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Council settles water/sewage rates... again

Liz Edwards
Press staff

WINCHESTER — The issue boiled over but council settled water and sewage rates Monday night.

For a second time, council voted to accept a bylaw to set rates allowing the village to use water meters installed in homes and business two years ago. However not before Deputy Reeve Mary Jane Elliott left the room, partly due to frustration with the process.

In the past year, Ken McCrea, a member of the village's water conservation committee that initially drafted the rates, asked council several times to pass the bylaw because he thought the system was losing money with its present flat rate system.

However Reeve Larry Gray wanted more information about the matter. Council gave its initial approval to a bylaw in the fall but revised it after protests from the public that sewer rates were too high. The bylaw was passed in December but repealed the next month because it was inadvertently made retroactive.

In January Councillor Bob Riddell, with help from Village Clerk Treasurer Bonnie Dingwall, made his own calculations about the rates. Dingwall was instructed by council to bring back a new bylaw based on the figures Riddell presented.

At the last meeting, council had the choice of five possible bylaws — two derived from Riddell's figures and three from Gray's calculations.

Discussions heated up Monday when Elliot objected to Reeve Larry Gray's suggestions that part of the cost of the system be covered by taxes and that a reserve for emergencies wasn't necessary.

At one point Gray interrupted Elliott, asking her to leave after she made a comment that she knew the reeve was smarter than her.

"I've sat here and listened to you personally attack me. If you continue, I'll ask you to leave," he told Elliott.

Instead Elliott said she was leaving, she was tired of council stalling on issues and the water issue should have been settled long ago.

"If you want to be a dictator sir, go ahead but I'm not going to be a party to it. It's a joke, it's just a joke," she said loudly as she left the room.

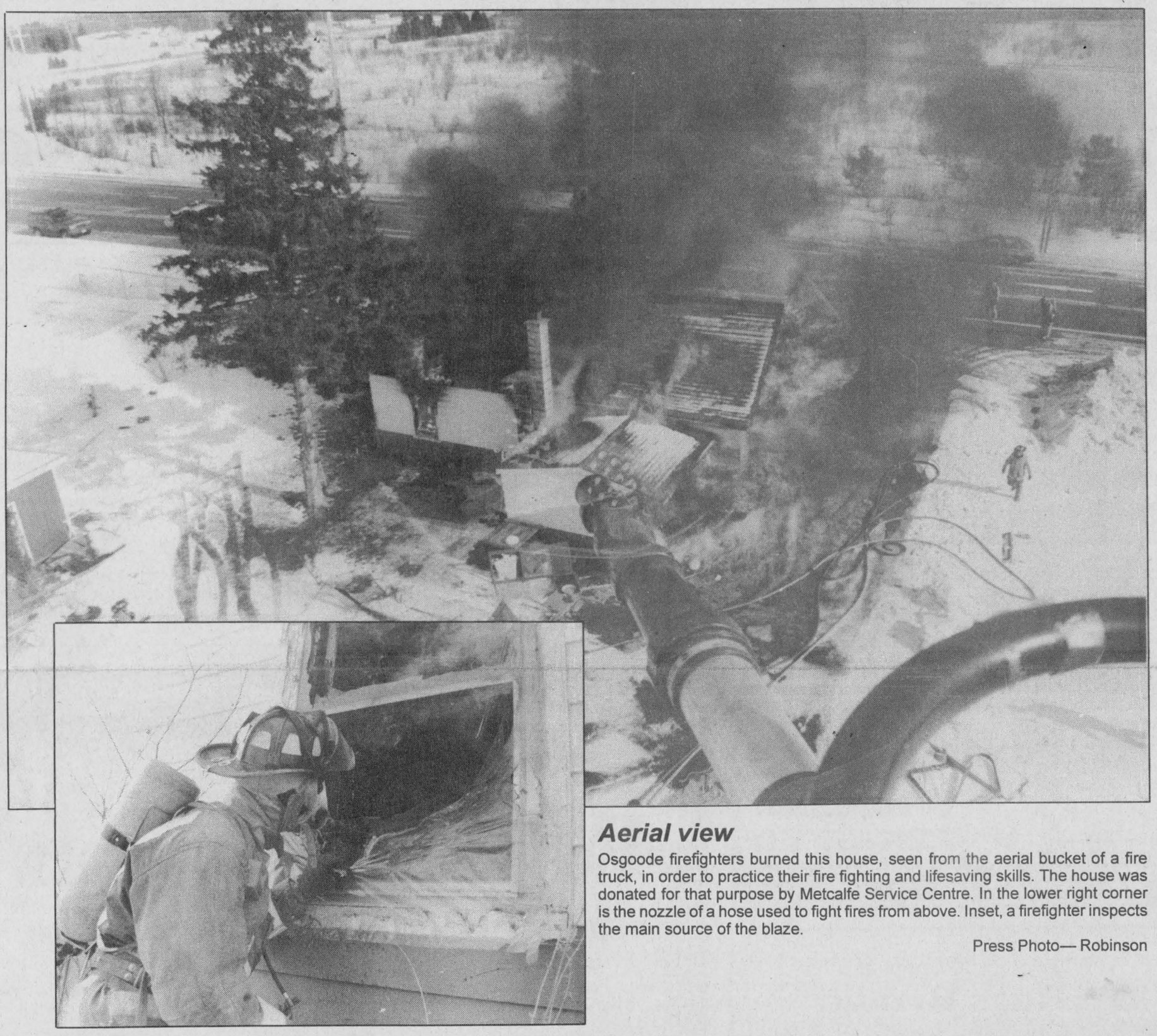
When questioned by the *Press* Gray said he thought comments were becoming too personal but he declined further comment on the issue.

In an interview, Elliott said she wasn't trying to insult the reeve but she thinks they have different philosophies of how things should be done and she's tired of issues being delayed.

"I regret losing my temper but I sort of had enough," she says.

But despite the fuss that hit the fan, most of the new bylaw is the same as the one council repealed last December. Water rates will remain the same but sewage charges will be higher.

• continued on page 2



Aerial view

Osgoode firefighters burned this house, seen from the aerial bucket of a fire truck, in order to practice their fire fighting and lifesaving skills. The house was donated for that purpose by Metcalfe Service Centre. In the lower right corner is the nozzle of a hose used to fight fires from above. Inset, a firefighter inspects the main source of the blaze.

Press Photo— Robinson

Blaze trains firefighters

Kim Robinson
Press staff

METCALFE — While normally their goal is to save houses, Osgoode firefighters were determined to burn one down on Saturday, blazing the way for expansion at a local farm equipment dealership, Metcalfe Service Centre.

As they destroyed the small house at the southeast corner of the service centre property on Hwy. 31 they also gained some valuable fire fighting experience. The house had to be cleared away before the dealership could start developing that section of the property and general manager Paul Sluyter says the company was glad it could be of some use to the community.

