

OXFORD TRIBUNE

INGERSOLL TRIBUNE

The Town of Ingersoll in Oxford County was established as an unincorporated Village as early as 1820. Settlement had taken place earlier. The person for whom the locality was named was Major Thomas Ingersoll. He came from the United States as a Loyalist, in the wake of the American Revolution. With a number of his associates, he received in 1793 a grant from the Crown of 80,000 acres, taking in the area embracing what would in time become the locality of Ingersoll. The latter finally received incorporation as a Village in 1852, and as a Town in 1865. At the end of 1853, the Great Western Railway was built through Ingersoll, thus assuring its rapid progress as an agricultural entrepot. The locality was to become especially noteworthy for its cheese production accomplishments.

The Ingersoll Chronicle was the earliest newspaper of record in this locality and in the County of Oxford, having been established in August 1853. Published first as a weekly and later as a daily, its founders were J. and J. Blackburn. They lasted but a short time, for in 1854 Allen Wessels succeeded the Blackburns as publisher and editor. In turn J.S. Gurnett functioned in these capacities from 1854 to 1876, G.F. Gurnett from 1876 to 1894, C.R. Patience and W. Agur during 1894, R. Elliott from 1894 to 1908 or 09, W.J. Elliott from 1908 or 09 to about 1917, and N.A. Willoughby from 1917 to about 1921 or 22. It was Liberal in politics. Its daily edition had lasted only until 1916 or 17. An early sub-title of this paper was and Canada Dairy

Reporter.

The second newspaper to appear in Ingersoll was the Oxford Herald, on 7 September 1859. This weekly lasted until 17 July 1862. Thomas A. McNamara was its editor and publisher. In all probability it presented the Conservative view politically. Next there appeared the Oxford Reformer, in February 1863. This weekly first edited and published by James Sutherland Robinson, and later by R.R. Sutherland alone, lasted until September 1863. As its name suggests it was Reform in politics. The Enquirer took over on 6 November 1863 and it seems likely to have lasted until at least 1865. A.R. Sutherland was its publisher and James S. Ennefick its editor, and its politics was likely that of its immediate predecessor. The Canadian Plaindealer appeared approximately 3 October 1865 as a weekly, and it lasted until April 1867. Its editor was H. Constable and its publisher was P.H. Finlay and Company. The Ingersoll News, another weekly, (also styled for a time the Canadian Nationalist and Ingersoll News, commenced publication 24 April 1867, and continued in publication for at least 10 years. M.L. Aldrich and E.B. Lewis were the founding editor and publisher lasting from 1867 to 1869. H. Constable followed in these roles from 1870 to 1874. Subsequent editors and publishers in the 1870's were H. Constable and T. Harris from 1874 and A.M. Constable until at least 1877. It was Reform in politics.

The Oxford and subsequently Ingersoll Tribune, founded as a weekly on 17 December 1873 by Harry Rowland, and subsequently edited and published by B.B. Baillie from roughly 1885 to 1905,

then by E.L. Smith from roughly 1905 to 1912, and by W.R. Veale from 1913, is the subject of the present microfilm. It was not until 1925 that the name Oxford Tribune was changed to that of Ingersoll Tribune. The Tribune was Conservative in politics until 1925, when it became independent. Under Baillie's control the paper had assumed the sub-title the Canada Dairy Reporter. By 1892 Baillie was also publishing the Oxford Dairyman and Canada Dairy Reporter. The Tribune newspaper lasted until June 1970. A later editor and publisher by 1967 was W.A. Wood.

In 1881 the Ingersoll Sun, first a weekly and then a semi-weekly, appeared. Its editor and publisher was C.R. Patience. In 1884 he was succeeded Campbell and Aldrich. In 1886 T.A. Bellamy became editor and publisher, and he in turn from 1909 on was succeeded by W.J. Taylor. The date of demise of this paper is uncertain. An agricultural monthly, Noxon's Bulletin was established at Ingersoll in 1901. It was published by the Noxon Company Limited. By 1905 it has ceased to be mentioned in newspaper publications of the time.

For a period of time the Woodstock-Sentinel-Review in its daily edition had come out with an Ingersoll edition. This paper had the aforementioned W.J. Taylor as President and Managing Editor. Finally by 1992 there was simply a special insert in the Woodstock-Sentinel-Review that appeared weekly. Called 'Ingersoll this Week', it had ceased by approximately the end of 1991. The final paper to be mentioned here is the Ingersoll Times, which was founded 8 July 1969. For a short time it overlapped the

Tribune, until the latter had finally ceased in June 1970. One of the Times' publishers was D.F. Wilson. It continues in publication to this day (July 1994).

The author of this introduction wishes to acknowledge the assistance of the following sources relating to Ingersoll and to its newspaper history: The McKim Newspaper Guides, 1892-1940, the county directories for Oxford County for the nineteenth century in the custody of the Archives of Ontario, Early Days in Ingersoll, by Maude Craig, in Western Ontario Historical Notes, 1970, volume 25 number 2, p.p. 17-19, History of the Town of Ingersoll, by James Sinclair, Archives of Ontario Pamphlet Collection, 1923 # 76, and most importantly A Checklist of Newspapers Published in the County of Oxford, Ontario, compiled by Elsie Sumner, in Western Ontario History Nuggets, number 2, n.d., p.p. 1-7. In addition M. Rosemary Lewis, the Librarian of the Ingersoll Public Library was most helpful in providing the author of this introduction with details of recent Ingersoll newspaper history.

Prepared by William H. Cooper,  
Archivist, Special Collections,  
Archives of Ontario, Toronto, Ont.  
29 July 1994.

## OXFORD TRIBUNE/INGERSOLL TRIBUNE MICROFILMING PROJECT

### FUNDS

This microfilming project was made possible by funds donated by the Town of Ingersoll as part of the Bicentennial celebrations of 1993. Additional funds were contributed by the Lions Club of Ingersoll, Marathon Bridge Club, and the Optimist Club of Ingersoll. We are grateful to all who have contributed to this worthwhile local history project.

### PROVENANCE

Thanks to all who donated or loaned issues of the Oxford Tribune and Ingersoll Tribune for microfilming.

The largest number of issues is owned by the National Library of Canada (NLC). These issues were the editor's copy of the paper, and are marked and clipped. They were purchased at auction after the Tribune went out of business and donated to the National Library by Edward Phelps. These issues are now on long-term loan to the Ingersoll Cheese Factory Museum.

Another large collection of issues is owned by the Ingersoll Cheese Factory Museum (ICFM). The majority of these came from the estate of Frank Nickels. They were donated to the Museum by David Kent Shoults and Shirley Shoults.

Other issues were loaned for microfilming by the University of Western Ontario Regional Collection (UWO), the Archives of Ontario (AO), and Woodstock Public Library (WPL). These papers have been returned to the owners.

Issues from the Ingersoll Public Library (IPL) were donated to the library by citizens of Ingersoll in 1993 and 1994 for this microfilming project. These issues have been donated to the Ingersoll Cheese Factory Museum.

M. Rosemary Lewis, Librarian  
Ingersoll Public Library  
November 1994

# INGERSOLL CHRONICLE

## INGERSOLL CHRONICLE

Ingersoll Chronicle, Ingersoll, Ontario, August 1853 - December 1919//  
(Sub-title varies slightly)

Dates microfilmed: v. 1 no. 52, August 12, 1854 - v. 15 no. 52 (Whole number 750), August 6, 1868.

Editors and publishers: August 1853 - August 1854: J. & J. Blackburn, followed by Allen Wessels; August 1854 - January 1876: J. S. Gurnett; February 1876 - April 1894: G. F. Gurnett; April 1894 - July ?, 1894: C. R. Patience and W. Agur; 1894 - 19-?: R. Elliott; 19-? - 1917: W. J. Elliott; 1917-1919: W. A. Willoughby.

### Editorial policy and content; History of newspaper:

[The following data was compiled by Elsie Graham Sumner and appears in her The Newspaper Press in Oxford County, 1840-1940 (Ingersoll, Ontario, 1940; Project submitted to the Library School, University of Toronto, in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Library Science. Mss. copy in Lawson Memorial Library, University of Western Ontario)]

"The Chronicle was the first paper published in Ingersoll. It was a large four page sheet, printed weekly from 1853 to 1919. A daily edition was also issued in 1897, but competition was too keen and [The Chronicle] was forced from 1916 on to issue the weekly only. It is

interesting to notice that in 1864 the editor advised subscribers he was willing to accept one cord of wood for one year's subscription to the paper. The reason for this was that Ingersoll was a "wood-up" station on the Great Western Railway. After a few years publication the hand press was discarded and a Gordon job press was purchased and the paper became greatly enlarged. The Chronicle was always a strong supporter of Liberal principles.

