

# 'No training for bravery': Ingersoll medal winner

BY CHRIS NIXON

Sentinel-Review Staff Writer  
The day was Feb. 7, 1974 and it began in a noneventful fashion for the then 54-year-old Herman Irwin of Victoria Street Ingersoll.

Working for a home construction firm, he was hauling a load of junk to a dump south of Verschoyle. He was flagged down by another person later identified as Leslie Parker, and told his assistance was needed at a nearby housefire.

Before Feb. 7 ended, Mr. Irwin had risked his life twice trying to save the life of Brenda Lee Hluska.

Now, about 2½ years later Mr. Irwin is being recognized for his bravery by Governor-General Gilles Leger.

He is to receive the Medal of Bravery in Ottawa, today.

Mr. Irwin recalls vividly the events that led up the honor he is to receive.

When Mr. Irwin, now 57 and working at Ingersoll Cheese, first arrived at the fire scene, he saw the infant's mother screaming that someone was trapped in the home being consumed by flames and blanketed with thick smoke.

"The first thing I tried to do was break through the window," he recalled on the weekend. "As soon as I got in (the room the victim was in) I asked for a cloth to put over my face, but the smoke was too strong. I couldn't stay in there."

Mr. Irwin recalled he left the house and escorted the infant's mother and older sister to his truck. It was then the mother told him where the child was located in the room.

Mr. Irwin went back for another try.

"The others didn't want me to go back in," he said, "but they wouldn't go in...they were afraid maybe the roof would give in. But I wasn't content to just leave knowing there was a child in there."

## FOUND CHILD

He located the child on his second attempt and passed her out of the burning home through the smashed-in window. The child was later pronounced dead.

Mr. Irwin prefers that his actions not be referred to as those of a hero.

"By not saving the child's life I don't feel that what I did was heroic as it may have been had I saved it," he said.

He admitted, almost reluctantly, that what he did was an act of bravery.

The second trip into the building could have been avoided, he said, if he had asked questions before going in the first time. When he first entered, he thought two children were trapped. And he didn't know what part of the room to search.

"I had so little time to do things...I didn't have much time and I had to work fast."

Because a person is seldom called on to act in an emergency, he said, it's something one can't be

educated for.

"You don't get study for this position (Medal of Bravery). With the experience I've gained now though, I think I'd do it a little differently."

Mr. Irwin's assistance that day didn't end with his attempt to save the child. He also drove the mother and her other child to the hospital and went to her husband's place of employment and informed him of what had happened.

He was a crown witness at trials, on a charge laid as a result of the child's death and for each day of lost work the court paid him \$6 and mileage for his car, he said.

"I got myself into a lot of trouble for it," he said, "but if I had the same thing to do over again I'd try my best to do it."

## DRIVING FORCE

The force that drove him to risk his life, he said, was knowing that a child was trapped inside.

"Most people would try to help out, at least you'd think most people would."

"I wouldn't want my child left in there."

Mr. Irwin considers it an honor to be chosen as a recipient of the Medal of Bravery. And, in his modest way, he remembered one day when he walked into the Oxford County courthouse before testifying about the event. Lawyers got to their feet as he walked past them.

"I felt they had thought I had done something really great."



Herman Irwin of Ingersoll was to receive a Medal of Bravery in Ottawa today.  
(Staff photo)

# Ingersoll resident youngest to earn Ontario Good Citizen Award

Twenty-year-old Marlie Ives of 69 Cambridge Street became the youngest recipient ever to win the Ontario Medal for good citizenship last Thursday in Toronto.

Marlie was also presented a medallion in honor of the Queen's Silver Jubilee by the Honourable Pauline McGibbon. She accepted the award on the lawn at Queen's Park before an audience of over two-thousand people.

The 12 other people who received the provincial good citizenship award ranged in age from 40 to 80.

These 12 names along with Marlie's will become the first to be etched in an ivory

pillar the government plans to erect in honour of the occasion. The monument will stand outside Queen's Park.

Marlie, formerly an Ingersoll District Collegiate student, taught reading to elementary school children during her spare classes.

Her program proved to be a success and various elementary teachers requested similar help from the high school.

Within two months approximately 20 secondary school students volunteered their free time to assist. An additional two schools asked for volunteers after hearing of the results attained through the program.

Marlie received a grant through Opportunities for Youth in 1975, and she developed a comprehensive reading program for students and adults.

She sought out professional help, with two other young people, to devise programs, gain access to appropriate materials, and learn the necessary skills.

A wide range of activities was planned, including remedial reading, sound training, library usage, reading to others (in hospitals and nursing homes) and fun reading.

Because of the enthusiastic response, principals of six local elementary schools decided to continue the program during the school year and several outside schools requested information.

In the spring of '76 Marlie received funding for another summer program. Requests from parents and teaching staff had risen to such a level that priorities had to be set.

Eventually, because of its tremendous success, the program could include primary and junior grades only.

The principal of I.D.C.I., in conjunction with the English department, decided to make it possible for additional high school students to help out. Approximately 45 students worked with the children in the program, assisting them with their reading skills and smoothing over their difference.

Marlie, who is now a graduate of I.D.C.I. is presently employed at the County Farm Market on Governor's Road.

Mrs. Ives told the Times on Tuesday, that Marlie was very much honoured and excited by the award presentation on the weekend, but says that things are pretty well back to normal now.

Ives, Marlie

Ives July 6 '77

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INGERSOLL TIMES  
July 6, 1977

Ives, Marlie

"Ingersoll resident"

"Times 516 77"



Marlie Ives was recently presented with the Ontario medal for Good Citizenship. Ms. Ives is the youngest Ontario resident to ever receive the award. She is pictured here with the Honourable Lieutenant Governor Pauline McGibbon, receiving a Queen's Silver Jubilee pin. The ceremony was held at Queens Park last weekend in conjunction with Ottawa's Canada Day celebrations.

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INGERSOLL TIMES

July 6, 1977

IVES, Marlie



The parents of 20-year-old, Marlie Ives of 69 Cambridge Street in Ingersoll, have every reason to be proud of their daughter. Not only was she the youngest person to receive the Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship, of which only 12 were presented, but she recently received the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal. The medal is awarded in recognition of worthy and devoted service

rendered to the community. In 1974, Marlie set up a program to help elementary students with reading problems. The program has since grown and has been incorporated by many area schools. Pictured above are Mr. and Mrs. Hugh G. Ives and daughter Marlie seated in the center.

MIKE JAMES

# Possibilities endless for former local

Story and photo  
by PAULINE KERR  
for The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Says former Ingersoll resident Mike James: "the possibilities are endless" for his popular musical group about to record its first album.

The album is a must for James's group *The Shooters*, based in Yorkton, Saskatchewan.

"If you don't have it, you don't get much farther than local."

The album will include original material by lead singer-guitar player Rob McLane, a farmer who lives, eats and breathes music. James is looking at producing the album independently.

"If you go for anyone with a label, a first album usually ends up on the back burner," clearly not something James has in mind.

The album could mean playing the main stage at the Big Valley Jamboree in '88. The group is already booked for the event, described as the biggest country festival in the world. Since they entertained at the Jamboree's Beer Gardens last year, *The Shooters* have been busy with local engagements and opened for Ian Tyson in Regina.

Plans for the coming year include opening for as many groups as possible, including the Juno nominee *Double Eagle Band* and *The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band*. "It's great exposure".

A recently recorded show on STN (Saskatchewan Television Network) will air early in the new year. Hosted by recording artist Glory-Anne Carriere, *Entertainment Saskatchewan* has featured such important names in music as Charlie Pride and Alice Cooper and is broadcast province-wide.

The group has also done a live radio

broadcast. James expected the sound to be terrible but was surprised at the excellent quality.

Right now there is no lack of work for the popular group. As James explained, it's more a matter of choosing which bookings will be most beneficial. And even when *The Shooters* play at a wedding, "we put on a full show. We have a very good sound and light system and we have a full-time sound man."

The next big step is the album. James anticipates it will do well. The material will be good, but the drummer has been

in the music business long enough to know it takes more than talent for a group to make it to the top. "Somebody has to have the drive, the promotional ability."

That is James's territory. Owning his own record store, The Music Centre, and an audio-video shop, Mr. Stereo, in addition to a production company called Platinum Records, James has important contacts throughout the music business.

James's music career got off to a fast and successful start in Ingersoll.

A card-carrying member of the Musicians Union at age 12, he played with such well-known local rock groups as *Ash Mountain* and *War Pig*. "We had a booking agent when I was 14," recalls James, who quit playing at 16.

When he looks back at his early career, James comments, "It was pretty scary."

His performing career got off to a fresh start at 23, when the invitation came for the drummer to join the country rock group. This time it's a different kind of music with a much wider audience. "There comes a time when the rebellion is over and you start listening to the lyrics," said James.

*The Shooters'* country-rock sound doesn't have a lot of competition from within Canada. It's more of an American style, although James said it's always easy to tell the Canadian groups from the way they enunciate the words. Even when it comes to the Juno Awards, it's always hard to fill the category. It is a style that is increasing in popularity, enjoyed by people from 20 to 50, said James.



MIKE JAMES, drummer with the successful Saskatchewan country rock group *The Shooters*, was one of many former Ingersoll residents who came home to family and friends for the holidays.

SENTINEL REVIEW  
December 29, 1987

JAMES, Mike

"Ari Jansen has more than a pocketful of dreams"



It's walnut. Why look for the wood that works the easiest, instead of what looks the most effective. At present this suits my mood."

With his narrow eyes set on the sculpture he has just put down, his words fall like a poem he has always known.

"I do have a vague idea when I start. The lines of the wood fall in place. Then the ideas start to form. If there is a crack in the wood, that falls into place. Everything falls into place and grows. "Everything is an expression - everything I do - an expression of some emotion."

He points to an oil painting. "You see that? Some of my paintings are painted out of pain, out of frustration. They are each an expression of different moods. In that one, the quality of paint, the color, it all depresses you. But in many, I try to express a love of life."

He points to another picture, neatly hanging in a polished silver frame. "That one expresses a love of life."

"If you are employed with a job like mine and you are a creative person, you can't wait to get out of it and into a completely different atmosphere and create."

A Domtar Industries Limited laborer, Mr. Jansen says, "You're not creating at all times anyway. And so, at a job like mine it stimulates you to know when you're done 'now I'm free, now I'm going all the way out'.

When I get home I always work on it. About six hours a day. And at work....well...if I'm not here working at it, I'm always dreaming about it. It's one of the things; it's a lifestyle."

After a generation of endless toil, after years of hurrying home from work to carry on with his art, Mr. Jansen confides that his art is only beginning to be recognized. His sculpture "Argon" was recently acclaimed as one of the two best art pieces entered in a Canadian Sculpture Society show and has been awarded the Shell Purchase Award.

To artists across the nation, this award, given by Shell

INGERSOLL TIMES  
March 23, 1977

By Carol McKnight

When Ari Jansen left Holland 25 years ago, he came to Canada with little more than a pocketful of dreams.

With Europe still aching from the pains of World War II, he looked to Canada as the land of promise, the land he would call his home, the land into which he would pour the sweat of his labor and the dreams of his youth to mold a future for him and his family of five.

Ari Jansen is still molding that future for himself and his family. After 25 years, he is still pouring the sweat of his labor and his energy into his dreams.

But today, Ari Jansen has more than a pocketful of dreams to show. Today the Ingersoll resident is one of Canada's top artists.

"I didn't come here to be an artist," he says, softly pulling at the thin grey-white beard. "I came here to look for a future for myself and my family."

He draws the words slowly from his throat, like a fisherman who casts his line then pulls it slowly to the surface of the water. He hesitates, knowing he has caught your attention, then continues.

"I have drawn and painted all my life - before I came here and after. About 1958, having spare time started me at it quite seriously. This past year though, I have dedicated entirely to sculpturing."

Glancing about his brightly lit art gallery you are assured that he has spent many unaccountable hours and years painting and sculpting.

He lifts one of the many sculptures in the room into his arms. He presses his thick fingers against the wood then allows them to move softly, slowly across it.

"It's hard to work with, this wood." He presses the sculpture to his breast, still caressing it. "It is so beautiful. The grains, the texture...so beautiful."

Carefully he sets it back down.

Canada Limited, bears un-measurable recognition of an artist's talents.

"This thing is a matter of great pride to me," he says. He raises his heavily accented voice and allows the words to fall clearly and precisely. "The show in Toronto is for anyone who tried anything in sculpturing. Anyone can enter; it's for all Canadians."

He pulls a cigarette to his mouth, inhales deeply then butts it out. "How many pieces are in it I don't know. But out of all these entered, only 35 works are what they consider good enough for the one major show of the year.

"There are two purchase awards given; what we call the two best ones in the show. And I got one of them." He lifts his hunched back erect and beams proudly. "This is definitely a great accomplishment."

He crosses his legs and leans his elbow on one of his knees.

"My wife is my only critic," he says. "Some people will tell me they like something or they don't like something but she tells me

why. She knows when there is something bad or good in it. She is pretty good at it."

With recognition as an extremely talented artist growing even outside of Canadian art circles, Mr. Jansen shows little reservation about admitting that he is a success.

"Do I consider myself a successful artist? Yes. Very definitely. I am a success.

"Success doesn't necessarily mean that you have made it money-wise. Successful is when you can feel that what you did was good, that you've succeeded. Then, you are successful."

He lifts a bright orange pipe from his shirt pocket and begins packing it with tobacco. He fills it slowly, careful none of the tobacco fillings fall onto the floor, then lights it.

"If one sees art or goes into art to make money, I'd say nine out of 10 times, you make a mistake. If you see art as a satisfying way of living and it does satisfy you, fascinates you, then you don't mind being poor.

If you don't mind the depression of not having money, of being poor...dirt poor at times...

things like that, yea, there's a future in it then. It's a lifestyle. It's an enjoyment by itself. I would encourage people, if they are willing to bear the sacrifice of poverty. It's not as bad as it seems. Having a lot of money is only having a lot of zeros in the bank.

He pulls the pipe from between his lips and laughs. "No success does not mean having money. And yes, I am successful."

Mr. Jansen's award winning sculpture "Argon" will be on display at First Canadian Place, Toronto, April 5 to May 1.



INGERSOLL  
TIMES  
March 23,  
1977

# ingersoll

## Artistically anew Jansen's returned

Story and photos  
by MARILYN SMULDERS  
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Like the phoenix rising out of ashes, artist Arie Jansen is experiencing renewed life after fire.

In late May, a blaze engulfed his home — extensively damaging his workshop, studio and storage room. As well as leaving the flat-topped structure — the former Dixon's Corners School — in a black mess, flames ravaged many finished canvases. Only Jansen's living quarters were left untouched.

As construction workers started to put his home back into shape, Jansen himself felt a rebuilding. The 69-year-old artist is beginning to exhibit his work again and to spend more time in his workroom.

"I'm starting to make a comeback, I guess," he laughs.

But it's not a paint brush and pallet knife he's got in hand this time. Jansen bends over a cord of walnut, wisking away wood chips with deft knocks of a hammer on the head of a razor-sharp chisel; it's art in 3D that's focusing his attention.

"I stumbled into it really. When I was painting, I felt like I would like to make something with dimension, size."

And whereas paintings rely on color to convey their emotion, sculpture takes on the brown of the wood. "You have to try and make them colorful in their own way. That's the challenge," he remarks. "You're stretching the imagination of your viewer with form and what you do with that form."

Jansen started a career in art mid-way through life. Immigrating to Canada from the Netherlands in the 1950s, he soon indulged his interest with night school classes in Ingersoll. Later he enrolled in the Doon School of Fine Arts near Kitchener.

His work has been exhibited throughout Ontario. But at every new show, he feels anxiety afresh.

"Will people like what I do?" he inquires. "You mentally feel like you're naked, actually exposing yourself to other people's eyes."

Here Jansen pauses. "Oh well. When it comes down to it, I really don't give a damn what people think of me. I do the art for myself."

ARIE JANSEN can envision his finished product before he cuts into the wood. Pictured above, he works on a sculpture of a couple embracing.

- Jansen's studio is light-filled and airy — the fire that ruined it only a bad memory. Jansen's finished work is again on display.

SENTINEL

REVIEW

October 13, 1988



**CONSULTED BY MANY**

**He Is The Authority  
On Ingersoll History**

By RAY DEXTRAS

Two students from Teachers' College in London came to Ingersoll recently to do research on the history of this town for their thesis. The first person they looked up for detailed information was Byron G. Jenvey:

Mr. Jenvey, a retired professor of economics who has lived in this area for more than 70 years, has been collecting data on history-making events of Ingersoll and district since he began teaching school at Salford in 1900.

His studio, or "den" as the historian calls it, is located at his home in Ingersoll at 23 Ann street. The walls of the den are occupied by bookshelves filled with reference books, albums and his own writings.

His albums contain every news story of importance to the district covering a period of the past 60 years. The historian has also written of events as they happened, from personal experience, and from information gathered from local old-timers.

When the London students asked for some important names of the latter 1800 period, Mr. Jenvey at once drew up a list which he wrote almost entirely from memory:

William Watterworth industrialist, who built the piano factory which still stands on Andrew street; Thomas Seldon, an exporter of the town's products, principally apples and dressed turkey; Walter Mills, a contractor who built the town's banks, schools and armories; and ex-mayor James Stevens, a prominent real-estate man.

Asked about spectacular events in the history of the town Mr. Jenvey related the great fire of May 25, 1872, when a great part of the town—more than 80 buildings—were destroyed and two lives lost. He told of farmers from the surrounding countryside who rode in on horses, sent the horses back home, and pitched in to beat the disaster. Fire equipment had to be brought in by train from London and Woodstock. The entire Ingersoll equipment had consisted of little but two pumps at that time.

Mr. Jenvey said that another local writer, James Sinclair, has written a booklet on the fire.

As to prominence of the town, Mr. Jenvey showed a picture of the West Zorra champion tug-of-war team, which won the championship of America in 1893 at the world's fair games in Chicago. It was the first time the championship had been won by a Canadian team. The trophy had been lost for 12 years, but was found and is now on display at the Oxford County Museum in Woodstock.

**THE BIRCHALL CASE**

In an exciting vein, Mr. Jenvey narrated the case of the Benwell murder in 1890.

John Reginald Birchall was the son of a minister and an undergraduate of an English university. In England, the student reportedly took out insurance policies on men from Ingersoll, naming himself as beneficiary.

He made such an insurance policy on 22-year-old Fred Benwell. Under false pretenses Birchall took young Benwell into the marshlands near Eastwood, where he shot him to death.

The murder was apparently ill-planned and many clues were uncovered which eventually led to the arrest of Birchall and trial in Woodstock. He was hanged in Ingersoll.

Young Benwell's grave is sit-



**BYRON G. JENVEY**

uated near Princeton, marked by a horizontal stone.

Mr. Jenvey does not call himself an historian. "I merely like to keep the facts straight," he said. Asked if he planned to publish, he said it wouldn't be worthwhile.

"Young people today are not interested in history", Mr. Jenvey explained. "They're more preoccupied looking towards the future." Then, with a smile, he added, "It's only the old-timers like me who like to remember the past."

Nevertheless, Mr. Jenvey is frequently called upon by many people looking for information. His study could almost be called a legitimate reference library in itself.

At present, he said, a woman by the name of Ingersoll, living in Montreal, is using his notes to trace her family tree.

# Byron Jenvey awarded life membership

DIC 26 1977

JENVEY, Byron

Ingersoll Historian, 96-year-old Byron G. Jenvey was awarded a life time membership to the Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada at the annual meeting of the Oxford County Club last Friday night.

The Honorary Life Membership has only been granted three times to date. Mr. Jenvey is the fourth recipient.

When Mr. Jenvey joined the Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada in 1912, there were only 1,399 members. There are now in the vicinity of 13,000 members spread across Canada.

The award was presented by Fred Griffin, the National Director of the organization. There were 400 people in attendance for the sit down meal and award presentation.

Prior to his retirement from farming, Mr. Jenvey had 110 Holsteins on his 270 acre farm just outside of Ingersoll.

Mr. Jenvey now in his 65th year as a continuous member of the Holstein Association, also received a Certificate of Recognition in 1966 by the Oxford Holstein Breeder's Association as a master of annual breeding from 1912 to 1966.



Byron Jenvey, 96-year-old, adds his Honorary Life Membership to the Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada to an array of life-long memberships and certificates of merit that cover his

walls. Mr. Jenvey who has been a member of the association for 65 continuous years calls Oxford County "The Holland of North America."

# Oxford man recalls past in scrapbooks

By Irene Stanionis  
for The Free Press

INGERSOLL — Byron Jenvey is one historian who knows much of Oxford County's history firsthand — he was there.

The Ingersoll man, who celebrates his 97th birthday Thursday, has devoted more than 75 years to collecting material that spans several centuries. He has filled nine scrapbooks with local history and is still working on material tucked away in desks over the years.

"I realized early in life you couldn't trust your memory too long, so that's why I wrote everything down."

"People call me up often with different questions." A Michigan family seeking its roots was a recent example of the inquiries he handles. "I've never had much trouble with people believing me," he said, receiving guests in a study filled with records, photographs and assorted memorabilia.

Awards have become a prominent feature of his collection, particularly the Citizen of the Year honor bestowed by the town in 1976.

Jenvey is always willing to bring out his scrapbooks for anyone interested. But most of his best stories are still kept in his head.

The last survivor of a local farming family of seven, Jenvey has a neighboring sister-in-law, Mrs. James McKenzie, who celebrated her 101st birthday last December.

Oxford's dairy industry has had a major influence on Jenvey's life.

His first job was a \$350-a-year teaching position in Salford at the turn of the cen-

tury. Other jobs included farming, selling cattle for the Oxford Holstein Club, teaching agricultural economics at the former Guelph College, and lecturing Toronto schoolchildren on the importance of dairy products.

He introduced the first lifesize replica of Springbank Snow Countess, a record milk cow. Jenvey took the papier-mache model on a 1934 lecturing tour of schools, at the request of the Ontario Holstein Association, three years before the Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada erected a permanent statue in Woodstock.

Jenvey also drew the first load of milk to the Borden's condensing factory when it opened in Ingersoll in 1899, a task he re-enacted for the company's 75th anniversary.

At the age of 70, when most are happy to retire, he became a real estate appraiser. Jenvey estimates he valued about 900 estates throughout rural Oxford, Perth, Middlesex and Elgin counties by the time he retired in 1963.

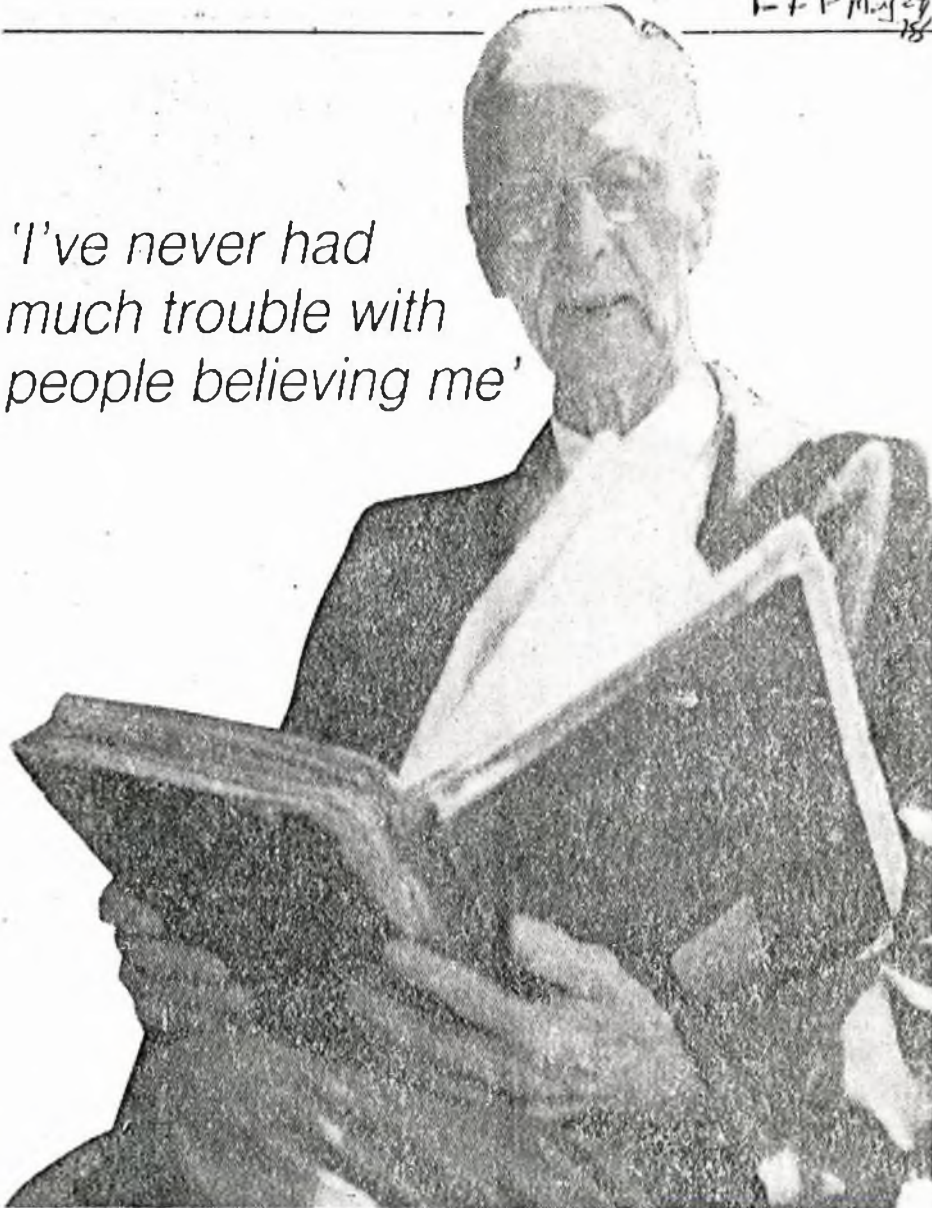
Now free to work on his collection, Jenvey's latest project is helping local artist Harry Whitwell, a comparative youngster in his mid-60s, complete a pictorial history of Ingersoll architecture.

He also has compiled a dozen books covering international events since 1923. His largest single project — 2,200 pages about the Holstein breed — has been on display for the past five years at the national Holstein-Friesian offices in Brantford.

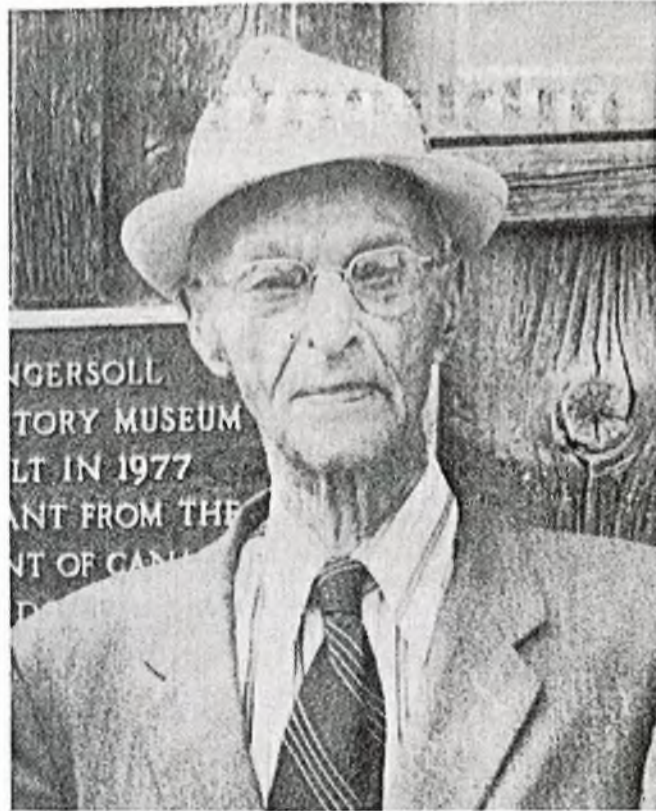
Despite his years of work, Jenvey isn't interested in having his collection published. "It's in pretty ragged shape," he said. "I didn't know I'd be working on it so long or I'd have set it up differently."

LFP May 24  
1978

*'I've never had  
much trouble with  
people believing me'*



Byron Jenvey doesn't just write about history — he lives it. Jenvey, who celebrates his 97th birthday Thursday, has become one of Oxford County's most famous historians.



This represents the last in the series. The Ingersoll Times would like to extend our personal thanks to Town Historian Byron G. Jenvey. For graciously opening his files of area history and allowing us to extend his special stories to our readership.

His books represent long hours and much work, and were years in the making. The Times has worked in conjunction with the 97-year-old gentleman for a year and two months providing the weekly column.

Letters received by our office indicate the printed stories are being used in area history classes; are the topic of many circles of conversation; and are being clipped and saved as personal historical and pioneer accounts. The column has built up a faithful readership over the 14 month period and we welcome your letters and requests for column article repeats. We again thank Byron G. Jenvey for the weekly gift of his valuable time, his researched writings, colorful stories, and our area education.

INGERSOLL TIMES  
September 20, 1978

# Byron G. Jenvey dies at age 98

JENVEY,  
Byron

After almost a century of not only recording Oxford County history but actually playing an integral part of it, Byron Garfield Jenvey died last Friday, February 8, 1980, at Woodstock General Hospital. He was 98-years-old.

Noted throughout Ingersoll and Oxford County as a prominent citizen and historian, Mr. Jenvey's death came following a bout with pneumonia.

Born in Hawtrey, South Norwich, Mr.



BYRON G. JENVEY

Jenvey spent most of his life in the Ingersoll area, serving on over 60 boards, executives, councils and committees in the realms of agriculture, health, municipality and recreation.

The walls of his 23 Ann Street home proudly boasted plaques, life memberships, certificates of merit and awards for his numerous achievements, many gained through his years of teaching or farming.

His 65 years of membership to the Holstein Association of Canada earned him an honorary life membership in October 1977, a post he greatly treasured. Also in 1977 he was named Citizen of the Year by Branch 119 of the Royal Canadian Legion and in September of 1977 he served as grand marshal for the town's annual Cheese and Wine Festival parade. On August 27, 1977, he held a position of honor for the grand opening ceremonies of Ingersoll's Cheese Factory Museum.

He was best known, however, for the masses of news items he collected and filed in his home. Regarded by most Ingersoll residents at the town historian, Mr. Jenvey denied this title, once saying "I merely like to keep the facts straight."

Mr. Jenvey was predeceased by his wife, the former Annie Mayberry, in 1977. The Jenveys enjoyed a remarkable record of 73 years of marriage.

The last of his eight-member-family, Mr. Jenvey was predeceased by his parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. George Jenvey, his brothers Earl and Roy and his sisters Irene Nancekivell, Myrtle Haley and Winnifred Wilson.

Surviving are his sister-in-laws, Mrs. Alberta MacKenzie and Mrs. Mary Haley, both of Ingersoll, along with several nieces and nephews.

Rev. George Watt of Ingersoll First Baptist Church, officiated the February 11, 1980 funeral service, held at McBeath Funeral Home. Interment is at the Harris Street Cemetery.

(See page 12 for more)

INGERSOLL TIMES  
February 13, 1980

*Old in age but young at heart.*

To gain wisdom with the years and pass it along, is to live. To merely gain years, is to grow old.

Despite his 98 years, the late Byron Garfield Jenvey was anything but old. His active work in so many vast areas, from teaching at the ripe age of 19 to serving as a member of the the Holstein Association of Canada for 65 years, did not allow time for this man to grow old. Only to gain knowledge and pass it along.

Born May 25, 1881, in Hawtrey, South Norwich, he was one of six children. As a young child his family moved to the Ostrander area after the general store operated by his father George Jenvey, and his mother, the former Catherine Moore, was destroyed by fire. The family later moved to a farm in the West Oxford area where he attended schools in Centreville and Ingersoll.

His thirst for knowledge led him to Model School (located where Victory Memorial School now stands), after graduating from high school. There he earned his teaching certificate and in 1900, at the age of 19, began his career as a teacher in Salford.

## Teacher

After a three year stint with teaching, however, earning only \$350 annually, he found himself unable to support his new bride, the former Annie Mayberry of Salford. Married February 24, 1904, Mr. Jenvey left the teaching profession shortly before his marriage, to take-up a career in farming.

Relocating from Salford to the second concession of West Oxford, Mr. Jenvey began to gain an interest in purebred Holstein-Friesians. However, he continued to teach as a supply teacher, during the winter months.

In 1908 he earned the position of clerk and treasurer of West Oxford. For an annual salary of \$200, his responsibilities as clerk included performing the duties of secretary of the board of health, division registrar, and deputy fire marshall. He held this position for 10 years, until 1918, when he decided to pursue his teaching career once again.

This time he joined the faculty at the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph, serving as a member of the Department of Economics. He maintained this position until 1923 when he again decided to return to farming.

His interest in purebred Holstein-Friesians remained firm and his farm boasted a herd of 110. In 1926, Mr. Jenvey was asked to join the Oxford Holstein Club as a sales representative and exporter. During this time he was instrumental in exporting \$40,000 of registered Holstein-Friesians from the country. He held this position until 1933.

Torn between a career in education or in farming, Mr. Jenvey combined the two in 1934 when he introduced the first life size replica of Springbank Snow

Countess, a record milk cow. He took the paper mache model on 1934 tour of schools at the request of the Ontario Holstein Association, three years before the Holstein-Friesians Association of Canada erected a permanent statue in Woodstock.

Mr. Jenvey was honored by the Oxford Holstein Club in 1966 when he received a certificate in recognition of his skills as a breeder. He served as a member of the club for 64 years.

At the age of 54, in 1935, he was appointed field secretary for the Holstein-Friesians Association of Canada. His field of

old in age ...

-3-

operation in this position included all of Western Ontario and involved 36,000 miles of travel yearly. He held this post for nine years.

It was also in 1926 that Mr. Jenvey retired from dairy farming, leaving a 270 acre farm to relocate at 23 Ann Street, Ingersoll.

### -Honored

In October 1977 Mr. Jenvey was honored by the Holstein-Friesians Association of Canada when after 65 years of membership, he was made an honorary life member. At that time recalled that when he had joined the association in 1912, membership stood at 1,399. Upon receiving his life membership, he noted that the association had over 13,000 members.

Mr. Jenvey was the fourth person in Canada to receive a life membership from the association.

In 1899, when Borden's Co. opened their Ingersoll plant, Byron Jenvey was the first person to draw milk to the plant. In April 1974 he was honored by the company when he reenacted the delivery as part of an official ceremony. In 1949, Mr. Jenvey and James G. Milne, were invited by Borden's to star in a special Canadian Cavalcade on a national network to mark their 50th anniversary.

Mr. Jenvey was active in various areas, including recreation. As a young man he participated in football, lacross and foot racing. In 1926 following his move to Ingersoll, he joined the local lawn bowling club and became quite good at the sport.

In 1954 he and partners Albert Worham, Byron McCarthy and Arthur Izard won the Ontario Provincial Lawn Bowling Championship, played in Kingston.

He served as secretary of the Lawn Bowling club for 30 years and in May 1977 he was honored with a life membership to the club.

### Citizen of Year

In June of that same year he was named Citizen of the Year by Branch 119 of the Royal Canadian Legion. In September 1977 he was chosen grand marshal for the town's annual Cheese and Wine Festival parade. On August 27, 1977 he held a place of honor for the grand opening of the town's cheese factory museum.

In all, Mr. Jenvey served on over 60 boards, executives, councils and committees, in various capacities. As well as those mentioned, he also spent 25 years as director of the Ingersoll North and West Oxford Agricultural Society, 20 years as a member of the Ingersoll suburban roads

committee, 17 years as chairman of the Harris Street cemetery board, 11 years as chairman of Ingersoll's board of health, seven years as a member of the West Oxford Historical Society, six years as secretary treasurer of the

West Oxford School board and three years as treasurer of the Red Cross Society.

On top of his work in farm and teaching related jobs, he also spent seven years as auditor for the Durham and West Oxford Insurance Company and 11 years as a real estate evaluator.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Jenvey were faithful workers in the Salford Baptist Church and until Mr. Jenvey was no longer able to drive to and from the church, they were extremely active. In appreciation for their years of leadership as teachers and choir members, a window was dedicated in their memory, at the church.

### Married

### 73 years

As recently as last summer, Mr. Jenvey was the oldest guest at the Alumni's Golden anniversary dinner for men who had graduated in 1928 or earlier.

Mr. and Mrs. Jenvey, married in 1904, attained the remarkable record of 73 years of marriage. Mrs. Jenvey died in 1977.





Byron Jenvey was there during the opening ceremonies of the Ingersoll Cheese Factory Museum August 27, 1977.



Here, 96-years-old and still lawn bowling, Jenvey receives an honorary membership into the Ingersoll Lawn Bowling Club. Presenting the membership, left to right, are Ralph Adam and Jack Herbert.

A Jenvey  
History  
Lesson...

"Young people today are not interested in history", once claimed the late Byron G. Jenvey. "They are more preoccupied looking towards the future. It's only the old-timers like me who like to remember the past".

In spite of such frequent statements as this, Byron Jenvey and much of the history collected in his treasured albums, were well known to many Ingersoll area school children. As recently as only two-years-ago Mr. Jenvey travelled to various schools to show his history collection and to pass along some of the knowledge he had gained.

The Jenvey Files which ran for 14 months on a regular weekly basis in The Ingersoll Times, were collected by many area residents, both young and old. Often the articles were glued into scrap books and used as school projects.

And despite Mr. Jenvey's protests when referred to as the town or county

historian, saying "I merely like to keep the facts straight," he will long be remembered for the history he compiles over the years.

His albums contain every news story of importance to the district, stretching over many years. As well, he wrote of events as they happened from his own personal experience. Although we do not have the space to run many of the articles compiles from his files and used in The Jenvey Files, here are a few excerpts from some of his files.

From one Jenvey file came this delightful tale.

In 1850 Dereham township had 15 school sections with 12 schools in operation. Children between five and 16 who went to school totalled 650. Those not taught numbered 218, about one third of the number taught. This accounts for the fact that many during the 1970's and 80's could neither read nor write. Some could not write

their own names and did not know their name if they saw it written.

This condition did not pertain to the time this article was first written in 1930. School Acts had been enacted to force children to attend school for a number of years and attendance officers saw that the act was enforced.

In 1850 schools in Dereham operated seven months of the year. Teachers were paid an average of \$106 per year.

Each operating school received a legislative grant of \$23 and about the same municipal grant. When applied to Dereham, it would be applicable to all the country.

In the pioneer days, the great majority of rural children left school as soon as they were able to do work around the home and farm. Some girls and a few boys remained for higher education in hopes of becoming teachers. These could take a course in teacher training in Hamilton or London.

The son of a pioneer in the Springford district, relates that gum chewing was strictly forbidden in the school he attended. If the teacher caught a pupil chewing gum, the pupil was made to deposit the gum on the teacher's table.

Each succeeding pupil caught chewing was ordered to pile his gum on the other. Then when the cud became large enough to fill a pupil's mouth, the gum chewers were made to roll the lump on the floor and each take a turn at chewing it.

Apparently no evil resulted as the gum chewers grew to healthy individuals.

Since then great changes have been made. In today's schools, consolidation and hauling pupils in buses and the methods of teaching, not to mention construction of the building itself, has altered greatly. Expulsion



Citizen of the Year in 1977, Byron Jenvey receives congratulations from Judy Hayes.

*Jenvey's History of Ingersoll*

of pupils has replaced teacher punishment.

Another story clipped from Mr. Jenvey's files was this one.

In the calamity of fire, Ingersoll has experienced the most disastrous destruction of property that has visited any of the western towns of this province in many years. Having been, in a measure, free from this scourge for many years,

the people and the authorities had in a measure, become reliant and fearless of the imminent danger under which they were living, and were totally unprepared to subdue the ravages of the devouring element if it was once allowed to get under headway.

Several reports of the fire have been given in the daily papers furnished to them by telegraph which of necessity have been very meagre, and in many

instances inaccuracies have occurred, which from the hurry from which they were prepared were impossible to avoid. Outside of the town, few persons have any adequate idea of the extent of the fire or of the destruction and the loss which has been sustained. We have taken the greatest pains to gather the minutest details and incidents connected with the destruction

and shall endeavor to give a correct report. While it is a matter which has been uppermost in the minds of all and the surviving friends of the unfortunate victims have the united sympathies of the whole people.

The fire broke out a few minutes before eight on the evening of Tuesday, May 7,

1872 in the part of the stables attached to the Royal Exchange Hotel on Oxford Street near the corner of Charles Street. It was owned by John Walsh Esq., who also owned a large amount of property in the vicinity and was last occupied as a hotel by W. Hayward, who vacated it about three weeks before the fire. Mr. Searles had leased the place a few days before and had moved part of this furniture into it, preparatory to opening out again in the same business.

The barn and hotel were old frame tenements which rapidly succumbed to the intense heat. From these buildings the fire spread rapidly in a south and easterly direction, taking as it went south the residences of Chas. P. Hall and the Prince of Wales Hotel, lately occupied by William Gallagher, but since his removal to the Atlantic House, by Mr. J. Bowman. The Market Square prevented a further spread of the fire in this direction.

The buildings on the west side of Oxford and on the north side of Charles Street also burned. These included the Daly Horse Stables, the Chamber's Hotel, the old Wesleyan Church building, R. MacDonald's barn, containing a large quantity of coal oil and Misters Badden and Delaney's carriage and wagon factory.

The McMurray Hotel and several other smaller buildings sustained a severe scorching and narrowly escaped taking fire, but were saved by the strenuous and untiring exertions of the inhabitants whose

only appliances were buckets of water, wet blankets and carpets. While this mass of frame buildings was burning, although the wind was very light coming from the north west, the heat was very intense. Flames rolled along like waves of the sea, one over the other, each succeeding those licking in and consuming another of the small buildings, at the rear of the three storey block on the west side of Thames Street, which seemed to catch and burn simultaneously the whole length, leaving it a heterogeneous mass of ruin.

Many of the buildings of this block were new or nearly so, and were occupied by Mr. Vance's bakery and confectionery store. The upper storey was the Masonic Hall, the store of the estate of George E. Perkins - both these stores had very handsome fronts.

Mr. Browett and Barker, Hardware; the Niagara District Bank, over which C.E. Chadwich the agent lived; Misters J. and H.

Little, grocers; Alexander Gordon, tailor; G.W. Walley grocery and glassware; Misters McCaughey and Walsh, barristers in the upper storey of the Odd-fellows Hall.

## Jenvey's history of Ingersoll

The Chronicle Office, started the summer before and only just completed by J.S. Gurnett, editor and proprietor; north of this block on the one side were three frame buildings, demolished almost as soon as they took fire, occupied by J. F. Moorey, cabinet and show room, Bryne and McGolrich saddlers; Mrs. Curtis, milliner and dressmaker; Mrs. Miller grocer; Miss Webster, milliner and dressmaker; F. and G. Lewis, photographer; Mr. Curtis, boot and shoe maker.

The next building on this side of the street was M.B. Holcroft's grocery store, which being of brick and very high stayed the progress of the flames in this direction. His building and stock were very much damaged and will require good deal of repair before it presents the fine appearance it did before the fire.

The remaining stores in this block were occupied by Mr. J. O'Neil, grocer; Roger Agor, broker; N. Hayes, insurance agent; Warren Harris, boots and shoes; R.Y. Ellis and Bro. Hardware, all of whom had their stocks and furniture damaged by water and removal. The goods from many of the stores opposite, in the hope that they would be safe but so fierce

was the fury of the flames that before the west side of Thames Street was half burnt, the east side caught fire and the main street of the town was one channel of fire.

When the east side of the street caught, it was utterly impassable and the only means of saving the goods in the store and the furniture in the houses was to take them out the back doors down to the bank of the creek which runs at the rear.

This was a very difficult and tedious process and as a consequence, very little goods were saved. The parties who occupied this side of the street were H. Vogt, jeweler, frame building torn down; T.F. Fawkes, jeweler; G.J. Shrapnell, grocer; J. Huggill, photographer; T.H. Barraclough, boot and shoes; Holmes and Gillespie, dry goods; M. Tripp, druggist; Alex McKenzie, residence; Jas McNiven, dry goods; Jas McDonald, hats and caps; Alex Macaulvey, dry goods; R.F. Hunter, residence and

John Gayfer shop and residence; Jas. F. McDonald, mayor. This building was riddled, it in a great measure prevented further spread of the flames.

While it was burning the London firemen arrived and having taken up a good position in the creek, threw two good streams upon it, getting the fire pretty well under control. Up to this time (11 o'clock), it was hard to conjecture where the fire would stop. The remaining stores on this side of the street were E. Robinson's Grocery; R. Kerr's dry goods; William Douglas's grocer; L. Noe fruiter; Robert Gaines, barber.

The last two occupied frame buildings were torn down to prevent the spread of the flames.

Hundreds of families in the vicinity packed up their

goods and moved them to places of safety. Mr. McIntyre's cabinet factory in the rear of MacDonald's block, was in imminent danger and most certainly have gone had it not been for the superhuman efforts of Mr. McIntyre and his men, who worked like trojans on the roof, thus saving not only their own buildings but both sides of King Street which most certainly would have gone had the fire once reached this large factory, as all the surrounding buildings are frame and if they had gone, the amount of suffering and destitution would have been incalculable.

When the fire was at its height and the efforts of our own firemen with their inefficient apparatus were nearly exhausted, the Mayor telegraphed to London and Woodstock for assistance.



JOHNSON, Len

Len Johnson, Principal of Harris Heights School in Ingersoll was recently awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal. These commemorative medals are struck from time to time to mark important anniversaries. In keeping with this tradition, a medal was created this year to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of Her Majesty's reign. According to a certificate given with the medal, the award of the medal is an expression of appreciation of worthy and devoted service rendered by the recipients in

their various walks of life and of the esteem in which they are held by their associates. Mr. Johnson, said he was indeed honored by the award and has been showing it to various classes within the school. Looking on at the award signifying their principal's achievement is, from left to right, Laura Keenan, grade one, Ernest Hardeman, grade two, Principal Len Johnson, Keri-Ann Paterson, grade two and Eric Haycock, grade one.

INGERSOLL TIMES  
January 25, 1978

INGERSOLL TIMES  
JAN 25/78

# Ingersoll woman scores 'first' as licensed Ontario plumber

Deborah (Debbie) Davies first met Steve Johnston at his parents' home in Ingersoll. The visit was all business; she was there to overhaul the plumbing.

That was in 1973, shortly after Debbie started the plumbing apprenticeship program co-ordinated by the Ontario government. Two years later, she and Steve were married.

She finished the five-year program in April but her training was not officially complete until she wrote the provincial exam in November.

Early this month Debbie, 23, learned the results of that exam — she passed with an 85 per cent average to become the first qualified woman plumber in Ontario.

While Steve says Debbie's special status is "really good," she shrugs it off as "nothing really special."

"It's nice to be unique, and being the first woman plumber in the province gets publicity, but I'm not going to use it to try and get a job."

There's no need for her to hunt for work. She was apprenticed to her father, Roy Davies, who owns a plumbing business in Ingersoll. Now she's the second licensed plumber in the family firm.

"Debbie is doing a great job," says her father, "in fact, sometimes I think we rely on her too much."

When she was off work for two months last year, to stay home with her first baby, things became a bit confusing around the shop.

She does the ordering, payroll and bookkeeping, besides taking care of the shop's extensive over-the-counter sales.

"I make some service calls, but not many, at least until my little boy goes to school." Right now Violet, Debbie's mother, looks after five-month-old Spencer three days a week while her daughter works.

Debbie likes repair jobs better than any other aspect of plumbing because they challenge her imagination.

"If you're working on a house with 30-year-old taps, certain parts sometimes aren't available, so you have to improvise."

"One thing I don't like is working on new houses under construction. There's

no heat, no cement flooring, and you don't get the same variety you get with repair work."

Plumbers encounter unpleasant jobs every day, but her most foul-smelling assignment so far was cleaning the septic tank of a local bake shop. The combination of rotten bread dough, sour milk and rancid cookies was unbearably rank, Debbie said.

Although anyone in her profession can turn down a job if it's too messy, the bake shop was a regular customer and, she said, you can't say no to a good client.

Her business sense should serve her well when she and her brother, Paul, 19, eventually take over the business.

Paul is enrolled in the sheet metal course at Fanshawe College, training he'll need to operate the "heating" half of Davies Plumbing and Heating.

Debbie enjoys her job and says with a smile, "I want to be boss someday."

How do customers react to a woman plumber? At first, people were surprised she knew what she was talking about, but now the only incredulous looks are from strangers who don't know her.

Working for her father has probably protected her from some discrimination, Debbie said, although she hasn't actually experienced any.

She received the same treatment as the boys in her class while at Fanshawe (22 weeks of the apprenticeship program are allotted to classroom instruction).

There aren't any women in the college's plumbing program this year, said John Clark, Fanshawe's plumbing and sheet metal co-ordinator.

"We wouldn't mind seeing more women in the course, but they've got to pull their weight as much as anyone else. We didn't make any concessions for Debbie and she did very well in her provincial exams."

The industrial training branch of the ministry of colleges and universities reports that two women enrolled in apprenticeship plumbing courses at Ontario colleges last year, but no figures for total female enrolment are readily available.

Ingersoll does not have a plumber's union and Debbie wouldn't join if there

was one. She thinks unions cause "too many economic problems."

She has broken the trail for other women interested in the trade but there is no guarantee that a woman who might be interested in joining a union would be met with open arms.

London's United Association of Plumbers has not formulated a policy about women members and so far the issue hasn't come up, said business manager Ken Martin.

"As far as I'm concerned, women are doing a good job in many areas now," he said, "but it gets a little sickening when they're getting all this publicity for going into jobs that aren't best suited to them."

"I'm not knocking them because they're women," he added, "but construction is a hard-slugging job and I

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*Story by Ginny Colling  
and photo by Don James,  
both of The Free Press*

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don't think it's a woman's place. There are many other jobs where women can shine."

Martin said he was expressing his own opinion and if a woman applied to join the union it would be considered at that time.

Debbie believes the low female enrolment in Ontario's plumbing courses may have a simple explanation — most women don't think of plumbing as a job option.

"I doubt if I'd have taken the course if my dad wasn't in the business. But I had the chance to spend my summers during high school working in the shop, and that's when how I got interested."

After Grade 13, Debbie went to Fanshawe to take a business course but only lasted six weeks.

"I got so bored I quit."

That was when she decided to look into plumbing as a career.

Now that she has her licence, she's an official member of the trade, even to having her name on the side of the company truck.



JOHNSTON,

Deborah

Debbie Davies Johnston followed in her father's footsteps to become Ontario's first licensed woman plumber. When

her father retires, she and her brother, Paul, plan to take over the family business in Ingersoll.

# Evening poems bring awards to student

By JOE KONECNY  
Sentinel-Review staff writer  
INGERSOLL — Marla Jones  
has found a creative cure for  
insomnia.

When the Ingersoll District  
Collegiate Institute student has  
trouble sleeping at night, she  
lies in bed writing poems.

An amateur writer for three  
years, Marla said her best work  
is created after dark.

"I write at night when I can't  
get to sleep," she said in an  
interview Monday.

A poem she wrote on a restless  
October evening recently  
earned her some prominence as  
the Royal Canadian Legion,  
Branch 119, representative in  
the annual literary contest.

The piece, titled *The  
Significance of Remembering*,  
has made her eligible for  
competition at the regional  
level, after winning at local,  
zone and district competitions.

Last year, she had similar  
success in the contest.

Some of her late-hour com-  
positions were entered this year  
in a literary festival sponsored  
by the Woodstock Public  
Library. Results of that entry  
aren't known yet.

## TOPIC

"I just sit there at night and  
write out verses...I just keep  
trying and trying until they  
sound right.

"Getting the topic is the  
hardest part."

Marla said her writing was  
inspired by Victory Memorial  
school english teacher Mary  
Knezic.

"She thought I had a good

chance of winning this contest so  
I entered."

Does Marla have aspirations  
of becoming a legendary author  
or even a reporter?

"No...it's just a side show for  
me.

"It's just something I do for  
fun.

"I just write about whatever  
pops into my head...weird eh."

*The Significance of Remem-  
bering*  
Soldiers of time gone by  
the comrades of the wars.

They always are remembered  
with its poppy bright and red.

Significance is the utmost  
remembrances are the  
greatest.

Yesterday Canada  
Went to peace with countries.

Canada a nation strong  
it was to be great and free.

Independance reigns for long to  
come  
Canada has the better care.

We should never forget  
the yester years behind.

On Remembrance Day  
November eleventh.

We will show the poppy to those  
and display our deep gratitude.

For decades it came  
this peace was bought with  
pride.

Much was lost but much more  
gained  
won was independant freedom.

You brought it back for Canada  
this country will never lose it.

Our lives may be worse  
the comrades formed better.

If dictatorship had ruled  
great goals never would be  
gained.

Never let us forget  
what soldiers did for Canada.





**MARLA JONES** accepts a cheque for success in the Ingersoll Legion (Branch 119) Literary Contest from Royal Canadian Legion representative Evan Sutherland, Tuesday at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute. Richard Chard (left) is the IDCI English department head. Marla recently advanced through competition at the local, zone and district levels and the next step is the regional finals.

(Staff photo by Joe Konecny)

# Local literary winner

Marla Jones, a 15-year-old grade nine student at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute says all it takes to write a poem is concentration.

And that one helpful hint has helped her win three awards so far. One of her literary works which is well on its way to a fourth competition.

"The Significance of Remembering" has won her first in the Legion literary contest for Remembrance Day for Ingersoll as well as for the zone and the district Legion competitions. It is off to the regionals next.

Marla said she was happy when she won the awards. "I didn't expect to win. I'm hoping for a placing in the next one (regionals)," she exclaimed.

Marla started writing poetry two years ago, first for school assignments and then as a hobby. She likes to write about day-to-day life.

"I usually write about things that pop into my mind. I enjoy writing about all things."

Marla writes most of her poems at night when she has nothing else to do and she can't sleep.

"Some people get up and take their glass of milk, but that doesn't work for me."

This is Marla's winning entry:

## Significance of Remembering

Soldiers of time gone by  
The comrades of the wars.

They always are remembered  
With its poppy bright and red.

Significance is the utmost  
Remembrances are the greatest.

Yesterday Canada  
Went to peace with countries.

Canada a nation strong  
It was to be great and free.

Independence reigns for long to come  
Canada has the better call.

We should never forget  
The yesteryears behind.

On Remembrance Day  
November 11.

We will show the poppy to those  
And display our deep gratitude.

For decades it came  
This peace was brought with pride.

Much was lost but much more gained  
War was independent freedom.

You brought it back for Canada  
This country will never lose it.

Our lives may be worse  
The comrades formed better.

If dictatorship had ruled  
Great goals never would be gained.

Never let us forget  
What soldiers did for Canada.



Marla Jones, a grade nine student at IDCI recently won three awards for the Legion literary competition on Remembrance Day. Her winning poem will move on to the regional finals next. Mr. Evan Sutherland (right)

representing Branch 119 of the Legion presented Marla with a cheque for her winning entry while Richard Chard, head of the English Department at IDCI looks on.

# "Lefty" Judd takes his place in baseball Hall of Fame

BY ANNA MARIE CASTELLANO

Feb 5/86

If the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame had existed 30 years ago, Oscar "Lefty" Judd would have been in it.

But since it didn't, he had to wait until exactly 38 years from the day he played in his last major league baseball game to receive the honor. An honor he says he deserves.

Born in a place called Rebecca, north-east of London, the 79-year-old played in the major leagues for nine years, first as a left-handed pitcher for Boston and then for the Philadelphia Blue Jays.

Although Mr. Judd was adamant about the fact he deserves to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, he did admit he didn't do it all by himself.

"It's hard work, playing ball. It's like anything you do, you can't succeed without help and I had a lot of help along the way. To start with there are eight other guys on the team who are helping you and then there's the fans."

Mr. Judd's career started in Ingersoll when he played on an intermediate team which lost only one game and won the provincial championship in 1929. In 1930, Mr. Judd was 26-0. His next move was to Guelph where he broke an Ontario league strikeout record and led his team to the Ontario championships.

His big break came in 1942 when he played for Boston of the major league. In 1945 he was traded to Philadelphia of the National League.

Mr. Judd has a lot of memories from his career with the great American past time, one of which he suggests as being the 1943 All-Star game.

"There were only eight teams at the time so it was a lot harder to make it than it is today," he said.

Mr. Judd must have collected a lot of memories over the years but said he doesn't believe in saving anything. Citing that they're not worth anything, he said the things of value to him such as his Boston uniform, glove and a ball, will probably end up in the Hall of Fame.

When it was all over, and the baseball glove was hung up in a place where the grandchildren would be sure to see it, Mr. Judd began working as a floor mechanic and after a few years of working with a company he went on his own.

Mr. Judd said although he missed baseball when he first retired he doesn't miss it now.

"The hours were long and tough. The day and night games used to throw your whole system off. We usually only ate breakfast and dinner and if we played an afternoon game dinner seemed awfully far away," he said.

"I can remember losing up to 14 pounds after pitching on a warm day and because we pitched every fourth day we had to gain that weight back before the next day we were on the mound or we didn't make it to the mound again."

His two favorite stadiums to pitch in were Detroit's Tiger Stadium and Chicago's Comiskey Park and although he admits he still watches, Mr. Judd says the quality of baseball has deteriorated since the days when he saw action.

"There are a lot more teams now and the quality of the leagues has been watered down considerably. In my time you knew the players without a program, nowadays you don't even know them with a program."

Concerning the issue of player salaries, Mr. Judd said, "all the more power to them if the players can get what they want out of the managers, but I think high salaries are really kind of stupid, who needs \$18 million, you couldn't even spend the interest."

With an increasing number of sports figures reported in the media for drug use, Mr. Judd voiced his concern.

"If I thought for one minute that there would be anyone in the Hall of Fame using dope, I wouldn't be in it. I think it's ridiculous that someone making that kind of money needs to use drugs."

Mr. Judd's induction comes after more than a year of work by a committee set up to have himself along with George Hayes, a retired National Hockey League referee, inducted into their respective Halls of Fame.



Oscar "Lefty" Judd displays a caricature, his baseball glove and his Ingersoll intermediate baseball team photo. Mr. Judd's extensive baseball career has earned him a spot in the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame.

## ***Carving history in canes***

There is a bit of history behind a piece of blue spruce Joe Kean plans on making into a cane. As a matter of fact there's history in all his canes.

The spruce he is working on now was a victim of the August storm that ravaged Ingersoll.

"If I can do anything with this it will have a history behind it," says Kean from his Cherry Street home. "I don't know if I can do anything with it or not."

His cane carving hobby began one-half dozen years ago, and prior to that he carved figures, dabbled in oil and water paint and has been making knives for years.

While some of his cane creations are given to friends, the retired GM Diesel workers has plenty around his home, and each one has its own story.

Among other material, they're made from birch, rosewood, orange trees, grape vines. He's even made a cane from tobacco stalk.

"Each different type of cane seems to have a different feature with it," he says, noting his staff is "what I use when I go in the rough (fishing)."

Vines, says Kean, make excellent canes because of their strength. "There's no danger of those breaking on you."

He began carving after visiting relatives in Toronto when he saw a branch that would lend itself to being a cane. While some of his creations have added handles, many canes are one piece.

"Of course you can't quit with one, you know how those salted crackers are," he recalls of the beginning.

The majority of the tools of the trade are hand-made.

Each knife he makes has its own purpose and he has occasionally had to steal them back from his wife's kitchen. Knives, files, scrapers and dental instruments are all used.

While friends have been on the receiving end of the finished canes, friends also supply Kean with the raw material from around the world.

Kean has no two canes alike, and he considers his craft a hobby. "It's just something to keep your mind busy, you've got to have a hobby."

While his craft may be considered a hobby, Kean is proud of the completed product. "I don't say I use the canes, I wear them."



Joe (Red) Kean

DAILY SENTINEL-REVIEW  
INGERSOLL THIS WEEK  
Sept 11, 1990

**GULF WAR**

# Area archeologist going to Israel



Julie Carl/The London Free Press  
Archeologist Morag Kersel of Ingersoll packs in preparation for a trip to a dig in Israel, despite the dangers of the Persian Gulf War.

Morag Kersel of Ingersoll says she isn't afraid to work in a country under attack. 'They are ready for war all the time.'

By Julie Carl and Steven Bernstein  
The London Free Press

INGERSOLL — The Persian Gulf War won't keep Morag Kersel from trying to keep a date with history at an archeological dig in Israel.

"I'm not a tourist. This is my life," Kersel said from her home here.

Kersel, 26, attended Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute and studied archeology at Queen's University in Kingston.

She plans to fly to London, England, on Monday, although her connecting flight to Tel Aviv has been cancelled. She plans to find a way to reach Israel from there.

Kersel is confident she'll make it to the dig, planned to start in May. She needs to be in Israel much earlier than that to research the area — and had planned to be there in early February.

The professor she assists at Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem is in Africa researching, but they plan to meet in England where they'll figure out a way to get to Israel safely.

"Israel is like nowhere else on earth," Kersel said. "They are ready for war all the

time."

Kersel said she's not afraid to visit a country under attack — although she'll work in England if travel to Israel is impossible.

**THIRD TRIP:** The trip will be her third working with the Israeli team, whom she read about while working on a dig in Greece.

The archeological team is expected to work on a site dating from the Copper Age — from about 4500-3500 B.C. — in Gilat, in the Negev Desert. Kersel will act as surveyor.

"It's a sanctuary site where people went to worship, so we're looking for sanctuary items," she said.

After the dig she plans to return to Canada to work toward a master's degree at the University of Toronto.

Kersel's interest in the region makes her conscious a war could severely damage ancient sites there. "This is Mesopotamia, this is the beginning of civilization."

## ON PAGE C3

A list of forthcoming peace prayers and demonstrations in the area.

London Free Press

January 26 1991

# FEATURES

## Local archaeologist off to Israel

BY MIKE SWITZER

about the possible effects of the war in Jerusalem where it should be on other archaeological sites relatively safe. It's the third most "I'll be living in the Old City in Continued on Page 8



Morag Kersel will be digging in Israel once she feels it safe enough to catch a flight from England. Kersel, an archaeological surveyor educated at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute and Queen's University, said she is not worried about her personal safety despite the Persian Gulf War. (Mike Switzer photo)

Neither a war in the Persian Gulf nor 6,000 years of dirt will stop Morag Kersel from visiting a cult sanctuary at Gilat.

The 26-year-old archaeological surveyor, a graduate of Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute and Queen's University, flew to London Monday to wait for a flight to Israel. Her original connection was cancelled due to instability in the region.

Kersel intends to join up with a team in Israel to study the ancient site which lies approximately two hours south of Jerusalem.

"The sanctuary was used during the beginning of the copper age," Kersel said. "It should be fascinating to explore."

As the team's surveyor, Kersel's task will be to draw maps and plans for the site, as well as take part in the actual digging.

Personal safety during the Gulf war is not one of her main concerns, Kersel said, although she is worried



Morag Kersel is pictured here within a cave at Shigmim, an archaeological site near Gilat (in Israel). (Photo submitted)

*Kersel, Morag  
Pg 10f2*

# Archaeologist to Israel

Continued from Page 7

holy city of Islam next to Medina and Mecca. They won't likely do much damage there.

"I'm worried about other people in the area and the military personnel," she added. "I'm also concerned about the archaeological potential for loss in Israel and Iraq if the bombing continues. That is Mesopotamia, the birthplace of civilization."

Her father, Ingersoll resident Bob Kersel, said he accepts his daughter's determination to visit the region although he has obvious misgivings as a parent.

"What's to think? She's 26 years old and seems quite content. The thought of going makes her happy.

"There's naturally family concern," he added. "More than a few people have phoned to tell her she is crazy."

Ingersoll Times  
January 30 1991

## Woman's travel plans altered

Attacks on Israel in the Persian Gulf war have dropped a bombshell on Morag Kersel's plan to return to the country.

Kersel, 26, said in an interview last week she liked the country and was planning on catching a flight to Tel Aviv via London, England at the end of January.

"If the flights go, I'm going," she said.

Tuesday night, Kersel's travel agent told her all flights to Israel are off.

"I may still go to London. I don't know what to think yet ... unless I plan to take a boat. That's another option," she said Tuesday. She was to call her agent again today to revise her plans.

In last week's interview, prior to the cancellation of Israeli flights, Kersel said her family did not want her to leave but were "reconciled" to her going. Originally from Scotland, her family moved to London, Ontario in 1967. They resettled to Ingersoll in 1975.

Her reasons for wanting to journey to Israel run deep.

Educated in Greek and Roman archeology at Kingston's Queen's University, her interest is now the archeology of the Middle East. The switch came between her second and third university year when she spent six months at an Israeli kibbutz (a communal farming settlement) with 250 families.

"I really enjoyed it. It was like nothing I'd ever experienced before."

The archeologist has since put two Israeli digs under her belt. Greece and Canada have also felt the bite of her spade but "I like to work in Israel.

"Canada's too cold in winter."

Kersel's plan for this trip was to do surveying work as a research assistant for a university in Jerusalem before returning to Canada to work on her master's degree at the University of Toronto in September.

Looking through an archeologist's eyes, Kersel foresaw not only a loss of life in the gulf war but also the destruction of a piece of history.

