



Scrapbook Collection of Catherine McMullen Mann

Book #20

1986

By

Catherine McMullen Mann

Preliminary plans for arena renovations get OK from Council

Norwich Township Council has approved preliminary plans on possible renovations to the mezzanine level of the arena in the Norwich Community Centre.

Council also gave the engineering firm of J. Bryon Wiebe Ltd., Simcoe, the go-ahead to proceed with the final drawings.

Municipal building inspector Doug Wilson said the renovations will provide storage space as well as recreation rooms for the various clubs and associations which presently use the facility.

The preliminary sketch plans were based on input by several township groups including Norwich

Minor Hockey, the Norwich and District Figure Skating Club, the Norwich Musical Society, the Junior 'C' Merchants Hockey Club, the Norwich Karate Club and the township's recreation advisory committee.

The plans call for two large multipurpose rooms and six storage rooms. A cement wall will run east-west along the mezzanine with movable wooden partitions separating the rooms.

The estimated cost of the engineering plans will be \$3,500, said Mr. Wilson.

Coun. Mark Harrison said last Monday that he would like to have seen some consideration given to the

possibility of a health club needing future quarters in the renovated mezzanine.

Last summer, Tom Lamos, of Tillsonburg, approached Council with the hopes it would consider a quasi-partnership in the establishment of a health club at the arena. The proposal, however, was not looked too favourably by the council members at the time.

With recent talk of Norwich District High School perhaps closing in the not-too-distant future, Coun. Harrison said planning for a health club or similar facility might be wise since many students would miss out on extra-curricular sports if the school were to cease operation.

Construction in Township up 24 per cent in 1985

Construction totalling \$2,835,438 took place in Norwich Township in 1985, up 24 per cent from 1984.

Declining interest and mortgage rates are probably the two main reasons for the surge in construction in the past year, believes Township Building Inspector Doug Wilson.

"I think people were just holding off waiting for more favourable rates," he said Thursday.

In 1984, construction totalled \$2,148,330, \$751,000 of which

represented the construction of 14 family dwellings. Last year 25 homes valued at \$1,680,000 were built.

During 1985, Ward 3 (North Norwich) experienced the most building activity with construction totalling \$937,038, followed by Ward 1 (South Norwich) with \$769,400; Ward 2 (Norwich), \$643,000, and Ward 4 (East Oxford), \$486,000.

There were nine new homes built

in Norwich, six in Ward 1, six in Ward 3, and four in Ward 4.

For the last month of 1985, building permits representing construction projects totalling \$232,000 were issued by the municipality.

Most of the activity took place in Ward 3 (North Norwich) with construction projects valued at \$215,000 taking place. Permits for two new single-family dwellings were issued, one costing \$90,000 and the other \$75,000. Cattle pens worth \$50,000 were also built.

In Ward 1, total construction totalled \$11,000 with the erection of an \$8,000 drive shed and a \$3,000 storage shed.

A truck repair shop valued at \$6,000 was built in Ward 4. There was no new construction in Ward 2.

Norwich Township Council briefs

Appointments to committees

Norwich Township Council appointed members to three of its advisory committees at a meeting Monday.

Appointed to the Culture and Recreation Advisory Committee were: Tony Amalfa, Les Buckrell, George Davis, Don Miller, Marjorie Seitz, and Bill Smith.

Named to the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee were: Joyce Pettigrew, R.R. 1, Otterville; Ida Singer, R.R. 1, LaSalette; Marie Avey, Norwich Simon Erkelens, R.R. 1, Norwich Helen Dickson, R.R. 2, Burgessville Wanda Kelner, R. R. 4, Woodstock, Councillor Dan Wagner and Mayor John Heleniak. The mayor is also the ex-officio member of the Culture and Recreation Advisory Committee.

Fred Thompson, Joan DeWitte, Dr. Russell Hall, Eric Mannell, Murray Hilliker and Joan DeWitte were named to the Medical Centre Advisory Committee.

Council, however, has been unable to find a representative for the Cemetery committee and would welcome volunteers.

Tender awarded

Michael Ash Construction Ltd. has been awarded the tender for the replacement of the doors to the Otterville Hall.

The Otterville company's bid was \$1,250, one of three submitted for the job. The tender was \$25 higher than the lowest bid, submitted by Bud Webb Aluminum.

Garbage pick up

With the local Holbrook Landfill site less than six months away from closing, Council has begun investigating the merits of township-wide garbage pick-up.

Agriculture and Public Works has been instructed to study the matter as to cost and feasibility.

Councillor-at-Large Helen Smith told Council that the ratepayers of the Township of Blandford-Blenheim, pay about \$30 per year for the service.

"A lot may spend that much driving to the landfill site."

Insurance rates to increase dramatically

Norwich Township hasn't got its bill yet for its 1986 insurance insurance premiums, but they'll likely be in for a shock.

"I can't project what the costs will be," said Hank Roy, the Township's agent with Frank Cowan Insurance, "but it's fair to say it'll probably be a substantial increase."

Last week, South West Oxford Township learned that their premiums will jump almost 100 per cent over last year. Norwich Township's neighbour to the west is also covered by Frank Cowan Insurance.

Mr. Roy noted however, that Norwich Township's rates won't necessarily increase to the same degree as South West Oxford's since each municipality is looked at individually.

Under Norwich's policy, which comes up for renewal in April and covers municipal liability, is valued at \$10 million. Last year it cost the Township slightly more than \$12,000

in premiums. Including other policies--i.e insurance on municipal vehicles, fires, councillors, etc.-- the municipality paid \$40,005 in premiums, said treasurer Reg Saunders.

According to Mr. Roy, it's the liability premiums that really subject to the drastic increases.

Over the past several years the number of liability claims against municipalities have increased dramatically as have court awarded

settlements to complainants, said the agent.

"The courts have just gone crazy," said Mr. Saunders citing a recent law suit in Brampton where a young boy on a dirt bike seriously injured himself on municipal property. Even though the lands were posted stating motorbikes were not allowed, the family of the youngster won a million dollar plus settlement.

Mr. Roy said no premiums have been set yet for Norwich Township.

Dog catching service raises fee

Despite an annual increase of \$360 for its services, Norwich Township Council has decided to keep doing business with the Canine Control Shelter.

The Simcoe-based company increased its monthly fee from \$600 to \$630, citing increases in the price of gas, wages, hydro, truck insurance, a food for the animals.

Canine Control Shelter owner James Davison said he makes about

three or four trips per week into the Township to collect stray dogs and cats. Last year, the shelter rounded up more than 100 dogs and "lots of cats."

Councillor Dan Wagner suggested to Council that the Township might be wise to advertise for another dog catcher who would be closer to the municipality and collect the animals for less money.

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Mayor John Heleniak, however, noted that many municipalities, including Norwich Township, have tried to figure out a cheaper way to round-up strays but have been unable to.

The problem is not so much catching the animals, said Coun. Larry Martin, but setting up a shelter and maintaining it.

"Housing, trucking, and disposing of the animals has all got to be done properly, and that's quite an expense," he said.

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO January 1911

George Travis went to Guelph on Monday, where he will act as assistant dairy instructor for the winter term at the Ontario Agricultural College.

Messrs. Fairchild and Webster, civil engineers, have closed their Tillsonburg office.

Springford - The Niagara power poles are being put up through the village this week. About 30 men are employed on the job here.

Norwich Township considers snowmobile control bylaw

An inconsiderate snowmobiler racing through the streets of Norwich early Saturday morning almost spelt disaster for the Township's responsible snowmobiling fraternity.

After hearing of "numerous" complaints about the Saturday morning incident, Council came dangerously close to effectively banning the operation of snowmobiles between the hours of 11:30 p.m. and 7 a.m. within the Township.

Mayor John Heleniak said he received two complaints and the police department five concerning the lone snowmobiler who was operating his machine down Norwich streets between midnight and 4 a.m. Police apprehended the suspect and charges are pending.

The mayor suggested that Council might consider a by-law to regulate the operation of snowmobiles since the municipality's noise by-law, he claimed, is difficult for police to enforce.

Suggesting the by-law be patterned along the same lines as Tillsonburg's snowmobile by-law, Mr. Heleniak stated that a snowmobiler could operate his vehicle between the curfew hours so long as the operator was travelling directly to or from his or her place of residence.

Since there have been few complaints from the rural areas, Coun. Norm Lusk suggested the by-law only pertain to the built-up areas in the Township. "If we're going to satisfy the will of the people, I would say that's the way to go."

However, Coun. John McNally, a farmer, said people like himself living in the country shouldn't be discriminated against noting that rural residents have problems from time to time with snowmobilers buzzing around late at night too.

If the Norwich Police are going to enforce a snowmobile by-law in Oxford Centre, said Coun. Robert Martin, it would should not be any more inconvenient to travel "an extra half-mile to my place."

"But where's the snowmobile going to be by the time the officer gets

dressed and gets to the scene," said Councillor-at-Large Helen Smith.

"By the time he got there, (the snowmobiler) would be gone. You couldn't enforce this by-law. I think it's a complete waste of time myself," answered Coun. Larry Martin.

"If we were always worried about a law that was difficult to enforce, we wouldn't have anything on the books," said Robert Martin.

Tongue-in-cheek, Larry Martin predicted that passage of such by-law would result in a purchase order of a snowmobile by the Township police so they could give proper chase to the lawbreakers.

"I think it may be best to leave it

under the noise by-law," added the Ward 4 councillor.

This sentiment was echoed by Norwich Township Police Chief Bob Knight, who said Tuesday that present laws are sufficient for police to combat the late night snowmobiler. "Both the noise by-law or a careless driving charge under the Highway Traffic Act are sufficient."

He said the noise by-law worked well in stopping a motorcycle rider two summers ago in Oxford Centre who was making disturbing neighbours on his homemade motorcycle track.

The motion to enact the township-wide by-law was defeated unanimously.

Employees demanding clean air at work

by PETER McLAUGHLIN

A ticklish situation is developing between the smokers and non-smokers who keep the wheels of government turning in this tobacco producing municipality.

A lobby of four non-smokers at the Norwich Township offices in Otterville have demanded that either the smokers within the building--of which there are five--butt-out or in some way provide them with clean air.

Since March, the group asked Township Council to "either give us clean air or stop smoking," said non-smoker Yvonne Harrison, Tuesday.

Presently, the non-smokers, all of whom work upstairs, are using three desk top air ecologizers--"but they're not doing the job."

Mrs. Harrison, Clerk-administrator Bob Watkins' secretary, said Council promised to look into the matter last March but nothing became of it. A second letter was sent in December and it too was shuffled off until Mayor John Heleniak brought it up again at Monday's meeting.

Mrs. Harrison's cigarette and pipe-smoking boss told Council that indeed the problem between the two factions has been a longstanding one.

Coun. Mark Harrison made a motion suggesting the clerk be instructed to obtain quotations for two electronic air cleaners for the upstairs of the municipal office.

Office workers should be allowed fresh, clean air, he said.

"The problem is if we go to this, and in the next six months maybe passing a by-law prohibiting smoking and then the two air cleaners will not doing any good," said Coun. Robert Martin, citing a point made by Coun. Paul Wood that the cities of Toronto and London have passed such by-laws prohibiting smoking in public places.

"I don't think in six months or six years in this particular township you'd see such a by-law," said Coun. Harrison. "It would be suicide."

Both parties, said Coun. Larry Martin, have a right to either smoke or not smoke.

Following the discussion, the clerk was advised to price suitable air cleaners.

Important Notice

TO OUR HYDRO CUSTOMERS BURGESSVILLE- NORWICH-OTTERVILLE

A rate review has been completed for the customers of the Norwich Public Utility Commission to ensure adequate financing for maintaining and operating the hydro system.

Effective with all energy used on and after January 1st, 1986, the following rates will apply, subject to Ontario Hydro approval.

MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES RESIDENTIAL SERVICE

First	250kWh at	8.22c
All Additional	kWh at	4.55c
Minimum bill	\$5.00	

Flat Rate Water Heating - Schedule No. 266

GENERAL SERVICE

Billing Demand		
First	50 kW	No Chg.
Balance	kW	\$3.70 per kW
Energy Charges		
First	250 kWh at	8.22c
Next	12,250 kWh at	5.0c
		3.51c
All additional	kWh at	
Minimum bill	\$5.00	

Above rates are NET with a 5 per cent late payment charge for bills paid after the final date for net payment.

NORWICH PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Box 460, Norwich, Ontario N0J 1P0, 863-2435

Norwich smoking feud flares up at council meeting

By Ben Steidman
Staff Writer

NORWICH — A long-standing feud between smokers and non-smokers at township municipal offices in Otterville has finally flared into the open.

In a letter to Council at its last meeting, four non-smoking employees, who work upstairs, implored councillors to install two electronic air cleaners.

Apparently, this is the second let-

ter sent to Council within the past year urging action to clear up this sticky situation.

Whatever Council ultimately decides to do, it will place itself squarely on the horns of a dilemma. The non-smoking employees maintain they've a right to breathe clean air in the workplace.

Any action that appears to favour the non-smoking faction cannot fail to rile up township tobacco growers, faced with critical financial and marketing problems.

Ironically, a report from the Committee of Concerned Tobacco Area Municipalities, in which Mayor John Heleniak is a key player, was submitted at the same meeting.

Some councillors drew attention to this attempt to promote smoking while at the same time Council is faced with an anti-smoking campaign in its midst.

Later in the week, Mayor Heleniak pointed out the staff's request was evidently an attempt to soften the effects of secondary cigarette smoke,

which appears to bother these non-smoking employees.

At the meeting, Councillor Paul Wood said the percentage of people smoking is falling. He also said cities such as Toronto and London have passed bylaws prohibiting smoking in public places.

But Councillor Larry Martin said "no one has the right to tell others not to smoke."

Councillor Robert Martin speculated that in "six months" Council

could very well approve "a bylaw prohibiting smoking." There would be no need for air cleaners then, he added.

Any attempt to pass such a bylaw in Norwich would be "suicide," retorted Councillor Mark Harrison.

Although both production and revenue have slumped in the past few years, last year growers produced some \$18.5-million worth of tobacco, according to the report.



And they all fell down

This group of Otterville Public School students enjoyed a bit of horse-play on the outdoor rink at the Hoffman residence on Main Street West in Ot-

terville Tuesday afternoon. The girls, all friends of Stacey Hoffman, find the rink a popular spot after school. (Staff Photo)



Otterville principal taken prisoner

Otterville Public School Principal Cathy Murphy was taken prisoner by the study body Friday. The students went on strike and kidnapped their once beloved principal because she disrupted classes earlier in the day by ordering the janitor to teach French, the math teacher to teach

geography, and so on. It was "Clash Day" on campus, and clash the students did. Ms Murphy had to sing for her captors before she was released. (McLaughlin photo)

Otterville school plan approved by board

OTTERVILLE (C)--The sketch plans of the new addition to the Otterville Public School, outlined by architect Leonard Dickson, were passed by the Oxford County Board of Education at the regular board meeting held Monday evening, January 13. The next step will be approval by the Ministry of Education, hopefully to be secured shortly.

Presently initial changes in preparation for the new construction is the busing of the Kindergarten children to North Norwich Public School, Burgessville, where their class is held on alternate days with the N.N.P.S. Kindergarten class both instructed by teacher Donna McLellan.

The Kindergarten room, now used by Mrs. Anna Orth and her class allows their classroom to be prepared for another class to use in the future.

Grades 1 to 3 enjoyed an afternoon of bowling at the Norwich Bowling Lanes, Thursday, January 16. This week on Thursday, January 23 the same group of children will be visiting the Tillsonburg General Hospital, which correlates with their present curriculum.

Many Otterville students participated in the Branch 190 Norwich

Royal Canadian Legion Poster and Literary contests. The winners from Otterville were Poster Contest Grades 7-9: First- Kelly Bock; Second- Joey Comeau; Third- Darren Forsyth; Poetry Grades 4-6: First- Francine Countryman; Second- Shelby McMurchie; Grades 7-9: First- Cindy Davis; Second- Roger Cyr; Third- Debbie Anderson.

Registration for children who will attend Kindergarten in September 1986 will be held at Otterville Public School on Tuesday, February 11 from 1:00 to 5: p.m. Children who will be five years of age by December 31, 1986 are eligible for registration.

Proof of age and the most recent Municipal Enumeration Notice showing tax support are requested to complete the registration.

The children who are to be registered are to be present to meet various people including the school nurse, the resource teacher and other school staff.

An appointment time, arranged by telephone to the school, will allow a pre-registration information package to be sent to the parents so that most of the required information can be filled out ahead of time.

On Friday, January 31 at 1:00 p.m.

Guidance representatives from Tillsonburg and Norwich schools will be at the school to discuss Grade nine curricula and to answer any questions regarding their high school programs for 1986-87. Parents are encouraged to attend this meeting since important decisions relating to the future education of students will be made in the next few weeks.

To drive away the winter blues, Otterville school has scheduled five special events to be held each Day 5 for the next five cycles. The special days are Lucky Day, Clash Day, Up/Down Day, World Record Day and Participation Day.

Advisory Council meets

OTTERVILLE (C)--The Advisory Council of the Woodlawn Adult Centre held their annual meeting at the "Octagonal House" on Main St. West on Wednesday evening with chairperson Doreen Mountain presiding.

Minutes of the last meeting were read by the secretary-treasurer, Wilma Butler, who also gave the year end financial report, reflecting a good year and increased use of the "house".

The secretary was instructed to make inquiries regarding a locked cover for the furnace switch as it had been inadvertently turned off and the house left without heat on two occasions.

Lack of sufficient flatware for large groups was brought to the attention of the council and Doreen Mountain was authorized to purchase 18 place- settings.

A report on the gazebo restoration indicated it was progressing and would be completed next summer by the Historical Society. Plans were discussed regarding an official opening of the gazebo and it was suggested that it be held on the same day and in connection with a special

event planned at the Treffry Mill. This matter was laid over for further consideration at the next meeting.

Mel Beecroft was instructed to purchase replacement sticks for the shuffleboard game.

The secretary presented the form received from the Township of Norwich to be completed regarding the financial needs of the Council for 1986. It was decided that no major repairs or improvements were anticipated next year and that only the annual grant would be required.

The council was pleased with the increased use of the facility during 1985 but felt its availability for meetings, family gatherings, showers, wedding receptions etc. should be further promoted in the community. Reservations will continue to be made by calling Wilma Butler at 879-6853 or Doreen Mountain at 879-6525.

Adjournment was moved by Doreen Mountain and seconded by Jean Dow.

Sunshine Club meets at Neale home

OTTERVILLE (C)--The Sunshine Club met on January 23 at the home of Dorothy Neale with president Sandra Hussey presiding over the business.

Roll call was answered by 11 members being An old fashioned remedy you still use for colds etc. It was decided to have a draw on a Valentine Cake with Doreen Mountain volunteering to bring the cake.

The next meeting will be held February 13 at the home of Dorothy Wardell. A lovely lunch was served by Etta McSkimming and the hostess with courtesy remarks by Sandra Hussey.

Leisure Club

OTTERVILLE (C)--The Leisure Club met Wednesday, January 22 at the Woodlawn Adult Centre with President Gladys Evans presiding for the business. It was decided to lower the age requirement for life membership to 85. The president brought various tours that were advertised to the attention of the members.

Euchre and aggravation were played. The next meeting will be held February 5 at 12:30 p.m. with a pot luck dinner.

Sunshine Club

OTTERVILLE (C)--The Otterville Sunshine Club met on January 9 at the home of Marg Shearer with nine members braving the stormy night. Several thank you notes for cheer boxes were read. Names of secret friends for the new year were drawn. A delicious lunch was served by Sandra Hussey and the hostess with courtesy remarks by Marion Pettigrew. The next meeting will be held on January 23 at the home of Dorothy Neale.

South Norwich Historical Society meet at Woodlawn

OTTERVILLE (C)--The January meeting of the South Norwich Historical Society was held at the Woodlawn Adult Centre on Monday evening, January 13 featuring guest speaker Wilma Butler.

Introduced by Anna Treffry, Mrs. Butler gave a most interesting talk on the Davis family and her grandfather Rev. John E. Davis of whom many descendants live in this vicinity. Much detail of her talk was based on her grandfather's autobiography, "Life of a Leper" first published in 1917 and reprinted recently.

John E. Davis was born in 1858 in Wicklow, one of eight children, three of whom became ministers as a result of his intensely religious mother. At age 15 he joined the Wicklow Baptist Church, which is the oldest Baptist Church in Ontario, still in use during the summer months.

When 28 he obtained his B.A. from the University of Manitoba, returned to Ontario to be a minister and ap-

plied to become a missionary. After marrying, he left on a two month passage to India with his wife.

He was assigned a mission field of 1,400 square miles. He travelled by ox cart to preach to villagers while his wife was in charge of work at their base.

Later he was placed in charge of a school, training native preachers, where he spent eight and a half years. During this time five children were born, including Stanley and George H. Davis who were both well known Otterville residents.

After a two year furlough in the Fort Hope area, where another son was born they returned to India leaving their three oldest children in Ontario.

In the missionary work in India, Mr. Davis was assisted by Miss Hatch of Woodstock and Miss Gertrude Hulet, of Norwich. He became interested in the plight of the many lepers in India and did considerable work to improve their conditions.

About this time his health deteriorated badly and after medical consultations his problem was diagnosed as leprosy for which there was no adequate treatment at that time.

At age 46, advised to leave India and return to Canada, he lived on a farm on the 7th Concession of South Norwich.

A few years later his health further deteriorated and eyesight failed badly so that in 1910 he signed himself into a Catholic leper hospital in New Brunswick. While there he dictated his autobiography to a nurse and in 1916 Rev. John E. Davis died and was buried at Wicklow.

Mrs. Butler showed a number of her grandfather's pictures and souvenirs and was thanked by Anna Treffry on behalf of the society.

During the business session, Lorraine Downing described a historical kit which she prepared for use in local schools to be seen by the members at a future meeting. The Treffry Heritage Foundation, based

in Spokane, Washington, will be meeting in Otterville, July 4 to 6. The society was asked to cater to a chicken barbeque for the foundation on July 5 at the Treffry Mill, with a decision to be made as soon as possible.

It was decided Lorraine Downing and Joyce Pettigrew would put a display in the Otterville Public Library for the Heritage month of February and the Woodlawn Committee would be paid for use of their building by the society. There was a request made for volunteers to clean up the mill before its spring opening and a trip to Greenfield Village undertaken jointly with the fire department was discussed.

President Ken Mann announced a Mill Committee meeting 7 p.m. and a Executive Meeting 8 p.m. on January 20 at the Woodlawn Adult Centre. Dr. Murray Downing gave a report on the 3rd annual auction outlining some considerations for future auctions.

The evening concluded with refreshments.

St. John's Anglican elects slate of officers

OTTERVILLE (C)--The annual Vestry Meeting of the Otterville St. John's Anglican Church, held Sunday evening at the Parish Hall, commenced with a delicious pot luck supper.

Father Grant D. Darling conducted the meeting with Vestry Clerk, Carl Howse reading minutes of the previous year. Church treasurers' report and budget was presented by Cathy Furlong.

Election of church officers for the year 1986 was conducted the results being Rector's Warden- Jack Freeland; Peoples' Warden- Ross McMullen; Lay Delegates to Synod- Violet Howse, Eva Deveney; Substitute Lay Delegates- Judie Freeman, Ann Rachar; Church Treasurer- Cathy Furlong; Vestry Clerk- Carl Howse. In addition to these church officers Members of the Board are Brian Parr, Audrey Neumann; Art Davies, Art Picknell, Don Freeman, August DeWachter, Lila Freeland and Janet Ryerse.

Reports were given from the Sunday School, Cemetery Board and the Anglican Church Women.

A.C.W. president Kay Darling reported on correspondence from the Tornado Relief Fund and St. Monica House and announced upcoming events for the organization being the Valentine Tea, Friday, Feb. 14; Spring Fashion Show in March and Annual A.C.W. Supper on Sunday May 4.

Church Wardens Jack Freeland and Ross McMullen thanked everyone for their help in the church during the year.

On behalf of all present and members of the church Ann Rachar thanked Father Darling and his wife Kay for their leadership and guidance throughout the year.

Father Darling replied by extending his appreciation to Carl Howse who conducted church services in his absence. He also expressed appreciation from both he and his wife for the support, encouragement and prayers they received from everyone during the very active past year in the church.

St. John's ACW meeting held

OTTERVILLE (C)--The January monthly meeting of the St. John's Anglican Church Women met at the home of Wenda Smith with Vice President Evelyn Picknell opening the meeting with the A.C.W. prayer.

Plans for the Valentine Tea to be held Friday February 14 at the Parish Hall, 1:30-4 p.m. were discussed. Admission will be \$1.00 allowing everyone to enjoy the tea tables, be eligible for door prizes and shop at the craft, bake and penny tables.

The spring Fashion Show will be held in March with a specific date to be announced. The annual ACW supper, to be held Sunday, May 4, was discussed.

Lunch was served by the hostess assisted by Georgina Spicer.

Irish Club

The Irish Club met on Sunday afternoon at the Golden Leaf in Delhi to elect the 1986 executive. Tom Nealon called the meeting to order and John O'Sullivan read the minutes. Tony Murphy was nomination chairman. Tom Nealon of Tillsonburg, was acclaimed as president and John O'Sullivan of Simcoe, as vice-president. Inez Webb of Otterville was elected as secretary and Marilyn Murray of LaSalette, as treasurer. Mariea McNamara was named as membership and telephone convener. Tony Murphy accepted the position of representative to the Multicultural Heritage Association of Norfolk.

The new executive then took over and appointed John McNally of Norwich, Bud Webb and Charlie Weeks of Otterville, as co-conveners for the St. Patrick's dance to be held at the Belgian Hall in Delhi on March 15. The president stated that an Irish band had been engaged for the occasion. Marilyn Murray is in charge of tickets.

The Irish Club will participate in Heritage Day to be held at the German Home in Delhi, on Sunday, Feb. 23. The club will contribute soda bread and pastries as well as Irish Stew for the international buffet. There will also be a display table.

Membership cards for 1986 will be available at the next meeting Sunday, Feb. 9, at 2 p.m. A social hour followed and a tape of Irish songs was supplied by Lucy Gaynor of Tillsonburg.

Otterville WMF

OTTERVILLE (C)--The Womens Missionary Fellowship of the Otterville Baptist Church held their regular meeting on Tuesday evening at the home of Marilyn Treffry.

Hilda Stockmans brought the devotional message for the New Year Choices and Conflicts. Illustrations from the life of Abraham were highlighted. He had many difficult choices to make as God called him to leave family and friends and serve Him in another land. As we enter 1986 we will have many choices to make, many conflicts to conquer and will come to many crossroads where we must obey Gods leading and be persistent as we step out for Christ. Stepping out with God, is stepping up.

Jane Haggith was in charge of the devotional program with the scripture lesson, Philippians 2: 1-18 being read by Marilyn Treffry. Missionary letters were read and Jane Haggith, Gail Spencer and Hilda Stockmans will reply this month.

"How Long Has It Been Since You Prayed To The Lord" was sung by Gail Spencer followed by Jane Haggith, Marilyn Treffry, Hilda Stockmans and Gail Spencer performing "Victory To Jesus."

The president, Wilma Butler, conducted the business session. Minutes were read by the secretary, Betty Oenema and the treasurers report was given by Norma Davis. Lorraine Davis collected the used stamps that the ladies had saved over the past year which will be forwarded to the Leprosy Mission.

Announcements of guest speakers for future meetings were Miss Audrey Finkbeiner, teacher with Christian Service Centres at the Otterville School, at the February meeting and the McCall family, missionaries on furlough from South America telling of their work at the March meeting, a family supper.

The evening concluded with refreshments served by the hostess assisted by ladies of the group. Wilma Butler gave the courtesy remarks.

Violet Rebekah Lodge

OTTERVILLE (C)--Violet Rebekah Lodge opened in regular form with N.G. Sister Ann Arthur and V.G. Sister Jean McClintock presiding. There were no visitors and calling roll of officers showed five absent.

V.G. Sister Jean McClintock reported Brother Clayton Arthur back in hospital. Get well cards had been sent to Sister Annie Godby, Helen Millard, Bryce Smith and Brother Clayton Arthur. Sympathy cards had been sent to Ila Howse in the loss of her mother and Sister Vera Welsh in the loss of her aunt.

It was reported Sisters Betty Addington and Eva Hill were sick with colds. A card of thanks was read from Sister Edith Avey for the plant that had been sent her at Christmas.

A discussion was held on a meeting place for the Rebekahs with no decision reached.

Lodge closed in regular form followed by a social time.

Otterville

Joyce McMullen
Main St., Otterville

OTTERVILLE (C)--The January meeting of the Summerville Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. Donald Barnim.

After a short business meeting the program was taken by Mrs. Barnim who conducted a game, then introduced the guest speaker Mrs. Jill Richardson, who is Activities Director at Norvilla Nursing Home in Norwich.

Mrs. Richardson spoke on the many crafts and activities that are enjoyed by the residents. She further illustrated this through displaying some of the crafts they had made. She was thanked by Mrs. Barnim and presented with a gift.

The meeting closed and a social hour enjoyed. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Lorne Treffry.

During the weeks ahead until the end of February, Story Hour is again being held at the Otterville Public Library.

Twenty-two children registered for the winter session held on Wednesday and Thursday mornings, 10 to 11 a.m., for pre-schoolers ages 2 to 5 years.

The children are involved in activities of stories, crafts, songs, games and related activities following weekly themes.

Thursday sessions are being lead by Deborah Lee with Wednesday sessions being co-lead by Joyce McMullen, Sue Finch, Marilyn Driedger and Marlene Haggith. Sessions are planned to be held in the spring as well.

The Christmas dinner meeting of the Summerville Women's Institute was held at the Town Hall with 20 members attending.

After a very bountiful meal a short meeting was held. A very enjoyable Christmas program conducted by Mrs. Donald Arthur and Mrs. Keith Arthur followed.

Different beautiful Christmas readings and also a short play in which several members took part were presented. The singing of Christmas carols with Mrs. Jack Walther at the piano brought the evening to a close.

Foot care clinic

OTTERVILLE (C) -- The Foot Care Clinic operated by the Tillsonburg VON will be taking place at the home of Evelyn Waring, 9 Main St., Otterville, on Jan. 28, at 1 p.m. This is the fourth Tuesday of the month which is the regular clinic date.

Otterville UCW

OTTERVILLE (C) - The UCW met Jan. 16 with newly-elected president Nancy Walther presiding.

Elaine Oliver gave the meditation on Beauty.

Stella Hanson read Scripture from Ecc. 3:1-13 and Ann Arthur led in prayer. During worship, Elsie McSpadden played her accordion.

Guest speaker was Jean McEwan who spoke and showed slides of her recent Observer tour to China.

The beef supper is to be held April 16 and World Day of Prayer is March 7 in Otterville United Church.

Lions back Faturnak for governor

The regular meeting of Norwich-Otterville Lions club was held Monday, January 13 at the Norwich Legion Hall.

Lion Chief Paul Wood welcomed three guests and 35 members. Dinner was served by the members of the Eastern Star.

Tickets for the coming fish fry to be held March 29 were distributed, as well as tickets on a snowblower to be drawn for the same night. Tickets for both are available from any member. Music for the dance to be supplied by "Carmen".

The New Years Eve dance and draw were a success due largely to the ticket chairmen Lion Andy Buck and Lion Harold Kirktown. A motion of appreciation was made by Lion Chief Paul Wood.

Lion Ed Faturnak, from Ridgeway Lions Club, was introduced. He is currently chairman of the Lions youth exchange program, and gave some information on the program as to availability to young people, even to partially handicapped.

Lion Ed is also a candidate for District Governor of A2 for 1986-87. The election will be held at the convention in Niagara falls in May. It was agreed that the Norwich-Otterville Lions would support Lion Ed for Governor.

Lion Colin Cope reminded Lions that we have a project of collecting used eye glasses to be forwarded to Third World Countries. If anyone has any used glasses to dispose of, call any Lion Member to pick them up.

Twenty year membership pins were presented to Lion Andy Vandeberghe, Lion Murray Wardell and Lion Fred Thompson. Ten year membership awards were presented to Lion Lou Ferraro, Lion Gary Walther and Lion Colin Cope. Convention draw winners were Lion Dave Baxter and Lion Harold Kirktown.

VON director guest of Lions

OTTERVILLE (C)—The regular meeting of the Norwich-Otterville Lions Club was held in the Community Hall, Otterville on Monday evening, January 27. The president Paul Wood presided. There was a smaller than usual attendance of 28 members and one guest, due to stormy weather.

The guest speaker, Kathy Desai, was introduced by Lion Murray Downing. Kathy is the executive director of the Oxford V.O.N. with head-quarters located in Oxford County Library, Woodstock.

Kathy has been working in Oxford since 1968. During this time the work of the organization has increased each year and now employs a total personnel of 26, employed mostly with home care throughout the county.

A slide presentation was used to illustrate the work of the V.O.N. This showed the many varied services utilized in an effort to treat more patients in the home to free hospital beds for more acute cases. The V.O.N. is a non-profit organization with voluntary committees able to offer better service at a lesser cost then could be provided through governmental services.

Volunteer personnel also assist by reading to patients, helping with shopping and many other aspects of daily living.

Mrs. Desai thanked the local lions club for past financial support and intimated that future support would help greatly in adding additional

services to the Norwich-Otterville area. Lion Gary Walther thanked the speaker and presented a gift in appreciation.

Lion president Paul presented Lion Lou Ferraro with 10 year membership pin.

The next regular meeting,

February 10, will be the annual "Family Night" to be held in the Norwich Legion Hall. There will also be a fish-fry, ladies invited, for the regular meeting of March 10 in the Norwich Legion Hall.

Convention draw winners were Lions Mort Cooper and Bill Orth.

Opt-Mrs report

The Spring-Otter Opti-Mrs participated in both the Norwich Christmas parade and the Otterville Santa Claus parade.

They provided lots of hot chocolate and doughnuts to warm up the participants and spectators alike after the Otterville parade.

The draw for the Cabbage Patch Twins was won by Mrs. Pat Chambers, of Burford. The new year started off with a bang for the Opti-Mrs with the induction of two new members, Nicole Smith and Diane Guertin.

Eight members were present at the Woodlawn Community Centre for the first meeting of 1986. It was decided to change the meetings to

Sunday afternoons until May. The February meeting, to be held Sunday, February 2 at 2 p.m., will be the scene of nominations for new officers, with elections in March.

Some of the Opti-Mrs. will be attending the second Quarter board meeting of the South Western Ontario district of Optimist International at the Wheels Inn in Chatham February 8 with their husbands. This should prove an interesting experience for some of the ladies who have never attended such a function.

January 17 Teen Dance was a smashing success with over 50 students in attendance. Here's hoping to see them all again at the February 14 Valentine Teen Dance at the Otterville Town Hall.

CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL

Saturday, January 25, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.
Otterville Town Hall

This month's features include...

- "Another Fine Mess" with Laurel and Hardy
- "Crickets Make Me Nervous"
- "The Magic Wheel"
- "Momma's Little Pirate" with The Little Rascals
- "A Tale Of Two Critters" or "Superlative Horse"

"FREE Admission, FREE Popcorn, FREE Drinks"
"Door Prizes"

Compliments of...

Spring  Otter

OPTIMIST CLUB

John E. Davis

Proprietor of Davis Bros. Plumbing and Heating in Otterville, John E. Davis of 44 Main St. E., Otterville, passed away at his residence on Tuesday, Jan. 14, 1986, in his 60th year.

Born in Otterville, Dec. 15, 1926, he was a son of the late George Davis and the former Edna Wyatt. Mr. Davis was a member of Otterville United Church; president of the Otterville Cemetery Board; Past Master of St. John's Masonic Lodge No. 104, Norwich, AF & AM; and was past president of the Norwich-Otterville Lions Club.

Surviving are his wife, the former Barbara Morrison; one daughter, Miss Nancy Davis at home; two sons, David and his wife Suzanne Davis of London and Peter John Davis at home; three sisters, Mrs. Leonard (Patricia) Neale of Tillsonburg, Mrs. Jack (Dorothy) Stanford and Mrs. Carolyn Ellington, both of Teeterville; one brother, George Davis of Otterville; and several nieces and nephews.

Resting at the Ostrander's Funeral Home, Tillsonburg, until Friday noon, thence to Otterville United Church for service at 2 p.m. conducted by Rev. Charles Seed.

Interment in Otter Cemetery, Otterville.

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

Visitation to commence on Thursday, at 2 p.m.

A Masonic service will be held at the funeral home on Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m.

John E. Davis

Funeral service for the late John E. Davis of 44 Main St., Otterville, who passed away on Jan. 14, 1986, was held at Otterville United Church on Jan. 17 at 2 p.m. conducted by Rev. Charles Seed.

Pallbearers were Don Pettigrew, Jim McElhone, Jim McMurchy, Murray Wardell, Bob Van Parys and Gordon Shearer.

A Masonic service was held at the Ostrander's Funeral Home, Tillsonburg, on Jan. 16 at 7:30 p.m. under the auspices of St. John's Masonic Lodge No. 104, AF & AM, Norwich conducted by W.M. Wor. Bro. Reg Wavell and Chaplain Rt. Wor. Bro. Victor Moore. Also taking part were Bro. H.D. Herring, Rt. Wor. Bro. Harry Hanson and Bro. Norman Ryder.

Interment in Otter Cemetery, Otterville.

Bernard Robeys

Bernard Robeys of RR 1, Norwich, passed away at Victoria Hospital, South Street Campus, London, on Wednesday, Jan. 29, 1986, in his 86th year.

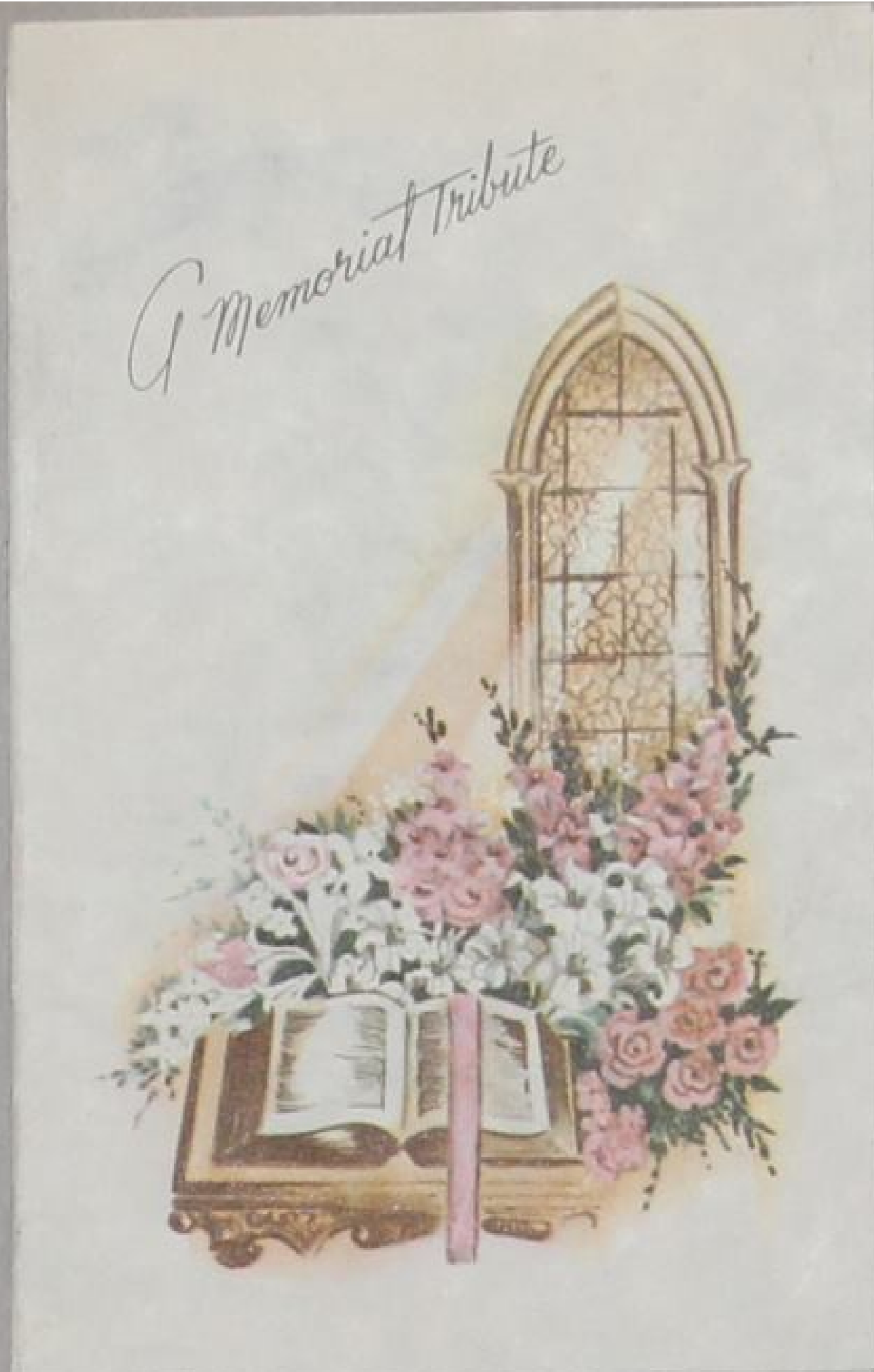
Born at Herzale, East Flanders, Belgium, he was a tobacco farmer in North Norwich Township. He was a member of Our Lady of LaSalette R.C. Church.

Surviving is one son, Marcel Robeys of RR 1, Norwich; one daughter, Mrs. Henry Toulman of Delhi; two grandchildren; and two brothers, Achiel and Francis, both in Belgium.

Rested at the Arn and Son Funeral Residence, Norwich, until Tuesday, Feb. 4, thence to Our Lady of LaSalette R.C. Church for Mass of the Christian Burial said by Fr. Graham.

Pallbearers were Theo, Walter and Guido Vandekerckhove, Art Moore, Gordon Lee and Orton Kyes.

Interment in LaSalette R.C. Cemetery.



Eugene Kozuch

Eugene F. Kozuch of Kitchener passed away Thursday, January 9, 1986 at the Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital in his 63rd year after a lengthy illness. He was born in Kracow, Poland in 1923. He was predeceased by his father, Frank in 1956 and his mother, Kathrina in 1959 of R.R. 1 Otterville and a brother, Walter of R.R. 1 Otterville in 1980, and his wife Mary on September 21, 1985.

He is survived by his daughter Mrs. David (Maria Gene) Mayville of Kitchener and two grandchildren, Rebecca and Amy. He is also survived by one sister Stella Guiel of Waterloo, and three brothers Henry of Otterville, Edward of Woodstock, Richard of Simcoe and several nieces and nephews.

Eugene F. Kozuch served in the Royal Canadian Navy in World War 2. He worked for 21 years at Merchant Rubber in Kitchener and retired after ill health in 1978.

He rested at the Ratz and Bechtel Funeral Home and Cremation has since taken place. He will be buried at the Woodlawn Cemetery in Kitchener. Any donations may be put in his name to the Sunbeam Home c Ratz and Bechtel Funeral Home, 621 King Street West, Kitchener, Ontario.

Kenneth Anson Quintin

Kenneth Anson Quintin of Woodstock, formerly of Burgessville, passed away at Woodstock General Hospital on Monday, Jan. 27, 1986, in his 78th year.

Born in Nelson Township, Halton County, he was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Quintin. He moved with his family as a youth to Otterville, later purchased a farm in East Oxford where he retired, then moved to Burgessville and later to Woodstock where he resided with his step-daughter. His wife the former Mary Louise Gardner predeceased him in 1982.

Surviving is a step-daughter, Mrs. Mary Gillis of Woodstock; two sisters Mrs. Lila Savill of Tillsonburg and Mrs. Ruby Myers of Point Edward; and a brother, Valerian Quintin of Norwich.

He was predeceased by two brothers, Milton and Arthur.

Rested at the Arn and Son Funeral Residence, Norwich, where the funeral and committal service was held Thursday, Jan. 30 at 2 p.m. conducted by Rev. Gordon Simmons of Sparta.

Interment in Oxford Centre Pioneer Cemetery later in the spring.

St. John's Lodge

A. F. & A. M.

No. 104 — — — — G.R.C.


Established A.L. 5858 — — — — A.D. 1858

Norwich — — — — Ontario



REGULAR MEETINGS
THIRD MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

	WOR. BRO. REGINALD G. WAVELL	
	W.M.	
Otterville	NOJ 1R0	879-6975
	V. WOR. BRO. HARRY A. HANSON	
	Secretary	
Burgessville	R.R. 2 NOJ 1C0	424-9791



FUNERAL SERVICE FOR

John E. Davis

of Otterville

In his 60th year
Beloved husband of
Barbara Davis

PASSED AWAY

At his residence on Tuesday
January 14, 1986

Resting at Ostrander's Funeral Home
Tillsonburg until Friday noon, thence
to Otterville United Church for ser-
vice at 2:00 p.m.

CLERGY

Rev. Charles Seed

INTERMENT

Otter Cemetery, Otterville

Norwich spends \$1.4-million for road work

By Ben Steidman
Staff Writer

NORWICH — Township Council earmarked some \$1.2-million in 1985 for road work, but actually spent close to \$1.4-million.

However, according to a recent study on township roads, those expenditures are just the tip of the iceberg needed to maintain Norwich's road system at acceptable standards.

The needs study suggested about \$13.2-million would be needed over the next decade to keep roads and streets up to par.

Despite the best efforts of Council and the township's Works Department to keep pace with both mount-

ing costs and aging roads, they face the same problem as other municipalities — a virtual drying up of extra provincial grants for road work.

Nevertheless, at its last meeting, Council approved a three-year tentative maintenance and construction program for township streets and roads.

Based in part on the needs study, the report was compiled by the Works Department and approved by the Agriculture and Works Committee. Consultant Douglas Vallee of Simcoe drew up the 10-year needs study.

Councillor John McNally, Works Committee chairman, stressed that

the report, covering 1986 to 1988, is to be considered as just a "guide".

Treasurer Reg Saunders, later in the week, was unable at this time to put a "dollar figure" on the proposed projects. For one, he said, it's too early to wrestle with these costs as they are only guidelines for Council.

He said Works Department staff, his staff and the Agriculture and Works Committee would be getting down to the "nitty-gritty" of drawing up 1986's road budget in March for presentation to Council.

Ontario's Ministry of Transportation and Communications (MTC)

will be consulted on sections of the three-year report.

Mayor John Heleniak, in a later interview, said items such as traffic flow and volume had been examined in the road needs study. Priorities,

he added, will have to be set for road maintenance and construction for the coming year.

He also emphasized that MTC subsidies usually cover 50 per cent of these costs.

TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH

P.O. BOX 100, OTTERTVILLE, ONTARIO N0J 1R0
879-6568 863-2709

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO OUR TAX BILLING PROCEDURES IN EFFECT IMMEDIATELY:

1. There will no longer be any discounts allowed on tax payments. It would appear that we are one of the last Municipalities to do away with this practice as it is no longer feasible to operate this way.
 2. The service charge for payments made at all of the banks listed in flyer will no longer be paid by the Township of Norwich. This is now the responsibility of the taxpayer.
 3. We will now be forwarding tax bills directly to the Mortgage Holders for property owners who have arranged with Mortgage Holders to have taxes remitted by them.
- 1986 Interim Tax Bills will be mailed out February 28, 1986.

Reg Saunders,
Treasurer/Deputy Clerk.

No damage reported

NC FEB 5

Earthquake rumbles through Norwich area

The rumble of the earth in the Norwich area Friday was not the sound of the Canadian dollar falling, nor was it a large truck rolling down a nearby street or an overloaded washing machine.

Norwich was having an earthquake.

The quake, which went almost unnoticed, rattled windows, set hanging plants swaying and left ripples in coffee cups. At its most belligerent it left a few hair line cracks in house walls.

According to a University of Western Ontario geophysicist Alan Beck, the earthquake registered between 3 and 4 on the Richter scale in the London area, although at the quake's epicentre 10 kilometres beneath the American shore of Lake Erie, about 40 kilometres northeast of Cleveland, the magnitude was recorded at 5.

In addition to Norwich Township, the quake was felt throughout southwestern and central Ontario, as well as many parts of the northern U.S.

The tremor, which occurred at 11:47 a.m., caught Otterville's Rick

Rusnak and his wife preparing lunch.

He said the tremor lasted about 20 seconds and set a chandelier swaying and rattled the windows. "It felt like we were sitting on a big vibrating machine. It shook the heck out of the house."

There was no damage to the house other than a few hairline cracks in the walls, he said.

Ken Polmounter, of Norwich, said the quake knocked a piece of ornamental driftwood from a ledge where it was displayed.

A number of callers to The Gazette called to confirm whether or not they had been dreaming when the tremor rumbled through.

Police and the Norwich PUC reported no damage due to the earthquake.

The last earthquake-measuring 4.7-occured in the same area in March of 1943, but was considerably milder than Friday's, said a seismologist with the University.

He said that southwestern Ontario experiences earth tremors every few months but they are so mild that they're rarely noticed.

"SPACIOUS UPDATED"



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\$38,000 - 3 bed., main fm. rm. & laundry, tastefully decorated & updated. MLS R6227.



DOWNTOWN OTTERTVILLE

Priced to sell at just \$28,000. This building could be renovated to make an excellent store around 22'x62' plus a large apt. upstairs. Lot is 40'x100' with an old garage at rear. A great deal for the smart handyman investor. MLS C-6435.



MAIN ST., OTTERTVILLE

Stately, older 3 bedroom home in good condition. Just listed. Call today.

Box 14

Otterville, Ont.
NOJ 1R0

Feb 20, 1986

Forward Township Council,
Ottawa, Ont.

Commissioners:

Enclosed is a page of the Feb 19, 1986 Haldimand
Records, ^{indicating} the Haldimand Norfolk Regional Council has
already started working on its 1986 Budget, but more
significant is the fact that this (H.N.) Council
informs its ratepayers where some of their tax dollars
are going, by stating the amount paid in grants to
organizations in 1985, as well as the organization's 1986
requests and Council's 1986 recommendations.

Perhaps if Forward Township Council saw fit to do same,
it would "help" to stimulate a "better feeling"
throughout the Township and to "help" the ratepayers
feel they are supporting a whole Township - not just a
core area.

Yours truly

A. Tobales? former ratepayer
Catherine Grant.

Region spoons out \$66,300 in grants to various groups

By Ria Dieleman
Staff Writer

TOWNSEND — The Information Centre and Haldimand-Norfolk Cultural Association came out the big winners following deputations Thursday as Regional Council dished out its grants for the coming year.

A total of \$66,300 is being given to various organizations this year by Council.

Although the Community Information Centre of H-N asked for \$8,035 to help offset its deficit and to reach more people, Council settled on giving them \$3,000, \$1,000 more than they originally had intended to grant them. A petition was also brought in supporting the centre, signed by just over 100 people. Several councillors also favoured giving the centre \$4,000.

"They not only help us, they provide information to the general public. We should give them additional monies... Slightly more would be appropriate," said Edith Fuller. Simcoe Mayor Jim Earl agreed, stating that both the finance and economic departments of the region used the centre extensively as well.

The Cultural Association was granted \$500 but councillors wanted it made clear this was seed money for a one-year basis. "They should try to become self-sufficient," said Orval Shortt. The Association is a new organization made up of various groups, museums, theatres and art groups who are working as a whole to advertise what they have to offer within the community.

The Haldimand and Norfolk Federations of Agriculture were given an increased grant despite opposition by some councillors who said the total should remain the same as last year.

"The HFA ran a surplus of between \$500-1,000 last year and in 1984, the NFA ran a surplus of some \$2,000," said John Harrison. "I can't see us increasing their grants."

Councillor Robert Causyn said he was "shocked" by this attitude. "Farmers are having a helluva time right now.

"I can't see us penalizing them for being prudent in spending money."

GRANTS TO ORGANIZATIONS	1985 Total	1986 Request	1986 Recommended
SOCIAL AND FAMILY SERVICES			
Big Brothers and Big Sisters		2,500	1,500
Association of Haldimand-Norfolk	1,500		
Canadian National Institute for the Blind	3,000	21,808	3,000
Norfolk Association for the Mentally Retarded	3,000	5,000	3,000
Haldimand Association for the Mentally Retarded	3,000	5,000	3,000
Tillsonburg District Association for the Mentally Retarded	500	1,000	500
The Salvation Army	2,000	2,200	2,200
Community Information Centre of Haldimand-Norfolk	1,000	8,035	3,000
Delhi Community HELP		7,000	
Haldimand-Norfolk Women's Shelter		15,000	
TOTAL	14,000	67,543	15,200
RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES			
Lighthouse Festival Theatre	2,000	3,000	2,000
Lynnwood Arts Centre	2,500	3,000	2,000
Norfolk Historical Society	4,000	4,000	3,000
Talbot Trail Committee		Ec.Dev.	
Haldimand-Norfolk Cultural Association		1,500	0
Haldimand-Norfolk YM-YWCA		2,000	500
TOTAL	8,500	13,500	7,250
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT			
Niagara and Mid Western Ontario Travel Association	3,540	Ec.Dev.	
AGRICULTURE			
Caledonia Agricultural Society	1,750	2,000	1,750
Fanshawe College of Agriculture	500	500	500
Haldimand Fed. of Agriculture	10,500	13,500	12,000
Haldimand Junior Expense Fund	1,200	1,200	1,200
Haldimand-Norfolk Christian Farmers Association	600	600	500
Haldimand Plowmen's Association	1,000	1,000	800
Haldimand Scholarship Committee	300	300	300
Haldimand Soil & Crop Improvement Association	450	450	450
Norfolk Plowmen's Association	1,000	1,000	800
Norfolk County Agricultural Society	3,500	5,000	3,500
Norfolk Federation of Agriculture	15,600	22,700	17,100
Norfolk Junior Expense Fund	750	750	750
Norfolk Soil & Crop Improvement Association	500	500	500
Ridgetown College of Agriculture	150	150	150
Statutory Grant — Haldimand	500	500	500
Statutory Grant — Norfolk	500	500	500
TOTAL	38,800	50,650	41,300
UNCLASSIFIED	1,056*		1,300
TOTAL	65,896	131,693	66,300

* Budget item, not paid

Mrs. Fuller added the federations have to be extremely active now and that it would "behoove us to give them money over and

above what we've given them before.

"We should help resolve some of their problems and in 1986, we have to give them extra help," she said.

Otterville man gets 6 months in reformatory

NC
FEB 5

An Otterville man has been sentenced to six months in a reformatory after injuring himself, a passenger and a policeman after a motorcycle chase through the streets of Woodstock last summer.

Mark Rachar, 23, of R.R. 1, Otterville, was sentenced after pleading guilty in provincial court of dangerous driving and driving with more than the legal limit of alcohol in his system.

He also pleaded guilty to driving while his licence was under suspension.

Judge Alex Graham passed sentence on Mr. Rachar giving him six months on the dangerous driving charge, three months for drinking and driving and 30 days for the suspended licence charge. Mr. Rachar has a prior record for drinking and driving.

Judge Graham told Mr. Rachar his behaviour of last August 3 put the lives innocent people in jeopardy.

After observing Mr. Rachar commit several traffic infractions, Constable Pieter Van Meekeren approached the accused in his cruiser.

Mr. Rachar was driving a motorcycle belonging to passenger, Terry Treffry, 17, of Otterville.

When the policeman approached, Mr. Rachar sped off and Const. Van Meerken gave chase. The chase began at Graham and Hunter Streets and concluded at Vincent and Riddell where the motorcycle went through a stop sign and collided with the rear-end of a police cruiser driven by Const. Harry Paterson, who had responded to Const. Van Meerken's call for backup.

The motorcycle then sideswiped another vehicle and slid along the ground until it came to rest 40 yards away. Const. Paterson lost control of his car in the collision and went off the road striking and damaging a telephone pole.

The policeman was treated for a cut knee at hospital. Mr. Rachar and Treffry spent a night in hospital where they were treated for cuts and bruises.

Erie Finch

Mrs. Cecil Finch, formerly of Otterville, passed away at Maple Manor Nursing Home, Tillsonburg, on Sunday, Feb. 2, 1986, in her 90th year.

Born in Simcoe, Sept. 9, 1896, she was a daughter of the late Frank Misner and the former Barbara McKenzie. She was a member of Otterville United Church and was the former proprietor of the C.L. Finch and Son Pro Hardware in Otterville. Her husband predeceased her in 1964.

Surviving is one daughter Mrs. Fay Brown of Tillsonburg; one son, Frank Finch of Otterville; eight grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and one brother, Clarence Misner of Simcoe.

Resting at the Ostrander's Funeral Home, Tillsonburg, where service will be held Wednesday, Feb. 5 at 11 a.m. conducted by Rev. Charles Seed of Otterville United Church.

Interment in Otter Cemetery, Otterville.

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

Births

BELAEN - Matthew Belaen is pleased to announce the safe arrival of his baby sister, Amanda Judith, born February 26, 1986 at Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital. The proud parents are Larry and Judy Belaen, R.R. 1, Otterville. The grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Albert Belaen, Otterville, and Mr. and Mrs. Wray Clement R.R. 2, Vanessa.

Norwich, Ont.,

Feb. 26/86.

Norwich Township Ratepayer's Association meeting was held on Feb. 25/86 at 7.30 p.m. in the Norwich Community Centre. Four members attended, Marilyn McLees, Ida Cowan, David Aurthur and Norman Lemon. Financial report and year end report were available. Decision was made by these members to disband the Association, due to lack of interest.

Financial report is included, with balance of account \$1.21 per household. Meeting was adjourned.

Balance as per first meeting	27x\$5.00	\$135.00
Expenses		
Otter Publishing- advertising per Lyle Davis		\$8.00
Norwich Gazette Advertising per Lyle Davis		\$7.10
Sentinel-Review advertising per Ken Mann		\$31.08
Norwich Archives Copies for Oxford Center meeting per Marilyn McLees		\$48.15
postage		\$7.82

		\$102.15
Balance	\$32.85	
remaining 18¢ for envelopes.		

At the churches

NG FEB 5

OTTERVILLE ST. JOHN'S, ANGLICAN.

Sunday morning service, recognizing the presentation of Christ in the temple, opened with the singing of "O God, Unseen Yet Ever Near" as the senior and junior choirs entered the church accompanied by organist Lila Freeland.

Scripture reading were Malachi 3: 1-4, Behold, I send my messenger to prepare the way before me; Hebrews 2: 14-18, Since the children share in flesh and blood; and St. Luke 2: 22-40, And when the time came for their purification.

The children gathered with Father Grant D. Darling to discuss the eternal presence of God in the church. However he does not only live in the church but God is everywhere. Therefore he wants to dwell within us. The children adjourned to their Sunday School classes during the singing of "Blest Are The Pure In Heart".

Father Darling elaborated on the theme of the presentation of the Christ child to God for baptism in the temple.

The lesson we can draw from this

event of Jesus' life is that every child belongs to God. We need our churches and temples to have a special place to be close to God.

Two of the most important ways in which we can be close to God is through prayer and solitude. We do not live alone but have God ever present with us.

Offering was received by Ross McMullen and Jack Freeland after which Father Darling shared the Sacrament of Holy Communion with the congregation.

The service closed with the recessional hymn "Love Divine".

The congregation was reminded of the meeting of the Anglican Church Women to be held Thursday evening at the home of Evelyn Picknell.

OTTERVILLE UNITED.

Following the call to worship by Rev. Seed, the choir with Jean McClintock at the organ, rendered a lovely anthem "Oh How I Love Jesus".

In children's chapel time, Rev. Seed's story was "God's Love". He reminded the children, that no matter what sins we have committed or what tragedies we have in our lives, God is always with us on our daily living and we are all a part of God's family.

Wendy Seed and Al Smith assisted

with the Scripture reading. Passages were read from Jeremiah 1: 4-10, The call of Jeremiah; Psalm 40, The gloria and St. Luke 4: 14-30, Jesus begins his ministry in Galilee.

Rev. Seed's message "Our Church, God's Church" was based on the text from St. Matthew 16: 18 Upon this rock will I build my church and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it.

The difficulties surrounding our church to-day are enormous with many forces of evil arrayed against it. We are living in a changing world. Our church, which is grounded on Jesus Christ, must be able to meet new conditions in life, yet hold fast to things which are eternal and unchanging.

In the midst of the confusion and unrest, our church must go out into the world with the guidance of the holy scripture proclaiming the love and eternal truth of Jesus Christ. As Christians we also have the task and privilege of being the great stabilizer and build our lives around Christ the solid rock. God is calling the church to-day to find her true greatness through the rededication of herself to the service of mankind and as individuals we must find the true meaning of life as revealed in Jesus Christ.

The offering was received by Gary

Walther, Lorne Treffry, Colin Cope and Don Chicholm.

Paying tribute to the astronauts who lost their lives the past week, Rev. Seed closed the service with the hymn, "Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory". Kelly Walther was pianist accompanying the organist Jean McClintock.

OTTERVILLE FELLOWSHIP, BAPTIST CHURCH.

On Sunday February 1, Sunday school was held for all ages followed by morning worship.

Bob Marshall gave the call to Worship of Psalm 42.

Scripture reading was taken from Isaiah 40.

In thinking back over the week of Challenger's explosion, Pastor Bull spoke on "Coping in Catastrophe". It's something each one of us will experience in the course of life. When the world caves in on us we need to remember our frailty, we are only dust, and we hurt easily, physically and emotionally but we need to be reminded that God is great and powerful and in control of the world and our lives as Isaiah Ch. 40 speaks of. We also see God is compassionate and his mercy sustains us. God is right beside us when we hurt. Instead of taking our eyes off Him in these times, we have to keep our

eyes on Him. We have to trust Him enough to wait!

God's word is full of invitation and promises for everything we go through. Boldness will come if we follow His word. We need to be prepared for Catastrophe by knowing God's word!

Offering was received by Chris Haggith and Paul Babcock. Pianist was Wilma Butler.

The Lord's table was observed following the service.

At the churches

OTTERVILLE UNITED.

The service for the first Sunday of Lent season, opened with the call to worship by Rev. Seed, reminding us of Christ's commandment, "Love one another as I have loved you." The choir sang "I Believe In A Hill Called Mt. Calvary."

Mrs. Edna Gee spoke to the children during their chapel time,

relating a story of a four-year-old African girl from her mission field and of her fear of white people and reminded the children not to fear as Jesus said "Fear not I am with you always even unto the ends of the earth."

Scripture reading given by Rev. Seed were from Deuteronomy 26: 1-11, Psalm 91, God Our Protector, St. Luke 4: 1-13, The temptation of Jesus.

Special speakers for the morning were Mr. and Mrs. Les Gee, United Church missionaries on leave from Lesotho, South Africa, who have been serving in Lesotho Evangelical Church since 1978.

Mr. Gee's text was from Romans 12. He stressed that the church must be at work in all parts of the world. God calls us to love and care for all people. This is a missionary purpose.

He related his experiences as a high school teacher in Lesotho. He not only teaches English but trains the youth in carpentry and gardening. He also has to take his turn in the pulpit.

Mrs. Gee spoke of her experiences of working with the crafts, quilting and sewing which she teaches to the women and girls and of the many friendships with the people as they shared in their joy and sorrows.

Offering was received by Lorne Treffry, Les Gehring, Don Neale and David Cope.

A thought for the week - "Knowing the living work is the key to understanding the written word."

OTTERVILLE ST. JOHN'S, ANGLICAN.

Morning service, the first Sunday of Lent, opened with the singing of 40 Days and 40 Nights as the senior and Junior choirs entered the church accompanied by organist Lila Freeland. The altar flowers were offered by Carl and Jo Howse in memory of their parents and other loved ones.

Scripture readings were Romans 10: 8-13, The word is near you, and St. Luke 4: 1-13, And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan.

The children adjourned to their Sunday School classes during the singing of "Lead Us, Heavenly Father."

Father Grant D. Darling spoke on the season of Lent, a time when Jesus took 40 days to clarify the direction in which he was going. During this 40 days we learn of the trial which he went through to renew his faith with his Father.

Likewise, we need 40 days to reorganize our lives and to be alone with ourselves. We need and should be alone with God at a certain time every day. Though our society is a busy one, we should set time aside to be alone with God.

Offering was received by Ross McMullen and Jack Freeland after which Father Darling shared with the congregation in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

The service closed with the recessional hymn, "Praise to the Lord, The Almighty."

OTTERVILLE FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST.

Sunday February 16, Sunday school was held for all ages followed by morning worship at 11:00 a.m.

David Pathy opened the service with a responsive reading from 1 Thessalonians Ch 4. Scripture reading was taken from Luke 14: 15-34.

Pastor Bull spoke on "Hindrances to Worship which involve bitterness, sexual immorality and temporal values.

Bitterness, like a cancer, wars against the soul and destroys the body, even physically. In Genesis, Cain's bitterness ended in murder of his brother. It is caused by people who have offended us directly or indirectly, or because someone hasn't measured up to our expectations or by envy or by offending others and it will show in rejection, vengeful spirit slander and gossip. It also leads to depression, illness and an unproductive life. If we won't forgive others, God won't forgive us.

Sexual immorality damages our relationship to God and others. We're to flee it and have nothing to do with it.

Temporal values will cause us to turn away from everlasting spiritual blessings. God has to come first in our daily lives.

These three things will take away God's blessing and we'll suffer spiritual loss.

Pianist was Wilma Butler. Offering was received by Dave Hill and Alex Davis.

Machine company trains apprentices

By Ben Steidman
Staff Writer

OTTERVILLE — What have Bill Dickey, Mark Hayes and Scott Stevens in common?

Firstly, they all live and work in Norwich and the area. Secondly, they are between 20 and 25. Thirdly, and most importantly, they are employed as apprentices by Kramer Tool and Die Ltd.

The 10-year-old firm, owned jointly by Don Kramer of Otterville and Ken Antosuc of Delhi, currently employs 10 full-time workers, six of them tool and die maker apprentices. For the time being, there's a part-time person manning the office.

Basically, Mr. Kramer said during an interview the nuts and bolts of the firm consists of "jobs for area industries" in Delhi, Tillsonburg, Woodstock and Simcoe.

Another important source of work comes from area farmers, including those in Burford Township in Brant County. Mr. Kramer said the company had also done work for a Waterford firm.

In a nutshell, Kramer Tool and Die is geared to handle a "diversified" number of jobs — making or repairing tools, dies, mould, jigs, fixtures and doing general machine shop work and welding.

But what's really unique about the company is the high percentage of apprentices it employs and trains.

Mr. Kramer, in explaining the situation, contended that "large companies don't want to bother training tool and die makers . . . they'd rather have a small company like ours do it and then steal them from us."

Needless to say, a journeyman (graduate) tool and die maker can command a higher salary working for a larger company in, London, Chatham or Windsor.

Mr. Kramer wishes those employees he loses to big companies well, but nevertheless admitted it "makes things tough at times when you lose a trained tool and die maker . . . but we've managed to keep going."

In addition to the tool and die maker apprentice program, Mr. Kramer said the firm has "started a machinist apprenticeship program and expects two persons in it soon."

"We've had inquiries from two women interested in the machinist program," added Mr. Kramer.

Mr. Kramer said the Provincial Government pays a percentage of an apprentice's wages on a varying scale. Ontario's Ministry of Skills Development is the sponsoring agency.

The tool and die maker apprentice program is four years, entailing three eight-week periods in school at Toronto where candidates take basic and advanced courses.

An apprentice's wages are calculated on a percentage basis ranging from 50 per cent to 85 per cent of a skilled worker's pay, with the low scale in the first 1,000 hours and the highest at the end. An apprentice must put in 8,000 hours to obtain his journeyman's certificate, the highest rating for a tool and die maker.

Mr. Kramer pointed out that a company really doesn't get its investment in an apprentice back until

the third year. That's probably the nub of why big companies are reluctant to be involved, he suggested.

"Over the years . . . and we haven't been in the program all that long . . . we've had very few apprentices under 20, right out of high school," explained Mr. Kramer. "The average age here is between 20 and 25. Obviously, most have tried something else and decided on this career."

Mr. Kramer stressed the short duration of his firm's program, yet even during that period, the company has lost two graduates, while four have remained.

Others have dropped out of the program before graduating. "Some of them just could not make a go of it," said Mr. Kramer.

He reckoned the relatively low wages during training played a minor role in most giving up too soon. "It's tough for a married man with a family to make a living in it, unless his wife has a good job too."

Those that leave generally quit the trade. Another reason for some leaving the program, according to Mr. Kramer, is the "pressure of exact work . . . the strict quality control of work."

"Some have found it too nerve-racking in meeting the close tolerances needed to perform quality work."

Observed Mr. Kramer, who once worked as a tool and die maker for a Woodstock outfit: "Becoming a tool and die maker is a tough go."

Once, however, that skill is attained, employment prospects appear unlimited. Accordingly, Mr. Kramer points out that his firm continues to receive inquiries from large companies for skilled workers.

"The last man to leave us sent out five resumes and got five answers back," revealed Mr. Kramer.

"I've never known a good tool and die maker to be out of work, even when things were really tough two or three years ago."

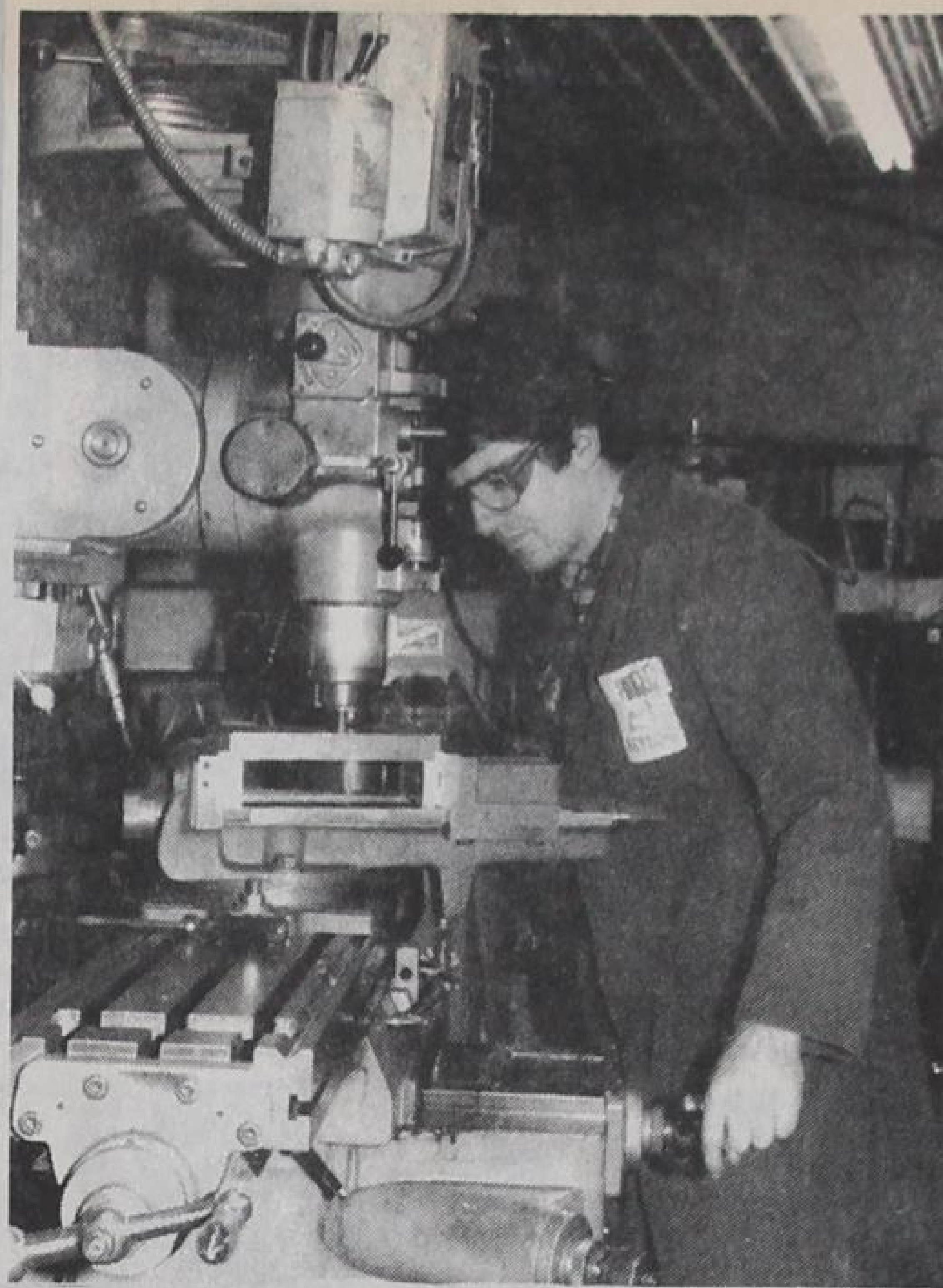
In reviewing the company's steady growth in the past decade, Mr. Kramer recalled starting the business with just himself and his partner doing all the work.

As a consequence of maintaining high quality work, Mr. Kramer said business had sputtered in a "progression" upwards each year. "We've hired a man each year since then." There have been four expansions, the first in 1977, the last in 1985.

Area industries are the "mainstays," pointed out Mr. Kramer. These include auto parts makers, agricultural-related companies, heating unit manufacturers, and, of course, farming operations.

"Farm jobs are definitely part of our business," emphasized Mr. Kramer, while noting that current conditions make farming an "unstable market."

"We're busier than ever right now," he added. "I'd have to say we've had to expand to keep up with the increase in work. We didn't plan it, but it seems we've been fortunate in having our good reputation spread by word of mouth, so we don't really have to beat the bushes for new work."



Ken Kramer of Delhi adjusts machine during busy work day at Kramer Tool and Die Ltd. The firm's chief customers, area industries, provide the 10-year-old enterprise with a wide variety of jobs. A unique feature of Kramer Tool and Die, adding a different dimension to the operation, centres on employment of apprentices in the demanding field of tool and die makers. (Staff Photo)

"We've only had one layoff in 10 years . . . and that involved just one man for six months," reflected Mr. Kramer.

As for the future, Mr. Kramer, a tad reluctant to forecast, nevertheless said the area's potential for growth in industry could mean the company can't afford to stand still in the face of competition.

Optimist Club gives area youths a helping hand

By Ben Steidman
Staff Writer

OTTERVILLE — Life has its own rewards.

Helping youth follow positive pursuits in life is a fundamental axiom of Optimist International.

Following this precept for Spring-Otter Optimist Club of Otterville has been a basic tenet since its founding over five years ago.

Still, it's nice now and then to be recognized for good works that might make this often-troubled planet a better place to live.

That's precisely what's happened to Spring-Otter Optimists this year; the service club has not only marked its fifth birthday, but has been honoured by the Optimist Southwestern Ontario District for its youth and community contributions.

The latter occurred at last week's two-day Second Quarter Board meeting held at Best Western Wheels Inn, Chatham.

Spring-Otter Optimists received an Honour Club Award for 1984-85 as well as the Zone 16 and A Award.

Jim Countryman, club past president and currently a lieutenant-governor on the District Board, said Spring-Otter members were "mighty proud" of these awards.

However, that apparently was just the beginning of honours bestowed on the club at last week's session.

Just to put the situation into perspective, Mr. Countryman said Zone 16 consists of four active and one non-active club. There are 19 Zones in the District and of 131 clubs in the District, 16 were designated as Honour Clubs for service last year.

Spring-Otter also received the Zone 16 Membership Award for doubling its membership in 1984-85 to 35 from 17.

A Community Service Involvement Award was presented to Spring-Otter for, among other projects, its Youth Appreciation Week, V.I.P. Respect for Law project at Otterville Public School and Canada Week activities such as a soap-box derby and street dance.

Two citations were given to club executives for distinguished service in advancing the Optimist cause in 1984 and 1985. Nick Visser, last year's club secretary and current president, and Don Silverthorn, current and last year's treasurer were the recipients.

Dale Cheney, a club past president and former District lieutenant-governor, had a singular honour thrust upon him at the meeting when he presented Spring-Otter with a Zone 16 Award. This award noted the club's achievements for the past year in becoming top Zone club.

Finally, Spring-Otter garnered second place in the District for its community services project in the safety category. Spring-Otter focussed on hunter safety and training, compiling a booklet on its project.

With the spotlight now off Spring-Otter, Mr. Countryman said the club can concentrate on cementing future projects.

One of these is a planned open-class canoe race May 31 down Big Otter Creek from Otterville. "The course and other details are still tentative," said Mr. Countryman.

Another project tentatively on the drawing board is a Picnic in the Park '86 for July 6 in Otterville.

Chartered in December, 1980, Spring-Otter, a relatively youthful club — average age for members is 30 to 32 — has achieved a 70 per cent involvement over the years by its members.

"It's nice to be recognized by your peers," declared Mr. Countryman. "There's also co-operation, respect and support from the community. We're just a bunch of ordinary guys doing the best we can."

"What we're doing (other projects such as bike safety week, film festivals, ice skating and ball games) whether we sponsor it or are part of it, is being appreciated. That's rewarding."

Mr. Countryman said this response proved the "need for a public-spirited group interested in kids to fill a void in the community."

He mentioned that each club member received an Honour Club pin. "They're proud of that," added Mr. Countryman, noting members' enthusiasm and energy in tackling various projects.

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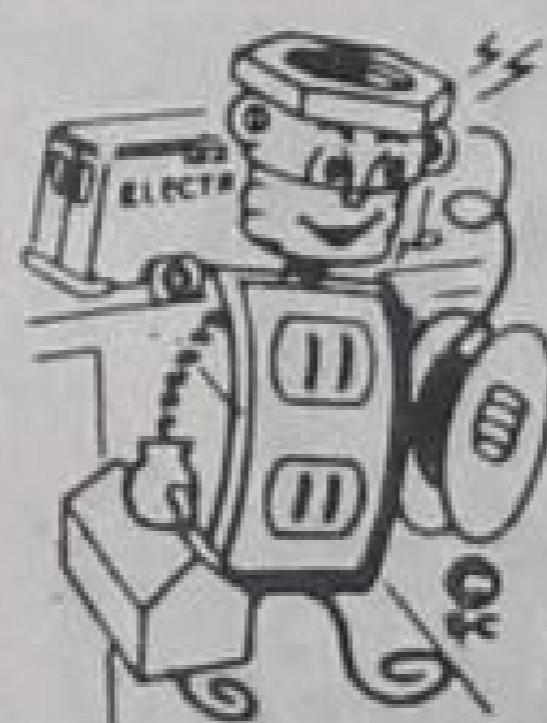
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WI Hall closing in June

Ball rolling on Springford hall project

by PETER McLAUGHLIN

A \$90,000 community centre with all the amenities could be built in Springford in the not-too-distant future.

Norwich Township Council has started the ball rolling on plans for a facility in the small South Norwich community, which faces the closing of the village's only community meeting place, the Springford Womens Institute Hall, this summer.

Council has requested that the Township's Culture and Recreation Advisory Committee look into the feasibility of the project and arrange for public meetings in the Springford area to gauge public interest.

Representatives of the Springford Building Committee attended a meeting of Council Monday morning to nudge the municipality into action. Ironically, there meeting with the Township came minutes after a visit by Springford WI members informing Council of its intention to close the Womens Institute Hall June 30.

For the past three years, the committee has been petitioning Council for funds to put toward the construction of community centre. To date, Council has put \$30,000 into a reserve fund for the project while the committee itself has raised pledges of \$15,000.

The group also expects to qualify for a \$22,000 agricultural society grant from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food. The balance of the \$90,000 needed will be raised through various community fundraising schemes, said Committee secretary Marjorie Seitz.

The committee wants to build a community hall with the amenities the WI Hall sorrowfully lacked, namely washrooms and kitchen facilities.

Robert Hopkins, acting chairman of the committee in the absence of John Sandham, said the group wishes to build a facility worth \$80,000. A heating system and construction of a weeping tile bed would bring the grand total to \$90,000, he estimated.

A survey last spring by the committee revealed that 66 per cent of the community were in favour of a new hall.

Mr. Hopkins assured Council that the community was eager and more than capable of getting the project off the ground.

"Judging by the past performance of Springford, the community is quite capable of carrying out such projects."

Coun. Norm Lusk warned the group of the financial realities of undertaking such a project.

"The hall (the Township) runs in Oxford Centre is one of our busiest halls. It's rented out pretty well all the time and last year it had a shortfall of \$9,500. Have you given any consideration of the hall's actual use as a revenue generating, viable unit?"

No one can predict the future, said Mr. Hopkins. But citing the cohesiveness of the community, he felt they would have a good shot at keeping the project in the black.

Coun. Don Pettigrew fully endors-

ed the community's capability in handling the project adding that Springford has never before come cap-in-hand for money from Council.

In the Womens Institute presentation to Council, Past President Ruby Fleming said the 16-member Institute can no longer afford to keep the 58-year-old hall operating.

"It is no longer a viable project for the Womens Institute. We ask Council for assistance," said Mrs. Fleming.

Rentals from the hall are minimal and do not cover upkeep of the single-room building.

"Every community needs a meeting place. However, if it is not possible for Council to maintain it, we ask you to give some concern to the needs of the Springford community," said WI member Mrs. Murray Downing.

Township Council briefs

Police study under wraps

NG
MARS

The workload study of the Township of Norwich Police will not be released by Township Council, at least not for another few weeks.

Council decided during a closed door discussion Monday morning, it required more time to review the study before making it public.

The study, undertaken by the Ontario Police Commission at Council's request last fall, was called for to determine whether the local force's manpower could be better utilized.

Mayor John Heleniak said that Council may release the study and its recommendations at the next meeting of Council Mar. 25, but added it was not obliged to do so.

Coun. John McNally is a little annoyed that the Township has been asked to purchase sweater vests for the police force.

"What'll be next? Will we have to supply them with underclothes?" the Ward 3 councillor said during discussion on accounts at Monday's meeting.

"I know (Council) doesn't buy (the police) tie clips and sweaters in London," he added.

Nevertheless, Council approved the \$89.46 expenditure.

Norwich Township Council has decided to review its policy on attending conventions after seven councillors submitted expenses totalling \$4,640.21 from a recent meeting of the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) in Toronto.

Councillors attending the meeting were Mayor John Heleniak, Councillor-at-large Helen Smith, Michael Oliver, John McNally, Dan Wagner, Norman Lusk, and Mark Harrison.

Council's four new member -- Paul Wood, Dan Wagner, Mark Harrison, and Robert Harrison -- claimed expenses of \$1,724.08 after attending a seminar for newly elected councillors.

The expenses were approved at Monday's meeting.

Council has forwarded the South Norwich Historical Society \$2,000 while it awaits approval of a government grant for the restoration of Otterville's Treffry Mill.

The society is expecting to receive funds from the Building Rehabilitation Improvement Campaign (BRIC) to put towards the \$9,545.05 restoration project.

The mill, which was built in the mid-1800s, has been designated a historic property by the Ontario Heritage Act.

The Township of Norwich Police have been instructed to have an officer on duty at the corner of Elgin and Stover Streets at specified hours to help children leaving Norwich Public School cross the street safely.

If an officer can be spared, he should be at the crossing at 8:30 a.m., 12 noon and 3:30 p.m.

The possibility of a school crossing guard is still under consideration by Council.

Township Council has established a negotiating committee to represent itself during forthcoming wage negotiations with its employees.

The committee will be comprised of the mayor, the councillor-at-large, chairmen of the committees involved, department heads, the clerk and the treasurer.

Upon completion of the negotiations, the committee will deliver the agreements to council for ratification.

Norwich Township's by-law enforcement officer, Police Chief Robert Knight, has been asked to investigate the dumping of trash in the Sweaburg swamp, a small section of which lies within the boundaries of the township.

The Oxford Fish and Game Protection Association asked that someone from the municipality investigate one incident in particular where assorted bits of debris--namely old bed parts, kitchen cupboards, and numerous bags of garbage--were dumped in the swamp.

James Ekins, vice president of the organization, said in a letter that the incident occurred about Feb. 4.

"We bring this matter to your attention, hoping that a prompt investigation of the debris will lead to the identification and apprehension of the person or persons responsible."

Police report delayed for two weeks

D.N
MARS

By Ben Steidman
Staff Writer

NORWICH — Action by Township Council on a confidential Ontario Police Commission (OPC) workload study of Norwich Police Department has been deferred to its next meeting March 25.

Council apparently decided on this tack during a lengthy in-camera session on the OPC report at Monday's meeting to allow councillors more time to review its contents.

Mayor John Heleniak told reporters after the closed session that the report is still "confidential" and its contents can't be divulged until Council decides to make all or part of it public.

At the outset of Monday's meeting, Mayor Heleniak said the OPC study of police manpower and utilization would be discussed in a "closed session" as it is "confidential" for the present time.

The study will be placed on the March 25 agenda for further discussion.

Mayor Heleniak stressed that all or part of the report "might be made public at that time". The decision to release the report remains with Council.

Council had asked for the study last September as a means of evaluating its police manpower requirements and utilization.

Part of the study entailed gathering data on police calls, occurrence reports and arrests made on a 24-hour basis between Nov. 18 to Dec. 15.

Mayor Heleniak, in an interview, said the study was "unique" in a couple of respects. Firstly, Norwich's four-man full-time police force is the smallest one the OPC has attempted to evaluate.

Secondly, assistance rendered by Tillsonburg Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is done so for Norwich on a fee basis.

In addition to Township Police Chief Robert Knight, and three full-time officers, the force has two part-time auxiliary constables to work weekends and special events with regular officers.

Norwich Police Department is responsible for law enforcement and bylaw enforcement in the Village of Norwich. It also handles bylaw enforcement in the other three wards; law enforcement outside the village is in the hands of Tillsonburg and Woodstock OPP.

24 trees to be removed

Twenty-four trees have been earmarked for removal in Norwich Township this spring.

Township Road Superintendent Ron Smith said Tuesday that the dead and decaying trees, which have been identified in Norwich, Burgessville and Otterville, will probably be cut down beginning next week.

In addition to the trees slated for removal by the municipality's tree committee, several others will be trimmed.

Mr. Smith said there will be 20 trees in Norwich that will come down, three in Otterville and one in

Burgessville.

Over the past two weeks, the County has removed several trees along County Rd. 19.

Norwich insurance hike

NORWICH — The township faces a possible 66 per cent hike in liability and other insurance coverage for 1986.

Frank Cowan Insurance of Princeton has increased the township's premiums to \$66,000 from \$40,000 last year. However, Council learned at last week's meeting that the actual amount may be lower than this initial estimate.

Lionel Wells, representing Frank Cowan Insurance, said that his firm would not tender for the township's 1986 insurance coverage. However, since Norwich's policy came up for renewal April 1, Mr. Wells said his company would provide a month's extension so Norwich could see what other firm's had to offer.

Council decided to rescind a motion to tender passed at its March 3 meeting.

However, before Council commits itself to an automatic renewal with Frank Cowan Insurance, its members want to view the policy and discuss it with a company representative.

Hank Roy of Frank Cowan Insurance will be invited to

Council's next meeting on April 14 to review the 1986 insurance coverage.

Mr. Wells said that environmental liability coverage was available for \$2,000 a year, with a \$1-million limit and \$1,000 deductible.

Last year, Norwich's liability coverage totalled \$10-million; other coverage took in fire, vehicles and accidents. Coverage this year remains the same.

Councillor Don Pettigrew suggested Council discuss insurance renewal in January to avoid having to make a decision under the shadow of a close deadline.

Councillor Bob Martin complained about making a decision so near to renewal time. Councillor Norm Lusk echoed these sentiments but also wanted to see the new policy as he had no taste for "buying a pig in a poke."

Stressing Council was only interested in getting "the best deal for the taxpayers," Councillor-at-Large Helen Smith pointed out Frank Cowan Insurance had provided good service to Norwich.

TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH

TENDER FOR ROADSIDE GRASS MOWING

Sealed tenders, clearly marked as to contents, will be received by the undersigned until 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, APRIL 18th, 1986, for roadside grass mowing along Township Roads within the Township of Norwich. The Tender forms and specifications are available at the Township Office, 10 Main Street East, Otterville.

Ron Smith
Road Superintendent
Township of Norwich
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879-6568 or 863-2709

That during the week of March 5, 1976:

Township of Norwich Council approved a \$3,000 tab for themselves following the attendance of 11 municipal employees at the Ontario Good Roads Association convention in Toronto.

No payphone in town

Bell Canada will not be installing another pay telephone booth in downtown Otterville.

The company notified Norwich Township Council it had turned down its request for a booth to replace one taken down last spring. Bell said that usage is too low to warrant a pay phone in the small community.

Council made the request to Bell a few months ago expressing concern that a phone should be available in case of emergency, particularly after business hours.

Cancer month

Mayor John Heleniak has proclaimed the month of April Cancer Month in the Township of Norwich.

No sign yet

A year has passed since money was set aside for a sign advertising Norwich's industrial park, but so far, still no sign.

The township's community services committee recommended to council funds be included in the 1986 budget for a sign advertising the availability of lots at the site.

Coun. Don Pettigrew noted, however, that funds were set aside last year so a sign could be erected. "It hasn't been erected yet," said community service chairman Paul Wood.

Good work

The Spring-Otter Optimist Club has been acknowledged and commended by the municipal council for its efforts in encouraging voters in the Otterville area to get out and vote during last November's municipal election.

Fire tours

Tours of Norwich Township's four fire stations will take place later this month.

On April 24, there will be tours of East Oxford, Norwich and Otterville stations, and on April 29, Burgessville will host a tour.

Support

Norwich Township Council is throwing its support behind a Great Lakes-area municipality in its efforts to get the provincial government involved in stopping erosion along the Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie shoreline of Essex County.

Council endorsed a resolution by Essex County which urges the Ministry of Natural Resources to make funds available for temporary and long term construction of shoreline areas along Erie, St. Clair, and the Detroit River.

Council has also backed a resolution to the Prime Minister of Canada from the Township of Clarence, requesting that agricultural programs "not be sacrificed or disturbed" through free trade negotiations with the United States.

Rents increase \$10, \$20 at Norwich Medical Centre

By Ben Steidman
Staff Writer

NORWICH — Township Council has apparently defused a potentially thorny issue over rent increases for professional tenants at Norwich Medical Centre.

The centre's Advisory Board, in a report to Council last week, recommended rent increases of \$20 a month for full-time tenants and \$10 a month for part-time tenants.

After a lengthy debate over rising operating costs at the centre and failure of rental fees to cover a budget deficit for last year, Council did accept the suggested increases, to go into effect July 1.

As well, Council accepted the Advisory Board's proposed 1986 centre operating budget of \$16,000, subject to final approval during debate on the township's over-all 1986 budget expected to begin this month.

Councillor Bob Martin, ex-officio member of the Advisory Board, said Thursday that Council questions the "whole concept" of charging relatively low rental fees while at the same time trying to cope with escalating operating and upgrading costs for the centre.

Current rental for dental and medical doctor offices is \$260 a month each; rent on a lab service is \$220 a month; Oxford County Health Unit pays \$120 a month for a part-time branch office and rent for a once-a-week optometrist office is \$135 a month.

Councillor Don Pettigrew, during last Tuesday's Council session, pointed to what he described as a "refreshing outlook" by Council on the medical centre's operation.

He felt it "ridiculous" to subsidize "highly paid professionals." Councillor Pettigrew said he had investigated how other small municipalities handle rental fees, and concluded that Norwich was not running the

centre in a very business-like manner.

In effect, he claimed its operation was tantamount to running a "charitable institution" for medical professionals.

At that meeting, Councillor Martin admitted it was difficult to talk about increasing rents to cover costs as the centre had become a "motherhood issue."

On Thursday he elaborated on this by noting that Norwich had once been classified as a medically underserved area, and so to "attract" medical practitioners, it was necessary to keep rents low.

However, in the coming year upgrading costs for proposals on expanding and paving parking facilities and a new water softener system, for example, will have to be borne by taxpayers, said Councillor Martin, not "passed onto tenants" as is the usual custom.

A deficit has again been forecast for 1986, said Councillor Martin.

Taxes

Property taxes of \$320 will be refunded to Gideon Miller on whose property sits the Amish Church. Taxes also levied on the church by the Township between 1986 and 1988, will be rebated.

\$100 grant

The Oxford County Plowmen's Association will receive a grant of \$100 from Norwich Township Council for its annual Oxford County plowing match. This year the contest is slated for Oct. 18.

Plowmen's association director Don MacPherson told Council that the match has been held in Norwich Township two of the last three years.

Construction

February was a very slow month in Norwich Township as far as new construction was concerned.

A \$33,000 barn extension in Ward 3 (North Norwich) was the only structure built in the municipality during the month.

New fire officer

Len Raper has been appointed as Norwich Township's Fire Prevention Officer.

Mr. Raper, along with Fire Chief Brian Workman, will be carrying out fire safety inspections in the township. A salary has yet to be decided upon for the new officer.

Mr. Raper has been assisting the chief in the past with the fire inspections, but with the new designation Mr. Raper will be able to inspect buildings independently of the chief.

"Right now, we're paying the chief and (Raper) to go through a building at the same time. This way we get two guys going through different places," said Coun. Mark Harrison.

Eventually, said the councillor, the chief would like a fire inspection officer assigned to each of the Township's four stations.

New janitor

Marsha Wallet has been hired as the new custodian of the Norwich Medical Centre.

Council approved the Medical Centre Advisory Committee recommendation she be hired, at Last Tuesday's meeting. She commenced work Apr. 1 at the rate of pay of \$4,500 per year.

Otterville Public School construction costs \$920,000

By Ben Steidman
Staff Writer

NORWICH — Construction could start as early as April 7 on rebuilding part of Otterville Public School at a cost of \$920,000.

Oxford County Board of Education Chairman Russ Stangl of RR 1 Otterville said Friday that tendering for the project will close March 21.

"Construction could conceivably begin as early as April 7 after awarding the contract," said Mr. Stangl.

Initial work would consist of building a girl's washroom and a temporary boiler system, followed by demolition of the 1927 section that's to be replaced.

A capital grant from Ontario's Ministry of Education will cover

about three-quarters of the rehabilitation cost, leaving the Board to pay for the balance from its capital reserve.

Mr. Stangl pointed out the Board has money available to pay for its portion without resorting to a debenture.

Included in reconstruction is a new gym, library, two classrooms and health room. The other part, housing four classrooms and built in 1951, will remain intact.

The Board has also approved over \$1-million earmarked for renovations to county schools, including Norwich District High School.

This work will be carried out on a "priority" basis, said Mr. Stangl, adding that Norwich District High School was on the list for renovation work.

Mr. Stangl said the Board wasn't "hit that hard" this year for insurance coverage as it is in the last year of a three-year policy. However, this policy comes up for renewal January, 1987.

"That's when we'll feel the effects of increasingly higher premiums," suggested Mr. Stangl, unless, he noted, Queen's Park sets a policy to regulate insurance coverage costs.

Beginning in September, 1986, 20 minutes of French-language instruction a day begins at Grade 3 in all Oxford public elementary schools.

Mr. Stangl pointed out that this new program fits into Ministry of Education requirements for graduation. A total of 1,200 hours of French-language instruction are needed for high school graduation.

Letter to the editor

SPRINGFORD

The Editor: Springford is a place to live, if that is all you want. There is no togetherness among the people, who, for the most part, are hypocritical no matter what the village project may be.

In a small village such as this there has to be a 100 per cent all out effort on everyone's part to work together to accomplish and realize community advancements.

At the present time the Building Committee are working their butts off toward a community type building to accommodate the several organizations, such as the Athletic Club, Agriculture Society,

TN MAR 19

Letters to the Editor

RIGHT TO OPINION

The Editor: I would like the opportunity to reply to the letter from R. Ben Nunn, which appeared in your March 19 issue entitled "Springford." I'm not sure of Mr. Nunn's intent, but, personally, I was offended and insulted by his letter.

As a second generation resident of Springford and area, I have always been proud and happy to be part of this community. I don't believe that being part of any community is a right reserved for only the vocal. There are many of us who are content to remain in the background, which does not mean we care less about what takes place in our community than the more vocal residents.

If Springford is guilty of anything, it is of being too passive. The majority have sat quietly by in the past while the vocal minority have made the decisions for them. (This is not altogether a bad thing. Every community needs those people with foresight, if it is to progress at all; and they deserve their dues. But, to achieve their goals, they must have regard for majority opinion.) We all pay our equal share in the end.

Now, when more than the usual few raise their voices, Mr. Nunn is offended. Could it be that his grievance is not with 'Springford being a non-supportive community,' as much as it is 'non-supportive of Mr. Nunn's point of view?'

As for 100 per cent support of any project, the idea is great, but in reality where you have more than one person you have the potential for more than one opinion. To my knowledge, becoming part of a community does not revoke a person's right to free thought. The resident who drove to town to save 30 cents on an article they purchased was exercising his right of free choice. (I doubt that the 30-cent loss harmed our local merchant a great deal.)

I am perfectly willing to allow Mr. Nunn his opinion without banning him from my community, hopefully he will extend the same courtesy to me. If we can't love our neighbor at least we can respect his right to his opinion.

This is one person's opinion; hopefully so was R. Ben Nunn's.

M.A. McElhone

Boy Scouts, Cubs, Guides, Optimist and so on to include all projects by the various groups. This could help bring the village people back together.

Unfortunately, we do not even support the village businesses as we should and we are all guilty of this. I know one person in particular drove to Tillsonburg and back to purchase an item at 30 cents less.

Springford has its own water system, which is owned by the people (homeowners) and each one contributes their share yearly to cover expenses of repair and improvements. This is the only thing in Springford where there is 100 per cent support. Of course this is a necessity, but so are community affairs. Springford had its own village school for years and years. Then we got a new district school and once it was paid for we lost that and community support and togetherness has gone down hill since then, but we can't blame it all on that, it's our own fault, mainly for not being supportive enough in society as a small community socially.

For some reason or another there is no co-operation between the Clubs or general public. WHY? Is it because we want it to be just a place to live and not a COMMUNITY?

R. Ben Nunn

Hammer out differences on Springford centre

By PETER McLAUGHLIN

When 85 Springford residents packed the Womens' Institute Hall Thursday night to discuss the construction of a new village hall, they were a community divided.

But three hours and a lot of quarrelling later, the vast majority were solidly in favor of a new facility.

What began as a simple meeting to gauge local interest in the project, soon erupted into a roller-coaster ride of ill feelings, misunderstanding and confusion. At one point it looked as though four years of effort by the Springford Agricultural Society's building committee in spearheading the project would go for naught.

Armed with a survey taken last June showing 66 per cent of the community in favor of a new community hall, a promise of \$30,000 from Norwich Township Council and \$15,000 in pledges, the building committee

perhaps did not expect the kind of reception they received from many of the residents.

"I don't know why we have this split tonight. If you don't feel confident we've done the job, I'm sorry,"

said a surprised building committee chairman John Sandham.

Clearly half those attending the meeting held under the auspices of the Township's Recreation Advisory

(Continued on Page 2)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Culture and Recreation Advisory Committee for the Township of Norwich invites residents to attend a public meeting, to express their views on a proposal to build a new Community Centre in Springford.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, March 20, 1986 at the Springford Women's Institute Hall at 7:30 p.m.

(Continued from Page 1)

Committee, were skeptical of plans to build a new facility, favoring instead the renovation of the existing Springford Women's Institute Hall. The Institute has said it will close down and sell the hall this June since it can no longer afford to operate it. Once the hall is closed, Springford will be without a public meeting place, outside of its churches.

Nick Visser, spokesman for a "group of concerned citizens", said the building committee survey "lacked reliable" information. Producing a survey the concerned citizens group had conducted over the past several weeks, Mr. Visser said 88 per cent of 150 people surveyed preferred restoration of the Institute hall while only 22 per cent wanted a brand new hall. The survey also showed that 94 per cent wanted the hall to remain in its present location.

Throughout the meeting, Raymond McElhone repeatedly questioned the accuracy of the original survey since only 50 of the 162 ques-

tionnaires sent out were returned. Of the 50 replies, 33 were in favor of a new hall and 17 were against.

"I don't call that a majority," Mr. McElhone said. "Thirty-three is a long way from a majority."

He added the best that can be said about the building committee survey was that 122 people abstained.

"We can banter back and forth (about the credibility of each survey)," said Ward 1 councillor and Springford-area resident Don Pettigrew, "but the most accurate survey was the knocking on doors (done by the committee) and coming away with pledges of \$15,000."

"I think that shows very good support in the community," he said.

But harking back to the survey of last June, Valery Cayley said that if half the people couldn't make the effort to answer the questionnaire, then they won't be there to support the hall.

"It can't work without the whole community behind it," she said.

Arguing that the tight-knit community has the character and dedication to financially support a

new hall, Coun. Pettigrew said Springford requires a meeting place of some sort.

The bombshell of the evening was dropped by the Womens' Institute, which, half-way through the debate, told the meeting that it had just learned from the county engineer's office that the Institute Hall cannot be renovated to standards because of the irregular size of the lot it is located on.

Institute member Esther Smith said the Institute will sell the hall, which it has operated on its own since 1903, with the proviso it be either torn down or moved.

Recreation Advisory Committee member Les Buckrell told the gathering: "I wouldn't put money into this building. Because of its age and location, I think it would be a waste of township money."

Earlier in the evening, the Spring-Otter Optimist Club had volunteered to take over the WI Hall using it as a "base of operation" while keeping it available for the community.

With the demise of the WI Hall almost a foregone conclusion, residents rallied in favor of a new hall. To appease the dissenting faction, three members of the concerned citizens group joined the building committee to, as Ms. Cayley said, offer "different ideas."

Joining original building committee members John Sandham, chairman; Robert Hopkins, Doug Rice and Marg Seitz, are Val Cayley, Ed McElhone and Nick Visser.

The new committee is in the process of organizing a meeting in early April to investigate the pricing of a new hall and to garner new pledges for the project.

Fire department historical society topic

By JOYCE McMULLEN

A history of the Otterville Fire Department was the theme of the South Norwich Historical Society meeting held Monday evening, March 10, at the Woodlawn Adult Centre.

Presented by Bill McMullen, Chief of the Township of Norwich Fire Department Ward 1, the history dates back to records as early as 1860, verifying the existence of a fire department in Otterville at that time. This was quite an achievement as other communities in the district only organized quite recently such as Burgessville in 1956 and Brownsville in 1961.

A hand drawn fire engine with a hand pump was used. In 1877 an engine house and tower with bell was built. In 1941 the present day property was purchased on the corner of Dover and Mill Streets and a two-bay building with tower was constructed. Later in the 1950's the bell tower was removed and an addition built, which has been further extended in since then.

The next major equipment purchase was in 1928 when a 1927 Model T fire engine arrived in Otterville. Later, a 1939 Ford one and a half ton truck with three chemical tanks was devised. Cement silos were erected in 1913 on North Street to supply water, which has since changed to the present tower, tank and pump house, constructed in 1948.

At present, the fleet of trucks in the fire hall consists of a 1973 King Seagraeve Pumper, a 1967 Chevrolet truck with 1,300-gallon tank and a one ton four wheel drive International truck.

operators alerted designated firemen of fire calls before a siren was installed on the hall.

The fire department was originally known as the Otterville Fire Company, but was reorganized in 1912 as the Phoenix Fire Company.

In 1950, the Township Reeve and Clerk signed an agreement with Tillsonburg, Delhi and Otterville Fire Departments to service South Norwich, supplying the townships with their first fire protection.

The department heads were usually known as Captains, but sometimes held no rank at all. The first indication of the use of the word Chief was in 1952 when the new hall was finished. In 1953 the new title of Deputy Chief was used and the Captain posting returned in 1958. With restructuring of the county in 1975 the fire hall now has a District Chief, Bill McMullen, and two co-captains, Ross Dow and Colin Cope.

The big step into the modern world came in the mid-1950's when the County organized a Mutual Aid System with a county co-ordinator from the City of Woodstock.

Otterville was the first rural department in Oxford County with two way radios and pagers now used by the firemen.

The department has now moved to an era of breathing apparatus a rescue boat, K-12 Saw-Auto extraction tools, foam applicators and one and a half inch and two and a half inch hose. Such equipment and methods are needed in facing chemicals, plastics and many hazardous materials. The men have training in St. John Ambulance First Aid, CPR, and training programs from the fire college.

Bill closed by sharing some memories of severe fires, auto ac-

cidents, rescues, false alarms and amusing incidents.

In the early days, firemen raised funds to buy fire equipment but today that is no longer necessary. However, the Otterville department

has a Firefighters Club to look after the social side of the department keeping the families involved. This is the main spring of the department and the club has its own elected executive each year.

Otterville Personals

Joyce McMullen, Main St., Otterville

Sunshine Club

OTTERVILLE (C)--The Sunshine Club met on March 13 at the home of Marj Pearce with president Sandra Hussey presiding over the business.

Secretary-treasurer Marion Pettigrew read the minutes with nine members answering the roll call "Name an Irish song" given by Olive Pickersgill. Sick and shut-ins were remembered with cards.

A delicious lunch was served by Marion Pettigrew and the hostess with courtesy remarks by Jean Dow.

Summerville WI

OTTERVILLE (C)--The Summerville Women's Institute met at the home of Mrs. Keith Arthur for the March meeting.

Opened in usual form and the business attended to, the meeting was taken by Resolution Convener Mrs. Harry Pickersgill. Members responded to roll call by naming an Irish song or saying. Mrs. Pickersgill shared a reading written by Helen Steiner Rice after which she told of a little Courtland girl who has cystic fibrosis and was visited by the Smurfs through the efforts of a teacher, Mrs. Dianne Butler.

Several games of cards were enjoyed and a lovely lunch was served by the committee in charge of the evening.

Otterville Baptist WMF

OTTERVILLE (C)--Mr. and Mrs. Kay McCall of Tillsonburg, missionaries on furlough, were guest speakers at the annual family night supper of the Otterville Baptist Womens Missionary Fellowship.

Mr. and Mrs. McCall presented a very interesting talk on the work they were engaged in in Bolivia with the New Tribes Mission. Mrs. McCall showed many informative slides of various types of ministry in which they were involved, with Mr. McCall giving the commentary.

The supper was held in the Sunday School room of the church with the social committee of Hilda Stockman, Doreen Hansford and Evelyn Walters in charge.

President Wilma Butler presided over a short business session, announcing next months meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 1 with Wilma Hill's group supplying the program. The ladies of the group also were invited to join the United Church Women for their annual Easter Thanks Offering on Thursday, March 20.

Marlene Haggith lead the devotional program with no missionary letters to be read. But Wilma Butler giving a short report on the missionaries.

Letter writers for the month of March will be Stephanie Durkee for the Pollards in Kenya; Marlene Haggith, for Hazel Wrigglesworth in the Philipines, and Wilma Butler for the Helgetons in Saskatchewan.

Dorothy Hill gave the missionary prayer. Scripture reading, Psalm 96, Oh Sing Unto The Lord A New

Song was read by Stephanie Durkee; a reading was given by Edna Leach. His Name Is Wonderful, Rhonda Treffry and Paul Babcock rendered two duets, This Is The Time I Must Sing and There's Something About That Name.

Courtesy remarks were given by Wilma Butler and Rev. Joseph Bull closed in prayer.

Norwich-Otterville Lions Club

OTTERVILLE (C)--The regular meeting of the Norwich-Otterville Lions Club was held in the Legion Hall, Norwich, on Monday evening, March 10 with Lion president Paul Wood in charge.

This was a special event as ladies and guests were invited to a club fish-fry, well handled by Lion Tony Drescher and his capable lion helpers, which included four Legion ladies who assisted with the remainder of the dinner.

President Paul introduced District Governor Ray Rohrbach of the Fisherville Lions Club. Lion Ray stressed the truly international aspect of Lions clubs worldwide and especially drug awareness problems, the control of diabetes, etc. Only through each club working towards keeping their own club active and efficient, can these international objectives be reached.

The speaker was thanked by past zone chairman Colin Cope, who presented Lion Ray with a donation towards the Lions Foundation.

Lion Colin also spoke briefly on his campaign for Deputy District Governor at the upcoming mini-convention in early April.

Lion Tamer Bob Scott used this occasion to levy fines with reckless abandon, no lion, either local or guest, was spared.

In the spirit of generosity, Lion Bob followed with a Chinese Auction, the winner being Lion Russ Hall. The prize was a man's suit of questionable vintage and origination. It was generously returned to the club.

The winner of the consolation prize, a set of glass storage jars, was won by Greta Sandham.

Lion Gary Walther reported that a successful ladies night was held in London, March 5. Reports showed that several Lions had recently accompanied Lion Colin to various local clubs in his campaign as Deputy-Governor.

Plans for the Lions annual Fish Fry (perch) to be held in the Norwich Community Centre, Saturday evening, March 29 were discussed. Tickets are still available from any Lion member. There will also be a draw on a snowblower or cash equivalent as well as an undisclosed second prize the same evening.

Thanks were expressed from both Dereham District and Courtland Lions clubs who were in attendance.

The winners of the convention draws were Lions Yvonne Wood and Jean Miles.

37 attend Lions meeting

OTTERVILLE (C)--The regular meeting of the Norwich-Otterville Lions club was held in the communi-

ty hall, Monday evening, March 24 with Lion president Paul Wood in charge. There were thirty-five present including four members of the South Brant, Oakland, Lions Club and two guests.

Mr. Peter Shearer, a guest representing Adams Distillery, was introduced.

Lion Alvin Marr of the South Brant Club, introduced Zone Chairman Ted Rombout of the same club who is running for the position of Deputy District Governor of Region four.

Lion Ted spoke regarding Lion projects concerning this district in particular, the Canadian leader dog school in Oakville, the diabetes program and the drug awareness program.

The annual nominations for club positions for the coming year with the following lions nominated: Third Vice-President; Dick Harrison and Grant Orth; One Year Director-, Andy Buck; Two Year Directors; Jim Poole and Rick McKim. The election of Officers will be held at the regular meeting to be held in Springford, April 14.

The convention draws were won by lions Jim McLaren and Bill Smith.

St. John's ACW

OTTERVILLE (C)--The regular meeting of the St. John's Anglican Church Women was held Thursday evening, March 6 at the Home of Evelyn Picknell.

Business involved president, Kay Darling announcing the upcoming A.C.W. Conference to be held April 23 in London. Donations are now being accepted for the box to be sent to St. Monica House, Kitchener. As well, tickets are now being sold on a teddy bear crib quilt with proceeds to go to St. Monica House.

Plans were discussed about the forthcoming Annual Turkey Supper to be held Sunday, May 4, with settings of 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. Adults are \$6.50, children, \$3 and preschoolers free.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Georgina Spicer on Thursday evening, April 3.

The hostess then served lunch previous to the members attending a meeting at the United Church for the World Day of Prayer.

Sunshine Club gathers

OTTERVILLE (C)--The Sunshine Club met on March 27 at the home of Doreen Mountain with nine members answering the roll call, "What are you doing for Easter?" given by Marj Pearce.

There was discussion on the park

equipment and having last years swing installed.

A tasty Easter lunch was served by Dorothy Wardell and the hostess with courtesy remarks by Lily Chisholm. The next meeting will be held April 10 at the home of Etta McSkimming.

Leisure Club

OTTERVILLE (C) -- Eighteen Leisure Club members sat down to a bountiful potluck dinner at the Woodlawn Adult Centre on Wednesday, March 5.

During the business it was reported that Annie Pritchard had moved to Caressant Care Nursing Home, Woodstock, and that Alice De Graeves recently had an eye operation.

Correspondence was read from the Cancer Society in regards to the free Breast Self Examination Clinic April 24, 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be held March 19, 1:30 p.m. when Betty Lumsden will share her pictures on her trip to Ireland.

Leisure Club

OTTERVILLE (C)--The Leisure Club met Wednesday, March 19 at the Woodlawn Adult Centre, when special birthday members were especially remembered.

Birthday greetings were sung to Ann Arthur and Evelyn Waring with others having birthdays in March, Doug Carrol, Norm McIntyre, Fred Moore, Nellie Taylor and Florence Moore being announced.

The good cheer convenor, Grace Squance, reported sending cards to Alice DeGraeve and Ann Arthur, the latter thanking the club for their thoughtfulness. Cards were signed for Edith Petch and Ethel Arthur both suffering bad falls.

President Gladys Evans, reported purchasing additional yarn to complete the lap robes for the nursing home.

The 18 members and one visitor present, enjoyed games of euchre and aggravation with birthday cake and ice cream being served to bring an enjoyable afternoon to a close.

The next meeting, Wednesday, April 2, will be a pot luck dinner, 12:30 p.m. at the Woodlawn Adult Centre.

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH

BY-LAW NO. 21-86

BEING A BY-LAW TO PRESCRIBE STANDARDS
FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND OCCUPANCY OF
PROPERTY IN THE TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH.

WHEREAS the Corporation of the Township of Norwich deems it necessary to pass a by-law for prescribing standards for the maintenance and occupancy of property within the Township of Norwich, for prohibiting the occupancy or use of such property that does not conform to the standards and for requiring property that does not conform to the standards to be repaired and maintained to conform to the standards, or for the site to be cleared of all buildings, structures, debris or refuse, and left in a graded and levelled condition, and for prohibiting the removal from any premises of any sign, notice or placard placed thereon pursuant to this By-Law;

AND WHEREAS Section 31 of the Planning Act, S. O. 1983, provides authority for the enactment of such a by-law if an Official Plan that contains provisions relating to property conditions is in effect in a municipality;

AND WHEREAS there is such an Official Plan in effect in the Township of Norwich;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH enacts as follows:

SECTION 1 - GENERAL:

1.1 SHORT TITLE:

This By-Law shall be cited as the "PROPERTY STANDARDS BY-LAW".

1.2 Except as herein provided, the standards set in this By-Law are prescribed as the standards for the maintenance of all property in the Township of Norwich, and all property shall be maintained in compliance with the standards. The occupancy and use of property that does not conform to the standards is prohibited. Property that does not conform to the standards prescribed in this By-Law shall be repaired and maintained to comply with the standards, or the land thereof shall be cleared of all buildings or structures and left in a graded and levelled condition as required by notice given by the Officer.

1.3 Property Standards Officer shall:

- i) Enforce the provisions of this By-Law;
- ii) Perform all duties and shall have such powers and responsibilities as are contained and outlined in The Planning Act from time to time.

1.4 PLACARDING:

Where a Property Standards Officer has placed a placard in accordance with the provisions of The Planning Act, no person, excepting a Property Standards Officer shall remove any such placard from the said property.

Norwich Council may give \$10,000 to Woodstock

By Mark Hankinson
Staff Writer

NORWICH — Township of Norwich Mayor John Heleniak is "quite confident" Council will provide \$10,000 to Woodstock's economic development department.

The contribution will help Norwich join forces with the City of Woodstock to help bring industry and development to the area.

"If we are able to attract one industry to the area, everyone will benefit," Mr. Heleniak said. "I will certainly recommend putting it in the budget when the discussion session is set.

"I am quite confident Council will include it in the budget."

In return for the contribution, the Township will have a representative on the economic development committee and Norwich businessmen will have the opportunity to use the resources available at the department.

Last year, Norwich refused to join the Woodstock committee, but economic development commissioner Paul Plant, who met with councillors earlier this month, had a different reception this year.

"We were received in a very positive light. I think the attitude was very open minded. If they decide to go along with it, we'll all benefit," he said.

Mr. Plant added that the direct and indirect benefits Norwich will enjoy will be worth the price of admission to the group.

"We are trying to solidify a working relationship with Woodstock and

Norwich. Assistance will be offered to existing businesses and we'll be trying to work on developing a further expansion of the economic base of the area."

While most of the effort of the economic department is focused on Woodstock (10 per cent of the time will be devoted to Norwich and Blandford-Blenheim). Mr. Plant said new industry in Woodstock "will be a direct benefit for the citizens of Norwich. A significant percentage (25 per cent) of the labour force from Norwich works in Woodstock and some service companies will have a spin-off effect as well.

"We're not asking Norwich to carry a big load because we realize it's a hard thing to sell to residents. (But) if they tried to do some economic development on their own, \$10,000 would not go too far. This way they will have two full-time development professionals working on behalf of the area."

Councillor Paul Wood agrees that this group would be beneficial for the area.

"It will give us a much-needed boost. I feel we need industry and this is a great way of doing it. It is this council's wish to bring industry and I think you'll see that happen."

Yet before any decision is made, Councillor Helen Smith wants to know more about the benefits for Norwich.

"I'm not thumbs down on this thing, but there is a lot of questions I would like to ask before saying 'yes or no'. I would like to know what the Township will get for that kind of money. I would like something definite. That's a lot of money if we don't have any guarantees."

Norwich police force "efficient"

The Ontario Police Commission has issued a report praising the efficiency of the Norwich Township Police.

The report, released by Norwich Township Council Monday, has

alleviated concern that the township force was unnecessary because of the close proximity of the OPP's Tillsonburg detachment. Critics have said Norwich did not need a 4-man force, and that it would make

economic sense for the OPP to replace it.

Township council requested the study last September. Both the Norwich and Tillsonburg police force workloads were examined over a 28-day period.

Although the force is a township one, it only patrols the Village of Norwich, although it does respond to most calls elsewhere in the Township.

The report describes the deployment of the four officers as well-managed and efficient. When the workload was slow, the report continues, officers conscientiously used "slack time" for other activities such as radar, by-law enforcement and property checks. It also said shifts were flexible and well organized, economically.

The Norwich force is not the only municipal police force whose efficiency has been questioned, either. The Commission reassured council that it has studies many similar cases of "demand versus no demand workload."

Financially sound

NORWICH — The township was depicted by its auditor last week as showing "adequate financial shape."

Reviewing the township's finances for 1985, Doug Slade of Millard, Rouse and Rosebrugh, Chartered Accountants, Simcoe, pointed out that Council has put in a "reasonable effort to operate within its budget and been reasonably successful in doing that."

On the "positive side," Mr. Slade said the township's long-term debt shows signs of "decreasing," and reserves appear "fairly reasonable" in relation to taxes.

However, on the "negative side," he said taxes show a "slight trend" to increase over the short haul.

Reserves in 1985 totalled \$927,009 compared to \$954,180 in 1984. Long-term liabilities stood at \$342,500 last year compared to \$409,750 in 1984.

Mr. Slade suggested Council "try to keep taxes in line in the future." However, he conceded problems in doing so as school boards are taking a "greater percentage" of municipal revenue each year.

Nevertheless, he stressed that his report reflected Council's efforts "to control spending."

Policy study reviewed

NORWICH — A confidential Ontario Police Commission workload study of Norwich Police Department will again be reviewed by township Council at its next meeting April 14.

After a prolonged in-camera session at Council's March 25 meeting, councillors decided to table the report until its first April meeting.

Mayor John Heleniak said after the closed session that Council wants Police Chief Robert Knight present for discussions on the report prior to approval and possible release to the media and public.

Chief Knight has been invited to attend the April 14 meeting.

Council had already reviewed the report in-camera during its March 3 meeting, deferring any decision until March 25.

Mayor Heleniak said the OPC report would again be looked at in-camera April 14. Then, if Council agrees, all or part of it will be released publicly.

Councillor Paul Wood, chairman of the township's Community Services Committee, stressed that the report is "confidential" and no details can be given out until Council approves its release.

He speculated that it could be released April 14, adding that it contained nothing "out of the ordinary."

The study examined police manpower and utilization as a means of assessing manpower needs and future use. Council had requested the study last September.

In any event, the OPC's mandate focused on finding out if the township was getting top value from the department through this efficiency study. Council had hoped the study might tell it where costs might be cut and services streamlined.

Norwich police force consists of the chief, three full-time officers and two part-time auxiliary constables.

Norwich police cleared by study

By Stuart Mann
Editor

NORWICH — An Ontario Police Commission study has given the Norwich police force a clean bill of health.

The study, which looked at the manpower requirements of the four-man police force, concluded that "the current number of officers in Norwich cope well and respond quickly to any calls that arise."

Norwich police chief Robert Knight said he was pleased with the outcome of the report. "This just verifies what we already knew," he said last week.

The study was commissioned last September after several council members questioned the effectiveness of the police force in an emergency and its operating costs.

Ward 2 councillor Paul Wood said he was "satisfied" with the police force after reading the report.

'Satisfied'

"I think there were members of council who were very interested to see that we were getting our money's worth and now we have the information to prove it."

A spokesman for Ward 3 councillor John McNally said Mr. McNally had "nothing to say and no comment" on the report. Mr. McNally has been critical of the police force in the past.

Mayor John Heleniak was supportive of the report. "It shows that the police force is being operated in an efficient manner and there are no particular problems."

During the study, workload for a 28-day period was recorded, analyzed and then compared to officer deployment. The Ontario Police Commission provided the "time clock" and dispatch cards necessary to record Norwich's police workload.