The Township of Osgoode Fire Department is grateful for these practice buildings. This was the first one the firefighters have had to work on in about a year and a half.

"We get new recruits every year so it's good to have them train in a controlled environment," said Pascal "Dutch" Tesser, captain at Station One in Metcalfe and the man in charge of the exercise.

So on Saturday morning, fire prevention officer Denis Morand set about the ironic task of lighting fires in the building using newspapers and pine boughs.

The firefighters practised searches in the smoke- filled house. New recruits and the veterans who gave them directions suited up in their yellow gear with gloves, helmets, oxygen masks and tanks. Someone who is used to the drill can have all the equipment on in a little over a minute.

Once a recruit has the oxygen mask on it's important that they not think too much about breathing or they could hyperventilate. Inside the building, they soon forget about the mask because they're more concerned with finding their way around. Immediately upon entering, the firefighter is confronted with a dense wall of black smoke. As they walked through the house,

• continued on page 2

Public school locks up after suspicious visitor

Kim Robinson
Press staff

WINCHESTER — Winchester Public School is in a state of security lock-up following an unwanted visit last Monday.

Around 1 pm on Feb. 5, a concerned parent came into the OPP office in Winchester to report that a suspicious man had been seen entering the school. Sgt. Ray Westgarth went to the school immediately, where he learned that the principal, George Hollingdrake, had already made sure the visitor was on his way.

"As soon as he went into that school he was met by the principal," says Sgt. Westgarth. "I think the situation was handled very well."

The OPP officer then approached the man, who was still standing nearby at the corner of the schoolyard, and served him with a warning that he would be charged with trespassing if he entered school property again. The man has also been warned to stay away from St. Mary's School in Chesterville.

Winchester OPP have received several reports of a suspicious individual from business people and village residents and Sgt. Westgarth says he has been inundated with calls from parents concerned about the background of the man who entered the school. He says that while the man is awaiting sentencing for a crime, rumors that he is a convicted pedophile are incorrect.

At Winchester Public School, staff aren't taking any chances. As a security measure, only the main foyer doors near the office will be open between recesses. As well, children will now go to the washroom in pairs. They have also been encouraged to walk home with another student and to avoid strangers.

While their principal notes that no one was harmed in last Monday's incident, he adds, "It's the '90s and you have to be careful."

Hollingdrake says most parents support the decision to lock the school doors. A letter has been sent home to parents to inform them of the situation and encourage them to talk with their children about how to stay safe.



Chess mates

Chris Doe, left, of Winchester Public School and Yann Bossel of Nationview Public School were among more than 150 players from nine schools who competed in the 1996 Rotary Club Dundas County Chess Tournament on Friday. The tournament was played in the gymnasium of Morrisburg Public School. Press Photo— Robinson

Mountain Twp. residents seek signs of security

MOUNTAIN — Mountain Township Council wants a sign from ratepayers before it invests in advertising for community watch programs in the municipality.

Nick Zrymiak, representing a group of Shaw Road residents who have formed their own watch program after being plagued by break-ins, asked council on Monday night if it could lend its administrative and financial backing to their effort to buy community watch signs.

He came prepared with a list of prices for the signs, and noted that if the township bought in larger quantities for resale to interested individuals, it would save residents money. He assured council that residents would see the crime deterring signs as a worthwhile investment that could buy them some peace of mind and he added that he thought the watch would catch on in other areas.

"I'm suggesting that we take a broader perspective, looking at the whole township," said Zrymiak. "I think you will find that there are a lot of interested people."

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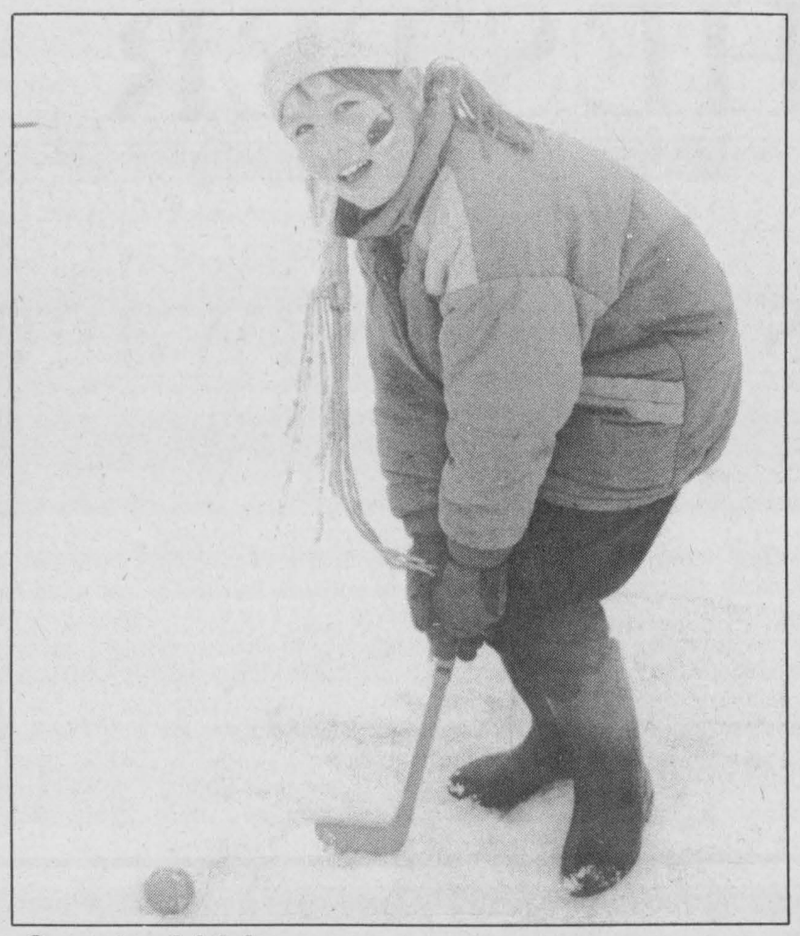
Love blooms at the Brigadoon. 7

Area naturalist Lee Cairnie knows how to attract birds to your garden. 8

North Dundas Devils take first place in two of three SD&G volleyball league divisions. B-1

Tax time planner, investment guide included in this issue of The Press.





Carnival kids

There were plenty of youngsters at the Winchester Winter Carnival over the weekend with the figure skating review, left, and outdoor activities. Above, Kate Stanley tries out the snow mini-putt.

Police blotter

Youth's trial postponed

CORNWALL — The trial date for the youth charged with first-degree murder in the beating death last January of Kenneth Hutt of Winchester has been moved to June 3. The trial was to begin Feb. 5 but has been postponed at the request of the youth's defence lawyers who want to obtain transcripts of evidence presented by Crown witnesses at the preliminary hearings of Douglas Therkelsen, 22, and Daryle Bolton, 24, who face the same charge. Contrary to reports that he is staying with a relative in Petawawa, the youth is currently being held at a detention centre. Therkelsen's trial date is set for Oct. 7 while Bolton's preliminary hearing is still in progress.

