

WAR BRIDES

Three women recall horrors of last great war

is SOME NOTT
by 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.

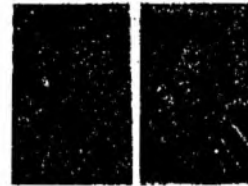
However, she had known from the time she met Joe there was no turning back.

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 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."

McSherry lived between two airports and would see VIPs, including Churchill, coming and going 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 foot by six foot; 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."

Door will still be open at Riddolls'

INGERSOLL — Retirement from Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute doesn't mark the end of Harold Riddolls' association with teenagers.

The music department head — who's retiring on June 27 — is confident many students will maintain their regular visits to his home for extra curricular advice.

Many of his pupils have developed a habit of consulting Riddolls and his wife, Eileen, about musical and emotional difficulties, he said during a recent interview.

"I am really keen on those kids and I hope they keep coming to my home."

"My home is an open house which I hope they continue to use...the door is always open and I can always find time to talk to them," Riddolls added.

He has found himself acting as an "extra parent" to many of the drop-ins and their confidence in him has led some of the students to reveal secrets they wouldn't even tell their parents, he said.

Looking back over his 20 years service at IDCI, Riddolls said: "I wouldn't have stayed if I wasn't happy here. They've been good years."

He has watched the IDCI music department grow from three classes — with himself as the sole instructor — to 10 classes under his supervision, with the help of a part-timer.

"If you're busy and like what you're doing, you don't keep track of time."

"I just think it's time (to retire)," he added. "I have a heavy work load and I've found myself running out of steam lately. Now, I'll be able to do what I want to do and still be helpful. I'll still be part of the community...if I was leaving town, I'd have a different feeling."

Prior to his arrival at IDCI, Riddolls served as a supervisor of music in local elementary schools and he also gave private piano and voice lessons.

After retirement, Riddolls plans to maintain his teaching skills and rekindle his sale of musical know-how.

But he's not counting the days before he leaves.

"I am just a day-at-a-time guy," he said. "I just can't get excited about it (retirement)."

"I have a job to do and I'll do it as if I was coming back next year...that's just my way of thinking," he added.

"I am here to teach and I'll do that until the last class of the last day."



INGERSOLL DISTRICT Collegiate Institute music department head Harold Riddolls will retire at the end of this month after 20 years of work. Some of his

students acquired the habit of dropping over to his home for advice. His door will still be open, says the retiring teacher.

— Staff photo by Joe Konecny

Riddolls Harold

SCOUTINEL - REVIEW

June 6, 1980

Riley, Bev

THOMAS J. MORRISON
AWARD

Bev Riley receives Morrison Award

Bev Riley Monday at council was presented with the Thomas Morrison award for outstanding contributions to Ingersoll through recreational volunteer work.

"Any hour, any day you can go to the local arena and Mr. Riley is there," said Mayor Doug Harris prior to presenting the award for his contributions to minor hockey in Ingersoll. "He is always at the arena contributing his time and giving of his time."

"Not only is his volunteer work a benefit to the community, it is also a need," Mayor Harris continued. "He is a most worthy recipient."

Upon receiving the award Mr. Riley said he hadn't regreted what he done for one moment and spoke of the rewards of his work. Recently in Thamesford a young man came up to him and recalled how as a youngster playing hockey in Ingersoll, he had wanted to play forward.

Mr. Riley made him play in net and today he is a goalie with the Thamesford Trojans.

The Thomas Morrison award is devoted to volunteers who devote their time to recreation in some capacity or other. It was first awarded during the Centennial year and covers volunteer work in a wide assortment of recreational causes including not only sports but the arts as well.

For close to a decade Bev Riley has devoted his time to minor hockey in almost every capacity. Presently he is the contact person on the Ingersoll and District Minor Hockey Association executive and helps arrange the town's travelling teams schedule.

He has served on the executive for about seven years in various capacities as well. He has coached, convened a division in house league play and also has spent a good number of hours time keep and goal judging, all for minor hockey in Ingersoll.

INGERSOLL TIMES
March 19, 1980

RINGLER - At Salford, Ont., on Friday, September 20, 1957, George Gordon Ringler, beloved husband of Mary Campbell, dear brother of Thomas, of Owen Sound; William, Francis, and John of North Bay, and David of Ottawa, in his 45th year.

Friends will be received at the Walker and Clifton Funeral Home, 88 King Street West, Ingersoll, where service will be held on Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock, Rev. S.R. Cooper, of Salford United Church officiating. Interment in the family plot in McArthur Cemetery, Southwold Station, Ontario.

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GORDON RINGLER

Funeral services will be held Monday afternoon at two o'clock from the Walker and Clifton funeral home, 88 King street west, for George Gordon Ringler, a member of the staff of the Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute.

Mr. Ringler died at his home in Salford on Friday, September 20, in his 45th year. He had been in failing health for a year and seriously ill for the past two months.

Born in North Bay, he was the son of the late George and Catherine Ringler. Before coming to Ingersoll to teach, he taught in Acton, in Larder Lake for a number of years and for three years was abroad, teaching in Ethiopia. On his return, he joined the staff of the IDCI as a commercial teacher.

Mr. Ringler gained the respect and admiration of the staff and pupils alike. Both at school and in the Y's Men Club of which he became an active member. He was noted for his unfailing patience and his quiet sense of humor.

He attended Salford United Church when health permitted. He was also president of the local branch of the Secondary School Teachers' Federation.

Surviving are his wife, the former Mary Jean Campbell; five brothers, Thomas, Owen Sound; William, Francis and John of North Bay and David, of Ottawa; also a number of nieces and nephews.

Rev. S.R. Cooper of Salford United Church will officiate at the service and interment will be in the family plot in McArthur Cemetery, Southwold Station, Ontario.

GORDON RINGLER

The funeral of Gordon Ringler, who passed away at his residence in Salford on Friday, September 20, was held from the Walker and Clifton Funeral Home, 88 King street west, on Monday afternoon with services at two o'clock by the Rev. S.R. Cooper of Salford United Church, assisted by Rev. Murray A. MacDonald of Trinity United Church, Ingersoll.

Interment was in the family plot at Southwold Station, Ontario.

The service was very largely attended by relatives and friends and numerous floral tributes were indicative of esteem and sympathy. Organizations attending in a body were the Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute Board, the teaching staff of the Ingersoll District Collegiate members of the Y's Men's Club and members of the public school staff.

The casket bearers, who also acted as flower bearers, were Herman Lindsey, Alfred Boniace, of the Y's Men's Club; J.C. Herbert, principal of the IDCI; Currie W. Wilson, J.R. Cryderman, Lawrence Smith, of the collegiate staff.

Citizen of Year honored

Praise was heaped upon this year's Citizen of the Year Rachel (Reay) Ritchie Tuesday night at the annual Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 119, annual banquet.

Due to illness Mrs. Ritchie was unable to attend but in Police Chief Ronald James remarks about this year's recipient, "I can't think of anyone more deserving of this award and she knows she has our thoughts and prayers with her."

"I don't need to tell you how deeply involved she was in so many programs," the Chief said. The list is endless he said, and naming a few he included dance instructor, girl guide leader, swimming coach, community services work, past president of Big Brothers, among others.

"Secretary of the Legion?" Chief James asked. "That would be an understatement." He recalled seeing Mrs. Ritchie boarding trains to discuss pension problems with veterans London.

Every Hallowe'en she would be on the phone to the police station insisting, "I have got to feed you down there."

Citizen of the Year Ritchie always made

her home welcome the Chief said to stray cats, dogs and visitors.

"If anyone was stranded she would say there's lots of room here" the Chief recounted. "She would put you up, give you breakfast."

She made you so welcome "you would hate to leave the place."

Mrs. Ritchie's husband Dave accepted the trophy on her behalf. Other family members attending included daughter Dorothy and husband Brian and grandchildren Scott, Carrie and Dwight.

Also honored Tuesday was runner-up Herm Lindsey. Neil Fishwick gave the introduction.

"When he puts his fingers and teeth into a task, sometimes both, he never lets go," Mr. Fishwick said.

Mr. Lindsey worked extensively with the Chamber of Commerce both locally and at the county level as well as considerable work with disabled persons.

"He (Mr. Lindsey) doesn't think of them as disabled." Mr. Fishwick said, "it's just that they have to work a little harder than we do."

"Here I am in the bush league and all of a sudden I'm in the major league," was Mr. Lindsey's response upon receiving his award. He admits he has encountered many challenges but termed them a "lot of fun."

"Sometimes you get over your head. You can't win them all. You won't get it all done but you will get some done," the runner-up said.

Mayor Doug Harris presented greetings on behalf of the town.

"It's a real pleasure to see all the former winners here," Mayor Harris commented. He noted that while they may have been Citizens of the Year their work in the community hasn't stopped and that is a plus for the town of Ingersoll.

Among past Citizen of the Year recipients present were; Betty Crawford, Dr. John Lawson, Lorne Moon, Robert Garland and King Newell.

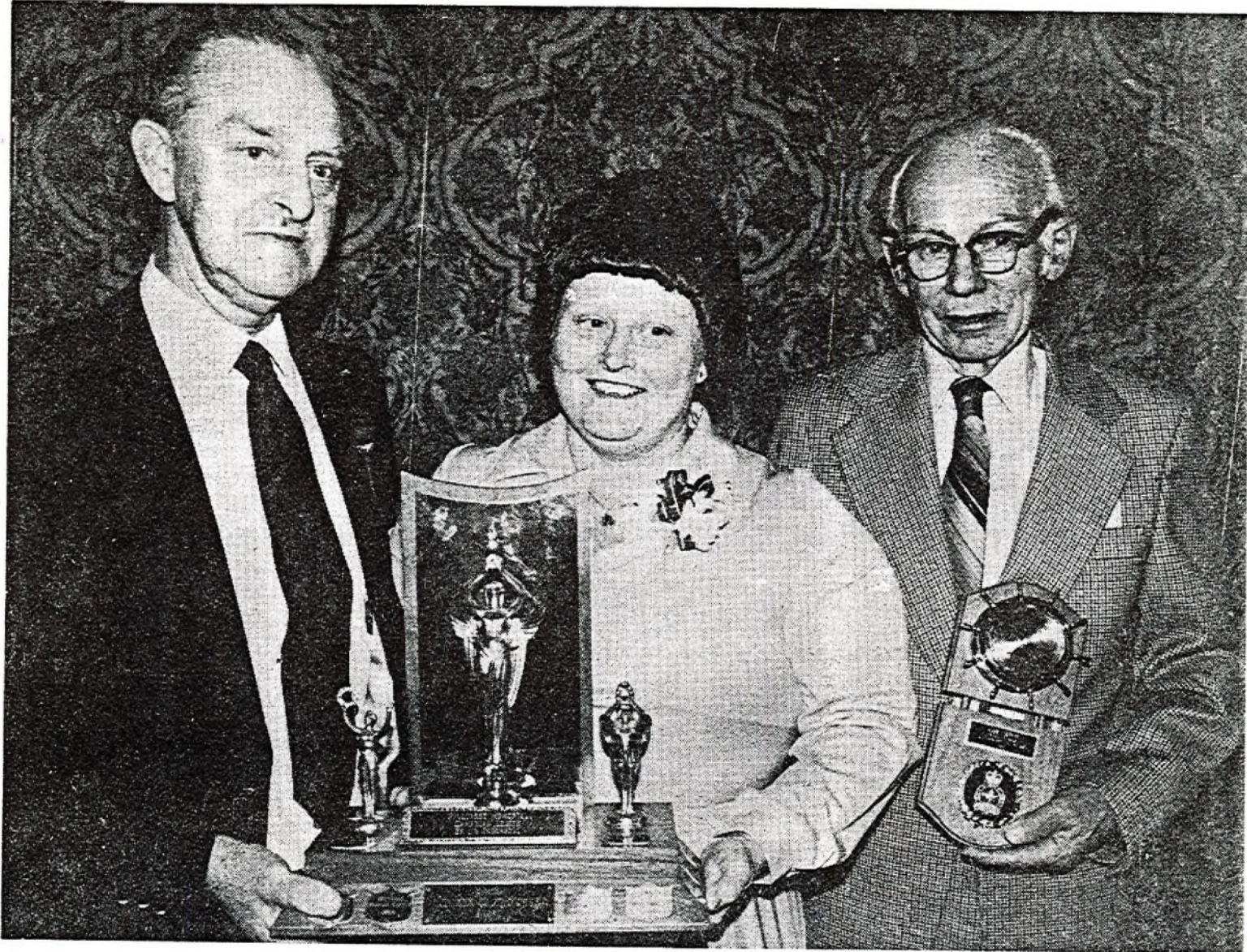
Service clubs represented at the function included the Green Giant Optimists, Big Brothers Association, Knights of Columbus, Kiwanis Club and Lions Club.

CITIZEN OF THE
YEAR AWARD
(R. C. L.)

RITCHIE, Rachel

RITCHIE, RACHEL

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR
AWARD (R.C.C.L.)



Left to right, Dave Ritchie, Dorothy Thomas and Herm Lindsey.

Ingersoll Times
March 19, 1981

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Ingersoll Times
March 18, 1981

RITCHIE, Rachel

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD
(R. C. L.)

Reay Ritchie Citizen of Year

Rachel (Reay) Ritchie has been named Ingersoll's Citizen of the year, a Royal Canadian Legion, branch 119 panel of judges this week announced. Herm Lindsay was named runner-up.

A banquet honoring this year's winners is set for Tuesday, March 17 at the Legion Hall at 6:30 p.m.

Unfortunately this year's winner will not be able to attend, as she is in Victoria Hospital, London. She was recently stricken with double pneumonia in the upper lobes and suffered further complications. She now is in the critical care trauma unit.

Mrs. Ritchie over the years has been extremely active in the local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, Big Brothers Association, former YMCA and Ingersoll Community Services Association, to name a few.

Numerous other groups, as well, have enjoyed the readily available volunteer services of Mrs. Ritchie.

Runner-up Herm Lindsay is another shining example of a citizen doing more than his share of community work. As past secretary of the Chamber of Commerce he has made incalculable contributions to Ingersoll. He has been active with the Easter Seals campaign and he and his wife Ruth operate a telephone alert system which tends to the needs of some of Ingersoll's senior citizens.

Since Mrs. Ritchie of Wellington Street, will be unable to attend the banquet in her honor, husband David and daughter Dorothy Thomas will be present in her place.

"As a member of the Royal Canadian Legion, branch 119, she has donated endless hours of her time working for local veterans and their families," said one submission nominating Mrs. Ritchie. "She has been both secretary of the local legion and service officer for the veterans.

Her Legion work has taken her across the county and country. Locally she could annually be seen contributing time and effort to the Poppy Fund, literary contests,

Citizen of the Year Awards and Remembrance Day services.

"Her work in this area has brought her the deepest respect of fellow comrades in Ingersoll.

Ingersoll's Citizen of the Year is past president of the local Big Brothers Association and devoted hours working with the promoting its endeavors.

Working with seniors, local swim teams, minor hockey, figure skating are also on a list of her credits.

She was also more than willing to make her home open to visitors. Billeting Can-Am families and even motorists during the 1978 winter blizzard are examples.

She was secretary of the former YMCA, highland dance instructor, Sunday school teacher, Girl Guide leader are a few more examples of her whole-hearted contribution to life in Ingersoll, and the list goes on.



REAY RITCHIE

INGERSOLL TIMES
March 11, 1981

Ingersoll Times March 11, 1981

Citizen of the Year dies

RITCHIE, Rachel

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR
AWARD (R.C.L.)



RAEY RITCHIE

Ingersoll's 1981 Citizen of the Year Rachel (Reay) Ritchie died April 8 at age 58 at Victoria Hospital in London following a lengthy illness.

Mrs. Ritchie's long standing service to the community was recognized last month and unfortunately due to her illness she was unable to attend. Surviving members of her family, husband David, daughter Dorothy Thomas and grandchildren Dwight, Carrie and Scott Thomas all attended the Royal Canadian Legion dinner on her behalf. Chief Ronald James presented the award.

"She just couldn't do enough for people," a saddened Police Chief Ronald James said. "She was one of those people who was always there when you needed them."

"She will be sadly missed by the community," the Chief said.

On the record she was deeply involved with Big Brothers, the Community Services Association, Girl Guides and swimming to name a few.

"There were just so many things," Chief James said. A good number of them, he noted, were done quietly and without fanfare, just out of the goodness of her heart.

INGERSOLL TIMES
April 15, 1981

Local student chosen as one of Ontario's top volunteer

INGERSOLL — Volunteering has earned Sandy Roberts some camp time.

The Grade 12 Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute student is one of 40 Ontario students chosen to go to the National Trust LIVE (leadership in volunteer efforts) residential volunteer camp at Canadore College in North Bay June 20-23.

Students going to the camp have a strong history of volunteer activ-

ity and were nominated by their school's principal.

"Sandra Roberts has distinguished herself as a young person who is concerned for her school and community and has provided service to both beyond what is expected of a student," said Art Pearson, IDCI principal.

As editor-in-chief of the 1991 edition of the IDCI yearbook, Roberts

headed a committee of over 20 people. She volunteers at Alexandra Hospital and as a figure skating coach, while putting in time at her family farm.

"Sandy Roberts is a student who offers much of herself to her community and her school. In my mind she is an excellent candidate for this leadership activity, a candidate in whom the organizers and sponsors will be proud, as am I,"



Roberts

said Pearson.

Next year Roberts will take a seat on IDCI student council. "It's an honor. I'm looking forward to being involved," she said.

Roberts, Sandra

Local student selected for leadership camp

Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute Grade 12 student Sandy Roberts has been selected to attend the National Trust L.I.V.E. (Leadership in Volunteer Efforts) Residential Volunteer Camp at Canadore College in North Bay.

Only 40 students were selected from across Ontario. Students selected have a strong history of volunteer activity. All were nominated by their school principal.

"Sandra Roberts has distinguished herself as a young person who is concerned for her school and community and has provided service to both beyond what is expected of a student," said I.D.C.I. principal Art Pearson.

Sandy has spent many hours as editor-in-chief of the school year-

book where she was head of a committee of over 20 people. She is involved in figure skating as a volunteer coach. She volunteers at Alexandra Hospital as a volunteer, and still has time for her family farm.

"Sandy Roberts is a student who offers much of herself to her community and her school," Pearson said. "In my mind she is an excellent candidate for this leadership activity, a candidate in whom the organizers and sponsors will be proud, as am I."

The camp will be held June 20-23. All students will stay in the campus residence and all costs are covered by National Trust.

According to Bryan Mehlenbacher, president and chief ex-

ecutive officer of National Trust, the L.I.V.E. program affirms the company's support of Canadian youth.

"It is our hope that programs such as this will help to instill and reinforce the essential qualities of leadership and citizenship in our future leaders - today's youth," he said.

Following the camp each participant will be linked with a highly visible role model in his or her community. This additional support provides a forum for discussion on leadership development, particular-

ly as it relates to a local volunteer project.

Mike Harris, Leader of the Ontario Progressive Party and honorary chairperson of the L.I.V.E. program, said, "The camp experience will be developed on the important ideals of voluntarism and the intrinsic values of good citizenship. It will be designed to promote and encourage a commitment to community service and volunteer leadership in the youth of Ontario."



Sandra Roberts




This shocking pink roadster appeared at IDCI's Carbecue last Thursday. It's a 1966 Volkswagen Beetle. (Matthew Smith photo)

The Ingersoll Times
June 5, 1991

Roberts, Sandra.

Our Times

3/1 of 3

Focus on  Active Living

Drawing on small town life

The soul of editorial cartooning at weekly papers is local news, so cartoonists' targets are also neighbors.

By Sandra Coulson
St. Thomas Bureau

They are the court jesters of small towns.

But instead of playing before royalty, editorial cartoonists for some of Southwestern Ontario's weekly newspapers perform in the court of public opinion.

Unlike cartoonists for much larger daily newspapers, they can't hide behind the anonymity of big-city life. Their targets are also their neighbors.

And yet, they can't dodge those issues. The soul of editorial cartooning at weekly papers is local news.

As Ron Allen of the Aylmer Express puts it:

"Anyone can pick up a paper and see a cartoon about Mulroney." The national news scene would

ering anything sacred?

Instead Allen, 50, a 10-year veteran of the editorial pages of the Aylmer Express, prefers a gentle humor. "I wouldn't hesitate to take a good shot at senior government, but locally I wouldn't want to attack someone viciously," he says.

Yet readers in this town of 6,000 sometimes see a nasty spin to the cartoons that Allen insists is not there.

When Aylmer's main bridge was being rebuilt last year, Allen drew a cartoon of a guy on one side of Catfish Creek looking forlornly at the beer store on the other side. He was surprised when several people who met him on the street told him they knew exactly who he had in mind when he drew the cartoon.

Allen has poked fun at local activities and troubles and, of course, politicians. But he remains in the good books of most people.

Mayor Don Pearson gets all the originals that feature him and puts them on an office wall at his business.

Allen uses a title on all his cartoons, usually tucked in a corner, that says, Oh! Oh! He says it points to his appreciation of the foibles of life — and also spells Ho! Ho! backwards.

Like his humor, Allen is a quiet man. He admits to a sense of awkwardness when the Express published a book of his cartoons on his 10th anniversary with the paper.

"We had an autograph session and I felt strange doing that because it's just the Town of Aylmer," he said.

At one time, he might have revelled in the small town celebrity. Allen, a self-taught artist, was a member of a slo-pitch team that did its post-game analysis at a local restaurant. Allen started drawing caricatures of team members and posting them on the restaurant's bulletin board.

He hit the town's big time when Express editor John Hueston spotted his work and asked him to contribute to the weekly.

There wasn't enough money in the Express job for Allen to give up his day job at General Motors' parts warehouse in Woodstock. But he was ambitious enough to try to expand his sideline to other papers and nurture a hope of cartooning full time.



SURE, THE TOWN LOOKS A BIT SEEDY... BUT YOU

Jessie Robins takes a shot at municipal spending priorities in this cartoon she drew for the Ingersoll Times.



Jessie Robins displays a selection of cartoons she has drawn for the Ingersoll Times, a paper she founded but no longer owns.

not part of this young cartoonist's game. He has taken shots at cops, hockey stars, overweight women, among others, in the two years he's been drawing for

street, especially when he is walking his six-month-old baby, Scott, and give him their opinions on his cartoons or suggest ideas. "I look for something out



SANDRA COULSON/The London Free Press

Ron Allen holds a book featuring a selection of the 10 years of cartoons he has done for the Aylmer Express.

never understand cartoons about playing matches, drunk driving prevention programs and cutting down trees, but small-town Ontario does.

Like many other newspapers, the weeklies of Southwestern Ontario often rely on syndicated editorial cartoonists who live as far away as Ottawa. But some can still find talented locals to keep the public opinion pot at a boil.

AYLMER Some peo-

They are the court jesters of small towns.

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There wasn't enough money in the Express job for Allen to give up his day job at General Motors' parts warehouse in Woodstock. But he was ambitious enough to try to expand his sideline to other papers and nurture a hope of cartooning full-time.

He lined up work at the Ingersoll weekly and the Tillsonburg tri-weekly. Between all the papers, he had to come up with five cartoons a week — plus read all their papers to keep up with local events.

That lasted a year and a half. "Finally, I said, 'Nuts. I'm killing myself,'" he recalls. "I went back to doing it just for Aylmer and enjoying it.... You can't kill yourself trying to fulfil your ambition."

Allen says he also toyed with the idea of taking "the next step up" and try to find work at a daily. But he said, "By the time I got started here, I was 40 and raising five kids."

Now he says his only ambition in cartooning is to win an award.

GODERICH

Sports junky Greg Gordon delivers his editorial cartoons like a slapshot to the head.

Diplomacy, let alone political correctness, is



SURE, THE TOWN LOOKS A BIT SEEDY... BUT YOU

Jessie Robins takes a shot at municipal spending priorities in this cartoon she drew for the Ingersoll Times.



Jessie Robins displays a selection of cartoons she has drawn for the Ingersoll Times, a paper she founded but no longer owns.

not part of this young cartoonist's game. He has taken shots at cops, hockey stars, overweight women, among others, in the two years he's been drawing for the Goderich Signal Star.

"It's a sick world and I'm a happy guy," he says with a sly grin.

Support from the Signal-Star's new editor is also contributing to Gordon's happiness. "I can start shooting from the hip.... It's like a green light to do anything I like," says the 31-year-old cartoonist.

Gordon is enjoying his time in the spotlight in this town of 7,500. "I do it just for the recognition. The pay is chicken feed."

What helps feed the rest of the family is his regular job as an ambulance driver. Gordon got the job with the Signal-Star when he sent in cartoons as a kind of visual letter to the editor. The paper offered to pay him to do it on a regular basis.

Gordon said he had considered taking an art course at Conestoga College in his native Kitchener when he left high school. But his father, who decided that wouldn't lead to a solid career, went through the Yellow Pages and picked out ambulance services as his son's career. That's the way the younger Gordon tells it, anyway.

He says the people of Goderich stop him on the

street, especially when he is walking his six-month-old baby, Scott, and give him their opinions on his cartoons or suggest ideas.

"I look for something out of the ordinary that I can pounce on," he says.

He calls Goderich Mayor Eileen Palmer "the biggest idea getter" for him, saying he considers her old-fashioned.

Gordon says the Signal-Star wants him to start attending council meetings, but true to his love of sports, he's been resisting because he plays hockey the same night council meets.

The arrangement right now is for Signal-Star's council reporter to fax him information from the previous night's meeting. That gives him two hours to come up with a cartoon. If he can't come up with an idea — or an ambulance call comes in — he has another cartoon in reserve to submit instead.

Gordon says cartoon ideas sometimes come to him in the middle of the night while he's sleeping. Other times, he thinks them up while on non-emergency ambulance calls to London.

INGERSOLL Sitting in her elegant, antique-filled home, Jessie Robins looks nothing like the reputation she has in some quarters of this town of 9,000 —

See **CARTOONISTS** page C2 ▶



SANDRA COULSON/The London Free Press

Ron Allen holds a book featuring a selection of the 10 years of cartoons he has done for the Aylmer Express.

never understand cartoons about plowing matches, drunk driving prevention programs and cutting down trees, but small-town Ontario does.

Like many other newspapers, the weeklies of Southwestern Ontario often rely on syndicated editorial cartoonists who live as far away as Ottawa. But some can still find talented locals to keep the public opinion pot at a boil.

AYLMER Some people can't believe Ron Allen's nice guy image.

Where is the editorial cartoonist who takes cheap shots and delights in skew-



Greg Gordon gets some dubious help from his six-month-old son Scott while cartooning for the Goderich Signal-Star.

Bj 20f3

lg 3 of 3

CARTOONISTS: Walking a very thin line between illustrating the truth and making obtuse references

► From page C1

Poison Pen Jessie.

And, although Robins says she has never heard anyone call her that, she doesn't seem surprised.

She credits her reputation to one Ingersoll Times cartoon that sprang from her opposition to an indoor pool proposed by town council.

The 1989 cartoon features the mayor pouring a drink he calls Essence Of My Dreams down the throat of a woman chained to a wall, while council members cheer him on.

Councillors were not the only ones in a fury. The town's development officer complained to the Ontario Press Council, although he later withdrew his action. A woman also wrote a letter to the editor complaining the cartoon was degrading to women.

"The phone never stopped over it," Robins says. But she's unrepentant.

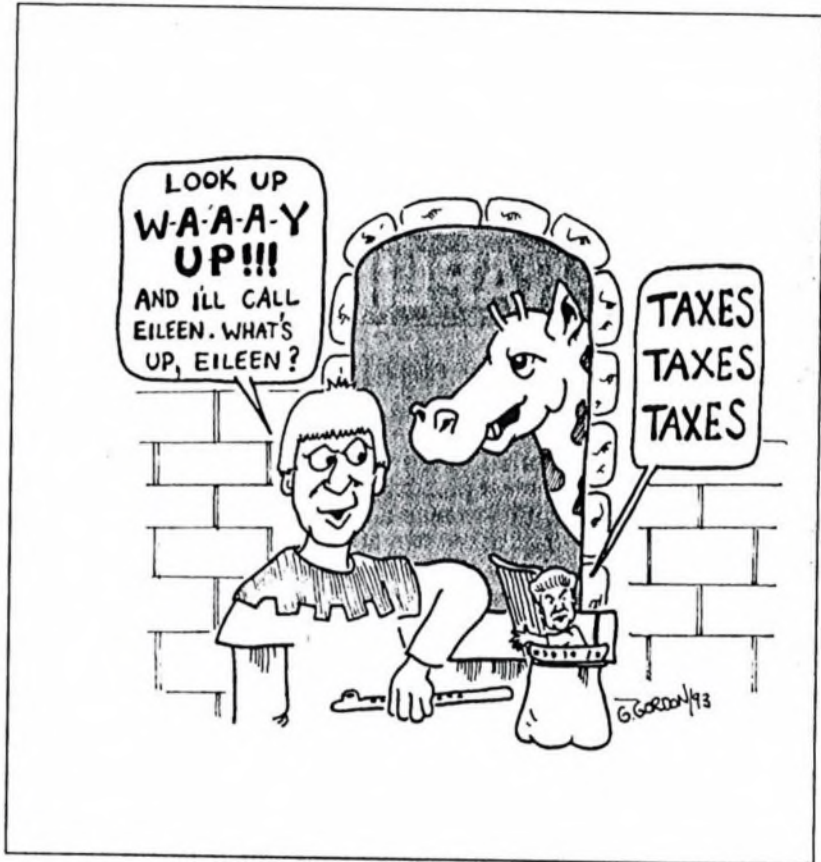
"If you weren't stirring people up and you got no reaction, you failed in the cartoon," she says. "If you don't, you might as well put a piece of wallpaper" on the editorial page.

Now retired, Robins does her cartooning on an occasional, unpaid basis. But she has a background in journalism and art.

FREELANCE REPORTER:

She was a founding partner of the Ingersoll Times in 1969 and was editor until she and her partner sold out three years later. But she carried on in the business as a freelance reporter for The London Free Press and the Toronto Star and she continues to submit cartoons to the Times. "In between times," she says, she has been an antique dealer.

"Years back, I had the option to do cartooning on a regular scale," Robins said. But it would



This cartoon, by Greg Gordon, makes reference to Elleen Palmer, mayor of Goderich.

have meant spending half her time in the U.S. She said she turned it down because she had young children at the time and didn't want to leave them.

She has been sketching and painting in oils and watercolors since high school. She has produced note cards, backdrop scenery for skating shows, oil paintings and even light-hearted cartoons sent to cheer up friends in hospital.

"I've always been able to look and see the funny side of things. I think you need humor in life or else you'll go crazy," she says.

SHARP EYE: But Robins has an equally sharp eye for what she sees as foolish government spending. She's an activist with Concerned Citizens of Ingersoll, a taxpayers' coalition.

The pool really got her ire up and was the subject of several editorial cartoons as well as a satirical poem the paper also published.

That gives her editorial cartoons quite a bite. "You criticize what needs to be criticized," she says staunchly.

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and distributes information
about the law. Publications are
available in the areas of Immi-
gration Law, Refugee Law, Men

Daily Sentinel-Review
Friday, August 17, 1945

Page 3, Columns 3-4

Dr. J.M. Rogers, Esteemed
Ingersoll Physician, Dies

Widely Known Oxford Medical
Practitioner Expires Suddenly -
Active in Many Phases of
Community Life

Dr. J. M. Rogers, Oxford's oldest practicing physician, passed away suddenly Thursday afternoon, following a heart attack. He had been down town during the morning and was to all appearances in splendid health.

Dr. Rogers came to Ingersoll in 1898 and had practised in medicine and surgery since that time. He was known among the profession as one of Western Ontario's most outstanding surgeons.

Deceased was born in the town of Mount Forest, Ontario. He graduated from the Toronto University and Trinity Medical School. When the call was sent out for volunteer physicians to care for victims of the Halifax explosion in 1917, he was among the Ontario doctors to leave their practice and help at that time.

He was one of the prime movers in the opening of the Alexandra Hospital here and has served on the Hospital Trust for a number of years. He was a member of St. John's Lodge AF and A.M. for 50 years. He was an enthusiastic bowler and curler and the Ingersoll Lawn Bowling Club has a trophy donated by Dr. Rogers for annual competition within the club. He also enjoyed golfing during the past few years.

Dr. Rogers was chairman of the Victory Loan committee for South Oxford in a number of the earlier loan campaigns and chairman of the Ingersoll committee in several of the succeeding loans and in this capacity had given tirelessly of his time and energy in his enthusiastic efforts to bring the campaigns to successful conclusions.

Widely known

Very widely-known in town and district, Dr. Rogers had an exceptionally large number of friends and during his long residence in Ingersoll held the respect and admiration of all who knew him, whether intimately or in a casual manner.

Deep regret has been voiced from citizens in all walks of life since the sudden passing of Dr. Rogers.

Besides his widow he is survived by three sons, Major John Reginald in the military hospital at London,

Daily Sentinel-Review
June 4, 1973

Page 11, Column 8

Rogers, John Reginald, M.D.

-On Sunday, June 3rd 1973, Dr. John Reginald Rogers husband of the late Elizabeth Rogers, and dear father of Linda.

Friends will be received at the Humphrey Funeral Home, 1403 Bayview Avenue (Davisville) Toronto, from 7:00 p.m. Tuesday. Service in the chapel on Wednesday morning at 11:00 o'clock. Interment in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery.

She drives , sells and promotes Canadians

BY
YVONNE HOLMES MOTT

Shirley Routledge has walked all the way to Toronto -- even though she was riding a bus she had chartered. It's one of the ways the attractive and enthusiastic tour organizer has of making each one of her patrons feel well looked after and welcome on the trip. Travelling up and down the aisle, she chats with and answers questions for everyone on the bus.

The Wellington Street resident entered the charter trip business almost by accident and although she has thought of giving it up a few times, the fact that she enjoys the work, loves getting people to see live entertainment and feels a commitment to the people who have come to rely on her trips as a way of getting to various events, has kept her in the business.

Began in

May 1965

Her first introduction to buses as a business came in May 1965. She recalls with a laugh that it was Cleworth Witty who started it all. She had been doing some election work and

Cleworth, who was with Witty Bus Lines then asked her if she would like to take a job as a school bus driver. "Women don't drive school buses" she told him. That was May 14 and she went home to tell her husband Norman about the strange offer she had received. "You could do it" her husband assured her; try it". She did and the rest is

Practised

driving

Cleworth Witty took her out in the bus and she practised driving it for an hour Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. She passed her examination on the Friday and started driving on Monday. She was the only woman school bus driver in Oxford County at the time and although today no one thinks anything of it, "everybody stopped and stared at the strange silence" in those days. She recalls with a laugh that when she was taking a charter out for the school, "kids would get to the bus door, look at you and not know whether to get on or not."

She has always established an easy rapport with the youngsters and admits that all the things she does in her busy life she likes driving the school bus "better than anything."

Shirley Routledge is an extremely busy person. Since the sudden death of her husband in 1966, she has, in addition to driving the school buses, worked at the Dairy-Freez, worked periodically for about 10 years at Coyle and Greer Trophies as an engraver and taught driver-education for the Oxford County Board of Education for the past 10 years.

Some six years ago, Shirley and a group of her friends wanted to see a special performance in Toronto, so they got together, hired a bus and

persuaded enough other people to go to make it worthwhile. Shirley recalls they had \$6 left over so gave it to the bus driver. They had a great time and she was so enthusiastic while telling her son Brian about the success of the venture that he suggested she make a business of it. That was the beginning of Shirly's Bus Trips!

Since then she has taken all kinds of people to all kinds of performances. An admitted perfectionist, she spends hours planning each trip, worrying about the itinerary, the expenses, the right number of lunch stops and making sure she has the best seats possible. Shirly loves working with people and it shows in her approach to this phase of her work.

She spends a great deal of time listening to the radio and reading the entertainment section of the papers so that she is familiar with the popular entertainers and knows what shows are playing where.

Arranging one single trip usually means several phone calls and often a special trip to the box office to arrange for seats. She makes dozens of calls to restaurants. When arrangements are complete of that stage, she hires the bus and the driver. At that point she starts to advertise and promote the trip.

Stars such as Englehart Humperdink, Tom Jones, Roger Whittaker and Lawrence Welk are always sell-outs. Shirley had learned the likes and dislikes of the people in the community and admits she has sometimes learned what the people don't like the hard way -- by not selling all her tickets. She is proud of the fact, though, that she has never cancelled a trip because she didn't sell enough tickets. "I would never want to have the reputation of being an organizer you couldn't depend on" she stated firmly. That is why she once took a loss by taking a bus, with only 18 people on it, to see Paul Anka and another time took 12 people to see Dolly Parton.

These trips were a direct contrast to the Lawrence Welk Show last year, when she had hired four buses. Shirley had the buses leaving Ingersoll at staggered hours and was so anxious to maintain the personal contact with all her clientele, that she rode each bus as far as Woodstock, was driven back to Ingersoll three times and then rode the last bus all the way to Toronto.

Sometimes she deliberately takes a loss, just to introduce local people to the new performers. She is a true supporter of Canadian talent and promotes Canadian stars whenever she can. "Entertainers are so much better in the stage than on T.V." she stressed and this is what she says to convince her patrons to try

new stars.

Theatre, musical shows, ball games, autumn colour trips, Christmas shopping trips and the Royal Winter Fair are a few of the many types of events that Shirley arranges accommodation for. Her chartered bus carries a big sign saying "Shirley's Bus Trips" which makes it easy for her passengers to locate the bus when it is departure time.

Toronto Exhibition is always a busy season for Mrs. Routledge and an enjoyable time. Last summer, she spent a considerable number of days there and became fascinated by a group called the Smokey Mountain Sunshine. In conversation with one of the members, she found the lady from Nashville felt she couldn't get a "decent cup of coffee" in the entire exhibition grounds. The next day when Shirley went down she took a thermos of coffee with her and the friendship between the Canadian and the American was cemented. Shirley also sent a Cheese and Wine glass back home with her when the singer returned to Tennessee and soon received a post card from her.

One trend that has developed -- and Shirley is very pleased about it -- is that people have started to give tickets for her bus tours as birthday, anniversary or other special occasion gifts. One day last summer, she recalled happily, a lady took her 84 year old mother on a trip with her as a birthday gift.

She is happy also that men, who ignored her ads at first, now form a good portion of her clients. "Men just wouldn't go at first" she mused "but now they realize that if they come on

the bus they leave all the hassle of driving and parking at home. When the performance is over, they can get on the bus and relax until they are back in Ingersoll. The men are really starting to appreciate the convenience of this type of day or evening."

Shirley is always looking for new ideas. She tries to contact people she knows are particularly interested in up-coming shows and relies on advertising and word of mouth to spread the word about her trips. She always welcomes new ideas and suggestions and is extremely happy when a group approaches her about a particular type of entertainment they would like to attend. If she can possibly accommodate people with special requests she does so.

Shirley's Bus Tours made over 30 trips this past year and everyone of them was a success. That's a pretty fine record for a person who went into business almost by accident.

ROUTLEDGE
Shirley

Shirley Routledge - She drives, sells + promotes Canadians.



One of the most recent trips conducted by Shir's Bus Tours took two bus loads of Ingersoll and Thamesford people, including a number of ballet students, to Hamilton Place, for a matinee performance of the Nutcracker Suite. Receiving their ballet tickets from Mrs. Routledge

are Mrs. Kristine Henschel of 3 Linden Drive, Ingersoll and her eight year old daughter Claudia, while Susan Ling, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Ling, R.R. 3, Ingersoll patiently waits for hers. The trip was a special birthday gift for Claudia.

Rowsom, Dr. John W.

Rowsom gets service award

An Ingersoll physician, Dr. John W. Rowsom, has been chosen by the Ontario Medical

Association to receive the Glenn Sawyer Service Award.

The award, which was pre-

sent to Dr. Rowsom at a recent meeting of the Oxford County Medical Society, is given by the board of directors of the OMA to physicians who have rendered significant service to the profession and to the local community.

George Thomas, administrator of Alexandra Hospital in Ingersoll, in making the announcement Friday, said that Dr. Rowsom is on the honorary staff at the hospital, and served for a number of years as chief of staff there.

He is currently the Alexandra Hospital medical staff representative to the Oxford County Health Service Council.

Dr. Rowsom has been practicing medicine in Ingersoll, his home town, since 1935, returning to set up his practice here following graduation from the University of Toronto.

According to Dr. Rowsom, he has been a member of Alexandra Hospital since that time and has maintained an active practice, continuing to attend private patients at the hospital.

He began his career here 40 years ago when, he recalls, Alexandra Hospital was operated from a private residence. Since that time, he has lived and practiced through two building programs, beginning with the construction of the new hospital in 1950 and then its addition in 1970 at which time he served as chief of medical staff.



Dr. John Rowsom

Veteran town doctor honored with dinner

The dining room of Alexandra Hospital was the scene Tuesday evening of a testimonial dinner in honor of Dr. John W. Rowsom's 40 years of medical service to the Ingersoll Community.

This dinner was sponsored by the Alexandra Hospital Board of Trust in recognition of Dr. Rowsom's many years of community service and in honor of his recently receiving the Glenn Sawyer Service Award, given by the Board of Directors of the Ontario Medical Association to senior physicians who have rendered significant service to their profession and to their local community.

Head table guests included the Chairman, G. F. Pirie, and Mrs. Pirie; Dr. John W. Rowsom and Mrs. Rowsom; Dr. S. K. Warma, President of the Alexandra Hospital Medical Staff, and Mrs. Warma; Dr. George Emery, Chief of Staff of Alexandra Hospital, and Mrs. Emery; Mayor Gordon B. Henry and Mrs. Henry; G. O. Thomas, administrator, and Mrs. Thomas; Mrs. M. Christie, director of nursing, and Mr. Christie; and Mrs. R. Hult, president of the auxiliary to Alexandra Hospital.

The Chairman, G. F. Pirie, welcomed the 48 persons present, who were made up of the members of the Alexandra Hospital Board of Trust and the Alexandra Hospital Medical Staff and their wives.

He stated that Dr. John Wesley Rowsom graduated

from the University of Toronto Medical School in 1932 and had done his student internship at Grace Hospital (Huron College) Toronto in 1971. His post-graduate work was completed at Victoria Hospital, London in 1932-33 and at Oshawa General Hospital in 1933-34.

Mr. Pirie also introduced the members of the head table and the guests which included the following members of the Rowsom family:

Mr. and Mrs. Brian Wiens, from St. Thomas; Helen Rowsom who is attending Carlton University, Ottawa; John Rowsom, who is attending the University of Western Ontario Medical School in London; Wesley Rowsom, a student at IDCI.

BEST WISHES
The Administrator, Mr. Thomas, brought greetings and best wishes from the staff of Alexandra Hospital on this very special occasion.

He also stated that the date of April 22 was chosen for a very special reason in that it was Dr. Rowsom's birthday. He stated that Dr. Rowsom had made many devoted friends among the hospital staff over the past 40 years, through his many little kindnesses and his willingness and dependability in making a special effort to attend all hospital-related functions.

Mr. Thomas also pointed out that Dr. Rowsom had been Chief of Staff of Alexandra Hospital between 1965 and 1971 and, for several years, has been the

Alexandra Hospital Medical Staff Representative on the Oxford County District Health Services Council, which is a voluntary group working together for the planning and co-ordination of health services within the County of Oxford.

Dr. S. K. Warma said a few words on behalf of the Medical Staff of Alexandra Hospital and Mrs. R. Hult extended greetings and best wishes from the Auxiliary to Alexandra Hospital.

Mayor Henry represented the people of Ingersoll and related several instances of Dr. Rowsom's community involvement throughout the years.

Dr. George Emery, Chief of Staff of Alexandra Hospital, presented an engraved gift to Dr. Rowsom on behalf of the Alexandra Hospital Board of Trust and the Alexandra Hospital Medical Staff.

Dorothy Christie, Director of Nursing at Alexandra Hospital, brought greetings from the nursing staff of Alexandra Hospital and presented Mrs. Rowsom with a beautiful bouquet of roses.

Dr. Rowsom then expressed his sincere appreciation, on behalf of himself and his wife and family, for the kindness and consideration given to them on this occasion and also, for the co-operation he has always enjoyed from the members of the Board, Medical Staff associates and the staff of Alexandra Hospital throughout the years.

There's a doctor in the house

House calls are a thing of the past, says retired doctor John Rowsom.

"In my day, you used to have to go out and make calls."

One of those calls, in the years before such a thing as an ambulance came onto the scene, led to a cold and stormy episode.

The King Street West resident braved the best winter had to offer to get a seriously ill patient to care. His car could not make it all the way, though — and a sleigh ride became part of the trip.

Born and raised in Ingersoll, Rowsom is reluctant to reveal his birthday. However, he does concede he was "born before most of the people around here."

The "depth of the depression" saw him graduate from medical studies at the University of Toronto in 1932.

Becoming a doctor was something he had wanted to do since childhood.

"It (going into medicine) was just an ideal.

"Every person, when you're young, has certain ideals."

After school, he spent a year working at London's Victoria Hospital and a year after that at the Oshawa General Hospital. Collingwood and Belleville also provided chances for Rowsom to ply his trade before setting up shop in Ingersoll.

A general practitioner, he said most of his patients were not too ill at ease in his office.

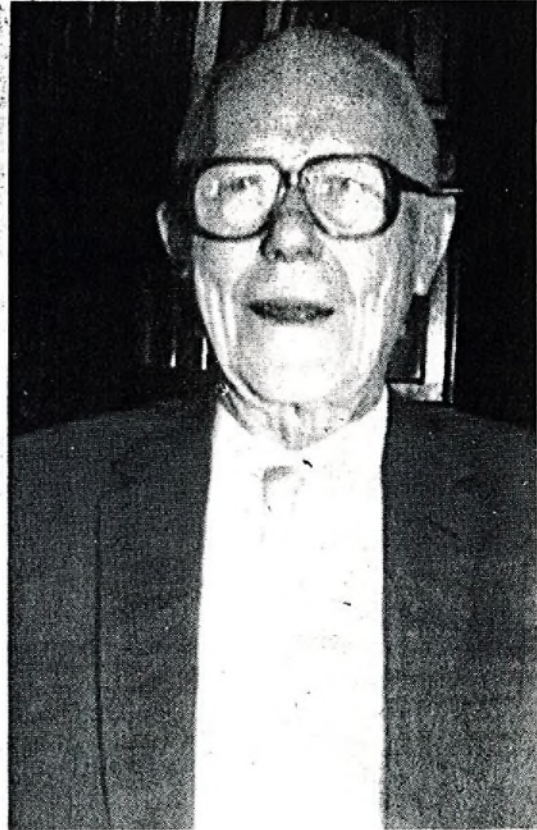
"I used to get along pretty well with kids.

"Some were (nervous.) It all depended on what they heard at home."

During his time practicing medicine and since his retirement, Rowsom has seen a vast progression in the medical arts.

"The advances are tremendous. It's utterly fantastic.

"If a person (who went to school when I did) were to start in today, he would have to learn all over again."



The discovery of bacterial infection-fighting antibiotics was a huge step forward.

"That (antibiotics) was one of the biggest advances," Rowsom said.

Today, medical people can "never stop studying, really studying, to keep abreast of things.

"If you don't study, you'd be out of date in 10 years.

"It's just like you buying a dress. The dress may have suited your mother but now it's out of date."

RUMSEY, William Ashley

DEATH OF WILLIAM ASHLEY RUMSEY.

"Another old settler gone" is an announcement that appears with painful frequency in the columns of weekly exchanges. The old men and women are fading from off the face of the earth. Ontario is slowly taking on a likeness to an old country. The days when the Grand Trunk was a streak in the bush live only in the memory of the few. A generation has arisen to vote and bear the burdens of manhood that has no recollection of the time when the province was a hush.

We have this week to record the death of William Ashley Rumsey, one of Ingersoll's earliest pioneers, which occurred at his residence on Monday morning last.

Deceased was born in Batavia, New York and came to this town in 1837, residing here continually ever since.

On his arrival in Ingersoll, before locating his foundry business, which he subsequently went into, he contemplated very seriously whether Beachville was not the better point of the two, as its prospects at that time appeared equal, if not superior to those of Ingersoll; but he finally decided—and time has settled the question that his judgment in the point was a sound one—that Ingersoll should be his future home, and he embarked in the foundry business, which he subsequently developed into an extensive and lucrative one, and which laid the foundation of what proved to be a competency for him. This business he carried on with much vigor, and under circumstances of a much more trying nature than is now experienced by business men until he sold it out in 1850 to the late Willard Eastwood, whom shortly afterwards he was appointed first manager of the Commercial Bank here, which position he soon resigned and since which time he has lived a very retired life in the enjoyment of the fruits of his early labors, taking but little part in the outside world. At the time of the American war he made large investments on the other side of the line from which he reaped considerable profits. He was one of the chief movers in the formation of the Ingersoll rural cemetery, his interest in which he maintained to the last. He also established a foundry business in Woodstock in connection with Mr. H. P. Brown to whom he subsequently sold his interest and devoted his time and energies exclusively to his business in this town.

His decease removes from off the roll one of the few survivors who can in the true sense be called the "Ingersoll Pioneers."

He married Miss Frances H. Heapstead, of New London, Connecticut, who predeceased him.

He leaves surviving him five children, C. S. Rumsey, manager of the Traders bank, St. Marys; Alexander, accountant Imperial bank, Galt; Mrs. LaPenotiere, Toronto; Mrs. Sutor, Chicago, and Miss Rumsey, to whom we extend our sympathy in their bereavement.

In death, as in life, fabled

Kate Ruttan remains a mystery

RUTTAN, Kate Annabelle
McIntyre

In death, as in life, the fabled, eccentric Kate Ruttan of LaVallee remains a mystery.

Many of the older generation in town and district will recall her by that description of her, written in 1916, as "the leading literary lady of LaVallee who always wears a white veil and blue hat."

That broad-rimmed hat, with its heavy white veil hanging down to her shoulders and concealing all her facial features, was her familiar trademark and it was worn even during the hottest days of summer.

Interest in Mrs. Ruttan was sparked recently when Miss Anne McLennan of Fort Frances presented the Women's Institute Museum at Emo with a copy of Mrs. Ruttan's published verse "Rainy River Rhymes Right or Wrong."



MRS. KATE RUTTAN as she appeared in public. Here she is pictured with Jim Pope on the left and Bill Cornell on the right. Her hat and heavy veil, which hid her facial features, were her well-known trademark.

It was decided then to collect additional information on Mrs. Ruttan and John Mannister who, as a youngster came out from Winnipeg to make his home with Mrs. Ruttan, volunteered to undertake the task. It has been a difficult, almost futile, undertaking.

For instance, there is no record of her interment, although it is believed she was laid to rest in Devlin cemetery, where she had purchased a plot for "Lord" John Montgomery who had resided with her for some years.

From her writings, one can surmise some of her background.

Kate Annabelle McIntyre Ruttan was the daughter of James McIntyre, furniture dealer and undertaker, of Ingersoll, Ontario. He also was an amateur poet and included in her volume is a poem dated April 2, 1901 entitled "Alas, Alas for McIntyre," which referred to him as the "Bard of the Caledonian Society of Ingersoll." According to Mrs. Eason, Mr. McIntyre had published a volume of verse entitled "Musings on the Banks of the Canadian Thames."

Mr. Mannister, in communicating with the Ingersoll town clerk, could obtain no additional information concerning the daughter. One poem, in her book, is entitled "Fred Ruttan" Of him, Kate wrote:

"Born of British bulldog breed,
With a heart as big as a whole world's need,
Flew to war to starve and bleed
And die for our salvation."

One of the popular sayings before the turn of the century was "Go West, young man, go West." It is presumed that Kate Ruttan followed that advice. There is reference in her book, to the success of her scholars of the Stodgell, Manitoba, school at a field day.

"The only early date that I have been able to establish is that she taught school at Barwick in 1902," Mr. Mannister writes. "Willard Canfield states that his family moved to Barwick in that year and Mrs. Ruttan and her daughter, Maude Fraser, also a widow, were both teaching school there at that time. The daughter later married Bert Eason of Barwick and they moved to a farm in Saskatchewan. Mrs. Eason was living at Gravelbourg, Sask. at the time of her mother's death.

"From Barwick, Mrs. Ruttan moved to LaVallee and taught school there. The first LaVallee school was located about a mile east

and about a mile north on the McTavish Road. It was at this school one morning she greeted at her door a member of the school board with the exclamation: 'I know! I know! Pick up thy bed and walk!' The trustee agreed with her, thus ending her school teaching career. According to Mrs. Eason, her mother had taught school for over 30 years.

Perhaps that is why, in one of her poems entitled "The Inspector's Visit", she concluded by writing "That all I.P.S.'s (inspectors, public schools) are officers useless and a nuisance malign."

"She was a character, individualist and free soul sort of person," Mr. Mannister writes.

"No doubt she was actually a very lonely and unhappy woman and it was at this point, probably, that she considered adopting a boy.

"I first met Mrs. Ruttan at the Children's Home in Winnipeg. She was being interviewed by the matron of the home with the intent of adopting. Although we were all quite well treated at the home, we all looked forward to the day when we would be leaving. Probably it was the thought of family life that appealed to us.

"The boys did remark that she was a funny looking woman but they still wished it was they who were leaving. She was a short, fairly stout woman with a loose hanging dress, more like a kimono, reaching down to her ankles. She wore a sort of bonnet on her head with a veil covering her face, making it hard to see the features of her face. However, it was my turn and I was quite happy about it.

"It was the summer of 1912 when Mrs. Ruttan, my sister and I arrived at the Village of LaVallee, My sister made her home with the late Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Shine one-half mile east of Devlin."