The Middle East is "the seat of civilization. Some of the oldest sites are in Iran and Iraq."

Daily Sentinel Review  
Ingersoll This Week  
January 29 1991



# Girl working in Israel

Ingersoll's Morag Kersal decided to take a year off of her university studies last month to do a bit of travelling and to expand her horizons. Today the IDCI graduate is living in a kibbutz in the northern section of Israel.

While living and working in a communal environment on the

other side of the globe may not appeal to everyone, Morag's father Bob said last week that so far she's enjoying it thoroughly.

Morag left Canada October 21 for Kibbutz Gonen. Last week the Kersals got a letter from her, briefly outlining her new experiences.

Mr. Kersal explained that his daughter's duties thus far have included cleaning spinach in the communal kitchen and serving meals in the dining area. He said he wasn't too sure what else she would be doing.

In most communal settlements like this one, the work is mainly agricultural. There is no private wealth and each member is responsible for all the needs of the other members and their families.

Families have their own apartments but there is a communal dining room and other facilities are community-oriented.

Last summer Morag was part of an archaeological dig team, working in Kingston. She attended school there, at Queen's University, studying arts and science.

Mr. Kersal said her Kingston job sparked an interest in archaeology and the kibbutz where she is now living is close to another archaeological site. Mr. Kersal said his daughter hopes to land a job there,

once her three month stint at the kibbutz is up.

If she does not get the job, he said her plans include a "grand tour" of the continent, as far north as Copenhagen, southwest to France, and stops in Ireland, Scotland and England where the Kersals have relatives.

The village in which Morag is now living is only four hours from Jerusalem said Mr. Kersal. Although it is farther north than she had hoped to be, it is relatively close to the city of Capernaum.

To finance her trip, Morag also worked last summer with the Oxford County Library Board in Woodstock, with children. As well, she has worked for the local library. "And she saved every penny," said her father.

Anyone interested in writing to her should address letters to: Morag Kersal, Volunteer, Kibbutz Gonen, 12130 DNGE, Israel.

According to Mr. Kersal, those who reside in the kibbutz are fed and housed in exchange for their work. Their days start at 4 or 5 a.m. and they work six to eight hours a day, six days a week.

They are not paid for their labors although they are given a small allowance.



Morag Kersal

INGERSOLL

TIMES

November 13, 1985

KERSAL, morag

Kirwin, Leo V.

Kirwin receives honor

# Citizen of the Year

BY CHERYL STEWART

Leo V. Kirwin, of R.R. 1, Salford, has been named Ingersoll's Citizen of the Year, with Col. Evan Sutherland as runner-up.

The award is given annually by the Royal Canadian Legion for outstanding contribution to the community.

Mr. Kirwin, who has been active in various organizations, was pleased to receive the award. "It was very nice to be picked for a town award being as I live outside of town. It is quite an honor," he said.

Deadline for this year's contest was March 24, although they were accepted until the end of March. The winners will be honored at the customary banquet soon.

Born and raised in Ingersoll, Mr. Kirwin has been involved in various community activities including the Legion, the Knights of Columbus, and many youth programs.

Entries for the contest were judged on a point system, with 25 points for past service to the community, 50 points for service to the community in the past year, and 10 possible points for service in a public office or an appointment to a municipal body. An additional five points per year up to five years may be given to a person who has received honorable mention in the Citizen of the Year judging one year or more.

Mr. Kirwin joined Branch 119 of the Royal Canadian Legion 30 years ago. He has been president for three years, deputy zone commander for two years and is presently zone commander.

He is also an active member of the Knights of Columbus, having served as past knight and serving on the sick and visiting committee. Organizing the broom-ball game held annually to raise money for Easter Seals is another of his involvements.

Over the years, he has assisted in youth programs for Big Brothers, the cadet program, sports, and 4H clubs.

Annual horseshoe pitching contests are held at his farm, which is often used for hay rides and other group activities.

As an executive member of the Legion, Mr. Kirwin has been involved in the various programs in Ingersoll and district schools in public speaking, poems and essays, and patriotic posters.

He has received the Meritorious Service Medal from the Royal Canadian Legion, one of the highest awards given by the organization.



Leo Kirwin

# Citizenship awards to IDCI students

The Kiwanis Citizenship Awards, one of the highest honors to be bestowed upon students at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute, were given to students Leanne Ward and Andy Rae last Wednesday during an outdoor assembly attended by students and staff.

The award winner selection was based on the students' consideration and respect for others, participation in school and community activities, modesty, morals and manners, and the two recipients were selected from a group of outstanding personalities.

Student council minister of assemblies, Jason Coleman, chaired this year's assembly, which also saw Kevin Atkinson and Sandra Walters honored as intramural athletes of the year.

Other winners included those who were honored for outstanding contributions to the school's house system. Lianne Joiner and Andy Rae received the award for the Herbert House, while Vicky Kennedy and Gerry Bes received the award for Bole House. The Wilson house winner was Kevin

Atkinson, and from Briden house, winners were Helen Coker and Brad Lashley.

Thommason spirit awards also went to members of the various house systems. Lori Bilyea and Dave Hammond picked up the awards for Herbert house, while Nicki Baigent and Dave Douglas did so for Briden house. Heather Douglas and Kimble Sutherland were presented with the Thommason spirit awards for Wilson house, while Sandy Pellow and Scott Pye were honored for Bole house.

Wilson house received the competition trophy and the overall trophy. Herbert house received the participation trophy.

Other awards presented included the Driver's Education award to Alissa Rodenburg.

Grade 9 math awards went to Todd Golding, Michelle Graham, Greg Lee, Julie Rayfield and Lene Tonnisen, while Grade 10 students Tim Parrow, Bryan Hopson and Polly Pavey picked up math awards also.

Grade 11 math awards went to Susan Balkwill, Gerry Bes, Peggy Pavey and Sherri Francis. Margaret De Jong, Mike Poels and Tom Maxwell received the Grade 12 math awards.

Grade 13 math awards were presented to Jim Kim, Dave Roberts and Ken Pavey.

Presentations were also made to the school's year book staff, the prefect executive and to departing teachers.

*INGERSOLL TIMES*  
June 12, 1985

Knox, Gregory Donald

## Teenager dies after hitting tree

**I**NGERSOLL — An Ingersoll area teenager died Sunday night after the vehicle he was driving left the road and struck a tree west of here in Zorra Township.

Provincial police at Woodstock said Gregory Donald Knox, 17, of RR 3, Ingersoll was travelling west at 11 p.m. on Concession 4-5 east of Golding Road. He was pronounced dead on arrival at Alexandra Hospital in Ingersoll.

Knox was a "lifelong" resident of the area and a student at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute, said Doug Harris, a teacher there. "He was positive and friendly and upbeat. He was very popular." Knox had played on the school hockey team, Harris said.

London Free Press  
October 13, 1992.

# Knox will go to Michigan

BY KIMBERLEY HUTCHINSON

It has been a tough decision for Ingersoll student Heather Knox, but she will be studying and playing volleyball at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Michigan for the next four years.

Knox, who has been playing volleyball at IDCI for six years and recently turned in an exceptional performance as team captain of the Blue Bombers volleyball squad at the Ontario finals, signed Friday to attend the Michigan university.

The decision ended a lengthy round of interviews and consultations with several Ontario universities, with other scholarship students, with family and guidance counsellors.

Northern Michigan flew Knox up to the Marquette campus 300 miles west of Sault Ste. Marie, to present the scholarship offer.

Knox will obtain her degree in four years and the renewable scholarship will cover 75 per cent of her total university fees.

"I have to keep up my grades, and keep playing volleyball," she said.

"It feels really neat to be in this position, but there was a lot of hassle involved in the meetings and interviews," Knox said.

Knox said her decision was resting primarily upon whether or not she could transfer her American degree, without loss of credits, to a Canadian university to pursue a teaching certificate.

"Western said that they would transfer the degree," she said, "so I'm going to Michigan."

"It's a long way from home though," she commented, "about 600 miles. That was something I had to consider."

Knox will be taking her degree in Physical Education and Geography -- a double major.

She must be in Marquette by August 16-17 and the volleyball team will undergo a two-week training camp to prepare for the season, Knox said.

"It's volleyball year round. There will be the NCAA from September to December and then from January on there is a post season with tournaments and games to keep your hand in the sport."

Knox is happy she will be getting a month off at Christmas -- to give her a chance to make the long trek home for a visit, and to give her a break from volleyball.



Heather Knox

Ingersoll Times

April 2, 1986

# Town engineer Kovacic resigns

By YVONNE HOLMES MOTT

Steve Kovacic, Ingersoll's town engineer for the past six years has resigned from his position.

Kovacic tendered his written resignation to the mayor and council last Friday, but it wasn't until the latter part of the week-end that news of his action leaked out to the public.

He refused to discuss the reason for resignation, stating it was "for the good of the town" that he was not making any statement.

Highly skilled in his profession, Kovacic over-came odds that would have conquered most people as he made his bid for a successful Canadian career.

He completed his university in 1962 in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, graduating as a professional engineer. He was very involved in designing roads and bridges in his native country.

Kovacic managed to leave his home-land just before the Russian invasion. He



Town Engineer Steve Kovacic

came to Canada and took advantage of an opportunity to study at the University of Western Ontario. He stresses that he was able to do this because of the assistance of his wife, Anna.

He also did it by hard work. He had been in Canada only 12 days before the lectures started and knew very little English. He attended all the lectures and then rushed to the library where he would find text books by the same people who had been referred in the lectures, but published in German. He would study from the German books and rework his lectures until they began to mean something to him. His perseverance obviously resulted in success. After two and one-half years he earned his Master of Engineer Science diploma. He was offered an opportunity to do his doctorate work at the University of Chicago, but declined for financial reasons.

The town engineer speaks four languages fluently, German, Slovak Russian and now English.

He has announced that he plans to remain in Ingersoll where he will open his own consulting engineering office. He plans to do basically the same thing he has been doing for the town, plus residential, commercial and industrial development designing.

Mr. Kovacic said, Monday, he wanted to create professionally a field for estimating for contractors which would involve a complete package deal that would include surveying.

Asked how many employees he had working for him in his department Kovacic gave the surprising answer "I don't know".

"Is that part of the problem? Part of the reason you are resigning?" the Times asked him.

"I don't want to comment" was his quiet reply.

He refused to go into any further detail other than to say that he would be meeting with council this (Wednesday) afternoon at 5:00 p.m., when he will give a full report of his accomplishments during the past six years.

Kovacic's resignation is effective May 1, 1979.

Page 10

# Local girl wins writing award

A local 12-year-old girl may have launched her career as a writer.

Anna Kramer, of Ingersoll, has won a writing word for a story about a boy and a falcon. She will receive a Prism Award and \$500 from Story Book Publishing.

Kramer won the award for her story in the 'pet' category. She was one of 16 winners from across Canada, and she will receive her award at a March 31 ceremony at the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto.

This is the second year for the national contest, said Lucy LaGrassa, president of Story Book Publishing. Last year, the contest received 10,000 submissions from children, and there were as yet uncounted thousands this year, she added.

Ten of last year's winners had their stories published and LaGrassa said she hoped to publish all 16 of this year's winners. Five of last year's 10 winners are also now working on their first full-length novels, she said.

LaGrasse said the contest rewards original thought and conceptual thinking. It also encourages children to share their feelings and thoughts with other children, and for them to create their own method of expression.

Another goal of the contest is to encourage the children to be writers.

Although there are structures in place to encourage and develop hockey players for example, LaGrasse said, there is little for kids who like writing.

"There isn't a structure in place or a publishing place that legitimizes the place of child authors," she said.



**Anna Kramer**

"What we're saying is that these kids have the talent to be authors."

INGERSOLL TIMES

March 28, 1990

# Clipping Recalls Life of John Laird, Early Resident of Ingersoll, Haysville

By H. C. Penke

Sup 10/1/54

Scrap books frequently provide interesting reading. The following is a clipping taken from a newspaper which must have appeared in the year 1878. It is impossible to say which paper carried it, since the date line is not included in the clipping, but the chances are strongly in favor of its having been The London Free Press. The difference in journalistic style between those days and the present is indicative of the changing pace at which we live. Here is the clipping as it appeared:

"Mr. John Laird who died at his residence in Haysville on the 22nd instant, at the ripe age of 80, was in many respects a re-

markable man. His was indeed an eventful life. He was a good specimen of the pioneers of Canada—those men who have made the country what it is. He was born in Letterkenny, County Donegal, Ireland, on the 25th of December, 1798. He left Londonderry for Quebec on the ill-fated ship Lady Sherbrooke, commanded by Capt. Gamble. The ship was wrecked on Bird Island off the coast of Newfoundland. Out of 350 passengers only 27 souls were saved. The captain was afterwards tried and condemned to be hanged for wrecking the vessel for the insurance money. Mr. Laird was taken off the rocks by a coal vessel, having lost his wife, three children,

two brothers and three sisters, and everything else, even to his very hat. He worked his way to New York, where he got employment for a few months in a hat establishment. At the request of the late R. Hays, Esq., whose sister he afterwards married, he came to Ingersoll and took up a farm. Here he took a job of chopping, and had to purchase an axe on credit — but with indomitable perseverance, he set to work to hew himself out a home in the wilds of Canada. With the intention of still pursuing his fortune he came to Wilmot in the year 1836 along with Mr. Hays, the founder of Haysville. Here he took up a farm and prospered in worldly matters, but another affliction overtook him. He was deprived of the partner of his toils and trials. He was again alone in the world, having no children alive, but his unwavering determination bore him through his solitary life. After a length of time, happening to visit Ingersoll, he got introduced to the family of Henry Crotty, Esq., whose daughter he afterwards married, and by her he had one son and three daughters. His son is Joseph A. Laird, Esq., deputy reeve of Wilmot, and his eldest daughter, who passed away five years ago, was the wife of Mr. John S. Brown, of McKillop, County of Huron. The next eldest is Mrs. Dr. Campbell, of Scaforth, the youngest being Mrs. H. Davis, of Wingham. The last great bereavement of his life, and the hardest trial of all, was the loss of the mother of the family, the aged partner of his declining years. This happened three months before his own demise. His life had now no charm for him. He longed to follow. His wish was gratified — he was attacked with gangrene and passed calmly away after a few days' illness, respected and regretted by all who knew him."

There are many descendants of John Laird throughout Western Ontario at the present time. To mention the names of all would be impossible, and to single out individuals would not be fair. However it may be said that his descendants have been among the "solid citizens" of this part of Canada, throughout the years.

SENTINEL ?

August 14, 1854



Larock, Anne

# Local quilt for Di, Charles

BY MARILYN SMULDERS

In a ceremony with all the splendor Ottawa can muster, the Prince and Princess of Wales will be presented with a gift on behalf of the Canadian people. Governor General Edward Schreyer will make the presentation of a quilt, the handiwork of a local woman, Anne Larock of Beachville.

Mrs. Larock's quilt, entitled Mystic Star, was hanging in a gallery at the Stratford Festival last week until it was bought for the purpose of giving to the Royal couple, Prince Charles and Princess Diana.



Quilter Anne Larock

For Mrs. Larock, who emigrated from England in 1966, the gesture is all the more special because it means her work will be going back to the land of her roots.

"It's nice that it's going back to where I come from," she said. "As far as I'm concerned, the Royal family is part of our heritage."

The 50-year-old Beachville artisan said there are not enough adjectives in the dictionary to describe her feelings upon hearing that her quilt had been chosen as the official gift.

"I'm delighted, thrilled, ecstatic . . ." she began. "Happy, relieved, . . ."

Mystic Star is an intricate example of quilting at its finest. Mrs. Larock designed and pieced the quilt herself. She said it is composed of a pyramid, star, or cross design depending on which way it is looked at. By concentrating on one of the more than 16 colors incorporated into the quilt, a different design and color becomes dominant.

Mrs. Larock has been recognized for her skill in several Canadian competitions. Recently she was given a prize for best embroidery at the Clothing for Craftsmen show at the London Art Gallery. She is a teacher at Ingersoll's Creative Arts Centre.

"I think our feeling is that we are very proud of Anne's accomplishment," said Jean Hillis, president of the Oxford Quilters' Guild. "Anne was a founding member of this group."

"The quilt itself is a very beautiful design using many colors shading from dark to light. We only hope that it will be appreciated by the Prince and Princess of Wales."

Ingersoll Times  
June 22, 1983

INGERSOLL TIMES  
June 22, 1983

# Circles widening for quilter

By MARGARET BOYD  
of The Sentinel-Review

BEACHVILLE — Anne Larock's quilts have found homes among such diverse owners as the Prince and Princess of Wales and the New Parkwood Hospital in London.

In the circle of quilting, the self-taught quilter has been quietly achieving renown as an artist and teacher over the past decade. And she finds those circles are ever-widening, as the interest in quilting and the demand for her skills grows.

In addition to teaching local courses, Mrs. Larock is often asked to teach workshops at conferences from Banff, Alberta to Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Her work is represented in numerous private collections and the majority of her work today is commissioned.

Commissioned work has to be completed under deadline, which is not always easy for the busy teacher to meet. Several of her pieces currently in a European show entitled "Contemporary Canadian Quilts" and two commissions from the New Parkwood Hospital were completed in a workaholic two-month period during and after Christmas holidays.

Her work is strongly geometric and done primarily in solid colors, although she has used printed materials in the past.

"Plain colors make a cleaner, more interesting design for me," she said.

Her work is always taking new directions but right now her interest is in creating three-dimensional effects. The biggest influence on her work lately has been the geometric European artist Vaserey.

"Triangles fascinate me, there are such a lot of things you can do with them," she said.

Mrs. Larock either quilts, draws new designs or drafts patterns every day.

"Even on holidays, not a day goes by when I don't do something related to my work," she said.

In the summer she finds time to help her very understanding husband, Jim, with his two-acre garden.

She doesn't know where all this will lead but notes: "A long-term goal of mine is to travel more and combine it with work."

An upcoming Fibre Art show (Aug. 1-Sept. 1) at the Woodstock Art Gallery will feature the work of her students and a few of her own pieces. She will be giving quilting demonstrations tomorrow and Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. at the gallery.

Ironically, she first got started in the quilting business in the early 1970's as a demonstrator at Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto. She had taught herself to quilt, out of loneliness, while living in Quebec in 1967. When she moved to Oxford County it was necessary to earn a living but Manpower told her she had "no marketable skills."

"I decided that my only marketable skill was that I could sew quite well," she said.

She commuted to the pioneer village for a while but decided to offer local courses on quilting in 1973. The courses, which she thought would not be popular, were filled to capacity. At the beginning, she was "terrified."

She started teaching that year at Fanshawe College, the Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre and the Oxford County board of education, all of which, except for the board of education, she is still teaching for. Mrs. Larock is starting a new course at the Woodstock Art Gallery in September and, in addition, she teaches for Quilter's Supply in London and Quilter's Attic in Innerkip.

"I don't know if I like teaching or creating better," she said, noting that she has learned a lot of tips from students over the years. Teaching also enables her to see other people's ideas carried out.

Mrs. Larock does not enter her work in competitions any more although she won more than 10 major awards in four years. Among them were two Canadian Embroiderers' Guild awards for excellence and four awards in 1982 from the Ontario Crafts Council's provincial juried exhibition.



ANNE LAROCK, works on a sample for an upcoming workshop on the cathedral window method of quilting at the Woodstock Art Gallery Aug. 17 and 18. Mrs. Larock, who has turned her sewing ability into a thriving teaching and commission business, believes women have "a lot of skills we don't realize we have."

(Staff photo by Margaret Boyd)

SENTINEL REVIEW

July 29, 1985



ANNE LAROCK'S quilting classes are the most popular of the many arts and crafts classes and workshops being offered at the Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre, said a centre spokesman. (Staff photo by Phyllis Coulter)

## Larock is quietly proving quilting is an art form

By PHYLLIS COULTER  
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — It was the highlight of Anne Larock's career when her quilt, Mystic Star, was chosen by former Governor General Ed Schreyer to be Canada's gift to Prince Charles and Diana, Princess of Wales, during their visit to Canada in 1983.

It's achievements like this that bring people interested in the art to meet with the Beachville quiltmaker and teacher. She attended the Creative Arts Centre's open house Monday at the centre's 164 Oxford St. location. The open house continues through Thursday.

Larock has been an avid quilter for almost two decades. Her quilting classes are the most popular of the many arts and crafts classes and workshops being offered at the Ingersoll centre, says chairman Monica Harron.

Part of Larock's appeal is that she blends originality with tradition when it comes to this pioneer art.

### DISTINCTIVE

Her quilts are distinctive. She likes triangles and other geometric figures. Her Mystic Star, for example, was so named because when viewed from different angles the star showed.

She prefers solid colored material which creates a modern look while printed or patterned material tends to give a quilt an old-fashioned appearance.

She uses both cotton, and cotton and polyester materials

which gives her more choice in colors.

The quilting bee, a pioneer tradition, is not part of Larock's approach to quilting. She hand sews and takes so much effort in the stitches that she wouldn't want anyone else to have a hand in her creation.

She likewise teaches beginners to make an entire quilt. "Hopefully, they feel their work is good enough that they don't want anyone else getting in there."

There is also variety among modern quilts designs because many people chose to use sewing machines which create other styles. Larock has done some machine work but prefers hand quilting herself.

### IS ART

Most of Larock's work is shown in art galleries. "I hope my work speaks for itself," she says noting that in the United States, quilt artists is what people call themselves. "I believe my works is art and I don't think I have to tell people that. They realize it," she says.

Larock is looking forward to teaching various aspects of quilting this season. She is no stranger either to the Creative Arts Centre or to teaching. She taught knitting, crocheting, and needlepoint 15 years ago when the centre first started.

The Creative Arts Centre has made several changes in the time since Larock has been involved in it. The group's biggest change this season is in location, as it has moved to 164 Oxford St., where the open house will be held from 1:30 to 3:30 and from 7 to 9 p.m. through Thursday.

# Singing is Marion Law's life and work

BY LINDA TURNER

Amidst the calm, quiet, tasteful decor of the Harbour Inn and Resort Club in Lagoon City, there exudes an essence of entertainment people unfortunately can't find everywhere. Marion Law!

The Ingersoll native known for shy, reserved entertainment in her own home town, is now a road-wise bar singer.

She is no longer the quiet little cherub who performed in the former Alchenust Coffee House here in Ingersoll. Marion has blossomed into a full-fledged entertainer.

The daughter of George and Florrie Law has been earning her living for the last few months on the bar circuit of south-eastern. Her agent, Ron Albert of Toronto, has booked her in places such as Kingston, Colbourg and Southampton.

Marion is quite taken aback by the audiences' reaction to her. She said people seem to find her unapproachable and they're reluctant to talk to her. After she relaxes them with a few tunes, however, they realize she's just another person earning a living. Then, friendships can be made.

When asked about life on the road and the people she has met, Marion jokingly reverted to an absurdly

insipid character and said "the people? ...Like man wow! People? Like it's wow! You know? Life on the road? Like it's hard to explain man Wow! You know?"

Marion was of course, putting on an act as she often does. She is the type of girl who tries not to take life, or newspaper interviews too seriously.

She started playing guitar and singing in public when she was 16. Marion

got her musical interests from her father George Law.

She can play guitar, piano, viola and harmonica. Above all else though Marion's main musical instrument is her voice.

She can belt out a song, sing angelically or woo the audience with folk music.

She taught herself how to play the guitar and with her abilities has composed five or six original songs.

If singing were not to be her career, Marion would like to pursue writing.

"Singing is a physical form of expression but writing is a spiritual, mental form of expression" she explains.

Marion moved to Toronto when she was 17. She spends most of those first few years doing office work but she always practised her guitar playing in her spare time.

She has teamed up with other performers as duos. Once she was in a rock band, but they never seemed to materialize.

From May 1978 until June 1979 she played the keyboards and sang at the Brunswick House. Every Saturday afternoon she would sing to the usually crowded barroom.

"Working at the Brunswick had a circus-like atmosphere to it. It was great song-writing material. The musicians I played with were excellent."

Marion's favorite performers are Joan Baez, Bonnie Raitt and Cleo Laine.

Right now Marion seems to be settling quite comfortably into the routine of hotel rooms, noisy crowds and constant travelling. The life she leads is very hectic and she would like to be able to relax at her

(Page 1052)

Ingersoll Times  
September 5, 1979

Law, Marion

home in Toronto just a bit more often. But that's the price you have to pay" she said.

Her ideal ambition in music is to play lead guitar.

"If I could do that, it would make me feel more secure as a woman. It seems some musicians feel women just don't play guitar very well. But I'm going to. Despite those attitudes I think women can and do play very well."

As advice to people just starting out in the music world, Marion said "Be patient." Be broadminded in your selection of music if your intentions are to go the bar route. You'll be playing to a crosssection of people from their teens to their sixties.

"Write as many songs as you possibly can because you'll be playing primarily commercial music. Writing your own material is good for your moral.

"Watching and listening to other musicians helps. Jamming with them is even better. A certain amount of encouragement helps."

While in Lagoon City Marion first found the courage to perform her own songs. There was a small crowd that night, but the applause for her tune "Pirates' Gold" was as appreciative and encouraging, as it was for her renditions of popular music of the day.

There's a voice out there in the night, trying to be bigger and better, but until she plays again in Ingersoll, or until Ingersoll residents go to see her perform people will not know just how big a voice is already there.

# Dr. Lawson takes last ride for cancer before retiring

BY RON PRESTON

Dr. John Lawson will participate in his last Cancer Society bike-a-thon at the end of this month before retirement spirits him away to the west coast.

The soft-spoken Scottish immigrant became involved with the Ladies Great Ride, a fundraising event, almost 10 years ago when Lois Bradfield sought him out as a last-minute replacement for her partner on a "frontwards-backwards" bicycle.

The two-person contraption was designed by two Norwich men. It consists of two front halves of bicycles welded together, each facing the opposite direction. One sprocket on the back half is reversed so the person looks like he is pedalling backwards, against his partner, while in reality, he is propelling the cycle forward.

"It's a very strange sensation," said Mrs. Bradfield, "to be pedalling backwards and going forward; if you thought about it you'd probably get sick."

The couple's annual trek has become a part of local lore. Mrs. Bradfield dresses as Minnie Pearl, complete with the price tag hanging from her hat, while Dr. Lawson dresses normally, his white hair and beard flowing in the breeze.

Seeing Dr. Lawson on a bicycle is a common sight in town since his arrival in

1957. He came to Ingersoll "by chance" after being told of an opening in town.

"I liked the look of the place," he said of his first visit, "and decided to come here."

He was born in Scotland but raised in England. He returned to his native land to complete his medical education, graduating from Edinburgh University in 1941.

He then enlisted in the British army and spent the remainder of the war as a medical officer, serving in both the European and Middle Eastern theatres. Afterwards, he operated a private practice in England until his move to Canada.

His frequent forays across town on his bicycle are not, contrary to popular belief, done as part of a fitness fetish.

"People think I do it for health," said Dr. Lawson, "(but) it has nothing to do with health; I just enjoy being out on the bike."

In a small town it's easy to use a bicycle for quick transportation and in Dr. Lawson's case, "I just use it as a means of getting around as I do walking."

Throughout a conversation with Dr. Lawson, it would be difficult not to decipher his love of the outdoors, whether it's bike riding or a walk along the river.

"I've often envied the postman," he said. "He's on his feet, outside and on the go all the time; that would suit me quite well."

He sees Canadians as being "very much out-door people; you have to be living in winter weather here."

Many people criticize Canadian winters but Dr. Lawson, quoting Shakespeare, said "sweet are the uses of adversity, which like the toad, ugly and venomous, wears yet a precious jewel in his head."

He takes advantage of the winter months to ice skate and cross country ski. "If you're going to have a winter, with lots of snow and ice, you might as well get out and enjoy it."

His personal philosophy on health and

fitness centres around gaining pleasure from exercise and it's this advice he offers to others.

"People are far better off if they can do an activity they enjoy doing," he said, because otherwise, "they'll only do it spasmodically."

His decision to retire this summer on his 65th birthday was "very difficult in many ways. It's very difficult for the patients and the doctor; each are used to the other.

"It's an unfortunate situation," he said, "but doctors grow old, so you have to accept that too."

His move to Vancouver Island at the end of June, to live near one of his five children, is "sad too, because so many patients are also friends. It means I'm cutting ties with all my friends."

He has already sold his historic King Street West home, a house which was built by Dr. Walker 120 years ago, and the sole property of doctors since.

However, the sale this time has broken the tradition and "there'll be no doctor following" Dr. Lawson's departure.

Along with the pleasures derived from outdoor activities, Dr. Lawson partakes of the finer arts of poetry and theatre. He said he didn't want to leave the impression "I'm a highbrow; I just enjoy it."

He's watched almost every production of the Ingersoll Theatre of Performing Arts (ITOPA) since its inception. "I've enjoyed all their shows . . . their standards here have been relatively high" compared to other amateur productions he's watched.

Even though he's moving to a new area, "I'll find something - I'm never at a loss for something to do."

Quoting the English poet William Blake, he said: "If you can see the world in a grain of sand, and heaven in a wild flower, you can hold infinity in the palm of your hand, and eternity in an hour. And you've no wait."

INGERSOLL TIMES  
April 18, 1984

Lawson, John (Dr.)

# Doctor combines exercise, house calls

## Biking to patients 'recharges the batteries'



By Howard Burns  
Woodstock Bureau

INGERSOLL (Bureau) — Skirting potholes is just part of the daily routine for Dr. John Lawson.

Lawson, 61, an outdoor enthusiast who is retiring from his family practice in the town this June, makes house calls on his bicycle to check in on patients, especially seniors and shut-ins.

"It's a small town so I get outside and get around to see all the people I want to on my bike. I never did enjoy driving motor cars," Lawson said Monday.

Lawson said he started cycling on house calls and to the hospital about 15 years ago and now only uses his car when he has to travel outside the town to see a patient.

"I use my bike every day and I use my car only once or twice a week at the most."

He operates his practice from his house, which was built by an Ingersoll doctor and his family about 120 years ago. Lawson is the third doctor to live in the brick house but that tradition is about to be broken. The new owner is a teacher.

Lawson, who always has a spare bike in

reserve for emergencies, said cycling recharges the batteries and refreshes him.

"I don't carry a beeper and there's no radio so you feel apart and on your own. It (cycling) gives a certain relief from the pressures of this mad work and lets your mind settle down a little."

Lawson opened his practice in Ingersoll in 1957 after serving as a medical officer in the war and starting his own private practice in England. A graduate of Edinburgh University, Lawson said the most difficult part of retiring is that he will be leaving behind good friends.

"My patients are also my friends," Lawson said. "I'll be losing contact with them when I move." He is planning to retire to Vancouver Island this summer.

A father of five, Lawson describes himself as "old-fashioned" and part of a dying breed of physicians who make regular house calls and operate their practices from their homes.

He continues cycling in the winter

months, but his winter travel by bike is limited and dependent on how clear the roads are. "If you're outside every day, the weather doesn't bother you," he said. Some outdoor trips in the winter are painful, but that is mainly due to wind chill, Lawson said.

For travel in the rain, Lawson has a cape which is similar to a "big tent" which helps keep him dry. Although he has taken several spills on the bicycle, he has never been seriously injured.

He doesn't keep track of the number of kilometres he travels each week and he has never been drawn to test his endurance as a long-distance cyclist. He will be participating in Ingersoll's Great Ride for Cancer this month when he once again takes a spin on a two-seater bicycle designed by two Norwich area men.

He describes his car as the "last resort" and said if he doesn't feel like cycling, he would rather walk than drive.

He said he makes several house calls each day to closely follow his patients' progress. He said he is particularly concerned about elderly patients who find it difficult to come to his office but still need medical supervision and advice.

Woodstock Bureau

Dr. John Lawson of Ingersoll makes the rarity of making housecalls even more so by making his rounds while mounted on a bicycle. He has been doing it for 15 years.

London Free Press  
April 24, 1984

Lawson, John (Dr.)

## Frank Leake Rare Artist Still Carves Away At 83

Three years ago, doctors told Frank Leake he'd better quit business and relax, that he had only a few more months to live.

Frank did relax—for a few weeks—but any day you can see him down in the little Thames St. shop now owned by Cecil Vyse, still doing the fine carving that has earned him an international reputation.

Mr. Leake, whose art is represented in hundreds of homes in the U.S., Canada and such spots as Puerto Rico, has been carving for 69 years, and, as he says "I've made a lot of chips in that time." He started carving and designing fine furniture when he was 15, and he will be 84 this October. And his artist's eye is still as keen as ever.

He won't hazard the number of acres of timber he's carved his way through, or the number of knives he outlived, but it's plenty and he expects a lot of trees to go through his hands yet.

Born in London, Mr. Leake came to Ingersoll when he was 21. He was a carver with the piano factory, and when it moved, he moved. He got into carving as a result of his father. His father, Stephen Leake, an Oxford graduate who took up wood carving as a hobby, started up a small furniture factory in London. Frank caught on there, then went to the piano factory. His father, incidentally, died when he was 12, and Mr. Leake at that early age became the man of the house for a family of 10 children. His mother lived to be 84.

"It was always intended that I should be a painter," he said, "but my father's death made it necessary for me to earn a living."

"Forty-seven years ago the building he is now in was built, he recalled. Previous to that a small building owned by the piano factory stood there, and he was in by himself, doing contract work for the factory and also outside jobs.

"In 1928 I began to get orders from all over", he said.

Since then he's carved everything from his own name outside his apartment, to complete bedroom suites. But not only has he carved them, which he says is not the big feature particularly, but he's designed them. "Why I could design you a \$15,000 suite right now, just as quick as I could a \$1,000 one," he said. "Tomorrow I've got to design a grandfather's clock."

The longest time he ever spent on one job was five weeks—on a grandfather's clock. Mr. Vyse and he are right now doing a Toronto order for 24 clocks. Their fame is country-wide, and people come from everywhere to get their work.

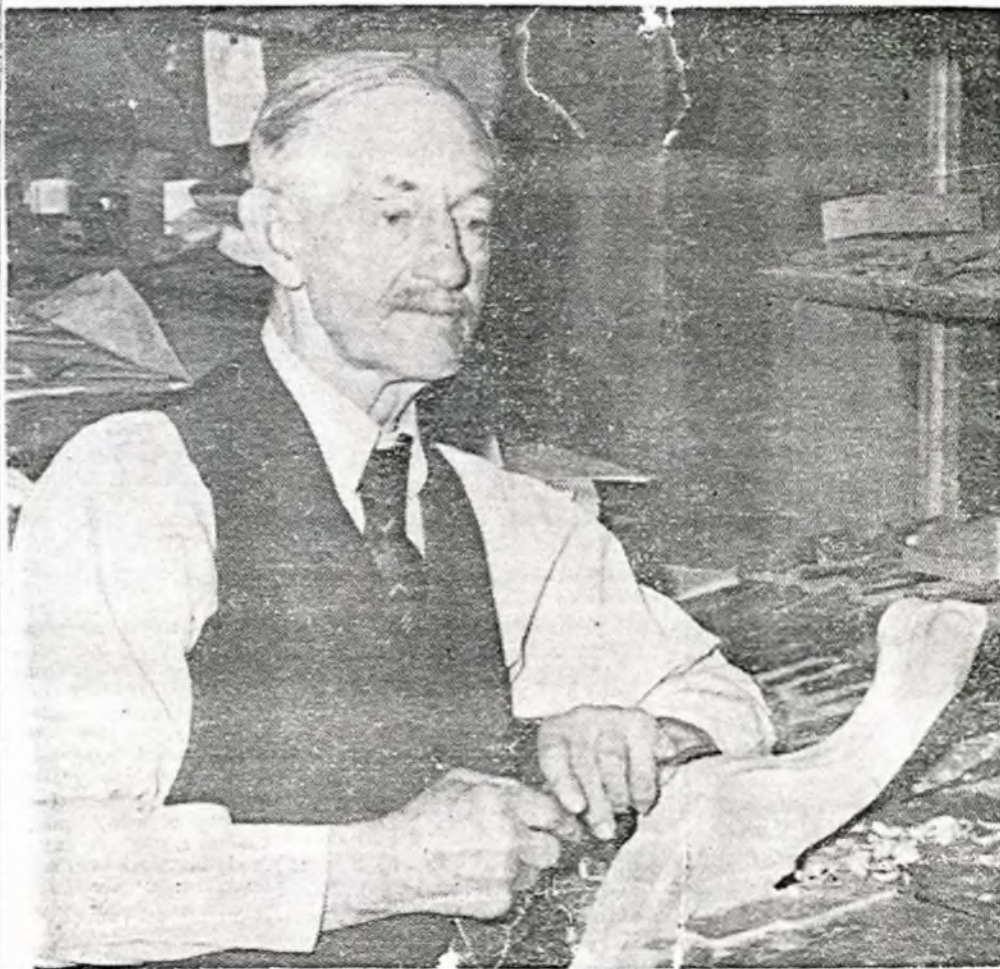
Mr. Leake's wife died five years ago—just after they had celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary. There were no children. Three years ago he was told he had only a few months to live, so Cecil Vyse, a very hardworking young man, took the place over, and Mr. Leake has been working for him, very much alive, ever since.

In his "spare" time, Mr. Leake conducted carving classes for 20 years. This was on behalf of the school board. When the classes began, before the first war, there were eight pupils; when they finished, he was teaching six lessons a week to 62 pupils. Hundreds of men, women and children all over the country learned the fine art of design and carving from Mr. Leake.

"The secret of success, he said, "that I have always been able to see the beauty—not the ugliness."

Mr. Leake, at one time or another, has been a member of nearly every worthwhile organization or order in the town. Right now he's internationally known as probably the oldest living Lion.

The true artist in wood is a rare creature these days. It is to Ingersoll's honor to have one of the rarest, and best known.



LEAKE, Frank

Ingersoll Inquirer 1949



# Local biker ready for 150km MS trek

By ERIC SCHMIEDL  
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Steve Lee is putting his best feet forward 150 kilometres to fight multiple sclerosis (MS).

The Ingersoll man will be taking part in a bike tour from Brampton to Guelph in August after taking part in the trek last year for the first time.

Another ride to raise funds to fight multiple sclerosis will take place Aug. 11 and 12, going from Grand Bend to London.

The Grand Bend to London tour begins at the Lambton Heritage Museum and goes to the University of Western Ontario for an overnight stay.

The estimated number of participants for the ride is more than 500, say fundraisers for the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada. Registration is \$50, which provides for meals and overnight accommodation. A minimum of \$150 in pledges for each rider is required.

A registration package can be had by contacting the society at 914 Murphy Rd., Sarnia, N7S 5C4, or by phoning (519) 542-7763.

There are a number of rides being conducted in Ontario, says Lee, who prefers the Brampton to Guelph jaunt.

"It's a gorgeous ride," he explains.

Last year 1,200 people went from Brampton to Guelph and back again. The University of Guelph is where Lee and others hung their hats overnight.

The route was different in each direction. It was 67 km when Lee was Guelph-bound. The return journey was 83 km.

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with other playability features such as degree  
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Tommy Lee and models of Piper Navajo he will fly, left, and Vickers Vimy flown by Alcock and Brown .

(Editor's Note)

The Ingersoll Tribune is pleased to present to its readers this most interesting story by and about former newspaper publisher and councillor, Thomas R. Lee, better known to most people as "T. R." or "Tommy". Mr. Lee, his wife, the former Edith Wilson and their children, contributed much to the life of the community during the years they resided in Ingersoll. Mr. Lee purchased the Ingersoll Tribune from former editor and publisher W. Veale in December 1948 and then sold it to present publisher W. Arthur Wood in 1951.

Often a controversial figure, in both the newspaper and council world, he was always an interesting one. His zest for life and his enthusiasm for any project which he undertook is reflected again in his latest undertaking.

Former councillor T. R. Lee was one of the two men who re-enacted the historic Alcock and Brown trans-Atlantic flight of half a century ago.

The Tribune is proud to present this interesting story of its former publisher, told in his own words, as he related it to a meeting of the Rotary Club of Montreal, Lakeshore.

Mr. Lee is general supervisor of Public Relations for Royal Trust, the firm which sponsored the re-enactment of that history making flight.)

"Mr. President, Gentlemen  
"I am very glad to be here  
with you today. Very glad indeed."

"The invitation to be here today reflects the optimism I have always associated with Reed Barnes, a friend and fellow taxpayer in Bale D'Urfe."

"The same evening that a story appeared in the Montreal Star telling of our plans to do a symbolic re-enactment of the first non-stop transatlantic flight, by Alcock and Brown, Reed called me about coming today and telling you something about the flight. That was two months before we even took off."

"Everyone wasn't that optimistic."

"One of my neighbors, for example, cheered my already somewhat dubious wife up considerably, by remarking "Edith, I didn't think Tommy would ever do a thing like that to you."

"Another friend remarked, "Remember, Lee, you're only news if you don't make it." Well, we did make it, and so here I am."

"We made it with such ease, in fact, I am sure Alcock and Brown would be astounded and green with envy as they contrasted our flight and the historic, hair-raising effort they went through just 50 years before. Their's was a trip replete with heroics and derring-do; our's was a case of twiddling a few knobs, adjusting engine controls, or making - by means of another knob - minor adjustments to course from time to time."

"You're all familiar with the great achievement of Alcock and Brown."

"Captain John Alcock, D. S. C. - better known as Jack - and Lt. Arthur Whitten Brown, two chaps fresh out of the R. A. F., both, unknown to the other, with a burning desire to be the first to fly the Atlantic. They met for the first time only when they teamed up for this special project. Alcock was the pilot, Brown the navigator. A \$50,000 prize offered by the London Daily Mail was an incentive. Knighthoods were an additional immediate and unexpected reward."

"They took off shortly after noon on Saturday, June 14, from Lester's field, St. John's Newfoundland, in a converted R A F bomber, a Vickers Vimy twin-engine biplane - by today's standards a lumbering, unwieldy contraption fabricated of plywood, canvas and wire. The plane had been shipped

out by boat from England, and re-assembled in Newfoundland. Its instruments were elementary and few, its comforts none, and outside navigational and other aids non-existent."

"Sixteen hours and twelve minutes later, flying by guess and by god, or by the seats of their pants, through cloud, rain, snow, hail and ice - utterly and completely alone - they sighted the coast of Ireland, saw what appeared to be a beautiful green landing field, and wound up on their noses in a bog near the tiny town of Clifden. Unharmed - and the first to fly the Atlantic non-stop."

"In this day and age when crossing the Atlantic in utter ease is routine, my company - The Royal Trust Company - felt that the best way to pay tribute to Alcock and Brown, to commemorate their magnificent, heroic accomplishment, to emphasize the great strides in aircraft and air travel in the half-century, 1919-1969, was to carry out a symbolic re-enactment flight in a small plane. The fact we have offices in Newfoundland, Ireland and England, the countries involved in the original flight, seemed to make it appropriate that we should undertake the project."

"The next step was a note to William T. Piper, Jr., president of Piper Aircraft, a name which is almost a household word. Piper Aircraft, small as they are, are flown to all parts of the world on delivery from plants in Lockhaven, Pa., and Vero Beach, Florida."

"Mr. Piper thought it was a good idea and he referred it to Gene Locke, President and Chief Pilot of Aviation Services International, of Mt. Pocono, Pa., one of whose functions is long-range ferrying of small or medium-size aircraft. Gene thought it a good idea, so planning went on from there. Gene would be pilot, I would be "co-pilot", in my case a pretty loose description. As with Alcock and Brown, the flight brought Gene and me together for the first time."

"Incidentally, we were aware that a group of vintage aircraft people in England had built a replica of the Alcock and Brown Vimy, and were looking for a crew to actually duplicate the original flight. While Gene and I were pretty enthusiastic about doing the Alcock and Brown re-enactment, I'm afraid our enthusiasm didn't go quite that far."

"Our aircraft was a Piper Navajo. A modern, smaller aircraft, it seemed to epitomize the great advance in aircraft and air travel in the past half-century. Like the Vickers Vimy, it is twin engine, its engines being 310 horsepower each, or a total of 620 HP, compared with the Vimy's 360, and 720 total. Its length is 34 feet, 10 feet shorter than the Vimy, its wingspan 41 feet, compared with the Vimy's 68, and at 3700 pounds, it weighs half as much as Alcock and Brown's history-making machine. Designed for corporate private or even commuter airliner use, the Navajo is enclosed, naturally, with all the comforts of home, so to speak. The fact that Alcock and Brown huddled in a single, open cockpit, at the very nose of the aircraft, facing wind, sleet, rain, snow, ice and cold for more than 16 hours makes their story all the more fantastic."

"We rationalized the fact that an American, Gene, was piloting the re-enactment flight with the fact that Brown was born of American parents. My service with an R A F squadron in World War II made me legitimate - in our thinking at any rate."

"Normally, small planes travelling the Atlantic today go via the Azores, shortening the main over-water hop, but we wanted to go Newfoundland - Ireland non-stop, just as Alcock and Brown. This meant carrying much more fuel than normal - twice as much, in actual fact. To do so, the cabin seats were removed and three special, extra fuel tanks filled the cabin instead. We carried a total of 380 gallons /500 gallons less than carried by the Vimy. It was quite a chore clambering over our extra tanks, which we had to do both entering and leaving the aircraft."

"By the time we got our baggage in, plus the 75 Vickers Vimy model kits we planned to drop over the Alcock and Brown monument at Clifden, the place was so crowded there wasn't much desire to clamber anywhere anyway, and so we pretty well stuck to the cockpit just as Alcock and Brown were forced to do."

"We took off from St. John's at 7:40 p. m. Saturday, June 14 - 50 years to the very day that Alcock and Brown took off. We couldn't use the same field as today it is almost completely built up. As you look

LEE,  
Thomas R.

"History is re-enacted"

John R. ...

over the area, about a mile from St. John's airport today, it is difficult to imagine that it was the site of such an exciting event 50 years before.

The tensest moments of the entire trip occurred before we even took off.

In preparing his flight plans, Gene had calculated it would take nine hours and twenty-three minutes to make the crossing of nearly 2,000 miles of ocean. Our take-off time was based on arriving over Clifden at 8.40 a.m. Irish time June 15 - the very moment of the Alcock and Brown arrival 50 years before.

"We had arranged that the gas truck be on hand at 4 p.m. the 14th, the day of take-off - to fuel the aircraft for the flight.

"At 4 p.m. - no truck.

"At 4.15 p.m. - no truck.

"At 4.30 no truck - and then, we learned that this one individual with his truck, was the sole source of the 100-octane fuel we needed.

"At 4.45 still no truck and we learned that our friend was a great fisherman, and could very easily have taken off for a bit of casting. After all, it was Saturday afternoon.

"At 5 o'clock approached, our entire flight seemed in jeopardy. And then he arrived. Our language was subordinated with great sighs of relief; and off we went, on schedule.

"Gene had requested - and had been given - an altitude of 11,000 feet at which to do our trip. Over long experience, he'd found this a pretty nice height weather-wise, and so it proved this time. The weather down below may have been terrible, for all we knew or cared. And we could have climbed twice as high if need be. But for Alcock and Brown, 11,000 feet was the absolute maximum, much less with their aircraft coated with ice.

"The trip was smooth, uneventful - almost boring. The only thing Gene had asked me, when suggesting I go as co-pilot, was whether I could play rummy. Obviously George, the automatic pilot, was going to be pretty busy. I took the cards, even polished up on my rummy, but left them at the back of the plane and they hardly seemed worth the struggle back.

"For the first three hours we flew in cloud, the next six just above it, the balance just before landing at Shannon, in it.

"We never had to concern

LEE, THOMAS R.

(Continued from page 1)

ourselves with seeing the sun, or the moon, or the stars, or the ocean itself, as did Alcock and Brown - our aircraft had all the most modern flight instruments and was right up to the minute in the equipment required to take advantage of all the latest navigational aids.

"As a matter of fact we never saw another aircraft or ship during the entire crossing indeed caught only glimpses of the ocean itself.

"But we were by no means alone, as were Alcock and Brown. When they went across they were the only two persons in the sky over the north Atlantic. During our crossing, some 10,000 others were riding high above us in the jets of the many airlines on the north Atlantic run. Going to either America or Europe.

"Alcock and Brown didn't even have the company of voices over the radio because their wind-driven generator had failed shortly after take-off. In our case, we had all sorts of company. Air Canada, for example, in addition to advising all its passengers crossing the Atlantic that night, had notified all the airlines flying the North Atlantic that we were busy flying this commemorative flight some 20,000 feet below, and invited them to call in and wish us well.

"This they did, Aer Lingus, BOAC, Lufthansa, Sebena.

"If you haven't been to Ireland before," said one BOAC pilot, "the beer to ask for is Guinness - you'll like it."

"How are you navigating?" asked another.

"D. R.," said Gene.

"Good God," replied the jet.

"Got any Scotch on board?" Gene asked one.

"Only miniatures," came the reply. "This is an economy flight."

"Why don't you come aboard with us then," chimed in an Aer Lingus airliner.

"We're first class."

"History is re-enacted"

Tribune July 9 '69

and Scotch.

"We took Scotch too."

"In fact, at the half-way point, Gene said, "I think Mr. Brown, it is the appropriate time for a short snort"

"Quite, Mr. Alcock," I replied.

"And we did."

"We passed two weather ships in the course of our flight ocean station Charlie and ocean station Juliette. They provide weather information, of course, but also help us determine if we're on course or how we're doing.

"We found Juliette a bit frustrating, and Juliette sensed it.

"Are you sleepy?" came the voice from below.

"No, wide awake", said Gene.

"Are you alone?"

"No - we have two men and a dog."

"That ended the conversation."

"The dog was "Snoopy", a small toy given us by my children as a mascot. After all, Alcock and Brown had two stuffed kittens.

"As we approached Ireland, it was apparent that the direction and speed of the wind were not as forecast. They were much stronger and against us, slowing us down considerably. Heavy cloud had also moved in, with rain. As a result, we couldn't even see Clifden, let alone circle in tribute to Alcock and Brown, and were forced to go direct to Shannon.

"There, again, Alcock and Brown never had it so good as we did. We were not at 5,000 feet and in cloud. Alcock and Brown could only have let down blindly, hoping they'd see ground in good time before the cloud ended, but even then not sure where they were. On the other hand, our instruments told us where Shannon was, and Shannon could see us on their radar. Gene simply had to follow the instructions given him, for us to come out of the cloud and the rain for a safe landing.

"History is re-enacted"

Tribune July 9 69

Governor-General to the Queen, and from the Lieutenant-Governor of Newfoundland to the Queen; from Prime Minister Trudeau to Prime Minister Lynch of Ireland and to Prime Minister Wilson of the U.K., from Premier Smallwood to Mr. Lynch, and a number of others.

"A highlight of the entire flight was the fact that by special arrangement we were able to deliver these letters in person to Buckingham Palace, and to 10 Downing Street, and to the Prime Minister's offices in Dublin.

"When we arrived at No. 10, there was a terrific crowd of newspapermen and photographers as well as spectators. I nudged Gene, remarking that they really seemed to be laying on the dog for us! Then I noticed a succession of cabs pulling up, with the entire Cabinet pouring out. It wasn't Locke and Lee being welcomed - an emergency session had been called on labor problems!

"While neither Locke nor I were summoned to Windsor Castle, as were Alcock and Brown, we did receive a letter from the Castle, signed by a private secretary of the Queen, Sir Martin Charteris, which read as follows:

"The Queen is most grateful to you for having delivered the letters from the Governor-General and from the Lieutenant-Governor of Newfoundland to her at Buckingham Palace.

"I was able to give these to the Queen this morning and Her Majesty is delighted to have them for the Royal Collection. Her Majesty is delighted that the flight which you and Mr. Locke carried out on 14th June was so successful."

"Our trip ended with delivery of the Navajo to the Marquis of Kildare, Managing Director of C. S. E. Aviation; Piper distributors in the U.K. The Marquis had met us at Shannon, accompanied by an employee who had helped dig the Vimy out of the bog 50 years before.

"Have you had to use the pocket knife yet?" enquired a Lufthansa Captain.

"As you are probably aware. Brown is said to have climbed out on the wings of their ice-coated aircraft in mid-flight five or six times to scrape ice off the air intake of the engines. He used a pocket knife to do it.

"We hope you don't have to use it" the airline Captain said.

"It was a fantastic effort - we still talk about it".

"While Alcock and Brown wore battery-wired "teddy bear" suits, Gene and I wore business suits and sleeveless shirts. For most of the flight, without the jacket. I could not picture climbing out on the smooth wing of the Navajo, in shirt sleeves, if our lives depended on it.

"But we did have the pocketknife. My staff had given me, as a symbol of our flight, a silver knife bearing the inscription,

Alcock and Brown -1919  
Locke and Lee -1969  
St. John's, Nfld. -Clifden,  
Ireland.

With an automatic pilot and everything going smoothly, one is inclined to doze.

Gene had a little procedure which tended to jolt you out of it. We needed every drop of fuel we had, so each of the fuselage tanks was drained dry in turn before switching over to the next.

The best way to tell when a tank is dry is when the engine quits.

So - on at least three occasions my reveries were broken when the aircraft swerved violently to the left, telling Gene it was time to change tanks and frightening him out of me.

Now is as good a time as any, I guess, to mention that since the "bathroom" was at the rear, and virtually inaccessible, our St. John's, Nfld. Manager had very thoughtfully provided two quart bottles, one labelled Alcock, the other labelled Brown. They were not used during the entire trip of 10 hours, 50 minutes, which says something for the flight, I guess, or us, or both.

"Nor did we eat anything, although having been advised chopped egg sandwiches were the best aircrew fare on such flights, we had half a dozen stashed away. Alcock and Brown had horlicks, chocolate

"As we landed we had less than a quarter of our last tank, or something less than an hour's fuel left. We had not slept since 8 a. m. the day before.

"After a quick breakfast, we got into an even smaller plane for the most hair-raising part of the trip - at 500 feet, under the cloud, over the contours, some 65 miles to tiny Clifden, where the Alcock and Brown flight ended. This is a picturesque village in a rugged area. Landing in a pasture, with a crowd of hundreds in the rain, we attended ceremonies commemorating the Alcock and Brown feat. These ceremonies, by a monument raised to Alcock and Brown, took the form of a reading from a newspaper of 50 years before of the original report of the Alcock and Brown landing. Canadian Ambassador to Ireland attended. I found it interesting to realize that a newspaper of 50 years before of the original report of the Alcock and Brown landing. Canadian centennial flags were a part of the decor, and the Canadian Ambassador to Ireland attended. I found it interesting to realize that having attended similar official ceremonies in St. John's the day before, and then those at Clifden, Gene and I were the only two persons in the world to attend the official ceremonies commemorating this historic flight, at both the place of take-off and the place of landing.

"At a civic luncheon, we were both presented with model in conemara marble of the Alcock and Brown monument.

Alcock was born in Manchester, England, and Brown lived there, so as a result the city has a big exhibition based on their exploit. It includes that full-scale replica of the Vimy I mentioned earlier.

"After visiting Dublin, and at the invitation of the city, Gene and I flew the Navajo to Manchester where we were met by Alcock's brother, toured the exhibition, and were photographed in the cockpit of the replica. It scared me to death in that cockpit just standing still on the ground.

"Like Alcock and Brown we carried 197 letters. Each bore the new Canadian Alcock and Brown stamp issued Friday, June 13, the day before we took off, and a 40-year-old Newfoundland stamp - still valid - which pictured the Vimy. The letters included one from the

LFE,  
Thomas R.

"History is re-enacted by former  
Ingersollite"  
In. Bureau July 1969

LEE, Thomas R.

"For me, the flight was quite an adventure. With the aircraft of today, the engines, the navigational aids, the crossing by Alcock and Brown has become smooth, easy, commonplace. Even for smaller aircraft. Not entirely without hazard, mind you, because things can go wrong - indeed we needed a favourable wind to make the crossing - an adverse wind all the way would have made it impossible. But every day there are advances and these will continue. For instance, on the BOAC VC 10 on which I returned, there was a navigational instrument still in the experimental stage, which by pressing a few buttons would tell you instantaneously precisely where the aircraft was, in latitude and longitude, how far it was from its destination and how long it would take to get there at the present speed; the effective speed, whether the aircraft was on course, etc. Weighs 50 pounds, costs \$90,000. 50 years from now - who would dare forecast it? Across the Atlantic before you had your safety belt fastened! And not a hand on the controls!

"Royal Trust, Gene Locke and I, were honored and proud to have paid this tribute to Alcock and Brown - the "space" heroes of 50 years ago.

# Ingersoll student travels to Central America

BY MIKE SWITZER

Iguana meat may look like beef but it tastes more like tangy chicken, according to Ingersoll resident Michael Lewicki, who has recently returned from a trip to the Central American state of Belize.

Lewicki, 12, is a Grade 7 student at Sacred Heart School. His two-week excursion to Belize, which lasted from Aug. 20-31, was part of the Youth With a Mission program (YWAM), an interdenominational mission group, with a number of operations in Belize, formerly known as the British Honduras.

Lewicki travelled to Belize with a group of 15 young people, supervised by his uncle, Ted MacDonald. MacDonald said he has been to Central America three times in the past year, including one time in January when he drove the entire distance.

This time Lewicki stayed with his aunt, who operates a mission in the village of Roaring Creek, located about an hour's drive from the capital of Belize City.

His jobs included construction work, wiring, plastering walls and ceilings, repairs to a chicken coop, and other assorted duties.

While there, he was treated to a

variety of exotic dishes. Among these were potato pudding with coconut milk, rice and beans in large quantities, pig tail (although Lewicki added that he "liked" the pig enough to leave its tail alone), and iguana meat.

The latter dish was acquired after a pair of hunters shot the lizard in Lewicki's aunt's backyard.

"I liked the iguana meat," Lewicki said, "although it was a little different from the food I'm used to around here."

Guests at the house during his visit went beyond the standard two-legged variety. A baby boa constrictor wandered into the building one day, he said, and it was allowed to stay for about a week, until it bit a member of the group.

A tarantula also made a brief one-day appearance. While there the group fed it cockroaches.

"We only saw the one," MacDonald said, "but I'm sure there were plenty more around."

Lewicki said he was impressed with the countryside, despite the relative poverty of its inhabitants.

"I'd like to go there again," he said. "It's a simpler lifestyle, and they use absolutely everything. I think I'd even like to live there."



Twelve-year-old Michael Lewicki, a student at Sacred Heart School in Ingersoll, shows off a machete he brought back from a recent trip to Belize. His uncle, Ted MacDonald, travelled with the group of 15 young people to work on an interdenominational Christian mission set up at the village of Roaring Creek. (Mike Switzer photo)



Michael Lewicki stands with the two men who bagged his lunch during a recent visit to the Central American state of Belize. (Photo submitted)

INGERSOLL TIMES  
Sept 19, 1990

Lewicki, Michael

A WORLD OF A JOURNEY

# Todd Loosemore survived leukemia now he is challenging the Navy

By PAULINE KERR  
of Ingersoll This Week

Legendary one-legged runner Terry Fox proved to Canada winners don't have to be larger than life and no one knows that better than Todd Loosemore.

On leave from the Canadian Navy — the former Ingersoll resident is an ordinary seaman serving aboard HMCS Annapolis — he paid a visit to the *Sentinel-Review* office where he once worked as a co-op student.

During his years at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute, Loosemore never considered a military career.

In fact, he recalls joking with a friend who attempted to get him to join the militia.

However, after making tentative efforts to establish a career in different fields, he decided the navy offered the best job opportunities.

**“Whatever trade you end up in, the military only employs the best as teachers.”**

Plenty of people said he could never do it. Clean-cut, intelligent and physically fit, he would have seemed the ideal candidate, but Loosemore had leukemia as a child and kids who have had cancer don't join the navy.

He proved that wrong.

Since he joined the forces two years ago, he has been trained as an operator of electronic warfare equipment.

Loosemore is currently stationed at Esquimalt, British Columbia.

“That's on Vancouver Island,” he explained, for those who aren't up on their geography.

What he has been doing recently sounds like a whole course in that subject.

A four-month trip began along the west coast with stops in San Francisco, Seattle and San Diego.

Then it was Tijuana, Mexico, and off to Hawaii where he spent a month. From there, the ship sailed to Pusan, South Korea, and several other ports.

The high point of that segment of the trip was a visit to Vladivostok, USSR.

“We toured everywhere — the city, the military bases — I was

even invited to stay in a private home for a couple of days. The family almost adopted me,” said Loosemore.

Glasnost is a real and pervasive element in USSR society today, he says.

“The military is the best choice I could have made,” he said.

**“I am one of only a few Ingersoll people, certainly the only one in my age group, who has been to Russia.”**

From Vladivostok, the ship went to Hong Kong and Malasia. En route the Annapolis participated in the dramatic rescue of 92 Vietnamese refugees who had been adrift for 25 days with no food or water.

“That hit hard emotionally,” Loosemore says. “How could they survive? It made us realize how bad things could be and how lucky we are.”

Malasia was described as “really different” with an exciting mix of cultures. Loosemore was intrigued by the sight of a high-tech office building next to a mosque.

The ship arrived in Guam in time for the U.S. July 4 celebration. While there isn't much to do on Guam, the carnival atmosphere guaranteed a good time.

But the best part of the trip was arriving home, knowing he would be in Ingersoll in a week.

“I'm proud to say I'm from Ingersoll,” Loosemore said.

While his family still lives here he says he has outgrown the town. “People have to see how other people live.”

And the navy offered him the opportunity to do just that.

Basic training was the most difficult part of the job so far. He stuck

with it because he had to prove to plenty of people, including himself, he could do it.

He is accustomed to being a fighter and says struggling with leukemia — and winning — has made him what he is today.

He has come a long way from being a desperately ill, frightened eight-year-old when his leukemia was first diagnosed.

As with all children, memories from that time are sketchy. Children try to forget the bad things. He does recall having to take 13 pills with each meal.

He also remembers learning to hate the Gong Show, his hospital roommate's favorite.

Chemotherapy and barrages of often painful tests are now just foggy memories. What he remembers are visits from his girlfriend and family members, joking, homework and cards.

“People say they are so sorry for children with cancer. They shouldn't be. What they should be doing is showing support and standing behind them. That is what is most beneficial, be it Down Syndrome, cancer or whatever.”

“Give them the ability to be what they want to be.”

Loosemore has come a very long way since 1977 but he remains close to cancer specialist Dr. Barrie De Vebber in London. He also helps children with cancer whenever he can, proving to them they can beat the disease.



DAILY SENTINEL-REVIEW  
INGERSOLL THIS WEEK  
Aug. 14, 1990

Loosemore, Todd



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**STILL WEARING** his Navy whites, Todd Loosemore was visiting friends in Ingersoll recently. Loosemore is currently stationed at Esquimalt, British Columbia.

LOOSEMORE, TODD

# Local mother proud of son going to war

BY MIKE SWITZER

Jackie Loosemore says she is filled with pride as her son sails toward the war in the Persian Gulf.

Loosemore, an Ingersoll resident who works as a waitress at Miss Ingersoll restaurant, spoke with her 22-year-old son on the telephone Thursday. She said he sounded eager to embark on the voyage aboard the HMCS Huron which will take him to the Middle East, and the war against Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Ordinary seaman Todd Loosemore has been serving with the Canadian military for three years. His assignment aboard the Huron (which began its month-long journey to the Gulf on Sunday) brought mixed reactions from other members of his family.

Jackie said Todd's oldest sister seemed the most worried upon receiving word of his mission.

"She got a little upset when she heard he was going," she said, "but she realizes it's something that must be done."

While the younger sister expressed excitement over the announcement (almost to the point of wanting to join up herself, Jackie said), Todd's older brother simply kept his emotions to himself.

"He just told him to be careful and to do whatever he has to," Jackie said.

As for her own feelings, Jackie said she was filled with pride, coupled with a mother's concern.



Ingersoll resident Jackie Loosemore says she is proud of her 22-year-old son Todd as he sails towards the war in the Persian Gulf aboard the HMCS Huron. The Huron set out for the Gulf Sunday, to replace the HMCS Athabaskan. (Mike Switzer photo)

"He says he's proud and happy to go. He's proud to be in the Canadian military and he's proud to serve his country. I'm behind him 100 per cent. He'll make us all very, very proud.

"As a mother, I have to admit I'm a bit worried though," she added.

"When he called me, I knew it was coming. I just didn't know it was coming so soon. But I definitely feel we should be there. Canada's a part of the United Nations coalition and if we're going to stop this madness then more power to all our boys."

Ingersoll Times

February 27 1991

## Off to the gulf

INGERSOLL — David Losier is headed for the Persian Gulf.



Losier

The graduate of Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute is one of a group of 35 Royal Canadian Regiment members from London who departed Thursday night, said grandfather Gord Hammond.

"We'll just have to wait and see what happens," Hammond said.

A private in the Canadian Forces, Losier was a member of cadet corps 109 in Ingersoll before joining the army March 5, 1990.

Losier's grandfather is not the only family he has in Ingersoll.

Grandmother Yvonne Hammond said earlier she backs her 20-year-old grandson.

"No matter what happens, we're proud of him," she said when Losier was placed on standby in January. At the same time, mother Mary Losier said she supports her son.

Daily Sentinel Review

February 23 1991

Losier, Dave

# ALL EYES ARE ON THE GULF

## Ingersoll mother worries about son on gulf standby



By ERIC SCHMIEDL  
of The Sentinel-Review

**INGERSOLL** - The possibility of Mary Losier's son David fighting in the Persian Gulf war is an idea she is not fond of.