That during the week of April 2, 1966:

The 20th anniversary of Violet Rebekah Lodge, Otterville, was celebrated. A 20-year veteran pin was presented to lodge secretary, Mrs. Nate McMullan.

Equalized property assessment ?

By SAUL CHERNOS

Equalized property assessment could be coming to Norwich Township.

Township council voted last week to request that, starting in 1987, the

Ministry of Revenue equalize assessments to reflect 1984 values instead of the 1975 values which are currently used.

But first, however, the assessment office will carry out an impact study

to show council the effects of reassessment, so that it can make a final decision.

The goal of reassessment is to make property taxes for properties of the same class equal and thus more fair. For this to be done, some taxes could go up and others down on properties in the same class. Essentially, properties would be reevaluated to determine their 1984 worth. Properties are classed, for taxation purposes, into categories such as agricultural, commercial, industrial and residential.

While individual assessments may change, the proportion of taxes paid by each category of properties will stay the same.

Council has received several requests to update assessments. Councillor Don Pettigrew said the Ministry has deemed it "wise" to reassess every three or four years. "We should take this initiative rather than waiting for people to line up at the door demanding it."

Norwich probing tax system

By Ben Steidman
Staff Writer

D.N. APR 9

NORWICH — Township Council is investigating its property tax system with an eye on possibly reforming it to reflect current economic conditions.

Michael Quinn of Ontario's Ministry of Revenue London Assessment Office told Council at its March 25 meeting that an initial step in this direction would be an "impact study" to allow councillors an opportunity to look at the effects of reassessment.

Council would then have the "option" of saying "yes or no" to updating the tax system. Nevertheless, Council decided to delay any action for at least three weeks.

Updating in Norwich would mean using 1985 market value assessment instead of the current base year of 1975.

Taxes could be raised for some properties within the same class while others would have taxes lowered, based on current market values.

Mr. Quinn said the basic "purpose" of the reassessment, conducted and implemented by his ministry, is to "equalize taxes in the same class."

Reevaluating as well a backlog of new properties put on Norwich's tax roll over the past decade, Mr. Quinn suggested, would result in a fairer taxation system.

In an interview last week, Mayor John Heleniak said a review of Norwich's tax system would "allow for a fairer assessment of property for local tax purposes in each taxation class."

Norwich uses 1975 market values, he added, which don't reflect today's valuations.

Treasurer Reg Saunders sounded out Mr. Quinn on the question of whether taxes from tobacco farms,

with falling property values and thus tax assessment, suspecting they would be shifted to dairy farms.

Mr. Quinn insisted that after an analysis of the market, reassessment in each property class, such as agricultural, would mean sharing the tax burden equally for all property owners in that group.

He also pointed out that taxes from agriculture cannot be shifted to residential or industrial areas.

Councillor Bob Martin, a dairy farmer, still felt that others such as dairy farmers or cash crop farmers shouldn't have to "suffer the consequences" for the dire straits tobacco farmers are in currently.

He argued that all farmers are having financial problems. The drop in popularity of tobacco products has been caused by "economic forces," he said, having nothing whatever to do with farming, so "why should others get the brunt and pay for it?"

BIA to beautify and publicize Norwich

By Saul Chernos

Beauty, publicity and business were high on the agenda at Monday night's annual banquet-meeting of the Norwich Business Improvement Association.

After revealing a 1985 year-end bank balance of \$10,245, up from \$4,292 the previous year, BIA members and committee chairpersons discussed how to spend the money to effectively promote business and attract visitors to Norwich.

Al Monroe, chairman of the Beautification Committee, reminded members about the decorative garbage containers, flowers and potted plants which are planned for the shopping district this year.

Munro said that while he is still trying to interest Norwich high-school students in designing the garbage bins, Norwich Public School teacher Mae Leonard and her grade 6 pupils have volunteered to care for the plants and protect them from vandals.

When there is vandalism, "those kids know and tell their teachers, and they tell us and we tell the police, and we catch them", suggested Munro, expressing both concern and acceptance of the inevitable. "We're going to have to take it as it comes."

While beautification remained a high priority in the enthusiastic and friendly conversation which typified the warm, neighborly spirit of a small community, concern was ex-

pressed about the public profile of the BIA.

"Very few people realize the BIA paid for them", said Munro of the street decor. "People should know!"

BIA Promotion Committee chairman David Irving provided some answers. Presenting examples of how other BIA's have promoted themselves and their business members, members debated how to most effectively publicize Norwich.

A brochure was recommended to highlight not only stores and boutiques, but services such as lawyers, gas stations and insurance agents. Interest was also expressed in a Norwich business directory and a BIA calendar.

The point here, according to Irving, is to make people elsewhere in the province aware of what Norwich has to offer. Distribution of promotional material through the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Recreation was discussed. Irving hopes to see some sort of finished product "long before Christmas".

Glen Baxter, president of the Chamber of Commerce, disagreed with a directory because "we haven't that kind of a drawing card." Norwich, he reminded, has few motels where a visitor can browse through a directory "and ask, 'where can I get a haircut?'"

Matt Smith, of Smith's Men's and Boy's Wear, asked rhetorically, "what's going to bring me to Norwich?" While admitting "I know I wouldn't come if I didn't have to",

he pointed out the uniqueness Norwich has to offer. Aside from the museum, he said, there is the exotic Roxton furniture at Arn and Son Furniture and the friendly, personal service that can't be enjoyed in the malls of larger centres.

The town, itself, is most important, said real estate broker Bill Hajdu, emphasizing that money should be spent on making the town "look nice" so that when people drive through they want to stay around.

Township council's representative on the BIA told everyone that \$65,500 in taxes was raised last year from businesses in the core shopping area and that should provide some idea of just how much council could afford to put back into the area. He also announced that the third reading of a property standards by-law will qualify Norwich for government grants. There are plans to apply by the fall.

Although the BIA started 1985 with only \$4,292, its year-end bank balance was \$10,245. The profit came largely as a result of two kickbacks from Township council as well as membership fees. In 1985 the BIA spent \$3,179 in promotion and advertising, \$1,006 on beautification and 107 in administration costs.

Arn told the 27 assembled businesspeople that he was delighted with the evening's attendance. While only 17 people came to last year's banquet, 17 businesses were represented this year.

Legal Notices

TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH

TENDER FOR ROADSIDE GRASS MOWING

Sealed tenders, clearly marked as to contents, will be received by the undersigned until 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, APRIL 18th, 1986, for roadside grass mowing along Township Roads within the Township of Norwich. The Tender forms and specifications are available at the Township Office, 10 Main Street East, Otterville.

Ron Smith
Road Superintendent
Township of Norwich
P.O. Box 100
Otterville, Ontario
NOJ 1R0
879-6568 or 863-2709

Township of Norwich

Tenders Grass Cutting

Sealed tenders, clearly marked as to contents will be received by the undersigned until 4:00 p.m., Friday, April 18, 1986 for grass cutting and trimming in 1986 at several cemeteries and parks in the township. Information and tender forms may be obtained at the township office, Otterville. Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Robert C. Watkins
Clerk Administrator
Township of Norwich
P.O. Box 100
Otterville, Ont.
NOJ 1R0
879-6568 or 863-2709

Legal Notices

TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH

SPRING CLEAN-UP COMMENCING TUESDAY, MAY 13, 1986

Garden refuse and brush for collection in the Village of Norwich must be placed in the boulevard for collection not later than 7:00 A.M. on the above date.

The truck will pass along the route ONCE ONLY. No telephone calls will be accepted.

Earth, masonry and any refuse from building repairs or construction will not be picked up.

Note that no refuse or brush shall be placed on any street or lane other than the above date scheduled prior to 48 hours as it will be in violation of BY-LAW NO. 34-85, Section 5.5.

AGRICULTURE & WORKS COMMITTEE

Accept Otterville school bid

When the Oxford County Board of Education building committee gathered to open tenders for the Otterville Public School building project, they hoped the prices would be about \$60 per square foot.

But they found that even the low bidder, Graceview Enterprises of Belmont, was \$8 a square foot higher than they expected.

Nonetheless, trustees accepted the Belmont company's bid of \$836,730 at their meeting Monday night, while urging the provincial government to take a hard look at

the education capital grant plan used to calculate approved costs for building projects.

By the time the board finishes paying all of the bills associated with the project, the cost will be \$923,901. Included in the cost is \$43,246 in furniture and equipment and \$55,905 in architect's fees.

Demolition of the 1929 section of the building will cost about \$20,900 while site work will add another \$25,100 to the cost. Alterations to the remaining section of the building will cost \$17,155.

Superintendent of Business, George Hammond, said in his report to the board, one of the reasons for higher than expected project costs is increased activity in the construction business. He noted Graceview's bid was \$45,000 less than the next lowest, tendered by D. Grant and Sons of London.

After approving the tender for the project, trustees passed a resolution expressing concern to the ministry of education regarding the values currently provided for under the capital grants plan.

Community helps badminton team

By Saul Chernos

The Norwich community has rallied around its high-school badminton squad and helped send it to the All-Ontario finals.

Norwich Township's politicians, school trustee Pat Smith and Branch 190 of the Legion all reached into their own pockets to help Norwich District High School send its badminton squad to the All-Ontario finals in New Liskeard.

At last week's township meeting Ward 2 Councillor Paul Wood introduced a resolution that council grant the team, consisting of Vicki Laekeman and Lisa Andrew, \$200 to help foot their transportation bill to New Liskeard, just north of North Bay.

The motion was defeated, however, with councillors not wan-

ting to set a precedent for this type of municipal grant.

But as soon as the matter of technical precedent was looked after, councillors voiced their support for the team, and within moments, ten dollar bills were being passed around faster than councillors' memos.

When the flurry of bills had reached Wood, \$120 had been collected - \$10 from each of the ten councillors, as well as Mayor John Heleniak and clerk Robert Watkins.

"I think that each of the councillors decided that's what we should do", Wood said in an interview after the meeting. "We were interested

(Continued from Page 1)

but we didn't feel it was something council should get into. We've got to be very careful getting into

something like this. Where are you going to stop?"

Reached at home the day after returning from the finals, where Norwich reached the quarter finals and placed 8th out of a field of 36 teams, Andrew said she was "really grateful" for the community's support. "It's nice the community cares", said Andrews, sounding both overwhelmed by the generosity and tired from the four-day excursion.

Andrew said she was pleased with the squad's outcome. After winning several matches, they came up against the top-seeded team and lost. The team, from Toronto "was just fabulous", pointed out Andrew, satisfied with their accomplishments. "It was nice losing to a team that made it to the final. Being there with the top athletes in Ontario is a nice feeling."

Laekeman also said she was both surprised and pleased the community helped pay the team's way.

Coach John Kupisz said he would like to "thank everybody involved. We wouldn't have gotten there without their support." Kupisz sent a letter for print in the Gazette, thanking the community.

P.U.C. meeting held

At their regular April Meeting, the Norwich Public Utility Commission expressed concern regarding its ability to supply enough water to Otterville during the summer months.

The concern arose from a report from the International Water Supply Company.

Betty Adlington heads Cornell WI

CORNELL (C) - The annual April meeting of Cornell WI was held at the home of Mrs. Bill Marshall. Roll call was paying of dues and what part of the local paper do you read first?

A letter was read from South Oxford District in regard to agriculture in the classroom.

The 83rd district annual of Oxford South will be held in Tillsonburg on May 21.

Officers for 1986-87 are: past presi-

dent, Marie Hicks; president, Betty Adlington; 1st vice president, Elsie Marshall; 2nd vice president, Elsie Waite; secretary, Lucille Debus; treasurer, Evelyn Pearce; district director, Marie Hicks; alternate, Shirley Debus; flower committee, Lena Lucas and Iva Bowlby; curator, Marie Hicks; assistant, Lena Lucas; pianist, Ruth Fick; auditors, Betty Adlington and Eunice Rauw; 4-H leader, Audrey Boughner.

Standing committee conveners: agriculture and Canadian industries, Doris Oatman; citizenship and world affairs, Ruth Hulme; family and consumer affairs, Eunice Rauw; resolutions, Cela Rice; public relations, Lucille Debus.

Marie Hicks expressed thanks to all who helped her while she was president.

Alice Nelson and Dianne Hodges were guests for the evening. Slides on a Typical Day of a VON were viewed and enjoyed by all. They also told about the day centre program for seniors and the friendly visitors program.

These women and their co-workers have to be very dedicated people to serve in this way. Keep up the good work.

Next month, note change in place of meeting from the home of Lena Lucas to the home of Lucille Debus. Roll call is a verse from an old autograph album.

Annual meeting of Springford WI

President Lorraine Downing welcomed members to her home for the annual meeting of Springford Women's Institute. Fourteen ladies

answered roll call by paying their dues.

The nominating committee presented the new slate of officers and they were installed by Dorothy Palmer as follows: past president, Lorraine Downing; president, Nancy Lester; vice-president, Carol Tribe; secretary, Nelda Kiddie; treasurer, Carol Tribe; district director, Eva Lee; alternate, Sherrill Babbey.

Standing committee conveners: agriculture and Canadian industries, Mae Oatman; world affairs and citizenship, Ruby Fleming; family affairs, Ruth Ann Haley; consumer affairs, Esther Smith; education and cultural affairs, Joyce Pettigrew; resolutions, Lorraine Downing; curator, Clara War-

de; public relations, Sherrill Babbey; nominating committee, Carol Tribe and Sherrill Babbey; auditors, Eva Lee and Joyce Pettigrew; cards, Dorothy Palmer.

Incoming president Nancy Lester thanked Lorraine Downing for taking over for the last year and for holding the meeting in her home.

A brief program planning was held to arrange for the new year and a delicious potluck lunch was enjoyed.

May meeting will be held on Tuesday morning, May 20 under the convenership of Sherrill Babbey. Members will travel to the farm of Woodstock artist Ross Butler to view his lovely livestock paintings. Following this they will go to the Heritage Tea Room for lunch.

SUMMERVILLE W.I.

The annual meeting of Summerville W.I. was held at the home of Mrs. Don Arthur. Mrs. Joe Duffy, the president opened the evening with, The Opening Ode, Mary Steward Collect and The Lord's Prayer.

The secretary, Mrs. Joe Ash, read the minutes of the March meeting. Roll Call was answered by the paying of dues. Conveners read their reports of the past year. Mrs. Keith Arthur gave the financial report. The auditors report was given by Mrs. Gordon Gehring. Happy Birthday was sung for Mrs. Reg Walter. Mrs. Lorne Treffry was in charge for the election of officers and conveners as follows:

Past President, Mrs. Joe Duffy; Pres, Mrs. Ken Arthur; 1st Vice-Pres, Mrs. Jay Durkee; 2nd Vice-Pres, Mrs. Don Arthur; Secretary, Mrs. Jack Walther; Treasurer, Mrs. Keith Arthur; assistant, Mrs. Don Arthur; Public Relations, Mrs. Don Barnim; Dist Director, Mrs. Joe Duffy; Alternate director, Mrs. Gordon Gehring; Good Cheer, Miss Vera Welch; Tweedsmuir History, Mrs. Stanley Gehring; Auditors, Mrs. Irvin Gehring and Mrs. Gordon Gehring; Nominating committee, Mrs. Joe Duffy and Mrs. Don Arthur.

The conveners for the coming year are: Agriculture, Mrs. J. Walther; Canadian Industries, Mrs. Bert Redman; World Affairs, Mrs. Don Arthur; Citizenship, Mrs. R. Walter; Education, Mrs. I. Gehring; Family and consumer affairs, Mrs. G. Gehring; Resolutions, Mrs. Lorne Treffry; Christmas program, Mrs. Don Barnim.

Mrs. Don Barnim gave a report of the spring board meeting which she and Mrs. Harly Pickersgill attended

A Heritage Tea will be held at Norwich Archives April 26. The Tweedsmuir books will be on display. Summerville W.I. will have a Garage and Bake sale May 10 at the home of Mrs. Joe Ash, Queen St., Otterville. The meeting was closed and a social time was spent with the

Historical Society meets

OTTERVILLE (C)

The April meeting of the South Norwich Historical Society, held at the Woodlawn Adult Centre, featured a talk and slide presentation by Ed and Jean Moore covering their recent visit to Mexico. This gave brief glimpses of the cigar tobacco, banana, coffee, sugar cane and cattle ranch sections of Mexican agriculture. As well, a few pictures of Aztec and Mayan pyramids were shown.

Correspondence was read from the Oxford County Board of Education stating that they planned to preserve the old school bell and cornerstone and mount them on a cairn where they would be prominently displayed when the new Otterville

Public School is erected.

Bill and Lurene McMullen volunteered to look after the barbecue for the Treffry reunion. President, Ken Mann, announced there would be a general clean up of the mill and grounds on Saturday, April 26. Volunteers with brooms would be most welcome at 9:00 am. All agreed the trip to the Ford Museum was very successful and it was suggested the society plan another trip in the fall.

An executive meeting was called for the following evening to consider if the society might take action in tendering a bid for the Oddfellows Hall for use as a museum.

Lunch was served and the evening closed with a social time.

W.M.S. meeting

OTTERVILLE (C)--The Womens Missionary Fellowship held their regular meeting on Tuesday evening at the home of Janet Davis.

Wilma Hill gave the devotional message centering around the Easter theme, "Why The Cross? Why The Resurrection?" Jesus was born to die on the cross for our sins. The sacrifice of His blood is the symbol of God's Sacrifice for us. God hates sin because He is holy and sin is the cause of all the misery, wars, tears and broken hearts in this world. We need the Holy Spirit to bring conviction on our hearts that we are sinners. We must bring our sin to the cross, make peace with God and be pardoned and forgiven.

The president, Wilma Butler, conducted the business session of the meeting with the opening hymn being "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today." Missionary letters were read from the Hegelton family by Lorraine Davis and from the Pollards by Dorothy Hill. The missionary prayers were offered by Wilma Butler and Lorna Smith. Two poems were read, "Easter Time" by Janet Davis and "The Easter Anthem" by Evelyn Clinton. The scripture reading, Mark 8: 31-38 was given by Dorothy Hill.

After the closing hymn "He Lives" and prayer offered by Hilda Stockman, a lunch was served by the hostess assisted by Lorraine Davis and Marlene Haggith. Courtesy remarks were given by Marilyn Treffry.

Otterville

Joyce McMullen
Main St., Otterville

OTTERVILLE (C) - Ann Armstrong of Seattle, Washington, visited during the past week with her brother Mr. and Mrs. Ross McMullen, Ashley and Megan, Otterville.

While here, a family gathering was held at the McMullen residence, Wednesday, in honor of her visit. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Brown, Ingersoll; Madeline Moody, Beaverton; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Simmons, Toronto; Mr. and Mrs. George Simmons, Woodstock; Winnie McMullen, Norwich; Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Pettit, Sarnia; Mary Deer, Niagara Falls; and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Doan and family, Norwich.

Otterville town talk

Bluebird Club

OTTERVILLE (C)--The members of the Happy Bluebird Club were delightfully entertained at the home of Mrs. Jenny Mitchell, Main St. West, Norwich on Friday, April 11 for the celebration of the club's 38th anniversary. Members enjoyed seeing each other again owing to the fact that meetings had not been held during the winter months due to illness and winter weather conditions.

The day planned as a pot luck lunch at noon was a banquet of a chicken dinner accompanied with many delicious goodies and completed with white birthday cake and ice cream.

Twelve ladies sat down for the meal commencing with silent grace. Birthday greetings were sung in honour of the special day.

Following the dinner presentations were made to the president Dorothy Daniels who had been confined to home due to illness and Mrs. Betty Grouix who was remembered, the day marking her 40th wedding anniversary.

A scrapbook was shared and viewed which brought to mind many memories and reviewed events of the past.

President, Mrs. Daniels called the meeting to order, through everyone

repeating the Housewife's Creed followed by prayer. Daisy Ash gave a reading Friendship, which was in keeping with the day.

An Evening Prayer was sung by Mrs. Daniels with Evelyn Waring giving a whistling solo, How Great Thou Art, both unaccompanied.

Plans were made for the next meeting in May to be held at the home of Mrs. Daniels.

Members all expressed appreciation to Mrs. Mitchell, her daughter and granddaughters who made the day one to be remembered.

Those present for the happy occasion were Dorothy Daniels, Jenny Mitchell, Helen Davis, Petunia McNally, Betty Grouix, Mary Vankerbroeck, Daisy Ash, Ann Davis, Marie Davis, Lillian Morris, Amy Cowie, Josephine Rosehardt and Evelyn Waring.

Leisure Club

The Leisure Club met Wednesday, April 16 at Woodlawn Adult Centre with 14 members in attendance.

Thankyou cards were read from Nellie Taylor and Evelyn Waring as well as a brochure on trips to the Thousand Islands.

Members were reminded of the Fun Olympics in Tillsonburg May 15 and the free Breast Clinic at Tillson-

Rebekah Lodge 330

Violet Rebekah Lodge number 330 opened in regular form with N.G. Sister Ann Arthur and V.G. Sister Jean McClintock presiding with guest Sister Norma Lefevre presiding at the piano.

D.D.P. Sister Betty Bouma was welcomed on her official visit as well as four other sisters from Fidelity Lodge.

V.G. Sister Jean McClintock reported sending get well cards to Sisters Ila Nant, Olive Pickersgill and her husband, Ethel Arthur and Sister Violet Howse's brother Lloyd Philips, "thinking of you" cards to Sisters Winnie McMullen and Gertie Hanson and a sympathy card to Sister Freda Bradfield, R.A. Treasurer.

A thank-you letter was read from Sister Annie Godby with other correspondence from D.D.P. Sec. of East St. Thomas advising that Sister Jean McClintock has been recommended for D.D.P. of East St. Thomas District number 17. Letters were read from Vigilant, Arkess, Charity and Avalon Lodges at attend their birthday meetings.

It was decided to send a donation to the Arthritis Foundation.

The members were reminded of Myrtle Lodge Euchre April 16 and Fidelity Rebekah Lodge's birthday meeting April 14.

D.D.P. Betty Bouma brought greetings from R.A. of Ontario and reminded the members of the district meeting April 19 at Delhi at

2:00 p.m. The R.A. Warden Sister Sylvia Evans will be making her official visit May 12 when Fidelity, Myrtle and Violet Lodges will be co-hostess at Delhi Lodge.

Tickets on the Little Brown Church, which was made and donated by Sister Anna Treffry were distributed with the draw to be made on Installation Night in October.

Lodge closed in regular form, followed by a few games of euchre. Prize winners were Sisters Violet Howse, Norma Wilson and Esther Smith winning the surprise prize. Lunch was served by the social committee. Lucky cup winners were Sisters Helen Thompson and D.D.P. Betty Bouma.

Violet Rebekah Lodge

Violet Rebekah Lodge opened in regular form with N.G. Sister Ann Arthur and V.G. Sister Jean McClintock presiding.

A sympathy card was signed by the members for Sister Lorna Barnim in loss of her father. The charter will be draped next meeting night for P.P. Sister Clara Beatty.

Sister Jean McClintock resigned as V.G. as she had been elected D.D.P. for E. St. Thomas District "17".

Lodge closed in regular form and lunch was served. The lucky cup winners were Sister Ann Arthur, Jean McClintock and Vera Welsh.

Sunshine Club gathers

The Sunshine Club met at the home of Etta McSkimming on April 10 with eleven members answering the roll call, What Is Your Favourite T.V. Show? given by Etta.

Doreen Mountain reported that reservations had been made for the night out at Union Hotel in Norman-

dale May 7.

A delicious lunch was served by Marion Pettigrew and the hostess, with courtesy remarks by Sandra Hussey.

The next meeting will be held on April 24 at the home of Joyce Leeming.

burg Hospital.

Euchre was enjoyed and cake and ice cream was served at the conclusion.

The next meeting will be a pot luck dinner, May 7 at 12:30 pm at the Woodlawn Centre.

Lions Club

The regular meeting of the Norwich-Otterville Lions Club was held in the Community Hall, Otterville Monday evening, April 28 with Lions president, Paul Wood, in charge. With fine weather for the farmers, attendance was lower with 29 members and one visitor.

Plans have been completed for a Colin Cope appreciation night for Lions and guests to be held in the Community Hall, Otterville, on Friday evening, May 2 beginning at 7 pm. Lion Colin was elected Deputy District Governor of this district at the recent convention in Niagara Falls.

A letter of appreciation was read thanking the club for again donating to the Ontario Lions Camp for the Blind on Lake Joseph, Muskoka. This camp continues to develop each year.

The Lions' annual fireworks display will be held in the Community Park, Otterville, Monday evening, May 19. This year there will be an expanded ground display with less aerial fireworks. A ball game will precede the fireworks.

Lion Colin Cope has made extensive plans for the annual Journey For Sight, a bike-a-thon of 100 miles from Courtland to Fort Erie. Lion Colin and son Steven, age 12, both hope to complete the entire ride. Sight conservation and assistance for the blind remain important Lion projects.

Convention draw winners were Lions Jim Poole and John Leitch.

Family dinner

A family dinner was held Saturday evening in honour of the anniversary of Jim and Grace Squance at the Sherwood Restaurant, Brantford. Grace and Jim were recipients of a white orchid corsage and gardenia boutoniere, presents of Bob and Dorothy Squance, of pwwell River, B.C. who were unable to attend.

Those present were Keith and Clara Squance, Oliver, B.C.; Gordon and Dorothy Squance, Brantford; Ernie and Jean Miller, Paris; Leo and Sheila Kroehe, Woodstock; and Merton and Marjorie McClintock, Springford.

Sunshine Club

The Sunshine Club met on April 24 at the home of Joyce Leeming with 10 members in attendance. In the absence of President, Sandra Hussey, Marg Pearce presided for the business.

The roll call, "A Household chore you would like to give up for good", was given by Joyce Leeming.

April 30 was the date set for the installation of the park equipment. The club's night out, May 7, will be a meeting at the home of Dorothy Wardell at 5:30 pm and then to the Union Hotel at Normandale.

A tasty lunch was served by the hostess and courtesy remarks were given by Marion Pettigrew.

Lions name executive for year

The regular meeting of Norwich-Otterville Lions club was held Monday April 14th, at the Springford United church. Thirty four Lions enjoyed dinner served by Springford U.C.W.

Lion Jim Sandham expressed appreciation to the Ladies on behalf of the members.

Newly elected Deputy District Governor Lion Colin Cope spoke briefly to express appreciation for the support of the club during his campaign and at the convention at Niagara Falls April 4, 5, and 6.

A Colin "Curly" Cope victory appreciation night will be held Friday May 8th at the Otterville Community Hall, for Lion members, wives and guests.

The annual fireworks display will be held Monday May 19th at the Otterville Park. A ball game will precede the fireworks.

Lion Colin Cope will be participating in the Journey for Sight, a hundred mile bicycle ride to raise

money for sight conservation and diabetes research. Anyone interested may feel free to be a sponsor for any amount.

Executive for 1986-87:
 President - Gary Walter
 Past President - Paul Wood
 1st Vice Pres. - Murray Cornwell
 2nd Vice Pres. - Tony Drescher
 3rd Vice Pres. - Grant Orth
 Secretary - Gordon Shearer
 Treasurer - Mark Gilmore
 Lion Tamer - Bill Orth
 Tail Twister - Mike Ellul
 Bulletin Editor - John Leitch

1 year directors - Andy Buck, John Leitch
 2 year directors - Rick McKim, Jim Poole.

OTTERVILLE FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST.

Sunday March 30, Sunday school was held for all ages followed by morning worship at 11:00.

Bob Marshall led the service opening with a responsive of parts of the Easter story from John 19 and 20.

Scripture reading was taken from Revelation 21:1-8, 22-22:21.

Being Easter Sunday, Pastor Bull spoke on the Hope we can have because of Jesus Resurrection. The mark of a true christian will be Hope. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we also can have the hope of a new body after death. If we believe and are united with Christ, we will receive a new glorified body in heaven.

Even all nature groans and is waiting for the day as the picture seen in Revelation 21 when there will be no more pollution, hurting of nature etc. Even for man, there will be no more suffering in the new Jerusalem. The glory of God will shine unveiled. Right now we just have glimpses in our bibles of the wonderful place Jesus is preparing for each one of us.

If Christ were to come today,

would we be ashamed of the situation He finds us in? Where is our hope?

Paul Babcock and David Pathy ministered in a duet singing "Blessed Redeemer."

Offering was received by Alex DAVIS and Dave Spencer. Pianist was Wilma Butler.

OTTERVILLE UNITED

Holy week services commenced on Maundy Thursday with service and communion at Otterville 7:30 in the evening, followed with continuous services at 11 a.m. Friday morning at Springford until 4 p.m. Friday evening Oscar Peterson's lovely Easter Cantata was presented by 1st Baptist Church, Tillsonburg and enjoyed by all present.

Sunday morning Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. at the farm of Les and Bertha Gehring was well attended. An inspiring worship service was conducted by Tracey Walther assisted by Karen Smith, Shelby McMurchy, Darren Smith and Lisa Forsyth. Charles Seed Jr. gave the scripture reading St. Matthew 28: 1-10 The Resurrection. Elsie McSpadden was accordianist for the beautiful Easter hymns.

Following the service, a delicious pancake breakfast was served in the church basement and prepared by several men of the church. Easter Sunday service commenced at 11:15 a.m.

Rev. Seed gave the call to worship reminding us that in Jesus is the power of life itself. Our hope no longer lies in some far off resurrection day, but in the newness of life Christ offers today. The meaning of life is like the rolling away of the stone. From the resurrection, faith, symbolized by the stone rolled away from the door of the tomb, comes the faith that our lives can have meaning and can be infinitely rich. This does not simply have to do with the assurance of life after death. It means also the continual renewal of life here and now so that every day has such quality and it is worthy of lasting forever.

Katharyn Arthur, Amy Gehring, Shelby McMurchy and Cristal Smith presented the Palm Sunday meditation. Choir under the direction of Betty Walther rendered the anthem "Sing Allelulia."

Scripture readings on Good Friday meditation from St. Luke 23:33-46 were read by David Cope, Jennifer Arthur and Nichole Rochus. Bertha Gehring read a story "Birds Stopped Shouting" to the children.

Offering was received by David Cope, John Walther, Lorne Treffry and Don Neale.

A second anthem, "The Risen Christ" was rendered by the choir. Easter Sunday meditation was shared by Rev. Seed, Renita, Wendy, Kim and Charles Jr. with scripture reading from St. Mark 16: 1-8. The Resurrection of Christ. Service closed with the hymn "Up From The Grave He Arose."

OTTERVILLE ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN

The Good Friday service, the celebration of the Lord's Passion, opened with the Ministry of the Word as Father Grant D. Darling entered the church in silence. Christ the Lord became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

Scripture reading were taken from the Old Testament and Psalm 22:1-17, My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?

"Lord, In Thy Mercy's Day" and "Must Jesus Bear The Cross Along" were sung by the congregation with Father Darling providing a meditation on "The Cross of Jesus."

The service closed with the singing of "Sing, My Tongue," "The Glorious Battle," prayer and the Lord's Prayer.

Sunday service was a special one of Easter celebration, dedication and fellowship as the senior and junior choirs entered the church singing "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" accompanied by Lila Freeland at the organ.

Both the sanctuary and the front of the church were beautifully decorated with arrangements of spring flowers and Easter lilies placed by Dick and Florence Saunders in memory of loved ones; by Eva Deveney in memory of her mother; by the Furlong family in memory of David and Mike Furlong and Sheila Jones and by the family in memory of Myrtle King.

Flowers on the alter were placed by the family in memory of Fred Howse.

Father Grant D. Darling performed the service of dedication of a candle lighter being offered in loving memory of Frederick Dubois Howse by Violet, Doreen, Merlin and family.

Using the candle lighter, server Julie DeWachter lit the Paschal Candle signifying the beginning of the 40 days of Easter following.

Scripture readings were Corinthians 15: 19-26, If for this life only we have hoped in Christ and St. John 20: 1-18, Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early.

The children adjourned to their Sunday School classes during the singing of "Sing A New Song."

Father Darling expressed a message of Easter through his sermon emphasizing the joy and happiness of the resurrection following the passion and despair of the crucifixion. Jesus was crucified but his spirit is everlasting and eternal. His spirit remains with us and it is through us his work is achieved.

Offering was received by Jack Freeland, Martin Cowan, Ross McMullen, Art Davies after which Father Darling shared with the congregation in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

The service closed with the singing of the recessional hymn "The Strife Is O'er."

The congregation then joined in Easter celebration through an Easter breakfast prepared and served by the men of the church. The tables were attractively decorated with spring arrangements of yellow and white chrysanthemums for the buffet breakfast. Grace was offered by Rev. Darling with everyone enjoying a delicious meal and a time of fellowship together.



WOOD REALTY
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HARD TO TOP IN OTTERVILLE - 3 + 2 bed., approx. 1,500 sq. ft., quality broadloom & decor, treed lot, garage, only \$54,500. MLS R6489. (M. DeLaere)



UNBEATABLE VALUE - 1 1/2 sty., Otterville, recently renovated, 3 bed., woodstove, eat-in kit., patio & garage. \$36,900. MLS R6337. (M. DeLaere)



START OUT RIGHT - 3 bed., 1 1/2 sty. brick, Otterville, pine kit. cpbds., porch, rear workshop, treed lot w. garden area. All for \$39,500. MLS R6530. (M. DeLaere)

842-8418

Decision soon on Springford hall

The Women's Institute Hall in Springford is coming down but a new community centre could be going up.

The Institute, which owns the property on Township of Norwich Concession 8, has decided it cannot afford to maintain the hall. The building, which is in need of repairs, is on a tiny piece of land, and as a it to a piece of land adjacent to the Springford ballpark. Until now the Institute hall has been Springford's only public meeting place, outside of the churches.

An advisory committee met recently to prepare a floor plan which has been submitted to four local contractors for estimates. Township council is expected to

reach a decision April 30.

Marjorie Seitz, secretary for the building committee, says a township building, which would serve as a meeting hall, would be "basic", and result there are parking and septic problems.

As a result they have decided to sell only the building in order to keep the property for a special landmark. A deadline of June 30 has been set. The purchaser must move the building, which is in need of renovations. Otherwise the structure will be torn down.

The Township of Norwich is considering buying the hall and moving include a hall, a kitchen, a washroom and storage space.

A group of area residents expressed concern at a public meeting March 27 that constructing a new building would be too expensive. The delegation, led by Nick Visser, produced a survey of 150 people showing 88 percent in favor of restoring the Institute building. A township survey showed 33 of 50 respondents in favor of a new building. The accuracy of the township survey was questioned at the meeting by Raymond McElhone who complained that 112 surveys were never returned.

The township has promised \$30,000 towards a community hall in Springford and \$15,000 in donations has been pledged.

Springford Hall meeting Thursday

Proposed plans for a new Springford community centre will be presented at a special meeting Thursday evening at 7:30 in the Springford Women's Institute Hall.

Quite a bit of new information will be presented at the meeting, said Marj Seitz, a member of the Springford Area Agricultural Society's building committee. "It's imperative that all ratepayers and concerned citizens be there."

Mrs. Seitz said the building committee has learned that a new Wintario grant is available that presents definite possibilities for funding part of the project, noting the details of that grant will be explained at the Thursday night meeting.

Someone will also be attending the meeting to update the community on "the facts and figures of a new building" as the sketch of the new building is presented

(Continued on Page 2)

Deaths and funerals

Earl Haley

Earl Haley of RR 1, Otterville, passed away at Ruskin, Florida, on Friday, March 28, 1986, in his 75th year.

Born in Springford, Feb. 1, 1912, he was a son of the late Melbourne Haley and the former Sarah Malcolm. A dairy farmer, he had resided in the Springford area all his life. He was a member of Springford Baptist Church and served as an honorary Deacon.

He was predeceased by his first wife, the former Lila Oatman in 1968.

Surviving are his wife, the former Beatrice (Bates) Manary; one son, Gordon Haley of RR 1, Otterville; two daughters, Mrs. David (Jeanette) Heron and Mrs. Loyal (Barbara) Stevenson, both of Woodstock; a step-daughter, Mrs. Wayne (Barbara) Travis of Mississauga; three step-sons, Claire Manary of RR 5, Langton, Carl Manary of RR 1, Walsingham and Larry Manary of RR 2, Langton; one sister, Mrs. Olive Lapier of Tillsonburg; six grandchildren; 14 step-grandchildren; and four step-great-

grandchildren.

He was predeceased by two brothers, Malcolm in 1895 and Harris in 1902 and by three sisters, Mrs. Winnie Lee in 1979, Miss Mae Haley in 1975 and Mrs. Pearl Mason in 1981.

Rested at the H.D. Verhoeve Funeral Home, Tillsonburg, where service was held in the chapel at 1:30 p.m. conducted by Rev. Paul Stade of Springford Baptist Church, Rev. Lawrence Mason of Tillsonburg and Rev. Gibson Brown of First Baptist Church, Leamington.

Interment in Springford Cemetery.

Memorial donations to Springford Baptist Church or to Crippled Children would be appreciated by the family.

Happy birthday Fred Moore



An open house will be held for his 85th birthday, Sunday, April 6, 1986, at Otterville United Church, from 2-4 p.m. Best wishes only.

Otterville social

OTTERVILLE (C)

Mr. and Mrs. Charter Davis, Main St. East, Otterville, opened their home on Saturday evening, April 19, in honour of two couples, Brian and Janet Davis, married in February and Paul Babcock and Rhonda Trefry to be married May 3.

An evening of crokinole was enjoyed by the approximate 40 people in attendance. Rev. John Bull, on behalf of the Otterville Baptist Church, presented Brian and Janet with a magazine rack and relish tray and Paul and Rhonda with a mirror and china flowers. The couples expressed their appreciation for the lovely presents and evening.

Lunch, served and provided by Lorraine Davis and Marlene Hag- gith, completed the evening.

(Continued from Page 1)
and the facilities it would offer are outlined.

The pressure is on to reach a decision on the future of the community centre as the existing facility -- the Springford Women's Institute Hall -- is being offered for sale after June 30. If the building isn't sold, it will be torn down as the Institute, which owns the building, can no longer afford to maintain the hall.

It is at present the only meeting place in Springford, outside of the local churches.

The township has promised \$30,000 toward a new community hall in Springford and \$15,000 has been pledged by area residents toward the project.

But some concern was voiced at an earlier community meeting

in March to discuss plans for a new hall that the project would be too expensive. Some of those people favored renovating the existing Institute hall to serve as a community centre.

But the county engineer's office has indicated that hall cannot be renovated to standards because of the irregular size of the lot it is located on and the parking and septic problems that small lot presents.

Mrs. Seitz urged all interested residents to attend the "very important meeting" Thursday night to learn about the latest developments in the issue.

The meeting is being chaired by the building committee and representatives of the Norwich Township culture and recreation advisory committee.

Smith-Gee vows exchanged in Norwich



Saturday April 12, 1986, at 3:30 p.m. the Norwich Baptist Church was decorated with spring daisies and pink and blue carnations for the wedding of Kathryn Lynn Gee and Michael Allan Smith.

Reverend David Houghland officiated at the ceremony. The organist was Belle Palmer of Norwich and the soloist was Vivian Snyder also of Norwich.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Gee of R.R. 1, Norwich and the groom is the son of Mr. Thomas Smith of Otterville.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride was traditionally gowned in sheer organza over taffeta with Allansan-type lace and seed pearls.

Gracious Queen Anne neckline was trimmed with Guipre-type lace. The waist line was empire with an easy skirt line trimmed with deep lace flowing around into a chapel train.

She wore a matching head piece with finger tip veil of silk illusion and carried a cascade bouquet of white daisies, pink and blue carnations and baby's breath.

The father of the bride wore a black Dynasty tuxedo with tails.

The maid of honor was Cheryl Polfliet of Norwich, friend of the bride.

Bridesmaids were Cheryl and Susie Gee of Norwich, sisters of the bride.

They all wore identical Victorian style, floor length, satin royal blue gowns with off-the-shoulder ruffled straps.

The skirt was ruffled across the bottom and went into a bustle in the back.

They carried silk fans arranged with silk flowers of three-tone blue

carnations, daisies and baby's breath.

Flower girl Melissa Tirva, wore a gown identical to the bridesmaids in a baby blue organza over silk. She carried a basket of silk flowers in three-tone blues.

The groom chose a Dynasty tuxedo in silver grey with satin notched lapels and satin top collar; coordinated white, pleated shirt with wing collar and black onyx studs; satin bow tie and a cummerbund.

Jack Frew of Norwich, friend of the groom was best man and the ushers were; Max Holbrook, of Tillsonburg, a friend of the groom and Tom Smith of London, a brother of the groom.

The attendants wore midnight blue tuxedos with tails.

The ring bearer was Ryan Polfliet. He was dressed in a blue velvet vest, ruffled white shirt and blue velvet trousers.

The reception was held at the Norwich Community Centre. The bridal table featured a white iced four tier, heart shaped cake with pink trim.

The bride's mother wore a soft blue floor-length gown with an accordion pleated skirt.

The bodice was enhanced with a row of beaded pearls with a flowing chiffon cape.

Her corsage was of pink carnations and wisps of baby's breath.

For a wedding trip to Gananoque the bride chose a baby blue chiffon dress with an embroidered bodice accompanied by a corsage of pink and blue carnations.

The groom chose a grey corduroy blazer, charcoal black trousers and an off white shirt beneath a black wool red and grey sweater.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith are now residing in Norwich.

New beverage bottling plant planned for Otterville

By MARLENE OPDECAM

The tri-county area and beyond may soon benefit from the establishment of a new bottling plant in the Otterville area.

Oscar Lava and his wife Godelieve are in the final stages of putting together plans to open a bottling facility at their RR 2, Otterville tobacco farm. Initially, the plant will be contained in the existing pack barn and will bottle spring water fresh from springs on the farm.

Mr. Lava said the proposed plant will be a small-scale operation to begin with. Automated, in-line, quality stainless steel equipment

will be used to handle the bottles from filling to coding.

The project will require some alterations to the barn and Mr. Lava hopes to have these renovations underway within the next two weeks. He is currently in the process of selecting the equipment and deciding on the color of the bottles. Lava Spring Waters Inc., a subsidiary of Lava farms, will use.

Mr. Lava plans to use 750 millilitre glass bottles, expanding into the two and four-litre size and four and six packs of 200 millilitre bottles later in production.

(Continued on Page 3)

(Continued from Page 1)

Currently, researchers from Foodland Ontario, under an Ontario Agriculture Development Corporation grant, are looking into the marketing feasibility of the four and six packs, he said. If the research is promising, Mr. Lava hopes to be bottling the four and six packs of spring water, possibly carbonated and flavored, late in 1986.

Looking ahead, he eventually hopes to introduce other carbonated products, possibly even a cola, under the Lava label which he is currently registering.

Future plans for the operation also include the bottling of apple juice under the Lava label, contract bottling for the apple cider and light wine industries and even the bottling of home-made wines and home brew if the market is there, he said. Mr. Lava also plans to provide a farm-gate service for people wishing to obtain spring water in larger-sized bottles.

All bottles used will have the latest in tamper-proof caps, he added.

The increasing pollution of water sources in Ontario has created an expanding demand for bottled water, according to Mr. Lava, who hopes to eventually see Lava spring water make inroads into the export as well as domestic markets.

If the venture proves as successful as Mr. Lava and his wife anticipate, they hope to abandon the temporary quarters they plan to establish in the pack barn and build a new bottling plant which could create ongoing part-time employment for as many

as 35 to 40 people. He estimated that even in its first year of operation the facility will necessitate the hiring of several employees.

The proposed plant could also create jobs in the surrounding area because of its demand for caps, labels and other essential services, Mr. Lava said.

He admitted there are still a great many loose ends that have to be tied together before plans for the project are finalized. He may require a zone change from Norwich Township Council and there are various ministry requirements which must be met.

However, he is optimistic the plant could open its doors as early as late June or early July and equally sure that, once in operation, the venture will succeed. Research indicates the markets are there, Mr. Lava said.

Commenting on his efforts to pull his plans together, plans which have been in the works for over a year, Mr. Lava said he had had a great deal of help from Oxford MP Dr. Bruce Halliday and MPP Dick Treleaven. "We've been getting a great deal of help and encouragement for the project from a number of outside sources," Mr. Lava said. "I didn't realize there were that many nice people in high places."

Mr. Lava has also approached the federal government concerning a grant to help establish the proposed facility and is now waiting for its response. The grant would be similar to one recently given by the federal government to a Prince Ed-

ward Island entrepreneur intent on establishing a brewery there, he said.

Despite his praise for the co-operation and help received from various levels of government, Mr. Lava said the money that is suppose to be there to help tobacco producers diversify or get into other businesses doesn't really exist.

He and his wife decided to invest in the business because of the decline in the tobacco industry, current and probably future marketing problems and dropping corn and soy prices, he said.

Norwich Township Council notes

By Saul Chernos *N.G. MAY 14*

Hamner Bridge

Norwich Township council has applied to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation and Communications for a \$20,000 grant to fix the Hamner Bridge. The bridge, located on the Hamner Sideroad, was closed a month ago after part of the deck collapsed.

Construction on the 45 to 50 year old bridge is expected to take up to two months, during which the hamner sideroad will be closed from the 5th Concession to Cayley Sideroad.

Norwich United

Township council is kicking in \$500 for repairs to the foundation of the south-west corner of Norwich United Church. Council has also applied for a provincial grant of \$250 for the same purpose.

Norwich Cemetery

Council will provide up to \$700 for the removal of 13 tree stumps from the Norwich Cemetery and for three loads of gravel to be delivered. Stumps cost \$35 each to be removed while a load of gravel costs approximately \$65.

More historic sites

The Hall-Munro House, built in the 1880s, and the Snyder-Deer House, built in 1836, were designated historical sites by council in accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act following recommendation by the Local Architectural Conservation

Advisory Committee. A motion to supply film and mileage for a photographer to photograph local historical sites was turned down, however.

Culvert replacement

Council is spending \$22,620 to replace culverts on the 12th concession in South Norwich. The tender was awarded to R. Nicholson Construction, the lowest of four bidders.

No parking!

Motorists are warned about a new No Parking sign approved by Township council Monday. The sign will prohibit parking along an eight-and-a-half metre strip of Main St., on the north-east corner of Main and Washington Streets. According to Mayor John Heleniak, cars parked at that location hindered traffic visibility.

Junior C hockey

Township council is taking the Norwich Merchants to dinner. According to Mayor John Heleniak, council traditionally has a banquet for any team winning a provincial championship. As a result, players management, coaches and others involved with the Merchant organization, are presented with township crests on plaques with their names engraved. The awards will be presented at a banquet, the date and location of which has yet to be announced. The mayor says it will likely occur sometime this summer or fall and, if another township team wins a championship, the teams could share the glory.

Norwich Township gets 44 per cent insurance increase

By Ben Steidman
Staff Writer

NORWICH — The township has been saddled with a 44 per cent hike for insurance in 1986.

Coverage for this year, provided by Frank Cowan Insurance Co. of Princeton, amounts to \$61,359, up from \$43,000 last year.

Hank Roy, representing Frank Cowan Insurance, said coverage includes liability, fire, vehicles, councillors' accident and a special environmental pollution liability costing \$2,000.

In retrospect, Mr. Roy reflected that insurance rates had remained steady over the past few years, noting that in 1979 Norwich Township had paid a total of \$34,000 for coverage.

A number of sizeable court settlements on injury and property damage lawsuits has resulted in a "dramatic increase" in liability insurance, said Mr. Roy.

There's a "problem" in obtaining municipal liability insurance, he added, and until the industry sorts out its future course, accessibility will be limited.

Mr. Roy pointed out that a maximum limit of \$1-million for one claim on environmental liability has been imposed.

Furthermore, a maximum limit of \$7-million for municipal liability on one claim has been set, reduced from \$10-million.

"The key item is the question of liability," explained Mr. Roy, adding that Norwich's coverage should minimize any losses.

As for the environmental pollution insurance, the same applied here, suggested Mr. Roy, in that it's an "interim measure" until the industry gets its "direction straightened out".

He said: "In today's climate, people are very aware of having liability insurance."

Mr. Roy was unable to speculate what the situation would be like in a year.

Courtland man wins contract

NORWICH — Roy Burnett Sanitation of RR 1 Courtland has landed the township-wide garbage pick-up contract with a tender of \$249,707.

Burnett Sanitation outbid seven other firms for the contract, to run for two and a half years, beginning July 1.

This ties in with closing of Holbrook landfill site in Norwich on June 30 and opening of Oxford County's spanning new 200-acre, \$2-million Salford landfill site.

A total of 3,171 households and roughly 200 light industrial and commercial stops will be serviced under the contract.

Currently, Burnett Sanitation services 910 households and 142 commercial-industrial locations.

Councillor Paul Wood, referring to Burnett's present waste collection service, said the firm has proven it can do an "acceptable job".

Citing no quarrel with the firm's "workmanship", nevertheless, Councillor Norm Lusk had some second thoughts about getting "locked into" a contract of this duration.

Councillor Don Pettigrew reckoned that with the new contract, Norwich Township households could expect to pay an extra \$1.22 a year for garbage pick-up.

Legal Notices

TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH NOTICE

Dog Tax Collectors will be canvassing in the various wards commencing May 1st, 1986. Canvassers have been supplied with identification cards.

Dog tags are \$8.00 for each dog regardless of age.

Incidents of rabies is above normal in the county, you are encouraged to vaccinate your pets.

Robert C. Watkins
Clerk Administrator

Township of Norwich

Part-time Caretaker

Written applications stating experience and wage expected will be received by the undersigned until 12:00 noon on Tuesday, May 27, 1986 for part-time caretaker for the Otterville Hall.

Robert C. Watkins, Clerk Administrator

Twp. of Norwich

P.O. Box 100, Otterville, Ont.

NOJ 1R0

879-6568 or 863-2709

Salary increase

NORWICH — Full-time township employees — excluding police — will receive a 4.5 per cent salary hike in 1986.

Council approved the increase, retro-active to Jan. 1, 1986, at a special meeting Wednesday.

Employees covered by Council's action are those in public works, administration, arena and drainage-building departments.

Firefighters and part-time employees are not included in this wage package as their salaries for 1986 will be dealt with by Council at a later date.

Discussion of salaries for the mayor and councillors was also postponed.

The Norwich Police Department's Salary Negotiating Committee will meet with Council's Community Services Committee

shortly to begin wage talks.

The police chief is not a member of the department's committee.

Mayor John Heleniak pointed out Thursday that Council's Salary Negotiating Committee had recommended the increase. Members of this committee are the mayor, councillor-at-large, three councillors who head standing committees, the clerk-administrator and treasurer.

Treasurer Reg Saunders also said Thursday that the police chief's salary is to be negotiated by Council on a "separate basis." One other item approved by Council was a \$500 a year expense allowance for Mayor Heleniak.

This marks the first time that Council has established a separate allowance for a mayor.

That during the week of May 7, 1976:

A record increase in taxes of 26.88 per cent will be borne by taxpayers in the Township of Delhi during 1976.

William Preiksatis of RR 3, Rodney was elected District 3 director to the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board with a large majority.

An engineer's report on the structure of the Norwich arena is to be "withheld from public scrutiny until May 25."

Ministry turns down Norwich PUC

By Saul Chernos

The Ontario Ministry of Environment has dried up Norwich PUC's plans to upgrade waterworks in the villages of Norwich and Otterville, and, according to the PUC, residents of both towns could be facing water shortages if the summer is long, hot and dry.

The Norwich Public Utilities Commission asked the government for a grant to help the PUC replace old equipment and upgrade its system. The estimated cost for building a new water tower and pumping sta-

tion in each village, adding a well in Otterville, and upgrading water mains is \$2,881,000.

A request for assistance, with no specific amount mentioned, was made to the Ministry of Environment, to which municipalities regularly apply. According to PUC chairman Gordon Powell, grants, when given, usually range anywhere from 15 to 85 percent of cost.

But a reply from the Ministry, blaming financial restraints, said the projects were not important enough to warrant immediate fun-

ding.

In a letter to the Township, Dennis Caplice, assistant deputy minister of the Ministry's Operations Division, said the decision was based upon a "combination of insufficiently high priority rating and limited available funds." According to Caplice, the Ministry does recognise the need to provide for growth, but at the same time, "the elimination or prevention of health hazards and impairment of the environment are the main considerations."

The requests for funding were

made, separately for each village, yet both were denied.

According to PUC secretary-treasurer Shirley Sweazey, work on the Norwich water system was estimated at \$1,562,490. This would include a new water tower, a pumping station to bring in water from an unused well to the east of town, and the upgrading of water mains. In Otterville, for \$1,318,575, the plan was similar: to install a new water tower and pumping station, to upgrade the mains, and also to build a new well.

Because of the high costs and because the work would only benefit taxpayers in the two villages, the work will not proceed until funding is received sometime in the future. And, because a grant would cover only part of the costs, the project money coming from the municipality would be levied from taxpayers from Norwich and Otterville in a separate assessment, if and when such a project goes ahead. Because the villagers are the only ones in the

township who benefit from the PUC's services, they, alone, finance the PUC in all its activities, and the funding of major repairs is no different than regular maintenance and service.

While the planned work for Otterville and Norwich didn't rate high priority with the government, Powell says the equipment the PUC wanted to replace is old and deteriorating, and that the end result could be restrictions on water use, and, possibly for Otterville, the village's first-ever experience without water.

While the most Norwich would face in the event of hot, dry weather would be extremely low pressure, Powell admits "we are concerned about Otterville, in that the one well is not producing the amount of water we would like it to...if its real dry we could run into problems there...there just may not be water maybe. If you can't pump it out of the ground you can't supply." Powell says that at the minimum, the usual restrictions, such as those



NORWICH OTTERTVILLE LIONS CLUB

presents their

ANNUAL

FIREWORKS

DISPLAY

MONDAY, MAY 19th

Otterville Park

Fireworks At Dusk - supervised by Otterville Fire Dept.

Admission

Adults (over 16) \$2.00 Students \$1.00

Pre-schoolers Free

BASEBALL GAME

Beginning at 8 p.m.

NORWICH CO-OP'S

VS

OTTERTVILLE OLD TIMERS

- Refreshment Booth Available At Park
- Free Parking
- "All Proceeds For Community Projects"



limiting lawn watering to one specific hour each day, will apply.

The towers, built in 1915, need to be replaced because they are not safe to fill to holding capacity, says Powell. The tanks are beginning to rust and the concrete footings are deteriorating.

Another problem, according to Powell, is rust in the water of Norwich and Otterville. Areas at the extremities of the pipework experience a higher concentration of rust in the water because the iron content, which ages and turns to rust, gathers there due to the weak water pressure and the extremities.

The proposed project should solve the problems. New water towers could be filled to capacity and supply more water, especially with the drawing power of the new Otterville well and access to the well east of Norwich. As a result, pressure would increase and supply adequate amounts of water and even stop iron from accumulating and turning to rust.

In an interview, Caplice said that three factors were considered when grants were being awarded: environment, health and system growth. Caplice was unconcerned

Norwich PUC

about the rust content of the water, calling it "just an aesthetic thing. Iron per-se is not a toxic substance" when the levels are low. Powell says iron levels in Otterville and Norwich water borderline levels considered acceptable by the Ministry of Health. "We're at the high end of the scale, we're getting towards there." Nonetheless, he says, "our water is checked every two weeks by the health department. According to them we're in the safe perimeters of their standards."

Powell says the PUC requested an unspecified amount, submitting only the total estimated cost of the projects, with the expectation the province would pay anywhere from 15 to 85 percent. "We were hoping to get as much as we could."

Since the work will not proceed without funding, the PUC is considering reapplying for a grant next year, hoping their priority rating will be higher with the Ministry.

"We have a very big demand on the dollars we have for grant money", says Caplice. "The drawdown was very large this year." Approximately \$30 million was granted towards new projects this year and another \$50 to \$60 million will go towards work carrying over from previous years. Norwich PUC, he says, can "put forward another case" next year. When asked, he suggested that while alternate sources for grants are few, the PUC could try the Ontario Neighborhood Improvement Program sponsored by Municipal Affairs.

PUC officials plan to meet with their engineering consultants, Knox, Martin, Kretch, and will also seek advice from the London branch of the Ministry of Environment.

Says Powell, "that's the way it's got to be done. Keep applying till we can get some action."

Meeting held to discuss Springford centre

By SUZANNE STOOP

A proposal for a new community hall in Springford received overwhelming support from those attending a public meeting to discuss the issue in Springford Thursday evening.

While there was some concern expressed about the lack of concrete costs for the project, a motion was approved by a large majority of the roughly 45 people attending the meeting approving the construction of a new hall on township land adjacent to the ballpark, providing the cost of the project, including water, sewage and hydro services, does not exceed \$65,000.

The Springford hall building committee will now approach Norwich Township Council for the approval to proceed with the project, provided the necessary funding can be obtained.

According to building committee chairman John Sandham, a new Wintario grant may be available to provide one-third of the cost of the new building. But he said the application for funds under the program must be completed and submitted by May 30. Word on whether funding has been approved won't be announced until August, he said, stressing there is no guarantee the Springford project will even qualify.

Township council has also set

aside \$30,000 over the past two years to help finance the project and about \$15,000 in pledges had been committed to the project when it was initiated two years ago. A corps of volunteers will be heading out in the near future to knock on doors to assess the current support for the project and to determine how much money can still be raised in personal pledges for the new hall.

"The point now is action," said Springford resident Doug Babbey. "I get the feeling we're more or less behind the idea (of a new hall)," he said, adding the volunteers present at the meeting have to get out there now to "meet people and show them the plans."

"We have a direction now and that's what we needed...We know what we have to do let's go do it," Mr. Babbey said.

The building committee presented a rough sketch of the proposed new building, measuring about 35 feet by 58 feet with 2,000 square feet of floor space, including the cloak room, washrooms and kitchen facilities. And the committee also presented several cost estimates gathered on the project, noting the total cost, at the high end of the price scale, would be about \$60,000 with the septic system installed.

The hall would have a capacity of about 120 people.

The cost estimate doesn't include the cost of a finished kitchen, with appliances but the committee suggested several people in the community would no doubt be willing to donate such equipment to finish the kitchen. "We hope community involvement will help keep the cost down," Mr. Sandham said, noting several people have already volunteered their labor to the project.

While some attending the meeting questioned how the community could approve going ahead with the project without firm costs, Norwich Township Councillor Don Pettigrew stressed township council must have some indication from the community that it wants the hall before it gives the project its approval.

"It has to gel tonight," he said. "The feeling on council is not as positive (toward the project) as it was two years ago because they have a feeling the community isn't as positive as it was two years ago," Coun. Pettigrew said. "Council wants a decision and it's up to this meeting to come up with that decision."

Another member of the audience questioned whether a new hall, once built, would be used enough by the community to justify the expense. "They don't use this one (Institute hall) very much," the speaker in-

dicated.

But Marj Seitz, a member of the building committee, suggested a new building, with washroom and kitchen facilities that are lacking in the Institute hall, would be better utilized.

"I think this hall here is used a fair little bit for the shape it's in," said another resident. "A better equipped facility will be used at least as much and possibly more," he said.

Coun. Pettigrew also advised those at the meeting that a conventional septic system cannot be installed at the existing Institute hall and the only other alternative system is too expensive to consider. "It doesn't look positive from a health standpoint that there could be washrooms at this location."

It was also pointed out by Springford resident and businessman Lloyd Smith that the Women's Institute had made it clear at the last community meeting on March 27 that the existing hall would not be available to the community after the end of June. It was indicated at that time that the Institute is no longer willing to bear the cost of the hall's maintenance and has plans to offer it for sale. If it isn't sold and moved the hall is to be torn down.

"You either have to be in favor of a new hall or no hall."

(Continued on Page 3)

Continued from page 1

Once township council is assured of the community's support for a new hall, architect's plans can be drawn up and the project tendered to get some firm costs, Mr. Sandham commented.

And council will have a lid on the project, allowing only so much to be spent, said building committee member Robert Hopkins in response to a question on how costs will be controlled.

Once the canvass of the communi-

ty has been completed, the building committee will approach township council at its next meeting on May 12 to seek approval for the project to proceed. If the necessary funding is available, construction of a new facility could be underway this fall but Coun. Pettigrew stressed council will want to see "where every last dollar is coming from before they okay it."

"It's not a foregone conclusion that this will happen," he said. "It depends on council's decision and Wintario."

hall

Norwich turns down funding for

By SAUL CHERNOS

Norwich Township will not help Springford build a new community hall.

After almost three hours of debate, council made an about-face on the request for support at Monday's meeting. And, despite the fact that \$30,000 had been set aside in council's reserve fund for the project, Springford's hopes were dashed by a close 6-4 vote against committing money towards a new hall.

"Community involvement is not a policy of our township and I think that's very sad," lamented Councillor Donald Pettigrew, a staunch supporter of the hall and a represen-

tative of Springford. Berating his fellow councillors after the vote, he told them their action meant that "community involvement and participation have been rebuffed by Norwich Township. I think it's a sad day."

Two members of the Springford Hall Building Committee, Robert Hopkins and Marjorie Seitz, appealed in person for council's support of the project. Mr. Hopkins told council that \$15,000 had already been pledged toward a hall by Springford residents and that the building committee had set a \$65,000 ceiling on costs. In addition, he said, the committee planned to apply for Wintario

and other grants, to raise the total needed.

The building committee had studied several options, including moving the Women's Institute hall to another location and renovating it, leaving it where it is and renovating it, or building a new facility next to the ballpark on the main street. The third option was chosen by the building committee.

It was estimated by the committee that moving the hall would cost \$50,000 while overhauling the building would be cheapest, at \$40,000.

The proposed hall, once completed, would have measured 35 feet

by 58 feet, 2,030 square feet in all, and would have been on a site next to the park owned by the township.

Councillors Paul Wood, Norman Lusk, Robert Martin, Larry Martin, Mike Oliver and Mark Harrison all voted against providing a grant while Mayor John Heleniak and Councillors Donald Pettigrew, Helen Smith, and Daniel Wagner all voted for providing the \$30,000.

Councillor Wood said he was not convinced Springford residents had enough input regarding the village's willingness to assume future operating costs of the facility such as heat and hydro, through lease-

back arrangements and hall rental fees.

Pointing to the large number of pledges, copies of which were brought to the meeting by committee secretary Marjorie Seitz, Coun. Pettigrew told council "it's been proven that the financial support is there for that facility." Expressing confidence the Springford community could handle expenses incurred by the hall, he suggested that if the project were to go through, "Springford could serve as an example of how to operate a community facility."

About 16 residents from Springford attended the hearing to ex-

press their support for the project.

Gail Friesen, who runs a store a few lots away from the proposed site next to the ballpark, said having a kitchen in the town community hall would be nice, as there is no kitchen in the Women's Institute hall, which is the village's present gathering spot.

There are also no washrooms and a serious lack of parking. In fact, the front of the building is only a few feet from the curb and the rest of the building is extremely close to the property's borders, with no room for a septic tank.

Mr. Hopkins told council there is "

CONTINUED ON REVERSE

Hall funding denied

(Continued from Page 1)

a need for a meeting place" for card parties, family gatherings, Cub and Beaver meetings and other social events.

At one point Councillor Lusk asked if the building committee had checked out liquor licence standards for events such as showers and weddings. Mr. Hopkins replied that a license and huge banquets were not intended uses of the hall. A woman in the audience agreed, saying "we just want a small place for small things. We don't want a liquor licence." Another spectator acknowledged this feeling, emphasizing the young people who would be using the facility. "Let us not think about the adults and parties, let's think about the children...a place for them to meet."

In an interview Tuesday, Mrs. Seitz expressed surprise and disappointment with council's decision. "We're so disappointed and so stunned at the moment that we don't know what direction to take at this point. We kept being told that if we could get the support of the community we'd be well on our way, and we did. We had more than \$15,000 in pledges. There were still pledges coming in yesterday. I don't know what more we could have done."

Mr. Seitz said she was disappointed council changed its mind about going ahead with the grant, after promising it earlier and placing it in reserves. "It was budgeted for us and we expected township council to abide by their commitment."

Mayor Heleniak, who voted in favor of a grant, said the \$30,000 was placed in reserves by the last year's council, before the November elections, and explained that council is now into its 1986 budget deliberations. He also said some councillors are afraid the new hall could result in a deficit and maintenance and upkeep costs. The mayor agreed that "there should be a place for these groups to meet in Springford."

Mrs. Seitz added she was "hurt" that one of 14 pledge-takers reported to a councillor that seven persons has objected to the building proposal. She said if she had known this, she would have asked the other 13 to express their impressions of the community's position, which she said was positive.

She denied allegations that pledge collectors, who visited houses in Springford, applied any pressure. She said that, on the contrary, they were met with enthusiasm. "There was no pressure put on any people when collecting pledges."

According to Mrs. Seitz, the building committee is not yet sure what its next steps are. "It's not feasible to renovate the old hall where it stands and it's quite expensive to move it. At this very moment we have no idea which direction to go."

The Springford Women's Institute will be holding two more meetings before June 30, the deadline given for renovating or moving the building.

Council supporting new Springford hall

T.N. MAY 30

Efforts are continuing in Springford to have a new community hall constructed and those efforts now have the blessing of Norwich Township Council.

Council initially voted against committing funds to a new hall, despite the fact it had set aside \$30,000 over two years for the project. Councillors opposed to township involvement were concerned about the level of community support for the facility, and voiced fears a new hall could become a burden on township ratepayers.

But at a recent special meeting,

two councillors who had initially opposed the proposal - Larry Martin and Michael Oliver - changed their votes, giving the local residents the go-ahead to apply for grants to finance part of the project.

Coun. Martin said it had been proposed initially that the township be involved directly with the hall. But he noted the three municipally-operated halls in the township now lose thousands of dollars each year and he didn't want to see a facility in Springford adding to that deficit.

A revamped resolution won council's acceptance, however, by stating "the Springford Women's Institute will be used as the incorporated group in applying for Wintario grants and for acquiring the municipal property" required to build the new hall.

The new facility is to be located alongside the Springford community park on County Road 19. Plans are for a 35 by 58 foot building, equipped with kitchen and washroom facilities. The building is to be constructed on land purchased from the township for \$1.

The new hall, to cost a maximum of \$65,000, will not be built until all the money for the project is in the bank. Financing for the project will come from the municipality's reserve fund - the \$30,000 set aside for the project - \$15,000 in pledges from the community, with the remainder to come through grants such as Wintario.

The Women's Institute has already applied for a grant through Wintario in order to get it in before the May 30 deadline for 1986 grant allocations.

Coun. Martin, commenting on his change of heart on the matter, said the Institute's involvement in the project demonstrates Springford really wants something. And knowing the people of Springford and their record from the past, he said he didn't think the township would be faced with a deficit. They'll keep it in the black, he said.

Otterville school repairs to begin immediately

By Saul Chernos

\$923,900 worth of renovations are underway at Otterville Public School.

Just hours after barricades were erected around parts of the building on Friday, interested parents gathered in a portable housing the "old library" cluttered with art supplies, boxes, and other supplies, to find out how the construction will affect users of the school.

Architect Leonard Dickson presented the blueprints and his comments and listened to the concerns of 18 parents, some with young children in tow. School trustees Russell Stengl and Pat Smith along with Jim Bechard, plants operator with the Oxford County Board of Education also spoke, as did principal Catharine Murphy.

When renovations are complete, sometime early next year, the number of portables will be reduced to one instead of the many which seem to clutter the rear of the building. The older children will use the one remaining portable, says Murphy, adding that the present system requires "running cross-country to change classes" between portables. "We don't want parents concerned about five-year-old children going inside the building for drinks. It will be more efficient rotating the kids inside the building than having to go outside." The remaining portable will be hooked up by intercom to the main building in September.

Dickson said there might have been more portables left had the Ministry of Education not concluded from a study that enrolment was dropping. "You'll be upset to know you'll be left with just one portable, on this basis."

The work currently underway, and which will continue through the summer months, will be on the newer, 1955, portion of the building. The original, 1929, section will be renovated starting around Christmas. By September, the summer work should be over and the premises ready for students.

Questions fielded ranged from the specifics of the project to special arrangements to make things run

smoothly during the period of transition.

Kindergarten children will be bused to North Norwich Public School in Burgessville next winter until their classrooms are ready. One parent was concerned about the children having to be on time to catch a bus. Murphy said this would only mean children would have to leave ten minutes earlier than normal and reassured her that either she or NNPS principal Reg Cartmale could provide emergency transportation. Another parent said she did not mind the temporary move because "the climbers (playground equipment) are better there."

A one-way bus loop will be paved in front of the school to keep cars and buses away from the playground. The current driveway, on the school's left side, is adjacent to the playground.

A new gym will be built, and although it will be smaller in size, the height will be increased from 14 feet to 18.

There will also be \$43,000 worth of new furnishings. \$17,000 is slated for library resource materials including film strip viewers and computers, while the rest will go towards new desks and other furniture and playground equipment.

The entire project will cost \$923,900. Since the cost was above that approved by the Ministry of Education, the Oxford County Board of Education will have a larger bill to foot. The approved cost was \$626,000, of which the Ministry paid the usual 75 percent - \$469,565. The remainder will come from municipal taxes.

There was even talk of selling "souvenirs" of the 1929 section which will be demolished. Murphy says there have been inquiries about old bricks and slate boards. "There was interest. There were buyers here." One parent said if there are orders for bricks, "we should be selling them".

The monetary value of these items was not pushed any farther and trustee Russell Stengl said the bricks will be "coming down in chunks, if anyone ever wanted some, no problem." According to Murphy

(Continued on Page 3)

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had to be cut off.

Murphy says that before the Ministry approved the grant towards the repairs, she was "prepared for a possible closing at one point." After the announcement, she was "sort of walking on air...I couldn't believe it, it was a real boost."

DEMOLITION SALE

Main Street West
OTTERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL
7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.,
Mon.-Sat. available until Sat.,
May 17.
Chalkboards, light fixtures,
toilets, sinks, windows, doors,
lumber, etc.

Apply At Site

41

Continued from page 1

representatives from the Norwich Historical Society attempted to remove two old copper ceilings but abandoned the task after finding it too difficult. They did take some other items, however, she says.

In the meantime, there will be some discomfort and inconvenience. There are only two washrooms, instead of four. That means teachers will share with students. For three days, awhile ago, telephone service

Missionary Fellowship

OTTERVILLE (C)—The Women's Missionary Fellowship of Otterville Baptist Church held its regular meeting on Tuesday evening at the home of Norma Davis.

The Mother's Day devotional message was presented by Dorothy

Hill which centered around the woman described in Proverbs 31: 10-31. A hard working, wise and kind person, she was well respected by society. As Christian mothers, what are our concerns for our children? Spiritual or material? We can involve our children in prayer time when they are in their high chair at the supper table. Spiritual welfare can not start soon enough. Our children are a special gift from God, and we can never show too much love. Grandmothers also have an important role with children, passing on love, patience and tradition.

Lorraine Davis conducted the business session, announcing that the June meeting will be held in her home, with Mrs. Olive Stover as the speaker and where an offering will be collected for Hazel Wrigglesworth.

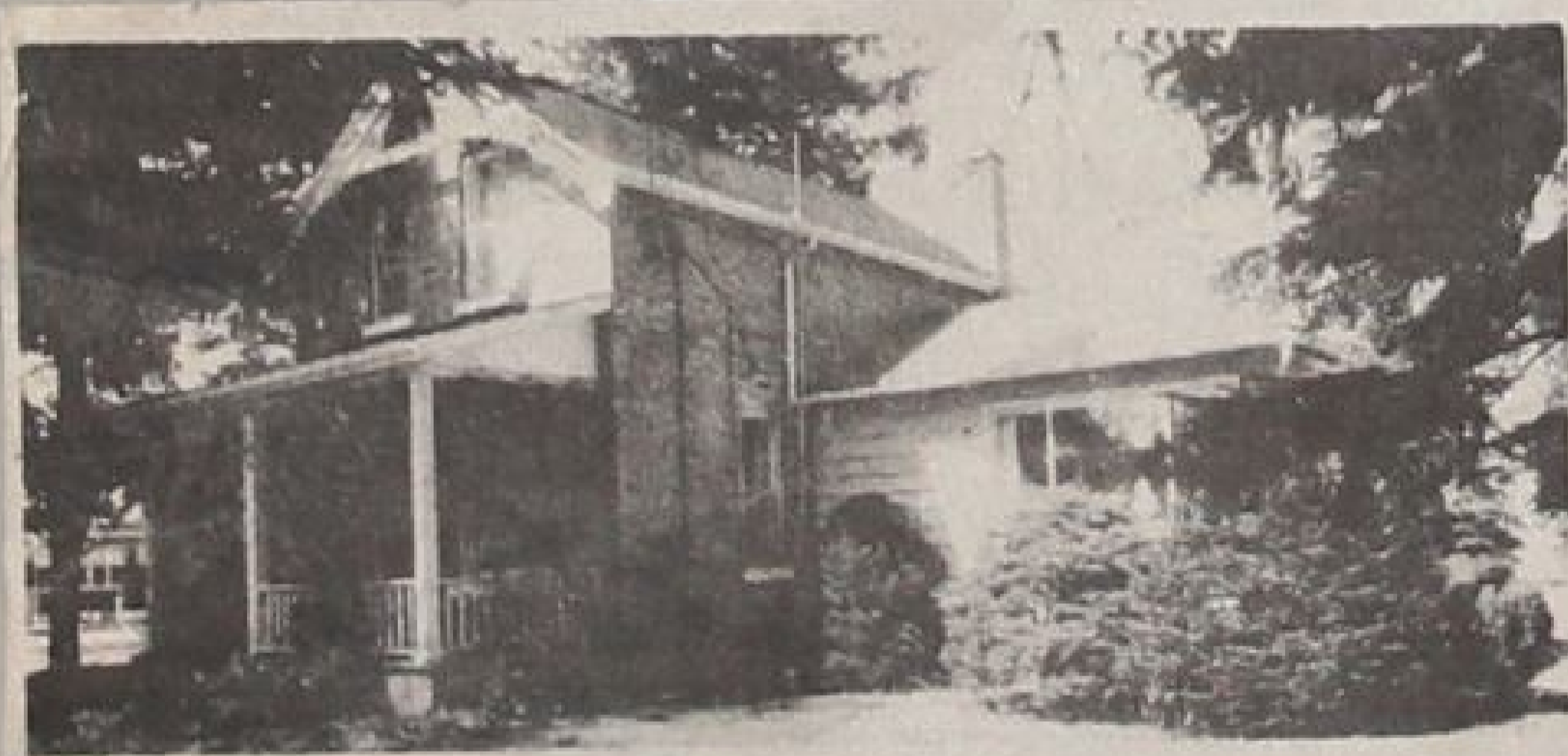
Betty Hill had a devotional reading titled, Influence Of Godly Mothers followed by the hymn, This Is My Father's World. Dorothy Hill shared a letter which she received from Debra Pollard. The missionary letters for this month will be written by Dorothy, Betty and Jean Hill. Missionary prayers were offered by Wilma Hill and Olive Stover followed by a reading by Jean Hill entitled, Mother Is Another Word Called Love. The scripture, Proverbs 31: 10-31, was read by Florence Hussey.

Darlene Davis, Jean Hill, Norma Davis and Betty Hill formed a quartet and sang Just A Little Talk With Jesus and An Evening Prayer.

After singing Faith Of Our Mothers, Lorna Smith closed in prayer.

A nice lunch was prepared by the hostess and Dorothy Hill, Jean Hill and Betty Hill assisted in serving.

Courtesy remarks were given by Marlene Haggith.



MAIN ST., OTTERVILLE

Stately, older 3 bedroom home in good condition. Just listed. Call today.

Canoe race this Saturday in Otterville

By Saul Chernos

Canoeists from throughout the region will be hurtling down the swift waters of Big Otter Creek this Saturday in what is being billed as The Great Canoe Race.

From 8:30 until about 11:00 am, competitors will leave Treffrey Mill, staggering their starts in groups of about five canoes. Five miles and several hours later, the race, sponsored by the Spring-Otter Optimist Club, will end at Rock's Mill.

There were some 30 boats registered at press time, but organizers expect about 70 canoes by racetime.

While there is an entry fee of \$7.50 per canoeist or \$15 per boat, there are also prizes to be won. The pair of canoeists who win the race, which is timed from start to finish, receive \$150. Prizes of \$50 and \$25 are awarded to second and third place finishers.

The race will also involve carrying the canoe to and from the river and also along several short portages along the way. The river is fairly swift-flowing, with some "white water" rapids. The race will be held rain or shine.

Jack Childs, 57, of Otterville, pleaded guilty to one count of impaired driving and one of refusing to supply a breath sample. Mr. Childs was fined \$400 or 20 days in jail on the first count and \$50 or five days in jail on the second. Judge Graham ordered Mr. Child's licence suspended for a three-month period.



OTTERVILLE - 2 storey brick, new wiring, insulation & drywall throughout. Requires some finishing, low heat bills, big kit. w. airtight woodstove. Some stained glass windows. Asking \$35,900. MLS.

Engagement



Mr. and Mrs. Murray Treffrey and Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Babcock are pleased to announce the forthcoming marriage of their children, Rhonda and Paul. The wedding will take place at Otterville Baptist Church at 3 p.m. on May 3.

Babcock -

OTTERVILLE (C) - Baskets of white and blue chrysanthemums with green fernery, corresponding bud vases in the windows and white satin bows centred with blue flowers on the pews, decorated Otterville Baptist Church, Otterville, on Saturday, May 3, 1986, at 3 p.m. for the wedding of Rhonda Ann Treffrey and Paul Edward Babcock. Rev. Joseph D. Bull officiated with pianist Lilian Broad of Springford playing traditional wedding music. Soloist Donna Angood of London, cousin of the bride, sang Wedding Prayer and Seem's I've Always Loved You, during the service and Give Us This Day and Together Forever during the signing of the register.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Murray Treffrey, Main St., Otterville and the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Babcock, Queen St., Otterville.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride chose a floor-length, white gown of southern belle design, featuring tiers of alternating lace and sheer cascading from the fitted waistline over a hooped skirt into a chapel train. The bodice, highlighted with a sheer inset and lace stand-up collar, had long sheer sleeves, puffed at the cap. A headpiece of flowers and pearls held her three-quarter-length, silk illusion veil and blusher studded with mini-pearls. She carried a cascade of red silk roses, stephanotis, ivy, baby's breath and white pearls with white streamers edged in pearls, lace and rosebuds at their tips.

Darlene Walters of Otterville, friend of the bride, was maid of honor and wore a floor-length gown of baby blue polyester, styled with a fitted, cumberbund waistline. The pleated, belle shaped sleeves framed the tiered bodice which angled to a matching fabric flower on the left shoulder. A string of pearls and matching pearl earrings accented the round neckline. She wore a silk, white gardenia surrounded by small blue flowers in her hair. Short strings of pearls and lily of the valley fell from the gardenia hairpiece. She carried a heart-shaped cascade of silk, variegated blue roses, dark blue tiger lilies, baby's breath and pearls with royal blue satin streamers.

Gowned similarly were the bridesmaids, Marlene Haggith of Otterville, friend of the bride, and Charlene Treffrey of Otterville, sister of the bride.

Larry Hansford of Norwich, friend of the groom, was best man and ushers were Chris Haggith, friend of the groom, and Terry Treffrey, brother of the bride, both of Otterville.

Reception was held at the Mount Elgin Community Centre. Bride's table featured a wedding cake in the design of a church with figures dressed in the same material as the wedding party. The bridal bouquets and blue candles completed the table decorations. Guests' tables were centred with bud vases of blue and white carnations and baby's breath. Don McMullen of Otterville was master of ceremonies and provided music for the dance following.

For receiving guests, the bride's mother chose a street-length dress featuring a white top and navy blue pleated skirt, worn with a blue fabric and beaded hat covered with matching veil. A blue and white scarf, gathered into a flower, formed her corsage and she wore blue accessories.

The groom's mother chose a

street-length dress of fuchsia material featuring a matching cumberbund and brimmed straw hat offset with a white flower. She wore a corsage of white and fuchsia silk flowers and black sandals.

For a wedding trip to Jamaica, the bride wore a street-length dress of pale pink crepe with elbow-length sleeves and dropped waistline. A white collar, centred with a matching pink bow tie, white cuffs and white accessories completed her outfit. Her corsage was six white

rosebuds with baby's breath, small white and pink flowers and white ribbon.

Bride's gifts to her attendants were precious moments figurines and groom's gifts were engraved tie bar clips.

Guests were present from London, Sault Ste. Marie, Grafton, Cobourg, Burlington, Weston, Stratford, Ingersoll, Echo Bay, Agincourt, Princeton and the surrounding area.

Mr. and Mrs. Babcock are residing on Main St., Otterville.

Otterville ACW

OTTERVILLE (C)—Sunday evening the Otterville St. John's Anglican Church Women hosted their Annual Turkey Supper at three settings all filled to capacity. Take out meals were delivered to shut-ins upon request. The tables were decorated with vases of spring tulips, daisies, roses and greenery. The ACW was very pleased with the profitable evening and appreciate all those who helped both at home and the church to make it so successful.

Lena Grantham 88

OTTERVILLE (C) - A family celebration was held on Mother's Day in honor of Lena Grantham's 88th birthday at the home of her daughter, Elaine Oliver of Otterville.

Present for the afternoon and buffet supper were Dianne and Terry Williams and son Adam, Woodstock; Michael Oliver, Otterville; Brenda and Hank Wissensz and daughter Jennifer, Niagara-on-the-Lake; Shelley and Mike Dertinger, Delhi; Karl and Margaret McEwan and son Robert, Oakland; Ruth Ann and Chuck Street and children Amy and Marty, Smithville; Mary and Lloyd Muir and children Melanie and Tommy, Markdale and Eileen and Earl Durham, Burford.

Norwich Township doctors To join OMA protest

N.C.
MAY 28

By Saul Chernos

The dispute over extra-billing by Ontario doctors continues, and, like the rest of the province, medical practitioners in Oxford County will be closing their offices in protest tomorrow and Friday. Norwich Township's four doctors will be closed during the period of protest.

In Norwich, Dr. Robert Hall will be closing his offices for most of the two day strike period tomorrow, May 29, and Friday, May 30.

Hall says his office "will be closed either partly or all of Thursday and Friday. I'll be going along with them."

Hall is concerned about the freedom of doctors and the quality of

health care. "We're worried that the government is taking away the doctors' freedom. Once the government has total control over any section of health care, just like any other government area, it deteriorates." Using terms such as "employees of the government" and "state medicine", Hall points out that "it doesn't matter if it is the postal service or what it is." Reminding that he, himself, does not extra-bill, Hall says he wants, above all, "the freedom of the doctors to run their own business."

Saying he is listed in the phone book and carries an emergency beeper, Hall pointed out his patients will not be stranded without access

to medical care.

Dr. Clare Westmacott will be neither on strike nor at work. Westmacott could not be reached for comment and his office referred questions to OMA spokesperson Dr. Douglas Neale of Woodstock.

Neale said that Westmacott agreed well before last week's decision to strike, to attend a general practitioners' conference in England. Neale says Westmacott sympathises with the OMA's position regarding Bill 94, also known as the Health Care Accessibility Act. "Dr. Westmacott's sympathies lie with the OMA, but because he is going to be away, he cannot be on strike. His office is already closed."

According to Neale, some elective surgery has also been postponed at Alexander Memorial Hospital in Ingersoll as well as all elective surgery at Tillsonburg Hospital and Woodstock General Hospital. Neale points out, however, that "we will do emergency surgery. The majority of doctors' offices (in Oxford County) will be closed but the (24-hour) emergency services will be available at the hospitals."

Otterville's two physicians will also be closing their offices Thursday and Friday.

"I think most people support them. That's the sum total," says Dr. Murray Downing, who has rescheduled appointments to other days. Extra-billing, itself, says Downing, is "not the main item. The

main item is political, it isn't accessibility for patients."

Downing accuses the provincial government of attempting to capitalize on the public belief the issue is a financial one for doctors. "When the politicians say no one wants to pay extra, nobody wants to pay extra. We're protesting the way the government presents extra-billing as the issue. It isn't accessibility for health care. So many patients in hospitals should be in chronic-care beds in chronic-care institutions."

Downing says that although his office will be closed, patients can reach him by telephone, the "same as they would on a Sunday."

Dr. Julius Narancsik will also be closing his Otterville office, but points out that he and most other physicians will still be working, for the most part. Narancsik will spend at least part of the strike time doing emergency work at the hospital. He will also, for some of the time, be accessible by phone.

"Most of the physicians in Oxford County are supporting the position taken by the OMA," points out Narancsik, who describes reaction by his patients as "quite favorable", with no negative feedback. He says he hopes a consensus can be reached between the two sides, and recognises that their deep division makes a settlement harder to reach.

Bill 94 is scheduled to be debated in the Ontario Legislature this week.

SAINT JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

OTTERVILLE, ONTARIO

Dear Members of Saint John's Church,

At our last Board of Management meeting a Building Committee was established consisting of the Rector, the two Church Wardens, and August DeWachter, Cathy Furlong, Don Freeman, Art Davies, Lila Freeland and Ann Rachar.

The function of the Committee is to initiate a building project which will provide our church with three much needed facilities:

- 1) Adequate washroom facilities
- 2) A side entrance hall with cloak-room
- 3) A ramp approach to this entrance which will provide easy access to church, church hall, and washrooms.

All three facilities are designed to accommodate free wheel-chair movement.

Enclosed are blue-prints which will give you some idea of the location, size and design of the proposed addition.

The estimated, approximate cost of the project is a minimum of \$18,000.00. Your Committee intends immediately to embark on a fund-raising campaign. We are confident that the loyalty and dedication of our parish family members will lead to the attainment of this goal. At present there are sixty-four families on our congregational roll.

Enclosed is an "intention" card along with an envelope. After giving this matter serious thought and prayer, we ask you to please fill it out and seal it in the envelope. The amount of your gift will be known only by yourself, your Pastor, and the church treasurer. Please make cheques payable to "Saint John's Building Fund". Receipts for income tax purposes will be issued.

On Sunday, May 25th. one or two of your Board Members will call at your home to pick up the envelope and to answer any questions you may have about the building project. If for some reason you do not wish a visit on May 25th., feel free to mail your sealed card to our treasurer, Cathy Furlong, or drop it on the collection plate on or before May 25th.

Please pray for the success of our venture. In anticipation, we thank you most sincerely.

Father Grant & Committee.

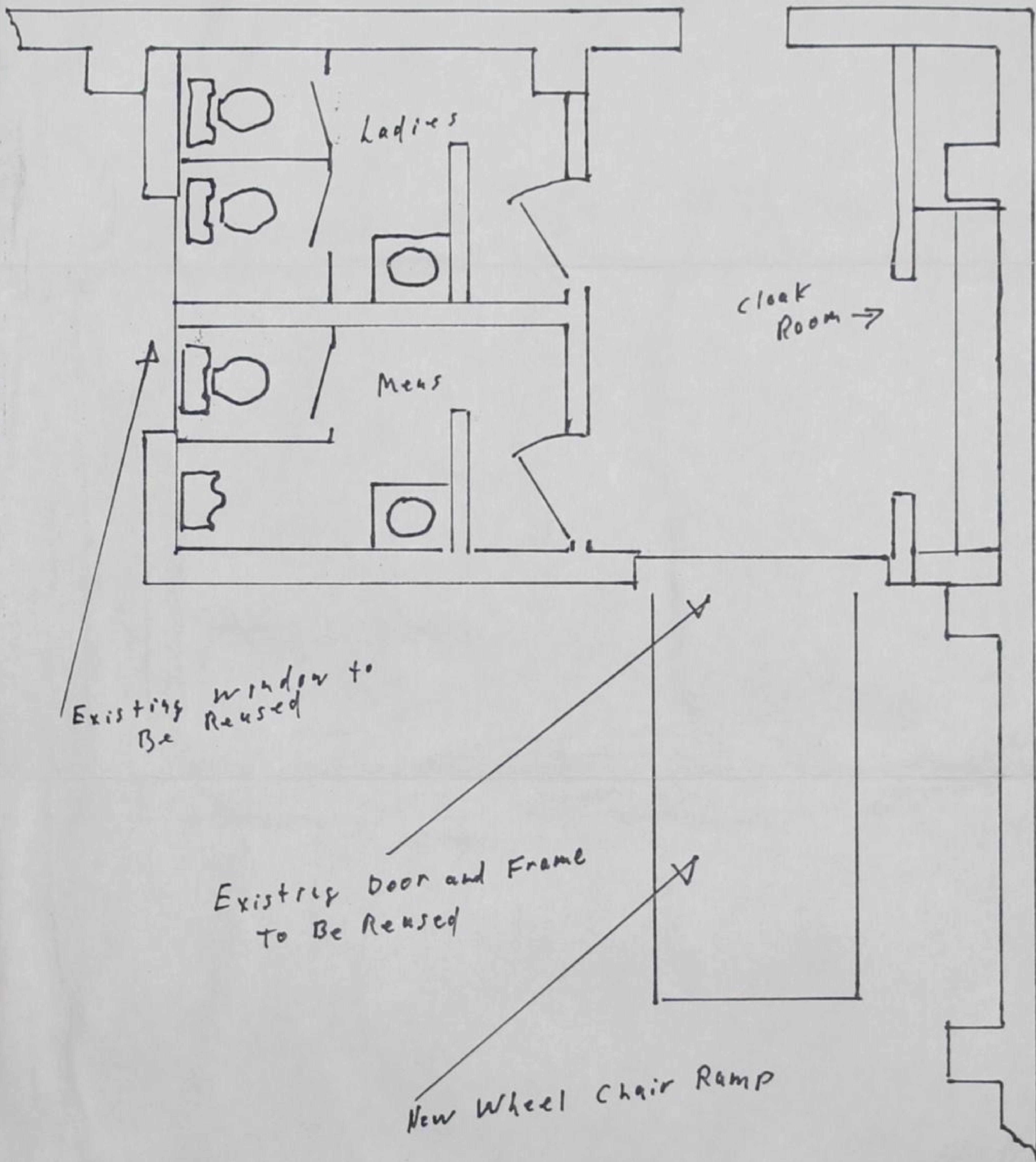
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SAINT JOHN'S BUILDING PROJECT - INTENTION CARD - 1986

I wish to support my church's Building Project.

ENCLOSED FIND MY CHEQUE FOR \$ _____
(OR)

I WISH TO PLEDGE \$ _____ TO BE PAID ON OR BEFORE
DECEMBER 31st., 1986

Signed _____



L.F. PRESS

The ones who broke the barriers

By Helen Connell
of The Free Press

WHEN EMILY STOWE announced in a Toronto newspaper in 1867 that she was practising medicine, she was indirectly declaring war on the medical establishment.

Barred from Canadian medical schools because of her sex, the Norwich native went to New York to obtain her medical degree. That proved to be only the first hurdle. She still needed a licence from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario to begin practising in Ontario.

That all-male establishment said she must first attend one series of lectures and pass one exam — offered only at the same Canadian universities which wouldn't accept her because she was female.

Today it would be termed a classic catch-22, but for women in the 1860s it was simply "a fact of life."

In one of her petitions to the University of Toronto, Stowe said: "The day will come when these doors will swing open to every female who chooses to apply."

Stowe eventually was accepted at the Toronto School of Medicine to take the necessary lectures. However, she refused the oral examination, which was also a requirement in obtaining a licence, because she didn't want to submit to the indignity of being questioned by a bunch of hostile men.

The standoff continued between Stowe and the college until finally on July 16, 1880, the medical establishment said "uncle" and granted her a licence.

It took all the pounding and kicking on the doors of universities and professional organizations by women like Stowe before universities openly accept-

ed them. Today women make up 43.9 per cent of medical school freshmen in Canada.

London researcher and author Carlotta Hacker chronicled the accomplishments of these Canadian women medical pioneers in her book, *The Indomitable Lady Doctors*, produced for the Federation of Medical Women of Canada for its 50th anniversary in 1974.

Here are some of the women Hacker rediscovered:

- Although Stowe was the first woman to practise medicine in Canada, it was Stratford's Dr. JENNIE TROUT who was the first woman recognized by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. The college granted Trout a licence on May 13, 1875, five years before Stowe received hers.

- The Stowes made Canadian history again in 1883 when Dr. AUGUSTA STOWE-GULLEN, daughter of Emily Stowe, became the first woman to graduate from a Canadian medical school.

- Dr. ELIZABETH SMITH-SHORTT of Winona graduated from Women's Medical College in Kingston in 1884 and her name is prominently linked with many of the social, medical and women's campaigns of her day. Besides her medical practice, she helped found the Victorian Order of Nurses and the Women's Canadian Club. She was a vice-president of the Ontario Council of Women, national convener of immigration and the first head of Ontario's mother's allowance board.

- Born in Scotland but raised in Bruce County, Dr. MARGARET MacKELLAR left Canada for India shortly after completing her medical training in 1880 and spent 40 years setting up the first hospital in the central area of India.

- Clinton's CHARLOTTE WHITEHEAD ROSS became a doctor in 1875, intending to use her medical

degree as another skill in raising her family. However, she and her preacher husband, David Ross, settled in the remote Manitoba community of Whitemouth where Whitehead Ross soon found herself the only doctor in the region. Some of her patients travelled 64 kilometres by canoe to visit her. When she made house calls to deliver a baby, she would often stay behind to lend the new mother a hand by scrubbing floors, cooking and cleaning.

- Dr. ANNIE HENNIGAR SANFORD was both an artist and doctor in her native Nova Scotia who began her practice in 1906. She had such a flair with emergency dentistry that she was known as "a grand man with a tooth." She made her rounds by horse and buggy, once being forced to blindfold her horses in order to get them to pass two bears on a lonely stretch of road.

- A number of women doctors became missionaries. Dr. SUSANNA CARSON RIJHNART of Strathroy took the gospel to Tibet which had closed its borders to "foreign devils." Carson Rijnhart attempted to slip into Tibet via China in 1894 by disguising herself in oriental dress. Unfortunately, she knew little about the garb and accidentally wore a piece of underwear as an outer garment, making a spectacle of herself. She finally managed to slip into Tibet and lived there a number of years, protected by a Tibetan ruler. The Tibetans found Rijnhart and her missionary husband, Petrus, not only amicable but far more tolerant of their religious differences than most 19th-century visitors who came to preach the gospel.

- After graduating from the University of Toronto in 1912, Dr. ETHEL HAYES of London went on to the position of chief of medicine at Women's College Hospital in Toronto.

- An interest in both the law and medicine made Dr. FRANCES MCGILL of Saskatchewan an ideal pathologist and amateur sleuth for the RCMP and earned her an appointment as "honorary surgeon" for the RCMP in 1946. She helped solve a number of cases including the Bran Muffin Case in which police were baffled by the mysterious death of a woman's grandparents until McGill showed how the woman had been trying to kill her father with doctored bran muffins. □



Pioneer women in the world of medicine include (from left) Dr. Susanna Carson Rijnhart of Strathroy who worked as a missionary in Tibet in the 1890s; Dr. Frances McGill, a pathologist for the RCMP in the 1940s; Dr. James Miranda Stuart Barry who posed as a man and became inspector general for military hospitals in Canada in the 1860s and Dr. Emily Stowe, the first woman to practice medicine in Canada.

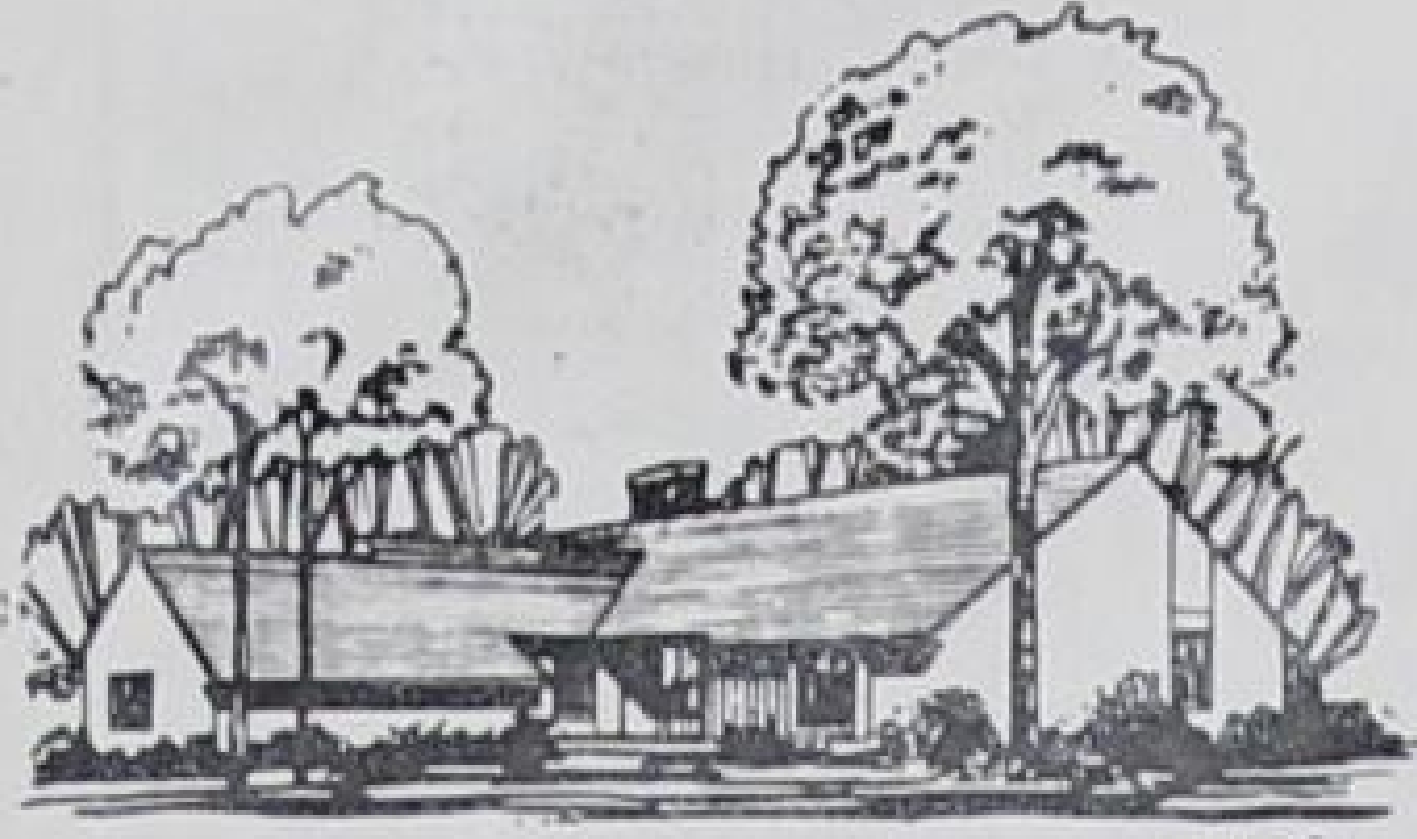
Historic photos from Federation of Medical Women of Canada; collage by Morris Lamont of The Free Press

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OCTOBER 11, 1986

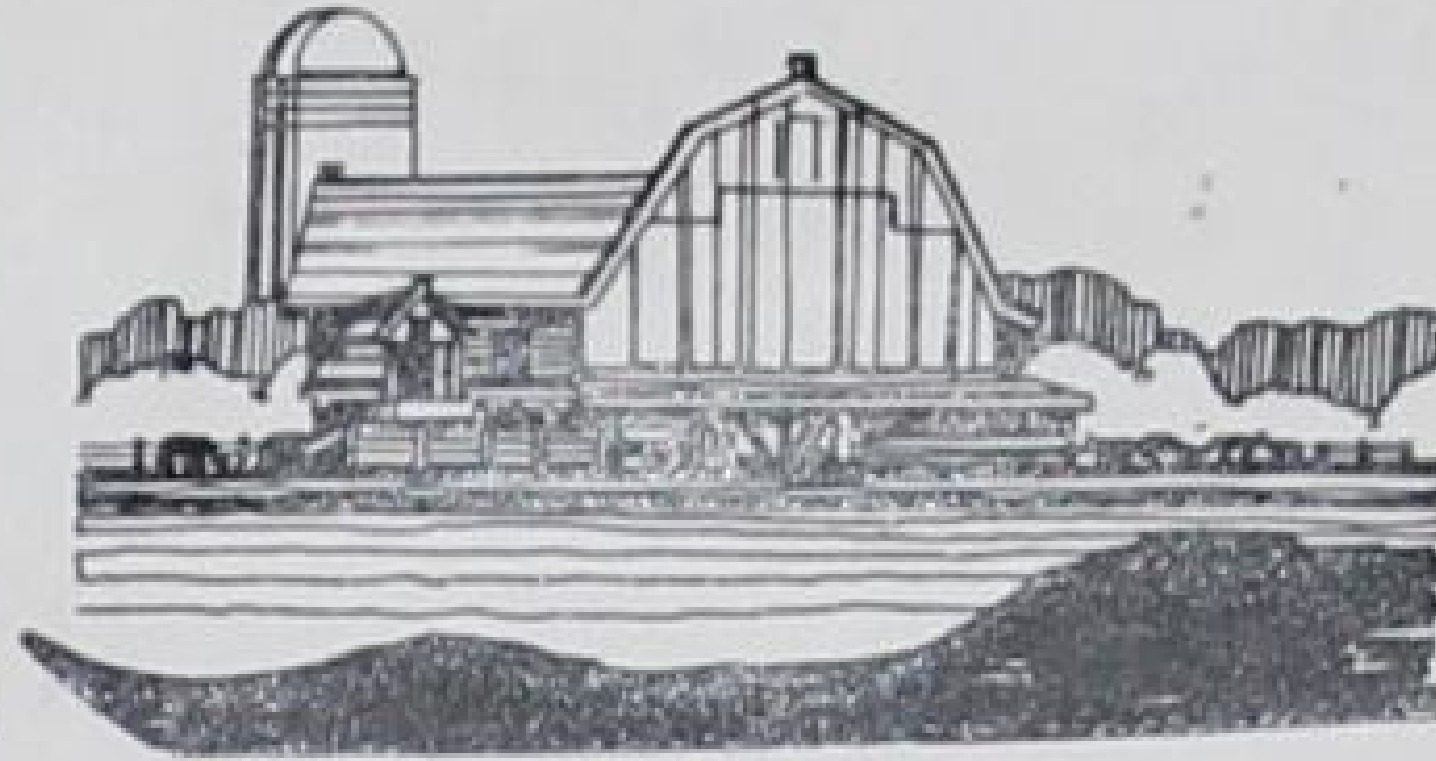


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Norwich property taxes

increase 10.3 per cent

D.N. June 25
By Ben Steidman
Staff Writer

NORWICH — Township rate-payers will have to dig deeper to pay for a 10.3 per cent hike in property taxes contained in this year's budget approved in principle last week by Council.

According to Mayor John Heleniak, final ratification of the budget was set for last night's regular Council session.

Treasurer Reg Saunders said the average home assessed at \$4,000 will be taxed \$1,121.83 this year compared to \$1,018.84 in 1985. This means the average Norwich Township homeowner will pay \$102.99 more in property taxes this year, an increase from \$66.83 in 1985.

This year's budget stands at about \$7.4-million, compared to 1985's total of \$6.9-million.

Basically, said Mr. Saunders, it "boils down to" a 10 per cent increase.

Of the \$102.99 jump in property tax, education takes the biggest chunk.

About \$23.32 is earmarked for elementary public schools, while \$25.24 goes to high schools. The township's share will gobble up \$52.13. Oxford County will take \$2.30.

In percentage terms, education's slice amounts to 57.6 per cent of the mill rate; the township's genral levy totals 27.8 per cent; and Oxford County reaps in 14.6 per cent.

Evidently, Council was miffed at education's ever-escalating costs, but Mr. Saunders pointed out that protests on the cost haven't resulted in real cost-cutting by school boards.

In the budget, elementary public school costs total \$1.6-million, of which \$1.5-million will have to be raised by taxation. High school costs amount to \$1.4-million, of which \$1.3-million will have to come from taxes.

It will cost \$2.9-million to run the township this year; the county will

take \$809,399; and separate school operations will cost \$162,855.

Garbage collection for the average household assessed at \$4,000 will cost \$19.42 for the full year.

A large chunk of township ex-

penses this year, amounting to \$1.4-million, will be directed to its roads department. Last year's total stood at \$1.2-million. Mr. Saunders noted that this year some \$456,000 is not covered by a provincial subsidy.

Budget approved for Norwich Twp

Township of Norwich Council made it official Tuesday evening—they approved the 1986 budget which contains a 10.03 per cent increase in municipal taxes.

Deputy Clerk and Treasurer Reg Saunders said the increase in taxes is about average in comparison with other municipality's budgets. For example, East Zorra-Tavistock's budget contained a 13.7 per cent increase over last year's taxes; Zorra Township Council's budget carried a 5.87 per cent increase and Blandford-Blenheim's municipal taxes increased by 6.38 per cent, he said.

The mill rate has increased in Norwich Township from 254.890 to 280.457.

Based on a \$5,000 assessment, Norwich Township residents would have paid \$1,274 in taxes last year. This year, taxes on a \$5,000 assess-

ment have risen \$127.04.

The mill rate determines how much property owners will pay the municipality for each \$1,000 of assessment.

The mill rate for residential property of public school supporters has increased from last year's 84.474 mills to 90.304, while the mill rate for residential property owned by separate school supporters has risen from 91.095 to 93.426 for Oxford County separate schools.

The mill rate for Haldimand-Norfolk separate school supporters is 98.228 compared to last year's 90.388 while the mill rate for Brant separate school supporters is 93.426.

The commercial mill rate for public school supporters is 106.240 up 6.86 mills from the previous rate.

Separate school supporters who own commercial properties will also pay more in municipal taxes. For

Oxford County separate school supporters, the tax has risen 2.743 mills to 109.913.

The mill rate for commercial properties of separate school supporters in Haldimand-Norfolk jumped from the previous rate of 106.339 to 115.562.

The new commercial mill rate for Brant separate school supporters is 109.913 compared to the former rate of 107.170.

Total budgeted expenditures for 1986 is \$7,397,294, said Mr. Saunders.

Maintenance and construction of roads proved to be one of the most expensive expenditures in the 1986 budget, taking up a 57.87 per cent share of money allotted to general expenditures.

Last year Norwich Township spent \$1,216,626 on roads throughout the township but this year \$1,394,000 has been designated for road work, an increase of \$177,374.

That during the week of June 11, 1976:

The doors of the Township of Delhi arena have been padlocked. The municipality was ordered by the Ministry of Labour to close the arena "forthwith." It will stay closed until the building has been made structurally adequate in accordance with the National Building Code of Canada.

Final plans for the replacement of the condemned Township of Norwich arena could be approved in principle if one of two submissions by construction firms was deemed acceptable by the arena advisory board.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

June 1936

LANGTON - It is reported Alex Maeckelbergh has purchased the property where the store burned last Wednesday and will rebuild a brick store and butcher shop.

SPRINGFORD - Dr. Downing of Otterville visited the public school here on Friday and inoculated the school children and teacher, also several other children of pre-school age. This is the second inoculation for diphtheria.

NARANCSIK - DUBE

Rod and Marion Taylor are grateful for the safe arrival of 2 new members to their family, grandson Andrew, born to Doctor Julius Narancsik and Janet of Otterville on June 10, 1986, weighing 9 lb. 2 oz., and granddaughter Nomusa, born to Doctor Jabu Dube and Lynn of Toronto, on June 13, 1986, weighing 8 lb. 4 oz.

Fire Hazard

By Saul Chernos

An Otterville house has been called a potential fire hazard and Norwich Township has been recommended to have it inspected by its building inspector and fire chief.

Council tabled the recommendation pending further information about the vacant house, which is on the south-east corner of Main and Dover streets.

The recommendation suggested the inspections, and said that if problems are found, work orders should be issued immediately, to bring the building up to standards imposed by the Ontario Building Code and the townships zoning bylaws.

Councillor Don Pettigrew said he had no comment on the matter and Councillors Michael Oliver and Daniel Wagner could not be reached for comment.

Historical show

About 8,000 visitors, 400 exhibitors, over 10 tractors, 100 campers and a dozen traction steam engines made for another successful Norwich Historical Show on the weekend in Norwich.

The first show in June, 1970, had a "couple of engines and a few tractors at the official opening," said the show chairman, Don MacPherson. Because the Norwich District Historical Society had a need for ongoing funding to maintain its museum and archives, it was decided the steam show should be an annual event.

About \$1,800 was raised at the first

show, compared with an estimated \$6,000 generated over the three days of the sixteenth annual event this year.

While many of the exhibitors have been with the show since its beginnings, Mr. MacPherson always likes to recruit fresh talent each year. This year some new tractors, a new dairy display and a variety show helped give the show a new look.

The steam show has traditionally been a community affair, Mr. MacPherson said, stressing it would never happen without the efforts of many volunteers and the support of local business and industry.

*OLD DR. CULLVER HOUSE
BURNED BY FIRE DEPT
IN 1936
S.E. CORNER JUNCTION
MAIN STS.*

Springford meeting hall approved

By Ben Steidman
Staff Writer

NORWICH — Springford's controversy-shrouded proposed meeting hall has finally obtained a reluctant go-ahead nod from a sharply divided Township Council.

Councillors, at May 22's special meeting, culminated a lengthy, often heated debate, with a 6-5 recorded vote favouring the proposal.

Following that fractious decision, township Clerk-Administrator Bob Watkins is now preparing an appli-

cation to procure partial funding from Wintario or other provincial sources.

Council has set a \$65,000 ceiling on the facility — to replace a Women's Institute hall — with \$30,000 supplied from a municipal reserve, \$15,000 raised through community pledges and the balance from Wintario.

Construction of the community meeting hall now hinges on receipt of provincial funding.

Site for the proposed facility will be municipally-owned property

adjacent to Springford's athletic grounds.

Springford Women's Institute has been accepted by Council as the Wintario applicant and also the private incorporated group to administer the hall.

A six-person Management Board will be established, responsible for operating the new facility, when and if built.

Currently, the only facility in Springford used for meetings and other community events is an aging and inadequate Women's Institute

hall. However, it will shut its doors forever shortly.

Council's Community Services Chairman Paul Wood, who vigorously opposed the plan, argued that the municipality had "not really looked at the Women's Institute hall with the idea of possibly upgrading or modernizing it."

He pointed out that Council already subsidizes three other township community halls to the tune of over \$100,000 a year. During the interview, Mr. Wood referred to efforts by the Springford Building Committee, to put up another community facility, as probably burdening taxpayers with another "white elephant."

Councillor Don Pettigrew, who spearheaded the proposal through Council, insisted the facility would be "modest," and added that just as the Women's Institute hall had been self-sustaining, so would the new hall.

Marjorie Seitz of RR 1, Otterville, a spokesperson for the building committee, contended that Springford needed a meeting place as it provides the "heart and soul" of a community.

She recalled working on the project for five years, rejecting any notion the current hall could be

renovated. "I just doubt that very much."

Council has done a flip-flop on the proposal. On May 12, during a regular session, Councillors rejected the bid by a 6-4 count.

Mr. Wood pointed out there have been some contending groups interested in a new hall. Acutely aware of these other groups, Mr. Wood noted that this particular hall should "meet the needs of the majority of Springford's residents," and, moreover, Council should be certain it can "afford to put it up."

As for revamping the current structure, Mr. Pettigrew suggested that anyone advocating this approach was "sucking air," as this possibility had been thoroughly investigated.

Councillor Norman Lusk, who voted against the proposal, feared the province's and local ratepayers' reaction to placing a facility built largely on public money in the hands of a "private group."

The proposal, described by opponents as a "hot potato," still has some distance to travel before bearing fruit.

Mayor John Heleniak, favouring the plan, admitted there's still lots of factors to be "thrashed out."

Otterville students graduate

A Brick To Build On was the theme expressed by Pat Smith, Oxford Board of Education trustee, at graduation exercises for Otterville Public School students held Tuesday evening, June 24 at the Otterville community hall following a delicious roast beef dinner served by the Otterville United Church Women.

Mrs. Smith, who grew up and attended school in Otterville, compared education at Otterville Public School to a brick being strong, solid and secure. The education received here is the cornerstone from which the Grade 8 graduating class will build their future learning, career and life, she said. There is a need to keep the brick in good repair and to be prepared for modifications and re-education but always building on this secure cornerstone.

She challenged the students to build on the ABCs acquired at Otterville Public School. A stands for ability and attitude; B for basic skills such as the three "Rs" and C means challenges, choices, critical evaluation, consequences, career and citizenship.

As members of the graduating class from the 1927 portion of the school and the era of the "big old gym," the students have a special challenge to ensure the old school portion of Otterville's educational history lives on.

Graduation is a time for looking ahead with great anticipation but also a time to look back and reflect on the past. Mrs. Smith drew an analogy of life to a big swim. When the students, like a swimmer, become discouraged about reaching their destination or just need a little encouragement, they must remember to look back to the days at Otterville Public School and see how far they have come. This will

give a feeling of security knowing of the firm foundation upon which their future is built.

Mrs. Smith closed by sharing the poem, Be The Best Of Whatever You Are.

Debbie Anderson thanked the guest speaker and presented her with a sketch of the school.

During the awards program the Pettigrew Award for outstanding achievement and contribution to school life were presented to Julie DeWachter and Darren Forsyth. Other special awards were Honor Medallions for overall average of 80 per cent and above, presented to Kelly Bock, Samantha LeToile, Hali Walthers, Julie DeWachter. The IODE Award went to Julie DeWachter.

Subject awards presented by the subject teachers were English - Julie DeWachter; History - Samantha LeToile; Music - Julie DeWachter; French - Samantha LeToile; Art - Julie DeWachter; Physical Education - Kelly Bock, Joe Comeau; Science - Julie DeWachter; Family Studies/Industrial Arts - Julie DeWachter.

The Grade 8 class was presented with graduation certificates by teacher John Lamont. As well, school pins, provided by the Otterville Parent Teachers Association were presented by PTA president August DeWachter.

Members of the graduating class were Debbie Anderson, Chris Baker, Kelly Bock, Tammy Boughner, Bruce Brayley, Joe Comeau, Roger Cyr, Cindy Davis, Julie DeWachter, Darren Forsyth, Paul Harrison, Warren Hird, Tina Irie, Dwayne Kozuch, Samantha LeToile, Jennifer McMurchy, Blair Oatman, Brady Parr, Robert Sherman, Hali Walters, Larry Winter, Colleen

Young, Jackie Zimmer and John Bartsch.

Valedictorian Julie DeWachter stressed the students had to earn their success through lots of hard work and study. They had moved from tying their shoelaces to tying friendships. Through their years at Otterville Public School the graduates had learned about social and emotional values, importance of establishing and maintaining friendships, respect for one another, peer pressure, decision making and goal setting, she said.

For the most part learning was made interesting and fun. The help and guidance of others to reach goals must be realized, be it teacher, parents or friends.

Graduation is not a conclusion but a beginning of a new phase of life. It is an opportunity and a privilege which the class of '86 will respect and appreciate.

The exercise concluded with the singing of May The Good Lord Bless And Keep You, performed by several Grade 8 students accompanied by teacher Susan Davis. Principal Cathy Murphy bid the class congratulations and farewell through a closing poem.

The evening was completed with a dance, music provided and volunteered by Don McMullen of Otterville.

School's Out Early

N.G. JUNE 25

Students at Otterville Public School got to start their summer vacation one week early as classes dismissed at the school on Thursday.

The children are enjoying the extra holidays because renovations to the existing four classrooms in which the students were located were scheduled to begin today (Monday).

The Oxford County board of education earlier received a grant from the Ministry of Education to demolish a portion of the school completed in 1929 and replace it with a new facility. Total costs for the project had been budgeted at \$923,901, with the ministry contributing about \$700,000.

The demolition work on the section of the school not in use had already started when the Oxford board learned the ministry had decided to increase the amount of the grant.

John Young, director of education, said the extra grant money was approved because the accommodation unit factors in the grant have been increased. He said the board will receive about \$21,500 in extra funds for the project which will allow the school board to replace the brickwork on the four existing classrooms.

Although the ministry is contributing a greater share toward the project, Mr. Young said the school board is still working to meet the original budgeted cost.

Otterville school construction on target

OTTERVILLE (C) — In these times when school closures seem common day occurrences due to declining enrolments and meeting of board of education costs, Otterville Public School proves to be the exception.

The village of Otterville with a population of approximately 700, located in a rural area of tobacco, dairy, beef and cash crop farming, is having its public school reconstructed with \$923,900 worth of renovations underway.

School Principal Cathy Murphy, said that before the Ministry of Education approved the grant towards the construction, she was "prepared for a possible closing at one point." After the announcement, she said she was "sort of walking on air . . . I couldn't believe it, it was a real boost."

The work crews of Graceview Enterprises of Belmont have presently demolished the 1927 section of the school and will construct a new addition to the remaining 1955 segment.

The architect selected for the project is Leonard Dickson of Woodstock who has included in the plans a new library, a general purpose room including a gymnasium, a stage and two classrooms, a new kindergarten facility as well as a health room and offices.

When construction is completed the five portable classrooms presently being used will be reduced to one. The remaining portable will be connected by intercom to the main building.

The Oxford County Board of Education had considered renovating, but it was determined too expensive to update and modernize safety regulations in the old structure.

Since the cost of the project is above that approved by the Ministry of Education, the Board will have a larger amount to pay. The approved cost was \$626,000 of which the Ministry paid 75 per cent which totals \$469,565. The remainder will come from municipal taxes.

Included in the cost will be \$43,000 worth of new furnishings. \$17,000 is slated for library resource materials such as film strip viewers and computers while the rest will go toward new desks, other furniture and playground equipment.

Superintendent Irv Horton said that construction should be completed by the end of October. "We have to finish construction in 1986 because the Government grants are only available in 1986. All the money has to be spent during that period of time."

All work done to the 1955 portion of the school will be completed during the summer with the new space at the front to be ready for use by Christmas.

Materials of the old school such as slate boards, shelves and lumber have been available for sale with some articles being donated to the Oxford County Board of Education Museum School and the Norwich Historical Society which attempted to remove two copper ceilings without success.

Ms. Murphy stressed that the new facility will be a very functional school, not elaborate, with all teachers, children and custodians having an opportunity for input into the design.

Even the students have benefited by the added commotion to their routines by being able to follow the process of construction in their studies. Ms. Murphy pointed out that the experience seems to have made everyone more responsible and gives the whole school a closer feeling with staff and students sharing washrooms and handling the general disruptions.

Ms. Murphy suggested that the new facility will not only benefit pupils and teachers but will be a boost to the community. It appears that in Otterville's case the smaller rural school is still here to stay.

Leisure Club

OTTERVILLE (C) - Twenty-six members of the Otterville Leisure Club and three visitors sat down to a bountiful potluck dinner at the Woodlawn Adult Centre recently. All welcomed former members Mr. and Mrs. Colin Robinson from Stoney Creek.

The meeting honored four members of the club, Mr. and Mrs. James Squance and Mr. and Mrs. Mel Beecroft.

Bertha Lee read a paper and presented Jim and Grace Squance each with a coffee mug from the club in honor of their 65th wedding anniversary. The Squances invited all to attend their open house, Sunday afternoon, June 29 at the Woodlawn centre.

Vera Welsh read an address prepared by Violet Cole to Mel and Orris Beecroft and presented them with a 45th anniversary plate in honor of their wedding anniversary in June and also their leaving the Leisure Club to make their home in Barrie in the near future. All wished them well in their new home.

Vera Carroll thanked the club for cards she and her husband received for their anniversary and while they were ill. Nellie Taylor thanked all who has sent her birthday cards.

The good cheer convener, Grace Squance, reported sending get well cards to Ethel Arthur, Howard Sweazey and Ann Arthur. It was reported that Erie Hicks was in hospital.

During the business period a letter of resignation from the treasurer was read and accepted with regret. Violet Cole has accepted the office.

A few games of euchre and pool were played and a cup of tea was enjoyed at the close of the afternoon.

The next meeting, June 18, at 1:30 p.m. will be the birthday meeting.

Leisure Club meet held

OTTERVILLE (C) - Fifteen members of the Leisure Club met recently at Woodlawn Adult Community Centre.

President Gladys Evans read two articles from The Voice, Fathers Everywhere and The President's Address.

Jim Squance and Mel Beecroft thanked members for gifts they had received at the last meeting.

Members agreed unanimously to present Mel and Orris Beecroft with a life membership in the club.

Thinking of you cards were signed for members that used to attend the club but due to health reasons are now unable to.

During business, members decided to sell the remainder of the cookbooks for \$1.

Suggestions for future meeting were card bingo, a book exchange and a visit by a singing group. Following the business portion of the meeting, euchre, UNO and pool were played.

