath of Allegiance from all councillors.

In making his inaugural address, Mr. Heleniak stressed the need for unity and co-operation over the new three-year term in order to serve the township in the best manner possible.

"During the next three years, we will be dealing with many important issues which will have serious implications for our community," Mr. Heleniak said. "We will have to weigh all the facts in order to make wise decisions. These decisions will require the continued support of council, staff, advisory committees and our residents."

"We must remember that while we wish to move our community forward, we must also practice restraint in order to keep our tax rates from becoming a heavy burden on the residents of the township," he said.

Helen Smith, re-elected councillor-at-large, said she is looking forward to another term of office, and wished the new mayor a successful term.

"I express every hope that the next years will have every success for you," Mrs. Smith said.

Clerk Bob Watkins expressed similar sentiments.

"My staff and myself look forward to working with all of you in the next three years," he said to council.

## HOUSING GRANT

Norwich Township has received a grant of \$20,000 from the ministry of municipal

affairs and housing under the Ontario Home Renewal Program (OHRP).

The grant will be allocated among eligible township homeowners to assist in improvements to their homes. Deputy-clerk John Gilbert said this is the second such grant received by Norwich Township this year, with the first being a \$40,000 award.

"It's an attempt to bring housing up to a minimum standard," Mr. Gilbert said of OHRP. Applicants are dealt with on a "first come, first serve" basis, he said, adding that the new grant has already been allocated among township homeowners.

There has been an overwhelming response to the program, Mr. Gilbert said, so the township plans to apply for the grant once again in April, 1983.

OHRP emphasizes improvements on faulty structural and sanitary conditions, and several townships throughout the province have received such grants, to a total amount of \$240,000.

Loans to eligible homeowners vary, with a maximum allowance of \$7,500, and a portion of the grant may be forgiven, depending on the applicant's income. The interest rate administered also depends on the applicant's income, ranging from zero to eight per cent. The maximum annual income to qualify is \$15,500, after deductions are made.

OHRP was introduced in 1974, and since that time almost \$156 million in provincial grants has been distributed among 713 municipalities throughout the province. Mr. Gilbert said this year was the first time Norwich applied for the grant, but that they fully intend to continue to do so in the future.

OHRP grants are available to owner-occupants who live in municipalities which have adopted minimum housing standards bylaws or have resolutions establishing standards, and are taking part in the program.



Norwich township councillors stretch to pledge their Oath of Allegiance at last Monday's inaugural council meeting. Councillors for the new three-year term are, left to right, Darrell Force, Bob Carney, Jack McNally, Jack Pettigrew and Helen Smith. Provincial Judge Robert Groom presided over the proceedings. (Staff Photo)

# Burning trial set

While Oxford County has pleaded not guilty to a charge of unlawfully operating a landfill site, Norwich Township has entered no official plea to the same charge.

Oxford County's solicitor Alex Graham had argued in provincial court last week that the charge was invalid because the environment ministry waited more than six months to lay the charge. But Justice of the Peace Henry Cartier denied a request last Thursday that the charge be dismissed and adjourned the case to January 27 for trial.

The charge stems from an alleged incident February 20 at the Ward 1 (former South Norwich) landfill site near Otterville at which time illegal burning of garbage is to have taken place. The charge was laid against both the township and the county on November 10 under the Environmental Protection Act.

At the initial court appearance on November 24, Mr. Graham, acting for the county and speaking for the township, told the court that under the Provincial Offences Act, a charge could not be laid more

than six months after the offence was to have occurred. Because notice of the charges was not delivered to either party until November 10, Mr. Graham moved they be deemed null and void.

A representative of the prosecutor informed the court that the EPA allows a two-year period during which a charge could be laid for an offence. And in his ruling last Thursday, Justice of the Peace Cartier stated that since there were other periods of limitation, referring to the two-year period under the EPA and the Environmental Water Resources Act, that he could not consider the charge to be null and void and set the trial date in January.

While Mr. Graham entered a not guilty plea for the county, Norwich Township entered no plea but is to be represented in court on January 27. Council had originally planned to retain the firm of Graham, Coad, White and Patience to represent the township in the matter but Mr. Graham had already been retained by the county and did not feel he could represent both parties.

NG DEC 8

# Grant creates Norwich jobs

By SUZANNE HANSON

Norwich Township has been able to hire 11 people to carry out work in the township with the approval of a \$67,228 federal grant under the Canada Community Development Project.

The 11 people who have already been hired and are working now on various jobs were referred to the program through the Canada Employment Centre. Municipal Inspector Doug Wilson, in charge of the project, said only those applicants referred by the CEC could be interviewed for the positions.

The \$67,228 grant is a little higher than the township first expected to receive, the extra money being accounted for in an increased amount of capital funds allocated to the township. Mr. Wilson said \$47,328 will be paid out in wages to the 11 people employed and the balance of the grant will be used for capital. Out of that money must also come the employee's benefits as well as some funds for materials, said Mr. Wilson.

The 11 people hired include nine people for general labor and construction, one project supervisor and one clerical

(Continued from Page 1)

would normally have been employed in the tobacco harvest.