"I'm keeping up support, that's what I'm doing. He has to go and fight" if called upon, she says.

Pte. Losier, of the Royal Canadian Regiment's First Battalion at Canadian Forces Base London, is on standby to go to the gulf. Grandfather Gord Hammond phoned him Wednesday night and says the 20-year-old soldier "wasn't upset" about war breaking out.

"He sounded happy. He's not worried about it. He'll go fight for his country."

A graduate of Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute, Pte. Losier was a member of cadet corps 109 in Ingersoll before joining the regular army March 5, 1989.

"He's a good grandson. He's helped me around here," says Hammond.

He thought the Second World War would be the last major war in his lifetime.

"It's a shame that kids nowadays have to go and fight," he says.

Grandmother Yvonne Hammond says: "No matter what happens, we're proud of him."

MARY LOSIER'S son David (in photos) is on standby with the Royal Canadian Regiment's First Battalion at Canadian Forces Base London to go to the Persian Gulf.

Daily Sentinel Review

January 18 1991

# Offroad racer on right track

By KAREN VINKE

David Loveridge knows what he'll probably get this Christmas. A bad cold.

Loveridge will spend the holiday season in a dark, unheated garage, building a car.

Not just any car. This is a 60-horsepower, VW engine offroad racer, with just enough room to seat the driver, and enough shock absorbers to lessen the impact of 90-degree-plus drift turns and unexpected "jumps" in the dirt-road race track.

"It's a little bit of a maniac sport," Loveridge admitted.

He'll never forget his first race in "liquid mud" two years ago. He won. "That's why I went into the sport!"

There are three offroad racing categories: Challenger, 1-2-1600 and Class 10. Challenger is entry level racing, meaning no internal modifications may be done to the engine.

"It's really meant for people to get into offroad racing without spending all sorts of money," said Loveridge,

a co-op student in Electronics Control at Fanshawe College. He bought his Challenger racer from Don Simmons, also of Ingersoll, for \$1,000. Repairs brought the price tag up to \$2,000. Loveridge went into two more weekend competitions during the summer of 1986, winning two firsts and one second place.

He spent last Christmas working on the racer to prepare for the 1987 season. He only finished two races. After placing first in the second race, the engine seized. Still, he placed third overall in the Ontario Association of Offroad Racers in 1987, Challenger class.

"Mind you, there aren't a lot of people in the class," Loveridge said.

But there are about 100 competitors in the 1-2-1600 class, with 15 to 20 cars on the track during a race. When the track itself is only 20 feet wide, "it gets pretty tight in there."

Since May Loveridge has been building his own 1-2-1600 racer. With the help of Simmons, Loveridge designed the car to fit his own needs. He thinks that'll be his leading edge as he goes for the Ontario championship next season. As an electronics student, he believes that engineering is a big part of racing. In the end it's

the car that wins the race.

Loveridge can modify the 1-2-1600 engine, although it has to remain a VW. There's no limit on shock absorbers. A racer costs anywhere from \$10,000 to \$15,000, due to the number of custom parts from California.

It'll cost Loveridge about \$8,000, because he's building it. His brother is also supplying him with random parts, and lets him use the garage on King Street West free of charge.

The car is aptly named "Over-time." Loveridge works a lot of overtime at Ingersoll Machine and Tool, where he works as a co-op student until January, in order to pay for the car. He also works on it all the time. Including Christmas.

"It's a labour of love really. I'm absolutely fanatical about it."

Loveridge is looking for sponsorship to help defray costs of the weekend races, and to bring advertising to the event. Right now about 500 people come out to watch at Bingemon Park in Kitchener, but he thinks a lot more would come out if they knew how much fun the races are to watch.

"The atmosphere at a race is so satisfying," he said.

INGERSOLL TIMES

December 9, 1987

# Town men to compete in Jeep Cup off-road rally

This year Ingersoll will be represented in the AMC-sponsored Jeep Cup, an off-road rally series for four-wheel drive vehicles, in Reno, Nevada.

Harry Pressey will drive and Martin Loveridge, who owns Indel Controls in Ingersoll, will navigate in the rally scheduled for Aug. 27 to Aug. 30. Contestants will compete in identically equipped 1988 Jeeps supplied through the competition for the title of North American four by four Rally Champion.

Loveridge and Pressey became eligible for the all-expense paid trip to Reno when they placed third in a regional rally in Varney, 25 kilometres north of Mount Forest. Loveridge described this four-hour event as a "competition of getting through and keeping on time." The course took drivers over gravel

roads and trails and through swamps. Loveridge blamed their inability to get a lower time score on the inadequacies of their vehicle, a 1986 Suzuki Samurai.

"We'd have done better if we'd had more horsepower," Loveridge said. "We couldn't get up the hills."

Loveridge said he has been involved in rallying for 10 years, seriously for the past five. He and his usual driving partner, Ingersoll's Doug Klein, took the Ontario Road Rally Cup Series in the novice class in 1984 and first place in the clubman class in 1985.

"I enjoy motor sport," Loveridge said. "It is a moderately cheap form of entertainment that is safe and very challenging."

In order that the competition is equal there is no vehicle preparation allowed for the Jeep Cup but

Loveridge said they may get a topographical map to study the Reno terrain. The event will run through the mountains.

Loveridge thinks they stand a fair chance against the more experienced American drivers at the Cup.

"Canadians generally do well against the American drivers because we are used to the bad roads," Loveridge said. "We're going to work like the devil to do well."

INGERSOLL TIMES

August 3, 1987

# MEMORIES OF NINETY GOOD YEARS IN INGERSOLL HAPPILY RECALLED

Her fingers flitted over the piano keys. The touch was sure, rhythmic and sensitive.

"I learned that piece of music over 70 years ago when I was in college," remarked Mrs. J. D. Macdonald of Thames Street in Ingersoll as she turned, smiling. Mrs. Macdonald, 90, is the widow of Dr. Macdonald, well-known and revered Ingersoll doctor who perished in the great flood of 1937. The doctor was driving to aid victims of a train derailment east of Ingersoll at the time the Thames River went on its last deadly rampage in this area.

Deep waters swirled over the road. These same waters had cut away the roadbed of the railway, causing the derailment.

Dr. Macdonald took a chance. Driving his car into the muddy water, his vehicle dropped into a washout.

Mrs. Macdonald, a gracious elderly lady, retains all her faculties apart from slight deafness, even to the point of reading without eyeglasses.

Born on Duke Street, Ingersoll, she has lived here all her life. Her memories of the town are a mixture of pleasant remembrances and amusing incidents. Her conversation is peppered with the names of persons whose deeds are written into the history of the town but whom she knew as her contemporaries.

## NINETY YEARS

Married to a doctor, the sister of a doctor and a charter member of the Alexandra Hospital Auxiliary, Mrs. Macdonald has lived close to the births and deaths, the joys and sorrows and the victories and disappointments of the people of Ingersoll for the greatest part of a century.

Early days in Ingersoll were, according to Mrs. Macdonald, ones in which the "young ladies" of the community occupied themselves with acquiring an education studying music, learning the art of fine sewing and embroidery or assisting their mothers in entertaining at the popular afternoon teas.

Afternoon teas were one of the main modes of social exchange in the turn-of-the-century era and the ladies of the community lost no opportunity to get dressed up in their fanciest dresses, don their wide-brimmed plumed hats and shade themselves under dainty parasols as they strolled to the event.

The ice rink of the day was located on King Street West and many were the skating parties or sleighriding socials. Skirts were long -- very long -- then,

(Continued on Page 4)



MRS. J. D. MACDONALD, 90, AT HER PIANO

but Mrs. Macdonald remarked that, being accustomed to the yards of fabric swirling about their ankles, the girls managed to keep the sharp, angular skates clear of the voluminous folds.

Skating parties were colorful affairs with the girls dressed in costumes of velvet -- royal blue, forest green and claret red. Soft fur trim enhanced the outfits and the chic young miss often dangled a muff from a wrist loop.

After skating it was back to the residence of one of the young people for hot cocoa and a plate of the home made cookies and little cakes, with each household trying to outdo the other in the variety and daintiness of the fare.



**MRS MACDONALD  
AS A GIRL**

**FIRST PARTY**

Mrs. Macdonald recalled with a gentle smile her first party dress of pink taffeta. It was for one of the then-popular dances held in the town hall.

Young ladies of those days went to dances or parties with "beaux" -- but a chaperone accompanied them. The chaperone usually was a maiden aunt or widowed friend of the family.

It was a rather nice arrangement, Mrs. Macdonald recalls, for it gave the "unattached" and therefore somewhat lonely women of the community a chance to enjoy some of the festivities.

Parties at the Noxon home -- later to become the residence of Dr. MacKay were the talk of early Ingersoll, recalls this grand old lady. "We would dance in the big ballroom and there would be a stringed orchestra and all the women in such beautiful gowns and the men looking so elegant in their suits with the cutaway coats and starched shirts.

As the old Noxon home became Alexandra Hospital, coming from a "medical" family, Mrs. Macdonald took great interest in the progress of the new venture.

Her brother, Dr. James B. Coleridge and her husband, Dr. Macdonald, were on the medical staff -- her brother since the hospital's opening in 1909.

Mrs. Macdonald recalled the enthusiasm of the Women's Auxiliary to the young Alexandra Hospital and their efforts in the raising of funds.

For one particular dance in aid of the hospital, held in the town hall, the Auxiliary decided it would be a paper dress dance.

Crepe paper was ordered from New York. Dresses were created in a rainbow of colors and styles. The event drew a capacity crowd and the Auxiliary gained a substantial sum towards their projects of hospital needs and looking after the housing of student nurses.

**UP WITH THE WORLD**

For all her looking with fond and happy eyes at the past, Mrs. Macdonald by no means lives in the past.

She is a woman who has made the transition through all the style changes from bustle to mini skirt and from horse drawn taxi carriage to today's streamlined car.

Of the mini skirt, Mrs. Macdonald has this to say, "Short skirts make a lot of sense. They are comfortable."

Mrs. Macdonald also goes to the defence of today's young people. "I don't see why so many people are getting so excited about today's young people. They are no different than they were when I was young -- the only difference is they express themselves differently.

"Every generation goes through the phase when they rebel against the standards set by adults -- it just happens that the current generation is a little noisier about it. Twenty years from now they will

be complaining because their children are rebelling against them. The kids are all right!."

Mrs. Macdonald is the proud mother of two -- Helen who is an employee at the local post office and Donald who is the head doctor at Polymer, Sarnia.



# MackKay and McComb citizens of year

By **PHYLLIS COULTER**  
of **The Sentinel-Review**

INGERSOLL — Gail MacKay, principal of Victory Memorial School, and Rev. Roger McComb of St. James Anglican Church have been chosen as the Ingersoll Canadian Legion Citizens of the Year.

The joint winners were announced Thursday.

MackKay, chairman of the indoor pool fund-raising committee, along with other committee members, has used almost every thinkable approach to raising funds for the project. The small team has raised more than \$175,000 in pledges and donations.

MackKay also has a long-time involvement with the Ingersoll Pipe Band, and is a former chairman of the parking committee. He has been involved in many community activities over a number of years.

Rev. McComb is probably best known in his roles as a teacher at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute, and as assistant to Canon Tom Griffin at St. James Anglican Church.

He is also the chaplain for the Ingersoll Police Department, and writes a weekly newspaper column.

The two winners will be honored at the Royal Canadian Legion's Ingersoll Citizen of the Year banquet on May 2.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR  
AWARD  
(Royal Can Legion)  
McComb, Roger

SENTINEL REVIEW

April 18, 1987

# McCombe, MacKay outstanding citizens

By TIM GARDNER

Gail MacKay and the Rev. Roger W. McCombe are Ingersoll's Outstanding Citizens for 1987.

Officials at the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 119, made the announcement last week.

MacKay is principal of Victory Memorial School and chairman of Ingersoll's Proposed Indoor Pool Fund. McCombe is a Latin teacher at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute and an Anglican minister.

"I was taken aback (by the decision)," MacKay said. "You always figure that someone else has done more for the community than you have."

"It's a humbling experience, really," McCombe said. "I know so many people in the community who

have done so many little things behind the scenes who often don't get recognized. Maybe there should be an unsung hero award."

A banquet to honor the two men will be May 2 at the Legion.

The annual Outstanding Citizen of the Year award is sponsored by Branch 119 of the Royal Canadian Legion. Candidates are nominated by the public and are judged on such things as the amount and nature of the community work they do, their profile and standing in the community and what church groups, service clubs or fund raising organizations they belong to.

MacKay, 46, has lived in Ingersoll all his life and an elementary school principal for 25 years. He has been principal at VMS for three years.

He is currently chairman of the in-

door pool committee. For six years in the 1970's, he was a member of the Ingersoll Parking Authority and was chairman for four of those years. He is a past master of St. John's 68 of the Masonic Lodge and is still a lodge member. MacKay has also been a member of the Ingersoll Pipe Band for 35 years. He is now a drum major and gives free lessons to help keep the band going.

MacKay has also canvassed in the past for the Cancer Society, the Heart Fund and almost anything anyone has asked him to canvass for, he said. He even was a fund raiser for the Ingersoll District Memorial Centre when he was still a high school student in the mid 1950's.

"I've obviously been in the forefront lately because of my involvement with the pool committee," MacKay said, when

asked why he thought he may have won the award. "Also a lot of people know me through school."

"I've always been a booster of Ingersoll," MacKay said. "It's a great place to live and will be in the future. It's a good stable community with good services, a viable main street and friendly people. The new indoor pool is something the community has needed for a long time."

McCombe, 43, was born in Lindsay, Ontario, and has lived in Ingersoll for 12 years. He taught high school for two years in Lindsay, five years in Espanola, and lectured one year at Laurentian University in Sudbury. He has taught Latin, World Religion and Classical Civilizations at IDCI since 1975.

McCombe is a member of the Ingersoll Kiwanis Club and was the club president in 1982-83. He has also

been on Alexandra Hospital's board of trustees eight years this June, and was chairman from 1983-85. In 1980 McCombe was chairman of the Ingersoll Cheese and Wine Festival. Since 1985 he has been chaplain for the Ingersoll Police Force.

Besides being a teacher, McCombe was made a deacon in the Anglican Church in 1971 and ordained a priest in 1974. He has never had his own church but has filled in for priests at St. James' Anglican Church and was a temporary minister at Trinity United Church in late 1984 and early 1985. He preaches regularly at churches throughout the area as a guest minister.

He has conducted retreats for young people and old people alike for both Anglican and United Churches and just a few months ago he preached his first sermon at First Baptist Church on Thames Street South.

"I like to think I won the award because of my involvement with people, either in school, church or whatever in the community," McCombe said. "I'm not sure of the criteria for the award, but what I do enjoy and that's reward enough."

Both MacKay and McCombe are married. Gail and Marlene MacKay have four children, Rob, Kimberly, Tracy and Danny.

Roger and Gloria McCombe have two sons, Warren, 17, and Ryan, 13.

"I don't do things for any glory but winning the award makes you feel that people do appreciate you for what you do do," MacKay said.

"It was very nice of somebody to have nominated me," McCombe said. "One of my philosophies of life is involvement with people. When that's noticed, everything in this crazy world doesn't seem to be in vain."



Gail MacKay, left, and the Rev. Roger W. McCombe, were named Ingersoll's Outstanding Citizens for 1987 last week. Branch 119 of the Royal Canadian Legion selected the recipients.

Ingersoll Times  
April 22, 1987

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD  
(Royal Canadian Legion)  
McCombe, Roper

INGERSOLL LEGION'S ANNUAL AWARD

# MackKay and McCombe share citizen honors

By PHYLIS COUTER  
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — At a public meeting about the future of the Ingersoll Old Town Hall, or construction of a new subdivision, or parking problems, or especially about a new indoor pool, Gail MacKay will be there.

He attends community meetings just to keep in touch with what is happening in his home town.

"I just like to know what is going on here," says MacKay in way of explanation of his community-minded approach to life.

MacKay, named 1987 Citizen of the Year by the Ingersoll branch of the Royal Canadian Legion will be honored with co-winner Rev. Roger McCombe at a banquet tomorrow night at the legion hall.

"It was a complete surprise," MacKay said of the award.

The principal of Victory Memory School has been in the profession for a quarter century. He worked in Tillsonburg, Beachville, and Ingersoll during that time.

He stays here because he simply likes the area, especially the town of Ingersoll.

"I think Ingersoll is a great place. I have always said that. It's not too big. It's friendly. It has everything here you need. Except an indoor pool," he quips.

MacKay makes the pitch for his pet project every time he gets a chance.

As chairman of the pool fundraising committee, he has been interested in the subject for years. He recalls a plebiscite in the 1970's which turned down the idea, saying the town could not afford it.

MacKay says some conditions have changed since then. The Maude Wilson Memorial Pool was in a better state of repair then. And there is an expected increase in population now.

"It (an indoor pool) was a frill," Not anymore, MacKay says. When Rethink Inc. did a needs survey in the 1980's it determined an indoor pool was needed.

Although the report was controversial because of its relatively low number of responses, MacKay believes its determination on this point is the right one.

The committee has collected \$175,000 in cash and pledges to date. "We are whittling away at \$1 million. Whittling is the right word."

MacKay is encouraged by town council's apparently more positive towards response to the project recently.

He hopes to get more financial support for the pool from industries. However, he admits that committee members who often work the same hours and their industry contacts, have not communicated enough to get many donations — yet.

Although MacKay has become high profile to more people as chairman of the pool fundraising committee lately, he has been well known in other circles for years.

His involvement with the Ingersoll Pipe Band dates back 35 years.

The drum major is proud to point out that his three oldest children, Rob, Kim, and Tracy have shown the same interest.

Danny, the MacKay's (Gail and Mariene) youngest is in Grade 4 at Princess Elizabeth Public School, and still has plenty of time to follow the family interest in the pipeband.

MacKay is also past master of St. John's Masonic Lodge, and was active in the parking authority.

He was a member of several other town committees including the former Ingersoll Cheese and Wine Festival committee.

MacKay does not expect this town to change dramatically when CAMI Automotive Inc. comes on stream. "I think the town will be basically the same when people get integrated through social functions."

He expects the biggest change to his favorite town to be a cosmetic one. Whatever the changes, MacKay will

be there at the meetings and social gatherings to see what happens next.

## McCombe's very likable

INGERSOLL — Not very many young people can say they were married by their high school teacher. Some students of Rev. Roger McCombe can.

McCombe in his dual role as a high school teacher and minister married several of his former students. In one year also he wedded 40 couples, some of them graduates from his classroom.

"You know them. It's very personal," he says.

In another role, that of Ingersoll police chaplain, McCombe wedded one of the police officers in this town.

Ingersoll is one of the few small towns with a police chaplain. An Ontario Police Chaplain Association exists, but its members are few and far between.

Town of Ingersoll Police Chief Bruce Richards welcomed a chaplain here because he had seen how well it could work elsewhere.

McCombe is impressed and intrigued with the whole process. He enjoys contributing what he can for the police force here, but says he would like to give them more time.

McCombe has shared his time with others as a priest in charge at countless Anglican churches and interim minister at several United Churches.

Since being made a deacon in 1971 and being ordained as a priest in the Anglican Church in 1974, he has never been a full-time priest, but fills in as needed.

He often leads a congregation through a transition from a former minister to a new one. He introduces some changes and asserts his own personality. This makes it easier for the congregation to accept the new minister, he says.

McCombe considers his job as a minister to be another form of teaching different in some ways from his classroom teaching.

McCombe has been a teacher for more than two decades including a stint at Laurentian University. Today, he teaches world religion, classical

civilizations and latin.

He isn't worried about being out of a job as a latin teacher. Although the subject is not required for medical or law studies today, students are still signing up for his class.

There is a Latin revival in the United States, he says in an optimistic tone. Maybe it will continue to grow and migrate to this country as well, he suggests.

His writing in English, not Latin is more well known.

Admittedly, few local people have read his book, *The Theology of Humour*, written about his experiences in northern Ontario for the people there.

But many are more familiar with his weekly columns *Unoriginally Speaking* where he showers his readers with verbal food for thought.

In addition to his own findings, McCombe gathers ideas and stories from his students and friends to use in his column.

He is no stranger to the journalism. McCombe edited the newspaper for the Algoma Anglican Diocese which had a circulation of 10,000. He even carried on the task for almost a year once he came to Ingersoll.

## AND BESIDES

In addition to his regular routine, McCombe is a member of the Kiwanis Club

and has been on Alexandra Hospital's the board of trustees for eight years.

McCombe and his wife Gloria have two sons, Warren and Ryan.

McCombe jointly with Gail MacKay has been named Citizen of the Year by the Ingersoll branch of the Canadian Legion.

They will be honored at a special awards banquet at the Ingersoll Legion, tomorrow at 6 p.m., and their photographs will be hung at the Legion with past winners.

Although having his photograph on the wall beside other great citizens is an honor, it means more to McCombe to be part of the wedding photographs and memories of former students.

SENIOR REVIEW  
May 1, 1987

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS  
(Royal Canadian Legion)  
McCombe, Roger

# Teacher, preacher, editor. Roger McCombe does it all.

By PEGGIE GRAHAM  
Sentinel-Review staff writer

INGERSOLL—Roger McCombe can be aptly described as a modern Renaissance man.

Not only is he the only full-time classics teacher in Oxford County, he also wears two other hats, those of Anglican priest and newspaper editor.

McCombe came to Ingersoll four years ago with wife Gloria and sons Warren, 8 and Ryan 5. He teaches classical studies at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute, a career he began by chance.

When McCombe, a Lindsay native, was a theology student at the University of Toronto he received a call for help from his former high school principal. The principal had a Latin class and no teacher because of a late cancellation. McCombe took a year off from his studies and discovered teaching.

After finishing his degree, McCombe moved to Espanola where he spent five years. He has never had a full-time parish but during his northern stay he took over as editor of the Algoma Anglican, a position he still holds.

The monthly newspaper, with a circulation of 10,000, serves the Algoma diocese. The materials are all sent to McCombe. He writes editorials, does layout, paste-up, writes headlines and delivers the paper to Brampton for printing. He has opted to end his tenure as editor in June.

In a recent interview, McCombe said he enjoys teaching and will stay with it as long as he's happy. He does a lot of supply work in parishes around Oxford and says he seems to be able to do both.

Latin and classics have declined in popularity with students over the last few years and the teacher-cum-priest-cum-editor doesn't foresee any great increase in numbers in the future.

One reason, he said, is students are looking for more practical studies. But, he feels Latin fits into that category. "Greece is famous for its brains, Rome for its drains," he said.

A new program out of Cambridge, England, is taking a

more practical approach to Latin studies, concentrating on the daily life of the Romans.

"They've realized at last the Romans were people and they talked this language," he said.

McCombe has 120 classics students at IDCI. Their studies range from learning the basic Greek alphabet to classical civilizations and world religions.

The classical civilizations include philosophy, architecture, mythology, archeology, sports, the cultural aspects of the ancient world and how they apply to the present.

"The real value is in the heritage it passes on," McCombe added.

Due to declining school enrolments classics is considered more of a frill course he said, adding wryly: "I might liken that to another dark ages and, following that another Renaissance, because of its intrinsic value."

He feels classics have to be sold now for their own sake, although he admits numbers will probably never be great because of the current thinking of society.

"I don't think classics are just for the elite," McCombe added.

He cited a program in Philadelphia where Latin has been taught to students in Grades 4, 5 and 6. The pupils have all progressed rapidly in reading.

If students pick up some knowledge of English derivatives at the same time, it's good, but Latin still has a value of its own, he said.

And he thinks world religions fit into a study of classics as well.

McCombe said he enjoys teaching the course from a theological background and notes what he terms as a quest today for some type of security.

"Very often kids grow up with only their particular facet of religion."

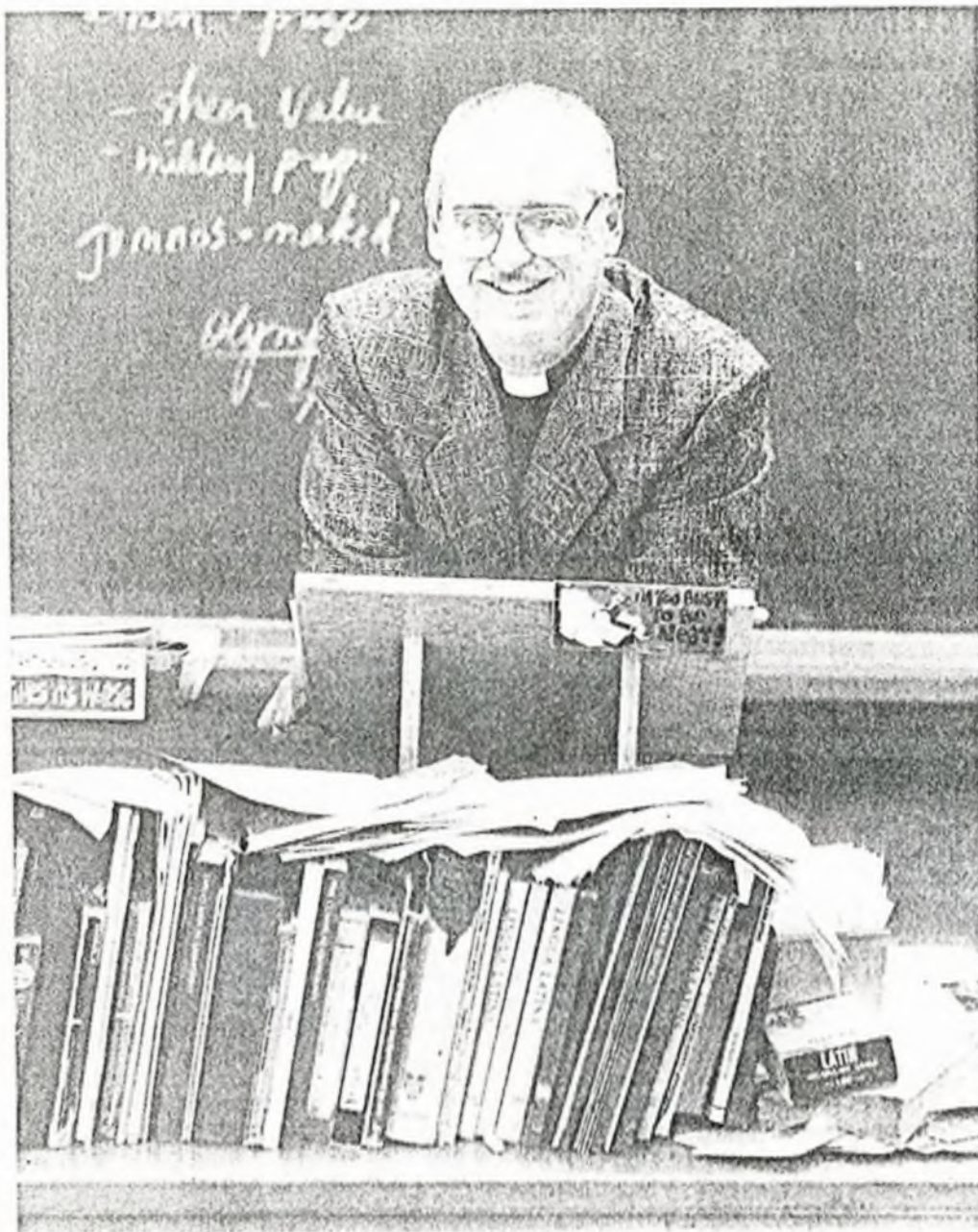
The value of the course is in exposing students to other and philosophies, including the established churches, scientology and personality cults.



— Staff photo

ROGER McCOMBE in class at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute.

SENTINEL-REVIEW  
January 29, 1979



MORRIS LAMONT LONDON FREE PRESS

By Clifford Elford

**S**TUDENTS CALL HIM Uncle Rog, an affectionate title which ROGER McCOMBE says he's grown to respect. The nickname is just one indication of the high regard students have for him.

His caring and personal approach has surprisingly made Classics — Latin, world religions and classical civilizations — one of the most popular courses at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute.

A man of many hats, he also fills in as temporary cleric at area churches, serves as chaplain for the Ingersoll police department and writes a column for several community newspapers. As an ordained Anglican priest, his close association with students often lasts long after graduation. He has performed as many as 30 weddings a year for former students.

The role of a teacher, he says, is to inspire students to think and to explore their humanity. Perhaps that explains his intensely intimate teaching style. "When you open yourself up to the kids the way I do, it's a risk," he admits. But it's clearly a risk both he and his students consider worthwhile. *Know anybody you think should be recognized for making a positive contribution to the community? Write to us at Encounter, Box 5879, London, Ont. N6A 4H6.*

## Local minister is editor of Church News



A local minister and high school teacher has been named editor of the *Huron Church News*.

Rev. Roger McCombe, who is also a columnist in *The Ingersoll Times*, succeeds Rev. Canon Geoffrey Dibbs who retires Dec. 31.

"I'm looking forward to it," McCombe said.

The Lindsay native has taught Latin, World Religions and Classical Civilizations at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute since 1975. He is also chaplain to the Ingersoll Police Force. Although never a full-time priest of the Anglican Church since being ordained in 1974, McCombe has been priest in charge of several parishes.

He has some experience at editing as former editor of the *Algoma Anglican*, from 1972-79.

However, he noted that newspaper had a circulation of between 8,000 and 10,000, while the *Church News* has a circulation of 25,000.

"I have some experience, especially with deadlines," McCombe said. "I'd like to try it again, take a stab at it."

He expects to initially learn more about the diocese the newspaper serves which is very extensive. "There won't be many changes (to the newspaper) for a little while."

As he takes on this new responsibility, McCombe plans to continue teaching part-time.

"I'm not going to leave Ingersoll," he said.

Ingersoll Times  
December 12 1990

# Former resident publishes inside off-ice hockey story

McCONNELL,  
Douglas

BY BRIAN SMITH

Douglas McConnell, in town for a couple of weeks to visit his parents who reside here, has published a book on hockey and covered sporting events across the continent for the Phoenix Gazette. A former winner of the Ontario

Sportswriter's Award, Mr. McConnell now lives in Arizona, but he began his journalism career right here in Ingersoll.

His book, "There's More to Hockey", published in 1971, portrays action off the ice as well as on. One reviewer called it a toned-down family version of Jim Bouton's racy book on baseball entitled "Ball Four".

In Canada, people grow up with hockey, but down in Arizona, some of the most enthusiastic hockey fans are the ones who never saw a game until they were older. I wrote this book to show them that there is more to hockey than what they see on the ice," said Mr. McConnell.

In an interview with The Times, Douglas McConnell

began to trace his career in the sports world.

"When I was in grade eight I won the Western Ontario Conference record for the 100 yard dash, but couldn't outrun my mother at 75 yards. My mother Della is a natural athlete, and I guess I picked up my interest in sports from her.

Y'know she's got more bowling trophies than anyone I've met reminisced Doug as he began to trace his career in the sports world.

After the McConnell family moved to Ingersoll in 1953, Doug became involved with the local Y.M.C.A. teen programs and Yvonne (Bonnie) Holmes Mott then a writer for the Woodstock Sentinel Review and also a "Y" director asked him if he would like to write a weekly column about teenagers.

"I was coerced into writing. I wrote two columns, then Bonnie told me they had already chosen someone to write the columns...my heart sank because I kind of enjoyed writing...then in

her next breath, Bonnie said that writer was going to be me. I accepted without a fight and I've been writing ever since," he said.

Back in the 1950's, the Ingersoll bureau of the Sentinel-Review regularly pasted up four pages of local news every day for

publication according to McConnell.

"This meant going to a lot of service club meetings nearly every night and eating a lot of turkey dinners. I soon became sick of turkey and still can't eat the stuff," he winced.

His honesty resulted in a sour relationship between the clergy and himself. "I covered a speech by Carmen Queen, the local Anglican minister who later became a bishop, and after he had read what I had written, he told me he was amazed at how accurate I had quoted him. Then I really put my foot into my mouth," said Doug. "I told him that he repeated everything in his speech twice, so it was easy to take down what he said. I was only telling the truth,



Former Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute principal J.C. Herbert talks to his former pupil, Douglas McConnell, about McConnell's book "There's More to Hockey". Mr. McConnell, now a resident of Phoenix, Arizona, is a sportswriter for the Phoenix Gazette.

INGERSOLL TIMES  
AUGUST 2/78

(page 1 of 2)

INGERSOLL TIMES  
AUGUST 2, 1978



but he and I didn't seem to get along as well after that."

Winning the senior track and field championships at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute two years in a row, he also continued his writing while organizing and participating in softball and bowling leagues.

After high school, he went to work for the Sarnia Observer, but stayed only two months because of his dislike for police reporting and an editor "who later was committed." He returned to the Sentinel for four years and helped put together three pages every day as a sportswriter.

"I once had an agreement with our publisher over my writing style, and my preference to cover local events instead of using the wire service all the time. He asked if I was writing for him or the man on the street, and I immediately said I was writing for the man on the street. He stepped back, scratched his head then said 'Yeah, I guess you're right.'"

Doug moved to the London Free Press in 1960 and roomed with Pete James, who is now the sportscaster for C.F.P.L. television.

In 1962, he took off for Europe to try his hand at being a foreign sports news correspondent, but after a month of disappointments and a slight case of homesickness he returned to Canada and started working for the Kingston Whig-Standard.

In the late '50s, Mr. McConnell organized a local and inter-city bowling league in Woodstock. He

did the same thing in Kingston in 1964.

In 1968 Mr. McConnell and his staff at the Kingston Whig Standard captured the Ontario Sportswriting Award. Shortly after, he departed and worked for the Hamilton Spectator for six months.

"If you've ever been to Phoenix, then you'll understand why I left Hamilton," he said.

"I arrived in Arizona on Friday, October 20, 1967; went to work at the Phoenix Gazette the next morning, travelled to San Diego to cover a hockey game on Sunday, bought a car on Monday and a house on Tuesday. I've lived in Arizona ever since, and it's the longest I've ever stayed in one place," he said.

His wife, Nita, a creative arts teacher in a Phoenix high school, did very well in beauty contests, holding the title of Miss Phoenix and runner-up to Miss Arizona back in the late 1960's. She shares an interest in sports with her husband and regularly coaches a high school badminton team.

What keeps Mr. McConnell busy these days, now that he's settled in Phoenix?

"I'm always running around either taking my daughter to orchestra practice or my sons to ball practice. The other day I had to fill out some form, and I got to the place where you list your occupation, and guess what I put down?" he countered.

"Chauffeur," he laughed as he rose his grizzly-bear frame and concluded our interview.

SOLDIER OF GOD

# The last Canadian

BY ALLEN ABEL  
Special to The Globe and Mail  
Toronto

SOMETIME in the afternoon of May 4, 1945, in the final hours of Canada's engagement in the European phase of the Second World War, a 27-year-old officer named Albert McCreery, son of an Irish Protestant dairy farmer from Ingersoll, Ont., left his regiment's base camp in northwestern Germany to try to locate wounded Canadian prisoners. The injured men, Captain McCreery told his comrades before he set off, were being abandoned by fleeing Nazi troops. He had to find them.

Another officer went with him. They never came back.

No one knows how Capt. McCreery died. *The Official History of the Canadian Army in the Second World War*, written in 1955, can cite only "circumstances which remain obscure." His body, run through with bullets, was found a few days later in the boggy terrain between the Dutch-German border and the North Sea. (The body of his fellow officer, Lieutenant N. A. Goldie, was not found.) By then, the fighting was, in theory, finished. So it is quite possible that Capt. McCreery was the last Canadian killed in combat in the European war.

He was a chaplain, and he was unarmed.

Albert E. McCreery, padre to the Canadian Grenadier Guards, held the rank of Honorary Captain. He was first buried under a small wooden cross in the Lutheran churchyard in the German hamlet of Wiefelstede west of Bremen. A photograph taken a few weeks later shows Albert's brother, Kenneth, desolate and bewildered, wringing his beret in his hands as he stands by the grave.

Kenneth McCreery had been stationed in England and never had to go into combat. He was celebrating V-E Day, he remembers, on the green in Aldershot, Hampshire, when someone told him his older brother had been reported missing in the war's final action. He can no longer remember where he was when he heard that Albert, a soldier of God, was dead.

The Nazi capitulation in Holland and northwestern Germany was announced by the British Broadcasting Corp. at 8:35 p.m. on May 4. It was to take effect at 8 a.m. the following day. Some Canadian units had seen no fighting for more than a week. But the Grenadier Guards, most of them men from the Montreal area, were still rolling north out of Oldenburg, along with the Lake Superior Scottish Regiment and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Hamilton, Ont. Casualties were being suffered until the hour the Germans quit.

At the front, the cessation of hostilities brought little immediate joy. In *Battle Royal*, the diarist of the Royal Regiment of Canada wrote that the announcement "seemed to leave everyone a little dazed." A high-school history teacher from Ingersoll, Jack Herbert, commanding a company of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, wrote to his wife, simply, "It was

*The final Canadian casualty on European battlefields was very profound. Ingersoll, Ont., a padre to the Canadian Grenadier Guards. Unarmed, he looked for injured soldiers from his homeland*

quite a relief." The chronicle of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada said: "Ticker-tape frenzy does not seize the souls of men who, for a long time, had lived close to death."

The Grenadier Guards, deep in German territory, were more nervous after the surrender than before it. One of them, a non-commissioned officer named Bruce de Cambra, recalls the anxiety: "There were refugees running around, 24 hours a day. Who were they? Friend or foe? Did they know there was a truce, or not? We heard small-arms fire all the time. We didn't get a chance to celebrate. We were never told to stand down. Our weapons were always loaded. We became a self-contained fortress."

On the last afternoon of combat, into this mad marriage of peace and war, Capt. McCreery and Lt. Goldie departed. Sergeant de Cambra remembers that the rest of the brigade was "a little bit skeptical" about the rescue mission. No one else seemed to know the whereabouts of the wounded Canadians. Outside the camp, all was confusion. But Capt. McCreery said he had "received information." He was needed. And so he went.

ON a concession road just north of Ingersoll, Kenneth McCreery hands me a photo of his brother. We're sitting in the living room of a brick house built on farmland that various McCreerys have owned and worked for more than 60 years, give or take the brief span when Ken and his wife Annie tried to make a go of the Aragon Restaurant downtown. The food-service industry, they soon learned, is not for everyone.

In the old curled photograph, Albert is a smooth-cheeked young man in uniform and beret, reclining in a sunny pasture somewhere in England, propped on his right arm, gazing at the camera through wire-rimmed spectacles. A fellow soldier lounges beside him. Perhaps the other man came home alive. Or perhaps he was another of the 11,336 Canadian Army soldiers who died in the campaign to liberate northwest Europe.

The living room is full with McCreerys this day. Kenneth is 73, a wry, gnomish fellow with an untended harvest of hair. He and Annie have invited his two sisters and their husbands to tell me what they remember of Albert. Major Jack Herbert, the former Ingersoll history teacher and high-school principal, has come as well, bringing some of the letters, on blue paper and lovingly folded, that he wrote from the front when he was rumbling through the boglands with the fighting Argylls.

After 50 years, there is solemnity, not grief, and patience with a stranger's curios-



Captain Albert McCreery (right) with a comrade

ity. Eva Baigent, the youngest of the four McCreery children of Albert's generation, recalls how her brother scored 100 per cent on his exams in Latin and Hebrew when he was studying at Toronto Bible College.

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In other lands, the legend of an unarmed Protestant chaplain who became their last hero of a six-year war might be sung by every school child. But not in Canada.

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**SOLDIER OF GOD**

# Last Canadian hero

*an casualty on European battlefields was very probably Albert E. McCreery of  
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Captain Albert McCreery (right) with a comrade in an English field.

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*Canadian Grenadier Guards* by Colonel A. Fortescue Duguid says that he and Lt. Goldie went off "to bring in wounded Germans said to be somewhere on a side road." What actually happened, no one knows.

"His youth and the closeness to the end of the war seem to add to the poignancy of his passing," Major (Hon.) Walter T. Steven wrote in *In This Sign*, a history of the Protestant chaplaincy in the Canadian military. "But perhaps they tie him all the more closely to the many thousands who gave their lives over there."

There are no statues of a Last Canadian Hero. Today, only his relatives and neighbours remember. In the entrance hall of the First Baptist Church in Ingersoll, there are photographs of Capt. McCreery and of four other men from that handsome town who were killed in action. An inscription on a plaque of honour reads:

*We of this place let this of us be said  
That we who live are worthy of our dead  
These gave their lives that we who live  
May reap a richer harvest ere we fall  
asleep*

I have been escorted to the church by Sam Hamilton, who married Margaret McCreery, Albert's other sister. He can't stay long: Sam drives a school bus and the children will soon be out of class and ready for the ride home.

In the silence of the vestibule, Sam points out his own name, and those of his two brothers James and Joseph, now dead, on a roster of Baptist Church members who volunteered for the war. So many

names, from a single house of worship, from a town of a few thousand people.

Fifty years ago, Sam Hamilton was in the Canadian army, rumbling toward the Reich. He was driving a transport truck when one of the Germans' V-2 rockets exploded at the side of the road. It was nasty. But he survived.

Bruce de Cambra of the Grenadier Guards remembers sitting with Albert McCreery not long after the new padre joined the regiment. (It was an honoured unit, formed in Montreal in 1760 from the remnants of the defeated militia of Nouvelle France. The Guards fought with distinction at the Somme, Vimy Ridge and Passchendaele in the First World War.) Mr. de Cambra says Capt. McCreery was "a very quiet guy. He didn't profess to be any big hero. War bothered him. The brainless killing. For what? For what?"

The irony of the death of the Protestant chaplain has stayed with his comrade for 50 years.

"I often wondered about it," Mr. de Cambra says on the telephone from Montreal. "A man of God, out to do good, and this happens. You expect it within the fighting echelons — I mean, if his squad car went over a mine; if he was in a tank crew, or the advance guard. But a man of God who carried no weapons. Why? Of all people, why?"

"Maybe it sounds crazy," says Eva McCreery Baigent, a slim, white-haired woman, dressed in royal blue. "But I guess I didn't accept the idea that he was killed. Anytime I'd see anybody with a beret on, I thought it was him. I always thought he was going to appear. Somewhere. Sometime."

Twenty-five years ago, the McCreerys made a journey of remembrance to Holland. The chaplain's remains had been moved from the Wiefelstede churchyard to a Canadian cemetery on Dutch ground at a place called Holten, east of Apeldoorn. The family visited the grave and took snapshots that now are passed to me, in the living room in the farmhouse on the Ingersoll concession road.

I study a picture of Eva in the Dutch cemetery.

"After seeing his grave and stone," she says, "I stopped having those thoughts that he might come home one day. I must have found peace there."

Albert's father died in 1940. His mother took part in the European trip, posing blankly by her son's headstone with Ken and Eva. She would live until 1986, finding no peace, wondering always what really had happened to her eldest boy.

It is a riddle not likely to be solved; a minor puzzle from the thick-bound annals of death. I ask Ken McCreery if he finds any solace or symbolism in the sacrifice of his brother in the dying hours of the war.

"Last to die or first to die," he says. "Somebody had to be."

*Allen Abel is a Toronto writer.*



CHRISTINE McFARLAND has been chosen as a finalist in the Miss London competition.

## Ingersoll native following her dream

By PHYLIS COULTER  
of The Sentinel-Review

**INGERSOLL** — She's a winner already and it makes her feel like dancing.

Christine McFarland, 19, an Ingersoll native, is a finalist in the Miss London competition to be held Sept. 13, and she has chosen a jazz dance for the talent portion of the competition.

Of 25 young women who entered the contest, McFarland is one of the 12 finalists who were chosen on the basis of interviews.

The Miss London competition is a prestigious event because the winner goes to the Miss Canada competition Oct. 27. When Karen Baldwin, a former Miss London, became Miss Universe, it added further prestige to the local event.

"There are 11 other girls dreaming about the same thing," says McFarland when asked about her goals for the

competition. She is optimistic about her chances but has avoided building her hopes up too much.

The 19-year-old, blue-eyed blond was encouraged to enter the competition by her friends.

### DEMANDING

McFarland is glad she doesn't have a full-time job and is not enrolled in school right now because the rehearsal schedule for the Miss London pageant is very demanding.

She has completed her first year of a general degree at the University of Guelph but has not yet set a career goal. She has decided to take a year off, perhaps go to France as an *au pair*, or find a job while she plans her future career. She has put all such big decisions on hold until after the pageant.

For McFarland, modelling is a hobby, not a career goal. "You may be talented and even be get into an agency but it's very difficult to make modelling

a good career. It's such a chancey thing," she says.

McFarland is auditioning for a modelling agency in October, and has considered a career in fashion merchandising.

It was her modelling instructor at International Top Models in London that handed her the entry forms for the pageant. McFarland simply laughed it off at first, but is already glad she entered.

She only completed the modelling course recently and has already had a couple of jobs. She modeled a bikini for a calendar. It was her first photo shoot and she was very nervous, especially in a bikini.

### TAPED

The bathing suit competition in the pageant is not one of her favorite events either, but she's glad to already have completed the taping portion of the swim suit competition.

The pageant airs live on local television Saturday, but some preliminary portions of the show have already been taped.

The show opens with the 12 girls doing a dance routine and "it's killing me," says McFarland. The extensive rehearsals taking place, combined with the dancing practise she is doing for her own personal talent portion of the competition, take a lot of effort. She says her own dance is smooth in some portions and funny in others.

### PERSONALITY

Although, beauty is important, McFarland emphasizes the importance of personality as well. The girls undergo several interviews and personality is a definite factor in choosing the winner.

"I don't believe that myself or any of the girls in pageant are just faces," McFarland says such pageants are good experience and believes that some people judge their merits unfairly.

SENTINEL  
Reviews

September 8, 1986

McFARLAND, Christine

# Second runner-up in Miss London

By **PHYLLIS COULTER**  
of **The Sentinel-Review**

INGERSOLL — This town's own Christine McFarland was second runner-up in the Miss London pageant.

Earlier this month, the 19 year old became one of 12

finalists from 25 contestants.

The winner and first runner-up of the competition were both London girls: Cindy Stiller and Michelle Sceli.

The experience of being in the pageant, McFarlane says, is certainly worth all the work it takes to prepare for the big event.

The part-time model performed a creative jazz dance for the competition and was rehearsing almost simultaneously for the dances which are part of the Miss London pageant

aired on local television.

As second runner-up, besides having a boost to her part-time interest in modelling, and receiving a bouquet of flowers and a banner, McFarland gets several other gifts.

Her favorite is a pair of skis.

Other presents include: a sweater, sunglasses, a glass basket, chocolates, three-toned gold butterfly earrings, a flannel teddy hair care products and several gift certificates — one to a fitness centre.

As for what's next, McFarland would like to go to France as an *au pair*. She is taking some time off her studies at the University of Guelph to explore other options this year.



Christine McFarland

SENTINEL REVIEW

September 18, 1986

90

90

# Local gal in Miss London pageant

This year, Miss London may very well be a young lady from Ingersoll Christine McFarland, a 19-year-old university student, was recently notified that she had been selected as one of 12 finalists in the Miss London pageant to be held September 13.

"The pageant was advertised quite a while ago," said Christine, "but I wasn't really interested."

Christine only recently completed a modelling course in London, and is not associated with any agency, although she has done some professional modelling for a German hair products manufacturer.

"I had a lot of friends who were urging me to enter," Christine said, "then an agent from International Top Models asked me to go in it."

"Then I had a Toronto photographer who told me that I should enter, that I had just the look they wanted for the pageant," she said.

At that point, Christine decided that she had nothing to lose, and entered her name in the contest, which attracted about 25 competitors from the region.

Of the finalists, only two live outside the City of London -- Christine, and another young lady from near Dorchester.

Things have been falling into place like this all summer, said Christine, who is busy juggling her work schedule with a demanding routine of photo sessions and rehearsals for the pageant.

"I have had so much luck with this," she exclaimed. "It's incredible."

She has had several calls for modelling jobs, and just completed a session for California swimsuit manufacturers.

There is some modelling involved in the pageant schedule as well, with the pageant finalists performing fashion shows at Westmount Mall on September 10 and 11 at 6 pm.

In addition, the Miss London winner receives a modelling contract for work promoting the town as well as sponsor Westmount Mall.

Among a vast range of other prizes are a trip for two to Mexico, and a full-length beaver coat.

The Miss London winner will go on to compete in the Miss Canada pageant later this fall.

Since she was notified on August 20 that she was a finalist, Christine has been attending a rigorous round of rehearsals and tapings.

She has completed her 'profile' taping, in which she talks about her self and her interests, and last week video tapings were shot for the bathing suit competition.

The talent segment will be taped on Friday before the Saturday pageant, and will be shown while the contestants are changing between their stage routines.

For the talent segment, Christine, who has two years of jazz lessons and 3 years of ballet training, will be preparing a dance routine which will be choreographed by a jazz instructor from London.

In all, Christine estimates, there will be some 40 hours of work towards the pageant, not including the time she must find to rehearse her own dance routine.

"It doesn't sound like hard work," Christine said. "But in our bathing



Nineteen-year-old Christine McFarland of Ingersoll, is one of 12 finalists in the 1986 Miss London pageant, and only one of two finalists who reside outside of London. Preparing for the pageant has been fun, but a lot of hard work admitted Christine.

suit taping, we stood around in four inch heels for hours, trying to maintain perfect posture, perfect composure. Your face hurts from smiling."

"It's very draining to prepare for

something like this," she said.

Christine -- a third year student at University of Guelph -- doesn't believe in the notion that pageant contestants are just a pretty face with no brains.

"Most of the girls are very plain," she said. "It's a matter of putting yourself together."

"I saw the girls in the first practice," she said, "then I saw them when they were ready for the bathing suit competition. There was a huge difference."

Christine credits her parents and friends for reassuring her about her height and composure, for her current attitude towards herself. At five foot nine inches, she stands above most of the other girls.

"I've been told that I had good composure, and walked well," said Christine, who commented that often the features that make you awkward as a child become an asset.

On the day of the pageant, the contestants will have time to relax and prepare for the live part of the show, which will be televised by CKCO-TV.

Although the girls have sponsors to prepare their hair and makeup, Christine hopes to have Ingersoll's own Tony and Gus style her hair for the event, as they have been doing in the past.

Saturday event will include the presentation of awards for the bathing suit and talent contests, and will also feature a mini-fashion show of fashions from the mall.

Judging of the taped events will be completed before Saturday evening, and four finalists will be chosen from the group.

The finalists will be judged on their responses to an impromptu question, and the winner selected, Christine explained.

Christine admits she still can't believe that she is a part of the pageant -- that she has made it this far.

"I'm learning a lot, and making a lot of friends among the girls at the pageant," she said. "I sometimes wonder how I got in."

"The only difference with me is that people encouraged me, and I tried it."

Ingersoll Times  
September 10, 1986

# Modelling for the fun of it

By KAREN VINKE

## "Cutesy look" pays off

World-famous fashion designer Wayne Clark hands a pair of shoes and a dress to Ingersoll model Christine McFarland. The four inch spikes are too high, the size eight gown is too small.

McFarland could see herself slide off the polished runway into the arms of hundreds of spectators, split seams and all. Luckily nothing like that happened. In fact, she got flowers from people in the audience instead, and a photo taken at the show is still used in fashion spreads and magazines in Canada.

Working for Wayne Clark is one of the highlights of McFarland's brief modelling career - or, as she prefers to call it, her modelling hobby - even though she didn't get paid for it. The show was held in Woodstock in October, and also featured the work of designers Mariola Mayer and Linda Lundstrum.

A few weeks ago she appeared in the London Free Press, modelling jewellery, again without pay. "It's just exposure," said McFarland.

As for dresses that are too small, she said that's typical in live fashion. The designer only brings one sample of one outfit. It's up to the model to fit into it.

"You suck it in and move it around!"

The 20-year-old started to model in late 1986 almost on a dare from friends at the University of Guelph, where she was a first-year student.

"A lot of people challenged me into it," said McFarland.

She took a one-and-a-half month crash modelling course that summer that taught her make-up, skin care, runway modelling, and how to handle interviews. "A lot of it, at this level, you do it on your own," said McFarland.

She's been busy ever since. "My best stuff is the cutesy stuff," said McFarland. "I've had several jobs because of my smile."

On the other hand, she said high fashion modelling is out. She blames it on her fat lower lip.

"You have to utilize your look."

Her look is one reason McFarland prefers to keep her modelling a hobby. Although she's been told she could model full-time in Toronto, she doesn't want to quit school. "That would cut me off too much."

After taking a year off last year, McFarland is now in the second year of a general arts program at Guelph.

On the other hand, there's little chance she'd be successful if she modelled full-time after university. "I may be over the hill by then."

When she isn't studying or modelling, McFarland works in a beer store in Guelph to make ends meet. She worked at the brewer's Retail in town this past summer.

Although she may earn a bit modelling - for instance, she earned \$50 an hour modelling for a poster for the upcoming Western Sports Fair - McFarland said she'll be happy if she can just cover expenses.

"You have to update your portfolio constantly," she said. A recent photo session cost her \$60. The initial modelling course costs at least a few hundred dollars, depending on the agency, she added.



Christine McFarland

McFarland is hoping some jobs in Toronto may help her out financially. Her modelling agency in Guelph, Esprit, recently expanded into the Toronto market.

McFarland was originally with the London International modelling agency, before it went out of business. As clients call with requests, the agency places the model who best suit the job.

At first McFarland's lack of experience put her at the lower end of the waiting list. She had to go out and find assignments on her own, most of them with no pay.

She doesn't mind, though. Getting her own jobs makes her feel more independent and less like "something to be rented." Of course, the agency has to know about all her outside jobs, said McFarland.

She tries not to tell too many people about her modelling. "They think you're bragging about it." People can get jealous, too. At some school events, or even for a class, McFarland notices other girls trying to outdress her or to wear more makeup.

"If they didn't know I was a model, they wouldn't think I'm any different," said McFarland.

In fact, just about anyone can do it, she said. There's a huge demand for models, and clients are looking for all sorts of different looks. "I see people walking in downtown Ingersoll," said McFarland.

INGERSOLL  
TIMES  
December 30, 1987

# Artisan creates with family

By KIMBERLEY HUTCHINSON

'Calico and Pine' is a hobby business for the multi-talented McGaw family of Ingersoll, and wood artisan Les McGaw is quick to point out that they don't practise their crafts to make money, but for the satisfaction of the work.

Les manufactures children's toys, shelves and decorative woodwork in his basement shop, and wife Carolyn produces beautifully appliqued quilts and delicately smocked children's clothing from her own original designs.

Les and Carolyn's daughter Karen Shier inherited the creativity of her parents, and has launched her own small business specializing in the design of bridal, christening and special occasion gowns.

For Les McGaw, woodworking is "just a hobby" he has been dabbling in for about ten years.

He works mainly in the winter months, preferring motorcycle touring to working in his basement shop when the weather is sunny and warm.

The children's blackboard and art easels that have become one of Calico and Pine's big sellers had humble beginnings, when Mr. McGaw's tiny grandson was frustrated with cheap, mass-produced greenboards that wouldn't take a chalk mark.

He figured that with the woodworking tools he had in the basement, he could surely make a better blackboard for young Nicholas, and the sturdy pine easel was born.

"We know it's kid-proof, because it's been tested," Mr. McGaw laughed. Nicholas has since become the chief product tester for his grandfather's handiwork, but the pine easel remains a firm favorite.

"The blackboards are the main thing," Mr. McGaw said, "but I work away at shelves and other little things."

The hours per week spent in the workshop vary according to what the weather is like, what else there is to do, or whether Mr. McGaw has any special projects on the go.

He is just completing a set of oak furniture pieces for his son, including a custom stereo component cabinet, with matching coffee and endtables.

"There are lots of people doing what I'm doing," he said. "Woodworking is a popular hobby."

He disclaims the notion that his meticulously crafted products require great skill and equipment.

"The average person could make these things with \$100 worth of tools," he said. "But there would be a lot of handwork."

Although Mr. McGaw has no training in woodworking, he noted that he recalled that he put into practice much of what he learned in



Ingersoll hobbyist Les McGaw produces hand-crafted pine blackboard easels, and a variety of wooden toys

highschool, and picked up some techniques of the trade from his father-in-law, who was a trim carpenter in Woodstock for many years.

Back in the days when he was a trim carpenter, he would make the kitchen cupboards, instead of just hanging pre-fabricated ones like they do today, Mr. McGaw noted. A trim carpenter creates all the fine woodworking details in a house.

Mr. McGaw has also picked up skills and ideas from people he has talked to or seen at work, and he keeps a copy of a high school shop manual on the shelf near his equipment.

Although the popular blackboard easels are constructed of sturdy pine, which is easy to work with and relatively inexpensive, Mr. McGaw most enjoys working with oak, which has a beautiful grain and color when finished.

All of the woods used in his creations are purchased locally. Oak and walnut are available right in Ingersoll, and he doesn't work with exotic woods.

At this time of year, Mr. McGaw finds that he must spend a few more hours of his evenings and weekends in the shop after he returns home

from his job as bindery foreman at Barney Printing in Woodstock.

Calico and Pine put together a show for several small craft events in the autumn, and both Les and Carolyn often find themselves with several Christmas orders.

"We really like to do the smaller craft shows," said Mr. McGaw. "They give you a chance to see what everyone else is doing in their basement."

Although they have tried some larger craft shows, Les and Carolyn agree that they don't like the feeling of being lost in the masses.

"For our kind of stuff," he said, "The smaller shows are better."

Although he must compete for business against established artisans who make woodworking their sole business, Mr. McGaw explains that he doesn't try to undercut their prices, but to keep his on a par with those in the business.

The Calico and Pine blackboard easels are big sellers, and Carolyn's quilts often sell out at the shows.

Mr. McGaw dabbles with whatever inspiration suggests to him in other projects. A detailed bi-wing airplane failed the Nicholas test when it wouldn't fly, but was a hit with a buyer at a craft show.

Children's pull toys are often fashioned out of odds and ends of wood, and in the workshop now, a lively wooden snake slithers along the floor on a gently eccentric wheel.

"But there are a lot of people around making beautiful things," Mr. McGaw insists. "And I guess they all do it for the same reasons I do. They do it for the satisfaction it gives them."

"You look at it and it has one crooked leg, but you can say I made that."



## Esther MacIntosh turns 90



Esther MacIntosh turned 90 surrounded by her family and friends Sunday. Here, she poses with, from left: granddaughter Lori MacIntosh of Ingersoll, great-granddaughter Catashia Dunn of Ingersoll, great-granddaughter Britany MacIntosh of St. Catharines and grandson Scott MacIntosh of Ingersoll. (Liz Dadson photo)

Surrounded by family and friends, Esther MacIntosh turned 90 on Sunday.

The Ingersoll resident was born and raised in the Durham area, the daughter of Lachlan and Eliza McLean.

She taught for 11 years in Grey County before marrying Art MacIntosh on Aug. 16, 1933 and moving to Dornoch. Three years later they moved to just north of Verschoyle where they farmed. Her husband was also a butcher for 30 years.

The couple had three children: Marilyn and her husband, David Dunn, of Ingersoll; Don (who died seven years ago) and his wife, Carol of New York, and Gary (who died three years ago) and his wife Becky of Ingersoll.

Mrs. MacIntosh has eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

She said she has always had lots to do but particularly enjoyed knitting. And while she claims to do not much of anything now, she is still a member of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church and was a member of the church's afternoon group.

Upon reaching the age of 90, she is unsure exactly how she

feels. "I haven't changed much," she said. "I didn't think I'd reach it."

However, her father lived to the age of 95.

"I guess I took after my dad."

Ingersoll Times  
January 23 1991

# Principal ponders town service

For life-long Ingersoll resident Gail MacKay the reward for being of service to the community is the chance to see it grow and develop for the benefit of the entire community.

Though a recipient of the Heart of Gold this year for his years of community work, the Victory Memorial School principal gets his reward in the feeling of having helped someone. "Whether it be an individual or the entire community, Just knowing you have done something for someone is reward in itself," he said.

MacKay has a long record of service to the community of Ingersoll. He has been a member of the St. John's Masonic Lodge for a number of years, has been with the Ingersoll Pipe Band for 36 years, serving as instructor and drum major for a number of those years, he has been on town council committees for everything from the Parking Authority to the committee for roads in the town.

The one project most dear however, is the pool building committee. Mackay was on the committee since its start five years ago and has seen it through its transitions with the coming and going of new members. The news last week of the town's decision to build, was welcome news for a man who has so tirelessly worked on this project

MacKay said he first got involved with the recreation complex committee because he felt there was a definite need for such a facility within the town. He said it was a pro-

ject he genuinely believed in and felt the town needed.

As an Ingersoll resident, he has a vested interest in how the community grows and progresses. He said

this is partly why he chooses to lend his talents to certain projects.

Although he has never run for office he has not yet ruled out the possibility for the coming municipal elections in November. Currently, he is waiting to see who is going to

run. His main concern at the moment, is candidates who might choose to run on the single issue ticket.

If a candidate decides to run just to save the town hall or just to see that the new recreation complex is built then it might spur him into run-

ning. He is not sure though, with everything else he is involved in, if he has the time needed to commit to the job.

The pool has become somewhat of a pet project, but MacKay said it is a complex he feels the town needs. He said it is a necessity for the growing community and everyone in it. Over the past two years he has helped to raise some \$300,000 for the fund and he said he and his fellow committee members will continue to raise funds until the pool is paid for, the goal they have set he said is \$1,000,000.

Working for the community he said has become somewhat of a family affair. His wife Marlene is a part-time nurse who devotes a great deal of time to the Red Cross organization. As a result of his being involved she has been dragged along too, quite a feat for someone who was also raising four children, he commented.

The children also seem to have inherited their father's desire to serve. The eldest is away at Queen's University now he said but, when at home he also served the community of Ingersoll in addition to the school community. The two daughters, both in high school are also involved in their school. The only one remaining is still a little young to begin the MacKay drive to get things done.



Gail MacKay has spent five years working towards having an indoor pool built for the Ingersoll community

INGERSOLL TIMES  
September 28, 1988

MacKay Gail

# McCombe, MacKay outstanding citizens

By TIM GARDNER

Gail MacKay and the Rev. Roger W. McCombe are Ingersoll's Outstanding Citizens for 1987.

Officials at the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 119, made the announcement last week.

MacKay is principal of Victory Memorial School and chairman of Ingersoll's Proposed Indoor Pool Fund. McCombe is a Latin teacher at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute and an Anglican minister.

"I was taken aback (by the decision)," MacKay said. "You always figure that someone else has done more for the community than you have."

"It's a humbling experience, really," McCombe said. "I know so many people in the community who

have done so many little things behind the scenes who often don't get recognized. Maybe there should be an unsung hero award."

A banquet to honor the two men will be May 2 at the Legion.

The annual Outstanding Citizen of the Year award is sponsored by Branch 119 of the Royal Canadian Legion. Candidates are nominated by the public and are judged on such things as the amount and nature of the community work they do, their profile and standing in the community and what church groups, service clubs or fund raising organizations they belong to.

MacKay, 46, has lived in Ingersoll all his life and an elementary school principal for 25 years. He has been principal at VMS for three years.

He is currently chairman of the un-

door pool committee. For six years in the 1970's, he was a member of the Ingersoll Parking Authority and was chairman for four of those years. He is a past master of St. John's 68 of the Masonic Lodge and is still a lodge member. MacKay has also been a member of the Ingersoll Pipe Band for 35 years. He is now a drum major and gives free lessons to help keep the band going.

MacKay has also canvassed in the past for the Cancer Society, the Heart Fund and almost anything anyone has asked him to canvass for, he said. He even was a fund raiser for the Ingersoll District Memorial Centre when he was still a high school student in the mid 1960's.

"I've obviously been in the forefront lately because of my involvement with the pool committee," MacKay said, when

asked why he thought he may have won the award. "Also a lot of people know me through school."

"I've always been a booster of Ingersoll," MacKay said. "It's a great place to live and will be in the future. It's a good stable community with good services, a viable main street and friendly people. The new indoor pool is something the community has needed for a long time."

McCombe, 43, was born in Lindsay, Ontario, and has lived in Ingersoll for 12 years. He taught high school for two years in Lindsay, five years in Espanola, and lectured one year at Laurentian University in Sudbury. He has taught Latin, World Religion and Classical Civilizations at IDCI since 1975.

McCombe is a member of the Ingersoll Kiwanis Club and was the club president in 1982-83. He has also

been on Alexandra Hospital's board of trustees eight years this June, and was chairman from 1983-85. In 1980 McCombe was chairman of the Ingersoll Cheese and Wine Festival. Since 1985 he has been chaplain for the Ingersoll Police Force.

Besides being a teacher, McCombe was made a deacon in the Anglican Church in 1971 and ordained a priest in 1974. He has never had his own church but has filled in for priests at St. James' Anglican Church and was a temporary minister at Trinity United Church in late 1984 and early 1985. He preaches regularly at churches throughout the area as a guest minister.

He has conducted retreats for young people and old people alike for both Anglican and United Churches and just a few months ago he preached his first sermon at First Baptist Church on Thames Street South.

"I like to think I won the award because of my involvement with people, either in school, church or whatever in the community," McCombe said. "I'm not sure of the criteria for the award, but what I do enjoy and that's reward enough."