Birthdays for June and July are Ethel Arthur, Beulah Sweazy, Violet Cole and Vera Welsh. Birthday cake and ice cream were enjoyed at the close of the meeting.

Meetings will be discontinued for the summer months with the first meeting of the fall to be Wednesday, Sept. 3 with a picnic dinner at 12:30 p.m.

NG. JUNE 25



Laura-Lee Pettigrew of Otterville and Melanie McKim of Norwich head down the river in the quest for the Great Canoe Race grail. (Photo by Jeff Tribe)



And they're off

These canoeists taking part in Saturday's Great Canoe Race, sponsored by the Spring-Otter Optimists, were off to a sprinting start, wading through some shallow water to get to the deeper water that would carry the canoe off on the race. Good weather and a high water level in the Big Otter Creek marked the event which started at the Treffry Mill in Otter-

ville and ended downstream at the Rock's Mill. A Dorchester team of Bob and Mike Vincent won the race while Andy Martin and Allison Drought of Thamesford placed second with times of 1:16:29 and 1:25:35 respectively. Peter Croxall and Andrew Hillen of Waterford finished third with a time of 1:35:03. (Jeff Tribe Photo)

South Norwich Historical Society

OTTERVILLE (C) - The South Norwich Historical Society's meeting, held Monday, June 9 at the Woodlawn Adult Community Centre featured Heidi Pettigrew who gave a most interesting and well-researched talk on the life of Dr. Emily Jennings Stowe.

Dr. Stowe, born in South Norwich in the Summerville area in 1831, was doubly famous as the first woman licensed to practise medicine in Canada and more importantly as the founder of the women's movement at the close of the 19th century.

Emily Jennings, born a Quaker and raised in the Quaker atmosphere of Norwich Township, had strong religious convictions and concern for social justice and equality for all. Thus the movement for women's rights was a means of obtaining social reforms.

A teacher at the age of 15, she later married John Stowe who developed tuberculosis making her the supporter of an invalid husband and three children.

She applied to enter the Toronto School of Medicine but was denied admission since such an action by a woman was not acceptable at that time.

She enrolled in the New York Medical School graduating in 1868. Twelve years later in 1880 she was granted a medical certificate to

practise in Canada. Two of Emily's sisters became doctors but remained in the United States. Throughout her career Dr. Stowe followed the Quaker principle of pacifism regardless of prejudice and ridicule against her.

With women's suffrage active in Britain and the United States Dr. Stowe resolved to ease the path for other women wishing to enter the medical profession. She gave lectures stressing equal education for women and equal opportunities.

She planned and organized the Toronto Women's Literary Club, really aimed at achieving feminine equality. Her real purpose in achieving equality was the humanitarian objective of using feminine power and influence to achieve improvements such as better sanitary conditions for factory workers and removal of the worst features of the sweat shop operations. A measure of success came when women were admitted to the University of Toronto in the 1884-85 sessions. Dr. Stowe pressed to help women to become better prepared to exercise the right to vote at a future time.

In 1883 the Women's Literary Club was disbanded and the Toronto Women's Suffrage Club was established. Dr. Stowe saw industrialization as a threat to society unless measures were taken to curb

some of the more undesirable results. She was strongly opposed to organized charities which she saw as a cover for the results of social injustice. Her belief was that the injustices should be corrected at the source. She saw women's suffrage as a means by which social reforms could be achieved and was concerned more about humanity than the rights or independence of women.

In 1889 the first national suffragette movement was launched but as a result of a diversity of aims by groups from different sections of the country this movement accomplished little. Dr. Emily Stowe died in 1903 at the age of 72. She did not live to see women granted the right to vote - a privilege which came in 1917 - but she laid the foundation.

At all times she saw the role of housewife and mother as an honorable and fulfilling one. Social justice for all was her aim and she sought to advance the education and influence of women as a means of attaining this goal.

Her daughter Augustus Stowe Gullen also became a doctor and was active in the Women's Suffrage Club. She shared many of her mother's ideas but became more of a feminist and urged women to become independent.

Dr. Emily Stowe kept scrapbooks which are now held in university libraries and from these sources, the speaker, Heidi Pettigrew, obtained much of her information. When it was learned that these scrapbooks are in several locations and one collection is not yet recorded on microfilm, the South Norwich Historical Society voted unanimously to offer sufficient funds to have these scrapbooks filmed so they would be accessible to all institutions for research.

Violet Rebekah Lodge

OTTERVILLE (C) - The last meeting of the Violet Rebekah Lodge opened in regular form with Past President Sister Eva McMullen acting as Noble Grand and Past President Sister Eva Hill acting as Vice Grand.

The visiting committee reported sending a get well card to Ethel Arthur. Sisters Helen Thompson, Jean Cheney, Dorothy Ryder, Delhi and Junior Past President Sister June Caruthers had visited Sister Winnie McMullen and Tillie Morden in the retirement home in Norwich. Sister Violet Howse, Junior Past president, Sister June Caruthers and District Deputy President Betty Bouma had visited Sisters Violet Cole, Annie Godby, Florence Church, Ethel Arthur, Sister Edith and Brother Max Avey and Sister Grace and Brother Jim Squance and Sister Ann Arthur in Thameswood Lodge, London.

The next meeting the charter will be draped for Brother Ralph Yager, Past Grand Master, Past Grand Patriarch and grand secretary of the Grand Lodge of Ontario who passed away May 2.

Nominations were held with those elected being Noble Grand Sister Violet Howse, Vice Grand Sister Esther Smith, Recording Secretary Sister Olive Pickersgill, Financial Secretary Sister Anna Treffry and Treasurer Sister Wilma Butler.

Happy Birthday was sung to Sister Betty Adlington.

Lodge closed in regular form after which lunch and a social time was enjoyed.

Rebekah Lodge

plans salad euchre

OTTERVILLE (C) - Violet Rebekah Lodge No. 330 opened in regular form with Vice Grand Violet Howse and Past Noble Grand Eva McMullen presiding.

All signed a get well card for Noble Grand Sister Ann Arthur who is now in Victoria Hospital, London.

Sister Josephine and Brother Carl Howse invited all to attend their 40th wedding anniversary open house on Sunday, July 6 at Otterville's St. John's Anglican Church parish hall, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

A salad euchre will be held Wednesday, Sept. 24 at Woodlawn Adult Centre.

Happy Birthday was sung to Sister Ruth Collver and a social time was enjoyed at the close of lodge.

NC JUN 21

Norwich - Otterville Lions Club meet

OTTERVILLE (C) - The regular meeting of the Norwich-Otterville Lions Club was held in the community hall, with Lion President Paul Wood in charge.

There was a good attendance with 30 Lions and three visiting Lions from the Beamsville Lions Club as well as two other visitors.

Lion Fred Thompson introduced Susan Eckard and Lyn Stewart, members of the mobile blood donor. They outlined the functions, setup and management of the Red Cross Society. Lions were reminded there would be a second blood donor clinic held in the Norwich Township Community Centre on Monday, June 16 due to the fact there is always an increased demand for transfusions in the summer months.

Of the 65 per cent of the general population eligible to give a blood donation, only five per cent actually donate, and in this area 1,300 units are usually required each week.

The various parts of whole blood and how they are separated and used were explained. Those giving and receiving blood donations can be

assured there is no possibility of contracting AIDS.

Lion Colin Cope expressed the thanks of the club to the two girls for their informative talk.

Zone Chairman Bob Kelly expressed the thanks of the Beamsville Club who attended the meeting.

A donation was approved to support minor ball in the community.

Due to rainy weather on the May 19 holiday, the scheduled ball game and fireworks were cancelled but a similar evening of ball and fireworks will be held in the community park, Otterville, on Tuesday, evening, July 1.

Lion Colin Cope reported on the 100-mile bike-a-thon from Courtland

to Fort Erie, a Lion's Participation event in aid of the Journey For Sight Program on Saturday, May 24. Lion Cope completed the 100 miles; his son Steven did not quite finish but gave an outstanding effort.

All Lion members have been issued Elimination Draw tickets. The final draw will be at the annual fall Carnival. There will be a monthly Early Bird draw, the first on June 9, the second on July 1.

The club has again approved sponsoring the free bus service to the swimming pool in Otterville beginning in early July with more definite details to be announced later.

The convention draw was won by Lion Albert Cornwell.

Violet Rebekah Lodge meets

OTTERVILLE (C) - The recent meeting of Violet Rebekah Lodge 330 opened in regular form with Vice Grand Sister Violet Howse acting as Noble Grand and Past Noble Grand Sister Eva McMullen acting for Vice Grand, presiding.

The charter was draped for Brother Ralph Yager, grand secretary of the Grand Lodge.

The visiting committee reported Sisters Norma Wilson and June Ash not feeling well; Sister Ann Arthur home for the weekend and that Sister Alice Arthur had fallen.

An invitation to attend Port Rowan Uplift Lodge Friendship Night was

read, with several planning to attend.

Sister Esther Smith reported the humanitarian meeting would be at Hanover, July 12 with the number attending to be reported by July 1.

Sister Ethel Arthur thanked the lodge for the get-well card sent her.

The lodge presented Sister Jean McClintock with a wrist corsage in honor of her being nominated as district deputy president. She in turn announced the district meeting would be June 25 at 2 p.m.

Lodge closed in regular form followed by a social hour.

Norwich-Otterville

Lions meet

The regular meeting of the Norwich-Otterville Lions Club was held in the Norwich Legion, Monday, June 9, with Lion President Paul Wood presiding.

There were 33 Lions and three guests in attendance.

Lion Les Dickson thanked the ladies of the Eastern Star for providing meals during the past year.

Lion Albert Cornwell introduced the first speaker of the evening, Oxford County dairy princess, Shelley Martin of Oxford Centre.

She spoke briefly on what will be expected of her during the next year.

She also showed a film about life on a dairy farm and the operation of the Ontario Milk Marketing Board, including its purpose and how milk quota systems work. Shelley was thanked by Lion Dr. Russell Hall.

Lion Jack Waither formerly of the Tilsonburg area introduced the second speaker of the evening, Rev. Lindsay, minister of Parkhill United Church.

He is a representative to the London Conference of the United Church of Canada and an advisor on scouting.

Former Springford Scoutmaster Al Rice accompanied Rev. Lindsay.

Rev. Lindsay spoke to the club about the first Springford Mounted Scout

Troop being the only mounted scout troop in Canada.

He is currently compiling a book on the history of this unique troop.

Because the Norwich-Otterville Lions Club was the sponsor of this scout group, Rev. Lindsay asked for support to produce this book. The club approved a contribution to this project.

Lion Chief Paul Wood thanked Rev. Lindsay.

The club approved a contribution to Springford and district minor ball for 132 registered players.

Tom Smith of Otterville was the winner of \$100 in the June Early Bird draw in connection with the September Elimination Cash draw.

On Friday, June 6, Lion Fred Thompson, his wife Helen and Lion John Leitch and wife Donna, barbecued supper for the Oxford County council at Mount Elgin Community Centre as a project for the club.

The Norwich-Otterville Lions club has now completed its most recent project, a second ball diamond at Dillon park at a cost of \$8,500. This new diamond was turned over to the Township of Norwich.

Piano, organ recital given in Otterville

OTTERVILLE (C) - The fourth annual piano and organ recital by the students of Muriel J. Kozuch of Otterville took place Sunday, June 1 at St. John's Anglican Church.

The singing of O Canada, with accompaniment by Harold Durkee at the piano and Mrs. Kozuch at the organ, opened the recital.

The church was decorated with fresh summer flowers picked by Mrs. Kozuch from Mae Leonard's garden and this brought to her mind the similarity of music training to flower growing. Each flower selected for the arrangements was very unique in its own way through color, shape, way of growing and some special applications for their growth. Likewise as each student plays their chosen instrument or sings, their unique beauty and ingenuity or virtuosity and emotionalism can be appreciated. Mrs. Kozuch commented on how pleased she was with the progress made this year by her students.

The student choir performed The Age of Not Believing by Richard and Robert Sherman as their opening number.

Piano performances were given by Amy Poole, Emma Stangl, Lloyd Durkee, Kim Debus, Pamela Hussey, Melissa Poole, Michael Kapin, Charlene Treffry, Carrie Lewis, Harold Durkee, Marci McMullen, Teresa Ecker, Shelby McMurchy, Brady Parr, Jennifer McMurchy and Jennifer White.

Organ selections were performed by Jonathan Duwyn, Annette Wood, Paul Haley, Jeannine Duwyn, Andrea Hornyak, Angela Wood, Pamela Farkas, Julie DeWachter, Brenda DeWaele, Michelle Duwyn, Kerri Mikula, Ann Marie Duwyn and Susan Lee.

Special vocal selections were performed by the Lee Family, Shannon, Susan, Kelly and their mother, Carol. They were accompanied by their grandmother, Mrs. Lloyd Lee on the piano.

Those students unable to attend the recital were Kelly VanDyk, Lisa Hicks, Joanne Antoszko and the VanBeek family, Marianne, Jeanette, Gerry and John.

Many students had performed in the 38th annual Woodstock Rotary Music Festival and taken music ex-

aminations. Results of these were announced as follows: Lloyd Durkee, Grade 1, Western Conservatory of Music (WCM) exam in June; Melissa Poole, first class honors, Grade 1 Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM); Michael Kapin, first class honors, Grade 1, RCM; Charlene Treffry, first class honors, Grade 1 RCM; Carrie Lewis, first class honors at the Rotary Festival and first class honors Grade 2, RCM; Lisa Hicks, honors Grade 2 and awaiting results of Grade 3; Andrea Hornyak, first class honors Grade 4; Harold Durkee, third at the Rotary Festival and first class honors Grade 2, WCM and Grade 3 exam in June; Joanne Antoszko, first class honors Grade 4; Angela Wood, first class honors in theory rudiments and Grade 5 exam; Pamela Farkas, first class honors, grade 3 and highest mark in the class; Julie DeWachter, first class honors Grade 5 and Grade 6 exam in June; Brenda DeWaele, Honors Grade 5; Michelle Duwyn, first class honors in theory and Grade 6; Kerri Mikula, first class honors Grade 2; Shelby McMurchy, honors RCM Grade 4 and first class honors at the Rotary Festival; Brady Parr, honors Grade 4 and Grade 5 RCM and passed theory rudiments; Jeannine Duwyn, first class honors, Grade 3; Jarrin Penny, passed Grade 5; Jennifer McMurchy, honors Grade 4 RCM; Susan Lee, first class honors Grade 8 and Grade 2 theory and Jennifer White is studying music and piano at the University of Western Ontario.

Mrs. Kozuch favored with two organ solos, Trumpet Voluntaire by Gordon Young and Prelude, Fugue IV by Bach.

The students were all presented by their teacher with certificates in recognition of their performance at the fourth annual recital.

Following refreshments were enjoyed in the parish hall with appreciation to Paddy Parr, Jean DeWachter and Henry Kozuch.

Lions adjourn for the summer

OTTERVILLE (C) - The final regular meeting of the Norwich-Otterville Lions Club for the current season was held in the community hall, Otterville, Monday evening, June 23.

Lion president Paul Wood presided with 33 present, including one visitor. As usual, for the final dinner the ladies of the Eastern Star served an outstanding dinner with fried chicken and fresh strawberries.

A report on the blood donor clinic held in the Norwich community centre, June 15, indicated the clinic was the best patronized of any previous clinic, even though the weather was unfavorable. This was the first attempt at sponsoring two clinics in one year.

Past district governor, Chester McWall of the Waterford club, was in charge of inducting the incoming executive as follows: Lion tamer - Bill Orth; tail twister - Mike Ellul; assistant tail twister - Dave Barter; bulletin editor - John Leitch; directors - Andy Buck, Rick McKim, Jim Poole; first vice-president - Murray Cornwell second vice-president - Tony Drescher; third vice-president - Grant Orth; treasurer - Mark Gilmore; secretary - Gord Shearer; past president - Paul Wood; president - Gary Walther.

Incoming president Gary Walther thanked Lion McWall and presented him with a gift of appreciation.

Winner of the convention draw was Lion Tony Drescher.



The executive of the Lions Club are as follows, front row left to right: Gord Shearer, secretary, Paul Wood past president, Gary Walther, president, Rick McKim, director. Second row left to right: Bill Orth, lion tamer, Andy Buck, director, Jim Poole, director, Murray Cornwell, first vice-president. In the back row from left to right: Mile Ellul, tail twister, Mark Gilmore, treasurer, David Barter, assistant tail twister, Tony Drescher, second vice-president and Grant Orth third vice president was absent. (Jeff Tribe Photo)

Hospital runs smoothly despite doctors' strike

By ELIZABETH LeREVEREND

Things ran pretty smoothly at Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital on Thursday and Friday, despite a strike by area doctors.

While Tillsonburg doctors showed strong solidarity in their opposition to a bill banning extra-billing by shutting down their offices, the work action had no adverse effect on hospital operations.

Jim Spencer, executive director of the Tillsonburg hospital, said about nine or 10 cases of elective surgery had to be cancelled over the two days, but it was "business as usual" otherwise. Doctors have also temporarily resigned from hospital committees not dealing with life and health, until further notice.

Hospital Chief of Staff Dr. Dick Dalby said the roughly eight doctors who manned the hospital on rotating shifts during the strike dealt with routine matters that would have been handled in doctors' offices, had they been open. All Tillsonburg physicians co-operated with the Ontario Medical Association's request to shut down their offices Thursday and Friday.

"I'm not sure we'll gain anything" from the strike action, Dr. Dalby said, but added it was necessary to prevent the government taking advantage of doctors, since they have no union.

Brenda Butters, director of nursing, said there was a steady flow of cases in the hospital emergency room, but "nothing excessive." About 50 or 60 people passed through the emergency room doors on Thursday, she said, but no exact figures were available Monday morning.

Doctors maintain they oppose Bill 94, which would outlaw doctors charging patients over fees set down in the provincial health plan,

because it threatens their professional autonomy. "I don't want some idiot in Toronto telling me what I can do, where I can work and how much money I can make," Dr. Dalby said.

The controversial legislation banning extra-billing is expected to receive its final reading in the legislature soon, possibly this week. Negotiations between the OMA and the government broke off two weeks ago

Deaths

WHITE - At Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital on Wednesday, July 2, 1986, Verna Martha White of 35 North St. E., Otterville, in her 87th year.

Resting at the Ostrander's Funeral Home, Tillsonburg, until Monday noon, thence to Otterville Fellowship Baptist Church for service at 1:30 p.m. conducted by Rev. Joseph Bull. Interment in Otter Cemetery, Otterville. Memorial donations to the Diabetic Association, the Heart and Stroke Fund or the charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family. Visitation to commence on Saturday, July 5, at 2 p.m.

Verna Martha White

Funeral service for the late Mrs. Alexander White of 35 North St. E., Otterville, who died on July 1, 1986, was held at Fellowship Baptist Church, Otterville on July 7 at 1:30 p.m. conducted by Rev. Joseph Bull.

Two solos, Just For Today and Prayer of St. Francis, were sung by Patrick Murray accompanied by Mrs. W. Butler.

Pallbearers were Garnet Wilson, Frank Kozuch, Bradley Stover, Richard Redling, Ron Pound and Wes White.

Interment in Otter Cemetery, Otterville.

Ostrander's Funeral Home, Tillsonburg, were in charge of arrangements.

Otterville resident named to committee

At the Monday night meeting of the Oxford County Separate School Board, trustees ratified the appointment of Trustee Debbie Howse of Otterville to a special committee negotiating on behalf of a Children's Mental Health Service in Oxford County.

In a report to the trustees, Director of Education Frank Sloan noted that there is a demonstrated need for the establishment of a Children's Mental Health Service in the county, and that study of the issue has resulted in an agreement that the Ministry of Community and social services be asked to fund the proposal.

A seven member Steering Committee - comprised of representatives from the Oxford County Hospitals, the Boards of Education, the board of Family and Children's services, and the Oxford County Board of Health - has been formed to negotiate with the Ministry regarding this proposal.

As the request for an appointee from the Oxford board arrived after the last meeting of the board, in the absence of the board chairman, it was necessary for the vice-chairman to appoint a trustee to the Steering Committee formed to make the appointment, accepted by Mrs. Howse.

65th wedding anniversary



On Sunday June 29, 1986 Mr. and Mrs. James Squence of Otterville will be celebrating their 65th Wedding Anniversary. All their friends, relatives and acquaintances are cordially invited to an Open House at Wood Lawn in Otterville, from 2 to 4 pm. Best wishes only please.

TORONTO GENERAL

ON STRIKE TO PROTEST
EXTRA BILLING BAN

WIFE, THREE KIDS, ACCOUNTANT,
INVESTMENT COUNSELLOR, TWO
HOUSES, CONDO IN MIAMI, TWO
PORSCHES, MERCEDES AND
COTTAGE AT THE LAKE.
TO SUPPORT.



RESIDE
VICED THIS CLARET



Knox Presbyterian Church, Norwich, was the setting for the exchanging of marriage vows for Karen Aileen Bruce and Wayne Frederick Gehring.

The double ring ceremony, officiated by Rev. Alice Iarrera, took place on the 14th day of June, 1986.

Karen is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Bruce and Fred is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon G. Gehring.

Organist for the ceremony was Mrs. Betty Almost and soloist was Miss Erica Zooyomi, who sang Sunrise Sunset after the seating of the Bride's mother and Wedding Song and We've Only Just Begun during the signing of the register.

The church was decorated with daphne rose per markers with fresh greenery and baby's breath. Two white wicker stands with fresh pink and white carnations, white snap dragons, daisies and greenery were located at the front of the church with the windows having white potted mums.

The bride, escorted by her father, chose a chiffon gown with a high lace victorian neckline, with fitted bodice of lace and pearls and long lace sleeves.

The chapel length train was scalloped with a lace border. She wore a matching hat of lace and pearls.

Her bouquet consisted of fresh bridal pink roses, white miniature carnations, alstroemeria, baby's breath, sprigs of heather and greenery accented with a fine daphne rose ribbon.

The matron of honor, Janice Miller, sister of the bride, was dressed in a fitted daphne rose gown with a front and back V-neckline with puff sleeves and pleated cummerbund. The back was accented by a detachable bustle.

Gowned identically were the bridesmaids, Melanie Hinde, friend of the bride, Diane Tribe, cousin of

the bride, Heather Corbett and Gail Phillips, both sisters of the groom.

They all carried bouquets of fresh white miniature carnations, alstroemeria, baby's breath, sprigs of heather and greenery, accented with a fine white ribbon.

They all wore alstroemeria and baby's breath in their hair.

The groom was dressed in a black tuxedo tailcoat with black vest and matching pants, while the best man and ushers were dressed in black tuxedo jackets with black cummerbund and pants.

Al Ratavicus, friend of the groom, was best man and the ushers were John Bruce and Warren Bruce, both brothers of the bride, Paul Gehring and Lynn Gehring, both brothers of the groom.

For receiving guests, the bride's mother chose a pastel pink street length dress with a faint rose imprint, padded shoulders and three quarter length sleeves with a matching belt.

In her hair she wore a fresh white rose with baby's breath. Her corsage consisted of fresh white roses, baby's breath, greenery and a fine white ribbon.

The groom's mother chose a street length pastel blue dress accented with a draped neckline and slotted short sleeves with matching belt.

Her corsage was identical to that of the bride's mother.

For their honeymoon to the Thousand Islands, the bride chose a two piece gray suit with a fine white and pink stripe accented with a white collar and cuffs. Her corsage consisted of bridal pink roses and baby's breath.

The bride's gift to her attendants were gold necklaces with a fine heart pendant.

The groom's gifts were engraved carriage clocks.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gehring are residing at Stover Street South, Norwich.

Married



Mr. and Mrs. Donald Stewart of Otterville are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, Jill to Alistair Nicolson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alistair Nicolson of Sarnia. The ceremony was held at the Otterville United Church on June 7, 1986, with Rev. Charles Seed officiating. The matron of honor was Lynn Hutchinson, and the bridesmaids were Deb Singer, Terri Wells and Sandy Nicolson. Melissa Stewart was flower girl. The best man was Glen Smith and the ushers were Donald Nicolson, Daniel Stewart and Randy Scott. The reception for 150 guests was held at the Tillsonburg Community Centre. The bride and groom are now residing in Chatham.

ANNOUNCEMENT



Remi DeGroot

FIDLIN PONTIAC-BUICK LTD. Highway 59 S. in Norwich, is PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT Mr. Remi DeGroot has joined their sales staff. Remi has resided in the Otterville area all of his life and comes well qualified to assist all his friends, relatives & acquaintances in their automotive needs. Phone Remi at

863-2310

Lenaers - Van Parys vows exchanged at LaSalette

Our Lady of LaSalette Roman Catholic Church was the setting, on June 28, 1986 at 2 p.m., for the wed-

ding of Alexis Van Parys, and Marty Lenaers.

The bride is the daughter of Mr.

and Mrs. Charles Van Parys of RR 1, Otterville and the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Lenaers of RR 1, Otterville.

Father Boll officiated at the service. Organist was Muriel Kozuck and soloist was Eleanor Gibson, friend of the bride.

Given away by her father and mother, the bride wore a sleeveless gown of white polyester taffeta with an off-the-shoulder neckline, outlined with collars of taffeta and Chieny lace. The gown featured a gathered floor-length skirt with two flounces of Chieny lace at the hemline and an overskirt of taffeta, scalloped at the bottom and decorated with silk flowers. She wore a picture hat of matching Chieny lace with finger-tip veil.

She carried a bouquet of silk majestic blue and white rubrum lily's accented by seed pearls and blue and white tulle backing.

Maid of honor was Michele Van Parys, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Laurie Vuylsteke, Sheila Dertinger, Susan Nyilas, Doreen Rayner and Darcy Drinkwater. Junior bridesmaid was Leslie Drinkwater.

They wore identical two piece, cocktail-length, slim-fitting dresses of sky blue taffeta with straight skirt and spaghetti straps. The gowns were topped with long sleeved

jackets with wide-lapelled collar and deep gathered peplum, tied with a self-fabric sash, with bow at the back.

Best man was Mike Lenaers, brother of the groom. Attendants were Ralph Vuylsteke, Jim Dertinger and Brian Baily. Willem Rapai was junior attendant. Ringbearer was Christopher Kapitor, nephew of the groom.

The bride's mother wore a bright red Parisienne dress with tulip front skirt, and long sleeves. It featured a

bateau neckline and cowl interest in back.

The groom's mother wore an ivory and periwinkle print chiffon dress with draped bodice, long billowy sleeves, quilted cuff and full skirt.

A reception for 500 guests was held at the Delhi Belgian Hall, Delhi.

For a house boat trip down the Trent Canal, the bride chose a red and white polka dot, two piece dress with matching hat.

Out-of-town guests were from Toronto and Kitchener.



MR. AND MRS. MARTY LENAERS

*Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Van Parys
and*

*Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Lenaers
request the honour of your presence
at the marriage of their children*

Alexis Ann

and

Martin William

*on Saturday, the twenty-eighth of June
nineteen hundred and eighty-six*

at two o'clock

Our Lady of LaSalette

Roman Catholic Church

LaSalette, Ontario

Dinner: 6:00 p.m.

Belgian Club

Delhi, Ontario

The Treffry Heritage Times

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

PUBLISHED BY THE TREFFRY HERITAGE COUNCIL

MAY 1986

OOPS!! We apologize for our computation error on costs for the Treffry Reunion in Ontario. The correct amounts are: Canadian, \$24.00; US, \$17.00. Children's tickets are 1/2 price. Refunds will be made to those having paid the ticket prices quoted in the Treffry Heritage Times.

Reunion registration on Saturday, 5 July, will be at Woodlawn (108-110 Main Street) in Otterville. If you have had any last minute changes in plans, please notify Doreen Treffry (Box 524, Wainwright, Alberta T0B 4P0). Knowing the number of meal reservations is critical for the Reunion Planning Committee.

Will any families living in the Otterville area, who have lawn chairs, please bring them?? Thank you! See you in Otterville, Ontario in just a few more weeks!!!



Clan gathers

Nearly 100 members of the Treffry family gathered in the Norwich-Otterville area over the weekend for the second biennial Treffry Heritage Council reunion. Some of the key organizers of the reunion, Marguerite Johnson, left, of Spokane, Washington, and Anna and Lorne Treffry of Otterville, looked on

as historian Adelaide Rideout of California autographed a copy of her book, *The Treffry Family*, during the reunion Sunday afternoon at the Norwich community centre. The book traces the Treffry family's roots to the 12th century in England. Ms. Rideout is a descendent of the John Treffry branch of the family. (Staff Photo)

Treffry family drawn together

By SUZANNE STOOP

They came from across the United States and Canada, drawn together by a common heritage and family ties stretching across the centuries.

It was the second biennial Treffry heritage reunion and it saw nearly 100 members of the family gather together in the Norwich-Otterville area for the event. Family members came from as far away as California, Florida, Virginia, Iowa, Missouri, Washington, British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba and parts of Ontario for the reunion, organized by the Treffry Heritage Council.

It was a weekend of re-examining one's roots, for meeting new family members, sharing stories and anecdotes from the past and forging new familial bonds.

While members of the heritage council board had originally planned to meet again in five years, enthusiasm for the reunion was so great, another is planned for somewhere in Ontario in just two years' time.

The first reunion was in the form of a pilgrimage to the family's ancestral home in Fowey on the Cornish coast of England, in May 1984.

One of those who travelled the farthest for the reunion last weekend was Adelaide Rideout of Menlo

Park, California. She has spent her life researching the family history and that work culminated in the publishing of a history of the Treffry family in November 1984. Ms. Rideout was kept busy throughout the weekend autographing copies of the book that traces the family's history to its roots in 12th century England.

"All my life I was interested in it (the family history). My mother told me the stories," Ms. Rideout said during the family's Sunday afternoon gathering at the community centre in Norwich. "I've been researching as far back as I can remember, just because I was interested in it," she said.

The visit to this area was doubly exciting for Ms. Rideout as she found she was not only descended from the Treffry line but also from several other families who had settled in the Norwich area about 25 years before the Treffrys, including the Adam Stover family, the Siples, the McLees and the Elias Snyder family.

Ms. Rideout had been making trips to England to conduct her research on the Treffry family since about 1950 and when she had her material compiled had written to a

prominent publisher of historical works -- Phillimore and Company -- to outline what she had done. The publishing company in turn asked if they could publish her history of the Treffry family.

"I knew I had the best family in the world to write about and I knew I had the best publisher," Ms. Rideout said of her decision to write the history for publication.

Another book is now in the works by another member of the Treffry family -- Marguerite (Treffry) Johnson of Spokane, Washington. She is compiling a complete genealogical record of the entire Treffry family and descendants and expects to have a book published in about two years' time.

Mrs. Johnson was among the key organizers of the heritage reunion this past weekend. Included in the many events was a registration and get-acquainted day on Friday at the Woodlawn Adult Community Centre in Otterville. The evening featured a historical slide show of the Otterville area and a presentation on the Ontario tobacco industry. Saturday featured a trek to the burial grounds of the Dr. Robert Treffry family at Plattsville, followed by lunch at the home of Margaret Kitchen near

Interest in Treffry family reunion running high

Treffrys from all over North America will converge on the Norwich-Otterville area this weekend for a family reunion.

With the mounting interest in genealogy and the publication in 1984 of the the Treffry family history by Adelaide Rideout, interest in the reunion is high.

The Treffry family originated in Cornwall, England. The ancestral home, "Place", at Fowey on the Cornish coast, was acquired by the family by marriage in the late 12th or early 13th century and remains the seat of the Treffry family in Cornwall.

In 1834, John Treffry, with four daughters and five of his seven sons, sailed from Falmouth, England for Canada. The journey is well recorded in the famous John Treffry diary, now housed at Weldon Library at the University of Western Ontario in London.

When John Treffry and his family arrived in Canada, they eventually settled on Lot 2, Concession 10 of Norwich Township, near Hawtrey.

John Treffry was not the first of the family to come to Canada, however. His nephew, Dr. Robert Treffry, emigrated to Canada in 1821. Arriving in Canada at the age of 16, he took up the study of medicine at Kingston, Ontario and was a practising physician for many years in Canada. He eventually settled in Waterloo County and practised medicine in Plattsville.

Another of the family, Dr. Treffry's nephew Robert S. Treffry, came to Canada about 1845, settling on Lot 4, Concession 7, South Norwich, in the late 1850s.

His grandson and great-grandson Ernest and Lorne were the respective owners of the Treffry mill in Otterville prior to its closure in 1980.

As part of the Treffry heritage reunion this weekend, a barbecue will be held at the mill meadow on the Saturday evening.

Registration for the reunion gets underway at the Woodlawn Adult Community Centre (Oddy House) in Otterville Friday morning at 10 a.m. Friday evening features a slide show of historic locations in the Otterville area and a profile of the local tobacco industry.

On Saturday, family members will be travelling to Plattsville to visit the cemetery where several descendants of Dr. Treffry are buried. The tour will stop at the home of Margaret Kitchen, a descendent of John Treffry, for lunch before returning to Otterville for the barbecue at the mill.

A number of family heirlooms in the collection of the Norwich Museum and Archives will be on display at the museum throughout the weekend. Tours will be available from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

The heirlooms include a land indenture on parchment brought from England concerning a transaction in 1781 between Elizabeth Treffry of Devon and her oldest son, Roger Treffry of Penryn, Cornwall, England. There will also be photocopies of several Treffry diaries and numerous family photographs on display. A painting of Hannah Hayward (Mrs. John Treffry Sr.) accompanies her mother's wedding dress of rich red brocade. This dress dates back to the 1780s.

Also on display is a taffeta dress belonging to Alice Corless Treffry from the mid-19th century.

An early lithograph of the first John Treffry home at Summerville is also on display. The lithograph was made in England from a drawing done by Robert, John's oldest son, while on a visit from his home in Bogota to England in the 1800s.

Many of the Treffrys were Quakers and those in the Norwich area attended the Norwich Milldale meeting houses. Information about Quakers and the Treffry family may be found at the Norwich museum and archives but the archives will not be open on Sunday.

An Sunday, family members taking part in the reunion will gather at the Norwich community centre, which opens at 1 p.m., to view displays and photographs of the Treffry Heritage Council's 1984 trip to Fowey. The weekend wraps up with a dinner at the community centre at 5 p.m.

Eastwood, a descendent of John Treffry.

Tours of the Norwich and District Museum and Archives were available throughout Saturday and Sunday with displays of Treffry family heirlooms on view in the museum. A chicken barbecue at the Treffry mill in Otterville wound up the day's events, which also featured stops at the Milldale cemetery where many of John Treffry's family are buried.

Sunday featured a drop-in afternoon at the Norwich community centre where displays of family photographs and the the 1984 trip to Fowey were on display. The weekend concluded with a dinner at the community centre.

A Breath of Annandale House

By LAUREL BEECHEY

Two women bearing the same first name and who are distantly related, have preserved a breath of life for Annandale House.

The first woman, Nancy Garrison Shacklett, lives in Arizona. In 1984, Nancy completed the tracing of her roots back to George Tillson and Benjamin Van Norman, founders of Tillsonburg. Her book, *Genealogical History of the Gibson, Dresser and Related Families: Marchant, Tillson and Van Norman*, is more than a dry factual listing of people, places and dates. It contains a slice of history with descriptions of life in Tillsonburg in its beginnings.

Contained in Nancy Shacklett's book are excerpts from another book written by a woman born in 1828 - Nancy Tillson Van Norman. Nancy Van Norman was the granddaughter of George Tillson, founder of Tillsonburg. George's daughter Harriet Van Norman gave birth to Nancy Van Norman. Three years after his wife - Nancy Tillson - gave birth to his last child, Edwin Delevan (E.D.). This made E.D. a playmate, friend and uncle to Nancy Tillson Van Norman.

Nancy hand wrote her *Book of Memories*, starting around the 1870s. She gives first-hand accounts of how our town started, the people around her, and her life in these times. There are letters from her husband, Augustus Strong Dresser, written while he was fighting under President Lincoln in the United States Civil War. There are notes on her son Norman who worked for E.D. Tillson and eventually started Tillsonburg's first newspaper.

The following excerpt was hand written by E.D. Tillson in 1894 especially for Nancy's *Book of Memories*.

REMINISCENCES OF E.D. TILLSON

(Taken from the *Book of Memories*)

My niece wants me to write something in this *Book of Memories*. I cannot think of anything to write unless it be a short sketch of my life. I was born near the Longpoint furance, now Normandale, County of Norfolk, Ontario, year 1825.

In the year 1847, I being then twenty-two years old, I started in business for myself on a cash capital of \$36.00, which I made by teaching school three months the previous winter. I took in two partners, my cousin Wright Barker and his brother-in-law Charles Cody. Each of them had a cash capital of \$200.00. My father gave us a water privilege on a small stream, Clear creek emptying into the Otter near the grist mill in the village, on which we built a dam and small saw mill, doing the greater part of the work ourselves, both building dam, mill and even ourselves cutting and hauling our logs and ... and team my own lumber to market, working 18 hours in the 24.

In the year 1850 my brother-in-law Van Norman built another saw mill on the Grist Mill race near Grist Mill which we worked in company for two or three years when I sold my half interest to him and bought my Father's old saw mill with one half the Otter's creek water power for \$6000 on ten years credit. The Mill being so old and rotten had to tear it all down and build all new, and from this time began to make some money. The first year in company with Barker and Cody, we bought 2300 acres of splendid pine Timberland adjoining our village, from the Hon. Robert Baldwin of Toronto for \$800 on ten years credit. This proved to be a great bargain on speculation as the timber soon became very valuable, so much of it of an excellent quality, and after buying and rebuilding my Father's old Mill, I bought several blocks of valuable timber, mostly on credit, which soon after became very valuable and proved to be a good investment. My Father died in 1865, leaving an estate valued at \$45,000 to be divided among five heirs, all of which I bought off except one-tenth interest. I also bought Van Norman's Waterpower Grist mill and saw mill, rebuilt Grist Mill and door and sash factory, also bought the Barker and Cody property on Clear Creek and built an Oat mill and pea mill there-by getting control of all the water power and nearly all the Town property he surveyed, and enlarged the Town plot, opened up and graded new streets, and graded all the old streets at my own expense, built the Town Waterworks, the best in Ontario for the cost, built nearly all the stores, churches, and nearly one half the dwelling houses and shops. I also built roads leading into the town, and was instrumental in getting three of the leading railroads to pass through the Town so that now Tilsonburg is one of the prettiest and smartest towns of its size in Ontario, so admitted by everybody.

Now during all these years in which I have accomplished so much work I have been greatly blessed with health and strength of mind and body and an excellent helpmate in a

good loving wife who has advised and shared all the burdens of life with me, and to her is due a great share of our success in life and the comforts of a pleasant and comfortable home...

This from your Uncle
E.D. Tillson
October 29, 1894

It was very exciting to find something actually written by E.D. Tillson. Nancy Shacklett has been contacted in the hope that we may acquire a copy of the complete *Book of Memories* by Nancy Tillson Van Norman Dresser. This book will not only breathe some life into Annandale House but also our Town of Tillsonburg.

Blacks in Otterville

By JEFF TRIBE

Local archivist and historian Joyce Pettigrew of the Norwich Archives visited the Otterville Public School last Wednesday morning to share some of the aspects of the black's struggle in general and in particular how it related to the Otterville area.

According to Mrs. Pettigrew early in Canada's history a few blacks were brought into the Maritime provinces as slaves but it was not until around 1783 that a more significant number arrived with the Loyalist migration.

Some came as slaves but there were also a number who had fought for the British and were rewarded with land grants in the same fashion as their white counterparts.

In 1792 the Lieutenant Governor John Graeves Simcoe decreed that there were to be no more slaves brought into Canada.

Once they crossed the border they would become free men and women. Due to economic lobbying he was forced to concede that slaves already living in Canada were to be kept for a certain number of years and children born to slaves would be indentured until their 25th birthday.

In July, 1833 Britain followed this progressive lead and abolished slavery altogether.

However, the mood in the United States was entirely different at this time. In 1829, feeling threatened by an increasing black population, Cincinnati passed The Black Laws which stated, to be free and live in Cincinnati a black person had to have \$500, a huge sum of money at the time.

Amid this threatening atmosphere, and fleeing from rioting which broke out, black people began heading for Canada in any way they could.

Many were heading north of London where a black man named Wilberforce had bought a parcel of land and with the Quaker's help, set it up for black settlers.

For a number of these people, the prospect of stopping off in the Township of Norwich proved to be a very inviting one.

There was also a significant were willing to accommodate the black settlers in any way they could. The unrest State side also contributed to a flow of Canadian blacks from our border areas. Afraid of being dragged back into the United States they moved inland for greater protection.

The Quakers were also instrumental in the operation of the Underground Railroad and a number arrived in this fashion.

Due in large part to these factors, blacks began arriving in the Otterville, Summerville and Hawtrey areas around 1829.

By 1831, they had their own school and eventually built their own church, the African Methodist, which they later changed to British Methodist, as it sounded more patriotic.

According to Mrs. Pettigrew, many of the black citizens were highly regarded but "there is no doubt that there was some discrimination."

A special school section was created, which took in all black families and effectively created a segregated school system.

With the onset of the Depression they, moved onward looking for work with the railway or in the larger centres.

Would like Sunday services

By ANN DOES

The 20 residents of Mapleview Retirement Home would like to have Sunday services conducted there every week, according to Miss Pat Crane, administrator of the home.

Miss Crane says nursing and retirement homes in Woodstock, London, Tillsonburg, and Ingersoll have services provided by their local churches.

But Rev. David Fearon of Norwich United Church, says residents of a nursing home should be encouraged to participate in their community by attending at all churches.

Rev. Fearon also said transportation has been offered to residents.

But Miss Crane says transportation is not one of the problems the residents face when they try to attend church services.

Stairs are often difficult to negotiate, the residents sometimes become confused during a service and many times they cannot hear the speaker.

Rev. Fearon says residents can use an alternate entrance to the United Church to avoid the front stairs. He also said that if the residents cannot attend services in the community, they perhaps they should be in nursing homes and not retirement homes.

But Miss Crane says residents who do attempt to attend church services either return to the home physically distressed.

One resident on a soft diet has tried to attend church, but sometimes gets sick and is forced to leave the church and return home. If the service were held in the home,

there would be no problem, Miss Crane said.

Because of these problems, many of the residents do not go to church, although they want to. Many of these people have attended or supported churches for most of their lives and are very religious, she said.

Rev. Fearon said total clergy have discussed the matter and have decided a distinction exists between a nursing home and a retirement home. Ministers now take turns conducting services once a week at the Norwich Nursing Home in Norwich.

Clergy members already have a full schedule and it would become practically impossible to conduct services at both nursing homes and retirement homes, she said.

The following is a copy of a letter sent to Miss Pat Crane which the Gazette received. - Editor.

Dear Miss Crane:

I am writing on behalf of the Norwich Township Ministerial Association in regards to your request for worship services to be held at The Mapleview Retirement Home.

At our most recent meeting of the township ministerial association, clergy from the village of Norwich raised this concern with other township clergy. It was the unanimous agreement of those in attendance that we should not conduct worship services on a regular basis at the retirement home.

The reason for declining the invitation of the retirement home to conduct worship services is the feeling that there is a distinction between a nursing home and a retirement home, both in the type of resident (ie. physical and cognitive abilities, etc.) and the expected level of care provided by the institution.

We wish to make it clear that we do have a sincere concern for the spiritual needs of the residents at Mapleview. However, we are concerned that in conducting regular worship services at a retirement home we would also serve to discourage residents from being involved in the community and local churches. We appreciate the need for various levels of care for our elderly.

It is our opinion that the spiritual care we provide in such differing institutions should correspond to the level of need as suggested by the type of institution. We fear that in the provision of regular worship services in a retirement home we would be unintentionally fostering a degree of institutionalization which would be unnecessary and unfortunate.

We appreciate your concern for the spiritual needs of the residents. Perhaps our difference of thought is a different philosophy in understanding the definition of a retirement home.

We would appreciate an opportunity to discuss the concerns that you and the residents have. Please feel free to contact myself or Rev. David Fearon, the president of our township ministerial association.

Rev. David Norton, Secretary,
The Norwich Township
Ministerial Association.

Letters to the editor

Dear Editor:

I write with reference to the question of holding Sunday Services in the Mapleview Retirement Home, as raised by two items in last week's Gazette.

This matter has been discussed thoroughly both by local ministers of the Norwich churches, and by the Norwich Township Ministerial Association, whose active members include ministers of Anglican, Baptist, Presbyterian and United church. In meetings where this subject was discussed it was the unanimous feeling of all members present that wherever possible, for their own physical, social, and psychological well-being, the residents of retirement homes should be encouraged to get out into the community as much as possible, and to join in community organizations and activities, rather than allow themselves to be withdrawn from the world around them.

I must take issue with Pat Crane's statement in her Letter to the Editor, that "residents in retirement homes are in the same boat as nursing home residents; they are not able to get out to church." I hope it is not the intention of Mapleview to operate in practice as a nursing home (in which case very rigid provincial regulations apply), under the guise of being a retirement home—something quite different from a nursing home.

Various points were raised in Pat Crane's letter last week:

(1) Stairs: Do not many of the residents of Mapleview have their rooms on the upper floor? If so, how is it they are able to negotiate stairs at the home but not at the churches? In fact, the Anglican church in Norwich has no stairs. Many elderly people are able to manage the stairs of the other churches (whether front or back) weekly. Members of our congregation would be more than happy to assist any resident from Mapleview up or down our stairs where they exist. It should be noted also that residents of retirement homes are expected to be ambulatory (able to walk), as distinct from residents of nursing homes.

(2) Confusion: Individuals may be

confused the first time they are at church, but if attendance becomes regular this should not be a problem.

(3) Difficulty in hearing: All the Norwich churches are equipped with a public address system. Residents who are hard of hearing would probably have more difficulty hearing a service at the retirement home than they would in church.

(4) Physical distress: As mentioned previously, the churches are willing to provide transportation for residents to and from church if the retirement home is not prepared to do so. (In my previous church in Sudbury a nearby retirement home provided its own transportation to drive its residents to whichever area church they wished to attend.) If any resident is distressed during the service, we would certainly be prepared to take the individual home immediately, or to wherever any urgent medical attention might be required.

We believe in fact, that the problem is not really these various points which were put forth in Pat Crane's letter, and which we believe could be easily taken care of; rather the problem is the basic philosophy and policy of whether the community should come to the residents inside their "fortress," or whether the residents should get out into the community.

Several of the clergy do intend to look into the situation further, and if there are individuals who genuinely desire to attend church services but are physically, absolutely unable to do so, then we shall see what steps need to be taken to provide for their spiritual (and perhaps physical well-being).

If there are lifelong Christian members among the residents, as Pat's letter suggests, perhaps they could organize prayer or Bible study groups, and call on people from our churches to help them in such activity, if such help is needed.

The Mapleview Retirement Home is still in its early stages of development as it relates to the community in which it finds itself. We are confident that in the not too distant future

Letter to the editor

Dear Editor:

I am speaking out on the behalf of 20 residents and their families of Mapleview Retirement Home.

Our concern is about church services being held at the home. I have looked into this and found that not only nursing homes, but retirement homes from Woodstock, London, Tillsonburg, Ingersoll and Drumbo, (the list could go on and on) all have this service provided by their local churches.

Residents at retirement homes are in the same boat as nursing home residents, they are not able to get out to church.

Either the stairs are too much for them to climb or they become confused by getting ready to go, or they are not able to hear when they do get into church.

I have taken time to write letters to most of Norwich's churches, stating our concern.

These residents have attended and supported churches for most of their lives. They now need the support of the churches. But when will they get it? It would only be one hour, every two months. Surely the churches can give their support.

Pat Crane,
The Administrator,
Mapleview Retirement Home.

suitable arrangements can be made for their continuing involvement in the Christian community (ie the churches) of these individuals and others, who have "attended and supported churches for most of their lives."

Rev. David S. Fearon,
Norwich United Church.

Dear Editor:

I was shocked to read in the June 18 edition of the Norwich Gazette where ministers are discriminating against where you live.

My mother, a resident of Mapleview Retirement Home, and my aunt (her sister), a resident of Norville Nursing Home, at one time had busy schedules in life too, but both put all other matters aside when it came to their church needs.

My mother was a church organist for nearly 60 years and my aunt was the Altar Guild for many years. Although numerous services had fewer than 20 in attendance, this certainly did not deter them in their religious endeavors.

When first residing in these homes, they both attended their church or the local sector. The time has come when it is not feasible for either to attend church - as maybe the case of other retirement home residents.

I would certainly like to hear from Rev. Fearon and/or the ministerial association to more fully understand the reason it matters where a group of people live their retirement years, as to whether or not they receive their religious requirements.

I am sincerely grateful for both homes.

Catherine Mann.

EDITORS NOTE: At no time did the story seniors would like Sunday services, imply that Rev. Fearon or the ministerial association were acting in a discriminatory manner. The story simply reported the fact that the residents of Mapleview Retirement Home would like Sunday services and outlines the ministerial association's reasons for not doing so.

Minister taking church service to the seniors

By Rob McKenzie
of The Free Press

JUNE 28

NORWICH — For 58 years, Winnie McMullen played the organ at Otterville's Anglican church.

She was a constant church-goer until January, when she moved to the Mapleview Retirement Home here.

For McMullen, 84, and many of the 19 residents at the home, going to church — with its stiff seats, stairs to climb and strangers all around — is too difficult and until this week, it looked as if her churchgoing days had ended.

Norwich Township's ministerial association had rejected a request from Mapleview administrator Pat Crane that services be conducted at the home.

In a June 13 letter to Crane, Rev. David Fearon of the Norwich United Church, speaking for the ministerial association, wrote: "Our feeling is that residents should be encouraged to get out into the community as much as possible, rather than to close themselves off from the world around them."

But Rev. Charles Seed of the Otterville and Springfield United churches dissented, offering this week to conduct services at the home.

Crane called the offer a blessing and said Seed's first service is set for Sunday, July 20.

"They felt those people were able to get out and I said, there are times when they can't get out," Seed said. "I feel one of my callings as a follower of Jesus Christ is to go out and do services for other people. If they can't come to me, I go to them."

"Christ went out into the marketplace to meet the people. Why shouldn't I? What is wrong with going into a retirement home and doing a service for them?" Crane said Fearon was expecting too much from the home's residents. She said they may be able to walk unassisted but the infirmities of age made church attendance a trial for many.

She said McMullen is nervous around strangers and the former organist hadn't been to church since March. After moving to the home McMullen went to church twice but the unfamiliar faces discomfited her. Both times, she threw up and had to be driven back to the home.

"It'd be more convenient" for a minister to come to the home, McMullen said. "I've been used to going to church for a long time."

Her daughter, Catherine Mann of Otterville, said "the church was my mother's life and still is but she doesn't feel able to go to it."



Woodstock Bureau

Winnie McMullen, 84, holds her Bible at the Mapleview Retirement Home in Norwich.

Dave Cattell, owner of the Mapleview home, said he and Crane wrote to Fearon in May, asking if the township's seven ministers could conduct a service once every seven weeks on whatever day was convenient. "The least they could do is donate an hour every seven weeks."

Cattell is especially upset by a letter Fearon wrote to the Norwich Gazette on Wednesday.

In the letter, Fearon said the dispute resulted from "the basic philosophy and policy of whether the community should come to the residents inside their 'fortress,' or whether the residents should get out into the community."

It's the 'fortress' part that angered Cattell.

"If that's Christianity, I think it stinks. I don't call that brotherly love. I wasn't expecting a war. This is a home for the aged — this is not a fortress with dogs tied up outside."

Fearon could not be reached for comment.

Church Services

By ANNE DOES

Residents of the Mapleview Retirement Home will be having church services at the home after all.

After praying about the matter, Rev. Charles Seed of Otterville and Springfield United churches has decided to conduct services beginning July 20.

The Norwich Township Ministerial Association had refused to conduct services in the home in a June 13 letter to Mapleview's administrator, Pat Crane.

"Our feeling is that residents should be encouraged to get out into the community as much as possible,

rather than to close themselves off from the world around them," the letter said.

But Rev. Seed—also a member of the association—said he disagreed with his colleague's decision and decided to do something about it.

"I feel confident that I am doing the right thing. My wife and I prayed about it." Rev. Seed also said he recently lost his mother and "I feel a certain closeness to these people."

The minister said he has received support for his decision. Recently an elderly lady from Springford came up to him and gave him a hug to express her thanks, he said.

In addition, Rev. Seed attended a recent United Church Renewal Fellowship meeting where he said the prevailing opinion was that members of the Oxford Presbytery should be going out into the community and not waiting for the people to come to them.

"Christ went out into the marketplace to meet these people, so why shouldn't I? If we want to be disciples of Jesus Christ we can't spend our time sitting behind our desks," he said.

Members of Rev. Seed's congregation have also volunteered to assist with the services.

And servanthood is what the United Church minister thinks being

a Christian is all about.

"If I can't show friendship, love and compassion, then I don't think I should be in the ministry. I have to go out and serve. I'm not doing it for any glory just to serve the Lord and I believe I am doing what the Bible says."

"My own mother would have turned over in her grave if she knew I had refused to help. I have a responsibility to my mother as well as my calling as a minister," he said.

In an interview, Miss Crane said she was "delighted" by Rev. Seed's decision. Miss Crane said the residents expressed relief upon hearing of the turn of events.

Question of ? mark

Dear Editor:

In reply to the June 25 Editors note, my letter was not printed exactly as written. Perhaps the most important omission was the question mark in brackets after the word discriminating. In future I will be more careful in phrasing my sentences.

The June 18 Gazette "He also said that if residents cannot attend services in the community then perhaps they should be in nursing homes" prompted me to question, not state, the matter.

I did omit to say thank you to Pat Crane for her endeavors in helping with the resident's religious needs.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The contents of Ms. Mann's letter was reprinted entirely with no omissions of text. The question mark in reference was not legible and occurred in the middle, not the end of the sentence.

Quotation marks were removed from the word "the" in the sentence: My mother was "the" Altar Guild for many years. Also, quotation marks were removed from the word "their" in the sentence: When first residing in these homes, they both attended "their" church or the local sector. These quotation marks were removed as they were unnecessary, and did not change the meaning of the text.

—Editor.

Norwich police agree to pact

From the July 8 Sentinel-Review

By ALISON DOWNIE of The Sentinel-Review

OTTERVILLE — A government conciliator has helped break an impasse over salaries between the Norwich Police Association and the municipality it serves.

At a one-and-a-half hour meeting Monday with the conciliator, who was appointed by Ontario's Solicitor General, members of the association agreed to a two-year settlement. It will give them a 4.5 per cent increase in 1986, retroactive to Jan. 1. They will get an additional four per cent increase on Jan. 1, 1987 and a further one per cent increase July 1, 1987.

Originally the association, which represents three full-time, first-class constables, had asked for a nine per cent salary increase for 1986. Norwich Township Council refused to go above a 4.5 per cent increase, as all other township employees including police

chief Robert Knight settled for a 4.5 wage increase.

In 1985, members of the police association earned \$30,407. For 1986, they will earn \$31,775, with the initial 4.5 per cent increase.

Two year contract accepted

By ANNE DOES

A two year contract was agreed upon at the meeting between the Norwich Community Services Committee, the Norwich Township Police Association and the provincially appointed mediator, Vic Scott.

The two sides met with the mediator Monday and decided on a raise of 4.5 per cent retroactive to January 1986. A four per cent raise will also go into effect January, 1987 followed by a one per cent raise July 1, 1987, said community services

committee chairman, Paul Wood.

However, the contract is not yet official until Norwich Township Council has the opportunity to ratify it at council's next meeting.

No other stipulations were attached to the contract. A first class constable currently draws a salary of \$30,407.24. The 4.5 increase raises the salary level to \$31,775.57.

In 1985 the police association received a 4.3 per cent pay increase.

Currently there are three full time constables, a police chief and two

auxiliary police officers on staff.

Constable Mike Ellul, who is also head of the police association, said the contract will not go into binding arbitration. Originally, the association had requested a 9 per cent pay hike, but Constable Ellul said "members of the association changed their minds during the talks."

Police Chief Robert Knight said arbitration can be costly as each side must appoint legal counsel. In addition, the decisions reached are binding.

NC July 9

Township Council briefs

By ANNE DOES

Norwich Township Council accepted the tender of Permanent Paving Company to prepare and lay asphalt on Highway 59 in the Village of Norwich subject to the approval of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

The winning bid for tender was \$11,284.80 to complete the work.

Council also resolved that the law firm of White, Coad, Patience and Bennett be authorized to register the Heritage Designation Bylaws for five properties.

The five properties to be designated as heritage sites are: The Norwich United Church (and Manse); Hall-Munro House; Snyder-Deer House and David Start Farmhouse.

The properties will be registered as heritage sites at the Land Registry Office in Woodstock.

Since Miss Janice Kirktown,

supervisor of the Otterville Pool had her ghetto blaster stolen during the recent break in at the pool, council decided to pay the \$100 deductible on her insurance policy.

In addition to the ghetto blaster, valued at \$426.00, an \$80 lock was broken. OPP Constable Fleming recommended that council consider installing an alarm system at the pool's booth.

Council also authorized the Clerk to purchase a new diving board for the pool since the old one is broken. The cost of a new board will run between \$1,800 and \$2,000 Mayor Heleniak said.

Council also wants to allocate \$20,000 from the reserve budget for road equipment to be used to complete the Hamner sideroad bridge.

The \$20,000 would then be calculated into the 1987 budget or replenished by any surpluses from the supplementary subsidy from 1986.

Council stumped

By ANNE DOES

After a lengthy debate, Norwich Township Council decided to give Mrs. Hilda Thompson of 10 Palmer St., Norwich, \$200 as a partial payment for expenses incurred in having trees removed from her property.

In a letter dated June 11 to council, Mrs. Thompson said she had contacted the Township offices regarding the removal of two trees from her property.

Mrs. Thompson was told that the trees were located on her property and therefore their removal was her responsibility.

Tabor Brothers were contracted to remove the trees at a cost of \$550, but the stumps were left intact.

Mrs. Thompson said she wanted to use the stumps to "put flowers in pots on for the summer."

On May 28, the Township removed the stumps. Mrs. Thompson said this elimination of the stumps indicated that the Township must have had some responsibility in terms of ownership for the cost of removing the trees.

Council were divided on the matter, and councillor Robert Martin

said council should not encourage the cutting down of healthy trees.

"Just because birds go on your car is no reason to cut down a healthy tree," he said.

Councillor Don Pettigrew added, "It was a healthy tree, so she (Mrs. Thompson) assumed the obligation."

However, councillor Lusk said, "It wasn't our tree, so it wasn't our stump. How could you in all good conscience remove the stump?"

It was eventually discovered that 50 per cent of two trees were on township property and the remaining 50 per cent belonged to Mrs. Thompson.

Councillor Helen Smith said, "We should get our act together and not leave people hanging in limbo."

Council then decided on \$200 as a fair reimbursement figure, but in a later motion before council concerning another matter, Councillor Pettigrew made another reference to Mrs. Thompson's trees.

"It would surprise you what people will do, when they pay \$550 to eliminate a sparrow crapping on their car," he said.

Council notes

NJ July 21

Council approved a motion to have the road superintendent contact Mr. Gordon Stolle and explain township's procedure for repairing paved driveways after culvert maintenance. Mr. Stolle will also be asked if he wants to have his driveway paved from the property line to the shoulders of the road.

Comhold Investments Ltd., received approval of a minor variance application which would allow them to erect a covered stairwell at Norvella Nursing Home.

The only condition was that a privacy fence be established along part of the rear lot line at Comhold Investment's expense.

A motion to increase the mileage rate for council members and

township staff from 34 to 37 cents per mile was defeated.

Township Council

NG July 16

By ANNE DOES

Council approved a resolution to have the road superintendent approach the Ministry of Transportation and Communications to have money allocated to sand and salt transferred to repair the bridge on Hamner Side Road.

The road has been closed for some time and if council can't get the MTC to co-operate with them, they had a fool proof plan.

As a joke, council resolved to ask the City of Woodstock if they would like to assume financial responsibility for the repairs.

Lately, Township of Norwich council seems to have developed a real sense of humor.

On June 9, a resolution was passed that involved moving township offices and staff to 5 Robson St., Norwich.

The resolution read, "This move has become necessary to allow said staff the opportunity to keep informed of the day to day operations of the

township and that this residence be designated as the official township office for the Township of Norwich."

The mayor's office is currently

located at 5 Robson St.

The resolution was later rescinded by Councillors Wood and Harrison.

Also council resolved to declare October 5 to 13, Private Property Week.

The clerk was also instructed to prepare a bylaw, making it illegal to not hook up to the municipal water system if the water service is available.

The bylaw was necessary to qualify for financial assistance from the Ministry of the Environment for waterworks projects.

It will also be more expensive to let dogs run loose in Norwich Township. Council resolved to raise the fines to a minimum of \$53 and a maximum of \$500 for repeat infractions.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

After reading in the July 23 issue of the Gazette, the remark attributed to Councillor Pettigrew at last Tuesday's council meeting regarding Mrs. Thompson's trees, I felt compelled to comment on his remark.

Before criticizing a resident's reason for removing trees, he should spend a little time investigating the unnecessary removal of trees from the township—particularly in this village—by township employees, for whom he is responsible.

There have been trees removed

unnecessarily, with the evidence removed.

The resulting piles of sawdust from the stump removals have been dumped on a vacant lot in town by these same employees, in violation of the township's own bylaw.

Attempting to distract from errors by unfairly criticizing a taxpayer does not correct problems, but compounds them.

Such remarks are unworthy and unacceptable.

Marilyn McLees,
Norwich.

NOTICE

RESIDENTS

TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH

GARBAGE COLLECTION

Residents located within the boundaries of the map on the reverse of this notice will receive garbage collection on THURSDAY of each week commencing on JULY 3rd, 1986.

In the event of impassible roads due to winter conditions and Statutory Holidays, collection will be made as follows:

OTTERVILLE AND SPRINGFORD - the following Saturday

ALL OTHER AREAS - the regular day of the following week.

RURAL residents will be requested by the Contractor, at some future date, to place their garbage on one side of the road only. This will be necessary to ensure less interruption and safe traffic flow.

Garbage must be located at the curb/road side but not on the travelled portion. In the case of multiple units on a property, waste material shall be placed at one central location. The Contractor is not liable to pick up a bag or container of waste which exceeds 25 kg. in weight.

Holbrook landfill site will close on June 28th and East Oxford site on August 30th, 1986.

ROBERT C. WATKINS,
CLERK - ADMINISTRATOR

That during the week of July 2, 1976:

The Diamond Jubilee of St. John's Anglican Church, Otterville, marked the 60th year of the present church building which was presented by the Bulloch family of Otterville.



Historic occasion

For Holbrook area residents, the closing of the gate at the Holbrook landfill site in Norwich Township at 4 p.m. Saturday afternoon was something of a historic occasion. While none of the residents were on hand to view the event, it marked the end of the site's life as a landfill. The life of the site had been extended on

numerous occasions but with the scheduled opening of the county's new central landfill at Salford, which took place as planned on Monday, county warden Helen Smith was able to close the gate at Holbrook permanently on Saturday. The waste normally taken to Holbrook is now being directed to Salford. (Staff Photo)

NG. JULY 2

Board of Education briefs

Treffrey mill to reopen

OTTERVILLE (C) - The South Norwich Historical Society executive met at Woodlawn Adult Centre, Otterville, on July 7 with president Ken Mann in charge.

A report from the mill committee showed that 275 persons attended the annual chicken barbecue held on the meadow-at-the-mill on Sunday, June 29. Ideal weather favored the event and the Norwich Otterville Lions Club did a fine job barbecuing the chicken. A good profit was again realized, helping towards the mill restoration.

The main purpose of the meeting was to begin planning the official opening of the restored Treffrey Mill on Sunday, June 28, 1987. Highlight of this event will be the attendance of the Ontario Lieutenant-Governor, Lincoln Alexander.

This occasion will require detailed planning and the assistance of many including several other area organizations and may include additional township events in addition to the mill ceremonies.

It was also decided to hold a farmer's market at the mill on Saturday, August 16 from 9 to 11 a.m.

Members were also reminded of the fourth annual auction and sale to be held at the Norwich community centre on Saturday morning and afternoon, October 18.

Otterville construction

The Oxford County board of education reports renovations to Otterville Public School are proceeding on schedule. Demolition of the 1927 section of the building has

been completed. Footings for the new addition have been poured and the exterior and interior foundation walls have been completed. Construction of the masonry block walls has started.

In the 1951 section of the building containing four classrooms, window removal and brick replacement has commenced and installation of heating pipe is almost finished.

The board's superintendent of business reports most shop drawings have now been submitted by the

sub-trades and approved by the engineers and architect.

Co-operative education

One of the priorities of Charlie Tatham, the new liaison officer for the Oxford County board of education's co-operative education program, will be to establish work placements in Tillsonburg to accommodate the expanded program at Glendale High School. Last school year 12 Glendale High School students participated in the career exploration portion of the pilot project. The school board is projecting 24 students will participate in the career portion of the program this September. Eight students are expected to participate in the family studies portion of the program, compared to 10 last year.

Break and enter

The Tillsonburg OPP report that about \$2,000 worth of goods were stolen from the Country Kitchen Restaurant in Otterville overnight Sunday, July 20. The incident was reported to the provincial police by proprietor Wendy Wagner of Concession 8, Norwich Township. Thieves made off with a microwave oven, radio, portable telephone, cigarettes, groceries and a small amount of cash. The thieves cut out a portion of a south window to gain entry to the building. The Identification Unit from London was called in to investigate the theft. Const. Vern Fleming said it appeared the thieves knew what they were doing to get that amount of goods out of the building without being noticed. The investigating officer is Const. J. F. Wallington.

Goods stolen from Otterville

By ANNE DOES

About \$100 worth of goods was recently stolen from the concession booth at Otterville Community Park, according to concession operator, Paul Babcock of Otterville.

In a telephone interview, Mr. Babcock said there were three attempted break-ins last year, two of which resulted in actual theft of property.

This year, there has been one break-in and thieves made off with

hamburger, onion rings, french fries, hot chocolate and boxes of chocolate bars, totalling \$100.

Mr. Babcock has been running the concession for two years and said security in the park is poor at night "because there is no one around."

Police have no immediate suspects.

Mr. Babcock will not run the booth this year but says he believes the building should have its security

system updated.

One possibility would be having the building replaced by a booth or trailer that could be removed at night.

No cigarettes or money is stored in the canteen and the canteen is locked up at night.

Despite last year's thefts, the booth showed a \$1,600 profit last year. "There's definitely potential here," Mr. Babcock said.

Concession booth closed

OTTERVILLE — It is going to be hard to get peanuts and popcorn at the ballpark here for the remainder of the season.

Paul Babcock, who has managed the concession booth for two years, decided to shut it down because of theft and vandalism.

About \$100 in goods were stolen last month and a \$2,000 vandalism bill last year prompted Mr. Babcock to say enough is enough.

"It was an awful lot of aggravation. The time factor was probably the biggest thing because I had to take time off work to see what was missing and order new stock.

"I feel bad because we were there more or less to serve the

public and it was a convenience for them."

Mr. Babcock said he doesn't expect the concession booth to reopen this year.

Township of Norwich Mayor John Heleniak said he did not know the booth was shut down when contacted by the News-Record.

He said Council will decide at the next meeting if they want to find another person to take over the business.

"We're going to have to decide if it is worthwhile to keep it open. It is worthwhile for the kids who want to get a soft drink. But if it is going to be continually vandalized, we're going to have to make the decision," Mr. Heleniak said.

Letter to the Editor ^{NG} July 16

Dear Editor.

For many years the village of Otterville prided itself on its beautiful park across the Otter Creek.

Its pool, ball diamond, tennis court, play and picnic areas are used not only by the residents of Otterville but by people from all around, because of its beautiful location.

As of July 1, this often-used facility no longer has a food booth.

After once again being the victim of thieves, Paul Babcock, the booth's proprietor, has decided to call it quits and no one blames him for the booth's closure. (He was robbed on several occasions last year).

I, as a citizen of Otterville, the township and frequent user of the park, am outraged that the township has done nothing to remedy the situation.

Whether the township wants to believe it or not, the use of the park will decline.

The booth is part of a park, for a cool drink on a hot day or a hot cup of coffee on a cool night or a hotdog if supper was missed.

As of right now and I've seen the kids, those kids who use the pool must leave the park, cross Main Street (and there are some thoughtless people who come barrelling down that street in their cars and trucks) to go to the two stores selling things to eat.

You can tell your kids to watch out for cars until you are blue in the face, but there may be a time they'll forget.

Will this time bring the council to act?

The washrooms are also locked unless Paul is there or if you're using the park, you get the key.

This is a township park and it is therefore the township's responsibility to see that it is properly serviced.

Deb Howse
Otterville

**Join us for an
Old Fashioned
Picnic
in the Park**

**Sunday, July 6
Otterville Park**

**Hot Dogs
Ice Cream
Balloon Sculptures
Games for the "Kids"
Magic, Magic
Magic**

"Free Admission"

**Spring  Otter
Optimist Club of Otterville**

Thank You

During the past year, The Spring-Otter Optimist Club has enjoyed working with the youth in our community. It has been truly rewarding to sponsor such programs as "Respect for Law", "V.I.P.", and "Tri-Star" Baseball. In addition, we have taken on sponsorship of the Springford-Otterville Cubs and Boy Scouts and brought you the Annual Santa Claus Parade.

None of this would have been possible without your support.

The "Old Fashioned Picnic in the Park" is our way of expressing our gratitude. A special "Thank you" from all our members.

We truly hope you bring your family and friends to enjoy our hospitality. Don't miss the fun and games, good food, entertainment, and of course, the real "MAGIC" of the day, the laughter of children.

Have a Safe and Happy Summer,

Nick Visser
President
Spring-Otter Optimist Club



Park Picnic

By ANNE DOES

The Spring Otter Optimists Club have planned an Old Fashioned Picnic In The Park, July 6, 1986.

Jim Countryman, information officer for the group, says the afternoon is geared to be "an afternoon of entertainment, fun, food and relaxation."

The picnic is a first for the Optimists and will replace the soap-box derby and street dance which were cancelled this year.

"It's a gesture of appreciation on our part to thank the community at large for their support."

An "attitude adjustment hour" has been set aside from 12 to 1 p.m., where people can sit in their lawn chairs and relax, Mr. Countryman said.

The events actually begin at 1 p.m. and include a magic show, balloon sculpturing by Gerard Dietrich, ventriloquism, games for the kids and a watermelon eating contest for adults.

Hotdogs sell for 25 cents and ice cream is 15 cents. Beverages are free, but no liquor is allowed on the grounds.

Admission is free.

PORT STANLEY TERMINAL RAIL INC.



1 Adult Fare
Round Trip Ticket Between

PORT STANLEY	JO
UNION	
WHITES	
ST. THOMAS	

Ticket issued subject to conditions on reverse side.

Nº 11005

P.S.T.R.

CONDITIONS OF ISSUE

1. Absolutely no sitting on railings. Passengers must remain seated while train is in motion.
2. Do not throw litter over side (use receptacles provided.)
3. No smoking (insurance regulation).
4. That the holder will listen to any comments that might apply to his or our safety.
5. That the holder will not pass between cars when the train is underway.
6. Management reserves the right to revoke the privilege granted by this ticket by refunding the purchase price.

The holder of this ticket assumes all risk and danger of, and releases P.S.T.R. management, their employees and volunteers from any liability for personal injury and property loss or damage occurring prior to, during, or subsequent to the actual excursion train ride.

DATE OF ISSUE

PORT STANLEY

JUL 24 1986

TERMINAL RAIL INC.



MR. AND MRS. JAMES SQUANCE

Mr. and Mrs. James Squance observes 65th anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. James Squance of Otterville, observed their 65th wedding anniversary on Tuesday, July 2.

In honor of the occasion their family held open house on June 29, for 162 guests at the Woodlawn Home in Otterville.

Mr. and Mrs. Squance have seven children; Gordon, Brantford; Keith, Oliver, British Columbia; Robert, Powell River, British Columbia; Jean, Paris; Marj, Springford; Dorothy, Sarnia and Sheila, Woodstock; and 28 grandchildren and 32 great-grandchildren.

Honored guests pouring tea for the afternoon were Betty Syrett, Joanne Kapin, Beatrice Caldwell, and Janet Forsyth.

Scores of messages, cards and

flowers were received including congratulations from the Queen, Prime Minister Mulroney, Richard Treleaven Q.C., Bruce Halliday, MP and John Turner, leader of the opposition. Mr. Treleaven presented Mr. and Mrs. Squance with a plaque from Premier Peterson.

Special thanks to the Otterville United Church Women, who capably prepared fancy sandwiches and cakes, with Jean Little and Vera Welch as conveners.

The family extends a special thank you to Janet and George Forsyth and Joanne and John Kapin for the love and pleasure they give our parents all year.

Following the open house a barbecue held for the family and honored guests at Merts in Springford.

Graduate



Heidi Pettigrew graduated from Victoria University in the University of Toronto with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History and is continuing her studies at the Faculty of Education, University of Windsor. Heidi is the daughter of Don and Joyce Pettigrew of Springford.

Graduate



Ross and Jean Dow, Otterville, are proud to announce the graduation of their daughter Karen Elaine. Karen graduated July 12, 1986 with a Nursing Diploma from Fanshawe School of Nursing, Woodstock Campus. She is a past graduate from Norwich District High School.



Mr. and Mrs. John Stefan of Delhi are pleased to announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter Judith Ann to Stephen Hanson, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Hanson of Otterville. The wedding will take place on July 26, 1986, at Otterville United Church, Otterville at 2:15 p.m.

Coming Events

Relatives and friends are invited to attend an Open House in honor of the 40th Wedding Anniversary of Carl and Josephine Howse to be held at St. John's Parish Hall, Otterville, on July 6, 1986, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Please no gifts. Best wishes only.

Mr. and Mrs. Howse celebrate 40th

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Howse of Church Street, Otterville, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary last month at an open house held in the parish hall of St. John's Anglican Church, Otterville, the church where they wed.

Welcoming approximately 175 relatives, friends and neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. Howse, Elsie Spiers of Redford, Michigan, Jane Howse of Woodstock and Doreen Howse of Strathroy. The guest book and wedding cake were attended by Linette Howse, Christine McMillan

and Trish Howse.

Serving tea for the afternoon were Dorothea Edmonds of Simcoe and Muriel Mann of Tillsonburg who were soloist and pianist respectively at the wedding. Organist for the wedding was Winnie McMullen.

Following the open house a delicious dinner was enjoyed by 65 guests at the Eastern Star Hall prepared and served by members of the Norwich Chapter OES.

Married on June 29, 1946, Mr. and Mrs. Howse were united in marriage by the late Rev. Lyle Crawford. The

bride was the daughter of the late Samuel Henderson of Missouri and Mrs. Charles Mann of Otterville. Mr. and Mrs. Leith Howse of Otterville were the parents of the groom.

Wedding attendants were matron of honor, Elsie Spiers, bridesmaid, Jane Howse and flower girl, Doreen Howse. Groom's attendants were best man, the late Charles Howse of Otterville, and ushers, the late Fred Howse of Otterville, Ivor Mann of Tillsonburg and Robert Mann of London.

Mr. and Mrs. Howse have since resided in Otterville.

ARMSTRONG-McMULLEN

Suddenly at her home in Kirkland, Washington on Thursday, July 10, 1986, Ann (McMullen) Armstrong, age 43. Dear daughter of Mrs. Laura Brown of Ingersoll and the late Nean McMullen (1963). Dear step-daughter of Stanley Brown of Ingersoll. Dear sister of Ross McMullen and his wife Joyce of Otterville. Dear aunt of Ashley and Megan McMullen. Also survived by a number of step-brothers and sisters of the families of Stanley Brown and the late Ross Kilgour. Friends will be received at the McBeath Funeral Home, 246 Thames Street South, Ingersoll on Monday, July 14 from 7-9 and Tuesday from 2-4:30 and 7-9 p.m.; where service will be held on Wednesday, July 16 at 2 p.m., Rev. Grant Darling officiating. Interment Otterville Cemetery. Remembrances to the Retarded Children's Association or the Ingersoll Swimming Pool Fund may be arranged for at the funeral home.

Ann Armstrong

Ann (McMullen) Armstrong passed away at her home in Kirkland, Washington, on Thursday, July 10, 1986, in her 44th year.

She was a daughter of Mrs. Laura Brown of Ingersoll and the late Nean McMullen (1963).

Surviving are her mother and step-father, Stanley and Laura Brown of Ingersoll; one brother, Ross McMullen and his wife Joyce of Otterville; niece and nephew, Ashley and Megan McMullen; also a number of step-brothers and sisters of the families of Stanley Brown and the late Ross Kilgour.

Friends were received at the McBeath Funeral Home, 246 Thames St. S., Ingersoll on Monday and will be received on Tuesday, July 15 from 2 to 4:30 and 7 to 9 p.m., where the service will be held Wednesday, July 16 at 2 p.m. conducted by Rev. Grant Darling.

Interment in Otterville Cemetery. Memorial donations to the Retarded Children's Association or the Ingersoll Swimming Pool Fund may be arranged for at the Funeral Home.

Willard M. Smith

Willard M. Smith of Springford passed away at Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital on Wednesday, July 23, 1986, in his 81st year.

Born at Springford on July 21, 1906, he was a son of the late Barney Smith and the former Margaret Letson. He was a dairy farmer. Mr. Smith was a member of Otterville Baptist Church and was very interested in community sports.

Surviving are his wife, the former Elizabeth Crawford; one daughter, Mrs. Earl (Betty) Cooper of RR 1, Brownsville; two sons, Bob Smith and his wife Bonnie of Springford and Alex Smith and his wife Mary Ellen of Barrie; and seven grandchildren.

Resting at the Ostrander's Funeral Home, Tillsonburg, where a private family service will be held Friday, July 25 at 1:30 p.m. conducted by Rev. Joseph Bull of Otterville Baptist Church.

Interment in Springford Cemetery.

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

There will be no public visitation at the Funeral Home.

Willard M. Smith

Funeral service for the late Willard M. Smith of Springford, who passed away on July 23, 1986, was held at the Ostrander's Funeral Home, Tillsonburg, on July 25 at 1:30 p.m. conducted by Rev. Joseph Bull of Otterville Baptist Church.

Pallbearers were Mike Cooper, Randy Hallows, Wayne DeBuck, Fred Hill, Charter Davis and John Sandham.

Interment in Springford Cemetery.



Arrive Alive

Norwich District High School students Cindy Smart and Kelly Walther will be travelling throughout the

area from now until August 15, in an attempt to educate the public regarding the hazards of drunk driving. (Jeff Tribe Photo)

Local students dead serious about Arrive Alive program

By JEFF TRIBE

It only takes a glance in a newspaper's court section to see that the drunk driving game is still one that has too many players.

There is no doubt that more energetic enforcement of stiffer penalties has proven to be a deterrent, but this is not enough.

The Ministry Of the Attorney General's office is trying to affect an attitude adjustment through community awareness of the problem.

In this area, Norwich District High School (NDHS) students Kelly Walther and Cindy Smart will be in the forefront of the battle under the authority of the provincial Arrive Alive program.

Although the program is being coordinated through Ontario high schools, it should not be confused with Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD).

The girls' results will help in lay-

ing the groundwork for SADD at NDHS but they are also working on a much broader scale.

From now until August 15 the pair, and their booth will be appearing at high visibility points such as malls, at summer events, and before community groups, and service clubs.

Equipped with a video, posters, buttons, pamphlets, and official Arrive Alive coasters, they will be taking their message to a wide audience.

As the only successful applicants in the county, they are responsible for Woodstock, Tillsonburg, Ingersoll and districts as well as their home area.

Their experience and feedback will be used as a data base for future operations.

Some people may have a stereotyped image of teenagers as being the major problem, but this is a view, not shared by the two girls.

Throughout the six weeks adults will be their primary targets.

According to Cindy, "kids today see a lot more anti-drunk driving material than their parents. I think they are more aware, and in a lot of cases more willing to accept what they are hearing than their older counterparts, who may have become somewhat set in their ways. I've seen people charged twice in the same month for impaired driving. You'd think they would learn."

Kelly agreed, adding that the stiffer penalties don't seem to be enough to stop people.

Parents are always telling their kids not to drink and drive, but who is informing the parents?

She said working through public awareness, people's attitudes have to change from, "can I make it home without getting caught, to if I'm going to drink, I'm not going to drive."

The Arrive Alive display will be at the Norfolk Mall this Saturday, July 19, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Deaths and Funerals

Elizabeth Ann Armstrong

OTTERVILLE (C) - Funeral service for the late Ann Armstrong, who passed away suddenly on July 10, 1986, at her home in Kirkland, Washington, was held Wednesday, July 16 at 2 p.m. from the McBeath Funeral Home, Ingersoll, with Rev. Grant D. Darling officiating.

Pallbearers were Tom Brown, Ron Brackenbury, Doug Bertrand, Ron Fischer, Allan Scott and Mark Kilgour. Interment followed in Otter Cemetery, Otterville.

In her 44th year, Mrs. Armstrong was predeceased by her father, Nean McMullen (1963) and step-father, Ross Kilgour (1981). Surviving are her mother, Mrs. Laura Brown and step-father Stanley Brown of Ingersoll; one brother,

Ross McMullen and wife Joyce of Otterville; two nieces, Ashley and Megan McMullen of Otterville; also several step-brothers and sisters.

Mrs. Armstrong was a sales representative and trainer for Organon Teknika Corporation, West Coast Region, Seattle, Washington, USA and graduate of Norwich District High School and Hamilton and District School of Medical Technology, Mohawk College with a Registered Lab Technologist degree.



11 a.m.

Norvilla Nursing Home

NORWICH - ONLY HOME IN TOWNSHIP

By ANNE DOES

Norvilla Nursing Home, located at 11 Elgin St., West, is so comfortable, that many of the residents prefer it to the homes of their families.

The building was purchased in 1976 and the name changed from Elginview Nursing Home to Norvilla.

Staff

The home has been a nursing home for about 25 years, starting out as Bonny Norwich Nursing home. Today there are 40 residents and a staff of 33, including registered nurses, registered nursing assistants, dieticians and house keeping staff. There are 19 rooms including an infirmary.

Renovations

Renovations were completed in 1977 after blue prints were approved by the Ministry of Health.

Activities

The residents enjoy sightseeing and trips this year have included jaunts to Simcoe to see the lights, a trip to Rockton's Lion Safari and picnic lunches.

Local area

Administrator Agnes Burch said there are currently about 20 people on a waiting list and most of the residents are from the local area including, Norwich, Haldimand-Norfolk County and Woodstock.

The residents elect their own executive council who make decisions effecting the group as a whole.

8 a.m.

Mapleview Retirement Home, one year later - NORWICH

ONLY RET. HOME IN TOWNSHIP

Last August, Mapleview Retirement Home was officially opened. Since that time 19 residents have moved in, a pool has moved out and the century old home, formerly owned by Dr. Clare Westmacott, received a facelift-- including new carpeting.

And the house is spacious. There are nine bedrooms, four bathrooms a large living room and a dining area.

Expansion

Situated on Main Street East, the home is within easy walking distance of downtown coffee shops and stores, which makes it convenient for seniors unable to walk long distances.

The home also has three fireplaces, and Miss Crane says the home plans to eventually expand to accommodate a demand for private rooms.

The home currently has six part-time staff in addition to owner Dave Cattell and Miss Crane. Mr. Cattell also said he plans to hire two summer students under a six week Canadian Jobs Strategy government program.

Miss Crane also said she would like to see an activity room built and benches on the front lawn, but added

"it all takes time." Although the home is situated in Norwich, most of

the residents are from Woodstock, Tillsonburg or the Burgessville area, Mr. Cattell said.

And for seniors who like to travel, administrator Pat Crane says there are frequent bus trips to area attractions, including the Simcoe light display at Christmas.



The Farmers Arms Inn at Archives

My house was a tavern in the early 1800's.

It was built by Edward Bullock who was a recent immigrant from England.

He named the tavern The Farmers Arms Inn because in England, that was the name of a popular inn at that time.

It is located on the corner of Main and Maple Street near Bullock's Mill. Edward Bullock built many other houses in Otterville.

He never managed the inn. It is believed that Thomas Scot Jr., was the inn-keeper.

They are not sure because this tavern existed before the earliest tavern licence lists were kept so there are no records of inn-keepers.

The Farmers Arms was a good stopping place for farmers to stop because when they came from the mill with heavy loads they had to get out of the wagon and guide the oxen up the steep hill.

By the time they got to the top they were tired. They would stop and rest at The Farmers Arms.

The Farmers Arms closed down in 1865.

The Tillsonburg Observer carried an advertisement that read: For Sale - Old Tavern Stands On The Hill West Of Otterville.

It sold for a great bargain and in 1911, the MacIntosh family bought the house for \$400.

When the MacIntoshs bought the house, it was very run down. Mr. MacIntosh was a carpenter by trade and he decided to improve the house by building a new roof, a front porch and adding a wood shed to the back. This is now our back porch.

In 1926, Mrs. Hemmelsback bought the house for \$2000.

She tore off the porch Mr. MacIntosh built and built a new one.

She built a red brick fireplace, a pantry and cupboards.

Later, she added an inside bathroom where the pantry was.

In 1964, the Treffrys bought the house and changed the red brick fireplace to white brick.

They had to redo some of the rooms because the old plaster was falling off the walls and peeling.

They kept the original windows in the house.

In some of the pictures there is a door that goes out to nowhere.

Some people call them suicide doors but when the MacIntoshes built it, Mrs. MacIntosh wanted it to shake out her rugs.

Many things have changed. The hill, at one time, was right beside the house.

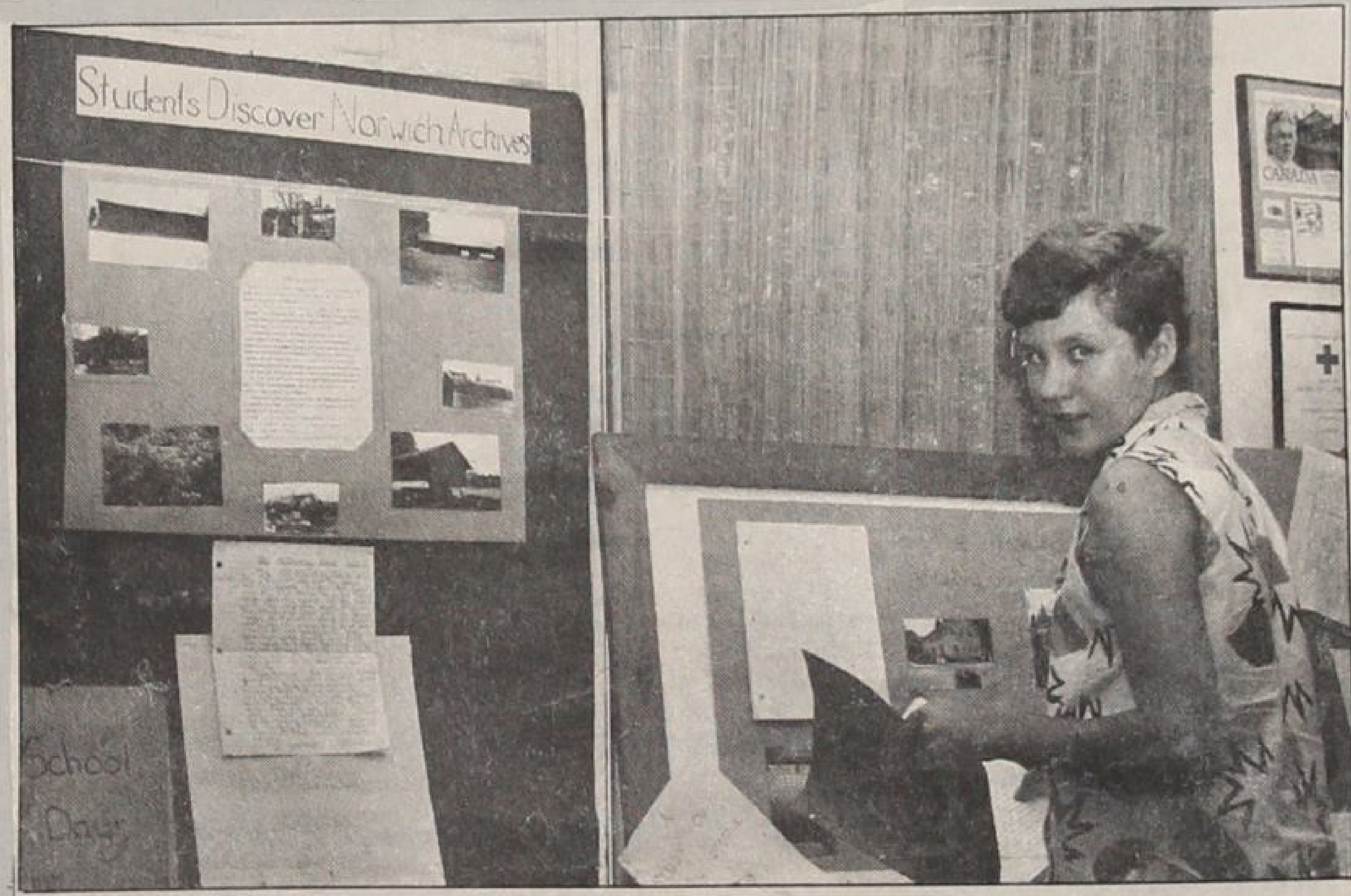
It was lowered so it wouldn't be so steep.

Now, it is about 12 feet down from the house.

Trees and bushes have grown and changed as well. In earlier years, you could see the falls from the porch.

It's impossible now because trees have grown taller and wider.

Other than a few minor changes, the house hasn't changed its shape in about 200 years.



Charlene Treffry leafs through the many projects and resource material available at the Norwich Ar-

chives. Charlene's project is featured in The Gazette above. (Photo By Anne Does)

We wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not hold ourselves responsible for any opinions expressed by our correspondents.

The Standard.

FRIDAY, JULY 28TH, 1876.

WANTED.—A boy to learn the printing business. Apply at the STANDARD Office.

Jack Screws for hire at Bungay & Merritt's. tf

A good Lockman Sewing Machine for sale cheap, apply at the STANDARD office.

Cash for eggs at D. W. Miller's.

200 good cedar posts for sale, cheap at Bungay & Merritt's. tf

The best Lubricating Oil can be had at the Central Drug Store.

T. H. Dredge & Co have a large stock of splendid Clothing, reduced to bottom prices.

T. H. Dredge & Co., are selling the Gem Jars for \$1.35 and \$1.65 per dozen.

EXCHANGE.—Greenbacks, Scrip and American Silver bought and sold. Apply to Mr. Claudius Tidey at his office. 14-tf.

Sugar is the latest bait the young ladies of Norwich have tried to "catch" the young men. We have not heard how it succeeded.

Mr. Wilson is making a Waggonette for the Brady Hotel, it is one of the most commodious conveyances we have seen, and will be a great acquisition to the town.

We have to tender our sincere regret to the Editor of the Otterville Argus on his late loss through fire, and hope that we shall soon see him again on the warpath.

PERSONAL.—We had the pleasure of an introduction to Mr. Law, of the *Tilsonburgh Observer*, a Director of the B. N. & P. B. R.; although the first we hope it will not be the last.

THE Eleventh Annual Exhibition of the South Norwich Agricultural Society, will be held on their Show Grounds at Otterville, on Friday and Saturday, the 13th and 14th of October next.

Runaway teams are now the rage, for further particulars see the Woodstock papers.

Wherefor so much blue on "our" hats and neckties.

IMPORTATION.—An immense dose of Morphine was imported into town last week from London. We trust it will have no stupifying effects on the inhabitants.

ACCIDENT.—As Mr. B. Chambers was driving home an evening or two back, his daughter who accompanied him was thrown out and got her arm broke, it was occasioned by the horses making a sudden start and so pitching her out. We are glad to say that the young sufferer is getting on well, and we hope will continue to do so.

INDIAN RELICS FOUND.—Mr. Moses Serles, of Windham, while engaged in pulling stumps last week, discovered under some of the stumps of trees whose growth indicated an average of 150 years various curiously wrought pieces of pottery and ashes and also parts of human bones. It is supposed that the place is the scene of some old Indian encampment as such relics of a bygone age have been frequently found there before.

GARDEN SOCIAL.—The Garden Social given at Mr. J. A. Tidey's proved to be a success in every sense of the word. Mr. and Mrs. Tidey done everything in their power to make the evening pass off pleasantly, which we are happy to say it did. The garden was beautifully lit up, and presented a magnificent appearance. Both old and young fair and otherwise who attended, expressed a feeling of general satisfaction. We hope that this may not be the last of such gatherings.

It is reported throughout the County that a new pest has attacked the turnips. It is not the fly or the flea hopper, which only attacks the plant in its early or rudimentary stage, which is now past. A farmer in the south-east end reports that, as he was proceeding to single out his crop on Saturday, he found large patches, several yards in length, cut down in the drills, apparently as if the root had been eaten across by the cut worm. These plants are entirely destroyed, and the same effect has been noticed on several

CHURCH DIRECTORY.

TRINITY CHURCH.
Rev. T. E. Saunders, Incumbent. Service twice every Sunday, viz: at 11 a. m. and 7 a. m. Sunday School 9 a. m.

METHODIST CHURCH OF CANADA.
Rev. C. Cookman, Pastor. Service twice every Sunday viz: at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. Sunday School at 2:30 p. m. Prayer meeting every Thursday evening at 7 p. m. Pastor's Bible Class in connection with the Sunday School. Seats free.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.
Rev. W. H. Martin, Pastor. Sabbath Services at 10:30 a. m. and 7 p. m. Sabbath School at 9:30 a. m. Prayer meeting every Thursday evening at 7:45.

GOSPEL HALL.
Meeting for Divine Worship, First-day, at 7 p. m.

FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE.
Meeting for Divine Worship, First-day morning at 11 a. m. Bible School following the meeting. Itinerant Bible Class on Wednesday evening at 7.

M. E. CHURCH.
Service every Sabbath at 10:30 p. m. Revs. J. T. Davis and J. Webb Pastors. All seats free. Use "Sankey's Hymns."

I. M. C. A.
Bible Class in their Reading Room every Tuesday evening at 7:30 Entrance, south side Miller's Block. All are welcome.

THE MARKETS.

NORWICH, July 27th, 1876.	
Wheat, Dehl, per bushel.....	\$ 0.95 to 1.01
" Treadwell do	0.95 to 0.98
" Spring do	0.95 to 0.99
" Red do	0.90 to 0.95
Barley do	0.50 to 0.50
Pease do	0.60 to 0.65
Oats do	0.25 to 0.27
Corn do	0.75 to 0.80
Lard, per lb.....	0.10 to 0.12
Cheese.....	0.10 to 0.12
Spring Wheat Flour.....	2.25 to 3.50
Fall Wheat Flour.....	2.50 to 2.75
Butter.....	0.11 to 0.16
Eggs.....	0.00 to 0.08
Hay, per ton.....	11.00 to 0.00
Straw, per load.....	3.00 to 5.00
Wool.....	0.25 to 0.26

BRANTFORD.	
Wheat, White, per bushel.....	\$ 1.05 to 1.07
" Treadwell do	0.98 to 1.02
" Red do	0.95 to 0.98
" Spring do	0.95 to 1.00
Oats do	0.25 to 0.28
Barley do	0.50 to 0.50
Pease do	0.63 to 0.63
Corn do	0.50 to 0.50
Buckwheat do	0.40 to 0.40
Hay, per ton.....	8.00 to 12.00
Straw, per load.....	3.50 to 4.00
Flour, Spring Wheat.....	2.50 to 0.60
" Fall ".....	2.75 to 0.60
Butter, per lb.....	0.15 to 0.19
Eggs, per doz.....	0.10 to 0.10

WOODSTOCK.	
White Wheat, per bushel.....	\$ 0.98 to 1.00
Red " " ".....	0.95 to 0.95
Spring " " ".....	0.90 to 1.00
Oats " " ".....	0.22 to 0.28
Barley " " ".....	0.45 to 0.50
Pease " " ".....	0.60 to 0.65
Flour.....	2.75 to 3.00
Hay, per ton.....	0.00 to 8.00
Eggs, per doz.....	0.00 to 0.08
Butter, per lb.....	0.16 to 0.18

TRAVELLERS' GUIDE.

P. D. & L. H. R. R.		
GOING SOUTH.		
	a. m.	p. m.
Leave Stratford.....	7.00 and 3.1	
Leave Woodstock.....	8.14 and 5.0	
Leave Burgessville.....	8.45 and 5.3	
Leave Norwich.....	8.54 and 5.5	
Leave Otterville.....	9.15 and 6.2	
Leave C. S. Crossing.....	9.30 and 6.4	
Leave Shucoe.....	10.05 and 7.2	
Arrive Port Dover.....	10.34 and 7.5	
GOING NORTH.		
	a. m.	p. m.
Leave Port Dover.....	6.50 and 2.50	
Leave Shucoe.....	7.15 and 3.20	
Leave C. S. Crossing.....	8.00 and 4.10	
Leave Otterville.....	8.19 and 4.40	
Leave Norwich.....	8.32 and 5.12	
Leave Burgessville.....	8.45 and 5.20	
Leave Woodstock.....	9.40 and 6.05	
Arrive Stratford.....	11.05 and 7.45	

B., N. & P. B. R.		
Going West.	STATIONS.	Going East.
No. 4, No. 2,		No. 1, No. 3

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Norwich Township staff given salary raise retroactive to January 1, 1986

NG AUG 20

Norwich Township Council adopted the recommendations of the Salary Negotiation Committee at a Council meeting July 22.

This transaction brings salary increases to municipal employees.

A new Bookkeeper and Treasury Clerk was hired at a starting salary of \$13,692.84.

Township foremen also received good news, they will now be paid overtime for any work done above their normal working hours at time and a half their normal wage.

The Township's Assistant Building Inspector will now make \$8.50 per hour over the former rate of \$8.00.

A beginning receptionist-typist currently begins at a salary of

\$13,600 moving over a six stage grid to a salary level of \$15,350.

Comparitively, an employee classified under the Payroll and Accounts Clerk grid at the level four level would make \$18,379.67, while the position of Assistant Tax Collector, brings with it a salary of \$19,175.90.

The Treasurer and Deputy Clerk now receives \$34,824.63, an increase of \$1,012.63 over the former salary level.

The Clerk Administrator now receives \$38,580.09 per year, rather than \$37,482.79.

The Township's Facilities Manager is currently paid \$30,835.55, an increase of \$1,426.43

over the former rate of pay.

In addition, the Township's Road Superintendent was moved from category four to category five, at an annual salary of \$34,727.65.

The position of Drainage and Building Inspector presently pays \$31,382.60 at the fourth level.

The position of Clerk's Assistant was changed in one instance to that of Secretary. The secretarial designation has a beginning salary rate of \$16,600 and ranges to \$18,350.

All of the increases were retroactive to January 1, 1986.

Council also approved an increase in the mileage rate employees of the municipality and all councillors charge the Township, from 34 cents

per mile to 37 cents per mile.

Employees and councillors are paid only when they use their personal vehicle for township business.

All information pertaining to salary increases was released to The Gazette by Mayor John Heleniak.

However, the Ontario Municipal Act, which governs municipal law, states, that any citizen of the township can at any reasonable time go to the Township Offices and ask for the information.

Salary levels and rates of pay are classified as public information under the Act.

It is the responsibility of the Clerk to supply public information in his possession.

After one year Survey to be released

NG AUG 13

By ANNE DOES

Results of a survey--conducted in Norwich last year--to assess the need for assisted and market housing will soon be handed over to Norwich Township Council, says a housing official.

Christine Thomas, a housing analyst with the South Western Regional Housings Program--a regional division of the Ministry of Housing (MOH) in London--said she expects the results of the survey--which was aimed at seniors and tenant families--to be released to council by the end of September.

Currently, the survey remains in the "process and circulation," stage at the regional branch, meaning that government officials are still providing input before returning results to council.

The survey was conducted last August with 1,340 questionnaires distributed to seniors and 694 given to tenant families.

The term tenant family denotes a family who currently rent living accommodations.

Housing for seniors is limited in Norwich at the moment. At Maplevue Retirement Home on

Main Street, there are only two ward beds available.

And Administrator Pat Crane said there are currently 10 on a waiting list.

Ward rates at the home are \$24 per day which includes food, laundry services, mending of clothes and the administration of medication.

Semi-private rooms are \$25 per day, Miss Crane said.

And at Norvilla Nursing Home, 11 Elgin St., East, approximately 15 seniors are awaiting vacancies.

Rates are \$608.96 per month for ward facilities including extended care, said Darlene Sweazey, assistant administrator of the facility.

A semi-private room with extended care services included, costs \$827.35, while a private room is \$1,045.73 per month.

Rates for lodging without extended care services run as follows: \$1,487.34 for a ward; \$1,705.73 for a semi-private room and \$1,924.11 per month for a private room.

Rates for nursing homes are standardized throughout the province of Ontario by the Ministry of Health.

At Winston Manor in Norwich, there are two bachelor apartments

and a one bedroom apartment available.

The manor is rent geared to income with the provincial and federal governments absorbing any existing deficits, said administrator Harold Mighton.

The facility is entirely inhabited by seniors and has 30 units, which includes a unit for the handicapped.

In July last year, Dave Cowan of the MOH said Norwich would have to need at least 20 units to make the housing project feasible.

For seniors, a unit is defined as one bed, while for families, the term can denote two to four bedrooms, Ms. Thomson said.

The Township of Norwich would not have to provide funding towards the housing project.

Rather, 60 per cent of costs would be absorbed by Canada Mortgage and Housing Commission (CMHC)--a Crown Corporation--and the remaining 40 per cent of funds would be supplied provincially through the MOH.

The location of such a facility would be determined by council.

Otterville school open

By Ben Steidman
Staff Writer

NORWICH — It's back to school Sept. 2 for Otterville Public School pupils despite on-going construction work at the facility.

Extensive renovations to the school's four-classroom wing, built in 1951, have been completed.

In addition, four portable classrooms have been placed at the school to house some of the pupils temporarily until rebuilding of the 1927 section is finished, sometime later in the year.

Jim Bechard, Oxford County Board of Education assistant plant operations superintendent, said Monday that the new wing and portables should be more than adequate to house pupils in for now.

He stressed that rebuilding of the older section, demolished in the spring, is "ahead of schedule" and should be completed by December or January.

Irv Horton, Oxford Board of Education Area 3 superintendent, pointed out Monday that about 15 Kindergarten pupils from Otterville will attend classes at North Norwich Public School in Burgessville until Christmas.

He anticipated that it would then be possible to accommodate them at Otterville in the New Year, when classes resume after the holiday break.

Cost of rebuilding and renovating the school has been placed at \$920,000, with about 75 per cent of these rehabilitation costs covered by an Ontario Ministry of Education capital grant.

Included in reconstruction of the older wing are a new gym, library, two classrooms and a health room. Renovations to the newer wing included insulation, exterior work, a girl's washroom and a temporary boiler system.

Earlier, Russ Stangl of RR 1 Otterville, Board of Education chairman, said there were funds available to pay the local portion of costs without the need to debenture.

Mr. Bechard pointed out that work has intensified on the old wing, with renovations to the 1951 section now finished. "We're pleased with the job being done, it's progressing quite well," he added.

That during the week of Aug. 6, 1976:

An arena tender has been accepted by Township of Norwich Council, but the whole community centre project still hinges on an Ontario Municipal Board ruling concerning the debenturing of costs.



Why Rent - 3 bdrms., 2 baths, wood stove stays. Need some work to complete renovations. Priced at only \$31,900. MLS R6979.



Great Starter - 3 bdrms. with lots of room, large lot with tool shed. Village living. MLS R6972.



OTTERVILLE - 4 bed., 1900 sq. ft., on beautiful park-like lot, sunken fam. rm. w. fpl., \$91,000. MLS R6763. (M. DeLaere)



OTTERVILLE - \$59,900, 2+1 bdrm. home in excell. cond., above ground pool w. deck. MLSR6954.

Treffry Mill Farmer's Market

By ANNE DOES

About 100 people visited the South Norwich Historical Society's first Farmer's Market held at the Treffry Mill in Otterville, Saturday.

From 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., fresh produce and baked goods were sold— including cakes, muffins and home made jams.

The event was held to raise funds for ongoing society work.

Organizer Lorraine Downing said the society has a lease with the township to maintain, and make any repairs necessary to the mill.

She described Saturday's event as a success and commented, "We feel pretty happy about it (the sale) and will advertise any future activities."

All goods and produce were donated by members of the society, some of whom were "Up at the crack of dawn baking."

Mrs. Downing said she also noted a growing interest in tours of Otterville.

"The people that take these tours

are usually from far away."

Tours include a visit to the mill, a sight seeing expedition of historical sites in Otterville and lunch at the Anglican Church, Mrs. Downing

said.

Mrs. Downing—who volunteers her time to the society—has tours scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday of next week.



Farmer's wives

Marilyn Treffry, Marjorie Pearce and Anna Treffry, pose with baked goods they sold during the Farmer's

Market held at the Treffry Mill in Otterville Saturday. (Photo By Anne Does)

Comet Connection of Otterville Library

OTTERVILLE (C) - With school fast approaching, the summer reading program, The Comet Connection of the Otterville Public Library recently concluded.

A final gathering of the approximately 21 boys and girls who took part was held at the home of the pro-

gram leader, Dianne Butler. Under the direction of librarian, Lurene McMullen, Mrs. Butler carried out various activities with the students, involving posters, games, puzzles, book reports and decoration of the library windows with a space scene of astronauts, spaceships and aliens.

With the purpose of promoting summer reading, the program achieved its aim. Adam Zimmer was the reader of over fifty books. Other awards were distributed to the children present at the Butler home as The Comet Connection came down for a landing.

Popular artist sells work

By ANNE DOES

Would-be investors with a little extra cash in the pantry may want to consider investing in a painting by local artist Frank Snow.

Mr. Snow, 18, of 89 Main Street, Otterville, says he began to sketch when he was five years old, "after a neighbor showed me how to color from a coloring book."

Over the years, he has continued to develop his skills.

His work has become popular with local residents, who purchase his work as soon as it comes off the easel.

People who purchase commissioned works often say "Maybe someday you will be famous and this painting will be worth a lot of money," Mr. Snow said.

The young artist's favorite subjects are animals and landscapes.

"I like to paint animals because when I'm finished it really feels like I have accomplished something. I like to put in a lot of detail and make it look real. It's quite a thrill," he said.

An average piece runs between \$20 to \$30. "The most I have ever received for a painting was \$40."

Mr. Snow, who is a Grade 11 student at Norwich District High School (NDHS), said he works with HB pencils for sketching and paints primarily with oils, although he has done work in water colors.

He turns out the most work during the quiet winter months, as his summers are spent working in tobacco.

When not painting, Mr. Snow said he enjoys weight training at a fitness centre in Tillsonburg.

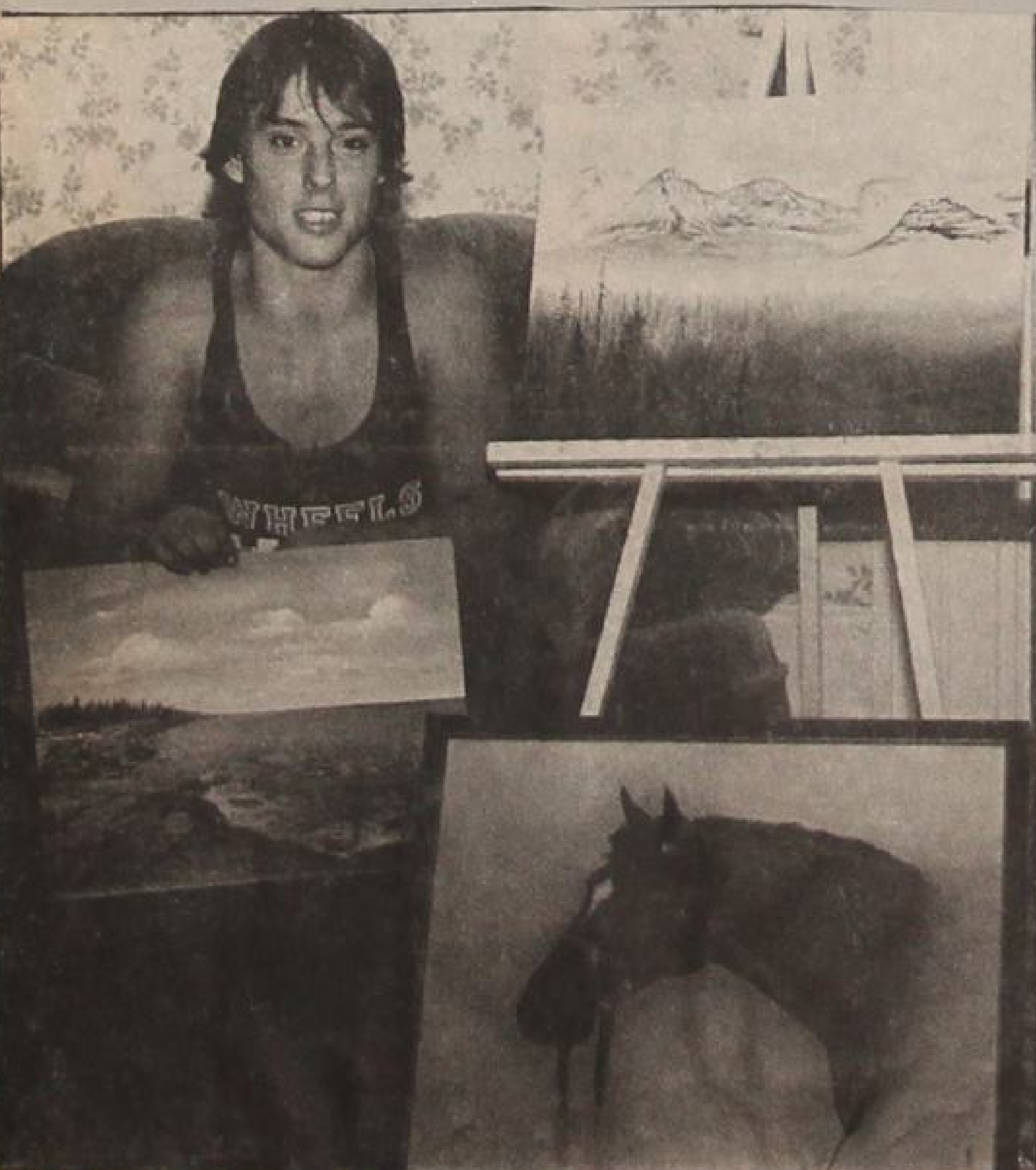
An average piece takes about a month to complete, but Mr. Snow said he sometimes gets a mental block and has to lay work aside for awhile.

"I have to wait until I get inspired," he said.

This winter he plans to complete a large portrait of the farm where his father is employed.

He is modest when discussing his talent and said, "I am still learning to blend colors to get different tones and to put in fine detail. As far as I am concerned I have a long way to go."

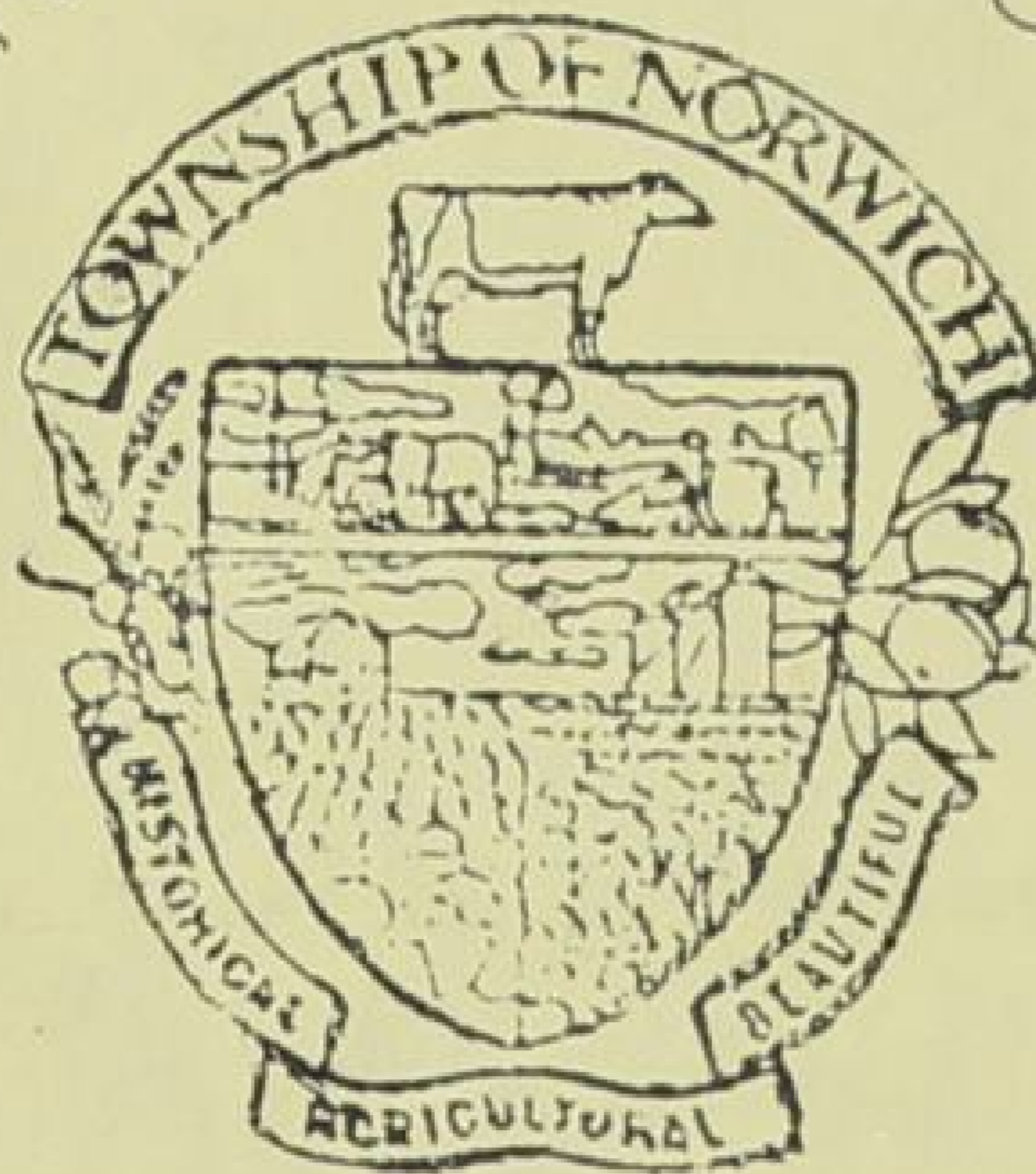
In the future, the Otterville youth said he would like to attend college to study fine arts.



From coloring book to oils

Frank Snow of Otterville poses with his works. (Photo By Anne Does)

DESIGNATED PROPERTY



ONTARIO
HERITAGE ACT

THE LOCAL ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(L.A.C.A.C.)

of the

TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH

requests the honour of your presence

on

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17th, 1986

at the unveiling of

HERITAGE DESIGNATION PLAQUES

at

THE DAVID START FARMHOUSE

(home of David and Susan Start)

Lot 16, Concession 5, former East Oxford Township

at 1:30 P.M.

THE SNYDER-DEER HOUSE

(home of Ruth Deer)

Highway No. 59, Burgessville

at 2:15 P.M.

THE HALL-MUNRO HOUSE

(home of Al and Phyllis Munro)

9 Cook Street, Norwich

at 3:00 P.M.

THE SOUTHWICK-BECK STORE

Hawtrex

at 3:45 P.M.

REFRESHMENTS at the home of Harold and Ida Singer, Hawtrex.

LACAC unveiling to be held Sunday,

The Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) will hold an unveiling ceremony Sunday, August 17 at four local sites that have been designated as designated properties under the Ontario Heritage Act.

LACAC chairperson Marie Avey said the first unveiling will begin at 1:30 p.m. at the David Start Farmhouse, Lot 16, Concession 5, formerly East Oxford Township.

The David Start Farmhouse is a one and a half storey structure built sometime between 1872 and 1875 by George Start, who was formerly of Durham County.

Mr. Start purchased the property from the Church of England in 1870.

At present, the structure still has one of its two arched chimneys, four paned windows, wooden shutters and gingerbread in its gable.

Some of the structural highlights inside the farmhouse include pine floors and trim, wide pine window frames pannelled to the floor and plastered ceiling medallion in the front hall.

At 2:15 p.m., the delegation will move on to the Snyder-Deer House, currently the home of Ruth Deer.

The site is located on Highway 59 near Burgessville.

The home was built in 1836 and is

one of the oldest in the Township of Norwich.

The home is also significant to the development of Burgessville history.

Mrs. Snyder cooked and served 34 workmen who were building the railroad through Burgessville in the 1870s.

Elias Snyder was the first ever school teacher in the area.

When he was hunted during the 1837 uprising, he hid from the militia under a trap door in the parlor floor of the house.

At 3 p.m., the historical designation plaque will be unveiled at the Hall-Munro House, 9 Cook St., Norwich.

The house—currently owned by Al and Phyllis Munro—includes an octagonal faced newel post on the centre staircase. There is detailed cherry panneling on the parlor wainscoting that matches pannelled doors throughout the house.

The house was built in the 1880s in Norwich.

The final stop for the day will be at the Southwick-Beck Store—built in 1870 by George Southwick—in Hawtrey at 3:45 p.m.

At the time of the store's construction, the Village of Hawtrey contained two stores, two blacksmith shops, two hotels and a large shingle and planing mill.

Mayor John Heleniak, Warden Helen Smith, Councillor Robert Martin, Councillor Mark Harrison, Councillor Norman Lusk, Councillor Dan Wagner and Joyce Pettigrew of the Norwich Archives, will be on hand for the unveilings.

Helen Dickson, Wanda Kelner and chairperson Marie Avey of LACAC will also be speaking at the unveiling ceremony.



Heritage building

The Southwick-Beck Store in Hawtrey was designated under the Ontario Heritage Act in a ceremony held Sunday. The store was built by George Southwick in the 1870s. Described as "an architectural gem", there are plans to restore the store. A variety of township and county officials took part in a ceremony unveiling the heritage plaque affixed to the building. (Staff Photo)

August 20, 1986 THE NORWICH GAZETTE Page 7



Lest we forget

Mrs. Dennis Groat of London (centre), took time out Saturday to remember relatives who have passed on. Leigh and Adele of Springford (outside) also had relatives buried at the Otterville cemetery. Although there was no formal service held, several beautiful arrangements were placed throughout the cemetery. (Photo By Anne



Strutting her stuff

Nine-month-old Alisha Belaen of Otterville showed off for her mother, Wendy, left, and judge Elsie Rubie, right, during the healthy baby contest held

Friday afternoon at the Tillsonburg Tri-County Agricultural Fair. The babies in the various categories were judged on a variety of criteria. (Staff Photo)

Have trunk - Beecrofts move on

7-11-85

By ANNE DOES

After 40 years as members of the Otterville community, two of Norwich Township's prime educators are moving on.

Mel and Orris Beecroft of Main Street, Otterville, both former teachers in Otterville and at Norwich District High School (NDHS), first met in a botany class at the University of Western Ontario where they were both students.

Mr. Beecroft taught science at NDHS, while Mrs. Beecroft's forte was history.

When her children were young, Mrs. Beecroft remained in the home. "My feeling was I should be with the children when they were young," she said.

However, in later years the entire Beecroft family left for school together in the mornings, including the couple's two sons.

But Mrs. Beecroft says too much togetherness never posed a problem. "One son it bothered a little bit, but the other didn't mind. And Mel and I worked at different ends of the school."

And the articulate woman was quick to point out her spouse's attributes. "He was always very helpful in the kitchen when I was working," she said.

The couple have also made themselves part of the community and are members of the South Norwich Historical Society.

And as a historian, Mrs. Beecroft says she admires the interest in local history which exists in Otterville.

"I think it is great the way the community attempts to preserve the past," she said.

They are also members of the Leisure Club and a camera club in Simcoe.

And in addition to these hobbies, they have travelled practically around the world, visiting Russia, England, Europe, Germany, Switzerland and Mexico.

Mrs. Beecroft's favorite trip was to the primitive yet beautiful land of Kenya.

After landing in Nairobi she travelled into the bushlands by Land Rover where she witnessed a lion stalk and kill a wildebeest.

"I can't describe the experience," she said, adding that to witness the slaughter from 25 feet away was both gruesome but strangely fascinating. "The smell of blood was so strong in the air. I have never smelled anything like it before."