Hydro office robbed

WINCHESTER — A large quantity of computer equipment was stolen from the Ontario Hydro Office on St. Lawrence Street last Tuesday evening. A forced entry was made into the building between 4:30 and 8:40 pm. The break-in was reported to police at approximately 9:30 pm.

Car stolen

WILLIAMSBURG TWP. — On Thursday, Feb. 8, OPP were called in to investigate the overnight theft of a 1982 Monte Carlo from a Williamsburg Township residence. The car was recovered that same morning in a lane along County Road 8 in the township. The vehicle had not been damaged.

Deer leaps from bridge

SOUTH MOUNTAIN — A deer with a badly injured leg wandered into South Mountain last Wednesday morning and lay down on Bridge Street.

Nearby residents contacted the Ministry of Natural Resources but before ministry personnel arrived the deer was spooked, either by the handful of onlookers or by traffic on the road, and it jumped off of the bridge, landing on the ice below. The animal had to be destroyed.

Continued from the front page...

Water

Village residents and most businesses will be charged $12.25 per month for the first 20 cubic metres of water and 60 cents for each additional cubic metre.

However the new bylaw changes the sewer rate which will be one and a half times the resident's total water bill. In the former bylaw, residents' sewer charges equaled their water bill. However, in the initial draft, the sewer charge was one and half times the total water — the rate members of the public protested in the fall.

As he has stated in the past, Gray said Monday expenses such as the two systems' debt and capital project should be the property owners' responsibility and not necessarily the users. The village has about $1,063,974 outstanding in loans for various projects, dating from 1967 to 1989.

He favored his suggestion that excluded debt and its related expenses. His calculations brought the water rate down to 26 cents per cubic metre. But residents would have to make up the difference in their tax bill, estimated at $100 for the average homeowner. Sewage rates would be 49 cents per cubic metre but with an average tax levy of $89. The plan would not generate any extra revenue to cover unexpected costs or to put in a reserve.

The bylaw council adopted Monday will supply the village with an additional $55,640. Council also agreed, later in the evening, to apply its reserve of $150,000 from the Ontario Clean Water Agency toward the system's debts.

The new bylaw also eliminates limits on the water Winchester Cheese and Ault Foods use from the system, depending on the water's availability and restricting their consumption when it threatens essential services to the village.

Fire

Craig McIntyre and Bruce Griffin said unless they find a clear pocket close to the floor it's usually impossible to see where they're going, it's more a matter of feeling their way through the blackness.

Dean Patterson, who was experiencing this dark environment for the first time, said initially he felt uncomfortable but each time he went into the building he became more familiar with it and gained more confidence.

Watching the proceedings from outside, Captain Tesser stressed the importance of approaching the task methodically, mapping out the building in your mind before walking into the smoke.

"If you don't do that you get lost and then you have to crawl," he said.

After the practice session was over, the department set the fire in earnest and even more smoke poured out of the windows and a hole which the firefighters had chopped in the roof. There has to be some ventilation because a completely sealed building will explode into flame with the sudden introduction of oxygen, such as when a door is opened.

As the flames took hold, Denis Morand pointed out the different types of smoke billowing out of the structure. Where water from the fire trucks was trained on the house there was a relatively harmless white vapor, but from the centre of the fire came the thick black clouds produced when petroleum products like carpeting and upholstery go up in flames.

"When it's black like that, it's hot and it's deadly," he said.

Morand talked of the tricky nature of fire as it creeps through a building.

"It's almost mesmerizing, with the slow- rolling flames, then all of a sudden, bang, the whole thing goes up."

The tiny house did burn up very quickly. Then the firefighters had more training in containing the blaze. Because the house was very close to Hwy. 31, OPP officers were on hand to direct traffic, but midway through the fire they had to leave on another call. This unforeseen event added the realistic touch of unpredictability to the practice and firefighters got the job of waving on curious motorists as the house disappeared in the flames.

Signs

Deputy Reeve Don Johnston said he saw no problem with the plan so long as it was done on a cost-recovery basis and at least two quotes were obtained for the work, according to township policy.

Councillor Robert Guy wanted assurances that all of the signs were spoken for before the township laid down any money.

"I'm not prepared to buy 51 signs (the quantity suggested by Zrymiak) and have 20 people from the Shaw Road come in but have 31 left gathering dust with ratepayers' money tied up in it," he said.

In the end, council decided to send out a brief questionnaire in its next newsletter, due out by the end of the month, to find out how many residents would be interested in purchasing the signs, to be erected on civic signposts along their roads.

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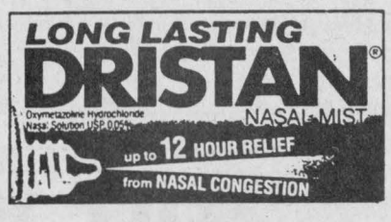


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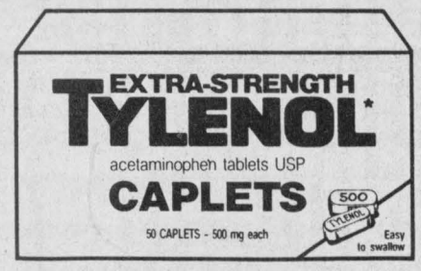
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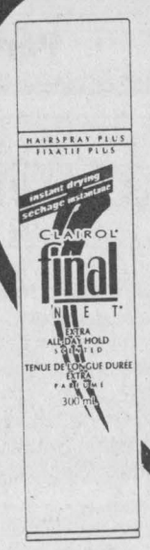
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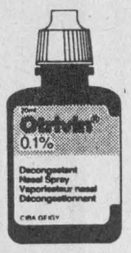
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Otrivin 0.1%
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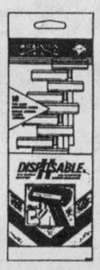
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24s, or caplets, 16s
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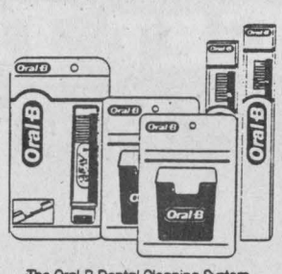
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Elma Public environmental giants

Kim Robinson
Press staff

ELMA — By taking small, everyday steps to protect the environment, Elma Public School has attained an uncommon achievement.

Over the past few years, Elma students have become leaders in environmental awareness in the SD&G Public School Board, having completed close to 400 environmental projects under the SEEDS Canada Foundation *Learners in Action* program. While four schools in the board have reached the 100 project mark, the average level of participation is 14.9 projects per school.