Mr. Wilson said there were 34 people referred by the CEC to be interviewed for the positions available. They were looking for a cross-section of abilities to carry out jobs such as cleaning up the brush along roadsides and municipal drains, increasing the thermal efficiency of the Ward 1 (Otterville) works shed, as well as part of the Otterville community hall and a portion of the Oxford Centre library and senior citizens rooms. Those employed will be doing some insulating as well as some interior painting and it is hoped the entire inside of the Norwich Township Community Centre can be painted over the

course of the program.

Mr. Wilson said township council authorized some interim financing for the program to get it started while they wait for the federal funds to arrive. Some other money was also allocated for capital to be used if needed.

The basic idea of the employment program is to put unemployed people to work as well as to complete projects in the municipality that would have been delayed for a considerable length of time if they could be done at all because of the lack of manpower or funds.

Mr. Wilson also stressed that all positions available have been filled and that all inquiries should be made to the Canada Employment Centre in Tillsonburg.

# New fire pagers

Norwich Township firefighters are back on the county fire alert system

and while the new pagers still have some bugs to be worked out, they are a vast

improvement over the first pagers the men received.

The township's fire chief in presenting his report to council at its last meeting, said there have been good results with the new Motorola pagers, but there have been some problems in the township tests.

Fire Chief Brian Workman said the message wasn't coming through clearly from the Woodstock dispatcher during the regular test with the message quite scratchy. "Part of the message was readable and part of it wasn't."

Mr. Workman said he had noticed a bit of variation in the message depending on the weather but any bugs in the system will be cleared up soon.

It was also mentioned that three chargers and eight batteries for the Westpage pagers are still missing and if not found could be charged to the township. The Westpage unit from Oxford Communications was the first pager tried out by the township for the fire alert system but numerous problems with them resulted in the switch over to Motorola.

The missing Westpage equipment was not collected with the rest of the units that were returned and if not found could cost the township an additional \$100.



## Retirement wishes

Members of Norwich Township council wished former township treasurer Fred Lowes well in his retirement when they made a presentation to him during Monday's council meeting. Mr. Lowes, who retired in September, was presented with a township clock by township clerk Bob Watkins (right). (NG Photo)

NG DEC 15

# Record warm spell <sup>DN</sup> <sub>DEC 8</sub>

Some forsythia shrubs bloomed last week as balmy air covered most of Ontario, sending temperatures to record breaking highs for December in many localities.

At 1 p.m. Friday the temperature reached almost 67 degrees at the Simcoe weather station. "That is the warmest temperature for any day in December we've ever had in Simcoe since they began keeping records in 1866," said Nelson Morris, officer in charge. "The warmest December day previous to this was Dec. 8, 1966, when it reached 62 degrees."

The forsythia shrubs that came into bloom were located in sheltered areas, but other forsythia were close to bloom as well, said Simcoe horticultural extension specialist Russ Chard.

"Forsythia and a few other shrubs that blossom early in the spring don't have the chilling requirement our fruit trees must go through before they can break dormancy. Now they've bloomed or come close to doing so they'll be very sensitive to cold and

are not likely to have much spring blossom.

"Apples and other fruit have to experience a certain number of hours of freezing weather — which they haven't had yet — before they can break dormancy and start to bud.

"The problem is they have not been experiencing progressively colder weather to bring them into full dormancy. So now it all depends upon how quickly cold weather comes, whether it is a sudden onslaught or a gradual cooling. If temperatures of -13F or lower are experienced before mid-January there could be some damage.

This is what happened three years ago, when the temperature fell to about -15F the day after Christmas," Mr. Chard said.

The extension horticulturist said strawberries would receive some protection from fluctuating temperatures under the straw mulch that covers them. How they will fare through the winter will depend on their state of dormancy, amount of snow cover and the degree of cold which occurs, he added.

# Powell Agri-Systems recalling 50 workers

About 50 hourly workers are being called back to begin work January 4 at Powell Agri-Systems in Otterville following an upturn in sales.

Powell president Howard Avey said last week that an increase in orders for the company's lines of transplanters, combines, sprayers and kilns to markets in Ontario, Quebec and Prince Edward Island made the recall possible.

"The best news about the whole thing is

putting people back to work," Mr. Avey said. "This will just be like them getting a Christmas card."

Mr. Avey said the workers being recalled are those who were laid off after the August 29 frost.

The biggest growth in sales has been in the company's big bin system of versatile kilns, he said, adding that sales of combines compatible with the kilns have also increased.

Do you remember?

Do you remember that during the week of December 5, 1962:

Municipal elections in Windham Township resulted in Earl Johnson being elected to the position of reeve. Arthur Blake was acclaimed as deputy-reeve. Councillors elected were Mrs. Martha Proper, Fred Peacock and John Malcolm.

Otterville police village trustees were re-elected by acclamation as follows: James Squance, Edward Arthur and Sietse Onema.

# Red carpet for Claus

Santa Claus got a royal welcome to Otterville Saturday.

The Spring-Otter Optimist Club, sponsoring the annual parade for the first time, came up with 40 colorful entries to lead Santa down the main street to the public school where he visited and presented gifts to his little friends.

Heading the parade were the Norwich Legion color party and the band and color guard of Tillsonburg Varnavair Air Cadet Squadron.

At the conclusion of the parade, Optimist President Aubrey Babcock presented trophies for the best floats. Best overall float award went to First Otterville Guides; best Christmas theme, Otterville Public School, and best winter theme, Norwich Beavers B Pack.