LaVallee, at that time, was a thriving community where everyone appeared to be working and happy. The Cornell sawmill, grist and flour mill was located alongside the LaVallee River where Johnny Canuck's store now stands. The Saunders sawmill was located farther down the river, opposite to what is now the LaVallee Community Hall but then a store operated by M.J. Saunders. The Ross McKenzie store, later owned by David Strachan; the hotel with its bar and footrail; the Ab Steele blacksmith shop; the Jack Steele implement shed; the Wesley Methodist Church; a very busy CNR station were part of

the community when the very young John Mannister arrived there. The creamery, where he was to begin working, was erected in 1917.

"Mrs. Ruttan owned a house which was rented at the time," Mr. Mannister recalls. "However, the tenants soon moved away and we settled in. The house had an addition built onto it and there was another small house at the back of the lot. She also rented upstairs rooms; there was an extra lot at the back for potatoes and vegetables; and a pigpen where she kept two hogs for the next winter's meat. This appears to have been the extent of her income.

"It soon became apparent that she had no desire or intention of keeping house or cooking. I was assigned to the kitchen and I was on my own. It remained this way for the two years that I lived with her.

"During this period she never imparted any information of her past life. What happened to her husband, where she had lived, where she had been educated, where she had taught school, remained a closed book at the 'library or reading rooms' as she called her residence. She was a difficult person to communicate with and I guess I was too young.

"While I was there, Mrs. Ruttan was appointed postmistress and mail carrier. She later had to dispatch the mails on the trains each morning. This was no easy job as the train arrived between 1 a.m. and 2 a.m. As we lived quite close to the station, trainmen would hold-up the train a minute or two if necessary to get the mail. She did miss once or twice and a penalty of \$5 was imposed each time. This usually turned out to be quite a disaster as her pay wasn't very big.

"The front room of the house served as post office and her living quarters which were tabu to me.

"She also was LaVallee correspondent for the Fort Frances Times, a labour of love which she filled for over 20 years until her death in 1928. The news items were mostly happenings in the community and of people involved. She attracted a great deal of attention with her writings which often were in rhyme and people of the community looked forward to receiving the paper. McLeans Magazine said it was 'the most interesting reporting in Western Canada' to which Mrs. Ruttan appended the modest comment: 'honor to whom honor is due.'"

Excerpts from the files of The Times show her skill with words and reveal that although she might have been a poor teacher, she was an educated and perceptive woman:

January 27, 1916: The dramatic club organized by Robert Ferguson has dissolved partnership and ceased to exist for the simple reason that Hugh McFayden, Fred Cornell and Robert Ferguson have become soldiers of the King and no member is left but Chester Page to lead it on to glory. "Sec transit gloria mundi". Thus changeth the glory of the world.

June 12, 1919: Postmaster James Smith has gone to his reward at the age of 82.

Born in Orkneys, sailed till fifty,
Captain he in seven seas.
Scientific, brave and nifty,
Weathered many a biting breeze.
Brought his sweet wife to Rainy.

Farmed for full 19 years.
Alert and honest, true and brainy,
Wiped away her every tear.
Postmaster then for years eleven,
The truest soul to earth e'er given.

May 23, 1923: (At a United Farmers of Ontario meeting at which a UFO man said he was prepared to support a labour man, if nominated) Mrs. Kate Ruttan timidly inquired:

How can farmers affiliate with labour?
Farmers want three dollars per bush.
For wheat and other things according,
And hired help sixteen hours per day,
Thirty dollars per month affording.

Labor wants a five cent loaf,
And farmers stuff all down to zero;
Eight hours per day of labour vile
One hundred and eight per month each
hero.

January 3, 1918: her final words for the Times were as follows: "Our sunny scribe Kate Ruttan is hibernating for two weeks with the Hayes family in their hospitable mansion in Barwick and renewing old times on the Mississippi (her favorite expression for the Rainy River.)"

"It was the popularity of her news items which gave her the idea of publishing her book. She was a lover of Bobbie Burns poetry and, in conversation, would quite often break out in poetry with a hint of Bobbie in her speech. Her booklet was published in the mid

20's a year or two preceeding her death.

"At this early date, there were no cars. Roads were passable for horse and buggy or wagon, although they were not in very good condition in wet weather. There were no telephones. Rush messages had to be sent by telegram. A trip to Fort Frances was quite an event. Holidays, such as the 24th of May and the 1st of July would warrant a special train or a coach on a freight. Everybody accepted this as the appropriate way to have a good time and they enjoyed themselves immensely. Each town had its football team, very competitive and supported by the community. There was no thought of taking off to the lakes or for some distant point for a holiday.

"The summer of 1914, when I was on the William Pilkey farm, a gentleman by the name of John Montgomery came to LaVallee and stayed at Mrs. Ruttan's. This proved so satisfactory that he decided to stay. Mrs. Ruttan was happy. It brought a ray of sunshine into her life as she was to write later:

"But suddenly out bursts the sun,
Her earthly cares are almost done,
Her pulses leap, though her hot tears run
With the coming of Montgomery.

"There was a man sent from God,
Whose name was John, no common clod,
But the noblest soul above the sod
To lighten human woe."

Perhaps that is why, in her book, in the first poem entitled "Platonic Love" she could write: "A blessing when the two fond hearts may meet and ne'er to sever."

"She referred to themselves as Lord and Lady Montgomery. Now she had a mail carrier and could devote more time to her book. Now there was no need for me to return," Mr. Mannister writes.

"Mrs. Ruttan won a pony and cart in a Free Press contest so Lord and Lady could go driving into the country. She always showed up at dances and parties about lunch time and then, before lunch, she was asked to sing. Seated at the piano, she would play and sing "Little Brown Jug." That was the only song I ever heard her sing. The request always was made, not because the song was well-rendered, but because it became a ritual that had to be followed.

"Mrs. Ruttan was a great lover of ice cream and, apparently, could eat it as long as someone brought it for her. At one ice cream social, someone put snuff in a dish of ice cream and, as it was a bit dark, she did not see it. She was very sick afterwards.

"When about to leave a dance or party, she would ask if there was a sandwich or cake she could take home to Lord Montgomery. Mission accomplished, she would toddle off home quite happy.



MRS. KATE RUTTAN from the photograph which appeared in the front of her book of poems *Rainy River Rhymes*. Although no details were or are known of her background, Mr. Mannister feels that she was close to 70 years of age at the time of her death. Mr. Mannister, 608 Victoria Ave., would appreciate receiving any additional authentic information concerning Mrs. Ruttan.

"Like all good things, this came to an end in 1926 when Lord Montgomery became quite ill and died. The record shows that Mrs. Ruttan bought a plot in the Devlin cemetery and there, one must assume, that he was buried.

"Her book by this time had been published and she went from door to door selling them. She would make a chalk mark on a house called on if the people had been contacted. I never did hear how many books she sold, but I am inclined to think that it wasn't very successful financially. In her grief, and declining years, she may have lost heart with this venture. Her lines on 'The Coming of Montgomery' concluded with 'And when his earthly race is run, there'll be a woeiful wail.'

Mrs. Ruttan carried on for two years after Montgomery's death and on February 1, 1928, some of her neighbours, not seeing any activity around her home, called on her. They found her unconscious on the floor, suffering from frostbite. She was rushed to the Sutcliffe Hospital in Emo where she passed away from pneumonia and blood poisoning on February 3. Funeral services were held on Saturday, February 4, 1928, from Wesley United Church in LaVallee and, although the records do not say so, it is presumed she was interred in the Devlin cemetery along side her John.

Although she had been the Times' best known correspondent for just over 20 years, yet her obituary carried no details of her life — they just weren't known.

Her obituary described her as "possessed of a generous nature, she out of her limited earthly possessions was ever a friend of the needy." Then it quoted some of her own verse:

"They who own an estate
May be noble and great,
Despite their park, palace and splendour
Silks, diamonds and jewels
May betoken the fools.
Or may cover a heart pure and tender."

In death, as in life, Kate Ruttan remains a mystery and evidently that is the way she wanted it.

Ingersoll, Ontario, Thursday, May 1, 1958



Mrs. Clara Sage, Charles Street East, was honoured at her home on her 78th birthday on Monday, April 28th, by her former schoolmates. Seated left to right: Miss Gertrude Stone, Mrs. Elizabeth Bonesteel, Mrs. Clara Sage, Mrs. Olivena Dynes and

Mrs. Edith Hartnett. Standing: Mrs. Florence Phillips, Mrs. Ethel Harris, Mrs. Estella Mitchell, Mrs. Florence Richens, Mrs. Mary McEwan, Mrs. May Harris and Mrs. Minnie Harris.

Sage, Clara

Savage season

Ingersoll-raised — he's a red-hot nationalist and a celeb (of sorts)

INGERSOLL — His face (splashed with sweat droplets which rolled down his neck and onto his hockey uniform) dawned on the front page of *TV Guide* in January. That same week two million people would meet: Booth Savage, a former town son, in a riveting made-for-television drama — *The Last Season*.

People have seen Savage before but not in such volume. His appearances have run the gamut. He's sold cars on commercials, portrayed the character Happy in Stratford's version of *Death of a Salesman*, made guest appearances on a number of popular television shows including CBC's *Seeing Things* and acted in dozens of other projects including years of impressive performances with Theatre Passe Muraille.

He and actress-wife Janet-Laine Green (the pretty and popular attorney on CBC's *Seeing Things*) starred in the CBC movie *Michael and Kitty* about the Trudeau era. Their two children also had roles in the movie, making it a family affair. It was a memorable project in Savage's career.

The recent CBC-TV movie *The Last Season* is another significant project to Savage. In it he plays a hard-nosed defenceman, Felix Batterski from his early career in hockey to his last season.

"It (the movie and specifically the character) was something I felt close to. It touched a cord," Savage says of the project to which he devoted a year of his life.

"THESE things have validity when they touch us," the actor said in a telephone conversation with a *Sentinel-Review* reporter from his home in Toronto. "It has validity beyond entertainment."

The New Brunswick-born actor and self-professed "red-hot nationalist" was pleased the impressive production was Canadian.

He said he tried for the part with the most intensity he has put out to get "any role." Roy MacGregor's book (the novel on which the movie is based) stayed with me and haunted me."

His peers who saw the movie responded similarly to it. "The response I've gotten from people is overwhelming. Senator Keith Davies saw the program and said it was great television."

Savage says the movie inspired some controversy "which is good — most of the stuff on television is popcorn."

Two of the two-million viewers of *The Last Season* were Jack and Ruth Savage, his parents who live in Ingersoll not far from the future site of the GM/Suzuki Joint Venture.

The movie struck his mother. "I cried all through it. It took me through his childhood."

SAME DETERMINED NATURE

Savage has a determined nature like the character he played in this movie, but he's more compassionate.

Featured story by PHYLLIS COULTER of The Sentinel-Review

The man in the movie wasn't the same one "who kisses me good-bye" when he goes home, his mother said.

"He was quite ugly in some scenes. He's soft-spoken at home. Both our boys are. Not like me — I'm loud," she says with a grin.

Savage's brother David, like his now-retired father, is in the military. His twin sisters, Marilyn O'Connor and Carolyn Walker, still live in the area. And his sister Jeanne Bowkett lives in Toronto.

Playing an athlete as Savage did in *The Last Season* comes naturally to him. He was a football hero at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute (IDCI).

"I WAS a greaser, played football, and had no interest in school." That changed when an English teacher interested Savage in acting.

He speaks highly of the teacher who helped send him in the direction of his future career.

Once sparked, Savage won a tri-county award for high school acting, his mother recalls.

Savage's first job after high school was for the Ingersoll Public Utility Commission (PUC). "He fell into the sewage thing one day, and that finished him," his mom says. She smirks knowing he probably won't like hearing this story again.

DAD CAN'T RESIST

Now the ice has been broken in his parent's home. His father can't resist the temptation to tell another tale on his son.

A young Savage used to lie on top of the Highway 401 overpass for hours watching the trucks go by. He used this experience when writing a truck-driving musical called *18 Wheels*, his dad says.

Jack Savage is on the road to reminiscing and tells another story about his son.

Booth was a cadet at Ipperwash while in high school. The elder Savage, a 25-year army veteran who served in both Japan and Korea and wore sergeant stripes, said he thought his son might follow the same path.

However, Booth's fascination with cadets was at another level. He was most interested in how they simulated wounds in mock battles. His interest in the theatrical aspects of such mock battles spurred Booth away from an army career into a theatrical one.

Like parents do, the Savages remember their son's early days.

"The first commercial he ever did was for Bell Telephone." He came from behind a frog (the handsome prince), and started talking in the comical commercial. "It won awards," his mother recalls.

WHEN he starting acting, Savage drove cab in Toronto. He made the connection with Theatre Passe Muraille which was a natural



Janet - Laine Green

for the man's strong sense of pride and patriotism.

Savage speaks warmly of his experiences in Theatre Passe Muraille. "It was my university." Working with people the calibre of those he performed with in the company, gave Savage a tremendous sense of responsibility in choosing the work he does.

People like Paul Thompson and half a dozen more he can name in a matter of seconds influenced his work and his own character.

The code he developed there is hard to live up to and sometimes causes Savage trouble in choosing projects. "You feel you must have political meaning or good sense in every project."

Booth has tried to stick with the ideal but sometimes believes he fails. He's just coming off a 13-week pilot television series for CBS about magazine crime reporters called *Hot Shots*.

His parents compare the style of the action-show to *Moonlighting*. Savage's father stayed up to watch the late-night show and taped it for his mother one night. They both agree it's not one of his best works.

A BELLY FULL OF IDEAS

"It's not something I'm proud of," Savage says bluntly.

He doesn't know if the series will be picked up or not, but he speaks as if he quite honestly will be relieved if it isn't.

"When I was 18, I started with a belly full of ideas. I was bursting." The actor says he now feels it's time for new experiences, perhaps some theatrical ones perhaps some out of the business entirely, to get his juices flowing again, and to get some of those exciting ideas back in his belly.

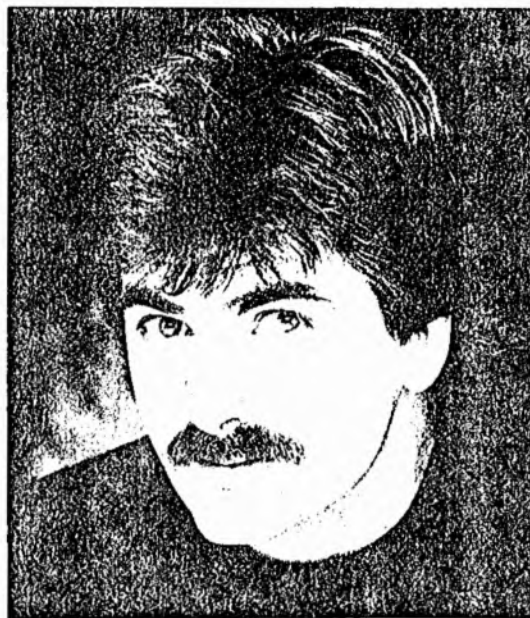
Booth worked practically around the clock during the filming of the series and had no time to spend with his family in Toronto.

Booth Harding Savage (his real name and a family name) took his five-year-old daughter Akela (this unique name comes from Booth's desire to name his first child after his father. Booth was a cub scout and his father was a leader known as Akela — therefore the name.) to the CN tower for lunch recently. The actor missed ordinary family outings like this.

To Jack & Ruth
Love Janet-Laine

SENTINEL REVIEW

February 28, 1987



Booth Savage

As he talks to the *Sentinel-Review* reporter on the telephone, his 20-month-old son Tyron (yes, named after Tryon Guthrie, the producer) can be heard cooing and conversing in the background.

Savage wanted to see his son so much during the filming, he would wake the child up at 4:30 a.m. before his long commute to work so they could have breakfast together.

At the time, Savage was working on *Hot Shots*, *The Last Season*, and his current project all at once. He broke his ankle during filming of the hockey drama and was hobbling on crutches. It was an exhausting time for him.

When Savage and Jane!-Laine Green find a break in their hectic schedules, they sometimes slip away to their 54-acre farm in Bracebridge.

Jane!, a Saskatchewan-born actress, has brought a little country to Savage's life. Even their wedding reflected it.

The western-style event put the dashing groom in a grey tuxedo and matching suit. The blushing bride appeared in a red and grey western outfit. No traditional white dress here.

"It was very theatrical," Booth's dad recalls with a grin.

Savage used to scoff at successful actors when they complained about having no time for family and the normal things in life but now he agrees. "You don't know what you give up when you choose this profession."

"It may be great for a single guy in his twenties who has nothing better to do than chase skirts, but when you have a wife and a couple of kids — it's different," says the 38-year-old actor.

Booth regularly takes a hard look at his chosen profession.

"Some public television is offensive to the thinking public." Such television opportunities are the types of projects he prefers to turn down. He passed up a high-paying soap opera role in favor of roles he can live with.

"People's values are important — you hope you can stay honest and not become Hollywood."

Savage doesn't want to be remembered for *Hot Shots*. He'd

rather be remembered for some of the projects he collaborated on with Theatre Passe Muraille.

You leave a legacy and you have to know you've justified your existence, the actor said in a serious tone.

Projects like *Them Donnellys*, 1837 — *The Farmers Revolt* and *The Farm Show* are plays about things that really matter. They are projects he likes to be associated with.

"They reflect the time and people we are."

SOMETHING WHICH MATTERS

What does he want to do in the future in his acting career? He names no specific project, but instead simply says: "To do honest, intelligent work that really matters."

Why has he remained a Canadian actor and not been lured away by the bright lights in the United States? "I used to know I was a red-hot nationalist."

Savage isn't quite as certain or as red-hot as he was — say, a decade ago.

"At one point in your career you contemplate it," (going to the States) says Booth who has received numerous opportunities he's turned down.

"Actors are gypsies by nature." A national boundary won't stop Savage today if a good (honest and intelligent) role beckons. But he's still a Canadian first and thinks of his career in those terms.

Savage's current project is again an impressive Canadian effort. *Chasing Rainbows* is a 13 one-hour series to air on CBC in 1988. The high definition video is about young people in Montreal in the 1920's.

SAVAGE plays Chicago Benny Rose who tries to cash in on the fortunes to be made in the roaring twenties.

His abundance of work recently hasn't given Savage any opportunities to audition for other parts perhaps stimulated by his recent performance in *The Last Season*.

However, his father is certain he has earned more opportunities. "Acting is his life — when it comes to the time he can't do it — it will be pretty hard," his father says.

Savage's interesting career hasn't made him a hot shot.

He's still chasing rainbows to find something meaningful at the end rather than a pot of gold.

He says he'd accept an invitation to come back to his old high school in Ingersoll and share some of the things he's learned over the years with students.

He may just inspire a student as a teacher once inspired him.

Savage does come home to visit his parents from time to time. They are involved in the community through the Salvation Army and other local groups.

Jack Savage is annually a key instigator of the Inter-Church Christmas Relief Fund which raises money for the needy during the holidays and throughout the year.

Jack Savage was associated with the Ingersoll Police Force for 12 years before he retired, and is a past Grand Master to the Odd Fellows.

ACTED IN ITOPA

The family first came to the community years ago to own and manage a motel near Thamesford.

Today when Jack and Ruth Savage walk down the street, they are greeted by name.

When Booth visits Ingersoll, he recalls happy days here.

He even acted here a few years ago in the Ingersoll Theatre of Performing Arts's (ITOPA's) production of *Them Donnellys*. Savage says it would be a real thrill for him to direct a play here.

If he could survive as an actor in a town like Ingersoll, Savage says he'd be packing. His memories of Woodstock and Ingersoll are only fond ones.

He admits his dreams of Ingersoll are likely colored by youth. "Everybody has dreams." He remembers going to the pool hall, cruising the main drag and looking for girls — "without much success."

"I look back to those times with fondness. No one has an ideal life but it seems a pleasant way to go."

"I wish I could bring my kids up there (in Ingersoll)," says the actor who has the type of life many Ingersoll kids dream about.

Town's Savage son snags glossy series

By PAULINE KERR
for The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — "Hot Shots" starring Ingersoll's own Booth Savage will be shown during prime time this season.

The Toronto based actor plays ex-cop turned investigative reporter, Jake West. The series is patterned on the hit Moonlighting but lacks the original's witty dialogue and excellent writing, said Savage. Hot Shots was not renewed.

The actor has no complaints about his performances on the series and said there were times when the scripts were good and everything went the way it was supposed to be. He had fun doing the show, although the 15-to-18-hour-

per-day shooting schedule was an ordeal.

Savage said in a telephone interview Monday: "Anyone who knows me and my dad — everyone knows Jack Savage — will get a kick out of the show."

A new series to air in March has a lot more potential. Chasing Rainbows is the most expensive project ever done by CBC. Shot in high-definition video, the "wave of the future" said Savage, the 14 hour series has already been sold overseas.

The actor plays "Chicago" Benny Rose, con man, hustler and radio's first request-playing, toaster-give-away disk jockey. The show is set in prohibition Montreal in the '20s and is based on fact.

SENTINEL REVIEW

September 22, 1987

Booth Savage

Gemini award proved critics wrong

By PHYLLIS COULTER
of The Sentinel-Review

A new videotape has been added to the collection of Jack and Ruth Savage in Ingersoll. Their son, actor Booth Savage, recently won a Gemini Award as best actor in a Canadian dramatic program or mini series.

Jack taped the award program and has added it to his collection of tapes of his son's performances.

Booth, 39, received the award for his portrayal of a feisty hockey player in *The Last Season*. The actor was genuinely surprised to win.

"I was dumbfounded, completely surprised," he said in a telephone interview with *The Sentinel-Review* from his home in Toronto.

To him, it was more than receiving recognition from his peers, it was a symbol of respect for the movie which was severely panned by many Toronto critics, but was very dear to Booth.



Savage
circa 1973

"I was happy to have that performance accepted. Of anything I've ever done on television or film — it meant most to me."

Booth said he was nervous at the awards ceremony because he and actress wife Janet Laine Green were presenting an award as well. He had attended this award show in the past when she was nominated for her role as a lawyer in *Seeing Things*.

Shared victory

Booth's victory was a shared one. He was pleased for Roy MacGregor who wrote the novel on which the movie is based. Booth said in an earlier interview that he tried for this role with more intensity than any other part because "Roy MacGregor's book stayed with me and haunted me."

The Last Season was not nominated for any other Gemini Awards, so everyone involved in the project had their hopes pinned on Booth. He was a surprise winner the critics say.

Producer Bob Sheerin and the movie had received a "real shit-kicking" from critics, making Booth's award a sweet victory for all.

Life has been full of surprises for Booth lately.

He wasn't expecting much from a television part in *Hot Shots* in which he plays a crime magazine reporter. But since the show has been on CTV, it has had high ratings and is very popular.

"I was overwhelmed when I was told it is doing extremely good. People come up to me from all over the place and say they like it."

Booth prides himself in doing work "that matters" and calls shows like *Hot Shots* "popcorn." Popcorn, or not, he is impressed with the popularity of that show. It scares him though.

He expected it to flop, and another project he is working on *Chasing Rainbows* to be very popular. But since the crime show was such a success he is a bit worried the public won't enjoy *Chasing Rainbows* as much as he hoped.

Set in Montreal in the 1920s *Rainbows* is a mini series which will air on CBC in March. "Because CBC put so much money into it, there will be a lot of publicity about it in the new year," he predicts.

"It's really a nice piece of writing. It has some meaning to it as opposed to popcorn."

In the television movie, Booth plays Chicago Benny Rose who tried to cash

in on the fortunes to be made in the *roaring twenties*. "People like my dad will really like it because they can remember things about that time," says Booth. However the movie is expected to have broad appeal among all age groups.

Booth is expecting to go to Los Angeles in the new year when the pilot season starts. He would prefer to work in Canada but there are few movie or television opportunities here right now.

The self professed red hot nationalist prefers to be in good Canadian productions but cannot find work here. Job opportunities are more abundant in the United States.

SENTINEL REVIEW

December 21, 1987

Chasing rainbows in Hollywood

By PAULINE KERR
of Ingersoll This Week

His movie star good looks say Hollywood but the thing which strikes you most about Booth Savage is his manner — soft-spoken and intelligent.

In the world of stage and screen, Booth Savage is a hometown hero.

Star of the highly acclaimed *Chasing Rainbows* and the action series *Hot Shots*, Savage has a achieved fame in a difficult career while at the same time he remains close to his Ingersoll roots and family.

Born in New Brunswick, the actor moved to Ingersoll where his parents, John (Jack) and Ruth Savage, still live. It was at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute that he first became interested in the stage, winning a tri-county award for high school acting.

After he completed school, his first job was with the Ingersoll Public Utility Commission. But he moved to Toronto where he ended up performing with *Theatre Passe Muraille*.

Savage remains proud of Ingersoll and visits as often as he can, but the visits are not as frequent as he would like.

An actor's success is often measured by how busy he is. Savage has, in his own words, "a good career."

He has been sufficiently in demand as an actor to have been able to pick and choose, opting for quality, for significant work, over financial gain.

He is currently involved in a number of projects. This past season he has been a semi-regular on the longstanding *Beachcombers* series and presently sports a beard for his role in Tarragon Theatre's *Collected Works of Billy the Kid*. He will also be making a guest appearance on *Street Legal*.

In the works right now is a feature film *Next Year Country* being done in Saskatchewan.

Savage enjoys working in television and film but finds as time goes on, he is becoming more interested in writing for the stage. He has performed a couple of his own plays.

During a recent visit to town, Savage took a few minutes from a hectic schedule to give a brief update on his career and on the Canadian film and television industry in general.

Hot Shots, a glossy series in the *Moonlighting* vein, was cancelled

along with the popular *Night Heat* and *Adderly*. While Savage is quite blunt in his assessment of *Hot Shots* as not one of the better things he has done, quality had little to do with the show's cancellation. The reason was financial.

All three of the television shows were produced by the Americans. GBS was the main buyer. "We are at the mercy of the American industry," Savage says.

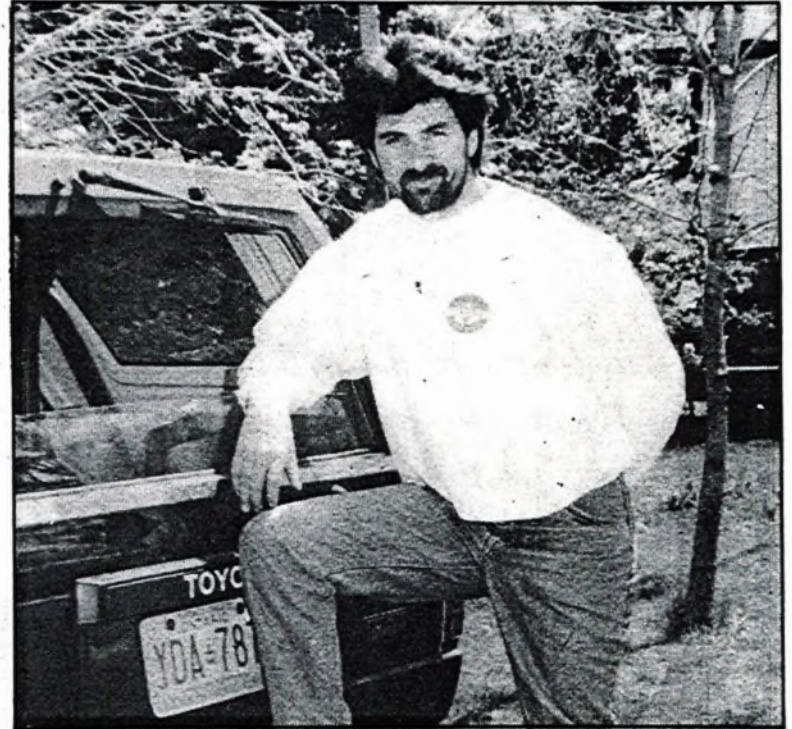
A number of shows are being made in Canada, especially on the west coast, but the control remains south of the border. The attraction in making movies up north is the lower Canadian dollar.

"The Canadian industry is going through a growing up period," he said. Until recently, film in Canada has been heavily subsidized while competing with the American free market.

Government policy has removed much of the funding, creating a climate in the Canadian film industry which is not very healthy right now.

But on a personal level, Savage's career is thriving.

Savage is married to well-known actress Janet-Laine Green. They have two children, daughter Akela and son Tyrone.



Booth Savage

SAVAGE, BOOTH

DAILY SENTINEL-REVIEW
OCT 16, 1990

N. Oxford's Woman Clerk - Treasurer Claimed Record

Miss E. A. Seldon Has Recorded Council's Proceedings For 17 Years

WOODSTOCK, Dec. 26.—The men of North Oxford Township may not be noted for their docility, but for the past 17 years, at least, Miss E. A. Seldon, of Ingersoll, has had the Reeves and Councilors of that township all but eating out of her hand.

It is not known whether Miss Seldon, vivacious and energetic, is the only lady clerk-treasurer and collector of any municipality. She is the only one of her sex that holds such a position in the County of Oxford.

The offices of North Oxford Township clerk-treasurer and collector are positions, too, that have been held by a member of the Seldon family for over half a century. Miss Seldon's father, Richard Seldon, who died at the age of 82, held those positions for some 35 years before she took over. Prior to that, A. Hilsdon held the position for some 40 years.

Miss Seldon doesn't recall exactly when she started actually doing the work. She just drifted into it through her father, who in later years left most of the actual work to her. "I guess I started helping my father from the time I was first able to add," she recalled with a smile.

With becoming modesty, Miss Seldon doesn't think there



Miss Seldon is shown seated in the living-room of her home, at 305 Oxford street, Ingersoll, perusing some old North Oxford Township record books dated in the 1860's.

Township Official Also Includes In Duties Collection of Taxes

is anything remarkable in the fact that she handles the sometimes heavy duties of her position in the township. She pointed out that the first time in 13 years there had been an election in the township. "We have always had good councils," she noted with pride.

It will be approximately 100 years ago next November that Miss Seldon's grandfather, William Seldon, journeyed from Devonshire, England, and bought and cleared crown land where the family farm is today on No. 2 highway, between Ingersoll and London.

The land was bought and cleared by her grandfather, who, Miss Seldon states, paid \$5 for the first 100 acres and \$8 for another 100 acres. Today on the farm, operated by her brother, A. R. Seldon, and his son, R. D. Seldon, may be found the fifth generation of the family in the little persons of Janet, age 2, and Ruth, 8 months.

Miss Seldon was also accorded the honor of being president of the Oxford County Clerks' and Treasurers' Association at one time.

Retiring Warden J. Winston Nichols, who, as reeve of North Oxford for two years, should know, says: "The boys mind their P's and Q's when Miss Seldon is taking down the minutes."

SELDON Miss E.A.

London Free Press Dec 27 '46

HOMES

GARDENING
REAL ESTATE
BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The hunt for restoration materials

Renovation projects are worth almost \$20 billion a year in Canada, so it's easy to imagine how popular reproduction or re-imed items for old homes have become.

To help in your quest for just the right moulding - or, perhaps an antique light, such as Kent Shoultz, right, of Shoultz' Antique Lighting and Brass in Ingersoll, might be able to dig up - we have compiled a list of places to look for those splendid pieces that made yesterday's homes so appealing.

Pages J2-4.

ON PAGE J5

Harris Mitchell says the best way to hide imitation bricks is cover them with drywall.

Susan Bradnam
The London Free Press



Local poet wins top prize



Pat Silcox
—first recognition—

By Barry Ward

Sentinel-Review staff writer INGERSOLL — The poem started out as a spur-of-the-moment effort to prove a point and wasn't finished until 30 years later. This week, it took first place in the adult section of the Woodstock Public Library's poetry contest over 108 other entries.

For A.P. "Pat" Silcox, of 263 Tunis St. in Ingersoll, it was the first public recognition of a hobby he has had for most of his 76 years.

The poem, *The Wheel*, equates life with the spinning of a wheel. The first five stanzas, covering life to middle age, were written by Silcox while he was an instructor at an Ottawa teacher's college in the 1950s.

He wrote them in free verse following an argument with a fellow instructor about whether free verse was poetry. While admitting he liked free verse, Silcox maintained then, as he does now, that free verse should not be called poetry.

He wrote the free verse work the night after the argument and presented it to his colleague the next day, stating it was not poetry but something different.

"I don't know why I chose that idea," he said of the wheel as life theme. "I think I did a fair job of conveying the thoughts I wanted to convey."

A month ago, after hearing of the poetry contest, he retrieved the "poem" and added two more stanzas, bringing it around to its logical conclusion, the end of life.

Ironically, it won, indicating Silcox hadn't won his battle to

exclude free verse from the realm of poetry.

Judge Beryl Baigent of Thamesford said the poem stood apart from the others entries because it followed established criteria for poetry techniques with respect to such things as metaphor, simile, rhythm and structure.

Silcox said he does this subconsciously and gave the credit to an instructor he had while a student at teachers' college who stressed such techniques in studying poetry. Silcox said this was one reason he refuses to consider free verse, which breaks several of the rules, as poetry.

Appropriately enough, he's written a poem about the matter. The first stanza ends:

To me, what's called "free verse" in poetry,
Though none the less in potency
And often harder to compose,
To me deserves another name;
Not prose or poetry but — what?

Silcox said throughout his life

he has made a hobby of imitating certain styles of poems "just for the fun of it."

The only other poems he has written were for his wife.

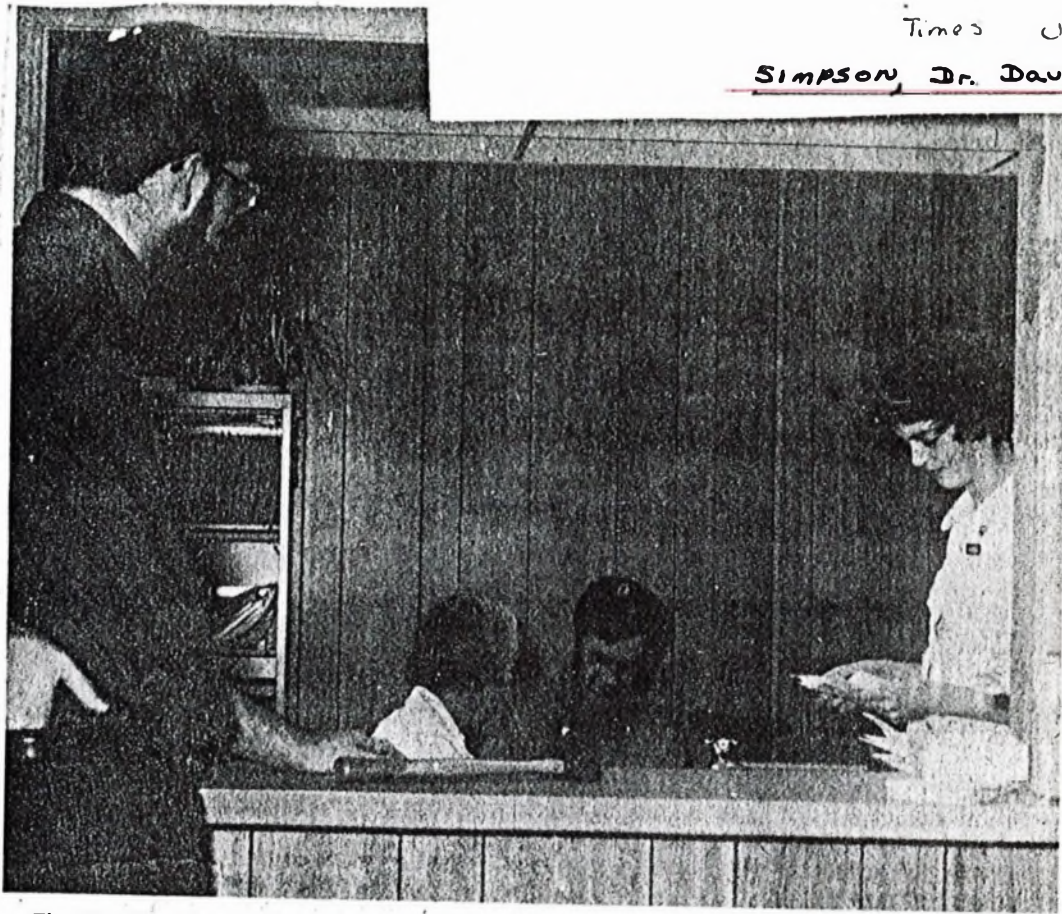
"My wife was the inspiration of a lot of my poetry," he said. She died 10 years ago. "I haven't written much since."

Originally from the St. Thomas area, Silcox spent 17 years as a teacher and principal in London before taking on a job as a school inspector in Northern Ontario. After his decade in Ottawa, he came to the Ingersoll area in 1956 to be closer to his brothers. He became a school inspector once again.

He is now compiling his poems, not for publication but for his family. One is called "Compensations."

In life my work is only loss;
The gold I touch reverts to dross;
Ambitions crumble, hopes grow cold,
Efforts foiled with deadly mold;
And so in dreams I compensate
For what, in life, seems doomed to fate.

SILCOX Pat



The King St. office used by Doctors Dave Simpson and Jim Kirk has taken on a completely different appearance than it had when the two first began considering the building for their practice. In addition to being the town's newest family practitioner, Dr. Simpson is a bit of a carpenter and undertook most of the renovations of the building's interior, himself. This reception room is one example.

Doctoring carpenters make own renovations

What once was a rather old and vacated paint store is now a modern, comfortable office for Doctors Jim Kirk and Dave Simpson, family practitioners at 28 King St. E. in Ingersoll.

Dr. Simpson is not only skilled in the medical field, but pretty good with a hammer, as well. Since coming to Ingersoll last summer to begin a new practice with Dr. Kirk, he has spent his off-hours tearing down old partitions, moving walls, putting up dry wall, tiled ceilings and panelling to turn an old building into a pleasant, aesthetically pleasing atmosphere for both patients and staff.

Receiving a good deal of assistance from Dr. Kirk, Jim Gilles, a guidance counsellor at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute, and the doctors' wives, Maureen Kirk and Mary-Anne Simpson, the entire building was renovated and then redecorated on the inside.

Soft, dark carpets adorn the floors, blending in with the light browns of the panelled walls. Each doctor has a full-sized wall mural in his office. One is an ocean scene, and the other a view of autumn, with falling leaves and an inviting path through the woods.

"I like doing things with my hands", was Dr. Simpson's explanation for all the work that went into the completed project. At the beginning, when the walls were crooked, the ceilings cracked, and the room layouts inconvenient, he was told by a contractor that he would have a great deal of difficulty overcoming all of the obstacles presented by such an old building.

Dr. Simpson is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario medical school. Prior to beginning his practice in Ingersoll, he spent two years in a family practice program.

Normally, a graduate of medical school spends only one year in internship. Dr. Simpson explained, that the two year program is similar to an internship, but in addition to hospital training, the participants spend a year at a family medical clinic.

During that time, they are trained through a program centered around treating individuals, with emphasis placed on their social and psychological needs as well as physical ones.

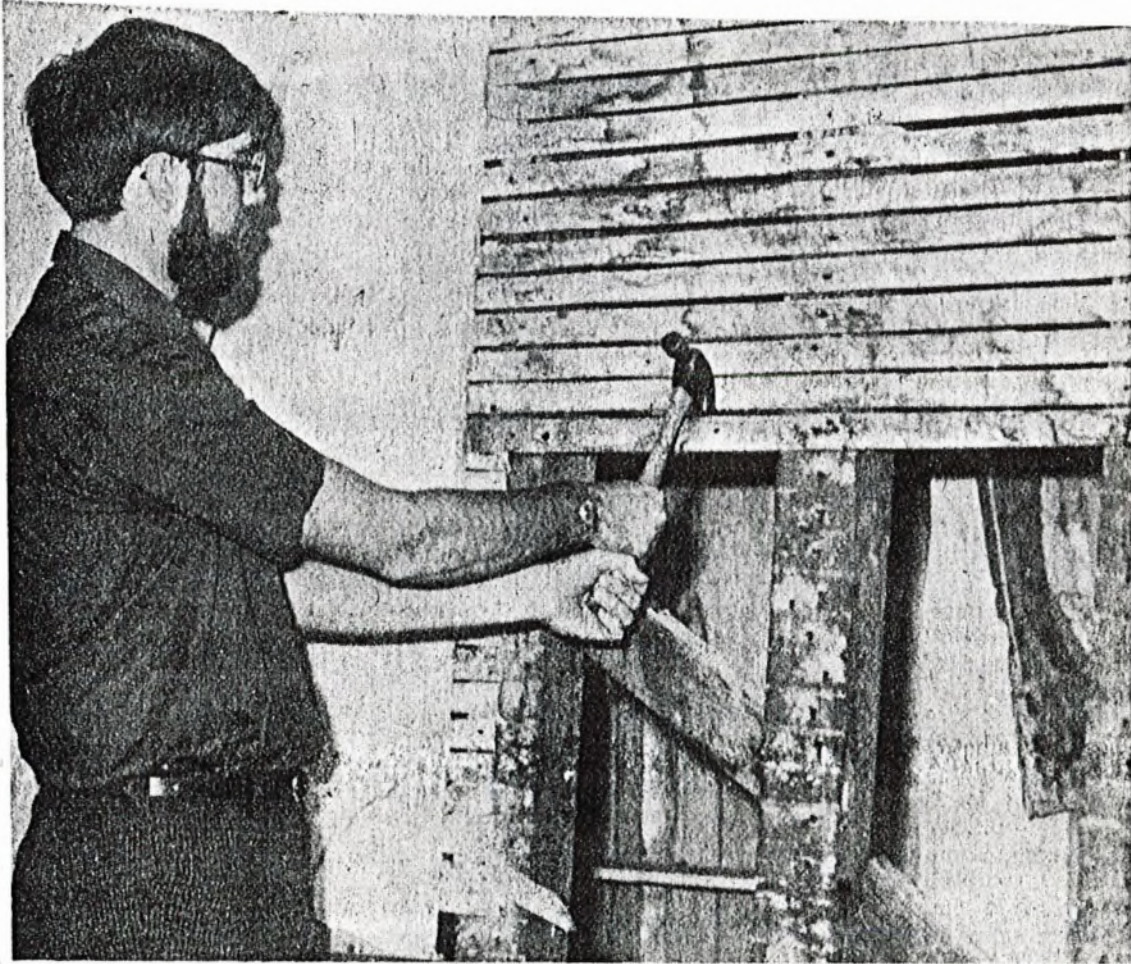
"We are trained to look after mental needs as well as physical needs. Social workers are involved in the program to observe and guide us. We begin to look at patients from a counselling point of view, as well as from a medical one," he explained.

Dr. Simpson felt that his office with Dr. Kirk will be somewhat unique for Ingersoll. Although each doctor has his own patients, the two are planning to do a great deal of work together. They will take turns being on call each night and will be able to fill in for each other, when the situation arises.

"We talk a lot at the end of the day and pass ideas back and forth. It helps to have a second opinion or a second mind to help with difficult problems," he said. "I've only known Jim for about 15 months, but many people at the hospital think that we have known each other all of our lives."

Another feature in their office is a full-time nurse who is also involved in patient care.

Asked to comment on his over-all approach to a new medical practice, Dr. Simpson remarked, "I plan to do the best that I can for my patients with respect to their physical and mental well-being as well as being able to direct them to other social and medical assistance where it seems required. I don't consider myself to be the ultimate authority in every field."



Most of the building which once housed a paint store looked like this before Dr. Dave Simpson began to renovate the interior into an aesthetically pleasing office for himself and Dr. Jim Kirk.

Sports fan creates board game



Ingersoll businessman and avid sports fan Dave Skinner has invented a new board game called Batter Up, which was completely designed and manufactured by Ingersoll Paper Box Company. The game plays remarkably like the real thing — and you won't be rained out.

By KIMBERLEY HUTCHINSON

"This baseball game won't be rained out, and you don't need a domed stadium to play it.

Dave Skinner, vice-president of Ingersoll Paper Box, and an avid sports fan, has designed a new board game called "Batter Up" which will be available in Ingersoll in time for a Christmas ball game.

"I have children, and we often sit down to play board games," said Mr. Skinner, explaining how the idea to create the game originated.

"It seemed that we were always looking up the rules on a separate piece of paper," he continued, explaining that often the rules were also complex or not clear for young players.

"I don't know why I thought of baseball," said Skinner, whose office walls at Paper Box are covered with sports photographs and memorabilia, including a miniature baseball bat, and a vibrant Detroit Tigers pennant.

In one night, Dave Skinner and his 12-year-old daughter Sarah thought up the basic concept and sketched out some rough rules of the game.

Mr. Skinner brought his original concept in to the shop, and tossed the ideas around with a handful of

fellows from the shop, who played the game over and over, testing out changes to the rules.

"A lot of them had kids of their own, and came up with some ideas on how to make it go a little faster," said Mr. Skinner.

The main features of the game designed by the creative minds at Ingersoll Paper Box are a compact playing board and a set of simple rules printed right on the face of the board.

The idea was to create a game that moved fast enough to keep the attention of young players, and to keep the play and scores in keeping with the real game.

"We also wanted to keep it small and compact so you could play it in the car," said Skinner, whose children frequently play simple board games while travelling in the car.

Players roll the dice and interpret the rolls into baseball play, with four men apiece for each of the two players. A roll of three gives the batter a triple, a roll of eight is a strike out, and a roll of nine is a fly out, for example.

"The game is relatively simple to follow," said Mr. Skinner, and particularly for those familiar with the game of baseball, the Batter Up action is just like the real stuff.

Skinner would like to see the Paper Box creation sell for under \$10.

"When we were designing the game it is very true to the strategy of baseball," said Skinner. "If you get the first man on base, the game changes dramatically, and things really start to roll."

From concept to marketing, the whole game was created by and at the Ingersoll Paper Box company, an Ingersoll firm whose big business is the manufacture of folding paper boxes for a variety of uses.

A company that does the film work for Paper Box's other projects came up with the caricature on the box cover, and the company team came up with the heading, and box and board design.

"It was a natural for us because we could manufacture it ourselves," said Skinner, who pointed out that his major investment in the project was a great deal of time. Only the dice and the markers are purchased outside the company.

"I think this way, too, we can keep the price very attractive," he said. "So often dealers have to go through a middleman. We don't have to do that."

game," said Skinner. "we were aware that if we wanted to market it in major department stores, we would have to make it bilingual."

The Batter Up board is reversible, with the rules printed in English on one side and French on the other.

Although Batter Up has hit the market at an awkward time, since major stores do their Christmas purchasing eight to ten months in advance, the reception of the game has been really good, said Mr. Skinner.

The game is already available at Ingersoll Department Store, and has raised considerable interest at Toys-It-Us. Skinner does most of the marketing himself.

"When that part isn't your business," he said, "it's all new."

"You learn as you go," he pointed out. "We're in the process of having the name 'Batter Up' trademarked right now."

In choosing the name, Skinner said he was looking for a name which would identify the game easily on the shelves.

"Batter Up" says immediately what the game is about," he said.

"It has been kind of a change of pace for the guys here," said Skinner. "So often, we only see the manufacturing part of the business, not the concept that comes before or the marketing that comes after."

From the time Dave and Sarah Skinner had the first idea until the first boxed game came off the line was a period of about seven months, said Skinner, who estimates that a year is about the standard.

And this time, the Ingersoll Paper Box company did it all.

Dave Skinner isn't bothered by the idea that his invention will spark some local interest in creating new board games.

"That would be great!" he exclaimed. "That's what it's all about. But individuals must be pretty committed to an idea to want to see it through, and would want to make a good-sized first run (for cost-efficiency)."

"With us as manufacturers, we can pick and choose the quantities we want to run," he pointed out. "We had that luxury."

"But I'm sure that everyone has ideas, and dreams of trying something," he said. "For some, this is it."

INGERSOLL TIMES

October 1, 1986

'Old Contemptable' recalls World War One

SMITH,
Frederick

BY BRIAN SMITH

"We were crossing the Aisne River in Northern France. It was a rickety pontoon bridge built after the real bridge was blown up a week before. I had all I could do to get my horses across the raging current while the sergeant clung to the back of my machine-gun limber. When I finally reached the Western front, just across the river, an officer asked me where Sergeant Larkham was. I looked back; he wasn't there. He must have slipped into the river and drowned, because I haven't seen him from that day to this."

My grandfather Frederick Smith, a longtime

resident of Ingersoll, was recounting one of his experiences during the First World War. For his service in the war, Private Frederick Smith, of the British army's sixth division, received the Mons Star and is one of a vanishing group of British soldiers known as the "Old Contemptables."

"Kaiser Billy gave us that name," chuckled Grandpa as he made a wry reference to William II, Emperor of Germany, who is reported to have blamed his failure to conquer the European continent on a contemptible bunch of British soldiers. Although over 50,000 British soldiers marched into battle to distinguish themselves in

the early months of the war as "old contemptables", Grandpa says there are very few left today.

"I read an article by Del Bell of the (London) Free Press a while ago that said the last Old Contemptable was in Westminster Hospital in London, but that's not true," said Grandpa as the glaring omission was an obvious hurt to his pride. "There's probably a few more living in the Toronto area and Britain but the Old Contemptables are a rather loose-knit affair since it's hard to keep track of those of us that are still around."

Born in Beckenham, England in 1894, one of Grandpa's earliest recollections is his father's return from the Boer War in 1901. He went to school in West Croydon but quit at age 11 to work full time in a steam laundry. After working at odd jobs in a pub and transporting horses, he joined the British Army in 1911. He was soon stationed in Dublin to deal with the occasional uprisings of the Irish Republican Army and remained there until war broke out on August 4, 1914. After a month of intensive training and mobilization in Cambridge, England, Fred Smith was off to fight in Northern France.

He must have been a strange contradiction of ancient and modern warfare. Just as the ancient Celts and Romans had ridden into battle thousands of years ago, he transported supplies to the front lines with a horse-drawn cart. But in his cart was the most formidable instrument of modern warfare before the atomic bomb; the machine gun.

It was a weapon that quickly terminated any infantry advancement, and caused the vicious war of



At the time this photo of Frederick Smith was taken, he had been in the British Army for two years and the First World War was another year away.

INGERSOLL
TIMES
July 19, 1978

SMITH
Frederick

attrition and acrimonious deadlock across No Man's Land. It is a fact that more lives were lost along the trenches of the Western front during the First W.W. than the Second W.W.

During this deadlock of 1915-1916, Grandpa remembers one of the first instances of a poisonous gas attack by the Germans along the Ypres front. "We saw this greenish-yellow smoke coming at us about a mile away. None of us had gas masks, so we pulled our flannel shirts up over our noses and waited, but we were awful-damned-glad when the wind chan-

Early in 1916, while Grandpa was relaxing with the soldiers in a French bristo during a rest from the front lines, a Sergeant marched in and demanded seven volunteers to go East. "I got thinking that I'd had enough of this year-long mud and rainy weather, so stupid old me put up my hand and the next thing I knew I was off to the Middle East to fight the Turks."

Everyone has seen blue-eyed Peter O'Toole riding across the desert in his flowing robes in the movie "Lawrence of Arabia", but Grandpa doesn't remem-

and a colonel I think, and those Arabs were really loyal to him."

Gaza. Strip. Jerusalem. Jordan River. Damascus. Place names straight from the Bible... also headlines in today's papers as battlefields in the conflicts of today. Fighting in the parched desert of the Middle East was just as vicious as the Western Front.

Five times the British tried to overtake the bridge over the Jordan River near Jerusalem. Five times they were driven back by the Turks. It was here that Grandpa received the tragic news that his parents were fatal victims of the influenza epidemic that began to sweep the Western world in 1918. He hadn't seen them in four years.

After nearly seven years of continuous service in the British Army, Grandpa was granted a leave of absence the night before the British liberated Damascus, and came back to London, England in September, 1918. Just two weeks after his return, he received word that the army intended to send him to Russia to fight the Bolsheviks. This was very disheartening to Grandpa and 5,000 other British veterans who had seen enough of war, so they organized themselves into a massive protest group and marched from Hyde Park to 10 Downing Street.

"When we got there, this Sir General Robertson came out and told us we'd all be demobilized in two weeks. We all hooted and howled at him, but sure enough I was discharged at the Crystal Palace two weeks later."

Grandpa married and came to Canada in 1920 on the Soldier Settlement Scheme. He arrived in



One of the last of the "Old Contemptables", Frederick Smith is still going strong at age 84. This is a recent picture of him taken outside his home in London.

ged and blew that stuff back over the German lines. They didn't use gas much after that," he said

motioning his arms in a mock gesture of fighting off the gas.

ber him dressed quite that way.

"Once we had to present arms to him on the Sinai desert and although he had an Arab headress, he wore a British Army uniform. He was an Englishman,

INGERSOLL Times
July 19, 1978

Ingersoll in September of that year. He began working for the Borden Company and remained there for over 25 years before quitting to take up the electrical trade. His wife, Lil, a former officer in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in Britain received the charter to establish the Duchess of Kent Legion here in Ingersoll. He operated a variety store on Thames Street from 1953 to 1956, and later moved to Woodstock, and finally to his present home in London in 1969.

"When I came to Canada it was only a colony. Now a lot of people here thumb their nose up at the Queen and say they have no use for the British, but we'd be a lot better off if we had stayed with the British Empire. Recently I was asked to apply for citizen-

ship papers. Now, isn't that crazy after living here over 50 years?" asked Grandpa as he showed me his British and Canadian passports.

Born when the British Empire was at its zenith, Frederick Smith has witnessed incredible changes like so many of our senior citizens, but the dissolution

of the Empire is probably the hardest for him to comprehend. It has been said that old soldiers never die but just fade away, but the pride and passions that stirred an entire generation to war will never be forgotten by this "Old Contemptable" who survives sixty years on.