The only way she could stand to view the kill was to remind herself that in nature killing is natural and every animal has predators.

Mr. Beecroft's fondest memory of travel is a little tamer in nature. He cited his trip to Switzerland as one of the best tours taken by the couple.

"There is total freedom there (Switzerland) and you have no worries regarding travel and no fear of being molested," he said.

Their next trip is of a more permanent nature. Last week they moved to Barrie to a home smaller than their rambling, well kept home in Otterville.

Keeping up the big home was just proving to be a bit much for the retired couple, but both expressed a sincere reluctance to leave their

friends, neighbors and community behind.

"I just hate to leave," Mr.

Beecroft said and jokingly asked his wife if it was not too late to change their plans.



Have trunk will travel

Mel and Orris Beecroft of Otterville moved to Barrie this week after spending about 40 years in the Otterville community. (Anne Does Photo)

James H. Smoke

James H. Smoke of Woodingford Lodge, Woodstock, formerly of 18 Main St., Otterville passed away at Woodstock General Hospital on Tuesday, Aug. 12, 1986, in his 81st year.

Born in Otterville on March 7, 1906, the son of the late Lundy Smoke and the former Lydia Haines. He was a veteran of the First World War.

Predeceased by one sister, Madaline MacKay, and three brothers, Kenneth, Paul, and George Childs.

Survived by three sisters, Mrs. Elroy (Marion) Bender of Woodstock, Mrs. Alvin (Leona) Rachar of Norwich, and Mrs. Max (Frances) Prouse of Tillsonburg; one brother, Jack Childs of Otterville; and dear friends, Elsie and Donald Christo of Otterville.

Resting at the Ostrander's Funeral Home, Tillsonburg where service will be held on Thursday, Aug 14, at 2 pm. conducted by Rev. H. D. Herring of Norwich.

Interment in Otter Cemetery, Otterville.

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

LET FAT CATS WORK FOR THEIR MONEY

The Editor: Long years ago, doctors commanded respect and did not demand it.

They never turned patients away. There was no discrimination because of financial status. Only professionals and people of monetary means paid doctors fees. Poor people worked at odd jobs etc. to pay off their debt.

My brother, then aged 15, answered calls in off hours for the doctor, put out his garbage and cut his lawn to work off the bill.

The general practitioner delivered babies at home, stitched cuts, removed tonsils, and set broken bones. The doctor would drive patients to the hospital and if a woman was delivering a baby, the doctor stayed with her.

No incubators in those days. My brother and sister, born in 1933, were put in the oven and wrapped in cot-

ton batten until they were about four pounds each.

The dear old doctor was a real friend and didn't charge extra for visiting the twins at least two times a day. He received \$40 for delivering each baby.

God rest his soul, he departed this life at a young age because of a traffic accident.

That's when doctors earned every dime they got and were worth twice as much as these present-day medics.

How many lower income people can afford doctor's fees as they are now?

This profession has been riding the gravy train ever since OHIP started.

Sure, doctors have expenses to meet. There is rent, nurses, secretarial staff, insurance, etc. But just take a good look at the tax breaks available to them. It sure compensates.

Yes, education costs are high and doctors attend seminars and upgrade their knowledge, but it's all subject to tax breaks.

Ask them what breaks they get from Revenue Canada and you'll find doctors aren't too badly done by at all.

Let's go back to the old days when doctors charged one fee for each patient, no matter how many visits were paid.

I'm not for the government because it's out to beat the little people every chance it gets. No party is better than any other.

I'm a PC and have never cast a vote for any other party. I would vote for a yellow dog if it ran under the conservative ticket.

But I do believe the doctors should be kept within the guidelines of OHIP. It's an insurance plan which protects the patient and doctor.

Sure, there are people who abuse the plan. It's the same with all insurance plans, isn't it?

A majority of young people today don't know what to do in an emergency. They can't dress a burn, treat abrasions or deal with croup and pneumonia as the old folks were able to do.

Consequently, doctors have easy picking.

Let's get licensed mid-wives and teach the young people how to cope with minor accidents and illnesses.

Let the fat cats work for their money again.

It's too bad dedicated doctors have to be lumped with the rest. These people and their patients are the ones who are suffering.

Colleen Price
Aurora.

Aug 18 1876

THOSE BOYS AGAIN.—The favorite amusement on Sunday evening last was throwing apples at passers-by—the grand centre as usual being a Mr J. A. Tidy's corner. This should be stopped at once.

THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION of the South Norwich Agricultural Society, will be held on their Show Grounds at Otterville, on Friday and Saturday, the 13th and 14th of October next.

THE LATE COLLISION.—We understand that Mr. David Graham, of Montreal, who was severely hurt in the recent collision between G. W. H. and Port Dover trains at Woodstock, has been removed home. He still suffers very severely.

WANTED.—5000 lbs of good butter weekly! To fill contracts for the supply of Atlantic Steamers. The highest price in goods will be paid, and goods sold at the lowest cash prices, at J. F. M. Macfarlane & Co's., successors to Parker & Hood.

IN EARNEST.—Our "devil" wants to know the reason why the young ladies wear their hats on the left ear? Will some kind young lady be good enough to inform him the reason. Perhaps "Willie dear." will be able to explain.

CRICKET MATCH.—A match game of Cricket is to be played between the Married and Single Men of this place, on the Fair Ground, on Wednesday, Sept. 30th. We have no doubt but that it will be a lively game, as some of our "Married Men" play well, so we would advise some of the "Single Men," to practice up, or else they will probably feel "sick" towards the close of the game.

A SUGGESTION.—The Y. M. C. A. of Ingersoll had a grand excursion on the 23rd inst. to Port Dover and a trip by the steamer "Dover" to Long Point light-house, making a journey of 100 miles by rail and 40 by water. Could not the Committee of the Y. M. C. A. of Norwich get up something similar at an early date. There is no doubt but what it would tend to increase the number of members to this already popular institution. Try it.

BUSH MEETING.—On Sunday last a Bush Meeting took place in the neighborhood of Otterville. It was under the auspices of the "Culled Brethren" from all parts—also the "White Folks" were present in great numbers. Several addresses by Preachers of the African Race were duly given with immense effect, trying to throw some of his light into their darkness. It is stated that about 4,000 persons were present, and that it was the largest bush meeting known to have been held around here.

Ingersoll Cheese Market.

At the market this week 23 Factories offered 8,580 boxes—5,085 sold as follows: 2,200 at 8c, 485 at 8 1-8c, 700 at 8 1-2c, 2,000 at average of 8 1-4c being Benson's make—8c for first half of August, 8 1-4c for 2nd do., 8 1-2 for September and 9c for October make. This was the first market held in the new Town Hall. Market quiet, with a better attendance of shippers than usual, and no trouble to sell first-class goods. Cable 48s. Cheese for the Annual Cheese Fair at Ingersoll, to be held 14th and 15th Sept., must be made, 2 cheeses on each date for 3 days, between the following dates:—21st to 31st July; 11th to 21st Aug.; 1st to 11th Sept. At this time last year 42 factories offered 71,448 boxes, nearly all July make, 245 boxes sold at 9c., 270 boxes at 9 1-4c, 300 on private terms. We hear of one car load at 8 3-4 and one 11-2. Many reports being offered at 9 1-2. Market very dull. Cable 54s. Freights from Ingersoll to Liverpool via G. T. R., Allan Line, 70c., and to Glasgow 78c.; N. Y. Central to Liverpool 87c, Erie to Liverpool 87c, and to Glasgow 87c, and London 81c. To London via Temperley Line (G. T. R.) 78c. Dominion Line and Rail, to Liverpool 65c. G. W. R. via Hamilton and boat 70c, to Liverpool. —Chronicle.

MARRIED.

On the 16th inst., by the Rev. J. T. Davis, at the residence of the bride's parents, North Norwich, Mr. W. A. Trefry, of South Norwich, to Miss Isabella Cronkwright.

THE MARKETS.

BRANTFORD.	
Wheat, White, per bushel.....	\$ 1 05 to 1 06
" Treadwell do	0 98 to 1 02
" Red do	0 95 to 0 97
" Spring do	0 95 to 1 00
Oats do	0 25 to 0 29
Barley do	0 50 to 0 68
Pease do	0 53 to 0 60
Corn do	0 50 to 0 52
Buckwheat do	0 40 to 0 46
Hay, per ton.....	8 00 to 12 04
Straw, per load.....	3 50 to 4 04
Flour, Spring Wheat.....	2 50 to 0 60
" Fall	2 75 to 0 60
Butter, per lb.....	0 15 to 0 19
Eggs, per doz.....	0 10 to 0 10
WOODSTOCK.	
White Wheat, per bushel.....	\$ 0 98 to 1 00
Red " "	0 95 to 0 95
Spring " "	0 90 to 1 05
Oats " "	0 23 to 0 28
Barley " "	0 45 to 0 50
Pease " "	0 60 to 0 65
Flour	2 75 to 3 00
Hay, per ton.....	6 00 to 8 00
Straw, per doz.....	0 00 to 0 08
Butter, per lb.....	0 16 to 0 18

TRAVELLERS' GUIDE.

P. D. & L. H. R. R.

GOING SOUTH.		a.m.	p.m.
Leave Stratford.....	7.00	and	3.1
Leave Woodstock.....	8.14	and	5.0
Leave Burgessville.....	8.45	and	5.3
Leave Norwich.....	8.54	and	5.5
Leave Otterville.....	9.15	and	6.2
Leave C. S. Crossing.....	9.38	and	6.4
Leave Simcoe.....	10.05	and	7.2
Arrive Port Dover.....	10.34	and	7.5
GOING NORTH.		a.m.	p.m.
Leave Port Dover.....	6.50	and	2.50
Leave Simcoe.....	7.15	and	3.25
Leave C. S. Crossing.....	8.00	and	4.10
Leave Otterville.....	8.19	and	4.49
Leave Norwich.....	8.32	and	5.12
Leave Burgessville.....	8.45	and	5.30
Leave Woodstock.....	9.40	and	6.05
Arrive Stratford.....	11.05	and	7.35

B. N. & P. B. R.

Going West.		STATIONS.		Going East.	
No. 4.	No. 2.			No. 1.	No. 3.
A. M.	P. M.	Dep. Brantford. Arr.		A. M.	P. M.
10.00	5.30	Mount Pleasant.		9.25	4.30
10.10	5.45	Burford.		9.00	4.20
10.25	6.05	Harley.		8.40	4.05
10.45	6.35	* New Durham.		8.00	3.25
11.05	6.50	Norwich.		7.40	3.00
11.30	7.15	* Mid. T. line, Norwich.		7.15	2.47
11.45	7.30	* Springford.		7.05	2.35
12.30	8.20	Arr. Tilsonburg. Dep.		6.50	2.00

Nos. 3 and 4 run on Tuesdays only.
* Trains stop only when signalled, or to let off passengers.

G. W. R. R.

Trains leave Woodstock as follows:

GOING EAST.		GOING WEST.	
Accom.....	6:27 a. m.	Morning Ex.....	11:47 a. m.
Atlantic Ex.....	9:27 a. m.	Pacific Ex.....	4:45 p. m.
Day Ex.....	3:10 p. m.	Accom.....	7:10 p. m.
London Ex.....	7:12 p. m.	Steam't Ex.....	1:15 a. m.
N. York Ex.....	12:14 a. m.	Chicago Ex.....	5:10 a. m.

Trains run by Hamilton time.

and will be in attendance. Intending pic-nickers may bring their own refreshments or they may be purchased on the grounds. Admission to the grounds free. Ladies and the public generally are cordially invited. Seats will be provided in front of the speakers stand to accommodate 3,000 people. JOSEPH GIBSON, President S. R. of Oxford Lib. Con. Associa'n. THOS. WELLS, Sec. Executive Committee. Ingersoll, Aug. 23rd, 1876. 312a.

MR. D. KELLOCK BEGS TO ANNOUNCE to the inhabitants of Norwich and neighborhood that he intends in a few days to form a Class in the Village for the study of the Higher English Branches of Education, the CLASSICS, GEOMETRY, and ALGEBRA. Being an University Scholar of Honorary Standing, Mr. K. ventures to hope that he may succeed in making such class an eligible means of instruction for those who attend them. References as to character and other qualifications are kindly permitted to Rev. J. T. Davis, Rev. W. M. Martin, and James Barr, Esq. Further information may be obtained at the Y. M. C. A. Rooms, Norwich. Norwich, Aug. 17, 1876. 32-1f.

GREAT BARGAINS OFFERED AT S. PITCHER'S OLD STAND.

GOODS AT REDUCED PRICES Having bought the balance of Mr. Pitcher's Stock at a Sacrificed Price, and having since added a large and well selected stock of

Spring and Summer Goods, which he is offering at astonishingly low prices, consisting of **Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Crockery, Ready-made, Clothing Hats and Caps, Paints Oils, Glass, Putty, &c., &c.**

PATRONAGE SOLICITED. Farm produce will be taken in exchange at the highest Market Price

GENTS SUITS MADE TO ORDER. A Good Fit Guaranteed. H. ROTZ. Norwich, April 20th, 1876. 14-1y

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G. M. DOWNING, M.D.
J. NARANCSIK, M.D.
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FOUNDATION

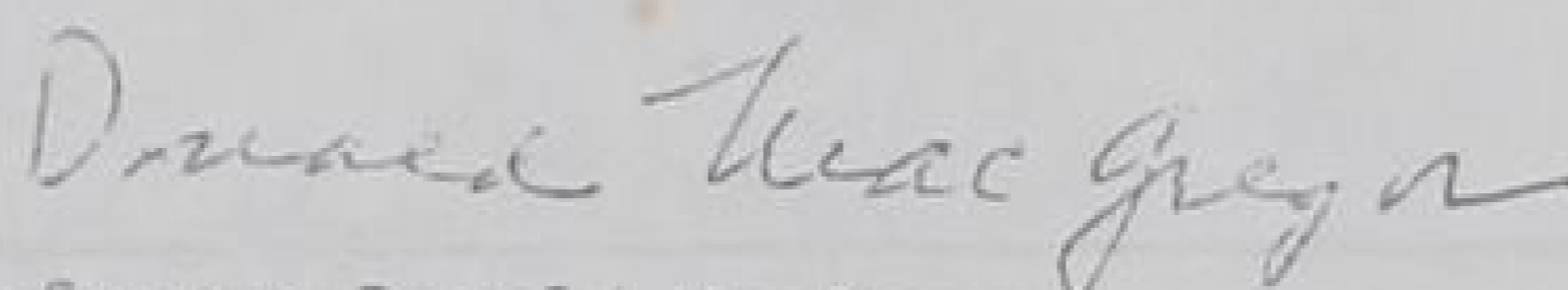
Innis College
University of Toronto
Toronto Canada M5S 1J5
416 978-7023

Greetings from the Harold Innis Foundation!

You are cordially invited to attend the Harold Innis Foundation's annual chicken barbecue at Innisfree Farm in Otterville on Saturday August 9, 1986. As usual, Grant Mountain, a member of the Foundation's Board of Directors, will don his chef's hat and apron to prepare his legendary half chicken delight. And of course, Innisfree Resident Managers Henry and Norma Lockstein will be your gracious hosts for the occasion. This is certainly a good opportunity for residents of the Otterville-Norwich area to get together with associates and members of the Foundation from across the country in order to renew interest in Harold Innis and his work.

All food and refreshments are free of charge; we just need to know if you are coming and how many family members and/or friends you intend to bring so we may plan accordingly. To indicate your intentions, please contact Henry and Norma Lockstein at Innisfree (519-879-6858) or Nana at Innis College in Toronto (416-978-7023). I sincerely hope you will be able to come.

Yours truly,



Professor Donald MacGregor
(President)

/nabo

Foundation designed to preserve work of scholar

By ANNE DOES

Harold Innis was one of Canada's foremost influential thinkers and scholars, said Roger Riendeau, president of the Harold Innis Foundation at the third annual barbecue held at Innisfree farms in Otterville, Saturday.

In a jibe directed towards this nation's attitude towards Canadian talent, he added, "Mr. Innis was internationally famed yet was unknown in his own country, which is indicative of how we Canadians celebrate our culture and our society."

Mr. Innis wrote and lectured on subjects including Canadian geography, history, politics and communications studies, Mr. Riendeau said. "He changed the way people look at their country."

In 1884 Innis was born on the Innisfree homestead. Twelve years after his death, the University of Toronto named Innis College in his memory.

The goal of the foundation, said Mr. Riendeau, is to keep the memory and work of Harold Innis alive.

"We wish to maintain an

awareness of the man and his college and have the message more widely known."

Mr. Riendeau also noted that it was the local community which exercised a significant influence on Mr. Innis' work.

"This very environment very much accounted for the way Harold Innis was able to make Canadians conscious of their past and evolution," he said.

Innisfree Farm—owned by the Harold Innis Foundation—is used as a conference centre and has been managed by Henry and Norma Lockstein for the past eight and a half years, Mrs. Lockstein said in an interview.

Purchased from Harold Innis' brother Sam of Norwich in 1970, Innisfree Farm is similar to an archives, in that it preserves the work of the famous savant.

Every weekend Mr. and Mrs. Lockstein are kept busy with visitors who either wish to make use of the conference centre or simply want to view the farm.

The grounds of the centre are rustic and impeccably groomed, while the building itself has kitchen

facilities; a seminar room and sleeping quarters for about 25.

Although the name Harold Innis is not instantly recognized by the average Canadian, Mr. Innis has been described by Douglas Fisher in the forward of one of Innis' books as "...the finest thinker Canada has produced."

Douglas Fisher is the Editor of Executive Magazine.

Mrs. Lockstein said she was pleased with Saturday's event and noted, "It gives a chance for the local people to meet the people from Toronto and the Toronto people a chance to meet the local people."

About 65 people attended the event, feasting on roast chicken prepared over an open outside pit by local chefs Grant Mountain, Colin Cope and Gord Shearer.

Barbara Hahn donned the oven mitts inside the kitchen, helping to turn out a meal which included numerous salads, home made rolls and desserts.

Several professors from Innis college were on hand in addition to several local residents, including Norwich Township Mayor John Heleniak, Delhi Mayor Gordon Lee and Warden Helen Smith.

At the Museum

Emily Howard Jennings Stowe was the first female Canadian doctor.

Everyone, especially in Norwich, knows that.

What many people do not realize that Dr. Stowe was the first official female doctor.

Someone else receives the honor of being the first female doctor in Canada - Dr. James Barry.

Right away you ask - James Barry, a female?

The story began, or rather ended, in 1859 with the death of Dr. Barry.

That was simple enough.

However, things got a bit more complicated when the woman who laid Dr. Barry out for his funeral discovered that he was a she.

Dr. Barry, the Inspector-General of the Hospitals for both Upper and Lower Canada, was a woman.

This woman, whose real name was Miranda, had managed to deceive the entire realm for over 40 years.

She had even had a successful army career!

Imagine what her life must have been like with the constant need for deceptions and secrecy.

Although Dr. Barry had had a reputation for being rather peculiar and a bit feminine, no one had ever suspected that she was a woman.

Yet, thanks to the male dominated world of those days, these drastic steps had been necessary for Miranda Barry to become a doctor.

She certainly put a dent in the myth that the female mind was incapable of comprehending the complex intricacies of medicine.

And, Dr. Stowe continued where Dr. Barry left off.

This is just one of the stories that will have a part in the Medical Display slated to appear at the Norwich and District Museum in September.

Come down and read about these doctors who have served Norwich

and area so capably.

After seeing the display, you might appreciate today's doctors just a bit more.

In the old days, as some of you might know, doctors would bleed you at the drop of a hat.

They theorized that illness was bound to the congestion of the blood vessels and that bleeding was necessary to relieve this congestion.

It was said that a doctor would no sooner go to see a patient without his lancet (instrument with which the act of bleeding was done) than go to church without his Bible.

Frequently, the individual had to fight the cure as well as the disease!

This, and more, is down at the museum.

Take some time and come down to learn about your medical history.

See just how advanced modern medicine really is.

Southwestern Ontario Travel Guide 1986

SEE PAGE 32





Mr. and Mrs. David George Davis

Davis - Kipp wedding vows said at Woodstock

Suzanne Elizabeth Kipp, daughter of Ronald and Blanche Kipp of Woodstock, was married to David George Davis, son of John and Barbara Davis of Otterville, on August 17 at St. David's United Church in Woodstock.

Rev. Peter Scott officiated at the ceremony. The bride was traditionally dressed in a white poly-sheer over netting and taffeta gown. A re-embroidered sheer yoke was beautifully decorated with seed and rice pearls, as was the guipere-type lace on the natural bodice. Multiple ruffles bordered the high neck, off-the-shoulder yoke and cuffs of the long fitted sleeves and the hem which flowed into a cathedral train. She wore a matching hat with a netted veil and carried a silk cascade of dusty rose roses, pink carnations, white shasta daisies and baby's breath.

The maid of honor was Cheryl Kennedy of Woodstock. Bridesmaids were Cheryl Richardson of Otterville, Nancy Davis of Otterville,

sister of the groom and Johanne Tremblay of Woodstock.

They wore pink taffeta gowns with on-and-off shoulder 'V' necklines; full, rustling skirts; wide taffeta sashes and hats to match. They carried silk cascades of dusty rose and pink carnations, soft pink orchids and baby's breath.

The best man was Bill Richardson of Otterville and the ushers were Doug Furlong of Otterville, Mike Kipp, brother of the bride, of Toronto and Peter Davis, brother of the groom of Otterville.

The men wore black satin peak lapel tuxedos with matching vests, black trousers and black bowties.

A reception was held at the Polish Hall in Woodstock. Fred Wilks was master of ceremonies. Guests were present from Toronto, Buffalo, London, Kitchener, Grimsby, Port Dover and surrounding areas.

The couple enjoyed a honeymoon trip to Clevelands House Resort in the Muskokas and will reside at London, Ont.



Labor of love

Marilyn Driedger demonstrates the art of making wreaths to one of her students during a one day

workshop held last week. The Otterville woman also lectures extensively on the subject of herbs. (Photo By Anne Does)

Otterville woman has the herbal touch

By ANNE DOES

Although her current career began in a basement, Marilyn Driedger's Herbal Touch has now blossomed into a profitable and enjoyable venture.

Her garden in Otterville was abloom this summer with lavender, everlastings, and basil and oregano to cover both aspects of her hobby—herbs and dried flower arrangements.

In fact, business has been so good, that Mrs. Driedger has lectured on numerous occasions and holds seminars in a barn that has been designed for that purpose.

And her training as a photographer has also paid off—recently Mrs. Driedger had photographs of herbs published in Harrowsmith magazine.

What is now a full time occupation gradually evolved as Mrs. Driedger's interest in herbs and flowers grew.

"After I was married I started my own garden. I grew more flowers and a few herbs."

In her lectures and seminars, Mrs. Driedger teaches how to identify various herbs and flowers and how to use the herbs around the home.

In many cases she brings her own whole wheat bread and herb butter as samples of what can be done with the herbs that she grows.

She also brews her own herb tea, adding a teaspoon of honey to the pot

to remove any bitterness.

"My favorite is lemon tea which is made with lemon scented herbs."

Recently, a home economics class from Annandale High School in Tillsonburg came to visit Mrs. Driedger's barn and "they cleaned me out of whole wheat bread and the herb butter."

Summer is a peak period for the Otterville woman, who spend much of the summer months lecturing to Women's Institute groups and other community organizations.

Her trips to Toronto to lecture have also resulted in many people visiting the village.

Workshops are usually held during the day from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

In the spring, workshops are held to discuss herb gardens and gardening techniques, while the fall has proved popular for wreath making.

Mrs. Driedger says she teaches a new wreath making technique every year using a straw base.

In addition, an open house is held in June.

The gardening itself is time consuming, with each plant having its own particular harvesting time.

After the seeds are planted and the plants themselves grown they must be harvested and cured.

But despite the time required, Mrs. Driedger says she has noticed a growing popularity in the art of flower arranging, herb gardening and wreath making.

Tender awarded to repair cenotaph at NDHS

The cenotaph located in front of Norwich and District High School is badly in need of repairs, and Monday, Township of Norwich Council resolved to do something about it.

The memorial statue needs—in addition to other work—repairs to its base, which has visibly crumbled in some corners.

Clerk Bob Watkins said, "The base is unstable and we could lose our stone lady."

Clerk Watkins said the Village of Norwich had inherited the responsibility for maintaining the statue and added, "The statue itself is in need of remedial work."

Councillor-at-large Helen Smith said, "There are really a lot of young people on this council... But I have a certain amount of pride when it comes to that statue."

She went on to say, "Some things that this council spends its money on are not as important as this when you think of all of the people who gave their lives. November 11 (Remembrance Day) is important to a number of people in this area."

Council eventually passed a resolution pertaining to the matter which said, "The Township of Norwich accept the bid of \$838 from Silverthorne Concrete Ltd., to reface the cenotaph base at the Norwich and District High School yard in Norwich, subject to permission from the Oxford County Board of Education to do the work on their property. Also that the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 190, be contacted to see if there was any interest in financial assistance to proceed with this project."

Possible new tenant for Industrial Park

By ANNE DOES

Although details are sketchy at the moment due to a request for confidentiality, Norwich Township's Industrial Park may soon have a new tenant.

Monday, council approved a resolution which instructed the clerk to make arrangements for a survey of access road and Lots 8 and 9 in the Norwich Industrial Site.

The resolution also requested that an engineering firm be asked to prepare a design for tender pur-

poses.

In a related development, council approved a resolution allowing Mayor John Heleniak or designate and the Clerk to be authorized to sign the revised agreement of purchase and sale dated Sept., 5, 1986 and submitted by Wm. E. Hajdu Real Estate Ltd.

In a later interview, Mayor Heleniak said he was "pleased that a party is interested in the site. Hopefully we will have more in the future."

PUC receive increase

By ANNE DOES

The Chairman of the Norwich Public Utility Commission (PUC) will now receive \$89 per meeting rather than \$85, retroactive to Dec., 1, 1985.

In addition, the four PUC commissioners will receive \$68 per meeting.

Township of Norwich Council approved the per diem increases, Mon-

day.

Compensation for income lost while attending to utility business brings the same fee for both the chairman and commissioners plus travelling expenses.

The increase is approximately 4.5 per cent.

Under normal circumstances, the PUC meets once a month.

Township Council briefs

Township of Norwich Council resolved to hire Bruce Thorne as a level three operator, commencing December 15, 1986 on a three month probationary period.

Municipal council also supported in principal a proposal by the Long Point Region Conservation Authority for the creation of an Upper Big Creek Master Drainage Plan.

The study will analyse water management issues, identifying problem areas and resource management conflicts resulting from drainage and other land use and water management activities such as erosion and sedimentation, flooding, water supply and quality.

The parking lot behind the

business section north of Main Street between Stover and Washington Streets will be graded and gravel added as soon as possible.

Although the lot is a private parking lot, Mayor John Heleniak said council have an agreement to maintain it.

Lately, the site has become riddled with potholes.

Mr. Steve Hanson will be hired as a part-time Operator Two at level one with no benefits commencing December 1, 1986.

John Davis was moved up from level one to level three effective December 1, 1986.

Council also approved in principal the zoning application of Searles Trailer and Equipment Ltd.

The property is to be rezoned from restricted agricultural and highway

commercial to restricted industrial.

The Clerk was authorized to contact the Ministry of Transportation and Communications to determine if the Plank Bridge in South Norwich has potential for spot listing under the Heritage Bridge List.

Council also resolved to have the week of November 3 to November 11 designated as poppy week, and that the Royal Canadian Legion be authorized to sell poppies on the streets of the Township November 7 and 8, 1986.

Classroom agriculture

NORWICH — Ross Butler.

A name to remember.

He's a 79-year-old world-class Norwich painter, sculptor, farmer and writer.

Township Council Monday obtained more details on Oxford North and South District Women's Institute Butler Project to bring this local artist's depictions of farm animals into the classroom.

The two area groups are attempting to raise funds for this project, part of a larger province-wide "Agriculture in the Class-

room" program sponsored jointly by Ontario's Ministry of Education and Agriculture and Food.

Councillor Norm Lusk said Oxford County has recommended contributing \$8,000 to the local project. He wondered how much of this would Norwich Township have to pay.

Council decided to take no action on a contribution until it finds out what final action is taken at the county level.

That during the week of Sept. 15, 1976:

The Delhi arena re-opened because reinforcements to the building were completed. The cost of the project was \$75,500 and was funded through Wintario grants, local contributions and tax dollars.

A warrant was issued for the arrest of David Hugh Johnstone (then 32) of 23A VanParys Ave., Delhi. Mr. Johnstone was wanted on a murder charge in the shooting death of Wayne Edwin Talbot, of RR 1, Simcoe.

The Township of Norwich Council couldn't agree where to build the new Otterville fire hall.

One suggestion was to build on a half-acre parcel of land north of Oxford Centre. The land was being sold for \$12,000.

The Otterville Juveniles won the ORSA "B" Championship after beating Glencoe 21-1 and 9-2. Brent VanParys was the winning pitcher.

Two Norfolk area tobacco farmers were charged with aiding and abetting illegal immigrant farm workers. London RCMP made the arrests.

Sadie Vansickle and partner Nellie Carson won the ladies four-ball, best-ball championship at the Delhi Golf and Curling Club.



THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA

BOX 10
OTTERVILLE, ONTARIO N0J 1R0

Telephone 879-6553

September 12, 1986

Dear Client:

I am writing to fill you in on the Royal's plan for Otterville and to put to rest any rumors that suggest we want to cut back on our banking service. Quite frankly, I am surprised that these rumors exist as full Personal Banking Service -- including Consumer Lending -- will continue to be available from your branch. Now that this point is clear, let me tell you about some minor changes to our regional management structure which will help improve service for all our clients in and around Otterville.

In today's competitive and rapidly changing world, our consumer, agricultural and small business clients have begun to expect their Bank Manager to be fully knowledgeable about their individual needs. However, as the number of financial services and programs has expanded, it has become increasingly difficult for one manager to have extensive expertise in all of these areas.

As a result, we are changing our Branch structure in many regions so that the Branch Management focus is on serving consumers, while the regional emphasis is on providing professional account management capabilities for agricultural and small business accounts. This arrangement does not preclude agricultural and business clients from using their own Branch for everyday transactions, but does give them access to specialized account managers at a regional location for their borrowing requirements.

In the case of Otterville, a new Manager of Personal Banking, who is to be Dorothy Stanford, will have a mandate to concentrate more fully on meeting the financial needs of our consumer clients. Mrs. Stanford will schedule consumer loan applications, review investment

.../2

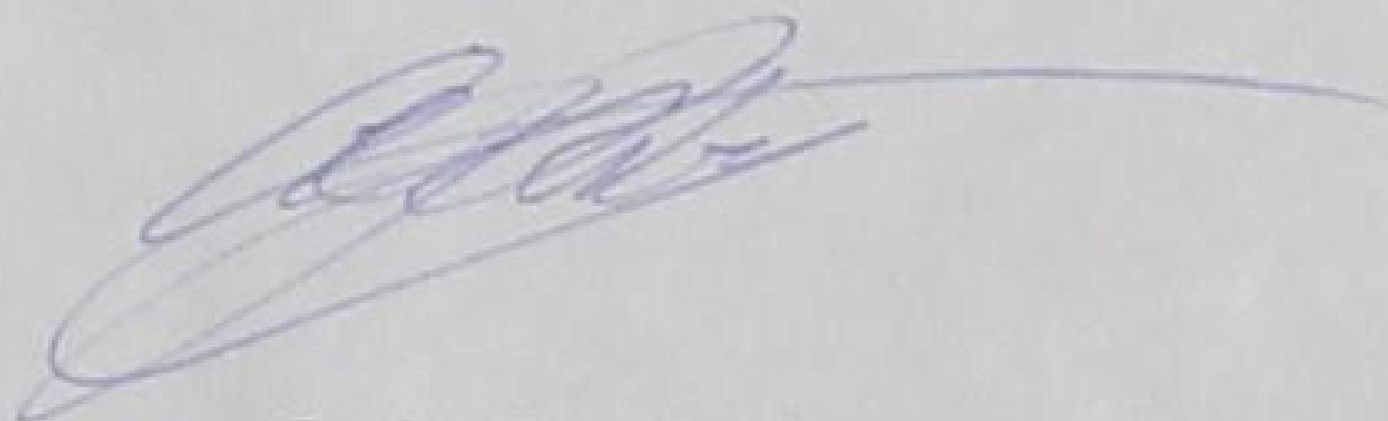
September 12, 1986

opportunities, etc. On the agricultural and small business side, a specialized account manager, the undersigned, from Tillsonburg will, in most cases, visit clients at their place of business or, if they prefer, at Otterville Branch in order to discuss their borrowing needs. These clients will still conduct their Banking business at Otterville Branch with the exception of this borrowing.

From both the Bank's and client's point of view, we feel this new system will provide many benefits. For example, we expect our operation will be more cost-effective in Otterville while still allowing us to maintain or improve our level of service to all clients.

I hope this explanation has been helpful in easing any concerns you may have had about our commitment to Otterville. Should you have any questions in the future, please do not hesitate in calling your Otterville Branch.

Sincerely,



C.A.J. Raby
Account Manager

September meeting of Summerville WI

The September meeting of Summerville WI was held at the home of Mrs. Jean Gehring.

President, Mrs. Ann Arthur opened the meeting with the Opening Ode, Mary Stewart Collect and the Lord's Prayer.

Roll call was naming the former Prime Ministers of Canada, with their party they represented and

length of term.

Mrs. J. Walther Secretary read the minutes of May and June meetings.

A bake sale for the district W.I. will be held October 3 at the Town Centre, Tillsonburg.

The London area convention will be held October 16-17 at the Ukrainian Hall, London.

A CPR course is being offered at our local library with registration September 30.

Mrs. J. Gehring was the education convener she read an article on the Three Ps of education.

Mrs. Harry Pickersgill gave a reading called, Everyday Words can make many years older before their time, this was a good lead up to the topic chosen by our guest speaker.

Miss Bonnie Briggs from Multi Services Centre, Tillsonburg gave a most interesting talk on the different

services offered our area seniors.

These range from Meals on Wheels, Homemaking, Gardening, Handyman to Transportation with more services being available in the future.

Miss Briggs was thanked and presented with a token of appreciation.

The meeting was closed in usual form.

A social time was spent with Bonnie, a former resident with her family of Otterville.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

On Friday, September 12 at Mapleview Retirement Home, I attended only one and a half hours of the meeting with the Norwich Ministerial Association, Pat Crane and Dave Cattell and residents and some family members in attendance.

I am still SHOCKED and still do not understand why where you live effects whether you receive spiritual guidance in the form of church services -- when two or three are gathered together in the name of the Lord.

From my understanding of this meeting, the Association is mostly concerned that if church services are "brought" to the Home, the residents will no longer participate in community events.

Home church services may not deter them, but may give them spiritual strength to continue to "go out" in the community.

As one resident stated, three of the 20 attend church, but as he walks to and from, he only wishes the others would be able to have services too.

He also said he would continue to attend church if the services were held in the home.

I do believe God saw the little sparrow fall, but He is apparently having problems with some of His followers seeing too.

Sincere thanks to Rev. C. Seed who understands the residents' religious requirements and held church service at Mapleview in July.

My sincere hope is that the community will pray that the entire Norwich Ministerial Association, when making their decision as to the outcome of this meeting, will help the sparrow by bringing the spiritual guidance to the Mapleview residents in the form of church services.

Please let your minister know your thoughts on this matter, as apparently in some instances he must have his congregations permission.

Catherine Mann.

Otterville News

St. JOHN'S ANGLICAN

OTTERVILLE (C) - The 19th Sunday of Pentecost service opened with singing with Lila Feeland on the organ. Flowers were in loving memory of Lovina Phillips.

Father Grant D. Darling spoke on the theme of Stewardship. Blessed in order to bless paraphrases the concept of stewardship.

Offering was received by Jack Freeland and Ross McMullen after which communion was shared by Rev. Darling and the congregation.

The service closed with the recessional hymn.

Next week is Harvest Thanksgiving.

OTTERVILLE (C) - Mrs. Violet Howse of Main St., Otterville was the lucky winner of a 275 pound pumpkin at the Springford Fall Fair held on the weekend.

The pumpkin, donated by Madeline Cowan of Otterville, had many people guessing at its true weight with the winner announced at the garden party held Saturday evening.

Mrs. Howse plans to donate the pumpkin to organizations for fundraising projects.

OTTERVILLE (C) - The opening fall meeting of the Sunshine Club was held Thursday, Sept. 11 at the home of Lily Chisholm with 10 members present. Roll call, given by Lily was How many dentists have you been to in your lifetime?

Olive Pickersgill gave a correspondence report.

Christmas decorations for the village was the topic discussed as a new project.

Next meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 25.

OTTERVILLE (C) - The Women's Missionary Fellowship of the Otterville Baptist Church opened its fall season at the home of Lorna Smith, on Tuesday evening, Sept. 9

Mrs. Smith spoke on The Season of Riches with scriptures taken from Ephesians 1: 7, 2: 4 and Phil. 4:19.

President Wilma Butler conducted the business session with roll call on the Grace of God.

Judy Bull and Wilma Hill offered the missionary prayers. Letter

writers for the month were chosen.

Evelyn Clinton presented the poem September Hills which was followed with a reading from Acts 20: 25-27 by Wilma Hill. Judy Bull gave the scripture reading from Ephesians 1: 1-7 and 2: 4-7.

Rhonda Babcock read a poem titled God's Mercy and Betty Hill presented the poem God's Wonderful Grace.

The meeting closed with hymn and prayer.

OTTERVILLE UNITED

OTTERVILLE (C) - Guest speaker for the service was Vi Sackrider who opened with the call to worship. The choir rendered the anthem with Betty Walther at the organ.

Following the children's hymn, Mrs. Sackrider told them an interesting story of the Cold North Wind.

The good news message, A Traitor was based on the scripture from Psalm 41:9, St. John 13: 21-30 and James 4: 11-12.

Offering was received by Jack Walther, Lorne Treffry, Don Neale and Gary Walther.

OTTERVILLE (C) - The South Norwich Historical Society met at the Woodlawn Adult Centre with vice president, Jack Smith presiding.

Members were reminded of the auction to be held Oct. 18 beginning at 10 a.m. at the Norwich Community Centre.

The meeting adjourned and was turned over to Mrs. Kenneth White of Springford. She spoke on a recent trip to Great Britain with a presentation of slides to accompany her talk.

Otterville UCW

The Sept. 18 meeting of the Otterville UCW was held in the United Church with President Nancy Walther in charge.

The annual turkey supper is to be held on Oct. 27 with servings at 5, 6 and 7 p.m.

Elsie McSpadden spoke on the bible down through the centuries relating to scripture from John 1: 10.

The meeting closed with prayer and a social time.

Lions Club Casino Night

About 400 people, fists bulging with funny money, ventured out to try their luck at the Norwich-Otterville Lions Club Casino Night held over the weekend.

For the hard core gamblers, there were tables of black jack, horse races and a crown and anchor wheel.

More conventional types attempted to make some money at the bingo table, under Fred Thompson's watchful eye.

Norwich Township merchants also got into the spirit of the event, donating goods for a silent auction.

For the uninitiated, a silent auction usually involves a table of goods with unmarked prices.

Anyone can bid on the goods, depending on what they feel the item is worth, and, since the bids are visible, outbidding a friend's offer is just part of the game.

The Lions Club also held an elimination draw. Fifty dollar winners were as follows: Lorena Chapple, Harley; Florence Moore, Norwich; Sharon Furlong, Otterville; Janice Butcher, Norwich; Maureen Sinden, RR 1, Norwich; Murray Smith, RR 2, Scotland; Moira Watts,

Norwich; L. Ferraro, RR 1, Norwich; Ross Dow, Otterville; Bob McFarland, Burgessville; Lori Fidlin, Norwich; Manford Robillard, Norwich; Matthew and Roman Heleniak, RR 1, Norwich and Jean Gehring, RR 2, Otterville.

Winners of ten dollars were to numerous to mention, over 50 people took home a tenner, courtesy of the Lions.

But the big winner of the evening was Arthur Hoyland of Tillsonburg, who walked away with a cheque for \$2,000.

Ninth Springford fair planned

By ANNE DOES

The ninth annual Springford and Area Fall Fair is scheduled for Saturday, Sept., 20, with a full slate of exhibits and activities, says fair director, Marj Seitz.

There will be hay and grain exhibits this year, in addition to school displays and sewing and crocheting exhibits.

The fair—organized by the Springford Area Agricultural Society—will have a parade of floats again this year.

The parade will leave Maple Leaf Mills Ltd., at 10:30 a.m., and march to the centre of town.

The parade route will then proceed on County Road 19 to Water Street, where the procession will turn right and head back into town along County Road 13.

The parade will end at the Springford Community Park, the picnic centre for fair activities.

The fair itself will sport the usual crowd pleasing events, including horse shoe pitching; tobacco tying;

watermelon eating; judging the weight of a pumpkin and a pet show.

The pet show will be held at 1 p.m., and although pre-registration is not necessary, exhibitors should have their pets at the grounds prior to the beginning of judging.

Fair director Marj Seitz said a pork barbecue will be held this year, rather than a beef barbecue as in former years.

In addition, the Queen of the Springford and Area Fair will be crowned and a garden party will be held.

Three Springford area girls are competing in the Miss Springford contest: Angela Redling, 16; Kim Everett, 16, and Chrissy Noels, 17. The girls will take part in the parade in the morning before a private interview before a panel of three judges. The queen will be crowned at 7 p.m.

"The garden party is really very good. We have a lot of our amateur talent that get involved," Mrs. Seitz said.

Bingo enthusiasts should note that bingo will be played from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Woodworking demonstrations will also be held, Mrs. Seitz said.

A special challenge has also been issued by reigning log sawing champions Bob Hussey and Bob Turnbull.

The pair are issuing a challenge to anyone who thinks they can beat the pair—who have proven unbeatable in the past.

A special award will be made for this event.

Mr. Hussey also has a surprise planned for the fair, but at this point he is keeping the secret to himself.

Last year, fair organizers were disappointed when a contractor failed to appear with the three rides he had promised to bring.

"As far as we know there are three rides coming this year," Mrs. Seitz said, adding that a representative from the Agricultural Society had been sent to confirm that the ride operator would actually be coming.

"SPRINGFORD AREA
FALL FAIR"

SEPT. 20,
1986

September 19: Exhibits to be entered between 2 & 8PM (Lawrence Woodworking)

September 20: PARADE AT 10:30 AM
(Contact Bob Turnbull 842-2698)

ADMISSION: Adults \$2.00
Children under 15 \$1.00
Pre Schoolers "Free"

(All day re entry included with ticket stub
Membership card allows entry to fair FREE)

OPENING CEREMONIES NOON
PET SHOW 1 PM
MISS SPRINGFORD CONTEST 2 PM

GAMES, CONTESTS, BINGO, RIDES, ETC. FOR YOUNG AND OLD

EXHIBITS

GARDEN PARTY (well worth the price of admission)

4 H DISPLAYS WELCOME WITH PRIZES OF \$10.00 for each club exhibiting a display.

SPRINGFORD CARVERS AND VISITING CLUBS
from NIAGARA AND TORONTO
Will have a CARVING
DEMONSTRATION and SHOW OF CARVINGS at the
Lawrence Woodworking Building.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE "LITTLE FAIR WITH THE BIG HEART" on September 20.

PRIZES FOR OLDEST MAN & OLDEST WOMAN IN ATTENDANCE AS WELL AS DOOR PRIZES.



Wow

Alexsa Marynissen perches atop Madeline Cowan's enormous pumpkin. Ms. Cowan donated the huge pumpkin, which she grew herself in her garden, to the Springford Fair. Mrs. Violet Howse accurately guessed its weight at 257 pounds and won the pumpkin at the fair. It is expected that someone in Springford will be eating pumpkin pie for a long time to come. (Jeff Tribe Photo)

Prize winners of Springford Fair competitions

Springford fair—billed as “The Little Fair with the Big Heart”—offered a number of prizes in its various competitions.

Among first prize winners were:

Parade: float, Baptist Church; children best decorated, Tanya Grant; most unusual, Bowen O’Grady.

Pet show: dogs, longest tail, Jeff Breit; shortest hair, Alicia Bailey; smallest, Danny Marshall; longest ears, Melissa Babbey; unusual name, Jeff Breit. Cat, Steven Marshall. Rabbits, longest ears, David Kohl; softest fur, Dwayne Pettman; smallest, Jeff Livingston. Most unusual, quail, Becky and Mandi Lester. Youngest exhibitor, Brian Rice.

Contests, draws: Penny guessing, Mike O’Grady; Pumpkin weight, Violet Howse; Fifty-fifty draw, Loren Treffry; Table cloth, Esther Smith; Print by Dawn Seitz, Morley Barnim; Arrangement from Petals in the Wind, Angela Easley; Door prizes, Joan McQuiggan, Becki Hopkins, Eunice Rauw, Muriel Rice, David Kohl, Nelda Kiddie, Gary Smith, Nick Visser.

Sewing: blouse, Joanne Rice and Monica Kaminski; skirt, Monica Kaminski; casual wear, Monica Kaminski; dress, Joanne Rice; children’s wear, Kathryn Zimmer; nightwear or lingerie, Monica Kaminski; slacks, Monica Kaminski; other article, Althea White.

Hobbies and Crafts: Christmas wreath, Bonnie Barnim; other wreath, Audrey Barnim; tree ornament, Doris Swance; Christmas stocking, Bonnie Barnim; paper tole, Marilyn Barnim; covered hangers, Marilyn Cooper; needle-point picture, Gertrude Hicks; not listed article, S. Ghesquire; other articles, Linda Stade.

Collections: Leo Roose, Jr.

Knitting: toy, Ilene Chesterman; afghan, Bea Nunn; adult sweater, Marilyn Cooper; child sweater, Katherine Zimmer.

Crochet: afghan, Faye Roose; baby afghan, Audrey Barnim; toys, Faye Roose.

Embroidery: lunch cloth, Audrey Barnim; tea towel, Joanne Rice; quilt block, Susan Ghesquiere; Bargello stool, Ilene Chesterman; table cloth, Doris Swance.

Liquid embroidery: quilt block, Bonnie Barnim; dresser scarf, Audrey Barnim; pillow cover, Bonnie Barnim.

Pillows: crochet, Bea Nunn; smocked, Audrey Barnim; not listed, Bonnie Barnim.

Quilts: pieced, hand, Faye Roose; machine, Gertrude Nicks.

Ceramics: novelties, Faye Roose; figurine, G. Nicks; white ware, G. Nicks.

Photography: local scene, Joyce

Pettigrew; people, Dale Cheney; seascape, Joyce Pettigrew.

Woodworking: woodburning, Dale Cheney; woodburning in color, Elizabeth Hornyack; not listed, Kathy Lawrence.

Horticulture: spider plant, Wendy White; African violet, Eleanor Turnbull; foliage, Sue Ghesquire; new or unusual house plant, Wendy White; prayer plant, Eleanor Turnbull.

Vegetables: animal from fruit or vegetables, youth, Rebecca Zimmer; older, Adam Zimmer; display, Adam Zimmer; carrots, youth, Cory Hill; adult, Ilene Chesterman; potatoes, S. Ghesquire; onions, F. Turnbull; beets, Ilene Chesterman; peppers, youth, Corey Hill; adult, Audrey Barnim; cabbage, S. Ghesquire.

Canning: raspberry jam, Joanne Rice; rhubarb-strawberry jam, Susan Ghesquire; strawberry, Lillian White; black currant, Lillian White; frozen raspberry jam, Bonnie Barnim; strawberry, Frances Turnbull; thimbleberry, Kathy Lawrence. Fruit: applesauce, Lillian White; peaches, Joanne Rice; pears, Lillian White. Pickles: beets, Doris Swance; sweet pickles, Audrey Barnim; dills, S. Ghesquire; bread and butter, Audrey Barnim. Relish: chili sauce, Henry Visser; hot dog, Audrey Barnim; corn, Audrey Barnim.

Domestic Science: brown bread, Lillian White; zucchini loaf, Audrey Barnim; pumpkin loaf, Doris Swance; banana loaf, Doris Swance; date and nut, Wendy White; bran muffins, F. Turnbull; blueberry muffins, Audrey Barnim; banana muffins, Audrey Barnim. Cookies and squares: date, Ilene Chesterman; brownies, F. Turnbull; peanut butter, A. Barnim; chocolate chip, Bonnie Barnim; oatmeal, Audrey Barnim. Cakes: carrot, Joanne Rice; chocolate, I. Chesterman; white, I. Chesterman; spice, Audrey Barnim.

Specials: mayor blueberry pie, Doris Swance; Ben Nunn raisin pie, Doris Swance; Ben Nunn raspberry pie, Doris Swance; E. Smith elderberry pie, Francis Turnbull; Beatrice Haley cherry pie, Doris Swance; Gil Rauw apple pie, Bonnie Barnim; Charlie Pettman pumpkin pie, Doris Swance.

Hay: Gordon Haley.

School exhibits: art, grade 1 April Smith; grade 2 Kim Wilson; grade 3 Jenny Clunas; grade 4 Jacob Friesen; grade 5 Jennifer Hill; grade 6 Melissa Justus; grade 7 Heather Picknell; grade 8 Warren Hird. Writing or printing: grade 1 Joseph Borges, grade 2 Mandi Lester; grade 3 Tara Storey; grade 4 Steven Sherman; grade 5 Kathryn Arthur; grade 6 Shawn Schut; grade 7 Nicole Rochus.



Shopping

These shoppers took advantage of some great bargains at the Norwich Museum yard sale over the

weekend. The weather was unpredictable however, and many of the articles had to be moved inside to avoid rain. (Photo By Anne Does)

History of Pleasant Valley

By JEFF TRIBE

In 1856 the property on which the lodge sits was purchased from Charles Hulet, to serve the North Norwich school section number 13.

On this site, a small red brick building was built and a well was dug to serve the property.

In 1875 more land was purchased in order to fill the property out to the south corner, and the present building was built by Dan Donald.

At that time, Mr. Donald gave his personal guarantee that the building would last 100 years and if it didn't, "they could come to his grave and settle with him."

Mr. Frith was the final teacher at the original school and Mrs. Emma Waring (nee Brearley) remembered the shift to the new school as a "very memorable day."

Agustus Bushell planted the first four maple trees in front of the school (one for each of his children) and Will Copeland later continued

this trend.

Throughout the building's long history it was used as a hall of education and also as a social centre for the area.

The December 11, 1884 edition of The Norwich Gazette reported that "An entertainment will be given at Pleasant Valley School House on Monday, Dec., 22, when a very attractive program will be presented, consisting of vocal and instrumental music, dialogues, recitations,

readings, etc., by local talent, assisted by the Ghent Family, Alex McFarlane esquire, Reeve of South Norwich and others.

The name Pleasant Valley was given to the school originally by Mr. Bartholamew, then the editor of the Norwich Gazette.

Being present at a school entertainment function, he noted it as being a "pleasant little valley," and thought that this would be an appropriate name.



Celebrating 25 years

Josephine Howse, Worthy Matron, Dorothy Durkee, the first matron to be installed in the current OES building, Lillian Oatman, who was the worthy matron when the building was purchased and Norm

McIntyre, this year's worthy patron pose at the 25th anniversary of the purchase of the OES building, which was formerly a school house. (Photo By Anne Does)

OES celebrate 25 years in present hall

The September meeting of the Norwich Chapter 175 Order of the Eastern Star, which are observing 25 years in the present O.E.S. hall, was held on Wednesday evening, September 10, in the chapter rooms with Worthy Matron Josephine Howse and Worthy Patron Carl Howse presiding in the east.

The meeting opened in short form and the flag was escorted to the east.

The introductions included members of the Grand Chapter committee-Margaret Pleili, and Eleanor Harris; Past District Deputy Grand Matrons-Sisters Helen Hewitt; Marion Fyfe; Irene Carter;

Dorothy Suddaby; Betty Knechtel; Betty Irvine; Viola Moore; Hester Walker and Lillian Oatman.

Presiding Matrons and Patrons, Mary Gerhard; Tony Pleili, of Delhi, Chapter, Barbara and David McArthur of Simeoe; Edna Smith of Scotland; Evan Thomas, Port Dover and Thomas Bertrand, of Tillsonburg.

Representative of South Dakota in Ontario, Sister Camielle Lambert also 10 past Matrons and four Past Patrons, the other visitors and members.

All were warmly welcomed by the Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by the secretary, Lillian Oatman.

Initiation for a new member followed, preformed by the Past District Deputies.

Reports of the committees were received.

The Benevolent Committee reported a donation of \$20 was made to a needy family.

The Sick and Flower Committee reported sending cards to several members, also sending flowers to several members who had recently been bereaved.

A donation of \$100 was made to the

Worthy Grand Matron's project, Diabetes.

Sister Barbara McArthur gave a short address and wished the new officers success in the New Year.

Brother Tom Bertrand thanked the Chapter for requesting him to assist in the initiation.

Meeting closed in regular form and the Past District Deputies presented a skit, which was enjoyed by all.

A social hour and lunch followed in the banquet hall.

Resignations accepted by Township Council

By ANNE DOES

Township of Norwich Council accepted the resignations of F. Eric Mannell and Dr. Russell Hall from the Medical Centre Advisory Committee, at council's meeting, Tuesday.

The two men resigned after a dispute between the committee and council regarding rent increases made several weeks ago.

The committee had recommended the following increases for tenants of the building: Dr. Hall, from \$240 to \$260; Dr. Westmacott, from \$240 to \$260; Dr. Ferraro, from \$240 to \$260; MDS Laboratories, from \$200 to \$220; the Oxford County Health Unit, from \$110 to \$120, and Dr. Clapp from \$125 to \$135 per month.

Council decided however, to raise the rents paid by Dr. Hall, Dr. Westmacott and Dr. Ferraro from \$240 to \$400 per month.

The rent paid by MDS Laboratories was raised from \$200 to \$300 and the rent of the Oxford County Health Unit was raised from \$110 to \$150. Dr. Clapp's rent was raised by \$25.

The committee learned of the increases via the media and not from council.

In an interview following Tuesday's meeting, Mayor John Heleniak said, "I am disappointed that they submitted their resignations, both individuals have served on the committee...Mr. Mannell was responsible for the Medical Centre coming to Norwich. However, I respect their judgement and their reasons."

In a telephone interview Monday evening, Mr. Mannell said that in previous years, council had always agreed with the philosophy upon which the centre was founded.

That philosophy stated that the outstanding principal and interest on the building's loan should not be considered when calculating operating costs.

However, the new council view the situation in a different light.

Treasurer and deputy clerk Reg Saunders said with the previous rent rates of \$13,380 per year did not even cover such basic operating expenses as light, heat and water, which totalled \$17,343.04 for the year, resulting in "an automatic loss of \$3,963.04," for 1985, Mr. Saunders said.

When principal, interest and taxes are calculated as expenses, the total

loss to the township is \$8,932.66, even with the new rent increases, Mr. Saunders said.

Mayor John Heleniak said, "These are my interpretations of the feelings of council. It's hard to speak on behalf of each member, but council has asked me to respond."

"The council are proud of having this valuable facility in the township, and consider it to be an asset to the area. However, we are reviewing the operating costs and the municipality has had to contribute to them. We have reviewed the impact of the costs on the rest of the township as a whole and subsequently have reviewed the rents and decided they could be raised considerably."

Even with the raise, the current rent rate remains competitive with the rates charged in the private sector, he said.

"The Medical Centre provides basically a service to the Village of Norwich. There is a cone of influence to the area surrounding the village, but the cone doesn't take in the whole township, but all the taxpayers in the township are required to pay for the operating costs."

Rent hike may close Norwich health office

By ELIZABETH LEREVEREND

A rent increase at the Norwich office of the Oxford County Board of Health is considered out of line and the board has written to the township council in an effort to have it lowered.

Despite a recommended increase of 8 per cent from the Medical Centre Advisory Committee, the township raised rent on space the county board leases from \$110 to \$150 in July. Two committee members have resigned over the dispute.

In a letter to township council, Jim Battin, Oxford County health board chairman, asked for a rent increase of 4 per cent, which is what the Ministry of Health provides as a yearly funding increase, said county medical officer of health Dr. Cecile Rochard.

If township council turns down the request to reduce the rent increase, the board will have two choices - leave or pay the increase, Dr.

Rochard said. If the increase is paid, the ministry will be approached to cover its 75 per cent share of the board's budget and the county will have to pay the other 25 per cent of the increased cost, Dr. Rochard said.

If the office closes, the board will either look for another site for its satellite branch or work out of the Ingersoll or Tillsonburg offices, Dr. Rochard said. The board is monitoring use of the Norwich satellite office to see if it is feasible to continue renting office space there.

The board's satellite office, which operates out of Alexandra Hospital in Ingersoll, may have to relocate temporarily while renovation work goes on. However, some board members felt a letter received from executive director R.F. Bryant at its Oct. 9 meeting indicated it may be time to look for alternative rental space for the Ingersoll branch.

Garbage smugglers pose a problem

By ANNE DOES

Garbage smugglers are proving to be a problem for Roy Burnett of Burnett Sanitation Ltd.

Mr. Burnett is responsible for garbage pick up in Norwich Township and he said residents sometimes try to sneak metal objects into their garbage, which damages his truck.

Repairs to the truck can be costly and because it is made of hot weld steel, "you can't just weld on to it."

Since Mr. Burnett purchased a new truck he said "I already have a gouge in the bucket. I haven't even had it for three weeks."

Deputy Clerk and treasurer Reg Saunders said the yearly rate for sanitation services in the Township is \$95,000.

At the moment, residents who wish to dispose of non-household garbage can take the garbage to the sanitary landfill site in Salford themselves.

However, Councillor Mark Harrison said he was under the impression that certain types of garbage, such as refrigerators, or large metal drums, were being refused by dump attendants.

Mr. Burnett said he would be willing to pick up the non-household items on a special run.

"I wouldn't receive one a month, every three or six months should be sufficient."

Mr. Burnett also said that farmers get extra garbage service for their dollar.

"Tobacco farmers for example may have another 10 or 12 people working there, creating (garbage)."

"And dairy farmers have those feed sacks (picked up)."

However, September and October's steady rain levels have done nothing to improve driving conditions at the dump site for residents who do wish to dispose of their own garbage.

Mr. Burnett said, "Give the county boys credit...They have a long way to go, but they're learning."

He also said it has been raining for five weeks, making maneuvering in the dump site difficult.

Councillor-at-large Helen Smith said perhaps council needed to issue an announcement to clarify what garbage can be picked up by Mr. Burnett.

Mr. Burnett said he has already issued his own announcement, instructing residents of which side of the road to place their garbage on, after a near collision with an oncoming car.

Legal Notices

Township of Norwich

TENDER

(To supply a new Police Cruiser (Mini-Van)

Sealed tenders will be received by the undersigned until noon, Friday, October 31st, 1986 for the supply of a 1987 Police Cruiser (Mini-Van). Specifications available at the Township of Norwich Police Office. Tenders must be sealed and marked as to contents. Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Robert R. Knight
83 Main St. W.
Norwich, Ontario
NOJ 1P0

TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH

FALL CLEAN-UP COMMENCING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14th, 1986

Garden refuse and brush for collection in the Village of Norwich must be placed in the boulevard for collection not later than 7:00 A.M. on the above date.

The truck will pass along the route **ONCE ONLY**. No telephone calls will be accepted.

Earth, masonry and any refuse from building repairs or construction will not be picked up.

NOTE that **NO** refuse or brush shall be placed on any street or lane other than the above date scheduled prior to 48 hours as it will be in violation of By-Law No. 34-85, Section 5.5.

AGRICULTURE & WORKS COMMITTEE

Council turns down request for lower hall rental rates at Friday teen dance

By ANNE DOES

A delegation of members from the Springford Otterville Opti-Mrs. Club requested a decrease in the hall rental fee they are charged for their Thursday and Friday night Teen Dances, at Township of Norwich Council, Tuesday evening.

They were turned down by council, who did not wish to set a precedent by deviating from their established policy on rental rates.

Mrs. Linda Cheney, president of the club said in a presentation to council, "We are trying to keep them (costs) at a reasonable cost. The dances are safe, inexpensive and fun events."

There is not much for teenagers to do in the area, she said.

The former rate charged the club was \$35, although the current rate is \$100, \$50 on Thursday evenings.

The club did try holding the dances on Thursday evenings, when a Professional Association (PA) day was held on the following Friday.

However, problems arose because many of the teenagers attending the dance came from different schools and the PA days did not correspond.

"It is also hard to chaperone on Thursdays because adults have to work," she said.

Marion Dowds, who is not a member of the club, but whose children attend the dances, said, "I have two children who attend the dances. There is not enough income from what the kids pay at the dances (the club asks for \$1)."

Mrs. Dowds also pointed out that the hall was used 10 years ago by Brownies at no cost.

However, Clerk, Robert Watkins said those financial arrangements are available only to chartered youth groups (non profit).

"Older kids that are 10 and up deserve our support here in the community without having to drive anywhere," Mrs. Dowds said.

Councillor-at-large Helen Smith also pointed out that offering a reduced rate for teen dances might conflict with a party who wanted the hall at the regular rate.

"If someone wants to rent the hall at a regular rate, I don't think we could give the hall (to the Opti-Mrs. at a reduced rate)."

Mrs. Smith also said she faced a similar problem when approached by Jack Parker, principal of Norwich District High School.

Mr. Parker offered a work crew to come in and set everything up in preparation for an awards banquet for honor students to be held early in November.

His request for a reduced rate was not granted.

The possibility of renting a school or gym was also discussed, but Mrs. Cheney said she did not think either of those two prospects would be feasible.

The club also has to pay a deejay \$100 per evening.

Councillor Michael Oliver said, "We are trying to run this thing on a pay as you go basis."

In a later interview, Mrs. Cheney said the dances were started in 1985 with about 40 teenagers in attendance.

In a year they have more than doubled their attendance levels.

"We wanted to get the kids off the street," she said, adding that Otterville had little to offer in terms of real entertainment, and lacked a

Council had considered a motion which would allow the matter to be tabled until after a management policies meeting, but Councillor Robert Martin said, "The kids are getting a pretty good package here if they can afford \$100 for a deejay."

He then suggested that the Opti-Mrs. Club search for a cheaper deejay.

Councillor Lusk said "It's a tough call...I would hate to see the place empty."

To which Councillor Paul Wood

responded, "For \$35 a night for rent, it would be better empty, Norm."

Councillor Michael Oliver proposed that Clerk Watkins "hold off sending the letter (informing the Opti-Mrs. of council's decision) until after Halloween."

Otterville man stuck with bill for \$934.22

By ANNE DOES

Harvey Miller of Otterville has had more water in his basement than most people have in a life time.

Mr. Miller requested that Township of Norwich Council pay \$934.22 for expenses he incurred after pumping water out of his basement for 82 and a half hours.

An obstruction had blocked up a drain near Mr. Miller's home, causing the back up, but a dispute arose over whether or not the drain was owned by the municipality.

Mr. Miller apparently used a type of snake auger to find out what was plugging up the drain.

The water eventually reached the home of his neighbor but Mr. Miller said, "His home is only eight years old so it came in my basement first."

Councillor Norm Lusk said, "I saw someone digging out at the front of your property."

Mr. Miller said that the person digging was building inspector Doug Wilson.

He then clarified that it was Ox-

ford County staff who were doing the digging to determine the cause of the back up.

To which Councillor Lusk responded, "And there was no cost to you for that search?"

Mr. Miller then said, "I often wonder if the same thing happened to Doc Downing...if they would sit back and wait or jump in and do something."

Councillor Don Pettigrew said, "It is not cut and dried. Harv needs a little help here."

Councillor Larry Martin asked Mr. Miller why it took him so long to enlist help in solving the problem.

"What would anyone do?" Mr. Miller said.

Council decided not to pay for Mr. Miller's expenses because they said although they removed the obstruction that was blocking the drain located on John Street, another blockage contributed to Mr. Miller's dilemma, and was located on private property, thus it was not a municipal drain, or therefore, a municipal responsibility.

OTTERVILLE (C) - A delicious barbecue and social time was enjoyed by approximately 200 parents, teachers, children and Otterville residents, Wednesday evening at the Otterville Public School. The event provided an opportunity for everyone to become acquainted and have a tour of the new school facilities.

The completed renovations to the 1951 section of the school could be viewed. This included installation of new windows and insulation and the rebricking of the building to match the exterior of the new school.

Outdoor sports and games were enjoyed by the students and school staff and parents had a chance to socialize.

The evening was organized in coordination with the Otterville Parent-Teachers Association.

theatre or sports complex.

Deaths

DAISY LANORE ASH

Mrs. Daisy Lanore Ash, of R.R. 1, Otterville, passed away at Tillsonburg Memorial Hospital on Friday October 3, 1986, aged 79 years.

She was born in Middleton Township, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. James McMillen and was a life long resident of the area.

Mrs. Ash was a member of Norwich Baptist Church, The Friendship Club, of Delhi and the Blue Bird Club of Norwich.

She was predeceased by her husband Henry A. Ash in 1966.

Surviving are three daughters, Mrs. Ross (Marion) Chambers, Mrs. William (Rosalee) Wilson and Mrs. Glen (Joan) Avey all of R.R. 1, Otterville; one son, Henry of Toronto; one sister, Mrs. Pauline Gray of St. Thomas. Seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren also survive.

Rested at the Arn and Son Funeral Residence, Norwich, where the funeral service was held on Monday October 6 at 2 p.m., with Rev. David Houghland of Norwich Baptist Church officiating.

The bearers were, David Chambers, Tony Tanghe, Randy Avey, Larry Woodhouse, Wally Koswen and William Gray. Interment was in Delhi cemetery.

Obituary

Annie M. Godby

Funeral service for Annie Godby of 50 Main St., Otterville was held Wednesday, Oct. 22, 1986 at the Ostrander Funeral Home, Tillsonburg conducted by Rev. Charles Seed of the Otterville United Church.

A Violet Rebekah Lodge, 330, Otterville memorial service was held Monday at 7 p.m. under the direction of Noble Grand Violet Howse, Vice Grand Esther Smith and Chaplain Carl Howse.

Betty Walther sang Amazing Grace and In the Garden accompanied by Myra Claringbold.

Pallbearers were Bob Noels, Randy Noels, Brian Noels, Tim Noels, Jim Ryckman and Larry Hopkins.

Annie M. Godby

Annie M. Godby of 50 Main St., Otterville passed away at St. Joseph's Hospital, London, on Sunday, Oct. 19, 1986, in her 77th year.

Born in Tillsonburg, Oct. 11, 1910 the daughter of the late Cecil Godby and the former Mary McCurdy.

She was a member of the Violet Rebekah Lodge, 330, Otterville and the Otterville United Church.

Survived by one daughter, Mrs. Arlene Noels of London; seven grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren; one brother, Stewart Godby of Otterville; and two sisters, Mrs. Elizabeth Ryckman of Norwich and Mrs. William (Jean) Howard of RR 4, Brantford.

Predeceased by two sisters, Myrtle Hopkins and Mrs. Irene Pritchard.

Resting at the Ostrander Funeral Home, Tillsonburg were service will be held Wednesday Oct. 22, at 1:30 p.m. conducted by Rev. Charles Seed of the Otterville United Church.

Interment in Otter Cemetery, Otterville.

A Violet Rebekah Lodge, 330, memorial service will be held at 7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorial donations to the Ontario Heart and Stroke Foundation or the charity of your choice would be gratefully appreciated by the family.

Notes from Otterville

OTTERVILLE (C) - The Sunshine Club met at the home of Dorothy Neale on Oct. 23 with 10 members and one visitor, Velma Addison from British Columbia, present. Roll call, given by Marion Pettigrew, was name a vegetable you cook that is extra special.

Members were reminded the month of November is a showing of crafts at the library. Anyone wishing to contribute crafts should contact librarian Lurene McMullen.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Marion Pettigrew on Nov. 13.

OTTERVILLE (C) - The Lions Club annual Halloween party was held in the community hall, Otterville on Friday, Oct. 31.

Judges were Len Girard, Helen Gilmore and Dorothy Brayley.

Winners of the various categories were: boys, best dressed, 12 years and under, Jamie Davis; girls, best dressed 12 years and under, Allison Mudge; girls, best dressed 12 years and over, Heather Picknell. There were special prizes for all entrants: best dressed, Becky Arthur; best comic, Jeremy Finch; best costume, six years and under, Derrick Kunderman.

The Norwich-Otterville Lions Club has sponsored this annual party in Otterville for about 30 years. It appears that vandalism within the village has been at a minimum at Halloween during this time.

Summerville WI October meeting

The October meeting for Summerville WI was held at the home of Mrs. Evelyn Duffy.

The meeting was opened with The Opening Ode, Mary Stewart Collect and The Lord's Prayer.

Roll Call was answered by naming a hobby for your retirement years.

The motto was; If you wish to receive a friend, be one.

Mrs. Duffy gave a report on the fall board meeting she had attended.

We were reminded of the Spring board meeting and our organization is to bring a project valued between \$3 and \$5.

Mrs. Stanley Gehring announced the annual auction sale for South Norwich Historical Society.

Anyone with a Christmas hobby is asked to display them at our local library.

Also we were asked if there were any hobby the library could teach that we were interested in.

Mrs. Reg Walter, convener of citizenship, read a paper called What is a citizen, also one called Nobdoy else.

Mrs. Duffy read one called, Lets help.

The remaining evening was spent with a few lively games of euchre, with Mrs. Stanley Arthur being the winner.

The meeting closed in usual form and a social time was spent by all.

The November meeting will be held at Mrs. Gordon Gehring's.

OTTERVILLE (C) - The Leisure club met Wednesday, Oct. 25 at Woodlawn Adult Centre and opened with president Gladys Evans sharing a reading.

Members were reminded of the zone rally, Nov. 22 in Norwich. The Christmas dinner was tentatively set for Dec. 3.

Convener reports were given and birthday greetings expressed, with cake and ice cream served following the meeting.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, Nov. 5 and will be a potluck dinner at 12:30 p.m. at Woodlawn.

OTTERVILLE (C) - a very successful Halloween Tea was held by the Otterville St. John's Anglican Church Women on Friday, Oct. 31 at the parish hall.

Tea tables as well as a bazaar of craft, bake and penny tables with grab bags and draws by the St. John's Sunday school provided various activities of interest.

Otterville WMF

OTTERVILLE (C) - The Baptist Church Women's Missionary Fellowship of Otterville held its October meeting at the home of Marilyn Treffry.

Changing - Changing Not, was the topic chosen by the guest speaker, Gail Spencer. Three questions Ms. Spencer said we should ask ourselves are: As time goes on do we change? Should we change? Have we changed?

She said we need a solid rock such as a family to lean on during these changes. Jesus is our solid rock and we can depend on Him, He does not change.

Wilma Butler opened the meeting in prayer and presided for the business session. A special offering was taken for Hazel Wrigglesworth.

Jane Haggith and Hilda Stockman each gave a reading followed by the scripture Psalm 111 read by Marilyn Treffry.

Jane Haggith, Gail Spencer, Marilyn Treffry and Hilda Stockman sang a hymn.

Sunshine Club meeting held

OTTERVILLE (C) - The Sunshine Club met on Thursday, Oct. 9 at the home of Etta McSkimming with eight members present. The roll call, given by Dorothy Wardell was Do you think the name of our school should be changed? It was unanimously answered negatively.

Sick and shut-ins were remembered with cards and it was announced that the club's bake sale will be held at the Otterville Public Library on Saturday, Dec. 6.

Door prizes were won by Clara Webb of Tillsonburg and Grace Squance of Otterville. Winner of the Christmas stocking, provided by the Sunday school, was Julie DeWachter of Otterville.

Rev. W. Smith speaker at WMF meeting

OTTERVILLE (C) - Rev. William Smith, the chairman of the Sharing Way Relief and Development Committee of the Baptist Federation of Canada, was the guest speaker for the October meeting of the Otterville Baptist Church Women's Missionary Fellowship.

Mr. Smith who has recently travelled around the world in connection with his ministry, showed slides of the work being done in India. He gave a very interesting account of the developments of secondary roads and pipelines being constructed to aid people in outlying areas of Central India.

Since Mr. Smith's message was of interest to all ages, the husbands and families of the ladies were invited to attend.

Dorothy Hill was in charge of the meeting of which the theme was Thanksgiving. The scripture reading from Mark 16 was presented by Florence Hussey. Guest soloist was Bonnie Wallace of Adventure Land Ministries who accompanied herself on the guitar.

President, Wilma Butler presided for the business session. It was announced a special missionary offering will be taken at the November and December meetings.

Letters from Christian Service Centres of Woodstock and Hazel Wrigglesworth, missionary in the Philippines, were read. Mrs. Butler offered the missionary prayer.

A social time followed the meeting.

Leisure Club

OTTERVILLE (C) - The Leisure club met Wednesday, Oct. 25 at Woodlawn Adult Centre and opened with president Gladys Evans sharing a reading.

Members were reminded of the zone rally, Nov. 22 in Norwich. The Christmas dinner was tentatively set for Dec. 3.

Convener reports were given and birthday greetings expressed, with cake and ice cream served following the meeting.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, Nov. 5 and will be a potluck dinner at 12:30 p.m. at Woodlawn.

ACW name executive

OTTERVILLE (C) - The St. John's Anglican Church Women held their October meeting at the home of Lila Freeland with a good attendance.

Executive for the 1986-87 year, past president, Kay Darling; president, Evelyn Picknell; secretary, Lila Freeland; vice-president, and treasurer, Wenda Smith conducted the meeting.

Upcoming activities were discussed including the Halloween Tea, Friday, Oct. 31 from 1-3:30 p.m. with bazaar, crafts, door prizes and baked goods to be held at the parish hall.

Final plans were made for the annual beef supper to be held Sunday, Nov. 9 at 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. sittings.

The president reported on five tours served during the past two months. The meeting closed with grace.

Rummage sale

OTTERVILLE (C) - Though heavy rains prevailed, a very successful rummage sale was held Saturday, Oct. 4 by the St. John's Anglican Church Sunday school.

All support of donations, help and attendance was greatly appreciated.

Farm history topic of WI

SPRINGFORD (C) - Joyce Pettigrew gave an informative talk on the history of her farm at the September meeting of the Springford Women's Institute held in the Institute hall.

In 1800, William Fitzgerald, a wealthy land speculator, purchased the land. He sold it to one William Weeks, who in turn sold it to Samuel Thompson, who was a traitor in 1812. In 1827, Anaes Wilcox purchased the land then sold it to Martin Quartermass, who built a house a little east of where the older house now stands, just west of Springford. Charlotte Quartermass, daughter of Martin, married a Sylvester Harris in 1837 and in 1843 they bought the land keeping it until 1891 when a Mr. Fleming acquired it. In 1953 the Pettigrews purchased the land and erected a new house in 1967.

Nancy Lester presided at the business meeting. Lillian White conducted a historical contest.

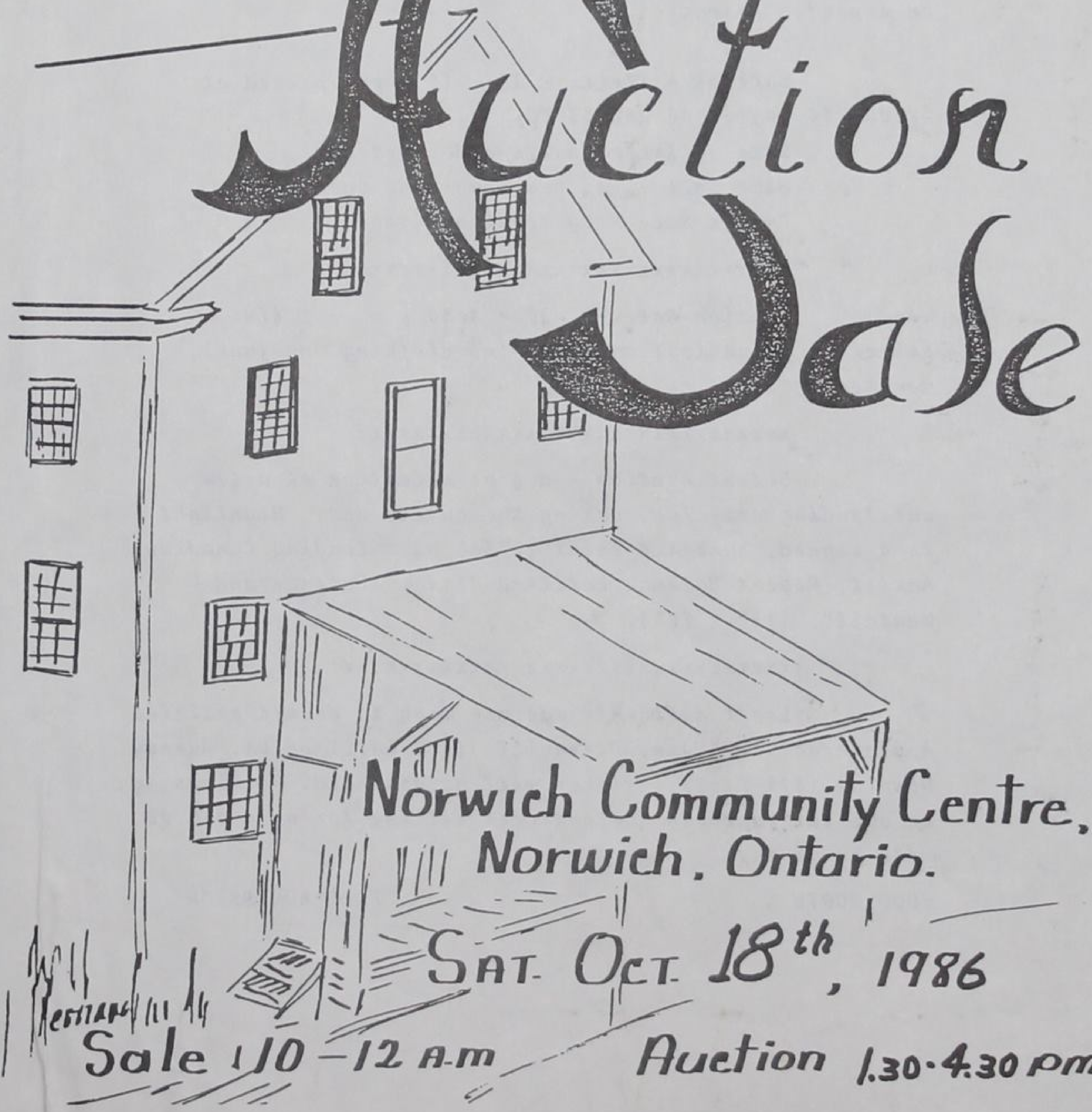
It was announced the Oxford South District Bake Sale will be held on Oct. 3 in the Town Centre mall. The London area convention is Oct. 16 and 17 at Ukraina Club, London. On Oct. 8 a short order meal course is scheduled at OMAF boardroom, Woodstock, from 1 to 4 p.m. The Ross and Ruby Butler banquet will be held Oct. 24 at the Fairview Centre in Woodstock. Tickets can be obtained from Nancy Lester.

The next meeting will be Oct. 16 at the home of Lorraine Downing.

SOUTH NORWICH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

4TH
Annual

Auction Sale



Norwich Community Centre,
Norwich, Ontario.

SAT. OCT. 18th, 1986

Sale 110-12 A.M.

Auction 1.30-4.30 P.M.

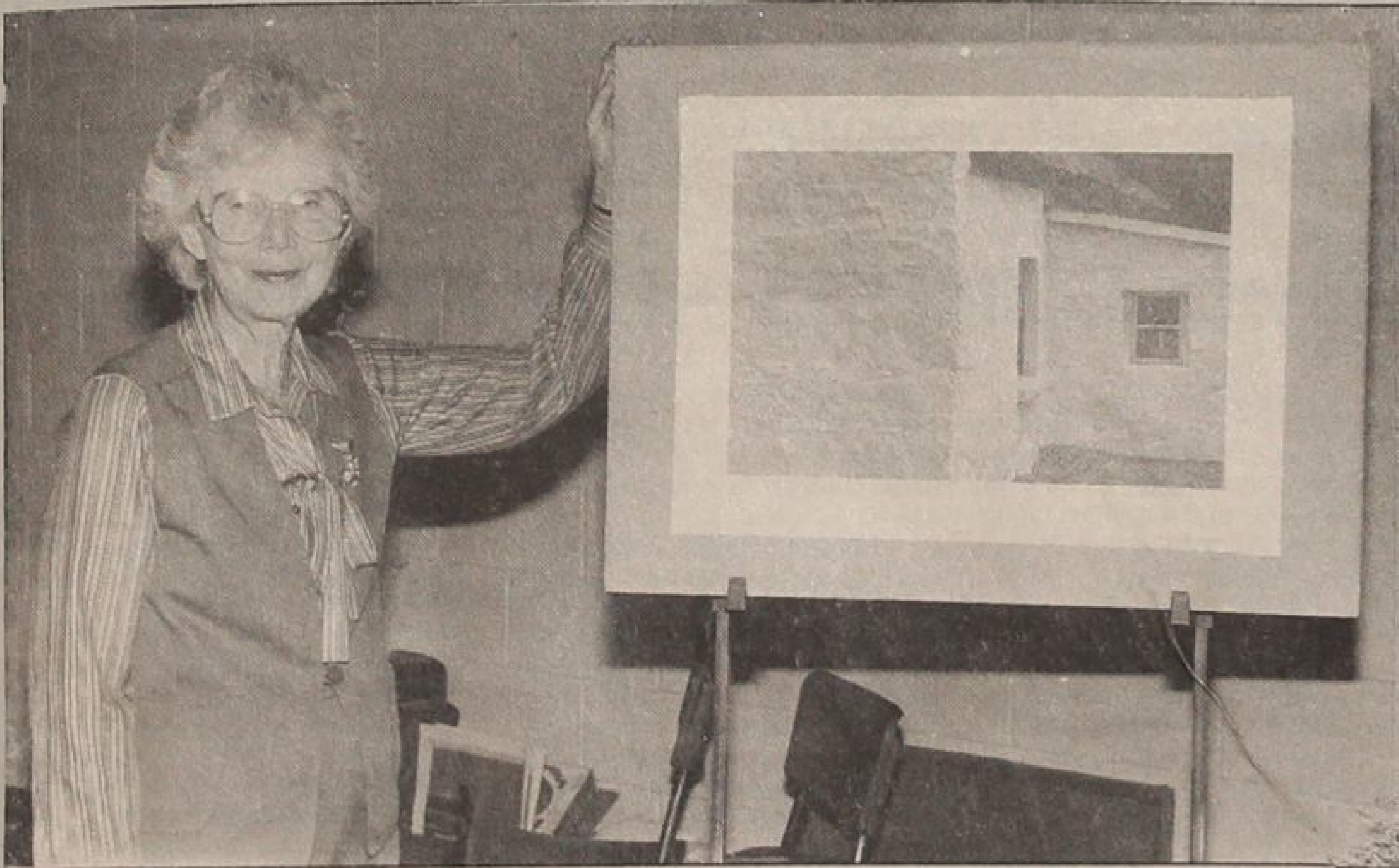
— South Norwich Historical Society Annual Auction, Saturday, Oct. 18, Norwich Community Centre. Donations greatly appreciated. Flea market, produce, bake and craft sale, 10-12 noon, auction 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Proceeds for Otterville Mill restoration.



Silent auction

Lorraine Downing of the South Norwich Historical Society, poses with a few of the select articles which

will be featured at a silent auction this Saturday. (Jeff Tribe Photo)



Prized print

Wilma Butler poses with the Irish Cottage and Wagtail print by Robert Bateman, which was auctioned on at a silent auction by the South Norwich

Historical Society, Saturday. The print was seventh out of a series of 56 and Dr. J. Narancsik of Otterville, was the eventual winner. (Photo By Anne Does)

Fund-raising auction a success

With a supportive crowd on hand, Saturday's auction to raise funds for the ongoing restoration work at Otterville's historic Treffry mill was termed a success.

The silent auction was particularly popular, with a Robert Bateman

print as the featured item. Top bid on the print came from Dr. J. Narancsik of Otterville.

Draw for a ceramic Christmas music box, painted and donated by Jean Davis, was won by Don Pettigrew of Springford.

The committee expressed its thanks to the community for the donations and for support at the auction.

Dr. Murray Downing is chairman of the mill restoration committee.

Norwich-Otterville Lions needs new blood

Norwich-Otterville Lions Club regular meeting was held Tuesday October 14, at the Norwich Curling Club, with a delicious dinner served by the Norwich and District Figure Skating Club.

Thirty eight Lions and two guests were in attendance.

Lion, Colin Cope, Deputy District Governor of Region 4, made this meeting his official visitation to his home club.

Lion Colin's address emphasized

membership - both retention and recruiting new members.

For Lionism to continue uninterrupted, it is necessary to keep adding new members to compensate for loss of old and some not so old members; some of which could be prevented.

Others retire because of age and/or health reasons.

A general discussion following his comments indicated the present members generally agree it is

necessary to have new members immediately involved to hold interest in Lionism.

Lion chief Gary Walther presented Lion Colin with his 100 per cent attendance pin for 1985-86.

Lion Colin, as District Deputy Governor, then presented 21 other Lion members with their perfect attendance pins.

Lion, Dr. Murray Downing received his 40th perfect attendance pin.

Lion Murray also gave a brief account of his visit to Lions International headquarters at Oakbrook Ill., on his recent trip to the West.

He was very impressed with the building and the reception he received.

Lion Grant Orth urged the members to continue promoting the sale of tickets to the annual Fish Fry to be held on October 25.

Tickets available from all Lions. New Years Eve tickets are also available from Lion members now.

The Fall Rally will be held at Tillsonburg Wednesday, October 29.

A good attendance of local Lions is requested to support Lion Colin in his bid for Governor next year.

Father Flynn of the Flying Fathers will be the guest speaker.

Lion Andre Vandenberghe reported that the instruction of Cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, (CPR) will be continued on a local level this winter.

Anyone interested should get in touch with a Lion member.

A Blood Donor Clinic will be held Monday, November 3, at the Community Centre.

All healthy people from 16 to 65 are urged to attend.

There is always a shortage of blood.

A representative from Kid Print will be invited to speak at a future meeting to better acquaint the club with their program.

Convention draw was won by Lion Bob Scott.

Norwich - Otterville Lions Club

OTTERVILLE (C) - The regular meeting of the Norwich-Otterville Lions Club was held in the community hall, Otterville with 33 members and one guest present. President Gary Walther was in charge.

Prior to the meeting all members met at the Otterville United Church for their annual turkey supper.

Verna Verge of Ingersoll district was the guest speaker. She spoke on Kid's Print, a means of helping to identify some of the large number of missing children. Finger prints, picture, child's profile, etc. are taken and filed, all confidential. Information may later be of great assistance to police investigations.

This project also works in conjunction with other agencies working

towards the safety of children. Children are taught how to use outside pay phones for emergency numbers. The program covers fifteen areas of children's instructions in street proofing such as Block Parents, remembering licence numbers, etc. parents are also instructed in the program.

It was reported Legion wreaths would be obtained by the club for the annual remembrance services in Norwich and Otterville.

The annual veteran's night will be held in the Norwich Legion Hall, Monday, Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. Lion members and veterans are encouraged to invite as many area veterans as possible.

Grant Orth reported the annual club fish fry on Oct. 25 was well attended and again successful.

At the Churches

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN

OTTERVILLE (C) - The 12th Sunday of Pentecost was celebrated at the church with the theme of Harvest Thanksgiving. Lila Freeland accompanied the senior and junior choirs.

Rev. Grant Darling's theme was Faith. His sermon further expanded on the meaning of faith in our lives.

Offering was received by Jack Freeland and Art Davies followed by the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

The service closed with hymn.

RUMMAGE SALE FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

OTTERVILLE (C) - Though heavy rains prevailed, a very successful rummage sale was held Saturday, Oct. 4 by the St. John's Anglican Church Sunday school.

All support of donations, help and attendance was greatly appreciated.

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

OTTERVILLE (C) - The St. John's Anglican Church Women held their October meeting at the home of Lila Freeland with a good attendance.

Executive for the 1986-87 year, past president, Kay Darling; president, Evelyn Picknell; secretary, Lila Freeland; vice-president, and treasurer, Wenda Smith conducted the meeting.

Upcoming activities were discussed including the Halloween Tea, Friday, Oct. 31 from 1-3:30 p.m. with bazaar, crafts, door prizes and baked goods to be held at the parish hall.

Final plans were made for the annual beef supper to be held Sunday, Nov. 9 at 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. sittings.

The president reported on five tours served during the past two months. The meeting closed with grace.

OTTERVILLE FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday, October 5 began with an open joint session as the children sang and then our guests for the week, Jerry and Bonnie Wallace ministered in music, chalk drawing and a Bible story.

Bob Marshall led the morning worship.

Scripture reading was taken from Joshua 2:1-24.

Pastor Bull spoke on faith in unlikely places.

Rahab was a prostitute in Jericho who had faith.

She believed in Israel's God and showed her faith by helping Israel's spies.

She repented of her past lifestyle and married, had a family of whose descendants came Jesus.

God can also deliver us and He wants us to obey him and demonstrate our faith.

As James says, faith without works is dead.

Mr. Jerry Wallace presented a Bible story to the children at the front of the church before they were dismissed to children's church.

Mrs. Bonnie Wallace ministered in special music accompanied by her guitar.

Offering was received by Dave Hill and Chris Haggith.

Pianist was Wilma Butler.

The Lord's table was observed following the service.

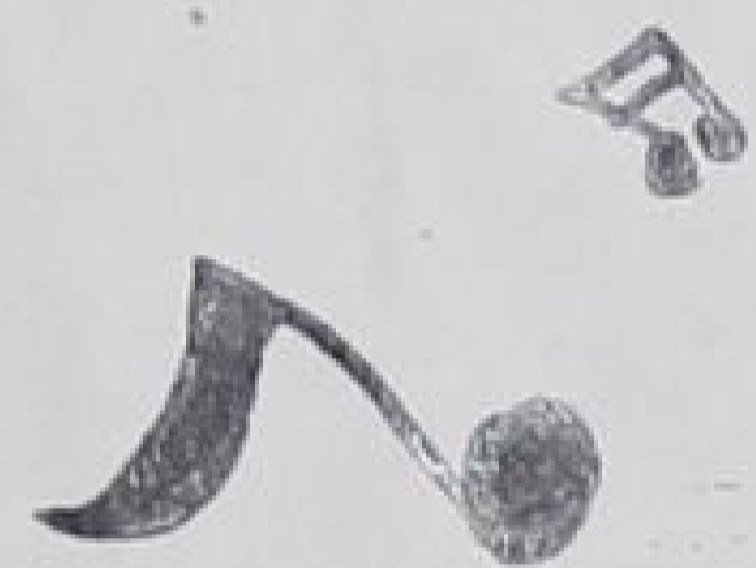
Jerry and Bonnie Wallace will be holding children's meetings from 4 p.m. on October 6-9 with singing, chalk drawings and bible stories.

OTTERVILLE FIREFIGHTER'S

FISH FRY



DANCE



MUSIC BY



Disc Jockey
Don McMullen



PLACE **TOWN HALL**

DATE **OCT., 18/86**

PRICE **\$ 10.00** PER PERSON

Older standbys still tasty

By Shirley Glendinning

OTTERVILLE — Quilting is a hobby that Anna Treffry finds takes up a good part of her time these days. The well-known Otterville lady is currently busy quilting crib covers to be auctioned off at the South Norwich Historical Society Sale on October 18.

As well, Anna and a number of other members of the United Church Women of this small village, quilt on request. Other ladies bring along the top design portion of the quilt and the quilters stuff and back the top. This particular craft is usually carried out in the winter months.

Mrs. Treffry is a life member of both the Otterville Women's Institute and the UCW. She also is active with the Rebekah Lodge and the South Norwich Historical Society.

Anna and husband Lorne were on a general farm before moving to Otterville in 1955 where Lorne operated the feed mill until the early 1980s.

Anna has submitted four family favourite recipes. However, she doesn't consume much fat or sugars these days for the good of her health.

OATMEAL PIE

¼ cup butter
½ cup brown sugar

½ tsp. cinnamon
½ tsp. cloves
¼ tsp. salt
1 cup corn syrup
3 eggs
1 cup quick cooking oatmeal
½ cup chopped pecans
1 unbaked 9-inch pastry shell

Mix together the butter, brown sugar, cinnamon, cloves and salt. Add corn syrup. Add eggs, one at a time, whipping up mixture after each addition. Mix in oatmeal and pecans. Pour into pastry shell. Bake at 350 degrees F. for 1 hour or until knife comes out clear.

LEMON LOAF

½ cup butter or margarine
1 cup sugar
2 eggs
grated rind of 1 lemon
1½ cups sifted all-purpose flour
½ cup milk
1 tsp. baking powder
dash of salt
chopped nuts to taste, optional
½ cup sugar (second amount)
juice of 1 lemon

Cream butter and first sugar together. Beat in eggs and lemon rind. Sift flour with baking powder and salt. Add to creamed mixture alternately with milk. Turn batter into greased loaf pan and bake at 350 degrees F. for about 45 minutes or until done. Immediately after removing loaf from oven, spoon over it a mixture of ½ cup sugar and the juice from one lemon. (First prick surface of loaf with toothpick or fork lines, if desired, before pouring lemon juice over).

Let stand in pan to cool and absorb lemon juice. Serve sliced with or without butter.

MEAT LOAF

2½ lb. minced beef
2 cups bread crumbs
1 cup milk
½ cup grated carrot
½ cup chopped onions
2 tsp. salt
¼ tsp. pepper
2 eggs
TOPPING
½ cup catsup
½ cup brown sugar
3 tsp. prepared mustard

Soak bread crumbs in milk a few minutes before combining all ingredients for meat loaf. Place in meat loaf pan. Spread topping overtop. Bake 1½ hours at 325 degrees F.

O'HENRY BARS

4 cups rolled oats
¾ cup melted butter
1 cup brown sugar
½ cup corn syrup
3 tsp. vanilla extract
TOPPING
1 cup chocolate chips
1 cup peanut butter

Mix first 5 ingredients and put in a 9 by 13-inch greased pan. Bake 10 minutes at 350 degrees F. Cool. Put topping ingredients in a sauce pan and melt chips. Pour over rolled oat base. Cut into squares.

Mapleview

News

September 7, was Grandparents Day and pot luck picnic with 60 family members present at Maple View Retirement home.

It was also the birthday of one of the residents, Esther Schell.

On September 12, a ministerial association meeting was held to discuss holding church services on a regular weekly basis at the Home. No decision was made.

On Sept. 19 they advised the home they would only hold meetings on Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.

Rides will be provided to and from the Churches each month.

Archie Durling, a resident of the home, is a patient in Woodstock Hospital, where he is progressing favorably and would appreciate visitors.

Maple View will be holding their first fund raising program for activities at the Home and will be selling a house holder book for Christmas.

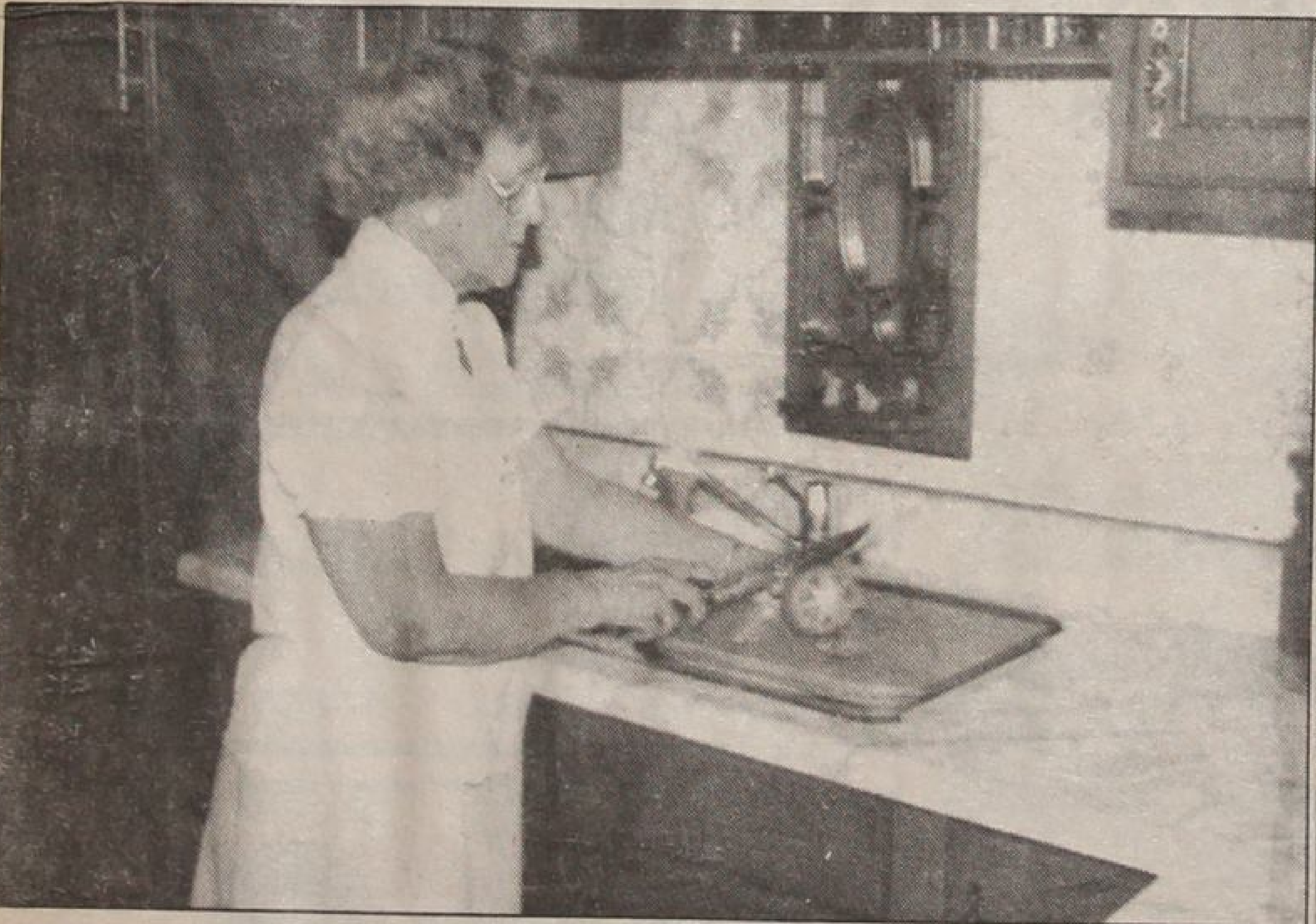
They appreciate their sponsors from Otterville and Norwich.

The home is still looking for volunteers to take part in activities, walks, games, bingo or just spending some time with the residents.

On October 11 at 1 p.m., the residents are going to see the beautiful colored leaves.

Rides are needed.

Anyone interested please call Pat Crane at the Retirement Home at: 863-3961.



Anna Treffry cuts a tomato from her Otterville garden which those who see it would take for the "Beefsteak variety." However the large tomato is called "Big Boy."

Historical Society meet

OTTERVILLE (C) - The South Norwich Historical Society met at the Woodlawn Adult Centre on Nov. 10 for their annual potluck supper and November meeting.

Following the meal, the regular meeting was held with President Ken Mann in charge. After reports and the selection of a nominating committee Betty Walther led in singing.

Mary Murray gave some background information on a recently published book, Blaine's Way, written by Monica Hughes of Calgary. Mrs. Hughes tells the story of a boy growing up in the 30s in the Cornell and Norwich communities. Although names are changed it is based on actual fact and will be of interest to many in this area. A few episodes from the book were read and the book is on sale at the Norwich Archives.

Joyce Pettigrew followed the talk with a presentation of a series of slides showing various events connected with the historical society since its beginning almost 10 years

ago. Such events as Spring Fair held in 1976 and floats entered in the 1977 parade were shown as well as several views of the mill prior to the recent restoration. Mrs. Pettigrew also had a number of aerial photos of the area.

Mrs. Downing gave a brief outline of activities planned for the official opening of the restored mill next July.

There will be no December meeting of the society.

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders Fields

Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands, we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep.
Though poppies grow
In Flanders Fields.

Springford may get new hall

By ANNE DOES

It looks like Springford will be receiving their long awaited meeting hall, if all goes according to plan.

Members of the Springford Building Committee have received notification that a grant of \$6,250 has been approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Rural Organizations and Services Branch.

The grant is based on 25 per cent of the amount of money raised by the committee.

A number of months ago, \$30,000 was set aside by the Township of Norwich Council for the building project, but council then voted against funding the project in May.

At that time, \$15,000 had been raised by Springford residents and the building committee had set a \$65,000 ceiling level on costs.

Councillor Don Pettigrew, who has supported the project since its inception, said in an interview Monday, that "the project has been ongoing for four years."

The present structure was erected in 1925 and has no washroom or parking facilities, he said.

"A pledge campaign raised in excess of \$15,000," Coun. Pettigrew said, adding that the \$30,000 grant from the municipality that was applied last spring when the building committee unsuccessfully applied for a Wintario grant, would be reapplied.

"The project is very close to becoming reality," Coun. Pettigrew said.

Bea Nunn, secretary of the Springford Area Agriculture Society, said the OMAF grant was based on the society's projection of donations,

plus what they currently have in their account.

However, the society still needs 100 feet of property located in Springford, near the site of Lawrence's Woodworking.

Mrs. Nunn said the society examined every possibility before deciding on erecting a new building.

"We would have been interested in moving the (existing) building if it was feasible, but it is just not feasible," she said, adding that the new structure would have to be equipped with a parking area and washroom facilities.

The proposed hall, once completed, will measure 2,038 square feet and may potentially be located on the park site in Springford.

The land on which the hall may be located was purchased by council for \$20,000.

Last May, the Norwich Gazette reported that certain members of council had reservations about the building committee's ability to off-

set any potential maintenance costs or overall deficits.

Christmas Bazaar held

OTTERVILLE (C) - Saturday, Nov. 29 the First Otterville Brownie Pack held their annual Christmas Bazaar at the Otterville Community Hall. There were many things available with bake, craft and penny tables being offered.

Door prize and draw winners were Rick Brayley, Ken Mudge, Elizabeth Monsere, Charlotte Mudge, Lorraine Downing, Marilyn Walgraeve and Becky Monsere.

The support of everyone through donations and attendance was greatly appreciated.

The Otterville Brownie Pack, during the fall, enjoyed a Brownie family trip to the Pioneer Village at Mount Brydges. The day's outing was enjoyed by all and another trip is being planned by the group for the near future.

Leisure Club meets

OTTERVILLE (C) - The Leisure Club, which met at Woodlawn Adult Centre, held election of officers for 1987 with president Gladys Evans in charge. The new executive is Past President: Annie Pritchard; President: Gladys Evans; Secretary: Vera Welsh; Treasurer: Violet Cole; Kitchen Supply: Gladys Evans; Kitchen Helpers: Stella Myerscough, Edna Mudge, Ella Wiederick; Cards: Grace Squance; Program: The Membership.

Donations were made to the Salvation Army and the Rick Hanson, Spinal Cord Research.

Get well cards were sent to

Calyton Gilmore, Harold Durkee, Ann Arthur, Tune McNally in the hospital and to Ethel Arthur, Violet Cole and Alice DeGraeve at home. The members were asked to send cards to Laura Pettigrew, a resident in Caressant Nursing Home, St. Thomas.

Birthdays for the month were Amy Cowie, Jim Squance and Isabell Tinknel. All enjoyed birthday cake and ice cream.

The next meeting, the Christmas dinner will be held Wednesday, December 3 at the United Church at 12:30 p.m. with those interested to contact Violet Cole.

Summerville WI

A day without a crisis is a total loss, was the motto of the November meeting of the Summerville Women's Institute.

Grace Gehring gave the motto and read, Don't Play With Plastic (credit cards), The Quiet Heart and Don't Blame Advertising on High Cost. June Ash read two humorous poems, St. Peter At the Gate and Ode to Grandmothers.

Mrs. Joe Duffy, acting as president, opened the meeting. Roll call was answered with How does TV advertising affect your buying.

Summerville WI was asked to have a member help in the country store at the County Conference, Woodstock and Anna Treffry and Mrs. Duffy attended.

Betty Walther gave a report on the London Area Convention

The Christmas meeting will be held Dec. 2 at 6:30 p.m. in Woodlawn Adult Centre. It will be potluck and each lady is reminded to bring a \$2 article for the penny table.

At the Churches

OTTERVILLE FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday November 2, Sunday school was held for all ages followed by morning worship at 11 a.m.

Bob Marshall gave the call to worship from James 5:7-11.

Scripture reading was taken from Colossians 1:1-23.

There are many false christs and false teachings today.

Even in our own neighborhoods, people try to lead us astray through literature, television, radio etc.

We need to know the truth of the scriptures to be stable.

The Apostle Paul was motivated by prayer.

Just as he did, we can pray for those we don't even know.

We need to pray that we would be filled with God's wisdom and understanding of the scriptures.

We'll have a worthy life if we know Him and His will more.

Jesus is our commanding officer and we are to strive to please Him, not ourselves.

We're to have joy for what Christ has done for us and give thanks.

If we want to be part of the kingdom and God's inheritance, we have to come through Jesus Christ. If we're Christians, why don't we obey our master?

Offering was received by Chris Haggith and Alex Davis.

Pianist was Wilma Butler.

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN

OTTERVILLE (C) - A special dedication service was held at St. John's Anglican Church on Sunday.

A new stained glass window was dedicated, depicting St. John, the patron saint of the church. The window was donated by Nellie Hyndman in memory of Henry and Fred Bullock, donors of the present St. John's church; Rev. Frank Vair, first rector and Elizabeth Robarts, first organist of the present church.

A window of St. Lydia was also dedicated in memory of all the women of St. John's parish who served through the years.

The theme of the service was Humility and Lila Freeland was organist.

Scripture readings were taken from the book of Sirac, St. Paul's second letter to Timothy and Psalm 3 read responsively.

Rev. Darling stressed that God hears the cry of the humble.

Offering was received by Jack Freeland and Ross McMullen.

Announcements: Nov. 1 - A special combined parish service of Confirmation with Bishop Robert Townsend at St. John's Anglican Church at 11:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN

OTTERVILLE (C) - A special combined service of the congregations of St. Alban's Anglican Church, Delhi and St. John's Anglican Church, Otterville was held at Otterville to celebrate Holy Communion, Holy Confirmation and Renewal of Baptism vows. Conducting the service were celebrant, The Rt. Rev. C. Robert Townsend, Father Grant D. Darling and Bishop's Chaplain Carl Howse.

Church organist, Lila Freeland provided music for the service and accompanied the combined church choirs for the anthem.

Scripture readings were Jeremiah 31: 31-34 read by Audrey Neumann, Psalm 139: 1-9 sung responsively, Romans 12: 1-8 read by Joyce McMullen and St. Luke 4: 16-21 read by Bishop Townsend.

The Bishop's sermon was entitled The Second Mile emphasizing the importance of true service.

Confirmation candidates, Art Davies, Gladys Davies, Ross McMullen, Joyce Mc Mullen, Karen Hardy and Marg Saunders received the Laying on of Hands by Bishop Townsend who also conducted Renewal of Baptism vows for those of the congregation who wished to be recipients.

Prayers were lead by Hazel Osborne and offering was received by Jack Freeland, August DeWachter, Roy Hardy and Glen Wilbur.

The Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Bishop Townsend, Rev. Darling and the congregation after which the service closed with hymn.

A time of refreshment and fellowship in the parish hall served by the St. John's Anglican Church Women followed the service. Bishop Townsend presented confirmation certificates at this time.

The Boards of Management met at St. Alban's during the afternoon with Bishop Townsend, followed by a parish potluck supper in St. Alban's Hall.

Life in a changing world

OTTERVILLE (C) - The Baptist Church Women's Missionary Fellowship of Otterville held its October meeting at the home of Marilyn Treffry.

Changing - Changing Not, was the topic chosen by the guest speaker, Gail Spencer. Three questions Ms. Spencer said we should ask ourselves are: As time goes on do we change? Should we change? Have we changed?

She said we need a solid rock such as a family to lean on during these changes. Jesus is our solid rock and we can depend on Him, He does not change.

Wilma Butler opened the meeting in prayer and presided for the business session. A special offering was taken for Hazel Wrigglesworth.

Jane Haggith and Hilda Stockman each gave a reading followed by the scripture Psalm 111 read by Marilyn Treffry.

Jane Haggith, Gail Spencer, Marilyn Treffry and Hilda Stockman sang a hymn.

Sunshine Club members meet

decide to decorate with wreaths

OTTERVILLE (C) - The Sunshine Club met at the home of Marion Pettigrew, Nov. 13 with president Sandra Hussey in charge. The decision was made to make wreaths to decorate the main street of the

village for Christmas. The next meeting will be held at the home of Jean Dows on November 27. Lunch was served by Doreen Mountain and the hostess with courtesy remarks by Marg Shearer.

Norwich Otterville Lions meet

OTTERVILLE (C) - The regular meeting of the Norwich-Otterville Lions Club was held in the Burgessville United Church. Lion president, Gary Walther was in charge.

There were 31 members present and five guests including three members from the Courtland Lions Club. Another guest was Don Mitchell from the Nelson (BC) Lions Club, transferring to this club. Rev. Steven Cox, local minister, provided grace.

Bill Orth thanked the United Church Women for preparing an excellent turkey supper.

Letters of appreciation were read for the club sponsoring the veterans and Lions recent Remembrance

Day dinner and from David Jones, the club's boys' award winner at the recent Norwich District High School commencement. Lisa Andrews won the girls' award.

A report for the club sponsoring free bus service to the swimming pool in Otterville this past summer showed 766 children were transported, believed to be the greatest number in several years.

The club approved a donation to the recently re-opened Girl Guide Company in Norwich.

Blake Bexon, president of the Courtland Lions Club, expressed his club's thanks in attending this meeting and presented their club banner to Mr. Walthers.

The club will be taking part in the

annual Santa Clause Parade in Norwich, Dec. 6 at 1:30 p.m. and the Otterville Parade, Dec. 13.

Tickets are now available from all members for the Lions' New Year's Dance in the Norwich Community Centre. Free transportation will be provided for all desiring the service.

There will be an annual club Christmas Party in the Otterville Community Hall, Dec. 20, the convention prize was won by Bill Smith.

A tribute to the McSpaddens

SPRINGFORD (C) - The Oxford chapter of the United Church Renewal Fellowship showed their appreciation to God Sunday evening, Nov. 23, for the capable leadership He has given to the chapter through Sam and Elsie McSpadden.

Songs of praise were led by Hank Harley, Rev. Ralph Garbe and young people from Scotland.

Thanks to the McSpaddens for their faithfulness was offered by Dan Dugard of Brownsville, Al Smith of Norwich, Glen Duff of Dorchester, Rev. John Tweedie, executive director, of Brantford, Rev. Ralph Garbe, past chairmen of the UCRF board of directors, of

Scotland, and Rev. Charles Seed, pastor of Otterville and Springford United Churches.

Musical tributes were rendered by Karen McSpadden, daughter of the honored couple, and Melissa and Marcy Cowan.

Rev. Garbe drew our attention to the need to be spiritually fit day by day in wearing God's armor without and within the church and walking in His Spirit.

The benediction was given by Rev. David Steadman. Fellowship followed with everyone signing the guest book which was presented to Sam and Elsie. Cake, made and decorated by Lilian Broad, ice

cream and coffe were served by the Cowans and Barbara Wilson.

EARL HARVEY KING

At Woodstock General Hospital on Wednesday November 5, 1986, Earl Harvey King of Main Street, Otterville, in his 76th year.

Beloved husband of Florence (Griswold) King. Dear Father of Mrs. Douglas (Ruth Anne) Tomlinson of Norwich, Roy of Otterville. Grandfather of Danette Tomlinson of Norwich, Justin and Alicia King of Otterville. Brother of Mrs. Glen (Margaret) Edmonds and Mrs. William (Eleanor) Foster, both of Ingersoll, Mrs. Robert (Fern) Laekeman, R R 2 Scotland, Mrs. Thomas (Vera) Witts of Calabogie, Mrs. Jack (Violet) Eggett of London, Harold and Kenneth, both of R R 8 Woodstock, Leo of Thorndale, Aubrey of Ingersoll, Francais of Harley and Ernest of Woodstock.

Rested at the Arn and Son Funeral Residence where funeral service was held on Saturday November 8, 1986, Rev. Erwin Oliver officiating.

Interment in Otter Cemetery, Otterville

Opti-Mrs Club unhappy with council's

By ANNE DOES

Members of the Spring Otter Opti-Mrs. Club are unhappy with Township of Norwich Council's decision--made last Tuesday evening--not to lower hall rental rates for teen dances.

The dances began last year, and the Opti-Mrs. Club were charged \$35 per evening to rent the Otterville Community Hall.

However, the rate was raised to \$100 for Friday evenings; \$50 for Thursday nights. The club asks that teens pay \$1 for entry to the dances.

The women's group attempted to take advantage of the lower rate by holding dances on Thursday even-

ings, which preceeded a Professional Activity (PA) Day -- meaning children would not have to attend school the day following a dance.

This plan failed however, as children from different schools attend the dances and the PA days did not coincide.

After learning of council's decision, Mrs. Marie Hill, secretary of the club, approached the principal of Otterville Public School to inquire about the possibilities of renting the gymnasium for the dances.

Mrs. Hill said principal Cathy Murphy agreed to rent the gymnasium for \$5 per hour.

However, only students of Otterville Public School would be allowed to attend the dances.

That stipulation would prevent students from other areas of the township from attending.

"We don't want to segregate the kids into little groups," she said.

Mrs. Hill said the club was disappointed by council's decision and added, "A lot of people were surprised that we were turned down."

She also took exception with comments given by Councillor-at-large, Helen Smith and Councillor Paul Wood.

Mrs. Smith had said, "If someone wants to rent the hall at a regular

rate, I don't think we could give the hall (to the Opti-Mrs. at a reduced rate)."

Mrs. Hill said the club would be willing to cancel, or reschedule their dances to another available date if council were able to book the hall for the full fee of \$100.

Councillor Paul Wood had also argued that with heating and electricity expenses, it would make more financial sense to leave the hall closed than to rent it for \$35 per evening.

Mrs. Miller said the lights are usually off at the dances and "the kids generate so much body heat that we don't have to adjust the ther-

mostat."

She also took exception with Councillor Robert Martin's suggestion that the club search for a cheaper disc jockey.

She said the club pays three students \$80--not \$100 as the Opti-Mrs. had earlier reported--per dance.

Out of that \$80, \$30 goes towards equipment rental, leaving \$50 to be split three ways.

The disc jockeys also have to purchase new tapes and records, she said.

She also said the club priced disc jockeys and the cost of hiring a private disc jockey more than doubl-

ed what they are currently paying.

Mrs. Miller said, Councillor Wood said council did not want to take anything away from us. "Well, they are not taking anything from us, but from the kids."

When the club decided to start holding the dances a year ago, Mrs. Miller said they received a lot of negative feedback.

"A lot of people said we would have two or three dances and there will be fights...It has been over a year now (without incident). We have a good track record."

"The kids like it so well they even behave."

Teen dances

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR KIDS ARE?

Our parents always did when there were Teen Dances at the Otterville Town Hall.

I am very disappointed in the decision to keep the rate of the hall at \$100.

I have attended these dances ever since they started, almost two years ago, and both my parents and I are very pleased with the cost (\$1).

I wonder if the council realizes that these dances are keeping the teenagers off of the streets and less damage is being done around the town.

People are always complaining about teenagers and what they do, well what they do is probably because there is nothing for teens to do on Friday nights in a small town like Otterville.

In the article concerning your decision on lowering the rate of the Town hall Councillor Robert Martin suggested that the Opti-Mrs. search for a cheaper disc jockey but for \$100 a night, it is hard to find a good disc jockey for less than that.

They also said that for \$35 a night they would rather see the hall empty, but in my opinion \$35 a night is better than nothing.

In closing I would like to say that I hope the Council reconsiders so that we can continue having these Teen Dances.

Yours truly,
Deb Anderson.

Optimists celebrate Youth Week

The Spring-Otter Optimist Club of Otterville will promote the positive characteristics of today's youth during Youth Appreciation Week in Norwich Township, the second week of November.

Club president, Larry Dymant says Youth Appreciation Week was inaugurated in 1954, when a group of Optimists decided too much emphasis was being placed on the negative acts of youth.

Too little attention was being given to the vast majority of youth accepting fulfilling roles as responsible citizens, Mr. Dymant said.

"Our club's objective is to publicize the fact that today's young people are not the selfish, lazy degenerates that too many adults fantasize. The vast majority of our area's youth are well informed, con-

cerned, willing and interested in becoming involved in efforts to improve our society."

"We all know how much it means to have our achievements recognized and appreciated and we all try harder when we know someone cares. Youth Appreciation Week is a time to tell our youth that we care...that we are glad to have them around...and that we honestly appreciate their efforts."

In conjunction with Youth Appreciation Week, the club will co-sponsor a special banquet for high school honor students, with Norwich District High School.

The banquet will be held at the

Norwich Community Centre, Wednesday, November 12.

Dr. Peter Cass of the University of Western Ontario will be the keynote speaker for the evening.

Special presentations of honor certificates from both the Optimist club and the high school will be presented.

The Optimist club is asking everyone to make a special effort to recognize the worthwhile activities of our town's teenagers.

Township of Norwich Council has endorsed a proclamation declaring November 9 to 15 as Youth Appreciation Week in the Township.



CORNELL (C) - A family get together was held at the Adlington Farms in honor of the 40th anniversary of Ross and Betty Adlington on Sunday Nov. 23.

Approximately 35 guests were present for a lovely dinner provided and prepared by their family.

Brothers and sisters of both bride and groom were present except Don Lellow of Dorset.

Mr. and Mrs. Adlington were mar-

ried on Nov. 23, 1946 in Springford Baptist Church by Rev. Walker. They have seven children and 11 grandchildren.

Prior to their anniversary they visited their son and family in Manitoba and were entertained at the Delta Manitoba Hotel.

Congratulations go out to them from their friends and neighbors in the community of Cornell.

Surprise at 25

OTTERVILLE (C) - A surprise dinner honoring Aubrey and Betty Babcock, Otterville, on their 25th wedding anniversary, was held Saturday evening, Nov. 1 at a Tillsonburg restaurant.

The evening was arranged by their son and his wife, Paul and Rhonda, along with Don and Margaret Barnim.

Approximately 25 relatives and friends attended the celebration. Lilian Broad made the anniversary cake.

Mr. and Mrs. Babcock were married Nov. 25, 1961 at the home of the bride's parents, Richard and Kathleen Saunders, John St., N., by Rev. T. Lindsay.

The original bridal party were in attendance. Matron of honor was Margaret Barnim and best man was Donald Barnim. The attendants presented the couple with a silver service set.

Paul, on behalf of all the relatives presented his parents with a lovely gift.

Springford woman launches shop

By ANNE DOES

Bonnie Thompson of Springford is out to prove there is more to feathers than just the fluffy stuff plucked from fowl.

The local business woman has just launched her first venture, Petals in the Wind, which features a wide variety of crafts and silk and feather flower arrangements.

Mrs. Thompson said she is also available for weddings, bridal showers and special occasions.

Working with flowers is not new to her either, she worked for a number of years with Coyles Products Ltd., RR 7, Tillsonburg, as both a tour guide and a florist.

During her stint with Coyles she provided flower arrangements for numerous weddings and showers.

When handling weddings, Mrs. Thompson said she always takes the personality and physical build of the bride into consideration.

Young brides may opt for non-traditional flower or feather arrangements, but the florist tries to match the size of the bride to the bouquet.

"You wouldn't give a small girl a great big bouquet," for example, she said.

And brides all have their own personal tastes, romantic, delicate, traditional or more daring, and a florist's job is to interpret and meet those needs.

Mrs. Thompson says she calculates all of these factors before

coming up with a final product.

"The customer is always right," she said.

For customers who have no idea what they want, the artist is ready to take over and handle all of the arrangements, but she said it sometimes helps if the bride or customer has some type of idea of what they would like.

She has also created a bubbler which can be rented. It is comprised of a number of clear tubes, artfully arranged with flowers which are highlighted by a continuous stream of bubbles.

Mrs. Thompson said she was very happy while working at Coyles, receiving years of valuable experience.

But she always longed to have her own business and yearned for the creative freedom that goes along with it, "I am doing what I like. I can do my own thing whenever I am in the mood."

Sometimes she said an idea will hit her late in the evening and "I will work on it until 2 a.m."