The Optimists, now in their second year, helped with last year's parade, and took over its operation this year. Chairman were Frank Verberne and Dale Cheney. Local merchants assisted with donations.

Refreshments were served to parade participants at the school, where Santa handed out some 250 gifts to children.

The 21-member club meets the first Tuesday of

the month at Springford W.I. hall, and on the third Thursday in Otterville. The

club is planning a membership drive in the new year.

Page 24 Section 2 THE NORWICH GAZETTE December 15, 1982



## Where's my dog?

Behind the clown mask is Nellie Robinson of Norwich, one of the many participants in the Santa Claus parade Saturday at Otterville. There were 40 entries in the parade, sponsored by Spring-Otter Optimist Club, assisted by local merchants.

### 35 YEARS AGO

December 18, 1947

William Vigar who has conducted a barbershop for many years on Main Street, has purchased the residence of the late Robert Gray.

Mr. and Mrs. Burwell Kendrick have sold their 80-acre farm to the Vanderbroeck Brothers. The selling price is said to have been \$25,000. Mr. and Mrs. Kendrick have the privilege of living on the place for three years more. The new owners have already begun to root out the splendid grove of pines at the south part of the place in preparation of growing tobacco.

### 50 YEARS AGO

November 1932

Port Burwell - Mrs. Nickerson opened a fancy goods store in the ice cream parlor of the Lakeside Hotel.

### December 1932

Otterville - December 7 - Fire of undetermined origin did extensive damage to equipment and raw and finished tobacco in the plant of the Standard Tobacco Co. here today.

### 75 YEARS AGO

December 1907

A branch of the Farmers Bank is to be opened at Springford in the course of a week.

## Local man fined \$500

A Tillsonburg man charged with dangerous driving during a drug seizure attempt in Otterville more than a year ago was fined \$500 in provincial court last Thursday.

John Barnim, 35, of RR 3, Tillsonburg sped away from members of the OPP drug squad from London, who were attempting to make a drug seizure.

During the short pursuit, the Barnim vehicle narrowly missed two police officers. Three shots were fired by police at the rear wheel of the fleeing vehicle before a collision occurred, involving the suspect vehicle and two police cars.

A quantity of marijuana totalling 45.36 kilograms (100 pounds), was seized by the police.

DEC 15

**FOR SALE BY TENDER**

This business property, located at RR 1, Norwich, at the intersection of Highway 59 and County Road 19, (described as Part Lot 8, Concession 8, Township of Norwich) is for sale under Power of Sale by virtue of default on a loan secured by a realty mortgage.

The property comprises land (approximately 43,200 sq. ft.) and buildings together with all furniture, fixtures and equipment located on site and is a restaurant/gas bar facility.

Arrangements to inspect the realty may be made by contacting Mr. Dave Munro in London, Ontario at (519) 434-2144 during business hours.

Written tenders, addressed to Mr. Dave Munro, 197 York Street, Suite 1000, London, Ontario N6A 1B2, will be accepted until 3:30 p.m. on January 17th, 1983.


A certified cheque for 10% of the amount tendered must be included as a deposit (Payee to be designated) and will be returned without interest if the tender is not accepted or forfeited as liquidated damages if the tender is accepted and the sale not completed by the purchaser. Provincial sales tax to be paid by the purchaser. Highest or any offer not necessarily accepted. Assistance to finance the transaction may be considered.



**Best in parade**

Trophy for the best float overall in the Otterville Santa Claus parade Saturday went to First Otterville Guides.

Mary Lou Pickering, leader, accepted the trophy from Aubrey Babcock, president of the Spring-Otter Optimist Club, sponsors of this year's parade.



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**HAJDU**  
REAL ESTATE LTD.



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**50 ACRE TOBACCO FARM**  
with 77,047 pounds quota  
Good buildings and equipment  
In Otterville area  
Call: Bob Butler 863-3539  
evenings 879-6807

*CLEN DAVIS FARM*



**Attentive audience**

The residents of Norvilla Nursing Home in Norwich were treated to an afternoon of music when the Norwich Public

School band entertained them Friday afternoon in the school auditorium. (NG Photo)



**W. SANDERS**  
6 Main St., Otterville  
REAL ESTATE 842-6900 - 879-6411



**COMFORTABLE LIVING** - Country setting, good 12½% mortgage, large lot. MLS #3867. Price reduced to \$45,900.



**VENDORS WILL CONSIDER TRADING** this modern brick & aluminum home "no outside painting" for home Langton area. MLS #R3928. Price \$49,000.

**GOOD STARTER HOME** - Lots of potential in this 3-4 bedroom home. Price minus \$3000 GOV'T. GRANT (if you qualify). Could get you on the road to home ownership. MLS #3886. Price \$22,500.

**HANDYMAN OPPORTUNITY** - Modern brick ranch home, modern barn on 2 acres. MLS #2926. Price \$48,900.

**DUPLEX - OWNERS ANXIOUS - TRY YOUR OFFER.** MLS #RM3366. Price \$24,800.

**TOBACCO FARMS**

100 acres, two row equipment, modern barn, 191,620 lbs. quota. MLS #T4091. *LYLE DAVIS FARM*

50 acres, some equipment, 31,200 lbs. quota, \$80,000 down. MLS #T4066.