One of the proudest moments in Grandpa Smith's life was the spring of 1939 when King George VI and the Queen Mother stopped in Ingersoll during their royal tour. The short fellow talking to the Royal couple is Fred Smith while the second man behind the Queen Mother's umbrella is former prime minister William Lyon MacKenzie King.



INSIDE Beachville Baptist Church, historian Charlie Reeves (left) and Rev. James Sanderson stand by pews saved from the 1943 fire.

People profile

NAME: Rev. James Edward Sanderson

POSITION: Pastor of Beachville Baptist, associate pastor of Ingersoll First Baptist

BORN: Scarborough, November 14, 1957

WHY YOU CHOSE THIS PROFESSION: The ministry is my heart's passion.

EDUCATION: Four years of art at Sheridan College with a Master of Divinity from the Ontario Theological Seminary.

WHAT YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT YOUR JOB: Love for God and the people.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS YOU ARE PROUDEST OF: Getting married a few weeks ago.

FIRST JOB: Apprentice boat builder

SECRET VICE: Likes to sleep in.

WHAT THREE WORDS DESCRIBE YOU BEST: Calm, personable and thoughtful.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET AROUND TO DOING ONE OF THESE DAYS: Overseas mis-

sions.

WHOM IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE DINNER WITH: (Aside from my wife Jennifer), Anglican minister and author John Stott.

YOUR DREAM VACATION: The Orient or the Middle East.

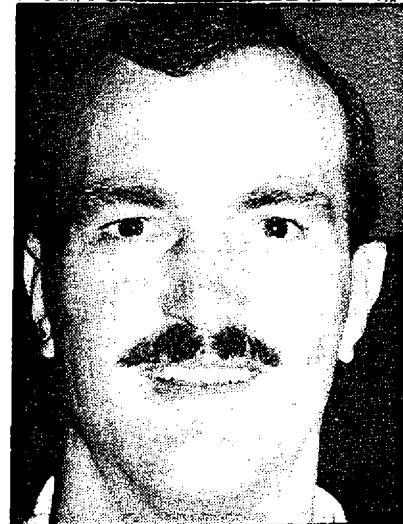
YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE OR SHOW: Wizard of Oz

YOUR FAVORITE PERFORMER(S): Actor Jack Nicholson and singer John Michael Talbot

THREE THINGS THAT CAN ALWAYS BE FOUND IN YOUR REFRIGERATOR: Cheese, milk and orange juice.

WOODSTOCK'S BEST ASSET: Terrific friendly people.

PEOPLE MAY BE SURPRISED TO KNOW THAT: I was trained as an artist (illustrator/photographer)



Rev. James Sanderson

Sanderson, James Edward Rev.

SMITH Harold S.

THOMAS J. MORRISON
AWARD

Mayor's award to Harold Smith

BY PAM RIGHTON

Ingersoll's Harold Smith has received yet another citation for his outstanding contributions to the community.

Monday night during regular council session, "Smitty" was presented with the Mayor Thomas J. Morrison award for his outstanding contributions to recreation in Ingersoll. Mayor Doug Harris, presenting the award, said the award "fit in well" with Mr. Smith's achievements.

Holder of the Silver Acorn Award for his distinguished service to the Boy Scouts of Canada, Mr. Smith was instrumental in obtaining the 10 acre site for the Ingersoll Scout Camp and was an active chairman for the fund-raising and physical development of the camp. He is also actively involved in St. James Anglican Church, the Horticultural Society and was

Grand Marshall of the 1978 Cheese and Wine Festival in Ingersoll.

The Mayor Thomas J. Morrison award, established in 1967 in memorial of Mayor Morrison, recognizes outstanding contributions of Ingersoll citizens to recreation. Florence McPhee and Lorne Moon were joint recipients in 1967. Mr. Smith, receiving the award for 1978, was the 12th recipient.

A long-time resident of Ingersoll, Mr. Smith has become an integral part of the community, giving pleasure to young and old alike with his work, Mayor Harris said, Mr. Smith, the leader of the First Ingersoll Wolf Cub Pack, has been involved with scouting in Ingersoll for the past 33 years. After emigrating from his native Ireland in 1926, he arrived in Ingersoll in 1930, and worked as general manager of the former Ingersoll Loblaws when he retired.

INGERSOLL TIMES
April 18, 1979



Sound off with Gordon Sanderson

Before we tell you what happened to Stanley J. Smith of Ingersoll, we should mention that he is 81 years old and that we believe his story, even though he is an old-time member of the Liar's Club.

Mr. Smith wrote to Sound Off on Jan. 7, complaining he had not received his November disability pension cheque from the Workmen's Compensation Board.

This did not strike us as too unusual, since a postal strike was in progress throughout November. However, the strike ended Dec. 3 and Mr. Smith should surely have received his cheque shortly thereafter.

What made his letter stand out was the style of personal notepaper he uses. Printed at the top centre of the page is Mr. Smith's name and occupation: Free Lance Journalist.

And, down the left side of the page, like a social register, are printed the names of organizations with which Mr. Smith is associated, including veterans' groups in such widely separated cities as Vancouver, Chicago and Muenchen, Germany.

And the second-last name on the list is the aforementioned Liar's Club of Burlington, Wis.

In his letter, Mr. Smith was tilting his lance at WCB employees for not following his instructions. He said he was well aware of the postal strike and called the WCB's London office Nov. 6.

"I gave them my claim number and asked the girl who answered the phone to send my cheque to the CNR agent in Ingersoll because the CNR maintained their own postal service."

Mr. Smith then stated that the girl who took his phone call "deserves a putty medal" because he still had not received his \$194 cheque.

His letter brought swift action. E. W. (Bud) Swartz, area claims supervisor at the WCB's London office, phoned us within a few days. Investigation showed that Mr. Smith's pension cheque had been mailed after the postal strike ended and had been cashed. However, the endorsement signature did not look like Mr. Smith's signature.

"I think we have a forgery here," said Mr. Swartz. "I am going to visit Mr. Smith personally in Ingersoll, and if he will sign an affidavit that this is not his

signature, I can issue a replacement cheque on the spot."

The claims official said the WCB had no way of following Mr. Smith's instructions by using CNR internal mailing facilities. During the postal strike, cheques for claimants in this area were available for pickup at the London office. Those that were not picked up were held and mailed as soon as postal services resumed.

The next time we talked with Mr. Smith by phone it was to hear from him the embarrassing news that Mr. Swartz had arrived and showed him the cashed cheque — and the endorsement signature was not a forgery.

"I never knew I had cashed that cheque until I saw my own signature, then I remembered what I did with it," he confessed. "I cashed it on a Monday morning after I went and got a haircut, then I went down to the liquor store and stocked up on my Christmas liquor. I've still got some of it left."

It was a "legitimate mistake," he said, and we agreed with him. But while talking, we asked Mr. Smith about his membership in the Liar's Club.

Seems that back in 1935, he submitted an entry to the Wisconsin organization which was chosen as one of the best lies of that year.

"The one I sent in was about a North Oxford farmer I knew. He was so strong he could bend over and pick up half an acre of ground and stand it on edge. On one side he'd plant wheat and on the other he'd sow oats, thereby reaping a double crop."

Mr. Smith, a First World War veteran who "didn't dodge fast enough" when the shells were bursting over Vimy, also didn't get out of the way quickly enough while working as a train conductor in the Sarnia yards of the old Grand Trunk Railway on July 19, 1925.

"I had my right leg cut off when I was run over by an engine coming down the tracks," he said. He has collected compensation ever since.

"It started out at \$48 (a month) and now it's up to \$191 — that's how good the government has been to me," he said.

And he takes back any unkind words he wrote about his "undelivered" cheque.

When Stanley Smith speaks it's a tall tale or spicy history

By ADRIAN EWINS

Sentinel-Review Staff Writer

Stanley Smith is a good liar and proud of it.

In fact, he is so good a liar that in 1939 he was runner-up in the World Championship of the Liar's Club.

Mr. Smith, 83, of Ingersoll, is not only a good liar and a member in good standing in the Liar's Club of the United States, but he is, by his own admission, an authority on among other things Abraham Lincoln, Wyatt Earp, Billy the Kid, Wild Bill Hickock, John Brown, Aimee Semple Macpherson, Cattle Kate, Kitty Leroy, the original first Canadian Division that left Canada in 1914 and the complete histories of Chatham, Sarnia and Ingersoll.

And he can speak for two hours on each without a note, he said in an interview recently.

But back to the Liar's Club. What does it take to be the second-best liar in the world?

This was Mr. Smith's entry:

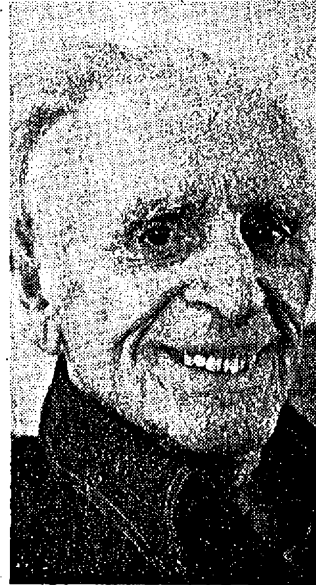
"I said I knew a farmer in West Oxford Township who was so strong he could bend over and pick up an acre of ground and stand it on end.

"Then he would sow wheat on one side and oats on the other so he could reap a double harvest."

GOOD PUBLICITY

He said he always mentions Oxford County in his stories to give it some "good publicity."

The Liar's Club is an organization based in Burlington, Wisconsin, which can be joined by sending in 10 cents, he said. He joined in 1933 and he's now in the process of working on a good tall tale for



Stanley Smith
... story teller

this year's contest.

But Mr. Smith is definitely telling the truth when he claims to be an authority on all the people and places mentioned earlier.

His list of credentials is as impressive as the stories he tells.

He has been director of research for the Oxford Historical Society, a member of the National Executive of the John Brown Memorial Association, a member of The Westerners Club of Chicago and he is one of the surviving members of the Originals, the first Canadian Division that left

in 1914.

The reason he is an authority on Aimee Semple Macpherson, the famous evangelist in the United States during the 1920s, is quite simple. He knew her.

Aimee came from Salford, and Mr. Smith even paid her a visit when she was at the height of her fame in California.

"She was the P.T. Barnum of religion - she really put on a show for the money, although she started out seriously," he said.

Another reason for her success was that "she was the most attractive girl you ever saw" - except for her biggest fault "swollen ankles."

THERE'S MORE

Aimee was not the only notorious female to come from Oxford County.

"In fact, Oxford County "holds the record for famous and infamous women", according to Mr. Smith.

Such lovely and admirable examples of "womanhood as Cattle Kate, Kitty Leroy and Catherine Chadwick - the "Cleveland Bankers' Headache" - all hail from this area.

Cattle Kate's claim to fame, Mr. Smith said, is that she was the first woman hanged in Wyoming for cattle rustling. She came from somewhere in the county, although Mr. Smith said he couldn't recall exactly where - probably East Oxford.

A reward had been put out by the Cattlemen's Association, and Cattle Kate was the prize.

"She was hanged back to back from the same tree as James Averill", her cohort in crime.

As if that wasn't enough, Cattle Kate was probably the most famous "madam" in the old west at the time.

Kitty Leroy?

She was Oxford Centre's contribution to the culture of the old west. She was the first stripper in Deadwood, S.D.

She met her demise by being shot to death in the Lone State's Saloon in Deadwood, Mr. Smith said, sometime during the 1860s.

The other famous (or infamous) Oxford County woman on whom Mr. Smith is an authority is Catherine Chadwick.

BANKING HEADACHE

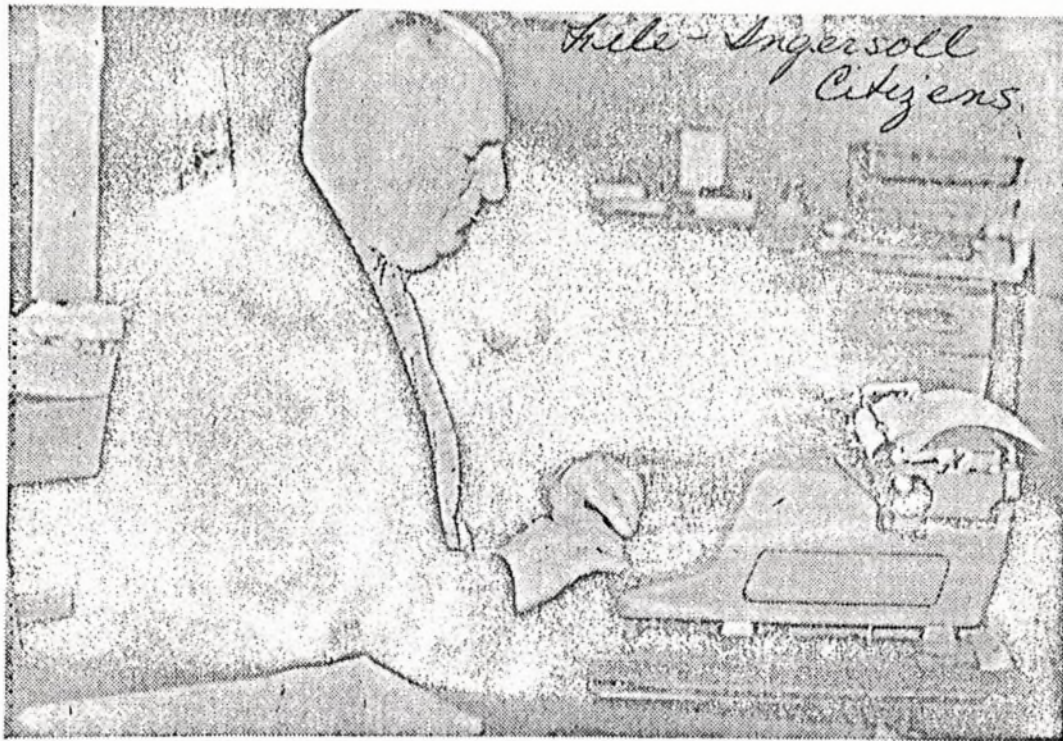
Affectionately dubbed "the Cleveland headache" or the "Bankers' headache", all she did was swindle banks throughout Ohio of between \$2-\$3 million.

Her method, according to Mr. Smith, was to claim to be the daughter of well-known industrialist and millionaire Andrew Carnegie.

She came from the Eastwood area and eventually died in jail in Woodstock in 1906, doing time for all her frauds.

Stanley Smith lives in a world of books, newspapers, and history - both from what he reads and personal experience.

He has enough stories - true ones in addition to his tall tales - to fill a book. Although probably not enough to fill the 45 pound dictionary that sits in his living room.



File - Ingersoll Citizens

Sentine!

SMITH,

Stanley J.

STANLEY J. SMITH, former railroadman and councillor is now busy writing the activities of old John Brown's sojourn in present day Southwestern Ontario which culminated in the

famous Harper's Ferry Raid in West Virginia and his subsequent hanging. The outcome of this foray was the curtain raiser to America's greatest drama, the Civil War, and Mr.

Smith's book will cover the period embracing the war and the participation of thousands of young Canadians in what he terms "the greatest tragedy of modern history." (Staff photo).

AUTHORITY ON OXFORD HISTORY

Colorful "Character" Disdains "Cut, Dried"

By **YVONNE MOTT**

"Well, guess it's safe to go home now — my wife should have the lawn all cut" . . . with these words Stanley J. heaved himself out of the chair, grabbed his bag of groceries off the desk and with a flip of his hand left the Sentinel-Review office.

"Oh yes, "Stanley J." is all that is needed to introduce the illustrious Mr. Smith to our readers. The remark quoted above is a typical Smith-ism.

When reporters learned that veteran councillor Stanley J. Smith was not going to stand for re-election in 1960 they were more than a little disappointed. For Councillor Smith could always be counted on for one good quote during a meeting and quite often it was his violent objection to a bit of legislation that rescued the meeting from the fate of a dull report.

Probably called a "character", "clown", "fool", "riot" and "Screwball" more often than anyone else in local public life, Stan Smith certainly does not seem to resent the adjectives tossed his way. In fact he has been accused on a number of occasions of deliberately provoking battles and making "smart" remarks to gain publicity. This the former councillor did vehemently deny.

He told this reporter on more than one occasion that he could not stand to see the open council meetings so "cut and dried"; he hated to see "all the discussion take place in a closed committee meeting and then a rubber stamp put on it in the public meeting" and could never understand "why the taxpayer doesn't insist on knowing more about what council does and how it reaches its decisions". On many occasions his sudden unexpected attack on a councillor's move would generate a heated discussion that brought out facts which would otherwise never have been published. "That's why I did those things" he told the S-R the night he retired from public life, "and not, in ~~not~~ my name in the pap-

LIKES THE TRUTH

His passion for truth and making things public goes hand in hand with his intense interest in all things historical and his particular interest in Oxford County history.

His home is a collector's paradise of rare old books, beautiful antique glassware, clocks, photographs, old newspapers and all things relating to the study of history. The newspapers, books and clocks are touched by no one except Stanley J., but the lovely display of glassware is arranged by and cared for by his wife, May.

Mrs. Smith not only shares her husband's interests and encourages him in his research, but fortunately possesses a good sense of humor. One can understand the necessity for this after hearing of her husband's trip to Vancouver and his return gift to her — a tin of salmon from a local grocery store. We recall being shown Stanley's den after his return from hospital a few years ago. "Look at it" he moaned. "She went and cleaned it all up, filed everything away; I can't find a thing." After more of this bitter complaining about his wife's annoying habit of being tidy he turned to us and whispered "Isn't she wonderful?"

Admittedly, this man who in the past two decades has probably been discussed as much as anyone in Ingersoll, will "do any-

thing. By simply refusing to think of losing a leg as becoming disabled, Stan has proven that you're only crippled when you think you are. Most of his jokes are on himself and his leg is often the reason for the joke. (Eg., the time the dog bit him — on his wooden leg.)

Incidentally this same leg does not prevent him from marching with the veterans of World War I in the Remembrance Day parades.

On his 40th birthday Stan decided he had had quite an interesting life and began to record some of the events. "If Life Begins At Forty I've Been Only Fooling" would make anyone shake his head in disbelief, but Stan swears everything in it is true.

With his permission we print a few excerpts:

"1902 — Built a straw and newspaper fire against a barn door to keep warm; no insurance on barn and crops, but all the livestock was saved.

"1903 — Moved into the city of Chatham and was placed upon the top of the furniture load to save a railway fare. Curiosity prompted me to pull a slip knot in the rope to see what would happen. A walnut-finished table turned into a finished walnut table and all the dishes were broken. Wrist sprained."

SERIES OF JOBS

After a series of jobs including a newspaper route, delivery boy, newsboy, theatre usher, elevator operator, working at unloading freight boats, Stanley J's father apprenticed him to a Sarnia newspaper. In 1913 he finished his apprenticeship, resigned and got a job on the railway.

In 1914 he was promoted to switchman and freight brakeman and promptly enlisted in an infantry battalion with the Overseas Military Forces of Canada. He saw a great deal of action, the inside of a few jails and a couple of hospitals. Of interest is his note pertaining to 1917: "Over the top of Vimy Ridge and till 70 In hospital with

shrapnel; 26 days later hospital was bombed and I was rewounded in the head. Finally got something into my head at last so wrote to Dad with the good news."

In 1919, Stanley J. notes, "Returned to Canada; felt tired so went to California to rest up and went broke; worked as dishwasher for a Greek; dock walloper for an Italian and went paper-hanging. Went to Mexico to see a bullfight and was so mortified that I let the remaining creatures out of the corrals and was deported as an undesirable for cheering for the bull."

Wrecks and derailments, prospecting, barnstorming, starting his own aviation company, air crashes, experimenting with balloons and he kind of adventures most boys and young men dream about occupied Stan's life for the next few years.

It was in 1926 that he first entered municipal politics in Sarnia. In 1933, following an airplane crash, he came to Ingersoll, "broke" and 26 months later, he recalls, he was a member of council.

Stanley J is still missed around the council chambers and often one of his remarks is recalled during an argument. According to parliamentary procedure Stanley J. Smith was probably out of order more times during one council meeting than most councillors are during a year, but as one of his colleagues stated once, "At least you always know how he feels".

Today, retired from politics and from the railroads (after about 50 years "on and off") Stan is by no means inactive. He finds more time than ever to devote to his historical research and is presently continuing his work on the story of John Brown.

Whether you agree with Stanley J. Smith's politics or not, you've got to admit he isn't ashamed to state his opinions and if you do happen to think he's a "character", you've got to admit he is a colorful one — and wouldn't the world be dull without them!

Rock group builds on support of town

By DON MURRAY

This is about a group of parents and members of the "older generation" who got together with a rock-group called The Sound Spectrum to bridge the "Generation Gap." It is also the story of the band's origination and development from six Ingersoll teenagers.

The band's manager is Peter Francey, a 27-year-old English teacher at Ingersoll District Collegiate who told their story which included a Quebec City booking just before Christmas, playing two weeks at a discotheque called The Electric Circle.

The group, together for only a year, was originally made up of six Ingersoll youths: Sandy MacKay, 19, drummer and vocalist; Bill Caldwell, 19, lead guitar and vocalist; Bruce Fleming, 19, organist and vocalist; Bob Smith, 20, bass guitar and vocalist; Robb Oliver, 19, saxophone and vocalist; and Dave Borland, 17, trumpet and guitar. Clark Spenser, 19, also of Ingersoll acted as their road manager.

Peter said a seventh member, Joe Edmonds, 21, who plays saxophone, trombone, trumpet and recorder, was added to the group before the Quebec City engagement because the discotheque manager hired only bands with a minimum of seven members. "Don't ask me why, but that's the way he wanted it. Besides it worked out very well and Joe fitted right into the group."

Peter, an articulate man, showed me around the large two-storey frame house at 79 Beaconsfield Ave. which serves as The Sound Spectrum's home and base of operations, made coffee and then went back three years to the time when the group first began to get together.

It was his first year of teaching at the high school and he soon got to know the original group members very well.

"They were the rebellious ones at school, the first to have long hair, wear bell-bottoms and to be kicked out of school for not getting haircuts."

But, he said, they were all interested in music and had played in various local groups for several years. In January, 1969, they formed The Sound Spectrum and played at weekend high school dances and local functions.

"It was all just for fun initially."

He was invited to several practices and performances of the group that year and got to know them quite well.

In June the group decided to turn professional and asked Peter if he would handle their business affairs.

"They decided to stop school for at least one year," Peter said. "Then it dawned on me that it was bigger than just a part time gig and it involved a fairly serious decision regarding their futures. This business is very complicated and a group can fall apart very easily without a manager to handle bookings and money . . . So I agreed."

He said the members of the group had some opposition from their parents who had doubts and concern about their taking a year away from school.

"But when they realized the guys were really serious about becoming musicians they agreed to let them try it."

The band decided the only way to turn professional and make it succeed was to live and work together.

"We searched for a month for a house in London to rent but people seemed reluctant about renting to young musicians so we had to buy," Peter said.

They found the Beaconsfield Ave. house in southwest London and paid the owner a small deposit giving them several days to raise the \$6,000 down payment.

Of course they didn't have that much money available.

Within days the entire community of Ingersoll knew about The Sound Spectrum's plight and donations began to pour in.

The group members went to local businesses and friends asking for any amount of money on any terms, loan, donation, or investment. The parents of one group member gave up the money they had been saving for their summer vacation and other contributions came from the Mayor of Ingersoll, the high-school's music teacher and a minister of the local Presbyterian Church.

"We got fantastic co-operation from the people of Ingersoll in meeting the down payment, especially the bank manager," Peter said.

The music teacher drops in from time to time, listens to the group practising and offers suggestions and hints.

"It's funny to see him sitting in the practice room really grooving to the music," Peter said.

Each month the investors, 50 in number, receive a balance sheet of the group's financial statement and a newsletter is sent to the parents to keep them up-to-date on band activities.

"This is a very competitive business and the guys realize that to survive they have to get along with each other. They get no allowances from their parents so their only income is from the band and it seems to have matured them, musically and personally."

With the house established as their home base the Sound Spectrum turned professional in August.

"At first we took anything and everything in the way of jobs," Peter said. "They played 21 days of August, mostly bubblegum music at dances in London and the surrounding area." (Bubblegum describes commercial dance music for very young teens.)

The band settled down in September to work on their music and technique and then were booked solidly throughout October.

Peter said: "November was a very bad month for jobs, probably because it was exam time, and it showed the group they had no guaranteed income. They had to face the fact they weren't as good as they thought they were."

Since then they have been working mostly outside of London, in Windsor, Hamilton and Kitchener-Waterloo mainly.

"Groups tend to die in London because they become identified with the bubblegum type of dance," Peter said. "We played that kind of music at first because we needed jobs but now we can't convince people that the group has improved. They seem to want cheap bands in London and that's what they get."

He said The Sound Spectrum is not a completely commercial group right now which hurts them occasionally because they don't try to please the teenyboppers (bubblegummers) who are a very large group of pre and early teenagers.

"At the group's present stage the majority of our music shouldn't be really heavy stuff that you can't dance to. So we have to compromise a little and save the really heavy music until we reach the concert group stage—knock on wood."

He said, in addition to the lack of professional recognition received here, the band can't afford to work in the area. "It's an expensive business and we spend as much on promotion as we do on equipment."

Besides the \$20,000 mortgage on the house the band has several thousands of dollars invested in equipment — \$1,500 in stage-wear alone — and just recently bought an \$8,500 bus. Being mobile is an important part of a band's potential to get profitable bookings.

Clark Spenser who handles the group's business affairs on the road said the Quebec City engagement had been very successful despite the long hours and the hard work. He said the Electric Circle's manager was quite impressed and there was a possibility of a return engagement in April or May.

Peter who handles the promotion, booking and finances of the band said he had been in touch with the manager of Laff-in, THE discotheque in Montreal, who has seen the group and wanted to book them.

In addition to the future bookings two recording companies, one established and the other newly formed, have shown interest in the group's development and feel that in the near future they should make a record.

Peter said the two men running the new company have shown a lot of interest in the group and have given them good advice on bookings and agencies.

"Their advice is really appreciated because when I agreed to manage the group I had no idea how complicated this business was."

Presently The Sound Spectrum deals through about 20 agencies who arrange bookings for them. While the argument for a single booking agency organization continues, the group finds the diversity of choice, even if it complicates the booking procedure, offers an element of freedom.

Sandy MacKay, the drummer, says there is a big upswing in promoting Canadian talent both here and down south and he named groups like The Mandala, The Guess Who and The Band as examples.

"Promotion is the big thing a group needs to make it big these days—and a good record."

The Sound Spectrum does all of its own promotional work which consists of getting posters and pictures made and distributing them to agencies or to advertise an upcoming engagement.

"We have been getting fantastic help in promoting the band, particularly from photographer Ron Taylor who worked practically all night getting the new pictures of the group ready before they left to go to Quebec," Peter said.

Perhaps a good example of the group's ingenuity and the seriousness with which they approach their profession is the fact that they are the only London band listed in the

yellow pages! There are many listings for music schools and shops but the only entry under "musicians" is The Sound Spectrum.

Bill Caldwell, the short-haired member of the group said a band, particularly one just starting out, has to be careful not to get mixed up with the wheeler-dealer type promoter who is always coming up with great schemes that never seem to work out.

"We are really fortunate in knowing people like the two guys from the new recording company and other musicians like Paul De-Angelis of the East-West Project." Peter said. "They give us a lot of good advice about who to trust and who to avoid in dealing with promoters and agencies."

What's in the future for The Sound Spectrum? The group members say they're not satisfied with what they're doing at the moment and feel that, although they are improving musically, they still have a long way to go in the field.

"We are getting better." Sandy said. "We need a good record to establish ourselves and then another good one to follow it up."

The group knows and can play about 150 songs at present, and has written four of its own.

"They're a bit shy to play a lot of their material in front of an audience right now." Peter said. "But they are slowly beginning to gain more and more confidence in themselves and in their music."

But, in his opinion, it goes beyond the band's musical and personal development. As an adult who is involved with young people both in teaching and through The Sound Spectrum he feels the group's venture shows communication between the older and younger generations is both possible and valuable to both parties.

"It demonstrates to parents and teen-agers that such idealistic projects can become realized dreams; that among our youth is determination and responsibility and among our parents is interest and belief. A whole community offered its support to these boys, demonstrated their belief in youth and the returns have been excellent.

"The parents share a well deserved feeling of pride and rather than ignore the strivings of their children, as is so often the case, they have encouraged them to develop, to the fullest possible extent, their creative talents."

Rural Ontario captured on canvas

By MICHAEL BARRIS
Sentinel-Review staff writer

INGERSOLL — They say one picture is worth a thousand words and John Spiers' pictures are no exception.

The Ingersoll artist is showing 42 of his paintings and sketches at the Creative Arts Centre in a display starting Sunday entitled: Paintings and Illustrations For Nature and Outdoor Life Lovers — 70 Years of Study.

The show, running Fridays and Sundays Nov. 1 through 15, dramatically portrays some of the changes rural Ontario has seen in the artist's lifetime.

The scenes range from a 1927 automobile — the artist's father's first car — being yanked from the mud by a team of horses — to a flock of birds fluttering around the artist's modern-day bird feeder in his backyard.

FORMER TEACHER

Speirs, 70, spent 35 years primarily teaching art in the St. Catharines-Niagara region before retiring as an art consultant in 1971 and moving to Ingersoll.

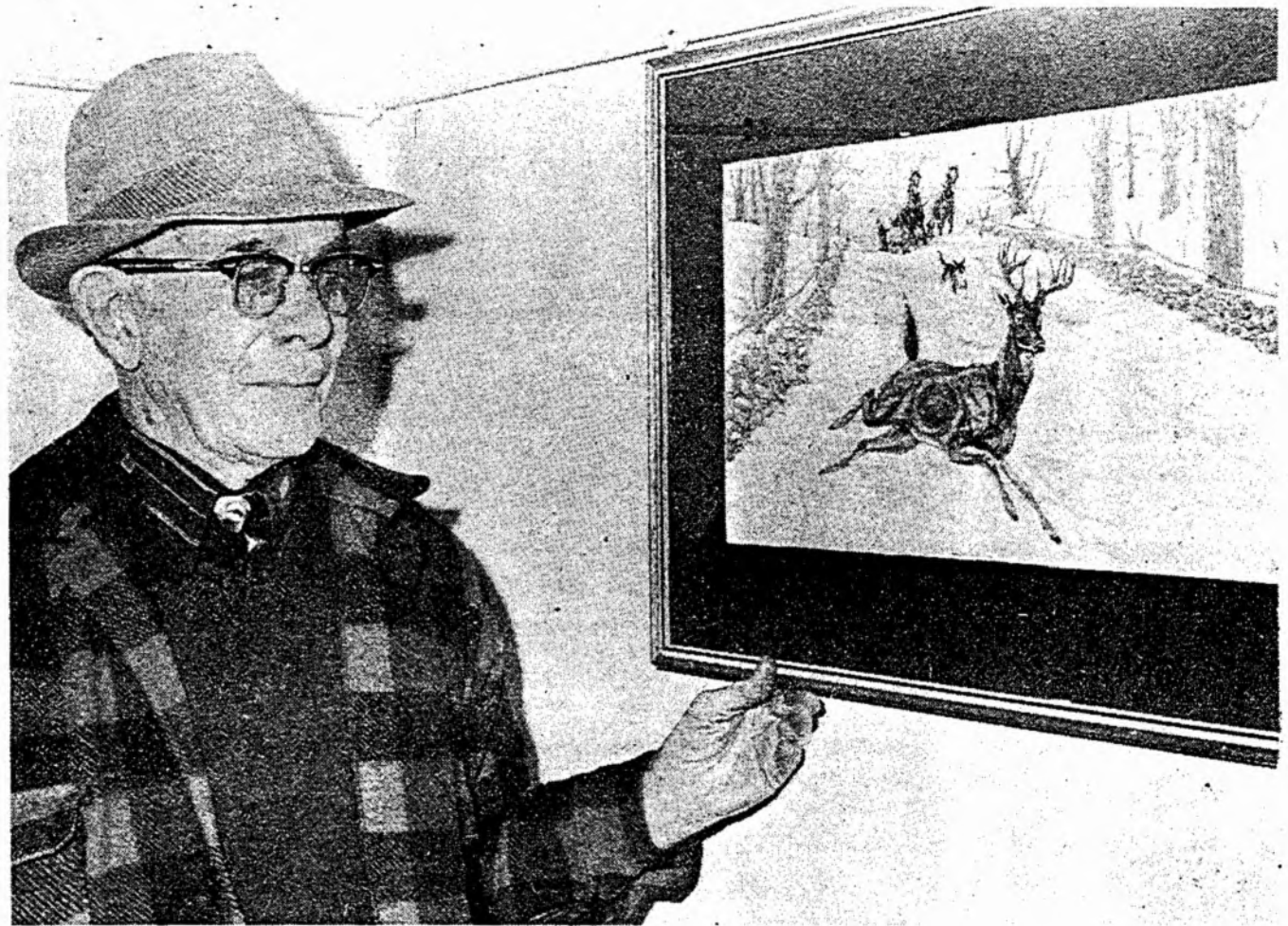
After he retired, he plunged into painting and making illustrations based on sketches and studies accumulated over the years.

Educated in Stratford, Speirs graduated with a special art degree from Beale Technical School in London. In 1935, he completed studies at the Minneapolis Federal School of illustration.

In 1942 he became art supervisor in the schools of St. Thomas. He took on the challenge of teaching art classes at Queen Mary senior public school at St. Catharines in 1951.

A member of the Creative Arts Centre for seven years, Speirs has paintings in many homes in southern Ontario.

One of his biggest influences was his Grade 2 teacher who allowed him to decorate the boards with colored chalk at festive times and read the class animal stories. Speirs also was influenced by animal paintings the teacher hung on the wall.



INGERSOLL ARTIST John Speirs, 70, with Reflections of an Era, an illustration of a white-tailed deer in india ink, charcoal and

water colors done in Rockton last March, which will be part of his exhibition.

(Staff photo by Michael Barris)

SENTINEL-REVIEW
10/21

Speirs, John

Love of life

Artist, 70, still gets thrill from painting

INGERSOLL (Bureau) — After a lifetime of painting, 70-year-old John Speirs still gets "a thrill out of creating a picture."

Speirs, a native of Stratford, retired as an art supervisor for the Niagara region board of education in 1971 but is as active as ever.

Forty-two of his works are on display at the Ingersoll Creative Art Centre until Nov. 15.

"When you love life like I do, it's no problem to put it on a painting," he told visitors at the centre Sunday.

His ideas for paintings are often

pulled from his childhood memories. His favorite painting on display is titled *When The Roads Went Soft*. It shows a team of horses dragging his father's blue Auburn touring car out of the mud after a spring fishing trip.

Scotty Burns's blacksmith shop was one of Speir's favorite spots when he was a boy. *Hero Worship* shows an admiring lad watching Burns at work.

Speirs studied art at H. B. Beal Technical School in London after graduating from the old Normal

School in Stratford. One of his teachers encouraged him to enter some of his work at the Western Fair. He did — and won six first prizes.

He was unemployed during the Depression but found work in 1942 as an art supervisor for the board of education in St. Thomas. In 1951 he went to St. Catharines and remained there until his retirement.

Working with oil and watercolors and sketching in black and white is keeping Speirs busy. Doing something you enjoy is the real secret to retirement, he says.



Ingersoll artist John Speirs, 70, painted this picture of a fox he saw hopping a stone wall on his way to raid a nearby chicken house. (Photo by Williams)

LONDON FREE PRESS
November 2, 1981

SPEIRS, John

Local artist depicts life in his paintings

He has captured fleeting moments and imprisoned them on his canvas so that all may see the beauty of nature and of life, as he sees and feels it.

He is a recorder of history and emotion. He is a storyteller who can kindle the memories of the old and stir the imagination of the young, as he weaves his own memories into unique and interesting tales.

He has the ability to laugh at himself and to enjoy all of life around him. Perhaps it is these qualities that are most impressive in John Speirs.

Mr. Speirs is at an age where many people begin to settle back and take life easy. But he has too many things on the go to take life easy. At 70, he is staging his first art show at Ingersoll's Creative Arts Centre, titled Paintings and Illustrations for Nature and Outdoor Life Lovers - 70 years of study by John Speirs of Ingersoll.

"If you lined up all of my art, you would have a history of the changes in rural life in the last 50 years," he said. "Particularly changes in the Stratford area."

He has painted numerous farm scenes, usually ones he has spotted on the farms of relatives or friends. Many of his pictures contain portraits of his own relatives, including one which shows his mother-in-law on her way from the house to the barn, being followed by barnyard chickens, dogs, and cats. Another picture shows his sister-in-law milking cows, while three kittens sit in anticipation of milk being squirted their way.

Another depicts his brother-in-law bailing hay.

Mr. Speirs gives each picture a name and the names he chooses are as interesting as the artwork they accompany. Some of these are "When Neighbors were Neighborly," a farm mural which shows farmers chatting between chores; "Gone but not forgotten," a picture of his deceased pets; "When Smoke Spells Fire," a mural of deer running through a woods just before fire hits that particular area of the woods, and "When the roads went soft," a picture which shows horses pulling his father's blue Auburn touring car out of the mud after an annual spring fishing trip.

Many of Mr. Speirs' pictures are actually memories on canvas. Hero Worship, which depicts a small child watching blacksmith Scotty Burns at work, is actually from Mr. Speirs' own past.

"I used to spend hours watching the blacksmith," he admitted with a grin.

Despite his love for farm life, Mr. Speirs finds today's farms "too mechanical and without any of the romanticism they once had."

His nature and wild life scenes are as exceptional as his farm scenes. Each of these he also names and the scenes are as varied as his wonderful imagination.

Forty-two pictures are on display at the Creative Arts Centre but the artist estimates he has done about 200 over the years. Many of these have been born from his lifetime study of nature.

Illustrations of birds

Ingersoll Times
Nov. 4, 1981

SPEIRS, John

flocking to his backyard feeders; awesome portraits of moose; humorous pictures of shunks violating garbage tins and bears cleaning up after campers, are just a few of the subjects he has covered. Some, such as the wild horses he spotted on a trip to Mexico, are dramatic, while others such as a skunk and her young ones crossing a pathway, are whimsical.

"My parents use to say I started painting when I was in the high chair," said Mr. Speirs. "I wish they were here to see what they have started," he said, directing his hands to the paintings on the gallery walls.

Mr. Speirs and his wife Lillian have lived in Ingersoll for eight years.

"Since retiring I have more time to vigorously pursue my hobby of painting

wildlife. At the same time, in the classroom, I was exposed to the framed animal life paintings of Rose Bonheur's "Horse Fair", Edwin Landseer's "Dignity and Impudence" and Paul Bransom's "Beauty and the Beast". They had a profound effect on me at that time and no doubt do to this day."

After graduating from Stratford's Teacher's Col-

neapolis, Min., and received a diploma.

As Mr. Speirs' interest in animals increased, his interest in the sport of hunting began to diminish. Today he finds the idea of killing animals for sport, revolting.

While on a northern hunting excursion with relatives, Mr. Speirs had a chance to study moose. During the trip, one of the huge beasts was shot down

outdoors and making illustrations based on years of accumulated sketches and studies," he said.

Born in Scotland, Mr. Speirs received his early education in Stratford. Among those to encourage him at an early age was his Grade 2 teacher, Mrs. Elborn.

"I give her credit for my successes in the art field and my continued interests in animal life," said Mr. Speirs. "Her daily reading of the Burgess Bedtime stories delighted and aroused my interests in

lege, Mr. Speirs attended a special art program and graduated from Beale Technical School, London. While there, one of his teachers encouraged him to enter some of his artwork into competition at Western Fair. He did and won six prizes for his efforts.

For the next five years, Mr. Speirs was too busy studying and teaching to enter art competitions. He taught in rural and small town schools during the school year, while completing summer courses at the College of Art in Toronto during the summer months, until he received his art supervisor's certificate.

In 1933 Mr. Speirs won the Latham Humane Foundation poster contest for a picture of a small dog, still chained to its kennel and floating down the Mississippi River, following the flood of '33.

The painting was titled "Don't forget me" and received first place honors over hundreds of other entries from across North America.

For his artistic efforts in the Latham contest, Mr. Speirs was awarded free tuition for a course in modern illustration from the Federal School in Min-

and after stumbling through a swampy area, it died.

"After that I came home and gave away my guns," he said. "They're such huge, beautiful animals. They're just amazing animals."

Although not able to spend all of his time painting, Mr. Speirs was able to further his artistic abilities and gain employment at the same time. In 1942 he was appointed art supervisor for the board of education in St. Thomas. After nine years there, he moved to St. Catharines in 1951.

"I accepted a new challenge to conduct art classes in a senior elementary school named Queen Mary, in St. Catharines," he said. "I enjoyed St. Thomas and hated to leave it but I felt it was a good opportunity." While in St. Catharines, Mr. Speirs was allowed to institute a creative arts program in the schools.

In 1971 he ended his career as an art consultant for the St. Catharines and North Niagara Region boards of education. Familiar with the Ingersoll area and having relatives in this area, he and his wife decided to make Ingersoll their new home.

Mr. Speirs' work, now on display at the CAC gallery, is the result of a lifetime of studying nature and outdoor life. He has travelled the continent studying and composing. His work is done in oils, watercolors, and black and white sketches.

"There are still things I

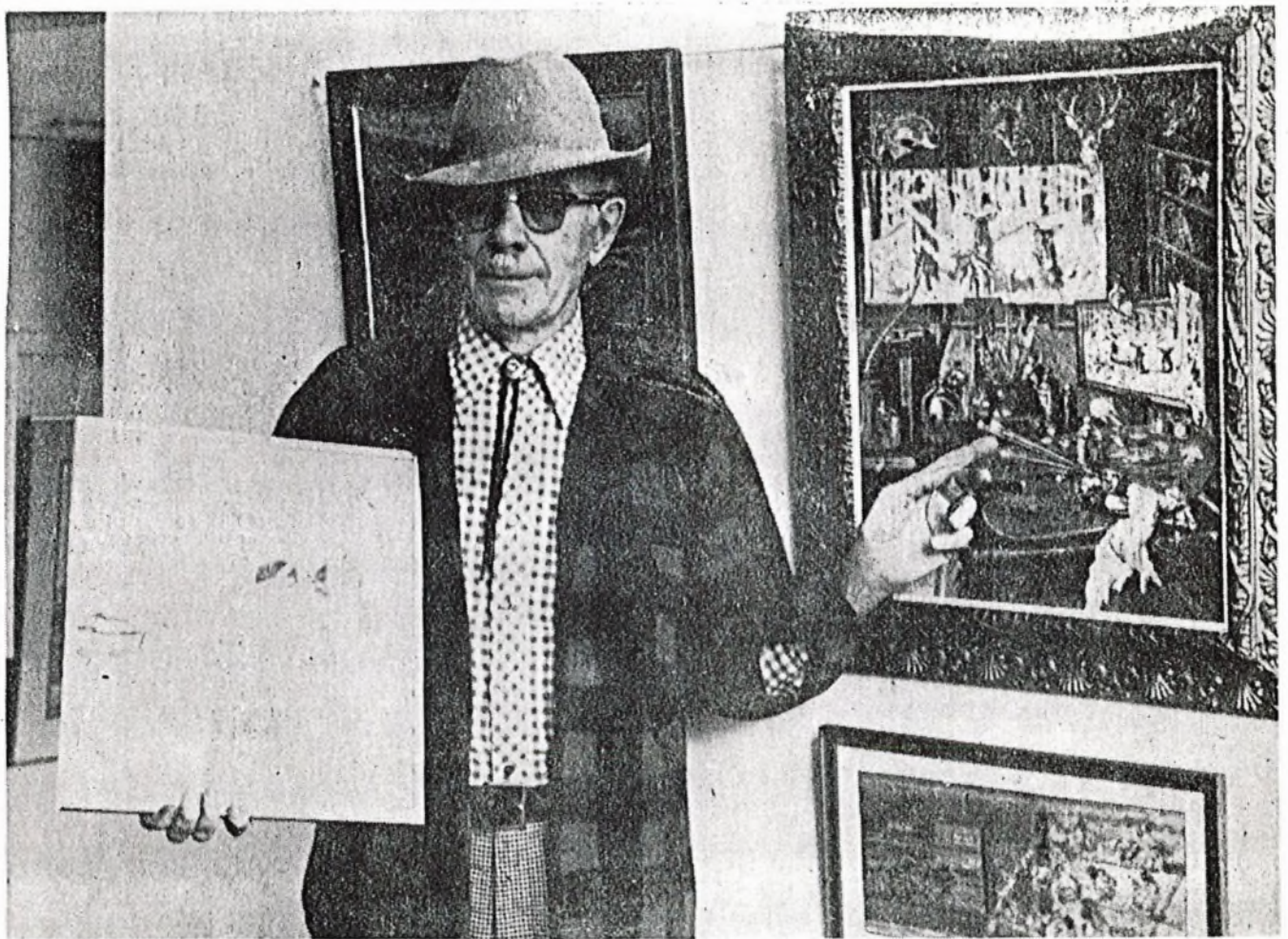
want to pursue," said the 70-year-old. He suggested that his paintings of farm life, sugar bushes, wildlife, and memories, have kept him busy but added "you're never through learning. I feel I am learning just about as much now as I ever did. That's the reason I guess there are other things I would like to do."

Mr. Speirs' work will remain on display at the Creative Arts Centre this Friday and Sunday, and again November 13 and 15. Admission is free and the gallery is open from 1 to 4 p.m.

Ingersoll Times
Nov. 4, 1981

INGERSOLL TIMES
November 4, 1981

SPEIRS, John



Paintings and Illustrations for Nature and Outdoor Life Lovers is the name of the art show now on display at Ingersoll's Creative Arts Centre. It is the work of John

Speirs, who has been doing a 70 year study of nature, wildlife and life in general. The display is open to the public this Friday and Sunday and November 13 and 15.

Ingersoll Times
Nov. 4, 1981

A good painting will tell a story: septuagenarian

INGERSOLL — If 35 children drew 35 different pictures of an apple, which ones would be right, and which ones wrong?

Former art educator John Speirs says all of them would be acceptable, as long as they were genuine expressions of the children.

A former art teacher and consultant for 35 years, Speirs now spends much of his retirement time painting and drawing, activities for which he had little time beforehand.

Story and photos by Gabe Peracchia

Starting Tuesday, a collection of his works about nature and rural scenery will be on display at the Elmhurst gallery until March 31. The opening will be Tuesday evening, 7 to 9 p.m.

As a teacher, Speirs did his job differently from the traditional way. "In the traditional way, I would teach a class how to draw an apple. But when they finished, you would



JOHN SPEIRS, who enjoys observing birds and squirrels in his back yard, drew his dog watching the critters feed.

have 35 apples all the same. You mean to tell me 35 people all see an apple the same way?"

The traditional-style logic runs counter to mainstream art in which two artists draw two different views of apples and both are acceptable.

In his teaching days, the 72-year-old Ingersoll resident tried to get students to express their creativity fully. "There's nothing more exciting than to give a child in Grade 2 a purposeful lesson, and then watch him express himself."

Raised near Stratford, Speirs taught in Milverton, Whitby, Preston, St. Thomas and finally in St. Catharines where he was hired to set up an art program at a senior public school, and later was art consultant for the Lincoln County board of education.

Twelve years after retiring, Speirs believes not all students should be taught to draw art, but most should be told how to view it. "I taught art for 35 years, but I've reached the conclusion that after age 12 or 13, I don't think every student should be taught art." There is no sense in teaching art to students who have lost interest in the subject, Speirs explains.

ART APPRECIATION

"But, the majority should still be taught art appreciation." The first step is for parents to take their children to galleries.

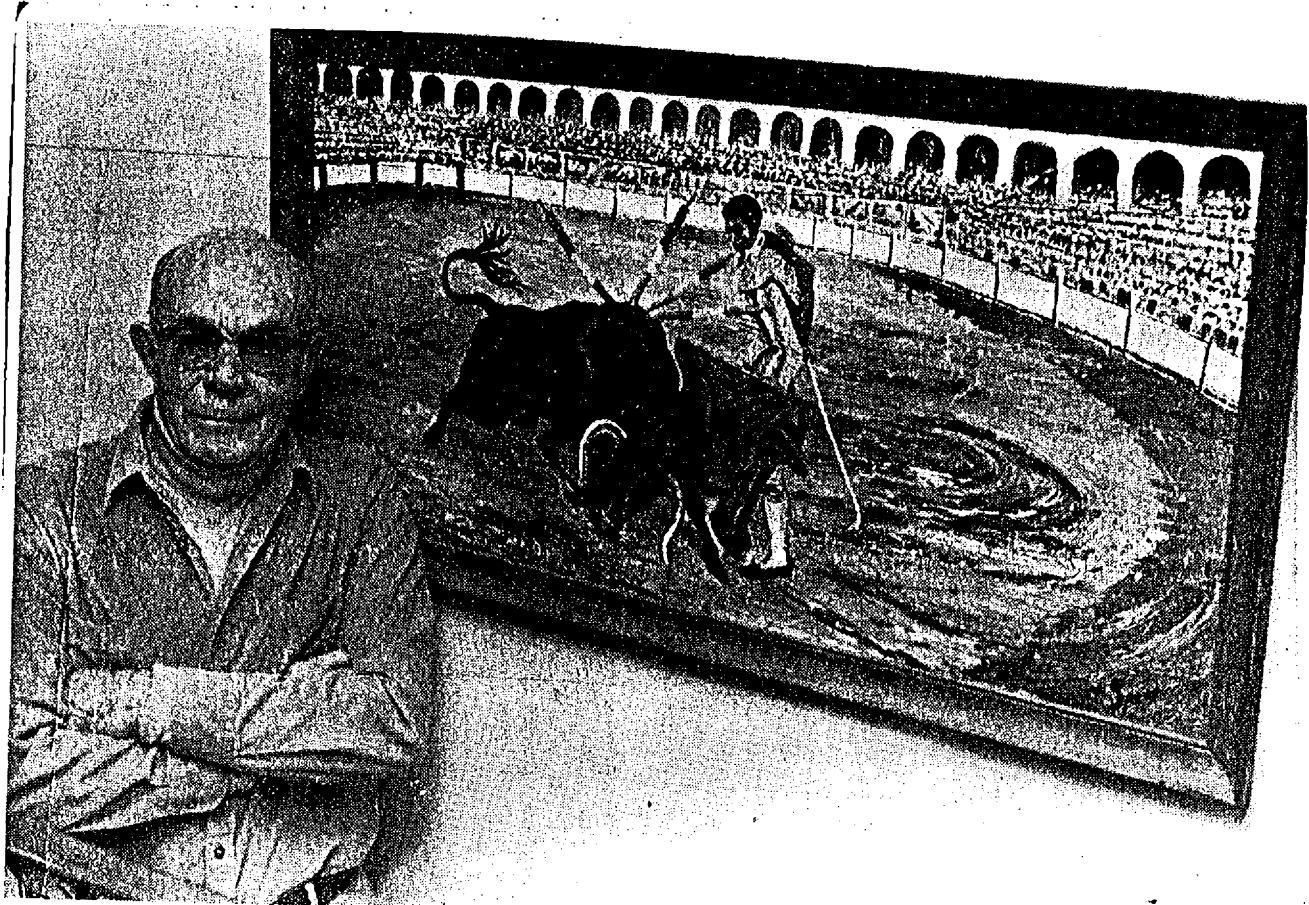
Unlike many adults who were baffled by the revolutionary artistic tastes of 1960s, Speirs welcomed the wave of pop and rock music. He saw it as a natural expression of the creativity of the new generation. "I could see pop and rock-and-roll coming. I could see the worm turning."

During his summer vacations, Speirs visited the farm of his brother-in-law near Embro because it provided him with the subjects he needed to develop his artistic talent. The farm offered many horses, pigs and Holstein cattle, whose anatomies he could study, and a variety of rural colors. "I like it here; it gives me the background I need for my paintings," he now says of Oxford's landscape.

Speirs is primarily a nature artist, drawing in oils, and mixed media of India ink, charcoal and watercolors.

In his paintings, he definitely tries to convey a message to the viewer. A good painting will tell a story, complete with feelings and atmosphere, something unattainable with a mere photograph, Speirs says.

A painting is a revelation, while a photograph is merely a statement, he says. "To reveal is to create interest. To state, like a camera, is to destroy it."



FORMER ART teacher John Speirs was inspired to draw this handsome oil painting by reading the descriptions of Spanish bullfights in

Ernest Hemmingway novels. His exhibition opens Tuesday evening at the Elmhurst gallery.

*SENTINEL-Review
March 5, 1984*

Painter hates to part with any

By PHYLLIS COULTER
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — This artist has painted more than 500 works and still hates to part with any.

"I don't like to go to a sale of my paintings. I don't like to see them go."

But they do go, often to buyers from Toronto and St. Catharines.

John Speirs showed about 35 paintings at the Creative Arts Centre in Ingersoll at the weekend.

He tried not to look when a sale was rung up.

It's been a long time since Speirs received the first rewards for his talents. It was back in 1934 shortly after the gigantic Mississippi River flood.

Speirs entered a poster competition. His painting captured the expression of a dog chained to its kennel as it was swept down the Mississippi River.

This painting entitled *What about me?* won the poster competition. His heart-rendering version of the flood, earned him free tuition to a drawing school in Minneapolis where he was introduced to the techniques of drawing animal anatomy.

This specific skill is one the artist often uses in his paintings of wild life in its natural setting. Such settings are as diverse as a living room playing host to the family pet, or a clouded sky beckoning a bird in flight, or a plush forest hosting a moose as it plods through the under brush.