In addition to striking feather arrangements, which come in a variety of shapes—fluffy pom poms or slender reed like feathers—and a wide assortment of colors, she also creates her own ceramic vases and containers for her flowers.

A next door neighbor with a kiln has come in handy for the firing and glazing of her handmade creations.

Her mother and father have also

made their contributions to the new business.

Her father donated a solid pine engraved sign to his daughter's place of business, while his wife continues to contribute hand knitted granny faces, crocheted butterflies and crafts.

For Christmas, Mrs. Thompson has a variety of hand made rocking horses, wreaths and knick knacks.

Although designers teach some basic principles which apply to flower arranging, Mrs. Thompson said trends are changing all of the time.

For example, she has a pink and gold poinsettia arrangement in her living room.

"Green, red and white used to be the three Christmas colors, now anything goes," she said.

She attributes the change to the more contemporary attitude of people living in the 80's.

In the future she would like to expand her business and perhaps begin working with fresh flowers.

However she said it is important to first establish the business with a steady flow of clientele before attempting new products.

Fresh flowers, for example, are quite expensive and require refrigeration.

For the moment however, she is content with continuing to turn out attractive and unusual flower arrangements.



Petals in the Wind

Pictured above are some of the silk and feather flower arrangements which local business woman, Bonnie Thompson creates in her new shop, Petals in

the Wind, in Springford. Mrs. Thompson works extensively in silk flowers and with feathers. She also does wedding cakes and has several arrangements, including her bubbler, available for rent. (Staff Photo)

Committee look at renting halls

N.G. Dec 3

By ANNE DOES

"We are not in the hall rental business," said Councillor Paul Wood in a pitch directed to a Management Policy Committee Meeting, Monday night.

Mr. Wood said he had approached a representative of the Spring Otter Optimists Club to ascertain their interest in managing the Otterville hall.

"The Optimists are willing to consider it," he said.

Coun. Wood also said management of the hall would be much more efficient if it were undertaken by a private group.

Coun. Robert Martin then asked,

"Would that curb the somewhat pressing need for a hall in Springford?"

Coun. Larry Martin asked who would be responsible for capital improvements on the hall and Coun. Wood said, "I would hope that they would take on a lot of that," he said, adding that as a service club, the group was eligible for grants.

Leasing municipal halls has been successful in the past. Clerk Robert Watkins pointed out that a group in Cornell and Curries have been self sufficient and successful with a leasing arrangement.

The arrangement could also prove to be financially beneficial to the

Township of Norwich Council.

"If the Optimists take it on we wouldn't be looking at laying out \$20,000 for the hall," Coun. Wood said.

However, Coun. Don Pettigrew said he questioned the motives of the club, saying that it was rumored the group attempted to purchase the Oddfellows Hall, the Springford Womens Institute Hall and the Woodlawn facilities in Otterville.

"I don't know if that's what a service club does—look for a meeting place or home," he said.

Clerk Watkins said a lease would have to be established to avoid the establishment of a board of

management to oversee the financial management of the hall.

Coun. Helen Smith suggested that the committee consider inviting other clubs "in to discuss it."

Invitations issued

The committee did pass a motion inviting clubs to attend a meeting to indicate their interest, but the motion will not be officially adopted until it is dealt with by council at their next meeting.

Coun. Wood also stressed that he approached the Optimists to see if they were interested in renting the facilities—they did not approach him.

Circulation of Township prints restricted

By ANNE DOES

The Management Policy Committee narrowly defeated a motion to make Township prints available to the general public at a committee meeting Monday evening.

Councillor Paul Wood said that he had received a request for the prints to be made available to local

business establishments.

Chairman Michael Oliver said, "I personally don't see the need to restrict it (sale of the prints) at all."

Clerk Robert Watkins pointed out that reproduction of the prints was a costly undertaking.

The last group of prints were reproduced in Winnipeg, he said.

However, Coun. Don Pettigrew said he feared that by making the prints readily available, they may lose some of their significance.

"We know what happened with Township pins. They were handed out like jujubes," he said. (Mayor John Heleniak was eating from a bag of jujubes at the time the comment was made).

Mayor Heleniak informed the group that he had been contacted by a past member of council who strongly opposed changing the existing policy regarding the distribution of the prints.

Coun. Norm Lusk said, "They are recognized as something new. For anyone before (restructuring) it might be a nice thing to have, but it doesn't have the same significance."

"Secondly, we give it on plaques and shields and things for achievement and that is where it should stay. That's what it was designed for."

Coun. Mark Harrison said he had talked with a number of residents who had played on championship teams and were awarded the prints.

"They valued them. That's what changed my mind," he said, adding

that if everyone were allowed to purchase the prints they may lose their significance to those who receive them as awards of merit.

Coun. McNally pointed out that the cost of purchasing the prints would prohibit wide spread sales.

"We're not going to be bothered with riff raff buying them," he said.

However, Coun. Larry Martin disagreed, saying that if the prints were available to everyone, "It would cheapen the value of the crest terrifically."

Mayor Heleniak said, "After all Mr. Chairman, the people of this municipality did pay for them."

To which Chairman Oliver replied, "I don't think we should take a protective stance on this. I don't believe in that philosophy personally."

The prints are 16 inches by 20 inches and currently hang in municipal halls and are available to council members.

The motion to make the prints available was defeated by a five to four margin, with councillors Wood, McNally, Robert Martin and Mayor Heleniak voting in favor of the proposal.

Declining Norwich population effects future of housing

D.N. Dec 10

By Ben Steidman
Staff Writer

NORWICH — The township's declining population has been aggravated by a trend to increasing numbers of smaller, highly mobile, nonfamily oriented households.

In light of this development, David Cowan, a provincial Ministry of Housing analyst from London, told Council Monday that it should "look at developing multi-family accommodations."

Mr. Cowan and two other ministry staff attended the meeting to review a survey of Norwich on the need for subsidized housing for seniors or

families requiring assistance conducted by the ministry.

In brief, the survey revealed there's no urgent need at present for assisted or rental housing in Norwich. Instead, the survey indicated that the township encourage construction of rental accommodation by private developers under the Convert-to-Rent program.

Mr. Cowan defined multiple family housing as apartments or townhouses.

He emphasized the ministry would offer a program to help this type of housing construction.

Councillor Don Pettigrew disagreed with Mr. Cowan's findings, asserting that a "rental accommo-

dation deficiency" existed and "there's a need for rental housing" in the township.

The ministry currently is considering proposals for about 200 subsidized nonprofit housing units on the perimeter of Norwich Township — Port Burwell, Tillsonburg, Ingersoll and Woodstock.

In any event, Mr. Cowan stressed that the minimum requirement for co-op housing was 40 units and 20 for senior citizens' housing.

That, noted Councillor Pettigrew, left Norwich out. He observed that "we're being designed out of existence."

Mr. Cowan did note that 43 per cent of Norwich's population had incomes below the poverty line, indicating a sizeable number of seniors and low income families. However, he said these people appeared to be satisfied with their current housing and "not interested in what we had to offer."

Mr. Cowan anticipated the population drop would continue for at least five years and Council should be aware of "future requirements" in housing.

Council endorsed the report, as it did the previous survey conducted in 1982.

Committee appointments

N.G. Dec 3

A number of committee appointments were made at a meeting of the Management Policy Committee Monday night.

Councillor Norm Lusk was appointed chairman of the Agriculture and Works Committee, Councillor Mark Harrison was appointed the new chairman of the Community Services Committee and Councillor Michael Oliver was reappointed chairman of the management policy committee.

Councillor Don Pettigrew was also named as the official representative on the Local Agricultural Manpower Board in Tillsonburg.

"Fowl" shot

By ANNE DOES

Councillor-at-large Helen Smith could have cried "fowl" when presented with a Christmas "turkey" by certain members of Township of Norwich Council, at a meeting held December 23.

Councillor Don Pettigrew did the honors, presenting Mrs. Smith with an enormous box said to contain the Christmas bird.

Upon closer inspection, the package's contents proved to be no more than a small Cornish hen, surrounded by concrete blocks.

The prank was a good-natured jibe at Coun. Smith, who had previously told council she was willing to accept a turkey in lieu of attending a Regular Township of Oxford dinner—which members of the Pheasant Committee attended.

Hopefully, the Smith family were not relying on council's gift to feed a Christmas crowd, as the tiny bird could easily be "gobbled" up by one person.

Township prints

Editor:
Re: Circulation of Township prints restricted, Norwich Gazette, December 3, 1986.

I take issue with Councillor Jack McNally's remark, "We are not going to be bothered with Riff Raff buying them", referring to the Township prints, so well done by Oxford Artist Mr. Ross Butler.

Who are the Riff Raff you are referring to Councillor McNally?

That type of remark is really uncalled for.

It is quite possible some of those referred to, voted for Councillor Jack McNally.

Will they again?

Also, why not enhance artist Ross Butler's career further by leaving the sale of Townships prints open to the public?

To allow the sale only to government offices, councillors and award winners, Mr. Lusk, is discriminatory.

Full sale of these prints will not cheapen the product, nor will the prints lose their significance, and they are not all that expensive either.

Douglas Harrison,
Norwich, Ontario.

Optimists reply

Dear Editor:

Further to your December 3 issue of the Norwich Gazette and the front page article headed, "Committee look at renting Halls", I feel that as a member of the Spring-Otter Optimist Club of Otterville, a response is in order regarding comments made pertaining to our club's motives in search of a meeting place.

When the Odd Fellows Lodge of Otterville found themselves in the position of disbanding, our organization was invited to their meeting to discuss the disposition of the facility and to consider the possibility of operation of the building.

After careful deliberation, our club decided that the cost was more than our club could afford at that time while maintaining our high standards of service to the youth of our community.

Concerning the Springford Women's Institute hall, the Optimist Club was invited by the Recreation Committee to attend a community meeting and contribute any helpful suggestions.

The Optimist club offered to assume the operation, maintenance, and renovations to the hall as a service to the community of Springford.

As for councillor Don Pettigrew's statement, based on "rumour", concerning our supposed attempt to purchase the Woodlawn facilities in Otterville, they are totally unfounded.

I am appalled that a Norwich Township Councillor of Mr. Pettigrew's experience and tenure would repeat and-or consider "rumours" about any organization or individual.

Further more, considering the Optimist Club's outstanding record of achievement, I question why Mr. Pettigrew should challenge any of

the club's motives.

For the 1986-87 fiscal year, the Optimist Club of Otterville has budgeted expenditures in excess of \$25,000 for community and youth serving projects.

Publicity questioning the motives of the Spring-Otter Optimist club is an insult to the intelligence of the community who elected Mr. Pettigrew to office.

If township of Norwich councillors wish to base their decisions upon "rumours", perhaps they should subscribe to the National Enquirer.

Yours truly,
Dale Cheney,
Vice President.
Spring-Otter Optimist Club.

Show moving

Dear Editor:

We're moving! Yes that's right.

The 17th Annual Historical Show will not be held in Norwich in 1987.

Because we have grown bigger with every passing year, we find ourselves pinched for space at our present location.

While this move will be of great delight to some and of great regret to others, our 1987 edition will be held at the Paris Fair Grounds.

We want to thank everyone who has helped us present our previous 16 shows.

An event of this magnitude does not just happen.

If the show is to be a success generous community support is necessary.

For exhibitors and spectators as well, we are truly grateful.

Good times will always be remembered. We hope good times will continue and new memories be made at the next show.

The welcome mat is out again and your continued support in our new location will be greatly appreciated.

We look forward to the opportunity to present a bigger and better show and the chance to add a new group of friends to our already large, loyal group that gets together every June.

We look forward to seeing you at the Paris Fair Grounds, June 5, 6, and 7, 1987.

Exhibitors are welcome, camping is available and a special invitation is extended to everyone looking for a glimpse of the past at The Historical Show.

For more information contact: Don MacPherson, Show Committee Chairman, Box 27, Norwich, Ontario, N0J 1P0, 519-863-2213.

MPP says no

Dear Editor:

I read in your recent publication of the possibility of the Steam Show moving to Paris.

I certainly hope that this does not happen.

The Norwich Steam Show is unique to this area and is a source of pride for Norwich Village and Norwich township.

I hope that all residents of Norwich do their utmost to ensure that no move is made.

Sincerely yours,
Dick Treleaven,
MPP Oxford.

It's final, show moving

By ANNE DOES

Paris is the new home of the Norwich Historical Show, said Don MacPherson, president of the Norwich and District Historical Society--which sponsor the event.

In a meeting this week, the board of directors for the society voted 7-3 in favor of moving the event, which has been held in Norwich for the past 16 years.

Mrs. Edith Lees, Mr. Laverne Irving and Mr. Paul Wood voted against the proposal.

In a telephone interview Monday, Mr. Irving said he could not support

a motion to move the event because of personal convictions.

Mr. Irving also said the move could prove to be detrimental to motels and restaurants in the area.

He also said he "sensed an indifference" regarding the move.

Mayor John Heleniak voted in favor of the move because "the facilities there are much better."

"I've spoken to some other members and they felt it was a good idea," he said.

Mr. MacPherson, who is also chairman of the show committee, said the move was being made to

save money and because Paris has superior facilities, including a grand stand.

It will cost \$1,000-plus four per cent of gate receipts--to rent the Paris facilities, but the Paris Agriculture Society will be providing manpower for gates and parking lots.

In addition, the grounds will be available three days prior to the show itself--allowing organizers to set up--and for three days after the event, giving organizers an opportunity for cleaning up the site.

The Paris Agriculture Society also

have the rights to set up a food booth and dining hall during the show.

The sponsors were charged \$1,275.74 to rent the Norwich facilities, last June.

However, with hydro and other expenses, the total cost of holding the event in Norwich was \$2,302, according to figures released at the meeting.

The new title for the event is The Historical Show, sponsored by the Norwich and District Historical Society.

Norwich township eyes Oxford computer system

By Ben Steidman
Staff Writer

NORWICH—Township Council is considering linking up with Oxford County's new state-of-the-art computer system.

Treasurer Reg Saunders said last week that the multipurpose information and county-wide mapping system would be an "invaluable tool" for Norwich, in particular key departments such as roads, building and drainage, and taxation.

The system, now centrally situated at Oxford County's administrative building in Woodstock, has been designed to save time by providing often hard-to-get data at one's fingertips.

Mr. Saunders pointed out that the system essentially can "give information on zoning, planning and mapping for all of Oxford."

The system can offer Oxford's eight municipalities up-to-the-minute land registry information, data of use to municipal building inspectors, access to all assessment information, aid in compiling mailing lists to inform residents of proposed development applications and an updated road system.

Mr. Saunders emphasized that if Norwich were "tied into the system" with a terminal in the municipality, treasury could certainly "benefit."

The county's planning committee has recommended that Oxford's municipalities be given a chance to use the system.

To expand the service, it would require setting up a communication network at an estimated cost of \$49,500. This network would be composed of phone lines and local computer equipment.

(continued on page 15)

(continued from page 2)

Monthly maintenance costs for the system are estimated at around \$2,800.

Mr. Saunders said if Norwich wanted to be linked to the central computer, funds for this project including a terminal would have been placed in the township's 1987 budget.

Two sessions have already been staged in Woodstock to familiarize area municipal officials and staff with the equipment. Mr. Saunders said Norwich's roads superintendent and building inspector/drainage inspector attended the meetings.

Mr. Saunders reckoned the county would absorb any "line charges" for a connection, but ultimately charge these back to the municipality in its county levy.

He noted that assessment data on all properties and even the age of a structure would be useful to his department.

Fire truck tenders reviewed by Chief

NG DEC 24

By ANNE DOES

A tender of \$145,000 for an Emergency One Inc., fire truck turned out to be the highest bid tendered by a margin of about \$37,000, it was revealed at a Community Services Committee meeting December 16.

Tenders have not yet been checked to see if they meet all of the listed requirements and Norwich Township Fire Chief Brian Workman will be presenting his recommendations regarding the

issue at a meeting of Township of Norwich Council Tuesday evening.

Hub Fire Engines and Equipment came out with the lowest bid at \$103,403, while Superior Emergency Equipment were second lowest with a bid of \$104,300.

Almonte Fire Trucks Ltd., bid \$107,614.56 to provide a fire truck, while C.E. Hickey and Sons Co., Ltd., bid \$107,990.

A document outlining the significance of the colors of fire trucks was also released at the

meeting.

The correspondence said, "More than a decade after Canadian municipalities began painting their fire trucks yellow, the color red has returned to favor. But fire departments that revert to red are putting tradition ahead of safety, according to Stephen Solomon, the small town optometrist who started the trend to yellow in 1970."

According to Dr. Solomon, the color red evinces emotion and is the "color of excitement, danger and

rage...If you have a yellow fire engine, you are going to have fewer accidents."

However, Canadian manufacturers of fire equipment say the trend has reversed. The document cited comments from the president of a prominent fire truck company in Quebec that "60 and 70 per cent of Canadian orders of his company's fire trucks currently specify red paint, an increase of about 15 per cent from a few years ago."

In Alberta--where provincial

government guidelines recommend lime yellow fire trucks--Superior Emergency Equipment Ltd., of Red Deer say that sales of red trucks are increasing.

In New York, city fire department officials recently painted 11 of its 1,200 vehicles yellow as part of a year and a half test, but found that the trucks were no less likely to become involved in an accident.

Council will review the entire fire truck question at its meeting Tuesday, following Chief Workman's

Fire truck tenders

Township of Norwich Council decided against purchasing the more expensive Emergency One fire truck, opting instead for the cheaper Hub model, at a meeting December 23.

The tender submitted by Emergency One Inc., an American company, tendered a bid of \$145,000, about \$40,000 higher than Hub Fire Engines and Equipment's bid of \$103,403.

Other bids ranged in price from Superior Emergency Equipment's \$104,300 to C.E. Hickey and Sons Company Ltd's bid of \$107,990.

Township of Norwich Fire Chief Brian Workman said the decision to purchase the Hub vehicle was made because of the "considerably higher" bid submitted by Emergency One Inc.

Norwich plugged in

NORWICH—Township Council Monday voted in favour of plugging into Oxford County's land-related computer system.

Oxford County's Planning and Development will now apply to Ontario's Ministry of Housing for a \$10,000 grant to cover 50 per cent of costs for Norwich Township's computer terminal and printer.

The balance of equipment costs will be placed in Norwich Township's 1987 budget.

Doug Wilson, township drainage

inspector, was appointed Norwich's representative on a newly-formed Oxford Land-Related Information System Steering Committee.

Oxford County Council had decided on Nov. 26 to ask the area's eight municipalities to join the system, centred in Woodstock.

Basically, the system, according to Liz Ottaway, county deputy planning director, will provide registry office information, building inspection data, assessments, mailing lists, mapping, word processing and electronic mail.

D.N. DEC 17

Township of Norwich

PART-TIME CARETAKER

Written applications stating experience and wage expected will be received by the undersigned until 12:00 noon on Tuesday, December 23, 1986 for a Part-time Caretaker for the Otterville Hall.

Robert C. Watkins
Clerk Administrator
Township of Norwich
P.O. Box 100
Otterville, Ont.
N0J 1R0
879-6568 or 863-2709

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TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH

TENDERS

TO SELL, AS IS, A 1982 Chev Impala
POLICE CRUISER
"PROPANE POWERED"

Sealed tenders will be received by the undersigned until noon, Tuesday, December 23rd, 1986 for the sale of the above cruiser. A security of \$1,000 must accompany tender. May be in form of a cheque dated Dec. 23/86. Tender must be marked as to contents.

Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted. May be viewed at Police Office.

Chief Robert R. Knight
83 Main St. West
Norwich, Ontario
N0J 1P0

Library hub of activity this fall

OTTERVILLE (C) - The Otterville Public Library has been busy with activities throughout the fall and winter seasons.

The Fanshawe College course for instruction in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation otherwise known as CPR was held for four weeks being instructed by Dori Girard and Moira Watts. A response of 18 participants took part and the course is to be again offered in January of the new year. As well, a photography course will be given during the late winter. Librarian Lurene McMullen is interested in suggestions of courses wanted by area residents for future possibilities if enough interest is shown.

Story Hour has once again been operating for six weeks to be concluded the first week of December. A good number of children registered for the autumn session held on Wednesday and Thursday mornings 10 to 11 a.m. for preschoolers ages 2 to 5 years. The children are involved in activities of games, stories, crafts, songs and related activities following a weekly theme. These sessions are being led by Jane King, Kim Miller, Jane Haggith, Deb Pickering and Marlene Haggith with mothers assisting. Following the Christmas season, a six week session will be held beginning the end of January.

During the month of November a

showing of Christmas crafts was on display. Articles from wreath making, crocheting, ceramics to oil painting provided a variety of ideas for Christmas decoration. Contributors to the display were Sue Finch, Dorothy Wardell, Wilma De Clercq, Anna Treffry, Jean Davis, Marion Pettigrew, Rhonda Babcock, Marilyn Treffry, Margaret Barnim, Eva McMullen, Elaine Oliver and Lurene McMullen.

A book exchange took place at the library recently providing new books for the perusal of those interested during the winter months.

Saturday, Dec. 6 the Otterville Sunshine Club is holding their annual Christmas bake sale at the library, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. with proceeds to go to club projects.

Otterville Anglican

OTTERVILLE (C) - "Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus" opened service of the third Sunday of advent as the senior choir entered the church. Organist was Lila Freeland. Flowers were placed on the altar in memory of Myrtle King by family members.

Scripture readings were from Isaiah and James.

Children gathered with Father Grant D. Darling for lighting of advent candles. Candle of Hope, lit by Joni Ryerse, conveys the good feeling of hope when we can be happy knowing God is in control.

Father Darling expressed Hope as being the comforting feeling one has by putting all their trust in God.

Offering was received by Jacek Freeland and August DeWachter.

Otterville United

OTTERVILLE (C) - Rev. Seed opened United Church service with Scripture from Isaiah 25:9. Third advent candle of Joy was lit by Jennifer Arthur and Nicole Rochus.

The choir, under direction of Betty Walther, presiding organist, sang the anthem "Mary Had a Baby." Rev. Seed's story to the children was about the preparation for the birth of baby Jesus.

Al Smith read Scripture from St. Luke 1:26-38. Rev. Seed's message was from Luke 2:1-7 and Luke 2:8-20, relating to the birth of Jesus and the shepherds and angels.

Offering was received by Jack Walther, Boyd Little, Don Neale and John Walther.



Treffry Mill

The mill appears sleepy now, but will be a hub of activity when Lieutenant Governor John Blackbird at-
LINCEN ALEXANDER

tends official spring ceremonies (Photo By Anne Does)

NE DEC 17

Leisure Club meet at UC

OTTERVILLE (C) - Leisure Club held its annual Christmas dinner at the United Church with the United Church Women catering. Thirty-one members attended, with former members Mel and Orris Beecroft of Barrie present.

Carol singing was led by Nellie Taylor at the piano. She later

favoured with piano solos. Vera Carol gave two readings.

Vera Welsh presented President Gladys Evans and her husband, Bill, with an anniversary plate in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary.

A showing of pictures by Lorraine Downing and Betty Walther demonstrated the area presentation provided to bus tours to the village.

Thirty-two attend Norwich Otterville Lions Club meeting

OTTERVILLE (C) - Plans for several events were announced at the Norwich-Otterville Lions Club meeting, held in Norwich Legion Hall. President Gary Walther was in charge.

There were 32 members and guests present. There were three visitors from Dereham District Lions Club.

Lion Don Mitchell was welcomed into the club on a transfer from Duncan, B.C., club.

Lion Al Forrester, member of Dereham club and zone chairman of Zone 4 West, reviewed district and international Lions projects, and stressed importance of all clubs striving to maintain membership.

Plans are well advanced for the Lions New Year's Eve dance, to be held in Norwich community centre. Bus service will be provided for those wishing it.

Plans for the club's 50th anniversary party are underway. This will

be held in Norwich community centre on Friday, April 24.

Members were reminded of the Christmas party for members and guests at Otterville community hall on Saturday, Dec. 20.

Lion Lyle Rooke, past president of Dereham club, expressed thanks of their members.

Convention prize winners were Lions Harold Kirktown and Albert Cornwell.



The family of Bert and Dorothy Redman invites friends and relatives to attend an open house in honor of their parents 45th Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, December 14, 1986 from 2-4 p.m. at St. John's Anglican Church Parish Hall Otterville. Best wishes only please.

Spirit of Hope presented

OTTERVILLE(C) - The Women's Missionary Fellowship of the Otterville Baptist Church met in the Sun-

day school room of the church. Prior to the meeting the social committee of Hilda Stockmans, Doreen Hansford and Evelyn Walthers served a traditional Christmas dinner.

Marlene Haggith was in charge of the devotional program which was a Christmas candlelight carol service. The theme of the program was The Spirit of Christmas with seven ladies presenting different aspects of the first Christmas.

The Spirit of Hope, the hope of the coming Messiah was presented by Doreen Hansford. Evelyn Clinton brought thoughts on the Spirit of Praise, bringing our attention to songs of the first Christmas. The Spirit of Joy, good tidings of great joy brought by the angels to the shepherds was the theme of Betty Hill's message. The Spirit of Adoration displayed by the shepherds and the wise men who came to worship the Christ child was the basis for challenge to each lady to worship in works, deed and life given by Jane Haggith. The first Christmas was God's gift of love to the world which was expressed by Edna Leitch in the Spirit of Giving. Darlene Davis presented the Spirit of Peace, Jesus Christ being the Prince of Peace and our peace. Jean Hill closed the devotional with thoughts on the Spirit of

Love, God's love to us and our love to one another.

The scripture reading Luke 2: 1-20 was read by Florence Hussey. A letter from our missionaries in Kenya, Herbert and Sylvia Pollard was read by Wilma Butler, who offered missionary prayer.

Special music, a medley of Christmas carols was a piano solo rendered by Lorna Smith and Rhonda Babcock sang a solo O Holy Night. Wilma Hill closed the devotional with prayer.

The slate of officers for 1987 and program plans were presented. The business was conducted by the president Wilma Butler. The offering taken was a Christmas gift for the Pollard family in Kenya. Gifts were also brought for Christmas baskets.

A social time followed during which Judy Bull, Darlene Davis, Wilma Hill and Wanda Hill were presented with gifts for the babies born in 1986 by Cradle Roll Superintendent Lorraine Davis.

The St. John's Anglican Church Women's Christmas supper was held at the home of Evelyn Picknell. Twelve attended the potluck meal with a short business period following.

Otterville Fellowship Church

Sunday December 7, Sunday school was held for all ages followed by morning worship at 11 a.m.

The morning worship began with Pastor Bull leading a baptismal service.

Three candidates showed their obedience to Christ in the waters of baptism.

Angie Davis, Mrs. Darlene Davis and Mrs. Janet Davis, were baptized as the hymn O To Be Like Thee was sung.

Bob Marshall led the service and David Pathy read the testimonies and led the scripture reading from Luke 6: 27-49.

Pastor spoke on some thoughts on giving.

The hectic time of Christmas is upon us and the question "What are you hoping to get this Christmas?" reflects a commercial attitude.

Jesus said "it is more blessed to give than to receive".

Even if we don't get anything for Christmas, we can have more joy because we gave.

But we have to keep our motives right.

Why do we give? To get a return?

That's just trading.

If God did that we would be dead long ago because how many of us even thank God for the things we take for granted - rain, sun, health

Reuben Brock Hussey

Reuben Brock Hussey of 39 Alanson St., Hamilton, passed away at St. Joseph's Hospital, Hamilton, on Friday, Dec. 26, 1986, in his 68th year.

He was born in South Norwich township, Dec. 1, 1919, son of the late Raymond Hussey and the former Bella Glover. He was a member of the Anglican Church of St. Thomas, Hamilton, and a veteran of World War II.

Surviving are his wife, the former Ruth Body; three daughters, Mrs. Dennis (Linda) Howarth of Hamilton, Miss Elaine Hussey of British Columbia and Mrs. Rob (Patricia) Smith of Brantford; two sons, J. Roger Hussey and David A. Hussey at home; three grandchildren; one sister, Mrs. Bernard (Edna) Morgan of Tillsonburg, and three brothers, Donald of Dunnville, Hubert of Otterville and Floyd of Tillsonburg, also several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by five sisters and two brothers.

Rested at the Robinson Funeral Home, Hamilton, with services at the Anglican Church of St. Thomas, on Monday, Dec. 29, at 1:30 p.m., conducted by Rev. Wendy Roy. Pallbearers were Dennis Howarth, Rob Smith, Gilbert Body and Lance Body. Interment later in Norwich Cemetery.

Mrs. Gertrude Alberta Hanson

Mrs. Gertrude Alberta Hanson, formerly of Otterville and Norwich, passed away at Norvilla Nursing Home on Thursday, December 4, 1986 aged 88 years.

She was born in Hawtry, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Corless Trefrey and had been a life long resident of the area.

She was a member of Norwich United Church, the U.C.W., the Somerville Institute, and had been a member of Violet Rebecca Lodge 330 Otterville for 40 years.

On Saturday evening, the Lodge held a memorial service at the funeral residence.

Surviving are four daughters and five sons.

Mrs. Grace Roloson of Belfast, Prince Edward Island, Mrs. James (Margaret) Kitchen, R.R. 4, Woodstock, Mrs. Thomas (Ellen) Arthur, of R.R. 4, Scotland, Mrs. Murray (Marianna) Smith, R.R. 2, Scotland. Sons Archie and his wife Nora of Salford, Harry and wife Marie of Burgessville, Bruce and wife Laura, Scotland, William and wife Joyce of Otterville, Thomas and wife Ann, Norwich.

Also surviving are 37 grandchildren and 39 great-grandchildren and two sister Mrs. Elsie Kelly Simcoe and Mrs. Emma Davison of R.R. 3, Scotland.

She was predeceased by her husband Arthur L. Hanson on January 30, 1966 and by a son Hugh, September 4, 1925 and a stepson, Paul, September 4, 1934.

Rested at the Arn and Son Funeral Residence Norwich, until Sunday noon and thence to the Otterville United Church where the funeral service was held at 2 p.m., with Rev. Charles Seed of the Otterville United Church officiating assisted by Rev. David Fearon of Norwich United Church.

During the service, Mrs. Betty Walther sang a solo "In the Garden" accompanied by Mrs. Jean McClintock.

The bearers were all grandsons Evan Kitchen, John Hanson, Steven Hanson, Arthur Hanson, David Smith and Robert Arthur.

Interment was in Otter Cemetery Otterville.

Christmas concert held at St. John's Church

OTTERVILLE (C) - The Otterville St. John's Anglican Church Christmas supper and concert took place Sunday evening, Dec. 7 with the parish hall filled to capacity. Floral arrangements of greenery Christmas flowers and candles centred the tables for a delicious buffet potluck supper offering a wide variety of delicious foods.

Following a Christmas concert prepared by the children of the Sunday school opened with a welcome to all by Sunday School Superintendent Carl Howse. The children then gathered with Catherine Zimmer to enjoy the cut and tell story of Gloria's Christmas Angel. They then placed the pretty cut out angel of the story on the twinkling Christmas tree featured at the centre of the stage.

An organ solo, Have Yourself a

Merry Little Christmas, was performed by Julie DeWachter, followed by the singing of carols led by Rev. Grant Darling and Lila Freeland at the piano which were enjoyed throughout the evening.

The nursery and primary classes presented the Christmas story of the very first Christmas when Jesus was born in the stable in Bethlehem. Those taking part were Andy Richardson, Rebecca Zimmer, Michael DeWachter, Kathleen Freeman, Adam Zimmer, Michelle Redman, Elizabeth Freeman, Mandy Richardson, Ashley McMullen, Billy-Jo Redman, April Smith, Michael Pittao, Megan McMullen and Patricia Freeman. Teachers assisting the children were Jane Cowan, Judy Freeman and Joyce McMullen.

The junior class assisted by

teacher Jean DeWachter, performed the play Christ-mas. The true meaning of why we have Christmas was depicted emphasizing the importance of the birth of Jesus. Those performing were Lindsay Picknell, Neil Smith, Joni Ryerse, Karla Spicer, Jodi Smith, Kerrie Spicer and Heather Picknell.

Rev. Darling and his wife Kay shared the musical number Christmas Is The Time for Love followed by readings presented by the junior class. They were: They Need to Know - Lindsay Picknell, Neil Smith, Joni Ryerse; I Come to Share - Karla Spicer; Worship At His Feet - Kerrie Spicer; One Baby Boy - Jodi Smith; and What Christmas Means - Heather Picknell.

An adult presentation of Gramma Got Run Over by the Reindeer provided a comical view of why we should believe in Santa Claus. Those performing were Martin Cowan, Lila Freeland, Kathy Furlong, Audrey Neumann, Jack Freeland, Grant Darling, Jane Cowan, Kay Darling, Ross McMullen and August DeWachter.

The Sunday school announced the winner of the wooden cradle and doll, drawn by Edna Furlong, to be Audrey Neumann.

Father Darling then thanked all the children, teachers, and everyone who had taken part in making the evening so entertaining and enjoyable.

A surprise visit by Santa with his helpers completed the evening with everyone sharing in the presents and candy under the tree.

Otterville Fellowship Baptist

On Sunday December 14, Sunday school was held for all ages followed by morning worship at 11 a.m.

David Pathy opened the service with a responsive reading of Luke 2:8-20.

Scripture reading was taken from Colossians 2:6-23.

Pastor Bull spoke from this passage concerning True and False Religion.

There are many marks of false or

ritualistic religion.

What you eat and drink doesn't affect your spirituality.

Things taught by men are vain, man designed worship is also useless.

Christ is separated when man tries to keep rules and regulations.

We are saved and kept by grace not law. True religion starts with Christ, continues with Christ and ends with Christ.

We need to develop the character of Christ in us through his Spirit and the Word.

Offering was received by Dave Hill and Alex Davis.

Pianist was Dwight Davis.

The Lord's table was observed following the service.

The annual Christmas concert will be held on Sunday December 21 at 7 p.m.

Foot care clinic held at Waring's

OTTERVILLE (C) - The regular Foot Care Clinic of the Tillsonburg Victorian Order of Nurses was held at the home of Evelyn Waring, decorated with a blooming Christmas cactus for the holiday season. Seven attended the clinic with the next one to be held the fourth Tuesday of the month, Jan. 27, 1987.

The Village of Otterville is attractively decorated for the Christmas season thanks to the generosity and work of the Otterville Sunshine Club. Signs featuring Santa Claus encircled by greenery and Christmas lights

hang from the lamp posts. This provides an appropriate atmosphere for the upcoming Santa Claus parade in the village, Saturday, Dec. 13.

The Otterville Sunshine Club met at the home of Dorothy Wardell to work on Christmas decorations for the village. The members then adjourned to the home of Jean Dows for the meeting.

Roll call given by Marg Shearer was What are you making for the bake sale? Lunch was served by Inga Irie and the hostess with courtesy remarks by Etta McSkimming.

The next meeting will be at the home of Marg Pearce on Dec. 11

Second Sunday of Advent celebrated

OTTERVILLE (C) - The service of the second Sunday of Advent opened with the singing of On Jordan's Bank by the congregation and junior and senior choirs.

The children gathered with Father Grant D. Darling for the lighting of the second Advent candle. Michael Pittao lit the candle of Justice which reminds us that God is a God of mercy. In preparing for his coming again we too should be just and merciful. They then adjourned to their Sunday school classes during the singing of O Day of God.

Rev. Darling presented thoughts on the meaning of Justice. Peace, justice, hope and love are qualities thought of especially at Christmas

time. We tend to relate punishment with Justice in the sense of seeking revenge and getting even. Justice requires a balancing of the scales but God wants us to relate Justice to love.

St. John the Baptist reminded folks that God is a God of Justice and that evil and wickedness would be severely punished. Then Jesus came along and showed God as a God of Mercy - who was willing to meet the demands of Justice by paying the price Himself. Justice was served through his love.

Offering was received by Jack Freeland and Ross McMullen which also involved a white gift offering to provide Christmas food baskets and toys for needy families.

St. John's Anglican

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the parish hall filled to capacity. Floral arrangements of greenery Christmas flowers and candles centred the tables for a delicious buffet potluck supper offering a wide variety of delicious foods.

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Santa Claus visits Otterville

By ANNE DOES

Santa Claus kept his promise Saturday, rolling through the streets of Otterville at about 10:15 p.m.

The jolly man in the red suit was the star of the parade, which was centred around the theme: Peace.

The parade began in ward one, located in the east end of the village.

Because of continuing construction at Otterville Public School, the parade did not stop at the school this year.

Jim Countryman, public relations

official with the Spring Otter Optimists Club, which organize the event, said numbers were down a little this year.

"Perhaps the weather was too good," he said, adding that in past year's both parade goers and participants were forced to brave inclement weather.

Saturday's event was blessed with sunshine and tolerable temperatures.

Parade participants were treated however, to hot chocolate and

doughnuts, served by the Opti-Mrs. Club.

At the end of the parade, Santa Claus and his several helpers passed out over 300 stockings crammed with Christmas goodies.

Mr. Countryman said he would like to thank the Township of Norwich for allowing the club to use the township garage.

"We were in a bit of a pinch there," because organizers could not use the school, he said.

Trophies were presented by Bill

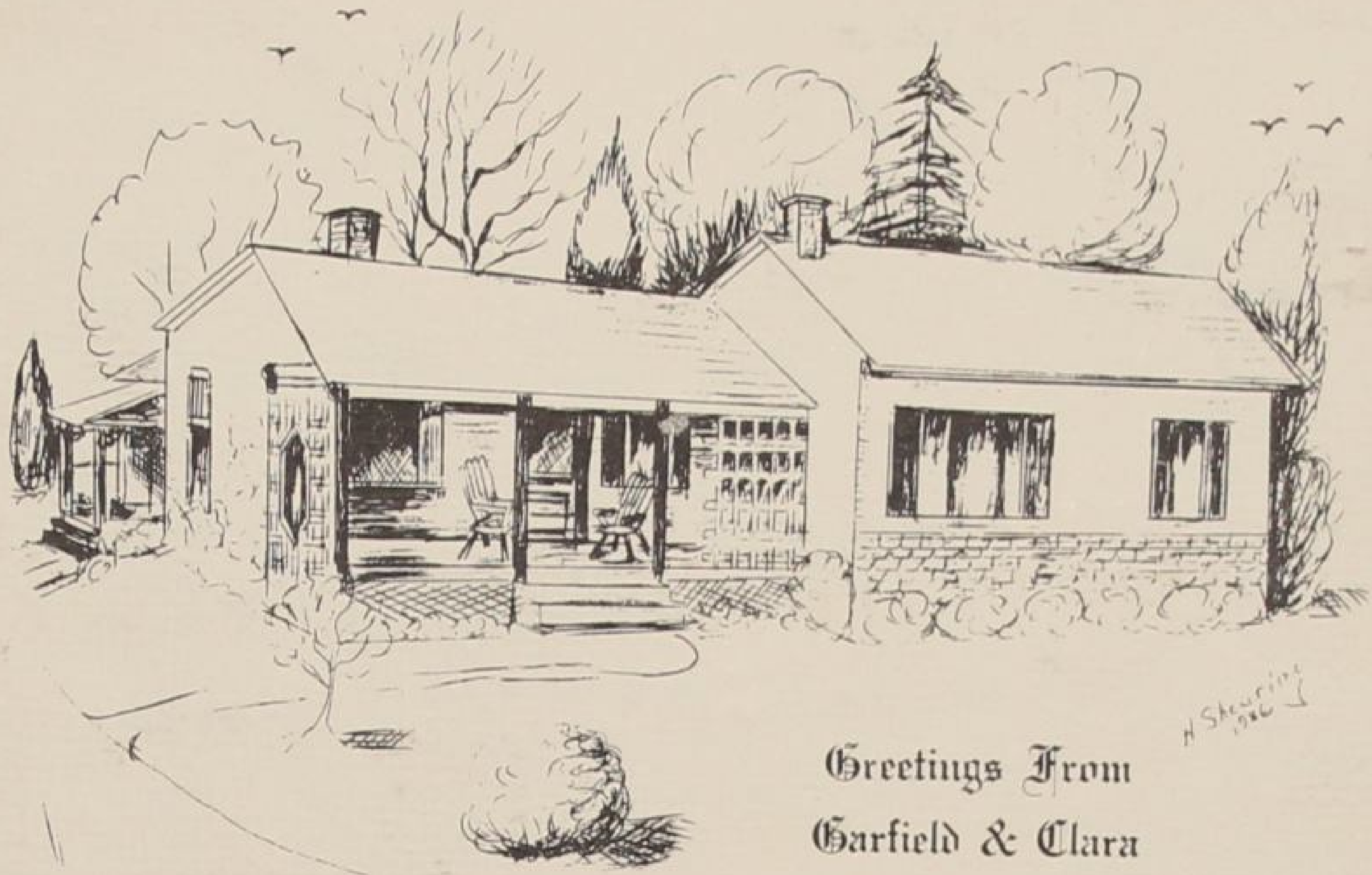
Redman, to the best floats in each division.

Best commercial float was McMullen's Machine Shop, Otterville.

The winner in the best service club category was Windham Centre Lions Club.

The best float depicting the parade's theme (peace) was Otterville Public School.

Judges ruled that the best overall float in the parade was that of the Otterville Brownies.



Greetings From
Garfield & Clara

Landslide approval given to

By Dave MacLaren
Staff Writer

Ninety-five per cent of Ontario's flue-cured producers voting in the plebiscite on provincial agency authority for their marketing board approved this move at polls on Friday.

"I think the big hurdle in getting the auction opened was agency powers and the other details should fall into place fairly quickly," Chairman Berry Murray said in a telephone conversation Saturday afternoon.

"It's the Board's impression that Minister of Agriculture and Food, Jack Riddell, will take the results of the plebiscite to cabinet Wednesday (today). We expect the legal require-

ments should be completed by the end of the week."

On Sunday, directors met with Minister of Agriculture John Wise. At the federal level, details remained to be worked out to provide sufficient funding for the consortium which will purchase tobacco not sold on auction floors.

Breakdown

"The breakdown of purchases from the crop has to be clarified, as Mr. Wise and the manufacturers understand them. The interpretation of the arrangement has to be understood by all parties to put the con-

tractual agreement on paper," Mr. Murray said. "Mr. Wise and his staff understand the urgency of the matter."

Mr. Murray declined to predict when sales will commence, saying his previous predictions had gotten him into enough trouble. He reiterated the importance of opening the auctions as soon as possible, especially to attract export customers.

If outstanding agency and financing matters can be resolved concurrently, the Board may be in a position to set a market opening date later this week. The earliest possible date appears to be Jan. 20, provided shipping orders can be processed in

time. Even then, only 10 selling days would be left in the month.

The positive plebiscite result is probably the largest in the history of producer marketing decisions made under the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Act. Although tobacco producers had little choice but to sanction the agency since selling mechanics for the 1985 crop hinge on this authority, the vote could have broader implications. As the agricultural crisis deepens, an increasing number of prominent spokesmen in various sectors of the industry are calling for legislation to give farmers more voice in the marketplace.

"We're very happy that such a large percentage of producers voted

in favour. It shows the seriousness of the situation and that they want the same thing as the Board. I hope governments will heed the outcome.

"There is no doubt we're determined to get the tools to help ourselves. I think the same result would be obtained in a plebiscite on a national agency, if Mr. Wise would call one. We'll certainly be reminding him of our viewpoint on this," Mr. Murray said.

"It's just an opinion, but I think some of the 98 who opposed it did so because they don't want anything less than a national agency," he added.

In the plebiscite on Friday, 2,550 holders of marketable quota with

minimum individual holdings of at least 10,000 pounds were eligible to vote, whether they will market any tobacco or not. Of 2,028 casting ballots, 1,927 favoured agency authority, 98 did not and three ballots were spoiled.

Between 1,850 and 1,900 producers will market tobacco on the upcoming auction.

Daily volumes

"We plan to start offering two million pounds a day and work up to daily volumes of 2.3 to 2.4 million pounds," Director Steve Nagy told

District 9 producers at a meeting in Port Rowan Thursday evening.

"Imperial Leaf is not tendering on tobacco to be processed for the consortium and this will permit a more evenly distributed flow of the crop through processing facilities."

Essentially, he said, directors expected to award contracts to process the consortium's tobacco on the basis of 50 per cent to the lowest tender, 30 per cent to the next lowest and 20 per cent to the highest.

A Board committee studied the tenders Monday and directors were expected to ratify the committee's recommendations late Tuesday afternoon.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

Mr. Nagy said funding for the consortium to purchase up to 10 million pounds was still in question on Thursday, as the trade's total export target was 30 million pounds, rather than 40 million. RJR-Macdonald and Imperial Leaf have given a firm commitment to export 15 million and the leaf dealers expect to sell 15 million, he said. He explained a change in the format governing the rollover of advance crop payment funds might be

necessary to bridge the 10 million pound gap.

"The leaf dealers' 15 million pounds target is pretty low. If they can't move more than this, we're in trouble," Mr. Murray said.

Tentative reports of the tobacco crop's condition in Brazil suggest its quality could be hurt by the drought and its yield down substantially. If this prediction proves accurate, Canadian exports could be bolstered.

January 29, 1986

Mass rally possible if negotiations fail

TILLSONBURG — A mass meeting of tobacco producers may be called unless an agreement is reached in the next few days, Tobacco Board Chairman Berry Murray told about 200 farmers at the Auction Exchange boardroom yesterday morning.

During the 20 minute meeting, Mr. Murray outlined the problems the Board has encountered in obtaining an agreement which would allow tobacco markets to open.

He said complications have been posed by changing positions of manufacturers and Agriculture Canada.

Afterwards, Mr. Murray asked farmers to leave the room so directors could get on with the business of attempting to iron out difficulties that have arisen.

He said much of the problem appears to centre on tobacco taxation and the possibility that the next Federal Government budget in February will contain another huge increase.

Should this occur, he doubted that companies would be prepared to assist tobacco farmers.



Berry Murray

tobacco

Federal funding for unsold

By MARLENE OPDECAM

The Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board has wrung a verbal commitment from the federal government for funding to buy unsold tobacco from the 1985 crop. But contract problems with tobacco manufacturers continue to delay the anticipated opening of area auction exchanges.

Richard Bozek, vice-chairman of the tobacco board, said today the federal program for funding has been spelled out. Funds for the purchase of the unsold portion of the 170 million pound crop will be made available under the federal

Agricultural Products Co-operative Marketing Act, rather than the Advance Crop Payment program.

Agriculture Minister John Wise has guaranteed the board \$1.81 per green pound of tobacco from which the board must pay farmers plus processing and carrying costs. If at some time in the future the pounds are sold for less than that amount, the government will absorb the loss, Mr. Bozek said.

The \$1.81 figure does not address the full cost of paying producers \$1.76.5 per pound plus the added costs of processing and carrying. The board will be responsible for

picking up those additional costs, he said, noting the board must also pay interest on the funds under the proposed agreement.

A condition of the agreement is that the board have a written contract with the tobacco manufacturers for the crop's sale before funding will be made available.

According to Mr. Bozek, the mechanics for payment to producers have yet to be finalized.

He said the government chose to provide funds under the Agricultural Products Co-operative Marketing Act because it felt the act related more specifically to the board's

situation than the Advance Crop Payment program.

The board received a draft of a partial contract from the manufacturers Saturday. Additional documents are expected in the future, according to Mr. Bozek.

The vice-chairman said the board's lawyers are reviewing the document they have received. There are a few areas of concern on the board's part, according to Mr. Bozek. The contract received does not address the consortium which was part of the agreement reached in Ottawa last December.

"We want to know what their (the

manufacturers') commitment to the consortium is," Mr. Bozek said. As is, the draft contract includes \$20 million for export buy-downs which would cover only about 35 million pounds, he explained.

There are other clauses in the contract which don't jive with the board's understanding of the agreement reached in December. Mr. Bozek said the board will be asking the manufacturers to rephrase these portions of the contract.

In addition, the contract received does not address a guarantee from RJR-Macdonald Inc. and Imperial Leaf Tobacco for the purchase of 15

million pounds for export markets, he added.

Separate documents covering these items could be forthcoming in the future, however, Mr. Bozek said.

In the meantime, the board will try to polish up the partial contract received in order to make it mutually acceptable to both the board and the manufacturers, he said.

A commitment to the consortium is critical to the market in the board's opinion.

Until the issues are resolved, it is difficult to set a date for the opening of the auction exchanges, Mr. Bozek said.

Nailing down final details to get flue crop moving

By MARLENE OPDECAM

It would appear the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board has finally overcome the legislative road-blocks which have prevented the sale of the 1985 tobacco crop.

Legislation giving the tobacco board what amounts to provincial agency powers has been passed by cabinet and signed by the lieutenant-governor. The new powers will give the board the right to process store and market tobacco unsold at the auctions and to buy, sell and price tobacco for export sale. In the past only manufacturers and wholesalers had such powers.

According to Tobacco Board Chairman Berry Murray, the next step is to have the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Council endorse the new regulations and pass them on to the board for its approval. Mr. Murray said Friday he was hoping to receive a directive from the coun-

cil to do so by the end of the day.

A spokesman for Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food said the regulations have already been endorsed by the farm products council in principal and their review will simply be "a drafting formality." He said he expected the formalities to be completed by today (Monday).

Legal complications surrounding the use of roll-over funds from the federal government's advance crop payment program were ironed out after two days of talks with Agriculture Canada, Mr. Murray said.

Funding to remove all unsold tobacco from the tobacco auction exchange floors at \$1.76.5 has been ensured, he said.

The chairman anticipates the tobacco auction exchanges will open sometime this week although the exact date remained undecided on Friday.

Mr. Murray said the market mechanics have been worked out and all that remains to be accomplished is the signing of a finalized agreement between the board and the major tobacco manufacturing companies. The board expects to receive a draft copy of the agreement shortly.

Because tobacco traditionally allocated to the tobacco companies must be purchased by the tobacco board under the proposed crop agreement this year, the board requested tenders from the companies for processing of the raw leaf. Three tenders were received, including one from RJR Macdonald Inc., one from Dib-Com (the amalgamated company representing Dibrell Brothers and Standard Commercial) and one from Simcoe Leaf.

The board will award a contract for the processing of 80 per cent of

the tobacco it purchases to RJR Macdonald and one for 20 per cent to Simcoe Leaf, Mr. Murray announced Friday. Imperial Leaf Tobacco did not tender for the processing contracts. Mr. Murray said the choice of the processing companies was a business decision made by the board. "We chose who we thought would suit our needs," he commented.

There has been no word from Federal Finance Minister Michael Wilson concerning a proposal from the board for a compensation package for tobacco producers. The proposal hit Mr. Wilson's desk before Christmas.

Mr. Murray said he does not expect to receive word on the package until the federal budget is announced.

He stressed the board's number one goal remains getting the sale of the 1985 crop underway.

Grower plebiscite to gauge opinions on board powers

By MARLENE OPDECAM

An expression of opinion poll for tobacco quota owners will be held in the province's 14 tobacco districts Thursday, Jan. 9.

The poll is being held to gauge producers' feelings on the expansion of the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board powers to include the legislative right to buy, own, sell, process and package tobacco.

The producer plebiscite will be held between the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Jan. 9. Farmers are being directed to their polling stations through letters sent out by the board.

The Ontario Farm Products Marketing Board will be overseeing the vote.

Details of the wording on the ballot have yet to be finalized, according to board secretary Mary LePage.

Prior to the vote, meetings will be

held by directors in each district to explain in detail what the poll is all about. The meetings will be held Jan. 7 and Jan. 8. Farmers were appraised of the time and place in letters mailed out by the marketing board last Thursday.

Finalization of the existing agreement in principle for the sale of the 1985 flue crop is dependent upon the province authorizing the above mentioned powers for the board.

An agreement in principle for the sale of last year's crop for a guaranteed minimum average price of \$1.75.50 a pound for 170 million pounds was reached with the tobacco manufacturing companies Dec. 13 but the final details of the agreement have yet to be hammered out.

Under the terms of the proposed agreement all of the 170 million pound crop would be purchased. Of this, 90 million pounds have been guaranteed for the domestic

market. About 40 million are expected to be exported, although Board Chairman Berry Murray has stated as much as 80 million could be sold on world markets.

Unsold tobacco will be purchased and packed by the board with financial assistance from the federal government through a rollover of the advance crop payment funds tobacco growers received. The deal also includes the establishment of a consortium made up of all parts of the industry, including the board, to market the unsold leaf. To participate in the proposed consortium, the board must have the provincial powers which producers will be voting on in the upcoming plebiscite.

Minimum grade prices for the 1985 crop are to be addressed to \$1.20, compared to \$1.40 last year. The board is counting on the attractiveness of the \$1.20 per pound price tag to boost export sales.

The tobacco manufacturers have agreed to contribute approximately \$50 million over a three-year period to help buy down the price of the export tobacco to make it competitive on world markets. The funds will come from an increase of about three cents per package of cigarettes or a consumer levy.

Funds from this pot will be used to make up the 56.5 cent difference between the minimum average price of \$1.20 and the guaranteed overall average price of \$1.76.50 for every pound of tobacco sold. The unsold tobacco will be allocated to the consortium at the minimum grade price plus the make-up payment rather than to the manufacturers.

One other new feature in the proposed agreement is a clause which will permit producers to keep any premiums, up to 10 cents, gained above the minimum average grade price of \$1.20.

T N Jan 8
postponed

Flue grower plebiscite

By MARLENE OPDECAM

Last minute complications in talks between the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board and the provincial government have forced the board to postpone an expression of opinion poll set for Thursday. The district meetings which were to explain the purpose of the vote to growers have also been cancelled for the time being.

The vote was to be held to gauge tobacco quota owners views on the proposed expansion of tobacco board powers provincially to include the right to buy, own, package, process and sell flue leaf.

The vote is being overseen by the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Council. Board members spent Monday and Tuesday in Toronto trying

to iron out wrinkles in the wording of the ballot and consequent changes in existing legislation necessary to authorize those powers but failed to do so.

Richard Bozek, vice-chairman of the board, said the board will continue to meet with the provincial government until the situation is clarified. The board was to meet with Provincial Agriculture Minister Jack Riddell Wednesday (today).

Because so much remains to be resolved, he refused to speculate on when the proposed vote is likely to be held.

The tobacco board must secure provincial agency powers if an agreement in principle worked out for the sale of the 1985 crop is to be

finalized. Under that agreement, tobacco not purchased by the major tobacco manufacturers is to be purchased by the board for sale through a consortium made up by the board and all other segments of the tobacco industry.

The board had hoped, providing two-thirds of eligible voting producers voted in favor of the expansion of powers, the government would give it temporary agency status, until the legislation was approved by cabinet. With temporary status, the board could open the warehouses and get the sale of the 170 million pound crop underway.

Legalities surrounding the potential use of roll-over funds from the advance crop payment program also remain unresolved.

On Monday, a tobacco board committee met with department of agriculture officials in Ottawa to clarify the legal technicalities surrounding the use of these funds and to work out the mechanics. Because the proposed expression of opinion poll is the board's first priority, there was insufficient time to discuss the funding red-tape with its solicitor and the difficulties are as yet to be ironed out, Mr. Bozek said.

A few loose ends remain to be tied up with the manufacturers as well before the crop agreement can be finalized, according to the vice-chairman. Mr. Bozek declined to comment on the nature of the legal loose ends which remain unresolved. He did say, however, that three

board committees are working on the individual facets of the agreement which have yet to be finalized. The board isn't waiting for the provincial situation to be resolved before tackling remaining issues, he said.

The board is also busy getting help lined up for the opening of the auction exchanges in order to expedite that process once openings become possible.

Board Chairman Berry Murray has indicated it is important the opening of the 1985 market not be delayed any longer as January and February are critical months for export sales. Historically, the bulk of export sales have been made during January, Mr. Murray said.

The board is also seeking an appointment with Federal Finance Minister Michael Wilson regarding a proposed federal compensation package to assist growers in coping with declining production. The third draft of this proposal hit Mr. Wilson's desk before Christmas.

At the provincial level, the board is seeking a major commitment from the government to support export promotion. It will also urge provincial action to lower tax assessments on tobacco properties.

These issues, however, have been put on the back burner, according to Mr. Bozek, who stressed the board's major energies are focused on resolving those issues still blocking the opening of the 1985 market.

Plebiscite results go to marketing board

By MARLENE OPDECAM

The Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board submitted the results of a grower plebiscite on the extension of board marketing powers to the provincial Farm Products Marketing Board in Toronto Monday.

In the expression of opinion poll, held last Friday, growers voted overwhelmingly in favor of the increased powers. Ninety-five per cent of those who cast their ballots supported the changes.

Berry Murray, chairman of the tobacco board, said the results will be submitted by the farm products board to Ontario Agriculture Minister Jack Riddell who is expected to put them before cabinet today (Wednesday).

Mr. Murray said he expects a cabinet decision on the extended powers will also be made today.

The board has not applied for any temporary provincial agency powers but will wait for cabinet approval and the drafting of the expanded regulations by the farm products board. The tobacco board must then pass a bylaw to conform with the legislative changes before they become official.

The chairman said he doesn't expect any difficulty with the wording

of the regulations as the two groups have already come to an understanding on them.

Mr. Murray said waiting until the legislation is official before opening the tobacco auction exchanges for the sale of the 1985 crop, instead of applying for temporary powers, could take a few extra days but the board felt it was the best way to go.

Mr. Riddell has suggested the board target the opening date of the auctions for Jan. 20 but the board itself hasn't set a date. "Our plans are to open as soon as possible," Mr. Murray said. The board doesn't want to mention a date and then not be able to deliver, he explained.

Auction exchange staff are on stand-by, waiting to be called in.

This week the tobacco board committees will be meeting to iron out marketing mechanics for the opening of the exchanges, Mr. Murray said. Except for the fact the board will be purchasing tobacco not bid on by the manufacturing companies, the marketing procedure is expected to remain identical to that in past years.

The board is also working on legal implications surrounding the \$90 advance payment program roll-over from the federal government which it hopes to use to purchase the unsold

tobacco. Mr. Murray said he believes the technicalities surrounding the use of the money are "very close to being resolved." He declined to say what the legal problems were.

Some "dusting" also remains to be done with the manufacturers concerning the proposed 1985 crop

agreement, Mr. Murray said, but he indicated all major hurdles facing the sale of the crop appear to have been overcome.

That during the week of Jan. 15, 1976:

Haldimand-Norfolk Regional Police may have given back stolen property to the thief who heisted it, Inspector Lee Stewart told the Ontario Police Commission.

Heather Dell, 15, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Dell, of 193 Eagle St., Delhi, had a close call when some cooking oil she was heating on an electric stove to prepare French fries caught fire.

Ted Raytrowsky, Walter Huszczo and Gerard Demaiter, directors of the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board, made it clear they favour a change in the method of marketing tobacco at a District 10 meeting.

Local lawyer John Kapusta takes over the leadership reins of Delhi Public Utilities for the year

1976. Mr. Kapusta was elected in absentia at the meeting of the PUC.

The Township of Norwich has moved for temporary measures on garbage disposal in Ward 1 pending future action on the matter by Oxford County.

Sales to date of flue-cured tobacco total 67,925,172 pounds at an average price of 89.70 cents per pound.

Sixty teams participated in the 13th Annual Dart Tournament at the Belgian Hall.

The London Free Press SATURDAY January 18, 1986

Business Report

Growers win right to sell tobacco

By Al Chater
of The Free Press

For the first time in its 28-year history, the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board will be able to sell its members' product.

Ontario Agriculture and Food Minister Jack Riddell announced Friday that the province has granted new marketing authority to the board.

The new authority will allow the board to process, store and market tobacco unsold at auctions and to buy, sell and price tobacco for export sale. In the past only manufacturers and wholesale buyers could do this.

Tobacco growers voted 95 per cent in favor of the board having

such powers in an expression of opinion taken on Jan. 10. The vote was 1,927 in favor and 98 opposed.

Albert Knab of RR 6, Tillsonburg, a board director, called the new powers an important step in the board's history and a necessary one for the Ontario industry's survival.

The new powers have been sought for almost 10 years, but are particularly important this year because manufacturers, for the first time since 1962, have not guaranteed to buy the entire tobacco crop, he said.

Knab said manufacturers have verbally guaranteed to buy about 105 million pounds of the 170-million-pound 1985 crop, but board officials expect they may end up buying about 130 million pounds.

The board hopes to sell the remainder through the export market,

said Knab. "Although we'd like to make a profit, we would be satisfied at this point just to break even."

He said with declining domestic consumption of tobacco, export markets are necessary for the industry's survival. The board's new exporting efforts offer the potential for opening new export markets, such as China, to Ontario tobacco.

Knab said some foreign countries prefer to deal with a board to buy tobacco rather than a multi-national company because the board is viewed as a quasi-government body.

He said the province's granting of selling powers will eliminate problems of growers storing tobacco unsold at the auction in their barns until next year.

A date for the auction exchanges at Alymer, Delhi and Tillsonburg

has not been set, but Knab said the latest target date is for the middle of next week.

Still to be completed are working out the legalities of using federal government advance payments to growers as start-up money for the board's selling efforts, he said.

Knab said the provincial powers "fit hand in glove" with the board's continuing goal of getting a national marketing agency. The provincial powers are necessary as part of a national agency, which would also offer controls over imports and a cost-of-production formula.

The new provincial powers will also give the board a chance to get a better handle on world tobacco prices, which in the past have been a "secretive" subject among manufacturers, Knab said.



Still no activity

There is no activity at the Tillsonburg tobacco auction exchange. Traditionally packed to the rafters with bales of flue-cured tobacco, the building is empty and deserted and likely to remain so for an unspecified time to come. The

Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board has received a draft copy of a partial crop agreement from the manufacturers. The contract omits reference to a consortium sought by the board and has other clauses the board finds of concern. Until the problems can be ironed out, the market will remain unopened. (Staff Photo)

JAN 27

Monday, February 3, 1986

Tobacco auctions underway Tuesday

By MARLENE OPDECAM

Ontario's tobacco auction exchanges will open for business Tuesday even though a final agreement for the sale of the 1985 crop hasn't been reached.

The Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board decided Friday to go ahead with crop sales without the agreement to prevent the loss of export sales. The ex-

change openings come about four months late, after months of protracted crop negotiations.

Berry Murray, chairman of the board, said Monday morning the board has received written letters of agreement on the important parts of the proposed 1985 crop contract from Imperial Tobacco, RJR McDonald and Benson and Hedges.

But confirmation has yet to be

received from Rothmans of Pall Mall Canada Ltd. Mr. Murray said he met with the president of Rothmans for three hours Friday. The discussions were satisfactory, according to Mr. Murray. As a result of the meeting, Rothmans has offered to chair a meeting of the board and all the major manufacturing companies as soon as possible to iron out remaining difficulties, in-

cluding the proposed export consortium, he said.

Mr. Murray views Rothmans offer to chair the meeting as a positive sign, indicating the company has put a priority on coming to an agreement.

Mr. Murray said that while the board's arrangements for federal funding for the purchase of unsold

tobacco hinge on having an agreement with the manufacturers, he believes the understanding it has reached with the other companies will be sufficient.

"The minister (Federal Agriculture Minister John Wise) had to be satisfied he would know what his potential liability was," Mr. Murray said. "We feel we have that." The board will be meeting

with representatives from Mr. Wise's office at the board office in the next few days, he said.

This is not the first time the exchanges have opened without a finalized crop agreement, he said.

Mr. Murray estimated it would take about 83 days to complete the sale of the 170 million pound flue crop.

Auctions open amidst

Price per pound not guaranteed

By Dave MacLaren
Staff Writer

Ontario flue-cured tobacco auctions opened yesterday, but there is a possibility that the average return per pound will not be known until sales conclude.

"We're not happy. But after a careful analysis, we felt we'd beat the bushes as much as we could," Vice-Chairman Richard Bozek said Friday.

"There appeared to be no substantial chance of the Federal or Provincial Governments or the manufacturers changing their positions. The probability export orders would be lost by a further market delay outweighed any slim hope of gains," he said.

On Friday, Chairman Berry Murray was in Toronto talking to executives of Rothmans. Of the four manufacturers, Rothmans is the only one which has not agreed to 15 points of clarification the Board asked for in the draft contract.

By Monday morning, Mr. Murray said Rothmans haven't endorsed these points, but did agree to initiate a meeting of manufacturers and the Board at which the items will be discussed.

"They (Rothmans) told me they will be active on the market. But it is crucial to the market and the formation of the consortium that they sign," he said.

A court injunction obtained by the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers' Council quashed the Board's objective to market the 1985 crop under a national agency. Then the Dec. 13 'agreement in principle' under which 170 million pounds would have been marketed for a guaranteed minimum average of \$1.76½ did not jell, as it

was conditional on a rollover of Advance Crop Payment (ACP) funds.

Under the Agricultural Products Co-operative Marketing Act (APCMA), which Agriculture Canada decreed must be used instead, funding for tobacco not purchased on the market is limited to \$1.81 a pound (farm weight) and interest payable on the loan begins immediately.

"The Board will try to live up to its commitment to pay \$1.76½, but at this stage there are a good number of possible scenarios and it is impossible to estimate," Mr. Bozek said.

"The 4½ cents (difference between \$1.76½ and \$1.81) is not sufficient to pay all the costs. There is a complex multiple choice of options, so we can't estimate what will be left to pay growers."

Immediate grower returns from shipments will consist of the average price they receive on auction floors, based on grade prices set to average \$1.20 a pound, plus an additional 35 cents.

How much more per pound the Board is able to pay growers following the conclusion of sales, depends upon details yet to be negotiated with manufacturers regarding the consortium and the amount of tobacco packed.

Mr. Bozek said the cost per pound for processing, insurance and storage until September is less than 20 cents (farm weight). Payment for processing is not due until September, he added.

(continued from page 1)

But loan interest on the packed tobacco could be a sizeable additional cost and will be relative to what farmers are paid at the market's end. Mr. Bozek said if one talked about holding the pack for 1½ years, the cost per pound could be more than 40 cents on the consortium's inventory.

He described the auction opening under present conditions as "a calculated risk" which is being taken because of the Board's deep concern about losing export customers. "Leaf dealers have been phoning their customers for a month now," he said.

In a rough calculation, assuming 130 million pounds sold for \$1.76½ and growers were paid 40 cents a pound less for 40 million pounds packed by the consortium, the crop average would be \$1.67 or 9½ cents per pound less than growers antici-

pated. Less pessimistic calculations produce higher market averages.

The costs associated with the packed tobacco will be shared by all growers in proportion to the pounds they market, not the number of pounds in their crop which must be packed.

Sales commence on a guarantee that domestic purchases of 90 million pounds will average \$1.76½, in addition, and manufacturers will provide \$20-million as required to buy down another 35 million pounds to the \$1.20 export price.

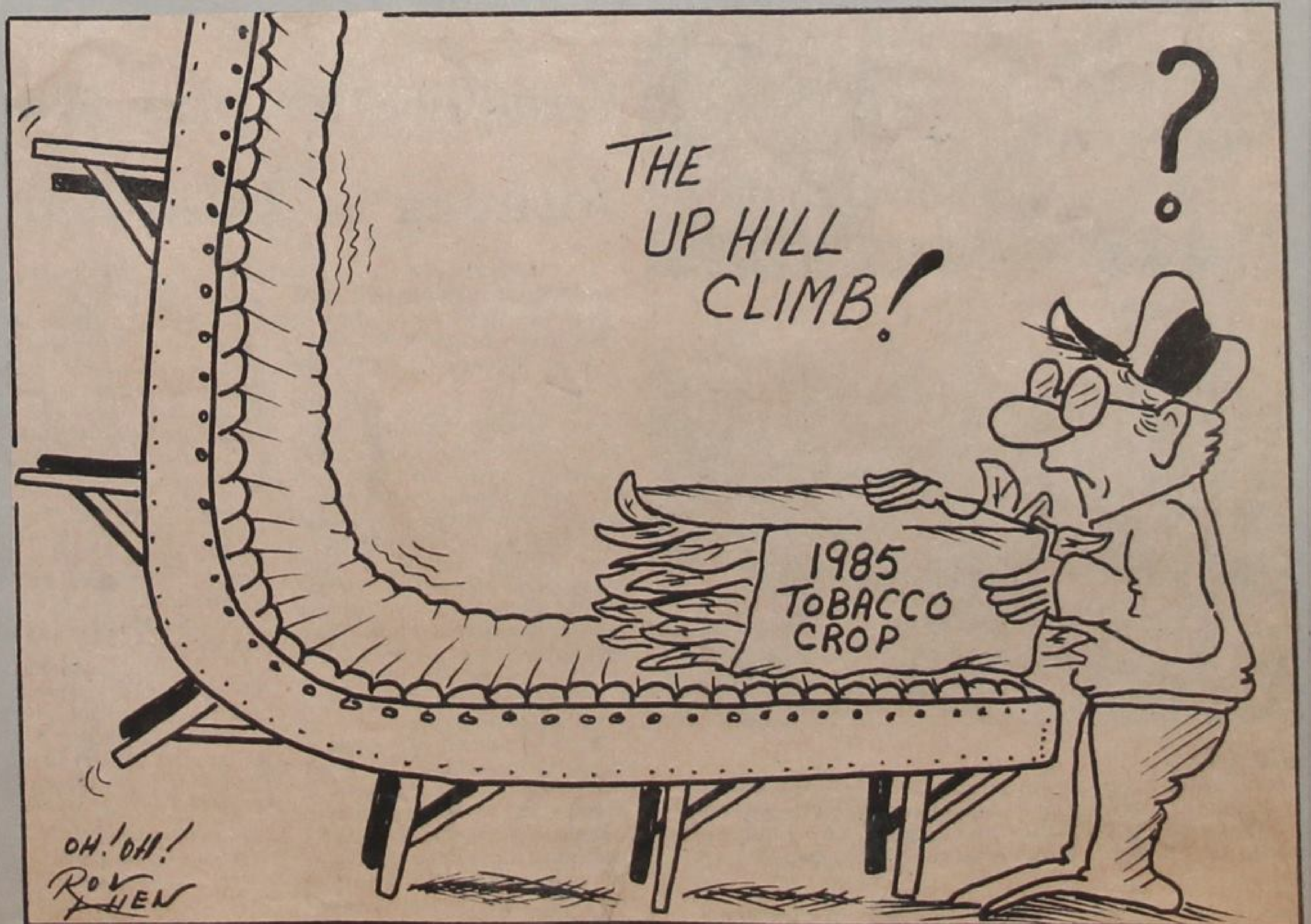
RJR-Macdonald and Imperial Leaf have guaranteed export sales for 15 million pounds. Leaf dealers have not made a formal commitment on a stated volume of export sales but have made an open-ended promise to pursue foreign markets.

Export buy-down funding beyond the immediate \$20-million manufacturers will provide must come from

the voluntary three cent per pack of 25 cigarettes price increase, which is a key element in the proposed consortium. This funding, expected to begin in April and to continue at least three years, has been projected to raise about \$50-million annually on cigarette sales of 59 billion pieces.

Tuesday's auction opening is the latest ever in the industry's history. Sales of the 1984 crop concluded on Feb. 18, 1985 after 83 selling days. So this market commences only 11 days before the 1984 crop market concluded. If the Board is able to achieve an average daily sales volume of 2.3 or 2.2 million pounds, sales will wind up in 74 to 78 days, or during the second last week in May.

Mr. Murray said distribution of the tobacco redux money is critical, if many growers are to have an opportunity to grow another crop.



Foreign buyers plus as market

After months of anxious waiting, relieved tobacco growers started unloading trucks of tobacco Tuesday as the tobacco auction exchanges finally opened for the sale of the 1985 crop.

Normally open in early October, sale of last year's crop was delayed for months by disputes over how the tobacco would be sold, the number of pounds of tobacco to be sold on the market and the price farmers would be paid. A final agreement for the sale of the entire crop still isn't in place but the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board decided to open the market without

the agreement to prevent the loss of export sales.

While it had been rumored there might be some disgruntled growers protesting the opening of the auctions without a formal agreement in place, the opening Tuesday in Tillsonburg went ahead as planned at 11 a.m. without complications.

Growers were generally pleased to see the tobacco moving and the number of foreign buyers in attendance, including many new American buyers attracted by the Canadian dollar's low position and the low Canadian grade prices.

In an interview this morning Tobacco Board Chairman Berry Murray, in attendance at the opening of the Tillsonburg exchange yesterday, said the opening day of the market started off traditionally slow. But he was encouraged by the number of foreign buyers looking at the tobacco and he hopes the buying activity picks up.

He said the grade price "is definitely low" and he noted it will be a difficult year for farmers.

In order to sell the 170-million pound 1985 crop, producers agreed to an average price of \$1.76.5 a

pound for the 90-million-pound domestic requirements for the companies. The manufacturers also agreed to a \$20-million makeup fund which would be used to buy down the 35 million pounds of flue from the guaranteed price to the minimum grade price of \$1.20 for export. Two of the manufacturers have also agreed to guarantee export sales for 15 million pounds. The board would be left to move the remainder of the crop but details of the export consortium that would allow the board to buy and sell the tobacco have yet to be finalized.

While written letters of agreement

on the important parts of the 1985 crop contract have been received from Imperial Tobacco, R.J.R. McDonald and Benson and Hedges there is still no solid commitment from Rothmans of Pall Mall Canada Ltd.

Mr. Murray said Rothmans have not agreed to the contract in the same detail as the other three companies but the manufacturer has indicated it is willing to come back and discuss the issues. He's hoping that meeting can be held in the near future.

Barring any complications, he expects the market to run through the end of May. Some growers have expressed concern that without an agreement, the manufacturers could close the market at any time by refusing to buy tobacco.

"We're hoping we can run the market as efficiently as possible but that will depend on the buyer activity," Mr. Murray said. He admitted he is worried about the next federal budget and what it might hold for the tobacco industry. "It would do us a great deal of harm if they (government) slap on another major tax increase like they did last time."

Growers finance unsold tobacco

T.N. FEB 5

By MARLENE OPDECAM

Ontario tobacco producers will only be receiving initial payments of \$1.55 on all pounds of tobacco sold — not the \$1.76.5 a pound the manufacturers agreed to. The initial payment price represents average price growers receive on the floor (with minimum grade prices addressed to \$1.20 a pound) plus 35 cents or \$1.55 excluding premiums.

Ted Raytrowsky, Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board director for District 10, told about 60 producers at a meeting held in Walsh Tuesday night that the board would be withholding the remaining 21.5 cents of producer payments to meet its cash flow needs.

The board, in keeping with a tentative crop agreement reached last December, is purchasing all unsold tobacco from the auction floors at

the specified \$1.76.5 cents a pound. However, federal funding of \$1.81 per pound allotted under the Agricultural Products Co-operatives Marketing Act, for the purchase, processing, storage and other carrying costs associated with the board-bought tobacco, will not be available until the board and the manufacturers have a signed crop agreement.

Currently, the board is using a roll-over of advance crop payment funds to meet costs but, according to Mr. Raytrowsky, it ran approximately \$22,000 short on the first day of sales Tuesday. Approximately 13 per cent of the tobacco shipped was unsold. About 1.5 million pounds were sold for an average price of \$1.21.80.

Mr. Raytrowsky indicated farmers may be able to expect a partial payment of the 21.5 cents owing them once the federal money becomes available. Some funds, however, will have to be kept by the board until cash flow problems are resolved. The 4.5-cent difference between the federal funding and the guaranteed average price of \$1.76.5 will not be sufficient to meet the costs of processing and storing unsold tobacco.

Mr. Raytrowsky estimated costs for processing, storage and other costs to the producer would be approximately 12 cents per pound if the leaf is still unsold by September of 1987.

In addition, if export sales should exceed the 35 million estimate covered by a \$20 million buy-down fund agreed to by the manufacturers, funds to make up the difference between the \$1.20 and the \$1.76.5 guarantee won't be available unless the proposed export consortium is in effect.

Mr. Raytrowsky said he wasn't happy with the approximately \$1.55 producers will be receiving per pound but said there was no other

(Continued from Page 1)

way the board could work it. "It's not the best. I'm not happy with it. But this is the way we have to go," he said.

Mr. Raytrowsky stressed the board was doing everything possible to get the consortium in place so the buy-down for any pounds sold over the guaranteed 90 million for domestic and 35 for export could receive buy-down funding. The consortium will handle funds gathered from a proposed three cents per package user-pay scheme projected to raise \$50 million over a three-year period.

R.J.R. McDonald has agreed to all 15 points proposed by the board in the agreement. Imperial Tobacco and Benson and Hedges have also agreed, providing all manufacturers sign the contract. Rothmans of Pall Mall Canada Ltd. has not agreed but will chair a meeting to discuss the

problems surrounding the consortium as soon as possible.

"We need the consortium money to come out of this," Mr. Raytrowsky told farmers. Asked by one producer why the board couldn't borrow the money and pay producers up front, he said the board has no agreement with the manufacturers yet and couldn't borrow money on the strength it will. "Face reality," he said. "If the money isn't there we can't give it to you."

Several farmers indicated they felt the market should be closed until the agreement is signed. But Mr. Raytrowsky said the 1985 crop is one of the best Ontario has had in years. With yields down in Zimbabwe and Brazil, the potential is there to sell as much as 150 million pounds, leaving only 20 million for the board to pack, he said. But only if the auctions are open.

Tobacco producers with advance crop payments will have 80 cents per pound deducted to repay loans. All producers face a 2.5 cent per pound deduction for board fees.

Another tobacco tax hike feared

By MARLENE OPDECAM

The spectre of another tobacco tax increase in the upcoming federal budget Feb. 26 is haunting not only the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board but area municipalities as well.

Berry Murray, chairman of the tobacco board, said Wednesday he is urging tobacco producers and other area residents to remind elected officials of earlier government promises to implement an equitable tax system for tobacco products tied to the consumer price index.

"We can't afford another 25-cent whammy," Mr. Murray commented, referring to the last tax hike imposed at the federal level.

Mr. Murray said any similar move by Finance Minister Michael Wilson on Feb. 26 would be devastating to the proposed export consortium the board hopes to see established with the tobacco manufacturing companies' co-operation. It would also be devastating to tobacco-belt communities as a whole, he said.

Board oversteps powers

I wish I could say I had such endearment about our local Tobacco Board, let alone some of its members, because if I did I would have to include them.

I think the Board had overstepped its powers when it wants to compete directly with the companies on the auction floor for our tobacco. On top of it all they are withholding 21¢ per pound of our money so they eventually can do so. The Board says no now to this only because the companies don't agree. Will the 21¢ per pound be sufficient next year or will more be required? Some of you reading this may think it seems foolish but read it over a couple of times and I hope it sinks in.

The vote on provincial agency powers was a farce. The companies would sign the agreement tomorrow if the Board backs off on the consortium deal. One doesn't want a consort.

I say the Board is the most at fault for not having an agreement this year and above all they tell us now we will likely never have another total agreement. Are we going to take this from them? Call your director and tell them what you think and demand your money you worked all year for.

After all aren't they supposed to be our Board who looks after us (no pun intended)?

If they won't listen to us as an individual they will have to listen to us as a majority. If this is the way it has to be so be it. Wouldn't you rather see some of the directors retire than you?

Either way it will take a majority of the growers. Which way would you rather be: remembered as a tobacco farmer or a former tobacco farmer? Decision is ours!!!

A MUSHROOM IN VIENNA

(P.S.) Mushrooms grow best in the dark while being fed lots of horse manure.

Mayor fires off tobacco telex to Ottawa

N G
FEB 19

Norwich Township Mayor John Heleniak has sent a telex off to federal Finance Minister Michael Wilson urging him to be kind to tobacco producers in his Feb. 26 budget.

Frightened that new taxes may be added to tobacco products in the forthcoming federal budget, further threatening the viability of local growers, Norwich Township Council's Agriculture and Works Committee instructed the mayor to send an urgent telegram to the finance minister.

In an interview Tuesday, Mr. Heleniak said the telex, which was sent Tuesday afternoon, goes in support of the positions of the Delhi and Norfolk Township Councils.

The mayor said the message may have little effect on budget plans, noting that the budget has likely already been written. "But if nothing else, we're doing it to show our support."

The telex comes as a last urgent plea from tobacco producing municipalities before the unveiling of the budget. It follows a fall visit to Ottawa to meet the minister by representatives of the area's tobacco towns.

Anti-smoking bill being viewed

An Eastern Ontario MPP's private member's bill aimed at restricting smoking in public places and on the job is being viewed by the Non-Smokers' Rights Association as an indication that the anti-smoking campaign is building.

Norm Sterling (PC-Carleton-Grenville) has introduced the Non-Smokers' Protection Act (Bill 71). The bill has received second reading and is now before a committee of the Ontario Legislature.

He's hoping the public's response to the bill will pressure the government to pass the legislation which would provide for:

-- No smoking in public places and public vehicles except for designated smoking areas.

-- No smoking in day-care centres, nursery, elementary and secondary schools.

-- Right of hospital patients to non-smoking accommodation.

-- Direction for government to draft regulations for providing space for non-smokers in the workplace.

Mr. Sterling said the thrust of his legislation is the protection of non-smokers from the health hazards of second-hand smoke in public places and the workplace and to set a

positive example to discourage young people from smoking.

He has taken out advertising asking people to urge the government to support his bill. And the ads include a coupon to be returned to him which he will forward to the individual's MPP.

The Non-Smokers' Rights Association views the bill as an indication that the anti-smoking campaign is building. The association in turn has stepped up its efforts with a recent two-page ad in Maclean's magazine which mainly attacks the tobacco manufacturers for allegedly violating an industry code regulating advertising and promotion.

Dave Sweanor, staff council for the anti-smoking association, said the campaign is not being conducted to put tobacco farmers out of business. He said that rather than take an adversarial approach, farmers and health groups should work together in promoting alternatives as tobacco consumption declines. T.N. FEB 7

Growers 'stunned' by tobacco prices at exchange opening

By Dave MacLaren
Staff Writer

Tobacco Board Vice-Chairman Richard Bozek described farmers' reaction to the opening of flue-cured sales last Tuesday as "resigned and sort of stunned" by minimum grade prices (MGPs) set to average \$1.20 per pound for the export market.

For the first four days of auction, daily sales volumes were good and the percentage of tobacco which did not receive a bid was less than usual. But, Mr. Bozek said, in general, premiums bid above MGPs did not appear to be very high. At the market close on Friday, 7,755,211 pounds had brought an average price of \$1.2176 per pound. Daily allocations ranged from 13 to just under 20 per cent.



Richard Bozek

Allocated tobacco, which does not receive a bid, is being processed and stored by the Board, instead of the four domestic manufacturers who previously took this leaf at its respective MGPs, under agreements which guaranteed sale of the entire crop. It is this new element in the market which has created uncertainty as to what the final average price received by growers will be.

Grower returns from shipments are based on receipts from the grades they deliver, plus a 35 cent per pound interim payment. Thus, excluding any premiums received, the interim average return per pound is \$1.55. The Board hopes it will be possible to pay another 21½ cents per pound later to bring the average price to the \$1.76½ farmers anticipated. However, the likelihood of this appears to be dependent upon premiums being received on auction floors of six cents a pound or more. In addition, so many details of the crop agreement have yet to be finalized, it is impossible to even make an educated guess about the over all average price.

Meanwhile, about three-quarters of the farmers will have 80 cents per pound deducted from shipping receipts until their Advance Crop Payment (ACP) loans are repaid. Selling fees of 2½ cents per pound, coupled with ACP deductions, will reduce most growers' market proceeds to an average of 72½ cents per pound. And Crop Insurance premium payments of about \$7-million, due on the second shipment will further reduce shipping proceeds of approximately 2,100 growers enrolled in this program.

"How in hell are we going to grow the next crop if we don't get the 21 cents?" a frustrated farmer asked Director Steve Nagy at a District 9 producers' meeting in Port Rowan Friday evening. "I'd just as soon keep my tobacco in the barn. You don't have much to lose anyway, if you can't grow," he added.

While Mr. Nagy said he could not estimate the lowest average price growers will receive, he said he didn't expect them to be out-of-pocket the whole 21½ cents. "Looking at it optimistically, if we get the same six cents in premiums as we did last year on the auction, the average could come out at \$1.76½," he said.

A hand-out sheet predicting other average prices, depending on the



Butt out, non smokers

We have been hearing a lot about non-smokers' rights lately. Various cities have passed bylaws outlawing smoking in public places, and have ordered restaurants to set certain sections aside for the use of non-smokers.

Now, I don't smoke myself and I can see the need for a certain amount of regulation in this matter. To be fumigated by someone's cigarette while in a closely-packed elevator is neither pleasant nor safe.

Nor, when it comes right down to it, do we really need people puffing their way around grocery stores -- not so much because of the smell (grocery stores seem to specialize in odors that make cigarette smoke a veritable perfume in comparison) but because of the inevitable distress and confusion that will result when a dropped cigarette sets the toilet paper display on fire.

Perhaps there is even a need for non-smoking areas in restaurants. On the other hand, most restaurants seem to have them already, bylaw or no bylaw, and what we seem to have here is still another example of

government's unneeded intrusion into private life.

And there, perhaps, is the "butt" of the problem (my apologies). Smoking is still a matter of private choice, so long as it does not endanger or overly offend other people. And there's no reason smokers should be made to feel like second-class citizens.

If you listen to the self-righteous propaganda of the non-smokers' groups, you would swear smoking is a heinous crime on a par with beating your children, running down old ladies in the street, and joining a neo-Nazi organization.

Well, guess what. It isn't.

There is no evidence (as far as I'm aware) that smokers are any more likely to abuse their kids, cheat their employers, or rig the office football pool than anyone else.

There is good reason to think that prolonged and heavy smoking will result in lung cancer. That's why many smokers are quitting.

Indeed, some people argue those who "smoke themselves to death" are deliberately making themselves a burden to the rest of society, which has to pay their medical bills through the provincial health insurance scheme.

I suppose there's some justice to this. On the other hand, human physiology is extraordinarily complex and you can't just point to a cause-and-effect relationship between smoking and cancer. If you could, everyone who smoked would die of cancer. Obviously they don't.

Winston Churchill spent a lifetime smoking dreadful cigars that nearly stifled everyone around him. Poor man, he died at the terribly young age of 90.

Besides, if you're going to exempt smokers who die from lung cancer from the health insurance plan, would you also exempt drivers who consistently speed and end up injured in an accident? People who eat too much and exercise too little and have a heart attack? People who court injury through playing sports, climbing mountains, or crossing streets against the light?

The only safe life, is to stay in your house all day and never budge out the door. Of course, even there you can burn yourself cooking or drop your hair dryer in the bathtub.

The bottom line is this. Smoking is one of those habits that society as a whole shouldn't encourage. Heaven knows we all have enough bad habits already.

But I'm tired of the sheer self-righteousness of many non-smokers, who, no doubt, suffer from just as many vile habits themselves in most cases and quite often force the rest of us to endure those habits -- whether it be drinking and driving or non-stop talking, filling the air with verbal pollution every bit as bad as cigarette smoke.

Smokers should be courteous and, in situations where it's obvious smoking will offend or irritate others, butt out.

But non-smokers should show a little bit of courtesy, too, and in situations where it doesn't matter to them whether other people are smoking, they should butt out of other people's business.

To smoke or not to smoke is still a matter of individual choice. I think it should stay that way, and I think this is one area where overly-heavy government regulation and the over-zealous efforts of some smugly self-righteous health groups are out of place.

After all, if we aren't careful, Big Brother Government will be after coffee next.

I can see it now: enormous tax increases bringing the price of coffee to \$2.75 a cup. Non-coffee-drinking sections in restaurants, to separate the irritable caffeine addicts with Java-breath from the rest of the population. Anti-coffee leagues. Coffee Anonymous. Government regulations banning the dreaded second cup...

News Editorial

Another nail

It could have been worse.

That's about all that can be said from a tobacco belt perspective about last week's federal budget.

The budget calls for an increase of 4½ cents in the federal tax on a pack of cigarettes. Once retailers and wholesalers get their share of the action, the price hike will amount to about nine cents per pack.

Flue board officials were understandably relieved this budget wasn't a repeat performance of last May's, which included a whopping 25-cent-per-pack increase in tobacco taxes.

Still, to keep the 4.5-cent tax hike in perspective, one should remember that of the retail price of a package of cigarettes, tobacco farmers receive only 6½ cents.

By far the largest share of the price of cigarettes goes not to the people who grow, manufacture, or market tobacco, but to the government -- a curious state of affairs when you pause to think about it, in a country which supposedly still operates on free enterprise principles.

After the enormous tobacco tax hike of last May, the federal Conservatives made promising noises about some of that money being used to help tobacco farmers get out of the business or diversify into alternative crops.

So far little has been done. And the latest increase makes some sort of assistance even more necessary.

Without such action, last week's tobacco tax hike has to be seen as still another nail -- if only a small one -- in the coffin of the tobacco industry and, in fact, of the economy of the tri-county area generally. --D.S.

Aphrodesiacs may become an alternative crop for some tobacco farmers

by PETER McLAUGHLIN

You're going to love what several local farmers are growing in their fields this year.

Some might say these farmers, most of whom are tobacco farmers, are throwing good sense to the wind risking a great deal of money to grow a largely unknown crop. But they're simply doing what farmers

have been doing for generations. They're taking a gamble.

What they're growing is an aphrodesiac -- the fabled ginseng root.

Aphrodesiacs, or love potions, are the stuff of legends and myth. Essentially, they have checkered reputations. Many believe they increase sexual potency and desire, while others say the potions are little more than useless placebos.

One thing is for sure, there's money to be made in them. One Otterville-area farmer believes that with a little luck he might realize a profit of about \$120,000 when harvests his three acres of ginseng.

"I don't know what else I can grow that would bring me that kind of income," he said last spring while preparing a small portion of his farm for the root.

Like many new and veteran growers of the aphrodesiac, he was

reluctant to be named in the story. Ginseng production is a high stakes game and those who play it shun the publicity in fear that if it catches on more people will grow the precious herb forcing the price down drastically.

After several years of losing money growing tobacco, the farmer, who over years has tried his hand at growing cucumbers and selling real estate, may have found his Eldorado.

Last year, ginseng root sold for about \$70 per pound. But this year it will likely be selling in the neighbourhood of \$40.

"Even at half the price, I think it's worth the gamble," he said.

The gamble, he says, has much to do with the perishable quality of the root and the fact the root must stay in the ground for at least three years before it is harvested.

The ginseng root has its origins in

the Orient. It has been used over the ages in China, in its refined form, as a medicinal tonic and love potion. North American users claim the small, beige root is good for relieving the pain of arthritis.

Byproducts of the root are often found in health food stores, usually in the form of tablets, tea and soft drinks.

The root is similar in appearance to a carrot, but the ideal specimen is shaped like "a little man."

The farmer planted his first crop in September reserving three-acres for the root while renting the rest of his land for tobacco.

Most growers plant only very small acreages, due primarily to the prohibitive cost of getting started, as well as the high risk associated with the venture.

A seed supplier from the Scotland area, who didn't wish to be identified, said he was only aware of three growers in Norwich Township. The heart of ginseng country in this province, he said, is the Waterford area where there are between 60 and 70 growers.

The major ginseng producing area in the world is Wisconsin with an average annual harvest of about 800,000 pounds. The Carolinas rank number two with perhaps Ontario ranking a poor third.

"We're not recognized as a major growing area yet, although there are

a lot of new growers starting to get into it," said the Otterville grower.

FRED ROCHAS
A first time grower can expect it will cost \$25,000 just to seed and build shade cover for the plants. The hardest part, however, is the three year wait before the grower can realize a return on his investment. Waiting additional years will also increase the value of root, not only because of the extra tonnage but because of the heightened desirability for an older root by Chinese buyers. A six-year-old root is considered the most desirable and draws the highest prices.

Every year the root is left in the ground an extra half-tonne per acre will be produced. The average poundage from a three-year-old crop is about 2,000 pounds.

After the initial investment, upkeep of the crop, though painstaking, is relatively inexpensive. Vigilance and weekly sprayings of fungicide to keep roots healthy is really all that's required in the last two years of the crop's development.

The second crop, provided the first is successful, will also yield plenty of home grown seed for the next planting, saving the grower upwards of \$9,000 in seed costs.

'Frustrated and furious'

TN
MAR 10

Grower seeks some answers

By MARLENE OPDECAM

Tobacco producers, faced with a 21-cent-a-pound hold back on tobacco sold and allocated, no crop agreement for 1985 or the upcoming 1986 season, no word on a proposed export consortium and no indication when or if a national tobacco marketing agency will be established, are growing increasingly restive.

And the lack of detailed information from the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board on prior and on-going negotiations and proposed agreements has become sore point with Vienna tobacco producer James Vanderven in particular.

Mr. Vanderven said he believes the producers are being kept in the dark. "No one knows what's going on," he said. The lack of concrete information coupled with a veritable sea of rumors circulating at the grassroots level has Mr. Vanderven frustrated and furious. He said he believes the majority of producers feel the same way.

The issue isn't simply the hold back of funds or the lack of crop

agreements, it's the fact the board isn't giving farmers the answers they're looking for. "All I'm trying to do is get at the truth," Mr. Vanderven said. "I don't know what to believe anymore." The farmers are paying the board's salaries and its members should be more open with them, he maintained.

The 21.5-cent hold back on all tobacco sold or allocated to the board on the current market is of particular concern to Mr. Vanderven. Information he obtained from Federal Agriculture Minister John Wise's office in Ottawa indicates the agreement for funding under the Agricultural Products Cooperative Marketing Act stipulates producers must receive the entire \$1.76.5 cents a pound on unsold tobacco by the end of the 1985 market.

Elaine Lawson, special assistant to Federal Agriculture Minister John Wise, confirmed that fact last week. Ms. Lawson said the government guarantee gives the tobacco board the strength to borrow approximately \$72.4 million for the purchase of unsold tobacco off the

auction floor. And the federal funding guarantees the board \$1.81 per pound, of which \$1.76.5 is targeted for the producer and the remaining 4.5 cents to cover processing, interest and carrying costs associated with the allocated tobacco.

The hold back on the entire crop amounts to approximately \$35 million. Mr. Vanderven said he would like to know exactly what the board needs that much money for. "It (\$35 million) is too much to take out of the area. It hits the economy too hard," he commented. "Why should the farmers always be the ones who pay? We can't take a loss like that and survive." Mr. Vanderven acknowledged board members are busy but stressed that when they were elected, they promised more open board meetings and a better exchange of information between the board and producers. That promise hasn't been kept, in Mr. Vanderven's opinion.

What he wants is another series of district meetings held immediately so farmers can get the answers to the questions that are plaguing them.

Looking ahead, Mr. Vanderven said he believes the board should leave export sales to the companies and concentrate on working out the crop agreements. By April 1 farmers are going to have to start making decisions about this season's crop, he pointed out. Without any idea of crop size or price and the quota rental system frozen at the board level, farmers have no idea what to do, Mr. Vanderven said.

Despite his feeling the board has not kept its promises to producers, he made it clear he isn't suggesting its members pack it in and resign. It is, however, the twelfth hour and the board has to come up with some answers concerning the dilemma producers are finding themselves facing, Mr. Vanderven said.

Efforts made daily last week to contact Board Chairman Berry Murray for comment on the questions and issues raised by Mr. Vanderven and for information concerning progress on the 1985 crop agreement and expected consortium talks were unsuccessful as Mr. Murray was not available for comment.

hearings

Court upholds ruling on reopening

NO. 53

The Federal Justice Department has struck out in its bid to reverse a court decision ordering the reopening of public hearings on a proposed national tobacco marketing agency.

The National Farm Products Marketing Council, on whose behalf the appeal was launched, learned last Thursday the federal court of appeal had upheld the original ruling by Mr. Justice Bud Cullen. He had earlier ordered the hearings reopened to consider the 1983 cost of production study commissioned by the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board.

In its appeal of Justice Cullen's ruling, the attorney-general's office contended it is the federal cabinet's responsibility to make decisions on marketing agencies and suggested it could have done so even without holding public hearings.

The justice department will have

to make a decision on whether or not to appeal the decision to the supreme court, Ms. McWade said. If the justice department chooses not to appeal, the national council will

have to decide when the hearings will be reopened.

It would take several weeks to arrange for the new hearings, she said. The Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco

Growers Marketing Board had indicated earlier that it would prefer to have the hearings reopened rather than the decision appealed so

the process of obtaining agency powers could get back on track.

An appeal to the supreme court could tie up the issue for years, according to Board Chairman Berry Murray.

Mr. Murray could not be reached for comment on the appeal court's decision before press time today.

NO. 53

Final tobacco sale agreement yet to be signed

Draft agreements continue to travel back and forth between the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board and the four tobacco manufacturers but a final agreement has yet to be signed for the sale of the 1985 flue crop.

During a tour of a local tobacco equipment industry Saturday, tobacco board director Albert Knab said the board has been trying to get the companies to reaffirm what they agreed to on Dec. 13. Mr. Knab said three of the companies have agreed to the 15 points, provided the fourth company - Rothmans of Pall Mall

Canada Ltd. -- accepts them. Rothmans agreed last month to sit down and negotiate the issues and the preliminary agreement has been redrafted several times since then.

The last draft was received by the tobacco board Thursday afternoon, Mr. Knab said. And while it's "better than the original, it still doesn't include all of the 15 points agreed to."

He said the board is in the process now of redrafting the agreement, which it hopes will be the final one "and one that we will agree to."

Regarding the consortium talks,

Mr. Knab said the 1985 and '86 contract talks and the consortium are basically all one issue right now. He said the consortium will have an impact on the size of the 1986 crop. "If we don't have it (consortium) we'll be in the dark regarding how much we can export," he said. "It's really the key to finalizing the 1985 negotiations and coming to an agreement on the '86 crop."

The uncertainty surrounding both the 1985 and 1986 crop agreements means the issue of whether or not some farmers will be growing a crop

this year hangs in the balance.

Mr. Knab said the banks want to know the crop size and price before

they approve a farmer's borrowing for the '86 crop.

REFILLS

FEUILLES DE RECHANGE

33R

to buy up tobacco

T.N.
MAR 4

By MARLENE OPDECAM

The Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board has come under fire recently for its decision to withhold 21.5 cents per pound on the entire 170-million pound tobacco crop.

In an effort to clarify the reason for the hold back, the board's chairman Berry Murray said Wednesday, the board doesn't as yet have access to funds through a proposed federal guarantee under the Agricultural Products Co-operative Marketing Act. As a result, the board has been forced to use a roll over of Advance Crop Payment funds (\$90 million) and the hold back money from producers, amounting to some \$35 million over the entire crop, to buy tobacco on the market.

"One of the reasons we haven't been able to pay as much as we would like on the market is because we have to sell two pounds in order to pick up one unsold pound," he said.

The hold back is also needed because after 125 million pounds of the 1985 crop are sold, there is no legal commitment from the manufacturers to provide makeup payments for any more tobacco sold for export, according to Mr. Murray.

By the end of the market, he estimated processing costs would be in the neighborhood of \$8 million while interest costs on the borrowed money could run between \$8 million and \$9 million.

If the board manages to secure a

crop agreement and the federal guarantee comes into effect allowing the board to borrow approximately \$72 million to pick up the 40 million pounds of tobacco which is not guaranteed, the 4.5 cents guaranteed by the government over and above the \$1.76.5 selling price won't be enough to meet the costs incurred through interest, processing and storage, Mr. Murray said.

That 4.5 cents (the difference between the federal \$1.81 per pound guarantee and the \$1.76.5 per pound crop price) equates to approximately \$1.8 million. The amount is far short of the possible \$9 million in interest and approximately \$8 million expected for processing, he said.

If the board is successful, as it hopes to be, in selling the packed tobacco, Mr. Murray said those costs will be tacked onto the selling price. What the board recoups will then be distributed to the growers.

If all proposed loan agreements fall into place and the consortium has been established by the end of the market, he estimated a hold back of between seven and 10 cents a pound on the entire crop would cover interest and processing costs.

However, if nothing is in place, the board will not only be short those costs but also the 56 cents needed to buy down the 40 million pounds for export. "That's why the consortium is such a key," Mr. Murray said.

Responding to a rumor that the companies had guaranteed they would pick up all of the board's unsold tobacco as part of the 1986 market, plus reasonable processing cost, the chairman said this is not the case.

Reading from the proposed crop agreement, Mr. Murray said the companies have promised only to "endeavor to" purchase "as much as is possible" providing the quality is suitable and the availability of what is desired is there and it is acceptable in terms of price. "Those are the kind of tricks you have to deal with in this mess," he commented.

Referring to a much publicized stipulation in the as yet unsigned federal funding guarantee that farmers must receive initial payments of \$1.76.5 cents on all tobacco sold, Mr. Murray said the tobacco the board is taking off the auction floor is technically unsold

tobacco. The tobacco won't become sold until either export or domestic buyers purchase it from the pool, he said.

"When the full amount (170 million pounds) eventually sells, a full payment of \$1.76.5 per pound will be made," Mr. Murray stated.

Once the federal guarantee is in place, producers can expect an interim payment of between eight to 10 cents, providing the bank agrees and Mr. Murray said he is confident that will be the case.

At the end of the market, the board will assess its financial position again and if it feels there is room to pay any more out to farmers it will do so, he added.

Mr. Murray stressed, however, that everything must be in place, before this can happen. If things don't fall into place, he said he doubts the board will be able to continue to operate the market. "You can't run the market without cash flow," he said.

Board members will be meeting with Federal Agriculture Minister John Wise at his request next Tuesday to discuss the tobacco situation and the government's position. Mr. Murray said he believes an assistance program for tobacco producers may also be discussed.

Recent discussions of possible export sales to Egypt were disrupted by riots but Mr. Murray said he will be going back sometime in the future to resume those talks. A trip to China is also planned in the near future, he said.

Mr. Murray was in China last July and returned with a letter of intent from the Chinese indicating they were interested in purchasing one million pounds of tobacco to be blended in a Chinese-Canadian cigarette. If the cigarette proves successful, it could mean a 10-million-pound sale to that country, Mr. Murray said.

A research team from the Delhi Research Station is currently in China as part of a technical agreement which has made it possible for the board to have a chance to market some tobacco there, he said.

The potential is so large because of the country's size that prospects could start out small but end up being very significant. "It's a large market we can't afford to ignore," the chairman said.

Smoke filled staff rooms soon will be thing of the past

If you're a smoker and you're planning on visiting any one of Norwich Township's four public schools or Norwich District High School, you'd be best advised to leave your cigarettes at home.

With the exception of East Oxford Public School and Otterville Public School, smoking is no longer allowed by staff, students or visitors within township schools. Otterville, however, will be banning smoking next fall once renovations at the school are completed.

The days of the smoke-filled staff room look numbered now that the staffs at public schools in Norwich,

Otterville, Burgessville and NDHS, have reviewed their policies on smoking within the schools and have generally given smoking the thumbs down.

The reviews were undertaken over the past few weeks at the request of the Oxford County Board of Education. The board, in turn, had been urged by the Ontario Medical Association to consider banning smoking in all schools.

School board chairman Russ Stangl said last month that any ban on smoking would be the decision of each individual school. He said there were no plans for a county-wide policy on the matter.

Although Otterville Public School

have no teachers or other staff members who smoke, Principal Cathy Murphy said parent volunteers have been allowed to smoke in the staff room and will be allowed to continue.

However, she said, the staff feel the school should be a smoke-free environment. So once the major renovations planned for the school are completed later this year, smoking will not be allowed and that will include parent volunteers.

Norwich Public School has already imposed a ban on smoking. Last month the staff decided the school be smoke-free.

"In fact," said Principal Jim

Continued on Page 12

Continued from Page 1

Mathews, "it was the smokers on the staff who raised the issue."

"There were really no reasons given why they wanted the ban, they just decided to quit smoking in school."

The ban also applies to community groups and individuals using the school after hours, said the principal.

At North Norwich Public School, in Burgessville, there was no debate on a smoking ban. Smoking was outlawed at the school several years ago by the "dictatorial methods" of Principal Reg Cartmale.

"There's no room for smoking here. And as long as I am here, this will be a non-smoking school."

The principal said he has been long opposed to staff and teachers smoking around youngsters. "It doesn't set a good example for the students and we do set examples from the lives we live."

Norwich District High School too, has eliminated smoking in its staff room although smokers on the staff are allowed to puff away in a specially designated room at the far end of the school.

East Oxford Public School has the most liberal policy on smoking. In fact, says Principal John Myers, it has no policy.

"It's a non-issue with us."

The principal said he couldn't recall when he last saw anyone smoke at the school. He added, however, "if someone were a visitor in the staff room who wished to smoke, I don't think there'd be any great objection."

Crop agreement closer, says

By MARLENE OPDECAM

There's still no crop agreement for the 1985 flue crop but Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board Chairman Berry Murray said Wednesday finalization of the long-awaited contract is getting closer.

In an interview at the board office, Mr. Murray said the board has redrafted the last proposal received from the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers Council and is in the process of sending that draft to each of the four companies involved.

The board's most recent draft incorporates the board's position in

the crop talks and that of three of the manufacturing companies, he said. The chairman indicated he expects the three companies, RJR MacDonald Inc., Imperial Leaf and Benson and Hedges, will sign the proposal.

Once this has been done and the board's signature added to the list, the agreement will be sent to Provincial Agriculture Minister Jack Riddell in the hope the minister can use his influence to persuade the remaining company, Rothmans of Pall Mall Canada Ltd., to sign on the dotted line as well.

Mr. Murray explained the board couldn't sign the draft received from the manufacturers because it did not conform with the agreement reached by the two sides in Ottawa on Dec. 13.

The chairman said he didn't feel the current situation could drag on too much longer. The board is borrowing between \$400,000 and \$700,000 a day to cover the costs of taking unsold tobacco off the auction floor and keeping the market going.

"I don't believe we can go on this way, out of prudent business practice, for ever and ever," he said.

"It's coming close to where something is going to reach a head and solutions will have to be found if we want to go ahead and market the crop."

The major stumbling block in contract talks is Rothmans' refusal to agree to any export buy-down funding beyond the original \$20 million the companies agreed to kick in. Mr. Murray explained that without the additional export funds hoped to be available through a consumer levy, the board can only sell 135 million pounds of tobacco, including the 90 million pounds guaranteed for

domestic consumption and 35 million for export.

That must change, he said, or farmers are in big trouble not only for the 1985 crop but for future years as well.

Mr. Murray suggested if that hurdle can be overcome, farmers will have a good shot at a fairly good crop size for the next few years. "We can't afford to give up on the (consortium) concept, he stressed. "Any vision of having to grow crops without an export incentive program would probably mean the destruction of a very large segment of our

Crop agreement closer

(Continued from Page 1)

Rothmans of Pall Mall Canada Ltd. is still opposed to the consortium proposal, he said.

When asked why the board and the other companies couldn't go ahead without Rothman's, he indicated that if all don't agree to the consortium proposal, none will. "We can't go without them but are having a very, very tough time going with them," Mr. Knab commented.

He indicated, however, he was hopeful the agreement would be in place in a week or so.

If no agreement is forthcoming in one or two weeks, the co-operation from the banks the board has had may disappear, Mr. Knab said.

Imperial Tobacco has called a meeting for April 2 involving the federal and provincial agriculture ministers, leaf dealers, processing companies and the board, he told growers. The board has been told a policy for Canadian tobacco will be presented at that meeting but the board has no idea what's in it, Mr. Knab said. No apparent effort has been made to meet prior to that date, he added.

When angry growers demanded to

know what the board was using the 21.5-cent hold back for, Mr. Knab explained the board hasn't got access to a federal guarantee for \$72 million in funding and won't have until a crop agreement is signed. He said the board needed the hold back plus a roll over in advance crop payment funds to take unsold tobacco off the auction floor.

The only money that's coming in is the \$1.20 per pound plus the makeup of 56.5 cents from the companies. That's not enough to pick up 20 per cent allocated tobacco, he said. Once the federal guarantee is in place, the board will pay farmers as much as it can of the 21.5 cents, he said. Right now, the money just isn't there.

Once everything is signed and if the banks co-operate there is still an outside chance a portion of the 21.5 cents will be held back, but it won't be the whole thing - far from it, Mr. Knab said.

The subject of quota rental policy also had its time in the spot light. Farmers hoping to grow a 1986 crop are rapidly approaching the time when they must know what the board's policy will be.

Mr. Knab said the board had discussed the issue Tuesday, ex-

amining several options but without coming to any definite policy decision. The board is considering no rentals, open rentals, the same policy as currently exists or a policy under which the rental quota available will be pooled with the board setting the rental fee. The marketing procedures committee has recommended the latter policy, Mr. Knab said.

He indicated the board is considering setting the rental price, if it does vote in favor of that policy, at 22 per cent of the guaranteed price. At \$1.76.5 per pound the rental price would be in the area of 38 to 39 cents per pound.

Under the suggested policy, quota would be doled out on a pro rata basis. There would be no penalty under the proposed policy.

Mr. Knab indicated the policy probably wouldn't make anybody happy but said it appears to be the best happy medium.

But no final decision has been made on the quota policy, he stressed.

Order was not the order of the day at the meeting which dissolved into table pounding and shouting matches at several points.

industry," the chairman stressed.

Commenting on the recent federal budget tax increase on tobacco products, Mr. Murray said he hoped it wasn't enough to turn the companies completely away from the consortium proposal.

While three continue to indicate their willingness to support the concept, Mr. Murray said the board must have "all the players" to make it work. Rothmans is the second largest of the Canadian tobacco manufacturing companies and represents 20 per cent of the market, he explained.

Three companies sign 1985 crop agreement

Three of the four tobacco manufacturing companies making up the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers Council have signed the most recently drafted 1985 crop agreement proposal, Richard Bozek, vice-chairman of the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board said Wednesday.

While the fourth company, Rothmans of Pall Mall Canada Ltd. continues to hold out against signing

the agreement, Mr. Bozek said he felt there has been substantial progress toward finalizing the long-awaited crop contract.

Board Chairman Berry Murray indicated earlier that the board plans to take the agreement to Provincial Agriculture Minister Jack Riddell with the signatures from the three companies and the board in the hope the minister can use his influence to persuade Rothman's to sign as well.

No date for a meeting with Mr. Riddell has been set as yet, Mr. Bozek said.

The board was holding a meeting Wednesday to discuss further, among other issues, possible changes in the board's existing quota rental policy. Mr. Bozek said the issue had been discussed several times before and indicated a board decision might be forthcoming after today's meeting.

Whatever policy decision the board makes, the vice-chairman said, in view of the fact the board is quite far from having any idea what the 1986 crop size will be or what the marketing agreement will include, it would be "foolish" for farmers to make any rental commitments even if the policy were set that day.

"It's not a good position for growers to be in but that's the reality of the situation," he commented.

Tobacco forum

From all sides?

By Dave MacLaren



The one big thing that has buoyed the determination and spirit of Tobacco Board directors throughout an extremely critical year has been the support they have received from growers. As they have met with frustrations and disappointments time after time, a good deal of comfort has been derived from the knowledge the large majority of producers backed their efforts.

If this unity starts to fall apart now, odds are the grim situation will become bleaker. Community accord is vital if we are to pull out of this mess. Let's not be party to putting directors in a position where they are catching flack from all sides. Dissension can only intensify the tremendous stress people are burdened by now. It is for everyone's good that we should guard against this happening, not just our directors' peace-of-mind. Communities divided by rifts seldom accomplish anything positive.

Everyone associated with the tobacco industry has ample reason to brood and to bluster. But we cannot afford to do so. All producers are vitally concerned about the uncertainties surrounding the current market and future crops. I think our directors are just as concerned. They'd be the first to admit they've made mistakes, but they have worked diligently to counter a crisis which has been building up for some years.

Sharp devaluations in foreign currencies; global over production of flue-cured tobacco; increasingly punitive tobacco taxation; damaging changes in U.S. tobacco support price policy — what toll have they taken? Would we, as some suggest, really be any better off if the Board had not pursued a national marketing agency? If so, why did the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers' Council give qualified endorsement to the major objectives in the proposal at public hearings in Montreal?

Over the last few weeks, I have been disturbed by criticisms of the Board, rumours and misconceptions which are being voiced. For two days running, people not involved in growing tobacco have asked me about stories they have heard. In one case, the report was farmers have received no money for shipments they have made. The other rumour had it that 21 cents a pound was being deducted from prices paid on the auction floors. Another report which is in circulation is that some farmers have asked the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Board to take over the Tobacco Board's duties. What purpose this would serve, I do not know.

Chances are the OFPMB would want producer volunteers to serve in the directors' positions if

such a notion became a reality. Who would offer their services? Would they have proposals acceptable to most producers to offer? Would they have the backing of governments and the trade to institute these unknown proposals?

If we descend to bickering and quibbling among ourselves, how much energy will be left to address the major problems that confront tobacco communities? I have locked horns with the Tobacco Board in the past and I expect to again. But, for now, it seems to me complaints about such things as rental policy, grading etc. have to be secondary to the top priority issues.

The next time you talk to a director, why not let him know you appreciate all the work which has been done to find ways out of this crisis. Tell him he can count on your support and wish him well in the pursuit of the Board's objectives. He will feel better. So will you. And that attitude could bolster the morale of everyone. This is what we need.

Gallup Poll

A coalition of anti-smoking groups sponsored a Gallup poll to quiz 1,027 Canadians about a national marketing agency for tobacco; whether farmers should be assisted in getting out of the business and how to reduce smoking. The results were released last week. According to the poll, 77.3 per cent favoured assisting farmers and 81 per cent said more efforts should be made to reduce smoking among young people.

The endorsement of assistance for farmers is appreciated. But I suspect the shape of the question about a national agency was loaded, because of the asinine assumption these groups persist in making — that smoking would fade out if the crop was not grown in Canada. Of course they may believe manufacturers would be more susceptible to harsher government policies if the fate of rural communities was not involved. Otherwise, why have these groups been directing the thrust of their campaign against domestic crop production?

Even more suspect is the number of people polled who would have any idea of what a national agency is all about, or much knowledge about tobacco farming. Shouldn't the worth of polls be measured by the grasp people have of the questions asked? It would be interesting to let that same group of people hear the farmers' side of the story and then poll them again. I am also becoming increasingly curious about where the funding comes from to support all the expensive activities of the anti-smoking groups.

A Biased Opinion?

I take offence to David MacLaren's column of Wednesday, March 19, 1986. Does he think he is the only one with a God-given right to criticize some directors on the Tobacco Board? I refer to his column of Aug. 1, 1984 when he called them everything but a white man. Maybe you should take some credit for the crisis we are in. How many voters were swayed by your column just before election time that year? You are a powerful ally of our present board. Are you biased or just getting paid to do so?

I understand when the tobacco board had a meeting on April 1, 1985 Mr. MacLaren's bill for services rendered was approved for payment in the amount of \$2,536.06. Are you looking for more such work in the future? Some of the truth about our board is finally being told and what happens: In your next column of March 19, you ask us to thank the directors. It smells a lot like those rotten cans of tuna (Starkist Variety). Thank them for what? Setting poundage at 170 million (I was kicked out) at \$1.55 lb., their open

door policy? Not accepting the 90 million Advance Payment for rollover? Their graft (180 plus meetings compared to 80 plus)? Their mumbling, stumbling and most important bumbling? Thank them for calling our Agriculture Minister a liar (as some have)? If he is such a bastard, why do they, after every-time they stumble, go crying back to him for more help?

That fishy smell is definitely a lot stronger now!! As for your so called majority, we all like to dream. Or are you like some: when asked to jump, you ask how high. You must be getting awfully tired by now. We have to be realistic! They had all the answers before or did someone change the questions now? Remember a bigger crop for more money! History has a way of making us eat our own words. Have a good lunch(s).

James Vandervien
Vienna

P.S. How about the Royal Bank's demanding 1.55 forecast for 1986. (Fine reporting in Tillsonburg News.)

Tobacco Board attacked

We hereby would like to express our concern with the turmoil in the tobacco industry. There have been a number of promises made by the Tobacco Board to the farmers which to this date have not been fulfilled. 1. To bring about a National Marketing agency. 2. To bring down the cost of marketing fees. 3. To bring about a cost of production.

The Tobacco Board has accomplished none of these promises. In fact, if they continue, the costs of marketing will escalate. We are concerned that even the 2½ cents will not cover expenses that this Board is incurring.

This Board has not been able to get an agreement with the companies for 1985 and as a result have opened the warehouses. Now for the first time we are faced with having to buy our own allocated tobacco. Again we have promises that the 21½ cents holdback will be returned when this processed tobacco is sold. Does this Board have any experience in processing and selling tobacco? Will 21½ cents be enough to cover the costs? We the farmer need this 21½ cents in order to survive. Do we call this a responsible Board when they have put us in such a situation?

Their tactics of negotiating have not been fruitful. Their public relations with everyone concerned is so bad, that the tobacco companies, the government and the public have turned their backs on us.

The companies seem to have lost confidence with this Board, certainly some farmers have lost confidence in this Board. We do not feel that this same Board should try to negotiate for 1986 for they have shown their incompetence. It appears that a national agency is not within reach in the near future, therefore we have to try and negotiate on the same basis as we have in the past.

Angry farmers
Castleton, Ont.

DN. MARIN

The Editor: An open letter to Michael Wilson, Minister of Finance:

Dear Mr. Wilson,

You probably will never see this letter, because some bureaucrat in your office will probably file it in the wastebasket - just like you have filed our property and livelihood with your two budgets.

I am a tobacco farmer who is on the brink of losing everything we've ever worked for. You, Mr. Wilson, have taken it without any compensation.

When you were campaigning for election in Tillsonburg, Ontario, you stated that it was time for a moratorium on excessive taxation on tobacco. What did we get in your first budget but a 40 per cent tax increase on tobacco, and now another six per cent. Which industry can survive that kind of excessive taxation increase in nine months? Where is your credibility when you campaign one way and do the opposite when you are elected? Tobacco farmers were not the ones who created the deficit! If anything, we were great contributors to the economy. Now we are singled out to pay excessively and lose our farms.

We have a letter from Mr. Mulroney when he was campaigning that in his government's very first budget there would be benefits for our industry. Where is his credibility, when instead of benefits, we received a 40 per cent increase in taxes on our product?

Mr. Wise kept saying that if only the Conservatives were in power, we would have a national agency for tobacco. We've had nothing but abuse and evasion. Now he is saying that he is not putting his job on the line for tobacco farmers.

We have been lied to from the very top leaders of your government.

In the meantime your government is receiving billions of dollars in revenue from our industry while hundreds of farmers are losing their farms.

You speak of alternate crops. What a joke! Even if there were markets for alternate crops - which there aren't - we can't meet our financial commitments now and the banks are putting us off our farms. We personally have put in an alternate crop, but so have many others, and the market price has dropped so drastically, that we may never be able to recoup our input costs. We've also seen what has happened to a heavily government subsidized new crop - peanuts - now the government has pulled back and the peanut growers are in trouble.

Tobacco is a legal product in Canada. If you made it illegal - at least we would receive some compensation. But you won't do that. Instead you are going to take away our farms and import the tobacco. You will still receive your taxes while 2,500 farmers are put out of business. We used to employ thousands of people, infuse so much money into the economy. Now some farmers are already on welfare, with more to follow. Our area will again become the dust bowl it was 50 years ago before tobacco - thanks to you and your government.

Your announcement of changes in the Farm Credit Corporation is another joke! What a contradiction in terms when you state that a viable farm unit in financial distress will receive assistance. We used to be viable before your two budgets destroyed our equity and any chance of making a living.

What kind of insane joke is your government trying to perpetrate on us? It is not funny!

If we would have had our national

agency by November of 1984 as was promised by your government; if you had instituted a moratorium on tobacco taxation as you personally promised - we would still have a viable industry that would have continued to create thousands of jobs and contribute to the government's coffers and the economy. The tobacco producing ridings believed your promises wholeheartedly and now we have been devastated and can hardly put food on the table for our families. The market values of tobacco quota, equipment and land have dropped by at least 50 per cent since your government came into power.

The banks are calling farmers' loans because they see no future in tobacco farms - thanks to you. I have talked to farmers who are contemplating suicide, families that are being torn apart by the financial pressures. Instead of being hard working, contributing citizens, we are fast becoming a drain on the system, in need of assistance.

You are eliminating the tobacco producing industry in Canada. We need full compensation now for the devastation you and your government has caused - not some Mickey Mouse program. Our farms have dropped 50 per cent in value and we expect to be paid, in full, for the entire drop in value since your government came into power. Please pay us off so we can invest elsewhere.

Your government is looking for international investors. We have come from the ends of the earth to Canada and put all our hopes and trust for freedom and property and a safe, secure future in this country. Everything we've worked to put together, you have taken from us. We now expect and demand to be paid back - preferably in U.S. funds, so we can look for investment elsewhere. You

can rest assured that we will never invest another penny in this country, while your government is in power, and will warn anyone who might consider investing in Canada. If you can take away our property, who is next? Who is safe in this country? Whom can we believe anymore? Your actions are loud and clear - confiscation without compensation.