With the program, environmental lessons are incorporated in normal classroom activities and then recorded in a log book, such as when the Kindergarten class reused milk cartons to make bird feeders.

"They were not only reusing that material, they were also learning about the animals that live in the environment," says Grade 3-4 teacher Judith Welland, who has taken a leading role in the project.

As the children learn about the natural world around them, they are encouraged to take an active part in protecting it. Their conservation efforts at home are documented, and reducing, reusing and recycling has become second nature at the school. Paper used for worksheets and memos gets a second life with new copies made on the blank side and cartons for milk, chocolate milk and juice have been replaced by recyclable plastic bottles.

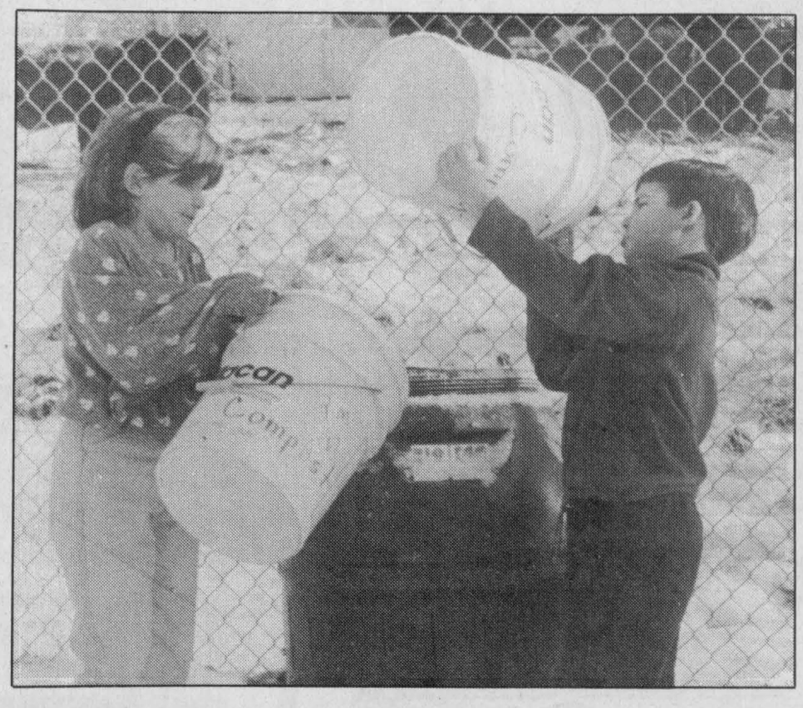
When duties were assigned in the Grade 3-4 classroom, Amanda Larmour and Byron Brunt were given the job of collecting waste for the school composter.

As they cleaned up their collection buckets in the janitor's room after one of their twice weekly rounds, they said it can be a messy job at times, but they think being kind to the environment is well worth the effort.

"We're trying to make the kids aware that it's the little things they do each day that make a difference in saving the environment," says Principal Frank Hummell.

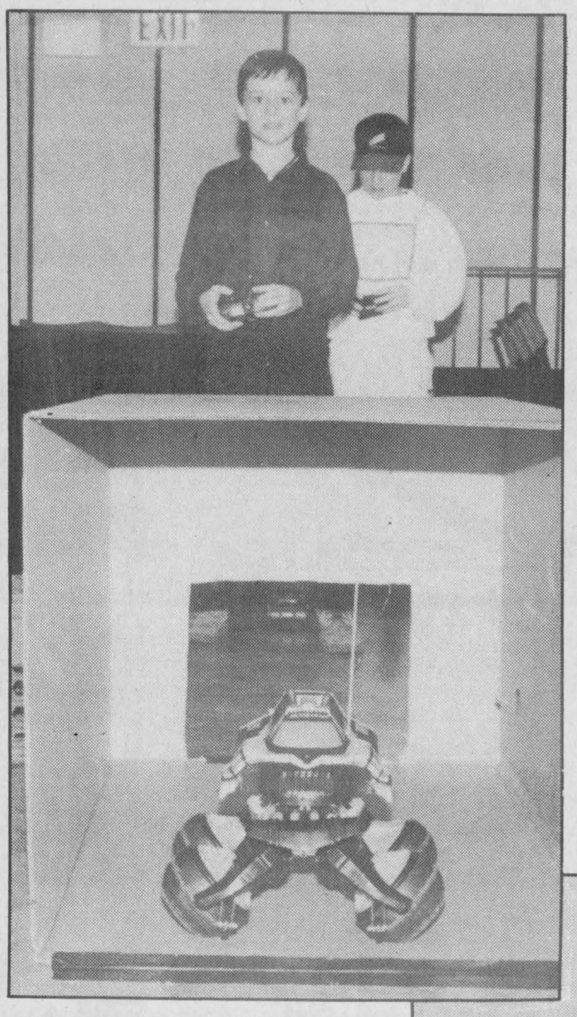
He gives regular reports on the school's progress over the PA system, and there is plenty to tell. Each class gets to keep an environmental trophy in the classroom when a project is completed, and competition is fierce. There are so many projects being submitted to the office that the trophy moves every day.

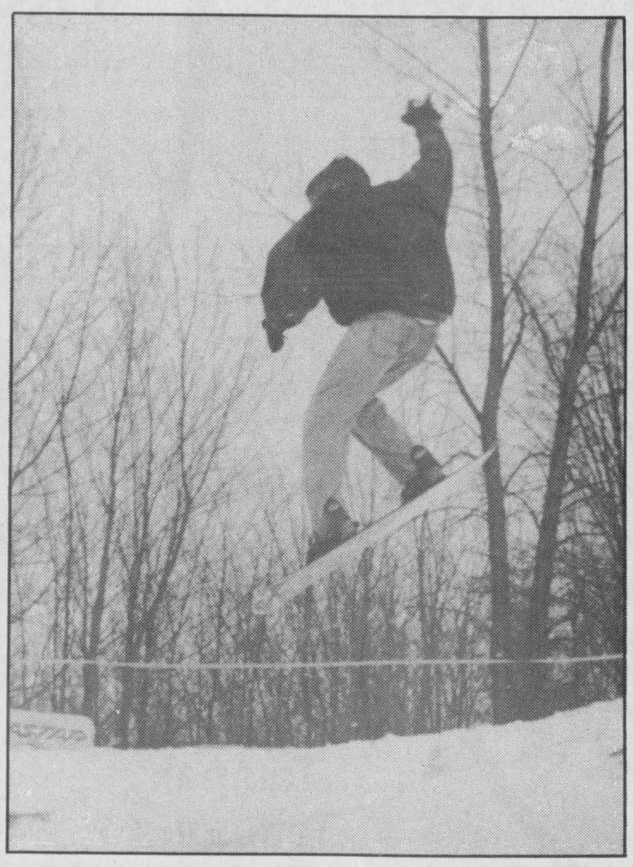
The school has been recognized by the board for reaching the 250 project mark and now has a goal of logging 500.



