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Byers enters guilty plea

Kim Robinson
Press staff

MORRISBURG — By evading sales tax payments, area businessman Edsel Byers may have earned himself a huge fine.

On Monday, Byers pleaded guilty in Morrisburg court to a count of retail sales tax evasion relating to the operations of his company, Empire Building Supplies Ltd. of RR4 Winchester.

He admitted to not paying $148,627.78 in provincial sales tax.

The offence was uncovered by the auditing division of the retail sales tax branch of the provincial Ministry of Finance, which turned the case over to the ministry's special investigations branch.

Over the 27-month period investigated, from April 1991 to June 1993, 20 of the 27 monthly retail sales tax returns filed by the company were false when checked against the company's own records.

Sentencing for Byers has been delayed until April 22. The court wanted a chance to review the matter in light of the vast discrepancy in sentences argued for by the defence and prosecutor.

"The Crown and the defence were nowhere near each other in the range of positions on sentencing," says John Fagan, special prosecutor for the Ontario Ministry of Finance.

Fagan notes that the scope of possible sentences for this crime is very wide, ranging from a $500 fine to a $10,000 fine plus double the amount evaded. This charge also has the potential of landing the accused in jail for up to two years, but as this is a first offence for Byers, Fagan was not asking for a jail term.

• continued on next page



Drip-dry

Nathan Sluiskes tested his rubber boots, and, consequently, his knapsack to see if they were waterproof as he walked to his bus at Nationview Public School on Monday. Nathan was showing his preference, which he shares with many of his Junior Kindergarten classmates, for walking through puddles rather than walking around them.

Press Photos— Robinson

User charges fill gaps left by hospital cutbacks

Liz Edwards
Press staff

WINCHESTER — Patients will soon feel some of the bite from a decreased budget at the Winchester District Memorial Hospital (WDMH).

Starting April 1, the fee for the parking lot will rise from $1 to $2 and patients who receive medication from its emergency department will be charged a $5 administration fee.

The hospital sent a notice to newspapers yesterday. President Don Smith said the institution wanted the public to know immediately as these charges will start next week.

Earlier this month the hospital was informed that it will lose 3.16 per cent of its funding from the provincial government for the next year, taking another $361,500 from a budget that hovered around $13 million last year. Since 1993, it lost addition funding through Social Contract cuts instituted by the former NDP government.

The administration and increased parking fees are two of the smaller cuts. The hospital will also close 11 beds and eliminate the equivalent of 12 staff positions. Hospital staff suggested more than 65 ways the hospital could balance the budget. Some of these will not take place until later in the fiscal year, says Smith.

WDMH began charging for parking in 1993 to help pay for the costs of maintaining the lot and removing snow from it in the winter. The increase will go toward to the lot as well as other hospital operating activities.

For many years, WDMH emergency department staff have dispensed medication to their patients to carry them over the weekend or until their local pharmacy could fill their prescriptions.

The hospital can no longer afford to bear the cost of administration, which includes tasks such as purchasing, stocking, distributing and dispensing the medication, says Smith.

There will be no charge for medication given to a patient staying at the hospital.

School considers installing condom vending machines

Liz Edwards
Press staff

MAPLE RIDGE — Parents will decide tomorrow night if North Dundas District High School will have condom machines in its washrooms.

They are invited to fill out a survey at tomorrow's parent-teacher night at the school. A few parents who can't make it have requested the form be sent to them, otherwise they have heard no feedback on the issue so far, says Connie Provost, North Dundas's vice-principal.

The idea was suggested to the school committee, made up of teachers, parents and student representatives, by public health nurse Rose Knox of the Eastern Ontario Health Unit. As well as preventing teenage pregnancies, the health unit is concerned about the spread of the AIDS virus which is transmitted through sexual contact. Using a condom during sex greatly reduces the risk of contracting the deadly virus.

The questionnaire asks if parents are in favor of having birth control available at the school and if so, would they would like it distributed by a vending machine or by the school nurse who is at the school for half a day a week.

Currently General Vanier Secondary School in Cornwall is the only school in the SD&G Public School Board that has condom machines. They were installed in 1993.

The suggestion came from the parents' committee because of a concern over teenage pregnancies. The committee also requested a clinic that would answer students' questions about sex. Since General Vanier was the first, it took nearly two years for the suggestion to become reality, says Susan Lopez, who was school principal at the time.

The school surveyed both parents and students in Grades 11 to O.A.C. level and then the issue was debated by the board. Some parents made presentations concerning the morality of distributing birth control to teenagers, says Lopez.

There was a lot of media attention while the board was considering the issue but once the machines were installed it was a dead issue, she says.

The machines have not been vandalized in any way since their installation.

"They have been treated well. We do know that they've been used because the custodian has been replenishing them," says General Vanier vice- principal Katherine Burke.

Local apple variety depicted on commemorative silver coin



Royal Canadian Mint coin commemorates McIntosh apple.

Liz Edwards
Press staff

DUNDELA — An apple with roots in Dundas County is being preserved in mint condition.

The Royal Canadian Mint is releasing a 1996 commemorative silver dollar to honor the McIntosh apple, which was discovered by local Dundela farmer John McIntosh.

Silver dollars are issued to highlight significant moments in Canadian history, says Pierre Morin, a communications advisor for the Mint. The 25th anniversary of the accession to the throne of George V was featured on its first in 1935.

The McIntosh apple was picked this year partly because it is the 200th anniversary of McIntosh's arrival in Canada and because the fruit is Canada's most exported apple.

In 1811, while clearing fields on his farm, McIntosh found a tree that grew a different type of apple than he had ever seen. By 1835, his sons had learned the technique of grafting and promoted the McIntosh to farmers in Ontario and Vermont. Today the McIntosh, a slightly tart and crunchy fruit, has the reputation of being the most popular apple variety in North America.

It's a best seller at her orchard, says Sandra Beckstead, owner of Smyth's Orchard near Dundela, She grows McIntosh apples along with 50 other varieties. Her great-grandfather, who started the farm, got his trees from the McIntosh nursery and they have grown particularly well, says Beckstead.

"They seem to taste so much better from this area," she says. She plans to buy one of the commemorative coins.

The face of the coin, designed by Canadian artist Roger Hill, depicts the apple, its name and an orchard. It's face value is $1 but the coin, which is 92.5 per cent sterling silver and 7.5 per cent copper, sells for $29.95 from the Mint. There will be 75,000 will be issued worldwide.

Silver dollars are a collector's item, not a circulation coin though legally they can be spent. People purchase them for their artistic value, beauty and history, says Morin. Circulation coins used to be made of precious metal but the fluctuations in the market interfered with their value. Now base metals such as nickel are used and their value is guaranteed by the federal government.

The Mint has issued 31 different silver dollars since the program began in 1935. Since 1973, a new silver dollar coin has been made every year.

Olive McIntosh of Morrisburg was married to John McIntosh's great-grandson Samuel. When contacted by the *Press* she said she didn't know the Mint had issued a McIntosh coin but she does know the apple well. They lived on the farm for 29 years before her husband died. The orchard is no longer in production.

"I always thought apples grew on trees but they grew on hard work," she says.

Charles Barkley, Matilda reeve and SD&G United Counties warden, says he may ask council if they wish to purchase a few, perhaps to be used as gifts from the township since the orchard site is in its municipality. He also says the township should do everything they can to promote the sale of the coin.

"Personally I want one and I think it's quite a thing for our history," he says.



Putting heart into it

More than $2,300 has been raised for the Heart and Stroke Foundation through Nationview Public School's Jump Rope for Heart event. Some of the school's top fundraisers were on hand to present the donation to the foundation on Monday. Skipping in front are Nicole Littleton, left, and Stephanie Racine. In the middle row, from left, are Jennifer Dillabough, Dana Richardson, Scott Kirchmeier, Tyler Boyce and Melissa Fawcett. Back row, from left, are Jasmin Parker, Heart and Stroke representative Marian Barkley, teachers Bill Patterson, Nada Marcellus and Nancy Beavers, Kristen Keyes and Jeff Brooks.

Deputy reeve seeks stricter policy

Liz Edwards
Press staff

WINCHESTER — Rules for drinking on village- owned property could one day be governed by a village alcohol policy.

But most of it would likely be common sense, says village Deputy Reeve Mary Jane Elliott, who presented a copy of Chesterville's draft policy at a Winchester recreation meeting last month.

Elliott wants to establish a similar policy, outlining what the village will and won't tolerate when it comes to drinking and serving alcohol on its property. The insurance agent for the village has recommended that the village write one, she says.

It could help if the village is ever in a legal situation concerning drinking, she says.

Chesterville's policy is based on the first one in the province written for the town of Chapleau in Northern Ontario, developed with the assistance of the Addiction Research Foundation. The Chesterville document deals with where alcohol can be served, who can serve it, how they must be trained and numerous other concerns.

A committee began working on the document three years ago. It has been revised several times but has not yet been passed by council, says Robin Langille, the village recreation director.

Winchester's policy would probably have the greatest affect on the village community centre, where licensed events are frequently held, according to village recreation director Matt Krisjanis.

Right now, he enforces an unofficial policy which limits drinking in the centre and on the grounds to licensed events only.

Last spring, the centre ran into trouble when the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario threatened to ban the village from receiving special liquor licences because of several charges of groups renting the upstairs hall serving alcohol to minors. The special licences allow groups to sell alcohol.

The village avoided the ban by promising stricter enforcement of rules that would prevent future incidents such as ensuring tighter door security at licensed events and making servers and ticket sellers take a service intervention program.

There have been no charges laid since that time, says Krisjanis.

Police services board takes lead, endorses transitional analysis

by Chris Bridgen

OSGOODE — Regional Councillor Betty Hill called it "an end run", but the end result was the police services board taking the lead on the issue of bringing city police into rural areas.

New police services board member Graham Baskerville's motion to start studying the transition to one region-wide police force was endorsed March 25, two days before regional council members were to discuss the same issue.

Former Osgoode Township mayor Albert Bouwers will chair the study group.

"It's up to the board to provide direction on this question," said Baskerville before reading his motion.

"The split between regional police and the OPP impairs the board's ability to supervise the region's entire police service," he added.

The motion came as a surprise to local politicians in attendance at Monday's meeting.

Hill thought her list of concerns about transferring the police service would be the subject of the meeting.

"I'm not sure you appreciate the large geographical area we're talking about here," she told police board members. "We have 90 per cent of the area of the region. Policing rural areas is quite different from policing urban areas."