TIMES WERE TOUGH

It wasn't very many years after those early drawing lessons, until Speirs was on the other side of the teacher's desk. In his first year of teaching art he brought home a walloping annual salary of \$500.

After teaching half a decade in St. Thomas, Speirs was greeted with one of the biggest challenges of his life. He was asked to set up the art program for a brand new million dollar school in St. Catharines, and spent the next 20 years teaching art there. He finished his career working for the school board in that area, administering all the art programs.

Some of his students showed real talent. "I remember a Polish girl who was 12 years old and could really paint. I'll never forget the merry-go-round she painted." Another outstanding student who showed a talent for drawing cartoons, became a cartoonist for a Winnipeg newspaper.

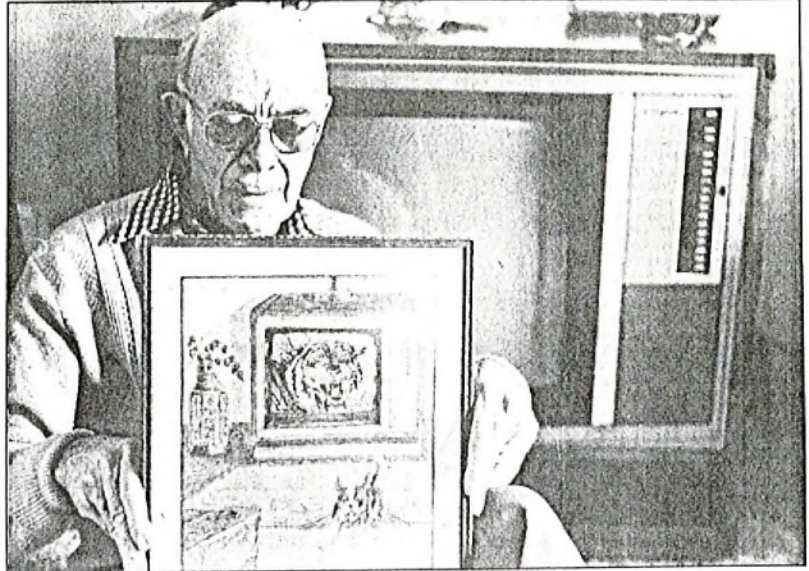
When he retired, Speirs had saved up a lifetime of desire to paint simply for himself. The then new Ingersoll resident was invited to teach art at the high school here and later at the Creative Arts Centre.

He turned both opportunities down in favor of pursuing his own art.

His paintings are often humorous. He captures instances in nature which many people may miss in their own lives. He sketches animals when ever he sees them, and later transforms these sketches into paintings, often in a mixed medium of charcoal, water paints and India ink. Other times he chooses oil paintings if that suits his subject better. The artist then cleverly names each painting.

For example, he saw birds disputing about who would nest in an elm tree near his home at 185 Thames St. N. and cleverly entitled a completed painting of angrily fluttering birds: *Real Estate Squabble*.

For this particular painting he also chose a rough paper that helped il-



STARTLED IS the perfect title for the John Speirs painting in the top photo. "I really saw this happen," says Speirs of the dog reacting in surprise to a big tiger on television. The artist sits in front of the very television where this event took place. Speirs mixed mediums in this painting using India ink, watercolors, and charcoal. Immediately above, Dr. Zeldin added color to his canvass in Ellingham Park near St. Catharines when two horses came up to look over his shoulder. Zeldin's friend John Speirs captured the moment on canvas.

lustrate texture of the tree bark. Says Speirs, the choice of paper is important in creating the total effect.

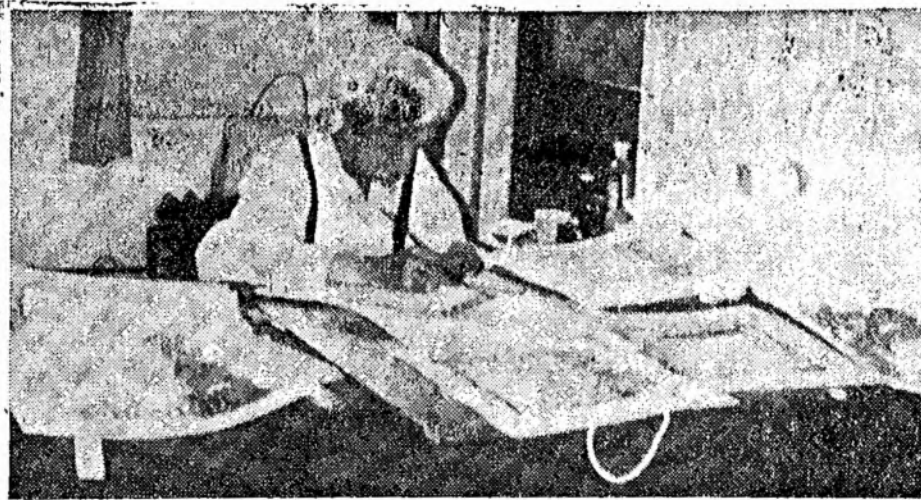
His latest clever title is *Fins, Feathers, and Fur*. This was the name he chose for his show at the Creative Arts Centre in Ingersoll.

Speirs was to be at the show Sunday. But, he admits with a certain candor, it's still hard for him to see his paintings sell. And to watch as the new owners take them away.

OF 500 WORKS

SENTINEL
REVIEW

October 27, 1986



SPITTAL, John

JOHN SPITTAL'S cot at Westminster Veterans' Hospital was his easel. His was one of the four cots in a dormitory of the Elgin unit of the western counties' wing

at the hospital. On the left is one of his prize winning scrolls. Mr. Spittal, formerly of Ingersoll, died in Westminster Hospital in London on Oct. 26 this year. (The origin-

al pictures, which were re-photographed by the Sentinel-Review, were loaned by the author of this story, Eva M. Somerville, of London)

A legacy of John Spittal artist, veteran - 1892-1971

BY EVA M. SOMERVILLE

When preparations were under way for London's Western Fair in September one exhibit that had attracted attention in the Art section in former years was missing. John Spittal's ill health prevented his entry — one of his artistic and prize-winning scrolls. He died on Oct. 26 this year.

The 'studio' for this artist was just the 12 by 15 foot space at the southern entrance to a dormitory of the Elgin Unit of the Western Counties wing of Westminster Veterans' Hospital, London. His artist's 'table' or 'easel' was his cot, one of four in this dormitory.

John Spittal was particularly appreciative of being given this particular cot as he did have good light from the south window behind him as he painstakingly lettered and coloured the illuminated scrolls that have found their way into churches, service clubs and homes both in Canada and the U.S.A.

Huron County Pioneer Museum is the proud possessor of DESIDERATA, a gift from John in recognition of his visit to that museum. Framed beside it is his accompanying letter executed in the same unusual penmanship used in his scrolls.

Questioned regarding his materials — paper, pens, ink and colors — "I can procure some locally but pen points not even in Canada. I get these from the College of Penmanship of Columbus, Ohio — \$5 per gross." John asked, "Is penmanship becoming a lost art?" most of us would agree that it is — gone the way of the stone masons' devotion to trimming lime-

stone or granite to become harmonious units of structures, too many of which are ruthlessly becoming victims of the bulldozer.

It is true that the penmanship used in the scrolls is a highly developed style, not practical for ordinary use, but requires an artist's eye and hand, as does the line work in the illuminated borders.

SOURCES

A variety of sources provided the subjects John chose to use. One of the largest scrolls, three feet by two feet, is the Honour Roll for the Royal Canadian Legion, Ingersoll No. 119. This lists 135 names of those in service in World Wars 1 and 2 and the Korean War.

The average and popular size of scroll might be accommodated in a standard frame of sixteen by twelve inches. The scroll of THE TEN COMMANDMENTS requires a frame twenty by sixteen inches. The DESIDERATA mentioned requires the larger frame and is the one that brought John a First Prize at the Western Fair in 1969. He received the same award for different scrolls in the four preceding exhibitions.

Originality of theme makes these scrolls become much prized possessions. One entitled JOYFUL EVENT was commissioned for a wedding gift — the script by Bob Whiteman, 'poet-laureate' of the Senior Citizens Club, and the artistry by John Spittal.

A recent scroll resulted from the order of one admirer taking selected lines from a poem of a friend, Helena Coleman, whose poems are now out of print. The choice here was entitled

MORE LOVELY GROWS THE EARTH

THE LEGION'S CREED suggested one scroll. IN FLANDERS FIELDS is a favourite; THE BEATITUDES FOR FRIENDS OF THE AGED appealed to many, as did such as THE LORD'S PRAYER; a recent scroll was AN INDIAN PRAYER. The choice of subject had no limitations as long as there was beauty of thought that could be interpreted in beauty of line and colour.

ACCENT

It was not surprising that John with still more than a hint of a Glasgow accent, would choose for one of his scrolls Bobby Burns' SELKIRK GRACE. Some of his handiwork has preserved presentation addresses, valued by the recipient and later by his family as a prized souvenir.

The study of the Art of Illuminated Scrolls takes one back hundreds of years. This form of artistry reached its peak in the Middle Ages when monks in monasteries practically devoted their lives to producing what we might call volumes of these intricately beautiful masterpieces.

Present day museums and libraries afford endless opportunities to become acquainted with this specialized art through either originals in their glass cases or reproductions on their shelves.

The Beatitudes

For Friends of the (poor)

Blessed are they who understand
 My Father's Kingdom, and
 Blessed are they who love My name
 And strive to walk lowly in My way
 Blessed are they who come to Me
 My eye are, Him, and my Father, alone
 Blessed are they who hunger and thirst
 For My Kingdom, and who seek to do My will
 Blessed are they who are persecuted
 For My name's sake, for to them will I
 Give a crown of life, for to them will I
 Give a crown of life, for to them will I
 Give a crown of life, for to them will I
 Give a crown of life, for to them will I
 Give a crown of life, for to them will I
 Give a crown of life, for to them will I
 Give a crown of life, for to them will I
 Give a crown of life, for to them will I

John Spittal

SPITTAL, John

SPEED

Would it be that this is practically a lost art because of the ubiquitous speed of this century? There was a leisure in the Middle Ages conducive to the care and precision required in the minute detail of the precious art forms we now admire but rarely produce. Automation — typewriters and other business machines — and the meaningless (?) abstracts have taken over.

One of John Spittal's annual delights was the concert in Victoria Park, London, by the Senior Citizens Club. As a member of the group of sixteen in the Men's Chorus he made a valued contribution, and he even gave demonstrations of "Sand dancing". His interest in music led to a mastery of the accordion.

With all his versatility, we can be specially grateful to this 79-year-old veteran at Westminster Hospital for the visual delight provided by his many scrolls.

Scattered throughout the continent they will remain a tribute to this humble artist; and for those who were privileged to be his friends they will recall a quiet gentleman who "shunned the limelight's glare".

A first for Ingersoll

Creativity can be forced but for Les Squires of Ingersoll his best pieces of art are created when discipline, desire and the right atmosphere strike at the same time.

The result is a painting, sketch or sculpture which first and foremost is pleasing to the artist and secondly pleasing to art lovers. This type of work by Squires will be on display for the month of October at Elm Hurst. It is not his first show, but it is his first in Ingersoll, where he and his family have lived the past five years.

"My work takes a lot of time, and concentration," the fulltime teacher and part time artist said. "Sometimes I force my work and other times I do it when I get a desire. It is a lot easier if working in the right atmosphere, you get a feeling art is like that".

It doesn't always come easily since he is a senior elementary teacher at Oliver Stevens school in Woodstock. After a day of teaching art at school, then coming home and painting, sketching or sculpting, it takes special dedication from within.

Painting landscapes in

oils is his favorite medium and his extensive travels have instilled many scenic pictures in his mind be they mountains, sea scapes or other land forms. From a clear mental picture he transfers it onto canvas, and if done to his satisfaction, it will have a special mood and effect.

Originally from Barbados, Squires came to Canada in 1965. He lived in Toronto, and St. Catharines before coming to Ingersoll. Art and travel are his first loves but it is not quite that simple.

"Being a fulltime artist is not something many people can afford to do," Squires said. With his wife Jaunita and three children he enjoys a compromise. Vacations are spent travelling and from there comes the inspiration.

Pricing his works is a difficult task. He thinks in terms of this time, materials and then there are personal feelings about the work. If he creates the effects he wants, the piece is of more value and if not, it is not worth as much to him or the buying public.

You can be the judge. His works will be exhibited at Elm Hurst for the month of October.



Les Squires of Ingersoll has had his own art exhibits on several occasions but during the month of October it will be his first in Ingersoll. All month his works can be seen at the Elm Hurst gallery.

Hail blamed for death of Ingersoll woman

The car, driven by her husband, left the road in a hailstorm.

INGERSOLL (Staff) — A sudden, blinding hailstorm is being blamed for a car accident that claimed the life of an Ingersoll woman on Saturday. Anne Staples, 41, died in Victoria Hospital in London of injuries received when a replica Model T Ford skidded off the road and hit a tree.

Staples was a passenger in the homemade, fibreglass show car driven by her husband, Richard Staples, 39, as it travelled westbound on Oxford County Road 9 about two kilometres west of here Saturday afternoon. She was taken to Alexandra Hospital in Ingersoll and transferred to Victoria Hospital. Richard Staples was treated and released.

"It appears to have happened so quickly there was just no way to stop it," said OPP Constable Larry Harvey. "It's just a terrible tragedy."

London Free Press

July 20, 1992

STAPLES, Gerry



Gerry Staples will start as Town Clerk on September 6, but is not new to the area or to the job for that matter. Staples has lived in Ingersoll most of his life and held the position of Deputy Clerk of the Town from 1958 to 1966.

Gerry Staples, the new Ingersoll clerk

On September 6, the Town of Ingersoll will have a new Clerk and Deputy Treasurer, but he is by no means new to the area, or to the job.

On September 2, Gerry Staples will terminate his job as County Clerk and Deputy Treasurer and do basically the same job, on a smaller scale, in Ingersoll.

Staples 51, was born and raised in Ingersoll so he is certainly no stranger to the area. In fact he has lived here practically all his life.

Staples, held the job of Town Clerk from 1958 to 1966 so the job is not a new one to him. In January of 1967, Staples became Deputy Clerk Treasurer of the county. In 1971, he was made Clerk Treasurer. until the

job title was changed to Clerk and Deputy Treasurer in 1976.

Staples says there is no particular reason for his change back to the town level.

Although the jobs are on different levels of government they have many similarities according to Staples.

A clerk position is one of many responsibilities. It is a clerk's duty to prepare council agenda, committee reports, to act as a liason between department heads, prepare bylaws and to see that the policies of the council are carried out. As well, a clerk prepares reports and acts as an advisor to members of council.

Staples, lives with his wife and two sons, age 11 and 13 at 156 Sutherland Avenue in Ingersoll.

Citizen of year named

BY BRIAN TORSNEY

Lawyer Royden G. Start Q.C. has been chosen as Citizen of the Year by the Ingersoll branch of the Royal Canadian Legion 119 for his dedicated service and unselfish interest in the community, especially with youth.

Mr. Start, a lifetime member of the law society of Upper Canada who has been practicing for over 50 years, was completely surprised by the decision. He will be honored with runner up Ralph Gordon, who was commended for his work as president of the Ingersoll Trail Cruisers Snowmobile club, at a dinner March 22 at the Hillcrest Legion Hall.

It is quite an honor for Mr. Start, who in his 79th year, plans to retire fully this July. When asked for his secret to good health, he said his 300 foot yard keeps him active. He served as an active member of the YMCA Board of Directors from 1929, the Kiwanis Club from 1928 and the Hospital Directors Board from 1934. He chaired the Hospital Board when the Noxon home was removed and alexandra Hospital was constructed in 1950.

Throughout a recent interview, Mr. Start referred to the support he always received, especially during the fund raising campaigns for the Hospital construction. He said money for the

construction came largely from local initiative.

"My one daughter says I'd vote Liberal even if the candidate was the local village idiot," he chuckled. Mr. Start was the only solicitor in Ingersoll during the war. He was also solicitor for the Township of North Oxford and West Oxford until the county was shuffled.

Mr. Start graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto in 1926 and practiced with the firm in Toronto with which he had articulated. In 1928 he arrived in Ingersoll where there was only one lawyer practicing full time. He joined Warwick C. Marshall who returned from the war. They are now joined by Tom R. Parker and K.E. Ross on King Street East.

Mr. Start recalls that his first office in town was on the east side of Thames Street and during the war he moved his headquarters to the old Royal Bank building "which had the longest stairs in town", he said.

He recalls many of those who assisted him in his service to the community including Herb Handly, Laurie Sommers (who is now in Vancouver), Al B. Clark and Buck Billings who all helped with the YMCA organization and functions. He said each year the YMCA organized fund raising campaigns. In his modest manner, Mr. Start repeated his appreciation for the support from the community

START, ROYDEN G.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR
AWARD (R.C.L.)



Royden G. Start, Q.C., has been chosen as Citizen of the Year by the Ingersoll branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, 119. Mr. Start was among seven other persons being considered for the honor. He was chosen for his dedicated service and unselfish interest in the community, especially with youth.

INGERSOLL TIMES

March 14, 1978

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INGERSOLL TIMES

March 14, 1978

Legion names veteran lawyer Ingersoll's citizen of the year

By ARMITA JANES
Sentinel-Review staff writer
INGERSOLL — No one was more surprised than Royden G. Start when Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 119, this month named him citizen of the year.

The 79-year-old lawyer who began practising in Ingersoll in 1928 looked around his office in the firm of Start, Marshall, Parker and Ross.

"I've always felt my main interest was right here in this office," he said. "I got a great deal of satisfaction from trying to solve problems people face."

But Start, soon after he came to town, became involved with two institutions—the YMCA and Alexandra Hospital—that before the era of government support owed their existence to financial support and work of individuals within the community.

He was a board member of

the Ingersoll Triangle Club that later became known as Ingersoll YMCA.

During the '30s, '40s and '50s, he explained, the Y provided the only recreation program for youth supported and funded by the people of Ingersoll—individuals as well as business and industrial leaders.

In those days there were no big gymnasiums in schools. So the Y rented the gym at St. James Church for its gymnastic program.

And with the help of the Kiwanis Club (of which Start was a member) they launched a very successful swim program after Maude Wilson Memorial Pool was built.

The Morrow Screw and Nut Company supported this program substantially.

POOL GIFT

The pool itself was a gift to the town by industrialist E.A. Wilson, owner of Ingersoll Machine and Tool Co.

The Y had its offices for

years in an Oxford Street building donated by William Stone and Sons. It had formerly been used by the Company to store hides.

The Y had a ping pong table, kitchen facilities and meeting rooms in the former warehouse. It was here the Y sponsored successful teen dances that many residents recall, but no group has yet been able to re-instate.

And, it was all kept going by appeals to the community for funds. Start said, and the "excellent men" who served as Y secretaries.

Their enthusiasm and service far exceeded any financial rewards, he said, naming men like Laurie Sommers and Buck Billings.

At one time Ingersoll was the smallest community in the province that could boast a Y, thanks to the dedication of the people in the community.

But as far as Ingersoll was concerned the Y was doomed

when financing of recreation was taken over by municipal and higher levels of government, Start said.

However, he concedes that the program now carried on by the recreation department would be impossible for the former Y to carry out in a town the size of Ingersoll.

Alexandra Hospital, like the YMCA, was also dependent on the community for support, said Start, who served on the hospital board for 37 years from 1934, several years as chairman.
NOXON HOME

Before the new hospital was built in 1950, he recalls, the hospital was carried on for years in the Noxon home on the same site.

Nurses slept on the third storey of the Victorian home with its grand staircase and high ceilings, he said, probably against all fire regulations.

Finally, after years of planning, working and

raising money in the community, the new hospital was built.

Start says Alexandra Hospital is one of the most attractive and one of the best-equipped small hospitals in the province.

It disturbs him that such small hospitals are being "closed out."

He believes that concentration of health care in larger centres has gone too far.

Many illnesses can be treated in a smaller hospital, he says, and because Ingersoll has such a high percentage of older people the town needs a hospital where they can be treated in familiar surroundings and visited by their friends.

And if an Ingersoll person has a heart attack, Start said, he gets immediate attention here that could perhaps save his life. On the other hand, he could die on the way to London.

CITIZEN
OF THE
YEAR AWARD
(R.C.L.)

START
Royden G.

(Page 1012)

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MARCH 28, 1979

SENTINEL-REVIEW
MARCH 28 1979

"And what happens to our doctors, if they squeeze us out..." he asks.

MANY CHANGES

There have been so many changes in the practice of law since Start began 51 years ago in Ingersoll that he admits there are times when he feels "rather pleased to be stepping out."

The greatest change, he said, came about with the new family law reform bill last year, as the result of the now-famed Murdoch case. An Alberta farm wife got a share of the family farm registered in her husband's name because she had contributed for 25 years to building the farm operation.

"Spouses now have an equal obligation to support each other," he said.

This opens up an entirely new specialized field for lawyers, Start said. And lawyers today are going increasingly into specific areas. This means that they

will be regularly taking refresher courses, something he agrees with.

And under new laws they now will be able to advertise their specialties, he says.

But while Start agrees with lawyers advertising their specialties, he is against them advertising fees.

He says it is all wrong. If fees are fixed, somebody is going to be short-changed because a lawyer will spend less time in arriving at a solution.

It is a very similar situation to that in which doctors now are placed, he said.

"They are obliged by economics to put patients through on a sort of assembly-line basis," he said. "It's a poor way to practice—there's something wrong with it as far as lawyers are concerned."

Royden Start, who looks 10 years younger than his 79 years, says he has a lot of



**Royden Start
...top citizen**

catching up to do on reading books after he retires in July. He also has a 300-foot lot to look after at his 334 Thames St. S. home to keep him busy.

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SENTINEL REVIEW
MARCH 28 1979

START, ROYDEN G.
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR
AWARD (R.C.L.)

Memories of education

From teaching 20 some odd students in a small school house in Parry Sound to heading the now extinct Ingersoll Public School Board, Reg Stewart has had an active life in education.

Soon to be 82 years of age, he has fond memories of his early teaching years when the children of one family living over three miles from the river side school came to school at times with a dog and sleigh. Moreover, the woman with whom he boarded was instrumental in the establishment of the school where he taught.

"There were still log schools in that area," says Stewart of the mill town two years prior to the Dirty '30s, or as he calls the depression, the Hungry '30s.

After teaching near Parry Sound, Stewart taught at Dereham Centre and Foldens Corners for four and five years respectively before continuing his career at a small school near Fergus.

Leaving the teaching profession in 1941, Stewart began working in a lumber yard, staying there until his retirement in 1968.

But Stewart, who attended high school in Tillsonburg, did not stay away from the education system and was a trustee and later head of the public school board for a 14-year term that started in the 1950s.

His reasons for becoming involved with the operations of the public school board were twofold: he had business experience as assistant manager at the lumber yard and "the very fact that we were supplying quite a number of pupils — we have five sons — that was one thing."

The public school board looked after Princess Anne, Princess Elizabeth and Victory Memorial. The high school in those days had its own board because it drew students from a wider area.

During his term on the board, members were not paid and expenses were carefully watched, but soon after his departure the then provincial department of education decided board members should receive a monetary reward for their time.

"I thought it was partly a duty with five pupils in certain stages of development," says Stewart.

During his time, he saw additions erected at Princess Elizabeth and Victory Memorial and was head of the board which received provincial funding for the building of Princess Anne.

Princess Anne Public School was built as a four-room building in order to receive money from the province.



Reginald Stewart

DAILY SENTINEL-REVIEW
INGERSOLL THIS WEEK
Sept 25, 1990

Smitten

Beachcomber explores past

INGERSOLL — The sound of the running waves, shifting sands, and the wind in the weathered trees are music Dave Stone — the beachcomber of Long Point.

For nearly 20 years, Mr. Stone, 55, has been having an affair with the sickle-shaped piece of land jutting into Lake Erie from the Norfolk-Haldimand shore.

Murders, lighthouses, folklore, heroic feats, but most of all shipwrecks, make up the 12 volumes of information he has compiled about the area.

His engagement to Long Point is always a brief annual affair. Dave, his wife and two children live on Cedar Street in Ingersoll, where he works as a salesman for a fertilizer company. But he manages to escape to his Long Point cottage all summer.

He says his affair began in the early 1950's when an American neighbouring cottager asked him why the name Abigail Becker was chosen for one of the town's streets.

He didn't know the answer. But he took the time to find out she was the heroine of Long Point. And from that day on, he's been smitten.

Mr. Stone can tell you about piracy, buried treasures, Long Point's role in the War of 1812, and if that doesn't start your blood tingling, he may tell you about the ghost that roams the Point looking for its head.

But give him time and he'll turn the conversation around to his favourite topic — shipwrecks. He's the one who can verify the Point's claim as "Graveyard of the Great Lakes" with his itemized list of the nearly 200 wrecks whose ribs and spars are known to be strewn under the sand.

And each year his list lengthens as the shifting sands and wash expose more huge ancient ship timbers, some with hand-made spikes protruding.

The walls of both Dave's cottage and his family room at home are covered with maps showing locations of wrecks, pictures of wrecks, along with timbers and artifacts found over the years.

The mantelpiece of his stone fireplace at home is made from the planking and ribs, in-

tact with bolts and nails, from the Henry Clay, which floundered off Long Point Oct. 25, 1851.

The Henry Clay was the third accredited lake steamer and the first to reach Sault Ste. Marie (1827). She was a 200-ton wooden-hulled propeller steamer, built in Milan, Ohio, in 1825.

On her final voyage, the Henry Clay left Detroit Oct. 24, 1851, with a cargo of wool and flour for Buffalo. About midnight, she encountered gale winds off Long Point which shifted her cargo, damaging the engines.

The mountainous waves tore off the deck, carrying 10 of her crew with it. Only one member of the 28-man crew survived.

For days after her sinking, the outer tip of the shore was dotted with bales of wool which kept mainland spinning wheels whirling.

Mr. Stone pursues his beachcombing each summer by walking his beagle dogs on the beach or cruising offshore in his 22-foot cruiser aptly called "The Beachcomber".

With binoculars in hand and cruising at slow speed, he scans the shoreline for hours in

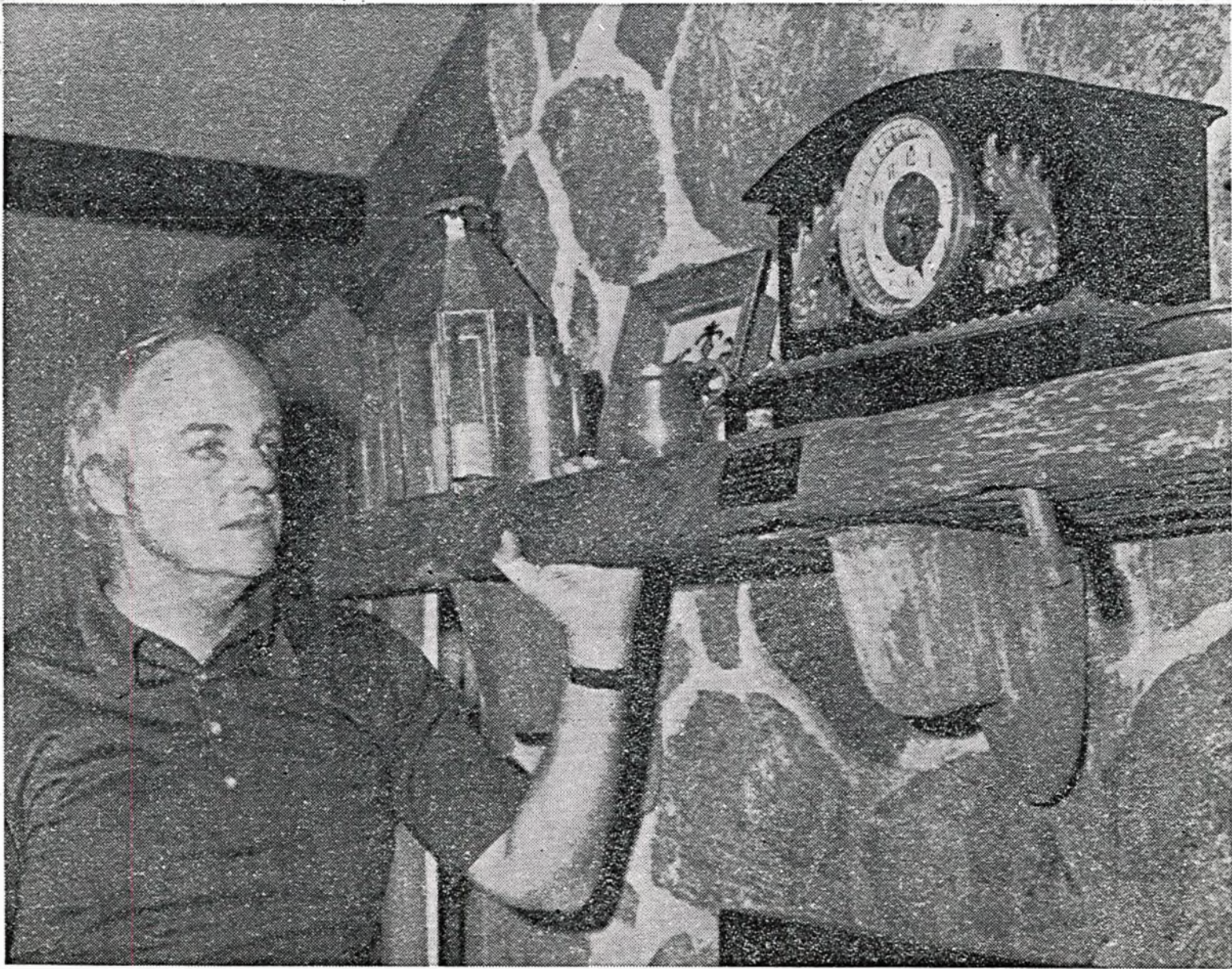
search of flotsam. But experience has taught him that doing this alone is tricky business, so he now takes along a crew of two, emergency supplies and an auxiliary motor.

Occasionally the crew drags a grappling hook to try to unearth objects from their lake grave.

He spends a lot of his time telling people about his discoveries in the hope he may find someone who can tell him more about the area's history.

He has spoken to the ministry of natural resources, given lectures to historical societies and Fanshawe College's folklore students, and taken part in radio programs about Long Point. His insatiable search for more information has taken him to marine archives, libraries, museums, and countless old books and newspapers. He likes to talk to old sailors who endured the storms off the Point and lived to tell their tales.

Yet, despite the many hours and days and years he has devoted to the Point's history, he is modest about his beachcombing. He calls himself an amateur.



Long Point's beachcomber Dave Stone of Ingersoll shows off his mantlepice, above, which is part of the deck and ribs of the steamer Henry Clay, lost off Long Point Oct. 24, 1851.

Stone, Dave

-2-

Smitten
L.F.P. Nov 19 '75

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LONDON FREE PRESS
November 19, 1975

Beachcomber Dave Stone

Discovering time capsules

BY ANNA MARIE CASTELLANO

"A shipwreck is a sort of time capsule waiting to be found. You can find out how people lived centuries ago," says the man they call the Beachcomber of Long Point.

David Stone, an Ingersoll resident, has spent half a lifetime researching and charting the approximate location of more than 160 ships that have sunk off Long Point, the graveyard of Lake Erie since the 18th century.

It takes sophisticated equipment and a lot of searching through libraries and public archives, but according to Mr. Stone, the payoff is worth it.

There are more than 10,000 wrecks in the Great Lakes but according to Mr. Stone, only one thousand have been found and documented.

The map he has, showing the wrecked fleet off Long Point, which was drawn by Ingersoll artist Bill Hawkins, has been in demand since its publication in 1978.

Mr. Stone became interested in the lake in the 1930's when he spent his summers with his family at a cottage at Turkey Point. "In those days, Long Point was a no man's land," he said. "It was known as Snake Island and no one ever went there."

He joined the navy in 1941 as a seaman gunner and spent four years on Canadian corvettes which he says made him even more interested in water and ships.

Mr. Stone has become an authority on the subject of shipwrecks since he started researching information about wrecks in the early 1950's.

The reason for so many wrecks, he said, is in direct relation to the change in shipping from sail to steam and from wooden hulls to steel.

"They introduced steel hulls in 1885 which brought a dramatic increase in shipwrecks. But things got even worse in 1890 when ship-owners were encouraged to put old vessels back in service. Increased shipping rates encouraged this. They were getting paid more so ship owners starting bringing out all the little wooden clunkers again."

Mr. Stone's interest lies in conservation. His collection of salvaged objects now adorning cottage walls will be donated to a marine museum.

He also shares his historical information in slide presentations to area schools and service clubs, recently speaking to the Kiwanis Club of Ingersoll.

"To find a wreck off Long Point, you've already got three strikes against you," he said. "Underwater visibility is practically nil most of the time and the weather and distance are also factors."

"A lot of wrecks are right under busy shipping lanes and diving for these is like trying to dig a hole in the centre of Highway 401."

Even when things aren't so bad, divers face hazards. "The inner bay is bad news for divers because of all the fishing boats."

A red dive flag with a white diagonal stripe is put up to warn boaters to stay clear, but a lot don't pay any attention to it.

At the same time, diving in fishing ground does have some rewards.

"These guys are always losing stuff, especially after opening day, when they get drinking. They drop their poles and you can often find tackle and gear," he said.

On top of the pleasure the interesting hobby brings him, Mr. Stone is proud and pleased that his enthusiasm for the subject has been communicated to others.



Long Point's beachcomber, Dave Stone of Ingersoll, has a large variety of things from shipwrecks at Long Point, along with this piece, a heavy steel ship's wheel from one of his recent discoveries. (Photo by Anna Marie Castellano)

Ingersoll Times

December 4, 1985

Stone, Dave

Ted Hunt takes over for retiring Gerry Staples

PAULINE KERR

INGERSOLL — In a dramatic conclusion to Wednesday night's council meeting, Mayor Doug Harris announced council's choice for the town's senior administrator.

Edward "Ted" Hunt, present town development officer, will take the reins from clerk-administrator Gerry Staples upon his retirement after a distinguished career of service to his community.

Staples has served 22 years with the Town of Ingersoll and 11 years with the County of Oxford.

Harris stepped down to the floor to make the resolution in favor of appointing Hunt. Seconder was Coun. Jim Robins.

nouncement, Wilson McBeath piped in a crowd of more than 100 well wishers in a surprise retirement celebration for Staples. Among the group were people who had worked

with Staples over the years — elected town officials past and present, elected officials from neighboring communities, town employees and friends.



Staples

Hunt

Councillor-at-large Jack Warden announced council's unanimous choice with a simple "When do we clap?"

Harris explained the controversial method by which Hunt was selected as being "of benefit to the community and to Mr. Hunt." The management consulting firm of Peat Marwick Stevenson and Kellogg was called to assist in the process to "ensure that the citizens of Ingersoll got the best possible candidate."

Harris issued a press release to further explain the selection process which began in the summer.

Five outstanding candidates from among the 25 applicants for the position were interviewed by Ingersoll town council on Nov. 12 and 13, and after considerable discussion, Hunt came out the winner.

Hunt has lived in Ingersoll all his life and brings to his new position "a valuable balance of skills and experience." In recent years he has acted as back-up clerk-administrator and has completed his academic designation to be an accredited clerk.

Hunt begins his new duties effective Jan. 1, 1991.

Immediately following the an-

Ingersoll Midweek Advertiser

November 20, 1990

*The Beachcomber***A new member of ship's company carries on the legend**

By DAVE STONE

During the month of October 1993 there appeared an article in the Good News about The Lake Erie Monster and of course you will all know this featured my constant companion Seaweed, a black Standard Poodle. Little did I realize when I was writing this story it would be the last one written when he was alive. In October, my 12 year old friend went to the Great Shipwreck in the Sky.

October to me is always sort of a down month, being a seasonal dweller at Long Point it is time to



Matelot - A wreck sniffing dog in training.

close up the cottage for another year. Coupled with the loss of Seaweed it made it extra gray.

When we moved back to Ingersoll, my wife Jean made this shocking statement, "No more dogs." What an awful thing to say to a kind, loving husband of 46 years. This was utter despair.

Little did she know that I had already started doing some research on Standard Poodle breeders. I informed my daughter Julia and son Heath of this desperate situation and we decided to form a dog committee to find a good breeder. We didn't put Jean on the committee for obvious reasons. From that day forward there were secret phone calls, mystery meetings and lots of whispers.

Jean certainly has some points as to why we should not get involved again. She felt that at our age it would be too much of a chore to go through training a dog and what if through health problems we couldn't handle this big house and had to move into a condo. There were others too that made sense but it's very hard to accept these when one has had dogs all of his life.

So on with the committee meet-

ings. In late November I received a call from my daughter about a hot tip I couldn't phone her back until late that night because some cars around the house might pick up our conversation. I had to wait until those cars went to sleep.

This phone call resulted in Julia contacting Dr. Nancy Tarzwell, Georgetown who operates Terra Glen Animal Hospital and Terradale Kennels, a breeder of Standards. I was informed that she had a black Minnie poodle expecting shortly and at that point the search was over and we would eventually be the owners of a male pup.

Now that the purchase was made the next step was how was I going to break this great news to Jean. Easy, I didn't until about two weeks before I took delivery. By holding off I thought I might

dog pen was in need of repair so I decided to replace it with a new one. This job was being undertaken when I thought she was going to be away all afternoon. However I got a surprise, she came home early. I had a large hold dug in the pen for the new post when Jean arrived on the scene. Out came the remark, "What are you doing in the dog pen." How was I going to handle this one? Then my cunning mind went to work. My reply was, "I was just starting to tear down the dog pen and going to seed all this area in grass."

With that she went inside and came back out in about 10 minutes and said quote, "Don't tear it down, why don't you leave it here for now, 'til next spring anyway." Wow! A good signal, so I went on restoring the pen.

About three weeks before I was to pick up the pup, my better half took off for New York with one of her opera friends to enjoy their passion for this music. I figured by the time she arrived home so full of opera and content her guard would be down. So it was then I made the big announcement! To my surprise I was told, "I knew that you would eventually end up with another dog, however I expected it in April not January."

At this point I could have blamed my committee for making such a terrible blunder and got off the hook. However a dad can't blame his kids for everything, so I had to confess it was all my doing.

"Matelot" (French for sailor, pronounced Matlo) moved in at eight weeks old and not only took over our home but our hearts.

The legend of "Seaweed," a black Standard once again will be seen at Long Point. Out in the boat with the divers, wreck sniffing, walking the beaches, fishing,

greeting all those in Port Rowan, being in attendance at all times with The Beachcomber and can always be seen several times a week at his favourite place The Backus Historical Village. Carrying on this legend is none other than "Matelot".

Want to know how my home life ended up? Well I finally got my wife Jean to agree with me that I'm not too bad after all and that she wanted the dog more than I did! Can you believe it!

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UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY

Sunken ships time capsules from another era

INGERSOLL — Shipwrecks are time capsules. Several such time capsules lie waiting for an Ingersoll man and his diving team to crack them open.

Dave Stone, of Cedar Drive here, would like to discover the one with a load of Model T Fords, or perhaps locate the *Idaho*, a ship which holds antique toys and guns in its cargo bay, or the best prize — the *Atlantic*, a ship which was carrying \$35,000 in gold when it sank in 1852.

All these ships lie under the murky waters near Long Point where Stone has spent more than 30 years researching and searching for shipwrecks.

Stone isn't really a treasure hunter, more a combination beachcomber-diver-shipwreck historian. As a result of much urging from divers, ship enthusiasts, and friends, Stone is writing a book about shipwrecks at Long Point.

LAST PORT

He expects to complete *Last Port of Call* in the summer of 1987. A publisher is already committed to the project, but Stone has avoided setting himself a specific deadline because it would create too much pressure.

Undiscovered ships like the *Atlantic* give the 63-year-old incentive to keep diving near Long Point even though those waters can be so treacherous and unrewarding that many experienced divers avoid them.

The *Atlantic* collided with the *Ogdensburg* in 1952. The captain of the *Atlantic* didn't realize how serious the damage was and tried to make it to a sandbar.

The ship had limped only a quarter-mile from the collision when it sank. About 250 people were lost in this, the fourth most serious marine disaster on the Great Lakes.

HAS COMPANY

The *Atlantic* has close company at the bottom of Lake Erie.

Salvagers arrived with one of the first one-man submarines in 1865 and attempted to go down to see the wreck.

The submarine had only been lowered 10 feet when it started to take on water. It was raised, then sent down unmanned. It was lowered 20 feet and the cable broke, plummeting the submarine down to the lake bed next to the *Atlantic*.

Stone knows approximately where the *Atlantic* lies but it's in the middle of the Great Lakes shipping zone. "Diving for it would be like trying to dig a hole in the 401," he says.

Most shipwrecks near Long Point are far from glamorous, Stone says.

Schooners were the work horses of the Great Lakes, travelling short hops and carrying grain, lumber and coal. "They carried no great treasures."

Shipwrecks were a bonanza to pioneers who harvested wool or lumber that floated ashore from the broken work horses.

Several barns near Port Rowan were built from timbers of such ships, Stone says.

He researched and charted 163 ships claimed by the icy waters of Long Point. That's two less than the number of times he's been asked to speak to community groups about his adventures on the Great Lakes.

He tells the groups, Long Point, a finger sticking out halfway into Lake Erie, is a natural hazard. It's surrounded by shifting sandbars.

Not even a lighthouse existed on the shore until 1833 — the same year a schooner, the *Edmond Fitzgerald*, sank near the Long Point losing its entire crew.

Following its demise, an American freighter, also the *Edmond Fitzgerald*, sank on Lake Superior losing its entire crew and eventually becoming the subject of Gordon Lightfoot's folk song

160 WENT DOWN

Although more than 160 ships sank near the point, many have been bashed by waves into oblivion. Portions of others washed ashore and were salvaged by pioneers. Very few lie in plain view to divers.

Story and photos by PHYLLIS COULTER

Actually nothing is in plain view here. Visibility is very poor — often as little as two feet. The lack of visibility can be dangerous when you can't even see your own feet.

Stone recalls "diving on a wreck" in water only 25 feet deep. The black muck on the bottom — so thick you could put your arm in it and not touch bottom — made visibility little more than one foot.

Stone's diving buddy touched bottom. "It was midnight." Blackness circled around Stone, but he couldn't move. His left foot was caught.

Stone couldn't see his foot to free himself.

He couldn't see his partner to ask for help.

At least he knew he had one hour of air left. This gave him time to figure his way out of the predicament.

When the view cleared, Stone discovered his leg was tangled in a fishing net and his flipper buckle was caught.

Such nets are common here. Trollers sometimes cut nets when they are caught and the nets fall around a shipwreck making it hazardous to dive around.

"I got caught on a net once and that was enough."

Stone made two changes after this experience. He avoids diving where nets pose a hazard and he's connected with his diving partner by a line or lanyard.

Stone, a spunky man of 63 says he doesn't take chances. He never dives with a novice, and doesn't go as deep now as when he was younger.

PLAY IT SAFE

"I play it pretty safe," he said, explaining that he always has a safety margin of oxygen left when he climbs back into the boat.

His achievements include years of safe diving, gathering volumes of fascinating information about shipwrecks, researching and designing an impressive chart of the 163 shipwrecks on Long Point, and committing himself to writing a book on the subject. But, according to Stone the best results of his hobby have nothing to do with any of the above.

"The biggest pluses" from his hobby is the interest he created in the sport or career for two young people.

Stone's son Heath is a marine biologist who dives regularly in the Atlantic.

Likewise, a young girl who Stone taught the rules of boating, and later dived with, also became enthused about the sea. Today, Carolyn Stinisa is the third officer on the Canadian Coast Guard's largest ice breaker.

The father and son made one of their proudest discoveries together. "I was getting very strange readings from my depth sounder," Stone recalls.

Heath and his partner went down to check things out and discovered the *Pascal P. Pratt*, a 285-foot wooden steamer which hit bottom in 1908.

Stone joined them. Among their findings on the Pratt was a "lucky" horseshoe.

This was as a special discovery for Stone because he made it with his son, and it's the largest intact vessel complete with engines the diving team has discovered.

Finding a shipwreck is no random accident.

"You have to be at it day after day. You have to work at it. And when you find a shipwreck — it's like a hole-in-one in golf."

Like in golf, you can be close but still so far away, Stone says.

Stone and his four-man diving team always plan their dives before going out and often scan an area about the size of two city blocks.

"About half the planned dives are cancelled because of weather."

NOT FOR PLEASURE

Stone wouldn't suggest Long Point for pleasure diving because the water is often cold, visibility poor, and you must go 25 miles out before you can get started.

He travels to Hawaii and other tropical places for his pleasure dives.

Part of the fun there is you don't even have to wear a full wet suit it's so warm. This is the perfect alternative for Stone when the waters are too cold to dive here.

Some people ice dive in this area, but it's not Stone's style.

Two divers died in quarries in this area last year while ice diving, he recalls. They couldn't find the hole in the ice to

get back out. It's a risk Stone isn't willing to take.

For Stone, diving itself is just part of the whole experience. He learned to love the water as a boy with his family and later followed his interest in the navy during the Second World War. He gained a well-rounded look at the subject.

He also studies shipbuilding, underwater archeology, photography, and visits many archives and libraries to quench his thirst for knowledge about the shipwrecks in the Long Point area. He's received much of his research material from the United States — the point of origin for many ships now grounded at the Point.

He's also interested in the sailors themselves. He says few survived the disasters near Long Point.

Stone,
Dave



UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY has a number of enthusiasts. Friends, fellow divers, and ship enthusiasts have been asking Dave Stone for years to write a book. He is.

SENTING

REVIEW

December 1, 1986



DAVE STONE, an Ingersoll native, has found a wide variety of items while diving near Long Point.

Book in the works

Stone helps with video on shipwrecks

By IAN JOHNSTON

A video documenting shipwrecks between Port Burwell and Long Point is being produced with the help of Ingersoll diving enthusiast and shipwreck expert Dave Stone.

The video, produced by Mikoe Visual Productions of Brantford, will go underwater in Lake Erie to film four rarely explored ships. With the assistance of the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture and the Ontario Underwater Council for diving safety and promotion, the video hopes to entice divers to what Dave Stone calls, "an untouched, unexplored wonderland."

"Little has been done on Lake Erie," said Stone. "Areas like Tobermory have been overexplored."

Stone said the project has already begun, with filming complete on the first wreck: the wooden propeller steamer Majestic, a 291 foot wooden ship built in 1889 now resting in 55 feet of water. Stone said that a couple of the wrecks to be filmed had

never been seen by the diving community.

Filming of the video, which is titled Exploration Erie, is scheduled to be completed by September but Stone said this will all depend on the weather.

Though Stone and Stratfordville diver and salvager Mike Verbrugge did not initiate the project, their assistance has become integral to its completion. Stone's 40 years of research in the field has provided the film with the needed background and information on wreck sites.

Stone is narrator for the video. As well, Verbrugge is acting as both captain and divemaster for the project on board his diveboat Checkmate.

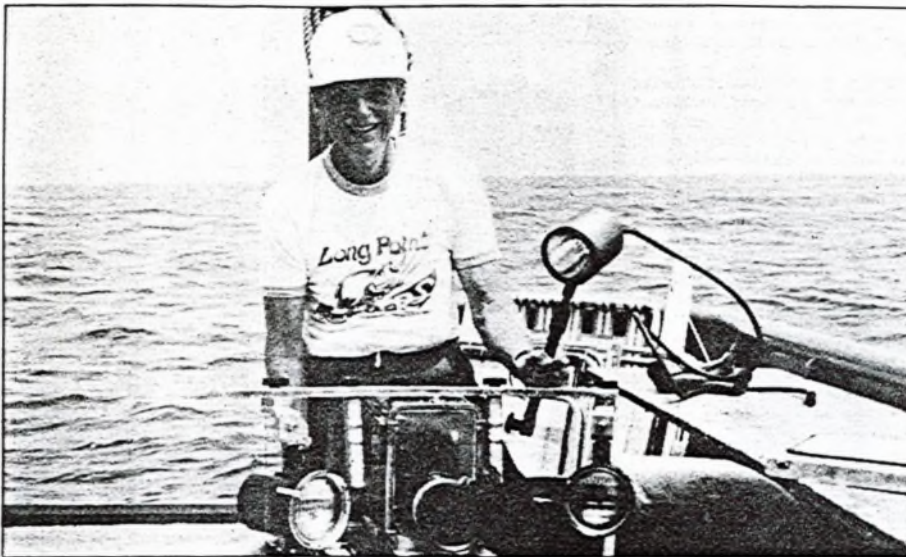
Because diving time is limited to 25 minutes at a stretch, Stone and Verbrugge have assisted in the filming through exploratory dives. Stone said the two men go down to the wreck first, picking out interesting points such as propeller or engine. When their dive is completed, the film crew moves in.

"We only select stuff that will really show up on film," he said.

Although the project has been fraught with audio and weather problems, Stone was optimistic that the video would be completed in time for its scheduled premier next April at a diver's convention in Toronto. The video will eventually be available to the general public.

This project marks only the latest step in Stone's lifetime interest in the wrecks which surround the Long Point peninsula. Stone's interest in sunken ships began over 40 years ago when he discovered a piece of a wreck lying on the beach. Since then, Stone's relentless diving has documented over 163 wrecks in the area.

A popular map was produced from Stone's exhaustive research into the



Dave Stone demonstrates a camera used in the filming of Exploration Erie, a video promoting the untouched shipwrecks off Long Point.

"ghostships" of the Long Point area. Stone is now working on a book highlighting major wrecks. He said the book will document a boat's life

from "the laying of the keel to its final disposition." He said the book, titled "Last Port of Call" should be completed in the fall.

Stone said Long Point was a hazard to ships in the past because of its unique geography. Stretching halfway across Lake Erie, it provid-

ed a dangerous obstacle to boats unequipped with navigational aids, radar or up-to-date charts. Besides sand bars, he said the weather off the point was "horrendous," resulting in the many wrecks which now dot the lake bottom.

Though the last major wreck occurred over 40 years ago, Stone said many of the wrecks are remarkably well preserved. He said the cold, fresh water, which discourages decay, is the major reason for this.

"They're time capsules. We can look at them and see how they were built," he said.

However, Stone cautioned that searching for ship wrecks is not for the uninitiated. He said that finding an undiscovered ship takes months of research. "You can spend a whole summer and find nothing," he said.

Stone himself has discovered four wrecks in 40 years of diving, an accomplishment he compared to a hole-in-one in golf.

"You don't often get a hole-in-one. Maybe one in your lifetime."

However, if a person does find a wreck, it is not to be touched. Under the Heritage Act, all wrecks are protected by law.

"Preservation is the name of the game," said Stone.



Photographer Mike Szab and Mike Johnston of Mikoe Visual Production

INGERSOLL TIMES
July 8, 1987

STONE, Dave

Dave Stone goes where storms live

Story and photo
by PAULINE KERR
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — It's a dangerous place, where storms can come up with little warning, where maximum visibility is 25 feet — often only five, where wrecks festooned with snagged fishing nets can disappear from one season to the next.

And yet the murky shallows off Long Point hold an endless fascination for Dave Stone, who has done much to uncover the secrets hidden beneath the silty waves.

"My first recollection of Long Point — in 1933 — was a sort of never-never land of shipwrecks, ghosts and snakes," said Stone. "Nobody ever went out there. I eventually did when I was 14. I took my father's boat, and I felt just like Christopher Columbus; my imagination ran wild."

Following the Second World War, during which Stone served in the navy and participated in the war's longest sub chase — the Chilliwack spent 44 hours tracking U774 — the Ingersoll resident was again drawn to Long Point.

Nothing on wrecks

"I found a wreck, the hull of a schooner, on the beach and it was mind-boggling. I was turned on by this place but there was no information, nothing about the wrecks."

Long Point became his hobby. (Now that he is approaching the official age of retirement, "It's looking

full-time.") His search for information took him to local residents who were either new to the area or reluctant to talk, and to the provincial and federal archives where there was little on record. "Then I found a lot of the wrecks were American. I tapped sources there (in the United States) and people who knew of my interest gave leads."

His search also took him beneath the water. "Even as a child I used to imagine I was diving in the ocean. Somebody showed up with a (scuba) tank and it looked like fun. Snorkling, you couldn't stay long enough or go deep enough."

He studied diving, underwater archeology and early ship construction, realizing there was sometimes only a bit of the ship left and you had to know building to know what it was. Schooners weren't built according to a pattern. Every shipbuilder in the little shipyards in Port Ryersie, Port Dover and the towns along the shore had his own methods, his own trademarks.

Great Lakes shores

Much of the early population and industry in both Canada and the United States centred along the shores of the Great Lakes, Stone pointed out. And many of the sailing ships and steamers that were so important to the growth of our nation ended up victims of the treacherous conditions off Long Point. "It's really exposed. The water is so shallow, and storms come up so fast," he said.

pointing out that's what makes the wrecks difficult to explore.

He estimates half his dives have had to be scrubbed because of weather. Even when conditions are good, diving at Long Point isn't the most pleasant experience.

Full wet suit

"It's not the Caribbean. You need a full wet suit, and the water isn't clear."

With visibility usually limited to a few feet, the only contact the diver has with his buddy is by rope. A mere brush against the bottom can cloud the water so badly a wreck must be discovered by touch.

And there is the constant danger of becoming entangled in fishing net. "I know of one beautiful schooner. I wouldn't go near it, it's so hung up with nets. Somebody will come day, and they're just asking for trouble."