The Huron Signal for August 25, 1853, states that "The Ingersoll Chronicle has come to hand. It is published by Messrs. J. and J. Blackburn of that town ... and supports the present administration." Mr. Josiah Blackburn was an Englishman, who had been Editor of the Paris Star, and in 1852 had bought the Free Press in London. He published the Chronicle for a short time only. When J. S. Gurnett bought the paper in August 1854, it was published and edited by Allan Wessels [see issue of 12 August 1854]

Little is known of Gurnett beyond the fact that in the issue following his death on 27 January 1876, his birthplace is mentioned as Ancaster, Ontario. It is more than probable that he was a son of the George Gurnett who settled in Ancaster and there published the Gore Gazette in 1827 and later founded the Courier of Upper Canada.

The Chronicle, under the long and vigorous management of J. S. Gurnett, became a very successful weekly, and his [Gurnett's] son George Frederick Gurnett, continued publishing the paper until his death in 1894. After 1894 the Chronicle passed out of the hands of the Gurnett family.

C. R. Patience, formerly of the Ingersoll Sun, and William Agur, published the Chronicle for a few months [in 1894] and then it passed into the hands of the Elliott family. Robert Elliott managed the paper until his appointment to an official position with the Canadian Foresters. His son, William J. Elliott, edited the Chronicle until about 1917, when W. A. Willoughby, of Detroit, took over the business for the last few years of its existence.

[In 1919 the Ingersoll Chronicle was absorbed by the Woodstock Sentinel-Review]

[Information regarding the later years of the Chronicle has been included here as it is planned to film issues beyond 1868]

Files obtained from: Mr. Stanley J. Smith, 275 Thames Street North, Ingersoll, Ontario.

Issues wanted:

- 1853 all (August - December) //-- Volume I, Nos. 1-50.  
1854 January - July  
August 5, 26  
1856 August 15, 29(pp. 3-4 only)  
[Note - issue for 22 August 1856 follows 13 August 1858]  
1866 August 17, 24.  
1867 August 1 (pp. 1-2 only)  
[Note - issue for 8 August 1867 follows 23 January 1868]

This file ends with the issue of 6 August 1868. Further filming is planned. Anyone knowing the location of missing numbers, listed above, is asked to write: The Chief Librarian, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario.

Please note: A few issues are clipped, torn, or ragged (particularly August numbers at the front and back of original bound volumes).

Holders of negative copies: University of Western Ontario Library, London, Ontario.

Holders of positive copies: University of Western Ontario Library, London, Ontario.

This file was filmed February - March 1965 by London Microfilming Limited, 101 Wellington Street, London, Ontario, for the University of Western Ontario Library, London, Ontario.

Notes compiled by Edward Phelps, 22 February 1965.



# More Than Hundred Years County Newspaper History Revealed in Lengthy List

Compiled by  
**ELSIE GRAHAM SUMNER**  
The Medical Library, University  
of Western Ontario

The following list of Oxford County newspapers has been compiled by Miss Elsie Sumner of the staff of the Medical School Library, University of Western Ontario. It was originally prepared as a project in partial fulfilment of the Bachelor of Library Science degree at the Library School, University of Toronto.

This list provides an outline of the history of the newspaper press in the County of Oxford and also shows where available files may be found today. Oxford has had a newspaper history of more than a century. George Menzies brought out the first number of the Woodstock Herald and Brock District General Advertiser in 1840. Since that time, as far as can be discovered, 53 newspapers have been published in the county. In some cases the only evidence of their existence is a reference in another journal, not a single copy being now available. The list may not be complete, for it is possible that there were newspapers printed in Oxford County of which all evidence has disappeared. For example, tradition, with no confirmation at present, says that at one time a printing press, which possibly printed a newspaper, was housed in an old building that still stands in Kintore.

The importance of newspaper files as source material for social and economic history is being recognized more and more as the years pass. News and advertising columns give information on steamboat, stage and railroad routes with their schedules and fares, agriculture and crops, the theatre and other amusements, clothing, food, books, retail business and industries, disease, crimes and punishments, births, marriages, and deaths.

In many cases newspapers supply the only contemporary historical record and their disappearance leaves serious gaps in the history of the province. Historians are constantly on the alert to uncover hidden files and to ensure that their owners preserve them carefully or deposit them in some fireproof repository.

The list shows in chronological order the names of the news-

papers, issues (whether daily, weekly, semi-weekly, monthly, monthly, etc.), place of publication, length of publication, editors and publishers, in this order. While the above details are not complete, all which were available have been included. Where dates are missing they are not known to the compiler. Any further information will be gratefully received.

(The following abbreviations are used: d.—daily; tw.—tri-weekly; sw.—semi-weekly; w.—weekly; sm.—semi-monthly; m.—monthly; ed.—editor; pub.—publisher.)

1840

Woodstock Herald and Brock District General Advertiser: w; Woodstock; June 6?, 1840 - Jan. 1, 1848; George Menzies and William G. Walker, 1840-1842, ed., pub.; George Menzies, 1842-1847, ed., pub.; Harriet Menzies, Apr. 23, 1847 - ?, ed., pub.

1842

Monarch: w; Woodstock; Aug. 4, 1842-Aug. 29, 1848; William G. Walker, Aug. 4, 1842-Aug. 1, 1843, ed., pub.; John F. Rogers, Sept. 12, 1843-Aug. 29, 1848, ed., pub.

1848

Oxford Star and Woodstock Advertiser: w; Woodstock; Jan. 28, 1848-Jan. 19, 1849?; John Allan, 1848-1849, ed.; Alexander Hay and James Egan, 1848-1849, pub.

British American: w; Woodstock; Sept. 30, 1848-1853; John McWhinnie, 1849-1853, ed.; G. W. Whitehead, 1848 - ?, pub.

1851

Western Progress: w; Woodstock; Nov. 14, 1851-1853; W. H. London, 1851-1852, ed.; George Laycock, 1851-1853, pub.

1853

Chronicle: w; d; Ingersoll; Aug. 1853-Dec. 1919; J. and J. Blackburn, Aug. 1853-?, ed., pub.; Allen Wessels, ?-Aug. 1854, ed., pub.; J. S. Gurnett, Aug. 1854-Jan. 1876, ed., pub.; G. F. Gurnett, Feb. 1876-Apr. 1894, ed., pub.; C. R. Patience and W. Agur, Apr. 1894-July 1894, ed., pub.; R. Elliott, 1894-19-?, ed., pub.; W. J. Elliott, 19-? - 1917, ed., pub.; W. A. Willoughby, 1917-1919, ed., pub.

1854

Sentinel: w; Woodstock; Jan. 1, 1854-Oct. 1878; Alexander Hay



**IN THE 1880'S**—The Oxford Standard, one of the first dailies published in Woodstock, was established in 1885 by Andrew Denholm, who came here from Kincardine, and who later became warden of Kent county. A weekly edition was also published by the Standard which is believed to have been "pressed" in a frame building opposite New St. Paul's Church. Above is shown a picture of the staff in the early years of the paper.

and John McWhinnie, 1854, ed., pub.; John McWhinnie and son, 1854-Sept. 1870, ed., pub.; G. R. Pattullo, Oct. 1870-1875, ed., pub.; G. R. Pattullo and A. Pattullo, 1875-1878, ed., pub.  
 Gazetteer: w; tw; Woodstock; Jan. 4?, 1854-Jan. 1858; J. G. Vansittart and George Laycock, Jan.-Nov. 1854, ed., pub.; Geo. Laycock, Nov. 1854-1858, ed., pub.  
 Woodstock Mercury: w; Woodstock; Sept. 1854-?; John Douglas, Sept. 1854-Feb. 1855, ed., pub.

**1855**

Times: w; d; Woodstock; Mar. 1855-Dec. 1, 1902; A. R. McCleneghan, 1855-Oct. 1873, ed., pub.; R. McElheran and G. Ross, Oct. 1873-1876, ed., pub.; A. W. Francis, 1876-1889, ed., pub.; V. L. Francis, Feb. 1889-Dec. 1902, ed., pub.