Osgoode Regional Councillor Robert van den Ham felt more confident with the board's sudden assertiveness on the issue.

"You've taken the bull by the horns. The bottom line is getting effective policing throughout the region," he said.

After the meeting, Hill said she was disappointed that her wide-ranging concerns — when the community will be consulted, the number of detachments and the costs of amalgamating the service — weren't addressed in Baskerville's motion.

"I hope we can still get these questions answered," she said.

Osgoode Township Counsellor Doug Thompson offered his services to the new steering committee and expressed confidence in its chair.

"I think the rural residents and politicians will feel more secure that Bouwers is involved in this," he said.

Continued from the front page...

Byers

He did argue that a $100,000 fine would be appropriate, keeping in mind the amount Byers still owes the province.

However, the fine suggested by Byers' counsel, Doug Grenkie, was a much lower sum at $3,000. Grenkie had no further comment about the case.

Back a Fighter



Easter Seals

S.D. & G. approves new budget

CORNWALL — The United Counties of SD&G has approved its budget, cutting $4.3 million in spending from last year.

The $22.2 million budget was approved last Tuesday and marks the second year in a row that there will be no increase on the counties' portion of SD&G homeowners' tax bills.

The counties portion accounts for 13 per cent of the bill. School boards take up 55 per cent with local government taking the remaining 32 per cent. The counties road budget was hit the hardest this year. It was cut by $900,000 to $6.3 million.

As of yet, Winchester has not decided the fate of its mill-rate, the figure that helps municipalities calculate its tax needs. Councillors will meet this Thursday at 7 pm in council chambers to draw up a draft budget.

Its accounts are in order from the previous year.

Lynn Clapp, an accountant with BDO Dunwoody of Ottawa presented the figures at the last regular meeting on March 18. The village has accumulated $987,613 in reserves and $150,429 in reserve funds.

Its largest expenditure for 1995 was on sanitary sewers, waterworks and garbage. Its current operations cost $568,794, about $40,000 less than in 1994. Its capital costs were $406,364, almost double the previous years. The number and size of projects as well as grants available can affect figures, Clapp told council.

Euchre winners

Winners at the Williamsburg Township Seniors Euchre on Wed., March 13 were as follows:

Ladies: Evelyn Swerdfeger, Helen Gillespie, Verna Beckstead and Sharon Munro (tie);

Gents: Albert Winters, Nelson Bellinger, Muriel Miller;

Door prizes: Frances Korevaar, Cecil Lee;

Draw: Sharon Munro (2), Evelyn Swerdfeger, Ray Hummel, Violet Bellinger, Basil Hollister, Orval Christie, Doreen Winters, Marius Korevaar.

The next euchre tournament will be held today (Wed., March 27). Everyone is welcome.

Police blotter

Impaired driver reported

OSGOODE TWP. — A Mountain Township man has been charged with impaired driving after a concerned motorist alerted police on March 20. Just after 8:30 pm OPP Constables Bryan Markell and Lori Ochitwa stopped the suspect vehicle on Stagecoach Road in Osgoode Township. The driver, whose name has not yet been released by Manotick OPP, will appear in court on April 23.

Four-wheeler stolen

CHESTERVILLE — A 1991 Suzuki LT4 four-wheel ATV was stolen from the garage of a Chesterville residence between March 18 and 20. OPP Const. M. Francis is investigating.

Young offender charged

MORRISBURG — Following an OPP investigation, a young offender has been charged in relation to a theft at the Subway restaurant in Morrisburg on Feb. 27. The young offender is scheduled to appear in Morrisburg court April 23.

Thieves smash way in

MORRISBURG — Thieves left behind broken glass in two break-ins on March 22 and 24. On Sun., March 24 police attended the scene of a break and enter at the Beer Store in Morrisburg where a window was smashed and a quantity of beer was taken. A few days earlier, on Friday, thieves smashed a window to gain entry to a residence in the village. While theft has yet to be determined, sections of the home were vandalized by the intruders.

Osgoode break-ins

OSGOODE — Numerous break-ins were reported in Osgoode Township last week. On Sun., March 24 jewelry and a stereo system were taken from a home on Summerside Drive when it was broken into some time between 1 pm and 10 pm. A number of break-ins occurred a few days earlier. On March 21, a Yorks Corners Road home was entered, but nothing was stolen. Several musical instruments, including two rare violins, were taken in a break-in at a Black Creek Road residence the same day. That evening, a residence on Hwy. 31 was entered while the occupants were away. Business and computer equipment was taken. Numerous items were stolen from a Knights Drive home on March 20. Evidence at the scene will be examined by police specialists.

Doctor charged

CASSELMAN — A Casselman doctor has been charged with sexual assault involving one of his patients, a 36-year-old woman. Dr. Olivier Marengere, 62, was arrested March 15 and appeared in L'Original provincial court on March 18, where his release was arranged on condition of returning for another court appearance April 3. Marengere is also facing criminal harassment and fraud charges. Police are continuing to investigate further allegations and are requesting public assistance. Please contact Det. Tony Collard of the Casselman OPP detachment with any information related to the case.

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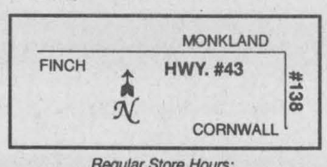

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Hospice hires new co-ordinator

Liz Edwards
Press staff

WILLIAMSBURG —Part of Beth Cleland's new job is providing support to those who give support.

And they give it during one of life's toughest times, when someone is dying.

Cleland of Winchester is the new volunteer coordinator for the Dundas County Hospice — an organization that gives emotional, spiritual and other help to the terminally ill and their families. The hospice is not a place. Volunteers make home visits or phone calls to their clients.

In her position, she will organize and train the volunteers, help make matches with clients, work with other health-care agencies as well as hold support and share nights for volunteers to talk about their experiences and deal with any problems.

"It empowers them and give them the tools they need to be an effective volunteer," she says.

The hospice is a service she feels very strongly about, though she has never done this type of work before. Cleland is currently working on an honors Bachelor of Arts degree at Carleton and has worked at community organizations such as Dundas Community Living.

She says she was hired for the part-time job because she had skills that could be transferred to the position. But she was interested in the position because of her courses at Carleton University in Ottawa where she is currently studying for her an honors degree in sociology.

Some of her studies focused around the rituals of death and dying in other cultures and Cleland says it's important to make a contribution in a society where people often die in a hospital.

The services the hospice provides helps make it possible for people to die in their own homes, filling in the gaps left by other health services and making it a more personal and intimate experience, she says.

Her job is part-time, about 10 to 12 hours a week. It started early this year. Clair Pashak is the office secretary, working six hours a week. The positions are new, created out of the former executive director's position.

The hospice, which started in 1992, has 40 volunteers, 20 of which are currently active in the organization. In the last year it had 32 clients use its services.

But volunteers don't just work with clients. Some work on the hospice's quarterly newsletter and some do office work. It all helps, according to Cleland, and the help is greatly needed by those who use it, not only the dying but their families as well.

"A lot of people don't realize how exhausting it is when there is a terminally ill person in a household," says Cleland.



New at the helm

Beth Cleland is the new volunteer co-ordinator for the Dundas County Hospice. The hospice offers support to the dying and their families.

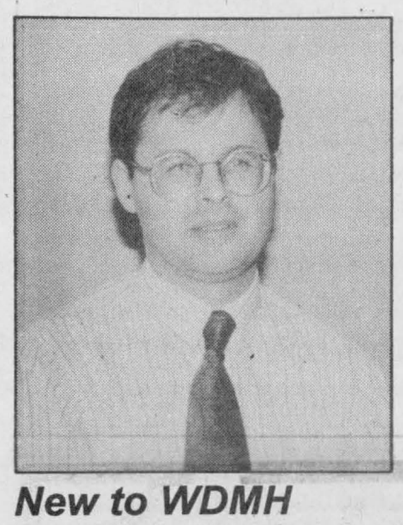
Registry and fundraising huge success

METCALFE — Area residents honored the memory of Kristy McDowell on Sunday, making a Red Cross bone marrow donor recruitment clinic in Metcalfe a success.

"It was just tremendous, we had over 70 volunteers and 148 people were added to the donor registry," reports organizing committee member Maggie Melenhorst.

Kristy died last week at the age of 13 after a year-long battle with leukemia. The committee that was organizing the clinic to try to find a donor for her decided to continue the project in her memory, in the hope that it might help another person looking for a match in the worldwide bone marrow donor registry.

With help from a broad range of community groups, $22,000 was raised for the project. Some will pay for testing the blood samples taken from donors and the rest will be donated to charity according to Kristy's family's wishes.



New to WDMH

General surgeon Dr. Nick Kimberley set up practice in the village in January. While much of his time is spent at the Winchester District Memorial Hospital, his office is located in the medical building at the corner of York and Albert Streets. Dr. Kimberley comes to Winchester after working several years in Ottawa, where he received his surgical training and where he still resides.

Press Photo— Robinson

Mountain Musings

by Shirley Mills

As Easter approaches, there are many church services and other events planned. One of these events is a special Celebration of Hope, a walk through Holy Week in scripture and song, which will be held at Nationview Public School on Sun., March 31 at 7:30 pm. This has been arranged by the South-Mountain United Church Pastoral Charge but is an interdenominational evening. There will be music by the South Mountain Gospel Singers, the Messengers, Marion Milnes and Marleen Fawcett as well as a young people's quartet, etc. and promises to be a real celebration of music. Refreshments will follow and instead of an offering, people are being asked to bring non-perishable items for Lazarus House. Do come and bring a friend.

During Holy Week, April 1 to 6, The Winchester & District Ministerial has announced that there will be special prayer times - 12 noon at the Winchester Wesleyan Church and everyone is most welcome.

We came across an interesting notice. The Mountain/South Mountain United Church former stained glass windows are for sale. These range in sizes from 34 x 41 or 40, to an arched one at 34 x 30. There are eight for sale at $40 each. If you are interested, call Arie Hoogenboom at 989-2837.

Mountain Twp. Lions meet to discuss full slate of activities

MOUNTAIN — The March 21 meeting of the Mountain District Lions Club was held at the Mountain Community Hall with 17 members present.

Progress reports were presented on several projects as follows:

The Yuk-Yuks Comedy routine is slated for the Agricultural Hall in South Mountain on Sat., March 30. Tickets are still available in a limited quantity at $10 each.

A bowling fundraiser, sponsored by the Chesterville Lions Club, will be held on April 13.

Several visitors are also expected from a Trinidad Lions Club.