Projects like composting have earned Elma Public School recognition for its environmental awareness. Here Amanda Larmour, 9, and Byron Brunt, 8, empty waste into a composter beside the school.

Press Photo— Robinson







Winchester celebrates winter

Kane Erickson, above, got in on winter carnival fun this weekend with the remote control car racing event. Top right, the freestyle snowboard competition had a popular debut with 12 competitors. It followed the homemade toboggan contest in which Murray Byers' toboggan was fastest, followed by Jessica and Joel Edwards. Brad Miller had the best cardboard toboggan. Right, Bill Chedore checks on the carnival supper.
Press Photos — Robinson

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Changing for the future.



Here comes the wedding

Future brides and grooms attended the Winchester Bridal Show at the community centre last week. Top left, Kim Link and her daughter Martha Link-Horvath of Classique Bridal help couples make choices about wedding attire. Left, Monique St. Pierre models a veil incorporated with a hairstyle by Julie Ann Armstrong (in the background) of Julie Ann's Hair Studio of South Mountain. Inset is a tuxedo from the CountryBoy.

Press Photos— Edwards

Employment help a rare commodity: only local agency on shaky ground

Kim Robinson
Press staff

CHESTERVILLE — Just as it seems more and more people are searching for jobs, employment services are dwindling in Dundas County. Still, there is some help locally, though its chances of survival are tenuous.

For the moment at least, the Agricultural Employment Services (AES) office is open at 11 Industrial Drive in Chesterville, providing some of the services previously offered by the Dundas Human Resource Centre which was effectively shut down last spring. Applications and information for Unemployment Insurance, Social Insurance Numbers, Canada Pension, Old Age Security and Birth Certificates are available there.

AES, which as its main function matches up farm workers and employers, will continue as an access point for these government services until the end of March when its federal funding ends.

Unlike the Cardinal and District Resource Centre, which is in similar straits and has announced it will close this April, AES has not thrown in the towel yet.

"There is definitely a desire in the community to see it continue," says administrator Margaret Macdonald. "But funding is still up in the air."

She says the office has been making requests to all levels of government — municipal, regional, provincial and federal — for alternative funding for both the agricultural and other employment services, but she personally doesn't hold out much hope for AES.

"We've been helping workers with their resumes, trying to get them prepared for life after AES," says Macdonald, who looks on the closure as, "Another nail in the coffin for rural Ontario."

She is a bit more optimistic that some of the other employment services will continue, noting that the need for employment help has not decreased but increased over the past year. In January alone the office handled 90 Unemployment Insurance applications. Without this office, someone who needs a Social Insurance Number might have to go to Cornwall to get an application.

In addition to providing help with government forms, there is a computerized job bank in the office as well as a computer and fax machine for job applicants to type out and send resumes.

In the event that the Chesterville office closes, the T.R. Leger School in Winchester has offered its space to house the computerized job kiosk, though no final decisions have been made at this time.

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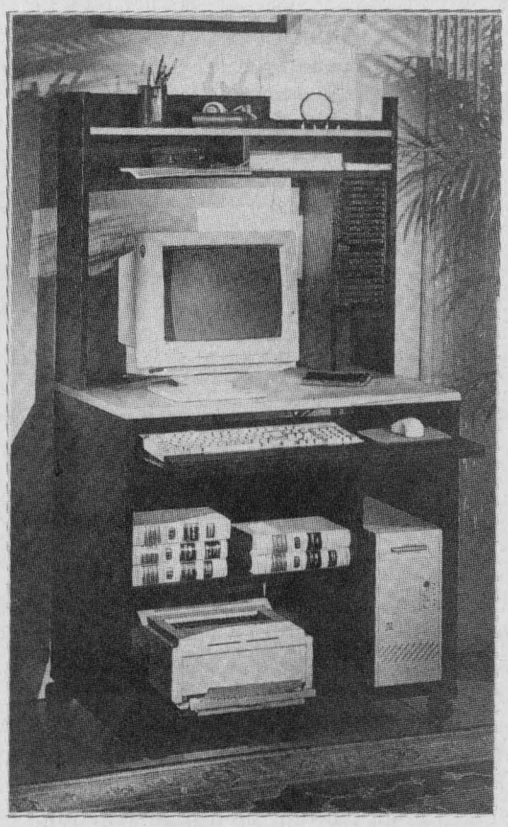
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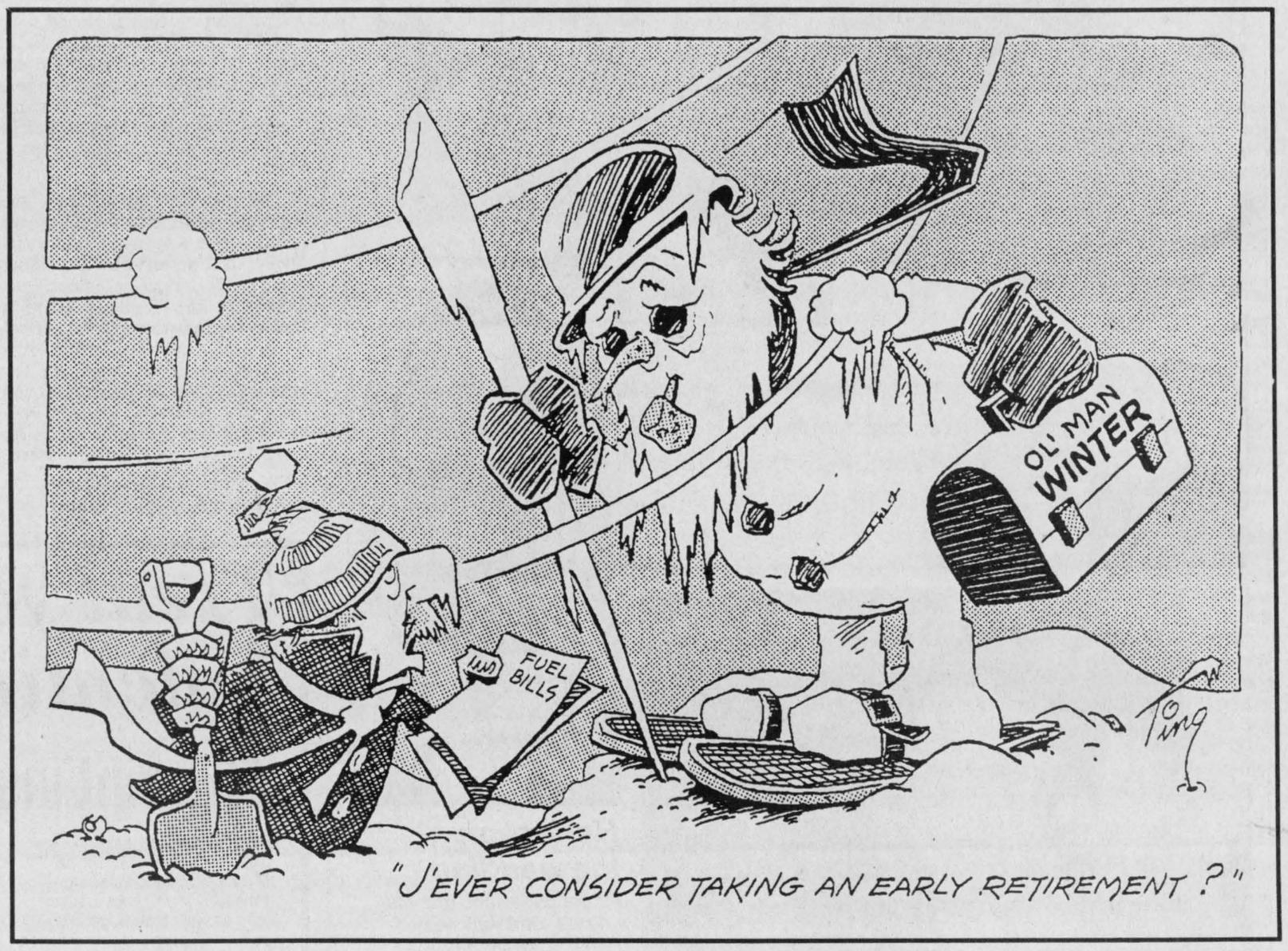
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EDITORIAL