**1859**

Oxford Herald: w; Ingersoll; Sept. 7, 1859-July 17, 1862; Thomas A. McNamara, Sept. 7, 1859-July 17, 1862, ed., pub.  
 Review: w; Embro; Sept. 1859-?; Alexander Hay, Sept. 1859-1874?, ed., pub.

**1860**

Baptist Freeman: sm; Woodstock; July 15?, 1860-?; Robert Cameron, 1865-?, ed.

**1862**

Drumbo Review: w; Drumbo; 1862-?; Alexander Hay, 1862-?, ed., pub.

Herald and General Advertiser for the Counties of Oxford, Nor-

folk and Elgin: w; Tillsonburg; Aug. 7, 1862-?; Thomas A. McNamara, Aug. 7, 1862-?, ed., pub.

Canadian Conservative: w; Woodstock; Dec. 30, 1862-Mar. 1863; Alexander Hay and Stephen Lusted, Dec. 30, 1862-Mar. 1863, ed., pub.

**1863**

Good Templar: w; Woodstock; Jan. 6, 1863-?; John McWhinnie and J. W. Ferguson, Jan. 1863-Aug. 9, 1864, ed., pub.; John McWhinnie, Aug. 16, 1864-?, ed., pub.

Oxford Reformer: w; Ingersoll; Feb. 1863-Sept. 1863; James Sutherland and Robinson, Feb. 1863-?, ed., pub.; R. R. Sutherland, 1863, ed., pub.

Observer: w; Tillsonburg; July 1863-Nov. 1919; William S. Law, 1863-1887, ed., pub.; John Law, 1887-1919, ed., pub.

Enquirer: w; Ingersoll; Nov. 6, 1863-1865?; James S. Ennefick, 1863-?, ed.; A. R. Sutherland, 1863-?, pub.

**1865**

Canadian Plaindealer: w; Ingersoll; Oct. 3?, 1865-Apr. 1867; H. Constable, 1865-1867, ed.; P. H. Finlay and co., 1865-1867, pub.

**1867**

Princeton Transcript and Blenheim and Burford Advocate: w; Princeton; Apr. 4, 1867-Mar. 1869; Robert Patterson, Apr. 4, 1867-Mar., 1869, ed., pub.

News: w; Ingersoll; Apr. 24, 1867-?; M. L. Aldrich and E. B.

### ANOTHER NEWSPAPER FAILURE.

**The Ingersoll Tribune in the Hands of Assigned Kwart—Sixteen Years of Existence—Too Many Papers and too Little Capital—Numerous Newspaper Failures in Ontario—Business Greatly Overdone—A Look at the Past.**

Probably there is not to-day a trade in profession in Ontario in which the competition is so keen as that of the publication of newspapers, both in the towns and cities. Ingersoll, with a population of 5,000, has had the luxury of three papers for some years past. But even to those not acquainted with the business it must have been apparent that there was not room here for the existence of three, even though conducted at the lowest expense. On Saturday last, after a struggle of sixteen years, Mr. Rowland, proprietor of The Tribune, made an assignment to assignee Kwart. During the years that the late proprietor has conducted the paper the relations between it and The Chronicle have been most friendly and the columns of both have been free from personal wrangling. We sincerely regret that our cotery has been forced to take this step, the more so because Mr. Rowland assures us that he does not again feel like attempting the hopeless task of reviving the paper to a paying concern. In places as large as Ingersoll it requires a large cash outlay to step in and compete with an old established, well conducted paper. The provincial newspaper of to-day is a vastly different affair to that of twenty years ago. The pages of the widely circulated and leading weeklies that are now filled with the happenings of the town and the district, as well as columns of other original matter, all "set up" in condensed type, thereby crowding more in a given space, are very different from the weeklies of the past. Then three quarters of a column of town news, a couple of township council reports and a lot of dry, stale "news matters" clipped from the dailies a week old was about all the reading the readers of the little sheets got, the balance of the paper being made up by dead "exchange" newspaper advertisements, glaring business announcements of the paper itself, cheap patent medicine advertisements, etc., as it still continued to-day by the inferior class of weeklies of small circulation. How matters have changed a glance at the leading weeklies of to-day will show. This change for the better of course meant an increased expenditure all along the line. It meant lots of money; additional writers, correspondents, reporters, etc., were required; more men to set up the type; newer and larger presses to print the paper of increased size, and improved labor saving machinery of all kinds. Yet with all these increased expenses there came no increase in prices for printing on any very marked increase in the rates for advertising; on the contrary competition both local and foreign continued to grow keener and keener in most places, including the drummers sent out by the printing offices of the large cities, thus lowering prices greatly. Is it any wonder then that newspapers and printing establishments are going to the wall, fast and furious, while many of those in business do not earn the wages of a good mechanic employed in one of the better class of offices. As showing the peculiar position Ingersoll occupies in this relation we may mention London, Woodstock, St. Thomas, Brantford, St. Catharines, Chatham, Windsor, Galt, Guolph, Kingston, etc., etc., where there are only two newspapers. These are a few of the places we can call to mind at the moment. They are all larger places than Ingersoll by from 2,000 to 30,000 population.

The first newspaper established in the county of Oxford now living is THE INGERSOLO CHRONICLE AND GENERAL INGRESSOR OENCH FOR THE COUNTY OF OXFORD, as it was then known. It was founded in 1853 by the late Josiah Blackburn of The London Press. Mr. Blackburn sold out to Mr. W. Wells shortly after its establishment. This gentleman kept a green grocery establishment and the spare time between selling fish and cabbage was employed in "editing" and printing the paper, which at that time enjoyed the startling circulation of 250 copies weekly. On August the 12th 1854, the late John S. Garnett, who up to this time had been employed on The Boston Post, assumed proprietorship, which he held until the time of his death in 1876, when the present proprietor assumed control. The subscription at that time was 10s per annum, or 12s for delivery in the village, which was reduced to 7s. 6d. immediately upon the change in the ownership. Since the establishment of THE CHRONICLE five rivals have entered the field against it, but the paper has moved serenely, growing in circulation year by year and at all times far ahead in the number of its readers, while at the present time, its circulation, we have good reasons to know, is five times that of any other paper published in Ingersoll. This all goes to show that THE CHRONICLE suits the people. Their interests are its own. It never ceases to champion their cause. It has no time for personal attacks on citizens because everybody can't agree in municipal politics. Its aim is to give the news, particularly the home news. The statement of the wide difference between its circulation and that of its rivals is not an idle boast. It is a fact easily proven. It is a striking contrast, and none the less true. The circulation clerk, and the foreman of THE OXFORD OFFICE are prepared at any time to make affidavit to the circulation of THE CHRONICLE. Is there one other paper in the South Riding of Oxford, that will offer to do the same?

# History Of The Sentinel-Review Began With Establishment Of Weekly In 1854

When The Sentinel - Review celebrated its 50th anniversary as a daily, in 1936, it was the sole survivor of a dozen Woodstock newspapers and five dailies in the city and county.

Today, after nearly 81 years as a daily, the newspaper can repeat the editorial of 1836 which stated the publication is "a healthy self-assertive youngster with little to say for itself except that with the support of the public — which has never failed us — it has come to stay."

The newspaper's history can be traced to 1854 when The Sentinel was established by Hay and McWhinnie as a weekly. In 1870 the paper was taken over by George R. Pattullo, later registrar for Oxford County. Five years later he was joined by his brother, Andrew Pattullo, who later was elected MPP for Oxford.

Amalgamation with The Review took place after Andrew Pattullo purchased full interest in 1880. It was on September 11, 1886 that The Sentinel - Review began daily publication. The weekly edition was also continued. The population of Woodstock at that time was 6,000.

In 1901, the year Woodstock reached official status as a city, a joint stock company was incorporated as Sentinel-Review, Limited. Two years later the presidency was taken over by



ANDREW PATTULLO

W. J. Taylor, late of The Montreal Herald.

A colorful period followed. In those early days the carrier boys in Ingersoll waited on unpaved muddy Charles Street for a bread rig to bring the newspapers from Woodstock. Competition was intense among the newspapers of Oxford County. Many years later, R. A. Hutchinson of Vancouver had this recollection as a farm boy of the importance of The Sentinel-Review in the life of the county:

"Years before the day of rural mail delivery, when the home farm was miles from the post office, we waited until the folk came home from market on Saturday night to read the weekly edition with its portrayal of local and world-wide news. Then mail delivery made the city akin and some mornings as we went to the old milk stand to unload the whey from the nearby cheese factory, we read to the tune of the pigs' demand for an immediate breakfast."