As well, a delegation from the Mountain Lions will visit the Chesterville Lions Club members.

Seven club members are to complete a bar training course.

A meeting to discuss the co-ordination of a Mountain Township neighborhood watch program will be held at the Hallville Fire Hall.

Mountain Township Lions will staff the refreshment booth and provide security for a May 18 wedding at the Winchester Community Centre.

A Lions fundraising auction is planned for May 25 at the fairgrounds in South Mountain. Members will be canvassing the community for quality donations to be sold, enabling Lions to support community projects.

For further information on the club contact President Lion Leo Backes at 989-2203.

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NDP Provincial Riding Assoc.

Provincial VP speaks to members

Kim Robinson
Press staff

MORRISBURG — The NDP has to see its way beyond a strictly oppositional role in the province, Ontario NDP Vice-President Ish Theilheimer told party faithful in a speech in Morrisburg last week.

Last Thursday evening, the NDP Provincial Riding Association for SDG & East Grenville held its annual meeting at the Morrisburg Civic Centre, where Theilheimer was the guest speaker.

He said the cuts the Harris government has made in areas such as health care have been a boon in terms of NDP ranks.

"Mike Harris is mobilizing those who want another way," He told the group. "Our membership is skyrocketing. We're recruiting thousands of new members."

While Theilheimer said he is encouraged by this activity, he added "We can't get complacent and say it's good enough to oppose."

He told the riding association members that complacency would hold the party at a 20 per cent base vote level, but a more active role in the community would take them beyond that. He suggested phone campaigns and community events as activist tools they might employ.

Theilheimer, who has run in four elections in his Pembroke area riding, said he is familiar with the situation of being in a riding with only marginal support for the party, but he reminded the group turnarounds are possible.

He said he found the party's current provincial leadership race encouraging, that the party matured during five years in power.

"We have in this leadership race the best slate I've seen," he said.

The all-candidates debate tour swings through this area on Saturday, April 13 in Ottawa. The debate will be held at 1 pm in the council chamber room of the Ottawa-Carleton Regional Headquarters at 111 Lisgar Street.

Other activities at the riding association meeting included the election of officers with results as follows: Trevor Tolley, president; Michael Cowley- Owen, vice-president; Randy Butler, president; Helena McCuaig, chief financial officer; Marion Adams, membership secretary and provincial council delegate. The executive is still looking for a youth member (under 25).



Ontario New Democratic Party Vice-President Ish Theilheimer, centre, spoke at the riding association's meeting in Morrisburg last week. Here Trevor Tolley, riding association president, left, and Michael Cowley-Owen, vice-president, have a look at the *New Ontario Democrat*, the party's newspaper which Theilheimer edits.

Press Photo— Robinson

Amalgamation issue on hold, awaiting direction from province

Liz Edwards
Press staff

CORNWALL —Local municipalities' boundaries will likely stay intact for another year, if not permanently.

The issue of amalgamation is at a standstill, according to a number of councillors from townships and villages with the United Counties of SD&G.

Representatives from SD&G municipal governments met March 12 about the issue but there are still no concrete plans about joining forces with each other. An executive committee from counties council is planning to study what options the council have and issue a report. But according to Counties Warden Charles Barkley, they have not yet met and don't know when the report will be complete.

Even though the current way local governments operate will likely change, the government has relaxed its urgency about governments joining together by 1997, says County Clerk Raymond Lapointe, and some changes might not even happen in time for the next provincial election in 1999.

Councils haven't received any guidelines yet from Bill 26 passed earlier this year, the legislation giving the province the power, among things, to change government structures. They should be available in April, according to Lapointe.

Last fall the provincial government announced that would lose $658 million in funding during the next two years and smaller municipalities might have to amalgamate to survive. But the government provided no clear direction on what amalgamation means. It could mean local governments are disassembled and replaced by one large regional government. The government has not laid down any rules, according to Johnny Whitteker. In December, Dundas County representatives stopped meeting about the issue, saying it would be futile to plan without any direction from the province.

And there has been little since, but there have been some indications that government may be able to stay intact if they can reduce costs significantly by sharing services.

But Whitteker favors a one-tier government where local councils in SD&G are replaced with one.

But Dundas won't be able to amalgamate into one government by itself, it will need the co- operation of Stormont and Glengarry counties, says Williamsburg Township Reeve Johnny Whitteker. He says he doesn't think they are looking in that direction.

"If they don't go with single tier government then we can't go," says Whitteker.

But Floyd Dingwall, reeve of Finch, says councillors in Stormont and Glengarry are still open to all options.

"There's some talk but I don't know if I would call amalgamation out yet," he says.

Like others, he is waiting for some leadership from the provincial government but he doubts it's forthcoming. He says the province likely wants municipalities to come up with their own plans to cut the spending associated with a two-tier government system.

"I believe whatever we come up with, they'll accept," he says.

Several local politicians will discuss the issue on April 11 at the Moose Creek Chamber of Commerce annual meeting and dinner. Tickets are $15 and available at Rural Route in Avonmore, Monkland Mini Market and through the directors of the chamber of commmerce.

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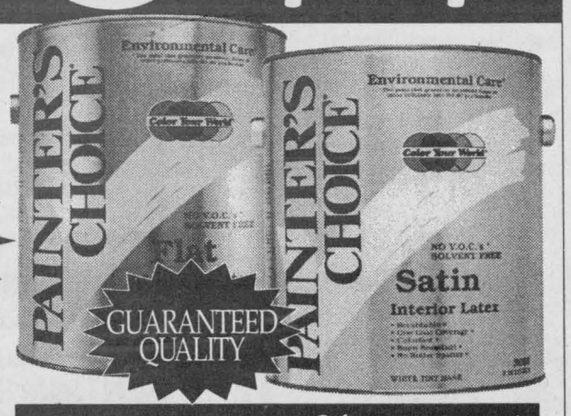

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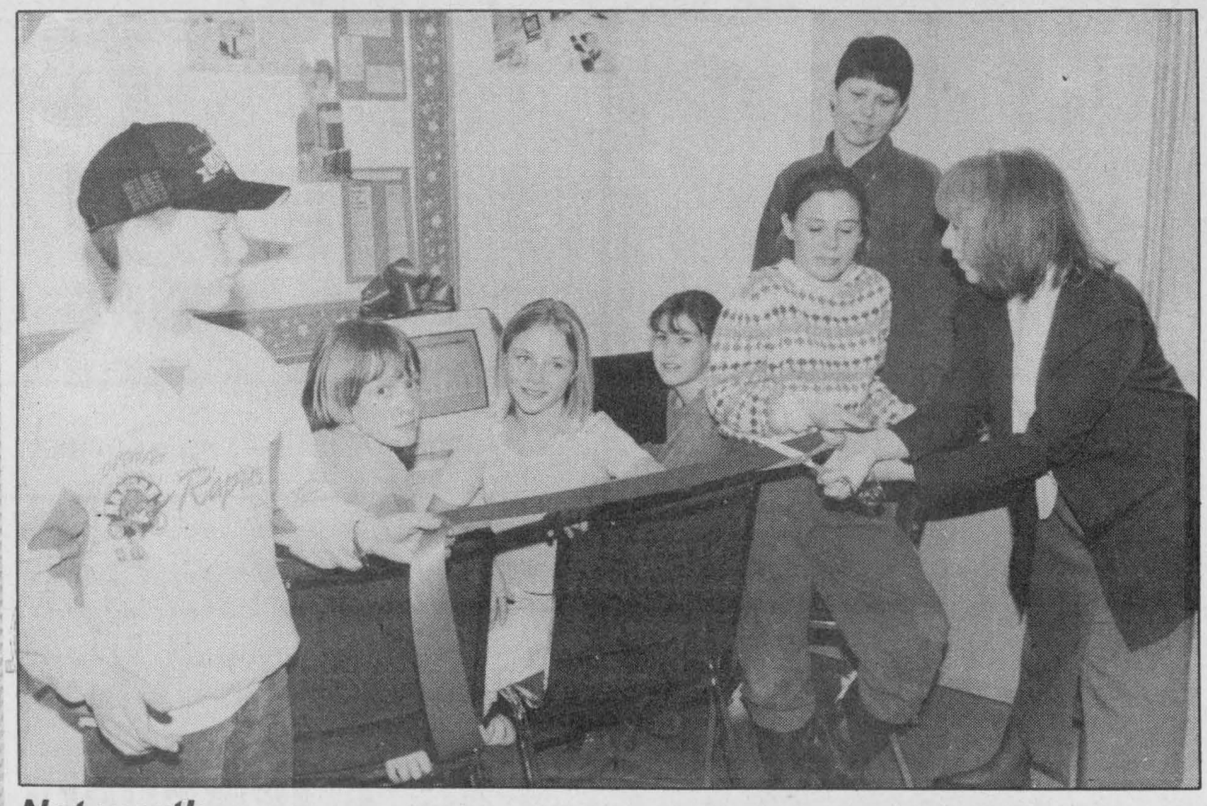
Internet access site opens



Teaching tool

Connie Provost, Norma Sharkey and Don Fairweather were among North Dundas District High School staff who learned about the Internet at T.R. Leger School last week. Press Photo— Robinson



Net worth

A group of Grade 6 students from Winchester Public School got some idea of the value of the Internet as a research tool at the community access project opening on Friday. From left to right are Scott Moran, Jaymie Brown, Haleigh McClenaghan, Leslie Levere, Sarah Wall, T.R. Leger instructor Marion Stanley and Dean of Studies Brenda King.
Press Photo— Robinson

Kim Robinson
Press staff

WINCHESTER — At the official opening of the community access program at the T.R. Leger School, a group of Grade 6 students crowded around Winchester's new Internet access site.

As they pulled up colorful *Batman Forever* graphics on the screen, Jaymie Brown asked, "Can we come back here sometime?"

This is the interest Brenda King counted on when she applied for federal support for the program late last year. As T.R. Leger's Dean of Studies, she sees the Internet as a valuable research tool of particular appeal to a rural community. Like Industry Canada, she views Dundas County as a prime example of a community in need of Internet connections to expand research, business and job opportunities.

Industry Canada is paying $20,000, matched by an equal amount from community partners, to maintain Internet connections at the T.R. Leger campuses in Winchester and Morrisburg for two years. This includes payment for computers, modems, line installation and online charges so that local people can book time at the school to explore the Internet.