**Staff**

Larry Hodgson	863-3236	Dan Sanders	842-8329
Dick Sanders	842-8157	Fred Rochus	879-6643
Ingelore Irie	879-6484	Bill Sanders	Broker



# Seniors aid S.A.

OTTERVILLE (C) — On Wednesday, December 15 the members of the Otterville Leisure Club met at the Otterville United Church for their annual Christmas dinner.

Members of the United Church Women catered to the 40 members and visitors in attendance when all enjoyed the delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings.

Following the dinner Mr. and Mrs. Melville Beecroft sang two duets, these were "Deck the Hall with Holly" and "Santa Lucia". Both were much appreciated. Mrs. Jack Walther was the pianist. On behalf of the club Bruce Alexander thanked the ladies for the dinner to which the president Mrs. Jean Gehring responded.

The members left the church for the Woodlawn Centre for a variety program. Evelyn Waring was M.C. for the program, which opened with "Hark, the Harold Angels Sing" with Elsie McSpadden playing the accompaniment on the accordion. An opening greeting to the members was given by Mrs. Waring who also introduced the visitors, namely Mrs. McSpadden of Milldale and Fred Jull of Mount Elgin, each one having come to assist with the program.

The Christmas story was read by Violet Cole and was followed with a humorous reading by Mrs. Douglas Carroll. Nellie Taylor of Norwich, a member of the club, gave a piano solo "Star of the East". A reading "Somebody's Mother" was recited by Mrs. James Squance.

Annie Pritchard chose for her reading "Chicken Dinner" and this was followed with whistling numbers by Mrs. Waring. "A Letter From You To Me" was the reading Mrs.

Cole chose to share with the members.

Mrs. Cole, who has served as secretary-treasurer for many years and now retired, was then presented with a rose gold pin.

Max Avey on behalf of the club voiced the appreciation of her work while in office and the presentation was made by Mrs. Melville Beecroft. The recipient, taken completely by surprise, thanked the club for their kindness.

Fred Jull contributed piano numbers throughout the program and fulfilled requests for numbers from the members. The carols sung were accompanied by Mrs. McSpadden on her accordion.

Mr. and Mrs. Melville Beecroft, who were on vacation in Northern Ontario during the summer, showed slides of their trip as well as pictures relating to the four-day celebration in Otterville this past summer.

The carol, "Silent Night" closed the program. Many kind thoughts of ap-

preciation were expressed to those who had prepared the program and greetings for Christmas and the holiday season.

The president announced there had been a splendid response made of cash donations and canned goods to be forwarded to the Salvation Army.

# Offer history book gift

While the title may sound like one for a new best selling novel, *South of Sodom* is really an extensive history of the former Township of South Norwich and the reading is probably more interesting than many of today's fictional novels.

It isn't off the presses

yet, but for those looking for an unique Christmas gift for a relative or friend, gift cards, redeemable for the books in February 1983, are available for Christmas giving.

The book *South of Sodom: The History of South Norwich* represents

the culmination of years of work by members of the South Norwich Historical Society and assistants hired through government sponsored projects and it is the first concise and extensive presentation of the history of South Norwich Township.

Contained in its 500 pages of history are chapters on such subjects as the early settlement of the area, lumbering, local government, agriculture, the 1837 Rebellions, railroads, temperance, schools and the black community which once flourished in the township. Each of the settlements and communities within the boundaries of South Norwich will also be highlighted in the book which is highlighted by an array of photos, maps and sketches.

The book, when published, will be available in both soft and hard bound covers.

The name of the book, *South of Sodom*, gives it some colour and refers to another aspect of the early history of the area when the village of Norwich, located north of South Norwich was known as Sodom.

## GIFTS TO CHERISH

Coming in February 1983,

**SOUTH OF SODOM**  
The History of South Norwich  
500 pages of history that you  
won't be able to put down.

Published by the South Norwich Historical Society

In Time For Christmas Giving

We have gift cards redeemable for  
the books in February, 1983

Hard Bound Cover \$20.00

Soft Bound Cover \$15.00

Gift Cards available at:  
Mountain's Barber Shop  
Main St., Norwich  
and

Mountain's Residence  
37 Main St., By The Mill  
Otterville 879-6525  
most evenings after 6 p.m.



## Successful bazaar held in Otterville

OTTERVILLE (C) — The ladies of the St. John's Anglican Church in Otterville held a very successful bazaar in the Parish Hall on Thursday afternoon, Dec. 2.

The hall was in gay colour for the Christmas season and all the goodies for sale were most attractive in keeping with the season. The bake table, well-filled with choice baking of bread, pies, cakes and cookies, was all the customer could desire.

Another table, well arranged with knitting, crafts, plants and suggestions for Christmas, gave the thought that Christmas was not too far away.

The tea tables, where cookies and tea were served, was the spot where neighbour met neighbour for a social chat. One of the older ladies of the

congregation serving and pouring tea was Miss Edna Furlong, 85, who kept a close eye on the tables and was assisted by other ladies.

Another member who has been a faithful worker in the church was Mrs. Winnie McMullen and she, assisted by Mrs. Olive Pickersgill, took their place at the table of needlework and knitted goods.

The ladies graciously welcomed several visitors from the St. Alban's Church in Delhi which is a parish with Otterville St. John's Anglican.