Don't wait for change

Anticipating the tide of change is going to be the survival technique of the future. Those who don't will be left in its wake.

In strategic terms, the best defence is offence. Many are taking this tack. Even when the threat is not imminent, organizations are cutting back to absorb the effects of government cuts.

Even when it seems otherwise, there is no assurance that an organization is safe from these cuts.

And that goes for the Winchester OPP detachment office. Reports in the *Press* have indicated that there is no official word about a closure.

But people in the street worry because they hear rumors that there is more to the story.

Their concern may not be misplaced even though police sources have certainly indicated no differently to reporters.

The provincial situation is enough to send off warning bells when Ontario Liberal Leader Lyn McLeod leaks information that the government is considering such cost-savings measures as ending the RIDE program to reduce drunk-driving and cutting OPP staff by roughly 1,500 in an overall strategy to save $96 million over two years.

It seems possible that Winchester, which was in jeopardy of closing a few years ago, could be on the block again.

And the loss of services would certainly be noticed. The presence of an OPP office in the community adds an element of security. Moreover, residents should also be concerned about staff reductions. The area local OPP already cover is large.

Winchester Village Councillor Cliff Parsons took a proactive approach at a council meeting Monday night, requesting that council address a letter of concern to the local member of provincial parliament.

He's not the only one, either. At least one resident, Jannie Van Noppen, is interested in circulating a petition that could be sent to the government. Anyone interested could contact her.

Waiting to see the official story come out in the newspaper may not be in residents' best interests.

L.E.

This week in...

1946

There would be no hockey games or curling in Winchester on the evening of Feb. 14, 1946. This was a measure taken to ensure high attendance at a public meeting concerning the Winchester District Memorial Hospital project. Hospital delegates had met with government officials in Toronto and returned with encouraging news. If citizens accepted the plan they presented, the establishment of the hospital would be assured.

1956

After a snow-free December and January, Winchester and the surrounding area was covered with about 20 inches of the white stuff.

Cinema buffs would soon have the pleasure of watching movies on a giant Cinemascope screen at the Winchester Theatre. The new screen would measure 10' by 22'.

Mr. F.C. Eligh of Finch was elected president of the Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada. Eligh was elected by fellow association members at their annual convention in Toronto. He was well-known in the area for his work with the local Holstein Club and 4-H Clubs.

1966

Centennial and recreational grants for the Centennial Pool in Winchester received approval at the federal and provincial level, so construction could begin in spring.



Pioneer Jim, a Texan traveler, passed through town with his chuck wagon, two mules, his horse and his huge dog Wolf. He had left Texas in April 1963 and began wandering toward the New York World Fair, which he arrived at a year later. After the fair, he had continued his travels in the United States and in Eastern and Southern Ontario.

Ault employee Lloyd Guy was named outstanding buttermaker by the Ontario Concentrated Milk Producers.

1976

A fire of unknown origin completely destroyed the home of the Carman Morris family near Vernon. Mrs. Morris and one of the children, 12-year-old Tommy, were at home when the fire broke out. They were able to escape with only the clothes they were wearing at the time. The house, located on Hwy. 31, was one of the first "Morewood Homes" in the district.

The Winchester Legion Branch 108's newly renovated building was officially opened by Howard Sayeau, Royal Canadian Legion G3 District Commander.

1986

The new general manager of the Upper Canada Playhouse, Lois Rosenquist, had fundraising for repairs as her main concern. At the time, the theatre was housed in a tent structure built in 1978. The structure needed two new panels on its roof and work had to be done on the seating inside. A move to a more permanent location was being considered.

More than $4,500 was raised toward new flooring at the Winchester and District Community Centre during the village's winter carnival. Events were very well-attended. In particular, the curling bonspiel attracted an unprecedented turnout of 60 teams.

Lawyers dissatisfied with careers

A study of depression in 104 different professions by Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore has found the highest proportion of victims among lawyers.

That statistic is an American one but you can bet your boots that it doesn't differ very much in this country.

It is a good reason why young people shouldn't go into law unless they truly feel a real calling or actually enjoy practice. I have a feeling that if such tests were strictly applied by all lawyers, the ranks of the profession would be cut by at least two-thirds.

And why not? The law can be a terribly boring job. It has little social justification attached to it. There are so many other jobs, like teaching, that are really worthwhile and desperately need bright young people who can actually make a difference. Law rarely does that.

Amiram Elwork, the co-author of a research study entitled "Lawyers in Distress," has said that a very large portion of lawyers are "very dissatisfied" with their careers and would be much happier doing something that's really worthwhile.

He says that today's lawyers work in conditions that are remarkably similar to the "sweat shops" blue collar workers endured several generations ago. Such law firms "push productivity to the limit of human capacity and constantly function in a crisis mode." Why? Money.

Half the work of a lawyer is boring - imagine searching a land title— and the other half consists of trying cases that often have marginal merit. Why not do something that really benefits society, like teaching or government service?

Some lawyers love their work. They make a valuable contribution to society. But they are few and far between. Most would be happier doing something else. Why don't they? Wouldn't they benefit from this? And wouldn't society be better off because a great many bright and able people could do a lot in other kinds of work?



Meanwhile

by Fred Sagel

Then you have judges. Despite what they might say, they seem to have displayed a remarkable ability to keep their own work schedules on what might be charitably called the light side.