King cites her own experience as a parent to illustrate the opportunities provided by access to the worldwide computer network. She says she used to take her daughter to Ottawa to find information for school projects. Now, without any driving, parking or handling of books, the Grade 8 student finds a wealth of information on the Internet.

Local teachers have not missed this point. Last Thursday, the day before the official opening, about a dozen teachers were at the T.R. Leger School taking a beginners course in how find their way around the Internet.

Morewood Public School Principal Larry Berry was there so that he would be prepared to introduce the system at his school.

North Dundas District High School is already online. English teacher Phil Groves, one of 20 staff from North Dundas who have taken the course, is interested in finding out how teachers and researches can share resources through a computer connection. As well, he is interested in how the Internet can provide access to up-to-date articles, since selection is limited in a high school library.

Groves sees where a person could spend hours surfing the net once they arrived at a topic area they are interested in.

"It's enriching because it gives you more breadth in the subject area, but it can be difficult to find very specific information," he says.

It is T.R. Leger instructor Janet George's job to help these beginners find their way. George says once a user becomes familiar with the path that takes them toward their particular field of knowledge the search becomes easier.

"You get used to the search engines you use most in your field," she says.

George says the best way to learn this is by practice on the computer.

"I put them right on the machines," she says. "It puts them to sleep to just talk about it, it's better just to do it."

North Dundas Principal Don Fairweather, who was taking part in the course Thursday, says his staff is lucky to have access to this course.

There are two of T.R. Leger's computers online in addition to the community access terminal, making the classroom unique in SD&G. Teachers from Cornwall are coming to train here because they do not have this type of site.

The closest community access site to Winchester is in Perth. There were 760 applicants for the program across Canada, and 271 were accepted. Less than 25 sites in Ontario were chosen.

The Villages of Morrisburg and Winchester were exactly the sort of communities Industry Canada aimed to serve with the program; rural, relatively isolated in terms of Internet access and with higher than average unemployment.

Support from community partners was also important, and the area had plenty of help in this area including: T.R. Leger School of Alternative Studies, North Dundas District High School, Morrisburg Public School, Seaway District High School, Upper Canada Playhouse, Winchester and District Memorial Hospital, Beavers Dental, Women for the Survival of Agriculture, Dundas Federation of Agriculture, Joblink Resource Centre, Cardinal and District Resource Centre, South Dundas Economic Development Centre, Morrisburg and District Chamber of Commerce, SD&G Public School Board, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and the Operating Engineer's Institute.

At the opening, Denis Sabourin, representing Stormont-Dundas MP Bob Kilger's office, spoke of the federal government's interest in the project.

"We are giving the rural community one of the most important tools in future economic growth," he said. "Mr. Kilger is very pleased to see the program in our area."

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Editorial/Opinion

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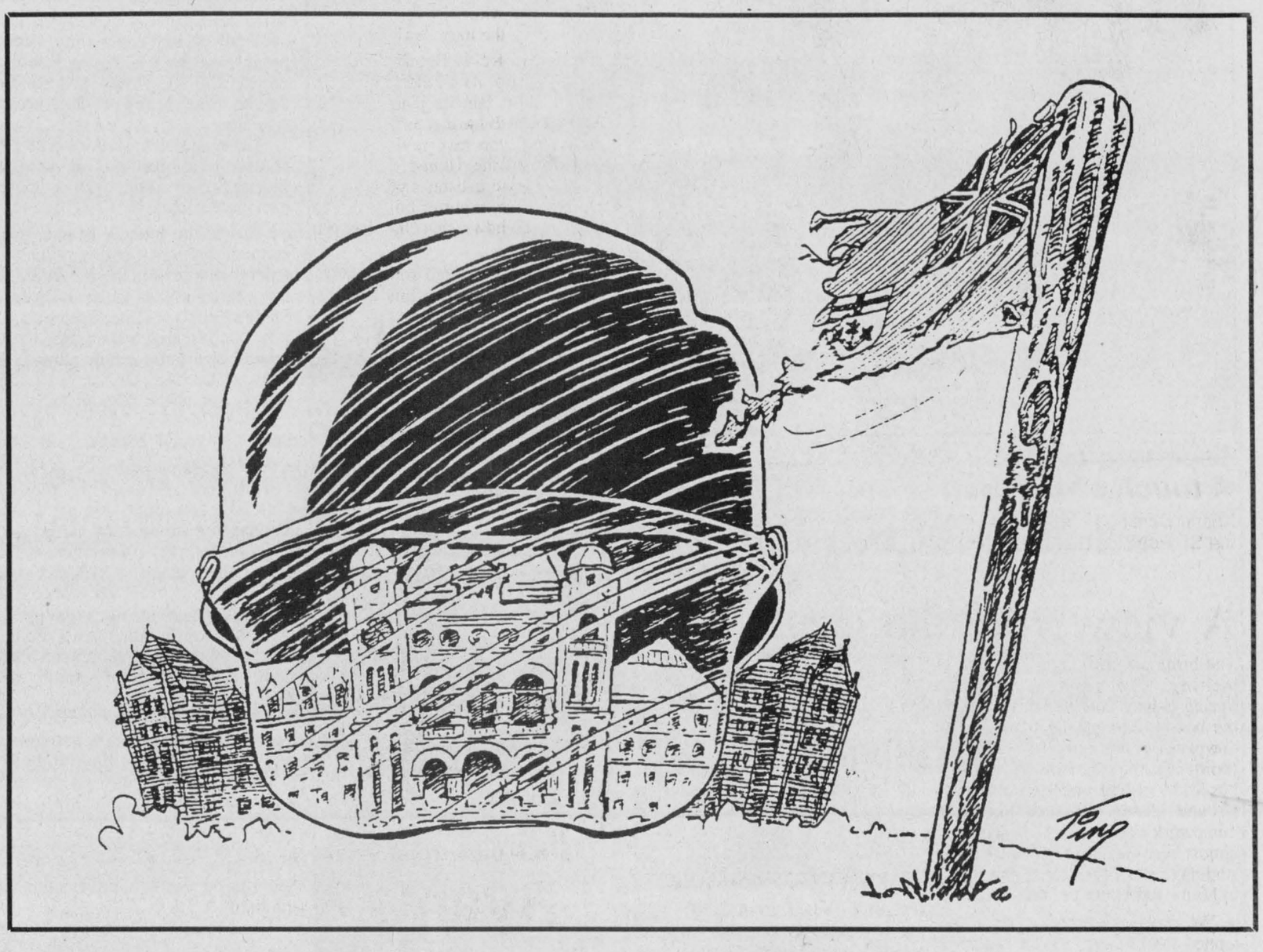

EDITORIAL

Making a choice

Tomorrow North Dundas District High School tackles an issue that only one other school in SD&G has so far.

The school committee is asking parents whether the school should distribute birth control — either through the school nurse or through vending machines in the washrooms.

The survey they're issuing to parents will probably have a good response rate. As open as society has become about discussing the use of condoms, the issue never quite loses its edge of controversy, and controversy can generate a lot of interest. All the better for this particular subject. It deserves the attention.

Some people feel it's a moral issue, that offering students birth control is condoning and even encouraging children to have sex.

The fact is some kids are having sex, and will do so whether or not the condoms are available. And in a small town like Winchester, teens are less likely to buy them in a village drug store where they stand a good chance of being seen by someone they know. So some will take their chances, and what dangerous chances these can be.

With the AIDS epidemic, the issue has gone beyond protecting teenagers from pregnancy. It is protecting them from disease. Their choices, however inappropriate they could be, should not be punishable by death.

Some parents may say the school would be overstepping its bounds if it starts offering birth control, that it could be compromising the standards they set for their children. It will be difficult to convince teens they shouldn't have sex if the school makes it easier for them to do so.

It remains to be seen whether the majority feel this way. In the end, it's up to parents whether their children need this kind of service.

The alternative is to stay with the status quo that has existed for years. It has its advantages and its perils. The presence of birth control doesn't necessarily mean students will be protected from all harm.

But with AIDS in the picture, the rules of the game have changed and parents might want to consider this when filling out their forms. It is facing an issue that some adults aren't comfortable discussing with their children. But it is one that can't be ignored.

This week in...

1946

A Friday evening fashion show in the village was so popular that 200 people had to be turned away at the door. Because the town hall venue was too packed to accommodate everyone that night, the Jo- Anne Shoppe Fashion Review was presented again on Saturday. Jo-Anne Shoppe owners Mr. and Mrs. Dukelow enlisted the help of several local ladies as models. They included Mrs. J.L. Dixon, Mrs. Neil Hutt, Mrs. Walter MacDonald, Miss Winnie McKercher and Miss Barbara Fennell. Miss Myrtle Stevens, a professional model with Angora Garments of Montreal, modeled beach attire.

Rev. G.A. Beattie of Hallville, writing in the Dundas County Federation of Agriculture Bulletin, proposed "a municipal health scheme whereby every individual within the municipality would be guaranteed good health; a scheme that would cover preventative measures, dental care, occasional clinics for various purposes ... ; a scheme that would serve all and be maintained by a levy in taxes on each and all." He added, "We are hoping that the federal or provincial governments, or both, will soon introduce such a blanket scheme." Rev. Beattie said he was saddened by the plight of well-to-do and respected citizens reduced to poverty by illness.

Peacetime did not mean an end to food rationing in Canada. A new ration book was to be issued by the fall. Continued rationing was necessary due to a still critical world food shortage and Canada's efforts to help the millions starving abroad.

1956

Mr. Sam Fingold, whose National Theatre Services owned the Winchester Theatre, announced his decision to sell the major part of his theatre circuit to Odeon Theatres of Canada Ltd.

Metcalfe Fair organizers were planning a new building for the fairgrounds, to be opened during the fair's centennial.

1966

A new dairy policy, aimed at raising producer incomes, stabilizing the industry and protecting consumers from runaway prices, was announced by Agriculture Minister J.J. Greene. The new program would provide dairy farmers with an average return of $4 per hundredweight for their milk.


WINCHESTER PRESS
Council Inaugural
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Projects
THE WINCHESTER PRESS
Theatre News!

More than 4,500,000 Canadians were drinking fluoridated water. The most recent communities to join were Ottawa, with about 320,000 people, and Belleville, with 33,000.

1976

Flooding along the South Nation River was slow coming due to a cool March, but when it did come it was expected to be a huge gush. With tributary creeks swollen higher than they had been in years, many self-appointed experts were predicting a big flood.

Elaine Summers, a North Dundas District High School graduate, was the second woman in Canada to earn Aircraft Maintenance Engineer status. Summers applied these studies in her work as chief engineer and part owner of Golden Triangle Air Services in Embrun.