Mrs. Violet Howse was at the door and was in charge of the register which entitled the ladies to a draw on a well-filled stocking.

Mr. David McKibbin carried home the prize. The day was very successful and much was accomplished during the hours of 2-4 p.m.

## Sunshine Club elect slate of officers

OTTERVILLE (C) — The Christmas meeting of the Sunshine Club was held at the home of Etta McSkimming on Thursday evening, December 9 at 8 p.m.

The roll call was answered by the members giving suggestions "Who would help you in a time of need." The roll call suggested by Mrs. McSkimming brought many thankful answers and was responded to by 16 members.

President Sandra Hussey presided for the business and Margaret Shearer, secretary - treasurer, reported that the bazaar which the club sponsored at Norfolk Mall was a decided success.

The lovely afghan made and donated by Dorothy Wardell was won by Francis Daradies of Tillsonburg. Jason Blondeal of Eden made the draw.

A new slate of officers for 1983 was elected and chosen for office as follows: past president - Sandra Hussey; president - Inga Irie; first vice-president - Lily Chisholm; second vice-president - Evelyn Picknell; secretary-treasurer - Nancy Batson; press reporter - Stephanie Durkee; activities - Marion Pettigrew; good cheer - Dorothy Neale.

On behalf of the club Doreen Mountain gave the courtesy remarks to Sandra Hussey, Dorothy Wardell, Etta McSkimming, Muriel Kozuch, and Marjorie Pearce for the enjoyable Christmas Brunch and to the hostess for the warm welcome which she extended to the members.

The next meeting will be held January 13 at the home of Nancy Batson.

# Dinner for Fellowship

OTTERVILLE (C) - The Women's Missionary Fellowship of the Baptist Church held their Christmas meeting on Tuesday evening December 7 in the Sunday School room of the church.

The meeting was preceded by a Christmas dinner at 7 p.m., convened by the social committee Mrs. Fred Hill, Mrs. Jack Walters and Mrs. Ken Lee, assisted by Mrs. Murray Treffry.

The president Wilma Butler presided for the opening service and brought some comparison of the modern Prince William with the Prince of Peace, Lord Jesus, of how Jesus' birth was not known by many people while Prince William's was known worldwide.

Mrs. Butler referred to the prophesy of Christ's birth in Genesis 3: 15 and the roll call was answered by quoting prophesy verses from the Bible.

The president read the slate of officers for 1983 with everyone returning to their same office.

Mrs. Ted Oenema and Mrs. Bruce Stover led in Missionary prayers and the offering was sent to the Herbert Pollard family in Kenya, Africa, for a Christmas gift.

Mrs. Charter Davis was in charge of the devotional program which opened with the reading of Isaiah 9: 6-7. The scripture lesson Luke 2: 7-14 was read by Mrs. John Hansford. Mrs. Davis gave the history of "O Come, All Ye Faithful" and everyone joined in singing it.

The background of these carols was given and then Mrs. Treffry sang "O Holy Night." Miss Margaret Wilcox played "Hark, The Herald Angels Sing" on her violin and Mrs. Hilda Stockmans and Mrs. Paul Hill sang "Joy To The World" accompanied on the piano by Mrs. Butler.

Mrs. Stover told how "Silent Night, Holy Night" originated and Mrs. Bert Hill and Mrs. Butler played it as a piano duet. Mrs. Oenema introduced "It Came Upon The Midnight Clear" and everyone joined in singing it. Mrs. Earl Cooper sang a solo "Once In Royal David's City." Mrs. Hansford sang "O, Little Town of Bethlehem" with her own accompaniment on the piano after Mrs. Dave Spencer introduced it.

Mrs. Davis reminded the ladies to sing the carols prayerfully and purposefully in true worship of the Christ of Christmas, the

Lord Jesus Christ. Mrs. V. Butler gave the courtesy remarks while Mrs. Hill in

turn thanked Mrs. Butler for her help with the entire meeting.

## Gives talk on Haiti

OTTERVILLE (C) - The members of the United Church Women held their Christmas dinner meeting in the schoolroom of the church with 75 members of the congregation attending.

Prior to the dinner, Rev. Earl Moore offered the blessing. The delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings was served in smorgasbord style and enjoyed by everyone.

Following the dinner

President Jean Gehring welcomed all present and gave a Christmas greeting. Mrs. Leslie Gehring convener of the program and evening conducted the worship service. Five junior girls of the Sunday School sang a chorus with Betty Walther at the piano. Taking part were Katharin Arthur, Marcia McMullen, Shelby McMurchy, Jennifer McMurchy and Amy Gehring.

The president gave a brief treasurer's report of the turkey supper which was held in October.

On behalf of the mem-

bers, Marion Taylor in a few well chosen words, expressed deep appreciation to Rev. and Mrs. Earl Moore who had given of their help through the year and presented them with a gift. Each thanked the ladies for the gift.

Mrs. Gehring introduced the guest speaker Phyllis Heeney of Tavistock who told of her experiences while in Haiti. Showing pictures she was her own commentator. She was thanked by Mrs. Gehring who presented her with a gift. The evening closed with "Silent Night."

### Kenneth I.B. Moore

Kenneth I.B. Moore of Norvilla Nursing Home, Norwich, formerly of Otterville, passed away at Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital on Wednesday, December 29, 1982, in his 93rd year.