James Sutherland, a former staff member, remembered that when he first came to the newspaper in 1912, the company owned three bicycles, one for the business office, one for the reporters, and one for W. J. Taylor. The publisher often scorched down Dundas Street at 10 to 12 miles an hour, parking his bicycle while he conducted some business, and then sometimes absently walking back to the office and leaving his bicycle behind.

A period of expansion took place during this era. The Daily Express discontinued publication in 1913 and The Sentinel-Review took over its subscription list. An important innovation took place when service from Canadian Press, with its wide, fast coverage of world-wide news events, came over a commercial wire in 1917. The Ingersoll bureau was strengthened

when an office building was purchased and remodelled in 1921.

A young woman reporter influenced the habits of County Council around 1920 when, in deference to the youth and lady-like mien of Anna J. Tatham, the council members passed a resolution against smoking while meetings were in session.

In 1930 the full leased wire service of Canadian Press was inaugurated.

W. J. Taylor died suddenly in 1932 and the paper was continued by his estate until the following year when it was sold to Allan Holmes of Galt and A. D. McKenzie of Sarnia, who continued publication under the name of Woodstock Publishers Ltd. That same year the weekly edition was discontinued. In 1935 a Tillsonburg office was opened.

A 52-page issue marked the 50th anniversary as a daily in 1936. The milestone was also

marked by installation of the newspaper was acquired by Thomson Newspapers Ltd., the present publishers.

For 74 years The Sentinel-Review had been published at the same location, 382-384 Dundas Street. Expansion and growth made new premises necessary and in May, 1960, the newspaper moved to its fine modern building at 16-18 Brock Street.

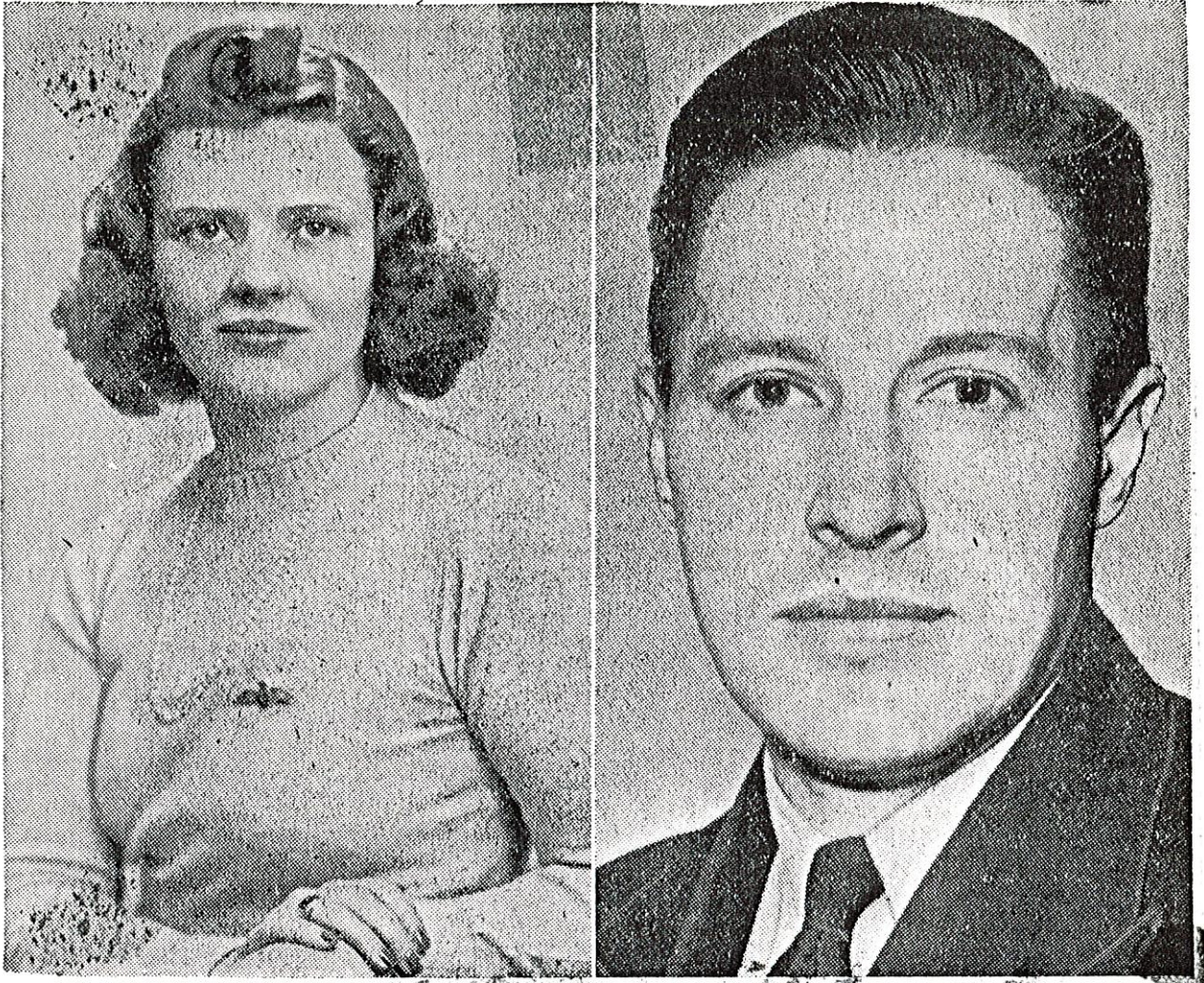
A small miracle of enmeshed functions of some 80 employees now brings the news daily to Oxford residents. The presses can produce 20,000 newspapers an hour. In a single day some 40 miles of paper, 30 inches wide, travels through the page cylinders. More than 3,000 photographs of Woodstock and district events appear in The Sentinel-Review annually.

To distribute the paper throughout the county requires the services of 190 carrier boys, 15 vehicles, 60 dealers and 19 honor boxes.

with  
re: Tribune  
return  
**Tribune Changes Hands After 35 Years Under Bill Veale**



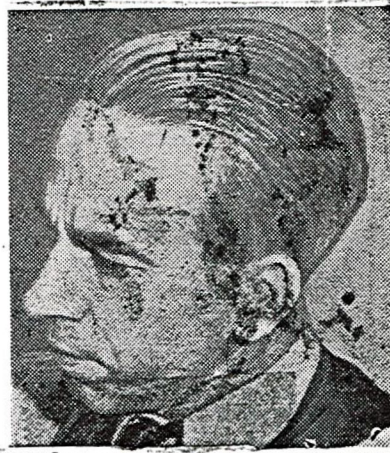
"It's time I got out before I get to 'like' the job," chuckled W. R. "Bill" Veale, as he stepped out of the office of the Ingersoll Tribune January 1, after selling the newspaper to Thomas R. Lee, of Oakville. Owner of The Tribune 35 years, Mr. Veale's knowledge in the weekly newspaper field is unsurpassed, and he will keep a "fatherly eye" on Tribune progress until the new owner gets into the swing of things. Mr. Veale is seen, left, with Mrs. Veale, a capable newspaperwoman herself. Next is Mrs. Lee, who as Edith Wilson, was born and raised in



Ingersoll, and is highly pleased to be returning home. Mr. Lee, at right, realizes a life-long ambition in purchasing the Ingersoll Tribune. He was 15 years with the Toronto Star, joining that organization on leaving high school.