George H. Challies, a former member of provincial parliament for Grenville-Dundas and the founder of Upper Canada Village, died in Napanee. A native of Winchester, George Holmes Challies was born in the village in 1884.

1986

Popular Ottawa Valley entertainer Wayne Rostad performed at the Drewery Pontiac Buick showroom. The CKBY Radio Roadshow which featured Rostad was invited to the dealership for a giant indoor truck sale event.

The Ontario Labor Relations Board ordered Morewood Industries Ltd. to rehire 12 employees fired the previous July after attempts to organize a union.

Ontario's economic situation approaches New Zealand's fiscal crisis



Meanwhile
by Fred Sagel

I have some advice for public sector unions, Canadian autoworkers and anybody else who's still whining about Premier Mike Harris' attempt to bring some sanity to the Ontario fiscal situation.

Get yourself a tape of the Feb. 28, 1993 CTV program W5. It's about New Zealand and what happened to the country when it ran out of credit in 1984.

What happened there makes Ontario's spending cuts look like child's play. It turned a country that had the world's third highest standard of living (behind the U.S. and Canada) into one which is now 22nd in the world.

And since Canada's current debt problem rivals where New Zealand's was in 1984, it suggests that the current spending cuts are just the tip of the iceberg — and that the real cuts are still to come.

And before you scoff at this and stop reading, think carefully because it can and will happen to us if we don't get behind Mike Harris and any other politician who's prepared to do a massive job of cutting the public payroll.

Figure it out. Even with Mr. Harris' supposedly severe medicine, Ontario is still facing an annual deficit in the range of $9.3 billion . And not one penny of that shortfall can be attributed to Mr. Harris. It is the direct result of overspending by the previous Liberal and NDP governments.

Canada's external debt stands at 46 per cent of GNP compared to New Zealand's 47 per cent in 1984.

This country is headed down the same road and Canadians are about to discover that universal social programs are not a birthright, and they can't go on borrowing money to preserve a privileged lifestyle when people in other countries are working two or three times harder and producing better products.

When crisis hit New Zealand because it had borrowed too much and couldn't find any new lenders, the international Monetary Fund stepped in and forced the country's government to make radical changes virtually overnight.

The state railway cut its workforce from 22,000 to 6,000. Interest rates soared, real estate crashed, the GST was bumped to 12.5 per cent and the currency plummeted to 50 cents. The country that had 650 unemployed in 1974 now has 200,000 jobless.

New Zealand's social programs (it had Medicare 30 years before Canada) lost their universality status in the blink of an eye. It now costs a person $35 to see a doctor, $50 a day for a hospital bed and $18 for each prescriptive drug.

People on unemployment insurance are now cut off if they turn down two jobs. Singles under 25 on social assistance are limited to $100 a week. Single mothers must look for work or face severance of government assistance once their youngest child reaches age seven.

Government pensions were rolled back to 65 from 60 and the well-to-do — meaning those with incomes over $40,000 — were cut off altogether.

With no money to repair infrastructure or monitor health standards, raw sewage flowed into gardens in posh neighborhoods and the baby hippo, born in the Auckland zoo, had to be shot because the government had no money to expand the hippos' pen.

All of this was caused by massive government overspending and we're well on the same road ourselves. It will only be a short time before we get there unless governments take tough measures to reduce expenditures including the pay of public employees.

Which brings us back to Ontario. The public sector unions, being the greedy crybabies they are, will try to tell you otherwise. And even many politicians, most of whom don't have a clue about economics, will deny there's a problem.

After watching the W5 tape, I have to give the Harris government credit for having the courage to do what's right. But he still hasn't gone far enough. Confronted by an ugly union movement that cares only about its own pocketbooks — and the rest of society be damned — he has a tough battle to wage in an effort to keep Ontario afloat.

It's painful, for sure. But the real pain is still to come if the unions get their way.

Wait and see. it's only a matter of time.

Fred Sagel is a lawyer, columnist and political analyst, presently doing post-graduate studies at the University of Toronto.



A touch of the Irish

Kristin Benke, 11, and Joelle Renaud, 10, were dressed to serve at the St. Patrick's Day tea at St. Mary's school last week.

Press Photo — Edwards

Upper Canada Playhouse

Season finale presents music, comedy

MORRISBURG — There'll be a little bit of Broadway at Upper Canada Playhouse when Love Under the Lights takes the stage April 13 at 8 pm.

Baritone Kevin Bradshaw, mezzo soprano Carol Ann Feldstein and internationally famous piano virtuoso Leslie De'Ath have entertained audiences and won rave reviews across Canada and the United States with their dynamic cabaret-style show. A Saskatchewan reporter billed it "one of the best (shows) that Ontario has to offer."

This multi-talented trio from the Toronto area performs hits from the last 70 years of Broadway, including favorites by Gershwin, Porter and Berlin, linked together with a clever, comedic script.

Feldstein has played leading roles in several musicals, performed in cabarets and been a guest recitalist with some of Canada's most respected symphony orchestras, such as the Kitchener Waterloo Symphony and the Hamilton Philharmonic.

Bradshaw has appeared as a soloist with a number of prestigious groups including the Edmonton and Victoria Symphonies.

Their accompanist De'Ath is a faculty member of the voice and opera program at Wilfred Laurier University in Waterloo and is a prominent performer, accompanist and chamber musician. He is also a regular keyboard player with the Kitchener Waterloo Symphony and Canadian Chamber Ensemble.

At this final performance for the 1995-96 series, patrons will have the chance to subscribe to next year's series and this line-up should not be missed.

The 1996-97 series is scheduled to open with Bending the Bows. Also known as the duelling fiddlers, Eduard Minevich and Frank Leahy will dazzle audiences with everything from jazz to Irish folk music as they battle on their fiddle and violin while keeping the audience in stitches with their considerable comedic talents.

Up next are The Arrogant Worms. Using clever arrangements, fun and spirited lyrics and tight harmonies, the Worms' music finds its roots in folk and acoustic rock but borrows from Celtic, country, reggae, bluegrass and even gospel. Above all else, the group guarantees that the songs are always funny.

Almeta Speaks, the third performer in the series, has a voice that is guaranteed to blow the audience away. Her repertoire includes gospel and blues, and audiences will simply be awed by her powerful voice. Tickets for the series will be sold at the early bird price of $45 until August 31. After that, tickets go up to $50, taxes included. Patrons who renew their subscriptions at Love Under the Lights will be eligible for a surprise draw.

Single tickets for the show Love Under the Lights are $17.50 and are available by calling the Playhouse at 613-543-3713.

A view from the inside



NDDHS NOTES
by Carrie Vandewint

The birds are chirping. The snow is melting. The grass is growing. Spring is here and we get to admire the beauty through the spotted windowpanes of any one of many classrooms of torture; or from a big, noisy bus; or even from our bedroom as we sit and slave over four hours of homework. Yes, we're back. You can almost hear the dragging heels of 800 students as they haul themselves back to hours and hours of endless fun...

We have returned (some more tanned than others) to our hallways made misty by french fry grease clouds, to our lockers that never open and won't close, to a cafeteria where students wait in eager anticipation for an opportunity to hurl their food through the air at some unsuspecting classmate. Country (hick) high schools do have their subtle charms, don't they?

Our March break (relatively minuscule when compared to certain Ottawa schools) went by way too fast, as most enjoyable times tend to do, although there weren't too many complaints about the four-day week that awaited us (who ever said that Bob Rae had no good ideas?).

And yet, the highlight of the week had to be the free basketball game that took place last Friday. Imagine... getting out of class for free (usually the price ranges from $2-$4). This game between our senior basketball teams and the travelling Harlem Diplomats (Globetrotter wannabees) was arranged and paid for by your friendly, working- their-fingers-to-the-bone student council. It was a reward to all the eager young minds at North Dundas for working hard at the many things that they work hard at (whatever these things may be). The game was a lot of laughs as we watched our poor little team try to keep up with the crazy moves of this four-men-and-a-woman, very tall basketball squad.

All in all, returning to the trials and tribulations of high school life wasn't a completely horrible experience. Yet, we shall inevitable all go on staring out the windowpanes from our stuffy little cells, looking forward to the weekend and waiting impatiently for summer.



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160 g
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300 ml, all types
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500 ml
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Buy 1, Get 1 Free

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Moon Rocks 225 g OR
MacIntosh Toffees 240 g

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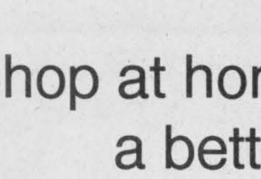
Save $19.50
on complete rental including shoes
See the latest in Junior Styling at the North Dundas Fashion Show, Wed., April 17. *Proceeds to Prom Committee!*



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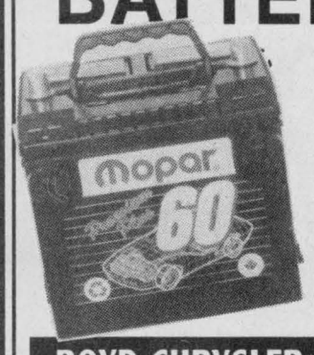

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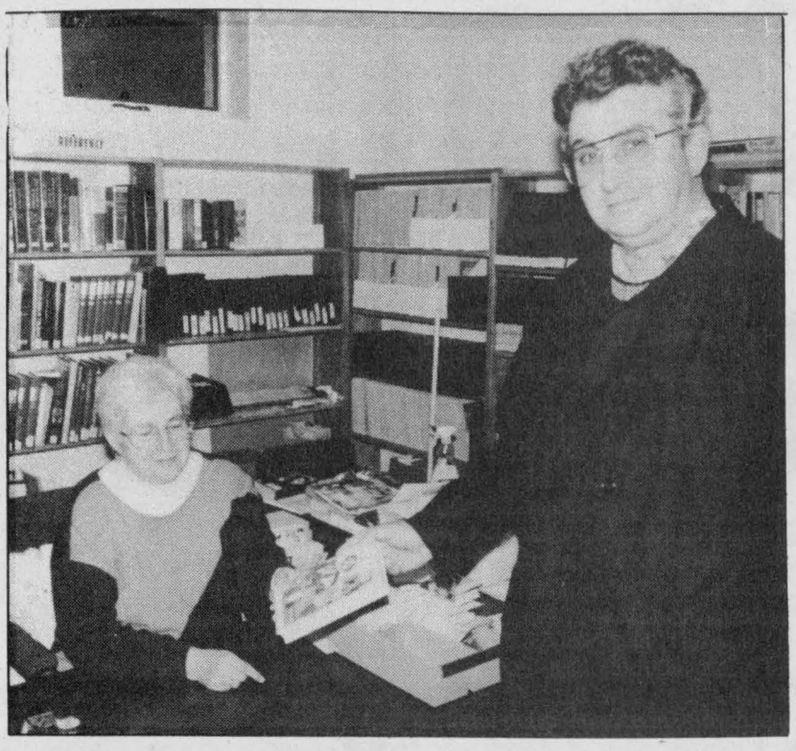

Addition to library

Williamsburg Masonic Lodge recently donated a video of the story of Freemasonry in Ontario to the Winchester Branch of the SD&G Public Library. The 16 minute video titled *Friend to Friend* has been produced by the Grand Lodge of Canada in the province of Ontario. Pictured, Worshipful Brother William Rae, Master of Williamsburg Lodge presents a copy of the viseo to Gail Storring, librarian.