Born in South Norwich Township, he was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Byron Moore. A life-long resident of the area he had farmed in the Otterville district for many years.

His wife the former Eva Jane Lowrie predeceased him in 1961.

Surviving are three daughters Mrs. Kenneth (Jean) Wheaton of Aylmer, Mrs. Daisy Pennington and Mrs. Robert (Marion) Pettigrew, both of Otterville; one son, Arthur L. Moore of Otterville; 11 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandson.

Resting at the Arn and Son Funeral Residence, Norwich, where service will be held today (Friday) at 2 p.m. conducted by Rev. Earl S. Moore.

Pallbearers will be Randall Pettigrew, Cameron Pettigrew, Brian Pettigrew, Gordon Pennington, Brent (Sunny) Pennington and Tim Moore.

Interment in Otter Cemetery, Otterville.

### Births

NARANCSIK - Julius and Janet are pleased to announce the birth of their son Brendan Alexander on December 2, 1982, weighing 7 lbs. 8 ozs. 5

## Take course in rug braiding

Summerville W.I. members met at the home of Mrs. K. Arthur for their annual Christmas dinner with 12 members present.

Meeting followed the dinner conducted by president Mrs. G. Gehring. Roll call was bring a homemade article that represents Christmas.

It was decided to send two ladies to the rug braiding course being held at Woodstock in January.

Program consisted of carols sung through the evening, readings by Mrs. Keith Arthur and Mrs. A. Arthur, who also showed members how to make a beaded candy cane.

Mrs. S. Arthur presented a humorous skit, Auntie Cheerful and read a poem, Gentleman Friends.

January meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. S. Arthur.

# Lions donate over \$7,000

The Norwich-Otterville Lions Club held its regular meeting on Monday, December 13 at the Norwich Legion with 44 Lions and guests in attendance. The visitors were from the Tillsonburg, Waterford, and St. Williams Lions Clubs.

The guest speaker for the meeting was Deputy District Governor Chester McNall who paid his official visit to the club. Mr. McNall reminded the members of their membership responsibilities, the need for new members and asked the Lions to "share the vision of service" and continue to support the local community projects.

Membership awards for the 1981-82 year were presented to Lions Norm Fidlin, Art VandeByl and Paul Wood. Awards for 100

per cent attendance at Lions meetings for the 1981-82 year were presented to Lions Ed McFarland, Everett Jenkins, Gary Walther, Don Miller, Fred Thompson and Paul Wood. Lion Jenkins also received his 10 year monarch pin.

Lion Jack Whitmore from the Tillsonburg Lions Club made a presentation, explaining cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to the club. The

Norwich-Otterville Lions Club gave moral support to the Tillsonburg Lions Club to investigate the feasibility of local Lions Clubs joining together to sponsor a CPR training program in the area.

The convention draws were won by Lions Carl McMahon and Les Dickson.

The Norwich-Otterville Lions Club has donated

over \$7,000 from the welfare account to various organizations in the community during the period from July 1, 1981 to June 30, 1982. This money was raised through dances, draws and donations to the club.

The Lions Club has also agreed to a substantial donation to the Township of Norwich as its share of the cost of renovating the Otterville pool bathhouse.

The Ontario Historical Society

Founded 1888

NO 2064

Membership Card



1982

NAME MRS. KEN (CATHERINE) MANN



**Otterville Brownie enrolment**

Being enrolled into the first Otterville Brownies November 29 at Otterville United Church are, seated, from left to right, Patricia Countryman, Francine Countryman, Elizabeth Monsere, Joni Ryerse and Melissa Wilkinson.

Standing, from left to right, are junior leader Karen Dow, Trisha Howse, Amy Gehring, Tiffany DeGroote, Pam Hussey, Marci McMullen, Kim Smith and Chris McMullen (Brown Owl).



**Otterville Guide enrolment**

An enrolment ceremony was held for the first Otterville Girl Guides at Otterville United Church on November 29. Seated, from left to right, are Stephanie Balcom, Mary Kramer (junior leader), Christa Darling (junior leader) and Dawn Mounts. Second row from the bottom are, from

left, assistant leader, Roberta McMurchy, Heather Picknell, Jodi Smith, Jennifer Arthur, Jackie Zimmer and leader Mary Lou Pickering. Third row are Tina Irie, Julie DeWachter, Jennifer McMurchy and Cindy Davis. Top row are Kathleen Koster, Suzy Kramer and Nancy Dow.

NORWICH OTTERVILLE LIONS CLUB  
NEW YEARS EVE DANCE  
December 31, 1982  
OTTERVILLE COMMUNITY HALL  
Dancing - 9:00 - 1:00 Lunch  
\$10.00/person 7



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# County remuneration

The following is a list of the remuneration and expenses paid to members of Oxford County council for the year ending Dec. 31, 1982:

	Remuneration And Mileage	Conventions, Conferences	Total
Armstrong, John (Tillsonburg)	5,404.80	—	5,404.80
Burn, Jack (Norwich)	497.78	—	497.78
Calder, Wendy (Woodstock)	6,270.03	—	6,270.03
Cook, Howard (SWOX)	560.00	—	560.00
Cook, Leslie (Woodstock)	6,720.03	2,104.90	8,824.93
Down, Edward (Blandford-Blenheim)	3,211.04	—	3,211.04
Ferrie, Jean (Tillsonburg)	7,202.59	—	7,202.59
Fewster, William (SWOX)	6,719.36	—	6,719.36
Gibb, James (Zorra)	560.00	—	560.00
Gilholm, Robert (Blandford-Blenheim)	3,277.17	—	3,277.17
Hammond, Wallis (Zorra)	7,105.31	557.50	7,662.81
Harris, Douglas (Ingersoll)	6,905.63	—	6,905.63
Heleniak, John (Norwich)	560.00	—	560.00
Hostetler, Neeltje (East Zorra-Tavistock)	560.00	—	560.00
Livingston, Ross (Blandford-Blenheim)	20,224.00	2,587.22	22,811.22
McKay, Donald (East Zorra-Tavistock)	7,033.63	—	7,033.63
Pember, Joseph (Woodstock)	6,537.53	1,354.78	7,892.31
Poole, Philip (Woodstock)	6,720.03	469.15	7,189.18
Smith, Helen (Norwich)	6,249.84	2,345.93	8,595.77
Sweazey, Carman (Norwich)	6,730.88	2,314.92	9,045.80
Tatham, Charlie (Woodstock)	7,840.00	1,086.08	8,926.08
Vogt, Harold (East Zorra-Tavistock)	6,553.60	1,914.70	8,468.30
Wallace, Barry (Zorra)	6,512.16	1,935.45	8,447.61
Warden, Jack (Ingersoll)	6,950.43	1,442.90	8,393.33
Webster, Kenneth (Tillsonburg)	791.00	186.85	977.85
Whitmore, Jack (Tillsonburg)	560.00	—	560.00
Wilson, Cecil (SWOX)	6,357.12	—	6,357.12
Wilson, Walter (SWOX)	560.00	—	560.00
Young, Lenore (Woodstock)	6,720.03	—	6,720.03
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>157,265.01</b>	<b>20,623.92</b>	<b>177,888.93</b>

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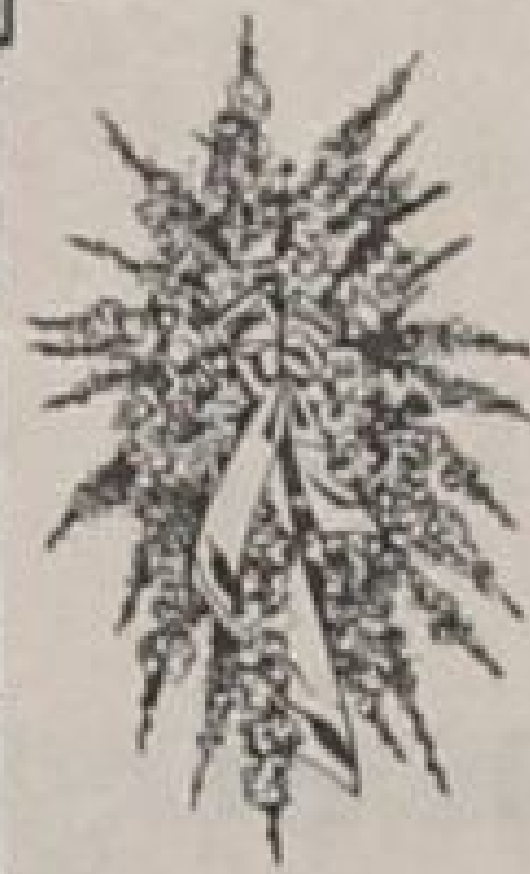
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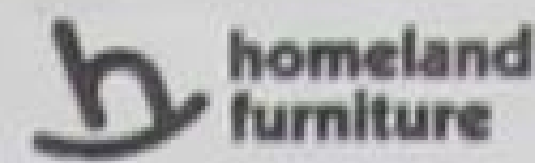
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September 21st, 1982

**To All Friends and Former Customers of the Country Store;**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your past patronage and friendship.

Over 7 years ago when we started doing business out of our small building in Otterville we had no idea that we would be operating a very beautiful Home Centre in 1982. Shortly after our auctions started we realized that we were selling more and more new furniture each week. A decision was made to turn our little building into a furniture store to try and fill the gap that appeared local dealers were not interested in.

We were right.

The people of the Tri-County area wanted quality home furnishings at fair prices.

We grew and grew.

We even built our home on the front lawn.

Last year we had the opportunity to purchase the Home Hardware Store in downtown Otterville. We became involved with Home Hardware Stores of St. Jacobs Ontario. Several hundred stores strong, Home Hardware provides buying power beyond belief. They have revolutionized the entire hardware industry. Early in our relationship with Home Hardware we learned they were undertaking the same revolution in the Furniture and Appliance Industry as they had done in the hardware business several years ago.

We were excited.

The COUNTRY STORE could be no more. Yes, with great regret we closed our by now not so little store several months ago.

Since then we have been papering, painting and polishing. We even installed another front door. We are now CARNEY'S HOME CENTRE.

Yes, a complete Home Centre featuring a full service HOME HARDWARE store and a beautiful new HOMELAND FURNITURE store. We stock a large offering of everything from Furniture, Appliances, Hardware, Gifts, Wood Stoves, Wicker pieces and much much more.