Regina Homeniuk.

BUM RAP FOR TOBACCO

The Editor: Are the fungicides being used on Canadian tobacco as your March 3, 1986, report of the Globe article states? There are serious errors in the Globe and Mail story in a deliberate attempt to sensationalize an already dated story. According to the Globe and Mail, blue mold happened in 1980. For the farming community it occurred in 1979.

How thorough is research done by

I.N. MARIC
Health and Welfare scientists when they worry about fungicide residues burned and inhaled when the one chemical, mancozeb, was never registered for field use on tobacco? Greenhouse leaves, assuming the odd greenhouse was sprayed in 1982 burn off in the field and are never harvested. The other chemical metalaxyle (Ridomil) was used in 1980 after crop insurance threatened not to insure crops where it wasn't used. Due to high cost and the Federal Court ruling that blue mold was brought in by trucks and not airborne after 1982 usage virtually died out. One has to ask what type of cigarette the scientists were smoking? Oxford MP, Bruce Halliday might ask the RCMP to find out who and why these documents were leaked by at Health and Welfare Canada. Is it an attempt to destroy our export sales? Canadian tobacco has long been used to lower the chemical tolerance of other world tobaccos so they can meet the West German

residue standards for export. Ridomil is used on apples, beets, legumes, potatoes, raspberries, tomatoes and other leafy vegetables. Why was tobacco singled out for attack on this article?

The Dairy and Tobacco Adjustment Act of 1983 was recently amended in the United States to have import certification or USDA inspection so chemical residues on imported tobacco won't exceed the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act.

If the Globe and the Non-Smoker's Rights Association are serious about pesticide residues, they can ask the Minister of Agriculture as the tobacco board did on May 22, 1985, to pull the samples of imported tobacco as it enters the country. Samples could then be analyzed at a reputable lab such as the University of Guelph, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food Pesticide Laboratory. We are still waiting.

Hugh C. Zimmer

FARMERS COUNT TOO

The Editor: I wish to thank Dave Stover for the fine editorial March 7, 1986, "Farmers count too." It says it like it is, and I'm sure the items are researched and true.

My feelings are very strong on this subject. I did have two sons in farming and still have personal interests also. I don't know for how long, for as many of you know we not only farm at a loss but we keep at it till our equity is eroded to minus or near minus positions.

It's the old adage: "How do you make a million in farming. It's easy - you start with two million and then you farm and work hard until you have one million." Of course, we farmers don't stop there. We keep on farming until the banks own the farm or farms.

Now here's the rub. Banks and oil companies are bailed out by our great leaders in government, but with farmers it seems we don't count. You see, our leaders believe we can't and won't stick together.

Clip the editorial; photocopy it, and send it with your comments to the MPs and the MPPs in your area. Just maybe, if enough of us do this, it

will help. If it does not, let's do as our doctors and posties are threatening to do - withhold our services for a season.

I can't believe they would let us starve and it is estimated to cost \$30,000 to keep one person in prison for one year. It seems we have aid for many countries of the world, but very little for our own people.

Thanks again for your editorial, "Farmers Count Too."

Carl Braun.

Hiking it up

D.N. MAR 19

The recent four and a half cent per pack federal tax increase on cigarettes is indeed another threatening blow to the livelihoods of our area tobacco producers. The hours spent lobbying and petitioning our federal MPs has not appeared to get the message across effectively enough for our Government to reconsider its punitive policies toward the industry. What really angers me however, is a lot closer to home.

I was totally disgusted to discover many area retailers take advantage of the situation by adding as much as 10 cents per package to the retail price of cigarettes on the very morning after the budget. This increase was applied to existing store inventories and was pocketed directly by the retailer.

Upon confronting one merchant in the area who has applied a five cent increase on a package of smokes, I obtained information tobacco consumers and producers alike may find enlightening. Although the following figures may vary from store to store, I'm sure they're indicative of the role the retailer plays in the tobacco profit chain.

Prior to the latest tax increase, Mr. Smith (as we shall know this retailer) purchased his cigarettes from a Toronto-based distributor for \$16.18 per carton of 200 (\$2.02 per 25 pack). He retailed a pack of 25 for \$2.43 plus 17 cents provincial sales tax. Total \$2.60. This represents a profit of 41 cents per pack.

The day after the federal budget, Mr. Smith took delivery of his weekly cigarette order of 200 cartons. This order did not reflect the federal tax increase at the manufacturer's level. At 41 cents per pack profit, the retailer pockets \$8.76 for the finished product of one pound of tobacco. It's not difficult to calculate the EXTRA PROFIT Mr. Smith obtains by tacking an additional five to 10 cents on nearly 2,000 packages of existing inventory.

Well Mr. Tobacco Farmer, while you are petitioning Federal and Provincial Governments for tax reforms on tobacco products, Municipal Governments, industry, and retail stores in the tobacco belt are waving their banners of support.

Isn't it amusing to discover that at the first opportunity, merchants right here in tobacco country are stabbing you in the back with unwarranted price increases which line their pockets?

Supporting our tobacco industry is one thing; paying lip service to the producers' plight is another.

— An irate smoker!
Otterville

NORFOLK DECISION

The Editor: Should the Township of Norfolk council have terminated their involvement on the Concerned Area Township Municipalities Committee as your March 12, 1986, article states? Strong pressures are being placed on the Ontario government to increase tobacco taxes in the upcoming budget by the anti-smoking lobby.

Recently Bayham farmers asked for property deferral due to cashflow problems. If there is nobody to counter the anti-smoking lobbies increased tax lobbying how many more municipalities will be asked for not only deferrals but reduction in taxes?

That isn't to say that the committee must restrict itself only to tobacco taxes. We need a united voice to counter "the slay them in the streets" mentality by the anti-smoking groups when Dr. Halliday's subcommittee comes into the area to discuss tobacco area problems and solutions. Hopefully the Township of Norfolk and others will put partisan politics aside and help restart the committee. You can be sure the anti-smoking coalition doesn't think the job is done. Neither should we.

Hugh C. Zimmer.

LET'S HAVE SOME ANSWERS

The Editor: On February 6, 1986, I wrote a letter to the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board asking some answers as to how the graders for the packing of the tobacco for the Board were hired. Here it is over five weeks later and still no answer or even word the letter was received. Now is this the way the Board conducts its business?

I have called head office but to no avail over this matter. The vice-chairman is out of the country or the chairman is in a meeting. I was told today (March 13) by the receptionist a note would be left on the chairman's desk with my name and phone number on it so he could call me. Guess what? Still no phone call. I, like many other farmers, have been kept in the dark too long about too many things.

I understood when this new board of directors and chairman took over there would be more contact and farmers would be kept up to date on matters important to them. What has happened? I now know less than I ever did before.

I heard from good source some directors have had over 185 meetings (yes 185) at so much per diem, plus expenses, in the last few months and I now wonder what has been accomplished, if anything. Are our directors working for the benefit of all tobacco farmers? Just maybe between some of those meetings one of them will take time to answer my letter.

In the past 28 years of our Board many missions and trips have been taken to all parts of the world. A vast amount of money has been spent on these trips but how much tobacco has been sold as a result? I think this money could be saved to cut expenses in a time of restraint.

Would our directors ever consider working for just expenses or say a minimum fee per year till the industry gets straightened out? The tobacco farmers will be lucky to clear THEIR expenses this year.

Who gave the Board permission to take 21 and a half cents per pound off our total crop? The way I figure it this will cost us about 85 cents per pound for the 40 million pounds that is to be processed. How many farmers can afford this if we don't get most of it back. We have no guarantee we will get any of it back, have we? Many farmers I talked to never knew about this until the day before the market opened. I noticed there was no vote on this matter.

Maybe when the directors get things straightened out I'll get my letter answered.

Ken Mann,
Otterville, Ont.

NOTE: Mr. Mann phoned to report a letter received from the Board six weeks after his request for information. He felt about half his questions were not answered to his satisfaction.

JN MAR 26

Blame it on Rio

I don't believe anyone will argue with me that our tobacco growing industry is in a difficult and vulnerable situation. The question now arises: HOW IN THE HELL did we get into this predicament? We had a lot of help and the line formed to the right. I'll now attempt to address these issues in the following paragraphs.

It is a complete fallacy to even consider that our difficulties began a year or even five years ago. A well designed plan went into operation in the corporate boardroom as far back as 1975, the final year under acreage control. Thus a new story and a new history is about to unfold.

As you may well remember, we accepted for the 1975 crop an over-all average price of 94 cents a pound. After a disastrous four weeks of operation, the producers to vent their frustration closed the auction exchanges. After a great deal of confusion the market re-opened with no visible improvement. The market finally closed with a deficiency payment of 11 cents a pound.

Since the political climate was rather shaky and unstable in Zimbabwe, a well orchestrated long range plan was waiting to be unveiled. It was time to wake up the sleeping giant — BRAZIL.

In order to make this plan work, a diversion plan had to be implemented. It was called Poundage Control. Under this new proposal our quality was to improve with added expansion to boost export markets, to be followed by a guaranteed minimum grade price. BOY DID WE SWALLOW LINE, HOOK AND SINKER.

With the implementation of the poundage system, the stage is now all set. We were so preoccupied trying to allocate who gets the biggest chunk of the pie, poundage, setting policies, introducing quota rentals, and dozens more, we have completely lost track of time. We

gave them 10 years. We blew it.

With each consecutive year of reduction, coupled with a gradual increase in Brazil adding to our trauma, our beloved Government is forever increasing tax on tobacco. It's not even funny anymore. And look who is laughing now all the way to the bank!

They even succeeded splitting us apart. We are now fighting amongst ourselves, scorned by the anti-smoking alliance group, abandoned by our politicians. Our producers are angry and they have every right to be. These fellows play a mean game of pool — snooker you every chance they get.

"I'd like to conclude with the words of a distinguished Canadian journalist, the late Gordon Sinclair. He wrote a poem dedicated to the American Red Cross, after helping many nations all over the world that had now gone broke. The last line went like this: NO ONE, BUT NO ONE, SEEMS TO CARE. I think I said it all. Is there anyone listening????

Steve Szvirida
Vienna

Letters to the Editor

HERITAGE DAY

The Editor: The Multicultural Heritage Association of Norfolk wishes to express appreciation for your coverage of Heritage Day held at the German Home, Delhi, on Feb. 22. The turnout was beyond expectation. It has since been estimated that close to 1500 people attended.

The 30 ethnic groups who took part in the program, displays and international buffet are to be congratulated for the pride they show in their culture and for their great participation.

Thanks go to the Tillsonburg News, the German Home, the ethnic groups, directors, conveners, those who contributed and all who put so much effort into making Heritage Day the success it was, as well as to those who came to enjoy the event.

G. Byer
Communications Convener.

WANTS BOARD ACTION

Dear Editor: Open letter to the board - On the 24th of October last fall the weather was warm and sunny but it was a lot bleaker for the chairman of our tobacco board. You might say it was raining. Their plan had worked beautiful so far. Promise everything but deliver nothing. He had just been acclaimed to another term.

Everything seemed rosy at the time. The board had a recess. During recess the finance committee met and selected their "Minister of Finance" as convener. (That means boss). They had a brilliant idea. Let's give the chairman a raise of \$17,000 for the last years' services. If he could have delivered on his promises, he would have been worth it. A motion of \$17,000 was moved and seconded. The chairman left the meeting feeling confident. Remember majority rules. Even the

best made plans of mice and men fall apart. Alas! it happened, there was a split in their ranks. Following a discussion the motion was voted on to see if it would go to the next board meeting. The vote was five favorable and nine opposed. Vice-chairman declared the motion was defeated. Following a "heated" discussion the motion was withdrawn with permission of the seconder on the understanding it would be brought forward at a later date. The chairman returned and seemed a little displeased. Now he knows how we feel about our 21½ cents per pound.

These so called directors are the same fellows that started a plan. (Our downfall). I think you know what plan I mean. They made up a plan only revealing the "Did you know" page that their new plan could do and the old board could not do. They stated that the directors must fully disclose quota transactions and holdings both personal and corporate. Their "Minister of Finance" said finances of directors is confidential. (I think that big world means to hide something). Oh how soon we forget. Another one was fewer directors, committee men, open meetings to farmers and press! (I was kicked out of three).

Too many employees doing too little and getting paid too much. Their answer to this one was to hire more staff for more money. More promises!! Negotiate in good faith with the companies as a whole or individually. This is one promise I wish they kept, don't you?

Another promise was no hope for young farmers. My director told us at our meeting our government would buy our farms and lease them back to us. No more worries.

One other promise they made to us was to change the image of the board. We are big business and

should act like it. (At our expense). They sure kept this promise. It's a wonder their hats still fit their "exalted egos." (I mean heads).

Had enough, we have! We demand an agreement be signed. After it is signed and financing arranged we demand another 15 cents per pound of the 21½ cents per pound on our next shipment. The other 6½ cents per pound to be made at market's end. I'm not through yet. We also demand an agreement for the next year with poundage set and price to be negotiated at no less than the rate of inflation. You have two weeks!!! Some of you directors may say that's ridiculous, my exact thoughts when I heard someone was steaming their greenhouse last week. You had all the answers before, now, show us how smart you are! If you can't we will!!!

P.S. Just remember who pays your salaries. We producers do. The majority is getting bigger...

James Vanderven,
Vienna.

Assistance program details expected soon

Tobacco growers may hear some details about the assistance program mentioned in the Feb. 26 budget this week.

On Friday, Tobacco Board Chairman Berry Murray said Minister of Agriculture John Wise had requested a meeting with a delegation of four Board representatives to discuss tobacco policy. The meeting was scheduled to be held yesterday in Ottawa.

"I assume the meeting is about the assistance announced in the budget, although this wasn't specified," Mr. Murray said.

Directors have also taken a different approach in an effort to resolve the crop agreement stalemate, caused as re-drafts of the document prove unsatisfactory to one party or the other.

"The Board prepared and signed a document containing the terms of the agreement, as directors understand them. Copies have been sent to the individual companies with a request that they sign them. I expect some response today," Mr. Murray said Friday morning.

Friday, Mr. Murray met with Russell Duckworth, executive director of marketing, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food (OMAF), at the Board's head office. Mr. Duckworth has acted as OMAF liaison officer and observer during the crop negotiations.

"I'll be asking him to request Minister of Agriculture and Food Jack Riddell to intervene", if the agreement is not settled, Mr. Murray said.

Another important meeting is scheduled in Toronto on April 2, when Mr. Wise, Mr. Riddell, company representatives and Board directors are to meet.

"We've been trying to arrange this meeting for some time and I think it's a positive sign that a date has been set. From what I understand, discussions will centre on the tobacco situation and the companies will outline programs they are agreeable to participate in over the next few years. This should involve the formation of the consortium and an indication of the 1986 crop size.

"All the players will be involved and I hope we can get a number of matters resolved," Mr. Murray said.

Last week, export purchasing activity increased to account for about 45 per cent of sales as of the market closing on Thursday. In tandem, the volume of allocated offerings dropped to range between 13 and 15 per cent of total sales. "It's very encouraging. The trend may finally be improving," Mr. Murray said.

In response to an OMAF request for 25 names of tobacco farmers to be interviewed and considered as candidates to help advise others about assistance available under the Farmers In Transition (FIT) program, the Board submitted the names of all committeemen.

World tobacco

growers meet producers

Richard Bozek of RR 4 Brantford, vice-chairman of the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board, said Monday that this preliminary series of meetings in the United States and the United Kingdom were held to discuss world exports, supply and consumption.

Present views

Mr. Bozek and District 6 Director Mike Murray of RR 1 LaSalette represented the Ontario Board at discussions in Richmond, Virginia, with Philip Morris officials and in London, England, with officials from British-American Tobacco Industries and Rothmans International.

The International Association consists of Canada, the U.S., Zimbabwe, Malawi, Argentina and Brazil. Essentially, these six nations represent the major world tobacco exporters.

Mr. Bozek said growers had an opportunity to present "views on their positions regarding various problems" dogging each country such as high taxation and a persistent anti-smoking campaign.

"It was an exchange of ideas . . . but I must stress there was no attempt to resolve any of these problems."

Mr. Bozek and Mr. Murray returned home this past weekend after spending last week engaged in the wide-ranging discussions in the U.S. and U.K.

"We wanted to assess the world export situation over the next five to 10 years," explained Mr. Bozek.

However, he added that the companies were not "as specific as we hoped they would be" on export trends.

Mr. Bozek said the companies recognized growers' problems created by high taxes and anti-smoking overtures at the world level.

In the short-term, Mr. Bozek said the two parties looked at the current situation facing major tobacco exporters such as consumption, falling slightly in North America, while rising perceptibly in The Third World and the Far East.

In any case, Mr. Bozek pointed out world consumption appeared to be "stable" right now, although as mentioned earlier, some regional differences were showing up.

"This is the first time we've sat down to talk to the tobacco companies like this," emphasized Mr. Bozek, but, he noted, no future meetings were arranged at the sessions.

Growers' concerns focused on maintaining high quality products, receiving reasonable prices for production and sustaining profitability, as this last factor is vital for keeping the industry economically "viable".

'Keep quality high'

"Our general concern was to keep quality high so we can maintain our export markets," said Mr. Bozek.

Maintaining profits emerged as a "serious problem" confronting growers, noted Mr. Bozek.

According to Mr. Bozek, there also appears to be a general trend toward full-flavour tobacco on exports markets, away from near-flavourless blends.

So, in spite of financial problems, Mr. Bozek said growers must continue to produce high quality tobacco to meet this challenge.

By Ben Steidman
Staff Writer

D.N. MAR 19
TILLSONBURG — Quality products, reasonable prices and profitability highlighted meetings last week between the International Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Association and three major tobacco companies.

Rothmans sign separate tobacco crop agreement

T.N. MAR 24

By MARLENE OPDECAM

Rumors that all four major tobacco companies have signed a 1985 tobacco crop agreement are both true and false.

Richard Bozek, vice-chairman of the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board, said this morning that three of the companies and the board have reached a mutual agreement and signed on the dotted line. But Rothmans of Pall Mall Canada Ltd. signed a separate contract agreement March 17.

The two agreements differ only in regard to the establishment of an export consortium, Mr. Bozek said. Three companies and the board have agreed the consortium will be

established. Rothmans has only agreed to enter discussions concerning the proposed consortium.

Mr. Bozek said the board hopes the two signed agreements will satisfy Federal Agriculture Minister John Wise sufficiently for the minister to authorize a federal guarantee for promised funds from the Agricultural Products Co-operative Marketing Act.

He pointed out, however, that even with the funds under that act, the board will not be able to pay farmers the full \$1.76.5 cents a pound specified in the 1985 crop agreement.

Full payment and long-term assurance of reasonable crop sizes in the next few years depend on the

establishment of the proposed consortium and the funds it will provide to buy down the price of export tobacco.

The board will continue its efforts to get Rothmans to sign the same agreement the board and the other three companies have signed, Mr. Bozek said.

A meeting between Agriculture Canada and agriculture ministers from the tobacco-producing provinces will take place in Ottawa tomorrow. The meeting is being held to discuss the assistance program for tobacco producers promised in the Feb. 26 budget, Mr. Bozek said.

A general information meeting to lay the groundwork for 1986 crop

talks will be held in Toronto April 2. The meeting will be attended by the board, the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers Council, leaf dealers and representatives from the Ontario agricultural ministry.

Mr. Bozek stressed the fact the talks will be initial discussions only regarding the 1986 crop and said it is unlikely the crop size will be set at the April 2 meeting.

The board's quota rental policy for 1986 has not been set as yet but could be finalized at a meeting scheduled for tomorrow, according to Mr. Bozek.

Meanwhile the tobacco board's chairman Berry Murray is on a sales mission in China.

Board controls quota rentals

By MARLENE OPDECAM

The Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board set its 1986 quota rental policy at a meeting yesterday. But Board Vice-chairman Richard Bozek said he doesn't expect the new regulations will make producers renting out quota very happy.

Under the new policy, the board will handle all quota rental transactions where the quota rented will not be grown on the quota owner's land. Quota rental prices for these off-farm rentals have been set by the board at 35 cents per pound.

Those renting out their quota will also be required to pay a one-cent-per-pound fee to the board.

Producers renting in quota must supply the board with a certified cheque to cover the cost of all pounds they wish to rent at the time of application to the board.

As the pooled pounds for rent will be distributed on a pro-rata basis of individual demand, should a farmer not get all the pounds he has applied for, he will be issued a refund on those not acquired, Mr. Bozek said.

Once deadline dates have been established and met, the board will announce the number of pounds up for rental and the number of pounds producers have applied to rent in. Until that time neither side will know what the score is, the vice-chairman explained.

Rentals between immediate family, including husband and wife, mother-father, son and daughter will not be affected by the change in policy. Nor will quota rentals under forms 83 or 97 where the quota rented is grown on the owner's farm.

Deadline dates for renting in and out will be set 10 days after the 1986 crop size has been set, Mr. Bozek said.

Mr. Bozek said the board arrived at the 35-cent figure arbitrarily, using no scientific calculation formula. It falls in the neighborhood of 20 per cent of the previous year's negotiated price, he said.

The board's decision regarding the rental policy was not a unanimous one. Two board members were absent when the vote

(Continued from Page 1)

was taken and the final vote saw seven directors in favor and six opposed.

Mr. Bozek said the board recognizes it is impossible to set any quota rental policy which will satisfy a significant number of the producers. He explained, however, the board has adopted a general consensus that its concern should be for the active producer and its policy to do everything it can to help that producer.

"We spent a lot of time debating the policy," he said. The new rental system does not involve any penalties for those renting out and treats every individual the same. Asked if he didn't anticipate growers attempting to circumvent the new regulations by one means or another, Mr. Bozek said the board had no interest in anyone as long as the quota is grown on the quota

owner's land.

He pointed out there is also a clause in the board's regulations which gives it the authority to penalize producers caught breaking board policy.

In other business, Mr. Bozek said nothing had filtered back to the board concerning the meeting in Ottawa Tuesday between Agriculture Canada and the agriculture ministers of the tobacco-producing provinces. The meeting was called to discuss the establishment of a tobacco growers' assistance program announced in the Feb. 26 budget.

Neither has there been further progress with Rothmans of Pall Mall Canada Ltd. in persuading that company to sign the same crop agreement reached by the tobacco board and the other three members of the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers Council, Mr. Bozek said.

(Continued on Page 2)

Sing sweetly for tobacco



The time for sterilizing greenhouses and sowing the seed for a new crop of tobacco has come around again. This year the farmers can't begin the process with the optimism of past years, and some may not begin at all.

Farming any crop is a gamble with weather and markets, but tobacco farming has to face an additional challenge in the form of a growing clamor from those who see tobacco as a poison. Unfortunately, many of the people who speak or write against the use of tobacco seem to think tobacco farmers are flint-hearted murderers. Not all tobacco growers use the product personally, but enough do to show pretty plainly they don't believe the warnings from the medical community.

I have mixed feelings about smoking. I do believe it harms the health of many people, and I have little doubt inhaling the smoke from other peoples's tobacco could trigger problems in my body.

At the same time, I have enjoyed a good cigar on occasion, and I know it can be a very pleasurable experience. A fine cigar can give every bit as much sense of relaxation as a stiff drink of liquor. If I didn't have to consider being a model for my kids and their kids and your kids, I might take a gamble that my system would tolerate cigars as well as, say, Winston Churchill's did.

I watched tobacco growing become a lucrative activity in this part of the country. A few farms were already in production before I was born, but I was six years old when Dad equipped our place with kilns and sowed his first seed on a cotton covered bed. With the current state of affairs, I am beginning to think I may see the end of the tobacco growing industry in our area. It seems hard to believe.

There was no foresight in actions that removed me from tobacco growing. It was just one of those things that happen, but I am glad to be free from the fears that those who stayed in it, or got into it down through the years, are facing.

It's easy to say grow something else, but what? One tobacco farmer told me recently that to grow corn or beans isn't the answer. Those crops do well to give a break even return from tobacco soil. If many tobacco farmers switch to those crops all it would do is depress the market and hurt the ones who are already trying to produce those crops.

Another grower said any alternative crops that he has been advised to try require thousands of dollars worth of new buildings and machinery just to get started, and there is no guarantee they will be successful even if you take the chance.

I saw one optimistic letter to the editor asking why farmers don't grow sweet potatoes. It sounded so rosy and perfect. I asked my neighbor, who grew a small crop of sweet potatoes a year ago, how he fared. He said the potatoes his family didn't consume rotted. No one wanted to buy them. It ain't easy to switch crops.

When Dad started growing tobacco, he was desperate. He was losing the farm because he just couldn't make enough money from general farming to pay the small mortgage. If he had lost it, he'd have found work in industry. He would never have dreamed that the government or anyone owed him something for his loss. That was the way it should be under those circumstances.

Tobacco farmers are asking for help, and it seems to me they should get some assistance, because part of their difficulties seem to be caused by deliberate policies against smok-

ing. If the figures I've seen are to be believed, the country would be money ahead to buy the tobacco quota. The only difficulty with that, as I see it, is that halting production of leaf will not put an end to smoking. It would simply result in the importation of leaf from other countries to fill the demand.

If the use of tobacco is coming to an end, I think the mood should not be one of confrontation and accusation. It should be rather like the passing of an old friend. Until very recently most people never lived long enough to experience the tobacco related medical problems. Diphtheria, smallpox, deadly working conditions, wars, all took them off in relatively short lifetimes.

It now seems that smoking during pregnancy contributes to reduced learning ability and other problems for children. In truth, until this age when all of us are supposed to be able to read and reason, to be able to understand monetary theories in order to vote for one party or another, to be able to operate supersonic aircraft, sophisticated machinery, and so forth, what did it matter if we were a bit stupid?

How much intelligence was needed to dig with a spade, chop with an axe, (granted you had better be able to judge which way the tree might fall) grub with a hoe? Would beating rugs with a limber stick be any more enjoyable for a person with keen wits? When you had to pound your own flour with a mortar and pestle, or grind it by hand with a quern, would you be less bored by having super intelligence?

I think tobacco may well have been a friend in many ways.

Look at the place tobacco has in mythology. Nanabozho, the teacher sent to the Ojibwa by Gitche Manitou, is honored for teaching the people how to use tobacco. He called it kinni-kinnick. The accent is on the "ki", KInee-KInick. Nanabozho invented the first clay pipe with a reed for a stem.

Kinni-kinnick relieved the people of pain and hunger. It was a great gift, fit to be used in religious ceremonies.

Look at Frodo and Bilbo Baggins, the famous hobbits from the tales of J.R.R. Tolkien. Next to eating, smoking their pipes was the most pleasant activity in the life of a hobbit.

Look at Gandalf, the great wizard of those same tales. He fought evil to the death, but when he had time to relax, he took the greatest pleasure in his pipe. He could blow round, square, and figure of eight smoke rings.

Look at Popeye the sailor. His pipe was as much a part of him as his nose.

Look at Mammy Yokum, Ivor Rowley, General MacArthur, Bill Davis, J.R.R. Tolkien. Everyone of them make a pipe their trademark.

Good heavens! Even St. Nicholas used tobacco. "The stump of a pipe held tight in his teeth, And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath."

If it must go, let's at least have pity on its passing.

Tobacco forum

Chopping spending

By Dave MacLaren

D.N. MAR 26



Agriculture took its knocks in the task force report on Federal Government programs which was tabled recently. The massive report has kept Deputy Prime Minister Erik Nielson, who was in charge of organizing the study, busy defending its contents.

As opposition members sort through the document, they are sounding-off about many proposals made by its authors. Some of the criticisms directed at agriculture involve national marketing agencies, the dairy program, research, advance crop payments and farm fuel tax exemptions.

Specifically, some of the task force recommendations were:

- no new national supply-management schemes be allowed
- the elimination of advance crop payments (or at least the Government funded interest cost), which is about the same thing as doing away with the program
- elimination of farm fuel tax exemptions
- reduce cost of the dairy marketing system by \$300-million
- sharply criticized research being done by Agriculture Canada, pointing out that except for canola, researchers' recent accomplishments have been few and far between.

Minister of Agriculture John Wise pointed out that the task force recommendations are only opinions, not policy. As with most task force reports, Government may never act on many of the recommendations. And, of course, many other expenditures were criticized besides those pertaining to agriculture.

Nevertheless, based on the skimpy information available when this was written, some of the report's views on agriculture are bothersome.

The attitude expressed towards national marketing agencies denies farmers the opportunity to receive a fair return through this Act. That is especially ironic since one of the chief advisors to the task force was Darcy McKeough. As a former head of Union Gas, he certainly must be able to appreciate the advantages of having a protected territory to do business in. Haldimand-Norfolk taxpayers might also question his credentials to advise Government on how to cut costs, since as a former Ontario Government minister, he had a lot to do with pushing them into Regional Government.

Mr. McKeough may have had little to do with the agricultural section of the task force's report. But farmers should put all those who did on

notice that they are fed up with being told how their business should be run by a bunch of coddled egg-heads.

Agriculture Canada researchers have reason to do a slow burn also, at the task force's comments about their performance. For years, these researchers have told Governments their budgets needed to be increased to cope with the needs of the industry. The appeal usually fell on deaf ears. As well, there has been little support from Governments to fund market research and development of potential new crops or even traditional products. Beyond this, Governments have often failed to provide legislation to assist in launching new agricultural ventures, or to expand markets for established farming pursuits. Blaming researchers for contributing to the crisis Canadian agriculture is in now is nothing more than a cover-up for the general lack of attention the industry has received.

Smokers too passive

Recently, a lady phoned to ask if there wasn't some way Canadian smokers could start defending their right to enjoy a cigarette, cigar or pipe. She said she was disturbed about the massive amount of media attention focused on anti-smoking groups' campaigns and opinions, while smokers generally remained fairly silent on the issue. If we (smokers) started to complain publicly about the tobacco taxes we pay, might it not have some influence?, she asked.

She is right. Canadian smokers and the industry as well have been far too passive about carrying the tax load that has been foisted upon them. Citizens of the United States pay far less and legislators there are much more level-headed about taxing tobacco and alcoholic beverages. In the United Kingdom, smokers let their Government know what they thought by signing petitions against excessive product taxes when they purchased the goods at outlets.

When the one-man petitioning campaign conducted by Delhi area tobacco farmer Oscar VanDeWalle a year or so ago collected hundreds of signatures, you get an idea of the response that could be obtained on a national basis. But this takes effort, organization and funding which only the Manufacturers' Council could arrange. Segments of the alcoholic beverage industry have undertaken petitioning . . . and they've been treated better than tobacco in the last two federal budgets.

Limited appeal

Few tobacco growers apply to FIT

By MARLENE OPDECAM

The Farmers in Transition program put together by the provincial government late last year appears to have only a limited attraction for hard-pressed tobacco farmers.

Of the total 156 people who had applied by Feb. 28, 1986, under the re-establishment assistance and farm advisory sections of the program, only 10 have been tobacco farmers, Nancy Bardecki, from the Farmers Assistance Programs office in Toronto said.

The program, designed to provide economic and social assistance for farmers with financial difficulties, offers re-establishment assistance for farm families who have had to discontinue farming due to financial difficulties. It also provides advisors to give confidential help to farmers facing money problems.

The \$6 million FIT program, introduced in early October and functional by early December of last year, has received 51 applications for re-establishment from farmers across the province, Ms. Bardecki said. Of these, only four came from tobacco producers.

A total of 105 referrals came in for the farm advisory service. Of these, six were from tobacco farmers.

Farmers making applications for assistance through the FIT program come from a number of commodity groups including beef, cash crop, grain, pork, fruit and vegetables, mixed livestock and cash crop operations, tobacco and dairy. No one producer group can be singled out as responding more heavily than any of the others, Ms. Bardecki said.

The hotline provides a third service for struggling farmers, offering information on employment programs, stress counselling, where to go for legal and financial advice and an explanation of the rights and obligations of farmers.

The helpline, at 1-800-265-1511, operates around the clock. Staff members are available between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., with an answering service relaying calls coming in after regular hours to the staff to ensure prompt attention.

Ms. Bardecki's office reported that as of March 7, 1986, a total of 401 calls made by Ontario producers had been processed through the helpline switchboard. About 64 were made in the first week of March alone.

The highest volume of calls was received from Central Ontario with 170 recorded from that region. Calls from Southwestern Ontario totalled 143, Northern Ontario four and Eastern Ontario 46.

From the province as a whole, 50 of the calls were recorded as coming from tobacco producers. Calls received from cash crop farmers, pork producers, beef producers, dairy producers and greenhouse operators were 43, 38, 45, 37 and three respectively. Calls from agricultural producers in other industry sectors including vegetable, fur, horses, tree fruit and potatoes totalled 139.

A spokesman from the office of the farm assistance program said most of the farmers using the helpline

were interested in information about family farm advisors, agricultural representatives or general information on the FIT program. A large number were also interested in information about legal aid, re-establishment assistance, Canada Employment Centre, stress counselling and general welfare assistance. A few were seeking information about credit counselling as well, the representative said.

Ken Linington, agricultural representative for Haldimand-Norfolk, said the FIT program provides struggling producers with a confidential method of finding out about various programs open to them through the helpline. Mr. Linington said he is confident more farmers will take advantage of the farm advisory service as time goes on. Commenting on the re-establishment program, which he indicated has given FIT a "bit of a bad name" among producers, Mr. Linington said it is not intended as an incentive for farmers to get out of agriculture. Rather it was put in place to meet the needs of those who have been forced out as a result of financial difficulties and do not qualify for general welfare benefits.

Ms. Bardecki said she's very pleased with the program and the response it has generated so far.

Otterville tobacco producer Hugh Zimmer is less enthused about FIT. "It's another high profile, low funding program," Mr. Zimmer commented. "There's a real problem with the program not reaching the people it's supposed to reach."

Across the province, OMAF estimates some 2,000 to 3,000 farmers per year will take advantage of the FIT program over the next five years.

The program was scheduled to be reviewed March 31, 1987. The announcement in last month's federal budget of a rural transition program to assist farmers, however, means the FIT program will be likely reviewed once details of the federal program have been announced.

Farmers attempting to find solutions to financial problems facing them or farmers forced out of the business because of financial problems can get help under the provincial program.

Ms. Bardecki explained that the FIT program offers a multi-purpose approach to helping financially struggling farmers.

FIT assistance for re-establishing farm families forced out of business includes a one-time grant of \$250 per person to eligible families to help with living expenses. Ms. Bardecki cautioned, however, that this financial aid is reduced by \$1 for every \$25 of net worth in excess of what is considered reasonable personal effects and shelter.

For families qualifying for the cash grant, FIT will also provide an employer with a subsidy to cover 50 per cent of the wage of one family member up to a maximum subsidy of \$3.50 per hour. The subsidy will pay for up to 40 hours a week for a maximum of 26 weeks.

Only one member of a family will be eligible for the wage subsidy at one time.

Furthermore, FIT will also pay tuition for a course on how to land and keep a job. The course will be offered across Ontario by the ministry's colleges of agricultural technology.

All employable family members over 16 are eligible to attend the course.

Ms. Bardecki stressed that if applicants for the cash grant have it worked down to zero because of their net worth, they are no longer eligible for the job course or the wage subsidy.

She said tobacco sharegrowers would qualify for assistance under the re-establishment part of the FIT program as long as they are getting completely out of farming and into a new walk of life.

Farm families are eligible if the applicant has operated and derived a family income from a farm under normal circumstances and have left or are leaving the farm because of financial reasons, Ms. Bardecki stressed.

For those intent on staying in agriculture if at all possible, the FIT program offers the services of independent farm family advisors. The advisors, all farm people themselves, will help the farmer find realistic options and prepare a

plan of action. Options could range from debt restructuring to complete liquidation.

The advisors do not make any decisions. They only outline various alternatives which the farmer may then choose to act on or ignore.

Farmers can be referred to the advisors by the local Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food office or by lenders. Farmers are automatically referred to the service if their applications under the Ontario Farm Adjustment Assistance Program or the Farm Operating Credit Program are rejected.

Ms. Bardecki said program coordinators had targeted for about 60 advisors. However, in view of the demand experienced for the service since the program was put into place, she feels the number may have to be increased.

The FIT program also provides a 24-hour toll-free helpline providing information on employment programs, stress counselling, where to get legal advice, how to obtain professional help in dealing with creditors and a variety of other information. The number is 1-800-265-1511.

And, in conjunction with the announcement of the FIT program, the Ministry of Communications and Social Services has said it will provide family and stress counselling to farm families in financial distress on a priority basis.

The counselling services will be offered as a pilot project to respond to the needs of farm families. The ministry will purchase counselling from local agencies and professionals to which farmers can gain access by calling the helpline number.

Five successful producers representing various commodity groups were appointed to one-year terms on the FIT board. The appointees include Richard Hiscocks, a pork producer from Oxford County, Peter McKinnon, a cash crop farmer from the Lennox-Addington area, Ron Oswald, a beef producer from Bruce county, Gail Murdock, a dairy farmer from Algoma and Euclid Mailloux, a horticultural crop producer from Essex.

The Tillsonburg News

Special Edition

Monday, March 24, 1986



Tobacco 1986

New solutions need co-operation

By JOHN WISE, MP ELGIN
Federal Agriculture Minister

As a new planting season approaches, tobacco growers remain concerned about the future of their industry and rightly so. The difficulties they faced last year, particularly declining domestic demand for tobacco, remain very real today.

Finding solutions to these challenges will require co-operation between producers, manufacturers and government.

For producers, the need to increase efficiency remains paramount. I'm proud to say our Canadian tobacco growers continue to adopt new, more efficient practices that are helping them stay competitive in a very tough market.

I have also been hard at work for the tobacco industry. As you know, last December I announced that agreement had been reached between Ontario flue-cured tobacco growers and manufacturers on the sale of the 1985 crop.

Other actions have been taken too. Cash advances totalling \$90 million

were paid to Ontario flue-cured tobacco producers under Agriculture Canada's Advance Payments for Crops Act.

Arrangements have been made for your marketing board to receive financial help under my department's Agricultural Products Co-operative Marketing Act to buy surplus 1985 tobacco. Growers will receive an average initial payment of \$1.76.5 a pound for tobacco purchased under this program.

These are short-term measures, of course. Long-term solutions are

crucial and Agriculture Canada is working hard to find these answers, particularly through research. My department's research branch is celebrating its centennial this year. For its part, the Delhi station and its staff have devoted more than 50 years to improving tobacco and developing alternate crops for this important agriculture area. I am proud of their achievements and hope to further expand and diversify their research in the future.

Your industry stands at a crossroads and solutions to today's

problems will not come easily. For my part, I will continue my department's commitment to research, to co-operation between Agriculture Canada and tobacco growers, and to the search for these solutions.

As well, in the February, 1986 budget, the minister of finance announced a special assistance package for tobacco growers. Although program details will have to be discussed with the provinces and grower representatives, I am striving to put this package in place as quickly as possible.



JOHN WISE

Trying year for area tobacco growers

By ROBERT NIXON

Ontario Treasurer
Brant-Oxford-Norfolk MPP

Last year was an extremely trying one for the tobacco-growing communities of Southwestern Ontario. The uncertainties that surrounded this important industry were extremely frustrating and stressful for the thousands of people in Oxford

and Norfolk Counties who depend upon the industry for their livelihood.

As the MPP for the riding of Brant-Oxford-Norfolk for over 23 years, I feel I have developed an understanding of the industry that has been of tremendous assistance in my new position as treasurer of the province.

I think that one of the more positive developments in an otherwise dreary year for the tobacco growers came when the "ad valorem" tax on tobacco was repealed. Up until the last provincial budget, Ontario's tobacco tax laws had applied a fixed percentage of 45 per cent to the changing price of tobacco products rather than a fixed number of cents per unit. Federal taxes are applied in a similar way so we ended up paying a tax on a tax. This type of taxation was simply unjustified. Although the restructuring of this tax system meant the provin-

cial government would forego approximately \$130 million in revenue, I am pleased we were able to put an end to a method of taxation that was fundamentally wrong.

The provincial government has moved on a number of other fronts to assist the agricultural sector and our tobacco producers have been among the primary beneficiaries. The Ontario Family Farm Interest Rate Reduction Program (OF-FIRR) has recently wound down. It provided financial relief by bringing interest rates on up to \$200,000 of debt down to eight per cent. The Farmers in Transition (FIT) Program has also been well received. It provides counselling and financial assistance to farmers who choose to leave the business.

Another program from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food has also generated a lot of interest among our tobacco growers. The Ontario Crop Introduction and

Expansion Program will provide funding to a maximum of \$100,000 annually for up to three years to farm businesses in order to assist in the introduction and expansion to alternate crops.

While it is disturbing for me to be talking about programs designed to assist our tobacco farmers in leaving the business or at least examining the viability of other crops, I think it is something a lot of the producers have to look at. The fact remains that the 119,000 acres of tobacco that were grown in this province in 1981 have shrunk to 85,000 acres today.

Despite the obvious problems that this industry is undergoing, I'm confident a large percentage of the growers will continue to be profitable. The sandy loam soils of our region produce the finest quality tobacco in the world. The manufacturers recognize this fact and the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board is working hard to make the rest of the world know it as well.

As the weather warms up and the days get longer, the people of the Tillsonburg area are looking anxiously to the 1986 growing season. Not only do the farmers have a lot riding on the 1986 crop, but the entire community does as well, for much of the region's economic prosperity is linked to a strong tobacco industry.

Redux program gathers support

By DICK TRELEAVEN
OXFORD MPP

My thanks to The Tillsonburg News for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the 1986 Tobacco Edition.

The Redux Program seems to be gathering more support as it attracts more attention. I certainly support it and use every opportunity

I have to discuss it and encourage people to support it. The tobacco industry must diversify, and Redux could and would supply the financial base for this diversification.

While referring to taxes I wish to point out that I have written to both the federal minister of finance, Michael Wilson and Provincial

Treasurer Bob Nixon asking them to refrain from further tax increases on tobacco in their 1986 budgets. The federal budget will be presented and we will know its results before this Tobacco Edition comes off the press. Since Bob Nixon personally represents a tobacco-belt riding, I'm really optimistic of his full understanding and support for the tobacco industry.

Bill 71, a Non-smokers Rights private member's bill of Ottawa area MPP Norm Sterling, received second reading in the legislature in late January. It states all areas of certain establishments must be no smoking areas, and deals with smoking areas in other businesses and establishments.

I spoke against the bill strongly because its net result was further trouble for the tobacco industry. I argued the bill was one-sided since it didn't deal with anything to alleviate the problems of the tobacco farmers or alternative crop research, but only limits the places people can smoke.

Ron McNeil and Bob Nixon joined me in voting against the bill, together with six other MPPs not in tobacco-belt ridings. The bill passed, nevertheless, by a wide margin. We

hope the bill will die on the Order Paper before it goes to committee. The record of the debate in the legislature is available from The Tillsonburg News or from my office. We must all try, each in his or her own way, to obtain fairness to those in the tobacco industry.



Competitive international marketing tougher tobacco negotiations result

By BRUCE HALLIDAY, MD
MP Oxford

This last year has been one of transition and adjustment for the tobacco-producing industry in Oxford.

There have been recent dramatic shifts in demand, and more competitive international marketing, which has resulted in tougher negotiations with the manufacturers. These shifts have had a tremendous impact on the tobacco producers and their communities which rely heavily on some aspects of the industry for their livelihood.

Throughout this period the federal

government has attempted to work closely with the tobacco producers, and to assist them with changes and adjustments.

The realization of the extent to which smoking is hazardous to our health has resulted in increased awareness of the health care cost of for individuals who may eventually rely on our universal health care system for treatment of smoking-related ailments. Surprisingly, however, it has been found that the increasing public awareness of the health hazards have played a larger role than the tax increase in the decreasing domestic demand for tobacco products.

Federal Agricultural Minister John Wise assisted the producers in negotiating a settlement with the manufacturers over the purchase of the 1985 crop; remains committed to considering the formation of a national marketing agency; and recently committed himself, through the Feb. 26 budget, to announcing a specific transitional and adjustment assistance program for the tobacco-producing industry. Throughout the ongoing liaison between the producers and the government, Mr. Wise has maintained a role of assisting rather than guiding.

Unfortunately, there has been a court injunction barring the submission of a report to the minister of agriculture following hearings on the formation of a national tobacco marketing agency. This injunction, successfully requested by the tobacco manufacturers, legally prohibited the agriculture minister from receiving and considering the report until the manufacturers' appeal had been heard. It certainly would not have been prudent for Mr. Wise to circumvent the legal system on this matter. However, he remains

committed to giving the proposal every consideration once the injunction issue on the report has been rectified.

In the Feb. 26 budget, Finance Minister Michael Wilson stated that: "The government is prepared to assist tobacco farmers in responding to this changing market environment. The minister of agriculture will be consulting with his provincial counterparts to establish a program that will provide financial assistance for tobacco producers to diversify their production to alternate crops." This program will belong to the tobacco producers; again the government will play a role of assistance rather than guidance as the producers continue to assess the direction best suited for them.

On Nov. 21, 1985, I presented a Private Member's Motion before the House which received all-party support. My motion called for a comprehensive examination of the tobacco-producing industry by the Standing Committee on Agriculture. As a result of the success of my motion, the agriculture committee has established a subcommittee on the tobacco-producing industry in order to expediate the review quicker than a full committee format would allow.

Although I have not been a regular member of the agriculture committee, I was pleased to have been asked to substitute on the committee, and consequently the subcommittee, for the duration of the proceedings on the tobacco-producing industry.

The subcommittee proceedings are already underway and I am hopeful our review will assist both the producers and the government in their assessment of future steps for the industry.



Grower convinced industry will survive

By SUZANNE STOOP

Otterville area tobacco grower and corn farmer Hugh Zimmer is convinced the Canadian tobacco industry will survive. But he's not certain how many growers will survive the current battering the industry is taking.

"I see it being a real hodge-podge of growers left," Mr. Zimmer said. And he sees the tobacco companies "being very disappointed with the growers left in business as a result of this financial shakeup."

"I see the older growers, the least efficient farmers and those who were given their farms as being left in," Mr. Zimmer said. And while those may be the farms with the least debt, he questioned whether they will produce the quality of tobacco the manufacturers want for their export markets. "I don't think they will."

The self-declared agricultural activist has attempted to make the point to the manufacturers that the squeeze they are putting on the growers will mean the loss of the wrong people.

"You have to be able to prove to the tobacco manufacturers that it's not in their best interest to lose a whole generation of young tobacco farmers and be left with a few tottering old men," he said. If that happens, "you wind up with a product that isn't salable on world markets."

Mr. Zimmer and his brother Fred

have been growing tobacco and corn for about 14 years. He acknowledges there have always been peaks and valleys in the industry and he accepts that. "The real problem people are encountering now is that the peaks never come and the valleys last forever."

He's long been an ardent supporter of a national marketing agency for tobacco in an effort to bring some stability to the industry. A national agency would allow growers to obtain their cost of production and it would close the borders to imported flue. National would also give growers more clout when dealing with the multi-national tobacco companies which buy the product.

"Without legislation, in any type of marketing situation, there is no impetus for the companies to treat the farmers with fairness and decency," Mr. Zimmer said.

While efforts to establish a national agency have been delayed by a manufacturers' injunction, things are at the point where they will start to level off for growers, provided the government comes through with the promises it made on national and the redux program, Mr. Zimmer said.

"A lot of major things are in place to improve the export situation," he said. And the improvement in the Canadian currency, combined with the poor crops in Zimbabwe and Brazil, should mean things will start to look a little brighter for Canadian growers.



Tobacco industry survival tested: Murray

By MARLENE OPDECAM

"Tobacco is being tested as an industry right now. We have to stand up to the test or we won't survive."

Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board Chairman Berry Murray made this comment as he reviewed the trials he, the board, farmers and the industry as a whole have endured during the past year.

The board has so far lost in its bid to establish a national tobacco marketing agency, to pull to a halt excessive tobacco taxation and to come up with a firm agreement for the sale of the 1985 flue crop. Uncertainties about the 1985 market, prospects for the 1986 crop and financial problems not made any easier by the tobacco board's decision to withhold 21.5 cents per pound from tobacco sold and allocated on the 1985 market, has some producers on the warpath.

Despite all this Mr. Murray continues to believe the Canadian tobacco industry still has a future.

His hope for that future rides on the establishment of a national tobacco marketing agency and the creation of an export consortium.

The only thread of protection available to prevent abuse the producers can hope for, faced as they are by corporate giants with global strengths, is the farm legislation, Mr. Murray said referring to the national agency plan.

Unfortunately that legislation is only as good as the government which stands behind it, he added.

The chairman said he believes in the tobacco farmers' case, they have been pushed farther and harmed beyond what's reasonable without the legislative protection that the farm legislation is supposed to provide. "I think we've lacked the government backing which is needed to really correct the problem," he said.

Mr. Murray said he feels it is time people woke to face reality. It's time farmers realize that tobacco producers, in many ways, have been

totally let down by government in general and that had the board been able to put in the legislation to protect producers the type of thing which is happening now wouldn't have happened.

What is happening to tobacco farmers now is proof, in his opinion, that they need a national agency or some type of vehicle which will give them the ability to stand up on an equal footing with the companies.

Mr. Murray made it clear he feels the only proper way to get a national tobacco marketing agency in place will be to have it proclaimed by the federal agriculture minister who has the legal power to do so. He admitted that it would probably take an election to stimulate the political will to achieve that end as John Wise has made it clear he will not do so, preferring instead to wait for a report on the issue from the National Farm Products Marketing Council. The report, although prepared, has been dead-ended for some time by a series of court actions.

Commenting on the consortium proposed as an export incentive program, Mr. Murray said that without it the only avenue farmers will have for the sale of the 1985 crop's unsold tobacco will be the domestic manufacturers.

The consortium is needed to provide the 56 cent buy-down funding necessary to make Canadian tobacco competitive on the world market.

But, he said, if farmers didn't have the tobacco there "...then you can't sell it, you wouldn't have an export potential and you'd probably never get a consortium. The thing is if we've ever had a chance at getting a consortium it's now because the pressure is there from all parties to put it in place," he said.

Mr. Murray views the consortium as a "critical concept" which the board can't afford to give up on if it hopes to get fairly good crop sizes for the next few years. The industry relies on exports which have traditionally made up 45 per cent of its market. Without funding for an ex-

port incentive program, Mr. Murray believes upcoming crop sizes will be very small.

Growing tobacco without any type of export incentive program would mean the destruction of a very large segment of the growing industry, he commented.

"I would hope that eventually all people involved will realize that that is not in the best interests of the tobacco industry as a whole," the chairman said.

Massive tax increases experienced in the last 18 months on the industry on both levels of government, plus the effect of "a whole bunch of radical screwballs who are trying to eliminate the growing industry" believing that achievement will stop smoking, have made the struggle to survive even more difficult in Mr. Murray's opinion.

Commenting on the "anti-smoking pack" which he feels is very vicious in wanting to eliminate the farmer because it appears to have identified him as the weakest link in the tobacco chain he said "They feel if they eliminate us they have won some type of victory," he said. But Mr. Murray made it clear he believes this is a misconception on the anti-smoking lobby's part. "The bottom line is there will still be people smoking in Canada whether we grow it or not," he commented.

In view of all the the abuse growers are taking, it's no wonder farmers are irritable, Mr. Murray said. It's too bad it's happening, he said, referring to growing farmer dissatisfaction with the board. He added, however, that he can understand why it is happening. "People are frustrated, angry and mad," he said. "They're looking at, in a lot of cases, generations of work being put into jeopardy. We're (the board) the closest thing to them that they can reach out and slap. I can certainly understand that."

Mr. Murray said the board feels before the 1985 market is over it will generate \$1.80 on sold tobacco plus \$1.81 borrowing authority for the re-

mainder so if everything falls in place he can see no problem with the farmer getting \$1.70 when it is all sold. But, the chairman said, the thing to emphasize is that everything has to be in place before that can happen. "The companies must agree to the contract, the minister must agree to the loan, the banks must agree to administer the loan according to the way we foresee it to be best for the farmers. All those things have to fall into place. If they don't fall into place we won't be able to continue."

Despite current unrest, Mr. Murray said he was extremely proud of the amount of strength his fellow

directors had displayed and the support that they've all shown for sticking together through all the problems. The chairman admitted when he and a group of new directors became part of the board, not everyone saw eye to eye on everything. But faced with the seriousness of the problems the board has done a very good job of sticking together, he commented.

Mr. Murray said he also feels the producers, at least until recently, have been just remarkable in terms of their unity. "I've seen other years where a lot smaller issues sparked farmers. They deserve an awful lot," he concluded.

Foresees tobacco belt as welfare

By Ben Steidman
Staff Writer

BRANTFORD — If Ottawa wants to prevent Southwestern Ontario's valuable tobacco belt being transformed into a simmering welfare belt, it must invest considerable money to avoid this social and economic calamity.

That's the jaundiced view of irate tobacco grower Joe Olszowka of Brantford, miffed over Ottawa's inaction on establishment of a flue-cured tobacco national marketing agency and cynical manoeuvres by

the cigarette manufacturers in negotiating for the 1985 crop.

Interviewed in his Brantford home at 44 Patterson Ave., Mr. Olszowka insisted "he smells blood in the air . . . there could be outbreaks of violence . . . people have got their backs to the wall, some of them may not care what happens."

He forecast that 1986 will be the "shake-out year" for the area's tobacco industry. Moreover, Mr. Olszowka expressed pessimism about growers planting a crop this year under "current market conditions".

Mr. Olszowka maintained growers won't receive the \$1.76½ a pound

agreed to by the manufacturers. He insisted growers will only receive \$1.55 a pound. "That's a difference of 21.5 cents a pound; there's no guarantee farmers will ever get it."

The Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board has the difference, said Mr. Olszowka, who owns two abutting farms at RR-1 Princeton, and believes it will "disappear".

He suggested it might be used to cover processing and packing costs.

Board officials conceded they would only be able to give growers an interim payment of \$1.55 a pound. Details of an export consortium have

to be ironed out, Board officials say, before further payments to growers are forthcoming.

This export consortium, in effect, is a fund to buy down exported cost of tobacco; it will also pay costs for processing, packing and storage.

With the three tobacco auctions open, Mr. Olszowka feared that even at \$1.76½ a pound, whether "a national marketing agency materializes or whatever," a good number of growers will be put out of business.

Stressed Mr. Olszowka: "Even at \$1.76½ a pound, our cost-of-production (COP) isn't covered. Too many people are in the red. At \$1.55 a pound, the banks won't even look at us for this year's crop."

"Just think of all the fertilizer companies going belly-up because of unpaid bills . . . just think of all the unpaid propane bills."

Mr. Olszowka estimated that a "shake-out" of the industry was unavoidable at \$1.76½ a pound; at \$1.55 a pound, there wouldn't be a 1986 crop, except perhaps for a 100 or so

growers who have the financial resources to go ahead.

As this article is being written, in mid-February, the Board doesn't have a signed agreement with the manufacturers.

Moreover, it doesn't have a signed agreement on a \$1.81 a pound loan guarantee from Ottawa on unsold tobacco at the auctions. This loan, under the Agricultural Producers' Co-operative Marketing Act, will be used to purchase unsold tobacco at the auctions. The Board will then try to sell this tobacco in foreign markets.

Late last year, the manufacturers agreed to buy 90 million pounds of the 1985 crop (170 million pounds) for domestic usage. In addition, two of the companies would sell 15 million pounds abroad. Also included in the agreement was provision for a \$20-million fund to buy down the price of 35 million pounds when purchased for export.

As mentioned earlier, this article was written prior to the Feb. 26 Federal budget. Mr. Olszowka slammed Federal Finance Minister Michael Wilson for imposing a tax increase of 25 cents on a pack of 25 cigarettes in last May's budget.

Unsurprisingly, Mr. Olszowka feared a repetition or worse in the upcoming budget. This apparent hike would come on the heels of rise in interest rates to 12 or 13 per cent. Ottawa claims this increase is necessary to curb the Canadian dollar's decline.

"If there's an increase in tobacco tax . . . and all indications point in that direction," speculated Mr. Olszowka, "that'll just about kill the industry."

"If you suffocate the primary producers . . . if you choke the farmers . . . by destroying the growers . . . you're not going to dry up the sources of tobacco, the manufacturers will just bring in cheap imports."

Mr. Olszowka accused the anti-smoking groups of "infringing on the basic right of citizens on the choice of using a world legal product." He would also like to view documented evidence of tobacco's alleged health threat.

"Our industry should bring an injunction against the anti-smoking lobby . . . the same as the manufacturers did against the national, claiming it would cost them \$20-million a year."

An angry Mr. Olszowka characterized Mr. Mahood as tailoring himself in the image of American consumer advocate Ralph Nader. "He's become somewhat of an expert, an influence peddler."

According to Mr. Olszowka, the anti-smoking group has evolved into a "powerful lobby group," also contending it's become an "industry" in moulding public opinion.

The group certainly needs lots of funding to maintain its campaign, noted Mr. Olszowka.

Looking to the immediate future, Mr. Olszowka dreads some forecasts about the industry unless intervention takes place. He laments the disintegration of a free enterprise bastion, constructed by honest, hard-working people.

"Can you visualize what will happen to the people?"

(continued from page 8)

Not only will growers go down the tubes, added Mr. Olszowka, but communities, towns, cities, people, a way of life, a culture, businesses, industries, an entire region.

What can be done to save the industry?

Mr. Olszowka reflected on the Government's bail-out of Dome Petroleum — at last count amounting to a \$1-billion grant and \$2-billion tax break.

Moreover, pointed out Mr. Olszowka, Ottawa's involvement in two Western Canada bank fold-ups will undoubtedly cost Canadian taxpayers some \$2-billion in the final analysis.

He feels taxpayers would be willing to invest some money to save a vital industry and region from collapse if made aware of the facts. "There was never any hope of revival for the two banks, but the Government went ahead with our money anyway."

Mr. Olszowka estimated the cost of saving growers might total \$500-million, a fraction of what Ottawa has

spent lately in the above-mentioned two incidents and others.

"The Federal Government must put a half billion dollars into the industry to help it . . . it could help growers, say, with debt reduction," demanded Mr. Olszowka.

He maintained: "It's an investment . . . in Southern Ontario, which is a major economic sector (in Canada)."

"Is Ottawa trying to kill the industry with taxes and providing no funding to help?" asked Mr. Olszowka.

He reckoned the last tobacco tax increase swelled Government coffers by some \$800-million. "The Government owes the tobacco industry at least one year's taxes," he added, in payment for all revenue supplied in the past.

"It could be considered as a contribution to the economy, as a means of reducing debt. We're not asking for a bail-out, but for an investment."

Mr. Olszowka even went so far as to suggest Ottawa fork over any money collected from the next tobacco tax increase he envisages.

He also included Queen's Park in

the scenario, proposing both Governments could play significant roles over the next year in cutting growers' debts by redirecting tax revenues gradually to this area.

Mr. Olszowka said he won't pay his current municipal taxes amounting to about \$5,000 on his two side-by-side farms in Blenheim Township. "I'm not paying my taxes . . . and no one else should either, until there are some changes and we get help."

His two farms — one of 112 acres, the other comprising 85 acres — were until recently operated by a sharegrower.

Passports to Heaven

St. Peter individually interviewed three men lined up at the Pearly Gates, asking each, in turn, what their I.Q. was.

The first man said he had an I.Q. of 200. When St. Peter asked what his occupation had been, he replied: "a brain surgeon".

"Pass through," St. Peter said.

The second man told St. Peter he had an I.Q. of 175. When asked what he had done, he replied: "I was a lawyer and a politician."

"A lawyer . . . well, alright. A politician . . . maybe? But, I'll take a chance, move on," St. Peter said.

The third man, when asked his I.Q., said it was 50.

"Have you sold any tobacco yet?," St. Peter asked.

(Anonymous)

Silly insinuations

I agree, Mr. Nixon, let's not cloud the issues surrounding an industry as important as tobacco with silly insinuations about my or your politics.

If you care to take the time to check it out, you will find that two years ago I collected 15,000 signatures supporting the tobacco industry and condemning Government taxation. When I personally presented this petition to Larry Grossman, at the time, Treasurer of a Progressive Conservative Government of this province, I labelled the taxation policies outrageous and oppressive, and called for the Provincial Government to take the initiative and return some of those tax dollars to the tobacco producers.

Sentiments from the heart don't change, Bob, but politics can and do. I suggest, respectfully, of course, that Robert F. Nixon, who is treasurer now, when he finally got his opportunity to put his money where his mouth is, once comfortably installed in his new prestigious office, conveniently and quickly chose to ignore his responsibilities to the tobacco community. In other words, the messenger forgot his own message.

The stop-gap policies that you claim to be innovative are something less than a poor dressing on a very deep wound. As the infection of Government indifference continues to fester in the tobacco community, one finds little solace in programs that advertise Government concern but actually represent a total lack of compassion.

You state, in your letter — "We are taking useful steps to help this industry." Forgive me, Bob for my lack of understanding. I invite you anyway to show me how a four cent per pack increase in tobacco taxes is going to help this industry. Rather I suggest that the \$54-million set aside for agriculture — if it ever materializes — is a paltry sum compared to the mega-bucks you are throwing into the health program to counter the medical profession on extra-billing.

Your ploy to divert the attention of the readers of these letters to the editor from the real issues of the tobacco crisis to partisan politics is the ultimate insult to all of us involved in the tobacco community. There are no happy faces around here, Mr. Nixon, and so far, none of my friends and neighbours are experiencing the tremendous "boosts" from your programs which you referred to in your previous letter.

Perhaps the fact that Mr. Robert Nixon has chosen to scorn the tobacco community is a direct result of redistribution which effectively removes the treasurer from the responsibility of representing and defending the interests and rights of the tobacco people.

Oscar VanDeWalle
Tobacco producer,
RR 3 Delhi

ONTARIO TREASURER REPLIES

The Editor: I would like to take this opportunity to respond to a letter to the Editor that appeared in this newspaper on April 28, 1986, concerning the continuing problems in the tobacco industry. It was written by Oscar VanDeWalle who incidentally

to the Editor

is the president of the Brant-Oxford-Norfolk Progressive Conservative Association. Mr. VanDeWalle was obviously trying to score a few political points by exploiting the plight of his fellow tobacco farmers. I am disappointed that I must respond to his letter, but it contained so much misinformation that I felt I should set the record straight.

I take particular exception to his suggestion that I have taken an "I don't want to get involved" attitude. The truth of the matter is that I have had numerous interesting, frank and informative meetings with the tobacco marketing board, the manufacturer's council, concerned growers and elected officials from all levels of government.

It seems quite ironic that Mr. VanDeWalle would accuse me of ignoring the tobacco growers problems in one sentence then attack me for freezing tobacco taxes in the next. I would like to point out that abolishing the ad valorem system, essentially a tax on a tax, and moving to a flat tax system in the 1985 Ontario budget cost the province well over \$100 million dollars in foregone revenue. It did, however, give the industry an opportunity to adjust.

Tobacco growers have also benefitted from other programs such as the \$50 million Ontario Family Farm Interest Rate Reduction Program, Farm Operating Capital Assistance Program and the Farmers in Transition program (FIT). I am sure that Mr. VanDeWalle will be happy to know that these innovative programs were a tremendous boost to many of his friends and neighbors.

It would be naive for anyone to suggest that these initiatives will cure all the ills of the tobacco industry, but when one looks at the amount of time and money that this government has devoted to the sector, it becomes clear that we are not ignoring the problems that exist. Rather, we are taking useful steps to help this industry.

Contrary to Mr. VanDeWalle's contention, Jack Riddell, the minister of agriculture and food, and I have been working very closely with our federal counterparts. Ontario has taken a lead role in each stage of the development of policies designed to assist the farmers and their communities. In fact, the federal finance minister, Michael Wilson, thought highly enough of our FIT plan that his last budget included a proposal to expand it nationwide.

I regret that Mr. VanDeWalle has chosen to use the misfortunes of the producers to support his own political position. Partisanship should not, and will not, be allowed to cloud the issues surrounding an industry as important to our community as tobacco.

Robert F. Nixon
Treasurer of Ontario

National hearings to reopen

TN APR 7

By MARLENE OPDECAM

The Federal Justice Department has decided not to appeal a federal court decision ordering the reopening of public hearings on a proposed national tobacco marketing agency.

Susan Leah, information officer for the National Farm Products Marketing Council, said Friday the council had received a letter from the justice department stating there would be no appeal but giving no explanation for that decision.

Ms. Leah said the council will now assemble the information on the 1983 cost of production study commissioned by the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board for circulation to the manufacturers, leaf dealers, boards and other groups who have indicated an interest in the material.

But the hearings aren't likely to resume until sometime in June as those parties interested in taking part must have some time to review the study and put together their own submissions, she said.

The hearings will not be readvertised. Instead, all parties involved in the initial court case and the appeal, as well as those who made submissions during the original hearings held last summer, will be notified of the dates by mail.

The hearings will be held in Ottawa.

Berry Murray, chairman of the Ontario tobacco board, said Friday he was pleased with the justice department's decision. An appeal to the supreme court could have tied up the issue of the agency "forever and ever", Mr. Murray said.

He indicated the board has had its submission for the resumed hearings ready for some time.

A report on the national marketing agency completed after the 1985 public hearings on the issue contains the recommendations of the national council to Federal Agriculture Minister John Wise. But legal wranglings, initiated by the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers Council last September, have prevented its presentation to him.

Mr. Wise has made it clear he will take no action on the proposed agency until he has had chance to see the national council's report.

That during the week of April 16, 1976:

In a nine to five vote, directors of the Tobacco Board decided to hold a poundage control plebiscite on Monday May 3. Director Don Burgess was absent from the closed session.

That during the week of April 23, 1976:

Ontario flue-cured tobacco producers voted poundage control in for the 1976 crop by a two to one majority. With 86.3 per cent of the eligible voters casting ballots, 1,563 favoured poundage, 767 voted against it and there were nine spoiled ballots.

Board, manufacturers meet to initiate '86 crop talks

T.N.
APR 2

By MARLENE OPDECAM

Members of the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board and cigarette manufacturers were meeting in Toronto today to break the ground for the 1986 crop talks, even though the 1985 agreement remains unconcluded.

Richard Bozek, vice-chairman of the board, has said the talks for the 1986 crop will be preliminary discussions only and growers shouldn't expect to have this year's crop size set immediately.

In a telephone interview, Mr. Bozek indicated board members will

attempt to push for a final agreement on the 1985 crop before the 1986 crop is even discussed.

He said he hoped the crop size could be set before the end of April and that some approximation of price per pound for the coming crop would be available.

Berry Murray, board chairman, returned Monday night from a trade mission to China in order to participate in the crop talks.

According to Mr. Bozek, Mr. Murray is unlikely to make an announcement on the details of his trip to

China until he has the opportunity to meet with board members.

There is still no news from the federal government concerning a proposed assistance program for financially-struggling tobacco farmers, Mr. Bozek said. A meeting was held between Agriculture Canada and the agriculture ministers of all tobacco-producing provinces last week concerning the assistance program but the board has received no feedback from that meeting, he said.

Mr. Bozek said he is unaware if

any further meetings to discuss the program have been scheduled.

There is also no word from the Federal Justice Department concerning its possible appeal of a federal court ruling which ordered the reopening of public hearings on the national tobacco marketing agency. Susan Leah, information officer for the National Farm Products Marketing Council, said the council expects to hear shortly. The justice department lawyer who handled the case was away on vacation and just returned this week.

Flue crop talks stalled on export consortium

T.N. APR 7

By MARLENE OPDECAM

The 1986 tobacco crop talks were stalled in Toronto Wednesday by the issue of the proposed export consortium, a key element of the 1985 crop agreement.

Berry Murray, chairman of the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board, said in an interview Friday the Wednesday session centred on establishment of the export consortium, a vehicle the board views as critical for a successful 1985 market and decent crop sizes in coming years.

Mr. Murray said the manufacturers and the board will meet again sometime this week, possibly today, to resume talks on the consortium or some other type of export mechanism.

According to the board chairman, the 1986 crop size can't be set until the board gets a yes or no answer from the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers Council on the export incentive plan.

And Rothmans of Pall Mall Canada Ltd. remains the sole manufacturing company refusing to support the consortium. The three others, Imperial Tobacco, RJR Macdonald Inc. and Benson and Hedges are prepared to commit themselves to the export proposal, Mr. Murray said.

He's hoping the next round of talks will involve more lengthy discussions than last week's meeting.

The chairman, who recently returned from China after a co-operative trade mission with RJR Macdonald, also announced that company had made a deal with China for the sale of one million pounds of flue. The sale is a first in that area for the Canadian branch of the company, he said.

Mr. Murray said he had pursued plans for the trial production of a Canadian-Chinese tobacco blended cigarette when he met with Chinese representatives of the tobacco

monopoly from the northern province of Heilongjiang. The board will be sending samples of Canadian flue to the province and intends to invite Chinese representatives from the tobacco monopoly to visit Ontario.

Commenting on the joint trade mission by the board and a manufacturing company, Mr. Murray said it shows the two sides of the industry working together can accomplish something. "I'm very encouraged by that," he commented.

China represents a large potential market for Canadian flue, he said. "It's just a matter of taking some time."

RJR's sale to the country is not part of the proposed agreement between the board and the Chinese to develop the Canadian-Chinese tobacco blended cigarette, Mr. Murray said.

The initial groundwork for the project was laid last year when Mr. Murray visited China in August.

Of all the Far East countries, China has the greatest potential as an export market. Its one billion people smoke approximately one trillion cigarettes a year making it the country with the highest cigarette consumption in the world.

Commenting on a promised federal government assistance package for tobacco producers, Mr. Murray said the Redux program as submitted by the tobacco board has not been accepted but stressed the board will continue trying to convince the government of its value.

Two or three committees have been set up by the government to study the tobacco situation and come up with proposals. While the board would have preferred to have its suggestion accepted, Mr. Murray is hoping the committees will come up with some reasonable solutions.

"We'll take whatever help we can get," Mr. Murray said. "Something is better than nothing."

FARM FAMILIES IN CRISIS

The solution is not simple. Families can't change the over-all financial picture, so they must learn ways to cope with the problem.

Frustrations mount as farm family uprooted

Tom and Julie Reid want to leave farming, but they've got nowhere to go — and it isn't for lack of trying. The London Free Press first wrote of the Reids last December and is following them through their often agonizing plight.

By Gord Wainman
of The Free Press

LANGTON — Tears of frustration well up in Julie Reid's eyes when she talks of the futility she, her husband and other farmers face as they prepare to leave not only their farm but a way of life.

"I ran into a lady in the supermarket," Julie recalls. "She was on Parliament Hill with me (protesting government inaction) in December. She asked if I was worried. I said I'm beyond that now. Then she said: 'My husband is 58... he asked me if he'd have to go and find a job.' She said she was worried. I started to cry for her. I didn't have the heart to tell her there are no jobs." Julie left the woman before she saw her crying.

After months of trying, Julie finally landed a full-time factory job.

Tom says he's one of the lucky farmers who saw the writing on the wall, and he prepared to leave the farm by returning to high school last year "just to get the wheels turning again." The 41-year-old father of two girls earned his Grade 13 diploma in his youth.

The Reids are tobacco farmers whose industry is particularly hard hit because of rapidly declining demand, but Julie says the emotional crisis facing increasing numbers of farmers is universal. They feel that society and government have broken the trust with all tillers of the soil.

The Reids' two daughters — Jennine, 15, and Tammy, 16 — don't want to leave their friends and school where they are A students. Julie says already the girls are questioning what they've been brought up to believe.

"We've always told our two girls: 'No matter what you do, you do it to the best of your ability... be the best person you can be.' They've done that. They see what Tom and I are going through, and I don't think they've got much faith in government. They might just say: 'Why should I do my best? Look what it got mom and dad.'"

Tom hopes to enter either physiotherapy, occupational therapy or nursing courses some time soon in search of an occupation "other than being a dishwasher" that will sus-

tain his family. He's found there's little in the way of government assistance to do so. The \$6-million provincial FIT program established last fall to aid failing farmers is more window dressing than substance, he says.

Tom feels society owes long-time farmers more than the \$250 per family member, a short course on how to get and hold a job when few jobs exist, and paying an employer half a salary for 26 weeks. He wants government loans — not grants — so he can relocate his family in a city where he can pursue his studies.

Just three years ago, his tobacco operation was worth \$800,000 on paper. It's now worth nothing as government tax escalations and rapidly declining demand for cigarettes have decimated the formerly affluent tobacco belt of Ontario. Tom is bitter.

"When I was young and went into this business, I went into it idealistically thinking not only would I make a living but also I would help Canada with export sales and through taxation," he says. "Now the government doesn't even help me get out of the business... it kicks me in the ass."

Although they've had little success in finding assistance, the Reids at least feel they've got one leg up because they know they're destined to lose their farm. Many bankrupt farmers won't admit their plight, and can only face greater despair when they finally face reality, they say.

Julie says they know of two farmers who turned to suicide as a solution to their problems, and she expects the shock of failure will be too much for others this spring as the financial noose tightens.

Dislocation is already splitting up families out of financial necessity, and could eventually lead to marriage breakdowns, Julie says. The rural community is fracturing.

"There's an older lady around here with two sons. Her husband couldn't find a job and had to go to Toronto where he works in a factory. If he's lucky, he gets home on weekends. Another guy goes to Hamilton whenever he can get work as a carpenter... I know a lady who has to move off her farm and her kids are saying they can't live in the city, so they're going to live with relatives."

When the Reids first went public with their story, they faced some criticism within the farm community, but it doesn't bother them.

"What do they want us to do... roll over and play dead?" Julie asked.



Ed Heal of The Free Press
The greenhouse of Tom and Julie Reid of Langton may see one last tobacco crop this year although the couple is being forced from farming. Seed saved from 1975 to 1981 crops will be planted and likely sold as seedlings rather than harvested.

Kids forgotten victims of farm cash

SPECIAL REPORT

By Dave Dauphinee
of The Free Press

Farm children are the forgotten victims of a financial crisis which is wreaking havoc on the once indomitable spirit of the Canadian farm family.

Parents embroiled in a day-to-day battle to stay financially alive seldom realize their children are also riding the bittersweet emotional roller coaster of life on a struggling

Canadian farm, say a number of mental health experts.

The realization that children take farm business failure and the ensuing family turmoil more to heart than adults sometimes comes too late, they say.

"They (children) take the responsibility on themselves," says Ronald Findlater, director of the children's mental health service of Haldimand-Norfolk.

"They get withdrawn and sullen and really despondent and then

sometimes they reach the point where they figure that maybe if there was one less mouth to feed, that would make that much more for mom and dad to use. They cannot get a job so they eliminate themselves — or try to, figuring that is the answer. Family economic problems are a contributing factor in, I would think, half the (adolescent

suicide) cases.

"The thing we try to point out (to the parents) is that if (the children) are worried about whether they are going to have a house to go home to, then they really don't care whether two and two make four. All they are worried about is whether the house will be there or whether they will even have a house to go to."

Others like Findlater are also finding the impact of the farm crisis doesn't stop at the ledger sheet, or even with the parents.

"We have found a theme in dealing with kids in those circumstances, and it was almost something like separation," says Rick Graham, guidance counsellor at South Huron District Secondary School in Exeter.

"Let's say a farm family finds itself in difficult economic circumstances. Mom and dad turn their energies toward that problem as being almost first priority and then the kids start to feel somewhat separated from the parents.

"Talking it out helps. You try to get them to place the ownership for what is happening where it should go. This sort of thing ... is often talked about in divorce situations where kids get all mixed up and feel to blame."

The solution is not simple. Families can't change the over-all financial picture, so they must learn ways to cope with the problem, says Laura Thompson, national spokesman for the Canadian Mental Health Association in Toronto.

The farm family, however, is coping poorly in many cases.

Farm suicide levels are about one-third higher than in the general population and there are reports of alcohol abuse, depression, marriage breakdowns, wife beating and high levels of stress-induced medical problems such as migraines and ulcers.

The turmoil unfolding behind the farm gate is going largely unnoticed by an urban majority and largely untreated by social service agencies.

The farm community, say mental health workers, has long handled its own problems, but the face of the farm community has changed radically in recent years.

"A couple of decades ago, farmers helped one another because they were small," says Bruce Watson, the farm-reared supervisor of social work for Family and Children's Services in Elgin County.

"Nowadays, the so-called farmers have become conglomerates who are too preoccupied with their own; they don't have time for interplay with the fellows up and down the road."

Pat Funk of North Battleford, Sask., tends to agree and believes the solution is as near as the next farm or the phone.

"I wonder if the problem isn't a loss of neighboring," says the mental health worker and co-ordinator of a major Canadian Mental Health Association study of agriculture.

Loneliness is a problem for one in four farmers and stress-related health problems plague most farmers. One in 10 farmers never discusses problems with anyone; many admit to poor self-esteem, despair for the future and failing relationships with spouse and children.

Admission that something at home is wrong comes hard, even to the most trusted non-family member — the family doctor.

"It is never: 'Well, gee, the farm is going down; we are real tight for money,'" says Port Stanley physician John Hofhuis. "It is more like: 'I haven't been feeling well the last few months, feeling tired all the time.' You are left to some extent with figuring out what is the problem. The common cause for fatigue or loss of interest in things is stress."

Social workers — and studies — are divided on whether increased social services would have a measurable impact.

"A lot of people in the rural population are not accepting of mental health facilities," says Findlater.

"One problem is just a lack of familiarity with the service. Also they have seen the word mental as meaning crazy and 'We aren't crazy, we're just having problems. We don't need to air our laundry in public.'"

A Kent County survey of social agencies revealed that 60 per cent of the population lives outside Chatham, but "rural residents do not utilize social services to any great extent."

Small self-help networks have evolved in Ontario throughout hard-hit Grey and Bruce counties and they are being developed elsewhere with varying success. Farm women have been far more energetic and successful in establishing self-help groups than their husbands.

"Some of the most successful mental health programs are self counselling, such as AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)," says Sid Sanders, chief psychologist at St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital. "I can't see where that shouldn't be one of the first things to set up, support from neighbors and friends."

For Watson, it all sounds familiar. "It would be reinventing the wheel, but it worked then and it will work again. I think if you get into self-help groups, you get into a disguised form of what we had. And I think that would be good."

"You would have two or three farmers — for instance we shared back and forth machinery. Nobody could afford to buy it all so everybody worked together and there was a lot of support from within that group. No one could go under without all three going under. Now, all of those three have grown into fairly good-sized operations where nobody works back and forth; each has their own machinery; they are pre-

occupied with getting their own crops in and off."

Sue Hines, Elgin County social worker, Family and Children's Services:

"I think there is the beginning of a willingness to reach out for help before it is forced upon them. This (Elgin County conference of farm women) is something new, I have never seen something like this here. The object is to form some kind of community network."

"One of the major stresses relates to concerns about loss of the last vestiges of the traditional family. It is changing and a lot of people aren't able to cope with those changes. Dad is working at Ford and

mom and dad are trying to still run the farm ... it puts a lot of stress on the family. It is a financial problem."

Pat Funk, Saskatchewan mental health worker:

"One thing that might help would be to have liaison persons throughout the province who could refer people to the right agency, trusted people."

"The ones we are really concerned about are the 10 per cent who are not talking to anyone. They are not finding a resource to help them through this."

"What do they really want? The majority said they wanted education of the public to what they are going through in agriculture. They reported the belief, and resented the fact, that 90 per cent of Canadi-

ans didn't have an appreciation for agriculture."

Sid Sanders, chief of psychology, St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital:

"Out there, if things go sour on you, you've had it, and the worst thing that can happen to you is that you have to go to the city."

"It is very stressful for farmers because they have no control, particularly over the environment. We in the city have more control over our lives than they do. That is what causes a lot of stress in people, when they don't have control over their own lives. You can control stress when you have control over your life. Farmers must have one hell of a time that way."

"There are indicators of suicide and one is the inability to share problems with other people. Farm-

ers tend to be more isolated than others are. I think they also are isolated from our agencies, our services where they can go for help. I think that isolation would push up the percentage of suicides."

"One of the things is that feeling of hanging on by your fingernails ... You hang on by the fingernails for a year or two, and that accumulated stress over time will really take its toll."

"I find among farm people I work with that they don't communicate as freely as, say, city people. The ones I have had have been less communicative. In this case, where it would help to be more communicative with neighbors, they have been less so."

John Hofhuis, Port Stanley physician:

"I have more problems, physically and mentally, with non-farmers than with farmers. Farmers as a whole are really good people; they don't bother you all the time with their problems. When they come in, it is usually something reasonable and you should pay attention to it."

"Often, having them ventilate to some extent helps. You have to tell them: 'You don't have diabetes; your thyroid is all right; we will have to look at some other things. You have told me how things are a bit tight on the farm or, if they are not tight, how you have to work seven days a week, feed those pigs twice a day or milk the cows and how often do you get a break? Oh, well, we haven't had a vacation for two years. Why don't you take one? Well, it is hard to have somebody to

look after them.' You try to help them look at things objectively."

Bruce Watson, Elgin County social work supervisor, Family and Children's Services:

"The number of farmer clients I have had here over a decade and a half I could probably count on one hand."

"When I was at Family Counseling Service in London — that's a fee-for-service agency — we would see more farmers than you would here. I think pride enters into it. This is seen as a charitable organization and farmers being typically proud would tend to go somewhere that they paid for a service and have a little more anonymity than they would by coming to a public facility. They leave with their pride still intact — they bought something."

Clergymen urge those in need to speak out,

By Gord Wainman
of The Free Press

Compassion seems easier to say than to dispense — even for some clergy — in dealing with the social fallout from the ongoing farm financial crisis.

"Churches in general have all sorts of programs, like soup lines and counselling services in the cities, but there's never been a focus on rural Ontario needing social help... until now," says Elbert vanDonkersgoed, research and policy director of the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario in Guelph.

The farm financial crisis has been escalating for six years now. Although some individual rural clerics have reached out, many church hierarchies have been slow to react. The Roman Catholic diocese of London was one of the first on the scene of the disaster. Just as the boom years of agriculture in the 1970s drew to a close, Rev. Paul Mooney of Zurich was directed by Bishop John Sherlock to set up Canada's first Catholic Rural Life Conference.

Besides urging farmers in trouble to organize, speak out and seek help, the conference played a role in organizing the liaison committee of Ontario Farm Organizations representing eight groups.

To meet the humanitarian needs, the conference has no crisis hot-lines as such for farmers, Mooney says, but people know who to call. However, he confides that even though he has a rural parish there isn't all the compassion for distressed farmers that might be expected.

"I myself can't get up in the pulpit on this, because some will say: 'There he goes, on farming again.' Too many of our parishioners are

not readers (of current events), and many aren't aware of what good they can do for others. People are afraid to take the initiative. Some feel they can't do anything and others say 'Keep the church out of it,'" Mooney says.

"But there is a slight change taking place. People are starting to say they won't take it any longer. I just had three calls before talking with you on farm concerns."

That failure by farmers in trouble to reach out for help and for others,

including some clergy, to offer a helping hand is noted by vanDonkersgoed. His federation is made up mostly of Dutch Christian Reformed Church members, but there is no formal link between church and federation.

The federation last fall initiated Operation Hope, a think-tank of farmer, government, banker, media and ecumenical church representatives.

"Up until Operation Hope, I think most farm groups and politicians even had trouble... talking about the need for compassionate help," says vanDonkersgoed. "It isn't just the financially plagued person that's in trouble. All of us have become too possessive, too closed, too independent... we just don't share our problems with each other."

While the Dutch Christian Reformed Church itself hasn't tackled the farm crisis problem directly as a body, individual churches have, vanDonkersgoed says. The deacons of the church as a whole will discuss the topic at their fall meeting.

Due at least in part to Operation Hope, says vanDonkersgoed, is the establishment of a University of Guelph short course for rural pastors to help them handle farm stress cases with understanding and compassion. As well, an ad hoc committee of clergy of different religions was also established and it meets regularly.

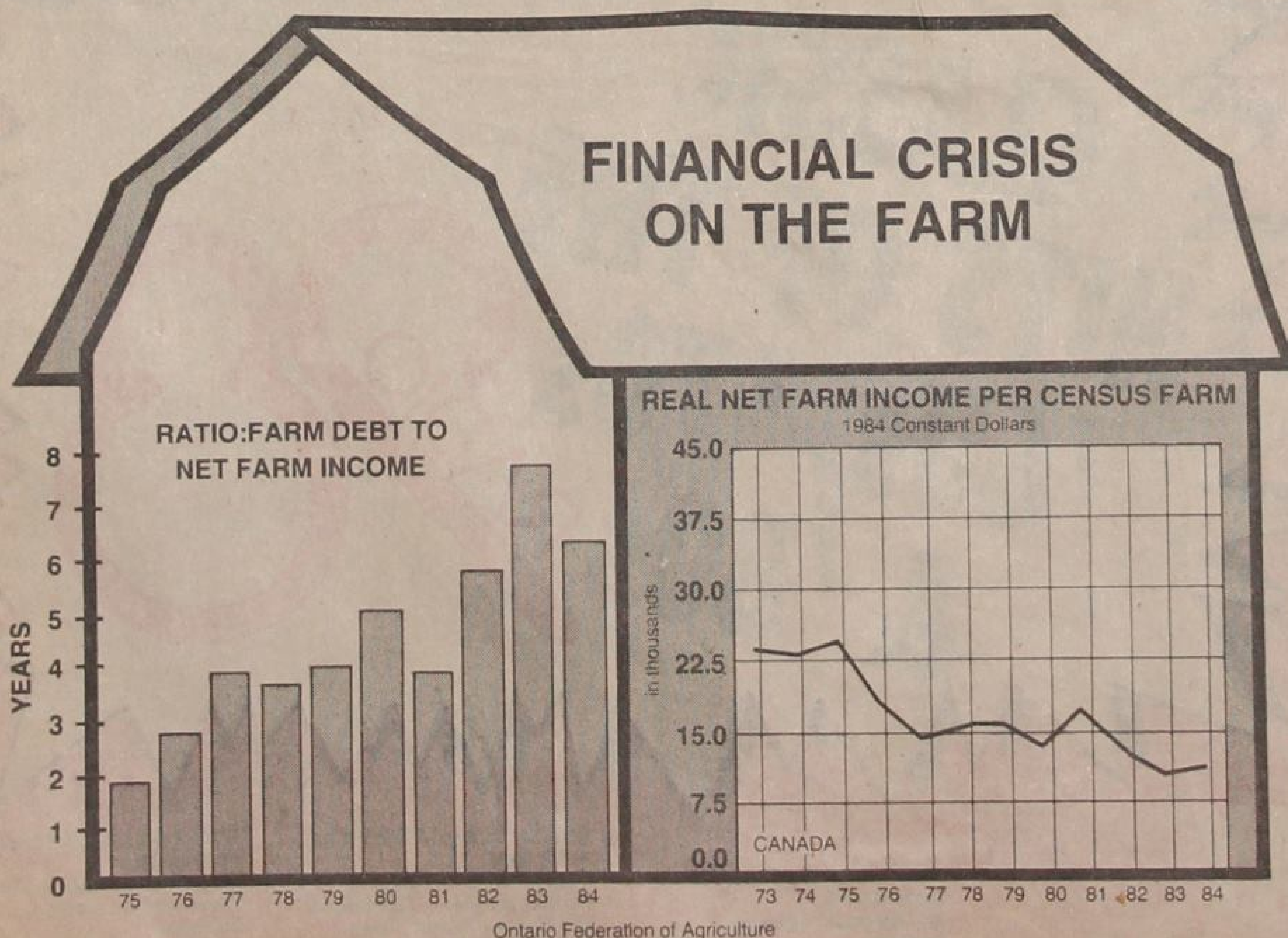
Another church which has shown some activity in recent years is the United Church. Among other things, it has held open farm forums at some churches urging farmers to talk their problems out together. More recently it is planning a farm crisis centre in the troubled Bruce-Grey counties area, to provide financial and emotional counselling and a hot line for distressed farmers.

However, it could be another year before the centre becomes a reality. The United Church wants to make it an ecumenical effort, says Rev. Richard Hollingsworth of Underwood United Church, a prime supporter of the idea.



Ed Heal of The Free Press

Father Paul Mooney of Zurich set up Canada's first Catholic Rural Life Conference. It has attempted to tackle the human fallout from the ongoing farm crisis.



The graph at left shows real (adjusted for inflation) net farm income has declined steadily since 1975. The graph at right shows an alarming increase in the ratio of debt to net farm income.

"It's frustrating, I know. The need is... yesterday," says Hollingsworth.

"I find churches in rural areas are least equipped to handle the problem... A number of years ago the churches began to move away from their rural routes and concentrated on the complex urban problems, so the churches have directed much of their energies and finances into the urban centres," he says.

Many churches as well put their youngest, most inexperienced ministers into the rural churches, Hollingsworth adds. To get reluctant farmers to open up, the rural clergymen must go into the farm home, chat around the kitchen table, and "go back again... and again..." Hollingsworth says.

"And we all have to deal with the urban mythology that the farm is a quiet, pastoral scene where everything is hunky dory... the sun rises, the birds sing and the farmer goes out, tills the soil for love, and comes home singing every night," he says, and in the spring of 1986, this is an unaffordable fantasy to harbor.

Adviser handles stress as much as money

By Gord Wainman
of The Free Press

Ron Phillips is a farm financial adviser who figures he spends as much time helping clients deal with personal stress as with the money woes that cause it.

"I've had clients die under questionable circumstances . . . you can't explain it . . . the question goes through your head whether it was self-inflicted, but you'll never know," says the founder of Kingsmount Financial Services in Arva.

Bob MacKenzie of Tiverton is a semi-retired, self-made businessman who volunteers to negotiate for distressed farmers. He also chaired a federal pilot debt review board which he says, if implemented country-wide, would ease the stress on all parties. He, too, worries about farmers turning their frustration on themselves or their families.

"I've never had anyone I've dealt with go and blow their brains out, but I've been afraid of it a few times. I like to think we've prevented some suicides because we put them on a road where they were able to do something constructive instead of turning on themselves," Phillips says.

After 17 years as a banker, Phillips set up his consulting business five years ago to help farmers survive, if possible, and if necessary battle the banks for the best deal. He salvages farming operations for many of his clients, but the toughest to deal with are those cases where there is no hope.

Phillips says his biggest problem is to get both farmers and bankers to face the reality that both are destined to lose in a debt gone sour. He says if bankers co-operate on a settlement rather than fight it, both banker and farmer benefit financially, but that's a philosophy he has difficulty conveying to bankers.

"The social problem is that if high-level bankers don't really understand the farmers' problems, how can you expect a social worker, psychiatrist, doctor or lawyer to understand?" says Phillips.

Although Phillips has referred distressed farmers to ministers or other farmers or businessmen the farmer respects, he deals with most of them himself . . . head on.

"I believe in the reality theory. We are realistic right off the bat if there is no hope. If he calls farming his occupation, his way of life, and we fail to see how he can make a living, then we ask why he wants to continue. If the farmer replies: 'Well, I've always farmed. It's all I know,' we then say that's not good enough reason."

One of his key tools, both for the

failed farmer and himself, is humor, says Phillips. "If I didn't see the humor in some of this wrangling, I'd be crazy. I try to get the farmers to see it, and they often do."

Phillips sees humor in hard-nosed bankers who seem determined to bite off their nose to spite their face. Those intransigent bankers, and not all are, will often force liquidation of farmer assets "which they have every right to do," Phillips says. However, forced sales of equipment and property gain bankers 15 to 25 per cent less than if they work a settlement with the farmer, Phillips says.

"It's humorous if all we ask for the farmer is some dignity, his car and maybe \$20,000 in an amicable settlement. But the bank decides to play hardball, forces a sale and loses \$50,000 more than if it had settled," says Phillips.

"There are some farmers who just roll over and play dead, but there are others who will bargain with the last thing they have to bargain with, and that's their dignity," he says, and when a farmer decides to fight, only the bank can lose because forced sales glean less for the banks.

MacKenzie and Phillips both say they've found it's a great burden off the farmer when he unloads his financial problems to them.

"One of the benefits of deciding to fight his case, is that there's a great release of tension," MacKenzie says. "There are psychological and emotional benefits in directing frustration toward getting an answer, a resolution of the problem."

One of the greatest stress factors beyond the hassles of negotiating in cases he's handled, says MacKenzie, is soured debt cases being left dangling by the banks.

"Being left in limbo for a year, two years, means the farmer can't plan. The worst fear is uncertainty in any situation, fear of the unknown," MacKenzie says. "It makes me wonder if (leaving cases unsettled) isn't a deliberate strategy to get farmers to throw up their hands and walk away."

Phillips says farmers aren't alone in suffering stress in bad-debt disputes. If the bank is intransigent, Phillips and his clients will dig in their heels and the stress on all parties escalates.

"There are bankers and guys in the Farm Credit Corporation who I deal with daily, and I see the stress all over them," Phillips says. An additional safety valve in his coping arsenal is the movie *Country*, says Phillips.

"When I saw it at the theatre last year, I cried. I saw in it what I do daily, over and over again," he says.

little too late

Aid program viewed as too

By Gord Wainman
of The Free Press

In a move unprecedented in Canada, the Ontario government in last fall's budget officially recognized the need to help increasing numbers of failing farmers leave the land.

The province established the Farmers In Transition (FIT) program to ease the pain for farmers forced from their farms. In a February budget, the federal government announced it will follow suit and, after conferring with the provinces, establish its own program.

However, there's a growing feeling in the farm community that FIT is too little too late.

Here's what farmers are offered in the FIT package:

- A 24-hour telephone hotline for information on how to deal with stress, how to locate professional assistance in dealing with creditors and "help them understand their rights and obligations."
- Farm family advisers, who themselves will be successful farmers, will review farm oper-

ations, "help farmers recognize what actions must be taken and assist in finding and accessing realistic options."

- Advice on how to access government social service and assistance programs.

- \$250 per family member when they leave the farm. The grant is reduced by \$1 for every \$25 of net worth in excess of "reasonable personal effects and shelter."

- A 50-per-cent wage subsidy for up to 26 weeks to a maximum subsidy of \$3.50 an hour, if a farmer finds a job.

- Tuition for all employable family members over 16 to a job search course.

Here's what some people close to the farm problem think about the FIT program:

Unsuccessful tobacco farmer Tom Reid of Langton — "It's a joke. I spent 20 years in farming and the government now says: 'Okay, now that you're forced off your farm we'll give you \$250 per person for your family.' For the four of us, that's \$1,000 which doesn't buy you much accommodation and food. . . . And sending out a suc-

cessful farmer to counsel me would be rubbing salt in the wound."

Bob MacKenzie of Tiverton, chairman of the federal farm debt review board pilot program and farm negotiator — "I think FIT is well named because I don't think it's *fit* to participate in."

Elbert vanDonkersgoed of Guelph, research and policy director of the Christian Farmers' Federation of Ontario — "It's a start."

Ron Phillips, president of Kingsmount Financial Services, Arva — "We're disappointed in FIT. Our people have met twice with the people who run it, and they tell us the \$6 million allocated will help a few hundred farmers. . . . Farmers are assigned to help farmers in transition. They're inexperienced, and we're concerned it's the Canadian Bankers Association that put together their training program."

Rev. Richard Hollingsworth, Underwood United Church minister, advocate for a church-run crisis centre and hotline — "A non-governmental line is needed. There's a suspicion by farmers that they don't know where the information goes. They don't trust the confidentiality. Churches can give it legitimacy."

Clearing the air

I am glad to hear you are an honest man, Dave MacLaren, by stating you are biased for the Board in your column of April 9. There are two sides to every coin and I was just stating the other side. However, I did not ask if you liked fish only that your collusion smelled like it.

As for your so called fair deal for growers, I would like to know where it is and when it's going to arrive. I understand if it is coming by mail (via China) we may have a long wait.

In regard to my "fanciful" imagination, Dave, I let the facts speak for themselves. My name was not on that cheque. For your comment, standing shoulder to shoulder in support of our directors you know how I feel. Do you suggest I help them dig us a deeper hole to bury us in? But maybe I should clarify myself. I certainly do not object to a fair deal for growers (profit) but what I definitely object to is the way they went about it. No agreement for 1985. Even you would have to admit this was a mistake.

You know, Dave, maybe it is "sport" for you to criticize the Board but for me tobacco is my only source of income. I do agree with you sticking together is vital. By this I mean an agreement for 1986 with total pounds and price. I wonder if someone will call this hindsight too. I also hope the directors take your advice and stand shoulder to shoulder on this important agreement. As Ontario's Agriculture Minister Jack Riddell has stated, not a "fiasco" like last year. A fiasco means a complete or humiliating failure. I hope this clears up any misconceptions you might have about me. You have cleared up any I had about you.

James Vanderven
Vienna

P.S. Seeing that I mentioned Mr. Riddell's name, I hope he does not say that I'm working for the Government, too.

Higher crop payments to go to producers

By MARLENE OPDECAM

Starting today, tobacco producers taking portions of their crop to the auction will be receiving a slightly heftier cheque in the mail than they have previously.

The Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board has concluded arrangements with the bank to secure loan monies under the federal Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Act and will now be paying producers \$1.65 per pound for tobacco purchased through the three exchanges.

And producers will be receiving make-up payments of 10 cents per pound of tobacco sold previously sometime this week, Board Chairman Berry Murray said in an interview this morning.

No date has yet been set for the resumption of 1985-1986 crop talks between the board and the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers Council. Mr. Murray said the board understands the manufacturers have been meeting privately with representatives of government. "We're still waiting to hear," he said, indicating the board is ready to meet anytime the manufacturers wish to.

Asked if the board would set the 1986 crop size if negotiations drag on past May 1, Mr. Murray said, if no agreement is reached prior to that date, the board will have to establish

the acreage itself just as it did last year.

Commenting on a rumor that the board will be facing bankruptcy once it starts paying out the additional 10 cents per pound, Mr. Murray said the rumor is "nonsense". The board will finish the year with a healthy surplus, he said.

Mr. Murray believes grassroots rumors are very detrimental to the industry as they provide ammunition to the companies to treat the board worse than they already are.

Jim Bray, the tobacco specialist hired by the board to sell tobacco it has purchased on the export market, has visited Europe and Turkey and will be visiting several other countries as well, according to the board chairman. He said it is Mr. Bray's job to stimulate a general awareness that the board has a quality product at a reasonable price.

The way the export buyers are participating in the 1985 crop market shows something is working, Mr. Murray said. Allocations to the board have dropped to an acceptable level over the past month, he said.

Referring to Statistic Canada figures, Mr. Murray said Canada has exported 24 million pounds of tobacco since October and that was before the market was even open. The 1985-1986 markets will probably be the highest for export sales in the past several years, he commented.

Tobacco forum

Biased — you bet!

By Dave MacLaren

DN APR 9



James Vanderven of Vienna tore some hide off me in a letter to the editor last week. Moreover, he was right on at least two counts: I've never disguised the fact I am biased and it's all in favour of getting a fair deal for growers and their communities. And yes, I do like fish — even tuna.

But James, it takes a fanciful imagination to suggest I am on the Tobacco Board's payroll. I certainly wouldn't hint that you might be working for the companies.

Nevertheless, when I was approached to help with some background documentation for the Board's agency proposal last winter, both my publisher and myself had misgivings this kind of notion might stick in someone's mind. However, our reservations about me taking on the task were overcome by the Board's need.

Perhaps you'll rest easier James to know my \$2,536.06 account was billed at exactly the same salary as I earn at Cash Crop Farming Publications. Part of that sum was out-of-pocket expenses. The balance covered the time I was away from my regular job — nothing more. Neither this firm or myself believe in prospering from the difficulties that beset our communities.

Although you do not agree with me James, believe me, I am most concerned about the strife that could develop if we start to quibble among ourselves. This is the most critical period I have ever seen tobacco communities faced with. If we are to squeeze through it, I think we'll do it best by standing shoulder-to-shoulder in support of our directors.

There is usually room to debate what the Board could have, might have, or should have done — or should be doing at the present time. Let's hope directors are able to secure a future for us, so we can partake in this sport in the years ahead. But for right now, sticking together is vital.

Exchange student's views

"You've got to be tough as an ox to survive and prosper," as a Canadian flue-cured tobacco grower, reads a photo outline accompanying a story in the January, 1986 issue of Zimbabwe Tobacco Today.

The article was written by Andrew Lock, who was one of three Zimbabwean exchange students who spent several months last year working for Ontario tobacco farmers, with crops of from 35 to 40 acres in size.

Another outline reads: "the (Canadian) industry is facing a number of serious problems but technical know-how is not one of them."

Excerpts from Mr. Lock's article follow:

"Most of the work is done by the farmer, his wife and the (Zimbabwean) student, except during planting . . . and during harvest . . . On average one works nine or 10 hours per day, except one farmer who was often working up to 15 hours a day. The work is all physical and can be very monotonous but what impressed me was their very efficient use of labour."

. . . "most of the cured leaf I saw was bright, open-grained, clean lemon/orange tobacco."

"Curing was done mostly in down-draught conventional barns and bulk curers . . . They have the curing technique of the down-draught down to a fine art."

"Whenever we attended tobacco growers' meetings we were always made very welcome but Zimbabwe was invariably mentioned as a country expanding production partly at the expense of theirs."

"One may wonder why Canadian growers need such a high price for their tobacco but they have one huge expense which Zimbabwean growers do not, and that is the cost of quota (Canadian labour costs were mentioned elsewhere in the article.) Without that (quota) expense they would immediately be competitive on the world market." (Rental and sale prices of quota were higher during Mr. Lock's stay here than they are likely to be throughout the 1986 season.)

"Despite the operating differences between the two countries the exchange program is worth continuing and to anyone considering going over to Canada, it is hard work but well worth it and an excellent experience," the article concluded.

Different approach

Last week the Manitoba Government announced farmers will be permitted to import fuel from the United States and will be exempt from provincial tax. At current fuel prices, the estimated savings for farmers was put at nine to 10 cents per litre. One observer suggested a lot of the fuel would simply be making a U-turn, since the U.S. is importing quite a bit from Canada and retailing it at cheaper prices.

Flue board asks provincial agency to intercede

By Dave MacLaren
Staff Writer

Tobacco Board directors asked their supervising provincial agency for help in reaching a crop agreement last Friday afternoon.

"We have to provide farmers with (crop) guidance very quickly," Chairman Berry Murray said in an interview Monday morning.

Directors explained the urgency of the situation to members of the Farm Products Marketing Board/Milk Commission of Ontario in Toronto and asked that it act as an intervener. Mr. Murray said the Tobacco Board was asked to submit its position to the FPMB/MCO in writing.

"They will receive our statement Tuesday and subsequently we hope the FPMB/MCO will arrange a meeting of the two parties. It is critical that we meet this week and the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers' Council has been so informed," he said.

Of several problems, Mr. Murray said the most urgent is to get the crop size set and at a level that will allow for as much export as possible.

"We need the Provincial Government to monitor the process and to ensure an equitable and fair arrangement. It is very sensitive and we are in a very critical position right now. There are a number of serious issues which will have to come out in the wash but this is not the proper time.

"I think the manufacturers have their corporate game plan laid out. I hope they'll reveal it so farmers can start planning," Mr. Murray said.

Stressing the importance of the export market, Mr. Murray said overseas sales from the 1985 crop have been excellent. He said he is confident it will be one of the best export markets in years. "It looks as though 52 to 55 million pounds could be purchased for export on auction floors. In January, 14.3 million pounds were exported. Counting projected auction sales,

exports could move up to 66 million pounds and there are still eight more months in the calendar year. It's conceivable exports could reach 70 million pounds this year as compared to 58 million last year.

"I think the industry, as a whole, will make a very serious mistake if it doesn't allow for 60 to 70 million pounds of export from the upcoming crop. We've all suffered a great deal to develop this market. Now it's important to develop a program to keep it. If we can, a reasonably-sized crop can be grown.

"I hope manufacturers feel the same way. A method of ensuring continuity of supply, based on a commitment to an export program of more than one year's duration is required. An equitable method of funding and financing export sales will have to be part of the package.

"According to Statistics Canada, we're in better shape than a year ago. There was a lot of gloom and doom then. But domestic consumption hasn't fallen as much as it appeared it might and we have a model export market," he said.

D.N. APR 30
Make-up cheques for 10 cents per pound on sales prior to April 21 were mailed out to producers on Saturday.

The Board has received some criticism about the 35-cent limit on quota rentals for the upcoming crop. But, Mr. Murray said farmers could not afford the previous rental policy.

He believes the price limit has lowered income expectations from cash rentals and has probably created some opportunities for sharegrowers also. In these difficult times, directors felt active growers needed some assistance, he said.

Flue crop talks still underway

T.N. MAY 14

Members of the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board are still holed up in Montreal trying to thrash out problems in 1986 flue crop negotiations.

The board accepted an invitation from Jean-Louis Mercier, president of Imperial Tobacco and chairman of the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers Council, to begin talks in Montreal during negotiations which commenced in Toronto last Thursday and continued to 11 p.m. Friday night.

Richard Bozek, vice-chairman of the tobacco board, said Sunday that board members will be seeking some support for export during the Montreal meetings which commenced Monday.

During negotiations in Toronto, Mr. Bozek said the four manufacturers offered a crop proposal for 1986 which asked for domestic requirements of 77 million pounds to be purchased at a guaranteed average price of \$1.84 and offered a transition fund of 16 cents per pound on tobacco required for domestic manufacture to be used at the board's discretion to help producers.

Under the proposed agreement both the \$1.84 average price and the 16 cents per pound fund would be in effect for three years but the domestic requirement could change from year to year.

The transition fund would be paid to the board on a monthly basis. Based

on the 77 million pounds, it would amount to \$12,320,000 in 1986 and could be used to buy-down the price of exported leaf if the board opted to do so.

The manufacturers suggested if the board attempts to export leaf from the 1986 crop it be priced at an average of \$1.20 per pound. They also suggested that with such a pricing program a total crop of 132 million pounds would be a reasonable target.

RJR Macdonald and Imperial Tobacco agreed to guarantee the purchase of 2½ million pounds at \$1.20 for use in cigarettes they manufacture for export. The CTMC also agreed not to import any leaf other than that traditionally brought into Canada for blending for the next three years.

According to Mr. Bozek, the board made a counter-proposal during the Toronto session which was not accepted.

The 132 million pound crop suggested by the CTMC represents more than a 38 per cent reduction in production since 1983 and would slash the volume marketed to its lowest point in 31 years.

'86 tobacco agreement near outside of Ontario

T.N. APR 30

While negotiations for Ontario's 1985 and 1986 flue crop remain stalled, Quebec and Maritime producers have reached an agreement in principle with the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers Council giving them \$1.84 per pound for their 1986 crop.

The agreement between the council and the growers' negotiating committees was reached last week and is expected to be endorsed by the respective provincial marketing boards. Howard Goode, of Imperial Leaf Tobacco, said the price was based on the 1985 crop average of \$1.76.5 per pound plus the annual rate of inflation.

Targeted 1986 production in each province is 15 million pounds in Quebec, 1.3 million in Nova Scotia, 600,000 pounds in New Brunswick and 6.48 million pounds in Prince Edward Island. Production in 1985 from the provinces respectively was 15.5 million pounds, 1.3 million pounds, 700,000 pounds and 6.9 million pounds.

The total production target for 1986 amounts to 23,380,000 pounds compared to 24,400,000 in 1985.

The decrease and its varied application in different provinces reflects a number of factors aimed

at maintaining proportionally balanced outputs in all producing provinces, according to Mr. Goode.

Production control began in the other provinces on an acreage basis with the 1984 crop. It was based on 1983 sales and since then on whether 1984 or 1985 production exceeded or fell below the targeted figures. In addition, it reflects declining tobacco product sales. As well, each manufacturer has its own formula depending on brand recipes and their usage of leaf from the different provinces, he said.

Producers in the provinces can make up for crop shortfalls in subsequent years or be asked to cut back if they overproduce in a given year.

Nova Scotia, for example, has the same 1986 production target as it did the previous year because the 1985 crop was about 240,000 pounds short of the targeted amount. While PEI also fell short of its 1985 objective by 850,000 pounds, over production of 1.5 million pounds in 1984 is still being balanced out, hence the cut in 1986, Mr. Goode explained.

Ontario producers who grew 170 million pounds last year are still in the dark as to the crop requirements for 1986.

Tobacco forum

Short-circuited

By Dave MacLaren

D.N. MAY 21



Many of you must feel as short-circuited as I do — nerves crackling and a stomach that's constantly on edge. Some of those fellows in the medical profession who like to toss around figures about assorted costs of the smoking habit might be interested in measuring the toll on health in tobacco communities that has occurred in the last two years.

But maybe it's just our imagination. Almost everything bad that is happening to agriculture is supposed to be taking place in Western Canada. Gord Wainman of the London Free Press took a good shot at that kind of tunnel-vision last week. Terry Daynard, the knowledgeable secretary-manager of the Ontario Corn Producers' Association agrees. He says you can probably see more farmers in financial trouble from the top of the CN Tower in Toronto than you could find in all of Western Canada. Do you think agricultural economists, politicians and the so-called 'national' media will ever get anything in perspective?

LOST INCOME

In chalking up farm losses, it would be difficult to match what has happened in the Ontario tobacco belt. Both of the crop disasters of 1979 and 1982 destroyed 35 per cent of the potential yield. In 1980, there was a 6 per cent shortfall from target when excessive rainfall damaged some crops. Put together, the opportunity to market 177.5 million pounds was lost.

A favourable growing season in 1983 seemed to finally give growers the break they needed to get back on their feet, even though the 215 million pound marketable allotment was 6 per cent lower than the average 228.5 million requested over the previous four years. But then the shocking blow fell of a cutback in 1984 marketable quota to 170 million pounds. Ditto for 1985.

A tally of natural disasters in the four year period 1979-82 and subsequent market cutbacks, as compared to average requirements during the four year period, adds up to a 308 million pound loss of potential marketable output.

This loss has been magnified by a variety of other factors. Some of these such as high interest rates in 1981-82 of over 20 per cent and huge increases in fuel prices impacted on agriculture in general. Fuel bills hit tobacco growers harder than farmers in a number of other sectors because of the quantities required for curing and irrigating. In addition, Ridomil was a new and expensive input for a couple of years. And as crop size decreased and inflation caught up, marketing fees went up 150 per cent.

As a result, net incomes have decreased considerably more than losses or cutbacks in production indicate. Growers who bought or improved farms on the prospects indicated in the late 1970s or early 1980s found themselves in a traumatic financial situation. Many others have been gradually drawn into the same circumstances by the accumulative effects of plunging net income.

This week when sales conclude, the gross return for the crop could be up slightly from 1984 crop proceeds. But that doesn't mean there has not been further slippage in net farm income.

Under financing the Board was able to arrange to pack a portion of the crop, growers were guaranteed an average of \$1.65 plus premiums paid at auctions. Buying contracts with producers in other provinces provided an average of \$1.76½ to offset inflation during the year. Not counting auction premiums paid, which growers understood they'd be allowed to keep, there's an 11½ cents per pound difference in basic price guarantees between Ontario and the other provinces. It amounts to a shortfall in the vicinity of \$19.5-million. On top of that, Ontario growers will receive their final crop proceeds almost five months later than their counterparts in other provinces.

I suppose that \$19.5-million doesn't seem like much to the billion-dollar-deal boys, but it means a lot to hard-pressed farm communities. Outsiders may think we're paranoid. But the series of calamities sustained are real — not imagined. This is probably why Treasurer Robert Nixon's modest tax increase on tobacco last week evoked a rather bitter reaction in this area. Tobacco communities have had it up to the neck with being singled out as a source of more revenue, when everything they've worked for is slipping away.

TOMATO CO-OP

The group of area farmers who have decided to get into the tomato paste business were busy planting last week, although the \$1-million grant or loan they expect from the Ontario Government had still to be approved by cabinet. Apparently, the Federal Government has approved a \$1.5-million grant.

Personally, I hope the venture goes well for them although the executive vice-president of the Ontario Food Processors' Association slammed the assistance last week, saying: "This is the worst piece of Government funding I've ever seen." He contended the co-op just won't compete against cheap imports . . . that it will need constant refunding, according to a press report.

Tobacco growers can identify with the co-op members. Not knowing the ground rules at planting time is sickening. What I fail to understand and, I'd guess many other tobacco farmers do too, is why both levels of Government can get involved in such a small project while the main body of growers anxiously awaits word of some universal and equitable form of assistance. I'll also continue to maintain that it should be cash compensation. If reinvestment errors are made, let individual farmers make them. I've seen too many projects plotted by Government go belly up.

TRAUMA IN TOBACCO LAND

The Editor: Tobacco farmers have always had to face the growing of a crop with the cards stacked against them.

In the old days, it was the sheer sweat labor in dealing with the forces of nature and the anguish of the barn-buying system which wore them down.

- But the immigrants who settled the tobacco belt were already toughened by the trauma of language barrier and depression, and they met the challenge.

Today, tobacco farming has reached the highest level of perfection through science and technology, and the demand for Canadian leaf is there.

If you would have told the oldtimers - that in 50 years, their children would be facing the trauma and anguish of being taxed out of business - they would never have believed you - that was the kind of stuff they left behind when they left the old country.

If you would have told them, that in the future, government legislation would be there to protect the tobacco farming industry, but it would be denied even though it was promised, - you would have gotten your rear booted - because this was Canada, where freedom of choice and justice prevailed.

If you would have told them, that in the future, there would be a concentrated, worldwide effort to prevent people from smoking, while there was nothing to prevent nuclear reactors from exploding and polluting continents with radiation - you would have been thrown in an asylum. Though the old ways of selling tobacco have changed, the tobacco companies still dictate the price of the product.

The marketing board, representing the farmer, is fighting for price with cost of production, which can only be obtained through a national tobacco agency. The heat is on them to get results.

I do not agree with any criticism of the movement which raised the issues and put them up front. Without this protest, flue-cured tobacco would have gone completely down the drain two years ago, along with burley production.

As it is, there is a reprieve, where all of us can see how the game is being played out.

There are a lot of stories to tell and pictures to paint about the tobacco belt.

The old days can only be recalled from memory now.

To have been a tobacco farmer is to have known the height of comedy and the depths of despair.

I wish to thank Mike Lipowski and Barb Elve of the Ontario Tobacco Museum for the opportunity of preserving our roots so that the past will not be forgotten.

And special thanks to Ellen McIntosh of Lynnwood Arts Centre and Barbara Browne for jurying the tobacco art exhibition.

It is an honor to have the painting of my father "night firing" in the Museum.

Irene Anderson

Hope

If miners are trapped in a cave-in, they are taught to conserve energy. There is only limited oxygen, so it's often futile to spend it trying to dig out. Those who maintain hope they'll be rescued, even when there's nothing else they can do, have the best chance of surviving.

Hope — if it is serious, if it is long term — leads to physiological changes that can improve the body's resistance. In our studies we have found two hormones — cortisol and prolactin — that are strongly affected by an attitude of hope. While we don't yet know the precise links, the evidence points to a strong relationship between such neurochemicals and the immune system. This may be why we come down with an illness more readily under stress, and resist when we're in good spirits.

Hope is especially important when there is nothing you can do. It's a passive sort of coping. People with a strong faith, whether from religious beliefs or just good experience with trust, are the ones who stick it out in the worst circumstances. They take the attitude, "I don't know how I'm going to get out of this mess, but I've been through trouble before and come out okay."

In American culture, there is a powerful equation that says to lose control is to lose everything. But the most serious problems — a terrible accident, a major disease — are those in which we are objectively helpless. Then the best way to cope is to find out how to live with it. It's fine to keep fighting when you can change your situation. But when you can't change the facts, accept them. That's the key to health — and to wisdom . . .

R. McNeil
Kitchener

Second-hand smoke

I was listening to CFRB, Toronto, late in February or early March. During the news there was a bulletin from National Health and Welfare, (re: second-hand smoke and that 500 die every year in Canada from lung cancer due to inhaling this smoke.) They went on to say or state that there are 60 elements in second-hand smoke contributing to lung cancer. Also, that cigarette smoking was killing over 30,000 people every year in Canada.

These same figures were in MacLeans, March 25, 1985 and yet, National Health and Welfare claim to have discovered all the above through their laboratories in October 1985, less than five months ago.

If they can prove these claims, which I very much doubt, why not have them pinpoint the areas where most of the lung cancer shows up. My bet is that the areas would be such places as Toronto, Montreal, Sarnia, Windsor and Hamilton.

Get the results from these places, then compare them with, say, St. Thomas, Aylmer, Tillsonburg, Delhi and Simcoe, where most of the tobacco is grown and where there is a no heavy industry or heavy traffic. Sure, we have people in these latter places, but very few dying from lung cancer. Almost invariably they have never smoked.

Listening to CFRB, as I mentioned above, concerning the rush hour traffic, cars travelling stop and go to slow. Has anyone checked the fumes from cars in a concentrated area such as this, where drivers of these dozens and dozens of cars are subject to inhaling these fumes on a daily basis for half an hour or more twice a day, every day, going and coming from work or shopping?

One of the elements is carbon monoxide, an odourless, colourless, highly poisonous gas, definitely not good for your lungs and can cause cancer of the lungs. In a concentrated form, such as in a closed garage, it will kill you in minutes.

What the other elements in these fumes can cause, I don't know, but they can't be good for your system either.

Then again, how about the smog that hangs in great layers over these cities and the dangerous elements in those layers. At ground level you may not be able to see this smog but you are still breathing it in.

I understand that from time to time, during the summer, some of the heavy industries in Toronto and Hamilton are forced to shut down because of the fumes making the smog even more dangerous than it normally is.

A Mr. Dagger, recently interviewed by Betty Kennedy on CFRB, stated that tobacco smoke in the workplace kills about 5,000 non-smokers per year in the United States and about 500 non-smokers in Canada. What happens to the smokers in the same areas? He had evidently read the March 25, 1985 MacLeans. Again, this is strictly hearsay as he has no proof.

Again, the summary in the same article of an believe if other smokers followed my example Point of View" symposium, in Vienna, attended by 100 leading experts from around the world, stated, "The connection between second-hand smoke and lung cancer has not been scientifically established to date."

Another expert from the United States in his research of U.S. corporations, found that every smoker costs a company \$4,789 more than non-smokers in absenteeism, medical and insurance costs, illness, property damage, and involuntary damage to the health of his non-smoking fellow workers. This expert would have had to check a lot of industries to come up with such an exact figure. Therefore, he must have visited a number of industries where non-smokers, along with smokers, are inhaling various exhaust fumes, grinding wheel dust, oil fumes, welding fumes, acid fumes from charging batteries, lead fumes, paint fumes or asbestos dust. This list could be almost endless. Alcohol and beer are not mentioned, but it would be well worth a study to find out what the cost would be in relationship to the above.

The Canadian Constitution of Rights does not seem to apply to smokers. They have become citizens with little or no rights. They are relegated to the back of buses, herded into smoking zones in planes, restaurants, etc.

Personally, when I am about to light a cigarette, I ask those near me in a restaurant or on a plane if they would mind if I smoked or not, and this applies to both smoking or non-smoking areas. I was only asked not to smoke once, and this was at Marie Dressler restaurant in Coburg last September. Consequently I put my cigarettes away. The refusal was rather rude and the man apologized to me later out in the parking lot. I believe if other smokers followed my example there would be less controversy.

The non-smokers, many of them fanatics, or having tunnel vision, are doing their best to destroy the tobacco industry, putting thousands out of work, and, if successful, they will then be helping to foot the tax benefits, some \$3-billion in Canada, derived by the Governments from the tobacco industry, presently paid by smokers only.

Ward McKenna
Aylmer

Flue crop slashed to 115 million pounds

By Dave MacLaren
Staff Writer

Tobacco Board directors returned from Toronto late Friday evening with shocking word that the 1986 crop target has been slashed to 115 million pounds.

"It is an economic massacre. It's devastating," said Chairman Berry Murray.

"A substantially larger crop could have been grown had Rothmans changed its position toward export assistance. The other three companies (Imperial, RJR-Macdonald and Benson and Hedges) gave the Board a written commitment to provide between \$45-million to \$50-million for export funding via a consortium, if Rothmans would agree," he said.

Failing to obtain such an accord or any financial assistance from either the Provincial or Federal Government, directors had no option but to accept the arrangement all four manufacturers could agree to. The terms are:

- 77 million pounds for domestic

manufacture, at a guaranteed average price of \$1.84 per pound

- 2.5 million pounds for export at a guaranteed average of \$1.20 per pound

- an adjustment fund of \$12,320,000 to be used for export under the supervision of the manufacturers

"We asked the leaf dealers if they would provide a guaranteed average price of \$1.20 on exports but this was turned down. Manufacturers will not be responsible for allocated tobacco. The Board has no method to handle allocations and insufficient funding for exports," Mr. Murray said.