One time Stone was diving at about 25 ft. His fins stirred up the muck on the bottom "and it was just midnight. Then I couldn't move my leg. I had lots of air so I waited 15 min. for the water to clear, saw the net and cut it off, then went looking for my buddy. I was going to come up when I felt this thing, steel, and I followed it up. It turned out to be a huge boiler and there was my buddy, sitting on top."

Intact, with anchors

There are wrecks at Long Point that have never been seen. They are intact, complete with anchors. "Everything is there. When you see a that, you see a time capsule."

Stone has mixed feelings about raising such wrecks. An avid conservationist, he is against their wanton destruction. "There's a \$10,000 fine for stripping a wreck. These resources aren't renewable." But some of them, those few of historical importance, may belong in a museum, "not sitting at 80 ft. where only a few see them."

Stone has traced the location of 163 wrecks on his chart, "The Ghost Fleet of Long Point", and has finally written a book.

For the past 10 years friends have been urging Stone to do something with the files of data collected over the years. "I put it off," he said. "I've always been a doer."

An offer by Boston Mills Press in Erin (Guelph) to publish a book if he wrote one, and encouragement from television's Bill Bramah (Bramah's Ontario, Global TV) resulted in the 200 page book containing 163 photographs.

The official launching of *Long Point — Last Port of Call* is scheduled to arrive at book stores June 10.



DAVE STONE's lifetime fascination with the wrecks off Long Point has resulted in his book *Long Point — Last Port of Call*, scheduled for release June 10. Stone, pictured here with diving companion *Seaweed*, will spend the summer, as always, exploring the remains of the sailing ships and steamers lost in the treacherous waters of Lake Erie.

SENTINEL
MAY 24, 1988
REVIEW

Lake Erie is his second home

Undersea diver publishes book

By CHRIS POWELL

Just off Long Point, in the murk and gloom at the bottom of Lake Erie, lie the shattered remains of an

untold number of boats and ships that have found a final resting place here in this timeless environment.

They are gone, but not forgotten, thanks to the efforts of one Ingersoll man who has been researching these majestic sailing craft for 35 years.

That man is Dave Stone, and he is infatuated with these underwater monuments, which he calls "time capsules of 100 years ago." Many hours have gone into the pursuit of a hobby that has "kind of grew out of hand," he says.

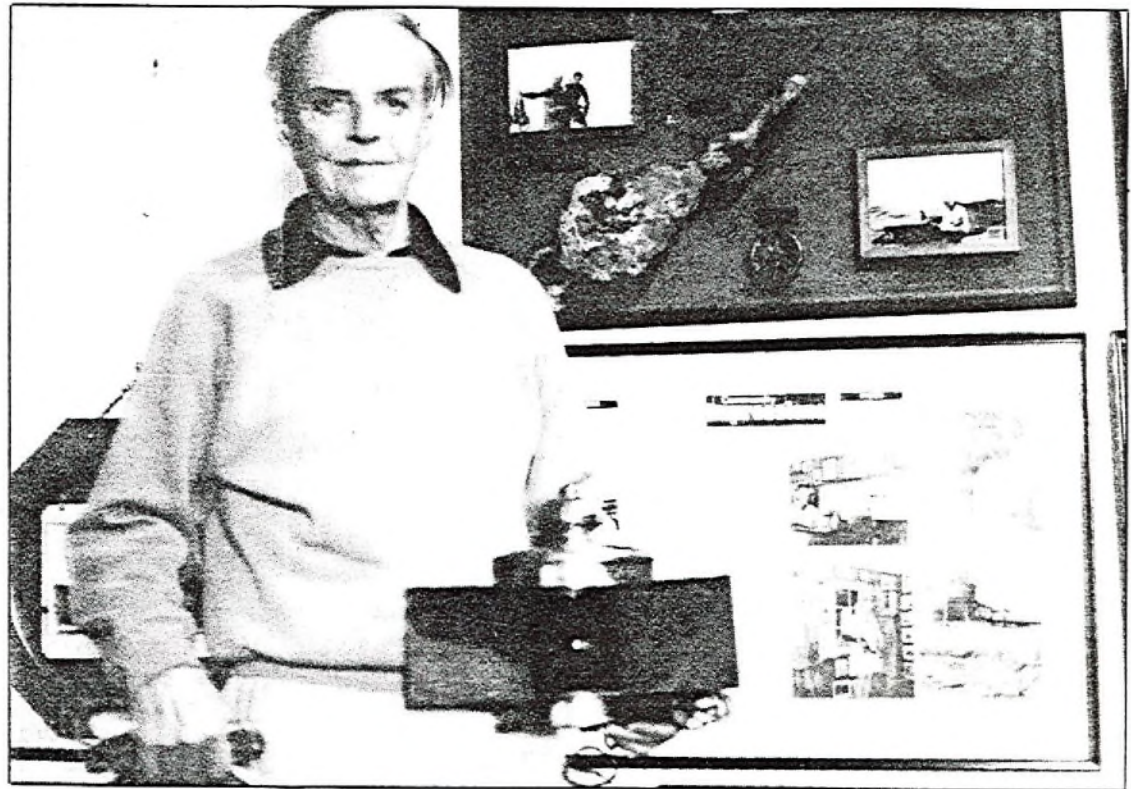
Because he has "gotton so much pleasure," out of the history surrounding Long Point, Stone decided to write a book on the subject. Another factor which guided him to this decision was the fact that he had "a lot of pressure on me from many, many people to put a book together."

The book, which is titled Long Point: Last Port of Call, is scheduled to be released on June 10. It will be published by Boston Mills Press, and released across the United States and Canada.

In the book, Stone gives an account of some of his "personal experiences" while diving to these wrecks, as well as a detailed study of some of the wrecks sunk at Long Point. A chapter is also included on the planes that have crashed near the point.

It is mainly the boats that he focuses on however, and Stone says that each wreck holds a special place in his heart. "When I see a wreck at the bottom of the lake, I don't just see a pile of boards," he says.

Stone says that writing the book was not an easy experience. "When I



Dave Stone poses with some of the things he has collected from various ship wrecks off Long Point. Stone has a book coming out on June 10 entitled Long Point: Last Port of Call.

got halfway through, I wondered what I had gotten into," he remembers. "I'm a doer not a writer." The book, which took 21 months "and 35 years of research" to write, is what Stone calls "strictly a labor of love."

Because of the abundance of material Stone had on the wrecks, he had to do a lot of sorting prior to

even beginning the book. "I spent more time looking than I did writing," he says. During the time Stone spent diving on wrecks, he accumulated more than 14 volumes of material and photos that needed to be sorted through.

Stone does say however, that he is "delighted" with the finished product.

Stone said that he had a lot of trouble starting off the book, until he remembered someone's advice to him when writing a book. The advice was just be yourself, after that, Stone said that he had no trouble.

Stone predicts that the book is going to do very well and he adds that there may be a follow-up to it in the future.

INGERSOLL TIMES
May 23, 1988

STONE 1 PAGE

Ingersoll author Dave Stone explores the Great Lakes on a journey run on money, equipment, patience

There's something about a old, abandoned ship that draws Ingersoll author Dave Stone to the watery graves that line the floors of the Great Lakes.

Whether it is the thought of a proud captain watching over his crew or the mystery surrounding the ship disasters that compels him, Stone has spent 35 years of his life investigating shipwrecks. He has documented his findings in his book, *Long Point: Last Port of Call*.

There have been 646 commercial ships lost in the Great Lakes between 1795 and 1984. Many of the large schooners and steamers remain on the floors of the Great Lakes; a great number of them hidden in the black, deep waters

"You can miss a wreck by two inches," Stone said. "That's the thing about finding them."

Stone showed slides of his own shipwreck research to a crowd of about 50 gathered to honor him at the VMS auditorium last week. His presentation was accompanied by tales of ship disasters, murder and the struggle to survive on the Great Lakes.

Long Point, which borders on Lake Erie, is a small village populated with turtles, muskrat, a variety of snakes and a herd of undernourished and overpopulated deer. The village's lighthouse has long been used to guide distressed ships to the shore.

"Most of the wrecks at Long Point

were in the fall and winter," Stone told the crowd. "Many times the people in the lighthouse would hear a boat in distress and cries for help, and they'd come down to find the men frozen to death, lying along the shore."

Today the high waters of Lake Erie threaten to wash away all of the village's buildings, including the lighthouse.

"The land mass there is very fragile," Stone said. "The lighthouse has lost most of its building."

Stone himself made a grim discovery while at Long Point. He recalled finding an ancient Indian grave on the shoreline after his dog had uncovered a number of bones.

"There were five skeletons lying

right out along the shoreline," Stone recalled. The remains were later identified as that of an Indian tribe that inhabited the village in 1100 a.d.

Stone's slides included that of sunken ships resting on the floors of the Great Lakes: the huge vessels reduced to precious reminders of the past. Some of the ships are as large as a 275-foot steamer that sits beneath 185 feet of water.

Other ships lost include *Glad Tidings* (1884) and *The Empire* (1854). Stone said many of the shipwrecks occurred because the vessels were unable to survive the fierce waters that erupt in a rainstorm.

"We have lost so many ships in this water," Stone told the crowd.

"(When) the winds at Long Point are blowing, you have to get to shore." He added that making it to shore and to the lighthouse was the seamen's only chance of survival.

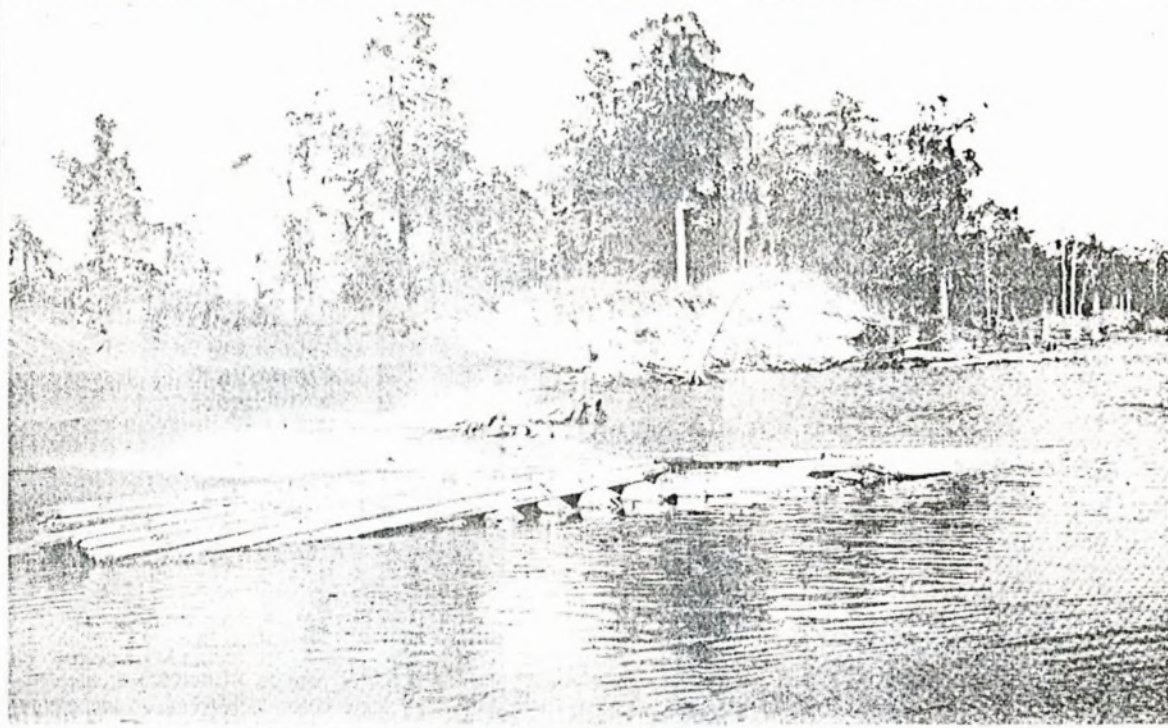
Stone's research has taken him on a journey of his own. A journey that has been run on money, equipment and patience. Some vessels took Stone up to an entire summer to find. But the reward came when he was

able to get close enough to a vessel to see its name burned into the ship's wooden side.

"I've had a tremendous time at this," Stone said, admitting he is still intrigued by the mystery of a lost ship. "There it is up on the shore. How many lives were lost? What happened?"

If you want to find the answers to some of these questions, Stone said, then buy his book.

OCTOBER 12, 1988
INGERSOLL TIMES



Dave Stone

REVIEW

Point shipwrecks a delightful tale

If you want to hear good stories about Long Point, you have to be present where they are told, and this is generally around the load box of an old pickup truck. If you are content to merely read them, you should buy a book like *Long Point, Last Port of Call* by Dave Stone.

Stone is sometimes called the beachcomber of Long Point. As he explains in the first part of his book, he has been fascinated with Long Point since he was a boy. Some of this fascination no doubt arose from the Point's reputation as a "forbidden land", but it is clear that Long Point shipwrecks and their remains have been Dave Stone's most important source of inspiration.

Some years ago Stone published a shipwreck chart entitled "The Ghost Fleet of Long Point, Graveyard of the Great Lakes." An updated version of this chart graces the inside cover of the book. Indeed, it



By
FELIX
DOUMA

serves as a kind of preview to the dozens of stories about shipwrecks contained in the book. Dave Stone recounts the circumstances of each shipwreck with relish, especially when he has had a part in locating or excavating the remains.

The reader will be delighted with the many photographs and other illustrations in this book. Most of them are of ships either before or after they were wrecked off Long Point. There is a sprinkling of other subjects: people, dogs, maps, signs, shanties, airplanes, lighthouses and tombstones.

Dave Stone does not offer any encouragement to treasure-hunters around the Point unless they happen to be underwater photographers keen to take a good picture. He deplores wreck stripping and points out that anyone who does it may be heavily fined.

All through the book, Stone demonstrates a profound respect for the wiles of Lake Erie. Time and time again he tells how disaster has followed an apparently innocuous flaw of judgment. But his touches of irony and his occasional philosophical observations never become obtrusive — in a good story, they never are.

Long Point, Last Port of Call was published in 1988 by the Boston Mills Press in Erin, Ontario. The book sells for \$24.95 a copy. You can still get one at the Flying Goose Gift Shop or the Sunrise Cafe in Port Rowan.

SIMCOE REFORMER

January 22, 1989

DAVE STONE'S IN-DEPTH STUDIES

How can anybody sink so deep, you ask?

By GREG ROTHWELL
of The Sentinel-Review

Dave Stone has never lost his fascination with the cold, chill waters of Lake Erie, off of Long Point, a naval graveyard that is still giving up its secrets.

"I've had a romance with this place for over 40 years," the Ingersoll native told the Oxford Historical Society annual meeting Wednesday.

There are 163 wrecks scattered all along the point, and Stone has calculated that 686 lives were lost on and near the 25-mile stretch of land that juts out into the Great Lake.

About 45 per cent of the marine casualties didn't die in the water either, he noted. Instead, they made it to the beaches, but that was in November and December, and the bitter cold, combined with their exhaustion, took its toll.

"They died of exposure" and are buried in the sand dunes, said Stone, who dives with five others off Long Point each May to October.

"I'm the only diver I know who gets the old age pension," Stone quipped.

His experiences at the Point culminated in a book, *Long Point — Last Point of Call*, published by Boston Mills Press. Encouraged by the 4,000 sales since its release last June, Stone is busy working on a followup work, which he expects will occupy him for the next two years.

Diving off the Point is a tricky business, and Stone advises pleasure divers to look elsewhere for their sport.

With five-foot visibility, commercial fishermen's nets and a major shipping lane to contend with, "it's a real scary situation," he told the meeting.

The cargo ships on the Buffalo run "don't go around you," Stone

said, "you get out of the way."

"The only reason I dive out there is because I'm interested in wrecks."

And there are a lot of wrecks to get interested in.

The tragic stories are legion. In 1852 the paddle-wheeler *Atlantic* was carrying more than 400 Norwegian immigrants when a second ship, the *Ogdensburg* crossed its path and struck the vessel.

The *Atlantic's* captain was unaware of the severity of the damage and shunned offers from the *Ogdensburg* to take some of the passengers aboard. The captain attempted to manoeuvre towards Long Point, but the ship broke up, and as the startled immigrants panicked and began throwing their valuables over the side, the boat "sank like a ton of bricks" to the bottom of a 185-foot hole in the lake off of the Point.

LIGHTHEARTED TALES AS WELL

There are lighthearted tales as well. In 1922 *The City of Dresden*, one of the most unseaworthy vessels imaginable, was rushed into service as a rumrunner.

More than 60,000 bottles of choice Canadian rye end up in the water as the boat broke up. When the booze washed ashore there was a rush to the Point, and the whisky was spirited away by the locals and hidden in eavestroughs, pig pens and even between the walls of their homes.

QUICKWITTED SCAVENGER

One quickwitted scavenger had the presence of mind to cut the telephone lines to the Simcoe police detachment, and the authorities didn't know about the great whisky wreck until three days later. When it came time to question the residents, their memories were more than a little

hazy, a result of their good fortune, "and no charges were ever laid."

And there are mysteries. The *Griffin*, the fur-bearing ship of 17th century French explorer Robert La Salle, was commandeered by five larcenous crew members. A find near Tobermory in the 1970s renewed speculation about the ship's fate, but investigators now believe that it was not La Salle's vessel. This has bolstered the theories of those who believe the ship was lost near

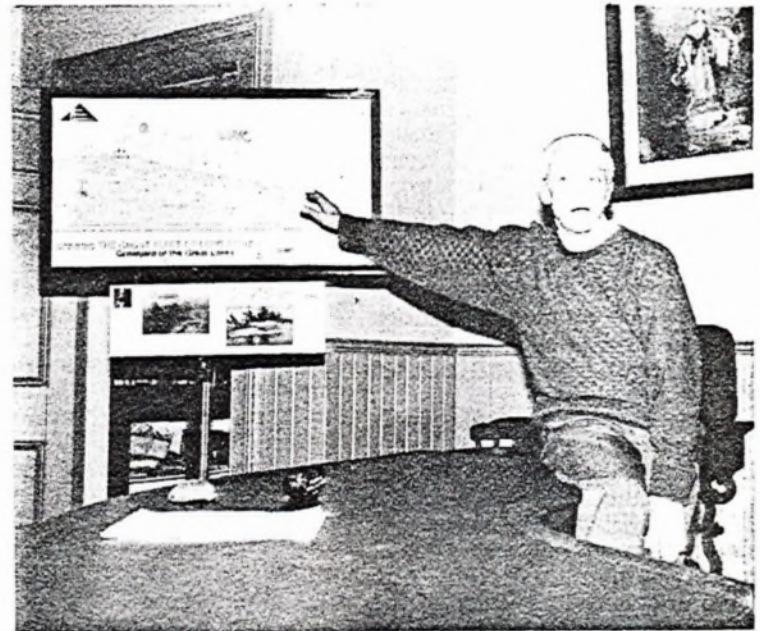
Long Point.

Most of the vessels that went down along the Point had less colorful histories.

"They weren't glamor ships," Stone says. The early vessels "carried staple commodities that the settlers needed."

Wrecks like the *Atlantic* hold modest fortunes (there is \$36,000 in the purser's safe of that ill-fated ship), but treasure seekers should take heed.

"There is a \$10,000 fine for stripping a wreck," Stone warns.



DAVE STONE was guest speaker at the Oxford Historical Society annual meeting. As a preamble to his presentation on ghost ships and shipwrecks at Long Point, the Ingersoll resident claimed to be perhaps the only scuba diver currently receiving an old-age pension.

(Staff photo by Ted Town)

SENTINEL REVIEW
JANUARY 26, 1989

DAVE STONE

Ingersoll author writing second book about the point

Story and photo By PAULINE KERR of Ingersoll This Week

A beachcomber's dream... a sailor's nightmare... there are a lot of stories about Long Point.

Long Point means so much to many of us living in southwestern Ontario. Many hazy summer days are spent gathering items from driftwood to beer bottles in the golden sands... wild parties at Potahawk Point... the end of an era with the automation of the stately lighthouse far out in Lake Erie on this great sand spit.

"There are so many things: the wrecks themselves, things I have experienced in the past 40 years, stories of the vessels, and the crazy

things," says Ingersoll resident Dave Stone, author of the highly successful book Long Point - Last Port of Call and the map Ghost Fleet of Long Point.

A good section of the population will never experience the point to its fullest - visit the now computer-controlled lighthouse; see the unique species of plant and animal life which thrive in the varying terrain of this North American wonder.

Where other divers are attracted to the warm, crystal waters of the Caribbean, Stone - historian, cartographer and underwater archeologist, the "Beachcomber of Long Point" - has made the point his vocation and avocation.

KNOWS WRECKS

Accompanied by his shaggy, four-legged first mate, Seaweed, Stone is a common sight on the sandy shore where the ever-changing winds, fogs and sudden storms have caused more wrecks than any other place in the world.

And Stone, who is working on his second book, knows the wrecks well.

Since he first became attracted to the mysterious, misty shores he has explored and studied them in addition to compiling files on how the wrecked ships were constructed, what kinds of cargo they carried and who sailed them and how many died.

Some of his stories harken to the twists of fate which doomed some to a chill, watery grave and saw others safely to shore.

In 1852 the ship Atlantic sank, taking the lives of 350 of the 500 people aboard, mostly Norwegian immigrants from Buffalo. Stone discovered there were 60 passengers not allowed aboard because they could not afford the passage.

"Many of them would have been killed," Stone says, shaking his head at the quirk of fate which kept them off the ship during her final voyage.

BOILER EXPLOSION

In 1849 the ship Ohio was victim of a boiler explosion which sent the captain's cabin, intact, to the water. The captain's son was inside and a sailor swam under the cabin to rescue the boy.

And then there is the 1846 story of the Rialto when one of the notorious gusts of wind flipped the two-masted schooner upside down. The crew, except for the first mate, survived. However, the captain's wife, seven months pregnant, was trapped in her cabin and was feared dead until five hours later when another freak gust righted the ship and the woman walked down the companionway unharmed.

In 1916 the James Colgate with her crew of 21 went down in a storm. The captain was the sole survivor, thrown off the bridge by a wave. He landed on a raft of debris and floated all night.

Another twist of fate in 1851 saw everyone aboard the Henry Clay lost, save one crewman. The survivor was trapped between the deck planking and could not free himself but by some miracle a huge wave washed him overboard and onto the beach, alive.

The hull was completely buried in the sand until high water uncovered what was left 15 years ago. Stone has a plank from the ill-fated ship as his fireplace mantle.

NEW TALES

More than weather-beaten hulls are beneath the waves of Long Point.

In one of his modern-day stories, Stone describes the aftermath of an annual "wild weekend" off Long Point.

Once a year boaters gather for a day - and night - of frolicking. However, for Stone and a couple of other divers, the fun begins early the next morning.

They sweep the water at a depth of five or six feet and find everything from false teeth to anchors with rope still attached.

"Last year we found 26 pairs of sunglasses," he recalls. "We also found binoculars and enough empties to keep us in gas for a few trips, plus some full bottles.

"When we get to the place where the barge anchored, it's a regular department store down there - rings, watches, cosmetic cases, glasses... Once we found the top to a ladies' bathing suit. And we found a man's bathing suit - it was huge."

Moreover, Stone was surprised when he called to tell someone his wallet had been found - the man didn't realize he had lost it.

Stone summed up his finds by chuckling, "It's fun. We really enjoy doing that."

GRIMMER SIDE

Nonetheless, no one is more aware than Stone of the grimmer side of the point. He tells of one trip when his boat was in danger of joining the wrecks.

"I volunteered to give a hand to the Ministry of Natural Resources," says Stone. "We were towing a steel boat with four drums of fuel and under normal condi-

tions we would have had no problems." Conditions were normal when they left but on Long Point, that guarantees nothing.

"We ran into bad weather and the steel boat started filling; all we had was this little shovel to bail."

They managed to get the drums unloaded but on the return trip Stone decided to cut loose the steel boat, fearing it would sink and take his boat with it. The next day he found the steel boat washed up on the beach, undamaged.

Perhaps the most tragic story Stone tells is the sad tale of the Long Point swans.

A mute swan made its home just off the causeway one summer and came to be known by just about everyone. People called the creature "Snowy" and were saddened when a hunter, thinking it was a goose, shot it.

Charged, the hunter agreed to replace the swan with a pair of the elegant birds which settled in well but met the same fate as their predecessor.

"For a long time there were no swans on Long Point but a couple of enterprising fellows - including Bruce Wilson of Woodstock - bought a pair and sold little cards for \$1 listing the person as part owner."

Continued on page 11



DAVE STONE, historian, cartographer and underwater archeologist, is hard at work on his latest book, a collection of anecdotes about Long Point.

TURKEY BINGO Friday, December 7 8:00 p.m. HENDERSON HALL INGERSOLL Sponsored By Knights of Columbus Ingersoll 40 Turkey Bingos Plus Share The Wealth Children Welcome Canteen Available Raffle Draw To Follow

Stone, Dave

Long Point

Continued from page 10

"For a long time there were no swans on Long Point but a couple of enterprising fellows — including Bruce Wilson of Woodstock — bought a pair and sold little cards for \$1 listing the person as part owner."

These swans had their wings clipped and had to be caught each fall to spend the winters in Pinnafore Park near St. Thomas. Catching them is not easy in the chest-deep water of the marsh.

PRESENTATIONS

Although Stone is busy collecting and compiling data for his next book, he continues to share his fascination with Long Point as a popular speaker, says the veteran of 226 slide presentations.

In addition, he has been asked to return to Gannon University in Erie, Pa., to speak about *The Legend and Lore of Long Point*.

And he is pleased to see the historic Long Point lighthouse preserved on T-shirts and sweatshirts by artist Liz McDonald. Working from Stone's photographs, McDonald has produced an attractive, accurate representation of the lovely landmark at the end of the point.

Daily Sentinel Review

Ingersoll This Week

December 4 1990

Town industrialist was of a breed

By ARMITA JANES
Sentinel-Review Staff Writer
Heath Stone, former president of William Stone and Sons Ltd., died Wednesday in Ingersoll at 81. He is probably the last of a breed of industrialists that is no more.

For 30 years -- from 1926 when his father, who was a founder of Rolph, Clark and Stone Lithographers in Toronto, sent him to Ingersoll to revive a flagging plant which had been started by his grandfather in the mid 1800's -- Heath Stone was involved in every aspect of community life here.

"Dad couldn't even spell the word fertilizer when my grandfather bought out his other two partners in the Ingersoll firm, and sent him here to run it," said his son Dave who was only two at the time, but grew up to become the fourth generation Stone to work in the company.

When Heath Stone stepped in, his son said proudly, the company was in the hands of the Imperial bank; but he developed it into a really successful business.

It thrived under his direction until 1956, when Mr. Stone's health failed and it was sold to Canadian Industries Limited.

Things are so different today, said Dave Stone, recalling that in those days when you made a deal it was final with a hand shake, and you knew it was on the line.

DIFFERENT TODAY

There are many other differences in business today and then, he said.

Although his father was one of the leading industrialists of his time, and involved in business right up to his neck; he was also involved in anything that was for the good of Ingersoll.

"He still had time for all these other things," his son said. "Today it is so different. People say they are too busy. He was never too busy."

In addition to community involvement he found time for personal contact with everyone of his 250 employees all of whom

he called by name, from the vice-president down to the little guy.

There were no unions in those days, and no need of them in the Stone Company.

"He knew their problems, and they all knew him," said his son, "It was just like a great big family. He had his hands in his pockets all the time to help some guy having family problems."

Those were also the days when the work ethic was in vogue. Heath Stone, is described by his son as the type of guy who would not let go, -- the first guy there in the morning, and the last guy to leave at night.

"If you were going to buy a wheelbarrel, he would sign the purchaser order," he said.

But, in spite of his dedication to work, he found time to become involved in just about everything in Ingersoll and apparently had fun doing it.

DEWAN REMEMBERS

Mike Dewan, former Oxford MPP, recalls how he accepted the presidency of the Kiwanis Club in 1948. Actually, by vote, it should have gone to Ingersoll baker Bernie Zurbrigg, but he wanted to wait out another term, Mr. Dewan said.

"Heath Stone had a great sense of humor. He was dressed like a habitué for the occasion, and in a French accent he explained to the Kiwanians that he was taking the presidency because Bernie was too busy making the dough," he said.

Mr. Dewan also remembered how Mr. Stone got a marvellous turnout for one Kiwanis meeting.

"He sent out notices requesting members to be sure they were on deck because they were on the reception list that particular night," he said. "But it turned out that everyone got the same notice."

Another Kiwanian, Roydon Start, recalls Heath Stone as being the last member of the Stone Company management team who were so prominent in Ingersoll in their time, and did so much for the community. The

others were his cousin R. A. Stone, general manager; Leslie Westcott, secretary-treasurer, and Arthur E. Izzard, vice-president.

"They were a very influential team before the firm's takeover by CIL," he recalls, "It is a very different thing today than then when it was a local group in charge."

MUCH SUPPORTED

Gordon Pittock, also a former Oxford MPP, said there was nothing in Ingersoll that was not supported by the small family company during the 30-year period it was headed by Heath Stone.

He mentioned specifically the arena, the golf club, the curling club, and St. James Anglican Church.

Harold Uren remembers Mr. Stone as one of the original founders of the Ingersoll Golf and Country Club.

"Today we have one of the finest 18-hole golf courses in Ontario, and he was instrumental in developing it some 20 years ago," he said. "He was absolutely dedicated to any project which he became involved in, and would see it through to the finish."

Mayor Gordon Henry also knew Heath Stone very well, through working with him on the chamber of commerce and the YMCA.

"He was a great supporter of recreation and youth," he said, "And supported the Ingersoll District Memorial Centre arena. He was also very interested in the installation of the town's sewage system."

As Gordon Pittock put it, Heath Stone was the last of an era -- In this town, he probably was the last of the paternalistic owners of small local companies which have all now been absorbed by big corporations.

But it is safe to say that no president of any corporation will leave for posterity what Heath Stone managed to do as the head of a small family company in Ingersoll.

Memorial honors a pioneer who opened doors for women

By GREG ROTHWELL
of The Sentinel-Review

NORWICH - She was the first woman doctor in Canada, the first woman to run for elected office in this country, Canada's first woman school principal and the founder of Canada's first woman's suffrage group.

She was Emily Stowe, and on Sunday she was remembered in the place of her birth.

A plaque commemorating Mrs. Stowe's lifetime achievements was unveiled outside the archives building in Norwich Sunday, the community where she was born in 1831.

On hand for the unveiling of the provincial plaque were George Hudson Stowe, of Toronto, a great-grandson of Dr. Stowe, and his daughters Patricia

and Mary Jane.

A display of photographs and pictures of Emily Stowe were on view in the archives building.

At the time of Emily Stowe's birth Norwich was known as Sodom, the name that remained until 1845 when it was changed to Norwichville and in 1876 to its present name.

Emily was the daughter of Solomon and Hannah Jennings, a Quaker couple.

When she was 15 she began teaching at the local school, all the while saving up to attend Normal School, a combination high school and college.

She made it to the college and graduated in 1854 with a teaching certificate. Later that year she was appointed principal of the Branford Grammar School.

In 1857 she married John Stowe, a carriage-maker, and they moved to Mount Pleasant. Mrs. Stowe bore three children and settled down to domestic life until her husband contracted tuberculosis and was unable to work.

Emily went back to teaching, at a private school, to support the family.

Her husband recovered, and with the encouragement of his wife he entered medical school to study dentistry. Emily provided his fees through her teaching job.

John Stowe eventually set up a dental practice, and Emily then decided to follow her husband into the medical field.

PREJUDICE

She first had to overcome a major obstacle, prejudice against women

which prevailed during the last century. When she applied for admission to the medical school at Victoria College in Toronto she was given a curt "no." A letter of refusal stated that "the doors of the university are not open to women, and I trust they never will be."

In a reply letter she said "The business of my life is to see that they will be opened so that women may have the same opportunities as men."

When, a short time later, her formal application was also denied, again because she was a woman, she fired off a missive to the college stating "Your senate may refuse to admit women now, but the day will come when those doors will open to every female who chooses to apply."

The prejudice of the Canadian institutions made her look southward, where she applied for admission to the New York Medical College for Women, which had been founded by the first woman doctor in the United States, Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell.

Emily was admitted, and when she graduated in 1867 she was the first Canadian woman to become a physician.

She returned to Canada and tried to set up a practice specializing in female patients. She was denied a licence but practised without one in Toronto until 1880, when a licence was finally granted to her.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

She became a successful doctor. Then she began to branch out into other areas. In 1883 she formed the Toronto Literary Society. The society, under the guidance of Emily and her daughter, Augusta, the women involved in the group began to light for women's rights.

Their first target was seeking admission for women to the University of Toronto, a fight they won handily.

They then concentrated their efforts on seeking the right for women in vote, and the first suffragist society in Canada, the Dominion Women's Enfranchisement Association, was born.

Mrs. Stowe ran for a seat on the Toronto Board of Education, and obtained one. She sat on the board for many years.

At the time of her death in Toronto in 1903 the Toronto Globe said "Women who can now choose the medical profession in Canada and find every facility provided for them can never know how deeply they are indebted to this pioneer who opened the path they now so easily follow."



DESCENDANTS OF Emily Stowe, Canada's first woman doctor, were present in Norwich Sunday for the unveiling of a historic plaque in her honor. Here George Hudson Stowe, of Toronto, a great grandson of Dr. Stowe, and two of his daughters, Patricia and Mary Jane, inspect the plaque. (Staff photo by Greg Rothwell)

Sentinel Review
October 15, 1984

She's got a flair for fashion



Lesla Strathopolous describes her current image as sporty, teenaged, and her London agent selected her from a fashion spread on teen clothing designs and colors. (Photo by Sam McLeod of the London Free Press)

INGER SOLL TIMES
April 23, 1986

BY KIMBERLEY HUTCHINSON

If you thought the face on the fashion pages of last week's London Free Press edition looked familiar, it was probably because the face belonged to Ingersoll high school student Lesa Strathopolous, a young fashion model now working with the Universal Mannequin agency of London.

A Grade 10 student at IDCI, Lesa began courses at the agency this past September, and the Free Press shooting was her first.

"I was interested in modelling, and I thought that I wanted to wait until high school to begin. This year seemed like the right time," said Strathopolous.

"I was called in for an interview with 'DJ' - the agent at Universal - and I really liked the atmosphere of the agency, and I liked DJ's response."

Lesla began with self-improvement courses, and is now in the regular modelling course.

"It's a lot of hard work, and the classes are very involved, there's a lot of note-taking, and so on," Strathopolous said.

Canadian Monica Schnarre has attracted a lot of media attention in the last few months as winner of the International Face of the Eighties competition in New York, at the age of 14. She is featured on this month's issue of Toronto Life fashion magazine.

At age 15, Strathopolous said that she is certainly not the youngest model at the agency.

"There are all ages involved in the self-improvement courses," Strathopolous said, "from 13 to about 40. But the modelling course is comprised of girls from 13 to only about 25 years of age."

"These are the girls who are looking seriously at modelling," said Strathopolous.

"There is a lot involved in modelling," she said, "that many people may not be aware of."

"I find that my courses are helping me in day to day living. I find myself watching the way I dress, and the way I put my wardrobe together."

"I learn how to walk, do runway

work, and we have several sessions on makeup, clothing, diet, nutrition ... there's so many things, and I enjoy them all," said Strathopolous.

Strathopolous has another shooting this Wednesday, not for a magazine, but as part of her course, "to see how I work with the photographer."

She feels that it is the job of the model to create a certain image, and she pointed out "the trait of a good model is how many different looks she can perceive and produce."

"They may want you to look like a 28 year-old housewife one day, and

your next assignment will be to look like a 19-year-old teenager, or a sophisticated young Renson and

Hedges woman. You want to be able to achieve all these different images, and have people not be able to connect them to you."

Strathopolous doesn't have a modelling portfolio yet, but realizes that if she intends to pursue modelling seriously, she will need a collection of photographs made up to sell her various "images".

"I intend to pursue it as a part

time job," she said. "I will be going to university, probably in the medical sciences, but I'm really not sure at this point."

Strathopolous is acutely aware of the drawbacks to a modelling career.

"The life of a model is very short," she said. "You must have something to fall back on. Many models will go into acting, like Joan Collins for instance."

"I began because I thought it would help me in all ways," she said. "And it really has."

Strathopolous is involved in other activities as well, and juggles her soccer team practices, her piano

and theory lessons outside school, and her part time job at Lynwood Variety in Ingersoll.

"I would consider working in other aspects of the fashion industry as well," she said. "I really like working around the agency."

"Modelling is a lot of hard work," she concluded, "and while it is still a lot of fun, it's not as glamorous as it might seem."

Strathopolous doesn't know how long she'll continue to model.

"Monica Schnarre is a young model who had a really lucky break," Strathopolous said wisely. "But I think you can go as far as you want in this business. It's a very self-directed kind of work."

INGERSOLL TIMES
April 23, 1986

Sutherland, Donald
Matheson, Hon. Col., Dr.

Sentinel

1969

'Grand old man' of Oxford still leads an active life

By S.-R. Correspondent

EMBRO — The Hon. Col. Dr. Donald Matheson Sutherland, the grand old man of Oxford is celebrating his 90th birthday on Wednesday.

The mention of this name in Oxford or Western Ontario releases a flood of fond memories to many people because this man has served in three fields where he gave his best for the good of his fellowman.

Dr. Sutherland, as he is best known, is not living a retired life at the Embro ancestral home of his grandfather, the late Donald Matheson, founder of the Village of Embro, after a very successful life as a family doctor, a noble soldier and a distinguished politician and gentleman.

He was born at Norwich, Dec. 3, 1879. After attending school at Norwich and Woodstock, he graduated in medicine from the University of Toronto in 1903 and began his practice in Princeton.

ACTIVE PART

A bachelor, the young doctor took an active part in the life of the village and due to his love for good horses soon obtained a commission in the Grey Horse, a Brantford cavalry unit with a company at Princeton.

The outbreak of hostilities in 1914 saw the doctor hang up his medicine bag and pick up a kit bag and take A Company, 1st Battalion CCF to France where he was wounded. He returned to Canada but not to retire.

Instead he took an active part in raising the 71st Battalion, known by many as the Western Ontario Battalion and took them to France where he became known as a front line colonel. For his devotion to duty and the achievements of his regiment he received the Distinguished Service Order (DSO).

BACK TO WORK

Following the war he returned to his practice but moved it to Woodstock where he remained until he retired on April 5, 1937 to Embro.

During his stay in Woodstock he took up the challenge of politics and let his name stand on the Conservative ticket in 1925 taking North Oxford for Arthur Meighen. This was the first time that North Oxford had supported the Conservative party since Confederation.

In 1926 he was defeated by Hugh Allen but was re-elected



DR. D. M. SUTHERLAND

in 1930 by defeating Mr. Allen. Premier R. B. Bennett took Dr. Sutherland into his cabinet as Minister of National Defence from August 25, 1930 until November, 16, 1934, Minister of Pensions and National Health from November 17, 1934 until October 23, 1935.

The Bennett government went down in defeat in the 1935 election and the Doctor returned to his practice in Woodstock.

CIRCLED GLOBE

During his life of public service the doctor managed to become a world traveller and has circled the globe twice before the day of jet aircraft. On one occasion it took three months to come home from Australia.

His stay in Woodstock, he feels, was a rewarding one. During that time he was able to help organize the Woodstock Rotary Club on June 2, 1924 and became its first president. He also helped form Branch 55, Royal Canadian Legion and served as their first president in 1926 and 1927.

In 1958 Woodstock singled out Dr. Sutherland for his achievements and named its second senior public school "The D. M. Sutherland School" — the first time a school had been named after a person.

Today the Doctor is a familiar sight walking about Embro and Woodstock. He feels that walking is the ideal medicine for sustained good health. For many years he was an ardent naturalist and took an active part in this work.

His present home and surrounding grounds shows his love for nature with the well kept grounds and the numerous species of birds which stay there each summer.

Dr. Sutherland is proud of his family heritage which he has inherited and is regarded as an outstanding historian on Oxford County. His library is a wealth of information and contains a set of diaries which his grandfather kept during his time in Embro and contain much information about the village.

When asked about his age the doctor doesn't feel he is growing old. He remarked that you are as young as you feel and therefore considers himself still a young man.

The highlight of the week comes each Monday at noon when he drives his car to Woodstock for Rotary and while not as active as he once was, he is proud of his record of attendance.

South Oxford's Donald Sutherland

pl of 2

By W. E. Elliott

This is another article in a series by a well-known Canadian newspaperman, who was long political reporter on The Free Press

THIS MAN was candidate of his party eleven times, for Legislature or Commons, and never once asked for the nomination or was opposed in convention. He retrieved for his party a provincial riding and a federal constituency which had been Liberal from Confederation, eventually attained Cabinet rank and finished public life in the Senate.

Oxford has so many Sutherlands, Rosses, McDonalds, Murrays and the like that for more than a century it has been the custom to confer distinguishing nicknames. Subject of this chapter might be called Donald "South" to differentiate from Doctor Donald who twice won North Oxford and was member of the Bennett ministry.

The story of Donald Sutherland in Legislature, Commons and Senate is that of an honest-to-goodness "dirt farmer" who at all times thought and spoke first about the problems of the men on the land. In the early days of the motorcar — on which in later years he was greatly to depend — he proposed restrictive legislation so unashamedly framed, on behalf of horse-and-buggy traffic that the Ontario House could not wholly accept it. In the Commons, his dissertations on hog cholera inevitably dispersed the Press Gallery, but on this and other agricultural themes, such as New Zealand butter and the tobacco industry, he always knew his ground, and in a reasonable proportion of cases his earnest representations prevailed.

It was expected by many that he would become minister of agriculture when his party had that post to offer, but Dr. Simon Fraser Tolmie, who had held it under Borden and Meighen, got the call when the Meighen Cabinet of 1926 was formed, and Donald Sutherland was sworn of the Privy Council as a minister without portfolio.

Emerging from a long apprenticeship in municipal affairs, Mr. Sutherland had accepted the Conservative nomination for the Legislature in 1902 and won South Oxford by 40 to break a record of continuous Liberal successes. Re-elected in 1905 to join the triumphant followers of J. P. Whitney, he lost the seat in 1908, but in the same year was nominated for the Commons. In the Dominion riding, also Liberal from Confederation, and represented for two decades by Sir Richard Cartwright and the redoubtable Malcolm S. Schell, he reduced the Liberal majority by 400 to 93, and in the next contest, 1911, wiped it out with 24 to spare. Thus he joined the followers of another new Conservative Government, this time at Ottawa under R. L. Borden.

His majority in the 1917 (wartime) election was 1,312; he survived his party's defeat in 1921 and was returned as an Opposition member in 1925, but fell before a Liberal-Progressive onslaught in 1926, when the electors in South Oxford as elsewhere took more stock in the Robb budget than in the customs scandal. He was unsuccessful in two later contests.

In his earlier campaigns, election practices of devious nature were not unusual, and of some he was the victim, but he was accustomed to allude to these with amusement rather than bitterness. Through the greater part of his active public career, the only daily newspaper in his county was one of Liberal

traditions, which was alert for opportunity to set him at a disadvantage. Though finally a casualty of political warfare, Donald Sutherland undoubtedly enjoyed the respect and confidence of the public in general, and from time to time took occasion to express his gratitude therefor. From notes of two speeches, both at Mount Elgin, in 1926 and 1930, these passages are taken:

"It is an unusual thing, I know, for one individual to receive so much consideration at the hands of the people as I have received from the people of South Oxford. I have seen many changes during these years. There is something about public life, where confidence is reposed in one, that must appeal to any man. I can hardly imagine a person so lost to the finer feelings as to ignore the opinions and the confidence of those among whom he lives."

"Looking back over the years that are gone, I realize you have time and again heaped honors upon me in nominating me as your candidate in provincial and federal elections, and always without any opposition. You have unanimously nominated me now — and I think it is the tenth time — and that is going quite a way insofar as any individual is concerned. I would be a stoic indeed if I did not appreciate very much the honor you have again conferred upon me after the years we have been associated in contests in this constituency. As you know, the going has not always been easy. Our friends the Liberals have not made my bed one of roses nor my path a very smooth one at times. We have had keen contests, and as far as I know the best of good fellowship prevails among those who have taken part on both sides. I do not know of an individual in the constituency who outside of politics is not as friendly as ever. This I believe is right and proper."

Donald Sutherland was no blind partisan; at times his independence led him reluctantly to oppose measures put forward by his leaders. He thought there were not enough independently minded electors, for he said on one occasion: "I think a good many people do not pay as much attention to political matters as they should. If they did, I am inclined to think that constituencies would swing one way and then the other when occasion demanded it; but you have all known people who under the most adverse conditions stay by the parties: they had supported in years gone by."

Sutherland,
Donald
Matheson,
Hon. Col., Dr.

Donald possessed the pleasing voice and courteous manner typical of the Highland breed, though when he got going on a campaign platform he could achieve noteworthy heights in satire and denunciation. His speeches were argumentative; he had no fund of humorous stories. But his combination of platform ability and farm background made him in great demand for many years as a speaker in Western Ontario rural constituencies. It was vastly informative to drive with him through the countryside on the way to a meeting and hear his observations upon farmhouses, crops and farm conditions generally.

Men of Highland descent, staunch in friendship, are reliably reported also to be sincere haters. One of Donald Sutherland's special feuds for some years was with the late Duncan Marshall, one-time Alberta minister, later on the Dominion payroll as commissioner of agriculture — a post created for him in 1921 — subsequently minister of agriculture in Ontario, and later senator.

One recalls a Sutherland peroration that concluded: "And the morning after the election, there was Duncan Marshall sitting on the Government's doorstep waiting for a job." That controversy seems to have faded out in 1938, when Duncan heard a call to the Senate and found Donald seated opposite. Senate Hansard discloses no clashes between the two. Incidentally, I have been told one of the Marshall tribe married into the Sutherland clan. Duncan moved the Address at the session of 1939, and offered this observation: "As to my being a member of this House I believe that what happens to a man in politics and public affairs is at least 50 per cent due to accidents — sometimes I have thought it is 75 per cent."

Traditionally, in Oxford, most of the boys in a farm family leave the land for the professions or business in other parts of Canada or beyond. It is surely remarkable, however, that three of Senator Sutherland's five sons should have become senior officers in the armed services. The eldest, Group Captain Robert Bruce Sutherland, D.F.C., joined the Royal Air Force in the First Great War and continued with it until his recent retirement. Lt.-Col. James Burleigh Sutherland, D.S.O., O.B.E., has been with the British Army for many years in many parts of the world, and was in Germany, unable to reach home, when his father died on New Year's Day, 1949. Lt.-Col. William Evan Sutherland, O.B.E., served with the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps.

This fact was remarked upon by Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen when he attended the funeral of Senator Sutherland. But what impressed the former prime minister most was the tribute evident in the attendance of farm neighbors and friends. Those of us who have occasion to attend services in Toronto funeral parlors find a dozen or a score saying farewell to one who, perhaps some years retired, was once a prominent figure and esteemed neighbor in a distant part of the province. But the spacious Sutherland home in North Oxford was crowded, even to the kitchen. Men and women filed quietly in for an hour through the sun porch built for the comfort of the Senator in his last months. No one could say if there were more Conservatives than Liberals.

When the minister, Rev. George W. Murdock, of Ingersoll, called upon Mr. Meighen, it was a surprise to the gathering and, indeed without advance notice to the speaker. The oration, no one needs to be told, no theless was a gem.

Then a curious and moving incident concluded the service. Rev. W. A. McTaggart, some forty years minister of St. Columba (United) Church on St. Clair Avenue in Toronto and its predecessor, rolled back the years and told that silent gathering of the Donald Sutherland who from 1908 to 1913 lived in a little brick house north of the city and with his wife and then young children attended Wychwood Presbyterian Church. Most Toronto folk know the jog in Hume-wood Drive where stands now an Anglican Home for Girls. The property which caused the township to make that little detour years ago was once the estate of the Blakes, famous in Canadian public life. The house in which the Sutherlands lived while Donald was director of immigration and colonization for Ontario, and after, was the "lodge."

"There was no home I loved so much to visit in those days," said Mr. McTaggart, "as that of Mr. Sutherland and his good wife. They were grand people, friendly and hospitable. They were by no means wealthy, but their home was a Christian home. I have never forgotten it."

He had traveled a hundred miles to say that.

The Ingersoll minister pronounced the benediction, and men bore out the casket of the Senator for Oxford.

Donald Sutherland
Donald Sutherland
Pg. 2 of 2

(see also: Outstanding)

Zorra's Kimble Sutherland heads UWO student brass

By MARILYN SMULDERS
of The Sentinel-Review

LONDON — A former prime minister of IDCI's student council has now got his feet resting on a desk reserved for UWO's top dog.

Kimble Sutherland, a resident of Zorra Township, learned early Thursday morning that the reigns of student council power would soon be in his hands.



Sutherland

Sutherland beat out seven other competitors for the job of president, winning by more than 320 votes over Sarah Day, his closest rival.

"I'm extremely happy," enthused Sutherland. "It's a great feeling of satisfaction to know so many people have faith in my abilities."

Sutherland has always shown a zeal for politics; involvement in student life at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute was like oxygen feeding the fire. He headed IDCI's student council for two terms, '83 to '84 and '84 to '85.

When Sutherland graduated on to university, he maintained his interest in student affairs. Last year, the political science student served as UWO's student council vice president for external affairs. Debating skills, honed during arguments back in Ted Maddeford's history class at IDCI, sure came in handy for the job.

"IDCI helped me immensely in developing leadership ability and in motivating people. It gave me a solid groundwork," said Sutherland.

But whereas IDCI's student council then encompassed about 1,100 students, UWO's student population is 20 times larger. And that's not the only difference — as president, Sutherland presides over a \$3.5 million budget, a board of directors numbering ten members, a council with 70 participants and a work force totalling 190 full and part-time staff members. A corporation, student council supervises numerous services, including a radio station, bar, typing service, graphics shop, theatre, film society, tutor referral service and *The Gazette*, a campus newspaper. As well, the student council organizes events such as orientation, homecoming and several different fundraisers for charity.

During his term in office, Sutherland said he wants to draw attention to the declining quality of university education, express his opposition to tuition deregulation and

change the image of student council. Sutherland believes council's corporate stance has to transform to one that's more service-oriented, thus making the council more approachable to the people it serves — the students.

And if he finds time between all that, Sutherland said he wants to maintain his job at Zehrs in Ingersoll and take a conversation French course. Although he doubts whether he'd declare *Ingersoll Day* at Western, he's certainly proud in his hometown roots.

"A lot of Ingersoll and area people helped me during the campaign. I sure can't say enough about the terrific hometown support."

SENTINEL REVIEW

February 11, 1989

In Sept. 6 provincial election

Embryo man acclaimed NDP candidateBy GEOFF DALE
of The Sentinel-Review

Ontario Premier David Peterson's vision of a caring society is a seven day work week in unsafe conditions, retirement without dignity and being unable to own your own farm, Oxford County's New Democratic Party candidate charged Wednesday night.

Moments after being acclaimed as the party's candidate, Kimble

Sutherland, a 24-year-old political science student at the University of Western Ontario, urged about 40 supporters at the CAW Hall in Woodstock to help him defeat the provincial Liberal government in the Sept. 6 election.

"Mr. Peterson wants to pull a quick one by the people of Ontario and Oxford," he said. "The premier would like you to believe that his government has always been

working for a caring society. However, as New Democrats, we realize that it is not just what you say . . . but it is your actions that tell if you are truly committed to something."

On the attack

He attacked Peterson for laying low on the Sunday shopping issue and leaving it up to Ontario municipalities to handle, pointing out that women — 75 per cent of the retail workforce — already work one or two nights a week and three out of four Saturdays.

Calling for a common day of rest for working people and those involved in small family run businesses, he accused the premier of being dictated to by "his big corporate buddies."

Turning his attention to workers protection, Sutherland said Bill 208 — the revised Occupational Health and Safety Act — was proof the Liberals were more interested in bowing to large corporate requests than including a right to refuse dangerous work provision in the bill.

This failure was in spite of the statistics showing the death of one person and 1,500 injuries daily in the workplace, he said.

Sutherland said Peterson was not to be trusted because he opposed the Canada-U.S. free trade deal during the 1987 campaign but was nowhere to be found in the 1988 federal election when it resurfaced as a major issue.

Blames free trade

"Since the free trade agreement, the rate of plant closures has increased significantly," he said. "People who have worked 20 to 25 years at one factory suddenly find themselves thrown out on the streets without the skills to find new jobs."

"Now, Mr. Peterson wants us to believe that if we give him another mandate he will fight against the GST (goods and services tax). Unfortunately the premier seems to

have forgotten that the GST is already a done deed. Where has he been for the last two years while the fight against the GST has been taking place?"

He lashed out at the Liberals' no-fault insurance policy which creates pain and suffering for the average Ontario while the "insurance industry walks away with a \$600-million give away from the provincial government."

Following his short and vigorous address, he told reporters if Peterson is going to live up to his claim of Ontario keeping up with the global economy, a properly funded education system is needed.

"Look at West Germany and Japan," he said. "They have invested a lot of money into research and development . . . we haven't. Good education cost money but you get that back in returns."

As a university student council president with a large operating budget and staff of about 35 employees, he pointed to his experience lobbying with all levels of government.

And as for being tagged the underdog, he said, "I'll just go out there and work hard and debate the issues . . . hopefully in an all-candidates debate."

While he said the election would never degenerate into a clash of personalities at the local level, he said Liberal incumbent Charlie Tatham had to be accountable for the Peterson government and its actions over the last three years.

"He (Tatham) said in 1987 he was part of that (Liberal) team and now he must explain just what it has done or what it hasn't done in that period."