*Special Invitation*

We are pleased to announce the GRAND OPENING of our newly renovated and expanded CARNEY'S HOME CENTRE of Otterville.

Throughout the HOME CENTRE extra Special Savings have been prepared for our GRAND OPENING SALE. However, before we offer these savings to the general public, we are offering these to YOU — our PREFERRED CUSTOMER, giving you the opportunity for Preferred Selection to pre-shop and to BUY IN ADVANCE from our entire inventory, everything from wood stoves to fine furniture, appliances, hardware, water beds, gifts and more.

CUSTOMER ADVANCE SALE TIMES

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TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 28th ..... 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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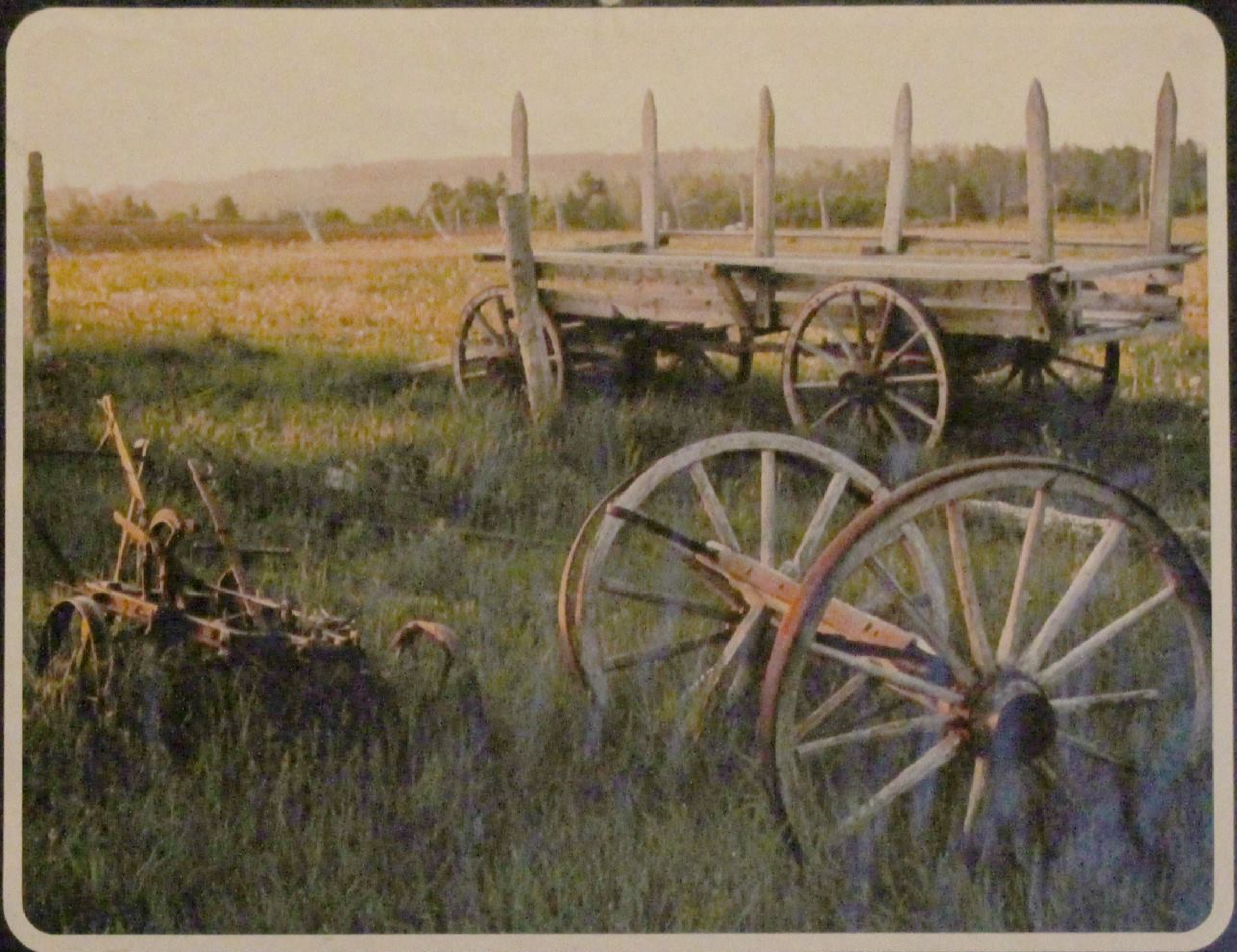
**THE HENHOUSE**  
(By JOHN DE BOER)

Located on my parents farm in Oxford County, this chicken barn reflects a period of local history, which may never be preserved. Built in the early nineteen forties, this two story structure has been productive until last

year. Amid plywood patches and broken glass only a few panes of original glass look out from a leaning south wall. Sawdust insulation trickles from between the warped grey ribbons of unpainted tongue and groove boards. Loose cedar shingles on a sagging roof flap in the wind, like waving goodbye. Goodbye to the henhouse which served us so well.



Farmers may no longer have to market their produce in the closest small town. Still, the relatively high degree of self-sufficiency farmers enjoy depends on the availability of essential services in commercially viable villages and towns. (Photo courtesy of Tweedsmuir History of Delhi)



Farmyard near Belfast, Prince Edward Island by George Hunter