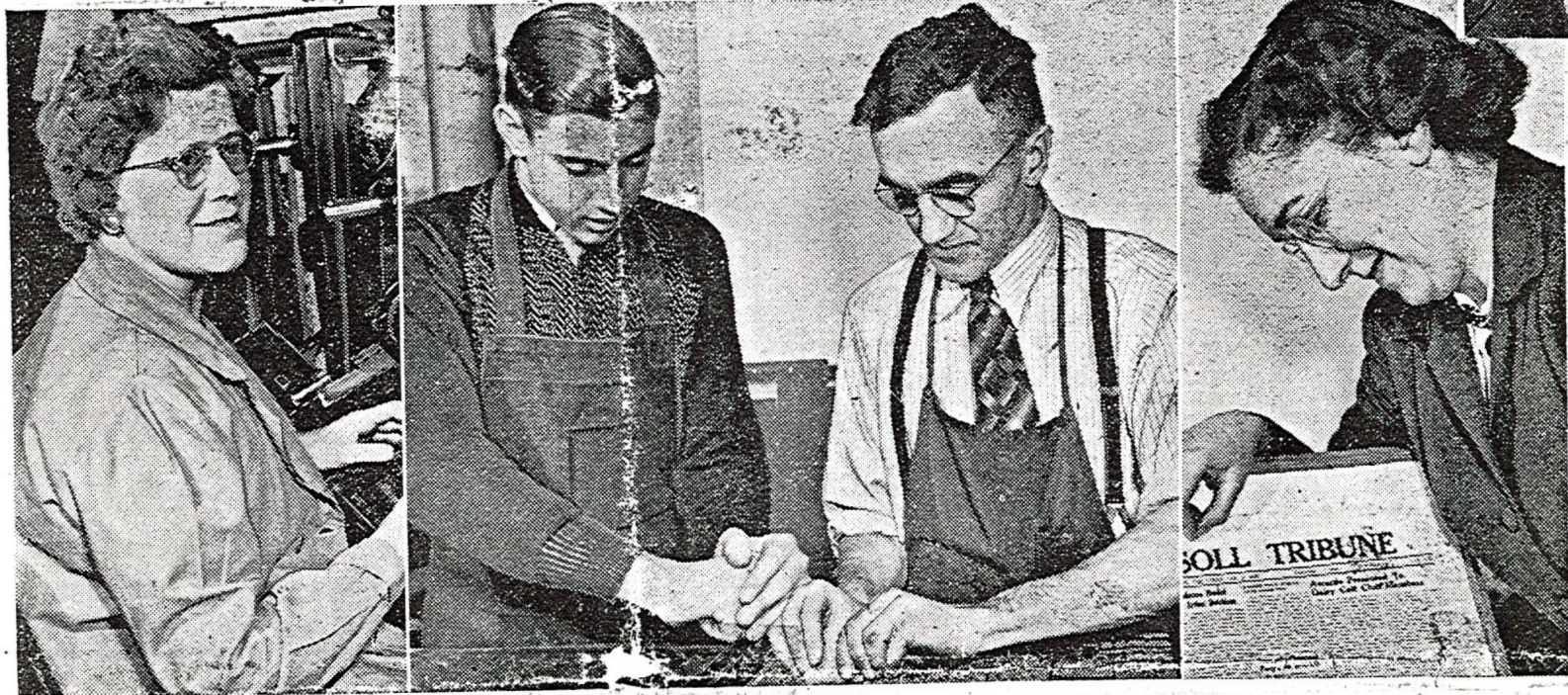
H. Veale



J. Hunt



G. Craig



Despite the ownership change, there is no other change in the "happy family" that comprises the staff. Miss Winnifred Webb is one of the few woman linotype operators in the country. Youngest member is Gilbert Stevenson, "printer's devil", shown with Cecil Smith, another veteran, making up a page. Miss Irma Hutt is the personable young lady who greets all

customers, keeps the books and many other jobs. Joe Hunt is unsurpassed as printer and compositor. Far, middle left, is Howard Veale, son of the former owner, general handyman and proofreader, and left, below, is Gordon Craig, the Tribune's advertising manager, who has had many years with Weekly newspapers.

WHEELSOLL TRIBUNE  
January 6, 1949  
1 Page 3

WHEELSOLL TRIBUNE  
NEWS PAPERS  
Tribune Changes Hands

# Town Crier will shout no longer

By RON PRESTON  
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Almost seven years to the day, The Town Crier ceased publication Wednesday after owners decided the Thamesford-area weekly was no longer financially viable.

"It wasn't in good financial position last year," said publisher Carol McKnight, "and the financial forecast for this year and ahead looked almost as bleak." The final decision to close the Crier came a week ago "but we had talked about it for some time."

The tabloid served "just under 1,000" subscribers in Thamesford and the surrounding communities but shared an office in Ingersoll with its sister paper, The Ingersoll Times. All subscribers have the option of receiving the Times or asking for a refund, she said.

"We've now incorporated the Thamesford news into the Times," McKnight said, "which is how we used to do it" prior to the Crier's purchase. All former correspondents and columnists will continue to supply local news.

The newspaper's originator, was former Thamesford resident George Teather. He convinced J.W. Eedy Publications of St. Marys that the publication was feasible, and on Nov. 24, 1977, the inaugural edition rolled off the presses.

## BOUGHT IT

But by 1980, Eedy decided to close the Crier, offering its subscription list to Otter Publishing Ltd. of Tillsonburg, owners of the Ingersoll weekly. Otter instead purchased the paper outright, beginning

publication in January 1981. Its operations were transferred into the Ingersoll office the following year.

In its last three years, the paper fared well in Ontario Community Newspaper Association competitions. It won five different awards for general excellence, best news and features, best local advertising, best tabloid front and best photography in the under 2,000 circulation category.

"We've had a number of people call and say they're sad to see it go," McKnight said, along with the expected inquiries about subscriptions.

The closing coincides with Otter's opening of a new weekly in Paris but McKnight said there is no connection between the two occurrences. The closed paper's lone full-time reporter, Mike Walsh, had been offered another job within the Otter chain but chose to accept a new position with The Hanover Post.

Walsh, a graduate of Georgian College last spring, expressed positive feelings about his six-month tenure with the paper and the community.



THE THAMESFORD TOWN CRIER officially ceased publication Wednesday after seven years. Reporter Mike Walsh displays a copy of the final edition.

Sentinel Review

Nov. 15, 1984



# The Town Crier ceases publication

THE TOWN Crier, Thamesford and area's weekly newspaper, ceased publication today, after the last edition rolled off the presses.

The Town Crier was a sister newspaper to The Ingersoll Times, both being owned by Otter Publishing Ltd. of Tillsonburg.

The paper was closed because it was no longer economically feasible to continue it.

In its seven year life time, The Town Crier managed to scoop up a number of provincial newspaper awards in the under 2,000 circulation category. In 1981 it won the Ontario Community Newspaper Association's (OCNA) General Excellence Award, the Best News and Features Award, and the Best Local Advertising Award. In 1982 it won the OCNA's Best Tabloid Front Page Award and the Best Feature Photo Award. The OCNA presented its Best Photography Award to The Town Crier in 1983.

The newspaper was the brainchild of former Thamesford resident George Teather, who convinced J.W.Eedy Publications of St. Mary's, of Thamesford's need for its own newspaper. In December 1980, however, Eedy Publications, believing it was no longer financially feasible to continue publication, approached Otter Publishing about the sale of the Crier's subscription list.

In January 1981, Otter Publishing purchased not only the Crier's subscription list, but the entire newspaper, and continued publication.

Thamesford and area news will now be incorporated into The Ingersoll Times. Town Crier writers Pat Kelly, Carl Starkey and The Rev. John Cooke will now contribute news items to The Times. Reporter Mike Walsh has accepted a reporting position with The Hanover Post.

Ingersoll Times • Nov. 14, 1984



Thamesford reporter Mike Walsh examines one of the last editions of The Town Crier, as it rolled off the presses.

Today's edition is the last one being published. The paper is closing after seven years.

# Times wins second in CCNA contest

We won!

The Ingersoll Times was notified last Monday morning of a second place win captured in Canadian Community Newspaper Association (CCNA) competition.

With over 585 newspapers from across the nation, entering CCNA competitions, the Times staff was exuberant over their much cherished win.

Facing 29 entrees in the community service category and competing primarily

against newspapers from major metropolitan areas with as much as 20 times the circulation and 10 times the staff, the Times gained a second place honorary mention for their "beat the blizzard" series.

First place was awarded to the Missauga News, with a circulation of over 70,000. Annual the Missauga News holds a Christmas fund raising program for the

(continued on page 19)

## Times wins award

(Continued from page 1)

less fortunate citizens of the community raising thousands of dollars.

The idea for a "Beat the Blizzard" event stemmed from a casual conversation between former editor Yvonne Holmes Mott and Police Chief Ron James. Working in co-operation with Chief James, the entire Times staff aided in carrying out an informative afternoon.

Various town residents formed a panel and outlined ways to "beat a blizzard", including how to survive a storm if caught in your car; how to contact local rescue units and how the rescue units operate; how to remain within your home and not suffer food or heat shortages and how to prepare yourself for a winter blizzard.

Following a panel discussion, a question and answer period was held.

"Of all the awards newspapers compete for, I personally feel that the community service award is one of the most prestigious," said Times manager Carol McKnight.

"It's nice to have out-

siders look at your paper and say 'now there's a newspaper that not only covers the events happening in their community, there's a newspaper that's getting involved in their community.