Courtesy photo

SEAWAY VALLEY CRIME STOPPERS ÉCHEC AU CRIME

Getaway car spotted eastbound on Hwy. 2

IROQUOIS — The trio who stole $250 in cash from Little Rikki's Pizza in Iroquois were spotted as they fled the break-in scene just before midnight on Fri., March 22. The three men were last seen driving eastbound on Hwy. 2 in a dark blue, medium size, four-door car with a sport rack on the trunk. One male was described as wearing a black leather jacket with a red hood over his head. The other two suspects had dark colored hoods and dark jackets. If you have any information on this or any other crime you may be eligible for a cash reward of up to $1,000. Call Crime Stoppers at 937-8477 or 1-800-265-8477 for long distance calls. Remember, Crime Stoppers does not have call display and does not record conversations. You are always anonymous.

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Call ahead or have it delivered

Dundas County Players prepare for *Opening Night*

Garnet Quail
Press Staff Reporter

WINCHESTER — Rehearsals are well under way as the fledgling Dundas County Players prepare their inaugural show, fittingly entitled 'Opening Night'.

The play is a hilarious Canadian offering by New Brunswick playwright Norm Foster and was the winner, in 1988, of the Hollywood Drama-Loge Critics Award for writing.

It will be a fine bit of entertainment when it is staged at Winchester's Henderson Hall on April 25, 26 and 27.

Tickets are available now and are priced at $6 and the show is deemed suitable to audiences 12 and over. To get your tickets, please call Vicki Muir at 774-0448 or Deborah Smith-Peto at 989-1244.

Two people who were the sparkplugs behind the creation of this theatre group, James Peto and his wife Deborah Smith-Peto of South Mountain decided that there was a definite lack of local entertainment, most especially in this particular vein, and they wanted to see a change.

Deborah became the group's founding president and James is the chairperson of all official proceedings of the Players.

It seemed to follow naturally that this very interested and motivated couple would be quite involved in all activities of the group so it is not surprising to find James in the role of Director of 'Opening Night _ and Deborah cast as Libby Husniak, a ditsy young actress appearing in the play within a play which is an integral part of the show.

Both James and Deborah have previous amateur theatre experience; garnered at university and in other local theatre groups such as Osgoode's Isle in the River Review. Both bring a wealth of know-how and enthusiasm to the production.

Vacancies soon to be filled at Manotick OPP

by Chris Bridgen

MANOTICK — Manotick's OPP detachment will be brought to the full complement of 28 constables within the next month say officials.

Ontario Provincial Police spokesman Vic Burns said a reorganization of the force has freed up more officers to fill vacancies in the Ottawa-Carleton region.

There should be 127 constables working in area detachments under agreements reached between the police services board and the OPP. At last count, only 117 officers were working locally.

Four, or possibly five of the new officers are coming to Manotick, the first two in April, said a pleased Staff Sgt. Doug Sorgat.

"This is good news for the detachment," he said.

"I think this will mean our response to calls for service will be more enhanced and there will be a better traffic presence in the community," added Sorgat.

His first two new officers have already been hired, both of them five-year veterans. One is from metro Toronto, the other from Constance Lake.

"It's a nice benefit to have trained officers," said Sorgat. "They won't have to be sent for training."

Insp. Burns' news came as a surprise to regional councillors at the police services board meeting Monday night. They were already in shock about a motion that starts the process of switching from OPP to regional police service in the outlying municipalities.

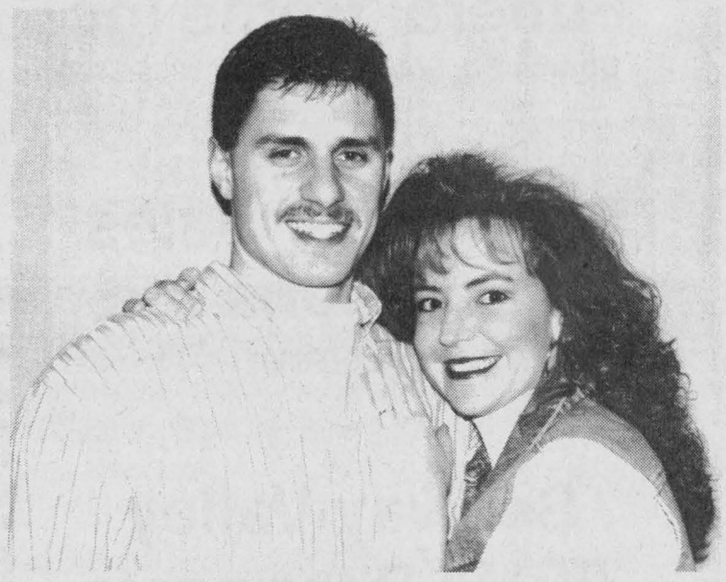
"I hope to have the full staffing in place by May 15," said Burns. "I've been asking for them for a long time."

But Burns warned that there would still be difficulties once a transition to regional policing is made.

Many of the OPP officers need time to move their families, since not all of them will join the regional force.

"Not all of them will transfer. There will be a lot of changes," he said.

One of those changes was suggested by Regional Chair Peter Clark. He asked Burns and Regional Police Chief Brian Ford to work on a deal to exchange city and rural police officers, giving them a chance to learn each other's territories.



Wedding Announcement

McMillan - Francis

Lesley McMillan and Michael Francis along with their families are pleased to announce their upcoming marriage. The wedding will take place May 18, 1996 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Williamsburg, Ont.

A mixed party will be held April 19, 1996 at the Matilda Hall, Dixons Corners.

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NOR-DUN SENIORS' CENTRE

The Nor-Dun Seniors Programs offer regular monthly activities at the Winchester Nor-Dun Centre, South Mountain IOOF Hall, and Chesterville Nelson LaPrade Centre. We invite you to drop by or contact us for information on our many programs and services by calling 774-6109.

APRIL SPECIAL EVENTS

Breathe Easy Program: Nor-Dun Centre, Thursdays, 1-3 pm. A six-week program put on free of charge sponsored by The Lung Association. A very informative session featuring guest speakers, general information and breathing exercises for those living with lung disease.

Foot Clinic: Nor-Dun Centre, Thursday, April 4, 12:30 pm. By appointment.

Easter Baking Demonstration: South Mountain IOOF Hall, April 4, 11 am. Dough Bunnies and Hot Cross Buns.

Volunteer Appreciation Night: Nor-Dun Centre, Thursday, April 11, 7-9 pm. Entertainment by Dominic D'Arcy and refreshments. All Nor-Dun Centre and Satellite Centre volunteers are encouraged to come.

Pamper Yourself Day: Nor-Dun Centre, Friday, April 19, 10 am. Enjoy a manicure and facial. Seniors rate $8. By appointment.

Together We're Better - Intergenerational Day: With North Dundas High School students. Thursday, April 25, 12:00 noon - lunch provided by the Family Living Class; 1-3 pm, seniors match with a student and spend an afternoon in class. Please pre-register.

Hearing Test and Hearing Aid Clinic: South Mountain IOOF Hall, Thursday, April 11, 11 am-1 pm. For appointment call the Davidson Hearing Centre at 1-800-267-9697.

Official Opening of the completed Chesterville Nelson LaPrade Centre, Friday, April 27, 2-4 pm. Everyone welcome.

Meals on Wheels: This service is available from the Nor-Dun Centre throughout North Dundas. A hot, nutritional 3-course meal is delivered 5 days a week to your home for a cost of $4/day. Call the centre for details.

Interested in being a volunteer? Young and not so young, we are always in need of transportation drivers, friendly visitors, receptionists, meals on wheels deliverers!

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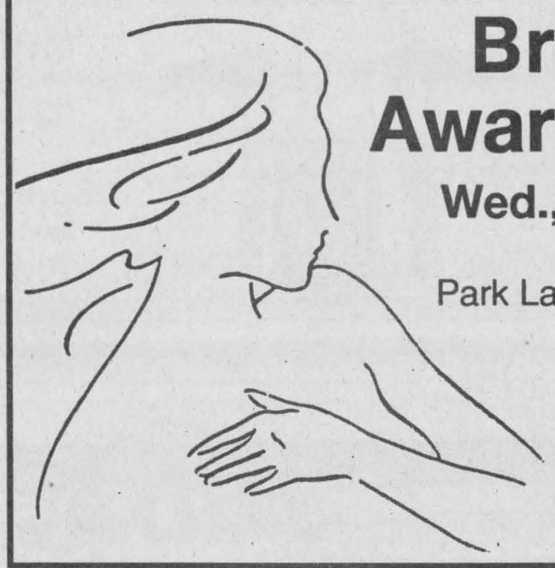
Volunteers are needed. For info call Jill Lamb, 989-6105, 774-3706.

The Canadian Cancer Society is a national, community-based organization of volunteers whose mission is the eradication of cancer and the enhancement of the quality of life of people living with cancer.



Breast Cancer Awareness Night

Wed., April 10 at 7:30 pm
Williamsburg
Park Lane Seniors' Support Centre

GUEST SPEAKERS:
- **Carol Spiro** from the Breast Cancer Action Group
- **Linda Swerdfeger** from the Cancer Society Breast Health Awareness

SPONSORED BY:
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Friday, March 29

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Farm update

George heads farm adaptation council

Dianne Fetterly
Agricultural editor

KEMPTVILLE — Former Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) president Roger George is telling farmers to mind their own business.

"We, as farmers, must take control of our own agenda. We can't depend on the government for support and we mustn't allow the government or consumers to take us for granted," said George, speaking to a large group attending the Eastern Breeders Inc. annual general meeting held last Tuesday in Kemptville.