Both MacKay and McCombe are married. Gail and Marlene MacKay have four children, Rob, Kimberly, Tracy and Danny.

Roger and Gloria McCombe have two sons, Warren, 17, and Ryan, 13.

"I don't do things for any glory but winning the award makes you feel that people do appreciate you for what you do do," MacKay said.

"It was very nice of somebody to have nominated me," McCombe said. "One of my philosophies of life is involvement with people. When that's noticed, everything in this crazy world doesn't seem to be in vain."



Gail MacKay, left, and the Rev. Roger W. McCombe, were named Ingersoll's Outstanding Citizens for 1987, last week. Branch 119 of the Royal Canadian Legion selected the recipients.

INGERSOLL TIMES  
April 22, 1987

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS  
(Royal Canadian Legion)  
MacKay, Gail

INGERSOLL LEGION'S ANNUAL AWARD

# MackKay and McCombe share citizen honors

By PHYLIS COULTER  
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — At a public meeting about the future of the Ingersoll Old Town Hall, or construction of a new subdivision, or parking problems, or especially about a new indoor pool, Gail MacKay will be there.

He attends community meetings just to keep in touch with what is happening in his home town.

"I just like to know what is going on here," says MacKay in way of explanation of his community-minded approach to life.

MacKay, named 1987 Citizen of the Year by the Ingersoll branch of the Royal Canadian Legion will be honored with co-winner Rev. Roger McCombe at a banquet tomorrow night at the legion hall.

"It was a complete surprise," MacKay said of the award.

The principal of Victory Memory School has been in the profession for a quarter century. He worked in Tilsonburg, Beachville, and Ingersoll during that time.

He stays here because he simply likes the area, especially the town of Ingersoll.

"I think Ingersoll is a great place. I have always said that. It's not too big. It's friendly. It has everything here you need. Except an indoor pool," he quips.

MacKay makes the pitch for his pet project every time he gets a chance.

As chairman of the pool fundraising committee, he has been interested in the subject for years. He recalls a plebiscite in the 1970's which turned down the idea, saying the town could not afford it.

MacKay says some conditions have changed since then. The Maude Wilson Memorial Pool was in a better state of repair then. And there is an expected increase in population now.

"It (an indoor pool) was a thrill." Not anymore, MacKay says.

When Rethink Inc. did a needs survey in the 1980's it determined an indoor pool was needed.

Although the report was controversial because of its relatively low number of responses, MacKay believes its determination on this point is the right one.

The committee has collected \$175,000 in cash and pledges to date. "We are whittling away at \$1 million. Whittling is the right word."

MacKay is encouraged by town council's apparently more positive towards response to the project recently.

He hopes to get more financial support for the pool from industries. However, he admits that committee members who often work the same hours and their industry contacts, have not communicated enough to get many donations — yet.

Although MacKay has become high profile to more people as chairman of the pool fundraising committee lately, he has been well known in other circles for years.

His involvement with the Ingersoll Pipe Band dates back 35 years.

The drum major is proud to point out that his three oldest children, Rob, Kim, and Tracy have shown the same interest.

Danny, the MacKay's (Gail and Marlene) youngest is in Grade 4 at Princess Elizabeth Public School, and still has plenty of time to follow the family interest in the pipeband.

MacKay is also past master of St. John's Masonic Lodge, and was active in the parking authority.

He was a member of several other town committees including the former Ingersoll Cheese and Wine Festival committee.

MacKay does not expect this town to change dramatically when CAMI Automotive Inc. comes on stream. "I think the town will be basically the same when people get integrated through social functions."

He expects the biggest change to his favorite town to be a cosmetic one.

Whatever the changes, MacKay will

be there at the meetings and social gatherings to see what happens next.

## McCombe's very likable

INGERSOLL — Not very many young people can say they were married by their high school teacher. Some students of Rev. Roger McCombe can.

McCombe in his dual role as a high school teacher and minister married several of his former students. In one year also he wedded 40 couples, some of them graduates from his classroom.

"You know them. It's very personal," he says.

In another role, that of Ingersoll police chaplain, McCombe wedded one of the police officers in this town.

Ingersoll is one of the few small towns with a police chaplain. An Ontario Police Chaplain Association exists, but its members are few and far between.

Town of Ingersoll Police Chief Bruce Richards welcomed a chaplain here because he had seen how well it could work elsewhere.

McCombe is impressed and intrigued with the whole process. He enjoys contributing what he can for the police force here, but says he would like to give them more time.

McCombe has shared his time with others as a priest in charge at countless Anglican churches and interim minister at several United Churches.

Since being made a deacon in 1971, and being ordained as a priest in the Anglican Church in 1974, he has never been a full-time priest, but fills in as needed.

He often leads a congregation through a transition from a former minister to a new one. He introduces some changes and asserts his own personality. This makes it easier for the congregation to accept the new minister, he says.

McCombe considers his job as a minister to be another form of teaching different in some ways from his classroom teaching.

McCombe has been a teacher for more than two decades including a stint at Laurentian University. Today, he teaches world religion, classical

civilizations and latin.

He isn't worried about being out of a job as a latin teacher. Although the subject is not required for medical or law studies today, students are still signing up for his class.

There is a Latin revival in the United States, he says in an optimistic tone. Maybe it will continue to grow and migrate to this country as well, he suggests.

His writing in English, not Latin is more well known.

Admittedly, few local people have read his book, *The Theology of Humour*, written about his experiences in northern Ontario for the people there.

But many are more familiar with his weekly columns *Unoriginally Speaking* where he showers his readers with verbal food for thought.

In addition to his own findings, McCombe gathers ideas and stories from his students and friends to use in his column.

He is no stranger to the journalism. McCombe edited the newspaper for the Algoma Anglican Diocese which had a circulation of 10,000. He even carried on the task for almost a year once he came to Ingersoll.

## AND BESIDES

In addition to his regular routine, McCombe is a member of the Kiwanis Club

and has been on Alexandra Hospital's board of trustees for eight years.

McCombe and his wife Gloria have two sons, Warren and Ryan.

McCombe jointly with Gail MacKay has been named Citizen of the Year by the Ingersoll branch of the Canadian Legion.

They will be honored at a special awards banquet at the Ingersoll Legion, tomorrow at 6 p.m., and their photographs will be hung at the Legion with past winners.

Although having his photograph on the wall beside other great citizens is an honor, it means more to McCombe to be part of the wedding photographs and memories of former students.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS  
(Royal Canadian Legion)  
Mackay, Gail

SENTINEL REVIEW  
May 1, 1987

Mac kay, Tracy

# A letter from South Africa



Hello from the Republic of South Africa,

Yesterday was my three-month anniversary in South Africa. I live in a small country town about the size of Salford, named Henley-On-Klip. It's about a half hour drive from Johannesburg, the second largest populated city next to Cairo, Egypt.

I go to the nearest English high school which is 45 minutes by bus in Vereeniging. We have to wear uniforms that resemble maternity dresses and the boys must wear dress pants and shirts and ties all through the year.

I'm starting to pick up the languages and slang of South African English and Afrikaans. My host family has been very good to me and I've been partially adopted by them for life.

In my travels so far I've been delighted by the scenery and the people of South Africa. In early September I vacationed in the Golden Gate mountain area near Lesotho. I can't wait to go back in February. In the beginning weeks of October, during my school holidays, 52 exchange students piled on a bus to travel through Kimberly to Cape Town. I can honestly say that Cape Town is the most beautiful city I've seen. All of the beaches were ghost white and the mountain was overwhelming.

We visited South African wineries, fleamarkets and several beaches. Our last days of the tour we spent in Port Elizabeth on the Indian Ocean. The beaches were nice and the water was warm.

At Christmas I'll be going to the hot beaches of Durban east coast with friends and to some game lodges with host families. Next year the Eastern Transvaal and Swaziland await. Sometime soon my friends are taking me to Sun City in Baputhatswana. I won't gamble, but it should be interesting to see.

The weather has been beautiful. The winter was somewhat like our autumn and wasn't overly cold. Everything dries out and turns brown and yellow so winter can be a very depressing time. Spring is almost over and the rainy season of afternoon thunderstorms has begun. It looks like a hot summer and Christmas in a bikini. The only white Christmas I'll have would be on a white sand beach, but I wouldn't complain.

I've encountered few problems since I've been here and generally haven't been exposed to any violence. At my school in September there was a gas bomb on a weekend killing two of our janitorial staff. It is rumoured to be linked to the A.W.B. (a very anti-black political group).

We also have had two bomb scares at my school, but nothing was found. It was quite frightening and very tense. I've seen one peaceful demonstration in Vereeniging, a first of its kind. It went off without incident so I guess you wouldn't have heard about it in the international news.

It's a great time to be in South Africa. Since I've been here De Klerk's national party has become multiracial. Next year all of the schools become mixed schools. De Klerk has visited with President Bush and the world is generally seeing that South Africa isn't as bad as it's been said to be in the past.

All segregation barriers have been broken, except for government areas like voting and seat representatives in the parliament. I predict at the rate South Africa is changing that apartheid will be nonexistent in the constitution by February.

If the world could look past South Africa's history of violence, they could realize what a beautiful country it is and how much the Republic of South Africa has to offer. I've enjoyed myself so far and have experienced no homesickness yet. I miss all my friends, family and Craig and wish you could all be here to share this experience with me.

Take care Ingersoll, and keep on progressing.

Tracy Mackay

Ingersoll Times

November 14 1990



MackENZIE,  
Alberta  
(Mrs. James).

Alberta MacKenzie (left) holds plaque given to her by Mayor Gordon Henry on her 100th birthday last week. Her daughter, Mrs. Anne Schmitt holds certificate received from Dr. Harry Parrott. (Staff photo)

## Town's oldest resident marks 100th birthday

Ingersoll's oldest resident, Mrs. James MacKenzie cut the cake at the 100th anniversary of Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute last year.

Last week school principal John Finlay returned the favor and came to cut a piece of her 100th birthday cake, she said.

The fragile, fine-featured but sprightly woman celebrated her 100th birthday in her Victorian home at 131 Canterbury St. overlooking Centennial Park where her husband used to tend his cows.

More than 100 persons signed the guest book to help the Salford native celebrate her centenary. Cards are still coming in. This week, Mrs. MacKenzie wore one of the three orchid corsages she received.

She also was wearing a silver locket given to her from St. Paul's Church.

She was overwhelmed by the good wishes which were sent to her, she said, holding up the plaque brought to her by Mayor Gordon Henry. Isabel Parrott, wife of MPP Dr. Harry Parrott, also brought a framed cer-

tificate, she said. There was a telegram from Queen Elizabeth, and letters of congratulations from Lieut. Governor Pauline McGibbon, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, Dr. Bruce Halliday MP for Oxford, and Joe Clark, Leader of the Opposition.

Ask the vivacious Mrs. MacKenzie how to live to be 100, and she quotes a message sent her by Town solicitor Royden Start and his wife Mabel.

"Get to be 99, and then be very careful," Mrs. Start had written across their card: "Roy thought you would get a chuckle out of this one."

She was right. Mrs. MacKenzie chuckled again as she showed the card, before giving a serious answer to our question.

"You have to keep busy," she said. "Your mind must be busy."

It depends upon one's health, of course, and she said, she had been fortunate in having excellent health.

"I was in the hospital for the first time a couple of years ago for a gall bladder operation,"

she said.

Keeping busy for Alberta MacKenzie meant boarding two co-workers of her husband during the time that he worked at the former Verschoyle Cheese Factory.

She taught in Putnam and Dorchester, and did substitute teaching at Victory Memorial School in Ingersoll.

She worked for the Red Cross during two World Wars.

Now an honorary member of the Golden Age Group, she still crochets exquisite lace for pillow cases.

"And it sells as fast as she can make it," said her daughter Anne Schmitt of South Bend, Ind. who came to Ingersoll to help with party preparations. She then brought out one of the knitted baby coats which her mother knits for the IOCE.

Mrs. MacKenzie has two other children, J. G. MacKenzie of Simcoe and Mrs. George Sutherland of RR 2, Thamesford.

She has one grandchild, and two great-grandchildren.

# McKnight will head newspaper association

*McKnight, J.C.R.*

In the fall of 1948, 19-year-old Chuck McKnight landed a job as a junior reporter on The Tillsonburg News. Born and raised in the farming Village of Wainfleet, in the Niagara District, his experience in the newspaper business was limited to part-time sports reporting for the area daily, The Welland Tribune, and to summer reporting for his uncles, who at one time owned community newspapers in Durham, Thornbury and Petrolia. His grandfather, Charles Ramage published the Durham Review from 1894, until his death in 1936.

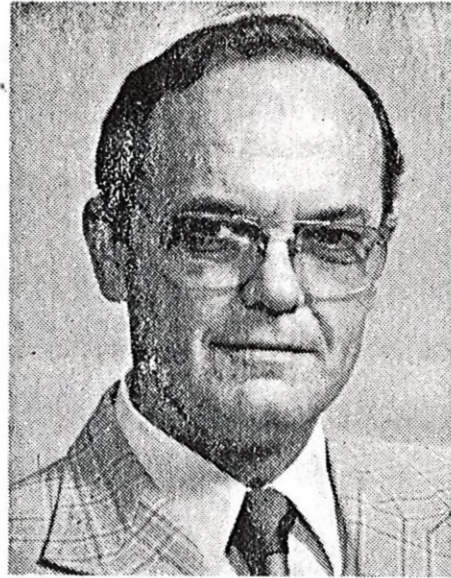
Thirty-one years later, J.C.R. (Chuck) McKnight has been named president of the Canadian Community Newspaper Association for the 1979-80 term. He took over the reins of office of the 550-member association during official ceremonies at the CCNA annual convention in Toronto July 21. He succeeds Ian MacKenzie of Portage La Prairie Leader, Man.

Shortly after his arrival at the Tillsonburg News, McKnight was named editor of The Canadian Sportsman, a harness racing publication which has enjoyed years of association with The Tillsonburg News. Later he became advertising manager of The News, and in 1959 was named vice-president and general manager. The following year The News switched to twice-weekly publication, and then in 1968 to a tri-weekly. On the death of H.F. Johnston, long-term publisher of Tillsonburg, Mr McKnight assumed the office of president and publisher of the company.

McKnight at one time vowed to purchase a newspaper for each of his seven children. Although that feat has not been met, slowly but surely his dreams are becoming realities.

In 1971 he and W.J. Pratt, a shareholder in the Company whose association with The News also dates back to the late 1940's, purchased The Ingersoll Times. Two years later a third newspaper, The Norwich Gazette, was added to the family. In 1974 a holding company, Otter Publishing Limited, was formed and a commercial printing division added. In April 1975 the Port Colborne News was added to the chain and in March of this year the company's first shopper, The Consumer News, covering the Welland trading area, was added.

Like many community newspaper people, the new CCNA president feels there are strong family ties to the industry. His eldest son, Cam, is manager of The Port Colborne News and the Consumer News; daughter-in-law, Vicky, is editor at Port Colborne, while son-in-law, Walter Kleer, is advertising director of both Port Colborne and Welland publications. Eldest daughter, Carol, is editor and general manager of The Ingersoll Times. The younger children, still



J.C.R. (Chuck) McKnight

attending school, all work part-time in the newspaper ranks.

Lining the walls at the sleek new 18,000 square-foot head office and plant in Tillsonburg are dozens of awards and certificates presented in better newspaper competitions and for community service, proof that over the years the company's newspapers have served their communities and have done it well.

In the newspaper industry, McKnight has served as president of the Class "A" Weeklies of Canada; president of the Southwestern Ontario Newspaper Association; president of the Ontario Weekly Newspaper Association; treasurer of CCNA for two years; chairman of the executive for two years and vice-president of the national association last year.

The Canadian Community Newspaper Association, the largest organization of its kind in Canada, has a combined circulation of over 3,000,000, representing 550 community newspapers across the country.

On the home front the new CCNA president has been active in a variety of organizations: Tillsonburg Chamber of Commerce, Tillsonburg Business Association, Parking Authority, past president of the Tillsonburg Minor Hockey; many years on the Board of Management of St. John's Anglican Church, where he served as warden; a long term member of the Kinsmen Club and a past president of the K-40; a member of Ashlar Lodge 701 A.F. & A.M., Woodstock Lodge of Perfection; active in provincial and federal political campaigns over the years; a member of the journalism advisory committee of Niagara College in Welland, to name a few.

*INGERSOLL  
TIMES  
July 25/79*

# Four dozen men perish on mountain, Ingersoll man returns blistered but safe

By MARK REDD  
of Ingersoll This Week

Ingersoll's Ian McLagan did not hear the rumblings, but for 43 fellow mountain climbers the sound from the serac — a massive sheet of ice — breaking away from Lenin Peak was probably the last noise they ever heard.

There were to be five more deaths on the mountains along the Kirghizia-Tadzhikistan border in



THE TWO FACES of Ian McLagan — on the left, as he normally appears and on the right, how he looks when he is out for mountain action.

Soviet Central Asia during McLagan's stay.

The death of the 43 climbers — including 23 members of the Soviet Union's best mountain-climbing team, the Leningrad Climbing Club — is considered the worst climbing accident in history. Two climbers at the site survived.

McLagan and his climbing team — Dr. Chuck Huss, 41, head of emergency at a hospital in Iowa City; Dan Smith, 30, an outdoorsman from Salt Lake City; and Ken Nolan and Jean Ashenbrenner, both 42 and programmers with IBM in Bolder, Colorado — were delayed at Camp 1 (elevation 14,000 feet) because they did not have the proper fuel for their

stove when disaster struck at Camp 2.

There had been bad weather prior to the climbers' arrival and this resulted in snow being found at low altitudes.

The serac which killed the 43 climbers fell at 8:30 p.m., Friday, July 13. Dead were 27 Soviets, six Czechoslovakians, four Israelis, three East Germans, two Swiss and one Spaniard.

"People heard some rumblings, but you hear rumblings all of the time... There's avalanches coming down all of the time," says McLagan.

Just two climbers at Camp 2 survived the accident while a group of nine staying nearby — because they were too tired to continue their trek to the camp — escaped injury.

The serac fell minutes after an earthquake measuring 7.2 on the Richter Scale rocked Afghanistan. In Osh where there is a Soviet meteorological station, the quake measured 3.5. Lenin Peak lies between the two.

McLagan was inside the tent cooking when the serac, usually considered a climber's friend, fell. He did not hear it because of the noise from the cook stove while others in the group thought it was an ordinary avalanche. The news of the deaths did not arrive until early the next morning.

"We didn't feel anything because we were on the (Lenin) glacier and the glacier gives you like a dampening affect, like a gel affect," he says. Moreover, rumblings from avalanches are a common sound at night.

Seracs can hang for 200 years, says McLagan. "What people often do is camp below a serac though

because if an avalanche comes (the snow will miss the camp). But if the serac ever breaks away you're dead, but the odds of that happening versus the odds of an avalanche coming down are miniscule."

continuing their climb. Officials had tabled the thought of closing the mountain.

Of 126 people from around the world who started the climb under the auspices of Ingersport about 60

adding he knew if the group continued to climb, it would be criticized.

He says the disaster affected the mind somewhat. "It was a distraction, but that's about it... Basically at that point we really just wanted to climb... Your priorities are differ-



IAN MCLAGAN spreads his arms in triumph after conquering another plateau. During his adventure on the mountains along the Kirghizia-Tadzhikistan bor-

der in Soviet Central Asia, 48 climbers died. Of those, 43 perished in what is considered to be the worst climbing accident in history.

During breakfast the next morning exhausted members of the group of nine came down from the 17,000-foot Camp 2 area.

"They actually watched it," said the 29-year-old university student, adding two had stayed to dig for survivors while the others tried to make the trip that night.

"The (climbers near Camp 2) could hear voices for about one hour and then they didn't hear a thing," he said.

"There was no trace of anything, there wasn't a tent, a sleeping bag, a jacket — nothing."

The two survivors who were at Camp 2 were swept by snow over the cliff. "They survived overnight with virtually no clothes." Temperatures hit -20 C overnight.

McLagan's group had to stay at Camp 1 for a few days before

were left still climbing. The rest left with the help of the Soviets on July 20.

Some who stayed did day hikes while "the rest of us literally hiked over dead bodies," said McLagan.

ent out there; you're alive, they're not," he says, noting he is not cold.

"Your job at that point is just to keep going — you're there to climb... survival is your main thing."

Continued on page 11

McLagan, Ian



# Oxford cultural gold mine: Artist

By JANICE MIDDLETON INGERSOLL—Oxford County needs a "real" art centre, says artist Fred McSherry.

"Woodstock is sitting on a goldmine of artistic talent, and there's that big jail sitting there—it would be

perfect for the permanent collection and visiting shows. It could be used to hold classes, for theatre, lectures, crafts...."

As far as McSherry is concerned the concept behind the London Regional Library is thievery—stealing

art from the area around it when each region should have it's own centre.

"London thinks it's king of the roost."

A local boy who is making good McSherry feels he was cheated by the cultural desert he grew up in.

"I realize I had to go away," he says, referring to his 10 years in New York, "but did I have to leave blind, feeling lost, depressed?"

The 31-year-old artist is positive a cultural centre in his home area would have created an excellent base to prepare him for further study in Toronto at Ontario College of Art (OCA) and then at Art Students League in New York where he studied for four years.

It's his dream to see a centre built in Woodstock for the benefit of the children and the community at large.

But it's pretty hard to feel you're anything more than a voice crying in the wilderness when you can barely make ends meet in a business that involves your whole life.

McSherry now living with his parents, Helen, a retired registered nurse and, Lou, master meat cutter at Loblaw's is the oldest of eight children and raised in a strict Irish-Catholic home. He has a Ontario Arts Council grant to pay for art supplies.

When he left for Toronto that summer after high school after three months working as a farmhand, he felt a little overwhelmed and "intimidated" by the big city.

A clerk selling clothes at Simpsons, McSherry took art classes part-time and blossomed under the encouragement of his friends. At that time he had no real plans to become an artist.

When he tried to get into OCA full-time he was turned down because of his high school marks, so he headed for the states to study and was on scholarship at the Arts Students League after the first year.

Ten years of living on New York's lower east side has given McSherry a broader picture of life than most Oxford County residents and he says he constantly counts his blessings.

"I'm playing with a four aces in my hand," he says, "I'm white, male, good looking and healthy and I live in one of the greatest country's in the world.

"This is a fat area," he adds. "We could do so much in the art field.

McSherry's own canvases stacked in the back kitchen-turned studio at 177 King St. West are experiments in pattern art.

"I'm a visual accountant," he jokes.

He interprets the mechanized energy of today's society in tense controlled patterns of circles and squares and odd little half circles like petals which work against each other vertically, horizontally, and in circular patterns to create a maze for the human eye.

His work has moved from mystical abstract studies of old masters, to hard edge abstracts concerned with color and space to the petal like pattern art and bright vacillating works of multicolored circles in squares to a study of squares in blues, blacks and ochres which he now is working on.

The Woodstock Public Library and Art Gallery has bought one of McSherry's paintings for a cool \$1,200, to be presented at the annual meeting Wednesday, and he has four shows coming up at Ontario galleries.

It may be a cultural desert in Ingersoll at the moment but McSherry is creating his own little oasis.



— Staff photo by Tim McKenna  
Ingersoll artist Fred McSherry — frustrated in a cultural desert.

WAR BRIDES

Three women recall horrors of last great war

By GORNE MCCIT  
for Ingersoll This Week

They were nearly all sick when they arrived here 45 years ago — some were sick from "10 days of Hell on the ship", some from the laxative gum that had been sold to them as real gum at Toronto, many because they were pregnant and nearly all of them because they were homesick.

They had left their homes, parents and all their family and friends in Great Britain to start a new life in a new country with a new husband whom they often had known for only a short time.

It was one of the biggest steps they had ever taken in their lives. Some were only teenagers, most were in their early 20s and hardly any of them had ever been away from home before.

They were war brides — a name that still stays with them after all these years. Many came to our community and today are an integral part of our town. Only a soft trace of a cultured British accent is there to remind us that they didn't always live here.

MEMORIES OF WAR

The war in the Persian Gulf has brought back many memories to these residents: Televised air raid sirens in Iraq have caused nightmares in Ingersoll. Painful memories of bomb shelters, lost homes and the constant worry about loved ones have all emerged.

Marg McSherry lives with her husband Joe on Concession Street. She came here in 1946 and friends still tease her that leaving Victoria Station in London, England, and getting off the train at Mutual Street in Ingersoll must have been the ultimate in culture shock.

She left behind her mother and father, three grandparents, cousins and aunts in a closely knit family.

In addition to her homesickness and loneliness she suffered through horrendous feelings of guilt because she was an only child and had left everyone behind.

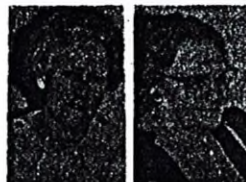
However, she had known from the time she met Joe there was no turning back.

They had a white wedding in the family church in Greenford and the reception at the Nelson home later. McSherry remembers all their family and friends had saved coupons for the food and for her wedding dress.

Marjorie Thibideau lives with her husband Cecil on Raglan Street. She came here on the Queen Mary in 1946, one of the last lots of war brides to be sent over. Her

husband was still in London at CMHQ.

They met at a dance in Epsom which is close to her home town, Ewell. A friend of her mother's offered a white wedding gown which



Thibideau Redford Mc Sherry had been purchased for her daughter but never used.

Again, friends rallied round to help with the reception after the service at St. Marys Church in Ewell. She left behind her parents, two sisters and two brothers. Those brothers, Fred and George Freeman now live in St. Thomas and St. Catharines.

Bea Redford, Albert Street, came to Canada two years earlier. In 1944. She had met her husband Tom at a dance also. Her home was in Staines, Middlesex and it wasn't very long before wedding bells were ringing. Redford chose a gray suit with navy accessories and a pink blouse for her wedding day at St. Marys Church in Staines. Her husband was in his uniform, she recalls proudly.

During a two-hour interview, memories flowed and emotions ran high. There were comparisons and contradictions as the three "war brides" compared the Persian Gulf War to "our war".

TIED IN KNOTS

They all agreed today's news brings back memories they did not even realize they still had stored. At first they were glued to the television set, but after a night of nightmares about bombing raids, stomachs "tied in knots" and finding they were so upset they couldn't even eat properly in their own homes, they soon decided to ration their viewing time to just enough to keep up with the current news.

"Why it had that effect after all these years I just do not know" was an often heard comment.

Still referring to the news, they marvel at how different the amount of information is. This time you know about it as soon as it happens. "You see it happen" they comment.

SECRETIVE BEFORE

"Everything was so secretive before" says Thibideau. "I re-

member D-Day. No one knew what was going on, but the troops in truck after truck were driving past us and waving and playing guitars and singing and we all knew it was something special and we all knew what it must be but no one said a word to anyone. We were trained to keep our thoughts to ourselves."



Mc Sherry all the time.

They talked about the buzz bombs the V2, the noise they made and the terrible times when the noise stopped and they knew something nearby was going to be hit.

McSherry tells of going into the bomb shelter one night and coming out in the morning to find no home.

CROWDED SHELTERS

What was it like in the bomb shelters?

Crowded, obviously. They describe the Anderson shelter as six feet by six feet; on one side a bunk between two angle irons; two lawn chairs placed so that as you sat there your feet would go under the bunk. A few supplies were kept there and there was always a dish of gum drops which you were to chew if the raids got bad. This was to keep your jaw from breaking.

Gas masks were a part of everyday life and McSherry recalls hers always steamed up at school whenever they had to do math. McSherry also recalls that while she was still a student, the air raid sirens went off "every time we had a math class for eight solid months".

Thibideau says her mother went back to work as a nurse and always had to walk back and forth to work in the dark, wearing a steel helmet and carrying a tiny torch. They would dart through the night from one air raid shelter to another for cover.

Redford remembers the horror of learning that a German plane had swooped down and machine gunned kindergarten children coming home from school in Greenford.

McSherry listens quietly and adds: "I knew I was there waiting for a bus and I saw it happen."

Redford recalls being out in an open field with some friends when a plane flew over head. "It started

to dive toward us and then it started shooting" she says. "We never ran so fast in our lives. I dove into some weeds and they turned out to be stinging nettles!"

They think there are many similarities between the two wars. So many civilians were killed in "their war" and they all remember what it was like to have to fit a gas mask onto a baby.

Redford, married in 1941, had a son, Tom, in 1942 and a second son, Doug, in 1943. She recalls with a chuckle the baby pram was always parked at the entrance to the air raid shelter while she was hanging diapers on the clothes line.

Although they did not know each other, they have so many shared memories — bombing raids, blackouts, rations, no silk stockings, nothing from a store ever wrapped in bags, the sound of buzz bombs and the whine of the V2s and, sorer still, the silence of the bombs which meant they were coming down.

**"We only had nine slices of hard, dark bread a week and we had one tiny piece of butter which we saved for Sunday. We had a shilling's worth of meat each week and something called camp coffee which not many people could drink. Our clothes were rationed, too. We had 26 coupons a year and most of my friends' coats were made out of army blankets. When we got into the boat we had our first piece of white bread in years and they**

warned us not to eat too much fruit at once because we had not had it for so long."

All three brides knew what it was to be homesick.

Redford was brought over early because her mother-in-law was ill and the family needed her. She was busy with her children and her new family from the day she arrived.

Over the years they raised their families, had successful careers and contributed in many ways to their community.

TORN BETWEEN COUNTRIES

This is home now to McSherry and Redford, but Thibideau is still torn between the two countries.

She was in the Women's Junior Air Corps during the war and now her close friend, Joan, along with other friends from the corps pull her back to England.

There is definitely one thing about which these Ingersoll residents agree: they cannot understand the thinking of peace activists.

While they all agree they should have the right to demonstrate in this country, they wonder if activists understand how it is they do have that right.

Equating Saddam Hussain with Adolph Hitler, they ask: "How can you negotiate with someone like that?"

Thibideau recalls: "In England we had Neville Chamberlain as prime minister and he was determined to have peace at all costs."

"He always felt we could negotiate with Hitler and you know what that cost us. So many were killed."

"We must stand behind our troops," they reiterate. "We must do everything we can to help them and boost their morale."

# Manicom one of Canada's best student writers

David Manicom, 18 year old Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute student has won honorable mention in the 12th annual student writing competition sponsored by the Canada

Permanent Trust Company. David is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Alton Manicom of Salford.

His story, titled "Fall Leaves" is a fiction piece about two old men on skid row. The story alternates between their present life and one man's past.

Manicom, who also won honorable mention in the same competition last year, is a columnist with the Ingersoll Times.

Three young writers from each province in Canada were selected as the best student writers in the country by representatives of the Canadian Council of Teachers of English and of the Ontario

Council of Teachers of English. The Permanent awards more than \$10,000 each year to young writers who have potential and who, in the opinion of the judges, deserve to be encouraged. In addition to substantial cash awards, many students also receive Honourable Mention Certificates for high quality submissions. The judges selected as the most outstanding student writer in Canada, 17 year old Chris Baxter of North Kamloops Senior Secondary School in

British Columbia who receives a \$1,000 award. This is believed to be the most prestigious writing award available to a high school student.

A spokesman for The Permanent commented that the company's contest is part of the English curriculum at many schools and that more than 2,000 entries were received from coast to coast.

Requirement for the open subject contest, is that each entry must be an original piece of writing by a high school student and

contain not more than 2,000 words. The purpose of the contest is to search out young writers across Canada and encourage them to develop their creative talents. "We are very

pleased," he said, "with the growing number of students who are enthusiastic about writing and are

furthering their skills in this area." In the past a number of well known and highly successful Canadian writers have acted as judges for The Permanent's contest, among them were Margaret Lawrence, W.O. Mitchell and James Reaney.

Martin O'Hara, Chairman of the Canadian Council of Teachers of English and judge of this year's finalists, said that:

"I was impressed with the quality of writing, the understandings of the shapes narrative can take; the sharp observation of detail, and the ability to

sustain metaphor and keep it under control at the same time. There is a good deal



DAVID MANICOM

(page 1 of 2)

INGERSOLL TIMES  
March 21, 1979

Manicom, David

## No time cards in climbing

Mountain climbing is not a nine to five sport.

For Ingersoll's Ian McLagan and his climbing partners, a typical day meant rising as early as possible to leave camp by 9 a.m. It takes about two hours to pack away the gear and for the climbers to get set.

Generally, McLagan says his group finished climbing for the day between 3-4 p.m.

From there on, an area would have to be shovelled out to accommodate the tents and "dinner is about a four-hour experience."

With no running water, snow has to be melted and it takes a lot of snow to make one litre of water.

To complicate the matter further, the melting must be done inside the tent on a gasoline-powered stove since the high winds outside will steal the precious heat.

Supper started with soup, then a dehydrated meal and pudding followed. Then more snow had to be melted because each climber likes to carry one to two litres of water the next day.

Gear is packed in two sets: the first and most necessary is taken up first then the climbers must ferry down the next day for what was left behind. As the journey progresses, equipment becomes lighter.

The ferrying does two things: it lessens the climber's workload, because you only have to take one-half of the gear at a time, and it gives your body time to acclimate or become accustomed to the new climate and conditions.

"If you don't acclimate, you will start getting a headache, nausea, and vomiting, loss of appetite," says McLagan.

A rule of thumb is to climb 1,000 feet a day while McLagan and his group were climbing 3,000 feet over two days with the ferrying.

Despite the cold air, the hot sun causes blisters on the exposed parts of a climber. McLagan, who had a beard during the climb, recalls the skin peeling from his cheeks. In addition, he still had a few blisters on his arms when he returned to Ingersoll.

## Climber escapes death

Continued from page 10

All climbers had to sign waivers before they left. "It's something that we all accept ahead of time; there is a certain risk involved and you have to accept it," he said. "It is a risk sport."

McLagan did become emotional when his group was about to leave Camp 2 after arriving July 16 to get more of their articles from below.

"They brought down the first body that they had found and...we gave (the dehydrated rescuers) some water and we helped them bring the body down." A few hundred yards away from Camp 1 friends of the dead climbers were in tears.

Eventually the group made it to Camp 3, about 20,000 feet up, only to experience bad weather.

"The final night, the tent got completely buried and at 2 o'clock a guy had to go out because we literally couldn't breathe...The tent was right under. By five we couldn't breathe again."

The group spent two days at Camp 3 and then began their descent on July 23.

Fatalities continued on the way back down to the base camp at 12,500 feet.

While coming down, a Swiss climber died about 200 yards below them while doing a traverse. Lenin Peak is 23,432 feet (7,134 metres).

On a neighboring peak Wednesday four Soviet climbers died.

McLagan says that because reforms in the Soviet Union have allowed freedom for residents and easier access for foreigners, there were more people staying at Camp 2 than there had been at any other time.

McLagan, who has climbed mountains in the United States, says Lenin Peak is considered a safe mountain and the combination of bad weather and the earthquake made things different this year.

"It was a chance to do a relatively simple, relatively safe

peak for relatively little money. That's why I went over to do it—the adventure. We just got more than we bargained for."

McLagan's group left the mountain two weeks to the day after the 43 deaths and only three bodies had been recovered.

The group left Chicago on July 2 and returned from the Soviet Union 27 days later.

Nolan is an experienced climber who was on Mt. Logan when seven people went up and only two came back in 1983.

McLagan himself became serious about mountain climbing about three years ago and since then the former competitive biker says climbing has become an obsession. The sport leaves little margin for error and at times McLagan has thought: "If I screw up now, that's it."

While in Moscow for two days, the group stayed in the facilities built to accommodate athletes in the 1980 Olympics.

Moscovites spend a large part of their time standing in lines waiting for poor quality goods, says McLagan. "We saw people lining up at an electronics store...to buy bunny ears" for their television.

Osh, located in the Kirghizia province, had been in a state of emergency three weeks before the climbing teams arrived. From Osh, it was a nine-hour bus ride—escorted by sub-machinegun wielding police officers—to the mountains.

McLagan, who holds an MBA in exercise physiotherapy, took along psychological tests and gave them to fellow climbers.

"They were one-third slower up there...You're in a state of decline all the time you are up there. The highest that man can live on a long term basis is about 17,500 feet," he says.

By crossing the 18,000 foot mark you are in what is called "the death zone" and the longer you stay up there the worse it is. Weight loss is experienced and the body does not regenerate its cells.

of healthy self-confidence in these young writers which has resulted in a wide variety of themes and styles. Is this a sign that the "set piece" has had its day?

I hope so. It certainly indicates that a good number of young Canadians have found their voices and can write with honesty as well as perception. The final selection of a

limited number of words from a pool of so many fine entries is difficult and open to debate. I hope that many among the stories not included in this year's anthology will find their way into other publications and that their authors will continue to write and to submit stories to every

outlet they can find. The short story is a subtle and challenging art form and we all look to these young writers to keep it alive and thriving.

In addition to the students' awards, The Permanent presents special plaques to the principals of high schools that produce provincial first prize winners. Furthermore, a booklet containing the stories written by these students is published by the company and distributed to high schools across Canada.

Awards are presented by local branches of The Permanent. In areas where the company is not represented, the awards are mailed.

# New poet with seasoning

By MARILYN SMULDERS  
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Montreal-based writer David Manicom never really left the scenic countryside of his boyhood.

In *Sense of Season*, Manicom figuratively returns to Oxford County terrain, sensitively capturing images of life on the farm. Under Manicom's pen, ploughed fields are "corduroy hills," a

Holstein cow "black and white barrell(ed)" and the land itself "highway veined, awkward homeland wedged between the named cities."

*Sense of Season* is Manicom's first collection of poetry although his work has been previously published in many Canadian journals. Growing up on a dairy farm near Salford, he found the countryside an inspirational source for

writing once living in the midst of an urban landscape.

"I think I wrote best about the farm once I had left it," said Manicom in a telephone interview. "Often when I'm here, I miss the country. But if I lived there, I'd miss what Montreal offers. It always seems to happen that way."

Manicom, a part time lecturer at McGill University and a full time father, attributes his early interest in writing in part to the encouragement of a teacher at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute, Cliff Martin. And once started, he was hooked.

*Sense of Season* represents poetry written between 1983 and 1987. A second volume, tentatively called the *Theology of Swallows*, is on the way. As well as writing, Manicom co-edits a magazine of Canadian literature, *Rubicon*.

But while *Sense of Season* evokes the rural traditions of Oxford, the book also speaks of life beyond — in Canadian cities and overseas. The poems are sensually-rich and are meant to be read aloud. "I think I'm perhaps more concerned with music and sound than my contemporaries are," said Manicom.

*Sense of Season*, published under the New Poets Series by Porcepic Books, Victoria, B.C., is available locally at Carr's Book and China Shop.

*The crouched baler creeps  
along hay-row  
bound on inward spiral to the  
field's crown,  
dragging the baled residue,  
track's ripeness  
knotted, stacked, creaking on  
wagon boards.*

*Crawls, arm thrashing, compacting, thudded roar  
at the present core of slow  
procession,  
eats the tangled hair of raked  
hay.*

*Slender sway of green meadow  
hacked, flayed;  
a scythe our breathing swings.  
Catching our eye  
the small terror of quick field  
mice  
darting into their bald sky.*

*At the conclusion  
of slow-narrowing perimeters,  
the fuslon  
of barren field and full wagons,  
of late supper and our sunburn  
and dust.*

*At sunset the stretched mem-  
brane bright,  
allowing into our gathering  
space  
not enough, light.*

# SENSE OF SEASON



David Manicom

## Former town solicitor honored for his years of service

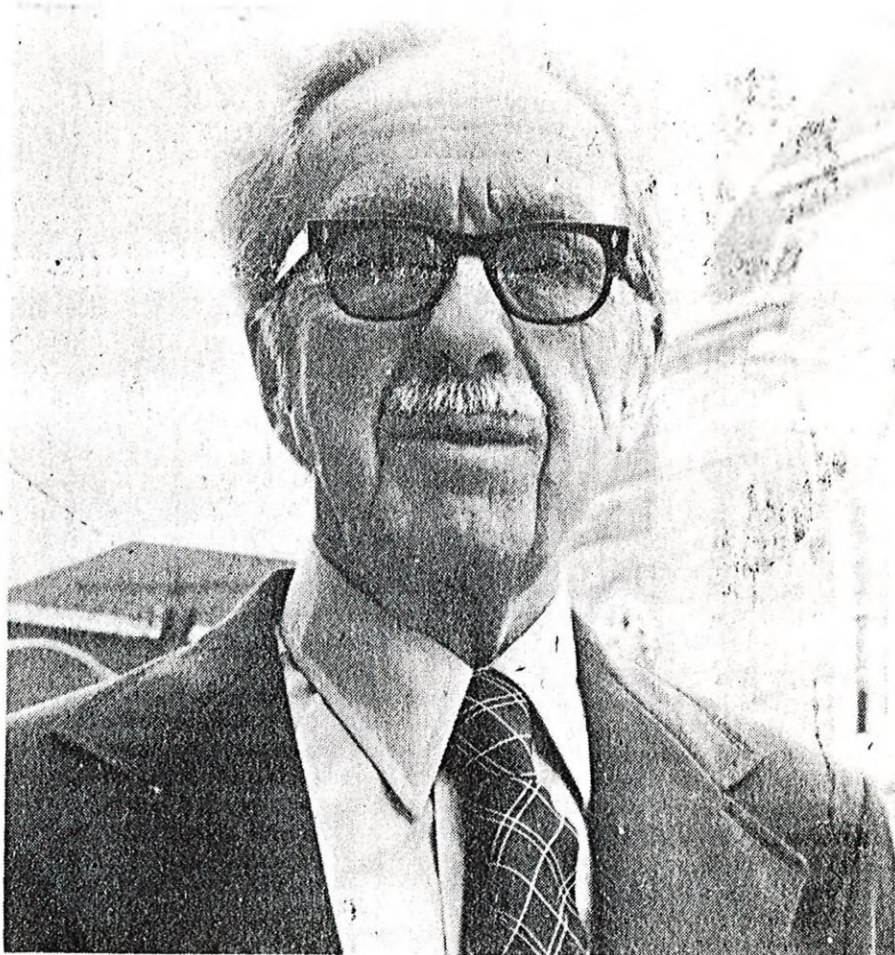
Warwick Marshall, Q.C., has spent the last 42 years as Solicitor for the Town of Ingersoll.

At Monday night's regular meeting of council, Marshall was honoured for his years of service to the town. Council members presented him with a combination clock and pen-holder as well as a standing ovation and a good round of applause.

Marshall, who has been a resident of the town since 1933 said any council member he has dealt with over the years has always been ready to help.

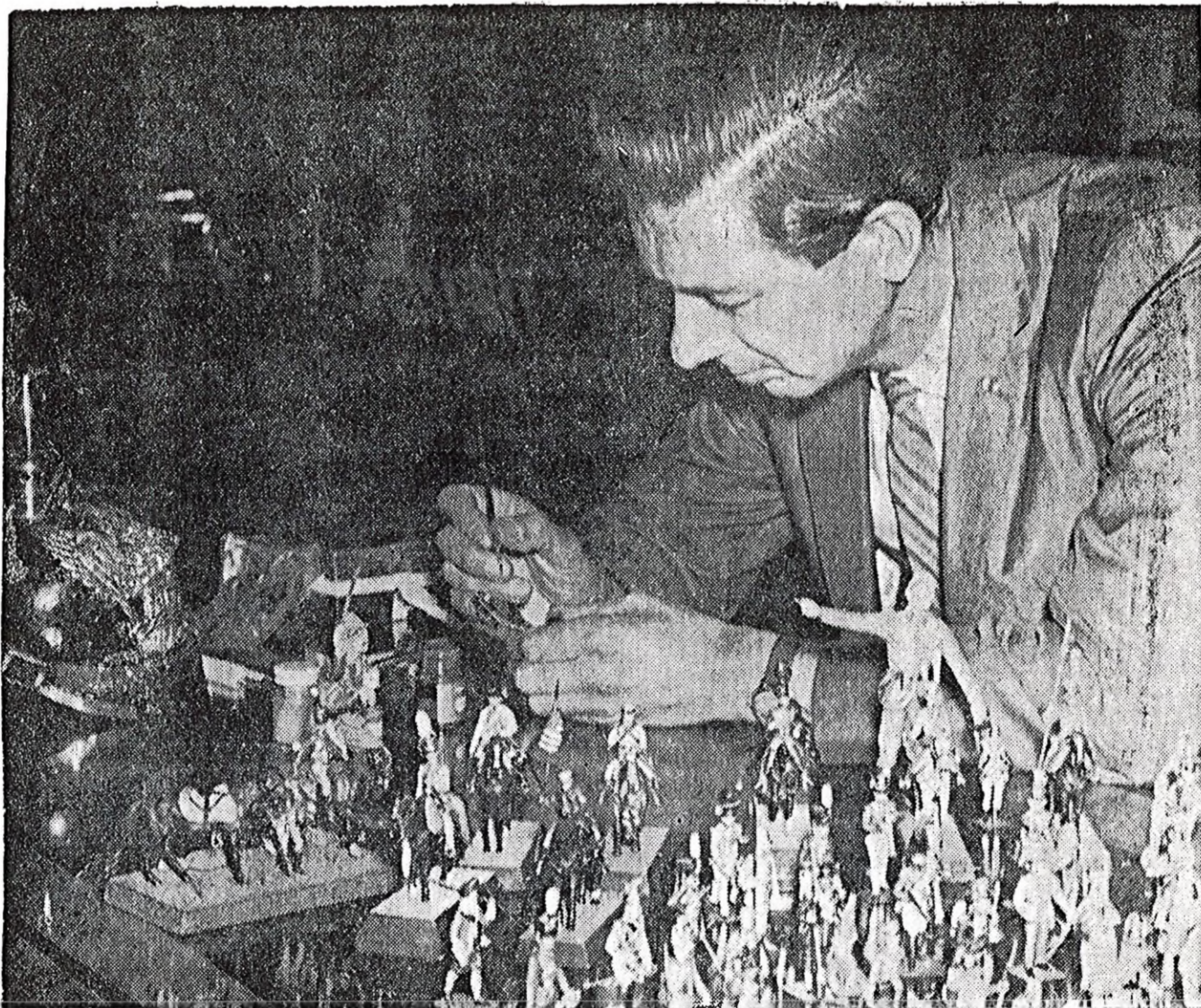
Marshall, who held the office of Town Solicitor from 1935 to 1977, indicated he has met with much change in the course of years. "You could spend many hours a day dealing with government changes affecting municipalities, alone," he said.

Although Marshall plans to spend his retirement in Mississauga he said Ingersoll has been good to him. He said the town has been very fortunate in not having to expand too fast and said the beauty of the town can be maintained through slow and steady growth.



Warwick Marshall, Solicitor for the Town of Ingersoll for 42 years was honoured briefly at Monday night's council meeting. Besides a gift of a combination clock and pen-holder, Marshall received a good round of applause.





JOHN MATTHEWS PAINTS MINIATURE

## Collecting Toy Soldiers Is An Interesting Hobby

By NORMAN DAVIDSON  
Sentinel-Review Staff Writer

INGERSOLL — His father's career in the British Army has led John Matthews of RR 1, Woodstock, to become deeply interested in miniature military figures.

The approximately 200 figures in his collection run the gamut from the Greek period of a nude Spartan soldier to the German and Japanese soldiers of World War Two.

These miniature figures are much more than toy soldiers. They involve skill, patience, and acute perception of fine detail to produce perfect replicas of figures representing the color and pageantry that was war.

Before he undertakes the cre-

ation of a figure Mr. Matthews must do a great deal of research to be sure uniform colors are authentic to the last minor detail. His awareness of the minute details can be seen in the time it takes him to complete a figure.

It takes about "8 to 10 hours to complete an individual figure." If he wants to have a figure mounted on a horse then the time is increased from "20 to 25 hours."

Mr. Matthews has valued the collection at about \$2,000. The mounted figures would be worth about \$75 each," he said.

He has been collecting the figures for about five years. Although he buys the moulds he does all the painting and as-

sembling himself. He has attempted to develop his own moulds but so far has been unsuccessful.

The collection is on display at the Ingersoll library on Charles St. for several weeks. "One of the reasons for the display is my desire to get people interested in this fascinating hobby," Mr. Matthews said.

The Ontario Model Soldiers Society in Toronto has about 60 members. Mr. Matthews said the Military Historical Society in London has shown some interest in his project and viewers have seen him on a television show broadcast from London.

This hobby is a great deal more than a children's frivolous

undertaking Mr. Matthews said. The research and study required to produce truly authentic figures makes one aware of the tremendous drama involved in war and the effect it has had on civilization.

# John Matthews Ranks With World's Best Illustrators

INGERSOLL TIMES  
MATTHEWS, John

John Matthews was reluctant to be interviewed, not because he has anything against the press, or me, or the paper, but rather because he feels he is not sufficiently interesting. "I can't see what you can get out of it," he said, "but still, we shall see."

He is a collector, and expert on model soldiers (none of your kids' stuff mind, but real scale models, perfect in every detail), did early work to publicize and popularize do-it-yourself aircraft, build a railway engine miniature with hand tools - illustrated a book for old friend Farley Mowat, is a stereo buff and a Baconut. This is apart from working hard enough and being good enough at his profession to rank among the top half dozen men in the world in his field. And he lives here, in Ingersoll, in a priceless gem of an old house, like something out of Jalna.

John's field is Technical Illustration. Which is something we have all come across. Everytime you buy an appliance or a car you are given a handbook, right? In that handbook you will find drawings of all the mechanical parts, each in perfect detail, set in sequence and perspective so that, if you had to, you could remove and replace any part of that engine, simply by looking at the drawing. As a matter of fact this was how the profession of Technical Illustration came about. It was developed during World War II so that unskilled, untrained, personnel could assemble machinery. With the help of a detailed artists sketch anyone could assemble just about anything.

A tall, slender man, looking typically English, John landed in this country at the age of 21 high on hopes and low on funds. His first effort to land himself a job was less than successful. "They told me at A. V. Roe that my work was antique and not acceptable in Canada" but a few years later he made them eat their words, landing a key position with this same firm. His money ran out and desperate, he took the first job that was offered, in a furniture factory, sanding radio cabinets. "They called me the Prince of Wales," he chuckled, "because I never took my coat off. When I left, after three days, an old lady came up to me and gave me sixpence. She said it was her lucky piece, and she had brought it with her from England fifty years previously and she wanted me to have it, for luck."

He held a variety of jobs, including one in a Plexiglass fabrication company moulding brassier reforms for Simpsons and Eatons. He pioneered the use of plexiglass for illuminated advertisements such as those you now see in Gas Stations, he joined a firm of advertising sign makers and quickly became assistant plant superintendant - many of the large signs you see flashing around Toronto are either his design alone or he played a big part in their creation. He went to work for a firm that made scale models, did a lot of the work on models for the C. N.E. Then the Gas Turbine division of A.V. Roe (the firm who had brushed him off so rudely all those years before) advertised for Technical Illustrators and he was hired right away. At last he was back in his own line. They changed the name of the firm to Orenda Engines and Mr. Matthews stayed with them for five years.

He worked on the engines of the Sabres that went to Columbia, South America, and to West Germany. Then worked on the Iroquois engine which was to be used in the Avro Arrow. He speaks of the Arrow with regret, saying that there was nothing in the whole world, at that time, which could touch it and is convinced that it was political pressure from the States that delivered the death blow. "A whole industry was wiped out, to all intents and purposes. The Aircraft business in Canada has never really recovered, the design team scattered, most of them went to the States, most of the planes built here now

are American, built under licence. Where they were building the Arrow, they are now building wings for American airplanes," he said sadly and with a trace of bitterness.

So, it was back to the old sign company.

Through his interests in "Do-it-yourself" airplanes, John met Bob Simmons and was eventually persuaded to come to Timberjack. "I promised Bob that I would make the parts catalogue for the Timberjack product the best in the business."

They were a very small firm in those days, relatively unknown and not terribly affluent either. But there is no premium on excellence. John sent some drawings to an International exhibition in Huntsville, Alabama. The heart of the American Space project. They were up against the cream of the American Technical Illustration business, competing against firms for whom money was no object, but they won. John went down to Alabama and was given a silver salad bowl with "Gold Medal Award" engraved in bold letters. Six

months later they were invited to attend another exhibition in Los Angeles, this time they were competing against the winners of all the exhibitions across the States that year, and there were other entries from other parts of the world. The U.S. Aircraft Industry - the biggest in the world - and the Space Industry, they all had their big guns out, but again, Johns' Timberjack entry won.

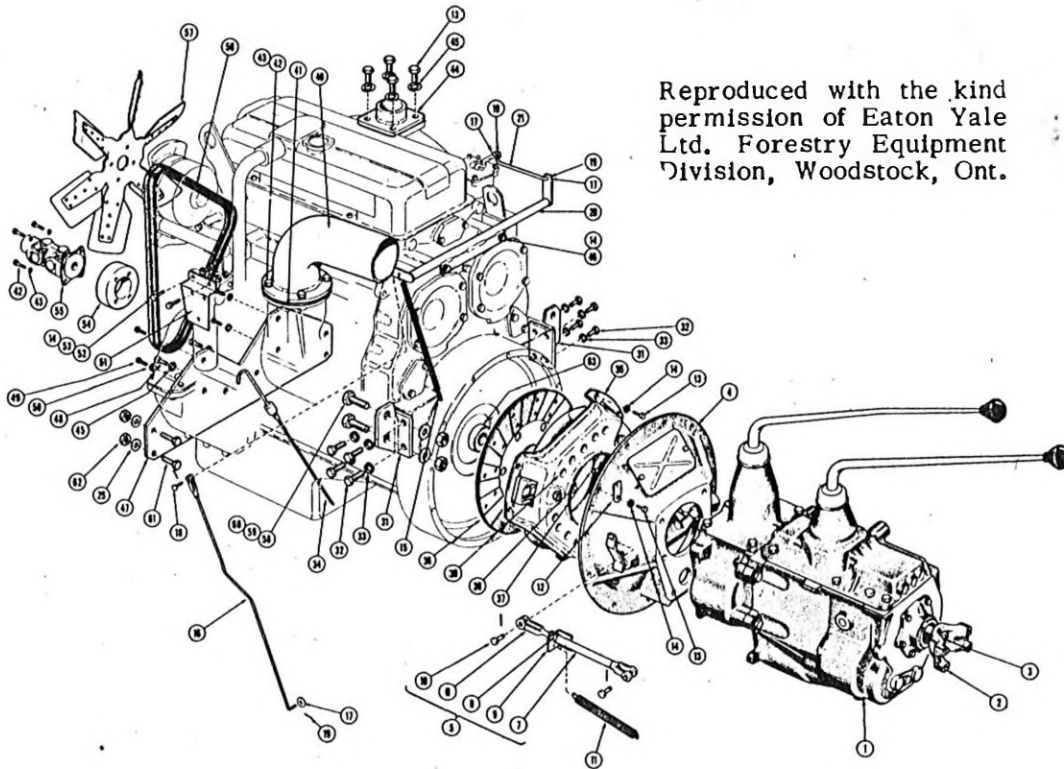
also runner up for Best of Show.

Little David, with a very slim purse, had launched his rock at Goliath two years running and both times brought the U.S. Giants low. The opposition were people like Boeing, Douglas Aircraft, North American Aviation, General Dynamics, all the 'biggies' with all the money in the world at their disposal, and the tiny, and as then, unknown, Timberjack Machines beat the lot of them.

The next year he submitted again, this time placing second at the show in Alabama, but despite this disappointment he went to the finals in Washington and to his surprise, with different judges, this same piece of art work scooped the board and took first place and was

John Matthews is numbered among the best in the world at his profession and although he says that this is no big deal, isn't it nice to know that the little guy can still win... sometimes, if he just happens to be very, very good at his job.

## This is a technical illustration



Reproduced with the kind permission of Eaton Yale Ltd. Forestry Equipment Division, Woodstock, Ont.

got his hand in the gear...

The Ingersoll Chronicle and Canadian Dailyman October 11, 1894

was yesterday elected by acclamation representative to the Ontario Council for District No. 2, comprising counties of Elgin, Oxford and

ME.—The Mission Band of King dist church will give an "At the school room to-morrow night. All the members, and the people of the church, with their cordially invited. A feature of the programme will be "Mission

—A meeting of all those contemplating a curling club will be held at Mr. Davidson's hotel on Friday evening inst., at 8 o'clock. Our town has a curling club for several years, but we still a number of old players who do not forget how to "play the curl the stone" and we hope a good turnout at the meeting.

SCHOOL.—The Night School was held Tuesday evening with a fair attendance which will no doubt be largely increased as the season advances. Those who contemplate taking of this excellent opportunity for their knowledge should leave no time with Mrs. Court at the Free School house without delay.

CONFIDENCE.—Mr. Henry Young, a young farmer living near Verdun, placed too much confidence in the hands of an acquaintance, and is now in the hospital. It appears that a young man had turned the wheel for the purpose of the county town. He took the wheel unfortunately for Mr Hayward and is now supposed to be in the land of the free and home of the brave. At last accounts the "bike" has returned to the owner.

COMPETITION.—Here's a suggestion for a fair managers: There were several prizes offered by the merchant at the fair on Tuesday. A contest drew a large crowd was held by hotelkeepers for a team to draw a load farthest in five minutes. The contest took place in a vacant front of Mr. Esterbrook's large barn. One boat was loaded with pig iron and several teams entered for the prize. The team won the first prize amid loud

population, 4,502.

SHED.—G. T. R. Brakeman, of London, while coupling on Saturday, had the misfortune to have his hand pinched between the pin and deadwood. The accident is due to no fault of Mr. Campbell. He will be off for some little time as the palm of the hand is badly lacerated.

A POINTER FOR SPORTSMEN.—A big brown bear was seen in South East Hope by John Wattleufar, who lives in the township about three miles from Stratford. The animal walked lazily across the fields towards what is known as McEwen's swamp in West Zorra. It is said that other bears have been seen in McEwen's swamp recently.

OBITUARY.—J. McNab Ingersoll, a son of the late Col. Ingersoll, a former registrar of Oxford County, and one of the earliest settlers of Western Ontario, died at the residence of his father-in-law, R. H. Hall, Woodstock, Tuesday morning, after a serious illness, at the age of 41 years, leaving a wife and one child to mourn his early departure, some years ago having married Miss Lizzie Hall, sister of the late J. J. Hall. Deceased was widely known and his death will be learned by a great many residents of the county with much regret.

DEATH OF JOHN HOLDEN.—The death of Mr. John Holden, which took place this morning at his late residence, Charles St. east, removes another of the older residents of Ingersoll. Mr. Holden has not been in very good health since the death of his partner in life a few months ago, and this summer he spent several weeks in Muskoka for the benefit of his health. He came home improved in health, however, but a few days ago he was taken down with typhoid fever which terminated fatally this morning. The family have the sympathy of many friends in their bereavement. Funeral on Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

RUN OVER AND KILLED.—A fatal accident occurred at Mr. Hughes' place in East Nisour, about seven miles north of Thamesford Tuesday afternoon. Matthew Young, who with Mr. Abbott runs a threshing machine, had completed the threshing and was removing the thresher from the barn. His team was spirited and went out rather lively, and Mr. Young lost his footing and fell, both wheels passing over his body, killing him instantly. He was unmarried, and was widely known and respected. The affair has cast a gloom over nearly the whole township.

COUNTY CONVENTION OF C. E.—The

S. H. Warnock spent

Mr. Oscar Dundass left for California.

Mr. S. W. Hill, of Ridgely town this week.

Mr. Gus. E. Harris, of Ridgely town on Monday.

Mr. J. M. Wilson, of Ridgely town this week.

Mr. E. L. Smith is visiting Saginaw and Detroit.

Rev. Byron Snell, of Ridgely town on Tuesday.

Miss Jennie McKellar has returned on a month's visit.

Miss Kate Chalmers, of Ridgely town, guest of Mrs. F. E. Aldrich.

Miss Phelps, of the Coleraine staff, spent Sunday in Brantford.

Mrs. A. J. Johnson left for a two weeks' visit with Long Point.

Miss Mary Quinn, of Chatham, is the guest of her aunt, Mrs. Sherlock.

Miss Nichol attended the opening of the new Presbyterian church in Ridgely town.

Strathroy Age:—Mrs. V. Ingersoll, is visiting Mrs. Ingersoll, son, James St.

Mr. and Mrs. T. Purvis, of Ridgely town, the guests of Mr. T. H. No. 1, returned to California.

Mrs. (Dr.) Canfield, who has been visiting her friends in town, returned to Louis on Saturday.

Miss Bello Boughner, Miss Mr. Turner, of Aylmer, and Miss McCarty over Sunday.

Mr. Albert L. Henderson, of Ridgely town, has secured a situation in the M. left for that city on Thursday.

Mr. Roger Green was in town this week attending the funeral of a friend who died suddenly in the

Mr. James Scellan has returned from his month's holidays, and resides in the law office of Mr. J.

Mr. L. W. Burko, of Ridgely town, is the guest of the Standard Life Assurance Company.

Mr. J. C. Healey who has been in town for several months has been learning in Oxford, left on Saturday for Leicester England.

Mr. Geo. Barr has secured

ingersoll

## Art soars with aviation

Story and photo  
by IAN TIMBERLAKE  
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — For John Matthews, Canada's newest jet fighter is a work of art.

Matthews, an Ingersoll-based illustrator, recently drew a two-page color picture for the centrefold of a new book about the CF-18 Hornet.

It's the third book about Canada's air force that he's worked on.

"I'm retired really. I just do this to fill in time," said Matthews, who for 23 years was chief illustrator at Timberjack Inc., the Woodstock manufacturer of logging equipment.

The new 72-page book, *Sting of the Hornet*, by David L. Bashow, describes "anything anybody ever wanted to know about Canada's CF-18," Matthews said.

"It's quite an airplane, this Hornet."

The book is published by Canuck Publications, which also produced *Canucks Unlimited: The Story of the CF-100*, for which Matthews did six of the eight illustrations.

The first book he worked on was *Sixty Years, a history of the Canadian Air Force from 1924 to 1984*.

"It's in all the big bookstores," said Matthews, who signed copies of his recent work during a Christmas tea held at Carr's Book and China Shop.

Matthews's interest in aviation is long-standing.

He started his career as a technical illustrator for British aircraft manufacturer Vickers Armstrong in 1915.

When King George VI wanted to take the Royal Family on a trip to South Africa, Vickers built four special planes for him. Matthews illustrated the maintenance manuals for the aircraft.

After coming to Canada, he worked on engine manuals for the Avro Arrow project for five years until the government scrapped the advanced Canadian warplane in Feb. 28, 1958.

"It was ahead of its time," Matthews said. "For years I used to wear a black tie on Feb. 28."

Matthews is almost finished another project.

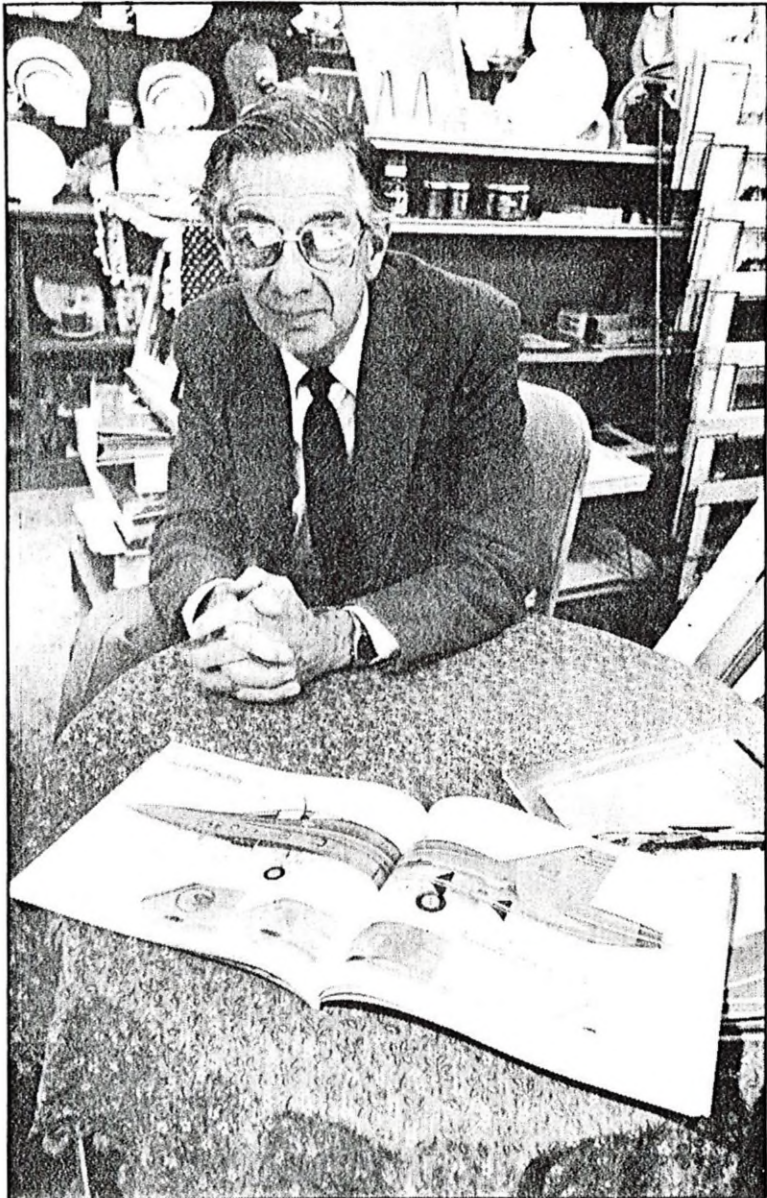
For much of this year he's been

preparing color illustrations for the National Aviation Museum, which is scheduled to open in Ottawa next June.