Faced with a situation that places all the responsibility on growers for tobacco produced above the guaranteed portion of the crop and that covered by the adjustment fund, directors set the annual marketing allotment at 29.94 per cent of the basic marketable quota for a 115 million pound crop.

Asked what average price growers might be able to expect, Mr. Murray said there is no way of telling exactly, but it could be in the vicinity of \$1.72 a pound.

If the \$12.32-million adjustment fund is used to buy down export tobacco from \$1.84 to \$1.20 per pound, 96¼ million pounds could average \$1.84. If the remaining 18¼ million pounds, which would have no guarantee, can be sold to export buyers for an average of \$1.20, the over-all crop average would be \$1.73½ per pound. However, this calculation does not include any allowance for premiums received on auction floors or the costs involved in handling allocated tobacco. Moreover, the specifics as to how the adjustment fund will be applied are not known at this time.

A 115 million pound crop only leaves 38 million pounds available for export.

"The amount of funding made available for exports doesn't indicate to me that the companies anticipate a long-term future here. The position taken by Rothmans has the potential to destroy the marketing board system we have in place.

"Now that the Provincial and Federal Governments have shown they do not intend to support the industry, I guess it's open season on how we (growers) are treated," Mr. Murray said.

Export funding of \$45-million would buy down 70 million pounds from \$1.84 to \$1.20. A \$50-million fund would buy down 78 million pounds. With domestic requirements of 77 million pounds, the total crop size could have ranged from 147 to 155 million pounds.

Norfolk Township Mayor Clarence Abbott echoed Mr. Murray's concern about losing export markets.

"It's tragic . . . I am afraid the export people won't consider this a very good place to buy tobacco because of the fluctuation in supply . . . If we had an export fund, I thought we should be growing a crop range. Mr. Murray said it is especially discouraging to have the amount which can be grown for export this year sharply reduced, in view of market performance.

"There will certainly be a lot more people out of business," said Delhi Township Mayor Gordon Lee. "It's a very serious blow to our area, which is already in a critical situation. I'd hoped for a crop of 135 to 150 million pounds."

(continued on page 2)

Haldimand-Norfolk MPP Gordon Miller said: "It's going to hurt. I was kind of hoping for a long-term agreement with reasonable production.

"It seems the market is there if we can get to it," he said, commenting on export activity on auction floors.

"I guess they (the Board) want a guarantee. They took a chance on it last year. I hoped they could this year. I've talked to (Treasurer) Bob Nixon, who thought they should be growing more. I'll be discussing it with the Minister (Jack Riddell) Wednesday morning since I have not been able to reach him over the weekend," Mr. Miller said in a telephone conversation Monday afternoon.

Haldimand-Norfolk MP Bud Bradley could not be reached by phone.

District 9 Director Steve Nagy said he is shocked by reports he has heard about farmers who are unable to get financing for the 1986 crop. A Board meeting was held yesterday.

Mr. Nagy said a decision would be reached as to whether a mass meeting or district producer meetings will be called.

At farm level, the 115 million pound crop represents a 46.5 per cent decline in marketable quota since 1983. This disastrous curtailment of potential gross income is magnified by the likelihood Ontario growers will receive lower average prices than their counterparts in other provinces for both their 1985 and 1986 crops. When inflation during this period is taken into account, gross receipts from the upcoming crop could conceivably be about half the value of the 1983 crop.

Compared to the previous two crops of 170 million pounds, the 55 million slash in marketable quota means almost one-third less tobacco will be sold. The impact on job opportunities and service industries will be almost in direct proportion to the cutback.

Imperial Leaf's processing plant in Aylmer, alone, has almost enough capacity to handle the crop. Mr. Murray said it could probably be sold in 90 days through one auction exchange. Directors will be faced with the difficult decision of how to scale down operating costs and, in spite of this, an increase in marketing fees might be necessary.

The pre-hearing conference of parties interested in the proposed national agency is being held in Ottawa today. This meeting will determine when hearings pertaining

to the 1983 crop cost of production survey will commence.

"An agency is more important than ever now," Mr. Murray said. He noted the proposal contained an export funding mechanism which, had it been sanctioned, could have prevented the drastic consequences now looming for tobacco communities. "The whole thrust of an agency was to save our industry."

The Board expected to have the quota rental pool operating by yesterday. Mr. Nagy said it will be hectic with transfers of 1985 quota to handle as the auction winds up Friday. However, he said arrangements have been made to prepare the renting-in and renting-out forms. Those renting-in will be notified what percentage of quota they have applied for (with a certified cheque) will be available as soon as the 10-day period concludes.



Berry Murray

Agreement casts gloom over flue

By JULIE DAY

The tobacco agreement reached last Friday between the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board and the four manufacturers has signed the death warrant for the industry, according to leaders in the tobacco community.

And tobacco board chairman Berry Murray could offer no encouragement when he emerged from a special board meeting held in Tillsonburg yesterday, predicting up to 900 of the 1,700 farmers will be forced out of business this year.

"They just realize that there's no hope anymore," said board director Michael Murray referring to the tobacco farmers who had contacted him over the weekend when they

learned of the deal on the 1986 tobacco crop reached in Toronto. "It's like being in a funeral home," Mr. Murray said, noting he spoke with close to 50 farmers from his home on Sunday.

This year's 115-million-pound crop size is a significant drop from the 170 million pounds grown last year. The deal guarantees 77 million pounds at \$1.84 per pound and another 2.5 million pounds are guaranteed at \$1.20 per pound.

"It's very devastating," the tobacco board chairman said on the weekend, noting the settlement was presented as more of an ultimatum than an agreement. "I think it's probably going to end up ruining the industry."

"Because of one company we're

growing far less tobacco than we have potential for," Mr. Murray said, referring to the refusal of Rothmans of Pall Mall Canada Ltd. to participate in the proposed export consortium.

The three other manufacturers — Imperial Tobacco, RJR Macdonald Inc. and Benson and Hedges — were prepared to commit themselves to a \$40 to \$50 million export fund, the board chairman said.

"Rothmans are content to let us go out of business in Canada," Michael Murray said. "I hope our farmers' vengeance will be taken out on Rothmans."

"Rothmans just don't give a damn about us or this area," said Dan VanLondersele, chairman of the Organization of Concerned Tobacco

Area Municipalities. "Every day we just get hammered and nothing positive ever happens."

Mr. VanLondersele said yesterday he spoke with representatives from the provincial legislature to convince them of the need to grant levying powers to the board for the surplus removal fund, which three of the four manufacturers agreed to.

The four companies have agreed to contribute \$12.32 million to an adjustment fund to be put to use by the board to either promote exports or assist financially-troubled tobacco farmers in making the transition out of the business. Last year the companies paid about \$17 million to help buy-down the price of exported tobacco.

Vice-chairman of the board, Richard Bozek noted the reduced

crop is going to create a lot of financial hardship for tobacco farmers. And Berry Murray agreed — "It's going to be very hard on a lot of farm families."

Delhi Mayor Gordon Lee added, "It's certainly going to be a serious blow to the economy in this area."

Norfolk Councillor Bob Causyn echoed those sentiments. "It's a disaster for this part of the country." Coun. Causyn took part in a meeting with Industry Minister Hugh O'Neil and Treasurer Robert Nixon on Friday to discuss the efforts of tobacco-belt municipalities to attract industry to the area.

"Slowly and surely we're seeing it (industry) die," Coun. Causyn said. "It upsets me that we're not actively promoting the industry that we've got right here," he said.

And many tobacco farmers will find it difficult to obtain financing to grow this year's crop, Mr. VanLondersele said. "There are definitely going to be people that cannot afford to produce tobacco," he said, adding that some producers have been told their financing would only be approved if a 120-million-pound crop was agreed on.

Board director Michael Murray agreed farmers will have problems obtaining financing and he said he was not sure if 115 million pounds will even be grown.

Meanwhile, the 1985 crop sales are winding up. And in Ottawa today, the date for the reopening of hearings into a national marketing agency for flue-cured tobacco is expected to be set.

Tobacco pact 'will finish us,' board boss says

By Gord Wainman
of The Free Press

TILLSONBURG — Tobacco farmers were given last rites for their industry Tuesday at a special tobacco board meeting where they were told as many as 900 of the 1,700 farmers will be forced out of business this year alone.

Tobacco manufacturers have offered a "take-it-or-leave-it contract" to the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board guaranteeing a price on only 79.5 million pounds, less than half last year's sharply reduced 170 million pounds and only a third the size of normal crops.

"This is the final kick in the teeth that will finish us off," said a bitter board chairman Berry Murray of Wilsonville after the meeting, closed to the media.

"It was an opportunity to meet with my fellow producers so we could tell them the score. It was a bad day. I saw looks in their eyes that I can't explain. They don't know where to turn."

The manufacturers offered a \$12,320,000 adjustment fund to help farmers get out of the business, Murray said. "That \$12 million is like ... in the wind."

The guaranteed price of \$1.84 a pound on 77 million pounds and \$1.20 a pound on 2.5 million pounds will not only force farmers out of business, but wreak havoc with the local economy, Murray said.

"When you consider the rollover (of money earned by farmers), the

"From a political point of view I've lost all hope."

— Berry Murray,
tobacco board chairman

manufacturers have denied us a couple billion dollars in economic activity within a 35-mile radius of Tillsonburg," Murray said. He was referring to the economic multiplier effect whereby for every dollar spent by a farmer, seven to nine additional dollars are generated through the rest of the economy.

"We've already got farm suicides, an increase in wife beatings in the area, children being psychologically affected watching what their parents are going through... This area from a social perspective will take one hell of a blow."

Politicians at the provincial and federal government levels, including federal Agriculture Minister John Wise, who comes from the heart of tobacco country, have listened to tobacco farmer cries for assistance in the last year, Murray said.

"We went the full gamut of begging, crawling on our hands and knees... We got a sympathetic ear but no help," Murray said. "There isn't a politician that's got the balls to defend the tobacco industry. They look at us as a leper colony. If they touch us, they'll get it. From a political point of view I've lost all hope."

Ironically, the market on the 1985 crop which is still being auctioned is one of the best markets the growers have had at their three auction exchanges at Tillsonburg, Aylmer and Delhi, Murray said. In hopes they can trade on the momentum of active export sales of the 1985 crop, the board has set a goal of 115 million pounds production for 1986 — 35.5 million more than the manufacturers have guaranteed.

But because the manufacturers have slashed production volumes, bank credit for individual farmers is drying up to plant the 1986 crop, Murray said.

"The banking community has lost faith in the industry... We can't farm on spec. We got away with it last year, but this year the banks just aren't lending money," Murray said.

"We can't do anything. There has been full community support. We've asked for a national tobacco marketing agency. (Wise) knows our people need it. Both levels of government know we're being abused. There's no sense of fair play..."

Tobacco crisis hits region like a brick

By Gord Wainman
Randy Ray and Chris Dona
of The Free Press *MAY 22*

TILLSONBURG — Southwestern Ontario tobacco farmers are bitter and frightened over production cutbacks that could force half of them out of business this year.

Scared, too, are the tightly knit tobacco communities in this once-rich Canadian tobacco belt that stand to lose thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in spending power.

- Fear in tobacco belt **A6**
- A family's final effort **A7**

NIXON SAYS NO BAILOUT,

TILLSONBURG (Staff) — Tobacco farmers, who face a drastically reduced crop this year, won't be bailed out by the province, Treasurer Robert Nixon said Wednesday night.

He told the Tillsonburg District Chamber of Commerce rural-urban night that it was "not possible" to single out one industry within farming when many areas of Ontario's economy are "facing the most serious economic dislocation" since the end of the Second World War.

Nixon said news during the weekend that the 1986 tobacco crop would be slashed to less than half of last year's must have been "a traumatic shock" for Ontario's tobacco farmers.

Tobacco farmers would face "a substantial risk" to raise extra tobacco crops on speculation, he said.

"I've never seen such a screwup," said insurance and real estate broker Jerry Thournout of Delhi. "I hope I can write up maybe half of what I wrote up last year in insurance. As far as real estate is concerned, nothing's really up for sale because who will buy a tobacco farm?"

A Tillsonburg businessman said "it has been one thing after another for the industry. High interest rates, blue mould, frost and now this. Every year they say there's light at the end of the tunnel, but this time the train's coming right at them."

The glum prognostications came Wednesday following news that tobacco manufacturers have offered the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board a contract guaranteeing a price on only 79.5 million pounds of tobacco, less than half last year's crop.

Declining ranks of smokers and high taxation are cited as causes.

Board chairman Berry Murray predicts the cutback will force as many as 900 of 1,700 Southwestern Ontario tobacco farms out of business because banks won't extend credit to many tobacco farmers.

While most everyone concedes communities such as Tillsonburg, Delhi and Simcoe can weather this latest storm, there's little doubt the centres will suffer.

Initial estimates say up to 10,000 valuable seasonal and full-time jobs will disappear when the tobacco farms cease growing. And the job loss is expected to rob the area economy of \$100 million worth of spending power.

Bill Tansely of Heath's Men's Wear in Delhi says the crunch will

From Page A1

be felt as far away as Quebec.

"We have people come back through town from Quebec who had worked here as young people. Sometimes I think there isn't anyone over 30 in Quebec who hasn't worked in our fields."

Ted Raytrowsky, a director and past chairman of the tobacco marketing board, said the problems faced by farmers and their communities are just the tip of a melting iceberg.

"The governments have let the community and the industry down. They have taxed excessively — both federal and provincial governments . . . To wipe out this area with taxes is a sheer, bloody disaster."

If governments want to rid the country of smoking, they should make the product illegal and pay tobacco farmers to get out of business or switch crops, Raytrowsky said.

"Don't tax us out of business. You have a great nation to the south of us that was created because of excessive taxation by Britain. Remember the Boston tea party . . . don't they read history?"

Ken Walker, acting director of the federal government's Delhi tobacco research station, said his people are already gearing up research on alternative crops.

"The problem is that the minute we get growing another crop here, we are stepping on someone else's toes . . . vegetables, soybeans, anything. There just isn't enough market for everyone . . . It's a dilemma. It's hard to find something new that nobody else is growing."

Walker and others expressed bitterness toward anti-smoking lobbyists.

"There are harmful effects. However, the escalating claims against cigarettes are drastically exaggerated. Nobody's fighting back. How can we, as a tobacco industry, fight back against medical people or pseudo-medical people?" Walker asked.

Across the Tillsonburg-Delhi-Simcoe area, residents, small and big businessmen and employment agency operators expressed dismay at the prospect of 900 lost tobacco farms.

"It's pretty nasty . . . Jesus Christ, that's bad news," said Bevan Johnstone, manager of the Canada farm labor pool in Tillsonburg. "I really never thought it would happen to tobacco people."

If 900 to 1,000 farms stop growing tobacco, Johnstone predicted 10 jobs per farm will be lost, or employment for as many as 10,000 people, not including the farms' owners.

"It doesn't necessarily mean

there will be no jobs for kids in this area, but it could eliminate jobs for outsiders."

Last year, the farm labor pool helped bring about 1,500 farm workers into the area from Quebec, Northern Ontario and the Maritimes.

Charles Thomas, president of Simcoe Leaf Tobacco in Simcoe which buys, processes and stores tobacco, said his company stands to lose export sales next year and possibly for years down the road.

"We can't get tobacco with the smaller crop size. Customers will look, but with the small crop they probably won't buy. If we handle substantially less tobacco, we will have less process time and less man-hours worked for our seasonal staff."

Thomas would not say if it would mean layoffs. The company employs 33 full-time staff and about 160 seasonal workers.

He said the company will be hard-pressed to win back markets it is likely to lose next year.

Ken Holland, Tillsonburg clerk-administrator, said his town's diversified industrial base will help the community weather ill effects of the tobacco cutbacks. The area also could receive special treatment from provincial and federal governments to compensate for lost jobs.

Walsingham tobacco farmer Archie Mattan is disgusted with both the federal and provincial agriculture ministers. "I think it's sad that John Wise and Jack Riddell are wiping their hands clean of the whole affair."

THE LONDON FREE PRESS, Thursday, May 22, 1986

'One last kick at the can'

Family members join forces for final effort on tobacco farm



ARCHIE MATTAN

--- "I think I won't make it"

TILLSONBURG — Archie Mattan of Walsingham is gathering his family forces for "one last kick at the can" as a tobacco farmer.

Will he make it?

"I'd rather not answer, but to tell you the truth I think I won't make it," he said at the tobacco board offices here where he was mingling with other growers, talking over their impending demise.

In his drive to survive, he has called on his sons Darryl and Terry to form Mattan Farms Inc., his 85-year-old father Cyriel for financial and other assistance, and brother Frank, a dentist, for financial support.

"This is a total family operation this year — three generations of tobacco farmers," Mattan said, and his father will even be pitching in with some physical help around the farm.

"My wife Denyse is totally in-

involved. She's my right hand and part of my left. This situation has drawn us all closer together."

The couple decided this year to drop his onetime lucrative sideline as a crop chemical dealer, Mattan said.

"I'd been in the business 20 years. Because of the financial turmoil we figure is coming . . . we figured there'd be too many hassles between a banker and a customer . . . me being the third party, we figured I wouldn't get paid."

His battle to batten down the hatch has taken its toll psychologically, Mattan said.

"I have always been a good, hard working Catholic boy. I haven't seen a church since January. I guess I've given up . . . that's sad. I get the feeling in my mind that I want to give up on the whole world. Religion is in my world . . . Life's a bastard!"

What's ahead scares tobacco belt residents

By Chris Dona
of The Free Press

TILLSONBURG — Residents in the Southwestern Ontario tobacco belt are holding their breath before daring to count the number of jobs that will be claimed by reduced production in the tobacco industry.

They say they don't know what to expect and are afraid to find out.

Students seeking work during harvesting are expected to be hit hard, while other workers in the Tillsonburg-Delhi-Simcoe area are expected to be affected later.

That was the consensus of people interviewed at random in Tillsonburg and Simcoe in response to news that tobacco manufacturers have reduced their contract for tobacco by more than 50 per cent.

Edna Weir of Simcoe said students will feel the affects immediately. "They're just not going to have jobs. Period. Some students work tobacco every year, and that's how they earn their money for next year. And if there are no tobacco jobs there are no jobs for them because there isn't anything else to absorb them."

Rob Szucs, a 17-year-old high school student from Tillsonburg, said he was counting on working tobacco to save money for college.

"My summer job will be ruined. I'll miss that \$60 a day," he said. "It's very doubtful I'll get a job through the employment centre because there will be a lot of other people looking for jobs too."

Szucs said his education will depend on getting a student loan from the government. "Even if I get another job, it won't be as much money, and it will only be around minimum wage."

Karen Holmes, 18, of Tillsonburg, said her fiance has been earning his money for the last five years harvesting tobacco. "He's been out of school for a year to make more money to go to school. I wouldn't doubt if it will take a lot longer now the way jobs will be going in Tillsonburg."

Ted Raytrowsky, director and past chairman of the Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board, said there will be "\$100-million less farmer income than last year."

Weir, who works for an accounting firm in Simcoe, said there's a chance she or others could lose their job in a few years because most businesses rely on tobacco farmers' money.

"People are just unsure about the tobacco industry, and they're not going to spend," she said. "People are afraid to buy anything, so they just make do."

Harold Jewitt, a businessman in Simcoe, said everybody in the tobacco communities "work indirect-



For Sale signs are becoming increasingly common in the Delhi area, sprouting in front of tobacco farms, homes and businesses.

Ed Heal of The Free Press

ly with the tobacco industry. In the long term it's bound to affect people . . ."

Jewitt owns a surveying company and a leasing company. He said the surveying is "100 per cent locally based, and in the long run" will be adversely affected. His leasing company, not locally based, won't be affected.

Georgia Kiriakopoulos and her husband own and run Burgerland and Nick's Pizzeria in Tillsonburg Town Centre. She said the decrease in tobacco money will affect their business. "At harvest time the business used to be tripled, but now it's not even one-half or a third of that." She said the number of seasonal workers has decreased dramatically.

Jane Monck of Simcoe said both Tillsonburg and Simcoe won't be

ruined because they have other industries they can fall back on. But she "expects there will be a lot of money pulling out."

Joe and Joan VanSanten of Scotland have been tobacco farmers for 26 years. They said their farm isn't in any danger because of the decrease in production, and added they'll still be hiring as many seasonal workers as before but working fewer days.

Joe VanSanten said he expects some tobacco farmers will have to move on, and the industry will eventually even off.

Steve Masschaele says his father's tobacco farm in St. Williams is in no danger. "He wants to retire. But you need an income to do that," he said. "You can't give away a farm, let alone sell one. So every

year he keeps planting."

Masschaele, a 22-year-old student, says he hasn't worked at home for the last few summers. "There isn't enough work to give me a steady job and I need the money for school."

He says he doesn't want to be a tobacco farmer. "It's not the kind of thing you buy into right now and expect to make a profit."

A widow from Vanessa, whose husband left her the tobacco farm, says she'll be badly affected by the decrease in demand. "I just don't know what's going to happen. I can't get out of it because no one wants to buy, and I can't keep farming it myself so I just stay on hoping things will get better because you don't know anything else and you can't do anything else."

A FAREWELL TO FARMS-

28 years of toil heading for crash

By Gord Wainman
of The Free Press *MAY 22*

DELHI — After 28 years of slugging, Leo Kriwez made the final payment on his tobacco farm last year.

A year later, he has been forced to put the farm up as collateral to plant what he thinks could be his last crop.

Like numerous tobacco farmers, the 67-year-old grandfather fears this year's contract with processors — which cuts their normal production quota by two-thirds — could signal the end.

Will Kriwez survive?

"No we won't!" his 62-year-old wife Fina yells from her uncomfortable seat in the planter behind the tractor.

However, her husband hasn't given up the ship yet. "Let me put it this way. If I don't grow a crop this year, I can't even pay my property taxes. The contract this year could kill us all."

Unless government steps in with sizable assistance, Kriwez said he expects he may not make it. Just a year after he paid off his mortgage, the bank forced him to put his entire farm up as collateral on a loan to allow him to plant a 1986 crop.

"If we have to get out, we'll get out. We came to Canada in 1949 and arrived in St. Thomas with two kids and a dozen diapers," said Kriwez, but he may leave the farm with even less. "I'm 67. Where am I going to get a job? We'll go on welfare, that's all."

Kriwez said governments are unfair. After collecting billions of dollars in taxes, governments should buy farmers' unused production quota and give each farmer a chance to either stay in the business or leave.

"The (federal) Liberals didn't give what they promised and I'm strictly a Conservative man. I had the big hope Mulroney would give

us more power, but he threw us in (the) garbage just the same."

On a \$3 package of cigarettes, Kriwez said farmers get only about six cents and federal and provincial governments take by far the largest chunk in taxes. The recently announced provincial tax increase alone — four cents a pack — is two-thirds of what the farmer gets and it was a minor increase, he said.

"The Jersey cow has only four tits, but everybody comes to milk her," he said of government taxes. "When I came to Canada, I thought I was in heaven ... not now. We work like devils in that muddy ground and we get 5.9 cents on a pack of cigarettes. Somebody, not us, is making money."

It isn't as though Kriwez hasn't attempted to diversify and move out of tobacco. Last year, he grew 32 hectares (80 acres) of soybeans, but the price paid farmers was so low he lost \$400.

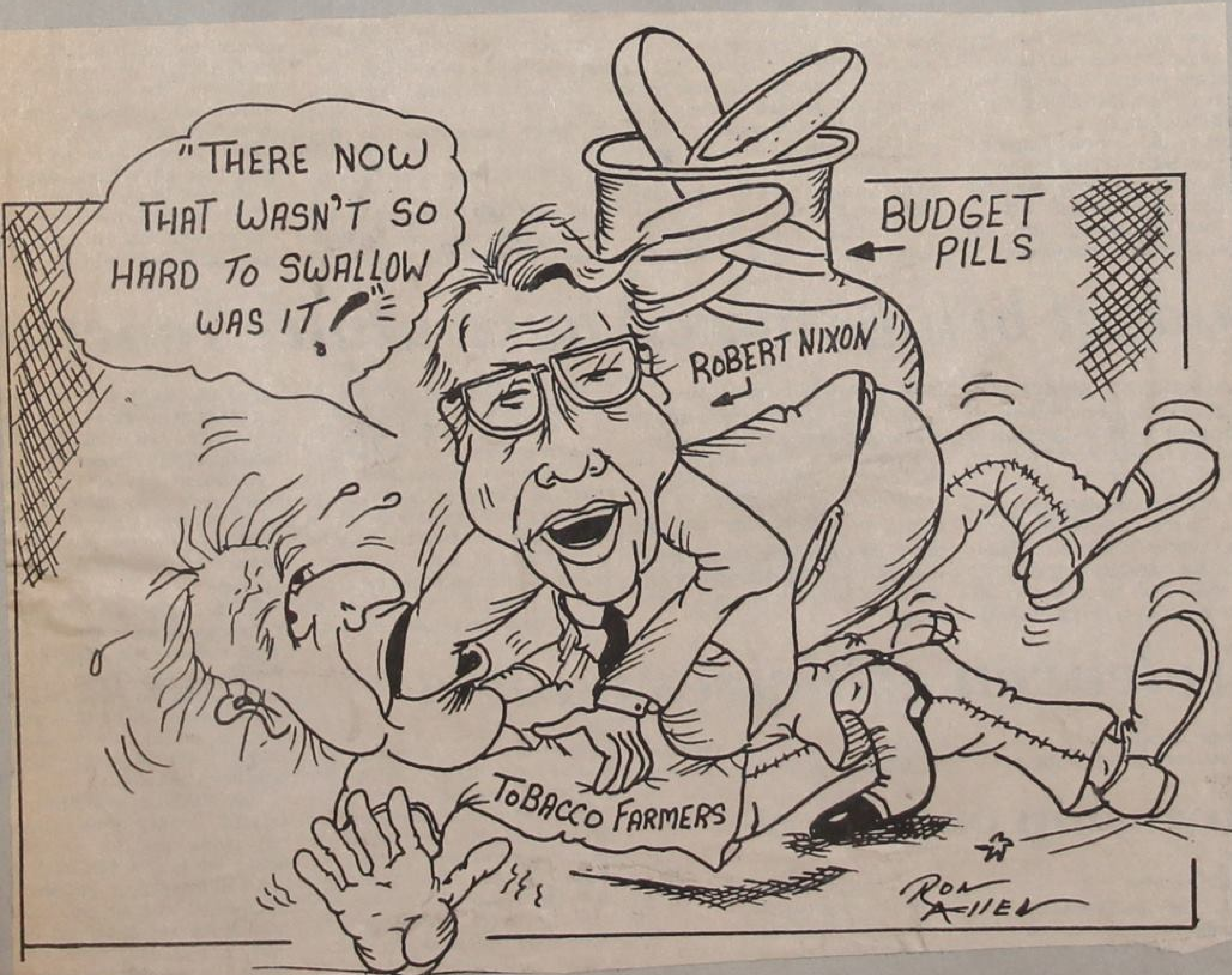
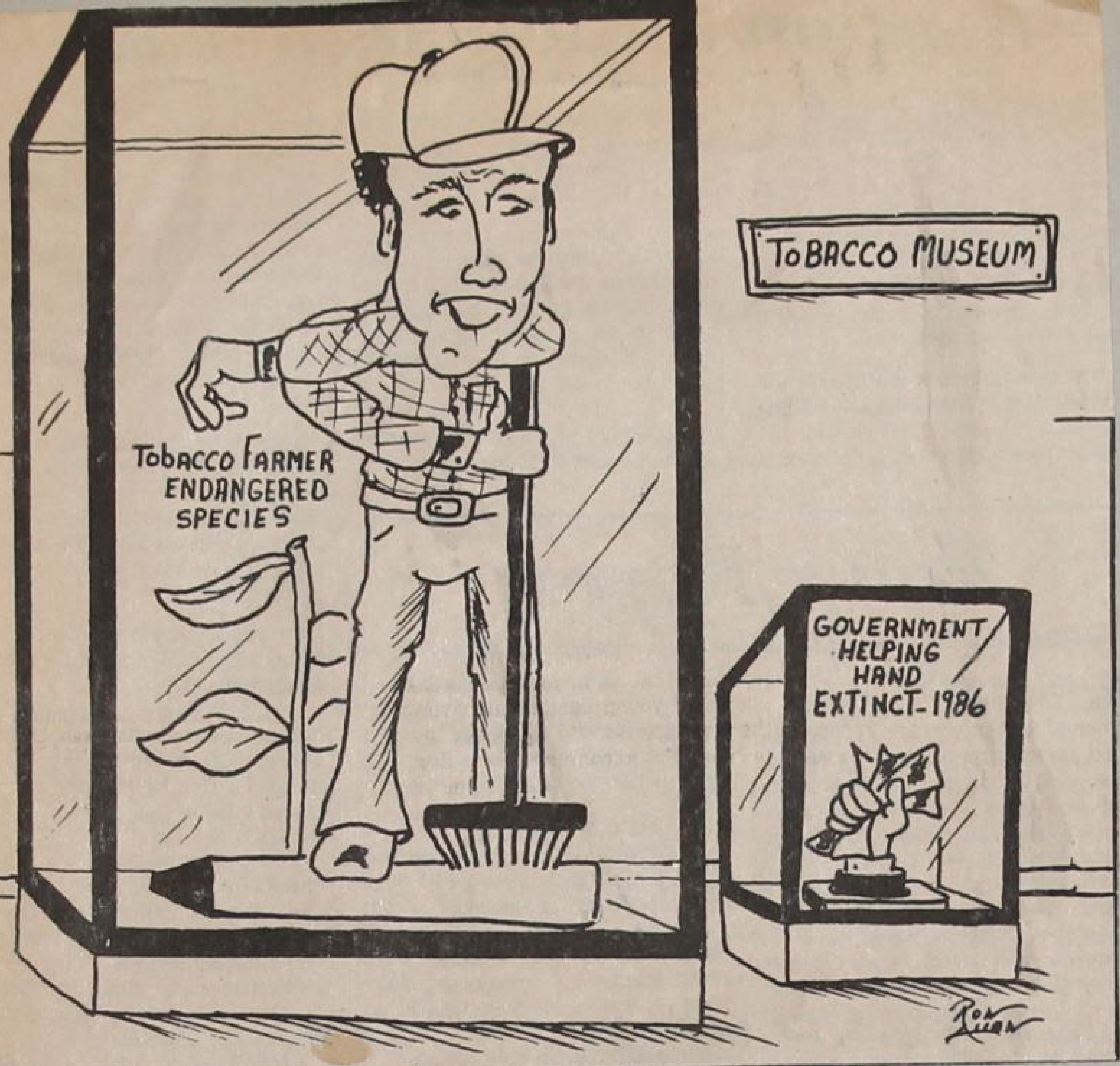
As is the case with many farmers, Kriwez counted on paying off his farm, then selling it and using the money as a retirement fund.

"This is my pension. But who's going to buy a tobacco farm now?"



Ed Heal of The Free Pr

After 28 years of tobacco farming near Delhi, 67-year-old Leo Kriwez has started planting what he thinks will be his last crop. He figures he'll be lucky to pay his taxes, let alone the bank.



Can't single out tobacco for support, says Nixon

T.N. MAY 23

By JULIE DAY

It's not possible for the provincial government to single out the tobacco industry for financial support when other agricultural industries are facing economic hardships as well, Ontario Treasurer Robert Nixon told about 140 people attending the seventh annual Rural-Urban Night in Tillsonburg Wednesday.

The aim of the government "is to support the agricultural industry across the board," Mr. Nixon said. "The last thing we want to have is a depressed farming industry because it reflects so seriously in town after town and city after city across this country."

Ontario tobacco farmers received a blow last weekend when they

learned the size of this year's crop has been set at 115 million pounds, down substantially from the 170 million pounds grown last year.

"The future of the market lies in the hands of the growers and the manufacturers and the government - but not exclusively the government," the guest speaker pointed out.

He said it is unfortunate that "because of pressures in the economy, the co-operation between growers and manufacturers has not been as good as in the past." But he added that this relationship has traditionally varied.

Mr. Nixon said the 1985 market, which wrapped up this week, has been excellent with only 22 million

pounds of the 170-million-pound crop being purchased by the board and guaranteed by the federal government.

He suggested the international tobacco market "is surprisingly buoyant", indicating local tobacco farmers might look to the export market. He added the tobacco grown locally has an excellent reputation worldwide.

The utilization of tobacco has remained stable, Mr. Nixon said, adding that in last week's provincial budget the tax on tobacco was raised only .13 cents a cigarette (almost four cents a package). *

And he noted the Liberal government has foregone \$140 million in revenue by removing the ad

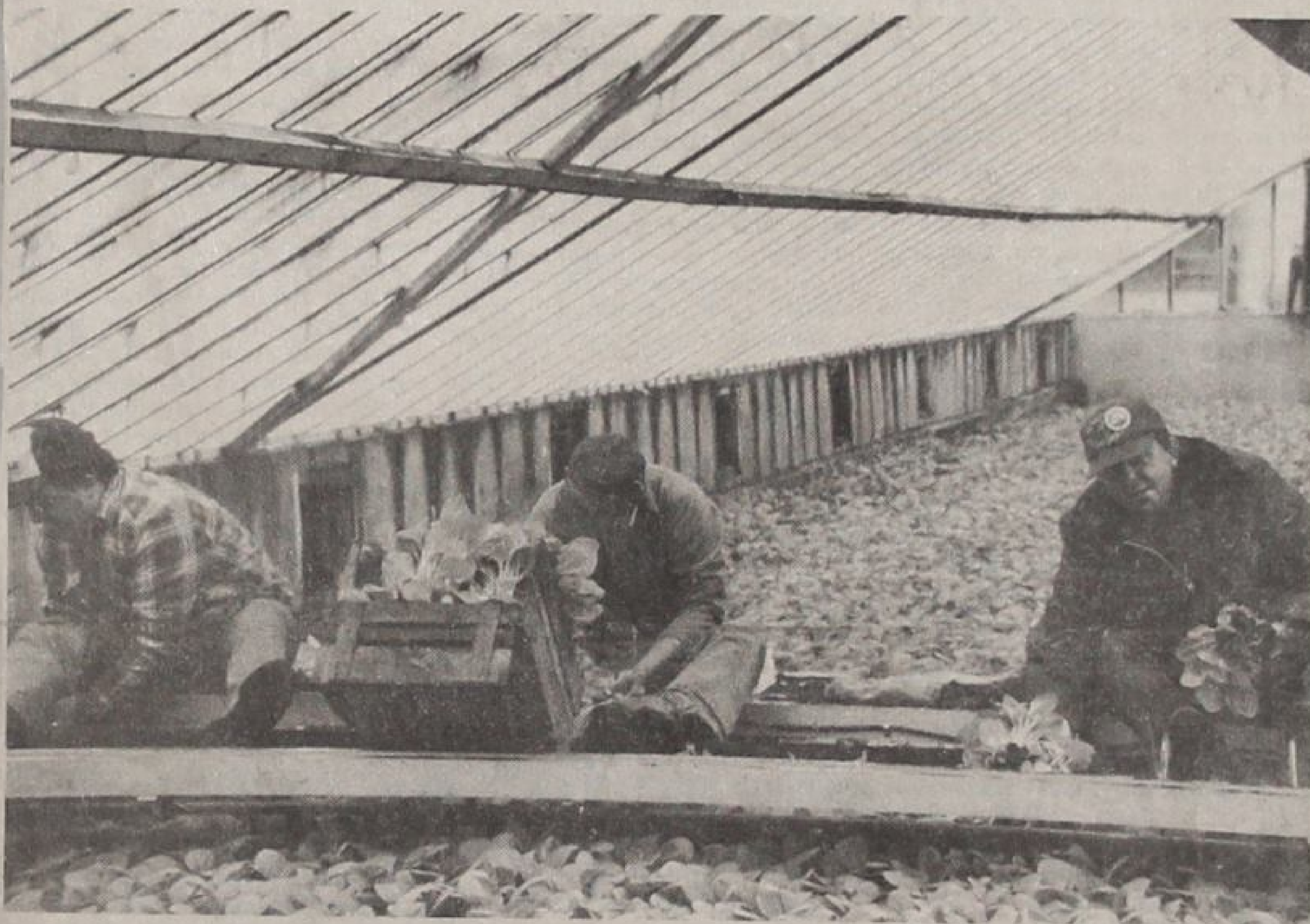
valorem tax on cigarettes.

The treasurer said the province is experiencing "a bouyancy we have not seen in this province for 20 years," although there are select "pockets of economic recession."

The low Canadian dollar, a reduction in world oil prices, a lower unemployment rate and economic growth indicates there is reason to be confident, Mr. Nixon said.

"I even can predict there will be a strong and viable tobacco industry for many years in this part of the world," Mr. Nixon said.

Tillsonburg Mayor Jean Ferrie also addressed the crowd, thanking residents of the rural community for their support of local businesses.



Tobacco planting underway

Despite the current uncertainties in the flue industry, John Toonen and his crew at this RR 1, Delhi farm and other area tobacco producers are still hard at work getting the 1986 crop in the field. The Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board

recently indicated its intent to set the 1986 crop size at 115 million pounds, a 46.5 per cent cut in marketable quota since 1983. The 55 million pound slash from 170 million pounds last year means a third less tobacco will be sold this year. (Staff Photo)

Tobacco market ends

By MARLENE OPDECAM

Sales of the 1985 flue-cured tobacco crop concluded at the Tillsonburg auction exchange Friday morning. Final sales at the Delhi and Aylmer exchanges had wound to a close the day before.

At the end of the selling season, 169,781,578 pounds of tobacco had been sold through the three warehouses, just slightly under the 170-million-pound crop target.

The crop sold for an overall average price of \$1.25.89, with the guaranteed portion of 169,185,904 million pounds bringing \$1.26.03. With the makeup payments funding the buy down of export tobacco to a minimum average price of \$1.20, producers averaged \$1.70.89, said Carl

Manary, Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board director, when he addressed a group of farmers who gathered in Langton for a district meeting Friday night.

According to Mr. Manary, the export portion of the crop amounted to 57 million pounds. Allocated tobacco taken off the market by the board totalled a little more than 23 million pounds, he said.

Commenting on the 23 million pounds of flue the board has in storage, Mr. Manary said those pounds, under the board's agreement with the federal government that secured funding for the 1985 crop under the Agricultural Products Co-operative Marketing Act,

must be offered to the domestic companies as part of the 1986 crop.

He indicated that if the pack is sold to the manufacturers on the domestic market at a price of \$1.76, producers could get another four cents a pound returned from the 11.5 cents per pound still owed them on the 1985 crop. The director said the board has sufficient funds to hold the pack until October.

Asked by a member of the audience what the scenario would be if the 1985 pack failed to sell in the fall, Mr. Manary said the continuing costs could not legally be charged back to the farmer. Federal Agriculture Minister John Wise

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

would be the loser in that case, Mr. Manary commented.

The board's decision to take the allocated tobacco off the auction floor at the guaranteed price could have been a mistake, Mr. Manary said, indicating that if the board had opted to sell it for the export price of a \$1.20, farmers could have received in the area of \$1.67 a pound average price for the 1985 crop and the tobacco would have been gone.

The board is trying to get funds under Agricultural Products Co-operative Marketing Act to help finance the sale of the 1986 crop.

Failing that, if the board is forced to take allocated tobacco off the floor at \$1.20, Mr. Manary said deductions would have to be made from producers' cheques to cover the costs. He estimated the deductions, if necessary, would probably

be in the 10 cents per pound range and would be handled under a pooled system as they were for the 1985 crop.

Under the agreement proposed by the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers Council for 1986, 77 million pounds of tobacco are guaranteed at \$1.84 with another 2.5 million for export guaranteed at \$1.20. The remainder of the crop, set at 115 million pounds by the tobacco board, has no price guarantee although two manufacturing companies have indicated they intend to purchase 15 million pounds of it for export.

The board had to set the crop size at 115 million, even though manufacturers had indicated they'd like to see a target in the area of 130 million, because of the existing pack from the 1985 crop and the fact the board has no mechanism in place to purchase allocated tobacco from the floor, Mr. Manary summarized.

Growers' reaction:

to do with us'

'The Government doesn't seem to want anything

Tobacco growers in Southern Ontario were hit with one of the worst quota cuts in years last week. Staff writers Patti Lewis and Stuart Mann talked to six growers about the decline of quota from 170 million to 115 million pounds and its effect on the future of the tobacco industry in this area.

Paul VanLondersele, RR 1, Simcoe, said the tobacco situation is "disheartening."

"I guess I'm like all other tobacco farmers — disappointed, dismayed and confused. It can't be anything but disastrous in the long run."

Mr. VanLondersele said he is not certain how much tobacco will be planted this year because there are too many economic considerations to be made. "Confusion is the big word in farmers' minds today," he said.

Mr. VanLondersele's tobacco farm has been in his family since 1928 but he doubts that his grandchildren will be able to continue the tradition.

"I'm fearful we're going to wake up one morning and find out that Canada doesn't need any more tobacco farmers."

Junior Atkins, RR 2, Port Burwell, refused to comment. "The whole thing is a mess," he said. "When I talk about it my blood pressure goes up."

John Nagy, RR 1, Waterford, said he expects to grow about half as much tobacco this year than last year because of the cut.

"It's more than what I anticipated," he said.

Mr. Nagy said lack of support from various groups has seriously undermined the plight of farmers. "We should have received a little more support than we did. The Government doesn't seem to want anything to do with us anymore."

Roger Verkindt, LaSalette, said the cut has angered many tobacco farmers. "Nobody likes it. It's too big of a cut," he said.

Mr. Verkindt said the reduction will force many farmers to go out of business. "There's only so far you can go. Once a farmer gets

into trouble, what's he supposed to do? Go into a town and look for a job there? It's no good."

Mr. Verkindt does not know how much tobacco he will be able to grow this year, but he admits that the prospects for a decent crop are slim. "There will always be some people who will be able to grow a certain amount but you can't keep buying quota when they keep cutting it."

Frank Menich, RR 2, Vanessa, said the main problem is not the cut but the way people perceive the agricultural community.

According to Mr. Menich, primary industries such as lumber, fishing and farming have helped the Canadian economy. "Now the people who have profited the most are pre-judging these industries and saying that the people who work in them are a bunch of losers. It's an out and out attack on the primary industries."

"Urbanites" and "pseudo-medical persons" who attack the tobacco industry don't realize

that the greatest amount of tax revenue gained through tobacco sales is used for their benefit, he said.

It has been proven, Mr. Menich said, that the tax revenue doesn't return to the tobacco communities "which is one of the biggest rip-offs we've seen."

"This thing is getting so ridiculously stupid. I just don't see it ending sensibly."

Mr. Menich said only time will tell what the future holds for tobacco farmers. But one thing is certain: "You can only push a guy so far into a corner."

George Mikula, RR 1, Delhi, says the tobacco crisis "is a pretty sad situation."

Mr. Mikula is a second-generation tobacco farmer who believes his occupation "is slowly dwindling away. It won't be long before there isn't any tobacco growers left."

Mr. Mikula says the cut has added additional headaches to tobacco farmers. "You don't know what you're supposed to be doing," he said.

Board hires firm

By MARLENE OPDECAM
The Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board has hired an independent accounting firm to handle tobacco quota rented through the board's quota pool.

Carl Manary, tobacco board director for District 8, said at a meeting in Langton Friday night, the board opted not to handle quota transactions itself because "too many tobacco farmers don't trust directors."

Farmers attending the meeting were upset because those wishing to rent quota in through the board have no idea as yet how much they would be eligible for and must plant their 1986 crop without knowing if they will have enough quota to cover the poundage they will yield.

June 2 is the deadline for quota rental through the board pool and for other rentals as well.

Mr. Manary said farmers should know the percentage of quota they will receive within a day of the deadline. Increased demand for rentals has been created by the small crop size set for the 1986 season, he said.

Mr. Manary was unable to give growers any idea how many pounds were in the pool for rental because the independent firm is handling all the transactions.

Joe Csubak Jr., a Vanessa tobacco producer, finds the board's policy a real can of worms. Having to depend on a quota pool which won't be determined until June 2 makes planning his crop a gamble, Mr. Csubak said. He is planting the way he usually does, hoping that once the crop is in he will have enough quota to cover it.

Mary LePage, board secretary, said that due to the volume of rentals coming in for cash and family quota transactions, staff employees haven't had time to compile the amount of quota being rented in or out under forms 83 or 97. The short 10-day period allotted for quota rentals after the crop size was announced have made it impossible to record transactions, Ms. LePage said.

Board told to resign

By Ben Steidman
Staff Writer

Angry and frustrated tobacco growers Friday night demanded the resignation of Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board directors for failing to deliver a national marketing agency.

The clamour for the Board's resignation climaxed a stormy District 6 meeting chaired by Director Mike Murray of RR 1 LaSalette at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Delhi.

A subdued Mr. Murray told a packed house after an emotion-laden 2½-hour meeting on the current tobacco industry situation that he would take the call for the Board's resignation en masse back to the directors.

"There appears not to be that much confidence among growers for the Board," conceded Mr. Murray. "I'll bring it up at the Board."

Mr. Murray said he had to spell things out the way they are, adding "farmers have turned on this Board and I can't blame them."

The 1986 crop agreement was "not good," he admitted, noting he was "personally ashamed" of it.

One grower charged the Board isn't "effective," that it can "no longer function as a governing body," therefore resignations should follow, allowing others to take over and maybe work out "something" better.

His demand was echoed by another grower who accused the Board of failing to achieve its major objective of a national agency and left directors with only one "honourable" option — resignation.

Sharegrowers' Director Len Padyk of RR 3 Waterford was shouted down several times as he tried to defend the Board's action during negotiations with cigarette manufacturers.

He argued that Government and the companies were in collusion, with a "planned and deliberate" plot, to "phase us (growers) out."

Letters to the editor

GROWER APPEAL

The Editor: As a grower, all I am asking is that we, as growers of flue-cured tobacco, can sit down with the manufacturers and thrash out our own price and our own affairs without interference from government or anybody else.

The following is a copy of a letter directed to the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board, with copies to the Tobacco Manufacturers' Council, Farm Products Marketing Board and to the provincial and federal ministers of agriculture:

Please consider this as my appeal to this board for a hearing date to discuss the board's present policies with respect to quota.

It is my sincere belief that this board is not qualified to negotiate on behalf of the farmers, nor is the board representative of the farmers' wishes. As I have indicated all along, a person who is qualified, should be appointed for that purpose. To continue under existing policies, many farmers will be put out of business.

I also want to discuss the processing of tobacco, the national agency, the establishment of the price for tobacco, and the process of negotiating the price of tobacco (including the value of our currency).

The system must be developed whereby the value of the quota is pegged. This would eliminate the ridiculous situation whereby quota becomes a commodity that fluctuates the value week by week and

falls prey to non-producing manipulators and speculators.

As an example, let us assume that your pound of tobacco has a price of \$1.80 and the quota represents 20 per cent and the farm produces 100,000 pounds.

To rent the whole farm and quota, the rent would be \$36,000. To rent the quota only, the rent would be 20 per cent of the \$36,000 or \$7,200.

This is an example only and is based on 20 per cent allocated to quota whereas 25 per cent or even one-third may be the appropriate figure to allocate to the quota. The percentage, however, calculated to be allocated to the quota must be realistic and the pegging of the price of quota would establish something concrete the farmers could understand and live with. This would eliminate what I personally feel is a rip-off whereby the fittest survive and both small and big farmers fall by the wayside.

This matter is of grave concern, not only to me, but to all farmers. If the board is not able to establish a system that farmers can live with and survive under, then surely the farmers should be entitled to a plebiscite vote to give the board the direction and assistance it needs to be representative of the farmers.

I hope that we are all intelligent enough to do this in a democratic fashion, but I will not be destroyed and I will take this matter to court, if necessary.

Octaaf Steyaert

Have customers--need support

T.N. MAY 30

By MARLENE OPDECAM

Customers in the United States and other parts of the world have indicated an interest in purchasing "a lot" of the 23 million pounds of allocated tobacco the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board removed during 1985 flue sales, said board chairman Berry Murray in an interview Wednesday.

The board has the customers. What it needs now, Mr. Murray said, is funding to buy down the tobacco to its export price. The board doesn't have sufficient funds to handle the buy-down itself because the members of the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers Council, for the first time in the board's history, reneged on two commitments -- establishment of an export consortium, which would have generated the funds for the buy-down, and not providing makeup payments for all pounds

sold to export buyers. The companies' failure to live up to these initial commitments has left the board short, he said.

The board is still hoping to convince the manufacturers to honor the latter promise but in the meantime is exploring the feasibility of other export mechanisms to help finance the sale of the 1985 pack on the export market, Mr. Murray added.

There has been no response from the provincial government regarding the board's formal request for approval of levy powers which would permit it to impose a three-cent levy on processed tobacco which the manufacturers could then recoup at the consumer level, the chairman said. In addition to the board's request to the Farm Products Marketing Board for the

powers, members have also sent an official request to Premier David Peterson to investigate the levy proposal.

Commenting on reports that the federal government can't use funds set aside in its last budget to help the ailing tobacco industry to buy up surplus quota, thus removing it from the marketplace, Mr. Murray said the government has misinterpreted the board's original proposal.

The board never suggested the government "buy up" the quota, he said. What the board proposed was that farmers willing to go out of production be compensated on a per-acre basis based on the minimum return per acre. The payment would be a one-shot deal with the board cancelling the quota held by those farmers. Mr. Murray estimated the compensation payment should be in

the neighborhood of between \$2,500 to \$3,000 per acre.

It would be a loss-of-production payment for production lost as a result of punitive taxation which has forced domestic consumption down. The governments' tax policies and their support of the health interests have virtually legislated what is a legal product out of business, he said. The governments have the moral responsibility to look out for innocent farm families as a result, Mr. Murray commented.

Under the guidelines of the board's proposal, federal funding should be able to come into play, in spite of the fact the quota falls under provincial authority, the chairman said. Asked how the federal government could have misinterpreted the board's proposal, he said he felt

some bureaucrat somewhere simply refused to understand.

Commenting on the demands by some area growers that the board members resign, Mr. Murray said he could sympathize with growers' anger in view of the board's acceptance of a crop agreement he described as "one of the harshest and worst in history." He said he hoped, however, that farmers will realize the problem is not with the board but with the two levels of government.

Faced with constant bombardment by the strong anti-smoking lobby, politicians are reluctant to do anything to help the tobacco industry, Mr. Murray said. The combined clout of the multi-national tobacco companies and the banks' refusal to lend operating loans without an agreement were also con-

tobacco crop size

Funding may boost

T.N. JUNE 2

By MARLENE OPDECAM

It appears as if Ontario tobacco producers will be growing more than the 115-million-pound target set by the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board in mid-May.

While board members were not available to comment on the expected production increase at press time this morning, Elaine Lawson, special assistant to federal Agriculture Minister John Wise,

confirmed there is good news pending on the tobacco front.

In a telephone interview this morning, Ms. Lawson said the federal and provincial governments have agreed to allow tobacco board Chairman Berry Murray to show the 23 million pounds of surplus tobacco from the 1985 crop to both domestic and export buyers.

The government is predicting a short fall in funding of between \$4

million and \$6 million resulting from the difference between the lower international price of the crop and the domestic price if a portion of the surplus is sold on the export market.

The two levels of government have agreed to jointly guarantee a loan to the tobacco board to supply the buy-down funding and will pay the interest on the loan. The federal government's share of the interest payments will come from the ap-

proximately \$30 million set aside in the last budget for an aid package for struggling flue producers, according to Ms. Lawson.

The principal, she said, will be repaid through a producer levy of 1 1/4 cents a pound.

Ms. Lawson explained the new deal, ironed out with the board in London last Friday, was struck in an effort to expand the 1986 crop size from 115 million to 130 million

pounds. The concern was that the small crop initially targeted for would not provide export buyers with a sufficiently attractive leaf mix, thus discouraging their participation in the 1986 market, she said.

Sale of the surplus tobacco on the export market will render the tobacco board's agreement with the federal government under the Agricultural Products Co-operative

Marketing Act null and void. The agreement had stipulated the surplus tobacco purchased with funds guaranteed under the act would be sold on the domestic market or through an export consortium to ensure producers would receive the \$1.65 a pound price also stipulated in the agreement.

The tobacco board was to have held a press conference this afternoon to provide an update on the tobacco situation.

tributing factors to the board's decision to accept the agreement and set the poundage at 115 million pounds.

The fact the board was forced to settle for such a disastrous crop agreement is proof the board needs more legislative powers, he added. The board's resignation wouldn't change the problems.

Mr. Murray said it was unlikely there would be any change in the 1986 crop target. It could happen, if something changes in the near future, but chances of that are slim, he commented.

The board is waiting to hear from both the federal and provincial agriculture ministers who were supposed to meet to discuss the tobacco situation Tuesday. Mr. Murray said he hopes to meet with Federal Agriculture Minister John Wise and Health Minister Jake Epp sometime next week.



Despite dark clouds hanging over the domestic tobacco industry, DeCarolus Farms Ltd. seasonal workers were busy planting this year's crop on one Brantford Road farm owned by the DeCarolus family. This year's crop totals some 250 acres, down from 350 a year ago.

Insult to injury

By Dave Stover

The facts are clear enough.

Tobacco manufacturers have offered farmers a crop agreement guaranteeing a price on only 79.5 million pounds of tobacco — less than half the amount of last year's crop.

The flue board, in turn, has set a crop size of 115 million pounds — also

much smaller than in previous years.

The question now is what will the consequences be — for farmers and, more broadly, for the economy of this region as a whole?

And the answer is, I suspect, that no one can really say just yet — but that whatever happens isn't likely to

be good.

The chairman of the tobacco board estimates that 900 of the region's 1,700 tobacco farmers could be put out of business because the banks simply aren't going to extend credit, in light of the industry's current condition.

As well, there are estimates that up to 10,000 summer jobs could be lost, and a potential \$100 million in spending power could be drained from the local economy.

Then there's what economists call the "multiplier effect." The dollars that farmers earn from selling their crops (or that anyone earns from doing his job, for that matter) are recirculated several times within the local economy, each time helping to keep different businesses healthy and to provide people with jobs.

The figure for the multiplier effect that I've usually seen quoted is from five to seven times the original amount of money involved. That means that the total loss in dollars to the local economy from the decline of the tobacco industry could amount to hundreds of millions of dollars.

For some stores, the effect of the small crop settlement will only mean slightly thinner profit margins. For other stores, the drop in sales caused by the tobacco industry's troubles could mean the difference between staying afloat and going under.

Some merchants I've talked to have said sales have been flat since before last Christmas, because of uncertainty over the tobacco crop settlement. Now that the uncertainty's been ended — and the news is bad — one would hardly expect the situation to improve much.

One can rationalize what's happening in terms of the forces of the marketplace. If demand for a product declines, then obviously there will be fewer people making or growing that product. The stronger manufacturers and producers will survive; the weaker will go under. That's the capitalist system in a nutshell, and since nearly all farmers and small businessmen claim to be great advocates of free enterprise (at least when times are good) — why the complaining now?

There is at least a kernel of truth in that point of view. I can't say for sure, but I'd be surprised if at least a few of the people now calling for government help for the tobacco industry weren't among those in the past who loudly denounced "welfare bums" and expensive government social programs.

However, the decline of the tobacco industry is not entirely a product of the forces of the marketplace.

Smoking is on the decline. But that

downswing is a gradual one. The collapse of the tobacco industry into its current state of crisis, is, on the other hand, a development both rapid and, in large measure, unexpected.

That's because government wasn't willing to let the natural forces of the marketplace operate. Instead, both federal and provincial governments have imposed extremely heavy taxes on tobacco products — taxes which have increased far more rapidly than the average inflation rate.

Higher prices have depressed demand. A grower receives six cents of the \$2.50 cost of a pack of cigarettes.

And, too, the federal government is at least partly to blame for the difficulties that have been experienced in establishing a national marketing agency — a body which would give Canadian flue producers at least a chance of holding onto and expanding export markets.

So if the government is to blame in large part for the current crisis in the tobacco belt, it would seem only just that the government do something to resolve the situation.

But here's the crowning irony. Quebec has only 130 tobacco growers, compared to Ontario's 1700. The Quebec industry is really miniscule compared to this area's.

There was scarcely a murmur of sympathy for tobacco farmers — or the Ontario tobacco belt — last week when the disastrous crop agreement was announced.

But on the weekend the federal government announced \$8.5 million in aid to Quebec tobacco farmers — \$65,000 per farmer.

If Ontario tobacco farmers were to receive the same amount per farmer as their Quebec counterparts, the government would be giving them more than \$100 million dollars.

But as far as I know the federal government hasn't extended a dime's worth of aid to this region in the wake of last week's crop agreement.

The generous offer to help Quebec tobacco farmers develop alternate crops only adds insult to injury as far as Ontario growers — and the tri-county region generally — are concerned.

And if you want to look at it in political terms, it's ironic that this region has consistently voted Progressive Conservative for decades, while Quebec has voted Liberal just as consistently.

So who got help from the Progressive Conservative federal government in their hour of need?

I leave the reader to draw his own conclusions.

a bank overdraft caused by the support program in 1962 obligating Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board to purchase unsold flue-cured tobacco. A farmers' levy of more than \$3-million was also lost.

About 60 per cent of Ontario's flue-cured tobacco has been planted.

Miss Irene Bednarz, daughter of Mrs. Barbara Bednarz, has graduated with a BA degree from the University of Western Ontario.

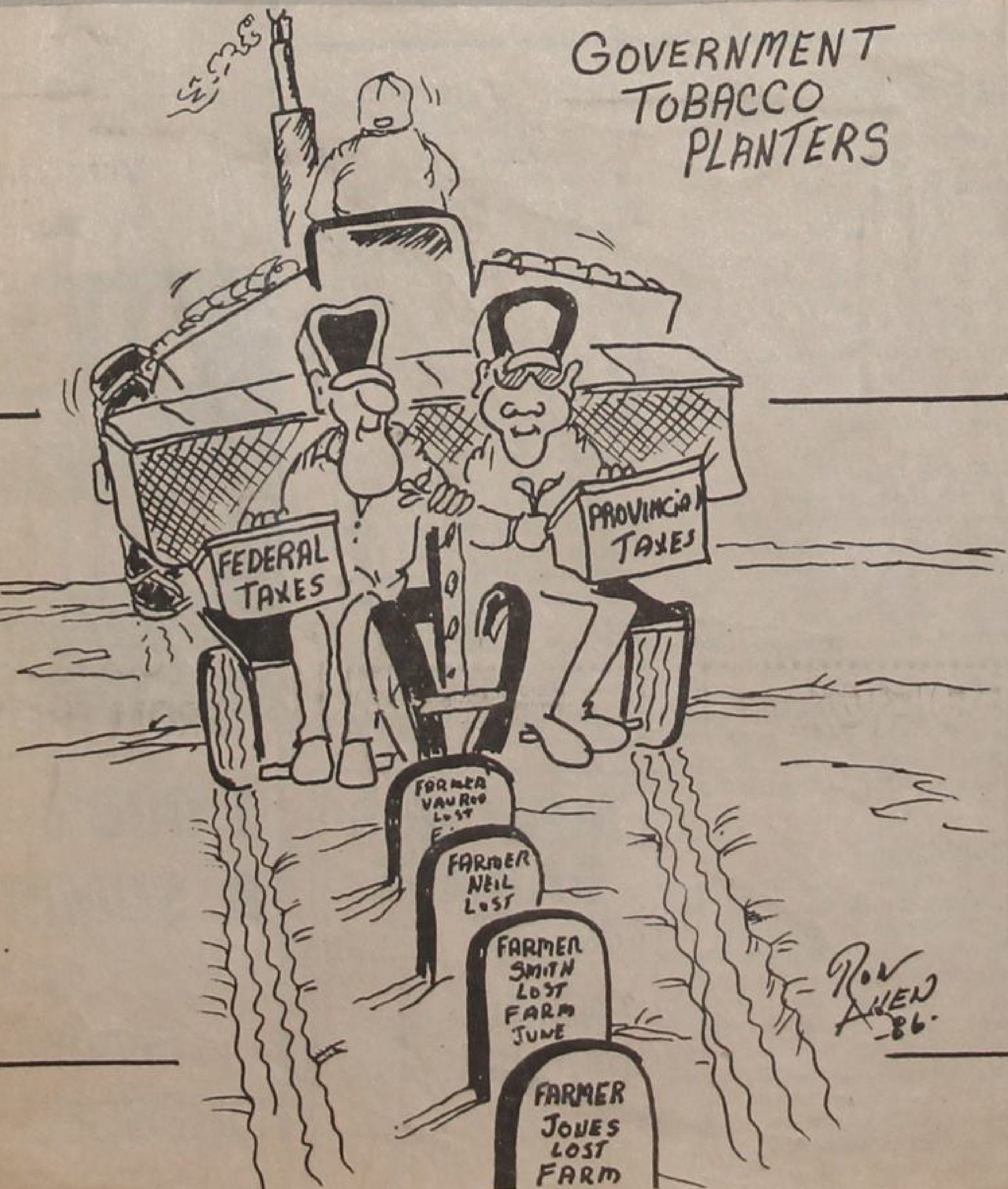
Official opening and blessing of Our Lady of LaSalette Separate School was observed. The combined Roman Catholic Separate School Board of South Norwich and Windham came into being on January 1, 1966. The trustees consist of Mrs. Wallace Byer, chairman; Donald Schooley, Roger Adam, George Devos, Wilfrid Heyens and school administrator, Mrs. Albert Pottelberg.

That during the week of June 4, 1966:

Frank Ebdon, Delhi war veteran, has been invited to be official buglar for a pilgrimage to Tokyo, Japan, of Canadian War Veterans of Hong Kong.

Ontario Government has paid \$600,000 against

GOVERNMENT TOBACCO PLANTERS



Tobacco farmers to grow more

NC JUNE 4

By MARLENE OF DECAM

It appears as if Ontario tobacco producers will be growing more than the 115-million-pound target set by the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board in mid-May.

While board members were not available to comment on the expected production increase at press time this morning, Elaine Lawson, special assistant to federal Agriculture Minister John Wise,

confirmed there is good news pending on the tobacco front.

In a telephone interview this morning, Ms. Lawson said the federal and provincial governments have agreed to allow tobacco board Chairman Berry Murray to show the 23 million pounds of surplus tobacco from the 1985 crop to both domestic and export buyers.

The government is predicting a short fall in funding of between \$4

million and \$6 million resulting from the difference between the lower international price of the crop and the domestic price if a portion of the surplus is sold on the export market.

The two levels of government have agreed to jointly guarantee a loan to the tobacco board to supply the buy-down funding and will pay the interest on the loan. The federal government's share of the interest payments will come from the ap-

proximately \$30 million set aside in the last budget for an aid package for struggling flue producers, according to Ms. Lawson.

The principal, she said, will be repaid through a producer levy of 1/4 cents a pound.

Ms. Lawson explained the new deal, ironed out with the board in London last Friday, was struck in an effort to expand the 1986 crop size from 115 million to 130 million pounds. The concern was that the small crop initially targeted for would not provide export buyers with a sufficiently attractive leaf mix, thus discouraging their participation in the 1986 market, she said.

Sale of the surplus tobacco on the export market will render the tobacco board's agreement with the federal government under the Agricultural Products Co-operative

Marketing Act null and void. The agreement had stipulated the surplus tobacco purchased with funds guaranteed under the act would be sold on the domestic market or through an export consortium to ensure producers would receive the \$1.65 a pound price also stipulated in the agreement.

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15 million pound increase added to 1986 tobacco crop

DN JUNE 4

By Dave MacLaren
Staff Writer

Interest-free loans jointly provided by the Provincial and Federal Governments triggered a decision by Tobacco Board directors to increase the 1986 marketable allotment to 130 million pounds at a meeting in Tillsonburg Saturday evening. The vote was 13-2.

Board Vice-Chairman Richard Bozek said 15 million pounds was added to the production target essentially to "maintain existing export customers. Since it will be sold under minimum grade prices set at a \$1.20 average to compete on the international market, it will be of very little financial benefit to growers."

"Most farmers' cost of production isn't much below this. We can't continue on this basis forever, but

there was a lot of concern a 115 million pound crop would scare export buyers away."

He commended Minister of Agriculture John Wise and Ontario Minister of Agriculture and Food Jack Riddell for the roles they played in arranging the loans last week.

"The loans will allow us to price the 1985 crop pack at the average (\$1.20) export price. We'll also be able to renew the Agricultural Products Co-operative Marketing Act for the 1986 crop to remove allocated tobacco. Under these circumstances, both Governments requested us to supply the demand of manufacturers and leaf dealers for 130 million pounds."

Mr. Bozek said the principal on the loan will be paid back over five years by a levy producers will pay. "It depends on when and to whom the tobacco is sold (export or domestic),

but our current estimates suggest the levy will range from a minimum of one-third of a cent to less than one cent per pound."

He believes over half the 33 million pound pack can be sold this month; now it can be offered to export buyers as well as domestic manufacturers. Bids on portions of the pack will be opened June 6.

If it is sold mainly to export buyers, Mr. Bozek said it is highly unlikely growers will receive anything more for the 1985 crop. On the other hand, he said sale of the pack for domestic usage would likely constrict domestic leaf requirements from crops commencing in 1987.

To maintain competitive export prices on the upcoming crop, he said the APCMA program will be based on \$1.20. Chairman Berry Murray was

(continued on page 2)

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in Ottawa on Monday for preliminary discussions with Agriculture Canada officials about terms and conditions of the 1986 program.

Mr. Bozek said, based on discussions with Mr. Wise last week, he is confident costs related to processing and interest charges can be arranged so that growers can anticipate an average price of about \$1.67, excluding premiums received on auction floors. The tentative average price for the 115 million pounds was estimated at \$1.73 1/2, excluding premiums. Growers in other provinces are guaranteed \$1.84 a pound for their upcoming crops.

Mr. Murray was present for a press conference in Tillsonburg Monday afternoon, where he and Mr. Bozek outlined the situation. They described the increase in marketable quota as a holding action, until some better mechanism such as an export consortium can be developed.

"It's still a very small crop and it's a risky business. It costs growers over \$2,000 an acre to grow it," he said.

While pleased the loans were sanctioned, Mr. Murray says terms governing the 1986 crop fall a long way short of what is needed. If the 1985 pack can be sold immediately at roughly a 30-70 per cent domestic-export ratio, he expects about \$2-million to \$3-million in loans will be required.

Costs related to marketing a small crop might have a larger impact than paying loan principal off.

"The Board has to take a close look at operating costs," he said. While it will be a Board decision, Mr. Murray said directors will have to consider such things as closing one or two of

the auction exchanges and the number of people elected to the Board.

To increase the marketable target by 15 million pounds, directors opted to issue a 13.04 per cent supplementary quota to active producers on June 21. Those growing crops will receive this additional allotment above the allotment issued for 115 million pounds. Those renting out quota or cash renting their quota and land will only have allotments based on a 115 million pound crop.

Rentals within the quota pool closed at 5 p.m. Monday. People who opted to rent quota out or deposit a certified cheque to rent quota from the pool prior to the announcement of the 15 million pound increase on Sunday did not have an opportunity to withdraw from their decisions.

Mr. Murray explained that the quota pool was being run by a firm of independent accountants and could not be tampered with. Moreover, he said directors agreed the pool had to be closed because transplanting was so far advanced. Board staff expected to be able to announce the percentage of quota available in the pool to rent in on Tuesday. The deadline for filing cash rental agreements and quota rentals within families is June 20.

Mr. Bozek and Mr. Murray said they had already caught flack from people renting quota out who feel the supplementary quota increase is discriminating against them.

"It was a tough decision, not something anyone on the Board enjoyed. There is some unfairness in the whole thing," Mr. Murray agreed when asked about the time element.

Farmer's charitable donation draws criticism from bank

T.N. JUNE 16

The needy appreciated the generous donation of potatoes by a Langton area farmer to a London food bank last week but his own lending institution was less than impressed by his act of charity.

Leslie Fekete donated between 100,000 and 150,000 pounds of potatoes to the food bank after a contract to sell the 1985 crop fell through. Mr. Fekete made the decision to give the potatoes away because he had no other market for them and no cooler for storage. His only other option would have been to spread them on the fields as manure, he said.

The potatoes arrived at the London food bank last Sunday and Monday night. By Tuesday they were all bagged and ready for distribution, said Betty Dan, food bank director.

Mrs. Dan said a London company donated materials such as twine, skids and bags while volunteers, including students from two London high schools, turned out to lend a hand with the bagging.

The response from the people of London was tremendous, she said, adding there just aren't enough words to thank them.

But Mr. Fekete's bank was less than thrilled by his act of charity. Learning of the donation through media reports, Mr. Fekete said the

bank sent a letter to him, saying in effect that it was all well and good to be charitable but what about his bills.

The farmer grew 10 acres of potatoes last year but he said he was unable to sell them because the market was flooded with cheap imports. Mr. Fekete blames the government for allowing the imports in and for not supplying potato farmers with price supports. In his opinion, the government doesn't give a hoot about agriculture.

This year, Mr. Fekete is planting only four acres of potatoes and is growing some tomatoes for the fresh market. He said he wasn't sure how he would make out financially with the crops.

A former tobacco farmer until he was wiped out in a blue mould epidemic in 1979, Mr. Fekete now wonders why he turned to vegetables as an alternative crop and said he wishes now he never had.

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Quota pool under fire from

T.N. June 6

By MARLENE OPDECAM

Recent Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board policies and decisions were labelled as "socialistic" and the growers under the board's control as "no better off than the people in Russia" by some of the growers attending a District 5 information meeting held in Otterville Wednesday night.

The tobacco farmers on hand for the information meeting had a number of gripes about the board to air before their director George Demeyere. High on the list were complaints about the board's decision to implement a quota rental pool at a fixed price and to allot quota for the 15 million pound crop increase to active producers only.

Mr. Demeyere told farmers he

had voted against implementing the pool. It was a dismal failure and a mistake he said he hoped would never happen again. Final tally on transactions through the pool showed 1,048 farmers applying to rent in 44 million pounds of quota with only 137 applying to rent out 3.4 million pounds of quota. As a result, farmers trying to rent in through the pool received only 7.7 per cent of their requested amounts.

District 5 committeeman Judy Fulop requested full disclosure on the amount of quota applied for and received by tobacco board directors. Several farmers in the audience requested disclosure on all transactions through the pool.

Asked how much quota he had

received through the pool, Mr. Demeyere made it clear he had not rented through the pool but had cash rented a neighboring farm as he has done in past years. He added he would take the growers' requests for disclosure to the board but said he couldn't guarantee results.

According to Mr. Demeyere, farmers trying to rent in through the pool can expect to have the unspent portion of their certified cheques returned early next week.

Mr. Demeyere made it clear he had also been opposed to allotting the 15 million pounds of supplementary quota to active producers only, particularly because a number of farmers renting out this year were not habitual renters and because the decision came after the pool was in-

itiated. Referring to the "free quota" to active producers, he described it as "the most irresponsible thing the board has done in 28 years."

Cracks in board unity were readily apparent as Mr. Demeyere frequently referred to the board as they instead of we. Asked who they were, he said they were the new guys on the board.

Farmers also questioned board expenditures, expense accounts and the costs of what many appeared to feel were an excessive number of meetings and the directors' lack of accountability regarding their expenditures. "This board spends foolish money," one farmer declared. Another indicated there

were 15 directors too many. "We can't afford you any more," he said.

Outlining details of the yet unsigned crop agreement and its probable effect on the 1986 market, Mr. Demeyere said he feels it is vitally important to have a 130 million pound crop. Averaging out the \$1.84 per pound for the 77 million pounds of domestic tobacco and \$1.20 over the remainder of the target, he said farmers could expect a guaranteed average price of \$1.67 plus premiums which could raise the ante to approximately \$1.72 per pound.

Repayment of a proposed interest-free loan from the two governments for the sale of the 22-23 million pound pack from the 1985 crop will likely

knock up to one cent a pound for the next five years off that total. If all three warehouses are kept open farmers' marketing fees could be around three cents, Mr. Demeyere said.

Referring to the crop arrangement, he said the board would be using \$5 million gleaned from grower hold-backs on the 1985 crop to move the pack plus the loan which is amortized over a five year period. The director said he looks at the arrangement as paying an insurance premium to move the millstone of the 23 million pound pack from around farmers' necks. Doing so could mean a good chance farmers will be able to grow more than 130 million pounds in 1987, Mr. Demeyere said.

Bowing out

I am totally baffled why my fellow tobacco farmers are so gracefully bowing out of this industry after generations and generations on the same farm, building a better future for their children, constantly updating and renovating farms beyond recognition, over years and years of toil.

As of 1979, any retirement fund they may have had was needed for expenses. Twenty years ago, a couple could sharegrow for three to four years and put a down payment on their own farm. Now they're lucky if they make enough money for their family to live on for the year. Lately, most farmers just go deeper and deeper in debt, hoping it will get better. Meanwhile, they can't afford to quit growing because the mortgage they would carry with them would take a lifetime of carrying a lunch pail to pay off.

Now, the tobacco board cuts our acreage so low that we can't afford to grow. Or they can't come through with a decent guarantee and the bank says — no go! And what do the farmers do? **They give up.**

Sure it's really depressing. You feel like giving up. The whole world is against you. But how can you do this? There's no unemployment benefits. Your retirement fund that you worked for all your life is gone. The job that you might be able to do has been given to the poor guy down the road who worked for you for the past 10 years.

A small group of tobacco farmers running our Tobacco Board also grew tobacco when there was money to be made (even reaching its peak), right along with rest of us, reaping in the profits. Now, as I understand it, very few are growing and suffering right along with us, now that the market is deteriorating. Shouldn't this tell us something?

They put us off with promises and make us wait until it's too late to do anything about it. And we accept that.

They promise us a National Marketing Agency but only start applying pressure when the market is ready to open for sales (1985). This was after growing all season with **no** guarantee. Then they convince everyone to go for a consortium. Did everyone know what they were getting into? Did we know we would probably never see the 11¢ a pound we sacrificed just to get rid of our crops?

(continued on page 13)

Did we know it was a three year deal? I guess it must of all been there in fine print somewhere, so again, we accepted this!

Then we get the news a guarantee on crops is established, 80 million pounds — BIG DEAL! But they will allow us to grow 115 million pounds with another 15 million added later. Another BIG DEAL! The guarantee which the bank needs to endorse operating loans still remains at 80 million pounds. On top of this, we only receive 7.7 per cent of the extra quota which we applied for. We have to accept this, once again.

So who elected these people? We did. And who elected the people in Ottawa who just recently nailed **only** us again in the latest budget? We did!

Then they let these non-smoker groups condemn us for second-hand smoke, due to surveys taken in the heart of smog cities such as Hamilton, Toronto and Montreal. They ban our advertising, especially on athletic dealings. I find this confusing. How many people died or killed someone else because they drove after smoking too many cigarettes? Yet they allow people to drink and make fools of themselves, or go home and beat up their wives or grab and maul our children while shouting obscenities. This is fine as long as they don't drive after three drinks. It's fine that every third commercial on prime-time TV is alcoholic. And every issue of MacLeans has a full page about whiskey.

Why are we so different from other countries producing tobacco? In Zimbabwe, their market opened with an average price of \$2.42 Canadian, compared to \$1.39 Canadian last year. This is almost double. What is our Board doing wrong? I would suggest they find out what the Zimbabwean Board does to be able to reach such an increase.

Or you don't even have to go that far. Take Quebec, for instance. They had no problem selling their tobacco as usual. They had their guarantee long before planting. And now, the Government gives them \$8-million for alternate crop research. This was all done with no Tobacco Board.

Tobacco farmers are such a proud lot that they do bow out gracefully. Watching their farm deteriorate, their family crumble and their minds sink deeper and deeper into depression. Where's your pride now? When the going gets tough — **THE TOUGH GET GOING!**

Factory workers don't quit when they get a cut in pay or their benefits reduced. There's no way they would settle for half wage. Or after 30 years of work, explain to that factory worker he has no pension. They won't stand for this.

Why can't we farmers let Ottawa know that we won't stand for the way we are being treated. Let's do it now before we are put off (once again) with the summer recess.

Why do we pay a group of Board members to continue living high, travelling on our money and doing nothing but making matters worse? Do we really need a Board?

Rothmans is another reason we are in this predicament, but has anyone attempted to combat this? People in our own area are still smoking Rothmans, Number 7 etc. instead of the cheaper Benson & Hedges and Peter Jacksons. How can we expect people all over Canada to support us when people in our own area don't. The people around here in every occupation will suffer along with us if this industry fails. So why aren't they backing us up?

Instead they are saying "It's about time these farmers got knocked down a notch." I think it's very selfish and inconsiderate of them. After all, when one of them would suddenly find themselves unemployed, we farmers would be the first to jump to the rescue and offer them a job until something better came along. Now we are told because they are collecting unemployment, they can't afford to work for us. What kind of Government allows this to happen? It isn't fair.

All of the above has been haunting me for a very long time as I know it has other farmers too. I hope that it will encourage farmers to join together and "**get some positive response**" for a change. I hope farmers will contact their area representatives or someone else they feel may be a good speaker and leader to start "**Standing Up for What is Rightfully Ours!**"

S. Ethier
Simcoe, Ontario

Copies to:
The Citizen (Ottawa)
The Hamilton Spectator
The Toronto Star
Hon. Jack Riddell (Min. of Agriculture and Food)
Gordon Miller (MPP Haldimand-Norfolk)

Tobacco lack blasted

TOBACCO

If governments and tobacco companies would let flue-cured tobacco growers produce enough leaf to meet market demand, hundreds of farmers could still be growing tobacco this year.

Reports in big city dailies say tobacco farmers are suffering the inevitable that comes when millions of health-conscious Canadians butt out.

But Canadians haven't stopped smoking. Over the counter domestic cigarette tobacco sales are down only seven per cent from 1980.

Exports have dropped, but not irretrievably. Last spring, tobacco companies asked Ontario farmers to grow just 135 million pounds because exports had slumped so badly.

The tobacco marketing board went out on a limb, asking farmers to grow 170

million pounds. And so many export buyers came to the Ontario auctions that 12 million pounds of the board's 35 million pound gamble has already been sold. Almost all of the remaining 23 million should also be headed overseas soon.

Explains tobacco board vice-chairman Richard Bozek: "Many countries are starting to think they turned away from Canada too quickly."

Tobacco multinationals were boosting production of cheap leaf in Brazil. But Brazil's quality is proving unreliable, and this year's crop is being called a disaster.

Zimbabwe has been aggressively grabbing Canada's traditional export markets too. Yet with South Africa's bombing of Zimbabwe's capital city, more buyers appreciate Canada's political stability.

Even so, Ontario's 1986 crop target is just 130 million pounds, hardly half the 238 mil-

lion pounds tobacco companies asked farmers to grow in 1981.

"We should be on a roll and expanding production," complains Otterville tobacco grower Hugh Zimmer.

Zimmer blames Rothman's, the only one of Canada's four tobacco companies that has refused to join in a board-company consortium to move more Ontario leaf overseas. Without Rothmans, the consortium is dead.

Zimmer blames governments too, first for not forcing Rothmans to co-operate, and second for not channelling part of their huge tobacco tax income back to farmers so they could cut the price of export leaf.

Meanwhile, the board is waiting for statistics showing how many tobacco farmers have been forced out of business this year.

Up to 900 of Ontario's 1,700 quota-holding tobacco farmers

may have stopped growing flue. Most of the 800 share-growers who don't own quota have already been forced out.

And Zimmer says many farmers who've stayed with tobacco this year are risking everything. "When you see just two people on a two-row planter, you know it's because the farmer doesn't have enough money to hire four," Zimmer says.

Many of those farmers won't have enough money to harvest their crops because bank credit has dried up. Cash costs for growing tobacco top \$2,000 per acre.

In Ottawa, compensation is a hot topic. Meetings started last June to decide how to go about helping farmers survive the loss of tobacco. Now two committees of politicians are reviewing the issue. At least one group of civil servants is doing the same. But there's been no progress.



Export demand rises

"We've lost all faith in government," Zimmer says.

And to farmers who think tobacco's worries are unique, Zimmer warns: "It's a much bigger problem than that. What we're seeing is that our urban-oriented governments aren't willing to help farmers. Sooner or later that's going to hurt us all."

Broccoli to replace tobacco?

By ANNE DOES

Township of Norwich Chamber of Commerce were told to form a "think tank," to attract new industry and strengthen existing businesses, June 10, by Mr. Frank Palmer of the federal Department of Regional and Industrial Expansion.

Palmer also suggested farmers grow broccoli instead of relying solely on tobacco crops.

"...with tobacco use declining, and I am only one of millions who have made that decision to preserve my health and abandon the chain-smoking image to one of improved

cardio-vascular fitness and running, it is obvious that an alternate crop for growing is essential. Today's trend seems to be towards broccoli, and if this is indeed a viable crop as

could be tested by such authorities as Dr. Johnson of the Delhi Research Foundation, then your think tank should be vocalizing, "How do I go about this?"

Palmer said John Wayne and Frank Shuster could be used to advertise and promote broccoli because they "currently have a TV commercial for a cereal which is a satire on broccoli."

Actually it was the Smothers Brothers—not Wayne and Shuster—who appeared in the cereal commercial.

In addition to assistance with financing, Palmer also said the federal government is able to assist with marketing on both domestic and international levels.

Palmer also suggested hiring an economic development officer and establishing a public relations office to advertise Norwich's strengths to the "general public and potential business investors."

Wrong meeting?

NORWICH — Tobacco Board Vice-Chairman Richard Bozek of RR 4, Brantford must have felt he'd walked into the wrong meeting last week as he listened to the virtues of giving up smoking on health grounds.

Right off the bat, during introduction of Norwich Township Chamber of Commerce's keynote speaker, Mayor John Heleniak pointed out that Frank Palmer had quit smoking six years ago, when labelled a heavy chain smoker, to redesign his life with a fitness regimen.

Beyond this, at the start of a question-and-answer session,

Chamber member Jim Butler, interested in alternative crops for tobacco growers, recalled he'd seen "the light" many years ago, giving up smoking for health reasons.

Undeterred, Mr. Bozek replied later that the area's flue-cured tobacco industry won't be "eliminated," as potential large-scale markets exist in the Far East for high quality tobacco.

Delhi Research Station Director Dr. Wade Johnson flatly stated to the audience not to "write tobacco off too fast . . . it'll be with us for a good many years," adding exports offer opportunities for its continued existence.

Zimmer wins battle with Globe and Mail

By Dave MacLaren
Staff Writer

DN June 25
Otterville area tobacco farmer Hugh Zimmer is a determined man.

Not satisfied by the Globe and Mail's responses to his complaints about an article published last February under the headline "Pesticides still used on tobacco plants despite health risks," he took his argument to the Ontario Press Council.

Yesterday the Council upheld Mr. Zimmer's complaint.

The Feb. 28 Globe and Mail article, said to be based on confidential letters written by Health and Welfare Canada personnel, dealt with the use of Ridomil and Dithane M-45 to combat blue mold.

The frightening opening paragraph of the story reported: "Two potentially dangerous pesticides are being used on Canadian tobacco, despite a warning in 1981 from the Department of Health and Welfare that they pose unknown health risks and should not be used..." Not until mid-way through the lengthy article was it mentioned that there is virtually no need to apply Ridomil on fields.

Mr. Zimmer wrote a protesting letter to the editor. An abbreviated version was published. On March 21, the Globe and Mail acknowledged the article contained errors, claiming incorrect information had been received from Agriculture Canada. The correction noted Dithane M-45 had never been approved for field use in Canada.

The Delhi Research Station had not been asked for any information prior to publication of the story. Upon its release, Station Director Dr. Wade Johnson rebutted several of the assertions it contained.

Mr. Zimmer contacted the Press Council, listing five Globe and Mail articles, which he described as either sloppy reporting or bias that occurred "continually in articles relating to tobacco growers." He said the pesticides article was the most serious of the five.

The Globe and Mail contended that Mr. Zimmer's letter, as published, addressed all his specific complaints. It said factual errors occurred because a federal official gave the reporter erroneous information, but this was dealt with in the correction.

The Press Council did not agree. Its adjudication reads:

"The Globe and Mail story Feb. 28 contained two significant errors that the newspaper corrected March 21. Both errors affected the entire impression conveyed by the headline, 'pesticides used on tobacco despite health risks,' and by the theme emphasized in the opening paragraph of the story which proclaimed that 'two potentially dangerous pesticides are being used in Canadian tobacco fields.'

"The Council recognizes that the source for the story gave The Globe and Mail the erroneous information, but it also believes that the correction was too little and too late.

"It was too little because it dealt only with the errors of fact and did nothing to offset the impression created by the headline and the story theme. Pesticides that were 'potentially dangerous' Feb. 28 became simple pesticides by March 21.

"The newspaper attributed the delay in publishing the correction to the reporter's absence on holidays. The Council believes that, instead of waiting, The Globe and Mail should have assigned someone else to make a determined effort to check the facts as soon as it received the complainant's letter.

"In these respects the complaint is upheld."

Farm income

The Agricultural council of Ontario released a 266-page report on the incomes of Ontario farmers and their families at a news conference last week.

"The Council's report presents detailed statistics on the changing structure of agriculture and its effect on farmers and their families," said Council Chairman Delbert O'Brien.

Among the findings of the report was that 30 per cent of Ontario's farmers generate 84 per cent of the province's food production. These farms, described as commercial scale farms (sales of more than \$50,000) in the report, command 60 per cent of the farm assets but also account for 80 per cent of farm debt.

"It is these farmers and their families whose incomes have been most squeezed by the down-turn in commodity prices and persistently high interest rates," said Mr. O'Brien.

"Popular statistics on farm families include a large number of families who do not look to farming for more than a small portion of their income. These families, in fact, enjoy a level of income that is higher than urban families. For those who look to farming as the major source of income, the situation is not rosy," he said.

He said among families whose major source of income is farming, there are enormous disparities — 29 per cent earned less

than \$10,000 in 1980 of whom one-third reported zero or negative total income. At the other end of the scale, 35 per cent earned more than \$25,000.

"The council is deeply concerned about the plight of the low-income commercial farmers and their families," said Mr. O'Brien.

A study of 93 sample commercial farms commissioned by the Council shows that the operating income generated by these farms was substantially lower than what their operators could have earned off the farm in wages alone. In addition, their equity in the farm would have earned substantial dividends had they been invested in the non-farm sector. In recent years, farm land values have declined by more than 10 per cent or approximately \$3-billion. The Council is of the opinion that the Canadian economic environment, particularly high interest rates, is especially hard on agriculture.

The 13-member Agricultural Council of Ontario was established in 1984 to provide regular and independent appraisals of agricultural issues for the minister of agriculture and food.

Agriculture and Food Minister Jack Riddell commenting on the report said, "I am pleased to have this information available and I will be considering it in developing programs and policies for agriculture in Ontario."

New farm group created

A newly formed group, the Catholic Rural Life Ingersoll Deanery, established last week in Delhi, didn't waste any time before passing a motion requesting an immediate moratorium on all farm foreclosures and debt by all financial lending institutions.

Immediately after its inception last Wednesday, the group prepared an official statement asking banks to adopt a moral and Christian attitude in their dealings with farmers in financial difficulties.

Money to continue farming and harvesting crops should also be made available to farmers, the statement continued.

Members of the group, representing 15 parishes in the tobacco belt, plan to bring this resolution to the provincial agricultural directors at Canada's five chartered banks.

The group evolved from a gathering held at the St. John Brebeuf Church about two weeks ago.

It has been set up as a wing of the Catholic Rural Life Conference which operates out of London Diocese. Showing the church cares about rural people's problems and preserving the family farm are some of the aims of the five-year old conference.

Tobacco will remain a necessary industry

TN July 21

By SUZANNE STOOP

In spite of the demand for new agricultural commodities around the world, tobacco will remain a necessary crop and tobacco research at the Delhi Research Station will be maintained "to service this fine agricultural industry," said Dr. Jean-Jacques Cartier, director general of Ontario's Agriculture Canada Research Branch when he addressed the 53rd annual tobacco field day at the station last Wednesday.

"Tobacco is still the most important crop to the treasury of Canada," he said, noting it is more important than all the wheat grown in Canada because it generates more in taxes.

The research program has been caught in the budgetary restrictions imposed by the government and "until these restrictions are lifted we will not be able to outdo much more than we have done lately," he said. "But...within not too many months you will see some rehiring of people here at Delhi station and the wheels will start to turn again."

Because of the revenue the tobacco industry has generated for the federal treasury, the government is

developing assistance programs for those who want to make the transition into "other activities," Mr. Cartier said, although he would not elaborate on those programs.

The declining tobacco industry has provided the government's research branch with a new set of challenges "for which we were not totally prepared but for which we are now really gearing up for and to which we will dedicate the appropriate resources," he said, referring to the efforts to develop alternate crops.

He stressed the achievements of research conducted in the past at the Delhi station, noting the results of its research helped eradicate Canadian dependence on imported tobacco. It also helped develop an integrated pest management program that allows Canadians to grow tobacco with a minimum amount of insecticides, fungicides and chemicals.

"We know Canadian tobacco is the safest in the world because it contains the least amount of those so-called residues," Mr. Cartier said, stressing the station intends to carry on and progress.

"Research will produce things unimaginable today," he said.

Tobacco industry at

T.N. July 18

By SUZANNE STOOP

The tobacco industry is at a crossroads — a crossroads that will see many producers forced off the farm. But Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board chairman, Berry Murray, told producers attending the board's annual meeting in Delhi Wednesday that the board isn't about to sit back quietly and let the industry fade away.

"We will do everything we can to obtain a compensation package that will aid growers and the community as a whole," the chairman told the

roughly 700 growers attending the meeting at the Delhi auction exchange.

"We have got to keep going back to the government until they realize that what is being done to this community is unacceptable in a democracy," he said.

"We're faced with people being forced off the farm without compensation because of government attitudes toward our product," Mr. Murray said, adding he has never seen an industry take as vast a blow as the tobacco industry has.

The tobacco industry generates twice as much in tax revenue for the governments than is spent on the entire provincial agriculture budget so there's no reason some of that can't be pumped back into the communities being affected by the decline in the industry, he said.

"If we can get the co-operation of everyone in the industry, there's an awful lot we can solve on our own. But we still have to go to government for some type of compensation for taxes," Mr. Murray said.

As long as tobacco is a legal pro-

duct, it's entitled to the same support given to other commodities, he said, noting it isn't fair that wheat producers can have a two-price export system but tobacco can't; milk producers can get government subsidies but tobacco producers can't and it's unfair for the government to pump \$50 million into the red meat industry through the red meat plan when it won't give the tobacco industry the same treatment.

He also said it isn't fair that other commodities can have national agencies to market their product but

the same right is denied to the tobacco industry.

"I never realized how helpless the farm groups are until I got involved in this battle," the board chairman said. "All the laws available to help farmers are not given to them by the bureaucrats."

He asked what the board can do when it goes to government with the support of three of the tobacco manufacturers, representing 80 per cent of the business, to ask the government to put levy powers in place giving the board the authority to run an export program "and we

still haven't been given that authority."

Mr. Murray said the board and the producers have to be determined enough to stick together and fight for the compensation and the powers they need.

"As a board and a community we must work hard to be treated equitably," he said, and "what will make it work is our ability to do it together."

"We are a minority group and we will have to be tough and unified...to get through this thing. If we don't we're all going to lose."

Otterville grower wants South African sanctions

By SUZANNE STOOP

Otterville area tobacco grower Hugh Zimmer wants the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board to consider legal action against the South African-based Rothmans of Pall Mall Canada Ltd. for damages Mr. Zimmer says resulted from the manufacturers' failure to fulfill a December 1985 oral agreement with the board and the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers Council to subsidize the export of Canadian tobacco.

Mr. Zimmer claims Rothmans failed to live up to the oral agreement, accepted by the three other tobacco manufacturers — RJR Macdonald, Benson and Hedges and Imperial. That agreement, he said, would have helped subsidize the export of Canadian tobacco at world prices.

The three other companies, representing 80 per cent of the Canadian market, backed out of the agreement when Rothmans refused to go along, said board chairman

Berry Murray during the annual meeting.

He said the lack of an agreement meant a smaller crop size for producers in terms of their potential. "People in the world want our tobacco but we have to have the co-operation of all four companies to run a successful export program," the board chairman said.

He said the board is already looking at the possibility of litigation.

Mr. Zimmer, in a second resolution presented at the annual meeting, said that in light of the public condemnation of South Africa, the tobacco board should ask the tobacco manufacturers to ban all tobacco imports from South Africa, including those moved through South Africa from other countries such as Zimbabwe.

He pointed out that Rothmans' Canadian operation had continued to import South African tobacco last year, in spite of the Canadian government's move toward trade sanctions against South Africa.

According to the board's annual report, 6,093 pounds of the total 3,474,373 pounds imported were from South Africa, compared with 44,092 pounds imported in 1983.

Mr. Zimmer pointed out that South Africa is the major route for export tobacco coming out of Zimbabwe, suggesting the political upheaval in South Africa could affect the volume of tobacco coming onto the world market. He said the Ontario tobacco board made a serious error by underestimating the potential export sales that could result this year because of the problems in South Africa.

"We could easily have grown 150 million pounds this year," he said, noting the tobacco companies are concerned about whether they can get the tobacco out of South Africa.

"We wouldn't be looking at quite as much compensation if the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Board had looked at the sales potential because of the South African situation," Mr. Zimmer said.

Spring water keeps farm afloat

By MARLENE OPDECAM

There may not be gold in the hills of an RR 2, Otterville farm but there is a wealth of pure spring water. Oscar Lava, tobacco farmer turned entrepreneur, is bottling the sparkling clean natural beverage springing from artesian wells for sale in national and international markets.

To Mr. Lava and his family the water represents the alternate crop which will help keep them afloat financially during the current crisis in the Canadian tobacco industry.

The idea for the new enterprise sprang from a family joke. While irrigating his tobacco crop with the help of his children for the second or third time one year, the kids, sick of the work, suggested he sell the water instead of pumping it onto the fields. At the time, he said, tongue-in-cheek, that if he ever did he'd put their picture on the product label. That long-ago promise has been kept and today his daughters' pictures

are featured on the Lava Spring Water label. Bottling operations got underway in a converted two-car garage on Mr. Lava's home farm last week and containers of Lava Spring Water, bearing the family label, can be found locally in the Tillsonburg IGA, Cowards Drug

Store, Coyle's Products Limited, as well as in Shoppers Drug Marts, independent grocery stores, Niagara Farm Markets and other stores throughout Southwestern Ontario.

Mr. Lava and his family have already bottled and packaged 250 cases of the water in 375 millilitre,

750 millilitre, two-litre and four-litre containers for distribution. The product has been well received by consumers and repeat orders have already begun to trickle in, Mr. Lava said.

Research, to date, he said, has not
(Continued on Page 2)

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been able to locate any other source of water that has or comes even close to the purity of Lava Spring Water which is salt and iron free. Still the entrepreneur admits to being surprised at its excellent reception locally. "I'm surprised that even in the tobacco area with a lot of good water around, my product is moving at such a rapid rate," he commented. The fact the water is salt free is a key-selling point, Mr. Lava added. Bill Skinner, sales manager for Lava Spring Water, said the product should be available nationally in A&P stores by mid-August and negotiations for distribution are on-going with several other large chains. The water is also being tested in Florida, New York, Michigan, Ohio, North Carolina and Niagara on the Lake for purity for potential use in the production of wines. Other sources, including some from outside North America, have also indicated an interest in the Lava product, Mr. Skinner said. "Its market potential is mind-boggling," he commented.

Mr. Lava is also negotiating for contract bottling of private labels.

Because no government funding for the new enterprise has been available to date, Mr. Lava's start up costs had to come from a bank loan. Expansion of his facilities, planned for this fall, will occur only if the government agrees to provide some financial assistance, Mr. Lava said. Right now the bank is the only one helping but there is a limit to that, he said. Expansion is dependent on government assistance.

Mr. Lava feels the fact he is a tobacco farmer has actually hurt his case in his search for government funding. "There wouldn't be any problem if I was a dairy farmer or any other kind of farmer but tobacco farmers are poison in Ontario," he said.

The government, however, has done Mr. Lava at least one favor so far. It will be imposing a federal import tax on bottled water coming into the country. The tax means Mr. Lava's product won't suffer from any unfair competition from cheaper non-Canadian brands.

Commenting on the many frustrations experienced in his 1.5 years of work trying to get his new business established, Mr. Lava said help from Oxford MPP Dick Treleaven and super co-operation from county government helped overcome what sometimes seemed like insurmountable problems. The Ontario Development Corporation and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food were also helpful, he said.

Thanks to that help things are falling into place, Mr. Lava commented.

Future plans for the family-owned and operated enterprise include the introduction of a 10-litre square, centre-handled Texas-style jug dispenser which would be refillable; 375-millilitre bottles of non-juices, and bottled apple juice as well. "We'll slowly introduce other products as market demand indicates, Mr. Lava said.

Mr. Lava said.

When expansion plans become a reality and the family can go into full production, Mr. Lava estimates that by spring he could be trucking between five and nine tractor trailer loads of Lava Spring Water with approximately four of those intended for export. As a result of the increased production, he estimates he may have to hire as many as 27 full-time and part-time employees by next summer.

Area consumers interested in sampling Lava Spring Water will have the opportunity to do so free at the Tillsonburg IGA August 7 through to Aug. 9.

Farming - a history of adjustment

By KEN MAVER

Most historians agree that, when it comes to the economics of farming, the biggest problem is insecurity. Subsequently, the economic history of rural, farming regions has been one of adjustment.

With the decline of the tobacco industry, Tillsonburg and the surrounding tobacco belt is experiencing a major adjustment -- an adjustment that will dramatically change the shape of the area's economy. Although some farmers with the foresight and financial resources have successfully experimented with and marketed on a limited scale alternate crops such as ginseng, most haven't been as fortunate.

Tobacco used to produce more gross income than any other single crop in the province -- an amazing accomplishment considering the leaf is grown on what was previously unproductive sandy soil. Today, due to the drop in demand for Ontario flue-cured leaf, many producers are being forced out of the industry. A well-equipped tobacco farm in the mid 1970s -- when tobacco was a prosperous crop -- could be sold for more than \$1,500 an acre. However, tobacco farms don't command the same price they once did and some farms are being sold today for as little as \$250 an acre.

About 50 years ago the region went through another major adjustment. Prior to 1923, flue-cured tobacco wasn't grown in this area. And the major tobacco belt was about 150 miles west from here near Leamington where farmers had been growing the stronger burley variety since the early 1800s.

The Norfolk sand plain was one of the poorest regions in the country. Pictures from the period show desolate landscapes with undulating sand dunes for as far as the eye can see. Some people have used the

word dustbowl to describe conditions back then. The region -- especially Middleton and Houghton Townships -- was known for its poor land, poor roads and poor homes. Farm abandonment was common. There were few telephones and hydro was almost non-existent. Available employment was working in the bush on the steam engine saw mills or as a farmhand on a farm outside the area. Some oldtimers jokingly refer to moonlighting -- the illicit production of corn liquor -- as the region's major

industry back then.

The credit for transforming the area

Soil fit to grow nothing but tobacco

from one of the poorest in the country to one of the richest belongs to an American expatriate from South Carolina, Henry A. Freeman, a soil specialist with the Domi-

nion Experimental Station in Ottawa had taken soil samples in Norfolk County and determined that the soil was fit to grow nothing but tobacco. In 1922 he planted a small crop of flue-cured tobacco near Lynedoch. The crop proved successful but was destroyed by hail.

The next year he and William Pelton purchased the old Chrysler farm near Delhi for \$20 an acre. Pelton was a fellow American with extensive experience in the

(Continued on Page 3)



Sand plains

The Norfolk sand plains were at one time described as a dust bowl until the flue-cured tobacco industry was established in the area, bringing unparalleled prosperity to the area. The tobacco belt is again undergoing an adjustment with the downsizing of the industry, however, but industry experts are convinced it will survive the crisis.

(Continued from Page 2)

buying end of the industry who had emigrated to Essex County in 1919 where he produced flue-cured tobacco on land leased from area farmers.

When the two men planted 20 acres of tobacco on the farm, the local farmers thought they were crazy. However, when the crop sold for 60 cents a pound and returned about \$27,000, the critics stopped their guffawing and started planting. By 1929 the "green gold rush" was in full swing.

After the successful Chrysler experiment, Mr. Freeman formed Ontario Tobacco Plantations and in the early days was one of the biggest growers in the region with 14 farms.

For comparison purposes, 3,089,400 pounds of tobacco were grown in the province in 1924. By 1977, Norfolk County farmers grew 109 million pounds, Oxford County 20 million pounds and Elgin County 34 million pounds.

Attracted by the low cost of land and the success of the early crops, some tobacco farmers from Essex County began moving into the area by 1926. But the vast majority of tobacco farmers were of European descent. From 1901 to 1921 the population in Southwestern Ontario had been steadily declining. By 1941 the population was back to the 1901 level and rising.

The biggest influx of European immigrants to the tobacco belt came after the Second World War. By 1954, one-third of the population of Norfolk County was of foreign origin. And in 1976 a government study of the region determined that 25 per cent of the tobacco producers were Hungarian, 25 per cent Belgian, 14 per cent English, 11 per cent German, nine per cent Polish, four per cent Irish, four per cent Portuguese and eight per cent classified as other.

The profits that could be made growing tobacco attracted money from financial centres such as Toronto and various tobacco producing companies or sharegrowing farms were formed. Some of the early farms were the Lake Erie Tobacco Company, Hillcrest Farms, The Windham Plantation, The Gregory Farms, The Hemlock Plantations and the St. Williams Plantations.

With absentee ownership, the structure of the tobacco farming industry required managers with a high degree of skill and knowledge of the tobacco plant. And a practical and mutually profitable system of sharecropping developed. Government statistics indicate that in 1971 there were about 12,000 sharegrowers registered with the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board.

Without the contribution of the sharegrowers, some historians argue the growth of the tobacco industry would have been much slower. With a lot of hard work, a competent sharegrower could save enough money to purchase his own farm and many of the most prominent and prosperous tobacco farmers in the district began their careers as sharegrowers. Between 1920-30, about 73 per cent of the farms were worked by sharegrowers. Today, the vast majority of tobacco farms are owned by private individuals.

The early growth of sharecropping was the result of the high initial capital investment required to grow tobacco. Although land was inexpensive, tobacco growers needed specialty equipment to properly grow, harvest and cure the crop. Due to the extreme poverty in the region, many farmers were unable to borrow the needed capital to start their own farms. And growing tobacco is hard work -- with farmers working around the clock during harvest.

Many local farmers were reluctant to get into the back-breaking labor of growing tobacco and to overcome the shortage of labor, corporations hired many immigrants who were willing to work hard to get ahead. Often whole families worked together with the common goal of eventually buying the farm.

Mainly due to the skyrocketing price of tobacco land and rising corporate taxes, the sharecropping plantations declined in importance. It became more profitable to sell the land to private owners -- usually the grower who worked the land. For example, The Lake Erie Tobacco Company -- established in 1927 -- used to own 38 farms. In 1982 the company owned 15 farms and

was considering divesting itself of all but its most profitable tobacco holdings.

Until 1934, with the formation of the Ontario Flue-Cured Marketing Association -- the predecessor to the current marketing board formed in 1957 -- the selling of tobacco was chaotic with abuses on both sides. Buyers complained that growers packed the outside of bales with good tobacco while the inside would contain lower grade leaf. And there are documented reports of buyers demanding sexual favors from the daughters of tobacco growers in exchange for a better price.

Practices such as this led to the formation of a local committee that spearheaded a delegation to Ottawa to appear before the Stevens Committee to Investigate Price Spreads in Farm Products. The delegation was successful, tobacco was put on the agenda and the tobacco marketing association was formed. The marketing board brought stability to the tobacco industry as the amount of tobacco grown was balanced with the requirements of the buyers.

In the early days the major buyers were Imperial of Canada, Canadian Leaf of Tillsonburg, McDonald's, Leamington Tobacco Sales and Ross Leaf. The growth

of the tobacco industry was phenomenal. By 1932 there were 250 farms in the region -- referred to by historians as "the new belt" -- covering about 26,000 acres and producing about 25 million pounds of leaf. But the growth of the industry goes far beyond the producing sector.

In 1931 there were 105 tobacco manufacturing plants in Canada with a capital investment of \$50 million and employing nine million workers. Wages to the tune of \$8 million were paid out and goods worth about \$74 million produced. And the manufacturing companies paid \$37 million in excise duties to the federal government.

The success of the tobacco industry was such that even during the height of the depression, a substantial amount of money was attracted to the area. In 1929 the Imperial Leaf Tobacco company built a plant in Delhi and in 1937 completed a multi-million dollar expansion project. Various tobacco support industries were attracted to the region and the large amount of available capital provided a sound economic base for a variety of unrelated businesses to prosper. This is especially true in Tillsonburg -- the most diversified of all the municipalities in the heart of the tobacco belt.

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Tobacco farmers down but not out

By ELIZABETH LeREVEREND

Tobacco farmers are down, but not out, according to a third-generation Tillsonburg grower.

"Tobacco people are tough," said Ralph Vuylsteke Jr. "We deal with a lot of problems and we'll come out of this. Things will take their course, then gradually get better," he said.

Ralph, 23, and his wife Laurie, live in the house his father and grandfather lived in, near a barn which still bears his grandfather's name, Constant Vuylsteke, the first Belgian immigrant to grow tobacco in this area.

It was 60 years ago that Constant Vuylsteke started farming on Potter's Road, after coming to Canada in 1922. His son Ralph Sr. farmed the land after him and now his grandson has taken over the day-to-day operations with help from Laurie, another third-generation tobacco grower. Tobacco's future looks rocky, but, "It's not completely bleak yet," Ralph said.

"Farming is fun .

It's a good life....

It's never the same"

"Farming is fun," he said. "It's a good life. One day you're a farmer, the next you're a mechanic or welder. It's never the same."

But the financial part of it isn't so much fun anymore.

While the Vuylsteke farm is better off than many - "It's better to be on a farm that's paid for" - its crop has been cut back to 44 acres from 50 just five years ago. And Laurie is taking a business course in London to prepare for an off-farm job, just in case things get worse. But Ralph has faith the industry will survive.

If he had known five or six years ago what the industry would be like today, Ralph said he might not be here. The decline came suddenly, he said, but he plans to stick it out. "I hope to be one of the ones left" when things get better.

"This will make people try harder," he said of the current tobacco problems. They will get tougher because, "You can only kick a dog so long."

While he hesitates to lay blame for the difficulties, Ralph pointed to a mixture of contributing factors, such as health ac-

tivism, a decline in the rural population's political clout, foreign tobacco producers using growing techniques they learned from farmers in this area to sell cut-rate tobacco to international companies and government "taxing the industry out of existence."

Government collects a lot of revenue from tobacco and if the industry goes under, that money will still have to come from somewhere, he said. "Think about that before you try to eliminate us," he advised.

"It's sad" what has happened to others in the tobacco industry, Ralph said. "You have to feel sorry for those people" who have put a whole life's work into tobacco farming and with the stroke of a banker's pen, it is taken away. He doesn't blame any farmers for feeling bitter.

Agriculture as a whole is in decline, Ralph said. Driving around the county, there are many farms for sale and real estate offices have scores of listings for farms. There was a time when farms were worth \$1 million, but now those farms sell for \$350,000, he said.

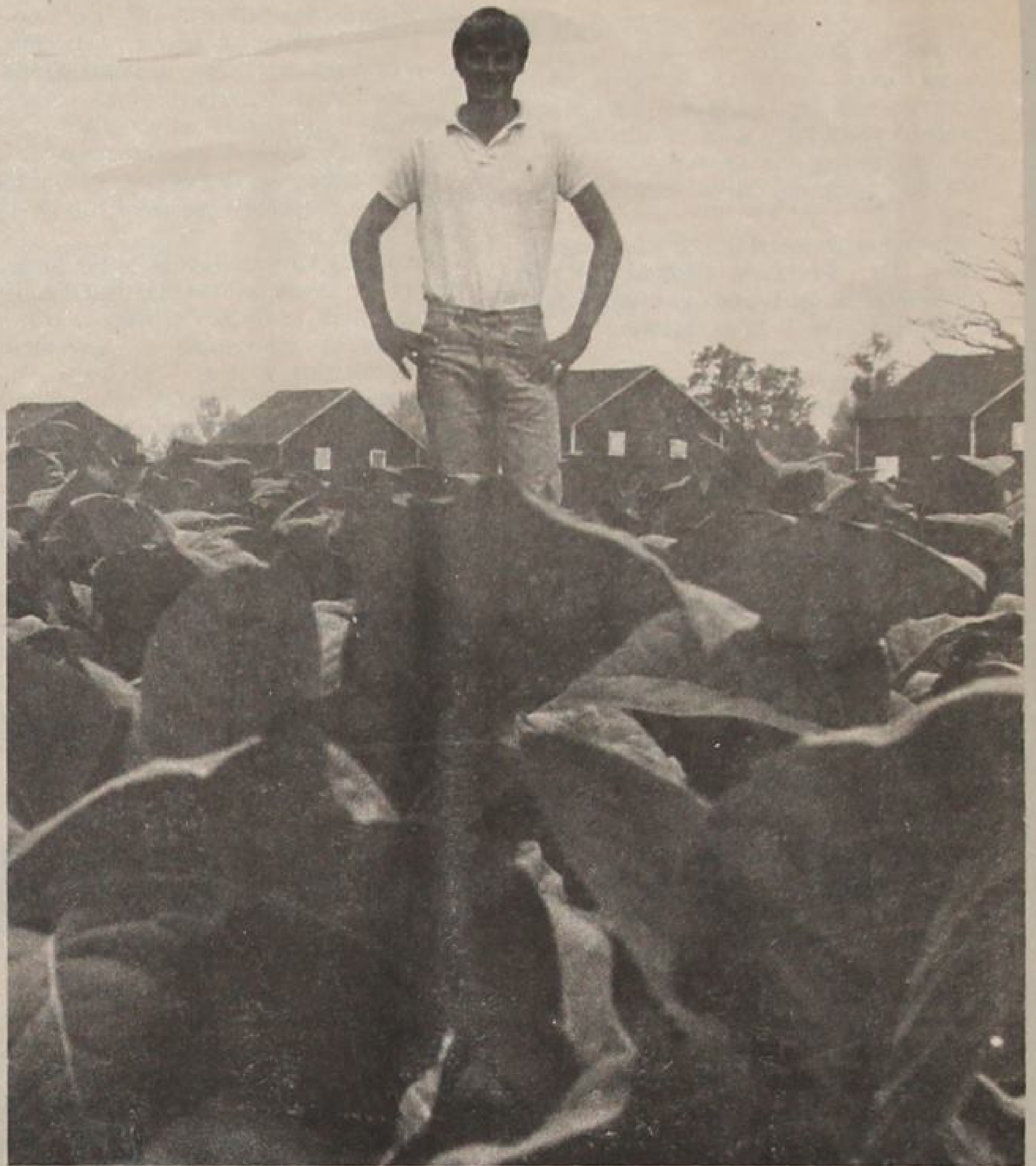
Corn and bean farmers are hurting too, with equipment and chemical costs going up while commodity prices drop or stay the same, Ralph said.

Ralph's father has dabbled in other crops, but found nothing else is worth growing but tobacco. "There's all this talk about diversification, but to what?" he asked. "We can make more money renting out land than by growing soy beans and this sandy soil isn't really good for anything else," Ralph said.

Tobacco earns more per acre than other crops, but requires more work than others, he said. To cut costs, the Vuylstekes are doing more of the work themselves. But that, combined with a shorter season, hurts those who depend on seasonal tobacco work for their income. And it is bound to affect the area's whole economy. A lot of people have put themselves through school, and obtained good jobs because of their work in the industry, Ralph said.

"We're trying to hang on, but we're thinking ahead, too," he said. Like many other farmers, Ralph lays awake at night thinking about the future of his family farm. But "it's not at the panic stage yet."

Ralph assumed things would always stay the same in the tobacco industry and



Not considering other options yet

Tobacco people are tough and will come through the current decline in the industry Ralph Vuylsteke Jr., a third-generation Tillsonburg tobacco farmer believes. The industry's future may look rocky but it isn't completely bleak yet in his opinion. (Staff Photo)

saw his future in farming the same land his father and grandfather had for 60 years. But now he says he wouldn't encourage any of the children he might have to get into farming under the present conditions. If they can't succeed at it, he doesn't want to see them get into tobacco farming.

If the farm's tobacco crop falls to 20 acres, it will be time to seriously consider other options, but Ralph doesn't know what those are yet. Even with its current problems, he still has faith the Ontario tobacco industry will survive and he plans on being among those left when the smoke clears.

CONT'D FROM PAGE

Despite its diversification - the health of Tillsonburg's economy cannot be separated from tobacco. Government statistics show that in 1961, many of Tillsonburg's 23 industries were related to tobacco and the largest employers in town - Canadian Leaf Tobacco Co, RJR McDonald's and Livingstons - employed over 1,000 workers. The head office of the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board and one of the two remaining tobacco auction exchanges (the Aylmer exchange was closed last week) are also major employers. And there are innumerable service industries dependent on the crop.

From the time Henry Freeman planted his first experimental crop near Lynedoch in 1922, the flue-cured tobacco industry grew to the point where 150,000 acres were in production when the industry was at its peak. Peak annual production has been estimated in excess of \$150 million contributing \$500 million annually to the federal coffers through taxation. With the decline of such a profitable industry, it will be decades before the region will enjoy the same degree of prosperity experienced during the height of the "green gold rush."

Tobacco farmers struggle to hold on

By JULIE DAY

Staying afloat as a producer in the declining tobacco industry may be a case of survival of the fittest as farmers attempt to cope with the drastic transformation in the industry over the past five years.

Tobacco board chairman Berry Murray described the 40-million-pound drop in this year's crop size, down significantly from the 170 million pounds grown last year, as

a devastating blow for the industry. And he's estimated that between one-third and one-half the tobacco producers are currently faced with serious financial difficulty.

While impact of the decline has meant some farmers facing serious financial burdens have had to walk away from their farms, others have been able to hold on to the industry that has become a way of life for the 1,700 tobacco producers in the area.

"It's a situation where everyone is trying to survive long enough until we find solutions," Mr. Murray said in a recent interview.

For some farmers, surviving involves combining their resources in an effort to make the harvesting of this year's smaller crop economically feasible.

Otterville area tobacco farmer Ken Mann has been working in tobacco fields since 1941. With the shrinking tobacco

market he was only able to plant a 14-acre crop this year, down from the 22 acres he's grown previous years.

Gilbert Vankerbroeck and his two brothers operate 750 acres of farmland in the Norwich area. They're growing 125 acres of tobacco this year, almost half the 240-acre crop grown last year.

Mr. Mann is sharing farm labor with

(Continued on Page 7)



Reduced acreage

Otterville-area tobacco farmer Ken Mann is growing only 14 acres of tobacco this season, down from the 22-acre crop he's grown in previous years (Staff Photo)

Farmers struggle to stay in industry

(Continued from Page 6)

another tobacco farmer to make harvesting the crop more economical. And some tobacco producers are renting quota from other farmers to make up for their own reduced acreage, while others are combining their operations with other farmers because they can't plant enough to run their own gang.

"I understand that there's been quite a bit of operations joining forces and farmers working together," Mr. Murray said. "They're just trying to hold on."

"Retraining is not a realistic option..."

Tobacco work is the only thing I know."

Holding on is the only alternative, according to Mr. Mann and his wife Catherine. Retraining for a new line of work wasn't a realistic option, according to the 58-year-old farmer. "Tobacco work is the only thing I know," he commented. "At my age, you would never go out and get a job at doing anything else."

The depreciation of the couple's farm, from a value of \$500,000 one decade ago to less than \$100,000 today, eliminated the possibility of selling the operation. "I don't think you could give it away," Mr. Mann said, referring to the 75-acre farm on Highway 59 just outside Otterville.

As tobacco farmers make an exit from the declining industry, area realtors have noticed an increase in the number of farms on the real estate market. But there are few buyers interested in taking possession of the tobacco farms, according to Richard Wood, president of the Tillsonburg and District Real Estate Board.

And producing an alternate crop isn't viable unless there's a market for the product, Mr. Mann said, noting that making a transition to another crop could put pressure on existing producers of that crop. Almost any crop will thrive in the sandy soils, Mr. Vankerbroeck noted, but it may not be possible to sell the crop once it's harvested.

Despite his ability to carry on in the industry, Mr. Mann said his pride in and enthusiasm for tobacco farming has faded. "There's no heart in it," commented Mrs. Mann, adding that this is the first season she hasn't worked in the tobacco fields.

Mr. Vankerbroeck joined his father in the tobacco fields when he was 14. But he said he wouldn't encourage his children to carry on in the family tradition.

For the Manns, the declining industry hasn't created immediate financial hardship since the farm is clear of debt. But frustration and anxiety are beginning to set in.

"My ambition was to be a tobacco farmer," Mrs. Mann said. "That's always been my dream...It took me 25 years to get there and about five years to get out," she said, referring to the reduction in their tobacco farm operation.



Smaller crop

Gilbert Vankerbroeck and his two brothers are growing 125 acres of tobacco this year, almost half the 240-acre crop grown last year. (Staff photo)



Long-time farmer

At age 58, Otterville area tobacco farmer Ken Mann doesn't see retraining for a new career as a realistic alternative. He's been working in the tobacco fields since 1941. "Tobacco is the only thing I know," he said. (Staff photo)

Industry not dead yet

By SUZANNE STOOP

"The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated." Those well-known words uttered by Mark Twain in 1897 could be aptly applied to the Canadian tobacco industry today, in Dr. Wade Johnson's opinion.

While the large tobacco crops of the 1970s are a thing of the past, the director of the Delhi Research Station thinks people are writing off the tobacco industry too soon. The industry is certainly in transition, he said, and it will be downsized in the future with fewer growers producing the crop. But Dr. Johnson is confident the industry will eventually level out and stabilize.

"In my mind the key to where it stabilizes depends on the export market and how we can service it." Cost competitiveness is the key now but "how you become cost competitive is the \$1,000 question," he said.

While the tobacco industry will no doubt survive the blows being dealt it now, the research station is looking at diversifying the agricultural base of the area in an effort to offset the effects of the decline in the industry.

The station was established in 1933 near Delhi to develop the flue-cured tobacco industry in the area. Until 1981, tobacco was really the only crop worked on at the station, Dr. Johnson said. But there was some indication then that the tobacco industry

wouldn't be as strong as it had been so the decision was made to diversify.

Dr. Johnson said most people had watched the increasing momentum of the anti-smoking movement around the world since the late 1970s and they expected a gradual decline in the industry. But, "The big crunch has come much sooner than anyone anticipated," he said. And the research station had no choice but to start looking at diversification of the area's crops.

He said there are a lot of growers out there who will be growing less tobacco that will be looking at alternate crops to work into their rotation that will pay more than rye - particularly those with land and no quota.

"We'll be responding to meet the needs of the farmer," Dr. Johnson said, but that also means looking after the needs of the continuing tobacco farmers.

"As far as I can see, tobacco will still be the main program here (at the research station)," he said. "At this time it's critical that we do maintain the tobacco research." He said the station will concentrate its efforts on developing new varieties, cropping practices and reducing the cost of production for the grower. "Those will be the key areas and I suspect they have always been the key areas."

While he doesn't expect any increased funding for programs at the research sta-

tion, he is hoping the current funding levels can be maintained. And he's confident the research station in Ontario will continue doing tobacco work.

As far as Ontario is concerned, 90 per cent of the crop is grown here so it's the logical place to do the research, he said. The closure of stations in the other tobacco-producing areas, such as the Maritimes, would hurt those areas, he said, as it would be difficult for the Ontario station to service them. But he said the Ontario station's role regarding the other regions has yet to be defined by the government.

*"The money may
as well stay in
the country"*

Dr. Johnson said the alternate crop work at the station is concentrated in several areas, including peanuts, chick peas, evening primrose, winter cereals, paste tomatoes, beans, corn and winter canola. Some more exotic crops have also been investigated, including quinoa, fenugreek, lathorayus, safflower and zinnas.

But he said it will be more a case of innovative farmers bringing new crop ideas into the research station, rather than station staff introducing new crops, he said. "Farmers are an innovative group of people. They'll find something to grow and we'll work with them."

But while the area has the climate to grow almost anything, "the question is, 'do we have the markets?'" he asked.

There's a transition going on in the industry now, Dr. Johnson said, and a lot of people are sitting and waiting to see what develops. But a lot of people can't wait any longer and the result will be a reduction in the number of tobacco growers.

Despite the efforts of the anti-smoking lobby, Dr. Johnson is confident the industry, although altered, will survive.