"We don't go to press with only the hope of winning an award in newspaper competition. Our job is to inform the public of what is happening in the community. But, I feel it's also our job to get involved with the community - to be concerned with our town and with things that are happening in the town.

"The award is a bonus. One we didn't expect but one we strive for and are grateful to receive".

The Times staff at the time of the "Beat the Blizzard" series was conducted, consisted of Betty Parker, Connie Van Boekel, Janet Fleischer, Brian Torsney, Bonnie Mott and Brian Moody.

Judging for the annual newspaper competition is not yet complete but will be by mid-July when the award presentation will be made in Toronto.



Ingersoll Times manager Carol McKnight was on hand at the Canadian Community Newspaper Association (CCNA) annual meeting in Toronto last week, to collect a certificate for the Times' second place finish in Community Service competition. The award presented to Ms. McKnight by CCNA Past President Ian MacKenzie, is given annually to the top two newspapers across Canada, who contribute to the community beyond the normal community service efforts expected from a good community newspaper. First place winner was the Mississauga News of Mississauga, Ontario. The winning newspaper is the largest weekly newspaper in Canada.

For Ms. McKnight, Thursday, July 21 proved to be her lucky day. Not only did she receive the certificate on behalf of the Times staff, but she was also named winner of a trip for two to Europe courtesy of CP Air. The trip will take the winner to Amsterdam, Athens, Rome, Milan or Lisbon. CP Air official M.L. Dukelow presented the tickets to a happy Ms. McKnight following the draw.

## *The Times fares well in Canadian news competition*

Results of the 1978-79 annual weekly newspaper competitions were announced last week by the Canadian Community Newspaper Association (CCNA), showing the Ingersoll Times, Ingersoll's community newspaper, fared exceptionally well in competition against newspapers from across the nation!

In general overall newspaper excellence, the Times captured a score of out of 100. Competing against 39 newspapers they finished in tenth spot in news writing competition the Times earned a

score of 34.0 out of 50 while a score of 38.0 out of 50 was earned in the feature story category.

In editorial writing competition the Times earned a score of 38.0 out of 50 and in the historical story division, a 30.0 out of 50 was captured.

In sports page competition the Times finished with a score of 34.50 out of 50 and in the Christmas edition category, they earned a score of 38.50 out of 50.

The number of entries for each category varied but in all categories the Times finished with average or above average scores.

In the Special edition category the Times stood in 23 position out of the 86 newspapers competing, with a score of 69.5 out of 100. The special edition entered for competition was the 1978 Cheese and Wine edition.

In the many years the Times has been entering competition, this year proved to be one of the most fruitful, regarding marks and awards.

A Blue Ribbon Award was presented to the Times by the CCNA earlier this year for their high standings in newspaper competition.

## *Times wins in Canadian newspaper competition*

# We did it again!

For the second year in a row, The Ingersoll Times has captured a Blue Ribbon Award in cross Canada weekly newspaper competition. The award is given annually by the Canadian Community Newspaper Association (CCNA), to newspapers who rank among the best across the nation, in their circulation category.

Specific issues were chosen by the CCNA for judging. Blue Ribbons are awarded to those weekly newspapers which the judges feel are outstanding in their general weekly news coverage of their community.

The Times is a member of the Otter Publishing Ltd. family and sister newspapers also scored well in competition. Both the Tillsonburg News and The Norwich Gazette were also named Blue Ribbon winners. As well, The Gazette claimed a second place win for best photo feature and a third place win for best front page, in its circulation category.

The Port Colborne News, also owned by Otter Publishing, received an award for producing the best historical edition of all CCNA weekly newspapers, regardless of circulation size, across the nation. With this same edition, The Port Colborne News also claimed an honorable mention in Canadian competition sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism. Winner of this competition was National Geographic.

This is the second year in a row The Times has captured a Blue Ribbon Award for its general news coverage of community happenings. The ribbon, which is a prestigious award, can be seen sitting proudly in 'The Times' masthead.

Staff members contributing to the editions judged were: Margaret Boyd, Chris Clark, Gerri Dunbar, Ruthe Kipp, Connie Ling, Betty Parker, Raey Ritchie, Jack Smith, Connie O'Neill and Carol McKnight.

INGERSOLL TIMES

June 11, 1980

P62

# Times wins award

The Ingersoll Times captured a first place award in Ontario Community Newspaper Association (OCNA) competition this week and received notice of its standings in other categories entered.

In the class two category of competition for newspaper with a circulation of 3,001 to 5,000, the Times won the best composition and layout design award. It earned third place honors in best front page competit-

ion and out of 33 competitors, the largest class of general competition, it placed among the top three per cent.

For Otter Publishing newspapers this was a year of award wins, as all of its newspapers earned top honors.

The Town Crier was judged best in its class of 12 competitors and also won first place in best news and feature competition and best local advertising competition.

The Norwich Gazette claimed best in its

class of 12 competitors and also won the best news and feature award, the best sports award, best local advertising award and the best classified advertising award.

The Tillsonburg News won the best classified advertising award in its division of 25 competitors and The Port Colborne News captured a first place award for having the best special edition among 48 competition newspapers, all with circulations above 5,000.

INGERSOLL TIMES

P03

MARCH 10 1982

(Page 2 of 2)



The Ontario Community Newspaper Association's best composition and layout award, won by The Ingersoll Times, will hang with other awards the Times has gathered over the years. Staff members beam proudly at their win. They are from left to right, Carol McKnight, general manager, Cathy Swance, composition,

Cheryl Stewart, editorial, Betty Dunlop, composition, Dan Dunlop, advertising and Betty Parker, receptionist. Absent from photo were Connie Ling, composition, and editorial columnists Rev. Roger W. McCombe, Doug Carr, Dave Skinner and Marj Garland.

Ingersoll Times  
 March 10, 1982  
 P64

Ingersoll Times  
 March 10, 1982

# Ingersoll Times sold

## Newfoundland Corp. buys Otter, Retto, Cash Crop publications

The Ingersoll Times comes under new ownership next week with the sale of shares of Otter Publishing Limited to Newfoundland Capital Corporation Limited.

Along with Otter Publishing and its five newspapers, Halifax-based NCC is also purchasing Cash Crop Farming Publications Ltd. of Delhi and Retto Publishing Ltd. of Port Colborne.

The publications will continue to operate with their present staffs. NCC, a national company with diversified interests, is already well established in the printing and publishing industry in the Atlantic provinces.

With its initial acquisitions in Ontario, the NCC publishing group will be publishing 30 newspapers and periodicals in five modern plants with a total circulation of 235,000.

Otter Publishing, based in Tillsonburg, presently publishes The Tillsonburg News, The Ingersoll Times, The Norwich Gazette, The Caledonia Grand River Sacher and Paris This Week, as well as operating Otter Printing and The Copy Shop in Tillsonburg.

Cash Crop, based in Delhi, publishes The Delhi News-Record, Nanticoke Times and Brant News, along with five national magazines: Greenhouse Canada, Flower Shop, Fire Fighting in Canada, Canadian Fruit Grower and The Canadian Tobacco Grower. They also publish The Ontario Corn Producer under agreement with the Ontario Corn Producers' Association.

Retto Publishing has its plant in Port Colborne and publishes The Port Colborne News.

Cam McKnight will continue in charge of Otter operations as vice-president and publisher of the Tillsonburg, Norwich and Paris papers. Peter M. Burns will be com-

ptroller. Carol McKnight continues as publisher of Ingersoll and Caledonia papers, and Walter Kleer as publisher in Port Colborne. C.E. (Ted) Crandon continues as president and publisher at Cash Crop. Simcoe resident Ivan Kilpatrick, CA, a senior vice-president of NCC, is head of the management group for the companies.

Both Otter President Chuck McKnight and Senior Vice-President Bill Pratt will remain associated with Otter Publishing.

Harry Steele, president and chief executive officer of NCC, said the company will use its South Western Ontario base as a springboard for future expansion and growth in the province. They are pushing to have 20 or 30 publications within the next two or three years.

He pointed out that Otter and Cash Crop are well-managed operations with competent and energetic employee teams. "These same writers, editors, sales people, composing room and printing staff, who live here in the area and who have already made their companies successful, will continue," he said. In commenting on the sale, Otter Presi-



H.R. Steele  
President and C.E.O.  
Newfoundland Capital Corporation



Cam McKnight  
Vice-President and Publisher  
Otter Publishing Ltd.