With two assistants, Matthews is drawing about 50 aircraft. His pictures

will appear on descriptive plaques to be placed in front of each airplane in the museum.

Matthews expects to be finished in February.



JOHN MATTHEWS with the illustration he drew for a new book about the CF-18 Hornet fighter plane. He signed copies of his work at Carr's Book and China Shop recently.

SENTINEL REVIEW

December 22, 1987

## Plane museum boasts local artist's drawings

By ERIC SCHMIEDL  
of Ingersoll This Week

They sit in the National Aviation Museum in Ottawa, each a testament to mankind's battle to win a place among the clouds.

The Silver Dart, which began powered flight in Canada in 1909 . . . the German AEG Bomber of First World War . . . the Mosquito of Second World War . . . the Boeing 247, the first luxury aircraft ever built . . . and more.

In front of 29 of the museum's aircraft are information plates which feature the work of Ingersoll artist John Matthews.

Matthews, 64, said the air-brush paintings which complement the information on each aircraft are depictions of the actual planes in the museum.

In addition to technical drawings and precise measurements of each craft, he takes about 25 close-up photographs of each plane to use as reference materials.

Matthews tries to give his work a three-dimensional look and crams every detail into his paintings, from the rivets — "I got to be

known as a rivet-counter down there" — down to the wear and tear each craft shows. As he puts it, he depicts each plane "warts and all."

Each painting takes about 20 to 40 hours to do. Once, Matthews was asked to shift over a name on a plane in one of his paintings by three-quarters of an inch by then-museum director Robert Bradford.

Matthews had to do the painting over. Was he mad? No.

"Having the respect I had for the individual who asked me to do it. I didn't mind," he remarked.

Matthews said he considers Bradford to be a top aviation authority.

Born in London, England in 1925, Matthews started depicting aircraft in 1946 when he worked on manuals for Vickers Armstrong, an English aircraft manufacturer.

Coming to Canada in 1947, Matthews spent five years working on the parts catalogue for the ill-fated CF-105 Avro Arrow.

Continued on page 15



JOHN MATTHEWS, an Ingersoll artist, displays his painting of "The Red Knight" of the Royal Canadian Air Force. Matthews has 29 examples of his work in the

National Aviation Museum in Ottawa but this painting is being done for a private buyer.

(Staff Photo)

SENTINEL REVIEW - INGERSOLL  
THIS WEEK  
April 17, 1990

## Local artist

Continued from page 11

Working for projects which are ultimately scrapped is "the story of my life," he said.

In 1964, he joined Timberjack Inc. in Woodstock doing catalogue work. He retired from his position as chief illustrator for the company four years ago, about the same time he started doing his painting for the museum.

He has also done some detailed model work and ship paintings, which are a "departure from airplanes . . . but (I use) the same procedure."

However, Matthews — a member of the Canadian Aviation Historical Society — spends most of his talents on aircraft rendering.

The money he gets from his museum work, as well as pay from private sales, helps to supplement his pension.

"I make a living at it . . . and I enjoy it."

SENTINEL REVIEW -

INGERSOLL THIS WEEK

April 17, 1990



INGERSOLL TRIPOD & CENTENNIAL EDITION  
1907

MAYBERRY, Richard

ingersoll tripod centennial  
Edition 1907

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Mayberry and family of 12 shown in 1871. They were married in 1852 in Quebec, moved to Ingersoll and in 1841 moved to Hagles Corners, south of Ingersoll. Mr. Mayberry was a carriage and wagon maker by trade.

(Courtesy Mrs. B. G. Jenvey)



Meadows, Heather

# Service for seniors in Ingersoll

By LINDA NEUKAMM

Seniors in need of help with errands have a local person available to assist them.

Heather Meadows, an Ingersoll resident, has started a private, errand and delivery service for seniors. She began the service a few weeks ago by putting an ad in *The Ingersoll Times*.

The inspiration behind the service hit Meadows one day when she was doing some grocery shopping of her own. She saw an elderly lady struggling with her grocery bags and noticed that no one stopped to help her.

The situation prompted Meadows to begin her service, assisting seniors with running errands, such as shopping for and delivering groceries. Seniors who prefer to do their own shopping can call for a



Heather Meadows

ride (group trips can also be arranged).

She also does banking, provides companionship, and can arrange for snow removal.

A small fee is charged but it is based on what the individual can afford.

Meadows works out of her home and said she is usually kept busy in the mornings so the best time to call is during the evenings. She can be reached at 425-1363.

"Growing old is a natural thing," she said. "and everyone needs help sometime."

Ingersoll Times

December 19 1990

# Meadows is moving his magic into the streets

By JOHN MENTEK

There is only one requirement for graduation from the Chavez College of Magic.

If the audience laughs and claps, you know you've made it. If they hiss and boo, you've flunked.

Since amateur magician John



Meadows completed the 18 month-long correspondence course last Christmas, his audiences have been clapping.

To most people, becoming a street magician would seem like an unnecessarily difficult way to make a living.

Street magic takes guts.

Basically, you stand in front of perfect strangers with nothing but the force of your talent and personality and hope they will be dazzled enough by what they see to pay for the experience.

The prospect of working an audience doesn't seem to disturb Meadows in the least, who at 20 has already been practicing magic for 11 years. From his experience he has readied a spontaneous line of "patter" which accompanies the tricks, fleshing out the routines.

The correspondence course stressed showmanship and stage deportment as well as magic, and Meadows likes to inject a lot of humor into his act.

"You've got to entertain them," he explained. "Patter makes the whole act. I always start and end each trick, and the whole show, with a laugh."

His stage presence and alter ego - Jules the (Semi) Magnificent - is an

eccentric blend of clown costume, street clothes and a battered felt top hat, establishing a frail link to the elegant conjurers in evening clothes.

"I like doing shows," Meadows enthused. "You can really tell right away when you've done a good show."

Meadows has appeared in London, Woodstock and Ingersoll at birthday and factory parties, Christmas shows and special events.

Among professional magicians, David Copperfield performs the most incredible grand illusions, but he finds Doug Henning's act is more to his taste.

"I like his approach: a playful, playground approach. But he can also do grand illusions."

A grand illusion requires too much preparation for a street magician, so Meadows is content to perform sleight of hand, linking ring and rope tricks. He is well versed in routines involving cards and balls, and can easily move from cigarette tricks to thimble and coin magic.

His routines are necessarily small



and transportable but that is not really a problem, he said, claiming they receive as much or more of a reaction as such large-scale grand illusions as levitating bodies or vanishing acts.

"You could have a semi-grand illusion on a smaller scale at the end of a street show," he said but it would be difficult. The light outdoors is impossible to control and would probably give some tricks away.

Knowing how to present magic is as important as having a lot of big il-



John Meadows is Jules the (Semi) Magnificent, a local amateur magician who plans to turn professional next year. Meadows has been working his magic for 11 years, at parties and special events. Now he wants to take his act into the streets.

lusions in your act, Meadows said. "Anyone can do magic, but if you can't present it well - forget it."

Meadows tailors his tricks to the situation and over the years has found his best audiences are children.

The magic tricks Meadows employs are purchased by mail order catalogue from shops in Toronto, Chicago and Boston. Not all



of them are used.

"I've made a few mistakes with tricks," Meadows said. Last November he bought 12 but after receiving the order found only two were suitable for the street act he is putting together.

Magicians outgrow tricks, the same way people outgrow anything, Meadows said. "I've got a couple of cupboards full of discarded tricks. I tinker with some now and again."

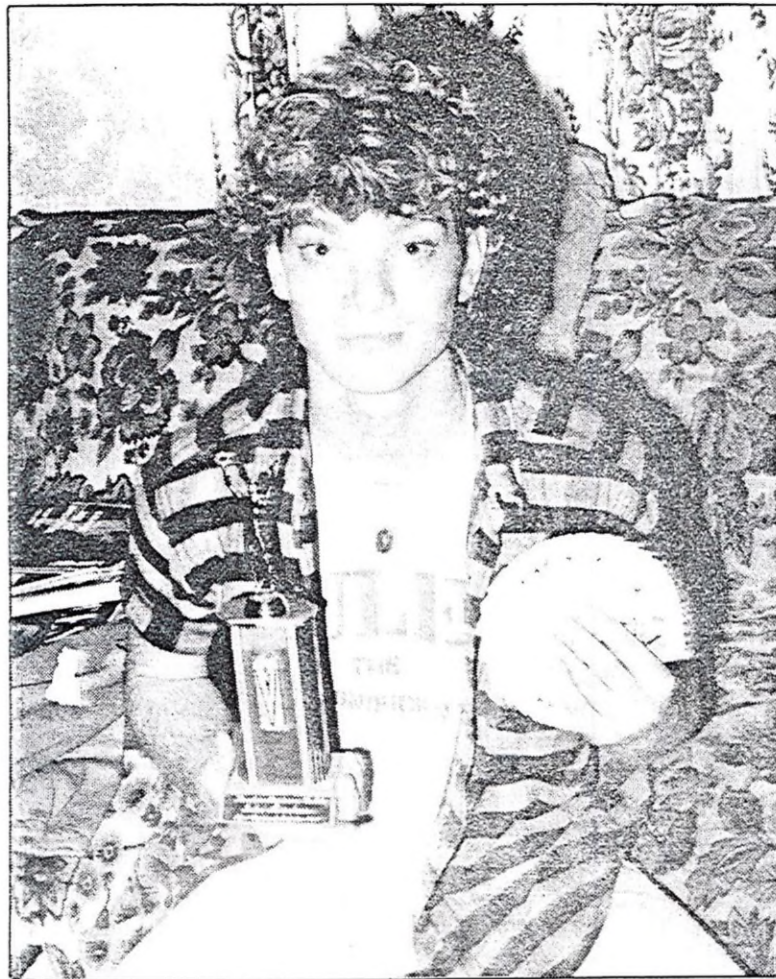
Finger dexterity is extremely important and rigorously practiced. "Your hands have to look totally natural. You have to control the movement of each finger independently."

The main thing is to keep practicing. "Not 12 hours a day, but a few hours each day, every day and soon things you once thought were impossible, you can do."

INGERSOLL TIMES  
June 24, 1987

MEADOWS, JOHN

# Meadows receives magical title



Magician John Meadows poses with the trophy he received after being named most improved magician by the London Magic Guild.

INGERSOLL TIMES  
November 11, 1987

Ingersoll's John Meadows used trickery and deceit to win an award. Unacceptable behavior by most people's standards but in the magic biz it's just part of the game.

Meadows was proclaimed the most improved magician of the year by the London Magic Guild, compos-

ed of about 25 of his colleagues. Meadows said he was momentarily tongue-tied when he was chosen to be honored by his fellow sorcerers.

"I was a little speechless," Meadows said. "Not for long though."

Meadows also recently attended a magic convention in New York sponsored by the International Brotherhood of Magicians (IBM), an annual event where magicians get together and literally swap the tricks of the trade.

Meadows said the magicians perform for each other without the fear of revealing their secrets and offer each other constructive criticism. Magic dealers are also in attendance peddling the latest in deception.

Meadows said the convention provides a unique opportunity for magicians to improve their techniques and advance their skills for audiences who are not as gullible as they once were.

"It has progressed," Meadows said. "The old methods that were getting known have been brought up

to date. As the audiences got more sophisticated the tricks got grander and bigger."

Meadows, who boasts a repertoire

of about two or three dozen tricks, says his present favorite is the linking rings illusion. Performing under a stage persona of "Jules the (Semi) Magnificent," Meadows said the audience seems to appreciate his efforts.

"They even clap," he said.

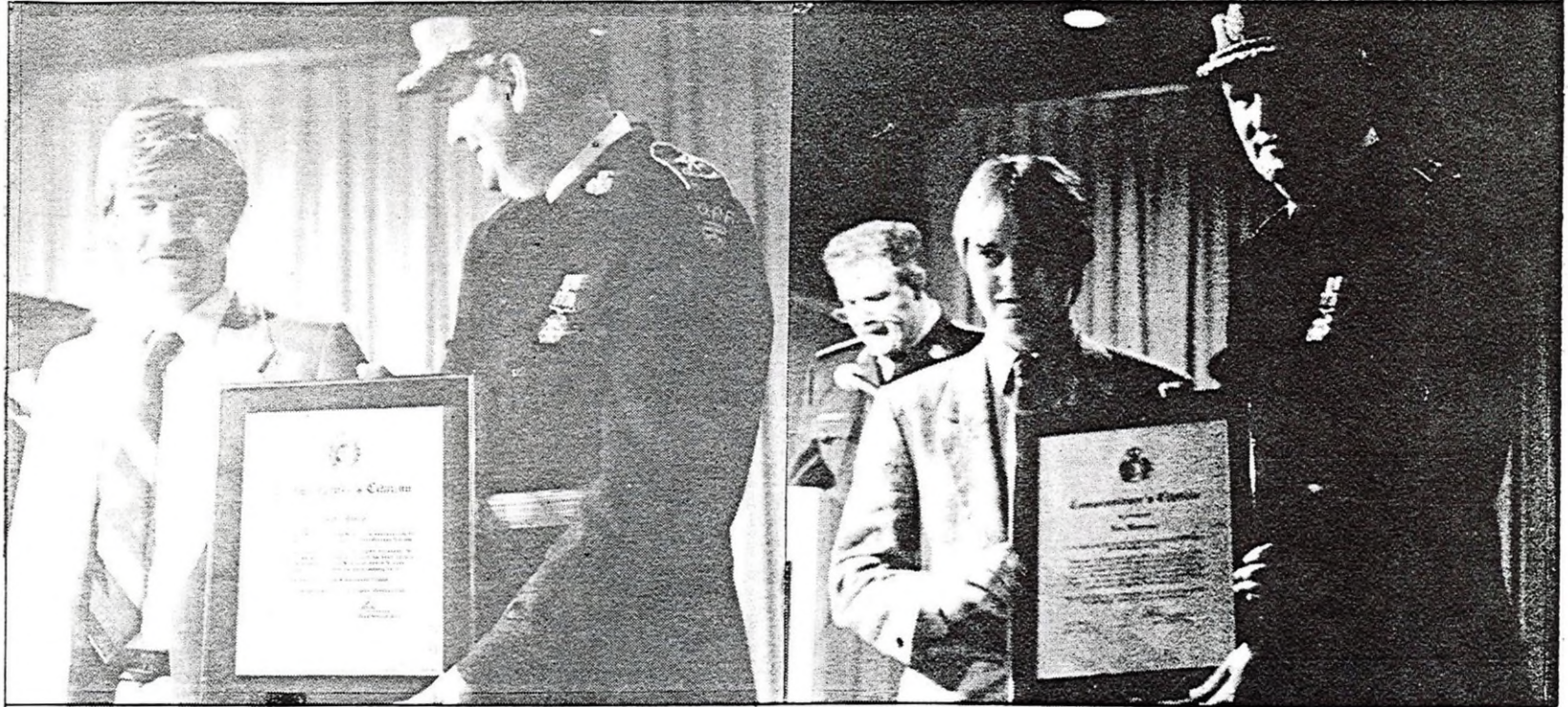
Meadows studied his calling through an 18-week correspondence course which begins with basic card and cigarette manipulations and builds them into polished routines but the budding wizard said the only way to improve is through practise.

Preferring the outdoors and an audience of unpredictable youngsters, Meadows enjoys street magic where illusion is of the utmost importance.

"You set your own stage," he said. "You have the audience's complete attention."

With his payment dependant on a pass of the hat, Meadows, 21, said street magic will not likely be his sole source of income when he graduates from IDCI.

But with many birthday parties and Christmas shows booked for the remainder of the year, perhaps Meadows has something up his sleeve.



Two Ingersoll area residents received awards for heroism from the Ontario Provincial Police last week in a ceremony in London. In the first picture, Joseph Miles, of Ingersoll, receives a Commissioners Citation from

Deputy Commissioner Jim Szarka. In the second picture, Lee Eccleston, of Salford, receives the same award. Both helped save the lives of people last year. (Staff Photos)

# OPP recognizes two local heroes

An Ingersoll man and a Salford youth were recognized by the Ontario Provincial Police for their heroism last week.

Lee Eccleston, of Salford, received a Commissioners Citation for saving the life of a swimmer at Port Burwell last year.

Eccleston, 15, pulled 13-year-old Tracey Perrin to safety after she was overcome by high waves off Port Burwell Provincial Park on Lake Erie last Aug. 13.

Joseph Miles, of Ingersoll, was also awarded a Commissioners Citation. Miles and another man, Claude

Parco of London, pulled a man from a burning truck after an accident on Highway 401 in North Dorchester Township last Dec. 15.

The two were among 13 civilians who received awards from the OPP at a ceremony held last Wednesday in London. The ceremony also

recognized 10 OPP officers who had served for 20 years. Each received a Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

All awards were presented by Deputy Commissioner Jim Szarka.

INGERSOLL TIMES  
June 21, 1989

MILES JOSEPH

# Ingersoll Chron

## AND CANADIAN DAIRYMAN.

INGERSOLL, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1894.

**RARE TREAT.**—Harold Jarvis, town Tuesday evening, Nov. 6. Popular of admission.

**NOTION FOR IT.**—Detroit's most celebrated locationist, Miss Farmer, will give a in King-st. church shortly, under the of the Epworth League.

**MUSICAL.**—The choir of King street Meth- church, Ingersoll have received and ed invitations to give programmes on occasion of anniversary concerts at pton and Springford.

**MOVED.**—The office of the Ingersoll Barytic Stone Co. has been removed Noraworthy's block to the residence of general manager, Mr. Walter Mills, for Street.

**THANKS TO DELHI'S CHAMBERS.**—By a ge coincidence the liveryman at Delhi kept James Chambers' lost team last was named Chambers also. Jim ce in high terms of the gentleman for excellent care bestowed on the outfit, gh a stranger's.

**GOOD APPOINTMENT.**—Mr. George Dun as been appointed sole manager and rintendent of the Ingersoll Waterworks and will take up his residence at the ping station in a short time, where he all of his time to the interests of y. No better appointment could ean made, and our citizens generally o doubt be well pleased to hear of Mr. an's promotion.

**CRICKED BY A HORSE.**—Mr. H. Buchanan's geat daughter, Beatrice, was severely ed by a kick from a young colt on day afternoon. It appears the colt was ing loose in the yard, and the child g up behind it the animal kicked, strik- her over the right eye. Dr. McKay ed the wound, which was an ugly look- one, but thinks it will not prove serious, e could not see that the bone was ed.

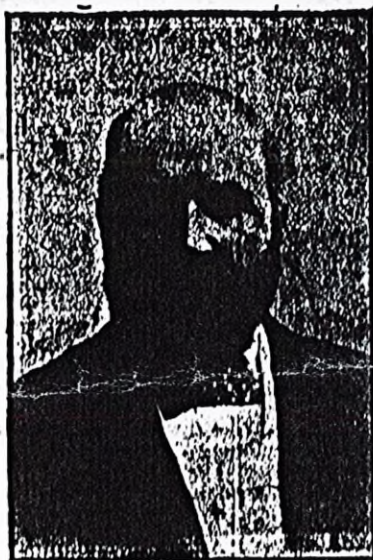
**ILL ANOTHER.**—Mr. T. H. Noxon has nenced the erection of a new building e vacant lot adjoining the premises ears Robertson and McKay. The erec- of this building, together with the new : now in course of construction by ers Robertson and McKay, will fill in the nt space in that part of town, and will uch improve the appearance of the t. We learn that the building will be led by the Tribune and by Mr. O. E. onson as a wholesale fruit store.

**12 CHURCHMEN.**—The Crusaders, Royal plars evangelists, Miss Jessie Rines, Mr. ines, and Mr. H. J. Rines, assisted the re of Charles street church last Sunday oon and the King street church at the ng service. They conducted a gospel rance meeting in the town hall after gh the hall being well filled. They have holding meetings in the town hall each t this week, and to-night Rev. Dr. W. McKay, of Woodstock will deliver an ees. The meetings so far have been yable.

**ORDINARY YIELD.**—From an on the Youngs farm at Youngsville, West Zorra, now tenanted by Henry er, and belonging to the estate of the John Youngs, of Woodstock, an ex- of Oxford county, W. C. Haddock, le city, says The Stratford Herald, has up 125 barrels of choice fruit, paying for \$1.25 per barrel. The yield is an ordinary one from an orchard known over 60 years old. From three trees e Wenhelm apple variety 21 barrels

### DEATH OF T. D. MILLAR,

We regret to announce this week the death of one of our oldest and most highly esteemed citizens. We refer to Mr. T. D. Millar, who passed away at his home yesterday after a brief illness. Deceased only returned home on the 6th of October from a two months trip to the Old Country, and on the following Friday was seized with an attack of pleurisy which developed into pneumonia and resulted fatally after an illness of only about twelve days.



Thomas Dipple Millar was born in Rox- borough, Scotland, in March, 1828, and was consequently in his 67th year. He came to this country when about 30 years of age, and after visiting with his relatives at Beachville a short time secured a situation on the G. T. R. at Dundas. He soon re- turned to Beachville, where he embarked in the grain business. He shortly afterwards established a branch in Ingersoll and con- ducted both businesses for some time. He eventually removed to this town where he has remained ever since. Shortly after coming here Mr. Millar went extensively into cheese exporting in addition to handling grain, and established a pork packing busi- ness which has developed into the mammoth concern now owned by the Ingersoll Pork Packing Co. The latter business did not prove a success, and after relinquishing it devoted his attention to cheese. A few years ago he originated the famous "Para- gon" cheese which has since gained a world- wide reputation, and has increased in popu- larity year by year until its manufacture reached mammoth proportions and found a ready sale in all parts of the civilized globe. Mr. Millar was a good citizen, upright and honorable in all his dealings, kind- hearted and generous and he will be greatly missed by his host of warm friends. He was unmarried. He leaves one sister, Mrs. W. Hook, and two brothers, Robert, of Woodstock, and James, who is now living in Dakota. His funeral will take place from his late residence to-morrow afternoon at 2.30.

### ALMOST A MURDER.

### MINOR CHRONICLES.

Niasouri P. O. has been changed to Halliday.

The Stanley street Presbyterian church, Ayr, is 60 years old.

The C. P. R. will build two dairy stations in the Northwest this winter.

W. T. Armstrong, Dereham, has a chest- nut tree which has both ripe nuts and blossoms on it.

For a rare evening entertainment attend the Harold Jarvis concert, town hall Tues- day evening Nov. 6.

The grand jury at Brantford have brought in a true bill for murder against Mrs Hart- ley. The case is now in progress.

Cornelius Denovan, inspector of the separ- ate schools for Western Ontario, is very ill with pneumonia at Hamilton.

R. A. Turner, of Brantford, owner of the trotting dog Major, suicided yesterday by swallowing carbolic acid.

War has been declared between our local laundrymen, and as a result rates are out down to hard-pan prices.

The new Presbyterian church at Paris cost \$10,000 and is said to be one of the finest structures in the Province.

Harold Jarvis the noted tenor singer will appear in the town hall on Tuesday even- ing, Nov. 6. Don't fail to hear him.

Major F. H. Boneall, Bowmanville, was fined \$5 and costs on Wednesday for asking for liquor at the Balmoral hotel in Bowman- ville on a Sunday.

Mr. John White of Paris was run over by a Grand Trunk freight train and killed. He was 80 years of age, and an old servant of the Grand Trunk.

Rev. James Allister Murray pastor of St. Andrew's church, London, died at his residence on Sunday while the evening ser- vice was being held in the church.

Crossley & Hunter, the Methodist evan- gelists, closed a month's services at Pem- broke on Sunday evening. Many converts were secured.

Messrs. John Henderson and Andrew Hogg returned from Portage la Prairie on Friday last. They report crops good in that country but think Niasouri is the best place yet.

Prof. Carpmael, who for many years was director of the meteorological service and of the Toronto observatory; died on Sunday morning from cancer of the stomach.

While picking apples one day last week Mr. George Brady, father of Mayor Brady, of Tilsonburg, received a very bad fall, which at his advanced age may prove very serious.

Miss Nora Clench, the violinist, has been accepted as a pupil by the great violinist, Joachim. This is one of the best indications of Miss Clench's ability.

The Oxford Teachers' semi-annual con- vention is now in session at Tilsonburg, and the town schools will be closed for the bal- ance of this week in consequence.

Mr. E. Dick, secretary of the Ontario License Holders' Protective Association, will hold organization meetings this week in East and West Kent, South Perth and South Oxford.

Young Cross, of Woodstock, has been sent up for trial on the charge of manslau- ghter. It will be remembered that Cross shot

### DISMISSED.

#### THE CHIEF POLICE BOUNCED B COUNCIL

And Instructions Given to Advert Another Man—The Chief Explains He Didn't Act More Promptly Resting the Assaultants of McCo The Council Unanimously of Opinion That it Would be in t Interests of the Town to Make a C In the Head of the Police Depart

At the request of nearly all the m of the council the mayor called a meeting for Monday evening, at w were present, namely:—Messrs. Thompson, Alderson, Berry, Ri Christopher, Jones, Archibald, Noxon, Macaulay, Waterworth and Williams.

The Mayor read the regulation he solved, which, he said, was signed the members of the council except Butler.

Mr. Butler being present asked regulation, which he signed, mal unanimous.

Mr. Seldon suggested that the who got up the requisition might some light on the subject and let u what was wanted. He had a propo- sition why the meeting was called fro had transpired in town during the l days. He came home on the train a Wednesday evening and while on the street a person came out with a hand and said that parties were dis- tressing them, and wanted him to send pol- ice. He supposed this trouble outcome of that same disturbance.

On motion of Mr. Jones, seconded Christopher, council went into comm the whole on the question of the ind of the police service—the mayor's chair.

Mr. Waterworth—I would like t what the mayor has to say in refer- the matter.

Mayor Williams said that to some what knowledge he had of the ce street rumor. We had learned that f cause the assistant chief of police had ed some one, and while doing so wa by some person on the street. The arrested also received wounds, and got medical assistance. The chief we to see his assistant, and advised him but an appointment was made i them, whereby the assistant was to- the chief's office at 2 o'clock, and charge against the men who assault- ed but when the hour arrived for the wounded man was worse and o- keep the appointment. Later on a of the council and the chief met and ed to have the arrests made. On Hu was called in company with other Mr. McConnell, the wounded police it was found on examination that eration had to be performed on acco- depression of the bone. The wo- opened and a portion of the bone to 1 1/2 inches long by one inch in was pressed in against the brain, b- being broken into a number of fr One of the parties has been arrested mitted to bail. It seems to be th opinion that the chief is the only has the right to make an arrest- case, but that is not so. When a is issued every officer has the an-

Student gains national recognition  
for creative writing

MILLER, Carol

Carol Miller, a grade 13 student at Ingersoll and District Collegiate Institute was joyously surprised when she found out she had received an honorary mention in the Permanent's 14th annual Student Writing Contest.

Her short story entitled "Solitaire" was one of 2,000 entries received from across Canada. Three top writers from each province were chosen by representatives from the Canadian Council of Teachers of English and the Ontario Council of Teachers of English.

Requirements for the contest were that each entry must be an original piece of writing in English or French by a high school student of not more than 2,000 words. The writing could be on any subject.

The purpose of the contest, according to director of public relations for the Permanent, Den Sinclair, is to search out young writers across Canada and encourage them to develop their creative talents.

Cash and certificate awards will be presented to the students at local branch offices.

## *Solitaire* ——— By Carol Miller

-- An hour to myself! My mother, ages ago, said the same thing, as she hustled us up the stairs for the dreaded afternoon nap. Did she hide a bottle underneath the sink for unpredictable crises? One hour! Let's start the game, Amelia. You have no time to waste!

Amy enters the cluttered kitchen and searches frantically through drawers until she discovers a deck of cards. Then she exposes a bottle of rye, conspicuous among cans of Lysol, Comet and Drano; common household poisons kept hidden beneath the sink. She pours herself a drink, straight, and raises the glass in the empty air in front of her.

"Here's to you mother dear!", Amy toasts aloud, then sits down at the kitchen table to sort the cards.

A day in the life of Ameila MacTavish, 32, a suburban housewife, held prisoner by the daily rituals of modern life. Hardly soap-opera material Amy darling. Maybe you're just easy prey for these Canadian authoresses of lost souls.

She methodically arranges the cards for a game of Solitaire. Each worn card proudly displays the stamp, "Souvenir of Harold's Club-Reno", in red letters. Trophy of some former game.

Amelia MacTavish, 22, hanging confidently on the arm of Adam MacTavish, her 12 hour 16 minute old, husband. Amy, savouring every moment of her honeymoon, dreaming with romantic expectations of her new life, watches her husband with pride. Four years of university had been wisely spent, for had she not received the ultimate prize an aspiring young lawyer.

Amy glances quickly at the clock, pours another drink, then begins to play. The first card she turns up is a King of Spades.

Well, Amelia, you're off to a promising start, but that's what you thought 10 years ago, too. Wasn't he your King? Your parents were assured that you had played your cards right. Didn't you?

Adam, now a prominent lawyer, is working in his study. He looks up at Amy irritated, and demands, "What do you want this time?"

"Adam, do you ever, well...feel trapped?"

"What do you mean?"

"That's just what I mean, trapped. In this room. In this house. In yourself!"

"How could anyone feel trapped in this house? I still think it's too big for us. What do we need all this room for, anyway?"

"For entertaining...with your job and everything."

"Any, I don't understand you. We never entertain anymore, because you don't like to have company! I really have a lot of work to do. Couldn't you maybe see a doctor or something..."

"I am not sick. I am...well, I feel...like I'm drifting...um.."

"What?"

"Nothing."

INGERSOLL  
TIMES

March 25, 1981



Carol Miller

The game appears to be proceeding well, and Amy, taking another glimpse at the clock, gives a confident grin. Then she hesitantly looks around the disorderly kitchen before continuing to play.

Guilt? Now Amelia, how could you possibly feel guilty? Of course you deserve one hour to yourself, without worrying about your family. I have meals ready at eight, 12 and six. I iron clothes, wash dishes and wipe runny noses. What more can they ask for? Damn, these walls are smothering me! I thought I had escaped.

The white walled waiting room is immaculate. "Psychology Today" magazines are piled uniformly on the polished table. Amy, sitting serenely in her white dress, deceptively appears to suit the atmosphere.

"Mrs. MacTavish?", asks a tidy young secretary, who no doubt is responsible for the magazine table. Amy gazes suspiciously at her for a moment, then dully replies, "Yes". "Doctor Gardner will see you now," the secretary responds sweetly.

The questions are routine and Amy is bored. She stares out the window, watching the sea-gulls plummet, envying their freedom.

"Mrs. MacTavish, have you experienced any recurring dreams or fantasies, you would like to tell me about?"

Amy looked at him, searching, then replied. "Well, actually, there is a certain dream that occurs quite often, but I assume it's a common one!"

"Please, go on," encouraged the doctor.

"I have a persistent nightmare that I'm trapped inside a bottle with a narrow neck. Someone has just put a cap on it. I struggle to escape until I realize that I must conserve the oxygen or I will suffocate."

"Do you succeed in escaping or does someone rescue you?", the doctor asked.

"I'm not sure. I always wake up before it's over."

Student gains national recognition...

"That's very interesting Mrs. MacTavish, but I'm afraid our time is up for today. If you care to return at another date, please confirm an appointment with the secretary."

"But what about my dreams?"

"Oh, I'm sure you just ate or drank something, that disagreed with you. It was very nice talking to you. Good day."

"But doctor..."

"Really Mrs. MacTavish," the doctor replied drily, "you must be going now! I have other patients to see."

Amy pours herself another drink. The game is beginning to drag, although Amy is certain she will triumph. She removes a two of hearts from the last pile and turns up a jeering joker.

"How did that get in here?" she questions aloud. "I know I removed the jokers from the deck when I sorted the cards!"

Is it mocking me? Husbands, doctors and jokers! Tittering laughter echoes through the maze of my house - my mind. Stifling me! Can the children hear it? Please, don't let them wake! I need an hour to myself. Yes, I remember mother. "A woman's greatest honor and duty, is that of a mother and wife." Oh, the martyrdom of motherhood!

The last time, the children were prematurely awakened by a fire siren, in their driveway. Amy had dropped a cigarette on a pile of newspapers beneath the table. When the fire alarm began shrieking, she stared blindly at it for a full two minutes before she could comprehend the situation. After another three minutes, staggering over the telephone table, she found the Fire Department's number. The firemen were pounding on the locked door, when the children, eyes wide with fear, opened it for them. Their mother sat crumpled by the telephone, sobbing pathetically. Repentant, she quit smoking.

Amy sighs heavily and looks up at the clock. Indifferent, it passes her time away. Nathan and Robin would soon be waking up, demanding her attention. She stares at the bottle of rye for a moment, contemplating, then pours another drink. Inspecting the cards in front of her, she discovers that she can't make another move.

Trapped! Why do I play this game, anyway? In my wilderness, I create my own diversions. I will not surrender to temptation. You've taken your share of peeks during the last 10 years of blissful matrimony. Cheater?

Amy MacTavish, 29, vacationing in New England with her children. Her husband was forced to remain at home to complete a case. For the last five years they had rented a cottage on the coast, so for the children's sake Amy had been sent on, alone. A recent widower, he had arrived only days before, searching a remedy for tortured wounds. Bewildered at their situations, they had met. Amy, indulging in her liberty, agreed to accompany him on a moonlit walk beside the ocean. The night was warm and the sky was dotted with glittering stars. They brought a bottle of wine and a blanket along, in knowing anticipation.

The wine loosened their tongues, as they sought each others perceptive comfort. But he could not go through with it and Amy left him weeping in the sand.

Amy sits slouched in the chair, staring at the clock. Her hour is almost up. Looking down at the cards again, she stretches out her right hand to touch a Queen of Hearts, hesitates, and draws her arm back again. She sits motionless.

Is that Nathan crying? Better go and check him. He's so defenseless. He needs you. They all do! Honestly, Amelia, sometimes I'm almost convinced that you are crazy! Well, the game is over. Time to get supper ready.

Amy slowly rises, testing her equilibrium and looks around the kitchen. She packs up the cards and returns them to their drawer. Picking up the bottle of rye, she kneels to return it to its place beneath the sink. As if on a second thought, she straightens up, still clutching the bottle and holds it up in front of her.

She stares at it for a few seconds then sighing she shrugs her shoulders and returns the bottle to the hiding place.

INGERSOLL TIMES  
March 25 1981



# I.D.C.I. student gets Chamber of Commerce award

A student at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute will receive an outstanding youth award by the local chamber of commerce this Friday.

Janet Milne, from Salford, will receive a plaque and \$100 award at a Canada Day celebration to be held by the chamber.

Milne was surprised by her win. Students are not nominated, but chosen by the guidance department for their overall work in the community and academic achievements during their five years in high school.

The 18-year-old was well respected by her teachers. They commented that she was a mature, polite, personable and co-operative young woman.

Besides maintaining a 90 plus average throughout her five years in high school she has been active in a wide range of activities. In school she was the chief electoral officer for this year's student council election, a house system representative, involved in the United Nations Club, on the prom committee and a member of Ontario Students Against Impaired Driving.

Academically, she won the highest standing in Grade 10 and 11 French



Janet Milne is the recipient of the Ingersoll and District Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Youth Award. (Staff photo)

and Grade 12 Family and Child. She also contributed her talent on the cello to the I.D.C.I. orchestra in 1984, '85 and '86.

For seven years she participated in medicine. The presentation of the award will be part of the Chamber of Commerce's Canada Day activities planned for Friday at 5:30 p.m. at the Harvest Trends parking lot.

in the 4-H program and has completed 15 projects. Milne last spring won the Ontario Federated Women's Institute 4-H scholarship and recently was chosen as one of six Ontario students to receive the Petro Canada 4-H Leadership Award.

Other community activities include her involvement in the youth parliament and Oxford Presbytery Youth Council. As well, she was a group leader at TOC ALPHA (Taking On Concerns About Life, People and Human Achievement).

Her work experience has been varied. She has been a waitress at the Elm Hurst Inn, taught the R.E.A.D. (Reading, Entertainment, Activities and Development) program to youngsters with reading problems and been a girl Friday at Camp Hollyburn. It is a children's camp located in the Muskokas.

She will again be teaching the R.E.A.D. program, which is sponsored by the Oxford County Board of Education, this summer to Ingersoll youngsters. The program will be operated out of the Princess Anne School.

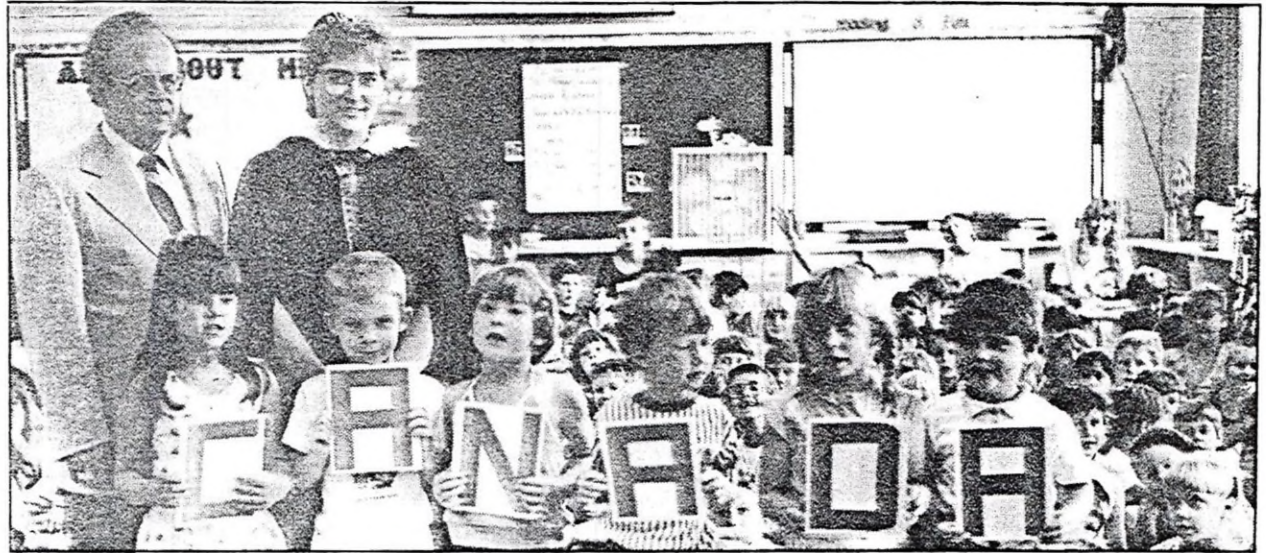
Milne is looking forward to attending Queen's University, in Kingston, and perhaps pursuing a career in genetic engineering or

JUNESOLL TIMES  
June 28, 1989

MILNE, Janet



janet milne



## PROUD PERSONAGE

"Imagine you've just won an Olympic gold medal in your favorite sport, and everyone is watching as the Canadian flag slowly rises and they play *O Canada*. Wouldn't you feel proud?" Heritage Queen Sandy Lamers visited Ingersoll schools to explain what being Canadian means to her, part of the Town's Canada Day

celebration. Helping her at Westfield School were C- Nicole Bilty, A- Edward Feick, N- Erin Fleck, A- Andrew Tillie-Smith, D- Jessica Beacham and A- Beth Anne Ferguson. Proudly watching this group of young Canadians was school principal Mr. K. Gerald Kelsey, who is retiring. (Staff photo)

## CANADA DAY

# Janet Milne this year's C of C youth award recipient

By PAULINE KERR  
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — The winner of this year's Chamber of Commerce Youth Award is Janet Milne, a graduate of Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute.

She has maintained a 90 per cent plus average throughout her high school career and has par-

ticipated in a number of school activities - prefect, student council representative, house system representative, United Nations club, prom committee and OSAID member; also a member of the IDCI orchestra. Milne won highest standing in Grade 10, Grade 11 French and Grade 12 Family and Child. As well, she has been active in 4-H (president) winning the OCWI 4-H scholarship, Youth Parliament, Oxford Presbytery Youth

Council and a group leader at TOC ALPHA. The busy student has worked as a waitress at the Elm Hurst, taught the READ program for OCBE and has been "girl Friday" at Camp Hollyburn.

Milne will attend Queen's University to pursue a career in genetic engineering or medicine.

Jim Revell of the Canada Day Committee describes her as mature, polite and personable... "a most worthy recipient" of the award.

SENTINEL  
June 30, 1989  
REVIEW

# Ingersoll's own Johnny Apple Seed (kind of)

By PHYLLIS COULTER  
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Lorne Moon is this town's version of Johnny Apple Seed.

His efforts to give vegetable seeds to needy people in Jamaica caught the attention of the Kiwanis Club here, and they are going to expand upon the work "our Johnny" has begun.

Moon first travelled to Jamaica eight years ago after hearing about the lovely tropical island from natives who annually pick apples in Ingersoll.

Moon immediately noticed Jamaica was a poor country. Bauxite (a faltering industry) and tourism are two major industries in this country where unemployment is about 35 per cent. "I don't know how they smile," he says of the natives.

VEGETABLE seeds cost \$16 a package in Jamaican money while workers who do have decent jobs make about \$80 a week. Each package costs about \$4 in Canadian currency.

So when Moon came home, he thought about what he saw. Before he returned to Jamaica the next year, he bought 120 packages of seed here to give out to hotel employees, people with

small gardens and other natives.

Moon was invited to a Kiwanis club meeting, and he told his story. The club was enthused with his efforts and are going to continue his work on the larger scale.

This is the first year for the Kiwanis involvement, and things are very tentative as of yet, says Jack Norton, a key person in this project along with Wib Walker.

Together with Moon they made a request to 10 seed companies to donate vegetables which would grow in Jamaican soils. Two have responded. The Ontario Seed House in Waterloo and Dominion Seed House in Georgetown are donating seeds for almost every imaginable typical vegetable.

SEEDS for beans, corn, carrots, lettuce, watermelon, onions, chard, pumpkins, beets, squash, radishes, cabbage, turnip and cauliflower will be sent to Jamaicans.

In total, the group hopes to send 12,000 packages of vegetable seeds suitable to grow on their soils. Such crops can be planted throughout the year at six to eight week intervals.

Within the next couple of months, Kiwanians here will send the seeds to Jamaica where the Kiwanis club there will get the seeds through customs and distribute them. This will be the hardest part of the job, says Norton.

He expects it may be difficult to get

the seeds through customs because those who sell seeds in Jamaica for \$16 a package certainly aren't going to like someone handing them out free.

Moon is quite impressed with the plants and fruits which do grow on the island which is larger than Lake Erie.

He was impressed with a reddish-orange fruit called achee. When the fruit is sealed hanging on the tree, it is poisonous. "Even the birds don't eat it." But when the fruit ripens the outside layer opens and the dangerous gases are released. Then, birds feast. Moon says the fruit is served like eggs in a sort of omelette.

Moon can identify dozens of Caribbean flowers and fruits. Matter of fact, he brought back several seeds and has many such plants in his home and garden.

Moon's own backyard looks like it was peeled off the pages of a glossy magazine. It's so colorful and well-groomed that it's the site of many summer Ingersoll wedding photos.

MOON'S passion for growing plants combined with his compassion for the poor people of Jamaica has grown into a bigger project than he ever imagined.

Now that the Kiwanians are continuing his effort, Moon would like to bring school supplies to Jamaican students. He still won't take his annual visit to the warm country without a few dozen packages of seeds as gifts to the native people.



LORNE MOON, a horticulturalist, holds some of the seed packages he will be taking with him to give out to people he meets in Jamaica. He hands them out to hotel personnel and people who have small gardens and no money to buy

vegetable seeds. The Ingersoll Kiwanis club is going to carry on Moon's work on a bigger scale this year. Jack Norton (on the right), a Kiwanis club member, holds up other seed packets. (Staff photo by Phyllis Coulter)

SENTINEL

Review

October 23, 1966

Moon, Lorne

# People gathered when wheelchair given recalls Lorne Moon

By MARK REID  
of Ingersoll This Week

Children in two schools in the backwoods of Jamaica see Lorne Moon as a Santa Claus-type guy when he arrives from Ingersoll each spring with school supplies.

And thanks to a small group of Ingersoll residents, that Santa Claus gleam now shows in the eyes of Clement Bernard, who lives in a small village of 500 to 600.

Bernard, somewhere in his 40s, is the recipient of a wheelchair donated by Jean and Don Hillis and transported to Jamaica thanks to the efforts of Harry Beale and Jimmy Allen.

Moon, who started the *Seeds for Jamaica*, said Bernard did not believe him when he said he would give him a wheelchair. Bernard, said Moon, has never actually begged for anything, but always expresses thanks when he receives something.

"I don't think he believed me, really," said the former Stelco employee recalling his second last day in Jamaica when he asked Bernard to meet him the following night.

Moon first met Bernard while vacationing in Jamaica in 1977. Bernard, who is illiterate, was born with virtually no legs and

had been walking on two three-inch tree limbs strapped to his body. He has one stump about four inches in length.

A group of 20 or so gathered when Moon set up the chair; some applauded and one man shook his hand, he recalled. "He actually smiled when he sat in the chair for the first time."

Jamaica is not all bronzed bodies in bikinis along beaches and in bars like the tourists see. To see the real country — the poverty — you have got to get off the beaten track.

Says Moon: "Two roads off the main streets, you're in a different world."

While Moon, who annually visits Ocho Rios, is not sure what is in store for him and his wife, Marie, next year. He is worried that his seeds program may be in jeopardy because Air Jamaica has discontinued service to Canada.

The airline has flown the seeds — donated by the Dominion and Ontario seed companies — to Jamaica free of charge. However, the airline has discontinued passenger service to Canada and Moon is unsure what affect that will have on the transportation of freight.

Paying to ship the seeds is costly.

SENTINEL REVIEW  
April 17, 1990

## Ingersoll's very own 'Johnny Vegetableseed' helps the poor in Jamaica

By ERIC SCHMIEDL  
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Tucked into the suitcases of Lorne and Marie Moon is more than the usual assortment of clothing for those destined for Jamaica.

Each year, for almost a decade, the long-time Ingersoll residents have been taking donated vegetable seeds each spring to the needy people of Jamaica through their program *Seeds for Jamaica*.

It was in 1979 when the Moons first saw the need for such a program. Unlike your average tourist, the Moons ventured from the glitz pictured in the tourist brochures and discovered a country faced with high unemployment, low wages and real poverty.

"Two roads off the main streets, you're in a different world," says Lorne.

Currently, Jamaicans face an unemployment rate between 30-35 per cent.

While the Moons originally brought south seeds — tomato,

radish, cucumber and pumpkin — it was in a small number, some 100-150 package, but today that number has grown to the thousands.

In addition to suitcases packed with seeds, the Moons, married for 48 years, have also taken south each year for the last five school supplies for the children in the poverty-stricken country.

The need for such a program was first seen in 1979 and it was in the mid-1980s when Lorne got help from the local Kiwanis club in soliciting seed companies for donations. Currently, both the Georgetown-based Dominion Seed House and Waterloo's The Ontario Seed House support the project.

"We took what we could carry in our bags," says Lorne.

The Moons distribute a great portion of the seeds by themselves. In addition, they visit the

### local notables

churches where, after all, the clergy know who are in greatest need of this small-scale foreign aid effort.

"There's no red tape in Jamaica," says Lorne. "We just give the seeds to the people."

Lorne notes that although there is poverty in the country, the people you see off the main streets are well dressed when it comes time to attend church.

Lorne, who was employed at Stelco for 26 years following a three and one-half year stint in the navy during the Second World War, estimates that some 50,000 packages of seeds have been taken south.

The school supplies the Moons take down each spring are worth between \$400-500 Canadian. That's \$2,500, -2,700 Jamaican. Some students start school as early as 5 a.m.

Dubbed the *Canadian Appleseeds* by many including well-know columnist Arthur Black

Lorne and his wife have not only helped with the delivery of seeds and school supplies, but the couple will probably always be remembered by an illiterate Jamaican man who used to walk on two tree limbs.

Clement Bernard, somewhere in his 40s, was given a wheelchair this spring thanks to the efforts of the Moons, and the community of Ingersoll.

The wheelchair was donated by Jean and Don Hillis then shipped south thanks to the efforts of Harry Beale and Jimmy Allen.

Since its inception there have been no problems with the seeds program, however, Air Jamaica — the company which flew the seeds free of charge for the Moons — has discontinued its passenger service to Canada. Moon is not sure what affect the cancellation will have on the transportation service.



Lorne Moon

# After 63 years in business, Jenny Morello closes shop

After spending most of her life in the fruit and grocery business, 78-year-old Jenny Morello, owner of Morello's, is closing up shop. Miss Morello,

commonly known to most of her customers as Jenny, has decided it's time to retire. In 1902, Miss Morello's parents moved to Ingersoll.

Shortly after their arrival here, they opened up a fruit store in the location in which the store is still situated.

Throughout her childhood Miss Morello worked in the store. "I can't remember how old I was when I first started working," she said. "But when I was 15, I quit school and started working here full time."

In 1937, she took over the complete operation of the store. But, other than changing from the sale of fresh fruit to the sale of groceries, Miss Morello said she tried to keep the store much the same as it was when her parents were running it.

Although she still has a few regular customers, most of her customers now are students. There was a time when she loved to have children come into the store, but not anymore.

"They come in here and just hang out," she claimed. "I've been very happy in this business, I like meeting people - most of them are good. But it's these kids," she said, "they just hang out here."

Miss Morello estimated that in the last two years, youngsters have snatched over \$2,000 worth of cash and goods from her store. "I'm just giving up," she said. "I can't put up with it anymore."

After all these years in the working world, Miss Morello claimed it won't be hard finding things to do. For the winter months she will be moving to Toronto to visit her sister and her niece. She said she will continue to keep her home in Ingersoll but will not reopen the store.

"I'll just sit around," she said in reference to the new spare time she'll have on her hands. "I don't want to do this anymore."

Most of the shelves are now empty and the few remaining items she expects to be gone soon. After all these years, Jenny Morello is finally closing up shop.



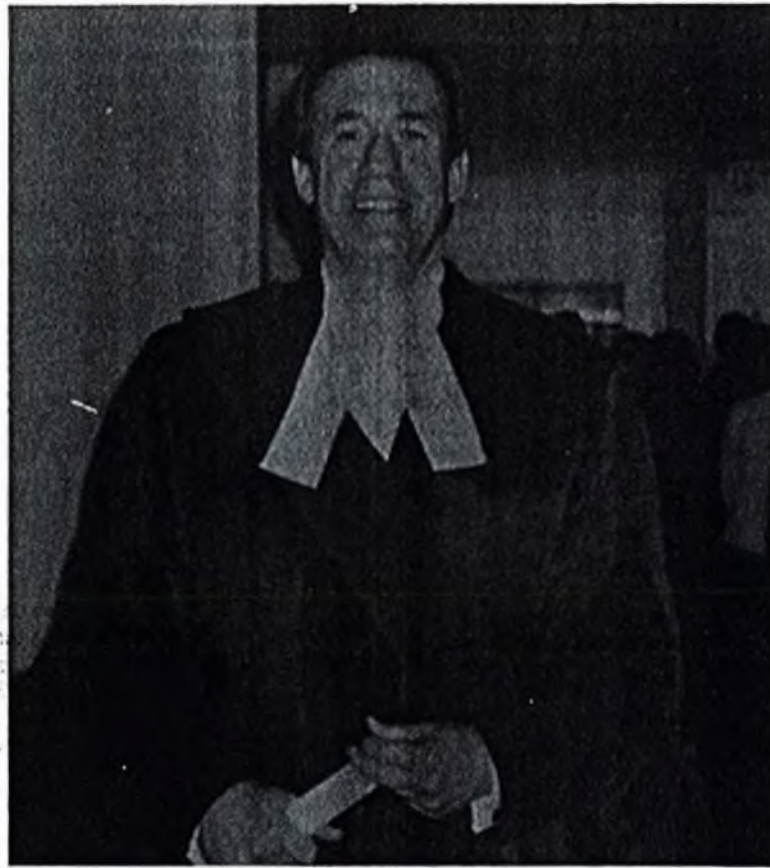
After years of business, Jenny Morello, owner of Morrello's, is finally closing up shop. Miss Morello said she has decided it's time to retire.

## Becky Fishback wins in VMS speaking competition

The annual grade eight public speaking competition was held at Victory Memorial School. The judges for this competition were: Mr. Ken Cooper, Mr. Roy

Hallock and Mrs. John McRae.

For the girls Becky Fishback, speaking on Child Labour, was first, Phyllis Heeney was second, and Jennifer Nickason placed third. Other speakers were Penny Wilson, Sandy Blanche, Anne Wadsworth and



The  
Ingersoll  
Times  
July 10, 1991

## Ingersoll native named general court judge

Ingersoll native William J. Morrison has been named a general court judge.

He will be stationed in Brampton but will be presiding throughout the central west judicial district which includes Guelph, Walkerton and Owen Sound.

Morrison has been Crown attorney for Waterloo Region for the past 19 years. His time of Crown attorney ceased on his appointment by justice minister Kim Campbell.

Morrison, who was the third new appointment in recent weeks in the Peel Region courts, considers the job a great challenge.

The federal government named 11 new general judges and appointed Roy McMurtry as associate chief justice for the general court.

"Bill" is the son of the late Thomas Morrison and Mrs. Morrison. Tom served for many years as a councillor and mayor of Ingersoll.

Bill was born and raised in Ingersoll, attended Sacred Heart School, Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute and King's College, University of Western Ontario.

A graduate of Osgoode Hall, he is also a nephew of Mrs. Fred McDermott of Ingersoll.

# Bonnie Mott has long time

## interest in media

BY CAROL McKNIGHT

For a good portion of her life, Yvonne (Bonnie) Mott has been more than knee deep in the news business. She has worked off and on for newspapers, radio stations, magazine companies and television stations.

A-year-ago, she decided to give up dabbling in various fields of media in order to do more freelance work and to dedicate more time to university studies. The ink stains of her newspaper life could not easily be wiped away, however, and in today's edition of the Times, reader's may find the familiar by-line "By Yvonne Mott."

Born and raised in

Ingersoll, Mrs. Mott jumped into the newspaper business immediately after graduating from Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute. For seven years she was employed with the now defunct Ingersoll Tribune, doing every phase of newspaper work.

"I learned from the bottom up, literally," she said in a Friday morning interview. "And I loved it."

From setting linotype to reporting and eventually editing news copy, Mrs. Mott gradually climbed to the top of the Tribune's staff. After several years with the weekly paper, however, she decided to try her hand at writing for a daily newspaper. Almost immediately, she landed a

job with the Daily Sentinel Review.

With the exception of a short three-week-break during her first pregnancy, Mrs. Mott remained with the Sentinel for eight years. While working for the paper, she was also in charge of an early morning news broadcast on CKOT in Tillsonburg.

After her stint at the Sentinel, Mrs. Mott decided to again return to the Tribune, this time working as a consulting editor. She maintained that position for five years.

In 1967 Canada's centennial year, Mrs. Mott was given the opportunity to attend university.

"It was always my

dream to go to university," she said adding that her husband Carman arranged it as a Centennial gift for her.

"I started out taking a one night class," she said. Gradually that one class became two, then three, and it was built up until she was eventually attending university full time. In 1975 she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Her degree did not quench her thirst for knowledge though and Mrs. Mott again returned to university. She is presently working towards an English honors certificate.

Not only is Mrs. Mott a student at school, she is a teacher as well. For the

past two years she has taught a night school program titled "Let's talk books," and has worked with student's at St. Joseph's Separate School, Thamesford, teaching creative writing. She has also taught creative writing to adults, at night school.

"I'm a jack of all trades and a master of none," she confessed. "I really enjoy life. I'm interested in everything that comes along."

Mrs. Mott has been heavily involved in community activities in the past. In 1967 she was honored for her involvement with people and community organizations and was the recipient of

(page 1 of 2)

INGERSOLL TIMES  
JULY 19, 1978

MOTT, Yvonne (Bonnie)



Canada's Centennial Award.

She admits that she has not been quite as heavily involved with the community in the past few years, because of her school studies. She noted, however, that for 19 years she was secretary of the Y.M.C.A.'s board of directors and for five years she was the Y.M.C.A.'s program director.

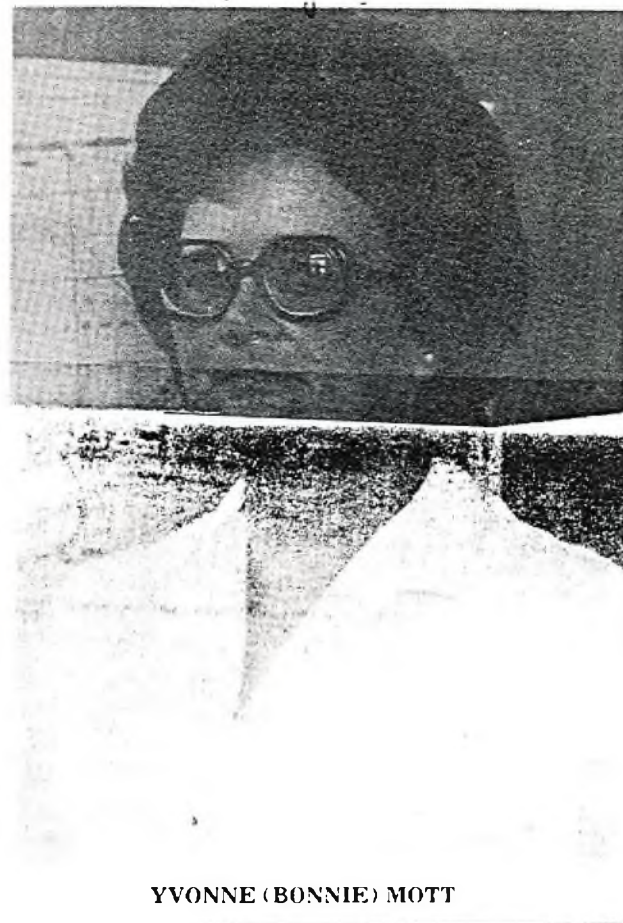
As well, she has worked at the local library.

Print media was only one area that stirred Mrs. Mott interest. For five years "The Bonnie Mott Show" ran through the airwaves of CKOX radio in Woodstock. She has done freelance work for other radio

stations and has worked as a news stringer for television stations.

Her experience in the print media has not been limited to the Ingersoll area. She has worked as a Canadian Press stringer reporter, and has written articles for various magazines including Life-Time magazine, the Royal Canadian Legion's National magazine, the Salvation Army's "War Cry" and the Toronto Star Weekly. As well she has had articles published in several American magazines.

When not kept busy with school or work, Mrs. Mott is kept busy with her three children, Kathy, 20, John, 15 and Kim 12.



YVONNE (BONNIE) MOTT

INGERSOLL TIMES  
JULY 19/78

MOTT, Yvonne (Bonnie)

(page 2 of 2)

INGERSOLL TIMES  
JULY 19, 1978

## Bonnie Mott--A multi-media personality

# She's in love with Ingersoll

MOTT Yvonne  
(Bonnie)

BY C. J. CLARK

What person has spent her life in Ingersoll and all her life promoting Ingersoll through community work, radio work, work on three newspapers and more recently hosting her own television show?

If you answered Bonnie Mott, you're right.

"There are so many things and so many talented people in Ingersoll," Bonnie Mott says, and although she wouldn't say it, she is one of those talented people.

At an early age she learned what community involvement meant through her father who served on the local police force. He put in long hours devoting his time to the betterment of the community and Bonnie picked up where he left off, beginning in high school.

She contributed to the now defunct Ingersoll Tribune when in school and upon graduating worked there full time. She started at the lowest rung and eight years later became the editor.

From there it was to the Ingersoll bureau of the Woodstock Sentinel Review. She was editor in chief of that paper in the days when several pages were devoted to this town. She left to have her first child but was so sorely missed she found herself back at work three weeks after giving birth. She stayed with that newspaper for seven years.

Branching out into another medium she hosted a Ingersoll news broadcast on DKOT radio five days a week and also served as a stringer for Canadian Press and area television stations.

She sort of retired but busied herself by serving on Ingersoll's YMCA board, consulting for the Tribune until it closed and working at the library.

A centennial gift from Bonnie's husband Carman found her starting yet another career as a part time student at Western University. She graduated in 1975 with a Bachelor Arts degree and between courses found time to host another radio show on the former CKOX as well as contribute freelance work.

Prior to becoming secretary-manager of the Chamber of Commerce, a position she now holds, she served just under a year as city editor of The Ingersoll

Times.

Presently her life is as busy as ever. She hosts The Bonnie Mott Show and The Ingersoll Report every week as well as bi-monthly press conference with Mayor Doug Harris.

On top of all this there are her numerous community endeavors. To name a few, she helped start up Ingersoll's Disaster Relief Fund, organized many community dinners, was an organizer involved with Operation Beat the Blizzard and is on the Inter-denominational Christmas Relief Fund.

Her latest venture is heading up a Promote Ingersoll Booth with her husband. It is designed, like many of her other

community work, to promote the virtues of the town of Ingersoll. With council's approval she would like to see an "Ingersoll Day", to compliment an Ingersoll Booth at next year's World Plowing match in Woodstock.

"Promoting Ingersoll and keeping people informed about their town," says Mott is the reason she has such a long list of accomplishments. "I feel very possessive about Ingersoll. I feel it is my town."

Long before it was fashionable, Mott, while establishing her long list of credits, served as wife to husband Carman and mother of three children. One is in university, another is in high school and another is in public school.

She feels without her husband's help she couldn't have, or wouldn't have accomplished what she has.

"Carman supports me, in everything I do. He has been terrific," she said. "If he didn't, I just couldn't do it."

What lies in the future for Ingersoll's own one person promotion department?

"If I ever win the Lottario I would like to own my own weekly newspaper," she said. Other equally ambitious goals include writing a novel, getting her Phd and maybe owning a bookstore.

If anybody can do it, Bonnie Mott of Ingersoll certainly can.



Bonnie Mott has been involved with just about every medium there is in and around Ingersoll over the years. Just because she has almost done it all doesn't mean she

hasn't set even more goals for herself, and for her town of Ingersoll.

# Mott named Citizen of Year

Mott Yvonne  
(Bonnie)

CITIZEN OF  
THE YEAR  
AWARD

(Royal Canadian  
Legion)

BY CHERYL STEWART

Bonnie Mott, 109 Francis Street, has been named Ingersoll's Citizen of the Year. After judging took place last Saturday at the local Legion Branch 119, it was decided she should win the award given annually for outstanding service in the community. Margaret Paterson, of R.R. 2 Ingersoll is runner-up in the contest.

In an interview Monday, Mrs. Mott was thrilled at having won the award. "I am overwhelmed. My first reaction was one of total surprise. Now that I have settled down and got my feet back on the ground, I am honored," she said.

"To have an award come from men and women who fought so hard for our country during the wars, if that means they feel I have helped out and contributed in our part of the country, I am deeply honored," she explained.

"Because of my family's military background, I feel deeply about veterans and the men and the women in the service. I was raised with a great deal of respect for the army and military manner. It's something that is part of our family," she pointed out explaining her father was a military man.

The deadline for entries for the contest was March 24. Judges included John Van Spronsen, a representative of the Sacred Heart Parish, Pearl Long, representing the Avalon Chapter of the Eastern Star, Reverend Tom Griffin of the Ministerial Association, Jack Warden as Deputy Mayor, and Roy Kennedy as president of the local Legion.

The nominees were judged on past service to the community, service to the community in the past year, and service in public office or an appointment to a municipal body. Points were also awarded for receiving honorable mention in previous Citizen of the Year judging.

A special dinner will take place this Saturday at the Legion to honor the 1982 citizen of the year.



BONNIE MOTT

The winner supported the Ingersoll YMCA when it was in existence, and helped organize the the Tornado Relief Fund in 1979 when the disaster occurred.

She has also played an active role in the annual Interchurch Christmas Relief Fund, the Girl Guides, the Creative Arts Centre, and serves as a representative on the Fanshawe College Advisory Board.

Honorary mention went to Mrs. Paterson, who has also been actively involved in the community. She has been associated with the county's Children's Aid Society for many years as a foster parent. She is involved with Alexandra Hospital's Ladies Auxiliary, Telecare, the Baptist Church choir, the Women's Association, and the mission group.

INGERSOLL TIMES

March 31, 1982

## Ingersoll's citizen of year no do-gooder, gets job done



BONNIE MOTT  
- - - "very surprised"

INGERSOLL (Bureau) — Bonnie Mott has been named the town's citizen of the year by Branch 119 of the Royal Canadian Legion here.

Active in many community services, Mott, 48, has been secretary-manager of the Ingersoll District Chamber of Commerce for three years. She has also been co-ordinator for the last two years of the Ingersoll Inter-Church Christmas Relief Committee which provides food baskets to needy families.

A panel of five judges chose her for the legion's annual award from 21 entries, 16 of which named Mott. She will be presented with the award Saturday at a legion banquet.