"The anti-smoking activists who seem to feel that if you stop production (of tobacco) you will stop smoking are mistaken," he said. If they stop production here, the tobacco companies will only import tobacco from other countries that is more hazardous than what we have now, "so we have to maintain our own industry." The pest, tar and nicotine ratios in Canadian tobacco are far superior to imported tobacco, he said, adding one way to ensure a safer product is to maintain the Canadian industry.

"The money may as well stay in the country than to go out and bring in imports."

More look for off-farm work

Farmers' wives' roles changing

By KEN MAVER

With the current crisis in agriculture the traditional role of the woman on the farm is changing.

Although most farmers' wives still assist in the day-to-day operation of the farm, there is a developing trend towards more and more women seeking employment outside of the family farm.

There are many reasons for this, from a desire to pursue other interests to necessity. Statistics Canada figures indicate that the main source of income for about 60 per cent of family-owned farms is derived off of the farm - with either the husband or the wife working full or part-time to keep the operation afloat. And with the cost of production for many agricultural commodities outstripping the price of the products as they leave the farm gate, this trend will only increase.

However, there is a growing number of farm women returning to the labor force not just to keep the family farm in operation, but because they have no choice. Due to foreclosure or other reasons, they and their husbands are no longer in the business of farming.

This is particularly true in the tobacco belt where, the downsizing of the industry has forced more and more farmers out of the business.

A large number of these women have

been out of the labor force for many years. They are unfamiliar with the requirements of the labor force. Many of them need to update their skills and almost all of them need assistance in learning how to look for a job.

For the first time, Tillsonburg's Canada Employment Centre has been seeing tobacco producers, their spouses and families coming into the centre for assistance. And centre officials believe this is only the beginning. They feel there are many more families in need of assistance, but because they have been independent and self-supporting for so many years, are reluctant to approach the centre.

Despite the increasing number of farm women returning to the work force, there is little in the way of assistance specifically for them. Government agencies are just starting to respond to the need.

Special workshops held by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food under the auspices of the Farmers in Transition Program, are geared toward helping farmers and their spouses re-enter the workforce. The workshops teach participants job search skills such as putting together a resume and preparing for a job interview. However, only couples who have made the transition from the farm

and are participating in the FIT program are eligible to attend.

The purpose of the workshops is to teach participants how to land and keep a job. The workshops give the participants a chance to assess their own skills and to learn how to deal with changing from self-employment to working for someone else.

The workshops are also designed to give the participants a chance to share experiences, feelings and develop a more positive attitude about themselves to make it easier to re-enter the work force. Two workshops have been held to date - one in Toronto and the other in Guelph. The workshops are scheduled on an informal basis and all travelling expenses are paid.

The Rural Organization and Services branch of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food will be offering a new course - Turn Your Skills into Dollars - geared toward farm families. The course is open to all farm couples and those interested in participating are encouraged to contact their local OMAF office.

The purpose of the course is to help those who need additional incomes to supplement their farm incomes. Information on how to start a small business is also available through the course.

While Tillsonburg's Canada Employment Centre offers no specific programs geared to helping farm women re-enter the labor force, the centre does offer a full range of services, from counselling to special courses to job referrals, that are available to all people in need of assistance.

Under the Canadian Jobs Strategy program offered through the centre, there are four courses specifically geared to women. The courses are taught through a special arrangement with Fanshawe College. They include: Introduction to Non-Traditional Occupations, a prerequisite to Women in Trades and Technology, Career Planning for Women and Path - designed for women with good mathematics and science background who need upgrading before pursuing a university or community college career.

Hard-pressed tobacco growers lack fighting champion in Ottawa

Canadians are bombarded daily with U.S. news, but it's rare that Americans get even a whiff of what's happening in Canada — when they do, it's usually some disaster.

Well there's a disaster in South-western Ontario that the Detroit Free Press decided in its July 27 edition warranted special coverage — the social and financial crisis of the once-rich Ontario tobacco belt.

Here's how the reporter led Michigan readers into the tale of woe:

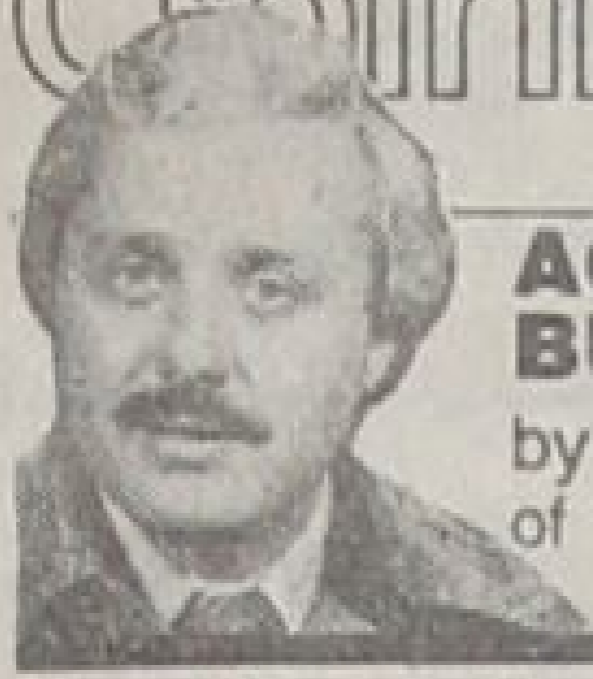
EDEN, Ont. — Leave Detroit, head east across Canada just above Lake Erie and after two hours you hit it — North Carolina.

Or at least it looks that way. As you drive past farm fields, you see acres of squat, broad-leaved plants laid out in corduroy-like rows — tobacco.

The reporter goes on then to tell the tale, known only too well down the backroads of Southern Ontario, in the small tobacco-dependent communities and even larger centres such as London — drastic production cuts brought on by declining demand, excessive government taxation and competitive foreign markets.

It's ironic that at the same time a U.S. newspaper recognizes the

Opinion



AGRI-BUSINESS

by Gord Wainman
of The Free Press

Canadian problem, the Canadian government fails to pay it little more than lip service.

The Detroit newspaper drew a parallel between the geography of the Ontario and North Carolina tobacco belts. However, there is no political parallel.

North Carolina growers have their own champion in the U.S. capital — a powerful and politically street-wise Senator Jesse Helms. Unfortunately, Ontario growers have no such champion.

Oh, it's true the Ontario growers had good reason to think they would have a protector in Ottawa — none other than the country's agriculture minister and Ontario's tobacco-belt member of Parliament John Wise.

However, as well-intentioned as Wise seemed in promising relief to his reeling tobacco belt, time has

shown Wise isn't like the street-fighting Helms who is adept at getting his way with the U.S. administration.

Wise failed to deliver the national marketing agency that tobacco farmers want to help stabilize the industry, and is still only talking about \$30 million in aid which tobacco grower board chairman Berry Murray says is about a 10th of what's needed to humanely cushion the crisis.

On top of that, a Wise gesture to show he is doing at least something for the battered tobacco farmer is starting to backfire. Wise persuaded Ontario Agriculture Minister Jack Riddell to join him in giving a total of \$2.5 million to a new 22-member co-operative — including 20 tobacco farmers — to grow tomatoes and process them into tomato paste. That works out to about \$113,636 for each co-op member.

Wise's gesture has angered existing tomato farmers by subsidizing newcomers to enter the tomato field which itself is in recession, and a floundering tobacco farmer or two must only wish they too could get a \$113,000 grant.

Wise's tobacco track record is so bad, he surely can't be planning to run for the heart of the tobacco belt in the next federal election.

Changing crops means red tape

By Garry Hamilton *L.F.P. AUG 12*
of The Free Press

OTTERVILLE — Tobacco farmers who want to switch crops are getting tangled in the red tape of government bureaucracy, says a farmer who spent nine years changing from tobacco to peanuts.

Ernie Racz, who now grows nothing but peanuts on his 45-hectare (110-acre) farm near Vittoria, told a committee of local politicians here Tuesday that a farmer who wants to get out of the tobacco industry must endure a long and frustrating transition period.

"There's a lot of red tape involved that we're not accustomed to," said Racz. "You can spend days on the phone trying to find the right person to talk to."

The committee, comprised of council officials from Brant and Oxford counties and Haldimand-Norfolk region, is hearing presentations from people affected by the decline in the tobacco industry. It hopes to develop a strategy to deal with replacing employment opportunities being lost and will ultimately submit a report to provincial and federal governments.

Committee chairman Gordon

Gibson, Brant County warden, said the hearings are a way for local politicians to better understand the position of tobacco farmers.

"We're not here to give out any answers," said Gibson. "We're here to listen to what these people have to say. Once we do that, maybe we could make some recommendations."

One suggestion that came through loud and clear was that more government support was needed for tobacco farmers willing to switch to a different crop.

"If you could just find a way to

take the guesswork out of finding where to go" when seeking capital or information, said Racz.

In 1977, Racz realized the future of the tobacco industry didn't look good and began researching alternative crops. The transition was made gradually — and not without problems — until this season when he stopped growing tobacco altogether. His farm, Kernal Peanuts Ltd., is doing well but . . .

"If I had to do it all over again I wouldn't," he said after the hearing. "It's too frustrating. You have to go to this department, that de-

partment. You have to deal with this committee, that committee — there's 50,000 committees you have to deal with."

If he had it to do over, Racz said he would never have gotten into farming.

"Everybody passes the costs on to us but we can't pass them on to anybody. Do we want a farming community or not?"

Racz believes government subsidies would help, both in the peanut industry and other alternative crops.

"The only reason other farmers

are not doing it (changing from tobacco to other crops) is because imports are cheaper," he said. "We can't compete with other countries. We can't compete against other countries' imports."

But he said the peanut industry can be an alternative crop.

"We're getting there. It just takes time."

Others making presentations to the committee talked about the hardships tobacco farmers are experiencing and the problems they have had finding other ways to make a living.

Sell million pounds tobacco to China

By MARLENE OPDECAM *T.N. AUG 15*

The amount of tobacco sold from the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board 1985 pack rose slightly earlier this month when Simcoe Leaf sold about one million pounds greenweight from the pack to a customer in the People's Republic of China.

Berry Murray, board chairman, said Thursday the company is the first independent leaf dealer to help sell tobacco from the board's 23-million-pound pack. The sale brings the amount sold from the pack to about 7.5 million pounds to date.

Mr. Murray said the board was pleased with the sale. Canadian tobacco has broken into the Chinese market in three or four different ways this year, including an earlier

sale made by RJR-Macdonald, he commented. "We hope they like it and will come back for more."

While harvest continues, board members have been holding meetings with the manufacturers to try and work out a joint producer-manufacturer approach regarding the proposed Redux program. Once this has been done, the information will be presented to the federal government, Mr. Murray said.

The board is not pleased with the proposed program as it has been laid out by federal Agriculture Minister John Wise. The \$30 million allocated for the tobacco producer assistance

program is "inadequate and far short of what is needed," the board chairman said.

The board is also not pleased with the approximately \$10.8 shortfall in funds to buy down tobacco from the 1985 crop sold on the export market. Mr. Murray said letters have been sent to the presidents of the four major manufacturing companies outlining the 1985 crop agreement reached Dec. 13 as the board understood it and asking for payment which would represent about 11½ cents a pound for producers on pounds sold for export.

Tobacco farmers who had it 'easy' must bite bullet, says councillor

By Garry Hamilton
of The Free Press *AUG 14*

WOODSTOCK — Tobacco farmers who have been on "easy street" in the past must now endure hardships like other farmers and should not receive special government treatment, Oxford County Councillor Don McKay said Wednesday, adding that he would "like to see the individual farmer work a little more for themselves."

"They are no different than other farmers who are having difficulties. Tobacco farmers have been on

easy street for a number of years. There's no reason why they can't spend a couple of years adjusting."

McKay, a dairy farmer at RR 6, Woodstock, made the comments in an interview following an Oxford County council meeting. During the meeting, McKay was critical of the time local politicians have spent studying what effects the declining tobacco industry is having on farmers and communities that have traditionally relied on revenues related to that crop.

Politicians from Oxford, Brant and Elgin counties and the Regional Municipality of Haldimand-Nor-

folk have formed a committee to hear presentations from people being affected by the decline. The committee plans to present a report based on its findings to the federal and provincial governments.

buy some ice cream, they'd get more out of it than they would from this project."

Later he added: "It's only a study. I don't see it as solving anybody's

problem."

"The recognition we're getting from the two levels of government seems to suggest we're doing something," Smith said later. "We're

● See Page A2, Col. 1

looking at anything we could do to bring in some industry."

Berry Murray, chairman of the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board, said Wednesday that lack of government aid could result in social upheaval.

He said farmers are being forced out of business and can't collect unemployment insurance because they are self-employed. And if they want to start up a new business or grow a different crop, it's almost impossible to arrange loans to get started because of past credit ratings.

"In a lot of cases," Murray said, "when a farmer wants to change over, the buildings and equipment

are totally different than the ones used in tobacco farming. You can't do it. Once you've committed yourself to tobacco it's almost impossible to change." Which is why, Murray added, governments must step in and help.

"You can't simply sit back and say 'farmers look after yourselves.' There has to be some mechanism put into effect by the government to help these people."

The provincial and federal governments both have established transition programs for farmers. However, at a recent committee hearing in Otterville it was suggested that some form of local level involvement was needed for the help to be successful.

County councillor raps funds for tobacco study

T.N AUG 15

By SUZANNE STOOP

East Zorra-Tavistock Mayor Don McKay voiced strong objections Wednesday to Oxford County council contributing \$600 to a municipal Tobacco Decline/Industry Strategy Committee, formed to examine the impact of the declining tobacco industry and develop strategies to replace the lost employment opportunities.

County council approved the contribution recommended by its planning committee in order to permit the tobacco study committee to initiate a work incentive program if and when the committee's application for the program is approved by the federal government.

But Coun. McKay, a Woodstock area dairy farmer, suggested tobacco farmers shouldn't be receiving special treatment, noting they're no different than any other farmers who are having some difficulties.

"I realize there are some serious problems in the tobacco industry," he said during Wednesday's county

council meeting. "But the signs have been up for a couple of years concerning the downgrading (of the industry)." He said people "should have been reading the signs and preparing for the change."

"If government would stay out of it, people would show a little of their own initiative and make the move to change," Coun. McKay said. He suggested that, "If you took that \$600 down to the area and gave each person affected a dollar and told them to buy some ice cream they would have more than they will have through this effort," adding the whole project may very well go nowhere.

But Warden Helen Smith, who sits on the committee comprised of municipal officials from Oxford, Brant and Elgin counties and Haldimand-Norfolk Region, said the co-operation that exists among the municipalities working together on the study has attracted the attention of government. And she noted later the committee hasn't reserved

whatever help it can give for tobacco people. "It's for all farmers."

She argued that politicians do have a responsibility to get involved. "When people elected us and they have problems it's to be expected they will come to us asking for help."

Woodstock Coun. Charlie Tatham agreed that "it's part of our responsibility to do something if possible." He said the study committee is trying to find out what the problem is and come up with some answers as to what can be done to help the people feeling the impact of the decline in the industry.

Blandford-Blenheim Mayor Ed Down said there are alternatives to tobacco but the farmers need some help to get going.

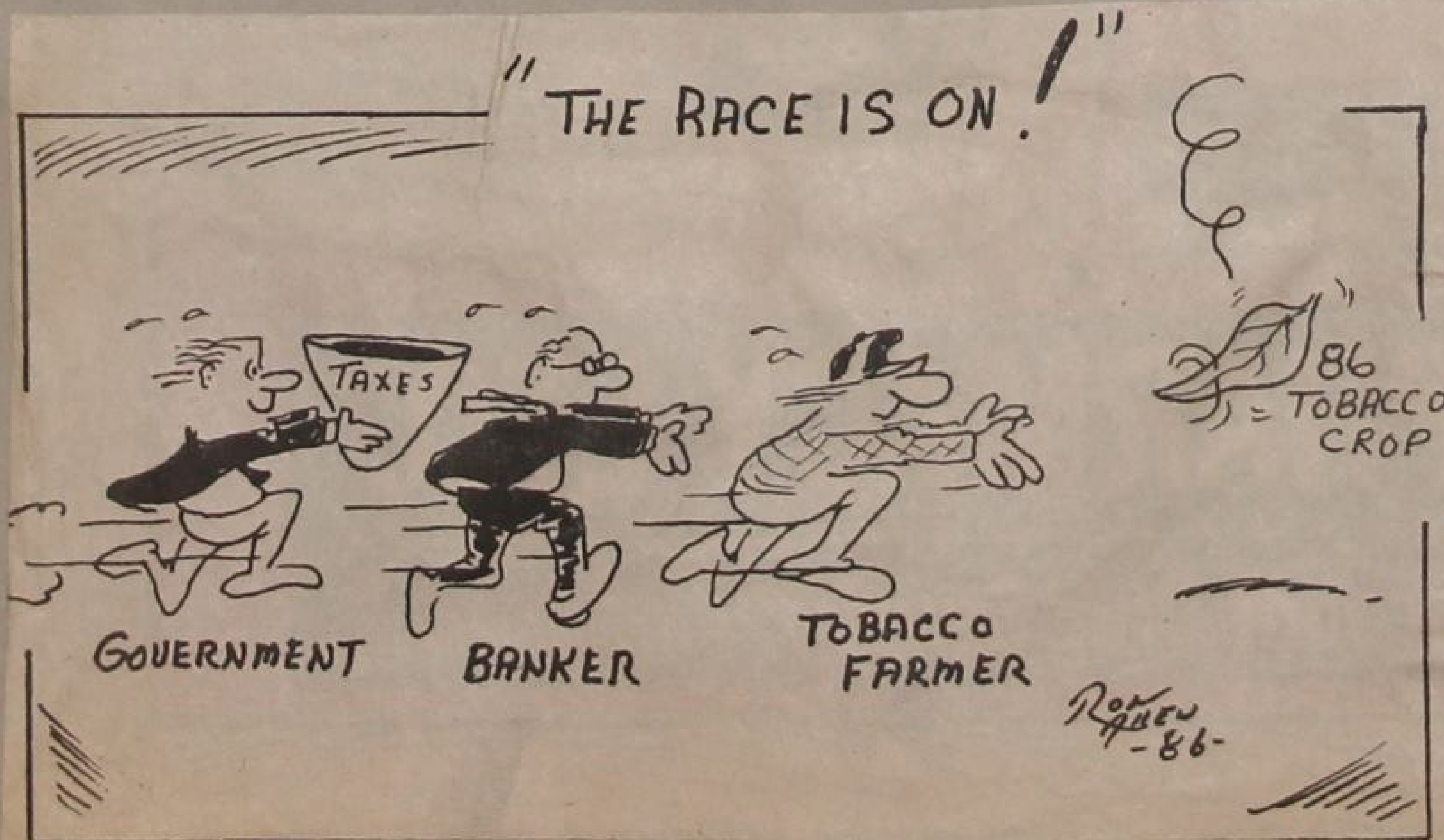
In a subsequent motion, Coun. McKay attempted to have Oxford planning commissioner Ken Whiteford relieved of his duties on the study committee. "There's a limit to how much a man can do and

this is one area he should be relieved from," Coun. McKay said. "The man has far too much to do."

Coun. McKay admitted Mr. Whiteford is doing "a super job but there's a limit to how much can be done by one individual."

Mr. Whiteford responded that it is difficult to assess the continuing time commitment of the project, noting that as secretary of the committee, he's been busier lately because of the work involved in the public hearings the committee has been holding. Once the public meetings are finished, however, the role of the secretary may be reduced, he said. But he stressed someone from the planning department should still sit on the committee "because it's still a development issue and is certainly still within our jurisdiction."

"Certainly someone else can be involved," Coun. McKay said, "but it shouldn't be our best man." But council voted against removing Mr. Whiteford from the committee.



Those who live in glass houses . . .

Farmers who live in glass barns shouldn't throw pitchforks. Don McKay might heed the cliché.

Last week, the Oxford County councillor hurled this verbal missile at tobacco farmers who are reeling from financial and social upheaval brought on by severe production cutbacks:

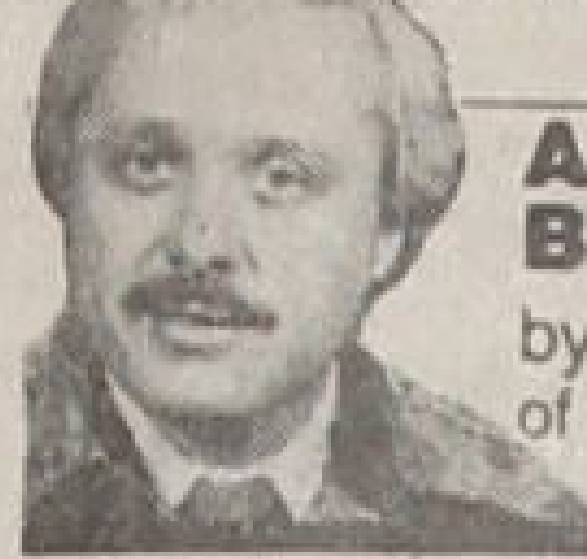
"Tobacco farmers have been on easy street for a number of years. There's no reason they can't spend a couple years adjusting."

McKay would "like to see the individual farmers work a little more for themselves."

The politician's insensitivity isn't unique in rural Ontario and wouldn't be worth comment if it weren't for the fact McKay earns his living on the farm — a farm with a glass barn.

McKay's glass barn is the Ontario Milk Marketing Board that offers McKay and other dairy farmers protection from the marketplace. It's tacky for McKay or any protect-

Opinion



AGRI-BUSINESS

by Gord Wainman
of The Free Press

ed farmer connected with the supply management marketing board to deliver harsh judgments on other farmers who don't have protection.

McKay's supply management board is allowed to control imports and set prices that guarantee McKay his production costs will be covered and provide him a return on investment. Tobacco farmers, and others, have to take their lumps.

Surely McKay must know market-

management system dismantled because it protects farmers such as himself from the whims of the marketplace and restricts, through production quotas, the entry of other farmers into dairying.

McKay may just find he'll have to heed his own advice and bite the bullet if the Americans get their way in free-trade talks with Canada. Americans would like to see milk marketing boards dismantled so they could flood the protected Canadian market.

To throw McKay's thoughts on tobacco farmers back at him, dairy farmers too "have been on easy street for a number of years" while other farmers have bitten the dust.

One American who has tasted the dust of farming as well as the baseball diamond is 22-year professional pitching veteran Gaylord Perry, 47, a winner on the ball diamond, but in retirement a loser at farming.

"The system's broken. I can't see

anybody making it in farming these days," the former baseball great said after going bankrupt last week. Perry just didn't have the income protection enjoyed by McKay. Perry produced tobacco and peanuts in Raleigh, N.C.

Perry poured his baseball earnings into the farm and still couldn't make it.

Perry's story reminds me of the sad joke of the farmer who won a couple of million bucks in a lottery along with a city cousin. The city cousin quit his job immediately, invested the money and planned to live off the interest.

The farmer's plan: "I'm going to keep farming until the money's gone."

Farm crisis jokes may tell the story better than the musings of rural politicians or newspaper columnists. Send your jokes to Gord Wainman, c/o the newsroom, London Free Press, Box 2280, London, Ont. N6A 4G1.

Farming

By Anne Does

N.G. AUG 20

It's a tough job.

From dawn to dusk laboring under a merciless sky, striving to eke out a living and maybe, just maybe, show a profit at year end.

After visiting several local farms this week, I came to the conclusion that Ontario farmers could never be given enough recognition for their efforts to make an honest living and feed humanity.

The work is back breaking in many cases and seemingly endless.

Yet when interviewed, none of these men made any complaint about the number of hours they put in.

Rather, they were simply concerned with getting a good crop in and sold.

Not too demanding a request, when you consider that the average clerical worker works only 40 hours per week and is relatively assured of a steady income for their labor barring a lay off.

As self-employed individuals, however, farmers live without the financial security most of us take for granted.

Admittedly, many entrepreneurs are faced with the same problems of marketing and labor that the farmer contends with.

But the farmer—particularly those whose income is reliant on crops—must daily live with the possibility of having countless hours of labor wiped out in a single freak storm.

Insurance is not a cure-all in the event of total crop failure, either, providing only enough coverage to help the farmer squeak through the year into the next season.

A farmer I spoke with last week said he dealt with the fear of total crop failure by putting it out of his mind.

"It's just one of those things that you can't think about, or you would go crazy," he said.

In light of the service that all farmers provide, and considering the conditions most work under, it irritated me to read comments directed against the tobacco industry, by a county councillor in the London Free Press.

Don McKay—a dairy farmer—was quoted as saying tobacco farmers have been living on "easy street" for a number of years and should spend a few years adjusting.

Mr. McKay was protesting the time local politicians have spent studying the effects of a suffering tobacco industry on farmers and communities who have depended on tobacco related dollars.

Mr. McKay must have been struck with a severe case of tunnel vision.

Just because the tobacco industry's dilemma has not impacted on the dairy farmer's corner of the world, does not mean that it will not profoundly affect a large section of many communities.

And even if the problem was restricted just to tobacco farmers, how could their floundering make the overall picture any brighter for other farmers?

If one part of the body is sick, the whole body suffers.

It is most probable that some tobacco farmers will not be able to find other forms of work.

When hard working men, accustomed to earning an honest living are thrown onto the unemployment lines, the community's life blood becomes diseased.

Symptoms of this sickness will show up in the forms of increased crime and alcoholism, for example.

Living in a depressed community is not likely to improve the lot of anyone, including non-tobacco farmers.

If tobacco farmers are able to switch to alternate crops—which is practically an impossibility due to the specialized nature of tobacco farming—it will only serve to heighten competition in a market place already flooded with imports.

In either case, if Ontario farmers let tobacco growers go down the tubes in the mistaken notion growers deserve their fate, because of years spent in residence on "easy street," they are sadly in error.

In the event of such a disaster, the entire agriculture industry will suffer and it is my guess other farmers will not catch any of the federal or provincial dollars saved by hatcheting the number of tobacco growers.

It is time the agriculture industry dispense of the "us" versus "them" mentality and took a firm grip on the idea of solidarity.

Because in the end, the demise of the tobacco grower will in some way take its toll on every member of society. To stand idly by and let an industry flounder is not only illogical, but also gives new meaning to the word shortsighted.

Letters

N.G. AUG 27

Dear Editor:

First of all I would like to say thanks to Anne Does for her editorial on farming in last weeks Norwich Gazette.

It is great to hear at least someone can see the plight of Ontario's tobacco growers and the problems we are facing.

Yes, it certainly affects all of the communities and surrounding areas who are associated with it.

Secondly, I take offence to Oxford County councillor Don McKay's remarks in the London Free Press and local papers about tobacco farmers having lived on easy street for so long and there is no reason they can't spend a couple of years adjusting. (How does he know?)

If he is that smart, maybe he is the

Great White Father we are all looking for to solve our problems and tell us what alternate crops to grow.

The tone of his words seem to say he doesn't give a damn about us.

That is great advice coming from a dairy farmer who lives under the supply management board—which is allowed to control imports and set prices that guarantee production costs, providing him with a decent return on his investments.

Tobacco farmers like us don't have that protection in our business.

We have to take what we can get.

Yes, Mr. McKay I would say an apology is certainly in order to all tobacco producers in Ontario.

Ken Mann,
Otterville, Ontario.

'The system's broken' L.F.P. AUG 16

Perry says farmers doomed

Wire services

RALEIGH, N.C. — Gaylor Perry was a great ball player, maybe even a Hall of Famer. As a farmer, he's another victim of circumstance.

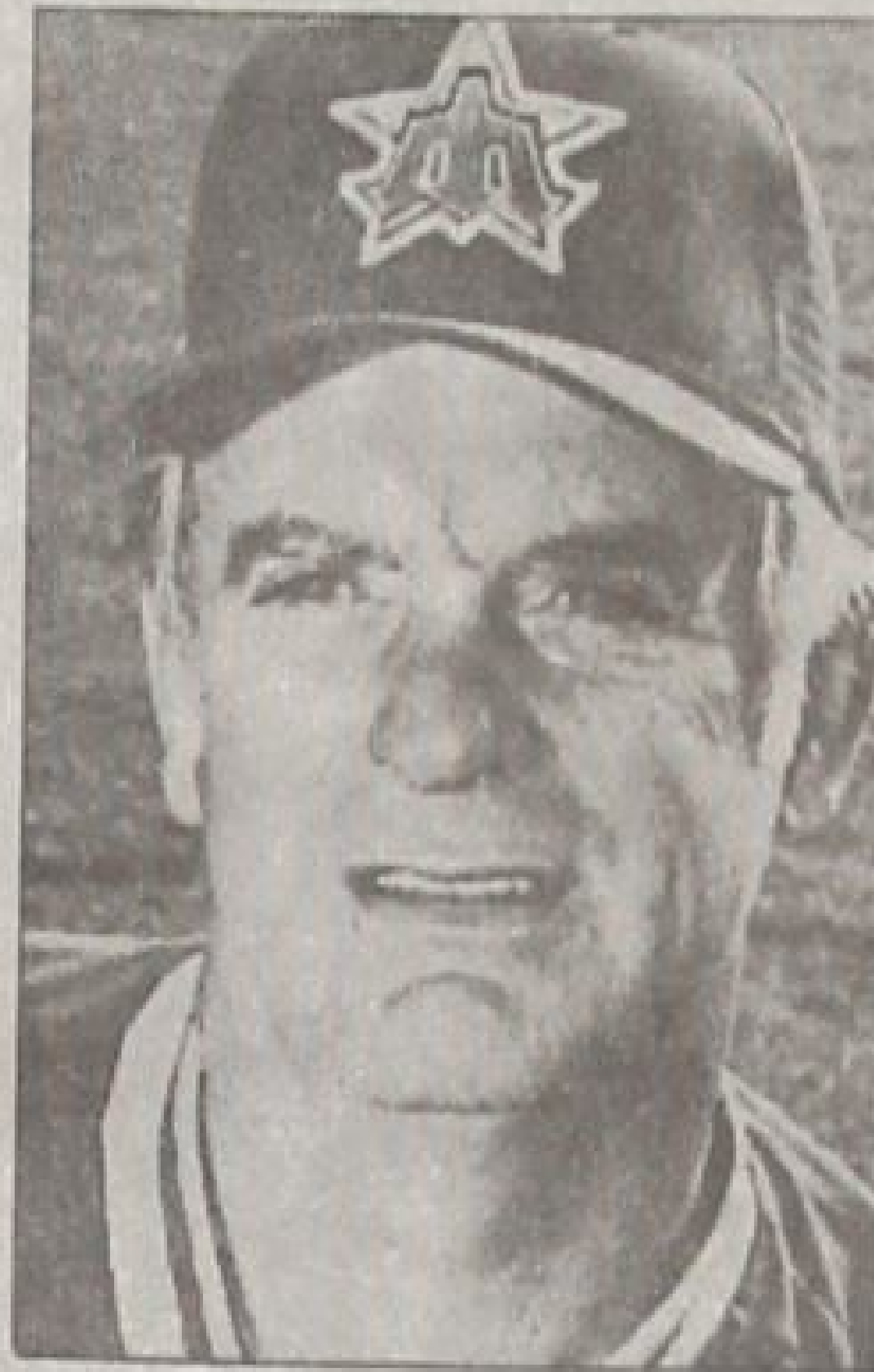
Three years ago, Perry retired after 22 seasons in the major leagues to devote full attention to his 400-acre farm where he grew tobacco and peanuts. The two-time Cy Young Award winner turned to his new profession having grown accustomed to winning, to dominating, even if it meant throwing an illegal spitball now and then.

This week, he went bankrupt. "The system's broken," Perry said. "I can't see anybody making it in farming these days. It's like selling ice in Alaska; there's no future in it. I don't think it was the Democrats or Republicans but the grain embargo was the big thing. It gave other countries a chance to take over the market.

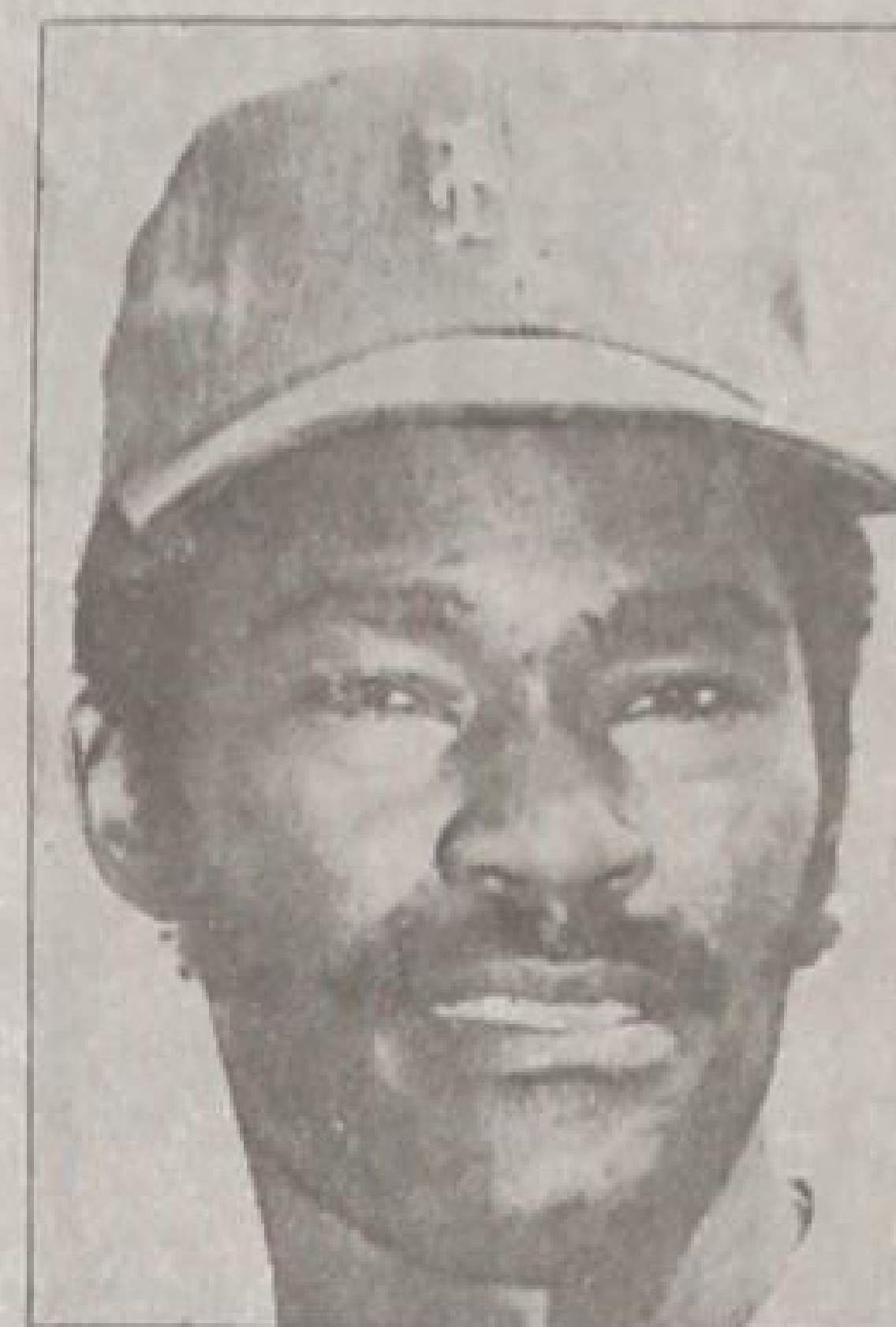
"Problems just didn't hit us as hard or quick in North Carolina as they hit farmers in the Midwest," Perry said. "We've got soybeans and tobacco. They just had wheat."

Perry, 47, retired from baseball in 1983 after winning 314 games. He is the only pitcher to win the Cy Young Award in both major leagues. With his years of baseball earnings behind him, Perry returned to the trade he had known since his childhood in Williamston.

"I've worked very long hours trying to save the farm," Perry said. "I worked nights, weekends, trying to



GAYLORD PERRY



GEORGE FOSTER

get more money. My son and I planted our corn and soybeans ourselves, hoping right up to the last day something would happen to turn things around."

Even though he had as much luck, maybe even more, than many Southern farmers who have seen their crops destroyed by the Carolinas' worst drought this century, Perry declared bankruptcy Aug. 4, listing debts of \$1.2 million and assets of \$1.1 million.

"One of the funny things is that we've had rain and we've got a beautiful crop of tobacco and pea-

nuts. But we just can't get back what we put into it," he said.

Perry's Greenville bankruptcy attorney, Malcolm Howard, said his client has become a symbol of the hundreds of North Carolina farmers who have seen their finances plowed under by factors such as the embargo on grain exports to the Soviet Union, a fickle climate, once-soaring interest rates and plummeting land values.

Howard has tried to salvage the finances of about 75 debt-ridden farmers this year but expects at least 30 to go under.

Agricultural costs and mortgage payments started piling on top of the Perrys in the mid-1970s. Bills grew larger after the grain embargo.

Perry said watching his farm finances for the past two years was like "sitting on the bench in the bottom of the ninth, hoping someone will hit a home run to win the game for you."

Perry tried to supplement his agricultural capital with income from his baseball camp at Chowan College, plus writing and speaking fees. Perry and his wife, Blanche, were able to build up a cushion of equity in their house and land but found the situation too uncomfortable to continue.

TOBACCO FARMER RESPONDS

The Editor: I would like to respond to an article, Tillsonburg News, Aug 15, "County councillor raps funds for tobacco study."

Don McKay has not done his homework. Had he done so, he may not have been so critical, knocking down his fellow farmers, correction, stepping on them when they are already down.

For beginners, seven years ago blue mold destroyed one-third of our crops; three years later, in 1982, we had a devastating frost on Aug. 29 which took 30 to 40 per cent of our target of 220 million pounds.

During and since that time the multinational corporations have been working feverishly importing cheap tobacco to undermine our production. Today we produce one-third of our basic quota allotment.

Tell me, sir, in the past seven years I've just outlined, how much did you or your fellow milk producers lose? I have a sneaking suspicion you haven't lost a cent. Under the supply and management board, you are completely guaranteed your cost of production plus a reasonable amount of profit. We should be so fortunate. Whom did you say is on easy street?

Over the years we have tried with

the multinational corporations to negotiate cost of production formula. No sooner they looked at it they chucked it in the waste basket.

Our luck wasn't much better with our provincial or federal politicians. We begged, pleaded, practically crawled on our knees to grant us access to legislation which we are entitled to under our present constitution.

To quote the lawyer representing former Justice Minister John Crosbie at the injunction hearing in Ottawa last fall, under the law the only thing required for supply and management is the request and the support of the majority of the farmers.

Our politician friends are so pre-occupied giving millions in foreign aid to other countries, handing out grants to foreign auto makers, they won't even give us the time of day.

Finally Mr. McKay, just you and I, one on one, forty or more years ago a million young Canadian men and women went to serve our country, including yours truly. We put our life on the line for freedom for democracy. Tell me, sir, what have you ever done for your country?

Anxiously, I'm waiting for a public reply.

Steve Svirida

Growers predict worst tobacco year ever

By ELIZABETH LeREVEREND
A crest displaying tobacco fields and bearing the caption "Township of Norwich -- historical, agricultural, beautiful," hung over the Otterville community hall Tuesday morning as government agents, elected officials, farmers, a real estate agent, a priest and several entrepreneurs outlined their experiences in the "jungle" of post-tobacco decline at the second public forum held by the local Tobacco Decline/Industry Strategy Study committee.

"The tobacco industry is alive but not well," Ernie Racz, an ex-tobacco

farmer trying to make a living growing peanuts near Vittoria, told the committee. Many predict this year will be the worst ever for growers; then things may slowly improve in about five years. "This year will be the real crunch," one man said.

Some government help is on the way for beleaguered tobacco farmers, hit by what George Klosler of Fanshawe College's Woodstock School of Agriculture calls a "triple whammy" of lower prices, loss of farm value and being "taxed out of existence."

Oxford MP Dr. Bruce Halliday outlined some ways the Canadian Rural Transition Program may

assist tobacco growers. While no final plans for allocating the \$50-million program have been set, an announcement could be made early next month, he said.

Those plans may include a counselling service for farm families in crisis, a flat grant to farmers wanting to get out of tobacco, monthly support payments during a five-month transition period, job change assistance such as mobility grants and training allowances, employer subsidies to hire ex-tobacco industry workers, grants to start small businesses and legal, accounting or medical advice.

Members are being chosen now to

sit on Farm Debt Review Panels, part of a federal plan to "facilitate the financial arrangements between farmers and their creditors." The three-member boards are a reflection of the federal government's commitment to maintain farms while assisting the transition out of tobacco, Dr. Halliday said.

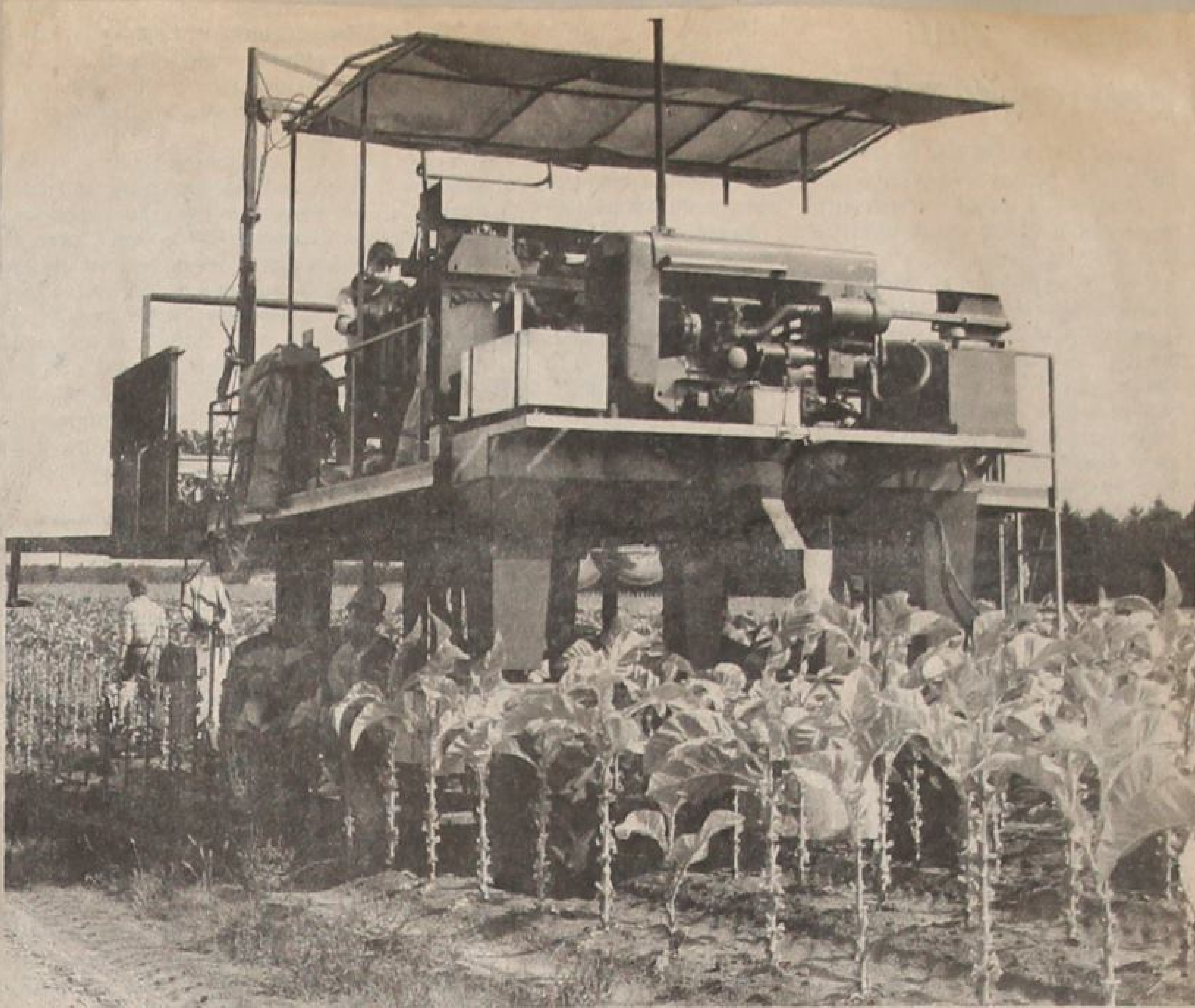
Fanshawe College and the Canada Employment Centre (CEC) in Tillsonburg pledged to do all they can to aid retraining farmers who want to get out of the tobacco industry.

The next meeting of the tobacco strategy study committee is scheduled for Sept. 3 in Aylmer.



Ruined crop - AUG 15 STORM

This tobacco crop, located near Norwich on the former North Norwich Concession 5, was among about 20 farms in the Norwich-Kelvin area to be damaged in a sudden hail storm Friday evening. According to Larry Scanlan, manager of the Ontario Crop Insurance Commission's Delhi office, crops on roughly half a dozen of the farms were severely damaged and four or five crops were destroyed. (Anne Does Photo)



Season winding up

T N AUG 27

The tobacco harvest is still in full swing on many area farms but it's quickly winding down on the Andy Gilvesy farm on Potters Road, just outside of Tillson-

burg. The stripped stalks will soon be cut down and disced under as the last of the leaves are harvested. (Jim Murphy Photo)

Frost damage hits 500 area farms

Temperatures of .5 degrees Celcius at the four-foot level experienced Friday, Aug. 29 caused varying degrees of frost damage to area tobacco fields.

Larry Scanlan, manager of the Ontario Crop Insurance Commission, based at the Delhi Research Station, said the frost affected about 500 farms. About 10 to 15 per cent of those hit have been classified as serious with farmers either losing everything they had or entire fields.

Those with complete crop losses were few, however, Mr. Scanlan said.

The majority of the damage

reported occurred in low spots or on plant tips, he said.

The frost appeared to blanket the tobacco belt areas west of Tillsonburg primarily. Few reports of damage have been received from the Aylmer, Strathroy or Mount Brydges areas, according to Mr. Scanlan.

Reports on crops affected by the cold temperatures, other than tobacco, include corn, soy and colored beans but apparently no tomato losses, he said.

On the same date four years ago, the area was also hit by a frost which wiped out about half the flue crop still in the fields at the time.



Prime time

Colleen Jewett is one of the many local workers who have taken to the tobacco fields for the harvesting of this year's crop. Miss Jewett is work-

ing on Vandenberg's farm in Norwich. (Photo By Anne Does)

Elgin joins flue committee

By Dave MacLaren
Staff Writer

ON AUG 20

OTTERVILLE — Elgin County joined the 'tobacco decline/industry strategy study committee' to bring the four major flue-cured counties into the project, as the second hearings session began here last Tuesday.

"Their problems are our problems," said Township of Aldborough Reeve Dan Perovich, explaining a misplaced letter accounted for Elgin's delay in joining the committee. Township of Bayham Reeve Max Stewart is the other Elgin County representative.

The enlarged committee now has representation from the counties of Oxford, Brant, Elgin and the Region of Haldimand-Norfolk.

Dan Ciona, Brant clerk-treasurer, announced federal approval of funding has been received to engage three people to research and document the impact of the tobacco crisis on these municipalities. Work will commence Aug. 25, under the day-to-day direction of Armas Pukala, Haldimand-Norfolk industrial development director. It was agreed a public hearing will be held in Elgin County.

The committee's main thrust centres on the difficulties smaller crops pose for the work force and possible solutions to this. But repeatedly throughout the hearing, committee members were told of the

financial plight of farm families and obstacles which make a transition to pursuits costly, time consuming and difficult.

Local real estate agent Ron Vandenburg said, "There have to be far more (families) out there in dire straits than most people recognize. I have clients who have been in the business 30 years, with debt loads twice what their farm value is. They've reinvested all they've earned in the farm and will walk away with nothing."

Mr. Vandenburg said for every farm up for sale now, probably two or three more soon will be.

"I agree, more are in trouble than people are aware of. I think next spring will be the crunch, said Township of Delhi Mayor Gordon Lee, a member of the committee.

George Klosler, principal of Fanshawe College's school of agriculture, Woodstock, said beyond the double or triple-whammy many Canadian farmers have sustained, the situation of tobacco growers is compounded further because they are being taxed out of business. "And it has happened so rapidly, there has not been an opportunity to adjust."

"The downsizing of the industry is having a dramatic impact in the community. When the Tobacco Board estimated 600 farmers could be forced out of business I thought the figure was high. Now I believe we could see that number (exit) this fall," said Tony Murphy, manager of

the Tillsonburg Canada Employment Centre (CEC).

Difficulties posed by bureaucratic red tape, a lack of capital and subsidies to make transitions to other pursuits were cited by three area farmers who have experienced some of these problems.

(continued from page 2)

Mr. Klosler said ways may be found to mesh winter employment in food processing and agri-enterprises to benefit those engaged in smaller farming operations. Community colleges, he said, could provide a valuable service in retraining people for occupations available within their respective districts.

Mr. Vandenburg said some banks have agreed to reasonable writedowns of farm debt. He suggested this approach might be broadened and more farmers kept viable if a tax shelter for investors was introduced by the Federal Government.

The public hearing concluded when committee members went to an in-camera session with Canada Employment personnel and Gabe DeCloet to discuss a request Mr. De Cloet had made for assistance in retraining company employees at the Delhi hearing July 28.

Asked about the results later, Mr. De Cloet said, "We are making progress."

Burford area farmer Ed Tontsch said he dropped what he was doing to come to the hearing after being told about it that morning.

"What's happening to tobacco farmers is nothing short of genocide — a planned elimination of a segment of society. When the end result of my labour generates about \$5¼-million in (tobacco) taxes, tell me why I cannot make a profit?" he asked the committee.

"You can spend days on the phone trying to find the right person to talk to," said Ernie Racz of Vittoria who operates Kernal Peanuts.

Oscar Lava of RR 2, Otterville, who is bottling spring water, reported similar frustration. Palmyra Murphy, also of RR 2, Otterville, said the loss of farm equity and sharply reduced crop income means higher interest rates must be paid on loans to establish a trout rearing operation.

Mrs. Murphy and her son Michael are trying to expand the enterprise to an adequate volume to support the family, but she said the estimated cost is \$350,000.

All three said financial assistance of some type is required by farmers who are attempting to establish viable alternate pursuits.

Mr. Lava noted larger enterprises such as breweries and bottling lines have received Government incentives to locate in certain provinces.

Mr. Racz said improved harvesting technology and varieties indicate peanuts can be a viable alternative crop. He said farmers need some encouragement to buy specialized harvesting equipment and time to learn how to grow the crop. He suggested some of the 'redux' money allocated to help tobacco growers could be used to provide a 10-year subsidy which would ensure Canadian peanuts provided the same return to growers as their U.S. counterparts are paid.

Canada has enjoyed significant revenue from this area for a long time, said Robert Boswell of Tobacco Curing Systems, Simcoe. Some of these funds should be reinvested in the area quickly and with more input from local people.

"We have lots of very capable and talented people in this area," Mr. Boswell said, noting it made sense to give such a group a role in the decisions as to how best Government assistance can be utilized.

Oxford Warden Helen Smith agreed, saying it would certainly cut down a lot of the expense and time-loss encountered by people travelling to Toronto and Ottawa to obtain direction.

Otterville area farmer Hugh Zimmer, representing the Tobacco Board, said industry compatible with agriculture is the type which should be sought. Among other needs, he listed methods to reduce property taxation and to bolster the economies of small rural communities. As well,

more daycare for children is required as farm wives are forced to seek outside employment.

Rev. John Mooney of Port Burwell asked that a "modest" sum be made available for the establishment of a local agency which could help financially troubled farmers deal with banks.

Oxford MP Bruce Halliday said details of a \$50-million federal program should soon be announced. Called the Canadian Rural Transition Program, he said it will offer several forms of assistance to farmers who are exiting from the business. Among these are counselling, financial,

retraining and relocation assistance. Dr. Halliday also said the federal sub-committee on tobacco should commence hearings in this district in early autumn.

Mr. Murphy outlined steps the Tillsonburg CEC has taken to help farm families find other occupations and plans to initiate other projects this autumn. He told the committee the more successful the Tobacco Board and other groups are in stabilizing the industry, the less difficult the task will be for the other groups attempting to deal with the consequences of industry downsizing.



DETROIT Free Press Map by MARTHA THIERRY

Cigaret crackdown dries up tobacco farms in Canada

By GERALD VOLGENAU
Free Press Canada Bureau

EDEN, Ont. — Leave Detroit, head east across Canada just above Lake Erie and after two hours you hit it — North Carolina.

Or at least it looks that way.

As you drive past farm fields, you see acres of squat, broad-leaved plants laid out in corduroy-like rows — tobacco.

It seems that the warm, moist air from Lake Erie washing north over these farmlands can simulate in Ontario such sweaty southern places as North Carolina, Virginia and Kentucky. So 90 percent of Canada's tobacco farmers are here.

And for them, tobacco has been big business.

FOUR YEARS ago, the 2,200 Canadian tobacco farmers grew 238 million pounds of tobacco and grossed about \$400 million Canadian. About half that tobacco was turned into Canadian cigarettes; the other half was sold as leaf tobacco to foreign cigaret manufacturers.

Today, however, the markets for Canada's tobacco growers are vanishing.

This year, tobacco manufacturers have ordered only 130 million pounds from the growers, whose earnings will drop to \$187 million Canadian.

One recent sultry afternoon, Tom Burwell, a 32-year-old tobacco farmer, working a plot of land near this hamlet, shut



In a pickle

About 36 workers have been busy on the farm of Fred Rochus at RR 1, Otterville harvesting this year's crop of pickling cucumbers. Mr. Rochus has been growing cucumbers for three years and has about 30 acres to

harvest. He said he has a better than average crop this year but was happy to see the rain Thursday as the crop was starting to suffer from the heat. He started harvesting about 11 days ago. (Staff Photo)

TOBACCO, from Page 1E

down his grumbling tractor to comment: "I think they are eventually going to get rid of us (tobacco farmers)."

He explained that 200-plus tobacco farmers had already dropped out, one of the three tobacco warehouses in the area had just shut down and property values in the area had plummeted by 70 to 80 percent.

"I don't know how I'm going to survive," he said.

What's driving out Burwell, along with his fellow farmers, is not Canada's legendary cold weather. It's changing times. Decreased smoking, increased regulations and foreign competition.

Like Americans, Canadians are smoking less.

In 1970, 40.6 percent of all Canadians smoked, according to Canada's Health Department statistics. By 1983,

that percentage had dropped to 31 percent. (The U.S. has comparable statistics.)

Further, it looks like the butt-out trend will continue. Some 40 percent of Canadian smokers tried to quit in the last year.

David Sweanor, attorney for Canada's Non-smokers Rights Association, estimated that by the turn of the century the percentage of smokers will have dropped below 20 percent.

A growing health consciousness has had some effect on this smoking slowdown. But a Canadian government study indicates that only one in four Canadians between the ages of 12 and 29 was able to cite lung cancer as a health effect of smoking. Fewer than 13 percent could cite heart disease.

WHY THEN do people quit? One big reason is cost.

Today in Canada, a smoker pays a whopping \$3 for a pack of 25 cigarettes

(that's about \$2.17 U.S.). About two-thirds of that cost is federal and provincial taxes. (U.S. cigaret taxes amount to about one-third.)

Canadian cigaret sales were relatively stable until 1983, when the big taxes hit. The year before, average cigaret consumption for every Canadian older than 15 was 3,853. In 1985, that total dropped to 3,348.

Citing research by Kenneth Warner, of the University of Michigan, Sweanor said that for every 10 percent increase in the price of cigarettes, consumption drops four percent.

The downswing in sales left Canada's four cigaret manufacturers struggling to eke out a bigger share in a shrinking market. A price war ensued.

Rothmans of Pall Mall Canada Ltd. led the way last fall by offering a 30-pack of its Number 7 cigarettes for the price of a 25-pack. The other companies — Benson & Hedges (Canada) Inc., Imperial Tobacco Ltd. and RJR-MacDonald Inc. — followed with price cuts

that averaged \$4 a carton or 50 cents a pack.

Rothmans President Patrick John Fennell said he expects the so-called "tobacco war" to cut \$200 million from the industry's pre-tax profits this year.

IN THE MEANTIME, Jake Epp, Canada's Minister of Health and Welfare, apparently favors stronger controls on the tobacco industry to cut public smoking.

Epp has called smoking "the single most preventable health risk of our time."

In June, he called on Canada's cigaret manufacturers to suggest ways to stiffen their voluntary code on advertising and promotion.

The 19-point code forbids radio and television advertising, billboards within 200 meters of schools, and advertising models younger than 25. All cigaret packages must carry the warning: "Health and Welfare Canada advises that danger to health increases with

amount smoked — avoid inhaling."

Reportedly, Epp wants to see cigaret ads out of all media, not just radio and TV; wants a bigger warning label on packages; and advocates a smoking ban on all forms of transportation.

While all this may bode well for the health of Canadians, it does little for the economic well-being of the tobacco farmers, who face another major problem — foreign competition.

Third-world countries, notably Zimbabwe and Brazil, are producing high-quality tobacco at a lower price and cutting into Canada's foreign sales.

SOME OBSERVERS have suggested

that the Canadian tobacco farmers simply switch to another crop. But it's not that simple.

Most of the tobacco farmers hold relatively small acreage, too small to grow grains such as wheat and barley. The fruit and vegetable market, they say, is saturated.

A few farmers in the area hope to get into the tomato paste business, but that seems dicey because of heavy competition from the United States.

"I'm licensed to drive a truck," Burwell said, shrugging. "But I hate it. I was ready to get out of it this year. But I guess I'll hang into farming until the bank tells me 'no.'"

Doctors' proposal called naive

A recommendation that Canada stop growing tobacco is a "nice endeavor" but may not be practical at this point in time, Dr. Julius Narancsik, president of Tillsonburg's medical society, commented yesterday.

"There's some practical considerations that haven't been addressed yet," Dr. Narancsik said in reacting to a recommendation this week that Canada stop growing and exporting tobacco by the year 2000. The Royal College of Physicians

and Surgeons of Canada outlined four recommendations to reduce death from cigarette smoking at the annual meeting in Toronto this week.

Dr. Narancsik pointed out that effective methods of assisting tobacco farmers in making the transition out of the industry must still be refined. He said the goal of reducing cigarette smoking in Canada should be promoted through education and public relations campaigns.

A statement from the college

reports Canadians die from smoking at a rate equivalent to the crash of a jumbo passenger jet every four days. Statistics show cigarette smoking directly kills about 30,000 Canadians each year, the college reported.

The college did not indicate how the recommendations should be carried out, but suggested tobacco farmers should be given financial assistance to switch to other forms of agriculture.

Tobacco board chairman Berry

Murray called the position "naive," noting smokers wouldn't kick the habit if tobacco production was ceased in Canada. Tobacco that could be higher in nicotine, tar and chemical residues would be imported from Third World countries to meet the demand, he said.

Mr. Murray pointed out that when Canadian tobacco production is cut, Third World countries increase tobacco production on land that could grow food for people who are starving.



A tobacco farmer strikes back.

NSRA spends bundle on anti-smoking ads

By Dave MacLaren
Staff Writer

If customary rates were charged, the Non-Smokers' Rights Association (NSRA) spent thousands of dollars on a daily newspaper ad blitz last week, urging support from readers to obtain Government regulation of the tobacco industry.

Regional variations of the full page ad appeared in 23 dailies across the country. The ads called for a ban on tobacco advertising and promotion and clean indoor air standards. Readers were asked to contact their Members of Parliament and express their support for comprehensive legislation.

The ads also carried the message that the industry produces a net economic loss for Canada when the toll on smoking on health and other factors are measured.

"We found it interesting that we haven't received a single call about the ads. I've talked to two of the four manufacturers and they hadn't received any calls either," said Jacques LaRiviere, director of public affairs for the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers' Council, during a call from Montreal Friday afternoon.

Mr. LaRiviere said he wonders if this indicates people are tired of hearing about the subject.

Seeking information as to how the NSRA paid for the ad campaign and two ads which appeared in Maclean's earlier this year, this newspaper

phoned the Association's Toronto office.

Lana Parrott of the NSRA said membership in the organization had grown from about 4,000 when the Maclean's ads appeared to approximately 6,000 at the last count. "It should be larger now," she added.

Other than for a small Federal Government grant, Ms. Parrott said activities are funded by memberships, support from special names and donations. When asked about the possibility of obtaining information about the cost of the ad campaign and the Association's financial report, she suggested the request should be made to David Sweanor, NSRA staff counsel.

"I don't know how much it cost. Our bookkeeper will when the bills come in. As a matter of policy, we don't divulge how much is spent on advocacy. The media would focus on the money, rather than the message being delivered," Mr. Sweanor said.

Asked if an NSRA financial report could be obtained, Mr. Sweanor replied, "If you join us," but did not volunteer to provide one otherwise.

He described the federal grant received by the NSRA as small, and insignificant in comparison to federal funding of the Delhi Research Station.

Mr. Sweanor said the NSRA "is not trying to manufacture enemies of farmers." He suggested health groups and farmers could work together.





Hard hit

Jason VanSeveren, above, was busy yesterday removing tobacco leaves ruined after Sunday evening's frost. Langton area tobacco farmer Larry VanSeveren estimated he lost between 18,000 and 20,000 pounds of tobacco. (Staff photo)

Frost ends harvest on some flue farms

SEPT 8

The tobacco belt's third brush with frost this season, experienced early Monday morning, has brought a premature end to harvesting on some tobacco farms while on others priming is continuing as usual.

Larry Scanlan, manager for the Ontario Crop Insurance Commission office at the Delhi Research Station, said it will be several days before the actual damage done by cold temperatures can be ascertained.

According to Mr. Scanlan, where the frost hit, it hit hard. But in many instances a farm would be affected while neighboring fields escaped damage almost entirely.

"It was really spotty," Mr. Scanlan said.

His office is currently busy trying to determine the general severity of damage and hasn't had time to get a handle on the number of calls that have come in, he said.

The areas which now appear to have escaped with the least crop losses are Lake Erie area farms and farms in the Mt. Brydges area, Mr. Scanlan commented.

Flue crops were not the only ones affected when temperatures fell to the freezing mark on the screen at the Delhi station and hit -7 degrees C. on the grass.

Tomato and soy crops were also affected, although orchards were not.

About 85 per cent of the tobacco crop had been harvested prior to the frost.

An estimated 500 farms were affected by an earlier frost on Aug. 29 when temperatures fell to half a degree above freezing at screen level and -5.5 degrees C. on the grass. Tobacco officials have estimated about a five per-cent crop loss at that time.

Early frosts destroyed \$30 million in tobacco

Between 15 to 18 million pounds of the targeted 130-million-pound flue crop were lost as a result of frosts occurring Aug. 29 and Sept. 8, Larry Scanlan manager of the Delhi office of the Crop Insurance Commission of Ontario, said Thursday morning.

A rough value of the loss has been placed at approximately \$30 million.

Recent cold weather inflicted little damage as crops in frost prone areas were either already harvested or wiped out on the earlier dates, Mr. Scanlan commented.

Damage from the earlier frosts

was widespread with producers in almost all tobacco-producing areas experiencing losses.

However, Mr. Scanlan commented that crop injury by frost this year didn't compare with those resulting from a devastating 1982 frost which wiped out 120 million pounds or about half the crop.

Growers with crop insurance will be able to recoup up to 80 per cent of lost pounds once insurance claims are processed. The crop has to be sold before the claims can be processed.

Berry Murray, chairman of the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board, said he isn't sure producers can reach the 130-million-pound crop target now from the 1986 crop but he's confident that with tobacco left in producers' barns from last year and the remaining 1985 pack, the necessary supply will still be available.

About 15 million pounds remain in the 1985 pack and farmers' carryover has been estimated at between 12 to 13 million pounds or higher, Mr. Murray said.

While this year's markets may not be in jeopardy as a result of frost losses, some producers may be. Mr. Murray said that farmers who weren't in financial difficulty before, could be now.

Harvest of the 1986 flue crop has been completed on most farms in the area, according to Milt Watson, extension specialist at the Delhi Research Station. Mr. Scanlan estimated whatever tobacco remains in the field should be off in the next day or so.

Questions arise regarding payment of flue premiums

NG SEPT 10

September is shaping up to be a busy month for the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board.

Berry Murray, board chairman, said some debate has arisen between the board and the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers Council concerning the as yet unsigned 1986 crop sale agreement.

According to Mr. Murray, there is a difference of opinion between the two sides concerning how payment for premiums on the auction floor will be handled. Last year, premiums were paid to producers over and above the \$1.76 overall average guaranteed price. This year, manufacturers are pressing to have the premiums paid included in the average. Mr. Murray said that route will effectively make the minimum guaranteed price the maximum price any farmer can receive.

"We're (the board) trying to get them to accept last year's mechanics," he said. The premiums as they were paid last year represented a reward for growers with quality tobacco.

The chairman indicated the board hopes to resolve the issue with the manufacturers in the near future.

Complications have also arisen concerning the Advance Crop Payment program for tobacco this year. Normally, the board would have already been taking applications from producers wishing to take advantage of the program. However, this year, John Wise, federal agriculture minister, is insisting there be a signed crop agreement between the tobacco board and the manufacturers before funding will be provided.

Mr. Murray said he believes

finalization of the 1986 agreement is close at hand. The board has a draft agreement signed by the companies which it must decide if it can live with. The opening for the 1986 crop market has been set for Oct. 20.

Concerning the board's request to the four major tobacco manufacturing companies for payment of the shortfall of \$10.8 million to buy down all tobacco exported from the 1985 crop, Mr. Murray said the solicitor for the companies has not yet responded to the request although an answer is expected shortly. As soon as the board receives the expected communique, it will be passed on to the board solicitor for comment and then discussed by the board.

If the reply is negative, the tobacco board is considering taking legal action to secure the requested funds.

Regulations for levy powers applied for by the tobacco board are almost complete and Mr. Murray was optimistic the document could be sent to the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Board early this week. The federal government has already granted approval for the levy powers, Mr. Murray said. It is now up to the provincial government to make its decision.

Official opening held for co-op tomato plant

T.N. SEPT 15

By JULIE DAY

After 18 months of work to get the project off the ground, a group of tobacco farmers saw their dreams become reality Saturday with the official opening of the former Topaz tomato paste plant in St. Thomas.

Public servants and politicians representing the two levels of government, who helped finance the venture, expressed their confidence in the success of the Southern Ontario Tomato Co-operative, which started production late last month.

"I believe this project will work," Federal agriculture minister John

Wise told the crowd, who gathered for the occasion. "It is the first project, but I can assure you it is not the last," he said, referring to the federal fund established to help struggling tobacco farmers diversify.

Mr. Wise, the member of parliament for Elgin County, assured the group that the federal government will continue to work with tobacco farmers to overcome the challenges now facing the industry.

The co-operative has been financed by grants and loans from the two levels of government, a bank loan

and a financial contribution from the 21 co-operative shareholders. The co-operative, Mr. Wise said Saturday, "was born out of co-operation among farmers, the government of Canada and the government of Ontario." But he added, "it was conceived by farmers, it is controlled by farmers and it is being operated by farmers."

St. Thomas Mayor Janet Golding noted the full-time jobs the plant will eventually generate is a benefit to the surrounding communities in Southwestern Ontario. The co-op has already hired eight full-time employees and 80 seasonal workers and expects to expand to 150 farms and eventually employ between 300 and 400 workers.

Co-op chairman Garry Balthes said it was the work of a large group of people and the determination of the co-op's board of directors that brought the project together. "When somebody threw a pound of bricks in front of us, we just walked around them."

"It's been a long and frustrating one and a half years," Mr. Balthes said, thanking a number of public servants for their assistance and co-operation. Guests were given a tour of the plant and treated to snacks made with tomatoes as an ingredient.

Flue board seeks support for levy

T.N. SEPT 15

Representatives from area tobacco municipalities, invited to a meeting Friday by the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board, were asked for the "support and understanding" of the board's activities, including their efforts to petition the provincial government for levy powers.

Board chairman Berry Murray said members of parliament, town councillors and local businessmen were called in so the board could outline their current activities, particularly their efforts to establish a

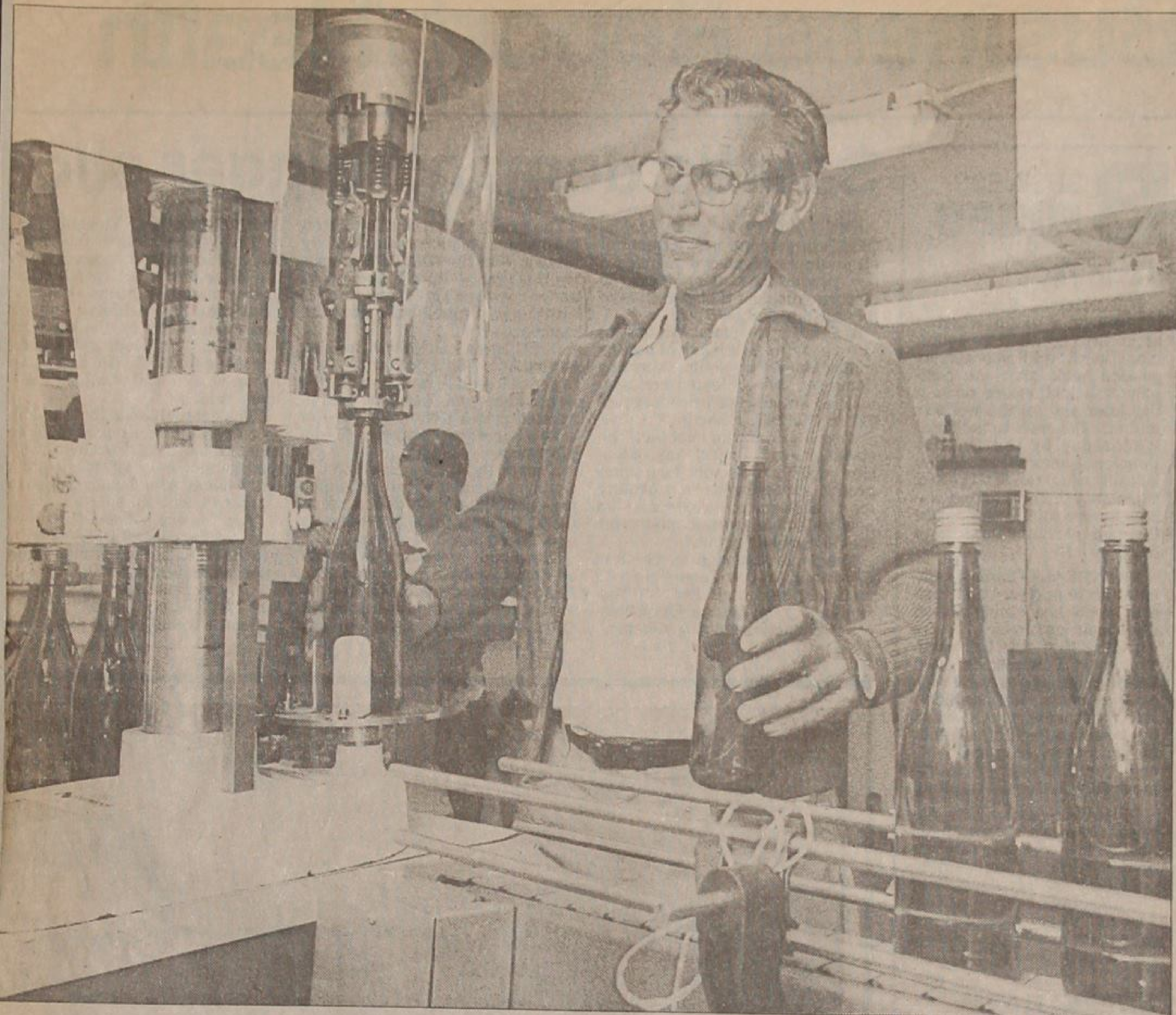
surplus removal program for tobacco.

"This was really an attempt to better educate the people who live in the area," Mr. Murray said in an interview Saturday. "We felt that by informing those individuals better, they could reply to questions and speak on our behalf in a more accurate way."

The chairman said board members outlined their objectives to this group "so they can hopefully unite behind the board's efforts to get a levy from the Ontario govern-

ment." He added that the representatives were not asked to form an official lobby group.

The levy powers the board is seeking would provide funding for a \$45 million export program from a return of a just less than two cents per pack after provincial and federal taxes are deducted. "We feel that the manufacturer should share in the burden of helping with that surplus removal program," Mr. Murray said, noting that the levy authority has already been approved by the federal government.



Michael Jordan of The Free Press

Oscar Lava has turned to bottling water as he phases out tobacco production at his Otterville operation.

From tobacco . . . to bottled water

By Gord Wainman
of The Free Press

OTTERVILLE — Ontario's 1,600 tobacco farmers, faced with serious financial decline, could only wish to have the luck of fellow grower Oscar Lava — he has struck liquid gold, and it's right in his own back yard.

The 53-year-old who emigrated from Belgium with his parents in 1947 has tapped into the escalating market for pure water, drawing from a seemingly endless supply in an artesian well on his farm which is salt-free and iron-free, with only traces of other minerals.

"Mother Nature's been working for me," said Lava, who began bottling Lava's Spring Water in July, setting up a subsidiary to his Lava Farms Inc. which produces tobac-

co, soybeans and winter wheat. He hopes to phase out his tobacco production this year.

The well is 1,200 metres (3,900 feet) deep and taps into a 26-hectare (64-acre) area. Oddly enough, his neighbors haven't been able to tap into the same or similar wells, he said. He built a house across the road "and it hasn't got the water."

In the nearly three months of production since the end of July, demand has grown about 1,000 per cent a week, Lava said. In the first week 20 cases of bottled water were produced. At the last count there were 1,200.

"We're on the market now all the way from Niagara Falls and Fort Erie to Windsor," with sales also to Burlington, Orangeville and Sudbury, he said. "Also, several wine companies have tested our water and are interested."

Lava always knew the artesian water existed because he tapped into it easily when he needed irrigation water for his tobacco, which he has been growing since 1954. He tapped into the well at as shallow a depth as five metres (16.5 feet), and was able to produce 5.4 million to 8.1 million litres a day with no fluctuation in pressure.

The University of Guelph has taken an interest in his water supply, he said. "So far, the (experts) have been unable to estimate the amount of water . . . it's in the billions of gallons."

When the tobacco market went sour, he thought of switching to other crops but, because of the sandy soil, there were either growing or marketing problems (sand permeates cabbage and lettuce, for instance).

"What we'd be doing, too, is interfering in someone else's market who traditionally had grown, say, soybeans," he said. "We'd not only be hurting ourselves but hurting them" by driving prices even lower than they are in other commodities.

Then Lava began to ponder the word-of-mouth reputation his water had gained.

"We had a lot of people calling up wanting to get our water. . . . We couldn't figure out what was going on," he said. Nursing homes in Tillsonburg and Delhi buy it for residents who had taken a liking to it.

The father of four daughters plans to build a new bottling facility next spring and expects, with escalating demand, that he will have to hire more than the six part-time workers now employed.

How much money is he making? "I don't even have time to think about that . . . I'm too busy. I think this could become a national product."

Too many trying to help farmers quit, but...

T.N. Oct 15

Little help to keep farming

By MARLENE OPDECAM

Too many people are trying to find ways to help farmers out of farming, but not enough is being done to keep the tobacco industry viable and help farmers stay on their land.

These are the sentiments of Norfolk Township Coun. Bob Causyn, currently a member of the Tobacco Decline Industry Strategy Study, a committee formed to identify and quantify farmers affected by the decline in the industry and the reasons for their situations.

"How long can you talk," Coun. Causyn said in an interview Sunday. There are already too many committees looking into problems in the industry. They all have their own system and their own mandates for

trying to help and for justifying their existence. "Pretty soon we'll have to have a co-ordinator to pull all the committee programs together," he commented.

A national marketing agency for flue has been under discussion for two years. The proposed Redux program and levy powers for the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board have been tabled before government but nothing has come of any of the programs, Mr. Causyn pointed out. And, as talks drag on, farmers continue to go broke every week, he said.

The focus of government involvement now seems to be means of helping farmers in trouble exit the in-

dustry, rather than helping the industry survive, and, in Mr. Causyn's opinion, that isn't good.

He believes strongly the tobacco board, the manufacturing companies and the federal and provincial governments must "sit down, co-operate and really mean it" in an effort to turn the industry around. "We have to promote the user-pay system (levy powers)," Coun. Causyn said. "We can't expect to get any government dollars (to support the industry) in view of the anti-smoking sentiment."

The sad part about vicious attacks by anti-smoking lobbyists on the Canadian tobacco industry is that, while they may kill the domestic in-

dustry, people will still continue to smoke, he said. But, the tobacco they smoke, instead of being Canadian and generating jobs, tax dollars and stimulating the Canadian economy, will be Third World tobacco, grown by nations that would be better off growing food to feed their own population, Coun. Causyn added.

Are tobacco belt municipalities and taxpayers fighting as hard as they should be to get help for the industry? Coun. Causyn said Norfolk is still fighting actively and, through Norfolk, the Region of Haldimand-Norfolk is as well. Oxford, Elgin and Brant, along with the region, are the municipalities making up the industry decline study committee and

so are involved in the fight too. But, Coun. Causyn questions if everyone is fighting as hard as they should be to save the industry.

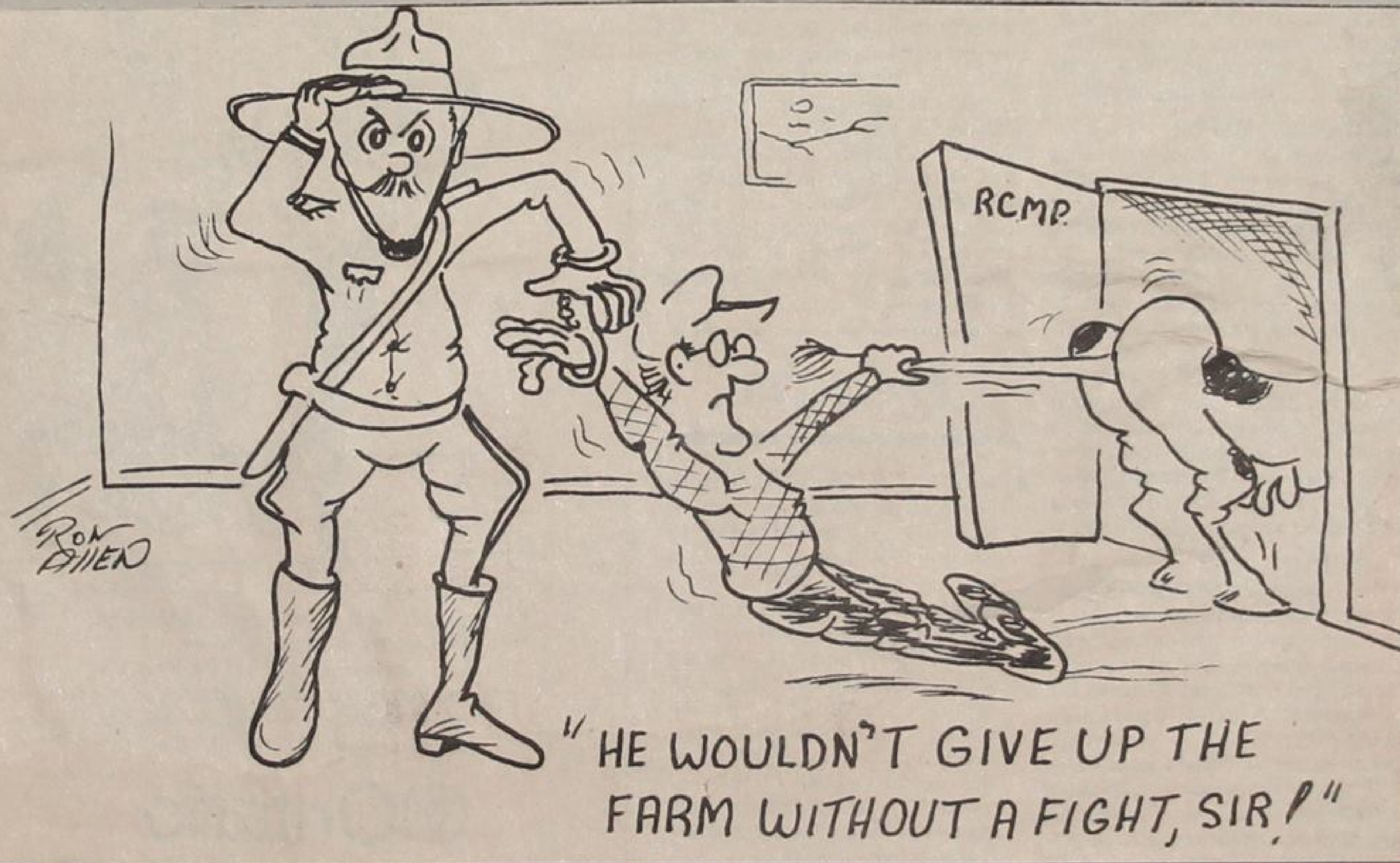
The Roman Catholic Church has gotten involved in the fight to save not just tobacco farmers but all farmers threatened with losing their livelihoods as a result of the problems in the overall agricultural sector. Coun. Causyn would like to see all denominations enter the fray to keep agriculture viable. "I'd like to see other religious groups get involved," he said. "Farmers come in all religions."

Area businessmen should also get involved as they have as much at stake, if the industry collapses, as

most farmers do, Coun. Causyn added.

Like most area residents, the councillor doesn't believe alternate crops are the answer to the problems in the tobacco industry. Farmers in the tobacco belt can grow just about anything, but they have to be able to market the crops, which isn't the case now, Coun. Causyn said.

The answer could be to spend less government money on alternate crop research and more on market development and promotion for existing crops, he speculated. In addition, farmers and the government should be doing a better job of educating the consumer to buy Canadian produce.



Letters to the Editor

Tobacco vote

I want to take issue with a quote taken from the Delhi News-Record on Oct. 8, 1986. The statement from Berry Murray was as follows: "A facility also needs to be set up to help those farm families in severe financial difficulty . . . so they can at least avoid bankruptcy, keep their homes and put food on the table."

Mr. Murray has had ample opportunity to engage competent legal advisors in the area. One such person has taken pity on the plight of bankrupt or harrassed farmers. This person has been aiding farmers and is using out-of-pocket expenses to do so. Any such person this dedicated should have been installed, in an office, in the core of the tobacco area, and these expenses could have been financed by the marketing board's petty cash fund.

The marketing board has been approached several times by different organizations to provide services for farmers in the time of recession in the tobacco industry.

The Board has continually turned down each proposal coldly!! Recently, when there was concrete hope that the Federal Government would supply funds to an association to aid the entire area in providing this service, they again blatantly set the papers aside.

In spite of this, organizations combined with Government services were offered, but the Board maintained that they needed fewer farmers, and it became survival of the fittest.

Richard Bozek envisages a time when only 1,000 growers will be left. Yes, but what will happen to 500 to 600 growers, families, communities, seasonal workers, ancillary services and industries, if there is a forced departure from the industry?

With this attitude, the tobacco belt has become classified as a wild kingdom, with the King of Beasts watching as the small and meek are being devoured.

The marketing board itself has spent endless dollars on studies, legal aid and consultants showing us the importance and monetary value they themselves place on survival. But to the individual producer, somehow the importance to stabilize a bad situation became obsolete and deliberately disposed of.

A prime example of further pushing out of the average farmer was exercised this spring, with the Board's rental policy. Few people were able to obtain a certified cheque from their bankers, thus the policy crippled the producing farmer. Also senior citizens, retirees and the farmer making an orderly transition out of tobacco was devastated. Credit availability was diminished drastically!

The compounding — confounding indecisiveness of this Board in setting poundage in and beyond the planting season again put farmers who qualified for financing in March out of business in June.

When any one person undertakes the responsibility of a position . . . as in this case a marketing board director — then he should be morally and dutifully bound to help every single person he becomes involved with, be it a farmer, businessman, company man or politician. This Board has blatantly denied every conceivable individual the accountability of complete honesty and respect, and has thus openly shirked this great responsibility.

When will the individual wake up and realize that they do have rights, they are important, they have an investment and they deserve individual attention to their situation?

Let's clean up this incompetence and complete disregard for the backbone of our industry — namely us the farmers — and vote for a competent, honest, reliable grass roots individual with a business-like attitude and manner who has our best interests foremost in mind.

L. Reynaert
RR 1, LaSalette

Letters to the Editor

(continued from page 4)

one bar ticket. To those of you who supported it, I thank you.

To the rest, thanks for nothing. I guess you would rather support the LCBO.

They say there is strength in numbers. I guess this proves the theory wrong. Twenty-two hundred farmers and friends of farmers under one roof waiting for someone else to fight their battle. Well, when you go to war with a handful of fighters, you're going to lose. And the few fighters there are, will soon get tired.

One single dollar from each of these people could of kept that bright yellow, eye-catching sign on Highway 3 for over a year.

So if the tobacco industry goes under, tobacco farmers have no one else to blame but themselves.

I for one, have given up trying. With no one behind you, why bother?

Disappointed,
S. Ethier
Delhi

Think about it.

With the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Board elections coming in October, please give SERIOUS thought to what YOUR director has ACCOMPLISHED for the industry during the past two years.

- Has he KEPT his promises?
- Did he PASS THE BUCK when laying blame why his promises were not kept?
- Is he growing tobacco or seeing the world at YOUR expense?
- Did he state at two mass tobacco meetings

(a year apart) that he had bought 'X' number of pounds and in seven or eight years hadn't been able to pay for those pounds?

- Is he now receiving EXTRAVAGANT meeting and travel expenses at YOUR cost to pay for those pounds?

- Is he REALLY working for the tobacco industry as a whole or for his own personal monetary achievement?

- Would he advocate (with fewer producers) a decrease in the number of directors and committee persons or would he be AFRAID he would be the one to "Go"?

Before you vote, THINK of your director and committee person seeking election — for what reason?

- A desire to serve THEIR industry?
- To promote a pet project?
- To be in the limelight?
- To be in power?
- To receive a LIVING expense — monetary achievement?

- To run for office to keep someone else out who may have BETTER ideas?

There will probably always be a tobacco industry providing we have STABLE-MINDED LEADERSHIP beginning at the LOCAL level.

Don't vote because he/she is a friend seeking election — vote because he/she is a STABLE-MINDED business person who will look after YOUR interests.

Catharine Mann,
A Concerned Farmer.
OTTERVILLE

THINK BEFORE VOTING

The Editor: With the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Board elections coming in October, please give serious thought to what your director has accomplished for the industry during the past two years.

- has he kept his promises?
- did he pass the buck when laying blame why his promises were not kept?
- is he growing tobacco or seeing the world at your expense?
- is he really working for the tobacco industry as a whole or for his own personal monetary achievement?
- would he advocate (with fewer producers) a decrease in the number of directors and committee persons or would he be afraid he would be the one to go?

Before you vote, think of your director and committee person seeking election - for what reason?

- a desire to serve their industry?
- to promote a pet project?
- to be in the limelight?
- to be in power?
- to receive a living expense - monetary achievement?
- to run for office to keep someone else out who may have better ideas?

There will probably always be a tobacco industry, providing we have stable-minded leadership beginning at the local level.

Don't vote because he/she is a friend seeking election - vote because, he/she is a stable-minded business person, who will look after your interests.

Catherine Mann
A concerned farmer.

Growers prepare for district voting

By Dave MacLaren
Staff Writer

Ten of the 14 Ontario flue-cured tobacco districts will hold elections Oct. 21 to select directors, and sharegrowers will also vote to choose their member to the Tobacco Board. It's a major change from a year ago, when all but two of the 15 Board members were acclaimed to office.

In District 12, Chairman Berry Murray is challenged by a former vice-chairman, Albert Bouw. Vice-Chairman Richard Bozek faces two other candidates, former director Joe Bosnjak and an incumbent committeeman, John Vamos, in District 13.

District 8 has the widest selection of candidates for director, with six to choose from. Incumbent Director Carl Manary, three incumbent committeemen — Robert Bogaert, Michael Schweder and Dan Van Eenoo — and Frank DeCleir and

Margaret Marshall seek the position.

The four directors acclaimed to another term of office are Adam Pechloff, District 2; Alvin Lindsay, District 3; George Demeyere, District 5, and Ted Raytrowsky in District 10.

Both sharegrower director candidates reside in the Waterford area. They are incumbent Len Padyk and former sharegrower director Larry DeCarolus.

Candidates for director in other districts are: District 1: Incumbent Steve Okolisian and former director Otto Schneider; District 4: Incumbent Albert Knab, Noel Maertens and Bill Pasztor Jr.; District 6: Incumbent Michael Murray and Andre VanMaele; District 7: Incumbent Ted Krupicz, George Gilvesy and Edward Kriwez; District 9: former director Carl Szucs and Theophil VanGulck; District 11: Incumbent Thomas McElhone and incumbent committeeman Roger Storp; District 14: Incumbent Don

Burgess and former director T.M. (Mac) Frew.

Committeemen were acclaimed to office in nine districts.

By district, they are, District 1: Tere Lebedz, Herman Schaap, Larry VanAcker, Dan Perovich; District 3: Joseph deRyk, George Goeckler, Leonard Jones, David Mennill; District 5: George Fulop Jr., A.S. Gilvesy, Steve Mayoresak, David Ramer; District 8: Danielle Decooperman, G.J. Demaiter, W.A. Dunsmore, Gilbert Riviere; District 10: George Demaiter, Paul Masschaele, Donald Partridge, Vincent Zorad; District 11: William Broda Jr., Dennis Hare, Frank Menich, Hugh Zimmer; District 12: Fred Cebulak, Michael Downing, Rudy Stickl, Robert Proracki; District 13: Jon Lechowicz, Randal Nechelput, George Rapai, Regina Rudy; District 14: John Barzo, T. John Malecki, George Ryken, Peter Tax.

In districts where elections will be

held to elect committeemen, the candidates are, District 2: Jack Harris, incumbent, Frank Kovacs, incumbent, Firman Matthys, incumbent, Dennis A. Stier, Richard VanDamme; District 4: Allan Fisher, incumbent, Mathew A. Schafer, incumbent, Steve Szvirida, incumbent, Robert Leighfield, Joe Cnockaert; District 6: Stan Baswick, incumbent, Francis Huyge, Colin McCallum, incumbent, Paul Ryder incumbent, Willy Van Heughen, incumbent; District 7: Joseph Eppel, incumbent, Pierre Gubbels, Daniel Kovacs, incumbent, Marian Muth, incumbent, Marcel Vanhooren, Andy Zei; District 9: Marcel Anseeuw, incumbent, Urbain Cornellie, incumbent, Gerard Niville, Maurice Rebry, incumbent, James Rutledge, Gus VanDaele, incumbent.

There will be elections in 11 of the 14 districts for either directors or committeemen, as well as the sharegrowers election.

Six directors lose seats in flue board elections

Tobacco-belt flue farmers expressed their displeasure with Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board members at the polls Tuesday night.

When all the polls were tallied, six incumbent board directors, including chairman Berry Murray and vice-chairman Richard Bozek and incumbent sharegrowers' representative Len Padyk, were ousted from their seats.

Results were as follows. In District 1, Otto Schneider of Sparta beat out Steve Okolisian of Rodney 57 to 43. The incumbent director for the district was Steve Fodor, who did not seek re-election.

Incumbent Albert Knab in District 4 managed to retain his directorship over challengers Noel Maertens of RR 1, Vienna, and Bill Pasztor Jr. of Langton by a slim margin of two votes. Mr. Knab captured 38 votes to Mr. Pasztor's 36 and Mr. Maertens' 35.

Michael Murray of RR 1, LaSalette, incumbent in District 6, lost out to newcomer Andre VanMaele of RR 1, Delhi, with a vote of 86 to 50.

George Gilvesy Jr. swept the polls in District 7, beating out incumbent Ted Krupicz by 57 votes and opponent Ed Kriwez by 32 votes. Final tallies for the three men were 74, 17 and 49 respectively.

Six people vied for the director's seat in District 8, with Robert Bogaert of RR 1, Langton, beating out all comers with 48 votes. Candidates Frank DeCleir of RR 1, Langton; incumbent Carl Manary of RR 1, Walsingham; Margaret Marshall of RR 3, Langton; Mike

Schweder of RR 3, Langton, and Danny Van Eenoo of RR 2, Langton, captured votes of 43, 10, 8, 23 and 19 respectively.

Replacing Stephen Nagy Jr. of RR 1, Walsingham, who chose not to toss his hat in the ring in District 9, is Theo VanGulck of RR 1, Clear Creek. Mr. Van Gulck defeated contender Carl Szucs of RR 1, Walsingham, by a vote of 73 to 61.

Incumbent Tom McElhone of RR 2, Vanessa, went down to defeat in District 11 in a 78 to 52 vote. Mr. McElhone will be replaced by Roger Storp of RR 3, Scotland.

In a very close vote of 60 to 57, Berry Murray of RR 1, Wilsonville, lost his director's spot to Albert Bouw of RR 1, Windham Centre, in District 12, while Richard Bozek of RR 4, Brantford, went down to defeat in District 13 by 27 votes. Mr. Bozek will be replaced by John Vamos of

RR 4, Brantford, who received 63 votes. A third contender for the directorship, Joe Bosnjak received 50 votes.

One vote made the difference for incumbent Don Burgess of RR 1, Drumbo, in District 14. Mr. Burgess captured 53 votes while challenger Mac Frew of RR 1, Port Hope, captured 52.

Incumbent sharegrowers' representative Len Padyk of RR 3, Waterford, suffered a staggering defeat at the polls, winning only 70 votes to his successful opponent's 219. Mr. Padyk will be replaced by Larry DeCarolus of RR 4, Waterford.

Directors elected to office by acclamation were George Demeyere of Tillsonburg in District 5; Adam Pechloff of RR 2, Wardsville, in District 2; Al Lindsay of RR 2, Aylmer, in District 3 and Ted Raytrowski of RR 1, St. Williams, in District 10.

Committeemen elected to office in the Tuesday night poll include Jack Harris of RR 5, Mt. Brydges, Frank Kovacs of RR 3, Mt. Brydges, Firman Matthys of RR 1, Mt. Brydges, and Richard Van Damme of RR 5, Thamesville, in District 2; Joseph Cnockaert of RR 1, Vienna, Bob Leighfield of RR 1, Vienna, Mathew Schafer of Straffordville and Steve Szvirida of RR 1, Vienna, in District 4; Stan Baswick of RR 1, Delhi, Francis Huyge of RR 7, Simcoe, Paul Ryder of RR 2, Delhi, and Willy Van Heugten of RR 1, LaSalette, in District 6; Joseph Eppel of RR 1, Courtland, Pierre Gubbels of RR 3, Delhi, Marcel Vanhooren of RR 1, Delhi, and Andrew Zei of RR 6, Tillsonburg, in District 7, and in District 9 Marcel Anseeuw of RR 1, Walsingham, Urbain Corneille of RR 5, Langton, Maurice Rebry of RR 1, Clear Creek, and Gus Van Daele of RR 1, Walsingham.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

October 1961

Horst Brown, radio and television editor for Ontario Hydro was the special guest speaker for the annual Rural-Urban night held by the Tillsonburg Rotary Club.

Fifty-five Rotarians and guests attended the event at the United Church in Vienna.

Two hundred and thirteen bottles of blood were donated by local residents Tuesday at the Canadian Red Cross fall blood clinic held in St. John's Parish Hall.

A minimum average price of 56 cents a pound for the 1961 crop of flue-cured tobacco is expected as a result of the scale of minimum grade prices awarded by the board of arbitration in Welland last week.

Major change in Flue Board directors

By Dave McLaren
Staff Writer

DN OCT 29

Nine new Tobacco Board directors will serve on the incoming Board, which holds its inaugural meeting in Tillsonburg Thursday to select a chairman and vice-chairman.

In elections last Tuesday, eight incumbent directors lost their seats. Another did not stand for reelection. Chairman Berry Murray, Vice-Chairman Richard Bozek and share-growers' representative Len Padyk were among incumbents defeated at the polls.

Three of the incoming directors regained seats they lost in the 1984 election, when nine of the 15 positions on the Board changed hands. The 1984 election brought about the largest change in leadership since 1962, and this turnover was matched again at polls last week.

"I just pray the industry makes it. I think everyone who ran for office has the best of intentions and I sure hope they can win," Mr. Murray said.

"It's just that having been on the inside, I know how overwhelming the problems are. I admire the courage it takes to run.

"We all have to stay united. I firmly believe in this.

"I'll miss the staff and directors who served with me. They are a great bunch of people," he said.

Mr. Bozek agrees. "I think everyone who was defeated wishes the new Board well. We have farms we want to do well on.

"You can't blame growers (for the election outcome). They can't lash out at Governments and companies. The Board is the immediate entity they deal with.

"I think we took the right direction over the last two years. There have been so many major obstacles we just couldn't deliver fast enough. The decline (in production and its drastic consequences) has been so rapid no one could adjust.

"Incoming directors will be under a lot of pressure. They'll have to run — not walk," he said.

The financial difficulties of growers continue to mount. While production may not decline next year, Mr. Bozek says 130 million pounds is not enough to counter the turmoil, especially if Governments aren't able to deliver something substantial in the form of a redux program.

"My concern is I sense an attitude on the part of some new directors that less Government is better Government. I hope it is not general.

"I think pressure has to be maintained on both Governments and the companies. The first thing is to get them to recognize the problems in our tobacco communities. I think we have accomplished this to a large degree in the last two years.

"Secondly, both Governments and the companies have to recognize their responsibility for some of these problems. While there has been some recognition, there has been too much shunting of the problem back to growers.

"Thirdly — and where I think the new Board has to concentrate — are the solutions," Mr. Bozek said.

District 4 Director Alvin Lindsay, who appears to be a front runner for chairman, expressed views similar to Mr. Bozek's about involvement on the part of Government and the companies.

In a telephone conversation last week, Mr. Lindsay confirmed he will let his name stand for chairman.

"I expected some changes (in directorships), but not as many. I guess people are disappointed, upset and angry and they have to take it out on someone," he said.

"We have to look at longer term methods to stabilize the industry, not just 12 month periods. I think we also have to get manufacturers financially involved in packing allocated tobacco. Farmers cannot afford to do it themselves. It has to be a joint venture. It only makes common sense that they'll (companies) be more interested in moving it if they have some money invested.

"I think (the proposed) provincial levy is integral in moving exports out. We have to keep working toward achieving this (legislation)," Mr. Lindsay said.

Neither of the two former chairmen who are Board members intend to seek the office again.

"I feel it's time for someone new. Al Lindsay has my support. He has been on the Board for a long time and he is well respected," said George Demeyere.

"I've done my stint," replied Ted Raytrowsky when asked if he planned to stand for chairman. "There are younger men on the Board. I am

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willing to help in anyway I can, but not as chairman again."

Asked if he planned to seek the position of vice-chairman, which he has held on two previous occasions, District 12 Director Albert Bouw replied: "No comment at this point."

Incumbent Directors Albert Knab, District 4, and Don Burgess, District 14, won close elections in their districts. Four other directors were acclaimed to the 1986-7 term of office at nomination meetings Oct. 1. They are Adam Pechloff, District 2; Alvin Lindsay, District 3; George Demeyere, District 5; and Ted Raytrowsky, District 10.

Incoming directors include Otto Schneider, District 1; Andre Van-Maele, District 6; George J. Gilvesy,

District 7; Robert Bogaert, District 8; Theo VanGulck, District 9; Roger Storp, District 11; Albert Bouw, District 12; John Vamos, District 13; and the sharegrowers' Director Larry DeCarolis.

In the five districts where elections for committeemen were held, the successful candidates are:

District 2, Jack Harris, Frank Kovacs, Firman Matthys, Richard VanDamme; District 4, Joseph Cnockaert, Bob Leighfield, Mathew Schafer, Steve Szvirida; District 6, Stanley Baswick, Francis Huyge, Paul Ryder, Willy VanHeugten; District 7, Joseph Eppel, Pierre Gubbels, Marcel Vanhooren, Andrew Zei; District 9, Marcel Anseeuw, Urbain Corneillie, Maurice Rebry, Gus VanDaele.

Tobacco sales down after first week

As the first week of flue-cured tobacco sales drew to a close, daily volume sold through the two auction exchanges averaged 1.8 million pounds and allocated offerings were well below last year's levels.

Board Chairman Berry Murray said these were positive signs.

"I am happy with the way (exchange) managers are putting tobacco through. The long-term daily volume sold through three exchanges is 1.95 million pounds and they've been selling just about 100,000 pounds less than this through two. If sales remain in this vicinity, it should be an efficient market.

"Allocations have been averaging about 7 per cent of the volume offered and that's considerably less than at the beginning of the 1985 crop market.

"There are plenty of signs of interest from export buyers as well. Some began to buy opening day. Several others have sent representatives to check the floors out already. If they're satisfied, there is usually a couple of weeks lag-time before they firm orders up for types and quantities.

"From an average price of \$1.1928 opening day, it crept up to \$1.2071 by Friday," Mr. Murray said.

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Lindsay takes over reins of troubled tobacco board

By Gord Wainman
of The Free Press OCT 31

TILLSONBURG — Soft-spoken Alvin Lindsay of RR 2, Aylmer, a long-time director of the troubled Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board, was acclaimed 1987 chairman Thursday following a bloodless coup in Oct. 21 elections that ousted more-combative directors.

Lindsay was quick to put a new face on dealings the board will have with government after the defeat of eight of the 15-member board, including chairman Berry Murray of Wilsonville. The old board had sparred openly in the last two years with politicians.

"I had the opportunity this week to talk with the federal minister of agriculture, John Wise, and we're all concerned about the problems growers have financially," Lindsay said in his inaugural speech. He talked at length with Wise even before he was formally acclaimed board chairman.

Murray and defeated vice-chairman Richard Bozek of RR 4, Brantford, along with several of those directors deposed last week, had argued openly with Wise and cigarette manufacturers, demanding assistance for tobacco belt farmers.

"We have to have more co-operation with the government and (to-

bacco manufacturing) trade ... relations have to be maintained," Lindsay told the meeting.

He indicated he already was smoothing the waters with Wise.

"He intends to make an announcement in the near future for farmers in financial difficulty," Lindsay said.

Wise also renewed an offer to finance 50 per cent of a board management study and to meet soon with the new board to work out a compensation program for hurting farmers, the new chairman said.

Lindsay indicated he was ready to deal quickly with two programs urged by the old board — pressing the federal government for national marketing agency status and relieving the farmer board of the responsibility to buy, pack and sell surplus tobacco.

"Growers cannot continue to exist ... the way we are going in regards to buying and packing our

own tobacco," Lindsay said. "I would hope the board can get out of the full 100-per-cent responsibility for ... this unsold tobacco." He feels the board, manufacturers and government should share responsibility.

As for continuing the push for national agency powers, which would give the farmer board control of pricing, production volume and tobacco imports, Lindsay didn't indicate where he stood.

"A lot of time was spent on it in the last few years, and certainly I think it has to come to a conclusion one way or another," Lindsay said.

Albert Bouw of RR 2, Windham Centre, beat Albert Knab of RR 6, Tillsonburg, in a 13-2 vote for the vice-chairman's job. He mentioned only one item he wants to pursue.

"It's a time we took a serious look at the size of our (15-member) board of directors. The industry can't afford us all any more," he said.

Lindsay, Bouw head Flue Board

By Dave MacLaren
Staff Writer

District 3 Director Alvin Lindsay of RR 2, Aylmer began his 17th term on the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board by being acclaimed chairman at the inaugural meeting Thursday.

Following an absence of two years, District 12 Director Albert Bouw of RR 1, Windham Centre was returned to the office of vice-chairman which he had held then and during the 1981-2 term. Mr. Bouw won the vice-chairmanship by a 13-2 vote in an election with District 4 Director Albert Knab.

Mr. Lindsay, the sixth person to serve as chairman in the Board's 30-year history, outlined the challenges ahead, as he sees them, in his inaugural address.

"There are a lot of problems. I hope we can solve some. We won't solve them all," he said.

Mr. Lindsay told the meeting he

had an opportunity to talk to Minister of Agriculture John Wise earlier that week.

"The minister said he will honour full funding for Advance Crop Payment loans as soon as the documents are signed. Applicants have received about 72 per cent of the loans they were eligible for and roughly another \$18-million will be forthcoming.

"Mr. Wise said his offer still stands to finance 50 per cent of an independent cost feasibility study on the Aylmer exchange. I believe the intent of the study would be to see how we can cut marketing costs, beyond the question of operating two or three exchanges.

"He said also, he wants some of his staff to meet with the new Board for discussions about the tobacco redux program and that he would welcome some input from directors. He said he hopes we can come up with

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Tobacco criticized

Tobacco farming should be phased-out by the year 2000, contended the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada last week, in the first public policy statement the organization has made on cigarette smoking.

Picking up the theme expressed by other health groups, the college does not want Canadian tobacco exported to other countries, including the Third World.

This position ignores the fact underdeveloped countries are the source of much of the global supply of raw tobacco. And because crops are grown under more primitive conditions in many of these countries, there is far less control over insecticides used in its production.

Municipal spokesmen from tobacco belts suggested the college policymakers inform themselves before proposing an action which would destroy a large portion of the economic activity in their respective communities. The policy was described as "naive", as the end result would be that Canadian smokers would have to depend on imported leaf supplies which could be more hazardous to their health.

The college is the body responsible for the training and certification of medical specialists in Canada.

In addition to a ban on leaf production, the college wants programs developed to assist people who wish to quit smoking; anti-smoking educational programs for children, and protective measures against second-hand smoke.

The policy committee said it recognized the hardships this would create for tobacco growers and advocated they receive financial assistance to switch to other types of agriculture.

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something agreeable to both sides and that he intends to soon make an announcement," Mr. Lindsay said.

High on his list of immediate meetings, Mr. Lindsay said, is one to permit the trade to meet the new directors. The second is a meeting with the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Board, to provide the new directors with an update on progress made by the Tobacco Advisory Committee. The TAC is a group of federal-provincial-trade-grower representatives that is attempting to develop longer term co-ordination of the industry.

Outgoing Chairman Berry Murray and Vice-Chairman Richard Bozek have been the Board representatives on the TAC. Mr. Lindsay said he welcomes their offers to assist the new Board in briefings on this matter.

"I believe we still require more co-operation from Governments and the trade. Continual meetings will be required to impress upon them the problems we have.

"Growers cannot continue to carry the full financial responsibility for packing tobacco. I feel the trade and Governments have to be involved as well. I don't see this as an impossibility, as the trade used to look after all unsold tobacco, although we may not be able to obtain that entire commitment from them again.

"The provincial levy (to assist exports) is very important — a must. Help has to come from the Provincial Government and the trade," Mr. Lindsay stressed.

Among other matters, Mr. Lindsay said an informative monthly newsletter to producers is planned;

emphasis will be placed on reducing operating costs, and efforts will be made to set regulation and production policies for the upcoming year early. Along with this, he said he would strive for earlier crop negotiations, but he acknowledged this had also been the aim of previous boards. As well, he said directors must try to convince lending institutions to ease credit restrictions on operating loans.

Mr. Bouw concurred with Mr. Lindsay's proposals.

"I think we have to utilize everyone, including our farmers," he said.

He said he will press for a reduction in the number of elective offices on the Board this year "even if it includes my own job," because

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farmers cannot afford all of them anymore.

A system which allows growers to have production guidelines two or three years in advance is also important, Mr. Bouw said.

Earlier, outgoing Vice-Chairman Richard Bozek urged the new directors to at least review the programs their predecessors worked on. "Farmers are looking for fast answers and you'll get your report card a year from now," he said.

The problem, Mr. Bozek said, is convincing Federal and Provincial Governments and the trade that practical solutions are available. He said farmers know what those solutions are, but do not have the support of the other three partners in the industry (the trade and two levels of Government) to initiate them.

"There's nothing you can do on your own to solve the tremendous problems. You did not bring them on yourselves, yet most of the load of coping with them has been left to farmers," he said.

Former directors Steve Okolisan of RR 1, Rodney, Steve Nagy of RR 1, Walsingham and Carl Manary of RR 1, Walsingham echoed Mr. Bozek's sentiments. All wished the incoming directors success, adding that the future of growers depends upon this.

Emil Neukamm of RR 1, Aylmer, who is chairman of the committee which sought to keep the Aylmer exchange open, requested directors not to sell any of the exchanges until the study proposed by Mr. Wise was completed. He said the committee also plans to approach Ontario Minister of Agriculture and Food Jack Riddell to see if his ministry will share a portion of the study's cost.

A request that Agriculture Canada cover the additional costs of operating the Aylmer exchange while the study was being done, made by then Chairman Berry Murray to Mr. Wise, was not acted upon. However, in mid-October, Mr. Wise announced the Ontario Bean Producers' Marketing Board's operating costs will be guaranteed by the Federal Government to enable it to market beans in the most profitable manner. Heavy rains caused substantial white bean losses this fall.

Committeeman Hugh Zimmer of RR 2, Otterville asked directors to lodge an official objection to Investment Canada about the proposed merger of Benson and Hedges and Rothmans operations here, on grounds of the South African connection of the latter tobacco manufacturer. He said senior federal cabinet ministers should also be advised of the Board's position on this proposal.

Aylmer exchange closing

OCT

An appeal by a committee of Aylmer area tobacco farmers and politicians to keep the Aylmer tobacco auction exchange open for business was denied by an Ontario Farm Products Marketing Board tribunal late Thursday morning.

The Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board made the decision to close the exchange in mid-July in an effort, it said, to save money. That decision was appealed by the committee first to the tobacco board and later to the farm products marketing board.

The committee felt that board had

failed to consult with flue farmers who would be affected prior to making its decision and argued that the decision was purely political and made without facts and figures to verify its necessity.

Emil Neukamm, reeve of Malahide who headed the committee, said he was "definitely surprised" by the appeal tribunal's decision. "We had a pretty good case (against the closure)," Mr. Neukamm said.

The one-tenth of a cent per pound the board will save is not going to

solve the mismanagement by the board as a whole, he commented.

While the reeve was unable to say what the committee he heads will do now that the tribunal has reached its decision, he indicated he believes it is possible the committee will choose to take the issue directly to the minister of agriculture.

The decision to carry the fight further can't be made until the committee receives a written notice of the decision listing the reasons why the appeal was denied. The written decision is expected in about 10 days.

In the meantime, Mr. Neukamm said he will be in touch with the minister's office to determine the protocol to be followed to set up an interview with the minister if the committee decides that it is the route it will go.

Richard Bozek, vice-chairman of the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board, said he first learned of the tribunal's decision by phone around noon today (Thursday). However, he said he will not know the exact reasoning behind the tribunal's decision until

the board receives a written copy of the ruling later this month.

"We're pleased that they felt the logic behind our reasoning was sound," said Mr. Bozek. "We're basically pleased with the decision."

If the board had decided to do anything different than run the two exchanges said Mr. Bozek, it would have created undue hardship on the majority of the producers in the region.

"We realised all farmers are having a rough time. It's (the closing of the Aylmer exchange) not something the board enjoyed doing."

Tobacco companies merge

OCT

Merger negotiations between Rothman's Pall Mall Canada Ltd. and Benson & Hedges have reached a successful conclusion.

The two members of the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers Council will join forces to become Rothman's, Benson & Hedges Inc.

Rothman's Inc., the parent of the Canadian subsidiary, will control 60 per cent of the new entity, while Philip Morris, Benson & Hedges parent company, will own the remainder.

The combination, if the merger is approved by Investment Canada, is expected to give the two manufacturing companies a 31-per-cent share of Canada's \$6 billion annual tobacco market.

David Dangoor, president of the Montreal-based Benson & Hedges, says the merger doesn't automatically mean plans for drastic rationalization.

The companies are not joining forces with any pre-set conditions concerning plant closures or cut-

backs in personnel, Mr. Dangoor said Friday.

If approved, however, the companies will naturally be looking at what savings can be made where duplications exist.

Toronto-based Rothmans cut its work force by about 450 employees to 1,400, with the shut-down of its Toronto plant affecting a further 170 workers.

Benson & Hedges has slightly more than 800 employees. Just less than 200 of those work in the firm's plant in Brampton.

Neil Wickham, merchandising analyst with the investment firm of Walwyn, Stodgell, Cochran, Murray Ltd., says the proposed merger, by helping sales at Rothmans, could end this year's price-war initially launched by that company.

The merging companies blame government tobacco taxes for hurting sales and earnings. Joining forces will help them compete more effectively, they said.

Since 1980, taxes on cigarettes

have risen 167 per cent and now account for 64 per cent of their price.

Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board vice-chairman Richard Bozek said it will probably take months before plans for the merger are finalized and approved.

For growers, the amalgamation means one less buyer on the market floor, Mr. Bozek said. The fact the two companies were forced to join forces to market their products effectively underlines the negative effect of punitive government taxation of a legal product, he commented.

Whether or not the consolidation of the two companies might mean a softening in Rothman's attitude toward such board issues as its fight for levy powers or some other type of export promotion program is "indeterminate at this time," the vice-chairman said.

It was a difficult decision and the board knew when it made the decision it wasn't going to be able to satisfy all the producers," he said.

Mr. Bozek said, "Times are tough and the volume wasn't there to justify three warehouses."

A spokesperson for the ministry of agriculture media relations office said the board and the committee were informed of the tribunal's decision by phone because if the appeal had been granted the board would have needed time to prepare for the opening of the exchange on Oct. 20.

Epp proposing tobacco controls

T.N. No. 1

Health Minister Jake Epp will be going to cabinet with his own program for stricter controls on tobacco.

The minister, dissatisfied with the results of meetings held with the country's leading tobacco manufacturers in recent months, concerning how the tobacco industry regulates itself, had asked for revised proposals from the manufacturers by last Friday.

The industry missed the minister's deadline and Mr. Epp is advising Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers Council (CTMC) members by telegram that he will go ahead on his own with stricter controls on their product.

CTMC spokesman Jean Claval

said the manufacturers had been seeking an extension as two member companies, Rothmans of Pall Mall Ltd. and Benson and Hedges Canada Inc., have been preoccupied with merger arrangements.

The majority of the country's leading anti-smoking and health groups have been lobbying vigorously to persuade the federal government to enact a tough program to discourage smoking.

The groups maintain there should be a ban on all tobacco advertising and promotion, hefty tax increases to discourage consumption, help for tobacco farmers who want to shift into other crops and legislation to give more protection to the rights of non-smokers.

The largest flue-cured tobacco crop ever grown in Ontario up to 1966 — 205 million pounds — went on sale at auction exchanges in Tillsonburg, Aylmer, and Delhi.

Tobacco auctions close for holidays

D.N. DEC 23

By Dave MacLaren
Staff Writer

Ontario flue-cured auctions recessed for the Christmas break Friday with 80,206,701 pounds marketed for an over-all average price of \$123.23 per hundred pounds.

Approximately 28 more sale days will be required to complete sales after the market resumes Jan. 5, if daily sales volumes continue at the same pace.

Board Chairman Alvin Lindsay says export sales haven't been as high as he'd liked to have seen, and he hopes overseas demand will be stronger in the New Year.

"Buyers tell us all the customers they had for the last crop are back, but they haven't been buying as many pounds. They say, if they can find the tobacco they need, they'll buy it. However, I've also been told the fact we are selling two crops in one year means some of the leaf hasn't cleared the system," he said.

Over-all allocations range between seven and eight per cent of sales, but last week as much as 12 to 13 per cent of the offerings did not receive a bid.

Farmers seeking to rent in quota from the second pool last week received 85.65 per cent of the amount they requested. Another rental pool will be held at the end of the market. Mr. Lindsay said results from the second rental pool appear to indicate the crop will come close to the 130 million pound target.

Meanwhile, various sub-committees of the Tobacco Advisory Committee are preparing information for a full meeting of the TAC on Jan. 27 and 28. Mr. Lindsay hopes that the trade and Board will be

looking at some things associated with 1987 crop negotiations right after that TAC meeting.

Thursday, directors met with Ontario Minister of Agriculture and Food, Jack Riddell.

One of the topics discussed was a provincial export levy on processed tobacco for domestic manufacture, the funds from which would be used to reduce export leaf prices.

"Two years ago, manufacturers provided \$20-million for this program. It's down to \$12-million this market, and we don't know what it will be next year," Mr. Lindsay said.

"We tried to emphasize to the Minister how difficult it will be to maintain exports without a program.

"He told us he wants to give the TAC a chance to come up with some jointly feasible solutions to the industry's problems. If nothing is forthcoming, Mr. Riddell said he'd take a look at it.

"I suppose he could recommend a provincial levy or a national agency," Mr. Lindsay commented.

Whether the TAC can reach a long-term agreement of three to five years, Mr. Lindsay said he did not know. He said he does feel a projection of the industry's future over that period of time is possible, especially for domestic production. Even then, he said it would likely have to be based on factors such as variable levels of product taxation and the degrees of impact these could have on consumption.

This, he said, could serve as a guideline to farmers to help them decide whether they should get out of the business or stay in it.

"The TAC seems to have come to

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Tobacco auctions close for holidays

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the point now where it has to put the brass tacks in place and start to nail them down," Mr. Lindsay said.

Mr. Riddell agreed to help fund part of an efficiency study on Board operations, provided the Board put some money into the project. Minister of Agriculture John Wise offered to fund 50 per cent of the study during the debate about closing the Aylmer auction exchange.

Mr. Lindsay said directors will probably make a decision on the federal and provincial offers to fund part of the study in January. "It's up to the Board to try to trim costs in any areas we can."

Industry rationalization and provincial assistance for farmers getting out of tobacco were also topics at the meeting with Mr. Riddell. Mr. Lindsay

said the Minister told directors he wants to see what the Federal Government is doing first but added, he could not ignore the situation.

Directors held a general discussion with consultant Everett Biggs about the tobacco assistance program Wednesday. Mr. Biggs, now engaged by Agriculture Canada, is to have a draft proposal completed by the end of January.

"It sounds as though Mr. Wise would like to make an announcement in early February," Mr. Lindsay said.

"The one basic change the Board has made from the original request — for a universal approach — is that the money should go to the people who need it the most, and that this be done by application.

"The reason for this is that we still haven't given up on a quota redux through one of these programs, and the people who stay in tobacco would benefit from that."

"We don't like to see the remaining producers take on the debt-load of purchasing quota from those leaving the business," Mr. Lindsay said. He said this viewpoint is shared by manufacturers, and he believes Governments also understand it.

"But, I don't want to get anyone's hopes too high on a quota reduction program because of political ramifications at both the provincial and federal levels," he said.

"Our biggest priority now is to reduce stocks of packed tobacco, especially through sales in the export market. It's imperative that we move some leaf, because we cannot afford the cost of carrying it. By the end of the season, loans on the pack could range from between \$30-million and \$40-million."

Early in January, Mr. Lindsay said directors will spend one or two days working out a proposal on 1987 quota rental policy to take to district meetings.

"A lot of old ideas are being recycled, but it's difficult to come up with a policy that addresses the need of everyone."

A new grade structure may be another element in upcoming policy changes. Over 50 per cent of the crop is being parallel graded with this system as it is sold. It adds tip and smoking leaf grades (mid-stalk) to the sand leaf, cutter and body grades now used to designate stalk positions. The structure of 190 grades is closer to the U.S. system, Mr. Lindsay said.

A decision on this grading system, he said, will probably be intertwined with issues such as export funding and sharing the cost of packing allocated tobacco.

Flue quota rental policy scrutinized

D.N. DEC 23

Ontario Tobacco Board Chairman Alvin Lindsay says he hopes an initial draft of the 1987 quota rental policy will be worked out before the first of the year.

Directors and committeemen spent an afternoon last week in a general discussion on this topic. Mr. Lindsay said rental statistics will be prepared for the next meeting on this matter.

"The Board probably needs to spend a little more time on general ideas. Sometimes, when you look at

the numbers involved, your attitude changes."

Five directors will attend the Agricultural Outlook conference in Ottawa Dec. 8 and 9. They are Vice-Chairman Albert Bouw and Directors Robert Bogaert, George J. Gilvesy, John Vamos and Andre VanMaele.

The third shipping round commenced Friday. And Monday morning, Mr. Lindsay said, for the first time offerings on the Tillsonburg floor contained a larger proportion

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of upper stalk grades.

"It appears a lot of lower stalk grades have been marketed, so perhaps this signals an increase in the volume of upper stalk grades we can expect to be delivered from now on, he said.

Mr. Lindsay said he did not intend

to convey the impression that export sales have been better so far on this market, in an interview which appeared in this newspaper last week. He said a better gauge of export interest in the crop could probably be made when deliveries consist more of the styles of tobacco overseas buyers traditionally want.