What do I say to that? The same week that the statistics about lawyers in the United States came out, there were more statistics released about the less-than-heavy workload that American judges have. Here too, I suspect that Canadian figures are similar.

Consider the United States Supreme Court Justices have to be there for the approximately 40 days set aside for oral arguments and the roughly 30 Friday mornings on which they meet to discuss cases. That leaves the justices 295 days to schedule as they please.

One of nine, Justice Scalia, chose to use the freedom by taking 20 trips in 1992 alone. According to Linda Greenhouse, a veteran legal reporter for *The New York Times*, his destinations included Venice, Innsbruck, Oslo and Genoa.

Each trip incidentally, was financed by a non- profit institution. That led Charles Peters, editor of the prestigious *Washington Monthly* to conclude: "...it may help explain why the law is so tender in its treatment of these organizations."

The Times went on to point out that such light schedules were not at all unusual for judges and that the workload really wasn't all that great. A survey of judges in other judicial posts found the same thing: being appointed as a civil servant on the Bench meant doing less work than before.

Is it the same in Canada? I suspect so. I know a number of judges personally and I think most of them would tell you it's not exactly a back- breaking profession. Some complain about the hard work but I don't buy that. They chose to take the job.

It's like everything else: some judges work hard and have the requisite qualities a good judge needs — lots of patience, civility, unfailing politeness — while others slough off and demonstrate the worst judicial traits — rudeness, intolerance and nastiness.

But do they kill themselves at the job? I doubt it.

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

Serving up romance for Valentine's Day

Kim Robinson
Press staff

OXFORD MILLS — On St. Valentine's Day, many diners will discover a romantic idyll at the Brigadoon Restaurant in Oxford Mills.

This is one of the restaurant's busiest evenings of the year, as lovers seek out a magical spot to spend time together. Named after Lerner and Loew's 1947 musical about two hunters who stumble upon an enchanted Highland village that only appears once every 100 years, the Brigadoon aims to create a cozy, welcoming atmosphere for visitors.

"We chose that name because it means a special place that people don't want to leave," says Cheryl Mackie, who operates the restaurant with her husband Dave.

Diners will find the restaurant especially hard to resist with a Valentine's menu chosen by Chef Geoffrey Stubbs and complimentary chocolates made on site.

The romance of lamplight from tiny hurricane lamps is a standard feature of the Brigadoon's atmosphere, and there will be extra candles added for the evening in the comfortable dining room.

"There's a lot to see in here," says Mackie, looking at a wall of dark wooden shelves filled with knick-knacks. "Nothing is tied down, it's all free to pick up and touch. Those things make it easy to strike up a conversation."

Mackie says regular customers often bring in old items from their own attics and basements that just seem like they belong in the place. Many days she has come in and found something on a shelf that wasn't there the day before.

There is a portrait of bonnie Prince Charlie and an engagement picture of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip, all sorts of old china and books, and even a very old family photo album.

These antique items suit the old stone building, which was built by Irish merchant Richie Waugh around 1843. The structure was in use as a general store until 1990 when the Mackies bought the property.

Mackie was impressed with the untouched nature of Oxford Mills, which she finds provides a relaxing backdrop for the restaurant. The attitude at the Brigadoon is friendly and laid-back but very professional at the same time. The Mackies have surrounded themselves with staff who, like themselves, have years of experience.

Employee Loretta Briard says she enjoys her work at the Brigadoon, as chatting with patrons is often like visiting with friends.

Helen Kennedy of Hyndman has returned often to the Brigadoon after discovering it a few years ago. Relaxing in a leather armchair in the restaurant lounge as she waited for friends, she remarked on her pleasant experiences there.

"The meals are sumptuous, and you just come away with such a wonderful feeling," she said.



At home feeling

Cheryl Mackie looks at a book that is one of several items patrons have added to the shelves that line a wall of the Brigadoon.

Press Photo— Robinson

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You can get more information on Revenue Canada services by calling

(613) 932-3805 (phone)
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Winchester Bridal show worthwhile

The Editor:
On Feb. 6, I was one of the lucky brides to be who was fortunate enough to attend the Winchester Bridal show. My fiance and I were very impressed with the information that was made available to anyone who attended. We found plenty of valuable services and information offered to us at the show that we will definitely take advantage of when planning our special day.

What made this evening even more special was being lucky enough to receive the door prize for the evening. So we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the businesses and people who donated their products and services to us. They include Annabel's Jewellery, Byers Limousine Service, Classique Bridals, The CountryBoy, Clara's Tailoring and Dressmaking, Fawcett's Jewellery, Holmes Bakery, J&S Disco, Julie Ann's Hair Studio, John Adams — Summers Insurance Brokers, Muriel's Flowers, The Rainbow Company, The Town Vintner, Wayne LaPrade Photography, Teresa McIntosh —Mary Kay consultant, Winchester Travel and Tours and Winchester Print.

Anne McEvoy and Peter Guindon

Hats off to township road crew

The Editor:
This is the time of year we feel anxious for spring as the winter blues set in. It is the time to be positive and thankful that we have survived another winter.

I would like to thank Mountain Township Road Superintendent Barry Scott, who had a challenging first winter to contend with Mother Nature. Thank you Barry and the boys for keeping my roads maintained, no matter what the weather, so I can perform my job safely. Cheers!

Colleen Weedmark
School bus driver,
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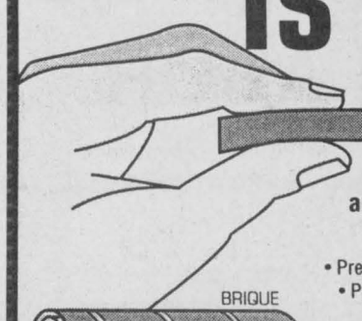
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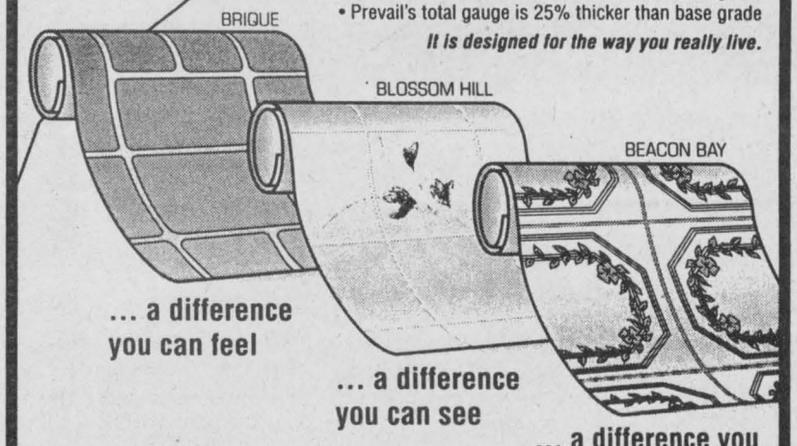
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Use trees to attract birds to your property

Dianne Fetterly
Agricultural editor

KEMPTVILLE — Plenty of trees and bushes are an important factor in attracting, and keeping birds in your garden, says an area naturalist.