Mott, an Ingersoll native and mother of three, said Wednesday she was "very surprised" to have been named. "I'm certainly not a do-gooder, but if there's a job to be done, I think you've got to do it."

When the Woodstock area was hit by the August, 1979, tornado, Mott headed a relief effort that raised about \$14,000 and 14 truckloads of clothing and food. She also served on the Ingersoll YMCA for 19 years before it folded eight years ago.

"I'm really proud of Ingersoll," said Mott who was also on the board of directors for the Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre when it was set up in the early 1970s. "I enjoy working for it."

Mott also writes a weekly column for the Woodstock Daily Sentinel-Review and has been a freelance journalist for several years.

Runner-up in the legion contest is Margaret Paterson, 41, of RR 2, Ingersoll, who is also active in several community organizations and is a foster parent for Family and Children's Services of Oxford County.

London Free Press  
April 1, 1982

Mott, Yvonne (Bonnie)  
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR  
AWARD  
(Royal Canadian Legion)



BONNIE MOTT, Ingersoll citizen of the year, receives a kiss from her husband, Carman, during the

banquet held in her honor. (Staff photo by Barry Ward)

100 reasons for the choice

# Ingersoll's top citizen honored at banquet

INGERSOLL — It is probably safe to say the 100 people in attendance at Ingersoll's citizen of the year banquet could all state different reasons why Bonnie Mott was given the award for 1981.

Doug Carr, who nominated Mrs. Mott and was given the job of introducing her, was able to list 15 reasons. They ranged from her role in the YMCA to efforts with the Christmas relief fund to her commitment to the town as a member of many boards and organizations.

"No one over the years has done the public relations job for Ingersoll that Bonnie has," said Carr.

Mayor Doug Harris echoed those sentiments, saying Mrs. Mott had been giving her services to the community for many

years without any complaints.

In accepting the award, sponsored by Branch 119 of the Royal Canadian Legion, Mrs. Mott said she had been nervous all week anticipating the banquet. She noted her father was a war veteran who would have been proud of the honor given his daughter.

She took the opportunity to thank the people who had helped her over the years, including her husband and three children.

Margaret Paterson was on hand to accept her award as runner-up. Bonnie Rae, who nominated Mrs. Paterson, said the word that best described her is "encourager" for her work with the children's aid society, the hospital auxiliary and the church.

Mott, (Bonnie) Yvonne

## Bonnie Mott snags top citizen award

BY BARRY WARD

Sentinel-Review staff writer  
**INGERSOLL** — Wife,  
mother, student, journalist,  
organizer, manager, and  
community leader — Yvonne  
Holmes Mott wears all these  
hats.

Now, Mrs. Mott — Bonnie  
to hundreds of Ingersoll  
residents — has another  
crown to wear: Ingersoll  
Legion's Citizen of the Year.

A panel of five judges  
selected her from among 21  
nominees. The award will be  
given at a banquet this  
Saturday at the Royal  
Canadian Legion, Branch  
119.

Mrs. Mott, 48, said Monday  
she was "thunderstruck"  
upon hearing the news. "It's  
one of the few times in my  
life I've been totally sur-  
prised."

There is an extensive list of  
organizations which have  
benefited from her help,  
including girl guides and the  
Ingersoll branch of the  
YWCA.

The morning after the 1979  
tornado, she spearheaded a  
local relief effort which  
raised thousands of dollars  
and ended up sending 14  
truckloads of clothes to  
Woodstock.

In the past two years, she  
headed the Inter-Church  
Christmas Relief Committee  
which brings food baskets to  
needy families.

Mrs. Mott also promotes  
Ingersoll on many boards.  
She is the manager-  
secretary of the Ingersoll  
and District Chamber of  
Commerce, does work for the



**BONNIE MOTT**  
— town booster —

Business Improvement  
Area, is the Ingersoll  
representative on the ad-  
visory board of Fanshawe  
College, and helps with  
various community  
programs. She has been  
involved in town  
beautification projects and  
the rebirth of the town  
market.

She has also been an active  
journalist and currently  
writes a weekly column for  
The Sentinel-Review.

The runner-up for the  
citizen of the year award was  
Margaret Paterson of RR 2,  
Ingersoll, who has been very  
active in the Children's Aid  
Society, the Baptist church  
and the Alexandra Hospital  
Auxiliary, and mans a  
telephone for Telecare.

Daily Sentinel Review  
March 30, 1982

# Victory Memorial principal retiring after 44 years

After 40 years in the same school, Victory Memorial School principal A.G. Murray faces retirement this June, accumulating 44 years as an Oxford county educator.

Oxford county school trustees officially appointed Thamesford school principal Jon Myers as Murray's replacement at Monday's board meeting. Myers assumes his new post August 15.

Although his plans are indefinite Murray plans to "keep in touch (with the profession) in general. After 44 years in education you can't suddenly close the door," he says.

"I've found the actual classroom work the most interesting over the years," he says. "I've enjoyed my work and if I had another chance I would do the same thing all over again."

While he admits there can be certain professional advantages to periodic changes of locale during a teaching career, in his personal experience a permanent location offered the advantage of knowing "all the local people," he says. "One student came into my office and when I mentioned that I thought I should recognize him, he said, 'you should. You taught not only my mother but my grandmother as well,'" Murray commented.

Prior to his move to Ingersoll, Murray taught at Washington in Blandford-Blenheim township for four years. He joined the V.M.S. teaching staff in 1937 and assumed the position of principal in 1942.

"I also taught classes until 1962. After that principals weren't required to conduct regular classes," he said "but even though I didn't have to, I continued to teach a few optional classes until 1964. Since then I've filled in when staff members were ill."

Most enjoyable of his tasks in

his career has been classroom duty, he says, because of the "direct contact with the students." Principal duties included those of superintendent principal for Ingersoll schools from 1942 until 1969.

"All the school in Ingersoll were operated out of this office as a unit," Murray said. During this period schools under control of the former Ingersoll Board of Education increased to four, with the addition of Princess Anne School in 1955 and Westfield school in 1964. With establishment of the county board, his duties as superintendent principal ended, he said.

School have followed society's trend to more permissiveness in the last five to ten years, according to Murray. However, in his opinion there is a "trend to more traditional concepts now." As for Victory Memorial School, "It's always been regarded as a traditional school," he says. Despite changes brought about

by the 1968 Hall-Dennis report, "we've always tried to keep as close to traditional concepts as we could," he added.

Although future plans are indefinite at present, Murray said he plans to remain in Ingersoll. "I plan to do a little travelling but beyond that nothing's definite," he says. "I plan to spend a lot of time at our cottage north of Grand Bend and around my home town of Kincardine."



Naisbitt, Wallace Gordon

It is with great sadness that our father, grandfather and great-grandfather, Wally Naisbitt, a WWII veteran, passed away peacefully on October 17, 2019. He joins his predeceased wife Velma, sister Lorraine (Veen), and his parents Blanche and Milfred. His memory will be cherished by his children Scott (the late Gienda), Jane (the late David Metzak), Randy (Robin) and Norm (Lynn). He was a devoted grandfather to Anita, Kerri, Allison, Nicholas, Michael, Erin, Jeannette and Derek and a proud great grandpa to Brett, Tyson, Curtis, Luca, Sofia, Mila, Siena, Monroe, Axel and Kara. Wally will be missed by his sister-in-law Ruth and nieces and nephews. Born in Burlington on September 15, 1922, Wally was a keen athlete, earning the title of Junior Field Day Champion at Burlington High in 1936 and 1937. He enlisted with the 6th Canadian Anti-Tank Regiment in Petawawa and served overseas in Northwest Europe from 1942 to 1946. Married in 1948, Velma and Wally enjoyed 65 years together. He worked at the Studebaker company in Hamilton for twenty years and later with Ingersoll Fasteners. A devoted family man, Wally inspired his four children with his zest for life, his quirky sense of humour and his strong work ethic. He was a long-time member of St. John's Lodge #68, Ingersoll, and a very active member of St. James Anglican Church and the Royal Canadian Legion, running Ingersoll's annual Poppy Campaign. Wally loved escaping to 'Linger Longer' the cottage he built with his sons at Sauble Beach. His love of music was infectious! Heartfelt thanks to the staff at Oxford Manor and Leigh-Ann for their kindness, patience, sense of humour and excellent care over the last few years. Please join the Naisbitt family in a celebration of Wally's life at St. James Anglican Church, 184 Oxford St., Ingersoll on Saturday, October 26 at 11:00 a.m. Visitation from 9:30-11:00 a.m. at St. James preceding the service. In lieu of flowers memorial donations in Wally's memory to St. James Anglican Church or the Royal Canadian Legion. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the McBeath-Dynes Funeral Home 519-425-1600.



*Wallace Gordon Naisbitt*

*1922 - 2019*



### Twenty Third Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;  
He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul; He leadeth me in the  
paths of righteousness for His name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the  
shadow of death

I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me;  
Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou  
preparest a table before me in the presence of  
mine enemies;

Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup  
runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the  
house of the Lord for ever.

Obituaries



**NAISBITT, Wallace Gordon**

It is with great sadness that our father, grandfather and great-grandfather, Wally Naisbitt, a WWII veteran, passed away peacefully on October 17, 2019. He joins his predeceased wife Velma, sister Lorraine (Ween), and his parents Blanche and Milfred. His memory will be cherished by his children Scott (the late Glenda), Jane (the late David Metzak), Randy (Robin) and Norm (Lynn). He was a devoted grandfather to Anita, Kerri, Allison, Nicholas, Michael, Erin, Jeannette and Derek and a proud great grandpa to Brett, Tyson, Curtis, Luca, Sofia, Mila, Siena, Monroe, Axel and Kara. Wally will be missed by his sister-in-law Ruth and nieces and nephews. Born in Burlington on September 15, 1922, Wally was a keen athlete, earning the title of Junior Field Day Champion at Burlington High in 1936 and 1937. He enlisted with the 6th Canadian Anti-Tank Regiment in Petawawa and served overseas in Northwest Europe from 1942 to 1946. Married in 1948, Velma and Wally enjoyed 65 years together. He worked at the Studebaker company in Hamilton for twenty years and later with Ingersoll Fasteners. A devoted family man, Wally inspired his four children with his zest for life, his quirky sense of humour and his strong work ethic. He was a long-time member of St. John's Lodge #68, Ingersoll, and a very active member of St. James Anglican Church and the Royal Canadian Legion, running Ingersoll's annual Poppy Campaign. Wally loved escaping to 'Linger Longer' the cottage he built with his sons at Sauble Beach. His love of music was infectious! Heartfelt thanks to the staff at Oxford Manor and Leigh-Ann for their kindness, patience, sense of humour and excellent care over the last few years. Please join the Naisbitt family in a celebration of Wally's life at St. James Anglican Church, 184 Oxford St., Ingersoll on Saturday, October 26 at 11:00 a.m. Visitation from 9:30-11:00 a.m. at St. James preceding the service. In lieu of flowers memorial donations in Wally's memory to St. James Anglican Church or the Royal Canadian Legion. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the **McBEATH-DYNES FUNERAL HOME** 519-425-1600. Personal condolences may be sent at [www.mcbeathdynes.ca](http://www.mcbeathdynes.ca)

## MUSIC

# Ingersoll 10-year-old wants to be the best

Violinist Eugene Nakamura has already excelled at the Canadian Music Competition in Toronto.

By Hank Daniszewski  
Free Press Woodstock Bureau

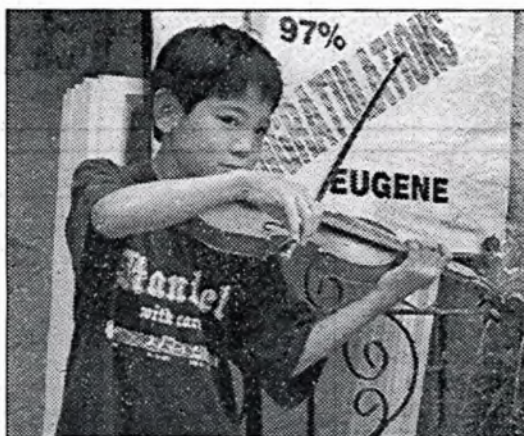
INGERSOLL — It's a hot summer day and the treehouse and the swimming pool beckon in Eugene Nakamura's back yard.

But for three or four hours every day, you'll find this 10-year-old in the house, earnestly practising the violin, intent on his goal of becoming one of the best classical musicians in Canada.

He has already taken a big step by scoring an impressive 97 per cent at the recent Canadian Music Competition in Toronto, the country's most prestigious competition for junior performers.

**GALA CONCERT:** His performance of Bruch's Concerto No. 1 not only earned him first place in his age category but also \$1,000 as his share of the concert's grand prize and a chance to play in the gala concert.

It was just another achievement in a busy year for Eugene. He has also performed at an Interiors '95/Orchestra London money-raiser, appeared on the One O'Clock Live show on CFPL-TV and was a guest per-



HANK DANISZEWSKI / The London Free Press

**Eugene Nakamura demonstrates his talent for playing the violin next to a sign at his home placed by a neighbor to congratulate him for his big win at the Canadian Music Competition.**

former with the Woodstock Strings.

His violin teacher, Patrick Burroughs of London, says Eugene combines innate talent with an unusual determination to work hard and succeed.

"He's a wonderful little violin player. He shows great promise."

His parents, Tsugio and Kazumi Nakamura, emigrated from Japan about 13 years ago and settled in Windsor, where Eugene was

born. The family moved to Ingersoll and Eugene started taking violin lessons at age four from Joanne Hanna. He was taught with the Suzuki method, in which students play in groups.

His father says the boy showed promise at an early age.

"I would listen to him and his playing didn't sound like the other kids'. There was something special."

**TOP HONORS:** The young violinist went on to take top honors at music festivals in Woodstock and London, and has competed at the national level for the last two years.

Tsugio said he is at a loss to explain his son's talent, since neither he nor his wife has any special musical ability.

Tsugio also said he and his wife have avoided putting pressure on Eugene to practise, but says his son works hard anyway, motivated by a genuine love of music.

For his part, Eugene says he hopes to be a famous soloist and knows it will take hard work to get there.

Eugene, who will be in Grade 5 at Harris Heights Public School this fall, says he also loves baseball and video games just as much as his friends.

And being a violin virtuoso doesn't carry much weight with them.

"They are kind of surprised at how fast my fingers can move up and down the violin," he says.

## An award



GERALD "KING" NEWELL, a local pharmacist, was awarded a plaque for community service last week by an American drug company. Newell and his wife Barb travelled to Richmond, Va., to accept the honor, along with nine other Canadian pharmacists.

(Staff photo by Ron Preston)

By RON PRISTON  
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Gerald "King" Newell reigns supreme in the eyes of his peers as the local pharmacist again won honors for his service to the community, this time by an American drug company.

The A.H. Robins Company of Richmond, Va., presented Newell and nine other Canadian pharmacists, one from each province, with the Bowl of Hygieia award for "outstanding community service." Fifty-two Americans, one from each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, were also honored last week at the company's headquarters.

"Yes, I was (surprised). The question I asked was why?" considering he received the Ontario Pharmacist of the Year award in 1981. "It's like gilding the lily to receive this additional award," the modest recipient said, adding "I'm pleased all the same."

No one informed Newell his name had even been put forward for the prestigious award (Hygieia is the Greek goddess of health, and used to signify pharmacy).

Newell's activities in In-

gersoll form a long list; former president and now-life member of the Lions Club; former chairman of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind; former member of the Oxford Humane Society; chairman of the Ingersoll and District Community Services and Association; foster parent; Ingersoll Citizen of the Year, 1980, and many other associations.

Newell was selected for the award by the Ontario Pharmacists Association, who turned his name over to the Robins firm. His first knowledge of the honor came in May, with the provincial body awarding him a plaque at their June meeting in Sault Ste. Marie.

The new grandfather (daughter Christine gave

## fit for a king

birth in July) had a hectic schedule last week. Attending his son Jim's wedding

Oct. 6, Newell and his wife, Barb, left the reception immediately after the bride

and groom in order to catch their flight from Toronto to Richmond.

SENTINEL

REVIEW

October 19, 1984

# He's No. 1 citizen in this town

INGERSOLL (Staff) — Gerald "King" Newell was among a group of concerned citizens who literally put Ingersoll on the map.

The well-known 61-year-old Ingersoll pharmacist, who was recently acclaimed citizen of the year, was a member of the Jaycee Service Club when it surveyed the town in the early 1950s and provided much-needed street signs.

Since then Newell has taken part in numerous service club projects aimed at helping the community, justifying his selection as top citizen by the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 119.

"I was stunned when Evan Sutherland called me last week and told me," Newell said in an interview. "I had never given it a thought."

Newell, who was nominated by the Ingersoll Kiwanis Club, faced the scrutiny of judges from five local organizations, who based their decision on the pharmacist's involvement in community affairs.

Legion president Leo Kirwin said he is "proud to sponsor this annual event in keeping with the Legion's purposes and objectives in fostering loyalty among the public and education in the principles of patriotism, duty and unstinted public service."

Coleen, Nancy and Angela Hunt received honorable mention in the competition. Alongside Newell, they will be guests of honor at the Legion Hall on Mar. 19.

Newell, born on a farm near Windsor, Ont., purchased his first pharmacy in 1949 on Thames Street, Ingersoll and watched the business blossom to its current size.

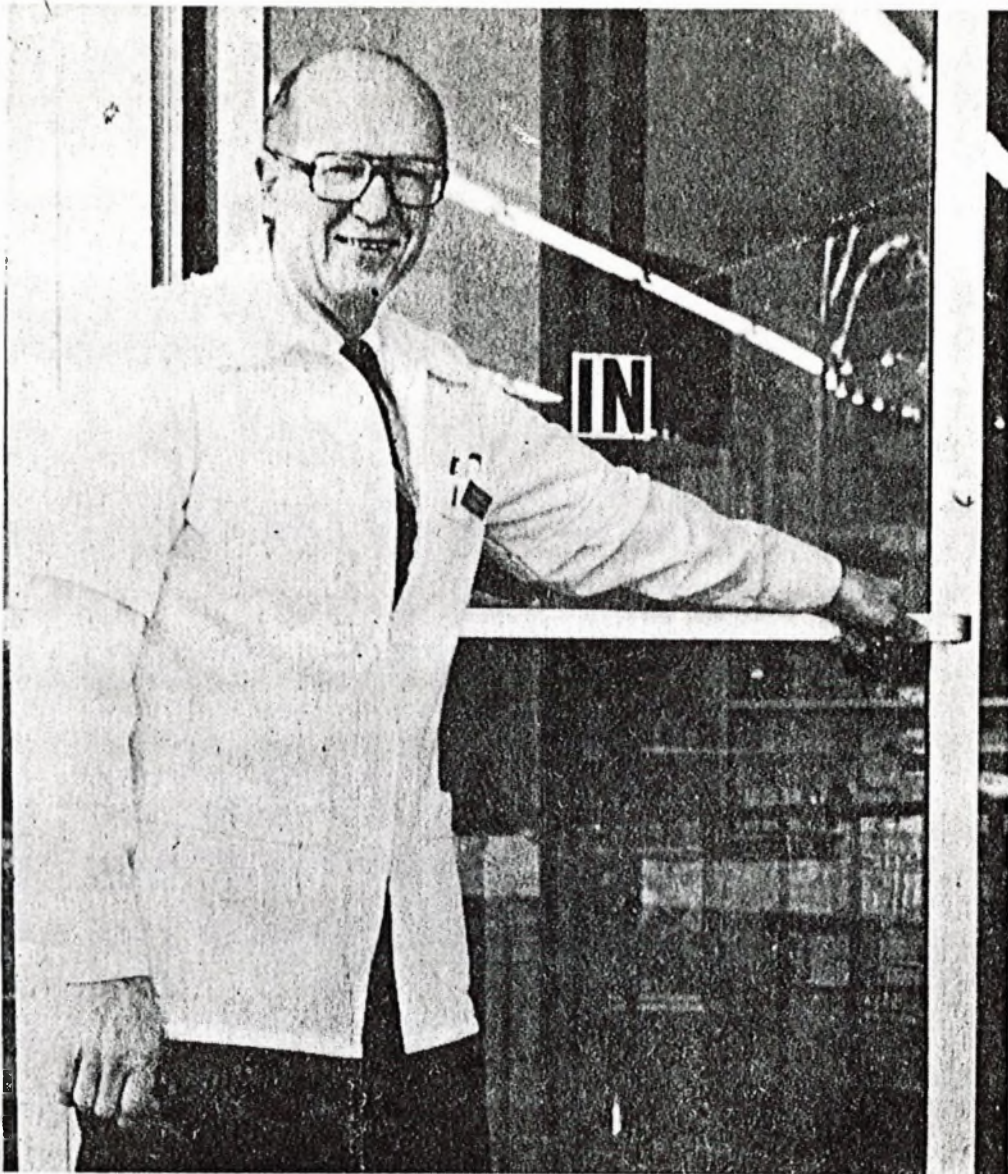
"I had never owned a retail business before and I went into it with a lot of trepidation," he said.

Since he had grown accustomed to rural living while in Windsor (5½ years) and spent the remainder of his youth in the Woodstock and Ingersoll areas, he decided to settle in a familiar atmosphere.

"I chose to start my business here because it's a nice community and I wanted to be close to my friends and relatives," he said. "And I'm glad I came here."

In addition to his everyday duties at Big V, Newell has accepted many other responsibilities in his involvement with various service clubs in Ingersoll.

With the Lions Club, he has enjoyed 30 years of perfect attendance and was president for a year in 1953. He was also a key worker at the St. James Church, Ingersoll and Newell was a director on the Ingersoll Hospital Board for about 15 years.



— Staff photo

**GERALD NEWELL:** Named Ingersoll's citizen of the year.

The semi-retired pharmacist is a long-time director at the Ingersoll Golf Club and served as president for one year.

Newell is an active worker with the local community service organization and derives great satisfaction aiding the troubled in the community.

When asked why he devotes a large portion of his spare time to charity, he replied, "Why not?"

"Owning a pharmacy is a service-oriented profession and I get paid for it.

"I have always thought people don't have to be paid for everything they do, so I help where ever I can."

Newell is involved with numerous other professional and charitable groups and looks forward to retirement when he'll dedicate even more time to helping others.

NEWELL, Gerald "King"

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR  
AWARD (R.C.L.)

SENTINEL-REVIEW  
March 11, 1980

# Newell named

# Citizen of Year

NEWELL, Gerald

"King"

CITIZEN OF  
THE YEAR AWARD  
(R. C. L.)

BY MARGARET BOYD

King Newell has been named Citizen of the Year and the three Hunt sisters, Colleen, Nancy and Angela, have been named as runners up. They will be honored at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall March 19.

The Citizen of the Year award is sponsored by Branch 119 of the Royal Canadian Legion and given to the individual or individuals who have given outstanding service to Ingersoll. The panel of judges are from five local organizations.

Mr. Newell, 17 Princess Park Road, is an Ingersoll pharmacist at the Big V drug store who has worked for more than 25 years for the Lions Club and the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB). He is vice-president of the Ingersoll District Community Service Association and is chairman of the Disaster Relief Committee. He is one of 12 Ontario Pharmacist Association council members and writes monthly to his four foster children he sponsors through the Foster Parents Plan. He also has served on the Alexandra Hospital Board for 16 years.

"It was a surprise! I didn't expect anything of the kind," Mr. Newell said. "Of course I'm pleased about it and I don't quite know how to deal with it."

He mentioned that service club work is done in the interest of doing good, not for public recognition.

"It's nice to be patted on the back though," he said.

Mr. Newell was nominated by the Kiwanis Club, who state in their nomination:

"King is always available to help anyone in need, no matter what. Many times he has altered, rescheduled, cancelled his own personal plans in order to help those in need. A true humanitarian indeed."

As chairman of the Disaster Relief Committee, Mr. Newell spends many hours visiting the needy, arranging for pickups and delivery of donated items and personally doing much of the legwork.

"King Newell works very efficiently and quietly, as few people know of his efforts, except for those who help him," the Kiwanis Club stated in their nomination.

The Hunt girls, 70 Canterbury Street, were nominated by George and Joan Hammond, their neighbors, the Lions Club and the Knights of Columbus.

"I didn't expect it, I didn't even know we were nominated," said 16-year-old Colleen.

Colleen, her sisters Nancy, 15, and

Angela, 11, are students who have helped their elderly neighbor for the past two and a half years.

"One of us visits her for an hour each day and helps her with her housework and shopping," Colleen said. The fortunate neighbor they had been helping was the late Florence Dodge.

The Citizen of the Year award is sponsored by the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 119. The objective of the award is to "foster loyalty among the public and education in the principles of patriotism, duty and unstinted public service, and to encourage, promote, engage in or support all forms of national, provincial, municipal or community service or any charitable or philanthropical purposes."



KING NEWELL

INGERSOLL TIMES

March 12, 1980

NEWELL, Gerald "King"

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

(R. C. L.)

# On behalf of the town volunteers

## King Newell accepts Citizen award

BY C. J. CLARK

King Newell was honored last Wednesday as Ingersoll's Citizen of the Year, and while he was praised for his contributions to the community, so were the other Citizen of the Year nominees.

"All nominees are worthy of receiving the Citizen of the Year award. But we had to make a choice," said Deane Cassidy one of the judges. "It is not so much one person

receives the award but tonight we recognize contributions all worthy people have made to life in Ingersoll.

"As we recognize them it inspires us to follow in their example," Mr. Cassidy said.

Citizen of the Year, King Newell and runner-up Colleen, Nancy and Angela Hunt were among the 50 present at the annual Citizen of the Year award dinner at the Royal Canadian Legion, branch 119.

"I had no idea I was going to receive this honor," Mr. Newell said after being introduced by Currie Wilson. "Living in Ingersoll one gets to know all the volunteer work that is done in the community. I do it for the value of the work itself. I had no idea I was being considered and when it happens it is both gratifying and very satisfying.

"On behalf of all the people who do volunteer work in the community I receive this award," he said.

Mr. Newell's list of contributions to the community are many.

"King is always available to help anyone in need, no matter what," read Mr. Wilson referring to the Kiwanis Club's reasons for nominating Newell. "Many times he has altered, rescheduled, cancelled his own personal plans in order to help those in need. A true humanitarian indeed."

For many years Mr. Newell, a pharmacist, operated his own drug store but now operates the Big V on Oxford and Charles Streets. He has been a member of the Ingersoll Lions Club for over 25 years and has worked diligently for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

He is vice president of the Ingersoll District Community Services Association, chairman of the Disaster Relief Committee and one of 12 council members of the Ontario Pharmacist Association.

He has also served on the Alexandra Hospital board for 16 years and now

sponsors four foster children under the Foster Parents Plan and writes to them monthly.

While King Newell was praised, so were all people in town who give of themselves, particularly Colleen, Angela and Nancy Hunt.

The three young sisters cared for an elderly neighbor for about two and a half years. Whether it was tending to daily chores or reading to her, they took care of many of her needs.

"I reiterate my congratulations," Mr. Newell said to his fellow Citizen of the Year nominees. "Keep up the good work, we are very proud of you."

While King Newell has devoted himself to many causes, he emphasized what he considered to be three very important programs.

"As the world becomes smaller we should be thinking at a more international level," he said of the Foster Parent Program. "There are 17 countries in the world now that are considered underdeveloped countries."

Mr. Newell and his wife Barbara have had up to five foster children at one time and visited them in Greece, Bolivia and Brazil.

He also spoke of the work the Ingersoll Lions club is doing with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. "It is a big undertaking looking after the blind," he said noting that there are between 15 and 19 people with sight problems in Ingersoll and up to about 95 in Oxford County.

"The Ingersoll District Community Services Association is very valuable in co-ordinating services," Mr. Newell said. It represents 49 organizations and has been active for about 13 years.

"Not only do we know what services are being supplied, we also know what services are not being supplied," he said. "We help avoid a duplication of services. It is very worthwhile."

*Ingersoll Times*

*March 26 1980*  
**INGERSOLL TIMES**





At a joint meeting of the Ingersoll Community Services Association and the area chapter of the Canadian Institute for the Blind last week, two Oxford County men were honored. King Newell, of Ingersoll, the chairman of the Woodstock and Oxford County Advisory Board of the C.N.I.B. and Wilf Bale of Woodstock, who is himself blind, both received the Diamond Jubilee Citation for outstanding service and contributions to the

organizations. Only ten such awards were presented throughout the entire province. Pictured above from left to right are Harold Fryer, Chariman of the Ingersoll Community Services Association; King Newell, recipient of the prestigious award; Kent Butcher, District Advisory of the C.N.I.B. from Brantford and Wilf Bale, also a recipient of the award.

Diamond

Jubilee

Citation

Newell,  
Gerald "King"

INGERSOLL TIMES  
MAY 10/78

INGERSOLL TIMES  
MAY 10, 1978

# Couple sending love abroad

An Ingersoll couple have 'adopted' children from all over the world in an attempt to serve the global community.

Barbara and King Newell have been married for 18 years.

Although they have sons and daughters living here in Canada, they also have sponsored over 20 foster children from the four corners of the globe during the past two decades.

It currently costs \$276 per child for a year to sponsor a child through the Foster Parent Plan.

The money indirectly supports the family. It provides extra vitamins, funds, special community projects and buys furniture like a bed.

Gifts at Christmas range from \$30 to \$75 per child.

Usually Christmas or birthday cash gifts buy some special thing the child needs.

Foster Parent Plan's tendency now, however, is to support village projects rather than a singular gift to a child. And the Newells feel the program is working.

Mr. Newell said, "The impact on the larger community, not just the foster child...is quite impressive."

Currently, the Newell's sponsor four foster children. Mr. Newell said the first foster child he adopted over 21 years ago was a little five-year old Greek girl named Maria Foutsitzaki.

That same girl now is a pharmacist's assistant and is married with three children. She still corresponds with the Newells after all these years.

But the Newell's continue to take an active interest in their foster children.

The Newells visited their foster children in Brazil, Greece, Bolivia and South America.

They once hired a mini-van and got all their four Greek foster children together about 12 years ago.

Mrs. Newell describes that meeting as "fantastic."

The whole village came out to meet the Newells, prepared food for them and even the police pulled them over and took them to the station for food and drinks.

Mr. Newell said "It was a wonderful experience." Because of the dire poverty these people live in, however, he also describes the experience as "heart-wrenching."

"They live in great poverty," he said. Particularly in the 'ultra-poor' areas of Brazil where people live in filth because they have no sewage systems.

Mrs. Newell said, "It's hard to believe how people live—we have heat, sewage and all those things."

Mrs. Newell writes to her four foster children once a month. They correspond also, relating to Mrs. Newell their progress, triumphs and defeats.

She said her foster children are particularly interested in hearing about our holidays and customs.

Mr. Newell said, "They are desperately poor people, but they are also proud people."

Because of the experience of witnessing the tragic poverty that their foster children live in,

The Newells said they find having foster children a "very rewarding experience," because they feel they are making a difference in the world and also because the people they help are "extremely grateful."

After witnessing the operations of Foster Parent Plan, the Newells feel that it works, that the funds

are being used appropriately and are making a difference. "It just gives you a good feeling," Mrs. Newell said, "You have to feel some satisfaction the money is being used in a good way."

As foster parents, they are kept informed of projects.

Mr. Newell said he first thought of becoming a foster parent by reading a magazine. "I saw their

advertisements in National Geographic and was interested in it," he said.

And the Newells have become very close to their foster children even though they're oceans apart. Mrs. Newell said, "You feel as if they're your own children in a way." Mr. Newell added, "You suffer while they're living under such conditions."

INGERSOLL TIMES  
September 28 1988

NEWELL, KING

# Ingersoll's Newell honored by OCFCS

By RIA DIELEMAN  
of The Sentinel-Review

A former five-year board member of Family and Children's Services of Oxford County was recognized Tuesday night for his services to the agency.

King Newell of Ingersoll was thanked by the board for his help and time spent with the agency.

Other members who retired from the board this year were thanked at the agency's annual meeting in April, which Newell was unable to attend.



Newell

Newell had sound judgment, logic and input, said board chairman Bob Merifield, and especially credited him for his "significant impact" on the board's services committee.

SENTINEL REVIEW

September 21, 1989



**KING NEWELL**, a long-time Ingersoll pharmacist, displays his pharmacy college certificate, with certification labels from 1949. Newell says he has lived through a revolution in medicines.

(Staff photo)

# Public service is a way of life for pharmacist King Newell

By **KATHERINE WILLIAMS**  
for The Sentinel-Review

Serving your community in the neighborhood drug store and serving your country by testing explosives may seem worlds apart, but Ingersoll pharmacist King Newell bridged them well.

Newell graduated from pharmacy college in 1942, keen to serve his country at war. Turned down by the services because of his eyesight, his skills in chemistry helped him get picked to work as an explosives analyst for the governments of Canada and the United Kingdom.

A big accomplishment for someone who was a mediocre chemistry student when he attended high school in Woodstock. University was different, "an opening of vistas, rather than a cramming of knowledge." He excelled, winning the gold medal both years of study.

When Newell started working, apprentices were paid, an ap-

pealing way to enter a profession during the Great Depression.

As an explosives analyst, he worked with compounds at an Ajax plant where one unstable crystal could set off an explosion.

"After the first couple of hundred scoops, the risk factor wears off," he says. "Then you start scooping the stuff around like it's sawdust."

After the war, Newell managed a Windsor pharmaceutical company before buying Gayfer's Drugstore in Ingersoll in 1949. It became the King Newell Pharmacy. About 1969, he amalgamated with three other local pharmacists forming the Ingersoll Pharmacy Ltd. They also owned a pharmacy in Norwich. They sold the business about 13 years ago to Big V Pharmacy, where Newell works part-time.

As a neighborhood pharmacist, Newell threw his energy into community work. He shies away from talking about his contributions, but wife Barbara notes he was Ingersoll's Citizen

of the Year in 1980, Ontario Pharmacist of the Year in 1980-81 and in 1984 won the international A.H. Robins Award for Outstanding Community Service in Pharmacy. He served 30 years as chairman of the Oxford County Advisory Board to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and in 1984 was awarded a Lions Club life membership.

The Newells take part in the Foster Parents Plan of Canada and help support four children.

Newell's community service and his work overlap.

"(Pharmacists) give more advice now. TV tells people at the first sign of anything, they should take this or that."

He encourages people to seek treatment if needed, but helps them recognize the difference between illness and discomfort.

Newell takes the changing face of medicine and his role in it in stride. "I've lived through a total revolution in medicines. There's nothing unusual about that."

DAILY SENTINEL  
REVIEW  
Aug 27, 1990

# Branch of family tree leads couple to town

By JOE KONECNY

Sentinel-Review staff writer

INGERSOLL — The absence of a local historical society didn't stop a Toronto family from tracing the lives of their famous Ingersoll relatives.

In fact Court and Pamela Noxon found it was relatively easy to unveil dusty facts about the founder of a vital 19th century Ingersoll industry.

James Noxon — Court's great-grandfather — left an unforgettable impression with town folk as owner of the Noxon Implement Company.

And virtually everyone his descendants approached on Wednesday was eager to volunteer their memories of the prominent Scot.

The Noxons recently began compiling a genealogical report.

After uncovering information about the American side of the family tree during a family reunion in Colorado, they decided to dig up the Canadian version.

"One person at the reunion had all of the family history in the U.S., but there were a lot of blank spaces when it came to Canadian relatives," Pamela said.

"We are trying to fill in the blanks."

When they rolled into town the Noxon's approached several sources — including Gail Jeffrey at the public library — for historic clues.

"It is like a jigsaw puzzle and the fact he was so well known here made us think Ingersoll is the best place to start," Court said.

"This all stems from one man who came from Scotland in the early 1800s."

James Noxon was the only clan member to venture into Canada. Remaining family members stayed in the U.S.

The 17-year-old settled in Prince Edward County, but moved to Ingersoll in the early 1850s.

By 1872, his company employed about 300 workers and the firm's farm machinery was sold throughout North America, the British Isles and Europe.

"The output in 1907 was considered to amount to more than \$1-million a year," the Noxons discovered at the library.

"However, due to the beginning of the First World War, many losses were incurred in the sinking of boat loads of Noxon farm implements going to foreign markets.

"They had to cease operations

in 1923."

## ESTATE

Alexandra Hospital sits on the site James Noxon chose to build a house in 1874.

The castle-like estate — which became the heart of local social activities — was enjoyed by numerous prominent personages including Sir Wilfrid Laurier when he visited Ingersoll in 1895.

Dr. Angus McKay — who was an MPP for 16 years — bought the property 25 years later and eventually sold it to the town to permit establishment of a medical institution.

"We are hoping to find more information or artifacts which local citizens might have," Court said.

Anyone with pertinent evidence should contact the Noxons by writing to 18 Overton Cres., Don Mills, Ontario, M3B 2V2.

They've acquired a family portrait of James' descendants and a Noxon wrench was obtained too, Pamela said.

"There are a number of Noxon artifacts around — including advertising tokens, tractor seats and appointment books — and we're trying to get hold of them."

## RECORDS

Basically, their motive is to record the data so the famous figure isn't lost in history, but there's a possibility a book will be published.

And if those plans become a reality, a copy will be sent to the local library.

"If everyone did this Ingersoll would already have an historical society set up...anybody can do it...a central place to store this information is really needed," Court said.

The Noxons always were interested in their roots.

"We pursued it in a small way at first because we didn't have the time," Court said.

"But now we wish we had done this 10 years ago."

Their next step will be to contact officials in Prince Edward County and question them about James Noxon's lifestyle.

"After a while, (ancestors) become personalities and you get to know them," Court said, explaining his urge to continue the search.

"You begin to understand what they've been through and how it's the same situation now...life goes around in the same circles."

SENTINEL-REVIEW

July 31, 1980



Geoffrey, Pamela and Court Noxon passed through town Wednesday in search of historical documents pertaining to their

famous Ingersoll descendants. They've travelled more than 5,000 miles looking for information.

*of Ingersoll - Review  
July 31, 1980*

# In search of illustrious local

BY CHERYL STEWART

It is the late 1800's. In a castle-like house on the hill on Noxon Street, people are dancing and laughing and in general having a good time. It is the house of James Noxon, once one of the most prominent families in the Ingersoll area.

There are no Noxon's left in Ingersoll today, but Courtland and Pamela Noxon of Don Mills are searching out the Noxon family roots, and have uncovered some fascinating facts about their family and their years in the area.

So far, they have been able to trace the Noxon's back to the late 1600's in New York State. It was Thomas Noxon's great-grandson James who came to Canada, to Prince Edward County near Belleville, in 1784. His grandson James came in 1853 with his brother Samuel and settled in the area.

James started as a clerk in the hardware business, but soon discovered because of the great agricultural business in the area, there was a need for a company

manufacture farm im-  
plements. The Noxon  
Brothers Company was

formed in 1856 on the site of a  
previous company on  
Thames Street South. In

1872, the company moved to  
where Maude Wilson  
Memorial Pool now stands

and was incorporated as a  
joint stock company.

At one time, this company



This picture of the Noxon family was taken at the 50th wedding anniversary of the parents Rhoda and Samuel (front row third and fourth from the right). Their five sons who came to Ingersoll are Stephen (back row second from left),

Samuel (back row fourth from left), Thomas Henry (back row second from right), James, (front row left), and Freeman (front row fourth from left).

Noxon family

(page 1 of 2)

INGERSOLL TIMES  
October 21, 1981

# family's history

was Ingersoll's chief industry and it employed well over 100 men when in full production. The Noxon brothers had a reputation of making good, long-wearing dependable machinery.

During his years in Ingersoll, James Noxon was involved in many things besides his family business. He was Reeve from 1866-1867, councillor from 1864-1865, and Mayor of the Town of Ingersoll in 1884, 1885 and 1887. It was shortly after he was re-elected to his third term as Mayor, that he accepted the management of the Patterson Brothers factory in Woodstock.

James was also very involved in the cheese and dairy industry in the county and was president of the Dairymen's Association for many years. The Noxon

brother's company was responsible for producing the press which made the Mammoth Cheese in 1866. That same year, James and Samuel won an award at a provincial exhibition for the best cheese press.

James was appointed Inspector of Prisons and Charities for Ontario in 1892 and held the position until he resigned in 1905.

The beautiful house on Noxon Street was built by James for \$10,000 in 1874. Such dignitaries as Sir Wilfred Laurier visited and enjoyed the premises in 1885. Dr. Angus McKay, who was MPP for Oxford County for 16 years, bought the house in 1899 and sold it to the town in 1909 for \$6,520 to be used as a hospital, named Alexandra Hospital.

Another of James' brothers, Stephen, who came

to Ingersoll in 1865, was a supporter of the hospital project and a ward was named after his wife, Louise Noxon. She furnished the ward in memory of their daughter who had died very young in life.

Two other brothers also came to Ingersoll, Thomas and Freeman in 1869. Thomas moved to California in 1900 but Freeman remained in Ingersoll until his death in 1917.

According to Pamela Noxon, the Noxon Brothers Company left the Noxon hands about 1900. The downfall of the company came in 1915 with the outbreak of the First World War and three successive seasons of crop failure in 1912, 1913 and 1914. It eventually ceased operations in 1923.

Courtland and Pamela Noxon have found that James was Courtland's

great-grandfather and James had a son William who is Courtland's grandfather.

All of this information fascinates the Noxon's and each little tidbit they fall upon about their family history only makes them want to seek more information.

"It's just like putting a big jigsaw together," said Mrs. Noxon. "Eventually we would like to gather all these things and have them placed in a museum," she said.

The Noxon's have travelled extensively in Ontario since they began searching out their roots about a-year-and-a-half ago. They have met many interesting people and have found relatives they had never heard of or seen before.

(page 2 of 2)

INGERSOLL TIMES  
October 21, 1981

Noxon Family



## Winning pooch rides in high style

By ERIC SCHMIEDL  
of Ingersoll This Week

*Home, James ... and pick up some Milk-Bones on the way.*

Not every dog rates a limousine but that's what Patches O'Grady — a female Basset Hound — has.

The dog, owned by Jim and Cavell Turner of Ingersoll, has won over 35 ribbons already and is pawing for more. At shows in Toronto, Guelph, Orangeville and Dorchester Patches has walked off with honors galore.

The dog has excellent behavior at shows and has coaxed such awards as best puppy and best of breed out of judges, says Cavell.

But a limo?

"That's her birthday gift. People get a load out of the limousine. They sure stop and look," says Cavell.

The dog is an affectionate creature and likes everyone, she adds.

"We just had to give her a nickname (Sweetie) because that's just what she is." The name is on prominent display in the side window of the automobile, on a sign reading Sweetie's Limo.

The shows are not the only spots where the dog shines. Cleanliness is a big thing for Patches.

"She likes to jump in the bath (but) her legs are too short to get in," says Cavell.



PATCHES O'GRADY is a Basset Hound which has walked away from dog shows with over 35 ribbons in the past year. The dog is a friendly animal. Here, Jim Turner displays the hound in front of some ribbons.

Daily Sentinel Review

Ingersoll this week.

May 21, 1991

# Here's what biographers didn't say about Ingersoll's first mayor Oliver

By PEGGY GRAHAM

Sentinel-Review Staff Writer

Historical biographies are interesting not so much for what they say but for what they don't say, according to Dr. George Emery Jr. of the University of Western Ontario's History Department.

Dr. Emery was speaking at the Ingersoll Kiwanis Club's meeting about Ingersoll's first mayor Adam Oliver, and after giving the biography report of Oliver, proceeded to tell his audience what the biography didn't say.

Oliver was born in 1823 in New Brunswick and came to Ingersoll in 1850 after learning the trade of carpentry and joiner at London. Oliver came to the town when it was still a village and at an opportune time in its economic development.

In 1853, the Great Western Railway came into Ingersoll, giving the village access to export markets in the U.S. and Great Britain. Development was beginning in the physical appearance of the village and the population was growing as well. In 1851 the population was 1,100, 10 years later in 1861 there were over 3,000 and in 1871 Ingersoll was ahead of Woodstock with a population of 4,000. Ingersoll was incorporated a village in 1851 and as a town in 1865.

Oliver's first big business deal was the contract for building the railway depot. The contract was worth \$30,000 to \$40,000, Dr. Emery said, which was a good deal of money at that time.

From that beginning Oliver prospered, building a saw and planing mill which employed 21 men. In 1852 after serving on the village school board he became a councillor for the years 1852, 1855 and 1856. He served as reeve of the village from 1859 to 1862 and was warden of Oxford County in 1862.

The year 1865 saw Oliver elected as Ingersoll's first mayor and he served another term in 1866. He declined a third term as mayor, setting his sights instead on a seat in the provincial legislature. He served as the Liberal member for South Oxford from 1867 to 1875.

One piece of legislation he is given credit for was the bill on the quality of cheese production, one which was of importance to his constituents in Oxford County.

Dr. Emery then gave his audience the other side of Adam Oliver, the one which the biographers did not mention. Oliver's political career ended in scandal and disgrace and he spent the last two years of his life at Ingersoll, as an invalid. He died October 9, 1882.

Dr. Emery said Ingersoll in the 1850s was a "school for scandal" for Thunder Bay in the 1870s. Oliver had turned his attention to northern Ontario when he went into the provincial legislature and is credited with opening up the north, particularly in the Thunder Bay district.

1874 saw Oliver resigning his

seat due to an apparent conflict of interest over railroad contracts. He won it back in a by-election by a small majority but was unseated when it was proved bribery and corrupt practices had been involved in his victory.

His problems were only beginning then as a Dominion Senate investigation was launched over his company's land transactions in Thunder Bay, including the location of the terminus on the Fort William townsite for the Canadian Pacific Railway. The townsite was uninhabited and his company owned all the land the railway would be using to locate there.

Further political damage was done when a Dominion Royal Commission investigating tenders for construction of a telegraph line between Fort William and Thunder Bay disclosed gross irregularities in tendering practices.

Dr. Emery maintained that Oliver was simply putting into practice in the north what he had learned and benefited from in Ingersoll in the village's early days.

Oliver, he said, was quick to appreciate the value of land speculation in connection with

the railroad and used this knowledge both in Ingersoll and later in Thunder Bay.

Emery said his findings on Oliver have revealed a direct relevance to our situation today. He said the people of the early days in Ingersoll and other places like it were not the cardboard historical figures we have been led to believe they were, but people much like the people of our times, facing similar problems and dealing with those problems in some of the same ways we deal with our problems.

Dr. Emery is a former resident of Ingersoll who joined the UWO History Department in 1968. Prior to that, he taught at Simon Fraser University at Burnaby, British Columbia.

The Kiwanis Club is holding a ladies night dinner meeting May 15 beginning at 6:15. Guest speaker will be radio announcer Claire Cole.

ADAM OLIVER, INGERSOLL AND THUNDER BAY DISTRICT,  
1850-82

by George Emery

At first glance, little common ground existed between Thunder Bay District in the 1870's and the Oxford County village of Ingersoll during the 1850's and 1860's. Yet a Maritimer, Adam Oliver, closely linked the histories of these seemingly dissimilar and widely separated communities, and his career demonstrated how the dynamic qualities of a southwestern Ontario community in one period later were transferred to a northwestern frontier region.

Settling in Ingersoll on the eve of its incorporation as a village in 1852, Oliver helped to change the slow-paced community into a bustling town. As a builder and contractor, he literally built much of Ingersoll. As well as serving as reeve of Ingersoll from 1859 to 1862 and warden of Oxford County in 1862, he was elected mayor in 1865, when Ingersoll became a town. He was also the chief cause of a vicious factionalism in village politics after 1855.

Though remaining an Ingersoll resident until his death in 1882, Oliver was more than a local figure after 1867. With confederation and the creation of the province of Ontario, he represented South Oxford in the provincial legislature and continued to hold the seat until 1875. Meanwhile, with the slowing of Ingersoll's economic growth, Oliver extended his business activities to new areas, first to Orillia in 1868, and then to Thunder Bay District in 1872. By 1882 he had achieved a succession of business coups in Thunder Bay District, a moderate increase in his personal wealth, two Dominion government investigations into his business transactions, and national notoriety.

Oliver's financial success in the northwest owed much to political contacts made in the Ontario legislature. At the same time, his early years in Ingersoll had been a superb school for entrepreneurial qualities which were appropriate to Thunder Bay District in the 1870's. Personal ties forged in Ingersoll were yet another factor in his business triumphs; his chief associates in the northwest were, or had been, Ingersoll men. Oliver's career suggests, in other words, a tendency of men to act in groups in Ontario's new frontier regions, and that prior community ties, as well as political, family and other institutional ties, were determinants of these group associations.

Oliver was born in Queens County, New Brunswick, on December 11, 1823. His parents were Scottish immigrants, and his father's business was that of carrier. After receiving education at a country school, Oliver emigrated to Westminster township, near Upper Canada, at the age of fourteen. It appears that he lived on the farm of his older brother (with whom he had probably emigrated), and in nearby London he learned the trade of carpenter and joiner. On February 5, 1846, he married Elizabeth Grieve, a Westminster girl (apparently from the

neighbouring farm),<sup>1</sup> and in 1850 he removed to Ingersoll, twenty miles east of London. Quickly entering community life, Oliver was elected to the village's first school board in 1852.<sup>2</sup>

In December, 1853, the life of the village was abruptly transformed by the opening of the Great Western Railway. Through the railway, Ingersoll acquired vastly improved access to export markets in Britain and the United States, and a diverse economic growth resulted. As well as becoming a centre for the export of wheat to Britain and for a thriving hardwood lumber trade, the village experienced substantial industrial growth, led by the manufacture of agricultural implements. With the gradual shifting of area farm production from wheat to dairying, and with the introduction of the factory system of cheese production in the mid-1860's, Ingersoll then became a major centre for the export of cheese to Britain. By 1871 the town population was 4,022 — a two hundred and thirty-eight per cent increase from the 1,190 in 1851. Brash and aggressive, Ingersoll had overtaken rival Woodstock in size and was enjoying a rate of growth which it would never experience again.<sup>3</sup>

A second effect of the railway, which ran along the north bank of the Thames River, was to shift the geographical focus of the village away from King Street, the stage road running parallel to the river, two blocks to the south. Thames Street, running north from King and across the river, now became the main business street, and the village spread to the north of the river as well. By 1863 the "north side" contained one-third of Ingersoll's population.

Oliver immediately benefitted from the contract to build the railway depot at a cost of thirty to forty thousand dollars, a project which probably laid the foundation for his business career. In April, 1854, he also made his first land

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1. Evidence that Oliver emigrated and lived with his brother is circumstantial. Recent research by the Oliver family, utilizing tombstones and other sources, found that Adam was the fourth of six children and that James was one of his older brothers. It is also believed that Adam emigrated to Upper Canada with a brother. (Information obtained from telephone conversation with Alan Oliver, a grandson living in the Thunder Bay area, March 30, 1976). The 1842 census returns for Westminster township, providing the names of household heads only, show a James Oliver living next to the farm of John Greave; allowing for a possible misspelling of the surname by the census enumerator, the latter was probably the father of Elizabeth Grieve, whom Adam was to marry. Statistical information on the two households shows an unmarried male of Adam's age in James Oliver's household; and two unmarried women of over fourteen years of age in the Greave household. James Oliver shows up again in the 1851 census, along with the information that he was from New Brunswick, was now — like Adam — a carpenter, and was thirty years of age — about right for being Adam's older brother.

For other information on Oliver's early life, see *Ingersoll Chronicle* (microfilm, UWO), October 12, 1882; *The Canadian Biographical Dictionary and Portrait Gallery of Eminent and Self-Made Men*, Ontario volume (Toronto, 1880), pp. 678-81.

2. Thomas S. Shenston, *The Oxford Gazetteer, 1852* (Hamilton, 1852), p. 131.

3. For Ingersoll's economic development, see Ronald Adair Shier, "Some Aspects of the Historical Geography of the Town of Ingersoll", unpublished undergraduate thesis, UWO, 1967; David C. Mennill, "A Regional Study of the Economy of Ingersoll", unpublished undergraduate thesis, UWO, 1963; Donald Gordon Cartwright "Cheese Production in South-western Ontario", unpublished M.A. thesis, UWO, 1965; Earl Allen Haslett, "Factors in the Growth and Decline of the Cheese Industry in Ontario, 1864-1924", unpublished Ph. D. thesis, University of Toronto, 1969; James Sinclair, *History of the Town of Ingersoll*, n.d.; *Byron Jenvey Scrapbooks*, Ingersoll; *Atlas of the County of Oxford* (Toronto, 1876), p. 8.

purchase, a mill seat lot on Ingersoll Creek which he promptly re-sold to Duncan McKenzie and George Ashwell; by October, 1855, he was operating a wood and joiner's shop in the upper story of Mackenzie & Ashwell's new planing mill.<sup>4</sup>

Accompanying his improved circumstances was his election to the five man village council in 1855. Though re-elected in 1856, Oliver and another councillor resigned in August, alleging gross misconduct on the part of the reeve, John Galliford, a King Street boot and shoe manufacturer.<sup>5</sup> Convinced that village affairs were being settled in Galliford's "shoe shop" and there were set up for quick passage in council, Oliver also criticized the reeve for having kicked Councillor James F. McCarthy in the shins, and for having ordered a crowd of rowdies "special constables" — to drag a drunk off to the lock-up, even though the drunk had been going peaceably with the constable. When one Stimson had interfered, the reeve had pushed Stimson "over the precipice on King Street", and the next morning, instead of trying the prisoner, Galliford had apologized to him and released him. Galliford offered a considerably different version of the above incidents in letters to the *Chronicle*, the leading village newspaper, while Oliver replied with letters of his own. A dismayed *Chronicle* finally decreed that further discussion would be restricted to paid advertisements.<sup>6</sup> So ended the first round of a feud which dominated village politics for the next decade.

In December, 1856, the two men clashed again over where to rebuild the market which, along with the town hall, had been destroyed by fire in the previous year.<sup>7</sup> Galliford favoured the original location near King Street, midway between his residence and shoeshop, and in keeping with the village's historic orientation to the stage road. Oliver, now off council, headed a petition to rebuild near the northeast corner of Thames and Charles streets, a site considerably closer to the river and railway, and also, Galliford remarked, close to some of Oliver's property.<sup>8</sup> When the petition failed, Oliver headed a "northern" ticket of candidates in the elections for the 1857 council. Despite "intense, unequalled interest" in the elections,<sup>9</sup> the village's northward expansion was too recent for an upset of Galliford's "southern" ticket. Only one "northerner" was elected, and Oliver himself fell one vote shy of winning the fifth council seat. Undaunted, he demanded a seat at the first meeting of the new council, charging that the fourth and fifth place candidates had benefitted from voting irregularities. Yet he withdrew when the clerk ruled against his claim, and, though one of the councillors-elect declined to take a seat because of possible voting irregularities, Oliver chose not to contest

4. Oxford County Registry Office, Woodstock, *Land Records*, Block 20, Broken Front Concession, West Oxford township; *Chronicle*, October 12, 1855, article by Paul Pry. The lot and planing mill were at the junction of Ingersoll Creek and the north side of Charles Street, and behind the lots fronting on Thames Street.

5. *Chronicle*, October 29, 1856; *Municipal Council Minutes, Ingersoll* (Ingersoll Town Hall), August 20, 1856.

6. *Chronicle*, September 5, 1856.

7. *Ibid.*, December 5, 1856.

8. *Ibid.*, December 23, 1856. Galliford presumably referred to Oliver's mill seat lot. Yet Oliver had sold that property prior to the market dispute. In 1866 he was to reacquire the property through a tax sale.

9. *Ibid.*, January 9, 1856.

the resultant by-election.<sup>10</sup> Nor did he run for council a year later, despite his public appeal for the defeat of at least three incumbents on account of the mismanagement of village affairs.<sup>11</sup> Partly for this reason, Galliford reaffirmed his control of council.

The ferocity of Oliver's personal attacks and his penchant for fulsome self-praise suggested a psychological need for recognition and power. Material considerations also must have influenced him. As a contractor, his falling out with Galliford jeopardized his business interests as long as Galliford was reeve. If Oliver were to control council, on the other hand, much of Ingersoll's construction business might come his way, either through municipal projects or through businessmen courting his favour. Oliver's material stake in municipal politics was increased in the mid or late 1850's, when he expanded his business operations. Purchasing several lots on Victoria Street, just to the north of the railway depot and river, he proceeded to build on them his own brick residence, a lumber yard, and a steam powered planing mill.<sup>12</sup> Now a lumber manufacturer and dealer as well as a builder and contractor, Oliver employed twenty-four men, and his projects included the fifty room Royal Hotel.<sup>13</sup>

In the meantime, a record turnout of voters in 1859 elected Oliver and gave him control of council. Depressed economic conditions contributed to his defeat of Galliford, as did difficulties in handling the village debt which had been greatly increased during earlier prosperous times. Also helpful to Oliver was the decision of three incumbents not to run. Gratified when council elected him to the reeve's chair, Oliver donated to the village "a new and nicely finished table, neatly covered with black cloth, and containing a drawer covered with locks for each member".<sup>14</sup> The 1860 elections saw the consolidation of Oliver's power; he placed second in the popular vote — his best showing ever in a village election — and his reeveship was reaffirmed. In 1861 the entire council was returned by

10. *Ibid.*, January 23 & 30, 1857.

11. *Ibid.*, January 1, 1858. Shortly after withdrawing from village politics, Oliver resigned his position as treasurer of the Ingersoll Odd Fellow's lodge. Both actions suggested a tendency, evident throughout his career, to withdraw temporarily from community affairs whenever presented with a defeat. For his resignation as treasurer, see *Minutes*, Samaritan Lodge No. 35, I.O.O.F. (I.O.O.F. Lodge, Ingersoll), February 25, 1857.

12. *Chronicle*, August 30, 1861; James Sutherland, *County of Oxford Gazetteer and General Business Directory, 1862-3* (Ingersoll, 1862), p. 131; *manuscript census, 1861*, data for Ingersoll, p. 45. The earliest surviving assessment roll for Ingersoll, that for 1880, shows that Oliver and the Adam Oliver Company then owned six lots on the north side of Victoria Street, between Union and John Streets; four lots on the south of Victoria Street and adjacent to the railway; and one lot between the railway and Carnegie Street, the eastward extension of Victoria Street. County land records also show Oliver as owning these lots in 1882, as well as having exchanged some nearby property with the Roman Catholic Church in 1877. There is no record, however, of when Oliver acquired his Victoria Street property, even though the records go back to the Crown patent; presumably his purchases in this area of town were not registered. See Oxford County Registry Office, *Land Records* for Ingersoll, lot no. 11, 4th concession, North Oxford.

13. *Oxford Herald* (Ingersoll), Public Archives of Ontario (PAO), September 5, 1861. The 1861 manuscript census reported twenty-one hands in Oliver's mill. The Royal Hotel, built in 1860, was owned by Oliver from 1868 to 1879. See Oxford County Registry Office, *Land Records* for Ingersoll, Block 20, Broken Front Concession, West Oxford township.

14. *Chronicle*, December 31, 1858; January 21, 1859.

acclamation, and, in a quiet 1862 election, Oliver was elected to his fourth consecutive term as reeve.<sup>15</sup>

Yet he continued to make enemies. In 1859 he dismissed the village treasurer, C. E. Chadwick, for refusing to repay three hundred dollars which had been disbursed without proper authorization. Chadwick, the Ingersoll manager of the Niagara District Bank, conceded that the payment had been irregular but insisted that he had acted in good faith. His bitterness increased when the village won a court judgment against him, and he repaid the money only when faced with a writ of execution against his property. Oliver's angry exchange of letters with Chadwick in the *Chronicle* and his reference to Chadwick as "the little gentleman" did nothing to defuse the situation.<sup>16</sup>

In 1860 Oliver opposed a petition to the Governor-General to have Ingersoll proclaimed a town, ostensibly from concern that the change would result in higher government costs.<sup>17</sup> Following his lead, council opposed the petition by a three to two vote.<sup>18</sup> Galliford and Chadwick supported the petition, as did J. S. Gurnett, the proprietor and editor of the *Chronicle*, and James Noxon, an agricultural implements manufacturer and the head of Ingersoll's largest industry.<sup>19</sup> Undeniably popular, town status was endorsed by a majority of twenty-four in a plebiscite held in July.<sup>20</sup> Beneath the rhetoric on both sides lay another issue: Oliver's control over community affairs. As reeve, Oliver easily dominated the small village council which had elected him. As mayor he would find the domination of the town council much more difficult. Having been elected by the voters directly rather than through council, a mayor could not be certain of council's support, especially since a town council would be larger and more unwieldy than its village counterpart. Unlike the village reeve, moreover, a town mayor would not sit on the county council — a reeve and deputy reeve, also elected directly by the voters, would be the town representatives. In several ways, therefore, a town mayor was less powerful than a village reeve. More importantly, could Oliver win a mayoralty election? Unlike Galliford, he had never topped the polls.

By May, 1860, after the provincial legislature had given second reading to a bill to have Ingersoll proclaimed a town, feelings were running high on the village council. Galliford, exclaimed Oliver, was a drunkard. "I have hear it said," Galliford interjected, "that a drunken man can get sober, but that a fool can never get wise; and a great many say that you make a fool of yourself." Objecting to Galliford's interruption Oliver shouted "shut up your head".<sup>21</sup> In the end, the

15. *Ibid.*, January 6, 1860; January 11, 1861; January 3 & February 7, 1862; Sutherland, *Loc. Cit.*, p. 26.

16. *Chronicle*, September 9 & 23, October 7, 21 & 28, 1859. Chadwick had already been dismissed as post-master in 1858 for his criticisms of the Governor-General.

17. *Ibid.*, February 3 & 10, 1860.

18. *Ibid.*, February 24, 1860.

19. *Ibid.*, February 10 & 24, 1860.

20. *Ibid.*, July 6, 1860.

21. *Ibid.*, May 4 & 11, 1860.

Governor-General did not proclaim Ingersoll a town, despite the passage of the bill by both houses of the legislature. The reeve did not press for an explanation, and none was forthcoming although, as Galliford later alleged, Oliver's failure to sign the necessary papers may have been responsible.<sup>22</sup>

Throughout his resistance to town status the reeve faced criticism from the *Chronicle*. In October, 1860, angered by the paper's suggestion that he was less fortunate than C. E. Chadwick in his matrimonial affairs, Oliver charged J. S. Gurnett with criminal libel. A trial followed and, possibly because of the individual magistrate's presiding, the outcome was a finding of no bill by the grand jury.<sup>23</sup> One magistrate was Galliford, and the other was David Canfield, the "southern" councillor-elect who had declined to take his seat in 1857, following Oliver's charges of voting irregularities. Though feted at a testimonial dinner, Gurnett's triumph was short-lived. Specifically referring to the *Chronicle's* hostility to certain council members, council awarded the rival *Herald* the contract for the village's printing and advertising in February, 1861.<sup>24</sup> Possibly chastened by the experience, Gurnett eventually made his peace with the reeve.

In the 1863 contest between Oliver's "buff" and Galliford's "white" tickets, Oliver was the only "buff" elected, and Galliford became reeve. Resistance to town status had been Oliver's undoing.<sup>25</sup> Though never popular, Oliver's position had been defensible. In 1860 the village had lacked the three thousand population necessary for incorporation under the province's general act; this fact explains why town status by proclamation had been attempted. The subsequent growth of the village, however, made Oliver's position increasingly untenable. As was shown by a municipal census taken after the election, Ingersoll's population had increased by almost a quarter, from 2,551 in 1860 to 3,151 in 1863.<sup>26</sup> Seemingly acknowledging the cause of the "buff" defeat, Oliver grudgingly accepted town status in November, 1863, because "the people seem to want it".<sup>27</sup>

Oliver did not make Galliford's resumption of the reeve's duties easy. He challenged nearly all of Galliford's appointments to municipal office, and in April, doubtless because of Galliford's mercantile interests, Oliver utilized a public meeting to forestall the appointment of a town watchman; the merchants were the only beneficiaries of a watchman's services, Oliver argued, and so they, not the village, should pay. In June, debating an expenditure of four dollars, the two men exchanged language which the *Chronicle* considered unfit to print. Over another small item in November, they "pitched into one another at a furious rate". In December, outraged because he had been replaced as superintendent of construction for the village's new engine house, Oliver accused council of a "double

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22. *Ibid.*, November 20, 1863.

23. *Ibid.*, October 26, 1860. The basis for the remark about Oliver's marriage is not known.

24. *Ibid.*, February 15, 1861.

25. *Ibid.*, January 9, 1863.

26. *Municipal Census Returns, Ingersoll, 1860*, UWO; *Chronicle*, July 3, 1863.

27. *Chronicle*, November 20, 1863.



shuffle", and an uproar ensued.<sup>28</sup> Yet he declined to run for the 1864 council, and a dull contest followed.