Ted Crandon  
President and Publisher  
Cash Crop Farming Publications

dent Chuck McKnight said: "The decision to sell Otter Publishing was made after months of soul-searching and consultation. In coming to an agreement with Newfoundland Capital Corporation we feel we have selected the best for our employees, subscribers and advertisers."

He added: "Our thanks to the many who have given a helping hand in our growth since we assumed leadership some 30 years ago. We know our successors will receive the same faithful support, and with them, future growth and

prosperity."

Vice-President Bill Pratt said that the company is proud of the role its newspapers and their staffs have played in their communities. "We have always tried to be a positive force in enhancing the community through growth and improvement. Our newspapers have won many provincial and national awards for their efforts, and with the support of NCC there can only be even better things ahead."

NCC is a strong national company with major interests in transporta-

tion. It operates port facilities, container and freight terminals, trucking and shipping enterprises, among them Clarke Inc. of Montreal, Halterm Ltd. of Halifax and Atlantic Container Express Inc. of Montreal.

They operate 14 community newspapers in Newfoundland under the Robinson-Blackmore group and The Daily News of Halifax/Dartmouth.

In the broadcast field they have stations in Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Alberta and Ontario.

Ingersoll Times  
July 27, 1988

PUB

NEWS PAPERS

**MORE FOR INGERSOLL**

# Fresh publication arrives here Tuesday

INGERSOLL — The Ingersoll bureau of *The Woodstock-Ingersoll Daily Sentinel-Review* took on a new look this week with new staff, some new desks and a whole new outlook.

The changes come with a decision to produce a weekly publication called *Ingersoll This Week*, to be distributed in Ingersoll and area with Tuesday issues of the daily paper starting Sept. 26.

The editorial staff has been expanded to three full-time members after Marilyn Smulders moved to the Woodstock office in exchange for Monty Kersell and Eric Schmiedl. Pauline Kerr, working out of the Ingersoll office on a half-time basis, joins them full-time.

Sales reps Audrey Barter and Cameron Good have already been drumming up business for the new publication and long-time staff member Thelma Riley expects a full-time person to handle circulation.

The daily paper will continue running the Ingersoll page (usually Page 3), but staff hope to increase the amount of local copy carried on that page in addition to filling the new weekly publication.

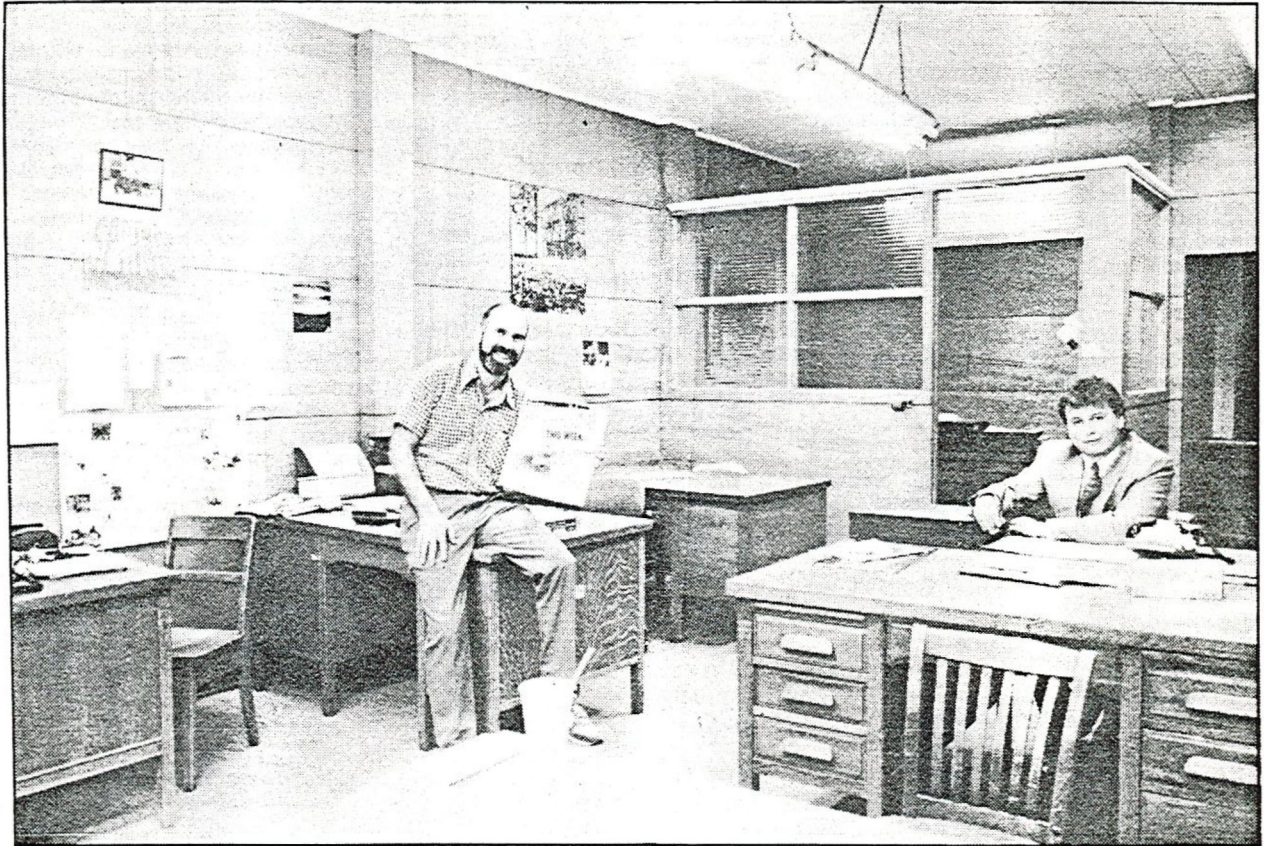
Items planned for the new publication by the Ingersoll bureau staff include personal columns, feature stories and interviews with local personalities and sports features, including *Male and Female Athletes of the Week* from Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute, Victory Memorial School and Sacred Heart Catholic School.

Also arranged are a weekly column from the town's recreation department and a monthly column from the Ingersoll public library.

A special feature expected to begin with the third issue of *Ingersoll This*

*Week* is a personal column by Bonnie Mott, long-time resident and

businesswoman and a former *Sentinel-Review* staff member.



**INGERSOLL THIS Week** editor Monty Kersell, left, holds a prototype copy of the new weekly publication to be distributed with each Tuesday edition of *The Daily Sentinel-Review*. Sales reps Cameron Good, pictured at right,

and Audrey Barter also work out of the office, which now sports two new desks to accommodate a full-time circulation person plus new editorial staff member Eric Schmiedl and Ingersoll veteran Pauline Kerr. (Staff photo)

SENTINEL REVIEW

September 21, 1989





THE FOUNDERS of *The Tillsonburg Independent* have high hopes for their weekly newspaper. Here, Walter Kleer, Carol McKnight, Peter Burns and Linda Saunders —

all former employees of Newfoundland Capital Corporation — look over layout for the first issue.

**THE TILLSONBURG INDEPENDENT**

# In matters of blood and ink

Story and photo  
by MARILYN SMULDERS  
of The Sentinel-Review

TILLSONBURG — Senior staff at *The Tillsonburg News* didn't moon too long over their firing. In less than two weeks, they set up their own shop, *The Tillsonburg Independent*.

The first issue of the tabloid-sized newspaper rolls off the presses for distribution tomorrow.

"There's no way they'll out work us in this business," promised Peter Burns, one of *The Independent's* founders. "We have the commitment to the community; we're going to be staying here."

Four co-workers — Burns, Carol McKnight, Linda Saunders and Walter Kleer — started planning the weekly newspaper the very afternoon of the "big bang" at *The Tillsonburg News*, Ontario headquarters of Newfoundland Capital Corporation, on Sept. 7.

The company vice president Cam McKnight, his sister Carol, the editorial director, operations director Kleer and controller Burns came into work as usual that day only to be

informed that their jobs had been axed. All are related to *The News's* former owners, Chuck McKnight and Bill Pratt.

In the days that followed, promotions director Saunders handed in her resignation as well.

*The Tillsonburg News* had been in the McKnight family for 69 years, co-founded by Harvey F. Johnston. Over the years, the firm *Otter Publishing* was formed, acquiring other community newspapers, including *The Ingersoll Times*, *The Norwich Gazette*, *The Caledonia Grand River Sagem*, *The Dorchester Signpost* and *Paris This Week*. The family business was sold to NCC in August of 1988.