A livestock and grain farmer from Northern Ontario, George was recently appointed chairman of the federal government's new agricultual adaptation council.

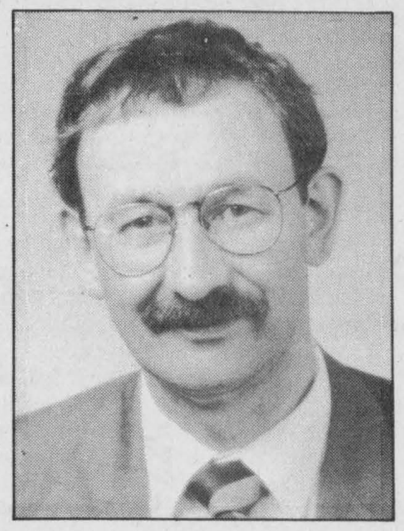
He told farmers they will need to make changes to their operations — mainly by becoming involved in the marketing of their own products.

"We must pool our resources and control the industry beyond the farm gate... (and) find new ways to ensure we have long-term financing," said George.

And the time is right now to organize farm co- operatives and strengthen agricultural groups and coalitions, he added.

George applauded organizers and members of the Seaway Valley Farmers Energy Co-operative (SVFEC) for their success in getting the ethanol project off the ground.

"There are vast fortunes to be made by those who aren't afraid to go beyond the farm gate. We must take advantage of the marketing opportunities presented to us."



Roger George

CHANGES NEEDED

Farmers also have to take the bull by the horns and educate adult consumers as well as children on the agricultural industry, said George.

While visiting schools, he finds children can rhyme off the names of dinosaurs which have been extinct for millions of years, but don't know where their bag of milk comes from.

Bankers and government also need to make some attitude changes when dealing with entrepreneurs trying to obtain funds for innovative new projects. The farm adaptation committee George chairs will attempt to alleviate some of these problems.

Farm leaders will be in control of the committee which will find funding for new projects to help farmers move forward in trade, research and marketing.

Council gets funding

TORONTO — Federal funding of $28 million over four years for producer-led agri-food adaptation initiatives in Ontario was announced this week by Ralph Goodale, Minister of Agriculture and Agri- Food Canada, when Goodale presented a cheque for the first installment of $7 million to Roger George, chairman of Ontario's Agricultural Adaptation Council (AAC).

Representing a coalition of 47 farm and rural organizations, the AAC will use the funds to make Ontario's agri-food sector more competitive and self-reliant in an era of change. The council will identify and support priority projects related to marketing, the enhancement of human resources, rural development and environmental protection.

"The AAC represents a unique partnership between Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Ontario's agriculture sector based on the belief that Ontario's farm and rural organizations have the knowledge and ability to help determine the most effective allocation of government funds," said George.

The agricultural adaptation and rural development projects identified, approved and financed by the ACC will help to position the Ontario agri-food sector to adapt to change and achieve greater future success. The council's work could become a new model for how the government of Canada and private sector organizations can collaborate in an innovative manner — to deliver necessary, cost-effective programs and services.

The Agricultural Adaptation Council is a non- share, non-profit, producer-led group incorporated under Ontario's Agricultural and Horticultural Organizations Act.

update

Sites selected for championship show

METCALFE — The Eastern Ontario Regional 4-H Board has selected the locations for the Regional 4-H Championship Show for 1996-98.

The Metcalfe Agricultural Society was selected to host the dairy heifer, beef heifer, steer, sheep, crops, exhibits and lifeskills competitions on Oct. 5, 1996. Perth and District Agricultural Society will host the Regional 4-H Championship Horse Show on Aug. 31, 1996.

The locations were selected from a number of sponsorship offers based on criteria such as facilities, location, show logistics, promotion, funding and administrative support. Sponsoring organizations have agreed to host the shows for a three-year term and will sign a memorandum of understanding confirming their support for 4-H policies and philosophy.

The board also makes decisions regarding a number of other regional 4-H events including: the regional judging competition, CCEA 4-H Camp, Go for the Gold, EBI Showcase and Members Conference.

Agline introduced to area farmers

Dianne Fetterly
Agricultural editor

WINCHESTER — Area farmers may soon be paying most of their bills through one account.

AgLine, an accounts receivable company strictly for agricultural businesses, was recently introduced to the area.

Since John Deere was the initial agricultural company to go with AgLine, Hamilton Lawn and Garden in Winchester is the first local agribusiness to be on the system.

AgLine customers can access their AgLine account information by calling a toll-free number. The automated system provides account information on balances, available credit and payment information. Customers can also request a change to their credit line, or during business hours, speak to a service representative.

At the end of the year, AgLine also provides a statement of the year's accounts. It hopes to eventually have all agricultural businesses on the system.

Head offices are based in Grimsby, Ontario and Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Ethanol plant site prepared

CORNWALL — Work has begun at the 27-acre site of Eastern Ontario's $43 million ethanol production plant.

According to Seaway Valley Farmers Energy Co- operative president Bud Atkins, heavy equipment has moved onto the site in the east-end Cornwall Industrial Park to begin work immediately. Site preparation will be completed by Agrodrain Ltd., of Osgoode.

The first building to be constructed on the site is the administration building, providing the project's management and engineers with a building to work in during construction of the plant.

So far, 1,800 residents of Eastern Ontario have signed up as members or shareholders of the Seaway Valley Farmers Energy Co-operative.

The facility, expected to produce 55 million litres of ethanol per year, will utilize approximately one-third of the corn produced in Eastern Ontario. It is expected to be operational in 1997.

Agri notes

Henderson on safety committee

GUELPH — Spencerville-area dairy farmer Paul Henderson will chair a committee to develop health and safety guidelines for Ontario dairy farms.

In the process of developing these guidelines, the six-member committee will look closely at health and safety issues affecting dairy farmers and their employees and family members.

The guidelines are a joint effort between the Dairy Farmers of Ontario and the Farm Safety Association.

CFFO hosting workshop

KEMPTVILLE — The Dundas County Christian Farmers Association is sponsoring a workshop to explore cuts to the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA).

The workshop, slated for Tues., April 2 at the Coachouse Motel on Hwy. 43 east of Kemptville, will run from 9:45 am to 3:30 pm. Cost is $10 per person, lunch included.

For information contact: John and Cora Beking, 258-5396; or Bill and Tina DeJong, 535-2974 before Fri., March 29.

This workshop is one of a series organized by the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario.

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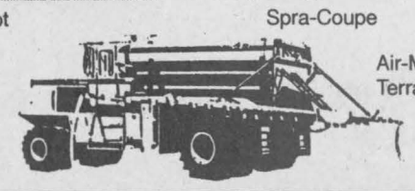

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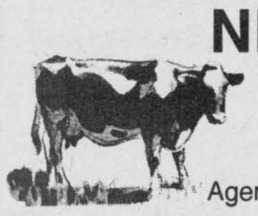

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Crowd pleaser

Good crowds turned out for this year's Embrun Farm Show held March 21-23. Pictured, top right: a visitor looks at one of the many ladies exhibits on display; top left, farmers look over entries in the Prescott-Russell county seed show; and left, the show featured an outdoor display area for large equipment.

Press Photos — Fetterly

OPSEU strike forces OFA to take action

Dianne Fetterly
Agricultural editor

WINCHESTER — While the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) strike has caused hardship for many of Ontario's independent meat plants, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is taking action to put the plants back in business.

Last week, OFA president Tony Morris announced he had directed legal counsel to challenge OPSEU's attempt to overturn the existing authority Ontario municipalities have to appoint local meat inspectors.

"We have no desire whatsoever to take sides in this strike but the livelihood of many of our members is at stake, and they are nearing the breaking point in their ability to properly manage their livestock."

"The failure to slaughter livestock in a timely fashion jeopardizes the operations of thousands of our members and could undermine the independent meat packing industry in this province. We see this as a direct challenge to the rights of farm families and we will do everything possible to protect those rights," said Morris.

According to Morris, farm families are already under severe financial pressures and have their futures further threatened by events beyond their control. Rather than trying to further limit inspections, he says, steps should be taken to exempt meat inspectors from the strike.

"Because believe me, in rural Ontario their services are essential."

Speaking earlier this month to members of the Dundas Federation of Agriculture, Noble Villeneuve Ontario's Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affair expressed concern that meat inspectors were not declared an essential service.

Ontario's agriculture industry provides safe, high quality food to its consumers, and it can't afford to tarnish its good reputation by having any bad product make it to the store shelves, Villeneuve said.

The OFA is urging any municipal councils who have the ability to appoint meat inspectors to consider their role and responsibility in getting the 290 independent meat plants back in operation.

"They have the full support of Canada's largest general farm organization, and we will take all necessary steps to ensure farmers have the ability to get to do what they do best, provide the safest and best quality food in the world," said Morris.

A number of area meat plants have been virtually shut down since the OPSEU strike began four weeks ago.

Eastern Habitat Joint Venture releases plan

The Eastern Habitat Joint Venture Working Group released a draft Management Plan designed to protect and restore wetlands and wetland wildlife populations in the counties of Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry, Prescott and Russell.

This plan addresses the loss of wetlands and associated wildlife habitats which resulted in a dramatic decrease in waterfowl populations throughout North America. Some 62 specific actions are proposed to accomplish this in the plan.

An agreement known as the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) led to the development of this plan. This local plan resulted from Canada, the United States and Mexico agreeing in the NAWMP to protect wetland habitat and restore waterfowl populations throughout North America.

Actions in the plan embrace the principles of co- operating with and encouraging private landowners to participate. It recognizes the agricultural nature of the region and the importance of working with the rural community.

If you are a rural landowner with an interest in wetlands and waterfowl management you may address your enquiry about the plan to the Cornwall office of the Ministry of Natural Resources at 613-933- 1774.

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Three-hour gardening seminar a success



Watery gardening
Farley See, left, and Brian Giandomenico brought along some examples of the aquatic plants grown at Moore Water Gardens in Port Stanley, Ontario. Press Photo— Robinson

Kim Robinson
Press staff

MORRISBURG — With all the snow on the ground over the weekend the spring planting season seemed far away, but that didn't stop local gardeners from pursuing their pastime.

On Saturday morning, about 70 people packed into a three-hour seminar at the Operating Engineers Training Institute to learn from gardening experts who traveled here from the more springlike clime of Southern Ontario.