In August, 1864, Ingersoll finally became a town and was to be governed, effective in January, 1865, by a mayor, a reeve (later a second deputy reeve was added), and three councillors from each of three wards. For Mayor, two men were nominated: Galliford and Oliver.<sup>29</sup> Accepting nomination, Galliford cheerfully admitted to having been publicly drunk on the Queen's birthday, but he denied having left a debenture in a tavern and campaigned on his record, which included nineteen years residence in Ingersoll and fourteen years on council. Oliver's acceptance speech, repeatedly interrupted by the reeve who jumped up and down and appeared very agitated, asserted that conditions were unchanged from the previous decade, with Galliford wanting "to hold the reins and drive as he pleases". The results, Oliver claimed, invariably were mismanaged finances and a general bungling of municipal affairs; supported by self-serving men, Galliford was no man for mayor. Backed by the *Chronicle*, Oliver was victorious in the election by a majority of fifty. Though polling four votes less than Galliford south of the river, Oliver swept the first ward — the north side — by eighty-eight votes to thirty-four.<sup>30</sup> In 1866 the mayor was acclaimed for a second term.<sup>31</sup>

Town status brought an unusual decorum to council proceedings. The 1866 council opened with a mayor's address which was similar to a throne speech, after which a committee of council prepared a suitable reply.<sup>32</sup> Stimulated by fear of cholera and other contagious diseases, a major concern of council was public health. Following the appointment of a municipal health board in August, 1865, council's attention was directed to several problems: privies located near wells, slaughterhouses within the town limits, pig pens close to houses, putrid mill ponds filled with decaying wood, and slops piles which were especially hazardous to health during the summer. With the mayor's encouragement, council appointed a public health officer in February, 1866, and a number of his recommendations were acted upon. Ward committees were made responsible for the cleaning of streets, and other measures — the banning of pig pens within one hundred feet of houses, the construction of paved gutters for drainage, the compulsory maintenance of slops barrels or slops pits by residents, and provision for a municipal slops pick-up — were referred to a committee for the drafting of appropriate by-laws. Probably for personal reasons, Oliver accepted the regulation of pig pens reluctantly; his own residential property was less than one hundred feet deep, and he kept swine, according to the 1861 manuscript census.<sup>33</sup>

Journeying to Quebec in 1865, the mayor was unable to get action on another matter: the recovery of Ingersoll's port of entry status which the government had

28. *Ibid.*, February 13, April 10, June 5, November 6, December 11, 1863.

29. *Ibid.*, December 23, 1864.

30. *Ibid.*, January 6, 1865.

31. *Ibid.*, January 5, 1866.

32. *Ibid.*, January 19, March 9, 1866.

33. *Ibid.*, February 9, April 20, 1866; *manuscript census of Canada, 1861*, data for Ingersoll, p. 45; for lot sizes, see *Map of the Town of Ingersoll, 1905* (Ingersoll Town Hall).

discontinued in 1862.<sup>34</sup> With respect to roads, he was more successful. Observing that various gravel road companies were neglecting portions of their roads within the town limits, he persuaded council to make town roads a municipal responsibility and to prove the toll gates on them. Yet he thwarted plans to improve Thames Street at town expense, arguing that the Thames Street ratepayers should bear the cost.<sup>35</sup>

As mayor, Oliver was also affected by the spread of dairying and the factory system of cheese production in the farmlands around the town. Thanks to its early start, Oxford county was Ontario's leading cheese producing region from 1864 to 1871, with Ingersoll the industry's leading market centre. A hallmark of the new era was the manufacture of the town's "Mammoth Cheese" for promotional purposes in 1866; first exhibited at the New York State Fair in Saratoga, and inspiring a memorably awful "Ode on the Mammoth Cheese" by James McIntyre, Ingersoll's "cheese poet", the 7,300 pound monster was then dispatched to England.<sup>36</sup> Oliver was part of these events. Standing just to the left of the mammoth, in a famous photograph taken at Saratoga, is Ingersoll's mayor, resplendent in top hat and white vest.<sup>37</sup>

As mayor, and formerly as village reeve, Oliver was also a magistrate. Blacks in particular fared poorly before him.<sup>38</sup> The Harris brothers, "Fighting Jack" and Nelson, were merely bound to keep the peace for their assault upon two "coloureds" in 1865, while court costs were charged to one of the victims for having provoked the assault. Two weeks later, Oliver acquitted a man who was charged with attempted assault upon a black woman. Though identified by the victim and her twelve year old daughter, the defendant was reported by another witness to have been at the railway station at the time of the offence. An assault had occurred, Oliver ruled, but the wrong man had been charged.

The mayor's liberal support of Erskine Presbyterian Church was another aspect of his involvement in the community. Yet Oliver was an adherent, not a full church member; as such he may have partially escaped the vigorous moral supervision which the Erskine Church elders provided for communicants. Oliver was not to join the communion roll until 1868, and his role in congregational affairs was never to be major.<sup>39</sup>

34. *Ibid.*, March 3, July 25, 1865.

35. *Ibid.*, May 11, 1866.

36. The ode appears in James McIntyre, *Musings on the Banks of the Canadian Thames* (Ingersoll, 1884), pp. 111-112, and more recently in William Arthur Deacon, *The 4 Jameses, Canada's Four Worst — and Funniest — Poets* (Toronto, 1953), p. 69.

37. Photograph, *Byron Jenvey Collection*, Ingersoll.

38. *Chronicle*, September 8 & 22, 1865.

39. Oliver's first wife became a communicant in 1865, shortly before her death. His second wife did not become a communicant, and she was visited by a deputation of elders in 1881, following reports of her intemperance. Oliver's eldest sons, John and George, were not baptized until 1870, when they had reached the ages of 23 and 19 respectively. Church records make no complaint of Oliver for non-attendance or for his involvement in business and political scandal during the 1870's; neither, on the other hand, did they note and lament his death, as they did for many other church members. See *Session Records, Erskine Presbyterian Church, Ingersoll*, Vol. 2, 1862-1883 (St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Ingersoll). For his financial support of the Presbyterian cause, see *The Canadian Biographical Dictionary, Loc. Cit.*; *Diaries of Donald McKercher, Presbyterian Missionary, Prince Arthur's Landing*, files 13, 14 & 18, United Church Archives, Toronto. Among Oliver's contributions was the land for the first Presbyterian Church in Thunder Bay.

Oliver was also a member of Samaritan Lodge number thirty-five of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He had joined the lodge shortly after its formation in 1856 and had been elected to a term as treasurer in December of the same year. With its emphasis upon brotherhood, and its elaborate rank structure and exotic forms of dress, this fraternal society had been an extremely useful meeting place. By promoting good character and meting out punishment for immorality, the lodge was also a source of social discipline. Yet by the early 1860's the novelty of the Odd Fellowship in Ingersoll was passing and its popularity was waning. One of several members who lost interest in lodge affairs, Oliver was dropped from the membership for non-payment of dues in 1865.<sup>40</sup> The mayor had also discontinued his association with the Ingersoll Infantry Company; though elected captain of the volunteer unit upon its formation in 1862, he had retired at his own insistence in 1864.<sup>41</sup>

On June 5, 1866, the mayor lost his wife Elizabeth, "a virtuous and Christian lady" and the mother of his six children. A huge procession attended her funeral, and stores and businesses were closed for the afternoon.<sup>42</sup> Two years later, on June 13, 1868, Oliver married Ellen Rintoul of Perth, Scotland, by whom he was to have another four children.<sup>43</sup> By this time, his political and business career as well as his personal life had entered a new distinct stage. No longer a purely local figure after 1867, he was active in provincial politics and in business developments elsewhere in Ontario.

An expansion and reorganization of his business laid the groundwork for the change of direction. In 1867 he announced extensive additions to his mills and machinery, and also the formation of the Adam Oliver Company, in partnership with William Cairns Bell, a carpenter and fellow Maritime native, and Hugh Sutherland, his bookkeeper. Now employing up to sixty men, the firm was Ingersoll's third largest industry. More importantly, Bell, his major partner, assumed the practical management of the company, thereby freeing Oliver for other activities.<sup>44</sup>

Thus, declining a third term as mayor, Oliver contested the South Oxford riding in Ontario's first general election in 1867.<sup>45</sup> Backed by the *Chronicle*, and running as a reformer (Liberal) in a traditionally Reform constituency, he was also encouraged by a requisition, presented to him before a large crowd at the Royal Hotel and containing nearly one thousand signatures. Unfortunately for Oliver, another Reformer, James Noxon, entered the fray. Then, evidently

40. *Minutes*, Samaritan Lodge no. 35, I.O.O.F., 1856-1882.

41. *Chronicle*, December 12, 1862; May 6, 1864.

42. *Ibid.*, June 1, 1866.

43. *The Canadian Biographical Dictionary*, *Loc. Cit.*

44. *Oxford Tribune and Canada Diary Reporter* (Ingersoll), UWO, July 11, 1877; *Chronicle*, April 11, 1867, supplement. With the deterioration of economic conditions during the 1870's, the company's labour force dropped to around thirty men.

45. For Oliver's 1867 campaign and election, see *Chronicle*, May 9 to September 5, 1867. For official results of each of Oliver's provincial election contests, see Roderick Lewis, *A Statistical History of All the Electoral Districts of the Province of Ontario since 1867* (Toronto, n.d.), pp. 194-95.

despairing of his chances as a straight Reformer, Noxon declared himself a coalitionist: a supporter of John Sandfield Macdonald's bid to head a Reform-Conservative administration. With the Conservatives not running a candidate, Noxon threatened to win some of the Reform votes and all of the Conservative. Yet this able industrialist was personally unpopular. Regarded by Oliver as an ambitious "greenhorn with an oily tongue" in 1861, and later mocked as the "Gladstone of Ingersoll" by another opponent,<sup>46</sup> Noxon seldom did well in municipal elections. Now, running as a coalitionist against an older man whom many considered to have a prior claim on Reform sympathies, he was portrayed as an unprincipled opportunist who would not wait his time. The outcome of the election, though less than the five to one majority predicted by the *Chronicle*, was a comfortable win for Oliver, followed by bonfires and a great celebration. A second term followed in 1871, when Oliver easily defeated Stephen Richards, a Conservative and an outsider.<sup>47</sup>

Oliver now became involved with Ingersoll's major new objective in its struggle with rival centres: a second railway which could reduce freight rates through competition.<sup>48</sup> In 1872 Oliver was the leading promoter of the Ingersoll, Tilsonburg (as it then was spelled) & Port Burwell Railway, a project designed to link the town to the Canada Southern Railway which ran south of the Great Western, between Amherstburg and Fort Erie. A provisional director of the Ingersoll, Tilsonburg & Port Burwell Railway, as well as the sponsor of the provincial Act for its incorporation, he also was instrumental in coaxing cash bonuses from Ingersoll and other communities which stood to benefit from the line. In December, 1872, he endorsed a second and more promising proposal: an extension of the Credit Valley Railway from Galt to link Ingersoll to the Canada Southern Railway at St. Thomas. Years passed, however, before either project was completed.<sup>49</sup>

The agricultural interests of South Oxford also received Oliver's attention. Shortly before his election in 1867, he was present at the founding of the Canadian Dairyman's Association in Ingersoll, and from 1869 to 1871 he was president of the Ingersoll and North and West Oxford Agricultural Society.<sup>50</sup> As well as helping to publicize the emerging dairy industries in the local legislature, he secured legislation in 1868 to set minimum standards of quality for cheese and

46. *Chronicle*, February 8, 1861; April 1, 1869.

47. *Ibid.*, March 9, 16 & 30, 1871.

48. In 1858 London, enjoying the benefits of railway competition, could ship wheat to Hamilton via the Great Western for one cent a bushel less than Ingersoll, nineteen miles closer to Hamilton but suffering from a railway monopoly. See James J. Talman, "The Development of the Railway Network of Southwestern Ontario" *Canadian Historical Association Papers*, 1953, p. 5.

49. *Chronicle*, December 14, 1871 to January 2, 1873. Possibly because of the quarter of a million dollar fire in Ingersoll's business section in 1872, the Ingersoll-Port Burwell project experienced difficulty in raising money. Even the Credit Valley proposal encountered serious financial problems, and Oliver played no part in its eventual completion in 1881. In other railway activities, possibly related to one or both of these proposals, Oliver was a sometime director of the Port Dover and Lake Huron Railway and the Canada Southern Railway. See *Chronicle*, October 12, 1882.

50. *Chronicle*, October 12, 1882; January 16, 1873, letter from Reuben A. James.

butter — an essential development for long term success in the British market.<sup>51</sup> Then in 1872 he was involved in the formation and incorporation of the Dairyman's Association of Ontario, the result of a merger — encouraged financially by the province — of the Canadian Dairyman's Association, centred in Ingersoll, and the Ontario Dairyman's Association, founded in Belleville.<sup>52</sup>

Yet Oliver's services to area agriculture were mostly superficial. His election as president of the local agricultural society, for example, occurred without his knowledge while he was in Toronto, and the cause was a temporary sectional issue.<sup>53</sup> Having purchased land for an agricultural grounds in the north part of town, the Society wished to dissuade council from establishing a park and agricultural grounds in the southeast part of town, and to persuade council to give financial support for the Society's grounds. As a "northerner", South Oxford's local member was a logical choice to champion the Society's plans, though his efforts were unsuccessful. He was scarcely more helpful to the Canadian Dairyman's Association. With the Association dominated by two of his enemies, Noxon and Chadwick, Oliver was ignored during the negotiations with the provincial government which preceded the merger of the two Ontario dairyman's associations, and his contributions to the negotiations were disruptive and inappropriate to the dairymen's needs.<sup>54</sup> Unaware, for example, that the annual cheese fair was a financial burden, he criticized the merger agreement for giving Belleville the fair in alternate years, arguing that Ingersoll, with its greater importance in the cheese industry, should hold the event two years out of three.

By 1872 Oliver's record as a local member was clearly less than outstanding. Though applauded by the *Chronicle* for committee work and loyal support of party,<sup>55</sup> he was narrowly partisan in his speeches and voting record, and his representation of constituency interests was uneven. His shortcomings became more pronounced after 1872. Increasingly diverted to business interests in north-western Ontario, where he now spent the summer months, he lost touch with constituency interests and blighted his reputation with scandal.

In 1868 Oliver established a planing mill and lumber yard in Orillia, in partnership with his son, John Grieve Oliver, and his partners in the Adam Oliver Company. After fire destroyed the mill and much of the lumber in October, 1871, the partnership was dissolved and the property sold.<sup>56</sup> Apparently salvaging most of his equity from the venture, Oliver invested in Thunder Bay District on the north shore of Lake Superior in 1872. This frontier region then contained two tiny communities.<sup>57</sup> Prince Arthur's Landing (later named Port Arthur), with a popu-

51. *Ibid.*, January 30, 1868; October 12, 1882; Haslett, *Loc. Cit.*, Chapter IV.

52. *Ibid.*, January 16, 1873, letter from Reuben A. James.

53. *Ibid.*, March 4, 1869; April 1, 1869.

54. *Ibid.*, January 16, 1873, letter from Reuben A. James. See also *Ingersoll News* (Ingersoll), PAO, April 24, 1867, report of meeting of Maple Leaf Cheese Factory Patrons.

55. *Chronicle*, March 16, 1871; see also December 15, 1870.

56. *Ibid.*, October 12, 1871; October 12, 1872.

57. See Elizabeth Arthur, *Thunder Bay District, 1821-1892* (Toronto, 1973), introduction.

lation of 1,500, was at the eastern end of the Dawson Road to Manitoba and was the gateway to several inland mining developments. A few miles to the west, near the mouth of the Kaministiquia (as it was then spelled) River, was Fort William, much smaller than Prince Arthur's Landing and consisting of little more than the Hudson's Bay Company post, a few settlers, and a surveyed but uninhabited town plot, a few miles up the river. Both communities were included in the municipality of Shuniah, newly-created in 1873, and they were not to separate for several years; Neebing township, including the area of the Fort William town plot, withdrew from Shuniah in 1881, and the schism was completed when Port Arthur and Fort William became incorporated towns, in 1884 and 1892 respectively.

Oliver's interest in Thunder Bay District was understandable. With Ingersoll experiencing a mere seven per cent population increase in the decade 1871-81, and once again falling behind Woodstock in size, he had little hope of expanding his existing business. The economic prospects of Thunder Bay District, on the other hand, were promising because of the Dominion government's interest in building a transcontinental railway. In 1871 Oliver's election platform indicated his interest in the northwest; he favoured government aid to establish rail or water transportation to Manitoba; and he called for the sale of timber berths in small blocs so as to give the small businessman a chance at them.<sup>58</sup> His years in Ingersoll had prepared him well for the opportunities ahead. During the 1850's and again during the early 1870's, he had been schooled in the relationships between railway proposals and real estate values, and between political influence and construction contracts. In Thunder Bay District he was merely applying his expertise in a new frontier area.

In 1872 he formed Oliver, Davidson & Company, in partnership with Joseph Davidson, a Toronto lumberman, and Peter Johnston Brown, an Ingersoll lawyer; each of the partners held a one third interest, with Thomas Wells, another Ingersoll lawyer, sharing Brown's interest as a silent partner.<sup>59</sup> After purchasing a timber limit, the company established the first saw and planing mill in Thunder Bay District, locating on an island opposite the mouth of the Kaministiquia River.<sup>60</sup> Within three years the company reportedly held the timber rights to forty thousand acres, operated a steam vessel, the *Jennie Oliver*, employed fifty men, and had a total investment of one hundred thousand dollars in the Kaministiquia River area.<sup>61</sup> The composition of the company expressed Oliver's preference for Ingersoll men; even Davidson was a former resident of the town.<sup>62</sup>

58. *Chronicle*, March 16, 1871.

59. *Journals of the Senate of Canada, 1878*, Vol. XII, Appendix 4, "Report and minutes of evidence taken from the select committee appointed to inquire into and report upon the purchase of lands at Fort William for a terminus to the Canadian Pacific Railway", p.22, P. J. Brown's testimony. Joseph Davidson was a lumber merchant in Ingersoll in 1867. See *Oxford and Norfolk Gazetteer and General Business Directory, 1867* (Woodstock, 1867), p. 157.

60. *Chronicle*, October 12, 1882; *Journals of the Senate Loc. Cit.*, p. 25, P. J. Brown's testimony; p. 121, Joseph Davidson's testimony; Arthur, *Loc. Cit.*, p. lxxxviii.

61. *Chronicle*, January 8, 1874; January 14, 1875; *Journals of the Senate, Loc. Cit.*, p. 77, Adam Oliver's testimony, and p. 123, Joseph Davidson's testimony; *Thunder Bay Sentinel* (Prince Arthur's Landing), Microfilm, PAO, September 9, 1875.

62. *Oxford and Norfolk Gazetteer and General Business Directory, 1867* (Woodstock, 1867), p. 157.

The company became spectacularly successful in 1875. In January the Dominion government filed plans to make the Fort William town plot the Lake Superior terminus of its railway to the Pacific. Oliver, Davidson & Company, holding one hundred and thirty-six acres next to the town plot and forty-two lots in the town plot, most of which were designated as railway land, was the chief beneficiary of this decision.<sup>63</sup> In February the company acquired a \$243,000 Dominion government contract to build a telegraph line from Fort William to Winnipeg. A \$3,500 government contract to build an engine house for the terminus followed in September, and in June, 1876, the company received a contract to operate the government telegraph line between Fort William and Rat Portage (Kenora).<sup>64</sup> Appropriately, on June 1, 1875, Oliver turned the first sod to begin construction on the railway at Fort William, an honour much in keeping with the heroic role which he assumed for himself. By transferring his capital from Orillia to Thunder Bay District, he saw himself as helping to open up the country, creating jobs for fifty men, and providing a livelihood for a community of five hundred; all this, moreover, was being accomplished by a Canadian firm, and Oliver preferred Canadians to Americans.<sup>65</sup>

Oliver was no hero, however, to the inhabitants of Prince Arthur's Landing.<sup>66</sup> Shocked at being bypassed by the major transcontinental system of transportation, they believed that a conspiracy of "town plotters" had diverted the terminus from their own community, which was more populous than Fort William and was at the end of the road route to Manitoba. Adding to their suspicions was the knowledge that a Liberal government had located the terminus and that Adam Oliver, the chief "plotter", was a Liberal member of the provincial legislature. Dominion Conservatives, eager to rebound from the Pacific Scandal which had driven them from office in 1873, and still enjoying a majority in the Senate, were equally intrigued at the possibility of Liberal foul play. The eventual outcome was a Senate investigation into the land transactions at Fort William.

Meanwhile, Oliver's summers in the northwest were jeopardizing his political support in South Oxford and Ingersoll. Though elected to the Ingersoll council in 1872, for example, he resigned his seat in August because of his prolonged absence from the town,<sup>67</sup> and increasingly thereafter he was regarded as an outsider whose chief interests were in the Ontario northwest. In the circumstances, he might have attempted a reconciliation with James Noxon, his bitter opponent in the 1867 election. With the continued expansion of Noxon's industry and with his crucial role in Ingersoll's negotiations for a second railway, Noxon was

63. Journals of the Senate, *Loc Cit.*, A popular but hostile account of Oliver's business activities in Thunder Bay is in Pierre Berton, *The National Dream* (Toronto, 1970), pp. 229-39. See also Arthur, *Loc. Cit.*, for Oliver's activities.

64. *Report of the Canadian Pacific Railway Royal Commission, 1882*, Vols. I-II (evidence) & Vol. III (conclusions).

65. *Chronicle*, January 8, 1874; January 14, 1875.

66. Arthur, *Loc. Cit.*, p. lxxxviii ff; *Thunder Bay Sentinel* 1875-79.

67. *Chronicle*, August 8, October 21, 1872. Oliver had also been nominated for mayor in 1869 but declined to stand. He was also to decline several nominations in Shuniah municipality where, even if elected, he would have been part of a small Fort William minority. See *Thunder Bay Sentinel*, July 13, 1876; July 4 & 18, 1878.

increasingly a man to be reckoned with. Thus Oliver probably erred in 1872 when, during his criticisms of rising educational expenditures, he castigated the school board for having purchased land from the mayor and for having hired one of its own members to build an addition to the school. Not only was Noxon the chief apologist for the school board, but the mayor, John McDonald, was Noxon's father-in-law.<sup>68</sup>

Oliver's next setback came in January, 1874, when he resigned his seat in the provincial legislature because of a possible contravention of the Independence of Parliament Act.<sup>69</sup> Acknowledging that Oliver, Davidson & Company had inadvertently sold timber to a provincial government buyer, he transferred his \$166 share of the profit to his partners, protested his innocence in the transaction, and asked his constituents to re-elect him. Despite strong criticism from James Noxon, Oliver was acclaimed in a by-election in the same month in which he had resigned.<sup>70</sup> Yet in the provincial general election of 1875, his chances were undermined by rumours of his land transactions in Fort William and by charges that he was an outsider.<sup>71</sup> In addition to a Conservative, moreover, he faced two Reformers, Dr. James A. Devlin and John McDonald, the former mayor and Noxon's father-in-law, as shown above. With nearly four hundred votes going to McDonald, Oliver narrowly defeated the Conservative, Benjamin Hopkins, by a forty-three vote plurality. Even then, his election was overturned after an investigation found bribery and corrupt practices among certain of Oliver's supporters. Though not linked personally to this misconduct, Oliver did not contest the by-election, and Adam Crooks, a defeated Liberal cabinet minister from Toronto, was elected for South Oxford.<sup>72</sup>

The culmination of Oliver's political decline occurred in 1877 when his nemesis, James Noxon, defeated him for the post of first deputy reeve. Though beaten in part because of his sorry record in 1872 when his resignation had dramatized his image as an outsider, Oliver was also unfamiliar with the major local issue: the critical state of negotiations with the Credit Valley Railway.<sup>73</sup> With the possibility that construction would stop at Woodstock and that Ingersoll's sixty thousand dollar investment in the line would be lost, the town needed expert leadership to determine if, how much, and under what conditions, additional monies could be committed to the line. Incredibly, Oliver declined to comment on railway matters, apparently because he was too ill informed. Noxon, on the other hand, was an expert on this particular railway situation, and, sensing his advantage, he had chosen deliberately to run for the post which Oliver was seeking.

In the meantime, Oliver's political problems seem not to have disrupted his aggressive business practices in the northwest. As part of a Thunder Bay delegation

68. *Chronicle*, January 18, 1872. John Galliford, who had been Oliver's chief rival, was inactive in municipal politics after 1871, and in 1875 he died.

69. *Ibid.*, January 8, 1874.

70. *Ibid.*, January 15 & 22, 1874.

71. *Ibid.*, January 14 & March 25, 1875.

72. *Ibid.*, July 15, 1875, (Oliver's trial); July 22, 1875; Lewis, *Loc. Cit.*

73. *Oxford Tribune and Canada Dairy Reporter*, December 27, 1876; January 3, 1877; *Chronicle*, December 28, 1876; January 4, 1877.



in 1874, he sought to reverse the Dominion government's decision to place the terminus at the mouth of the Nepigon (as it then was spelled) River rather than at Thunder Bay. According to Peter McKellar, a prominent Fort William spokesman, Oliver's influence with Prime Minister Mackenzie's administration was decisive in making this appeal successful.<sup>74</sup> Then, after the terminus was fixed on the Fort William town plot, Oliver opposed plans for a branch line — the Prince Arthur's Landing and Kaministiquia Railway — to link the Landing to the terminus, a strategy which threatened to place the *de facto* terminus at Prince Arthur's Landing. To Oliver's annoyance, Fort William was assessed for some of the thirty-five thousand dollar cash bonus which Shuniah municipality voted to the line. Thus Oliver and his partners appear to have been behind a petition to separate Fort William from Shuniah.<sup>75</sup>

In May, 1876, Oliver courageously attended a public meeting at the Landing, at which he was the only man to oppose the branch line proposal.<sup>76</sup> Then, to counter the pro-Landing views of the Thunder Bay *Sentinel*, he backed the founding of the *Fort William Day Book and Kaministiquia Advocate* in 1877; like Oliver's partners, the proprietors of this short-lived newspaper, Colin Patience and Walter T. Burdick, were Ingersoll men.<sup>77</sup> In the end, the branch line was built, but not without purchasing some of the right of way from Oliver, Davidson & Company.<sup>78</sup> Moreover, the Dominion government refused to connect the branch line to the terminus, thereby delaying the junction with the main line until the return of the Conservatives to power in 1878.<sup>79</sup>

Commencing with criticisms of the terminus site, the report of the Senate committee of investigation in 1878 offered further insights into the government's land transactions at Fort William. The committee was satisfied that the Kaministiquia River harbour was as good as that of Prince Arthur's Landing, but argued strongly that the terminus should have been placed nearer to the mouth of the river, as had been recommended by the government engineer in charge of surveys. Though finding no evidence that anyone had influenced the government in favour of the town plot, the committee strongly suspected that "the persons who had enriched themselves at the expense of the people of Canada had . . . in some way ascertained, in advance of the public, that the Government had determined to locate the terminus . . . on the town plot of Fort William". In the autumn of 1874, well before the government's plans had been filed and were available to the public, Oliver's partner, Joseph Davidson, allegedly had stated

that he had been informed on very high authority that the terminus would be in the town plot, and that he had shown to each of them [two witnesses] a plan or tracing, on which the lots required for the railway were "colored in lake or pink;" [and] that this coloring delineated with strict accuracy the lots which were afterwards taken by the Government.

74. Arthur, *Loc. Cit.*

75. Thunder Bay *Sentinel*, October 14, 1875.

76. *Ibid.*, June 22, 1876.

77. Arthur, *Loc. Cit.*, p. xcii; Thunder Bay *Sentinel*, August 23, 1877; March 14, 1878.

78. Journals of the Senate, *Loc. Cit.*, p. 125, Joseph Davidson's testimony.

79. Arthur, *Loc. Cit.*, p. xciii.

Noting that lots purchased for as little as sixty to ninety dollars were sold for up to three hundred, the committee concluded that the government had paid extravagant prices for railway land and that land valuation procedures had favoured the property owners. A remarkable revelation was that Peter Johnston Brown had been appointed legal advisor to the government valuers, upon the recommendation of Prime Minister Mackenzie! Though later testifying to having been unaware of Brown's interest in Oliver, Davidson & Company, Mackenzie had just finished awarding that company a major telegraph contract to which both he and Brown had been signatories.

Thus far, Oliver had not been irrevocably embarrassed by the committee's disclosures. To begin with, the amount of money involved was relatively small. Oliver and his partners had been paid four thousand dollars for eight of their one hundred and thirty-six acres next to the town plot, and \$12,410 for some twenty-eight to thirty of their forty-two lots in the town plot.<sup>80</sup> Allowing for the company's outlay, Oliver's one third share of the profits was no more than three or four thousand dollars. Nor had the Senate committee proven that these profits were the result of "information in advance of the public". Oliver had purchased land in the town plot area as early as 1872, after he had watched a large government survey party lay out the line that was to be taken by the railway.<sup>81</sup> Moreover, Oliver, Davidson & Company's land purchases in Prince Arthur's Landing and Nepigon, as well as in the town plot, suggested some uncertainty on its part as to where the terminus would be located.<sup>82</sup>

The partisan motives of the Conservative-dominated Senate also made certain conclusions of the Senate committee questionable, as did the bias of much of the testimony. Well might William Murdoch, the former government engineer in charge of surveys, for example, criticize the government for placing the terminus on the town plot, and argue for a location nearer to the mouth of the Kaministiquia River. As well as being indirectly involved in land speculation to the south of the town plot, he was a Conservative who had been fired by the Mackenzie administration. Similarly, the allegations concerning Joseph Davidson's map came from town plot land speculators who had sold to Davidson just prior to the announcement of the terminus site.<sup>83</sup>

80. Journals of the senate, *Loc. Cit.*, pp. v-vi; p. 22, P. J. Brown's testimony; pp. 77-78, Oliver's testimony.

81. *Ibid.*, p. 78, Oliver's testimony; see also p. 121, Davidson's testimony.

82. According to testimony by Oliver and his partners, nine hundred dollars had been spent on one thousand acres at Nepigon in 1874, nearly two sections of land had been purchased south of Lake Manitoba (at the head of Long Lake) for about one dollar an acre, and holdings in Prince Arthur's Landing and vicinity totalled about five thousand acres, including twenty to thirty acres on the town plot. According to P. J. Brown, the firm would have done just as well if the terminus had been located at the Landing, although the Thunder Bay *Sentinel* was skeptical that the firm's holdings in Prince Arthur's Landing were as extensive as sometimes claimed. Finally, Joseph Davidson had invested heavily on his own at Sault Ste. Marie. See Journals of Senate, *Loc. Cit.*, pp. 78-79 & 121; Thunder Bay *Sentinel*, September 9, 1875. Any assessment of the firm's holdings must take into account Davidson's statement that land titles were often registered with the individual partners; see Journals of the Senate, *Loc. Cit.*, p. 121.

83. Journals of the Senate, *Loc. Cit.*, pp. 160 ff, William Murdoch's testimony; pp. 57-60 and 64-72, testimony by John Clark and H. P. Savigny, both of Toronto.

Oliver's ethics remained suspect, however, because of the government's payment of compensation for the "Neebing Hotel", which had been built on the railway reserve. Though only entitled to the actual cost of land and construction, the Neebing Hotel Company, of which Oliver was president, had been paid \$5,029 for a flimsy, partially completed structure with an estimated worth of no more than three thousand dollars. Oliver's inflated statement of costs included charges for more material than was actually used, five hundred dollars for unspecified damages, and another five hundred dollar item which was charged twice.

The Senate committee denied that *any* compensation should have been paid, since the hotel had been "erected after the owners . . . knew that they were placing it on the railway reserve". Construction had begun in July or August, 1875, six months after the government's plans for the terminus had been made available to the public. Though Oliver claimed ignorance of those plans until February, 1876, his partners admitted to knowing them as soon as they had been filed. At the beginning of construction, moreover, Oliver had disregarded a government engineer's warning, given to his builder, that the hotel was being erected on railway land. Thus, just as Oliver, Davidson & Company was the chief target of the Conservative Party and the Prince Arthur's Landing interests, so the "Neebling Rookery" became their chief symbol.

The return of the Dominion Conservatives to power, followed by the appointment of a Royal Commission to investigate various railway contracts awarded during the Mackenzie administration, added to Oliver's notoriety. Reporting in 1882, the commission was particularly critical of Oliver, Davidson & Company's acquisition of contract number four, to build the telegraph line from Fort William to Winnipeg. Among the six low tenders received by the government in August, 1874, the lowest had been from a Kingston contractor, John Waddle, followed by two bids from R. T. Sutton, a Brantford man. Initially offered the contract, Waddle had been passed over, ostensibly for his failure to post the necessary security but without ever having been given a deadline for its posting.

The offer of contract then shifted to Sutton & Thirkell, the lower of the two Sutton bids, along with a deadline in mid-December, 1874, for posting security. Sutton, who lacked the resources to carry out the tender and who had bid for the purpose of being bought off, came to an arrangement in Toronto. Oliver, Davidson & Company was to post the security and assume the contract, with Sutton to receive one quarter of the profits. Arriving in Ottawa on December 19, the deadline for the offer of contract, Oliver, Davidson and Sutton interviewed Sandford Fleming, the chief engineer, after which Oliver met alone with Alexander Mackenzie, who was both Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works.

With Oliver too sick to testify, and with Mackenzie, Davidson, P. J. Brown and others suffering lapses in memory, the Royal Commission could only speculate as to what next happened. Nevertheless, circumstantial evidence and the scanty records of the Public Works department suggested collusion between Oliver and either Mackenzie or Fleming, or possibly both. Oliver somehow learned that if the Sutton & Thirkell tender failed, the Sutton & Thompson

tender, twenty-eight thousand dollars higher, was next in line. Sutton was agreeable to Oliver's acquiring standing for the higher tender, but he needed time to buy off Thompson, his only previous understanding having been with Thirtkell. Oliver, for his part, wished to keep the lower tender open in case Thompson did not come to terms. Eager to oblige, the Public Works department did not officially discard the lower tender, despite the passing of the December 19 deadline. The precaution was unnecessary. Thompson surrendered his rights for eight hundred dollars, and Oliver advised Fleming that he was ready to carry out the Sutton & Thompson tender. On February 9, 1875, the contract was signed.

Although the secretary of the Public Works department was normally the mouthpiece for the government side of negotiations, Prime Minister Mackenzie handled this contract personally. Also unusual was the department's willingness to accept Oliver's word, without supporting documentation, that he had acquired standing for the higher Sutton tender. Additional evidence of Oliver's comfortable relationship with the department was a letter, stating Sutton's unwillingness to carry out the lower of his tenders; undated, and given to Oliver but addressed to the government, the letter reflected the arrangement to keep the lower tender open.

Common Liberal party ties explained much of Oliver's success. Prior to the abolition of dual representation in 1872, Mackenzie, Edward Blake, and other Dominion Liberals held seats in the Ontario legislature when, as has been shown above, Oliver was also a member.<sup>84</sup> Also helpful to Oliver was Fleming and Mackenzie's preference for dealing with "responsible" men who were capable of carrying out the tender.<sup>85</sup> Unfortunately, the government's trust was not rewarded with good construction on contract number four. Some sections of the line were built with substandard poles and insulators, and numerous poles, insufficiently anchored, were blown over by the wind. "In many places," the Royal Commission discovered, "the tops of the trees were cut off, and the wires stretched over them. This had the effect of killing the trees, and the roots decaying, caused the supports and the wires to fall together to the ground". Though Oliver, Davidson & Company had contracted to keep the line in good running order for five years after the completion of construction, the district engineer for the railway at Winnipeg estimated that the telegraph system was "out of order and not sufficiently maintained for about one-sixth of the year".

In February, 1879, the Thunder Bay *Sentinel* announced Oliver's withdrawal from business in Thunder Bay District; rats were deserting a doomed ship, the paper added, when Adam Oliver left Fort William.<sup>86</sup> Actually Davidson, not Oliver was out. P. J. Brown assumed Davidson's interest in Oliver, Davidson & Company, while Oliver's interest was unchanged.<sup>87</sup> Yet Oliver's active involve-

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84. For dual representation, see Dale C. Thomson, *Alexander Mackenzie, Clear Grit* (Toronto, 1960), Chapter 7.

85. Royal Commission, *Loc. Cit.*, Vol. II, p. 1136, Davidson's testimony; p. 1342, Fleming's testimony; p. 1793, Mackenzie's testimony.

86. Thunder Bay *Sentinel*, February 6, 1879.

87. Royal Commission, *Loc. Cit.*, Vol. I, p. 775, P. J. Brown's testimony; Vol. II, p. 1126, Davidson's testimony.

ment in the northwest was over, and his interest in Ingersoll was reviving. In 1877, for example, he had contested the post of first deputy reeve because he intended to remain in Ingersoll that summer, and, though beaten by James Noxon, he had topped the polls in two of the three wards. Thus in 1880, against less formidable opposition, he was elected to the post of first deputy reeve.<sup>88</sup> Among his contributions to council was an unsuccessful motion to dispense with the town's street light system, ostensibly in protest over the Ingersoll Gas Company's high prices; more probably he was motivated by enmity to James Noxon, who had been appointed chairman of the company's management committee in 1874.<sup>89</sup>

In April, 1880, Oliver was stricken with paralysis, attributed to a "softening of the brain", and in June he resigned from council.<sup>90</sup> Despite attempts at a "water cure", he finished his life as an invalid, and on October 9, 1882, he died, some two months short of his fifty-ninth birthday. His funeral cortege, one of the largest ever seen in the town, included friends from a distance, politicians, and the attendance of the mayor and council in a body.<sup>91</sup> According to the terms of his will, his wife was left most of his estate, which consisted of \$70,070 in personal effects, securities, and real estate. Oliver also directed that his various partnerships be dissolved and that his business property be converted into securities.<sup>92</sup> Thus the Adam Oliver Company became W. C. Bell's planing mill,<sup>93</sup> and the Oliver family ceased to be prominent in the town's business and political affairs.

Adam Oliver was dead but not easily forgotten. Arriving in 1850, he had been at the centre of Ingersoll's public life for the next quarter of a century, and his career had epitomized the spirit of the community during its years "on the make". Then, outgrowing the town, he had become a provincial politician and had extended his business activities to the Thunder Bay District frontier, working closely with other Ingersoll men. In the process, he had become a hated symbol for the inhabitants of Prince Arthur's Landing and the Conservative Party, and had destroyed his political career through neglect and conflicts of interest. His notoriety, however, originated in partisan warfare and sectional rivalries as much as in his business practices, which were commonplace for his times. Perhaps for this reason, he was able to finish his life in Ingersoll with a measure of respect and dignity.

88. *Chronicle*, December 31, 1879; January 8, 1880.

89. *Ibid.*, February 5, 1880; December 3, 1874.

90. Royal Commission, *Loc. Cit.*, Vol. II, pp. 1131-1133, Davidson's testimony; *Chronicle*, October 12, 1882, and June 10, 1880.

91. *Chronicle*, October 12, 1882.

92. *Adam Oliver's Probated Will*, December 19, 1882. Located in Sheriff's Office, Oxford County Courthouse, Woodstock. Oliver's eldest son, John Grieve Oliver, was in business in the northwest, and his other sons evidently were not in a position to assume his business in Ingersoll.

93. *Farmers' and Business Directory for Elgin, Middlesex, Oxford & Perth, 1885-1886* (Ingersoll, 1885); *Pictorial Map of Ingersoll, circa 1894*, courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Haycock, Ingersoll; *Industries of Canada* (Toronto 1887), pp. 102-103.

# Adam Oliver was a builder of the community

Continued from page 12

As a builder and contractor Oliver benefited from this rapid growth.

He operated a wood and joiner shop and he was a lumber dealer and manufacturer as well as a contractor. Records indicate that at one time he had twenty-four employees. Oliver's business interests extended beyond Ingersoll.

In 1868 he established the Adam Oliver company and with his son and two other partners built a planing mill and a lumber yard in Orillia.

Fire destroyed the mill in 1871 and he moved to the Thunder Bay area where timber was more readily available and where he stocked some mining claims. The economic prospects were promising since the government planned to build a trans-continental railway.

He purchased timber rights and built timber mills there. At one time he had rights to forty thousand acres of land.

In spite of the fact that his business interests were so extensive, he found time to assume civic responsibilities and he became active on the municipal council. John Galliford, a boot and shoe manufacturer on King Street, was elected the first reeve of the village

when it became incorporated in 1852.

Oliver served on the school board at that time. Three years later Oliver was elected to his first term on the village council.

For the next dozen years a running feud and bitter quarrels ensued between the two.

During his second term Oliver resigned alleging "gross misconduct on the part of the reeve". After the market building was destroyed by fire, they had a bitter dispute as to where the new one should be built.

Oliver naturally favoured one closer to the railway station, by the corner of Thames and Charles. Oli-

ver was defeated on this issue but was elected as reeve the following year and in 1859 he defeated Galliford as reeve, which position he occupied for the next four years.

These disputes became very heated at times and there was much name calling and mud slinging. From 1856 to 1868 only two men occupied the position of reeve or mayor. Galliford occupied the position for eight and Oliver for six times.

However, Oliver had the distinction of being mayor when Ingersoll was incorporated as a town in 1865. He was also president of Ingersoll and North and West Oxford Agricultural Society.

As mayor he was also involved in the production of the "Big Cheese" which was sent to England to promote the industry. He was elected member of parliament for the riding of South Oxford on two occasions, and was a promoter of the Ingersoll, Tillsonburg and Port Burwell railway.

Although there has been much controversy and criticism over some of his political judgments and tactics he is undoubtedly one who has devoted a great deal of time and effort to promote the growth and development of Ingersoll in its early days.

George Emery, a professor at the University of Western Ontario,

and a graduate of the Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute sums up the achievements of Oliver when he writes "Oliver was dead but not easily forgotten. Arriving in 1850 he had been at the centre of Ingersoll's life for the next quarter century and his career epitomizes the spirit of the community during those years."

It is truly fitting that those responsible for the Adam Oliver Housing Co-operative should name the complex after this early architect of the town.

Perhaps the house he built when he arrived here and which remains on the same location should in some way be marked so that the public will remember.

SENTINEL REVIEW -  
INGERSOLL THIS  
WEEK  
June 12, 1990

OLIVER Adam

# Local woman wins award for work in literacy program in Ingersoll

By MYRA FIELD

One in five Canadians cannot read. Five million Canadians cannot read or write well enough to function in today's society.

With those kinds of odds, it makes sense that a literacy program would be welcome in Ingersoll.

The Oxford County Board of Education, in conjunction with the Ingersoll Centre for Developmentally Handicapped Adults, has been developing the literacy program in Ingersoll since the end of May. According to Dorothy Otto, teacher of the program, the idea has "taken off like wild fire."

"We started out with just a couple of people and now have 17 actively involved. We need a bigger room. The response has been terrific."

It is difficult to advertise for this type of program because the people in need are not able to read the message, Otto said. "A different type of advertising is needed. It has to be an unsolicited response. We rely on word of mouth and so far that has been very successful."

She said students who have taken part in, and benefitted from the program are one of the key sources to drawing new recruits. "Success breeds success," she said.

During classes, students are encouraged to help other. "We like to see these people actively involved in their own learning," Otto said.

Very often the students learn best from each other. They share a bond that only someone who has been in their shoes can understand, the teacher said. Isolation and frustration are two of the biggest problems for someone who is unable to read. It is similar to being in a foreign country, unable to read or write the language - the challenges are endless.

In today's society, advanced technology has created a need for literacy development. There is a demand for fundamental literacy, the survival tool of the future.

"In our program, we hope to enhance life skills so that, in turn, the quality of life will be improved," Otto said. "It is just great to see people participate in their own destinies."

On the other side of the coin, there are those unable to break through

the barriers society has built up. Certain stereotypes are attached to those unable to read, so these people finely tune other survival skills.

This process is much more difficult than accessing a literacy program and promoting change, Otto said. "I think these are fears we all can understand."

"Breaking down these barriers and allowing people to come forth are part of our program. Most who are in need of literacy programs are

those who were missed in the school system or have just fallen through the cracks in the system."

Those currently attending the literacy classes come from a wide variety of backgrounds, but all are eager to use the opportunity to learn. Instruction is flexible as the goal, Otto said, is to accommodate everyone.

"We concern ourselves most with individual needs and desires. In the four months since the program began, I have noticed a big improvement in some of the students. This is very rewarding."

She noted that with more volunteers and more one-on-one interaction, "things could move along even more quickly. It is great to watch them (students) grow and discover a world that is meant for us all."

With this new confidence, attitudes change, she added, fear disappears and communicating becomes a pleasure.

"Lack of literacy tends to hide one's personality. It is very interesting to watch traits like a sense of humor or independence surface," Otto said. "Again this enhances the quality of life. The students take a great sense of pride in what they have accomplished."

The teacher said the program uses a hands-on approach of instruction. "Computers are an excellent tool, the physical touch enhances the benefit of learning. Finger math is

another practice we found very helpful as well."

Any program of this nature could not be successful without committed and caring individuals to back the cause. Otto is one of these people. Her exceptional attitude and creative spirit are a welcome setting for learning.

"We all have handicaps. We all can learn something about something. I'm just glad to have this opportunity to make a difference," Otto said.

The Literacy Council of Canada will be awarding Otto with a Literacy Recognition Award for all her efforts in making the Ingersoll program a huge success.

Literacy classes are offered at Trinity United Church, courtesy of the church. Those wanting more information should contact Lynn Kovacks at 485-5871.

Volunteers are needed to become actively involved in any aspect of the program. Those with some time to spare should also contact Kovacks. As the International Literacy Year (1990) winds down, people still have a chance to make a difference.

Other programs soon to be offered in town are "Heritage Language" and "English as a Second Language." Anyone wanting further information on these courses should contact Kathy Edge at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute, 485-1200.



Dorothy Otto teaches the literacy program, sponsored by the Oxford County Board of Education and the Ingersoll Centre for Developmentally Handicapped Adults. For her work in literacy, Otto will be receiving a Literacy Recognition Award from the Literacy Council of Canada. (Myra Field photo)

INGERSOLL TIMES  
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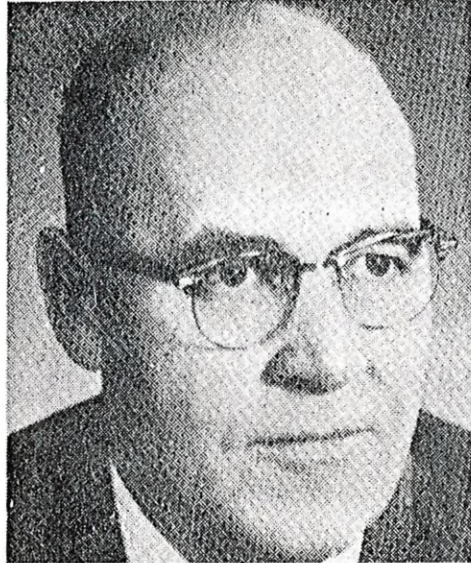
OTTO, DOROTHY

PITTOCK, Gordon William

# Former MPP died Friday

Gordon William Pittock, an active participator in Ingersoll's history died in Victoria Hospital, London on March 11. He was buried yesterday at Ingersoll Rural Cemetery.

Mr. Pittock was active in several capacities, ranging from politics, conservation, and sports. He was a former MPP, and was elected to Ingersoll town council



**The late Gordon Pittock**

Mr. Pittock also served as campaign chairman of the Oxford County Cancer Society in 1960-62, chairman of the Oxford Health Unit, and director of the Ontario Health Unit Association. He represented Ingersoll in the Oxford Children's Aid Society. He was also a life member of the Ontario Plant Food Council, and was a member of the Ontario Commercial Travellers Association.

In 1972, he was presented with the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, the Priory of Canada.

He is survived by his wife, the former Louise Giffen, a daughter, Mrs. James (Shirley) Riddick, Beachville, and a son, William, of London. He has five grand children, and two great grandchildren.

A Masonic Memorial service was held Monday at 8 p.m. The service was held at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, with Rev. John Jennings officiating.

in 1967, and re-elected in 1970.

He also worked in the fertilizer industry for 49 years, having worked for William Stone Co., and Canadian Industries Ltd. He retired in March, 1973.

Born in 1909, he was educated in the public school system, and took night classes at the H. B. Beale Technical School in London.

Mr. Pittock was very active in sports, being one of the originators of minor sports and playgrounds in Ingersoll and area. He was president of the Ingersoll District Community Centre for seven years, and secretary of the citizens committee for the Ingersoll District Memorial Centre.

Mr. Pittock was a charter member of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, elected as a representative of the Town of Ingersoll in 1947, and also acted as chairman. He was named second vice chairman in 1950. The following year, he became vice chairman of the Ontario Conservation Authorities.

Mr. Pittock also served as a member of the Ontario Chapter of Soil Conservation Society of America. His other involvements included past chairman of the Industrial Accident Prevention Association, and in the Western Ontario division of the industrial accident prevention association. He was past superintendent of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade.

In 1956, Mr. Pittock was elected to the session of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, of which he was a member. He also served on the board of managers.

In 1952, he was involved in the Oxford County Tornado Relief Fund. He was also director of the Ingersoll Community Y, past president of the Kiwanis club, the Y's Men's Club, and the Chamber of Commerce. He was a director and life member of the Ingersoll Golf and Country Club.

He was a member of the Ingersoll Curling Club, the Industrial Commission, King Hiram 37 A.F.A.M., Harris Chapter 41 R.A.M., Jean St. Croix Perceptitory, London, Mocha Temple, London, Life Member of the Woodstock and Tillsonburg Shrine Club, and the Panama Shrine Club, Florida.

He was elected to the Ontario Legislature in 1963, and was awarded the Canada Medal in 1967.

INGERSOLL TIMES  
March 16, 1983

Ingersoll Times

March 16, 1983



# Facilities manager retiring

BY LIZ DADSON

Fred Plewes is planning to take up fishing and golfing full-time when the weather changes.

Ingersoll's facilities manager is retiring at the end of this month and said he and his wife, Betty, are travelling to Florida.

"I plan to just enjoy my retirement," Plewes said, adding with a grin, "And my wife has a lot of work lined up for me at home."

The 60-year-old Ingersoll resident was born in the town, moved to London and then returned when he was 14.

He worked for 11 years at Ingersoll Machine and Tool, first as a general laborer and then in maintenance.

In 1959, a member of the fund-raising committee for the new Ingersoll arena was looking for a maintenance person and Plewes got the job.

After six years, he became arena manager and in 1975, when the town's parks, arena and recreation departments amalgamated, he became facilities supervisor.

His duties centred on the upkeep of the Maude Wilson Pool, and maintenance of the arena and the town's parks. He was also responsible for arena bookings.

"I started out knowing nothing about the arena," Plewes said, with a laugh. "We didn't have a mechanized ice cleaning machine until 1964 and that was a tractor mount."

During his time as arena manager, he attended week-long courses, sponsored by the Ontario Arena Association, at the University of Guelph. He has also attended seminars in pool maintenance.

Plewes said he decided to retire now and let the new facilities manager learn right from the beginning the operation of the new pool complex.



Fred Plewes, facilities supervisor at the Ingersoll arena, is retiring at the end of this month. He plans to do some travelling, golfing and fishing and just enjoy retirement. (Liz Dadson photo)

"The new person will get all the training first-hand with the pool start-up (this spring)," he said, adding the town is hiring his replacement from the current staff and that person will have to take courses on the new facility's maintenance.

While he has plans for his retirement, Plewes admitted he will miss his work.

"I really like my job. I like meeting the people, it's very interesting."

The father of three and grandfather of three said the highlight of his career was getting the new pool on stream. "Maude Wilson (pool) served its purpose but we

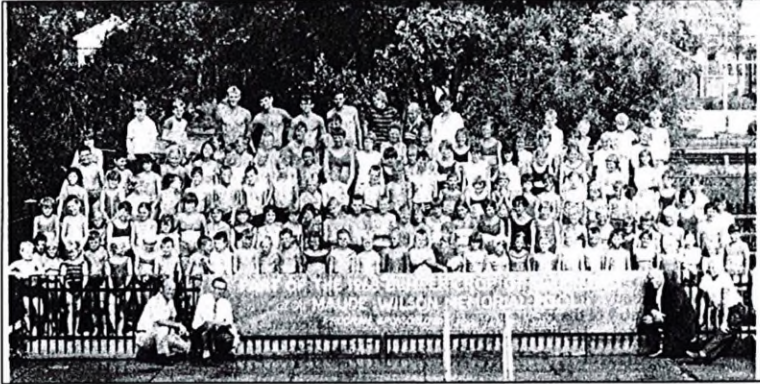
need something better with more functions in it."

Regarding the controversy surrounding the new recreation complex, his only comment was there was a lot of misinformation.

Plewes said he has worked with a lot of good people, including two recreation directors before the current one, Ray Boogaards. In fact, from 1975 until July, 1989, he and Judy Hayes, now the recreation coordinator, ran the recreation, parks and arena operations.

"I think we did a good job, but with the town growing the way it is, and the new multi-purpose facility coming on stream, it was time to put someone in charge over all the activities."

# Fred Plewes to retire from parks department



AFTER 31 YEARS working with the town's parks and recreation department, facility co-ordinator Fred Plewes will retire in early February. Plewes knows much about the workings of the arena (Evelyn Mott was just one of the many skaters last week) since he started in maintenance in 1959, became arena manager in 1965, and then co-ordinator in 1974. Now he's not only in charge of arena maintenance but the parks and pools as well. The old photo, on loan from Al Clarke, shows a bumper crop of swimmers at what Plewes calls "Maudy."



By LAUREN RUDERLEY  
for Ingersoll This Week

When Fred Plewes took over the maintenance of the Maude Wilson Memorial Pool he started a maturing process that would highlight his 31-year career with the town's parks and recreation department.

"I took it over kind of cold," says Plewes, who retires in February from his position as facility co-ordinator. "It was a gradual growing up process with me and Maudy."

Plewes, who refers to the pool as his baby, would spend three weeks to a month each spring getting the pool cleaned up and put together after winter storage for the summer months.

The pool opened in 1948 but was not taken over by the town until the early 1970s, he says.

It was formally closed last year, with the building of the \$3.94 million recreation complex in Victoria Park planned to open this spring.

The past several years have seen Maudy's slow deterioration and it was at the point where the maintenance crew was going in with their fingers crossed each spring, Plewes says.

The change room building needs to be totally renovated and the plaster lining of the pool has worn so much that swimmers were often cutting their feet.

### REAL BAD

"We've been working with the board of health to keep it going because of the problems with the change room (building) itself... they've been good to us," he says. "It was getting real bad."

No decision by town council has been reached on the pool's future.

"I had made recommendations the last couple of years that we were going to have to spend lots of money on it. We're not looking at opening it up now, I don't think there would be a need for it anyway with the new pool opening."

The town sunk a lot of money into remodelling and renovating the pool in 1974. Plewes spent the next few years personally looking after the spring maintenance.

"We didn't have a lot of extra help to go over and work on the pool so I did it myself."

When the pool opened for the summer Plewes' job was basically over with the pool employees taking over.

### CREDITS STAFF

"We have to give credit to pool staff who cleaned and maintained the pool throughout the summer," he says. "We had a great staff right from the start."

Having to do the maintenance by himself did not bother Plewes; in fact it was something he rather enjoyed.

"It was a change from being in here," says Plewes referring to his office in the Ingersoll District Memorial Centre. "I don't really enjoy sitting behind a desk. I like to get out in the hands-on part of it."

In the arena office, Plewes' years on the job can be seen in the paraphernalia that adorns the walls. Certificates marking past achievements include one for an arena management course, one from the depart-

ment of education, and a framed cartoon from a 1971 *Sentinel-Review*.

### STARTED IN '59

His career with the department began in 1959 when he was hired for arena maintenance. Six years later he became the arena manager and kept that position until 1974 when he became the town's facility supervisor.

His current title, recently changed to facility co-ordinator by parks and recreation director Ray Boogaards, gives Plewes responsibility for maintaining the parks, pools and arena. As arena manager he only managed it, he says.

He has a staff of five full time people and a number of part time employees at the arena. During the summer months students are hired to work for the parks department. The park foreman and Plewes work together interviewing and hiring.

Plewes keeps an eye on the staff scheduling, but his job entails more office work than checking up on staff.

"Most of the fellows that are down here know what they're supposed to be doing so they don't need a lot of looking after," he says. "A lot of good people are working for me... You need that in this job."

When he is not sitting at his desk looking after the money or going through the volume of paper work that comes with the job, he can be found on the phone or just out speaking with the people around the building.

"You meet a lot of people in this job and you do a lot of talking with them," he says. "I'm going to miss that part."

Plewes has seen a greater demand for the facilities at the arena since CAMI Automotive Inc. started bringing more people into the community. The arena has booked several rentals for the company and he foresees even more coming in the future.

### TIGHT SCHEDULE

But a tight ice time schedule means more and more requests for time go on file. Phone calls come regularly from groups who want to book the rink and it's often hard to fit them in.

"I know were not suiting everyone's needs," he says but adds that some people do not realize that the ice is usually booked solid during the week from 4 p.m. through midnight and all day Saturdays and Sundays. Between minor hockey, the senior B's, figure skating and public skating there is not much time left over. But, he says, they try to accommodate everyone as best they can.

A photocopied picture of a friend holding up a good size fish also adorns the wall behind Plewes desk.

"He knows I like to fish, so he sent that to me." And fishing is going to be a good part of Plewes future retirement. He has a trailer and a boat on Lake Erie and is looking forward to spending most of his summers there.

"My wife's also got a lot of things planned for me to do," he says.

Plans are in the works for going to the United States, possibly Florida, and other plans for travelling could be in store. And in the middle of all these, he also hopes to get in more golf, now that his seasonal time is available.

# Fred Plewes to retire

By LAURENE HILDERLEY  
for Ingersoll This Week

When Fred Plewes took over the maintenance of the Maude Wilson Memorial Pool he started a maturing process that would highlight his 31-year career with the town's parks and recreation department.

"I took it over kind of cold," says Plewes, who retires in February from his position as facility co-ordinator. "It was a gradual growing up process with me and Maudy."

Plewes, who refers to the pool as his baby, would spend three weeks to a month each spring getting the pool cleaned up and put together after winter storage for the summer months.

The pool opened in 1948 but was not taken over by the town until the early 1970s, he says.

It was formally closed last year, with the building of the \$3.94 million recreation complex in Victoria Park planned to open this spring.

The past several years have seen Maudy's slow deterioration and it was at the point where the maintenance crew was going in with their fingers crossed each spring, Plewes says.

The change room building needs to be totally renovated and the plaster lining of the pool has worn so much that swimmers were often cutting their feet.

"We've been working with the board of health to keep it going because of the problems with the change room (building) itself ... they've been good to us," he says. "It was getting real bad."

No decision by town council has been reached on the pool's future.

"I had made recommendations the last couple of years that we were going to have to spend lots of money on it. We're not looking at opening it up now, I don't think there would be a need for it anyway with the new pool opening."

The town sunk a lot of money into remodelling and renovating the pool in 1974. Plewes spent the next few years personally looking after the spring maintenance.

"We didn't have a lot of extra help to go over and work on the pool so I did it myself."

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4 m. 10/22

By MARK REID  
of Ingersoll This Week

## Something revealing about Mrs. X

When Mrs. X says she is going on a Saturday morning shop she may not be revealing exactly what is in store for her husband.

Mrs. X is not noticeable as she negotiates the pedestrian traffic of the main street: she is conservatively dressed and carrying her shopping bag. The bag, however, does not contain a loaf of bread and two quarts of milk.

Inside are a black lace camisole and matching tap pants; or it could contain seamed stockings, a garter belt and matching push-up brassiere; or is it a white, whale-boned merry-widow and stocking ensemble?

At any rate, with the finest in feminine lingerie, Mrs. X is about to look her "sensual best" for photographer Sue Plowright.

Boudoir photographs have recently been a popular gift from the bride-to-be to her future groom. In addition, many wives feel they make an appropriate anniversary gift for their husband.

Plowright, owner of Intimate Moments of Thames Street South, says the inspiration to have the photographs taken comes from both partners in a relationship.

"Quite a bit of both," she says. "I've had a lot of men come and

ask me to do their wives and I've had a lot of women call for gifts for their husbands." She added later, "I had one woman come in and her husband wouldn't allow her to have it so she just had it done for herself."

Plowright, who established her Ingersoll business in March, says her clients' age ranges from 18 to 55. Her business deals strictly with females, although she does re-

ceive, and refuse, requests from males.

"It's because of what men want," she says noting the male population is not as "tame" as members of the opposite sex.

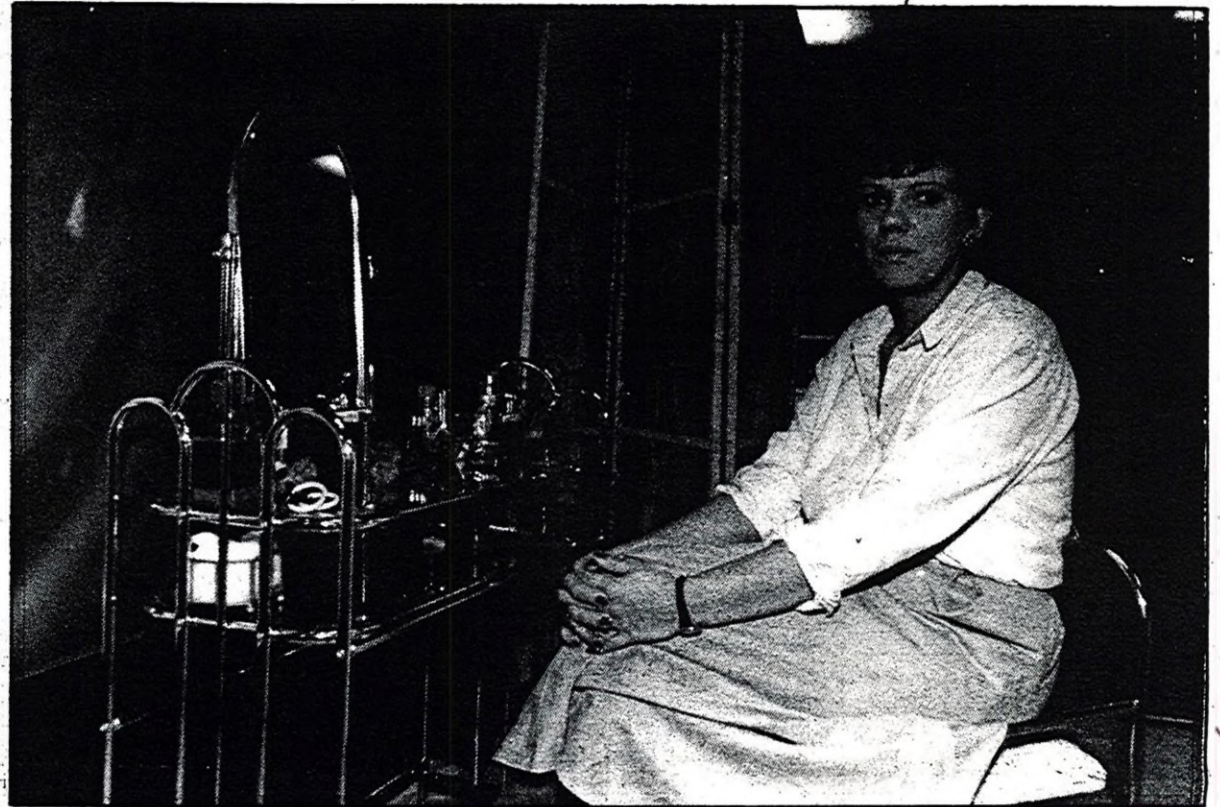
The shoot, which involves several changes of lingerie, takes anywhere from an hour and one-half to three hours. In addition to being the photographer, Plowright acts as make-up artist and assists her

clients with their hair. If a client is apprehensive, Plowright will sit and chat over coffee with music in the background before the shoot, which includes poses on a daybed. Generally after a few poses, the client will loosen up.

Her beginnings in the boudoir photography field somewhat follow the scenario of a television shampoo commercial.

Plowright is an accomplished wedding photographer who used to work from her Woodstock-area home.

Continued on page 13



Plowright, Sue

PHOTOGRAPHER SUE PLOWRIGHT offers a boudoir photography service from her Ingersoll studio on Thames Street South. Plowright has been in business

since March of this year. She says both partners in a relationship may come in for a sensual picture-taking session.

# Veteran has spent hours tracing histories behind the names on Oxford's cenotaphs

By GREG ROTHWELL  
of The Sentinel-Review

Bill Powell walked by the cenotaph in Victoria Park for years, remembering the faces of some of the names engraved there but curious about the history of the others.

That curiosity, combined with a life-long fascination with military history, has lead him on a quest to trace the history of the names on the various cenotaphs and monuments scattered across Oxford County.

During the past three years he's visited every city, town, village and hamlet in Oxford, jotting down names. Then he heads to the archives to ferret out information to help flesh out the personality behind names etched in granite or brass

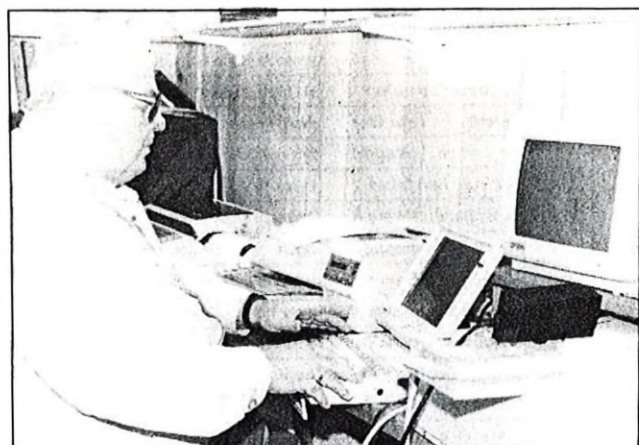
"It's been a most interesting undertaking. Entertaining, but sad at times," said the 65-year-old Woodstock native who has made his home in Dorchester for the past 28 years.