For his Tory competitor Jim Wilkins, he said he was looking forward to hearing him try to explain "to the farmers of Oxford how the federal Tories interest rate policy is not hurting farmers and how the provincial Tories are totally separate from their federal counterparts."

Kimble Sutherland background

Kimble Sutherland, an Embro resident, is the youngest of eight children. He graduated from Zorra Highland Park Public School and Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute and is currently in his fourth year as a political science major at Western.

The 24-year-old has been an NDP executive board member and member at large in the Oxford riding for eight years. He has also served as student council president at both the Ingersoll school and the university.

Sutherland has been a municipal, provincial and federal advocate to various commissions or bodies like the Ontario Federation of Students Ministry of Colleges and Universities and Canadian Federation of Students.

At the community level he has been involved with the Heart and Stroke Foundation, Cystic Fibrosis and United Way campaigns. In 1985 he was the recipient of the Ingersoll International Youth Award.

As a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union he served on the master bargaining committee as a shop steward and a delegate of Local 1977 to the Oxford Regional Labor Council.



KIMBLE SUTHERLAND addresses members of the Oxford NDP after being acclaimed as candidate in the provincial election.

University student wins Oxford for New Democrats

BY LIZ DADSON

For the first time in Oxford riding, the New Democrats are drinking the champagne, proclaimed Wayne Col-

bran, president of the Oxford New Democratic Party.

The CAW Hall in Woodstock was flooded with applause and exhilaration Thursday night as University of Western Ontario history and

political science student Kimble Sutherland was declared winner in Oxford, as were 73 other New Democrat candidates in NDP leader Bob Rae's victorious sweep across Ontario.

The 24-year-old Zorra Township resident captured the majority of votes, ousting Liberal incumbent Charlie Tatham and pushing Progressive Conservative hopeful Jim Wilkins into second place.

"I'm overwhelmed by the results of this campaign," Sutherland said, amid chants of "Kimble, Kimble," as results continued to pour in from the 35th provincial election.

"I want to dedicate this win to all the candidates who have run under the CCF and NDP banner. Tonight's results would not have been possible if the people of Ontario didn't take a chance."

The Liberal camp at the Fairview Centre in Woodstock began the night in an exuberant, optimistic mood. But, as the results started coming in, showing Sutherland leading in poll after poll, the optimism was quickly replaced with disbelief and surprise.

A subdued audience listened as Tatham gave his farewell speech at 9:15 p.m.

"This was the 13th event for yours truly, but it was just not so," Tatham said. "I wish (NDP leader Bob) Rae and Sutherland all the best. It'll be interesting to see what taxes will be taxed."

At the Polish Hall in Woodstock, things were equally sombre for the Conservatives.

"The people have spoken," Wilkins said. "They've made a heck of a mistake."

He told reporters a socialist government is not what Ontario needs, going into a recession.

"It's almost unbelievable to think that Canada's Heartland could slip into socialism. I think that's a very serious thing."

The other three candidates pulled in about one-tenth of the vote.

Family Coalition Party's John Joosse took fourth but said he was happy to see his party doubling its vote over the last election.

"It was the first time for me. I'm happy with the way things went," he said, from his Ingersoll residence, late Thursday night. "It'll be tough for people to swallow (an NDP majority government). People here in Oxford will wonder what they did."

Libertarian Kaye Sargent placed fifth. From her Woodstock meeting room, she said she was very shocked by the outcome.

"We'll have to see how quickly they take us to the poor house. A lot of this was due to pure anger - anger with the Liberal government."

Freedom Party's Joe Byway came in last place. "I'm ready to move to another country," he said. "Ontario is in big trouble. I think the people of Ontario will wake up tomorrow and go into shock over what they've done. It's very frightening."

Sutherland, on the other hand, was ecstatic with his win.

"We now have a government that will work for social justice," he said. "We have to work hard for the NDP and to represent Oxford. We have to restore faith in government. Thank you very much."

Sutherland told reporters he is overwhelmed by the response from the people in Oxford riding.

"At the beginning of the campaign, we were a bit short on credibility."

He planned, initially, to have "a bit of a relaxing weekend."

"Next week, we'll set up details for a constituency office and for contacts throughout the riding."

"It's a lot of work to represent the people, but I'm willing to contact all the people and work for them."

Tatham said he would do nothing different in his campaign if he had it to do over again. "You work as hard as you can. We could've spent more money, but the feeling was there. When you look at the numbers, almost right across the county, the people have decided."

When asked if he had a message for Sutherland and the NDP, Wilkins said, "Get serious about what's happening in this province. Money doesn't grow on trees."

Voter turn-out was an outstanding 67 per cent in Oxford, said returning officer Dorothy Killinger.

The final tally of votes was Byway 341, Joosse 3,182, Sargent 635, Sutherland 12,684, Tatham 9,803 and Wilkins 9,860. A total of 35,505 votes were cast with a number of declined votes and spoiled ballots, Killinger said.

SUTHERLAND, Kimble



New Democrat candidate Kimble Sutherland hugs his parents, Carl and Beryl Sutherland, after being declared the new MPP in Oxford riding in the 35th provincial election Thursday night. The 24-year-old Zorra Township

resident is a history and political science student at the University of Western Ontario but will now join 73 fellow NDP candidates in party leader Bob Rae's majority government at Queen's Park. (Liz Dadson photo)

Youngest MPP hopes for assistant's job

By GEOFF CALE
of The Sentinel-Review

As the youngest MPP in Queen's Park, Oxford County's Kimble Sutherland sees his chances of landing a cabinet post as a longshot.

But on the night of September 6, the vast majority of political pundits said pretty much the same thing about the likelihood of a 24-year-old political science student humbling both the incumbent Liberal and a Tory hopeful.

The tenacious former head of the University of Western student council, along with 73 other NDPers election night, demonstrated that politics can in rare instances be a game of overcoming longshots.

"I believe with my educational background, I could have a shot at being a parliamentary assistant," he said. "But I don't believe I'll be asked to take a ministry. Particularly in light of the fact I haven't got my degree yet."

"That would very likely hurt any credibility I'd hope to have. After all, I'd be meeting and discussing issues with educators who have PhDs and MAs. If Bob (Rae) saw fit though, it would be an honor to be a parliamentary assistant."

"A cabinet post is a longshot when you consider all those MPPs who have served longer, particularly those who were critics of portfolios while in opposition."

So exactly where does the youngest child of Carl and Beryl Sutherland see himself fitting into Rae's vision of social democracy for Ontario?

First on the agenda was clearly coming back down to earth following the stunning victory of David Peterson and his personal triumph in a county always dominated in the past by the two older parties.

"It was such an exciting and overwhelming experience," he said. "Having Bob Rae come to your riding was a major event but then after you get to work with him, even though he's the premier, it will eventually no longer be a big deal. It's a real challenge."

"When I walked up University Avenue to Queen's Park (Wednesday), I just stopped and looked at it all for a long time. It can be intimidating. Then going into the legislative restaurant, staff were calling me Mr. Sutherland. I'm not used to that . . . because it's usually my first name. I hope in future they call me Kimble."

Yet even though the reality of victory has clearly settled in, there's still a touch of awe lingering as he recounts his first two days walking about the legislature.

"I recall going in to eat, and there was (former cabinet minister) Jack Riddell and (provincial Tory leader) Mike Harris at the next ta-

bles over from us," Sutherland said. "And the reception Thursday after our caucus meeting there were men like (CAW president) Bob White, (former party leader and Canadian ambassador to the U.N.) Stephen Lewis and an real intellectual giant like Gerald Caplan congratulating me."

He says the time has come to prove to colleagues and opponents that the 'surprising young student' can do the job expected of an MPP.

His credentials

His credentials look impressive. Among them:

- NDP executive board member for eight years;
- President of the 30,000 student council at Western;
- Appointments to bodies including the Canadian Federation of Students;
- United Food and Commercial Workers Union (U.F.C.W.) shop steward;
- Local 1977 delegate to the Oxford Regional Labor Council.

Doing the job means getting a staff and constituency office ready. (Thursday Woodstock city council will decide whether he can use Charlie Tatham's office until the end of this year).

It also means five, six and sometimes seven day work weeks — Monday to Thursday in Toronto with the remainder in his home riding.

Then of course there's personal matters of finding a place to stay in Toronto.

VOICE WILL BE HEARD

Following Thursday's caucus meeting with Rae outlining some key items and Lewis handing the transition to power, Sutherland said he felt confident his voice would be heard in the province's first NDP administration.

"Bob wants the government to have an open voice," he said. "He wants everyone to have a say and express their views. I intend to be heard . . . on items like the agricultural issues I addressed during the campaign."

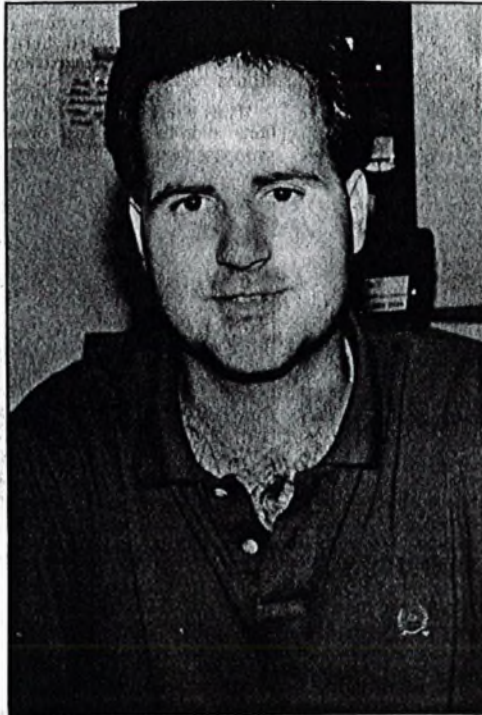
"I will approach my role with a common sense practical view. I just hope that people will be patient with the government and with me. I will try to deal with all matters when I get a staff in place and try to help with any emergencies that arise now."

Even though a cabinet won't be named until October 1 and the house isn't likely to be recalled before the end of next month, Sutherland has already started his rounds of gatherings and county fairs in the district.

The cards of congratulations may still be pouring into his parents' Embro residence, but the awe is about over with for the young MPP.

"One thing I never realized before, even with the student council," he said. "Is that feeling of being a public figure . . . for five, six perhaps seven days a week. It's a responsibility that I clearly want to live up to."

"I just hope that people don't think that some of my basic traits are going to change. I'd like them to know that the openness, communications are still there. I have still my sense of roots in Oxford."



Kimble Sutherland

Kimble has taken that first step

Kimble Sutherland was seven years old when he announced, while sitting at the kitchen table with his mother, "Some day I am going to be Prime Minister of Canada."

"Go for it Kimble" replied his mother.

"I'll be with you every step of the way."

Kimble has taken that first step and, whatever your politics might be, you have to admire the dedication and unwavering dream of this young man. Equally impressive is the equally unwavering support and belief the entire Sutherland family has in their resident politician.

As Oxford riding watched what must surely be its youngest ever Member of Provincial Parliament — and definitely is its first ever NDP MPP — sweep to victory last week, I found myself obsessed with one overwhelming question: "How is his mother handling all this?" What is his mother thinking right now?"

"How does his mother feel about this?"

Any other mother out there reading this will understand, I am sure, because with all due respect to fathers, siblings, friends and other supporters, there is that special bond between most mothers and sons that just cannot be denied.

Beryl Sutherland is a familiar figure to most people in Ingersoll. She has lived here or in the neighborhood for a long time now.

Short, blonde, with an always pleasant smile and time for a friendly word, with anyone, she is often seen alone or with her husband Carl, as she shops in town or attends local events.

I know she is an avid reader and that she loves the theatre.

Years ago, when I worked at the library, it did not take me very long to realize that she was more knowledgeable about Shakespeare and the classics than most of us are and she could and would tell me about the beautiful theatres in England and the plays she has seen there.

I knew she was devoted to her children and that she had great faith in all of them. I also knew that Kimble, her youngest, was the shining star in the family and that all his brothers and sisters felt the same way.

So how does a mother feel when she sees here youngest child take the first step towards realizing his dream?

A quick call to Beryl's house Monday morning resulted in the proud parents sitting on our verandah and sharing some of their background and thoughts with us.

In her, soft, northern England accent, Beryl described her Manchester family as "working class conservative."

She speaks fondly of days when her mother, and often her aunt, would take her to pantomimes and plays. They would often go backstage, for it was the crew and the people behind the scenes who fascinated Beryl almost as much as the actors and the plays themselves.

To this day she has maintained an interest in the working crews of everything from movies and plays to politics. "The people behind the scenes, the ones who do the majority of the work, deserve so much more credit than they usually get," she feels.

It was on her first trip to Canada "as a very shy young girl," that she met Carl. Beryl was staying with friends in London, Ont., and Carl was a friend of this same family.

She giggles as she recalled that their friends wondered how the quiet, introspective farmer and the bubbly big city girl would ever get along. Their 40 years of marriage and happy family life with their eight children and now assorted in-laws and grandchildren answer that question quite nicely.

Kimble is the youngest of three girls and five boys. Beryl says she didn't feel the usual sad tug the day Kimble started school because he wanted to go so badly you could only be happy for him.

His scholastic record is academic history and Beryl has nothing but praise for all his teachers over the years. She recalls that Saturday Mrs. Tous, who was his Grade 3 teacher at Zorra Highland Park Public School, called to congratulate the family and observed that the first day Kimble walked into her classroom she thought: "Here comes someone who is special."

Reiterating that all his teachers seemed to recognize his potential and do everything they could to help develop it, she has special praise for Peg Caffyn, who was vice-principal at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute during his years there.

"Miss Caffyn knows how to bring out the best in every student. She has a special gift," is Beryl's analysis.

Beryl describes their family as being raised to take part in all discussions and above all to "always say please and thank you."

So what was Thursday like in the Sutherland home?

It started early when Kimble came to meet them so they could vote together. Then everyone had different duties.

Beryl and Carl stayed home until the results started coming in. A daughter, Susan, from Tillsonburg, phoned to say that Kimble had "taken Woodstock." They got into the car and drove there where everyone in the family gathered in one gigantic hug.

It's just beginning for Kimble. And as for mom, she knew it would happen sometime she just didn't realize it would be this soon.

*Sincerely Yours,
Bonnie*

Sutherland taking over old Liberal office in Woodstock

Oxford MPP-elect Kimble Sutherland is slated to take over out-going Liberal MPP Charlie Tatham's constituency office in Woodstock on Oct. 1.

Sutherland said Monday he has confirmed the arrangements with Woodstock city officials. He hopes to have the same telephone numbers, with the lines hooked up by the time he moves into his new office.

The history and political science student at the University of Western Ontario, who has put his education on hold for now, defeated incumbent Tatham and Conservative hopeful Jim Wilkins in Oxford riding during NDP leader Bob Rae's sweep across Ontario in the Sept. 6 provincial election.

Sutherland plans to stay at the current constituency office until the end of the year. He then hopes to move into a new office which is wheelchair accessible.

He is currently completing arrangements for an office in Toronto. Earlier, he noted there are good people from the Office of the Controller for Ontario in Toronto who are helping new MPPs find offices and apartments in the city.

Last week, Sutherland spent three days of orientation, learn-



ing how the government, caucus and cabinet operate. Two more days of orientation were scheduled for yesterday and today.

"Then we'll get into more specific issues," Sutherland said.

He has no further information on whether he has been offered a position as a minister or as a parliamentary assistant. "I'll likely know before Oct. 1," he said earlier.

Oxford MPP elect putting education on hold

BY LIZ DADSON

Oxford's MPP-elect is putting his university education on hold as he familiarizes himself with his new job.

New Democrat Kimble Sutherland, a history and political science student at University of Western Ontario, said he is no longer a student. "I'm putting that on hold for now."

Sutherland defeated incumbent Liberal MPP Charlie Tatham and Conservative hopeful Jim Wilkins in Oxford riding during NDP leader Bob Rae's sweep across Ontario in the Sept. 6 provincial election.

This week he was confirming arrangements to take over Tatham's old office in Woodstock until the end of the year.

"I'm meeting with Woodstock city officials this afternoon," he said Friday. "We could save the taxpayers some money (by taking on the lease on the old office)."

However, he noted the office is not wheelchair accessible so he is looking for a new office. "We hope to keep the same telephone numbers," he said.

As to a position at Queen's Park, Sutherland said he would be "honored" if offered a job as



minister or as a parliamentary assistant. "I'll likely know before Oct. 1."

He said he feels great about being the future MPP of Oxford riding. "Now that the shock is over and the reality is setting in, we're starting to do things."

On the weekend he attended the Springford and Embro fairs and the Battle of Britain service in Ingersoll.

He plans to reside in Ingersoll and continue to have his constituency office in Woodstock. Last Wednesday he was in Toronto, searching for offices there.

"There are good people from the Office of the Controller for Ontario (in Toronto)," he said. "They're helping us out, finding a constituency office and an apartment in Toronto."

INGERSOLL TIMES
Sept. 26, 1990

INGERSOLL TIMES
Sept 17, 1990

SUTHERLAND, Kimble

Sutherland, Kimbell

Kimbell Sutherland named Chamber's outstanding youth

BY STEVE SIMON

When you ask this year's recipient of the "Outstanding Youth in the Community" award, about himself, you get a portrait of a congenial, busy, just-turned 19 year old. But ask the people who know Kimbell Sutherland, and you get answers like this:

"It's a pleasure to know him. He has a maturity much beyond his years. He's what you aspire youngsters to attain after five years of high school," said Anne McKillop, physical education and guidance teacher at

Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute (IDCI). Kimbell has been student prime minister there for an unprecedented two consecutive years.

"He's a non-stop energy, go, go, go all the time," according to his geography teacher, George Jolink.

"He's sensitive towards other people's feelings and needs, and he is idealistic. He believes in the good things. I wouldn't be surprised to see him a few years down the road, running for office here in Oxford County," said Mr. Jolink.

"Kimbell has always been a great debater, discussor, never reluctant to give his opinion, whether it's popular or unpopular," said Ted Maddeford, who has taught Kimbell history for four years.

"I coach curling and Kimbell used to come out regularly one year. I'm not sure how he fit in with all the things he was doing," said Mr. Maddeford.

Just what was Kimbell doing to earn the respect of those who know him?

Kimbell has attended IDCI for the past four years and during that time he has been on the wrestling team in Grades 9 and 10, a bench warmer (by his own admission) on the football team, on the Reach for the Top team, in the United Nations club, he was Prom King, won the Kiwanis Citizenship Award last year, and helped raise funds for the Canadian Heart and Stroke Foundation.

All that and an 80 average.

This was the first year for the outstanding youth award, and according to Canada Day committee member Bonnie Mott, the decision was an easy one.

"Kimbell was the unanimous choice. His name leapt out at us as the natural recipient for such an award. I've seen him in various community activities and he always plays a prominent role. We're proud of him," she said.

"It is certainly an honor to win such an award," said Kimbell sheepishly. He will receive his award, along with a cheque for \$100 at a special Canada Day ceremony this Friday at 5 p.m. in Market Square.

Leanne Ward, deputy prime minister, has worked with Kimbell on student council this year.

"He is so enthusiastic about school life.

He won the "Miss Cheerleader" award at the athletic banquet. At half-time at basketball and volleyball games, he would be the one to lead the cheers. It's funny to see his face go red from cheering so hard," she said.

"At meetings, he has control without having to be loud or boisterous. He has so much respect for people. He's a natural leader."

In doing the Kimbell Sutherland story, one doesn't find any dirt, even in his room.

"He keeps his room tidy, most of the time," said his mother, who supports him "100 per cent in whatever he does, and he knows that."

"Kimbell was lucky. For a small town we have a wonderful high school with wonderful teachers," said Mrs. Sutherland.

A card-carrying NDP supporter, Kimbell says he has always been interested in politics and current affairs in general. He plans to attend the University of Western Ontario in the fall, as a political science major.

"I would love to become Prime Minister sometime," he said.

He talks about politics like a politician. "There's still a lot more progress required to achieve social justice in this country. There are too many inadequacies," he said.

He's big on baseball, coaching in Ingersoll Squirt boys softball team, and goes out on a limb when he says, "I'll go on record saying that the Montreal Expos will win the World Series."

But perhaps one of the few wrinkles on this impressive young man's resume surfaces when the subject switched to hockey. "I'm a dire Leaf fan," said Kimbell.

I guess nobody's perfect.



Ingersoll's "Outstanding Youth in the Community", Kimbell Sutherland, takes time out from his busy schedule to coach a squirt division softball team. (Photo by Steve Simon)

IDCI prime minister

Energized teen wins award

By RICK HUGHES
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Kimble Sutherland puts a lot of faith in his booster cables. He has to.

He drives a 1976 Ford Torino.

"It has 160,000, no, closer to 170,000 miles on it. And I have no mechanical ability whatsoever."

For Sutherland, even the simple task of getting to an interview becomes an adventure. But while

his car battery seems to need a lot of boosting, Sutherland himself does not.

The 19-year-old's energy seems limitless; he is involved in just about everything from coaching minor ball to planning New Democratic Party election campaigns.

All his efforts and extensive community involvement have made Sutherland the natural choice for the Chamber of Commerce's first

Outstanding Youth of the Year award. He was presented with the award last night at the town's Canada Day celebrations.

He has been the prime minister of the Ingersoll and District Collegiate Institute's student council for two years, and through that a lot of his activities stemmed. He was involved in the heart fund campaign, the Christmas relief fund, Reach for the Top, and the United Nations Club.



KIMBLE
SUTHERLAND

He was a hard worker for the NDP's Wayne Colbran in the recent provincial election, and was a member of his campaign planning committee.

"It's always an honor to receive such an award, to be recognized by the community for what it sees as outstanding achievement," said Sutherland about the award.

Involvement in community affairs is a recent development in Sutherland's life.

"I guess my first thing was being a house co-captain in Grade 11. It basically started in high school. In Grade 9, 10 and 11, I was just your normal, shy, teenager."

He may have been a normal, shy teenager, but he has known since Grade 6 that he wants to be Prime Minister.

His ambitions are admittedly totally political. But those ambitions come from an idealism and commitment to his beliefs.

"I consider myself to be a person of principle, and feel that principle is more important than popularity. If you are devoted to a cause and work hard at it,

then I believe you can convince others."

FIRST CHOICE

Although he knows where he wants to go, he's not yet sure how he is going to get there.

He starts a undergraduate degree in political science and history at the University of Western Ontario this fall, after which he hopes pursue a Masters degree.

After that, he thinks he might like to teach.

"I guess teaching would be the first choice, hopefully at IDCI, but I might even try journalism."

Within five years, he hopes to have run as a candidate in at least one election, federal or provincial.

His ambitions mean he still has a long way to go. To get there, among many other things, he may have to get a new car.

And if he does get to the top, he'll have the benefit of a chauffeur-driven limousine.

"I don't care about the limousine, just as long as I have something that runs," he said.

SENTINEL

REVIEW

July 2, 1985

Government faces balancing act, Sutherland says

By MARK REID
of Ingersoll This Week

There are a lot of things Kimble Sutherland wants to do but being health minister is not one of them.

Speaking at last week's Ingersoll District Chamber of Commerce's meet your MPP night, the 24-year-old graduate of Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute says the province's New Democratic Party government, which swept to power in the September election, has a balancing job ahead of it.

Responding to a question concerning the NDP's commitment to health care from Alexandra Hospital's Dorothy Griffin, Sutherland acknowledged that costs continue to escalate as new medical procedures are developed and put into practice and hinted if these services are to continue people are going to have to pay.

On a personal note, he said he would like to see more out-of-hospital care provided to people who do not require full treatment.

"I'll just tell you one thing: I don't want to be health minister."

Coming into power the new government faces a flagging economy, burdened social services and provincial debt that has grown from \$700-million to \$2.5-billion.

Sutherland said he was not sure if the new government would spend wildly, increasing the deficit. What will be spent and where it will be spent will be revealed in next week's throne speech.

"As long as we are in a recession, I don't think we will see that deficit tackled," he said, adding the provincial debt is not unmanageable, but the economy must first improve.

He blamed the recession on two things: the federal government's high interest rate policy in its bid for zero inflation, in addition to the transition period as the Canada-U.S. free trade agreement comes into effect.

"Those are the realities we have to deal with coming into government."

Acknowledging he did not know whether the free trade agreement will benefit Canadians in the long run, he says an investment in post secondary education must be made today so benefits can be realized in a future global trade environment.

The balancing act the new government must strive to achieve works in many factors.

The NDP victory was not an acceptance of socialism, rather the electorate was tired of the previous government's style. Public input must be sought from the community level, but the government must act responsibly with provincial funds, he says.

Moreover, there is a limit to what governments can spend for services and there is a limit to what the government can gain through taxation.

He also touched on the current no-fault automobile insurance policy.

Col. E. Sutherland honored Saturday

SUTHERLAND,
Wm. Evan

August 18, 1943, Lieutenant William Evan Sutherland was the focus of attention. On a routine run of troop transport between Halifax and St. John's, Newfoundland, the 'Lady Rodney', under the command of conducting officer Lieutenant Sutherland, encountered submarine-infested waters. At 2200 hours, with a tanker blazing to starboard, the farm boy from Ingersoll, Ontario, prepared to lead his staff to safety, assuring all persons were cleared to boat stations.

August 19, 1943, Lieutenant William Evan Sutherland was the focus of attention. After two solid hours of depth charge explosions the night before, at 1730 hours on August 19, he managed to use his leadership abilities to prevent an incident which could have led to disaster. With the alarm sounding when a torpedo reportedly passed the bow of the ship, directly ahead of it, and with depth charges shocking the ship for a 45 minute period, he managed to set an example of courage and efficient organization, in making it possible for his staff to carry on effectively during the emergencies encountered.

Saturday, February 9, 1980, Lt. Colonel William Evan Sutherland, O.B.E., was again the focus of attention when he was honored for his tireless efforts and contribution to the community and country.

With standing room only at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 119 headquarters on Thames Street North, Lt. Col. Sutherland was presented with a plaque in recognition of and appreciation of his many years of service to the country and community, by officers of the local Legion, and with a plaque from the Town of Ingersoll, also in recognition of his years of service.

Family and friends loudly applauded as he graciously accepted the plaques.

Annually the local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion honors a Citizen of the Year. That distinction, however, was felt inadequate for Lt. Col. Sutherland, a veteran of World War I and a World War II hero who earned the Order of the British Empire (OBS) decoration for leadership, courage and application to duty following the August 18 and 19, 1943 incident. The O.B.E. is one of the highest decorations that can be attained and was presented to the Colonel in 1946, by Canada's Governor General.

The citation presented to him at that time read "...events occurred which called for emergency station alarms. Lt. Col. Sutherland conducted himself in such a manner that his courage, application duty was outstanding in every effect...It is felt that Lt. Col. Sutherland who was officer commanding No. 5 ship's conducting staff and for 18 months, commanded all troops and ship while serving on the Canadian government transport Lady Rodney, is directly responsible by setting an example for courage and efficient organization in making it possible to carry on effectively during the emergencies encountered. His conduct was exemplary of the highest traditions of the service. It is considered this officer's service merit the highest recognition..."

An evening to honor the man who has done so much for so many was arranged and carried through February 8. People lined the halls outside of the second storey room of the Legion office where the presentation of the plaques was being made, to steal a glimpse and to offer congratulations to Lt. Col. Sutherland.

On September 1, 1943, shortly after his courageous adventure during troop transport, Lieutenant Sutherland was promoted to Mayor Sutherland.

His army career had begun many years earlier though, when in 1917 he enlisted in the Royal Air Force and joined the Oxford Rifles Militia following World War I. At that time he served as a lieutenant but was promoted to captain shortly before the outbreak of World War II.

He entered active army duty in 1940, as a Lieutenant, taking advance training at Camp Borden before being sent to the Royal Military College for a movement control training program. Shortly after that he was assigned to Embarkation Commandant in Halifax where he served as co-ordinating officer in charge of troops on 13 troop transport ships, for a total of 59 voyages. It was during his post here that Lt. Col. Sutherland faced emergency situations while transporting troops from Halifax to Newfoundland in mid-August 1943.

In 1943, the Lt. Colonel's wife, the former Bonnie Badger, died. With war still in full swing, however, the Colonel was unable to return to his infant daughter Jean.

Sutherland, Wm. Evan

INGERSOLL TIMES
February 13, 1980

On April 6, 1944, he was again promoted, this time to the position of Lt. Colonel. It was in that capacity that he was

named conducting officer on Atlantic troop transport runs from Halifax to the United Kingdom, serving on 13 ships for over 50

Atlantic crossings.

Lt. Col. Sutherland's runs included 12 trips on the H.M.T. Queen Mary, four trips on the Ile de

France and numerous other trips on various large ships. As the number of trips increased, he found his responsibilities also



Col. Evan Sutherland was honored by the town of Ingersoll and the local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion Saturday at the Legion Hall. Tributes were paid to

Sutherland, who earned the Order of the British Empire and plaques were presented to him for his service to country and community.

Col. E. Sutherland honored Saturday

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SUTHERLAND, Wm. EVAN

increased and before too long, he was responsible for the transportation of more than troops to and from the United Kingdom and Canada.

Assignments included the transportation of reinforcements from Aldershot to Dover, then to Calais and to further depots in France. German prisoners were transferred from Britain to Canadian prison camps. Before too long he was returning wounded Canadian military personnel and transporting British war brides.

As the war came to an end, his duties included returning Canadian service units and British prisoners of war who had been held captive in Singapore and

Hong Kong.

By 1946 he was ready to retire from the Canadian Army, maintaining the rank of Lt. Colonel. Following the war years he returned to Oklahoma, where he had been employed from 1920 to 1940, first as the manager of 400,000 plus acres of properties, and later as a superintendent of soil and water conservation projects for the U.S. department of Agriculture.

Upon his return he was attached to the Inspector General's office at Tinker Air Force Base, as the administrative inspector for bases in Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas and Missouri. In 1953 he became the base executive at Kansas City, Kansas.

Twenty-three years ago, Lt. Col. Evan Sutherland returned to his family farm, north west of Ingersoll. The farm boy turned hero had returned to his native area to retire.

Besides enjoying various hobbies at his farm, the Lt. Colonel has taken an active part as a member of Branch 119, Royal Canadian Legion. He is constantly working within local and area schools, promoting various Royal Canadian Legion sponsored events, such as the annual literary contest and the upcoming public speaking contest. He is a strong supporter of the Ingersoll and District Cadet Army and actively supports most youth oriented events.

Seven nursing sisters...

Seven nursing sisters
Who lived in this fair land
Heard the call of duty
To serve their country
grand.

They enlisted in the army
On board a ship they
went

When they saw the
colonel,

They thought that he was
heaven-sent.

Some folks thought the
colonel

To be a stern as he was
wise

But the seven nursing
sisters

Saw the twinkle in his
eyes.

When he would reprim-
and them

(Sometimes they needed
it you know)

It didn't seem as painful,
when they saw that tiny
twinkle grow.

He would polish up their
ego

In the very nicest way
When important people
came on board

One would always hear
him say-

"There is someone special
on this ship-

Someone of high degree
To present you to him
sisters,

Will be a privilege for
me".

They dressed in their
best bib and tucker
For their colonel they
would please,

When he introduced them
proudly

They too, felt like V.I.P's

Sometimes God gives a
special gift

When a man's chosen
work is done,

The gift of extra time to
use

His way before life's
course is run

Time to enjoy a daughter's
love

Time to meditate and
read

Time to reap Mother
Nature's bounty

From a tiny precious
seed

On behalf of seven
nursing sisters

It is a privilege for me
To pay a tribute to "our
colonel"

I know they would all
agree. A tribute from

Reta Moffat

INGERSOLL TIMES
February 13, 1980

Col. Sutherland praises local army cadets

With the many words of praise for his accomplishments over the years and for his contributions to Ingersoll, Lt. Col. Evan Sutherland found it difficult Saturday night to bask alone in the centre ring. And in his gentlemanly fashion, he shared the spotlight, praising and thanking those who had aided him in his various courses throughout the years, recognizing those who also deserved to be recognized and sharing with those in attendance, his memories, his thoughts and his hopes for the future.

Rather than dwell on his own success records, Lt. Col. Sutherland chose to honor the young people of the Ingersoll and District Army Cadet Company. As well, he cautioned community leaders of their influences and responsibility to guide today's youth.

"This branch has wholeheartedly supported the group which has earned recognition for its training," he began. "Individual honors went to Marie Lovegrove who was the outstanding cadet in all of Ontario, competing with over 1000 cadets at Camp Ipperwash last year; Nancy Howard and Bev Huntley recently received leadership and marksmanship honors.

Cadets

"Our Cadet companies, which are small in personnel though excellent in quality, in case of national emergency may form the training nucleus and leadership for many of the young people who today scoff at cadet training."

Lt. Col. Sutherland continued, saying "These 'scoffers' lack something vital-

ly important in their school and home training, an understanding of past and present history. Human rights rest on human dignity and the dignity of man is an ideal worth fighting for.

"We see warning signs forming in the east, which could result in a most serious emergency developing world wide and which would find Canada unprepared to meet," he continued. "Our proud regiments of militia have been drastically cut or eliminated, including the former Oxford Rifles. Our navy, merchants marine, army and air force sadly neglected."

Reflecting momentarily on the past, Lt. Col. Sutherland said "In the first and second World Wars, men and women were not motivated by their own selfish interests but rather by the fulfil-

ment of international obligations and also to vindicate the principle that smaller nations were not to be crushed by the arbitrary will of a strong, overmaser-ing power in defiance of international good faith.

'Let us not forget'

"Let us not forget," he stressed, "the constructive service rendered in the past by men such as Jack Herbert, Currie Wilson, Gerald Pirie, after their war service. They instilled in the minds of the youth, the importance of militia and cadet training and discipline, which are such valuable assets not only in daily life but so necessary in time of international tensions such as we are facing today".

To the attentive audience, he said "tonight we

are proud to have several outstanding leaders with us. Our federal Member of Parliament Dr. Bruce Halliday; Mayor Doug Harris of Ingersoll and Deputy Mayor Jack Warden; Mayor Wallis Hammond of Zorra Township. These men are a guiding influence that will inspire in the youth of today a dedication to the principles that motivated the proud men of Oxford in past years, to maintain the traditions and principals that made for a strong and better Canada.

"The youth of today will be tomorrow's leaders," he cautioned, "and your leadership now will help mould their actions. In your hands are placed great responsibilities, possibly greater than at any period in our history and we look ahead with anticipation for programs to meet the physical and educational needs of

our Canadian young men and women".

As well as taking time to address the leaders of today and potential leaders of tomorrow, Lt. Col. Sutherland addressed local war brides, in attendance at the ceremony.

War brides

"I am pleased to see local war brides who were part of the 63,000 who courageously crossed the Atlantic to take up homes with their returning husbands during the immediately after the last war," he said. "You ladies are truly representative of that fine group of war brides who have made for a better Canada. You exhibited great courage and determination during the dark days of the war when Britain was so ruthlessly damaged by enemy bomb-

ings. An essential requirement for good citizenship is pride in identity, which you proudly possess."

He also praised the administrative and nursing sister staff from No. 1 ship's conducting staff who were present at the Saturday night affair. He noted that Searle Crate, one of two nursing sister staff members, was awarded the British Empire Medal for outstanding service during emergencies on the Atlantic crossings. While Reta Moffat led the staff of nursing sisters and Red Cross workers, "most efficiently".

With sisters Jean and Helen, brothers Donald and John and daughter Jean on hand to congratulate him and share the ceremony with him, Lt. Col. Sutherland confessed the evening to be "most memorable, an evening I won't forget".

SUTHERLAND
Wm. Evan

Outstanding Citizens Honored for town interest

Citizen of the Year
Award (R.C.L.)
Swackhammer, Grant

Doug Carr and Grant Swackhammer were named the Legion's Outstanding Citizens of the Year last week.

A panel of adjudicators consisting of Anne McMillan, Mayor Doug Harris, Canon Tom Griffin, Jack Warden, Ralph Parker, and Leo Kirwin, selected the two men in a secret ballot vote.

Both men will be presented with their awards at a banquet planned for May 17 at 7 p.m.

BY MICKEY LEBLANC

Legion work applauded

Grant Swackhammer joined the Royal Canadian Legion in 1945 when he was serving with the air force in England and 41 years later the Ingersoll man still maintains a high profile in the veterans' organization.

Mr. Swackhammer went into semi-retirement in 1977 and full retirement in 1980.

His nomination as Outstanding Citizen was based on long service to the Legion, but along with his involvement in the Legion, Swackhammer helped to organize the

Seniors for Health program eight years ago and remains an active member of the organization.

Swackhammer is now a lifetime member of the Legion and continues to visit veterans in hospitals and still carries on in the Legion executive.

Swackhammer served in the air force for just over four years. First in Canada at a school near St. Thomas for two years. During the war he served another two years in England as a member of a ground crew in Yorkshire County working

with the 428 squadron.

As a service officer with the Hillcrest Legion in Ingersoll, Swackhammer has helped to look after veterans, pensioners and widowers and getting people into Westminster whenever needed. Westminster Hospital whenever needed.

While there are a large number of veterans taking advantage of the services offered by the Legion, Swackhammer said he is surprised at the number of veterans who are eligible for benefits but don't come to the Legion until it is absolutely essential.

He pointed out the Legion can arrange for a number of services to veterans such as VON nursing care, wheelchairs, canes and other services.

And unless a younger generation gets involved in Legion activities Swackhammer feels the organization's future could be poor. But he also feels there will always be a need for the Legion services and younger people will become more involved.

Born in Aylmer and educated mostly in Windsor, the Swackhammer family came to Ingersoll in 1930. Swackhammer worked at the Ingersoll Inn for 16 years and retired from there at age 63. He also worked for General Motors and New Idea Furnace.

Reasons for staying involved in the Legion are many, he said Tuesday, but his work has mainly been because of sentiment, pointing out he lost a number of good friends during the war. The tradition the Legion offers is also a strong force behind Swackhammer's involvement.

His work at the Legion has helped to occupy him during retirement years, Swackhammer said, and he enjoys taping music, speeches, and lectures which he can replay at the Legion.

He was runner-up to Bob Hill and P.M. Dewan in 1975 as Outstanding Citizen.



Grant Swackhammer was also selected as Outstanding Citizen of the Year.

INGERSOLL TIMES
May 7, 1986

Doug Carr and Grant Swackhammer

Legion picks two citizens of the year

By RICK HUGHES
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Grant Swackhammer and Doug Carr have been named

co-winners of the Ingersoll Legion Branch 119 Citizen of the Year award for 1986.

They will be honored at a dinner May 17.

Normally one winner is selected, but Legion publicity officer Jack Warden said Swackhammer and Carr were so close in points that the selection committee decided to honor both of them.

Warden said there were five nominees. The six-member selection committee used a point system to choose among them.

The judges were Ann MacMillan, head of the Legion women's auxiliary, Canon Tom Griffin, Mayor Doug Harris, Ralph Parker, head of Branch 119, and Legion publicity officers Warden and Leo Kirwin.

Carr has been active for many years in the Cancer Society. He has been treasurer, a fund-raising canvasser for the society and he has always helped organize the Ladies Great Ride for Cancer.

He is also active in the Ingersoll and District Horticultural Society.

30-YEAR HISTORY

Besides current volunteer work,

Carr, 75, has a long history of community work. It goes back 30 years to when he served on the old Ingersoll recreation commission, organizing and promoting arts and crafts.

But there's an irony. He will receive the award just as he's trying to phase himself out of his many activities. And, that includes retiring this weekend from Carr's Book and China Shop. The family owned business was started by his father in 1921. Carr has worked there since 1945.

"I never expected it. Never dreamed of it. I never even gave it a thought," said Carr, adding that Ingersoll is a good place to be a community worker.

"I've always been a booster of this town. I don't think there's a better town in the country. I've always said that if there is a worthwhile cause, then this town always comes through," Carr said.

Swackhammer's community involvement also goes back many years. He has been a member of the Legion since 1945. He has been on the Branch 119 executive for the past decade.

ASSISTS VETERANS

His key role at the Legion is as

veteran's service officer. It is his responsibility to assist veterans needing medical attention and their families. He helps veterans get admitted to London's Westminster Hospital. He also visits patients in the veteran's hospital regularly.

Swackhammer, 71, was also a founder of the Seniors for Health program at Alexandra Hospital eight years ago.

"I feel real good about it," said Swackhammer about the award. "A little pat on the head never hurt anybody."

Swackhammer, who was runner-up for the award in 1975, said he has enjoyed doing the community work.

"I'm glad I could do it. I like to do community work, especially for the Legion. I lost a lot of good buddies and I'm carrying the torch for them."

Swackhammer and his wife, Mary, live on Earl Street.

He held a number of jobs in Ingersoll and London before settling in for 16 years as bartender and waiter at the Ingersoll Inn in 1960. He retired in 1972.

Carr and Swackhammer will each receive a plaque at the banquet.



GRANT SWACKHAMMER, the veteran service officer of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 119, is one of the founders of the Seniors for Health program at Alexandra Hospital.

(Staff photo by Rick Hughes)

SENTINEL

REVIEW

May 12, 1986



Grant Swackhammer and Doug Carr were presented with their plaques for being selected the Legion's outstanding citizens. Jack Warden was on hand for the presentation.

Ingersoll Times
May 21, 1986



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

SZARKA, JIM

Actor Dave Talbot in Toronto's limelight

BY TERESA BURNS

As a child, we all had careers we thought we wanted to carry out when we grew up. For some of us, we would do this and others would find a different ambition in life.

But for one Ingersoll man, his childhood dream of being an actor has come true. Dave Talbot, now in his early 20's, has a successful career in acting and is currently performing in Toronto.

David Talbot could answer that question at the age of eight, after his first experience in theatre. Thus began a promising career in acting for that Ingersoll boy

a great success currently performing in Toronto.

David is grateful to his family for this. He shared the stage of The Grand Theatre in London in 1967 production of Oliver with three members of his family: his father, Jack and two brothers Tom and Andy. David laughs recalling this. He said "it was the most fun I ever had in my life." he sang his first solo line in one of the musical numbers, Food Glorious Food. Two years later David joined the speech club at VMS.

While at attending grade 9 at IDCI David was cast in the

production Camelot, staged in Alumni Hall by Purple Patches, the University of Western Ontario's musical theatre. He played Tom of Warrick, a young boy.

David's interest in drama continued to grow and by the summer of 1970, he became involved in performing Jack and the Giant. The play was performed in and around Ingersoll under the direction of Craig Dunn.

Mr. Dunn taught a theatrical arts class at I.D.C.I. and the following year David won the award of Best Supporting Actor in the Regional Drama Festival.

In 1971 David was accepted in the Brantford Youth Theatre, a school of acting funded by the government.

"It was a totally theatrical environment" said David, "Everyone in the school was genuinely interested in pursuing acting."

David had other interests as well as acting, while in high school. He was in a band called The John Schmeilaber Sextet. He now sings with a London Based Band called "Dirty Ernie", and in 1976 played with a jazz group called Albondigas.

But his musical roots are at home with his family, which was "inspired by my father, a great singer and master of the ukelele."

David returned to the Grand Theatre in Grade 11 in Little Mary Sunshine and You're A Good Man Charlie Brown, directed by Don Fleckser.

The following summer he was a member of the Ontario Youth Theatre in Peterborough. He played the China man in The Devil's Instrument, written by W.O. Mitchell. It was a great opportunity for David to perform at The National Arts Center in Ottawa. Along with the honor of

meeting author Margaret Lawrence and playwright, Mitchell, this experience remained a key factor in David's training.

He then played Nathan Detroit in Guys and Dolls in a Grade 12 production.

The following summer he treated himself to the adventures of travelling. He hitch-hiked to the far northwest and today credits the human relationships in his travels with having helped his career.

"Everytime you get in another car the play starts over. Theatre is a reflection of human life. It's my job to portray human characters. Everytime you meet someone it becomes a part of the experience that helps to interpret a character in a play."

Following Grade 13 David combined drama with other things. He was employed by CIL in Ingersoll.

Again travel remained a part of the scenario. David has been on two separate

ventures to South America.

David landed his first paying job in theatre in 1975 with a group called All The Kids' Men in London. This troupe performed Children's Theatre.

In 1977 he played characters in The Vaudevillians at The Gallery Theatre in London. Peter Colley wrote this play which soon thereafter found success in Toronto at Old Angelas, a dinner theatre.

David then toured Oxford County doing drama workshops for children with two others.

"I think this (children's workshops) is very important. When children can work together with their creative imaginations, it produces a situation where the children can express themselves by creating their own play.

"It can also be thought of as a teaching method that can make text books come alive."

He said this was demonstrated in The Tree Musketiers, an Ecological Play performed around Toronto for children in 1980.

An important turn happened in David's career in the summer of 1980 when he was accepted into The Huron County Playhouse in Grand Bend. The shows were all successful and were directed to an adult audience. He played in Alice in Wonderland, Annie Get Your Gun, Flicks and Way Off Broadway. The London Free Press gave good reviews of the shows.

Way Off Broadway, written by James Saar, was performed after the main show at the cabaret in another part of the Playhouse. It is a review of Broadway hits. The show has received critical acclaim in The Toronto Globe and Mail.

Due to the success of this show, James Saar took it on

to Toronto where David and four others are currently appearing at Old Angelo's. The show has been running for three months and its popularity is still strong in Toronto.

If you should happen to see David Talbot walking down the streets of Ingersoll, he'll probably only be here for a visit - to play some tunes with his father, to meet with old friend or to ski the countryside. But he'll always go back to theatre. His career is forever interwoven into with his other interests. He speaks of it with satisfaction in his voice.

This latest show Way Off Broadway, has offered new rewards and challenges for David.

"I am improving and using my skills. Especillay in this production because I play so many characters." David said he has broadening my experience and am getting good exposure."

He also adds that a great deal of work and concentration goes into "the challenge of keeping the show fresh and alive.

"Work is temporary and you have to continually hustle to get jobs," he said. He plans to continue in this field as time rolls on, whether it be in Halifax or Calgary, Toronto or Vancouver, where there are auditions there will be David Talbot. Is he considering this? Perhaps we'll all be lucky to have him perform with ITOPA here in Ingersoll. David said if he had the time he would like to participate. Sometime in the future David would like to "make an attempt" at reviving slapstick comedy using original material. David said with determination and a fine sense of humor that one young Ingersoll boy, still has many years ahead in the theatre. On with the show, David! Bravo!

Actor Dave Talbot ...



Dave Talbot in front of old Angelo's where he has, been performing in 'Way off Broadway.'

FEATURES

Local actor gets supporting role in Toronto production

BY MIKE SWITZER

David Talbot has come a long way since high school theatre in Ingersoll.

Talbot, the son of Ingersoll residents Jack and Helen Talbot, is appearing in the latest production of *Anne of Green Gables* at Toronto's Elgin Theatre.

The play, described by critics as one of the most extravagant versions to date, is directed by Alan Lund (who directed the original production at the Charlottetown Festival in 1965) and features Barbara Hamilton and Gordon Pinsent as Marilla and Matthew.

Talbot will also be working with London-native Jessica Wilson, playing the role of Anne Shirley.

Playing the role of Mr. Phillips, the Avonlea school teacher who becomes involved in a scandalous affair with one of his students, is an "interesting exercise," Talbot said.

"Phillips is a very conservative, upstart person. He's almost a snob. It gets interesting when he has this lecherous affair with one other girl in the class, offering her private tutorials. He ends up getting her pregnant and infuriating the locals.

"There are some comic moments even," Talbot added. "It may be a supporting role but it's really something I can sink my teeth into."

A graduate of Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute, Talbot said his

career in theatre began at an early age.

"My dad's an entertainer in his own right," he said. "When I was eight years old, my father, two brothers and I were in *Oliver* at the Grand Theatre. I really got a sense of community out of it, and it was a lot of fun."

He said he became actively involved in the London theatre scene while still a student at I.D.C.I.

"I did various shows during my teen years. The teachers couldn't get me to do my homework after that."

After graduating in 1974 he embarked upon the career which has brought him to the Elgin Theatre today. He has appeared as Richard in *How I Wonder What You Are*, Billy Bibbit in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, the Artful Dodger in *Oliver*, Percy Thistle in *Saskatoon Pie* and numerous characters at the Huron County Playhouse.

Talbot recently appeared in *The Wait*, a motion picture released by Man Films, and has completed a lengthy run with Second City in London.

"I like to do a range of things," he

said, "but I think comedy is my strength. I can sing and dance, which helps, but comedy is really what I do best."

Until his big break in comedy comes, however, Talbot will have to settle for roles in major productions such as *Anne of Green Gables*, in

major theatre centres such as Toronto, opposite major Canadian talent like Hamilton and Pinsent.

The play opened at the Elgin Theatre on March 15, and plays until May 5. Tickets can be purchased at any Ticketmaster outlet, or ordered by calling (416) 872-5555.



DAVID
TALBOT

Talbot, David

Acting her dream

By ARMITA JANES
Sentinel-Review staff writer

INGERSOLL — As a child, Helen Tatulis, would tell her parents: "I want to be an actress when I grow up."

But they never took her seriously, said the 13-year-old Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute student who won the Mary Jamieson Award for best performance by a juvenile at the Western Ontario Drama League Festival at Burlington last Saturday.

But it wasn't that Helen's parents didn't appreciate their daughter's acting ability.

Her father, Ingersoll lawyer K.P. Tatulis, used to call his daughter Sara Bernhardt whenever she put on one of her great performances about being sick.

And her mother "got a real kick" out of watching Helen parody television commercials.

"I like to imitate people on TV," Helen said. "I used to memorize the commercials and then sit there and act them out."

The only other acting experience Helen had prior to playing the role of deaf and dumb Helen Keller in the Woodstock Little Theatre production of the Miracle Worker was a small part, that of Matilda, in the WLT production The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man in the Moon Marigolds.

How did the girl who wanted to be an actress from the time she was "yay high" prepare for her award-winning role?

After winning the part, she went home and read the script "over and over".

"I tried to put myself in Helen Keller's position," she said. "I tried to analyze it — how she was feeling and the main thing I came up with was frustration."

She also had gone with her mother to Toronto last November to see the Young People's Theatre production of The Miracle Worker.

Playing the part of Helen Keller in the WLT production was "super experience", Helen said, even though her school work suffered badly as a result.

The adjustment to more difficult work in Grade 9, was compounded by time lost because she was often too tired to



Helen Tatulis was winner at Western Ontario Drama League Festival.

get up the morning after late night rehearsals.

"But sometimes you learn a lot more out of school than in it," said Helen.

Helen learned a lot from Susan Lowrie of Tillsonburg as they drove back and forth to rehearsals in Woodstock.

Susan had taken courses in theatre at university in Banff, Alta., she said and "we talked about acting" all the time.

Helen also wants to go to university to "take courses in speech, acting and dramatics." Both her parents agree.

Because she needs Grade 13 to do this, she will make it a rule never to take a part in a play that will interfere with studying for exams.

Looking to the future, Helen plans to audition for any juvenile roles in upcoming IDCI, WLT, or Ingersoll Theatre of the Performing Arts (ITOPA) productions.

Further down the road, Helen would like to enrol in a summer course offered by Theatre London.

WAR BRIDES

Three women recall horrors of last great war

By BONNIE MOTT
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.

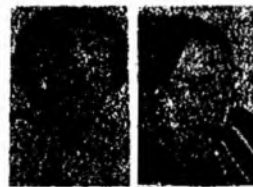
However, she had known from the time she met Joe there was no turning back.

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
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."

McSherry lived between two airports and would see VIPs, including Churchill, coming and going 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 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."

Woman's knitting is for strangers

By PHYLLIS COULTER
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — No one raises an eyebrow when Jean Thompson knits another baby bonnet. No one asks if she is going to be a grandmother again. Her friends know the baby clothes are likely for tiny tots she has never met.

"I like to make baby things because it doesn't take as long," she quips.

Thompson surprised herself with the volume of baby booties, bonnets and outfits she produced this year. The doll clothes, men's and women's sweaters, and children's wear she knitted this year overflow from a cardboard box where she stores her work.

Much of her knitting is to be sold at the Presbyterian Church bazaar in November. She jokes that she will only take a portion of the growing bundle of knitted goods to the church event this year so as not to take too much of the space.

Thompson has been knitting periodically since she her grandmother taught her to knit when she was a little girl. This year she knitted like never before. Knitting has new priority since Thompson retired about one year ago.

For years, Thompson greeted people at the 159 Thames St. S. variety store which has changed names and owners several times recently. Thompson counted out children's pennies for candy, sold stamps, and doled out various sundries to customers.

Before that she was also a familiar voice as an Ingersoll telephone operator until technology replaced people in that job.

When Thompson retired last summer, she picked up the knitting needles and soon her basket overflowed with colorful clothes. She never liked watching television so she sits, knits, and listens to the

radio on lazy summer evenings.

She delights most in making things from odds and ends. Some of the colorful striped sweaters are that way because she gathered a variety of scraps to create a rainbow effect.

Even the newest sweater she made for herself recently came from leftovers. Her sister gave her some pink wool — enough to make a sweater, maybe. Thompson sat down to the challenge. The yarn disappeared quickly as she came close to the end of the sweater. Not until the final few stitches did Thompson know if she had enough to complete the project. She conquered the challenge with only inches to spare.

She reaches into the bundle of sweaters and produces a two-colored one. This time, there was not enough yarn, so she simply made the trim a different color.

Thompson does not like to waste a strand of yarn. She made a warm winter sweater for her husband Harold, for Christmas. She whipped up the cardigan in only 10 days, and had enough left to make a matching doll sweater.

SENTINEL REVIEW

August 23, 1987

Ingersoll Daily Sentinel-Review
Monday, Dec. 2, 1918.