"NCC was one of a number of big companies looking at our chain," said Carol McKnight, *The Independent's* editor. "At that time we were re-assured that there was a role for our family and room to grow."

Since purchasing *Otter Publishing*, NCC continued to amass other community papers in Ontario, including the *Winger Group* and *Cash Crop* — 14 papers and shoppers altogether.

"It seemed all they cared about was the bottom line," said McKnight.

McKnight immediately viewed her firing as an opportunity to begin a rival newspaper in Tillsonburg, her hometown. But even she is amazed by the response by the community.

In just two days of opening an office at 81 Broadway, 250 charter subscriptions, entitling the holders to the *Independent* for their lifetime, were sold out. Carrier routes are just about filled and people have been walking off the street to volunteer their time.

Even on a Saturday, the telephone was ringing off the hook. "It's been overwhelming," assessed Burns.

*The Independent's* owners are going to be attentive to what their public wants, said McKnight. One way of doing that will be by each delivering a paper route themselves. At the same time, they'll be knocking on doors asking for ideas on how to improve the paper.

With money tight and a skeleton staff, it's going to be a struggle, the four owners agreed. "But we're up for a challenge," said Burns.

Ivan Kirkpatrick, NCC vice president of finance, would not comment on the reason for the firings or on his competition.

# New local paper hits the streets

The first *Ingersoll This Week* hit the market Tuesday as the Daily Sentinel-Review began a weekly newspaper supplement.

The weekly paper covers Ingersoll and area and is distributed with the daily paper every Tuesday.

Editor Monty Kersell said he was first approached with the idea of a weekly in Ingersoll at the first of September. From Waterloo originally, he comes from working in the Sentinel's Woodstock office, after earlier working in Swift Current, Saskatchewan.

The Ingersoll bureau of the Daily Sentinel-Review has been renovated and new faces added. Reporter Eric Schmiedl is from Kitchener-Waterloo originally and is a graduate of Conestoga College. Ingersoll is his first reporting job but

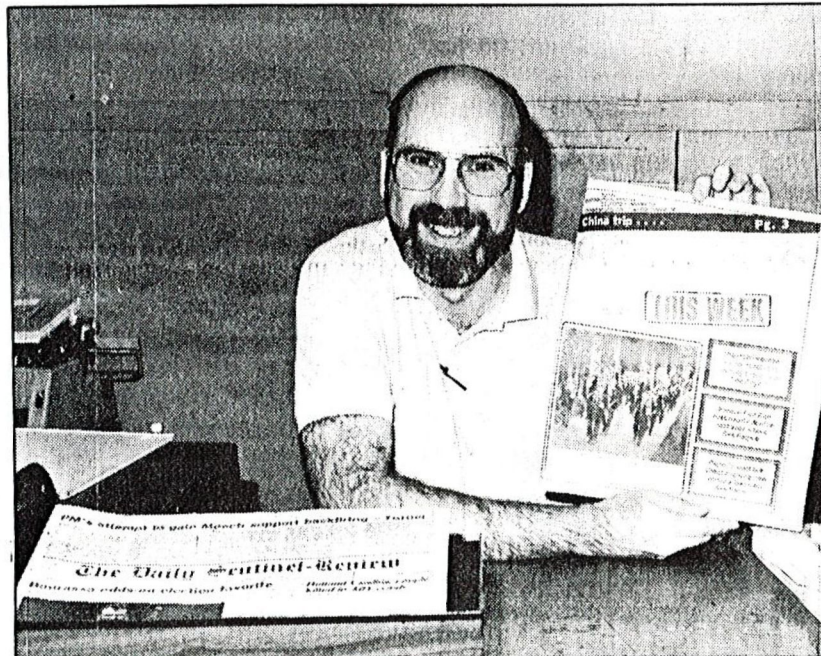
he worked as a summer student at the Sentinel-Review. Pauline Kerr, who had been working as a part-time reporter in Ingersoll, becomes full time.

The editorial staff will provide news for the weekly, as well as the Ingersoll page in the daily paper, Kersell said.

"This calls for a bit of imagination in the stories," he said. "It means a lot of writing, with more emphasis on pictures. Everyone's eye gravitates to a picture."

He said the weekly paper will give more extensive coverage to Ingersoll than the daily can.

"It'll be a judgement call, deciding what goes into the weekly and what goes into the daily," he said, adding the daily will handle mostly items of interest outside Ingersoll.



Monty Kersell, editor of Ingersoll's new weekly, *Ingersoll This Week*, holds a copy of the paper's first edition. The weekly is published by the Daily Sentinel-Review out of Woodstock. (Liz Dadson photo)

INGERSOLL TIMES  
September 27, 1989

# Paper started with a bang in 1969

By JONATHAN STOVER

"Today a dream has taken its first step towards realization. It is a dream of several years' duration -- a dream of producing a newspaper dedicated to promoting Ingersoll and district and serving every person within the area."

Those were the first lines of Jessie Robins' "Message from the Editor" in the inaugural edition of the Ingersoll Times, published on July 8, 1969.

Robins has fond memories of the paper which she and co-owner Allen Houghton started up 20 years ago. They ran the paper for about two years before selling it to Otter Publishing in April 1971. By that time, Robins noted, "the baby had grown and lived and become something -- we had done what we had set out to do, and it was time to move on."

The 1969 Times doesn't much resemble today's paper. Published tabloid size -- the size of the Toronto Sun -- from its inception until its sale, the Times went through three different logos and a number of different editorial page designs in those first two years.

Had Robins' and Houghton's plans gone the way they had originally hoped for, there never would have been an Ingersoll Times in the first place. The two had planned to purchase the rights to the name Ingersoll Tribune from that newspaper's owners, but the deal never came through. The Tribune was on its last legs in 1969, but had a history dating back to the 1870s.



Jessie Robins, the first editor of the Ingersoll Times, looks over the initial editions of the newspaper. The paper was launched as an independent in July 1969.

That heritage attracted Robins and Houghton, but it wasn't to be.

"And it wasn't without sorrow that we watched the Tribune go out of business," Robins added. Without the Tribune's good name, Robins and Houghton had to create a new newspaper tradition.

The co-owners first became acquainted during their annual work on the Cheese and Wine

Festival committee. After talking over the idea of a new newspaper, they began the task of starting it up. Robins was editor, while Houghton served as the firm's general manager. While Houghton had little newspaper experience, Robins had a lot, as a writer-photographer for the Woodstock Sentinel-Review, the London Free Press and for various wire services.

The Times was started up to cover the community events which the Tribune was letting fall by the wayside, Robins said. "The heart of the news was not being covered," she noted.

Early problems for the Times included the delivery of the wrong kind of headlining machine, which made early production nights more difficult than normal. Layout of the early papers was often informal as well -- social notes were laid out beside hard news items, wedding anniversaries often received as much attention as industrial expansions, and the layout was often avant-garde enough to make modern readers wince.

The clunkiness, though, was calculated to some extent. "We wanted to be like a friend coming into the home," Robins explained, "to have a chat with the people. You can't be sophisticated and informal at the same time."

The new newspaper also emphasized community news from outlying areas such as Embro, Thamesford and Putnam. The correspondents were given some elementary training in news writing and then encouraged to send in both news and pictures. "We wanted to establish something different (from the Tribune) with this correspondence," Robins noted.

Robins found many differences between the Times of 1989 and the paper she helped found. "It can't of necessity be the friendly community

newspaper it was -- it's grown up, become more sophisticated."

Layout, photography, headlines -- all have changed.

The Ingersoll of 1969 which Robins remembers was a different place as well. "There was a deeper friendliness then, a different atmosphere -- you kept being amazed at the tremendous friendliness and cooperation in this town. Everybody helped boost the town then, and when you needed volunteers for something you hardly needed to ask. It's different now. Things have shifted from the personal level to the industrial. The town has grown up."

Robins stayed on with the Times for about six months after its 1971 sale, and then moved on to other things. Today, everything from volunteer work to the Women Inventors of Canada occupy Robins' time. Allen Houghton had to retire from the newspaper business altogether due to ill health.

Some of Robins' highest praise was reserved for the office staff who worked for the Times during its infancy. Receptionists often had to double as reporters in those days, and advertising representatives sometimes became layout artists.

"These people were as involved with the paper as we were. They put their hearts into it because they believed in it. All our correspondents and columnists, too -- they were all wonderful," Robins said.

INGERSOLL TIMES -- PROGRESS EDITION  
October 18 1989  
p73A

NEWSPAPERS