As the world watches the unfolding of a new war in the Middle East, Powell continues with his labor of love. A veteran of the Second World War, and a member of the Royal Canadian Legion, he sees his task as a tribute to comrades who did not return home.

To date he's found 1,100 names on 35 cenotaphs, monuments and markers in town and village squares, churches and schools across Oxford. Powell expects he'll find more as his quest continues

Some of the communities have kept detailed information on their war dead, in others the information is more difficult to locate. Tillsonburg is one example.

"There's very scant information there," Powell said. The cenotaph



BILL POWELL checks computer data to try and trace information about cenotaphs in the area. He's using Oxford County Library facilities to try and gather information about names on cenotaphs in the county.

contains no names, and the marker at Annandale High School only contains the names of the fallen from the Second World War.

On the other hand, the village of Otterville has two monuments, one for each of the world wars.

Names from the two world wars and the Korean conflict are most readily available, but Powell's search has taken him to more ancient hostilities. He's found the names of victims of the Boer War, the Fenian Raid and even two men from the Ingersoll area who died during the War of 1812.

"I have to get some direction on just how far back I'm going to go."

Some of the names remain just that, a name with a date of death inscribed on a monument. In other cases, he's been able to compile an impressive history of some of the war dead. His log, which now covers some 60 pages, contains nicknames, service history, a record of decorations, information on the

person's civilian life, their date and place of death and newspaper dispatches.

One of the things that has made his task a bit easier are a series of regimental histories that includes full names of its members and names of next of kin.

He was given those "many years ago," by the late Col. D.M. (Donald) Sutherland, a member of parliament from Oxford and a Minister of National Defence.

He tries to spend one day a week on his research at the Oxford County Library and attends the Weldon Library at the University of Western Ontario twice weekly. A primary source of information is microfilm of old newspapers. "I'm up to May, 1917 in *The Sentinel-Review*."

In addition to his written log, Powell is using a computer to help him compile his history. "I carry a print-out with me most of the time."

To help him fill in the blanks on names he's been unable to find information on locally, Powell has been granted access to records kept by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in Ottawa.

When it's completed, which probably won't be for years yet, copies of Powell's history will be donated to the various libraries in Oxford

"I'm getting it all from the public domain and it's going back to remain there."

As events in the Persian Gulf continue to unravel, Powell hopes he doesn't have to add new names to his cenotaph history.

"I really have mixed emotions," the retired Veteran's Affairs employee explained. When war broke out in the Middle East, he said, "I was upset and yet it was something that had to be done."

"I came through the period in 1939 when they horsed around with Hitler, I can well remember that."

While he has some sympathy with peace activists, "I can understand the feelings of some of them," he believes in the correctness of the gulf conflict. "We have to stamp out the people who have the ideas of a Saddam Hussein, because if he gets away with this, where is it going to stop?"

Daily Sentinel Review

January 28 1991

# Town men to compete in Jeep Cup off-road rally

This year Ingersoll will be represented in the AMC-sponsored Jeep Cup, an off-road rally series for four-wheel drive vehicles, in Reno, Nevada.

Harry Pressey will drive and Martin Loveridge, who owns Indel Controls in Ingersoll, will navigate in the rally scheduled for Aug. 27 to Aug. 30. Contestants will compete in identically equipped 1988 Jeeps supplied through the competition for the title of North American four by four Rally Champion.

Loveridge and Pressey became eligible for the all-expense paid trip to Reno when they placed third in a regional rally in Varney, 25 kilometres north of Mount Forest. Loveridge described this four-hour event as a "competition of getting through and keeping on time." The course took drivers over gravel

roads and trails and through swamps. Loveridge blamed their inability to get a lower time score on the inadequacies of their vehicle, a 1986 Suzuki Samurai.

"We'd have done better if we'd had more horsepower," Loveridge said. "We couldn't get up the hills."

Loveridge said he has been involved in rallying for 10 years, seriously for the past five. He and his usual driving partner, Ingersoll's Doug Klein, took the Ontario Road Rally Cup Series in the novice class in 1984 and first place in the clubman class in 1985.

"I enjoy motor sport," Loveridge said. "It is a moderately cheap form of entertainment that is safe and very challenging."

In order that the competition is equal there is no vehicle preparation allowed for the Jeep Cup but

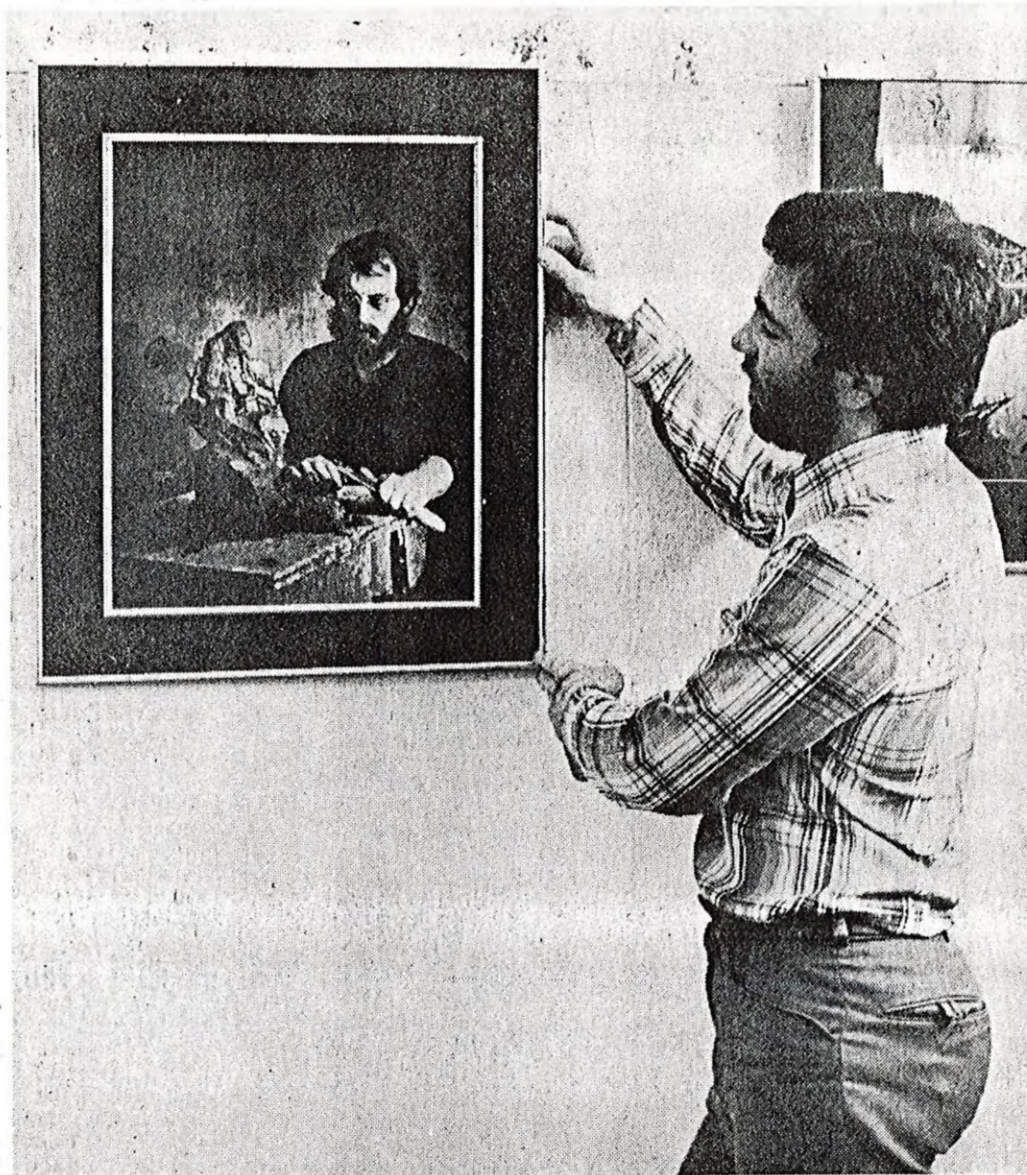
Loveridge said they may get a topographical map to study the Reno terrain. The event will run through the mountains.

Loveridge thinks they stand a fair chance against the more experienced American drivers at the Cup.

"Canadians generally do well against the American drivers because we are used to the bad roads," Loveridge said. "We're going to work like the devil to do well."

INGERSOLL TIMES

August 5, 1987



Ingersoll photographer Larry Quipp with his portrait of Woodstock sculptor Tim Roy. (Staff photo)

## Local photographer opens exhibition

The Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre is holding an exhibition of photographs for the next three weeks, featuring the work of a local photographer.

Larry Quipp, of Ingersoll, has about 20 prints on display. He said Sunday the show was his first at the arts centre gallery. He had arranged a small display for the arts centre at the Blandford Square Mall earlier. Quipp said he had been in-

terested in photography for about five years. He likes to photograph children if he can spend some time with them prior to a sitting and work with them alone.

He said most of his work is with older people with a lot of character in their faces.

"Someone who's perhaps content with themselves," he explained.

The exhibit includes several portraits of children, women and some scenic shots. One of these, taken near the Woodstock Ski Club, is a 30" x 40" color enlargement of a red-coated hunter seen through the leaves. Quipp said he believed it to be the largest color print done in the county.

The show will be held for the next two weeks, Fridays from 2 to 4 and Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m.

# Quipp dies one year after parachute accident

Ingersoll photographer Larry Quipp died Sunday, September 6, one year after a tragic parachuting accident which left him paralyzed from the chest down.

He is survived by his wife Rosemary and daughters Teresa and Darlene; his parents Jack and Betty Quipp of Ingersoll; his brother Ron of Seaforth and his grandmother Mrs. Gertrude Quipp of Stratford.

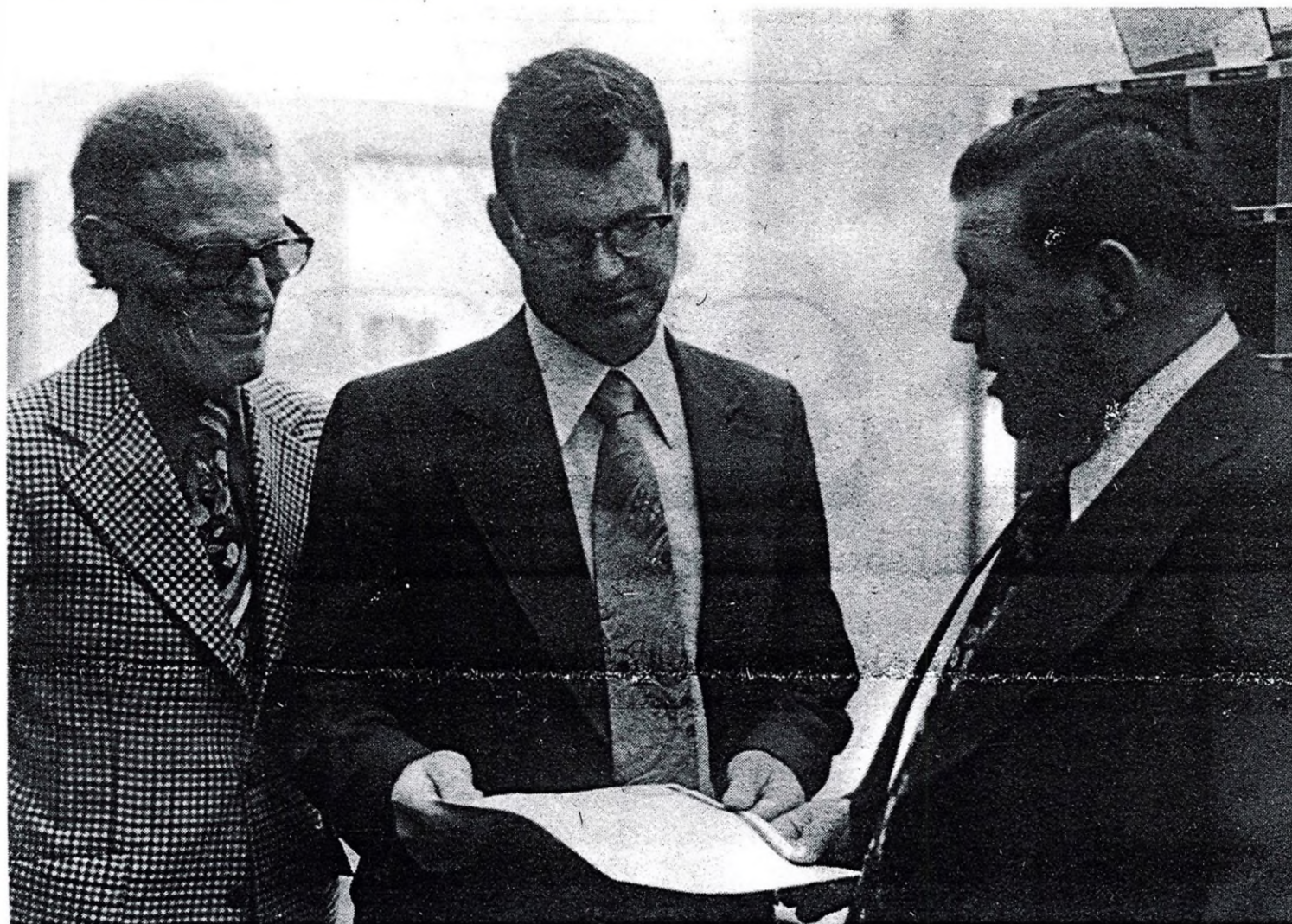
August 24, 1980, Mr. Quipp was skydiving near Simcoe when his parachute

failed to open properly. He was taken to University Hospital in London where he remained for several months.

Shortly after the accident, the community of Ingersoll, concerned over the expenses of equipment and rehabilitation, staged a campaign to raise funds for the Quipp family.

Mr. Quipp was well known in Ingersoll and across the province. He was a top photographer.





After almost three months without a Postmaster, Ingersoll now has one. Morely Palen who was formerly the Postmaster in Delhi, was officially named Ingersoll's new Postmaster last Thursday.

Acting postmaster Don McNiven gladly welcomed Mr. Palen into the office. Looking on is the town's former Postmaster and now Woodstock's Postmaster, Herb Egley.

Palen, Morely

Parker, Sherry

# Parker's a happy camper

The  
Ingersoll  
Times

June 26, 1991

INGERSOLL — Seven days at a Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) camp helped change Sherry Parker's life.

"The things I got to do that week made me feel better about myself. It was amazing," Parker, 23, told members of the Ingersoll Rotary Club Thursday.



"I realized that not just my opinions count."

The Ingersoll group sponsored Parker's trip to the RYLA camp held at the University of Toronto recently.

Parker

This is the first opportunity the

club has had to send a student to RYLA since it was established in June of 1990.

Parker is employed at Cami Automotive Inc., where she orders parts and is involved in a teaching program. Her experience at RYLA helped change some of her attitudes towards work.

"I found out I was taking over too much and I needed to listen to others' opinions."

Parker said she also learned new ways of accepting rejection and her mistakes. She found out she could work together with the other 45 people at the camp and find answers to all types of problems.

Since the conference, Parker has taken a few serious looks at her life. One of the things she is hoping to have in her life soon is a university degree and she has applied for courses starting in September.

She would also like to get involved with Rotoract, an extension of the Rotary Club for people aged 19-29, if the Ingersoll club ever decides to start one in town.

# Local photographer shoots wildlife in Alaska sanctuary

BY LIZ DADSON

Terry Parker substituted a 35 millimetre camera for a rifle and went shooting wildlife in Alaska during the summer.

The 26-year-old Ingersoll resident spent two weeks in the first of August at a wilderness lodge near Homer, Alaska, where he photographed wildlife. He then spent two weeks photographing bear at McNeil Brown Bear Sanctuary, about 100 miles southwest of Homer.

Going to McNeil was especially exciting, Parker said, because only a select few are allowed permits to go into the sanctuary and photograph the animals. Applications are received for two time blocks - in mid-June and mid-August - and names are chosen at random, similar to a lottery system.

"There were 1,500 people from around the world who applied for 140 spots," Parker said. "I felt honored to be chosen. There were only three people from Canada selected."

In the sanctuary, 10 people were allowed to view the bears for four days. Each group was accompanied by an armed biologist to a spot overlooking a river. From that vantage point they are allowed to photograph or just watch the bears.

"These are wild bears," Parker said. "The closest I had a bear come was 10 feet from me. It was the most amazing encounter of my life but it was pretty tense."

That situation occurred when a mother bear lost sight of her cubs and was "stressed out," Parker said. She was looking for them and came up behind where the group was sitting on the shooting pad. The biologist resolved the problem without incident.

"McNeil is the only place in the world where you can get this close to a grizzly," he said.

Parker said McNeil was opened in the early 1960s as a research centre. Once that ended, things got out of hand as TV stations wanted to come in with tours to see the bears. However, it was turned into a sanctuary and was regulated so there is no problem today.

"Grizzlies are quiet solitary," Parker said. "This is a unique and delicate place where you see bears interacting with bears. We are the observers. The regulations are a mile long."

## STUDYING BEARS

The photographer has been studying bears since last winter. He had planned to go to the bear camp in the wilderness lodge but after discovering he had been accepted to McNeil, he cancelled that and took pictures

of otters, sea lions, bald eagles and landscapes instead.

He noted the wilderness lodge is an "incredible place. They take care of you well." But he added it is expensive, costing \$2,000 for five days. "It's where other professional photographers go."

But the trip to McNeil was the highlight, he said. "I would like to again next year (if selected)."

He said the combined trips cost about \$4,500, including the rental of equipment and film.

Now, he is busily captioning the photos for stock agencies and he plans to send some pictures to magazines as well. He also plans to do slide shows for local groups.

"I want people to be aware of McNeil," he said. "Canada has the same problem with saving grizzly bears."

Parker said he also hopes to travel to Churchill, Manitoba, and photograph polar bears. "I would like to stick with photo tours rather than going on my own."

Since returning from his trip, he has been busy with other shoots. He

photographed moose in Algonquin Park and did a documentary on a company that takes handicapped children white water rafting and canoeing.

"I'm looking into doing a limited edition of prints," he said. "One of my first picture of an island has sold about eight times."

Parker has won a number of

awards for his photography. His career began five years ago when he went out West and "decided to buy a camera."

He took night school courses two winters ago at Fanshawe College and "everything else I've learned from talking to people, reading magazines and trial and error."

On his first roll of film, he photographed "the best sunset I ever saw" in Vancouver. It won third prize at the Western Fair.

## A BIT OF TALENT

He modestly says he has "a bit of talent with it (photography)" and noted he just received a vendor's permit. In addition, he works with two photo stock agencies in Vancouver which market his pictures in editorial and commercial fields.

"I would like to do as much wildlife photography as possible," he said. "It's a hard market to get into."

When he is not shooting wildlife, he picks up a rifle and a rod and reel and enjoys hunting, fishing and the outdoors.

He also works at tree planting for Oliver and Giltrap Reforestation in Vancouver. He has worked for them for the past five years, from April to August, and is now a foreman.

In addition, he works at his father's and grandfather's Limousin cattle farm near Ingersoll. He has his Level I ski instructor's certificate and hopes to go back to Vancouver as an instructor.

As for photography, he would like to stick to wildlife photos. Currently, he is contributing to a snowboard-skateboard magazine in British Columbia.



Terry Parker patiently waits for a good shot at the McNeil Sanctuary in Alaska. The other photos are pictures Parker took of grizzlies at McNeil. (Photos by Terry Parker)



INGERSOLL TIMES  
Nov 28, 1990

Parker, Terry

Ingersoll native Allan Peterson

# Helping Chinese to improve technology

By MICHELLE MUYLEAERT

Allan Paterson had an unusual task to complete when he recently visited China. He had to show the natives the most effective way to raise rainbow trout.

Why? Paterson is a member of the Canadian Executive Service Organization, a private group run by volunteers, whose goal is to help developing countries improve technology. It seems the Chinese are a little behind in productive fish growing.

Paterson, a former Ingersoll resident who graduated from IDCI, was working as a salmon and trout farmer in Prince Edward Island when he was asked to go to China where they were in need of his unique skill.

In China, Paterson was assigned to help a company who were already growing fish but were unhappy with their results. They wanted to know how to improve productivity.

Paterson revealed "little tricks" to the Chinese including the North American composition of fish food which makes them grow larger more rapidly, how to build cages and how to treat the cold-blooded animals for illness. He also selected key pages of reference books to be translated into the Asian language.

"I was an advisor not a staff member," Paterson said. "You transfer information so that when you leave it doesn't stop."

Canadians, Americans and Europeans have been practising effective fish breeding techniques for 100 years. But for the Chinese it has been a game of catch up since a tur-

bulant period in the 1960s when they didn't want to speak to foreigners.

"Now they are very eager," Paterson said. "They are buying technology from the west."

Paterson said he joined CESO for personal reasons. The group, whose members average 59 years of age and are generally retired, was founded 20 years ago and now has programs in 40 countries. Although Paterson wanted to help others he also wanted to see the world.

Paterson spent over three months in China as a guest of the government. Although he was the only white man in a rural area of 20,000 people, he was made to feel at home and treated to all the graciousness and hospitality the Chinese could muster.

It has been an interesting career for the man who left Ingersoll for Acadia University in Nova Scotia because he liked the ocean. For 14 years he has been growing fish for the federal government to stock public water. He spent time helping the private farmer in Canada and now wants to devote his ability to helping improve industries in foreign countries.

In the midst of the recent incident which attributed to the deaths of two people and the illness of more than 100 to a deadly toxin found in Prince Edward Island mussels, some Canadians may feel we need to improve the fishing industry at home.

"It was an unusual event," Paterson said. "People are unaccustomed to problems but we are not perfect."

Paterson said the natural toxin, developed from the unusual water temperature, will be a hard blow for companies to overcome in the short run but will build consumer confidence in the long term.

The Canadian has been invited back to China to see the fish in a different stage of development and expects to leave within a few weeks. Although statistics on exactly what affect his first visit had will not be available for a year, Paterson already detects improvement.

"I got the satisfaction of knowing it was a useful project."

Paterson encourages anyone who has a skill in any field to submit their application to CESO. Many nations are hungry for western technology from agriculture to road building.

"It's a wonderful way to see the world and it helps other people. National business becomes secondary. Politics are never of any importance."

INGERSOLL TIMES  
January 13, 1988

PATERSON, Allan

PAVEY Tom

THOMAS J. MORRISON AWARD



Tom Pavey is this year's recipient of the Mayor Thomas Morrison Award for volunteer service in recreation in Ingersoll. Prior to presenting the award Mayor Doug Harris said Mr. Pavey is both a popular and hardworking citizen whose volunteer recreational work has included minor hockey, St. John Ambulance, the Trail Cruisers Snowmobile Club and many other facets of recreation in town. Mr. Pavey was also active on the former recreation committee.

INGERSOLL TIMES  
March 18, 1981

Peardon, Terri

# Former hairdresser finds comfortable niche in the auto business

By PHYLIS COULTER  
of The Sentinel-Review

Terri Peardon recognizes the voice on the other end of the phone immediately. "Oh, its the blue Beretta," she says.

The assistant service manager at Paul Burroughs Chevrolet in Ingersoll may not recognize you but she does remember your car.

In her former profession, she may have forgotten your face, but she remembered your hair. As soon as she touched someone's hair, she knew if she had cut it before.

Peardon had been a hairdresser for 10 years with her own salon when she found the opportunity to do a giant about face in career planning. When her stepfather, Paul Burroughs offered her a job in the service department of his business, she grabbed up the offer. Peardon says she enjoyed hairdressing but was ready for a change of pace.

She also enjoys the family atmosphere. Her mom, Toni Burroughs, is the financial manager.

On the wall near the front counter, hangs a certificate showing Peardon has successfully completed the professional parts person program with GM which she says was easy. The more difficult things happen on the job.

Some days it's just like being in one of those television commercials when a customer comes in and tries to imitate the noise his or her car is making. "Some of them sound pretty real," she quipped.

Peardon can communicate either with sound effects or more technical words. "You learn as you go and talk intelligently with people without using techno-talk."

Doing warantee works is one of the most complicated parts of her job. She does estimates for body work on cars for insurance claims, deals with insurance companies, and orders parts.

She works closely with service manager Ray Lisiecki, service manager and Scott Luckman who is in charge of parts

Ordering parts is an exact science. Being only one number out can produce an entirely different part. She jokes that one person got a whole bus side instead of a small car part by making a tiny mistake in the order.

Peardon is friendly and has confidence about her job which is reassuring to customers when they are not quite certain about what is wrong with their cars.

She paid her dues when she started this job. Once she was asked to order a muffler bearing and another time she was



Terri Peardon asked to order compression powder. "I was new, I thought maybe compression powder made the car go faster." It was a joke. Neither of those two items actually exist, and Peardon knows it now.

Some people who knew Peardon when she was a hairdresser, can't imagine that she likes her job in the auto business. "But I do. It's something different everyday."

One of the most difficult parts of her job is when people have trouble with a vehicle which is difficult to fix. "We don't make the cars we just fix them." Cars today are very high tech machinery and it may be difficult to correct some mechanical problems, she explains, but at the same time understands customer's frustrations.

When she's not working with fast cars, Peardon likes riding fast horses and hopes to buy her own horse in the near future.



TERRI PEARDON does estimates for insurance companies as part of her job.



Daily Sentinel Review

January 5 1991

## Gordon Pittock funeral service set for today

INGERSOLL — A funeral service for Gordon W. Pittock, a former Oxford MPP and chairman of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, will be held here today at 2 p.m. at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church.

He died Friday at Victoria Hospital in London. He was 73.

Pittock, who lived at 256 Oxford St. in Ingersoll, already has a memorial namesake in the Gordon Pittock Dam north of Woodstock.

He was a Progressive Conservative member of the legislature in the 1960s after serving many years at the helm of the region's conservation authority as it sought to improve flood control. While an MPP, he served on a committee that led to the creation of the Ontario water resources commission.

Pittock was also president of the Ingersoll chamber of commerce, president of the Oxford County unit of the Canadian Cancer Society and chairman of the Ingersoll and District Memorial Centre.

He was a member of the management board of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Ingersoll and a member of Masonic lodges and Shrine clubs in Ingersoll, Tillsonburg, Woodstock and London, as well as being active in the YMCA and the Kiwanis Club.

PITTOCK, Gordon William

# Former MPP died Friday

Gordon William Pittock, an active participator in Ingersoll's history died in Victoria Hospital, London on March 11. He was buried yesterday at Ingersoll Rural Cemetery.

Mr. Pittock was active in several capacities, ranging from politics, conservation, and sports. He was a former MPP, and was elected to Ingersoll town council



**The late Gordon Pittock**

Mr. Pittock also served as campaign chairman of the Oxford County Cancer Society in 1960-62, chairman of the Oxford Health Unit, and director of the Ontario Health Unit Association. He represented Ingersoll in the Oxford Children's Aid Society. He was also a life member of the Ontario Plant Food Council, and was a member of the Ontario Commercial Travellers Association.

In 1972, he was presented with the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, the Priory of Canada.

He is survived by his wife, the former Louise Giffen, a daughter, Mrs. James (Shirley) Riddick, Beachville, and a son, William, of London. He has five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

A Masonic Memorial service was held Monday at 8 p.m. The service was held at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, with Rev. John Jennings officiating.

in 1967, and re-elected in 1970.

He also worked in the fertilizer industry for 49 years, having worked for William Stone Co., and Canadian Industries Ltd. He retired in March, 1973.

Born in 1909, he was educated in the public school system, and took night classes at the H. B. Beale Technical School in London.

Mr. Pittock was very active in sports, being one of the originators of minor sports and playgrounds in Ingersoll and area. He was president of the Ingersoll District Community Centre for seven years, and secretary of the citizens committee for the Ingersoll District Memorial Centre.

Mr. Pittock was a charter member of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, elected as a representative of the Town of Ingersoll in 1947, and also acted as chairman. He was named second vice chairman in 1950. The following year, he became vice chairman of the Ontario Conservation Authorities.

Mr. Pittock also served as a member of the Ontario Chapter of Soil Conservation Society of America. His other involvements included past chairman of the Industrial Accident Prevention Association, and in the Western Ontario division of the industrial accident prevention association. He was past superintendent of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade.

In 1956, Mr. Pittock was elected to the session of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, of which he was a member. He also served on the board of managers.

In 1952, he was involved in the Oxford County Tornado Relief Fund. He was also director of the Ingersoll Community Y, past president of the Kiwanis club, the Y's Men's Club, and the Chamber of Commerce. He was a director and life member of the Ingersoll Golf and Country Club.

He was a member of the Ingersoll Curling Club, the Industrial Commission, King Hiram 37 A.F.A.M., Harris Chapter 41 R.A.M., Jean St. Croix Perceptitory, London, Mocha Temple, London, Life Member of the Woodstock and Tillsonburg Shrine Club, and the Panama Shrine Club, Florida.

He was elected to the Ontario Legislature in 1963, and was awarded the Canada Medal in 1967.

INGERSOLL TIMES  
March 16, 1983



# Facilities manager retiring

BY LIZ DADSON

Fred Plewes is planning to take up fishing and golfing full-time when the weather changes.

Ingersoll's facilities manager is retiring at the end of this month and said he and his wife, Betty, are travelling to Florida.

"I plan to just enjoy my retirement," Plewes said, adding with a grin, "And my wife has a lot of work lined up for me at home."

The 60-year-old Ingersoll resident was born in the town, moved to London and then returned when he was 14.

He worked for 11 years at Ingersoll Machine and Tool, first as a general laborer and then in maintenance.

In 1959, a member of the fund-raising committee for the new Ingersoll arena was looking for a maintenance person and Plewes got the job.

After six years, he became arena manager and in 1975, when the town's parks, arena and recreation departments amalgamated, he became facilities supervisor.

His duties centred on the upkeep of the Maude Wilson Pool, and maintenance of the arena and the town's parks. He was also responsible for arena bookings.

"I started out knowing nothing about the arena," Plewes said, with a laugh. "We didn't have a mechanized ice cleaning machine until 1964 and that was a tractor mount."

During his time as arena manager, he attended week-long courses, sponsored by the Ontario Arena Association, at the University of Guelph. He has also attended seminars in pool maintenance.

Plewes said he decided to retire now and let the new facilities manager learn right from the beginning the operation of the new pool complex.



Fred Plewes, facilities supervisor at the Ingersoll arena, is retiring at the end of this month. He plans to do some travelling, golfing and fishing and just enjoy retirement. (Liz Dadson photo)

"The new person will get all the training first-hand with the pool start-up (this spring)," he said, adding the town is hiring his replacement from the current staff and that person will have to take courses on the new facility's maintenance.

While he has plans for his retirement, Plewes admitted he will miss his work.

"I really like my job. I like meeting the people, it's very interesting."

The father of three and grandfather of three said the highlight of his career was getting the new pool on stream. "Maude Wilson (pool) served its purpose but we

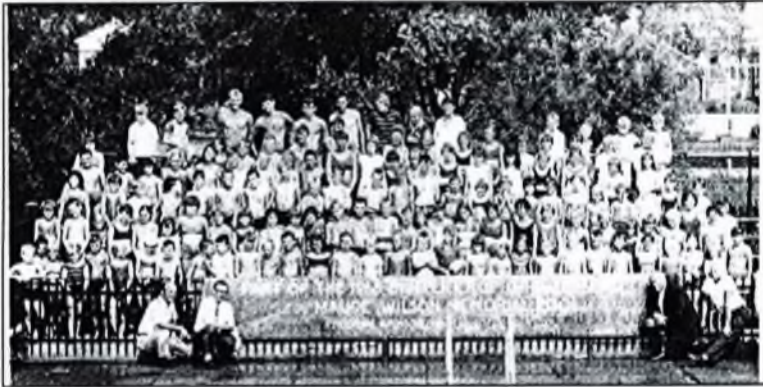
need something better with more functions in it."

Regarding the controversy surrounding the new recreation complex, his only comment was there was a lot of misinformation.

Plewes said he has worked with a lot of good people, including two recreation directors before the current one, Ray Boogaards. In fact, from 1975 until July, 1989, he and Judy Hayes, now the recreation coordinator, ran the recreation, parks and arena operations.

"I think we did a good job, but with the town growing the way it is, and the new multi-purpose facility coming on stream, it was time to put someone in charge over all the activities."

# Fred Plewes to retire from parks department



**AFTER 31 YEARS** working with the town's parks and recreation department, facility co-ordinator Fred Plewes will retire in early February. Plewes knows much about the workings of the arena (Evelyn Moti was just one of the many skaters last week) since he started in maintenance in 1959, became arena manager in 1965, and then co-ordinator in 1974. Now he's not only in charge of arena maintenance but the parks and pools as well. The old photo, on loan from Al Clarke, shows a bumper crop of swimmers at what Plewes calls "Maudy."

By LAURENCE ANDREASY  
The Ingersoll Film Week

When Fred Plewes took over the maintenance of the Maude Wilson Memorial Pool he started a maturing process that would highlight his 31-year career with the town's parks and recreation department.

"I took it over kind of cold," says Plewes, who retires in February from his position as facility co-ordinator. "It was a gradual growing up process with me and Maudy."

Plewes, who refers to the pool as his baby, would spend three weeks to a month each spring getting the pool cleaned up and put together after winter storage for the summer months.

The pool opened in 1948 but was not taken over by the town until the early 1970s, he says.

It was formally closed last year, with the building of the \$3.94 million recreation complex in Victoria Park planned to open this spring.

The past several years have seen Maudy's slow deterioration and it was at the point where the maintenance crew was going in with their fingers crossed each spring, Plewes says.

The change room building needs to be totally renovated and the plaster lining of the pool has worn so much that swimmers were often cutting their feet.

## REAL BAD

"We've been working with the board of health to keep it going because of the problems with the change room (building) itself... they've been good to us," he says. "It was getting real bad."

No decision by town council has been reached on the pool's future.

"I had made recommendations the last couple of years that we were going to have to spend lots of money on it. We're not looking at opening it up now. I don't think there would be a need for it anyway with the new pool opening."

The town sunk a lot of money into remodelling and renovating the pool in 1974. Plewes spent the next few years personally looking after the spring maintenance.

"We didn't have a lot of extra help to go over and work on the pool so I did it myself."

When the pool opened for the summer Plewes' job was basically over with the pool employees taking over.

## CREDITS STAFF

"We have to give credit to pool staff who cleaned and maintained the pool throughout the summer," he says. "We had a great staff right from the start."

Having to do the maintenance by himself did not bother Plewes; in fact it was something he rather enjoyed.

"It was a change from being in here," says Plewes referring to his office in the Ingersoll District Memorial Centre. "I don't really enjoy sitting behind a desk. I like to get out in the hands-on part of it."

In the arena office, Plewes' years on the job can be seen in the paraphernalia that adorns the walls. Certificates marking past achievements include one for an arena management course, one from the depart-

ment of education, and a framed cartoon from a 1971 *Sentinel-Review*.

## STARTED IN '59

His career with the department began in 1959 when he was hired for arena maintenance. Six years later he became the arena manager and kept that position until 1974 when he became the town's facility supervisor.

His current title, recently changed to facility co-ordinator by parks and recreation director Ray Brogaard, gives Plewes responsibility for maintaining the parks, pools and arena. As arena manager he only managed it, he says.

He has a staff of five full time people and a number of part time employees at the arena. During the summer months students are hired to work for the parks department. The park foreman and Plewes work together interviewing and hiring.

Plewes keeps an eye on the staff scheduling, but his job entails more office work than checking up on staff.

"Most of the fellows that are down here know what they're supposed to be doing so they don't need a lot of looking after," he says. "A lot of good people are working for me. You need that in this job."

When he is not sitting at his desk looking after the money or going through the volume of paper work that comes with the job, he can be found on the phone or just out speaking with the people around the building.

"You meet a lot of people in this job and you do a lot of talking with them," he says. "I'm going to miss that part."

Plewes has seen a greater demand for the facilities at the arena since CAMI Automotive Inc. started bringing more people into the community. The arena has booked several rentals for the company and he foresees even more coming in in the future.

## TIGHT SCHEDULE

But a tight ice time schedule means more and more requests for time go on file. Phone calls come regularly from groups who want to book the rink and it's often hard to fit them in.

"I know were not suiting everyone's needs," he says but adds that some people do not realize that the ice is usually booked solid during the week from 4 p.m. through midnight and all day Saturdays and Sundays. Between minor hockey, the senior B's, figure skating and public skating there is not much time left over. But, he says, they try to accommodate everyone as best they can.

A photocopied picture of a friend holding up a good size fish also adorns the wall behind Plewes' desk.

"He knows I like to fish, so he sent that to me." And fishing is going to be a good part of Plewes' future retirement. He has a trailer and a boat on Lake Erie and is looking forward to spending most of his summers there.

"My wife's also got a lot of things planned for me to do," he says.

Plans are in the works for going to the United States, possibly Florida, and other plans for travelling could be in store. And in the middle of all these, he also hopes to get in more golf, now that his seasonal time is available.



# Fred Plewes to retire

By LAURENE HILDERLEY  
for Ingersoll This Week

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4 on. 10/22

By MARK REID  
of Ingersoll This Week

# Something revealing about Mrs. X

When Mrs. X says she is going on a Saturday morning shop she may not be revealing exactly what is in store for her husband.

Mrs. X is not noticeable as she negotiates the pedestrian traffic of the main street: she is conservatively dressed and carrying her shopping bag. The bag, however, does not contain a loaf of bread and two quarts of milk.

Inside are a black lace camisole and matching tap pants; or it could contain seamed stockings, a garter belt and matching push-up brassiere; or is it a white, whale-boned merry-widow and stocking ensemble?

At any rate, with the finest in feminine lingerie, Mrs. X is about to look her "sensual best" for photographer Sue Plowright.

Boudoir photographs have recently been a popular gift from the bride-to-be to her future groom. In addition, many wives feel they make an appropriate anniversary gift for their husband.

Plowright, owner of Intimate Moments of Thames Street South, says the inspiration to have the photographs taken comes from both partners in a relationship.

"Quite a bit of both," she says. "I've had a lot of men come and

ask me to do their wives and I've had a lot of women call for gifts for their husbands." She added later, "I had one woman come in and her husband wouldn't allow her to have it so she just had it done for herself."

Plowright, who established her Ingersoll business in March, says her clients' age ranges from 18 to 55. Her business deals strictly with females, although she does re-

ceive, and refuse, requests from males.

"It's because of what men want," she says noting the male population is not as "tame" as members of the opposite sex.

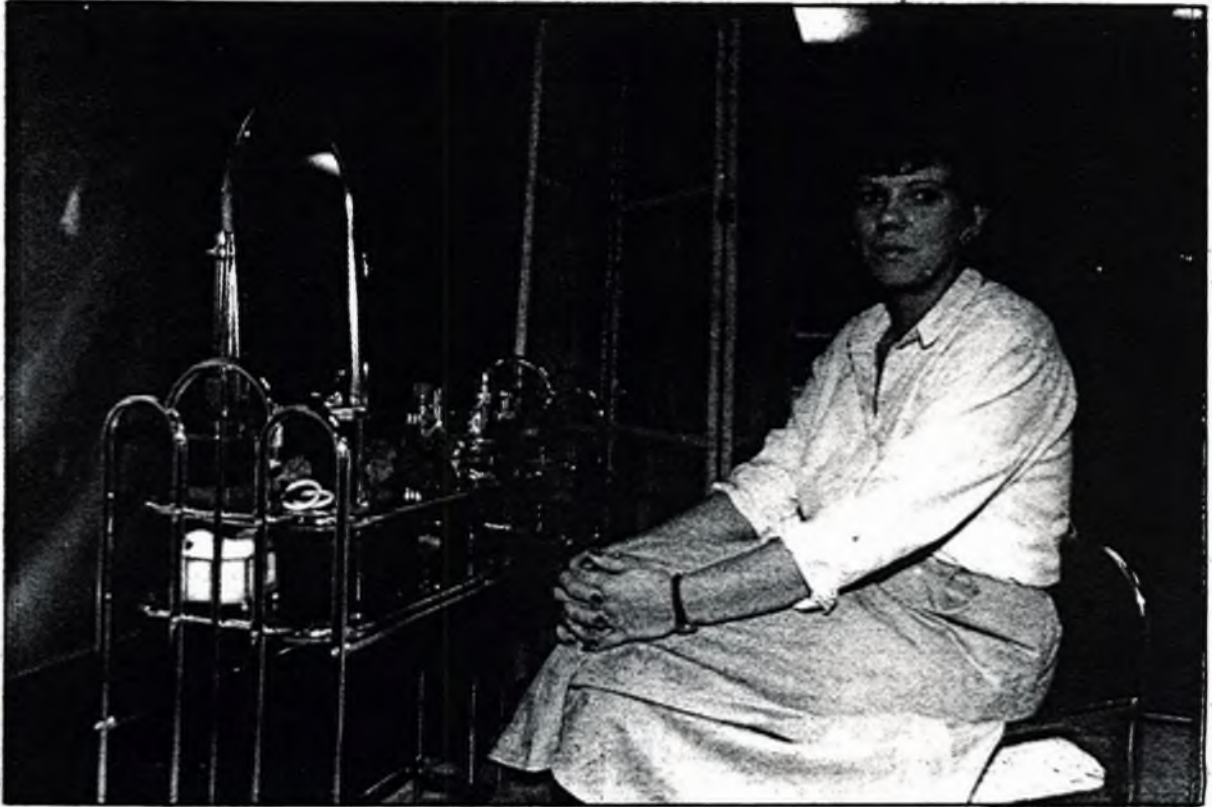
The shoot, which involves several changes of lingerie, takes anywhere from an hour and one-half to three hours. In addition to being the photographer, Plowright acts as make-up artist and assists her

clients with their hair. If a client is apprehensive, Plowright will sit and chat over coffee with music in the background before the shoot, which includes poses on a daybed. Generally after a few poses, the client will loosen up.

Her beginnings in the boudoir photography field somewhat follow the scenario of a television sham-poo commercial.

Plowright is an accomplished wedding photographer who used to work from her Woodstock-area home.

Continued on page 13



Plowright, Sue

PHOTOGRAPHER SUE PLOWRIGHT offers a boudoir photography service from her Ingersoll studio on Thames Street South. Plowright has been in business since March of this year. She says both partners in a relationship may come in for a sensual picture-taking session.

# Veteran has spent hours tracing histories behind the names on Oxford's cenotaphs

By GREG ROTHWELL  
of The Sentinel-Review

Bill Powell walked by the cenotaph in Victoria Park for years, remembering the faces of some of the names engraved there but curious about the history of the others.

That curiosity, combined with a life-long fascination with military history, has lead him on a quest to trace the history of the names on the various cenotaphs and monuments scattered across Oxford County.

During the past three years he's visited every city, town, village and hamlet in Oxford, jotting down names. Then he heads to the archives to ferret out information to help flesh out the personality behind names etched in granite or brass.

"It's been a most interesting undertaking. Entertaining, but sad at times," said the 65-year-old Woodstock native who has made his home in Dorchester for the past 28 years.

As the world watches the unfolding of a new war in the Middle East, Powell continues with his labor of love. A veteran of the Second World War, and a member of the Royal Canadian Legion, he sees his task as a tribute to comrades who did not return home.

To date he's found 1,100 names on 35 cenotaphs, monuments and markers in town and village squares, churches and schools across Oxford. Powell expects he'll find more as his quest continues.

Some of the communities have kept detailed information on their war dead, in others the information is more difficult to locate. Tillsonburg is one example.

"There's very scant information there," Powell said. The cenotaph



**BILL POWELL** checks computer data to try and trace information about cenotaphs in the area. He's using Oxford County Library facilities to try and gather information about names on cenotaphs in the county.

contains no names, and the marker at Annandale High School only contains the names of the fallen from the Second World War.

On the other hand, the village of Otterville has two monuments, one for each of the world wars.

Names from the two world wars and the Korean conflict are most readily available, but Powell's search has taken him to more ancient hostilities. He's found the names of victims of the Boer War, the Fenian Raid and even two men from the Ingersoll area who died during the War of 1812.

"I have to get some direction on just how far back I'm going to go."

Some of the names remain just that, a name with a date of death inscribed on a monument. In other cases, he's been able to compile an impressive history of some of the war dead. His log, which now covers some 60 pages, contains nicknames, service history, a record of decorations, information on the

person's civilian life, their date and place of death and newspaper dispatches.

One of the things that has made his task a bit easier are a series of regimental histories that includes full names of its members and names of next of kin.

He was given those "many years ago," by the late Col. D.M (Donald) Sutherland, a member of parliament from Oxford and a Minister of National Defence.

He tries to spend one day a week on his research at the Oxford County Library and attends the Weldon Library at the University of Western Ontario twice weekly. A primary source of information is microfilm of old newspapers. "I'm up to May, 1917 in *The Sentinel-Review*."

In addition to his written log, Powell is using a computer to help him compile his history. "I carry a print-out with me most of the time."

To help him fill in the blanks on names he's been unable to find information on locally, Powell has been granted access to records kept by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in Ottawa.

When it's completed, which probably won't be for years yet, copies of Powell's history will be donated to the various libraries in Oxford.

"I'm getting it all from the public domain and it's going back to remain there."

As events in the Persian Gulf continue to unravel, Powell hopes he doesn't have to add new names to his cenotaph history.

"I really have mixed emotions," the retired Veteran's Affairs employee explained. When war broke out in the Middle East, he said, "I was upset and yet it was something that had to be done."

"I came through the period in 1939 when they horsed around with Hitler, I can well remember that."

While he has some sympathy with peace activists, "I can understand the feelings of some of them," he believes in the correctness of the gulf conflict. "We have to stamp out the people who have the ideas of a Saddam Hussein, because if he gets away with this, where is it going to stop?"

Daily Sentinel Review

January 28 1991

# Town men to compete in Jeep Cup off-road rally

This year Ingersoll will be represented in the AMC-sponsored Jeep Cup, an off-road rally series for four-wheel drive vehicles, in Reno, Nevada.

Harry Pressey will drive and Martin Loveridge, who owns Indel Controls in Ingersoll, will navigate in the rally scheduled for Aug. 27 to Aug. 30. Contestants will compete in identically equipped 1988 Jeeps supplied through the competition for the title of North American four by four Rally Champion.

Loveridge and Pressey became eligible for the all-expense paid trip to Reno when they placed third in a regional rally in Varney, 25 kilometres north of Mount Forest. Loveridge described this four-hour event as a "competition of getting through and keeping on time." The course took drivers over gravel

roads and trails and through swamps. Loveridge blamed their inability to get a lower time score on the inadequacies of their vehicle, a 1986 Suzuki Samurai.

"We'd have done better if we'd had more horsepower," Loveridge said. "We couldn't get up the hills."

Loveridge said he has been involved in rallying for 10 years, seriously for the past five. He and his usual driving partner, Ingersoll's Doug Klein, took the Ontario Road Rally Cup Series in the novice class in 1984 and first place in the clubman class in 1985.

"I enjoy motor sport," Loveridge said. "It is a moderately cheap form of entertainment that is safe and very challenging."

In order that the competition is equal there is no vehicle preparation allowed for the Jeep Cup but

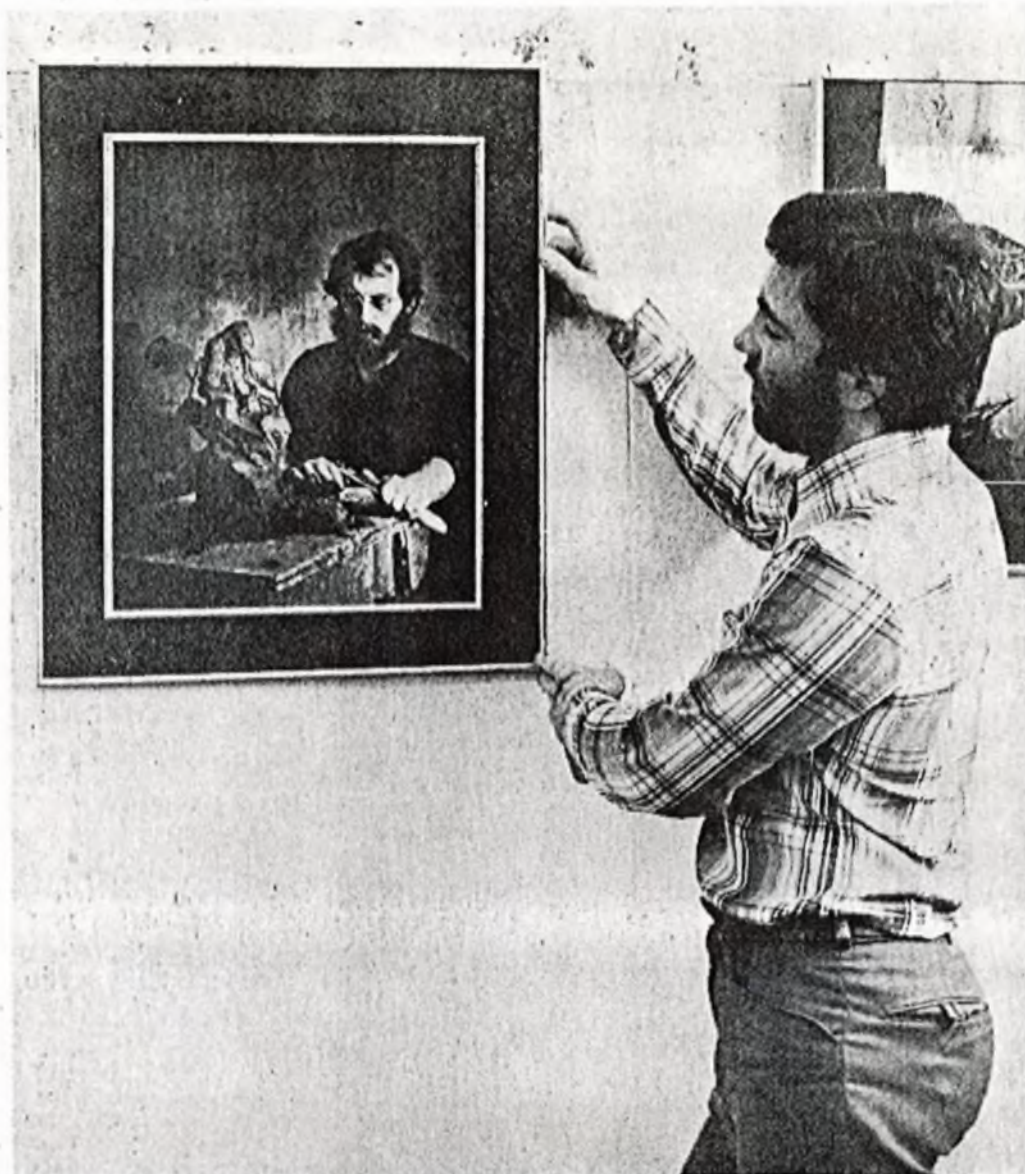
Loveridge said they may get a topographical map to study the Reno terrain. The event will run through the mountains.

Loveridge thinks they stand a fair chance against the more experienced American drivers at the Cup.

"Canadians generally do well against the American drivers because we are used to the bad roads," Loveridge said. "We're going to work like the devil to do well."

INGERSOLL TIMES

August 5, 1987



Ingersoll photographer Larry Quipp with his portrait of Woodstock sculptor Tim Roy. (Staff photo)

## Local photographer opens exhibition

The Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre is holding an exhibition of photographs for the next three weeks, featuring the work of a local photographer.

Larry Quipp, of Ingersoll, has about 20 prints on display. He said Sunday the show was his first at the arts centre gallery. He had arranged a small display for the arts centre at the Blandford Square Mall earlier. Quipp said he had been in-

terested in photography for about five years. He likes to photograph children if he can spend some time with them prior to a sitting and work with them alone.

He said most of his work is with older people with a lot of character in their faces.

"Someone who's perhaps content with themselves," he explained.

The exhibit includes several portraits of children, women and some scenic shots. One of these, taken near the Woodstock Ski Club, is a 30" x 40" color enlargement of a red-coated hunter seen through the leaves. Quipp said he believed it to be the largest color print done in the county.

The show will be held for the next two weeks, Fridays from 2 to 4 and Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m.

# Quipp dies one year after parachute accident

Ingersoll photographer Larry Quipp died Sunday, September 6, one year after a tragic parachuting accident which left him paralyzed from the chest down.

He is survived by his wife Rosemary and daughters Teresa and Darlene; his parents Jack and Betty Quipp of Ingersoll; his brother Ron of Seaforth and his grandmother Mrs. Gertrude Quipp of Stratford.

August 24, 1980, Mr. Quipp was skydiving near Simcoe when his parachute

failed to open properly. He was taken to University Hospital in London where he remained for several months.

Shortly after the accident, the community of Ingersoll, concerned over the expenses of equipment and rehabilitation, staged a campaign to raise funds for the Quipp family.

Mr. Quipp was well known in Ingersoll and across the province. 33 a top photographer.





After almost three months without a Postmaster, Ingersoll now has one. Morely Palen who was formerly the Postmaster in Delhi, was officially named Ingersoll's new Postmaster last Thursday.

Acting postmaster Don McNiven gladly welcomed Mr. Palen into the office. Looking on is the town's former Postmaster and now Woodstock's Postmaster, Herb Egley.

Palen, Morely

Parker, Sherry

# Parker's a happy camper

The  
Ingersoll

Times

June 26, 1991

**INGERSOLL** — Seven days at a Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) camp helped change Sherry Parker's life.

"The things I got to do that week made me feel better about myself. It was amazing," Parker, 23, told members of the Ingersoll Rotary Club Thursday.



"I realized that not just my opinions count."

The Ingersoll group sponsored Parker's trip to the RYLA camp held at the University of Toronto recently.

Parker

This is the first opportunity the

club has had to send a student to RYLA since it was established in June of 1990.

Parker is employed at Cami Automotive Inc., where she orders parts and is involved in a teaching program. Her experience at RYLA helped change some of her attitudes towards work.

"I found out I was taking over too much and I needed to listen to others' opinions."

Parker said she also learned new ways of accepting rejection and her mistakes. She found out she could work together with the other 45 people at the camp and find answers to all types of problems.

Since the conference, Parker has taken a few serious looks at her life. One of the things she is hoping to have in her life soon is a university degree and she has applied for courses starting in September.

She would also like to get involved with Rotoract, an extension of the Rotary Club for people aged 19-29, if the Ingersoll club ever decides to start one in town.

# Local photographer shoots wildlife in Alaska sanctuary

BY LIZ DADSON

Terry Parker substituted a 35 millimetre camera for a rifle and went shooting wildlife in Alaska during the summer.

The 26-year-old Ingersoll resident spent two weeks in the first of August at a wilderness lodge near Homer, Alaska, where he photographed wildlife. He then spent two weeks photographing bear at McNeil Brown Bear Sanctuary, about 100 miles southwest of Homer.

Going to McNeil was especially exciting, Parker said, because only a select few are allowed permits to go into the sanctuary and photograph the animals. Applications are received for two time blocks - in mid-June and mid-August - and names are chosen at random, similar to a lottery system.

"There were 1,500 people from around the world who applied for 140 spots," Parker said. "I felt honored to be chosen. There were only three people from Canada selected."

In the sanctuary, 10 people were allowed to view the bears for four days. Each group was accompanied by an armed biologist to a spot overlooking a river. From that vantage point they are allowed to photograph or just watch the bears.

"These are wild bears," Parker said. "The closest I had a bear come was 10 feet from me. It was the most amazing encounter of my life but it was pretty tense."

That situation occurred when a mother bear lost sight of her cubs and was "stressed out," Parker said. She was looking for them and came up behind where the group was sitting on the shooting pad. The biologist resolved the problem without incident.

"McNeil is the only place in the world where you can get this close to a grizzly," he said.

Parker said McNeil was opened in the early 1960s as a research centre. Once that ended, things got out of hand as TV stations wanted to come in with tours to see the bears. However, it was turned into a sanctuary and was regulated so there is no problem today.

"Grizzlies are quiet solitary," Parker said. "This is a unique and delicate place where you see bears interacting with bears. We are the observers. The regulations are a mile long."

## STUDYING BEARS

The photographer has been studying bears since last winter. He had planned to go to the bear camp in the wilderness lodge but after discovering he had been accepted to McNeil, he cancelled that and took pictures

of otters, sea lions, bald eagles and landscapes instead.

He noted the wilderness lodge is an "incredible place. They take care of you well." But he added it is expensive, costing \$2,000 for five days. "It's where other professional photographers go."

But the trip to McNeil was the highlight, he said. "I would like to again next year (if selected)."

He said the combined trips cost about \$4,500, including the rental of equipment and film.

Now, he is busily captioning the photos for stock agencies and he plans to send some pictures to magazines as well. He also plans to do slide shows for local groups.

"I want people to be aware of McNeil," he said. "Canada has the same problem with saving grizzly bears."

Parker said he also hopes to travel to Churchill, Manitoba, and photograph polar bears. "I would like to stick with photo tours rather than going on my own."

Since returning from his trip, he has been busy with other shoots.

photographed moose in Algonquin Park and did a documentary on a company that takes handicapped children white water rafting and canoeing.

"I'm looking into doing a limited edition of prints," he said. "One of my first picture of an island has sold about eight times."

Parker has won a number of

awards for his photography. His career began five years ago when he went out West and "decided to buy a camera."

He took night school courses two winters ago at Fanshawe College and "everything else I've learned from talking to people, reading magazines and trial and error."

On his first roll of film, he photographed "the best sunset I ever saw" in Vancouver. It won third prize at the Western Fair.

## A BIT OF TALENT

He modestly says he has "a bit of talent with it (photography)" and noted he just received a vendor's permit. In addition, he works with two photo stock agencies in Vancouver which market his pictures in editorial and commercial fields.

"I would like to do as much wildlife photography as possible," he said. "It's a hard market to get into."

When he is not shooting wildlife, he picks up a rifle and a rod and reel and enjoys hunting, fishing and the outdoors.

He also works at tree planting for Oliver and Giltrap Reforestation in Vancouver. He has worked for them for the past five years, from April to August, and is now a foreman.

In addition, he works at his father's and grandfather's Limousin cattle farm near Ingersoll. He has his Level I ski instructor's certificate and hopes to go back to Vancouver as an instructor.

As for photography, he would like to stick to wildlife photos. Currently, he is contributing to a snowboard-skateboard magazine in British Columbia.



Terry Parker patiently waits for a good shot at the McNeil Sanctuary in Alaska. The other photos are pictures Parker took of grizzlies at McNeil. (Photos by Terry Parker)



INGERSOLL TIMES  
Nov 28, 1990

Parker, Terry

Ingersoll native Allan Peterson

# Helping Chinese to improve technology

By MICHELLE MUYLEAERT

Allan Paterson had an unusual task to complete when he recently visited China. He had to show the natives the most effective way to raise rainbow trout.

Why? Paterson is a member of the Canadian Executive Service Organization, a private group run by volunteers, whose goal is to help developing countries improve technology. It seems the Chinese are a little behind in productive fish growing.

Paterson, a former Ingersoll resident who graduated from IDCI, was working as a salmon and trout farmer in Prince Edward Island when he was asked to go to China where they were in need of his unique skill.

In China, Paterson was assigned to help a company who were already growing fish but were unhappy with their results. They wanted to know how to improve productivity.

Paterson revealed "little tricks" to the Chinese including the North American composition of fish food which makes them grow larger more rapidly, how to build cages and how to treat the cold-blooded animals for illness. He also selected key pages of reference books to be translated into the Asian language.

"I was an advisor not a staff member," Paterson said. "You transfer information so that when you leave it doesn't stop."

Canadians, Americans and Europeans have been practising effective fish breeding techniques for 100 years. But for the Chinese it has been a game of catch up since a tur-

bulant period in the 1960s when they didn't want to speak to foreigners.

"Now they are very eager," Paterson said. "They are buying technology from the west."

Paterson said he joined CESO for personal reasons. The group, whose members average 59 years of age and are generally retired, was founded 20 years ago and now has programs in 40 countries. Although Paterson wanted to help others he also wanted to see the world.

Paterson spent over three months in China as a guest of the government. Although he was the only white man in a rural area of 20,000 people, he was made to feel at home and treated to all the graciousness and hospitality the Chinese could muster.

It has been an interesting career for the man who left Ingersoll for Acadia University in Nova Scotia because he liked the ocean. For 14 years he has been growing fish for the federal government to stock public water. He spent time helping the private farmer in Canada and now wants to devote his ability to helping improve industries in foreign countries.

In the midst of the recent incident which attributed to the deaths of two people and the illness of more than 100 to a deadly toxin found in Prince Edward Island mussels, some Canadians may feel we need to improve the fishing industry at home.

"It was an unusual event," Paterson said. "People are unaccustomed to problems but we are not perfect."

Paterson said the natural toxin, developed from the unusual water temperature, will be a hard blow for companies to overcome in the short run but will build consumer confidence in the long term.

The Canadian has been invited back to China to see the fish in a different stage of development and expects to leave within a few weeks. Although statistics on exactly what affect his first visit had will not be available for a year, Paterson already detects improvement.

"I got the satisfaction of knowing it was a useful project."

Paterson encourages anyone who has a skill in any field to submit their application to CESO. Many nations are hungry for western technology from agriculture to road building.

"It's a wonderful way to see the world and it helps other people. National business becomes secondary. Politics are never of any importance."

INGERSOLL TIMES  
January 13, 1988

PATERSON, Allan

PAVEY Tom

THOMAS J. MORRISON AWARD



Tom Pavey is this year's recipient of the Mayor Thomas Morrison Award for volunteer service in recreation in Ingersoll. Prior to presenting the award Mayor Doug Harris said Mr. Pavey is both a popular and hardworking citizen whose volunteer recreational work has included minor hockey, St. John Ambulance, the Trail Cruisers Snowmobile Club and many other facets of recreation in town. Mr. Pavey was also active on the former recreation committee.

INGERSOLL TIMES  
March 18, 1981

# Former hairdresser finds comfortable niche in the auto business

By PHYLIS COULTER  
of The Sentinel-Review

Terri Peardon recognizes the voice on the other end of the phone immediately. "Oh, its the blue Beretta," she says.

The assistant service manager at Paul Burroughs Chevrolet in Ingersoll may not recognize you but she does remember your car.

In her former profession, she may have forgotten your face, but she remembered your hair. As soon as she touched someone's hair, she knew if she had cut it before.

Peardon had been a hairdresser for 10 years with her own salon when she found the opportunity to do a giant about face in career planning. When her stepfather, Paul Burroughs offered her a job in the service department of his business, she grabbed up the offer. Peardon says she enjoyed hairdressing but was ready for a change of pace.

She also enjoys the family atmosphere. Her mom, Toni Burroughs, is the financial manager.

On the wall near the front counter, hangs a certificate showing Peardon has successfully completed the professional parts person program with GM which she says was easy. The more difficult things happen on the job.

Some days it's just like being in one of those television commercials when a customer comes in and tries to imitate the noise his or her car is making. "Some of them sound pretty real," she quipped.

Peardon can communicate either with sound effects or more technical words. "You learn as you go and talk intelligently with people without using techno-talk."

Doing warantee works is one of the most complicated parts of her job. She does estimates for body work on cars for insurance claims, deals with insurance companies, and orders parts.

She works closely with service manager Ray Lisiecki, service manager and Scott Luckman who is in charge of parts

Ordering parts is an exact science. Being only one number out can produce an entirely different part. She jokes that one person got a whole bus side instead of a small car part by making a tiny mistake in the order.

Peardon is friendly and has confidence about her job which is reassuring to customers when they are not quite certain about what is wrong with their cars.

She paid her dues when she started this job. Once she was asked to order a muffler bearing and another time she was



**Terri Peardon** asked to order compression powder. "I was new, I thought maybe compression powder made the car go faster." It was a joke. Neither of those two items actually exist, and Peardon knows it now.

Some people who knew Peardon when she was a hairdresser, can't imagine that she likes her job in the auto business. "But I do. It's something different everyday."

One of the most difficult parts of her job is when people have trouble with a vehicle which is difficult to fix. "We don't make the cars we just fix them." Cars today are very high tech machinery and it may be difficult to correct some mechanical problems, she explains, but at the same time understands customer's frustrations.

When she's not working with fast cars, Peardon likes riding fast horses and hopes to buy her own horse in the near future



**TERRI PEARDON** does estimates for insurance companies as part of her job.



## Gordon Pitcock funeral service set for today

INGERSOLL — A funeral service for Gordon W. Pitcock, a former Oxford MPP and chairman of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, will be held here today at 2 p. m. at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church.

He died Friday at Victoria Hospital in London. He was 73.

Pitcock, who lived at 256 Oxford St. in Ingersoll, already has a memorial namesake in the Gordon Pitcock Dam north of Woodstock.

He was a Progressive Conservative member of the legislature in the 1960s after serving many years at the helm of the region's conservation authority as it sought to improve flood control. While an MPP, he served on a committee that led to the creation of the Ontario water resources commission.

Pitcock was also president of the Ingersoll chamber of commerce, president of the Oxford County unit of the Canadian Cancer Society and chairman of the Ingersoll and District Memorial Centre.

He was a member of the management board of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Ingersoll and a member of Masonic lodges and Shrine clubs in Ingersoll, Tillsonburg, Woodstock and London, as well as being active in the YMCA and the Kiwanis Club.