"Birds need lots of cover for shelter and food... trees and shrubs provide this in all seasons," says Lee Cairnie of the Ottawa Field Naturalist's Club.

During the winter months evergreen trees provide shelter for birds, while fruit-bearing deciduous trees such as mountain ash or crab apple and shrubs like highbush cranberry and choke cherry provide plenty of food.

Deciduous trees also provide a perch for birds to escape from predators as well a place for their nests in the summer, said Cairnie, speaking at Accent on Living Day held during Farmers' Week and Trade Fair, Jan. 20 - 27 at the Kemptville College of Agricultural Technology.

Erecting feeders will also bring in birds, especially during the colder months.

Bird feeders can range from simple ones made from a milk carton, to more elaborate feeders purchased at hardware or garden supply stores. A hopper- style feeder can hold feed for several days, ensuring a continuous supply, while some silo-type feeders have very small holes designed especially for finches, Cairnie explained.

Homemade feeders can be constructed from a number of materials: a large opening can be cut in one side of a clean, plastic bleach bottle and then hung from a branch by its handle; half a coconut, pine cones, or a piece of bark can be coated with a suet or peanut butter mixture; or suet can be hung from a mesh onion bag.

The species of birds coming to the feeder will depend on the selection of feed offered, says Cairnie. Blue jays, nuthatches, chickadees, cardinals, evening grosbeaks, purple finches, house finches and redpolls are all attracted by sunflower seeds. However, house sparrows, tree sparrows and many finches like small seed such as millet and Niger seed. Suet will attract the hairy and downy woodpecker, red-breasted nuthatch, chickadee and starling.

Birds such as snow buntings, sparrows and pigeons prefer to eat seed



Lee Cairnie

off the ground while pine grosbeaks like fruits and seeds on shrubs and trees.

In the summer months, flowers, shrubs and trees provide food and shelter for sparrows, goldfinches and hummingbirds, among other species.

Hummingbirds are particularly attracted to fragrant or brightly-colored flowers and shrubs like honeysuckle, lilac, scarlet runner, phlox, canna lily, cardinal shrub, bee balm, mock orange and dogwood.

Stumps, dead trees and hollow posts provide cavity-nesters like the nuthatch or woodpecker with a safe spot to build their nests. Nesting boxes, birdhouses and a supply of water will also attract a variety of birds to the garden, says Cairnie.

Concrete and vinyl birdbaths look nice in gardens, but any shallow container, preferably elevated off the ground can substitute as a birdbath.

And while many gardeners prefer a neat garden, Cairnie suggests not keeping it too tidy if you want to attract birds.

"You'd be surprised at the number of birds we find (fluttering about) in a big brush pile... and if you leave the seed pods on perennials in the fall it will give birds something to eat."

Cairnie also claims that attracting birds to the garden is currently a popular topic with homeowners, who like herself, enjoy watching birds.

The Ottawa Field Naturalists Club hosts nature walks and provides speakers for community events, schools — or anywhere people want to know more about nature and the environment.

"On your own" 4-H club kicks off

WINCHESTER — The first meeting of the *On your own - you can do it* 4-H club was held Feb. 3 at the home of leader Joanne Toonen. Other leaders include Linda Toonen and Tammy Duke.

The group recited the 4-H pledge and elections were conducted by youth leader Jonathan Wilson.

Election results were as follows: president, Claudia Zollinger; vice-president, Melissa Skuce; joint secretaries, Marc Sheldrick, Julia Deeke, Shannon Toonen, Melissa Stoodley and Kathryn Leyenaar; press reporter, Patty Duke; youth leaders, Jonathan Wilson and Sarah Howse. Other members include: Tim Stoodley, Emmanuelle Sheldrick, Christopher Toonen and Anja Zollinger.

The meeting was then turned over to our leaders. Joanne Toonen, with help from youth leader Jonathan Wilson, explained how to repair items around the house: things like a leaky faucet, hard to reach light sockets, or how to repair a towel rack.

Yummy snacks were served and the meeting was adjourned.

Seniors greet new president

By Marjorie Baker

MOUNTAIN — On Jan. 31, the Mountain Township Seniors held their meeting in the Mountain Hall. They were welcomed by our new president Mavis Graham. O Canada was sung followed by the Lord's Prayer.

The minutes were read by Doris Scharfe and Evelyn Francis gave the treasurer's report. The kitchen report was given by Hazel McLaren who is retiring from her task, with Bessie Locke taking it over.

Our president gave a short talk about short trips and entertain in the near the future. Thank you letters were read from the Mountain Fire Department and the Lions Club for donations received. We have decided to give $100 to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario.

There is an exercise program starting Feb. 1 as well as a dinner at the South Mountain Hall for seniors. A discussion and decision on plans for the 1996 Christmas dinner were made.

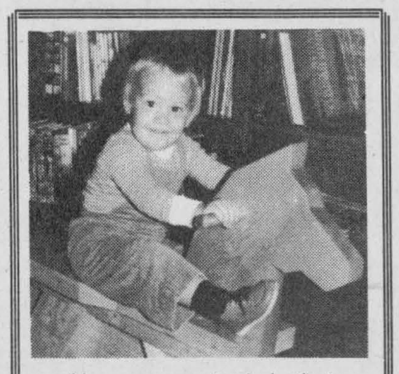
Birthdays and anniversaries were acknowledged. A minute of silence was observed in memory of Edna Archand. A sleigh ride and bean dinner have been planned for Feb. 13, weather permitting.

Grace was sung and a delicious pot-luck dinner was enjoyed by all. A program followed which opened with reading of poems by Willemen Jansen. Herman Jansen then gave his favorite poem and a humorous story.

Happy 7th Birthday Sarah



Love Aunt Linda & Uncle Steve



Now you can trade in that horse for something with a motor!
Happy 16th Birthday
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Software: Windows 95 preloaded
Fax/Modem: 14.4 Internal
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Video Card: 1 meg 9440 PCI
Monitor: 14" SVGA 0.28 N/I Daytek
Floppy Drive: Panasonic 3-1/2 1.44
CD-ROM: Quad Spin CD-ROM w/cables
Sound Card: 16 Bit Sound Blaster Comp.
Speakers: Amplified stereo speakers
Case: Mid-Tower W/200 Watt P/S
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Software: Windows 95 preloaded
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Video Card: 1 meg 9440 PCI
Monitor: 14" SVGA 0.28 N/I Daytek
Floppy Drive: Panasonic 3-1/2 1.44
CD-ROM: Quad Spin CD-ROM w/cables
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