Page 3.
Column 2.

OBITUARY

Death of John Thompson

The death occurred yesterday at the family residence, Charles street west, of one of Oxford's oldest residents in the person of John Thompson. Deceased, who was in his 91st year, had been a resident of Oxford County since 1847, when he engaged in farming in Dereham township. He was born in Yorkshire, England, coming to Canada in 1811. At that time he remained in Markham township for eight years. Deceased came to Ingersoll thirty seven years ago, and has resided here ever since. Deceased was a man of splendid physique, and despite his advanced years had experienced very little illnesses. While deeply interested in municipal matters and all other matters making for the betterment of the municipality, he had never aspired to public office of any kind. He is survived by two sons. William and J. B. both of Ingersoll. The funeral, private, will be held from his late residence, Charles street west, to the Harris street cemetery on Tuesday afternoon.

Ingersoll Daily Sentinel-Review
Friday, Dec. 6, 1918.

The Late John Thompson

The funeral of the late John Thompson was held from his late residence on Charles street west, to the Ingersoll rural cemetery for burial. The services were conducted by Rev. Edward Sheppard. The pallbearers were: William, J. B., Wilbur and John Thompson, L. D. Monk of Dorchester, and William Stevens of St. Marys.

Fleming, Tingle honored for

By GABE PERACCHIA
Sentinel-Review staff writer

INGERSOLL — A music store operator and a retired teacher will be recipients of this year's Royal Canadian Legion outstanding citizen award.

Ingersoll Legion branch 119 has named Bruce Fleming and Ruth Tingle as recipients of the award for their contributions to worthy causes in the town of Ingersoll.

Although the Legion's three judges made their selections last Wednesday, Fleming, 34, said he was "quite surprised" when he first heard the news from an inquiring reporter Monday.

"I'm humbled to a degree," said Fleming, proprietor of the Broadway music store in Woodstock. "It's nice to be honored for the work you do put into the town."

Mrs. Tingle, who taught in Ingersoll elementary schools for many years, said she was not yet prepared to comment on the

honor.

AWARD BANQUET

The two recipients will be given the awards at a special banquet presentation at the Legion building May 5 at 7 p.m.

This is the first year the Legion has named more than one person as recipient of the award. Traditionally, the Legion has called it the "citizen of the year" award. It was presented to Salford area farmer Leo Kirwin in 1983 and to business and media activist Bonnie Mott in 1982.

However, the format was changed this year so that more than one deserving person could be recognized in a single year, Legion secretary Chris McLelland said. By limiting the award to one nominee in past years, other deserving nominees were being overlooked even though they were worthy candidates.

Born and raised in Ingersoll, Fleming has been involved in a number of public, charitable and recreational causes in the past

contributions to community

five years. On the average, he said he spends 15 to 20 hours a week in extracurricular activities.

MORRISON AWARD

Earlier this year, he received the Thomas Morrison award, named after the late Ingersoll mayor of the 1960s. The award is presented annually by the town to a person who makes major contributions to the town's recreational activities.

Fleming was 1983 president of the Cheesetown Optimist Club, which nominated him. His civic posts have included positions on the Cheese and Wine Festival committee, the town's Ontario bicentennial committee and the Youth Centre committee. He is also a volunteer helper for the Christmas Inter-church relief fund, and a performer for the relief fund telethon.

During the past five years, he has served terms as president of the old Ingersoll Kinsmen club, president of the Optimists, presi-

dent for three years of the Ingersoll Fastball League, chairman for two years of the Cheese and Wine Festival, co-ordinator for four years of the Optimist club teen dances.

In sports, he has played for Henderson's Gulf fastball team, Cantario industrial hockey team, and has coached a team in the Ingersoll women's slow pitch league.

VOLUNTEER WORK

Mrs. Tingle is noted not only for her teaching, but for her volunteer work as well. She goes to Alexandra Hospital on a regular basis, taking flowers to the sick.

The person who submitted her nomination stated, "There are very few Ingersoll people who haven't been helped in some way by this outstanding lady."

The members of the Legion's selection panel were president Max Barker, Mayor Doug Harris, and Rev. Tom Griffin of St. James Anglican Church.

SENTINEL

REVIEW

April 24, 1984



Bruce Fleming has received another honor from the community, this time being the recipient of the Legion Outstanding Citizen Award. He shares the distinction with former school teacher Ruth Tingle, co-winner of this year's award.

Outstanding citizens named

BY RON PRESTON

Bruce Fleming, winner of the 1983 Thomas Morrison Award, and long-time elementary school teacher Ruth Tingle, are the co-winners of the 1984 Legion Outstanding Citizen Award.

The awards were announced this week, with the formal presentation to take place at a Legion banquet May 5.

For the 34-year-old Mr. Fleming, the award came as "kind of a shock."

"I knew I had been nominated," he said, "but I thought I was just one of 10 people," and he wasn't expecting the award.

Mrs. W.G. Tingle, now retired, taught at three different Ingersoll elementary schools but "never dreamed of such a thing in my whole life."

"I still don't think I merit such a great honor," she said, "(but) I'm very proud to be sharing this honor" with Mr. Fleming.

The two winners were selected by a committee composed of Legion executives, the president of the Ladies Auxiliary and Mayor Doug Harris.

Efforts to improve the quality of life in Ingersoll are one of the primary factors in determining the recipients of the award.

Last year's winner was Leo Kirwin of R.R. 2, Salford.

The entrants are nominated by fellow residents and judged on a point system which includes up to 25 points for past service to the community, up to 50 points for community service within the past year, and 10 possible points for service in a public office or municipal body.

An additional five points per year may be awarded to entries receiving honorable mentions in previous citizen of the year contests.

Mr. Fleming is past-president of the Chesetown Optimists, a member of the Youth Centre committee, the Bicentennial committee, plus serving on the Youth Advisory Board for Oxford County.

He was also chairman of the Ingersoll Cheese and Wine Festival for two years and a member of that committee for a number of years. He has served on the executive of the town's fastball league for five years, plays hockey in the town's industrial league and coaches a women's slo-pitch team.

Many local residents have been the recipients of Mrs. Tingle's knowledge as she helped educate several generations of Ingersoll's youngsters before retiring.

She is now a regular visitor to the sick and disabled patients at Alexandra Hospital, often taking flowers to brighten their days.

The shy, former teacher had not even told her friends about winning the distinction as she was still "overwhelmed by the gesture" several days later.

Mr. Fleming said, "it's nice to get some reciprocation" from the community.

When asked where he would put the award, along with the Morrison Award, he replied he had a "little corner set aside for things of this nature."

INGERSOLL TIMES
April 25, 1984

Joe Todd was 'Timmy' in 1964

INGERSOLL — Friends and family often sign a child's cast in a hospital. But not many children have both the signature of Miss Teen Age Canada, and hockey star Gordie Howe, on the same cast.

Joe Todd did.

He was visited by both the beauty queen and the hockey star after one of several operations he required as a result of having polio.

Everyone asked the 11-year-old boy which of the two celebrities he liked the best. Now, more than 20 years later, he

still will not tell.

He has, however, cultivated an interest in hockey and was on the executive of the first intermediate hockey team here.

Todd was a local celebrity himself when growing up in Ingersoll. The son of Anne and Frank Todd often had his picture in the newspaper.

He even appeared on television — on *The Razzle Dazzle* show, and says he liked having his chance to "shine."

Todd was poster child for the Ingersoll Easter Seal campaign when he was nine years old.

He attended banquets and special events for the Kiwanis Club. In return, members of the club drove him to London for therapy and paid for leg braces and new shoes.

He says he went through lots of leg braces when he was growing up.

"I'd break them playing baseball or tobogganing."

Leg braces cost about \$500 today.

Now that he buys them himself, Todd jokes that he takes better care of them.

Todd was the Kiwanis Club's "Timmy" for the Crippled Children campaign in 1964.

BAD NEWS FROM DOCTORS

About that time, doctors told his mother, that Todd would never be able to walk — ever.

"She didn't believe them." She was right.

Chances of Todd walking did not look bright when he was very young and wore two tiny leg braces wired together.

But Todd is certainly more active than his doctors would have ever predicted.

"I am quite lucky," he says.

Not taking his luck for granted, Todd is very active in community events, especially sports.

Doug Harris, Ingersoll's Mayor, encouraged Todd to pursue his sports interest. Todd coaches Macnab's baseball team with Harris.

Todd started keeping score, moved

up to managing a team, and then became a coach.

Todd also organized the Ingersoll a men's basketball league in town, writes sports columns and stories for local newspapers, and is an active member of the Ingersoll and District Sports Hall of Fame.

Although Todd, is well known for his contributions to sports here, the trophy he values the most was presented to him by the Kiwanis Club 23 years ago, and is in recognition of his contribution to the crippled children campaign.

CHAIRMAN OF YOUTH CENTRE

At one point, Todd was the chairman of the Ingersoll Youth Centre in the old fire hall. That program eventually was phased out here; youth centres seem to come and go here, he says.

Today, Todd, with a college education in retail marketing, is the production co-ordinator for Holland Equipment in Norwich.



Joe Todd

SENTINEL

REVIEW

April 24, 1987

Toth, Geza



Mr. Toth with one of his rock collections. This cabinet is filled with crystalline rocks. Sample in hand is worth \$25.

Ingersoll collector says rocks 'worth their weight in gold'

By ART FRASER

INGERSOLL — Geza Toth, of Ingersoll, has a rock and fossil collection which he wouldn't sell for its weight in gold. Wholesale price, his collection is worth more than \$20,000, but along with this goes the tremendous amount of time and energy spent travelling throughout Ontario and many of the States to locate rock specimens and fossil deposits.

Mr. Toth, who began his hobby with a geology course at McMaster University, has been a collector for over 15 years. He started out with a very few

samples of ordinary specimens and now has a room full of every type found in Ontario.

During the past five years he has devoted almost all of his spare time to the study of fossils. Arkona, Ont., a few miles from Grand Bend, is one of the foremost fossil deposit areas in North America.

ARKONA FOSSILS

Mr. Toth makes at least 12 trips a year to Arkona. The fossils discovered there date back 370,000,000 years when it was believed that Southwestern Ontario was a shallow inland sea. In addition to the thousands

of rock and fossil samples Mr. Toth has a fortune tied up in his library resource material.

'Old rocks never die — they just slowly petrify' is a saying which fits into Mr. Toth's enthusiasm for his hobby. He never tires of the time consuming effort it takes to collect and catalogue and identify the many samples he brings home every year from his trips. His enthusiasm for collecting is greater than most other people's enthusiasm for dessert.

It's a fact that Mr. Toth has one of the best (if not the best) collections of the Devonian Peri-

od in Canada. It's getting better and bigger every year. Above all else he would like to see his and other collections stay in this country instead of being sold to collectors in the United States.

His collection surpasses most museum collections in Canada. In fact he sends many of his discoveries to Canadian Universities and museums.

MAJOR TRADERS

At present Mr. Toth has a catalogue of more than 20 major traders throughout North America with whom he does business. He ultimately hopes to set up his own mail order business for those interested in geological and fossilific artifacts. Anyone interested in geological work is invited to the Toth Museum room.

Marilyn Smulders
Ingersoll Bureau Reporter
485-3040

Fixation with fossils

Story and photography
by MARILYN SMULDERS
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — If anyone told Geza Toth he had rocks in his head, he probably wouldn't be offended.

A serious rock collector for most of his life, Toth has filled basement rooms and an upstairs den with his pieces. Along with the help of his wife Magda, he operates *The Rock Pit* in a shop attached to his Ingersoll home.

Toth has, in particular, one of the most extensive collections of fossils from the *devonian* period. Life on earth was just starting to pick up then. The bodies of early life forms captured in stone give an idea of what today's animals evolved from. Some of the fossils has been lent out to museums; others have found a permanent home with the Oxford County Board of Education for the enjoyment of school children.

Toth remembers his fascination for rocks starting as a child. Growing up in Hamilton, he would gaze in wonder at the layers of rock that made up the Niagara Escarpment, he said. Later, once his family moved to a tobacco farm in the Tillsonburg area, he would take rock hunting treks through the

countryside. Colorful stones at the bottom of creek beds particularly intrigued him, recalled the 55-year-old.

Wanted the knowledge

Work kept him on the farm when he might have been pursuing dreams of becoming a prospector or a geologist. Years passed before he enrolled in a geology and palaeontology course at McMaster University in Hamilton.

"I think I got a lot more out of it than the students who were there just to get their credit," remarked Toth, whose formal education stopped at Grade 7. "I took the course to listen. I wanted the knowledge."

The course was his impetus to engage on serious digs. He began making regular trips to Arkona, near Grand Bend, to discover *devonian* fossils. Other favorite locations include Thunder Bay, where breathtaking finds of amethyst crystals are possible, and the Adirondack Mountains in New York, where the Toths search for herkimer diamonds.

Domestic digs

A dig is a family occasion. The Toths load up their camping gear along with digging equipment for a couple days of

work in the sunshine, said Toth.

"When you lift up a rock and spot a cavity sparkling with crystals, it's so exciting," contributed wife Magda, who shares her husband's passion for rock hunting. "It makes you literally tremble."

Toth's interest in rocks has shifted lately from fossils to crystals, which he calls "the flowers of the mineral kingdom." Pieces in his collections range from the 25 cent variety to those in the thousands of dollars.

Western society puts its highest value on diamonds, the hardest crystal of all. But Toth believes diamonds are overvalued, their worth controlled by clever marketing. Emeralds, he adds, are far scarcer and more beautiful to his expert's eye.

This emphasis on crystals and gemstones prompted Toth to diversify his business to include lapidary, or jewelry making. He cuts, polishes and engraves stones to suit custom orders or for his own satisfaction. He is looking forward to doing it full time when he eventually retires from Canada Cement LaFarge, he said. Magda too makes her own unique pieces of jewelry, by wrapping thin strands of gold wire around different kinds of gemstones.

"There's something rare about this hobby," said Toth. "Sometimes I'll pick up something that nothing else or nobody else has seen for literally millions of years. It always makes an impact on me."

SENTINEL REVIEW

April 15, 1988



MIKE TWISS, of Milton and a member of the newly-chartered 1st Ontario Two Cylinder Club, fielded

questions about his rare 1952 AO orchard tractor during Johnny Popper Days.

Plenty of green for Popper Days

Story and photo
by MARK REID
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Noticeably missing from Buddhaven farms over the Civic Holiday Weekend were Snap and Crackle.

But there was plenty of Pop as John Deere enthusiasts from both sides of the border gathered for Johnny Popper Days during which the 1st Ontario Two Cylinder Club received its charter.

The Budd farm brought a new meaning to a field of green as old tractors, some only for show and some for demonstrations, dotted the landscape Saturday and Sunday.

Collection of thirty

Howard Budd, who spend 15 minutes starting his 1925 Spoker D, says participants came from Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Iowa, Colorado, New York and across Ontario for the event.

His Spoker D is one of 15 restored tractors in his family's collection of 30. It starts on gasoline, but once running kerosene, diesel and a half a dozen other fuels can be used to power the machine.

A unique tractor on display was a 1952 AO orchard tractor, owned by Mike Twiss of Milton.

During its production between 1949-53, only 1,200 rolled off the line, and rarer so, is one like his which represents 25 per cent of total production.

Stealth-like appearance

The tractor is streamlined with sheet metal, giving it a stealth-like appearance.

Twiss, a machinist and welder by trade, purchased the tractor four years ago at an auction in Michigan. He first showed the tractor in Waterloo, Iowa — home of the John Deere — three years ago after a rush restoration job.

It was the only such tractor on display.

"I've never seen one sold or fixed up," he says, noting the machine is valued at \$10,000. "Not that I'd sell it for that."

In addition to static and working displays, John Deere toy collectors, crafts and activities were all part of the weekend.

Woman postie takes it in stride

By ARMITA JANES
Sentinel-Review staff writer
INGERSOLL — A 46-year-old grandmother last month became Ingersoll's first woman letter carrier.

Jean Uncer says residents

on her route—Towerview and Centennial Park subdivisions; Wadsworth, Holcroft and Whiting streets; Culloden Road and Clark Side Road—now are used to a woman delivering their mail,

but she still rates stares from people in cars.

"Oh! Look—a woman," she hears them say.

Women letter carriers dress like postmen, except that they wear jaunty

brimmed hats rather than caps.

Most people seem to think it is "pretty wonderful" that a woman has tried, and is able to do, what has been traditionally a man's job, Ms. Uncer said.

Even her husband thought it might be too difficult, she said, but she found it easier than her former jobs at Essex Wire, Swifts and working as a sales clerk.

It is cleaner and healthier, she said, and there is no one standing over you all the time.

Even dogs are no problem to Jean Uncer as she makes her daily rounds from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

"Most people know what time you are coming, and keep their dogs tied up," she said.

But while the work is not too difficult for a woman, the town's first woman letter carrier has found you need a good memory, good walking legs and a sense of humor on the job.

She was surprised to find how much contact a letter carrier has with people.

"They come to the door when you deliver the mail," she said. "And some people are standing waiting every morning."

Jean Uncer said her male counterparts at the Ingersoll Post Office seem to have accepted her—probably because she had met many of them when she worked at the post office during the Christmas rush, or at the legion. (She is president of the Ladies' Auxiliary to Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 119).

A member of the Auxiliary's champion dart-throwing team, Jean Uncer lately has gotten more practice aiming letters in mail boxes than darts at targets.

Her new job hasn't left much time for practising, she said, something that will have to change because the team competes in the provincial competition in Oshawa Sept. 9.



The town's first woman mail carrier, Jean Uncer, on the job.

Town honors volunteer citizens

Fourteen Ingersoll citizens were singled out Sunday by the town for their efforts on volunteer municipal organizations in past years.

At a special banquet presentation at the Ingersoll Golf and Country Club Sunday the men and women who have served on the various committees, commissions and boards were honored for their service and presented with an engraved plaque.

Included in the group were Andrew VanDyk, R.W. Hutchison, Donna Picard, Jill Christie, Linda Turner, Peter Berghuis, Eugene Mabee and Helen Talbot, who have served on the Ingersoll

day nursery board; Allan Ward, former chairman of the Ingersoll planning board; Basil Bannon and Albert Duvall, for the recreation committee, Don Cole, for the special events committee and Sid Underwood and Doreen Marshall, for service on the library board.

Of the group Mr. Underwood's volunteer contributions to the town was the longest with 18 years on the library board.

Mayor Gordon Henry presented the plaques bearing the town insignia and lauded the recipients for their service. Guest speaker Harry Parrott, Oxford MPP gave a brief address and urged the citizens to continue in

their roles as lay advisors on municipal organizations.

Citing the accomplishments and the contributions of volunteer workers Dr. Parrott suggested that their involvement is an integral part of municipal life.

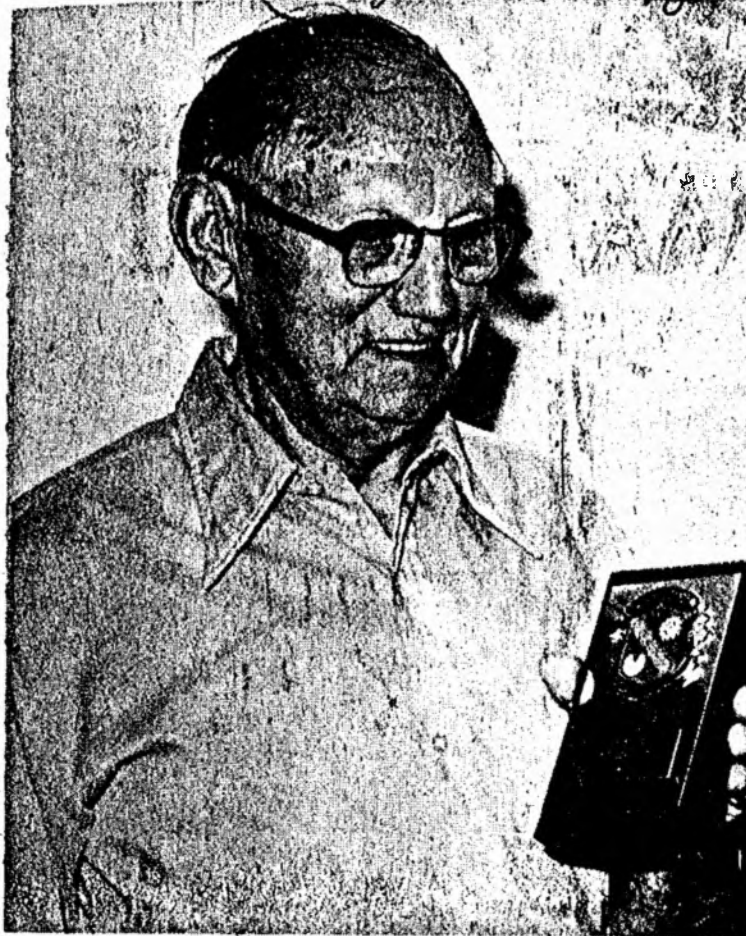
Chairman Marian Coyle of the municipal services committee, which sponsored the event indicated the day was successful.

"We feel that the day was excellent and I hope this type of recognition becomes a tradition in our town," said Coun. Coyle. "The response was tremendous and it is a fitting tribute to the people who have worked so hard in volunteer capacities."

Responsible for organizing the

activities Coun. Coyle expressed appreciation to individuals who helped with the event. Council members and their wives assisted with the entertaining and handled welcoming duties. At the dinner, held shortly after 1 p.m. Coun. Coyle gave a welcome to the guests and following the meal Coun. Doug Harris introduced Dr. Parrott.

Following presentation of the town plaques Don Cole gave a response on behalf of the recipients and thanked council members and other committee members who had assisted them during their service.



Long-time lay volunteer on several town municipal organizations, Sid Underwood was one of 14 people honored for their contributions to public life at a special event Sunday. An 18-year member of the library board. The banquet was held at the Ingersoll Golf and Country Club.



Sid Underwood

Veteran recalls years at the front

Underwood, Sid

By JOE KONECNY
Sentinel-Review staff writer
INGERSOLL — Sid Underwood is a lemon pie lover like no other.

His three-year stay on the French battle front during the First World War was marked by an insatiable urge for the sweet treat.

"I wanted a piece of lemon pie so bad..." that Underwood continually informed his overseas correspondents of his unique hunger pang.

And when he arrived home from the war April 25, 1919, his dessert dream finally came true.

War-end festivities on the main streets of Ingersoll had just ended and Underwood was taking his place in a Model T Ford for a ride home, when his mother-in-law stooped to his side and presented him with a lemon pie.

"I gobbled the whole thing up as soon as I got home," Underwood said.

"War makes you appreciate your loved ones at home."

Underwood's memories of the war were especially fresh this week.

On Oct. 28, 1916, the well-known musician was a member of the 1,000-strong 168th Battalion ushered to the battle front in France.

OXFORD'S OWN

"They called it Oxford's own," Underwood recalled during an interview on the anniversary of the momentous day.

Asked what special thoughts he conjured up on Tuesday, Underwood said, "It's all just part of the big story."

"But I'm thinking about the guys that didn't come back."

"I think now how all that time I could have been crippled," he added, noting the numerous occasions he was a near miss for bombs and bullets.

"I don't think you can glorify war...it's a hell of an experience...but there are some good memories."

Today, the one-time com-

munity leader, now 84 years old, leads a healthy life in his Hall Street home.

He's the only surviving member of Company B, an all Ingersoll delegation which fought along side Company D from Tillsonburg and Company A, headquarters.

Underwood's 21-year efficiency award "for not getting caught" is kept with other wartime memorabilia Underwood keeps in his sun room.

Reminiscing about his entry into the army comes hand-in-hand with thoughts about Ingersoll's involvement in the war.

JOINED UP

A 19-year-old Underwood — whose regimental number was 675353 — was one of the 353 men who "quit their jobs and joined the service" after the local recruiting office opened.

Considering the office had opened only 23 days earlier, Underwood said that's "an idea of how strong war fever was here".

"Some boys lied to get in the army...it was the life to them," he added, noting several families who later wrote to army headquarters and revealed the true ages of their children.

Gruesome stories of Canadian troops' demise overseas encouraged many young men to sign up with the army, he said.

"Why not sign up...I wanted to go because if they take your country you've nothing...war fever took a hold of us and it grew and grew and grew."

"I signed up as a nothing and they asked me what I did in civilian life and so they found out I was a coronet player and sent me with the band."

"They put you where you fit...that's the army," he added, marvelling on the maturing system used by army officials.

TALENTS

Ulf Scott was his band master. Underwood had played first horn with the local Salvation Army band before joining the

army and Scott soon recognized his talents and "pushed me along".

Once the the army band was organized it conducted numerous concerts in the Ingersoll-Woodstock area.

"We got our (army) training in a milder way (than most recruits)."

Prior to becoming a band member and after a casual army training session held in the old Charles Street church, Underwood was stationed to an open field camp north of Woolsley Camp, near London.

At Frances Camp the hard work started.

The most memorable work-out came when the local troops broke camp and marched virtually non-stop through Thamesford and Ingersoll to Woodstock.

The soldiers' stamina test through several "black muck" swamps was pleasantly interrupted by the kindness of various church congregations along the way which served them meals.

HARDENING

"It's a hardening process," Underwood said of his long trek.

The soldiers completed the trip at a rate of 110 paces per minute. They'd march for 50 minutes, then rest for 10.

But churches weren't the only institutions to express their respect for the recruits.

While marching between Ingersoll and Woodstock, the Beachville-based Nielson's company provided many soldiers with a cool glass of milk.

And various women's groups were courteous too.

"Those women in Salford did wonders for us," Underwood said, recalling a humorous event which occurred while troops marched through the hamlet.

Early in the training process, soldiers had not yet received their army-issue boots and they wore street shoes, he said.

One rainy night, about 150 soldiers marched to Salford and a ladies group there offered them a warm resting place and



WIGMORE HALL

Saturday
June 17th 1961
at 7.30 p.m.

Recital by the
Canadian Pianist

DOREEN UREN

TICKETS: Reserved 10/- and 7/- Unreserved 4/-

IBBS & TILLET LTD., 124 Wigmore Street, W.1

HANDBILLS, bearing the picture of an Ingersoll girl, are posted in countless places in London, England, and neighboring towns. Talented

pianist, Doreen Uren, who will make her professional debut there later this month, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Uren, Charles street west.

Professional Debut In London, England, For Ingersoll Pianist

Doreen Uren, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Uren, Charles Street West, will make her professional debut in London, England on Saturday, June 17.

The talented pianist has received acclaim across Canada wherever she has performed.

Very well known here where she attended Victory Memorial Public School and the Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute, her career has been followed with sincere interest by the townspeople.

After graduating in June of 1955 from the collegiate where she was not only an honor student but an active and popular participant in all school activities, Miss Uren went to Toronto.

Doreen started studying piano at the age of seven, with Mrs. Ewart Bartley as her teacher. A year later when her teacher left Ingersoll she started to study under Mrs. Allan Horton and at the age of 14 graduated from the Royal Conservatory of Music. When she was only 18 she won the top scholarship at the Kiwanis Music Festival in Toronto.

During these years in addition to her school studies and piano work with Mrs. Horton, Doreen was also a pupil of the renowned Mona Bates of Toronto.

She went to Toronto in 1955 to study further with Miss Bates and joined the piano faculty of the Royal Conservatory of Music.

Miss Uren has played in many centres across the country. She has performed with the Metropolitan Orchestra of Toronto and with the London (Ontario) Civic Symphony Orchestra. In spring of 1960 she has made her professional debut at Eaton Auditorium in Toronto.

Just last week Miss Uren presented a concert in Galt at the request of a former Ingersoll man, Ewart Bartley, husband of her first teacher and in return when she goes on the stage in London England, Mr. Bartley will be in the audience there. He is a former organist of Trinity United Church here. One of his own compositions has been included in Miss Uren's program.

Actually the number of people from Ingersoll who will be present to hear one of their own townspeople perform thousands of miles from home is amazing. Besides the artist's mother, Mrs. Harold Uren, it is understood that Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jackson, Miss Pearl Fishleigh, Miss Olive Bradford and Mrs. Norman Barnes will also be there.

Miss Uren will present the same program in Toronto to-night June 6.

She has also been engaged to play at Hart House in October.

Lively Pianist
LIVELY PIANIST FROM CANADA

ELOQUENCE & SKILL

We were introduced at Wigmore Hall on Saturday to a young Canadian pianist, Doreen Uren, whose career should be watched with interest. She has a lively personality to ensure interesting interpretations and a strong, accurate technique to put them into effect.

A very musical player, she brought out the contrasting moods of Mendelssohn's "Variations Sérieuses," which she played affectionately.

Like many players with an effortless technique, she is apt to indulge in excessive speed. This happened in Liszt's arrangement of Bach's organ Fantasia and Fugue in G minor and in the first movement of Beethoven's "Waldstein" sonata, where the second subject made little impression.

She gave an eloquent account of Ireland's "Island Spell" and showed the skill of her finger-work in the exciting dynamics of Villa-Lobos's "Polichinelle" and Sauer's "Musical Box." D. A. W. M.

I.D.C.I. student wins national award

BY MIKE SWITZER

An Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute student beat out 59 other nominees to take the Paul Moreland-Copp Clark Pitman award, a national award for excellence in business education.

Carla Van Beek, 18, received a \$1,000 cheque, a plaque, and a business textbook at a presentation at the Elm Hurst Inn Monday.

She had been nominated by her business instructor Ruth Stephenson.

"Carla is an excellent student," Stephenson said, "She's creative, very mature, and incredibly involved in her community, the church, everything."

Marion Elliott, managing editor at Toronto-based Copp Clark Pitman, said the selection process was based on essays, employment records, personal qualities, and academic achievements.

"In every single category, Carla exhibited a high degree of excellence," she said. "It's a pleasure to recognize such a fine student."

The award is dedicated to the memory of Paul Moreland, a former author, business teacher, and principal at a Toronto business school.

Van Beek said she was "shocked" to discover she had won the competition.

"I wrote the essay without expecting to hear from them again," she said.

She intends to invest the prize money in a guaranteed investment certificate.

"That's what I usually do," she added.

Van Beek has been accepted in the administrative and commercial studies program at the University of Western Ontario. She will begin studies in the fall.



Carla Van Beek accepts a \$1,000 cheque from Marion Elliott, managing editor at Copp Clark Pitman. Carla placed first among 60 contestants in a nationwide business competition - the Paul Moreland opp Clark Pitman Award. (Mike Switzer photo)

INGERSOLL TIMES

June 27, 1990

CARLA VAN BEEK

IDCI grad wins national award

INGERSOLL — Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute graduate Carla Van Beek has a theory: students who are successful in sports or academics tend to be good at everything.

And she is the classic example.

Van Beek received the Paul Moreland/Copp Clark Pitman Award for outstanding achievement in business studies, presented recently at the Elm Hurst Inn.

The award included a book from Margaret Moreland May and a \$1,000 cheque from Copp Clark Pitman.

Competing with the Ingersoll student were 60 students from across Canada.

Van Beek explained the application process was lengthy — a nomination form had to be filled out by her accounting teacher. Then came the formal application which listed academic records, employment history, leadership in extracurricular activities and plans for the future.

The fun part of the application for Van Beek was the essay on the three most important qualities for a business professional.

Where most applicants wrote a

straight, "I think the three most important qualities are . . ." the Ingersoll student wrote from the point of view of a person who had enjoyed a long and successful business career. "It was like my final testimonial," she said.

Her essay will be published in the magazine *Memo* in September.

At a time when higher admission standards have made many local students nervous about where they will attend university, Van Beek has been accepted at the University of Western Ontario in administrative and commercial studies.

She has received a scholarship from the university covering tuition fees of \$2,000 per year for four years.

The difficult decision was whether to choose a science or business program, she said. Her two best subjects were accounting and biology, with an overall average of 96.5 per cent.

In addition to excelling in academic studies, Van Beek plays piano, enjoys field hockey and soccer (and is a member of the Ingersoll Flyers) and teaches swimming.

INGERSOLL MIDWEEK

July 3, 1990

FEATURES

Two Ingersoll Scouts receive prestigious award

BY LIZ DADSON

Two Ingersoll District Pathfinder Scouts received the

most prestigious award available to them in the Scouting movement during a ceremony at the Trinity United Church, Ingersoll, last Wednesday night.



Michael Whitercraft, with the 1st Staffordville Scouts, receives the Chief Scout's Award at the Green Valleys Region Chief Scout's Awards ceremony. (Liz Dadson photo)

B. J. Van Kooten and John Walden were presented with the Chief Scout's Award by provincial commissioner Hugh Robertson.

A large crowd watched as Pathfinder Scouts from the Green Valleys Region, including Brantford, Port Burwell, Stratfordville, Burford, Kitchener, Cambridge, Elora, Guelph and Woodstock, stepped forward to receive their awards.

Queen's Venturer awards were also presented to Venturers from New Dundee, Cambridge and Woodstock.

Jane and Mary Ellen Muterer of the Ingersoll Pipe Band piped in the Scouts. Venturers and dignitaries to begin the ceremony.

David Fallows, regional commissioner for Green Valleys Region, spoke of the "fantastic" array of youth in attendance. "Every year it gets stronger and bolder," he said. "You'll remember this night for the rest of your lives."

Members of the cast of "Oliver" from Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute performed four songs from the show, providing spirited and highly-talented entertainment.

Mill Miree, district commissioner for Ingersoll District, outlined the Chief Scout's Award which was inaugurated in September, 1973 by Governor General Roland Michener in his capacity of Chief Scout of Canada.

Michener was greatly impressed by the many projects through which Scouts rendered service to others and helped to improve the natural environment and he felt that such acts should be specially recognized.

A Scout's training begins with the basics in all aspects of the Scouting program, leading first to his investiture to the B.P. Woodman Badge.

The Scout becomes actively involved in a training scheme in which he earns a number of achievement badges from four general programs categories. He becomes a Pioneer Scout after completing to the bronze level, a Voyageur Scout after completing the silver level, and then a Pathfinder Scout after attaining the gold level.

Requirements for the Chief Scout's Award include community service, camping, hikes, personal development and public service. All training for these achievement badges involves not only skills development but also the organization, planning and leadership required to carry out the activities.

After the completion of all these requirements, the Pathfinder Scout must still be recommended for the Chief Scout's Award by his peers and the recommendation must be endorsed by his leaders and his district commissioner.

Provincial commissioner Robertson, after presenting the awards, noted the "wonderful spirit" at the ceremony.

"Pathfinder Scouts, you are all achievers," he said. "There are a lot of critics in this world. Expect criticism. Being a success doesn't always mean you'll succeed the first time. It's all in how you look at things."

He said what the Scouts did during the ceremony is publicly prove they are winners, achieves and people who will succeed.

"Take tonight, tuck it away in your memory and when someone starts criticizing you, take it out, rub it and remember this night. You're a winner."

He also urged them to remember they are not alone in life. "Believe in yourself and believe you never have to walk

alone. We always have God with us."

Venturer Ian Stevens of Woodstock also spoke, outlining the many friendships made at camps and jamborees. "Lord Baden-Powell gave boys

a good role model to follow. He was a good leader."

He also praised to the leaders of the Scouting movement. "I hope I'm as nice a person as my leaders have been."



Ingersoll Scout B. J. Van Kooten receives the Chief Scout's Award from provincial commissioner Hugh Robertson during the Green Valleys Region Chief Scout's award ceremony. (Liz Dadson photo)

Van Kooten, B.J.

Local girl enjoys trip to U.S. on Odd Fellows Pilgrimage for Youth

BY MIKE SWITZER

Times Square is not a square and the white house's "red room" has hot pink walls that don't match the furniture.

These were but two of the observations made by Angela VanLanen, a 17-year-old Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute student who recently travelled to the United States on a tour sponsored by the Independent Order of Oddfellows.

VanLanen said she had not been on a similar trip before in her life. Her travel group included 45 young people from Manitoba to the Maritimes.

"We all became quite close during the trip," she said, "and it was hard leaving them when we got back to Toronto."

Travelling by bus, the group began their journey in Toronto. Their route progressed through Ottawa, Gettysburg, Washington, D.C., Delaware, Philadelphia, New York, and back to Toronto.

Washington was VanLanen's favorite city on the tour, she said, and she would like to return some day.

"We didn't have nearly enough time to see the Smithsonian, but the Archives and the Capitol buildings were great."

Arlington Cemetery and the Vietnam Memorial were especially memorable, VanLanen said.

"I was really surprised at all the names on the Vietnam Memorial. It blew my mind. The names just keep going on and on. Arlington was also amazing. It was so quiet. You felt something when you were at those two places, a certain awe and respect."

VanLanen was not as impressed with the interior of the home of U.S. president George Bush.

"I thought the White House was really gaudy. Nothing matched," she said. "The Red Room had hot pink walls, and the furniture was red."

"I like my house better," she added.

Travelling around New York City was an "experience," VanLanen said.

"I can't say I was terribly im-

pressed. I think I saw grass three times. The garbage on the sidewalks smelled, and we had to travel in groups. A lot of us were tense.

"We saw quite a few homeless people. That was really sad in a way. To see the nice buildings on Park Avenue and the poor people right in front. It's strange."

The group toured the United Nations, World Trade Centre, and the Empire State Building, as well Times Square and a number of city parks.

"I've no idea why they call it Times Square," she said. "It's not a square at all. I was also surprised by what they call parks. They were all cement surrounded by chain link

fences. If a kid fell off the swings he'd get really hurt."

The elevator at the Statue of Liberty was broken when the bus arrived, but a few of them took the stairs up to the crown. One of the island's more pleasant features, VanLanen said, could be found at the Lady's feet.

"There was grass there."

VanLanen said the trip gave her a deeper appreciation of history, as well as a chance to make 45 new friends. She added that she would return whenever she had a chance.

"I had the time of my life," she said. "I'm incredibly grateful to the Oddfellows, and would recommend this trip to absolutely anyone."



Seventeen-year-old Angela VanLanen recently took a trip to various sites in the United States, courtesy of the Independent Order of Oddfellows. (Mike Switzer photo)

'Yesteryear' the subject of 1980 calendar drawn by Ingersoll artist Ray Van Mierlo

BY C. J. CLARK

It is a new year but yesteryear is the subject of a 1980 calendar drawn by Ingersoll artist Ray (Remy) Van Mierlo.

An area insurance company commissioned the local artist to do the calendar and he logged about 150 miles tracking down 12 historic sites. The number 12 is significant not

only because there are 12 months in the year but the Thamesford Insurance company has 12 agents.

Each agent chose a historical site in their area and Van Mierlo depicted them in his drawings. It involved a little more than a month's work for Van Mierlo. He did some on location drawings and worked in details with the help of photographs.

Thamesford, Embro,

Brownsville, Ingersoll, Mt. Elgin, Harrington, Dorchester and Nissouri are among the places included in the calendar.

This calendar not only exposes Van Mierlo to the area history but it also enables him to stop the hands of time. One drawing of a homestead in Brownsville, had recently been purchased. The buyers have changed the face of

the building, but with pen and paper, Van Mierlo had immortalized it, as it was.

Van Mierlo was born in Holland in 1939 and started painting at age 10. He emigrated to Canada in 1959 and took a long route to Ingersoll and his art gallery on Thames Street.

He worked construction in London for two years and then did display work

and advertising with a large department store. It was in 1961 he came to Ingersoll and started his own commercial art business. As time progressed he spent more time with his art work and less time on the business side of the commercial art business.

It wasn't until September 1979 when he got his own studio on Thames Street. Prior to that his studio had always been his home.

Besides displaying his vast talents at "The Art Bucket" on Thames Street, he also does picture framing and exhibits other artist's works. Presently on display is hand-crafted pottery designed by Ron and Pat Bell.

This new year means a busy year for Van Mierlo. He intends to work on a book with historical sites of Ingersoll and area in it. He requests anybody with old photos to give him a call.

Besides working on a book he will be teaching a painting course at night school. Then there are art exhibits of his work scheduled for Tillsonburg, Cambridge and London.

Van Mierlo, Ray (Remy)

(page 1 of 2)

*INGERSOLL TIMES
January 9, 1980*



Ray Van Mierlo was commissioned to draw a calendar for an area insurance company and the result for the new

year 1980 calendar are pictures of yesteryear in the area. Twelve drawings of Ingersoll and area are featured.

Calendar preserves landmarks

In an age of modernization and time-savers, it is pleasing to come across calendar art which seeks to preserve for posterity, local landmarks and buildings, if only on paper.

Remy (Ray) Van Mierlo, an Ingersoll artist, who is well known for his Community Impressions sketches, is putting together a 1981 calendar featuring farm buildings and mill houses. Such buildings are leaving the area very quickly, either by being torn down or by not being used, Mr. Van Mierlo said.

It is his second calendar for a Thamesford insurance company, the Oxford Fire

and Mutual Insurance Company.

Last year 1,500 copies of a calendar depicting Oxford landmarks were so popular the volume was increased to 2,000 for 1981.

"Next year I'd like to do a calendar of farm implements, or whatever the board comes up with," Mr. Van Mierlo said. "I'd also like to do a tobacco calendar."

He is also interested in putting out a commercial calendar but that project "is several years away," he said.

"It's best to get a sponsor because of the costs," Mr. Van Mierlo said.

Four basic steps were involved in the making of the calendar: arriving at a subject matter; doing preliminary work; the actual art work and getting the sketches and accompanying prose to the printers.

The subject matter was decided by the insurance company's 12 board members. From then on, Mr. Van Mierlo had full responsibility for the final product.

"It took a whole day and about 200 miles to do it," he said of the preliminary work. Twelve locations were picked out for their aesthetic and historic significance, then, with the help of a good friend, Bonnie Mott, Mr. Van

Mierlo recorded on camera and in rough sketches the actual calendar subjects.

"We walked through each place to get an idea or feeling of the place," he explained.

Mrs. Mott is writing a short prose sketch to accompany each art work sketch. She is stressing a theme of rural scenes with some background history. The next step is doing the sketches, done with pen and Indian ink.

"It has to look realistic enough for people to recognize the scenes but by the same token the way I see things is a little different from anyone else, I hope," the artist said.

After this step, the layout, printing, paper cutting and photography is done. The final product will measure 14 by 20 inches on hard cover paper.

Mr. Van Mierlo is the artist of the sketches which appeared regularly in Community Impressions earlier this year and last. There is good news for those who missed the sketches; the calendar sketches will appear weekly in Community Impressions for the next 12 weeks.

Mr. Van Mierlo takes to heart the need of a full-time artist to be multi-faceted to survive. Besides managing The Art Bucket, a shop in Ingersoll which sells paintings, prints, pottery and frames, he is involved in teaching, television and pottery.

"Being an artist is not easy, you have to do all sorts of stuff on the side," he noted.

For Mr. Van Mierlo, his current favorite project is pottery. He recently got back into pottery at the encouragement of Suzanne deClerque, a former Tillsonburg native, who teaches pottery in London.

He is also involved in teaching Tuesday and Wednesday nights at the Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute and has been doing a series of art shows for Western Cable in Woodstock.

His advice to parents for teaching art to children is "don't."

"Don't teach them anything, just supply them with paper and pencils and let them go at it," he advised. "Adults need to be taught to free the creative part of their brain."

He has been a full-time artist since coming to Canada from his native Holland 21 years ago. He has never had a government grant, since he believes it is wrong for the taxpayer to support artists.

"I'm a strong supporter of the do-it-yourself, of the grass roots movement. If you want something, roll up your sleeves," he said.

The 1981 calendar is in line with this sort of thinking: the scenes show the pioneer hardiness which helped make Oxford County what it is today. Some of the locations include a milkhouse in Brownsville, a Mennonite school and woodshed in Crampton, a farm near Ingersoll and corncrib at Lakeside.

Community Impressions
INGERSOLL TIMES
November 19, 1980

Community Impressions
(Ingersoll Times)
November 19, 1980

Van Mierlo Ray

ADRIANA VAN ODYK

Her work from earth and of earth

Story and photo
by MARILYN SMULDERS
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — All her life, Adriana Van Odyk has worked with the earth's clay.

As a farmer, along with husband Gerardus, she worked the fields to grow crops for their livestock operation located outside of Ingersoll. Now retired from farming, Van Odyk maintains an intimate relationship with clay as an artist.

In her basement studio with the morning light streaming in through a small window, Van Odyk handles the clay deftly - applying a little bit at a time on her latest sculpture, an elephant. The time seems to pass quickly as she sits absorbed in her work.

"To me, grabbing a piece of clay is to relax," remarks the 70-year-old Van Odyk as she etches in detail on the elephant's still soft body. "It's altogether a change of mind, a real release for me."

About ten years back, Van Odyk wasn't even aware she had talent in this direction. While living on the farm, a seemingly never ending stream of jobs awaited her — whether on the land, in the barn or in her stately Victorian farm house.

"I don't know what it was exactly but the work got a hold of me. It felt like I couldn't sit down and take it easy without thinking of something I could be doing," she explains.

Seeking a diversion, she enrolled in a ceramics class at night school. As her talent developed, she realized a whole new world was opening up. She soon pur-



SOME OF Van Odyk's favorite subjects to create are animals, such as this prize-winning buffalo.

chased a potter's wheel and then a kiln. Having moved away from the farm and now living in a tidy bungalow where her Dutch background is evident, Van Odyk can spend as many hours she chooses in her workshop.

Whereas other people who work with clay are more attracted to making functional pieces, Van Odyk tends to gravitate to the unusual, letting her imagination guide her. Some of her favorite subjects to sculpt are animals. Her experience on the farm has given her a good understanding of how animals' bodies function, she says. Even practical pieces, however, like bowls, casseroles or vases, reveal a stamp of

originality.

Many of her pieces have garnered awards at fairs and craft exhibitions; these, along with her own personal preferences, are proudly displayed on shelves in her dining room.

And there's always something new to learn in her 'field.' Part of a group of potters who gather at the Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre, Van Odyk shares ideas and picks up new techniques by working with others. She's also developed unique works through experimentation.

"Isn't it funny to still be learning at my age?" laughs Van Odyk.

SENTINEL REVIEW

April 13, 1989

The dance that dreams are made of . . .

Ballet is a dance that dreams are made of. The grace and elegance, expressed through seemingly effortless, fluid movements, are in fact a culmination of endless hours of relentless training. Still countless young girls don the silken slippers and work unyieldingly in pursuit of a dream, to one day be a great ballerina.

Judith Coleman may be the person who helps make some of those dreams come true. She teaches ballet to over 80 potential candidates in Ingersoll. Coleman conveys her love of dance to the children through her teachings at the St. Jame's Anglican Church and within the walls of her own Oxford Street home.

Coleman began to dance as a four-year-old in her native England through the proddings of her mother, who wanted her to pursue the skills she herself had failed to attain. Coleman studied a spectrum of dances including ballet, tap, modern, revived Greek and national, all of which she incorporates into her instruction now.

"I always enjoyed moving with the music," Coleman said. "It gave me the inspiration to work hard."

Coleman is a member and registered teacher of the Royal Academy of Dancing and a member of the British Association for the Teachers of Dancing. She teaches for the London Academy of Dance, a dance program at Western University and a summer dance and theatre class at Alma College in St. Thomas.

She moved to Canada 18 years ago, taking up residence in Thamesford where her teachings had a modest beginning but rapidly progressed. "One or two families

persuaded me to teach their children and before long I opened up a branch in a local school," Coleman said. "Five or six years later it was so overcrowded in the Thamesford classes with Ingersoll children that the time came to teach here."

Ballet is a passion for Coleman. She is a perfectionist who demands "focus and concentration" from her students. It is these painstaking efforts that have earned Coleman a high reputation among her students' parents.

"We have one of the top teachers in Judith Coleman," Mary McKenna, whose daughters have been studying with Coleman for a number of years, said. "She is very attuned to new ideas and exacting in both technicality and musicality."

Coleman believes her talents are reflected through the children.

"I'm a good dancer and teacher," she said. "My students show that."

There are a great many aspects Coleman looks for in a good dancer. Some are naturally inclined to the art and others have a will strong enough to overcome their weakness to become great.

"I look for their quality of the movement, their response to music and the expression of the child," Coleman said. "But there are some children that develop these qualities at a much later date so the drive and determination of such a child will take them to great heights."

Many of her students have achieved these great heights. Eleven-year-old Karen Vidler recently returned from the world-famous Royal Winnipeg Ballet's five-week summer program. Other students have been accepted at programs at the Banff Center of Fine Arts and Le Grande

Ballet Canadiene.

"The Royal Academy of Dancing sets high standards which we maintain in classes," Coleman said. "It's all by audition; they accept very few."

Coleman believes it is best to start ballet at an early age, her youngest students are four-year-olds, but stresses that the technical aspects of dance should not be introduced until about age eight. Her Dance Readiness classes give younger students the foundation on which to base future training.

"Generally it's lots of fun," Coleman said. "We are trying to get them to love dancing and at the same time get them working on coordination and timing. We work on fluid movement and responding and moving to the music. It's progressive."

Coleman believes it is important for all girls to study ballet because the benefits reaped from it will transcend the present. Ballet improves posture, musicality and discipline and also plays a role in confidence-building.

"They learn to present themselves more effectively in front of others," Coleman said. Some kids that sparkle now couldn't even look me in the eye when they came. It helps them in many things. They don't have to be a ballerina to derive great benefits from what they've done."

Mothers like Mary McKenna are well-aware of the benefits their children receive from ballet. Some attribute their child's success in school to the discipline of the dance taught by a woman who has a passion for the art.

"She teaches with love," McKenna said.

Talented local ballerina has prestigious offer

Reportage and photography
by MARILYN SMULDERS
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — At 13 years of age, Karen Vidler is resolved to pursue a career as a professional dancer.

Her talent in ballet has been recognized by the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Canada's oldest and most travelled dance company. In September, Vidler heads west to study at the company's prestigious school.

For the past three summers, Vidler has made Winnipeg her temporary home while she indulged in her love of dancing at the school. The summer session introduces students to a professional training regimen and serves as an audition period for those seeking acceptance into the school's regular session.

The bright teenager was first accepted to the fall session when she was 11. But faced with separation

from her family, she declined a spot at the school, hoping the opportunity would present itself once again. Despite tough competition from dancers the world over, Vidler was again offered a position this year.

"I'm ready to go now," said the soft-spoken Vidler, dressed casually in a baggy T-shirt and jeans, her long blonde hair pulled back into a pony tail. "It's a real honor to be asked."

'ONLY THE VERY BEST'

Judith Coleman, Vidler's dance teacher for the past six years, said only the best students are accepted at the school, which has served as home base for one of Canada's most accomplished ballerinas, Evelyn Hart. In her experience as a dance teacher, only three of her students were accepted to the summer session and Vidler is the first to go beyond that first step. Other students have gone on to study at the Banff School of Fine Arts and Ballet Canadienne

in Montreal.

"I'm very proud of her and really happy for her too," said Coleman, adding that Vidler's qualities of strength and flexibility gave her promise as a dancer.

"But it's more than that. You've got to exude a great feeling from inside," she continued. "Karen's got a sense of style, musicality and a good mind too. To learn all the steps of a professional dancer, you have to be quick. If you're beautiful but have no brains, they're not interested."

Vidler faces a rigorous routine once at the school. She'll continue to pursue academic studies while at Balmoral Hall, a private boarding school. But once books are closed for the day, it's on to a few hours of dance classes. Vidler will also study ballet, national dancing, creative movement and eurythmics on the weekends.

And although she loves to express

herself through dance, it isn't all fun. There are sacrifices to becoming good at what you do — like missing parties or movies with friends when it's time to practise, said Vidler.

Moreover, her decision to study in Winnipeg will have an impact on her family. Her parents Addie and Jeff Vidler and brothers Mark, 18, and Brian, 17, will see her next at Christmas and then at March break.

"We will miss her. But she's made up her mind to go and that's important. It's not the kind of decision other people can make for you," said Vidler's mother, Addie.

In 1989, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet celebrates its 50th anniversary season. The company received its Royal status in 1953: the first granted under the reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet School, professional division, provides world class training for young dancers from the age of 10 and on. The school's mandate is to prepare strong, technically precise artists for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. Over 90 per cent of the current company are graduates of the school.

SENTINEL

REVIEW

August 22, 1989

VIDLER, KAREN

Teen dances with Royal Winnipeg Ballet

Home for March break

BY LIZ DADSON

An Ingersoll teenager has been dancing the year away with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet.

Karen Vidler, a shy, personable 14-year-old, has been dancing ballet since she was five years old.

A student of the local Judith Coleman School of Dance, she auditioned three years ago and was accepted to spend five weeks with the Winnipeg ballet company. She was also accepted the following two years for the five-week summer program.

Each summer, Karen auditioned for the year-long winter program and, while she was accepted each time, it wasn't until September, 1989, she decided to attend.

The daughter of Jeff and Addie Vidler grew up in Ingersoll with brothers Mark and Brian. Her parents are moving to Newmarket this month.

While she enjoys dancing with the Winnipeg company and completing her Grade 8 studies at Balmoral Hall in Winnipeg, Karen admitted she misses her family.

She spent Christmas holidays at home, had a break in March and will be home for Easter. She will finish school June 13 and ballet June 16, returning home for a short break before heading back out for the five-week summer ballet program.

"I want to continue with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet," Karen said. "My instructor is Elaine Otis (originally from Woodstock). Right now we're working on technique, style and presentation."

Relaxing at home, with the family dog, Dudley, during March break,

Karen said she was drawn to ballet because she likes it and her friends were dancing.

She is currently at level two in ballet and must complete five more levels of instruction.

Practice involves nine hours of dance per week, plus five hours pointe or rehearsal, Karen said. "I want to be a prima ballerina. If I'm accepted every year, I'll go full-time with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet."