It seems many are anxious for the season to start. This is the first year for the gardening seminar, hosted by John and Eileen Johnston of the Seasons Shop & Garden Centre near Morrisburg, and after the huge interest this weekend, they may extend it to a full day next year.

"We were thinking if we got 25 or 30 it would be good, but this is great," Eileen Johnston told the crowd.

Johnston said she has so many contacts in the business there should be no problem finding interesting speakers for an engagement next year.

The guest speakers for this first seminar included Farley See and Brian Giandomenico of Moore Water Gardens, Port Stanley, Ontario, specialists in water lilies and other aquatic plants. They talked about how to design and install a water garden, what plants could be used and where they should be placed. One of their main hints to aquatic gardeners was to keep 60 to 80 per cent of the water surface covered with plants to inhibit unattractive algae growth. The plants compete with the algae, blocking sunlight and using up nutrients in the water.

Leslie Goettsch of Valleybrook Gardens, the largest perennial plant grower in Canada, was on hand to give a slide presentation on perennials that grow well in the shade.

Some of her favorites include meadow rue, a tall plant with lacy foliage, as well as the white, delicately arched floral spikes of gooseneck loosestrife.

Goettsch said some spring flowers are already blooming in the Toronto area. She noted the difference in climate and said Valleybrook Gardens will be sending some of its plant varieties to the Johnstons at the Seasons Shop and Garden Centre to test how they fare in Eastern Ontario.

Ask a Master Gardener

Plants a hazard?

Answered by Hazel Taylor

Question: I have a young baby who is starting to crawl. Do I need to be concerned about her chewing or eating any of my houseplants.

Quite possibly yes!!! Houseplants and children can co-exist quite safely with certain precautions.

Houseplants can add warmth and beauty to your home, however, some plants are poisonous. Poisonous is often misunderstood to mean a deadly substance. Most dictionaries refer to poison as a substance that has any adverse health effect.

Houseplants come in a variety of colors, textures, flowering and non-flowering, etc. They can, therefore, be very interesting to explore by young children and babies, both with their hands and their mouths. Preventing plant poisoning is a simple matter and can be achieved through the following five steps: identify your plants (botanical names); learn which plants are poisonous and which are not; display plants safely; teach your children never to eat non-food plants; be prepared for emergencies.

There are many safe houseplants that you can have in your home that will meet all of your specific height, color and light requirements. Some very common houseplants are, however, considered to be poisonous. A few of them and their toxic plant parts are listed as follows: Dieffenbachia species (Dumbcain), all parts; Oxalis species (Shamrock), entire plant; Philodendron species (Philodendron), leaves; Euphorbia pulcherrima (Poinsettia), sap; Euphorbia millii (Crown of Thorns), latex; Phoradendrun serotinum (mistletoe), berries, leaves, stem.

This is just a sampling of poisonous houseplants. For more information on this subject a good resource book is *Baby Safe Houseplants and Cut Flowers* by John I. Alber and Delores M. Alber, or consult your local library.

The Eastern Ontario Poison Centre is open 24 hours a day. Call 1-800-267-1373. All households with small children should have this number posted by their phone regardless of whether or not you have any houseplants in your home.

Raised bed gardening better?

Answered by: W. vanLeeuwen

Question: Are there advantages to *raised bed* gardening?

Answer: As a Master Gardener I have made the conversion to raised beds. They have saved not only maintenance time and hard labor, but give my yard a professional look. Following are several advantages to raised beds:

— The growing season is lengthened because raised beds heat up faster than surrounding soil. The season can also be lengthened using structures such as trellises, hot or cold frames, wind barriers, or plastic frost tents. Raised beds facilitate the installation of these structures by using the wooden bed side as an anchor point.

— Hand weeding is greatly eased if the bed width is under four feet so that only a two foot reach is needed from either side. If the bed is suitably high, bending over can be eliminated. Also if the beds are properly spaced apart the lawn area between the beds is easily cut.

— It is possible to vary the soil type from sandy to rich clay loam in each bed according to the plant grown. A customized fertilization plan for each bed is also possible.

— Raised beds enhance crop rotation practices which rejuvenates the soil each year. Crop rotation minimizes the spread of plant diseases and separate beds eliminate the migration of these diseases.

— Drainage problems are eliminated with raised beds since water does not pool. On the other hand, a more frequent watering regime may be necessary since the bed soil tends to dry out faster.

— Raised beds can increase productivity since scatter seeding is possible. More plants can be grown in areas than in rows. Also since it is not necessary to walk on the soil its looseness is maintained.

— Since the beds can be arranged to take advantage of sun or shade and also complement the landscape plan, the overall effect portrays neatness and organization.

Questions for "Ask a Master Gardener" can be sent to: Ask a Master Gardener, c/o Hazel Taylor, RR#1, Iroquois, Ont. K0E 1K0

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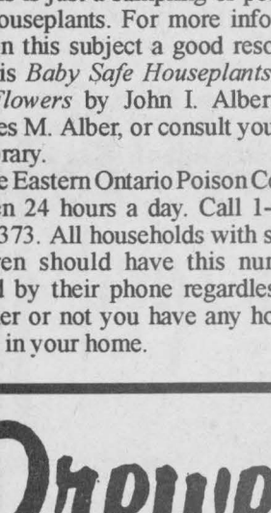
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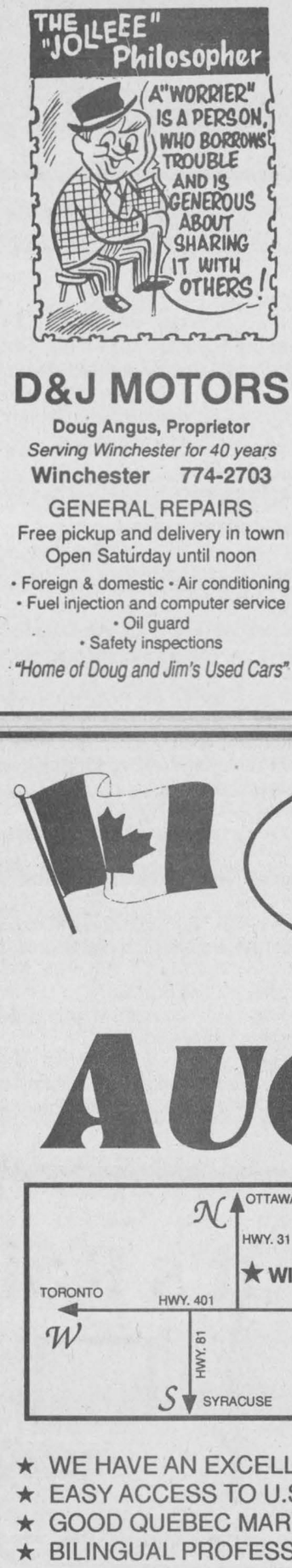
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Mountain Twp. considers moving library into school

Kim Robinson
Press staff

SOUTH MOUNTAIN — The library in South Mountain may soon have a new home as Mountain Township and Nationview Public School look at a space-sharing arrangement.

Upkeep at the library building on the Lough Road has been handed over to the municipality from the United Counties. While the counties still give the library some financial backing, Mountain Township Reeve Estella Rose says it's not enough to cover heating and other utilities, so the township is looking at another option for housing the local SD&G County Library services.

Rose sees where moving the library into Nationview Public School would be of benefit to both parties, with the township reducing costs and the school gaining direct access to the library system, and Principal Jack Barkley agrees.

He says the school librarian has reviewed the situation and there should be no problem accommodating the program in the space of the school library, though there are still details to be worked out. Municipal and school representatives will be meeting next month to talk about matters such as hours of operation and co- ordinating circulation services.

Barkley has seen this sort of shared system in place at another school and is impressed with it.

"We have been to Lancaster Public School and there are a lot of benefits to having the library in the school," he says.

Barkley notes that in that case, the school had no library service before the partnership, but with Nationview, the counties library is also benefiting from added book resources.

He looks forward to closer links to the community with such a partnership.

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LOOK UNDER LEARN.



Inside information

Interior decorating was the focus of a talk given by Susan Campbell of Emerald Interiors, Manotick at a Saturday workshop sponsored by the Dundas District Women's Institute. Here Campbell chats with Muriel Kenward, one of a number of institute members who had questions about decorating lampshades and Isobel Williams on creative lampshades.

Seniors meet

by Jean Casselman

WILLIAMSBURG — Twenty-nine members enjoyed a noon buffet at the monthly meeting of the Williamsburg Township Seniors.

Vice-president Ruth Casselman was in charge of the meeting, which opened with O Canada and a welcome to all in attendance.

Following the usual reports and a motion to pay all bills as presented, correspondence was read.

Olin Smith reported from the Williamsburg Community Association and Evelyn Whitteker volunteered to be program co-ordinator. As well, it was decided that in the future, prizes for euchre would be increased.

"Happy Birthday" was sung to all those celebrating March birthdays. The program consisted of two readings, "Auld Lang Syne" by Joyce Patterson and "If" by Hilda Garlough.

Cards and visiting were enjoyed for the remainder of the afternoon.

OBITUARIES

David Winston Coligan

David Winston Coligan of RR1 Iroquois died suddenly on March 24 at the Winchester District Memorial Hospital. He was 54.

Born July 8, 1941 in Morrisburg to the late Bernard Coligan and Dorothy Chinnock, he married Sheila Hutt on April 18, 1963 in Winchester.

Mr. Coligan worked as a self-employed plumber, a former maintenance mechanic with the SD&G Board of Education and a former wheelsman with Upper Lakes Shipping. A resident of Iroquois for eight years, he also lived in South Mountain and was a member of the South Mountain Agricultural Society.

As well as his wife, he is survived by his children Sean (Kristin) of Spencerville and Charlene (Mark) of Iroquois. Mr. Coligan was the brother of Larry of Amherstburg, Roger of Morrisburg, Margaret Herron (Ron) of Port Elgin, and Melanie Pollitt (David) of Prince George, British Columbia. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

He enjoyed woodworking and was an avid fisherman who never caught anything.

Donations to the Winchester Hospital or the Heart and Stroke Foundation would be appreciated by the family.

Services were held at the Marsden and McLaughlin Funeral Home in Iroquois on March 26 with Rev. Marion Milnes officiating.

Interment was at Maple Ridge Cemetery, Chesterville.

Pallbearers included Brian Halpenny, Don Adams, Paul Robertson, Bill Shaver and Roger Parisien.

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Announcement

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Video card: 1 meg 9440 PCI
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CD-ROM: Quad Spin CD ROM w/cables
Sound card: 16 Bit stereo sound card
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