Her idol is Royal Winnipeg's prima ballerina, Evelyn Hart.

"She's very good," Karen said, "but she's too skinny."

While in Winnipeg, the Ingersoll teen lives in residence at Balmoral Hall where she shares a room with three other girls in a huge apartment building.

The only drawback has been the food, she admitted. "After we get back from dancing (in the evening), the food left in the refrigerator for us isn't very appetizing."

Karen is responsible for doing her own laundry and keeping her part of the room tidy.

"It's a good experience for her," said Karen's mother. "She's a long way from home and she's responsible for quite a bit of her own life."

She added that dancing with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet is a wonderful opportunity for Karen. "It's not an opportunity many children get."

Karen said her dancing has improved. The school provides tests and assessments for the students.

A test is a routine out of a book that a group of dancers from the same level will perform for the school principal and higher level teachers who mark the perfor-



Karen Vidler poses with the family dog, Dudley, in her parents' home in Ingersoll. The 14-year-old has been dancing and taking Grade 8 studies with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet since September. (Liz Dadson photo)

mance.

An assessment is similar except the routine is set by the teacher.

Addie is impressed by the ballet school because it stresses

academics as well as ballet. "It has high standards and you have to keep your grades up to continue in ballet."

INGERSOLL TIMES

April 4, 1990

VRANICH, GLORIA

Student in thick of South African controversy

By MARK REID
of Ingersoll This Week

Gloria Vranich has experienced a country that most North Americans only get to see in 30-second news clips.

In early July, the Grade 13 student at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute returned from a one-year Woodstock/Oxford Rotary Club-sponsored stay in South Africa.

Living in Randfontein, a suburb of Johannesburg, Vranich got a first-hand look at political changes in the minority white-ruled country.

"Not until a few weeks before I did actually go did I start to get into the politics and the controversy of South Africa...I felt there must be some reason for having apartheid there at that time...and why it was installed."

Media reports of racial unrest in South Africa have for a long time focused on clashes between whites and non-white and only now are North Americans enlightened of battles between blacks and other blacks.

"Yes I saw that there was discrimination."

"There's a distinction between the two different classes there, but I saw more so an issue between blacks versus blacks than whites versus blacks," says the Ingersoll resident.

Vranich says the whites there are upset because the non-white population cannot find accordance with one another and with the gradual falling of racial barriers many of the non-whites now are developing themselves to the standards of the modern world.

"There's more of an issue where the people of the same color and culture are fighting one another, more than two different races," she says.

"I think with the opportunity and the means now — that's going to be coming about — if they fix the problem they have with one another, then I think (non-whites)

will be able to prevail and there will be a society that interacts with one another."

SLOW CHANGES

Newscasts stereotype the white man as being the problem, says Vranich.

"They're always demoting him, saying he's the cause of this, but he is also trying to reform himself: to make reforms to include the black person. It can't happen over night."

Changes are also slow moving because whites and non-whites are at two different levels. The whites have been given the opportunity to develop knowledge in ways including world relations, while the non-whites have yet to receive this opportunity.

"I think every white man in that country has fear because if the blacks take over — it's not to say that they can't rule or anything — but it's because they haven't developed the same way other people have."

While in South Africa, Vranich stayed with two families in favor of reforms, but at a slow pace so as not to cause chaos. In addition, she lived with one family whose political lines followed those of the right-wing Conservative Party, a party of mostly Afrikaners who believe barriers were put in place for a good cause, and firmly opposes the one man, one vote concept of the Democratic Party.

Currently, the country is led by the Nationalist Party and President F. W. de Klerk.

The Conservative family she stayed with employed non-whites

ily and received bonuses, atop their nominal pay.

"They treated them excellent, but they just didn't feel they had the capacities to understand the issues at hand."

SANCTIONS AND A WORLD POWER

South Africa, with its natural resources and military strength, has the potential of becoming a world power, says Vranich.

Despite near global trade sanctions imposed on the country, there are no shortages there. However, gas, gold and diamonds are expensive because through sanctions, South Africans are being charged more.

"You got your money's worth," says Vranich, who had a favorable exchange rate. "But even the people there didn't complain about the costs."

While in South Africa, Vranich was enrolled in school, but she spent most of her time experiencing the country, something the Rotary Club there promotes so visitors can differentiate between what is going on and what they hear about.

She toured game reserves and other areas, met with politicians, went on school excursions and spent two weeks absorbing lectures at Wits University.

She says youth there are protected from the outside world and the problems facing the country. The maturity of an 18-year-old there differs

from one here and young South Africans do not have to take on responsibilities until an older age.

Following school, young males enter university or the military for one to two years while females are given the opportunity to continue with their education.

"Overnight they grew up. It was amazing, because I guess they finally got to go outside of their home environment," says Vranich.

She believes it is the youth in South Africa today who will be the one to promote relationships with people of other races.

AFTER HOURS

The majority of South African people work banker's hours and in the off hours spend time socializing.

One family she stayed with had a cottage on the beach and barbecues are a popular item.

"The society is very much aimed at, you have your job or your school or whatever during the day, and you enjoy yourself after hours," she says.

While she feels her presence as an exchange student may have reflected on people's attitudes towards her, "They did their best to make you feel welcome...I never in my life experienced such true friends as I did down there."

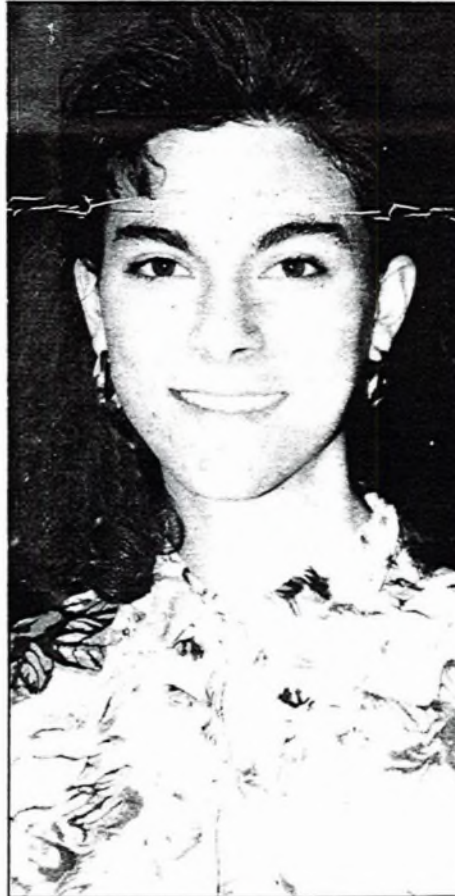
HOMESICK?

Vranich says family and friends were all that she missed.

"Aside from the family and friends...little things you don't really miss."

"But once in a while you have this major craving for McDonald's and you'd just love to have a cheeseburger or Big Mac...for me, McDonalds wasn't a major issue."

She adds: "Basically, the country supported my needs. When you needed something it was usually available in one form or another."



GLORIA VRANICH, an Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute student, returned this summer from a year's stay in South Africa. Vranich learned a lot of the political system in the white-ruled country.

and Vranich says the workers were treated well, were welcome to entertain their friends and fam-

Retired craftsman still in love with work

By Howard Burns
Woodstock Bureau

INGERSOLL — Cecil Vyse is an oldtimer when it comes to handcrafted grandfather clocks.

The 68-year-old cabinet maker has just marked 52 years in the furniture business during which he has carved more than 1,500 grandfather clock cases for companies in Toronto and Montreal.

He has laid down the chisel and saw, but his love for woodwork and his dedication to the craft is still obvious. His work has been sold across Canada and he still has orders despite his decision to slow down.

"This type of custom work just can't be mass-produced on some factory assembly line," Vyse said Monday. Besides the clock cases he has carved chairs, tables and church ornaments.

"Most of my business over the years came by satisfied customers who passed on my name to other people. I have never advertised in the furniture business at all."

He learned his trade in an Ingersoll furniture factory and began his own custom furniture business in 1946.

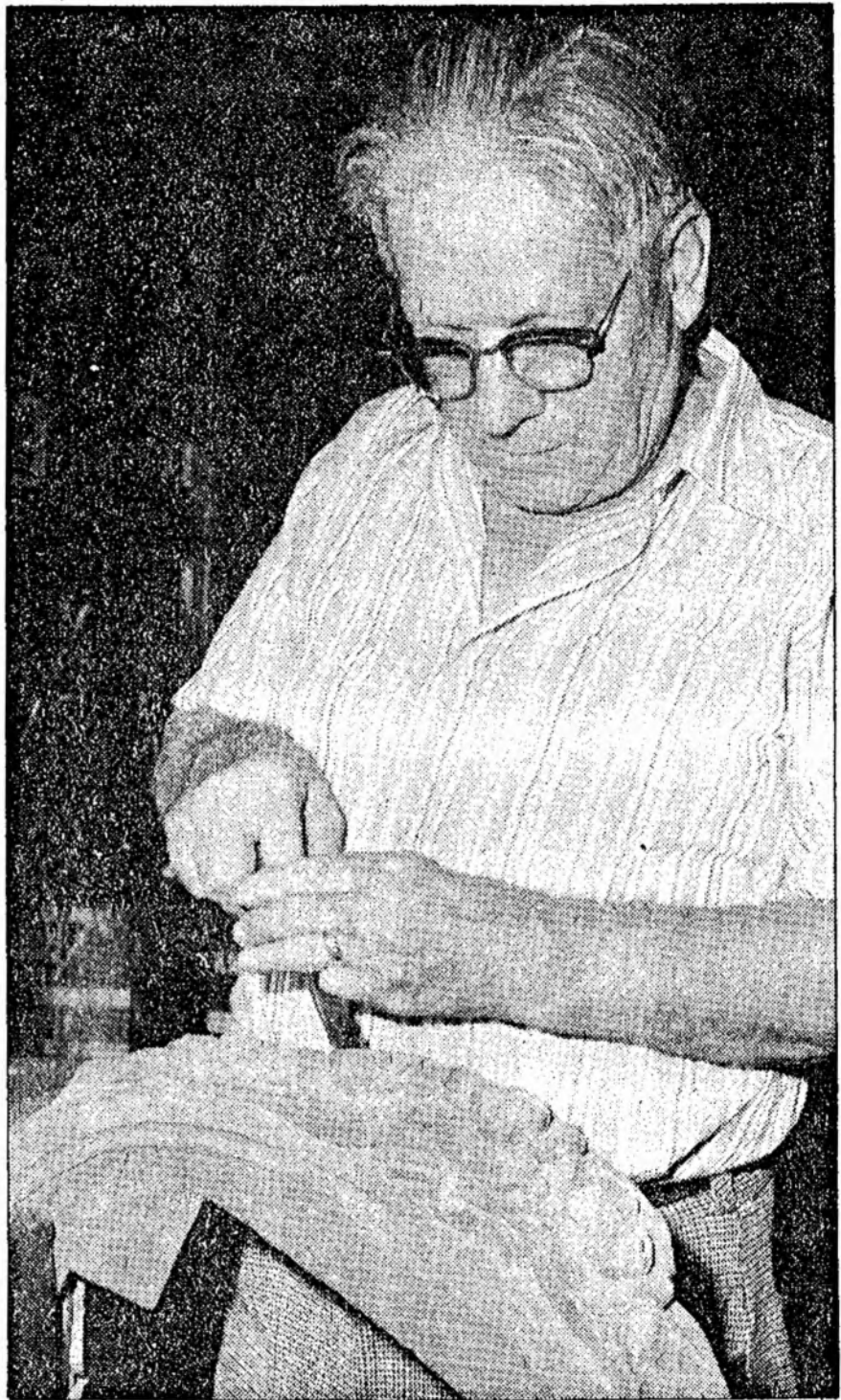
"I started working for about 15 cents an hour and used to work close to 10 hours each day, but you have to start somewhere."

Vyse also built complete grandfather clocks with timing mechanisms.

He liked to keep the customer satisfied.

"Each clock that I completed would be delivered by me to the customer if possible. I'd set it up and tell them how it operates to make sure they were happy. Usually, I gave a personal 10-year guarantee with all my clocks."

Vyse operated out of a two-storey workshop in his Cherry Street back yard. Although it's not used as much today, the workplace is still strewn with benches and various tools of a dying trade.



Woodstock Bureau

Cecil Vyse of Ingersoll has been handcrafting furniture for customers across Canada for 52 years. In his two-storey workshop on Cherry Street, he works on an oak communion table for St. James Anglican Church.

"There is no personal touch to furniture any more. Everything is made in a factory and the craft of woodcarving is dying out."

But the personal touch can mean long hours of working alone. Vyse said one large grandfather clock with hand-crafted ornaments could take a month to complete.

"It was a great feeling to follow a project through from the planning stages right through to the home delivery of the clock. It was a feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction."

Most of his work is hand-carved in mahogany but his church pieces are in oak. He is working on a communion set for St. James' Anglican Church in Ingersoll.

Although retired for a few years, Vyse can't get the sawdust out of his system.

"I'd like to get back to my work but I rarely have enough time. I could never give it up entirely because it's always something new."

Although his work has centred on clocks, he has never made a grandfather clock for his own home. "I always thought about it, but we really don't have the space."

He plans to relax with his wife and enjoy his retirement. "This business is a bit different. It's always a bit of you."

BY CHERYL STEWART

School in foreign countries can be different, but in Australia, there are some major differences according to Wayne Walden, a teacher at IDCI who just returned from there as an exchange teacher.

He left last December exchanging houses, cars, cities and just about everything, with a teacher from Australia. Mr. Walden never got to meet his ex-

change partner, Barry Buchanan, who was from Campbelltown, Australia, a community of about 85,000 people.

Mr. Walden explained that Campbelltown is in the state of New South Wales just as Ingersoll is in the Province of Ontario.

Their system of schooling is very keen on curriculum structure and follows through a program in a definite manner, Mr. Walden pointed out. He added that it

covers the basics in more detail than the system in Ontario.

"In Ontario, we have more flexibility of local curriculum," said Mr. Walden. He said that in Australia all the classes follow the same curriculum at approximately the same time, usually within the same week, which is not so in Ontario's system.

There are no local boards in New South Wales, making it very difficult to change things in the system, said Mr. Walden.

While in Australia, he taught Social Sciences to the year seven and eight students and Geography to year nine, 10 and 11 students. Grades are not known in Australia, only years, explained Mr. Walden.

No-one fails in Australia. Anyone who fails drops out of school, he said. Their system of grading is quite different from Ontario.

Until the end of grade 10, students are streamed by subject. A student in 9A Geography means he is bright in that class. But if he is in 9D Math, that means he is not so good in that subject. All students write the same exam regardless of their ability, explained Mr. Walden, and then are graded according to the top tenth of the class.

The top 10 per cent of the class are called firsts, the next 20 per cent are seconds, the thirds are the next 40 per cent, the fourths are the next 20 per cent and the last 10 per cent of the class are fifths.

According to Mr. Walden, if the top mark of the exam

is 50 out of 100, then the next 10 per cent down are the firsts of the class and so on.

At the end of grade 10, a higher school certificate is given out. Students who

wish to may continue onto grade 11 and 12.

While teaching in Australia, Mr. Walden noticed that Canadian students can verbalize better but Aus-

tralian students can write much better.

"Australian students will sit and listen to a lecture and have structure in their notes. They like to take their



Wayne Walden and his son John look over some of the souvenirs they brought home after being in Australia for a year. Mr. Walden is a teacher at IDCI and went as an exchange teacher to Campbelltown, Australia, a satellite city of Sydney. During his trip, he taught Geography to students in Campbelltown as well as having some free time to travel and see the many sights of Australia.

Exchange teacher enjoys interesting year in Australia

Walden Wayne

*Ingersoll Times
January 7, 1981*

(page 1 of 2)

notes directly from the teacher rather than doing them themselves," explained Mr. Walden, adding that they will not go ahead and work without the teacher's instructions.

"Canadian students like to make their own brief notes and discuss with the teacher. They verbalize a lot better and are a lot more independent. They do things in a more mature manner for their age group," said Mr. Walden. He added that Canadian students will accept the responsibility of their own work and are better students.

Australian students wear school uniforms and have strict rules to follow at school. Once they enter the school grounds, they are not allowed to leave.

Male students are disciplined by the Deputy Headmaster or the Subject Headmaster, occasionally being whipped for a wrong doing.

The girls are disciplined by the Senior Headmistress and sometimes receive a punishment of picking up the garbage around the school.

Mr. Walden explained that students in Australia are much more personal in their relationships with their teachers and look for guidance from them.

His students threw a party for him when he was leaving and gave him gifts and cards.

Mr. Walden said he enjoyed his stay in Australia and learned many new things he hopes will help him in his teaching. But he said, "I like our system better because it is more spontaneous."

Mr. Walden noticed during his stay that life in Australia is very much like in Canada.

"They are very much involved with their houses, gardens, cars, and pools like in Canada. They have

the same high standard of living and about the same cost of living," explained Mr. Walden. He added that things related to gasoline and public services were more expensive except for the public transportation. Food was less and of a good quality.

Mr. Walden explained that Australia is a very unionized country and there were many strikes in the time he was there. He told how deeply these could affect daily life.

"You could go into a store one day and there would be no dairy products or another day, there may be no fresh vegetables."

During his stay, Mr. Walden travelled to many of the cities in Australia as well as the Outback. He said he enjoyed seeing the traditional people in their traditional jobs in the Outback.

Although Mr. Walden enjoyed his year away, he said he was glad to be home again.

Teacher's experience shows differing systems

INGERSOLL — Wayne Walden's first impression of teaching a Grade 11 social science class at an Australian secondary school last year wasn't good.

From the moment he stepped into a classroom at Campbell Town High School he "hated" fulfilling that particular part of Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute's commitment to a teacher exchange program.

Only after several trying semesters with the young Aussies did Walden begin to appreciate his mission to the land down under.

The problem stemmed from a difference in teaching methods.

In a recent interview, Walden — who returned to Canada in January and last week staged two "Aussie" assemblies at IDCI — said the Australian education system prompts laziness in some students.

The Grade 11 class disliked Walden because he refused to dictate their notes word for word, he said. The class' regular instructor did just that.

And needless to say, their reaction frustrated the Canadian.

SPIRIT

His true teaching spirit emerged when after the first term, Walden compiled notes of guidance to pacify the Australians.

He was willing to try almost anything, but he still refused to think for his pupils.

"They began to develop their own routines and they even started taking their own notes," Walden said.

"By the third term, most of the kids came around.

"They started to realize that I was interested in their betterment."

Walden said the entire situation was a learning experience for himself and the students.

And he found it extremely satisfying when the two sides of the classroom reached "a blending of ideas".

"It was a matter of communication, but they knew I wasn't just there for a vacation."

By the end of his stay in Australia, Walden's success

Story and photos By Joe Konecny

was evident when the classroom presented him with a gift — a book entitled "Australia: The Wild Continent".

He also received a number of individual gifts.

The Grade 11 class was an exception, not for presenting Walden with going-away presents, but for their



JOHN WALDEN shows how the aboriginies played one musical instrument called a digeridoo, which "sounds like a deep-throated frog."

reaction to his teaching style.

NO PROBLEMS

Otherwise, the students Walden taught — from Grade 7 up — posed no problems.

"Children in Australia are much more personal than those here...they want to know their teachers as individuals."

He said the Australians never failed to at least say "good morning" each school day, while some students here would be "embarrassed" to greet an instructor in front of their peers.

In fact, after Walden returned from Australia, for about a week he greeted his Canadian classes as he had done in Australia. But the results weren't favorable.

Although he developed a fondness for his students there, Walden didn't hide his disagreement with the Australian school system.

Walden, who lived in Australia with his wife and child, said the system there differs greatly from the one in Canada.

The main thorn in his side was the fact that students can avoid passing grades in all of their subjects and still graduate with a diploma.

MORE TIME

Compared to IDCI — which has halls that constantly buzz with action — Campbell Town High School allowed its teachers more spare time.

In a 40-period week, Walden had 12 spares — an average of about 2½ free classes each day. Here he's lucky to enjoy one spare and his lunch hour.

Another novelty Walden faced in Campbell Town was playground patrol.

Each teacher there alternately patrolled the school playgrounds. The grounds were divided into three with one section for boys, the other strictly for girls and the third portion was a common zone.

"There are a lot of rules," he added, noting students are required to wear uniforms.

No matches or cigarettes are allowed in the school



WAYNE WALDEN displays some of the souvenirs — a cotton wood crocodile and a Wallaby pelt — he

picked up while enjoying the other half of his teacher exchange program in Australia.

either and the young Australian smokers must pursue their habits either in toilets or under buildings, he said.

Walden discovered teachers here spend more time with their students after regular working hours, apparently because union rules in Australia are tighter.

DROP OUT

Another great difference he found was that, even though students begin their schooling sooner there, they drop out of high school earlier.

In Walden's year 10 class, only 44 of 180 students continued their secondary school education at the end of the

school year.

Walden speculated the students dropped out because Campbell Town's technical program was virtually non-existent. And there was no commercial program. Trade or apprenticeship programs start in college.

"They're not quitting to just sit around and do nothing, although some do collect the dole, but most quit because high school doesn't relate to their needs."

"There is very little variety in curriculum there and the school doesn't cater to the individual's level of knowledge."

Another peculiar habit the Aussie students practiced

was what Walden described as the "herd instinct".

Whenever one student, for example, became involved in a fight in the school yard, literally hundreds of students would flock to get ring-side seats.

And in the classroom, if one student was noisy the others would copy his behavior like caged finches.

Australia wasn't a completely new experience for Walden.

With the Canadian Overseas University Service, he has also taught in Africa and England with the Canadian University Service Overseas (CUSO).

"It's all part of an education for me."

Two more awards for area residents

BY TOM DURALIA

It's a funny thing with Ontario Bicennial medals, but it seems the people who get them are always the last to know.

Last Thursday Bill Wallace innocently walked out to the mailbox. The R.R. 4, Ingersoll resident probably expected the usual batch of bills and junk mail, but among them this time was a curious white envelope from the office of Premier Bill Davis.

Likewise for Kathleen Caffyn, known as "Kit" ever since "I was a little gaffer." Mrs. Caffyn said she was truly thrilled Monday morning when she saw the letter.

When contacted for the interview, Mrs. Caffyn was quick to ask how anyone else knew of the honor, as at that time she had yet to tell her husband Leonard.

It is possible that both these recipients have been so busy working in the community, making it a better place to be, that they have never recognized the degree to which they are responsible for its present state of well-being.

In his letter, Premier Davis described why Mr. Wallace and Mrs. Caffyn were selected for the prestigious medals:

"Special attention has been given to those caring and compassionate people who have given selflessly of their time, energies and talents through volunteer and community service, for they have added a personal touch which no government program, however well-intentioned, could hope to match."

The letter also indicated that the medals, to be presented in early December, are replicas of one given recently to the Queen.

For much of his 52 years, Mr. Wallace has been adding his "personal touch" to all aspects of the communities of Southwest Oxford, while Mrs. Caffyn has done the same for the west.

Though their contributions have far exceeded what is possible to tell in words, it

was Mr. Wallace's enthusiastic leadership in the Boy Scout organization, and Mrs. Caffyn's Women's Institute work that played a large part in their being selected for the honor.

Mrs. Caffyn has lived at R.R. 5, Ingersoll for 40 years, and before that, lived right within the town limits.

For 28 of those years, she has been involved with the West Oxford Women's Institute, serving at one time as president, district director, secretary-treasurer, pianist, and at present, treasurer. Three years ago, because of her unflinching dedication, she was granted a life membership.

In addition, Mrs. Caffyn is the secretary-treasurer and publicity convenor of the always successful Maple Syrup Festival held last March for the 16th consecutive year.

For the medal winner, the Sweaburg festival is "an ideal way to meet the people and become intimately involved with the West Oxford community."

She has also served terms on the executives of the District Women's Institute, which encompasses 19 branches, the London Area Women's Institute and the Oxford County Conference of Women's Institutes. For another two years she was a board member of the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario, while at the same time convening a number of other responsibilities.

She loves to give to her community and considers it "one of life's special pleasures."

"If you don't have community spirit, you don't have any spirit at all.

"To be needed is wonderful. But what is more wonderful is to be there when you're needed."

Mrs. Caffyn also works on the West Oxford United Church Women's Association, and has done so for 50 years, and along with her husband, was a charter

Continued on page 2

Two more awards

WALLACE
1984
Wallace,
Bill



Kit Caffyn

Continued From Page 1

member of the Clark's Corners Home and School Association before it closed down.

She also finds the time to care for an elderly neighbor, doing banking, cooking, grocery shopping and anything else she can to help.

Mrs. Caffyn, 71, who will celebrate her 51st wedding anniversary this month, said she will continue to work with the community and its people for as long as she is able.

Mr. Wallace shares Mrs. Caffyn's views on community spirit, and if not for him, the First Salford Boy Scouts might not be in existence.

Josephine Shelton, also involved with the Scouts, describes him as a "terrific guy."

"He does everything for the boys and is just so nice to work with. He's enthusiastic and has a sincere interest in youth. It's an honor to work with him and if anyone deserves the award, he does."

Mr. Wallace was born in Oxford County and has lived just outside of Ingersoll for the past 37 years.

For 16 years he has worked with the Salford Boy Scouts organizing and lending a hand whenever and wherever possible. For 10 of those years he served as chairman, stepping down last year to take over the position of public relations officer.

He also served with the Ingersoll District Boy Scout Council as president for three years. The current president, Bob Sivyler,

said it's always a pleasure to work with Mr. Wallace. "He's been instrumental in both the Scout group and the community."

Mr. Wallace is also chairman of the Salford Community Centre, which started up three years ago, largely because of his efforts, and has always been an active member of the Salford United Church, both in attendance and committee work.

Mr. Wallace is a full-time beef cattle farmer, who with his brother, owns Wallace Farms (Oxford) Limited. And despite the rigors of the business, he humbly states, "I still find time for the other stuff. I really enjoy working for the community."

Part of his affection for Salford might have to do with meeting his wife of 33 years, Elizabeth, there. But he also says the people are very friendly and that province-wide, "there's no place like Oxford."

"It's always nice to come home to."

Mr. Wallace has also been involved with the county's 4H club and for six years was on the Oxford County Milk committee.



Bill Wallace

Ingersoll Times
November 7, 1984

Death Closes Long career Ingersoll man.

Michael Walsh, K. C., Dies in 94th year -
Practiced until two years ago.

by Ingersoll Staff Reporter

Ingersoll - Aug. 31. - Ingersoll's grand old man of the bar, Michael Walsh, K. C., passed away last night after an illness which had confined him to his bed for the past seven months, and which had terminated a life that had been privileged to go far beyond the allotted three score and ten. Mr. Walsh was in his 94th year.

It was just about two years ago that deceased gave up his law practice here, leaving an office to which he had walked for the greater part of a very long life. It is probable that Mr. Walsh, then 91 years of age, was the oldest, or at least one of the oldest barristers practicing in Ontario, if not Canada. His hearing was failing him, but he was in reality without serious pain or ache. He complained shortly afterwards of dizzy spells, and stated that he did not like to venture out upon the street. And so, since that time, he has been spending his days about his home on Thames Street South.

BORN IN INGERSOLL

There were a number of unusual factors connected with the life of Mr. Walsh. He was permitted to see Ingersoll grow from the pioneer days. He was born in Ingersoll. As he related it himself some two years ago, he was born in a little home which stood just about on the site where his office stood through all the following years as a law practitioner. He recalled at that time that there were but one or two little frame buildings on what is now Thames Street. He recalled the first factory or foundry that started here. In other words, he was permitted to see, as few have been, Ingersoll grow to her present status. He saw the forest pushed back by the progress of the builder and the settler. He was raised with the pioneers. He knew their lot and their life.

In his younger days, deceased clerked in grocery stores, all the time having in his mind's eye the call of the bar. He studied this assiduously prior to and following his studies at law school. When the time was ripe, he came back to his native Ingersoll, and had practiced here since until two years ago.

HAD FULL LIFE

Mr. Walsh was a member of Harris Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, and of King Hiram Masonic Lodge here. He had held many important offices within the gift of the masonic craft, not only in connection with the Ingersoll lodges, but in the

provincial realm as well.

He had also given much his time in earlier life to the militia, and had written much to the press in Ingersoll from varied military camps under a pen name which disclosed his identity to few. His diary also has some historic and interesting references to some of the military affairs of his day.

Of an athletic turn of mind, he had always considered walking as one of his greatest joys. Even up to two years ago when he retired from his practice, he walked the mile or more to and from his office excepting on very rare occasions. He stated once some three (?) years ago that riding was not beneficial. He attributed his long span of life largely to the exercise that he got from his walking.

He had other forms of exercise, however. He was an ardent follower of the tennis courts. As recently as during the days of the Great War he enjoyed his tennis. He had a fine court at his home, but gave it up because of the war. He explained that it was too hard then to get men - either to look after the court or to play.

GREAT READER

Deceased was a great reader and student. He was a lover of the better type of literature. Above all, he was quiet and unassuming. He loved to keep in touch with the affairs of his fellow men in later years, but preferred not to intrude himself here or there in any public way. He was unmarried.

He was a member of the congregation of St. James' Anglican church.

Surviving is one brother, John A. Walsh, Montreal.

Interment will be made in the Ingersoll Rural cemetery on Thursday afternoon, following service at St. James' Anglican church at 2:30 o'clock. The funeral will be under masonic auspices.

Leanne Ward is Chamber's Outstanding Youth

Recent IDCI graduate Leanne Ward of Thamesford, has been selected as the recipient of the second annual Ingersoll and District Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Youth Award.

The award is given to an young person in the community who demonstrates a high degree of leadership.

Canada Day chairman for the Chamber of Commerce, Dan Dunlop, said six youths were nominated for the award, but Leanne was selected on the basis of her outstanding leadership and

broad range of interests.

Winning the award was a "total shock" to Leanne, who didn't know she had been nominated for the honour.

"Dan Dunlop called to tell me that I had been selected as the winner of the Outstanding Youth Award," said Leanne. "I was excited."

On July 1, as part of the Canada Day celebrations in Ingersoll, Oxford MPP Dick Treleaven will be presenting Leanne with a plaque and a cash prize in recognition of her leadership.

"My parents thought it was great that I had won," said Leanne, "and

told me that it was quite an honor."

As well as maintaining a high academic standard, Leanne teaches piano for several hours a week at her home, is currently preparing for her teacher's certification for piano, and tutors an IDCI student in French during the week.

Leanne has also been very involved in athletics during her high school career, and although she has had to give up competitive cross-country

running, basketball, track and soccer, so she could channel her energies into Grade 13 studies, she still plays tennis and runs for relaxation.

Leanne said she has always enjoyed being involved in several activities, but that her main involvement right now is teaching her young music students -- an activity which she will be continuing in the future.

Leanne recently performed an evening recital in the IDCI auditorium, to help her prepare for her upcoming performance examination.

"I had never played for an hour straight before," she said, "and the recital was very similar to an exam situation."

The June 8 recital attracted a large audience, and Leanne commented it was "a really good feeling... definitely one of the highlights of my year."

Leanne will be attending Universi-

ty of Western Ontario's Huron College next year to study Honors Science. She is looking, right now, at the possibility of becoming a medical doctor, but notes, "I'm not going to have tunnel vision and limit my options."

Leanne is looking forward to taking up some more sports and physical activities when she goes to Western in the fall, and will be signing up for modern dance lessons with a close friend, Jenny Wilson, with whom she studied ballet for many years.



IDCI graduate Leanne Ward was recently named the recipient of the Ingersoll and District Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Youth Award for 1986. The presentation of the award will be a highlight of the Canada Day celebrations organized by the Chamber of Commerce, to be held next Tuesday from 12:30 to 2:30 at Dewan Festival Gardens.

*Outstanding Youth Award
(Ingersoll & Dist. Chamber of Commerce)
Ward, Leanne*

ingersoll

Phyllis Coulter
Ingersoll Bureau
485-3040

Leanne Ward and Canada both had a special day

By PHYLLIS COULTER
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Canada Day celebrants had more than a nation's birthday to mark Tuesday in Ingersoll. Leanne Ward received the Ingersoll and District Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding Youth Award in front of Canada Day celebrators at Dewan Memorial Park yesterday.

The recent Grade 13 graduate of Ingersoll District Collegiate is no stranger to awards. Last year, she won the Kiwanis Citizenship Award among females at her high school. She also recently won the Marie Thompson Scholarship for classical piano at the Woodstock Rotary Music Festival.

Several of her achievements are in music. The 19-year-old Thamesford

resident is teaching piano lessons to 13 students this summer. She teaches piano after a full day of secretarial work for her father who is an insurance broker.

She enjoys performing but has never considered piano as a "full-fledged career" for herself. "It's not a hobby either. I take it more serious than that."

However, Ward has set her career goals. This fall, she will begin an Honors Science program at Western University, London. Her long-term goal is to become a medical doctor. "I know where my interests lie. It all depends on whether things go according to the game plan," she said.

She has been a good student all through school winning proficiency

awards at Ingersoll District Collegiate three times (when she was in Grade 9, 11, and 12). Good grades is only one of the criteria for the chamber of commerce's outstanding youth award. Criteria also includes leadership ability and involvement in extra curricular activities.

In addition to her involvement in music, Ward has also been involved in many sports activities throughout her high school career. The high achiever gives much of the credit for her success to the encouragement of her parents Elizabeth and Charles Ward.

"I attribute a lot of my achievements and the development of my skills to my parents who encouraged me to get involved in a variety of things," she said. "I have admiration for their advice."



LEANNE WARD was honored with the Ingersoll and District Chamber of Commerce's 1986 Outstanding Youth Award Tuesday during the Ingersoll Canada Day celebration at Dewan Festival Park. Mayor Doug Harris made the presentation.

(Staff photo by Ted Rhodes)

OUTSTANDING YOUTH AWARD
(Ingr. Ch. of Commerce)

Ward, Leanne



Leanne Ward of Thamesford, was selected as the Ingersoll Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding Youth for 1986 and was honored at the town's Canada Day celebrations yesterday.

Canada's birthday celebrated in style

Canada's 119th birthday was celebrated in style yesterday in Ingersoll, when over 300 people gathered at Dewan Park to join the festivities.

Like most birthday parties, there seemed to be a little bit of something for everyone. Balloons, children's games, entertainment, plenty of hot dogs and of course, birthday cake, were a few of the trimmings at this year's celebration.

The event, organized by the Ingersoll Chamber of Commerce, drew young and old.

The celebration started off with a presentation to Leanne Ward of Thamesford, the Chamber's 1986 Outstanding Youth. Canada Day poster contest winners Ryan Bannon, Tina House and Patricia Hollingshead were presented with plaques for their efforts by Mayor Doug Harris.

Entertainment provided by the Woodstock Harmony Hi Lites added to the festive atmosphere, as did the various children's games and the face painting for children. Members of the town's Rod and Custom Club had some of their vehicles on display as well.

Convener Dan Dunlop rated this year's birthday celebration a huge success, noting there was something for everyone. He noted that one 99-year-old turned out for the event, and said he was pleased with the way things ran overall.

Ingersoll Times

July 2, 1986

Waterhouse receives provincial appointment

BY
YVONNE HOLMES MOTT

"I would not be in the position I am now if it were not for the Kiwanis Club of Ingersoll" were the sincere words expressed by Ingersoll native Robert Waterhouse, as he was interviewed from his office in Queen's Park.

This week the Ontario Government announced what it calls "an important initiative", the appointment of Robert Waterhouse, as Rehabilitation Services Co-Ordinator for the province.

His current appointment is the crowning achievement of what is definitely much more than the average success story.

It was 40-years-ago this summer that young Bob Waterhouse took his fateful dive into what was then one of the most popular swimming holes in the area, the Upper Dam. The water wasn't as deep as he had believed and when they pulled him out, very few people thought Bob had very much of a life ahead of him.

That 1939 accident certainly changed the course of his life, but not in the direction many people thought it would. After his hospitalization, he was home with a loving family, but by his own admission, "vegetating, doing nothing, going nowhere".

Rev. Harold Parr was president of the Kiwanis Club then, he recalls and they stepped in to help. It wasn't an easy job, Bob remembers, because both he and his parents had to be sold on the idea of leaving his familiar surroundings and the comfort of an extremely closely-knit family. But the Kiwanis Club just wouldn't give up,

he recalled in his telephone interview and they won out, a victory for which he will be grateful for the rest of his life.

The Kiwanis Club sent Bob to Toronto General Hospital "and they supported me there for three and a half years" he marvels. "When I came out of there I was a different person."

He explained that he was in a 32-bed ward and he met so many people with so many different problems that it changed his whole outlook on life. "It was the turning point of my life as far as rehabilitation was concerned." Toronto General was also the place where he met the attractive student nurse who was to become his wife. They were engaged by the time Bob left the hospital.

When he came back to Ingersoll he seemed ready to take on the world. "Ingersoll people have always been so kind to me" mused Bob. "When I came back they were great to me and to Joy when we were married. Why remember, the So-Ed (Social Educational) group at the YMCA had a big party and stocked us up with groceries? When we came home from our honeymoon the Jaycees had painted our house for us!"

It was partly kindness that made people rally around the young man in a wheel chair, but it was more than that. It was a tremendous admiration for the courage and determination of the young man who appreciated friendship, but obviously didn't want sympathy from anyone. Not that anyone who

knew Bob Waterhouse was likely to feel sorry for him very long. He knew what he was going to do in life and he quietly went about it.

He worked for four years as secretary, doing general office work at the YMCA. At the same time he was keeping books for four or five small businesses in town, selling magazine subscriptions, feeding news to a Woodstock radio station through a direct line and selling ads for the Ingersoll Tribune. He needed the jobs. He was putting his wife, Joy, through a year at the University of Western Ontario so she could get her degree as a public health nurse.

Then it was Bob's turn to go back to school. When he was 28-years-old, a year after he had married, he entered the Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute. It was 1952 and J.C. Herbert was principal, a fact which Bob feels, was a positive asset in his success there.

He was a familiar sight whipping through the corridors in his wheel-chair. Well accepted by the students, all he had to do, when he reached an inaccessible place was sit right and a friendly "need a lift?" would be heard as strong arms lifted him and the chair and all to the place where he wanted to be. He didn't expect any academic favors and didn't get any. He worked hard and completed grades 10, 11, 12 and 13 in two years. It was no surprise that he was accepted at Queen's University, where he grad-

INGERSOLL TIMES
February 14, 1979

WATERHOUSE, Robert



Waterhouse receives ...

uated with an honors degree in Commerce and Finance.

He has been on the move ever since. After living in Kingston for some time, he and his wife and their two sons, Bill, 18 and Jim, 10 now reside in Willowdale.

The years have been busy ones. Bob, now 54, has taken a two year course in Hospital Organization and Management from the Canadian Hospital Association, is a director of the Canadian Paraplegic Association and a member of the Board of Governors of the Lyndhurst Rehabilitation Hospital. Widely in demand as a public speaker, he travels wherever he is needed, trying never to turn down a request to speak at a meeting where people want to learn about rehabilitation. Until his new appointment he was with the Ministry of Health.

Margaret Birch, provincial secretary for social development defined the Ingersoll native's new position as "working to encourage greater co-ordination and co-operation in provincial planning for the delivery of rehabilitation services and the development of policy effecting these services."

An interministerial team of rehabilitation co-ordinators is being established to assist him.

They will represent the ministries of Colleges and Universities, Community and Social Services, Education, Correctional Services, Health, Housing,

Labour, Transportation and Communications, and the Workmen's Compensation Board.

They will work with Mr. Waterhouse and in close liaison with each other in order to assist in achieving more effectively integrated rehabilitation services throughout the Ontario Government.

Among the responsibilities of the interministerial team will be to:

Make recommendations to the Cabinet Committee on Social Development for the improvement of employment possibilities for the handicapped.

Function as the government point of reference for the cases of individuals whose rehabilitation needs are not being met.

Recommend to ministries or to the Cabinet Committee ways in which the integration of community rehabilitation services can be improved.

Identify gaps and duplications in programs and recommend changes as appropriate.

Bob is very happy with his new appointment and looking forward to his next visit to Ingersoll. He returns often to visit his mother, Mrs. Lambert Waterhouse, Charles Street East and his sister Jean Kean and family as well as as other relatives and friends who usually gather for his visit. He always likes to see "as many Ingersoll people as possible."

Quadraplegic travels long road

By JOE KONECNY

Sentinel-Review staff writer
INGERSOLL — Bob Waterhouse has travelled a long road since leaving town 37 years ago.

The 55-year-old quadraplegic was victim of a swimming accident at the old upper Thames River dam in 1939 and although he was rendered paralyzed from the neck down, Waterhouse fought his way back to lead a fulfilling life.

Currently working as a provincial co-ordinator for rehabilitation services with the provincial secretariat for social development, Waterhouse returned to his hometown Thursday and addressed more than 60 senior citizens. The gathering at the Optimist's Hall was the seniors' final meeting of the year.

The group featured about 30 speakers between October and May and during the last session, students from Princess Anne school danced and sang their way into the crowd's hearts before Waterhouse spoke.

During an interview prior to his speech, Waterhouse recalled how he dove into the Thames River, hit the bottom and broke his neck.

He recovered in town and lived here until 1943 when the Kiwanis Club sponsored his passage to Toronto General Hospital. His room and board was also covered by the service club.

"These service clubs do a tremendous job," he said. "The

money they raise goes to a good cause."

During his 3½-year stay at the hospital, Waterhouse wore 80 casts as doctors attempted to straighten his limbs and possibly enable him to walk again.

Later, at a Toronto rehabilitation centre, Waterhouse learned to use crutches and walked with the assistance of leg braces.

"It was great he said," recalling the momentous occasion. He now uses a wheelchair.

Waterhouse returned to Ingersoll in 1948 and worked in the YMCA office alongside Hamilton Gosse and Al Clark.

However at the age of 28, he opted to return to school at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute.

Although he carried a heavy workload while completing four grades in two years, Waterhouse enjoyed his return to the classroom even though other students were much younger than he.

"It was great," he said. "The students were tremendous and they fully accepted me.

"One of them even offered to help me while we were writing an exam," he added. "I should have accepted the help...he got a better mark than me."

Sensing a "limitation of opportunity" because of his immobility, Waterhouse packed his bags again in 1954 and travelled to Queens University where he majored in commerce

and finance.

Reflecting on the prewar medical help available for paralyzed people — which was virtually non-existent — Waterhouse said, "A great deal has changed".

"That's my job...getting things changed to help the handicapped."

The bulk of his work centres on reviewing government policies which are of concern to the handicapped.

"It is very rewarding work," he said. "A lot of my work is like that of an ombudsman...I deal with people who are having some trouble with government agencies."

"In this job my handicap gives me credibility...I have been through it all.

"It is the most challenging job I've ever had and I thoroughly enjoy it," he added.

During his talk with the seniors, Waterhouse described how his staff prepare policy papers for the cabinet.

Currently he's battling with government officials for funding of a radio reading service in Oakville, west of Toronto. The network staff reads newspapers and periodicals over the air for deaf people.

"We feel this is a library service and therefore it should receive the same government funding," he said.

"Handicapped people are human beings and we demand to be treated as such. The end product is a sense of worth from being productive."



— Staff photo

Bob Waterhouse...working for others

Waterhouse Robert

(page 1 of 2)

SENTINEL - REVIEWS
May 16, 1980

University honors former resident's work with disabled

A former resident of Ingersoll will be one of a chosen few to receive an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree this Friday at the University of Waterloo for his contribution to the advancement of disabled people in Ontario.

"I still can't believe it," Robert L. Waterhouse said of the honor about to be bestowed to him. "When informed by the president of the university president I said 'Would you say that again.' I still can't believe it."

Mr. Waterhouse is a paraplegic as a result of a diving accident when he was 15-years-old and a high school student in Ingersoll. Since that time he has gone on to accomplish great things not only for himself but disabled persons in Ontario and Canada.

"I still have strong feelings for Ingersoll," Mr. Waterhouse said in a telephone conversation Tuesday.

Memories include high school principle Jack Herbert and vice - principal Currie Wilson who helped him get back into the school system, following three and a half years of being hospitalized in Toronto.

"Jack was the one who made it possible for me to go back to school and complete my education," Mr. Waterhouse said. He added Mr. Herbert and Mr. Wilson also "made it possible to have a ramp built at the east door of the (old) high school."

Not only was their support at the high school, he remembers but from hospital nursing staff, residents and industries as well.

"My Dad worked at the Morrow Screw and Nut Company and employees there took up a collection to buy articles that I needed and wanted," he recalled. "Various industries would drop by and say 'This is something family and friends want you to have.'"

"It made a tremendous difference," Mr. Waterhouse stated.

Another recollection was musicians dropping by and performing for him during recuperation.

"It's what you find in a small place like Ingersoll. People are so friendly," he said.

When Mr. Waterhouse went back to school he completed four grades in two years and then headed off to Queen's University where he graduated with an honors degree in commerce and finance in 1958.

He joined the provincial civil service as an economist and hospital planner for the Toronto region, later to become a senior economist and acting director of research in the ministry of health.

Presently the 57-year-old former resident of North York is co-ordinator for rehabilitation services where he has

contributed to the improvement of employment prospects for handicapped persons within the civil service and in facilities for integrating the handicapped.

Also to his credit, he is one of 10 persons across Canada on an advisory committee to the president of the Treasury Board of Canada concerned with the employment of disabled people within the federal government; he is a member of the board of governors of the Lyndhurst Rehabilitation Hospital; a director for the Canadian Paraplegic Association and has worked extensively on programs, facilities and finding work for handicapped students at the University of Waterloo.

"I think headway is being made, substantial headway," Mr. Waterhouse said of facilities, programs and employment opportunities for disabled persons.

"In this year of the Disabled Persons there have been a lot of innovative things happening and we will see the results in two or three years," he suggested.

"The main one we're concerned with is a change in attitude of the disabled, an acceptance in all walks of life," he said.

In the very near future, it will be evident in education, housing, recreation and employment opportunities, the honorary doctor of laws predicted.

WATERHOUSE,
Robert



Robert Waterhouse

INGERSOLL TIMES
October 21, 1981

FEATURES

Two Ingersoll Scouts receive prestigious award

BY LIZ DADSON

Two Ingersoll District Pathfinder Scouts received the

most prestigious award available to them in the Scouting movement during a ceremony at the Trinity United Church, Ingersoll, last Wednesday night.

B. J. Van Kooten and John Walden were presented with the Chief Scout's Award by provincial commissioner Hugh Robertson.

A large crowd watched as Pathfinder Scouts from the Green Valleys Region, including Brantford, Port Burwell, Stratfordville, Burford, Kitchener, Cambridge, Elora, Guelph and Woodstock, stepped forward to receive their awards.

Queen's Venturer awards were also presented to Venturers from New Dundee, Cambridge and Woodstock.

Jane and Mary Ellen Muterer of the Ingersoll Pipe Band piped in the Scouts, Venturers and dignitaries to begin the ceremony.

David Fallows, regional commissioner for Green Valleys Region, spoke of the "fantastic" array of youth in attendance. "Every year it gets stronger and bolder," he said. "You'll remember this night for the rest of your lives."

Members of the cast of "Oliver" from Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute performed four songs from the show, providing spirited and highly-talented entertainment.

Milt Miree, district commissioner for Ingersoll District, outlined the Chief Scout's Award which was inaugurated in September, 1973 by Governor General Roland Michener in his capacity of Chief Scout of Canada.

Michener was greatly impressed by the many projects through which Scouts rendered service to others and helped to improve the natural environment and he felt that such acts should be specially recognized.

A Scout's training begins with the basics in all aspects of the Scouting program, leading first to his investiture to the B.P. Woodsman Badge.

The Scout becomes actively involved in a training scheme in which he earns a number of achievement badges from four general programs categories. He becomes a Pioneer Scout after completing to the bronze level, a Voyageur Scout after completing the silver level, and then a Pathfinder Scout after attaining the gold level.

Requirements for the Chief Scout's Award include community service, camping, hikes, personal development and public service. All training for these achievement badges involves not only skills development but also the organization, planning and leadership required to carry out the activities.

After the completion of all these requirements, the Pathfinder Scout must still be recommended for the Chief Scout's Award by his peers and the recommendation must be endorsed by his leaders and his district commissioner.

Provincial commissioner Robertson, after presenting the awards, noted the "wonderful spirit" at the ceremony.

"Pathfinder Scouts, you are all achievers," he said. "There are a lot of critics in this world. Expect criticism. Being a success doesn't always mean you'll succeed the first time. It's all in how you look at things."

He said what the Scouts did during the ceremony is publicly prove they are winners, achieves and people who will succeed.

"Take tonight, tuck it away in your memory and when someone starts criticizing you, take it out, rub it and remember this night. You're a winner."

He also urged them to remember they are not alone in life. "Believe in yourself and believe you never have to walk

alone. We always have God with us."

Venturer Ian Stevens of Woodstock also spoke, outlining the many friendships made at camps and jamborees. "Lord Baden-Powell gave boys

a good role model to follow. He was a good leader."

He also praised to the leaders of the Scouting movement. "I hope I'm as nice a person as my leaders have been."



Michael Whitcroft, with the 1st Staffordville Scouts, receives the Chief Scout's Award at the Green Valleys Region Chief Scout's Awards ceremony. (Liz Dadson photo)



Ingersoll Scout B. J. Van Kooten receives the Chief Scout's Award from provincial commissioner Hugh Robertson during the Green Valleys Region Chief Scout's award ceremony. (Liz Dadson photo)

Whitcroft, Michael

Girl wins achievement award

BY RON PRESTON

It's taken her three years of dedication and hard work but 19-year-old Connie White has earned the silver level of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The prestigious youth achievement honor was bestowed upon the diminutive Ingersoll girl at a Queen's Park ceremony two weeks ago.

The award originated in 1956 as a challenge from Prince Philip to all Canadians between the ages of 14 and 25 to excel at leisure-time activities.

Miss White became interested in the award after a guest speaker at a Girl Guides banquet spoke of it. "It sounded really interesting," she said, "and I thought 'wow, it'd be nice to get that!'"

The award can be achieved at three different levels; bronze, for those over the age of 14; silver, for those over age 15; and gold, for people over 16. The award is a lapel pin and comes with an inscribed certificate.

Encouragement is an essential factor behind every accomplishment, and the awards are set-up to show appreciation for young people setting and reaching a goal. But the system is not meant to be competitive; participants measure themselves against a set of standards, not against others.

To achieve her silver level award, Miss White had to satisfy the requirements in four different areas. To comply with the requisites in the service classification, she assisted her mother, Mary, as a leader with the 3rd Ingersoll Brownie pack.

That was not a new task for Miss White, she's actually been working with the younger girls almost seven years.

Award winners must also qualify in the area of expeditions, working with a small group which plans and carries out its own trip using maps, charts, a compass and other survival knowledge.

Miss White a member of the 1st Rangers, found it to be an enjoyable adventure, spending one week hiking and backpacking in Algonquin Park, then spending another week camping at Doe Lake.

Under the skills category, the Grade 13 student submitted her years of competing in the Youth Bowling Council. Her many nights of knocking down pins at the local lanes paid off in more ways than one.

The final area was achievement in physical fitness. With the help of one of her high school physical education teachers, she was tested under the Participation program winning a silver level award there also.

Standing in line with the other 105 young people to receive the laurels from the right honorable Lt. Gov. John Black-Aird, Miss White had already made up her mind to pursue the gold level award in the future.

Along with thousands of other graduating high school students, she is anxiously waiting to find out if she has been accepted to university to study nursing.

If determination has any bearing on it, there's no doubt she'll be accepted; achievers have what it takes to succeed, and Connie White is definitely an achiever.



It took three years of dedication and hard work but Connie White achieved the honor of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The Grade 13 student proudly displays her certificate for her mother, Mary.

Ingersoll
Times
May 30, 1984

Duke of Edinburgh Award
White, Connie

PAULA WHITTAKER

June 23/90 SENTINEL REVIEW

Meet your Heritage Queen '90

Story and companion photo
by ERIC SCHMIEDL
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Say hello to 1990's Heritage Queen!

Paula Whittaker, 18, says the biggest part of her job is representing Ingersoll. She will accompany Mayor Doug Harris to various functions and events throughout the year.

"It's important to be friendly."

Whittaker began her reign late last week as she took over from retiring queen Sandy Lamers. Her pageant win came as a bit of a surprise to her.

"My dad was surprised, almost as much as I was, actually," she adds.

'I will if you will'

There wasn't a major plan behind Whittaker's win. She and a friend entered the competition telling each other "I will if you will."

"I didn't think my chances were

that good, because there were so many entrants."

Whittaker says she hasn't formed any plans for her reign as her title "hasn't really set in yet."

There's some Scottish in her heritage but her family "has been in Canada a long time." Her parents are originally from Embro and Whittaker is a Kintore native, where her family now lives.

Ballet had been an interest of Whittaker's for a decade until she gave it up last year. Sports, how-

ever, have been an interest of hers during her days at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute and she wants to carry on with them — "especially field hockey" — in her post-secondary years.

Whittaker's next education step isn't set in stone yet. She has been accepted at Brock, Trent and Guelph universities for early childhood education studies but she's also keeping her eye on Fanshawe College for dental assistant training.

Ingersoll

MARK REID INGERSOLL EDITOR 485-3040.



PAULA WHITTAKER takes some time out with Kelly, her family's cocker spaniel. Paula will have a busy year ahead as Ingersoll's Heritage Queen.

Ingersoll artist preserves memories of old buildings

WHITWELL
Harry

By ARMITA JANES
Ingersoll Bureau
Daily Sentinel-Review
Harry Whitwell is probably sitting on the curb sketching one of Ingersoll's old buildings at this moment. That's how he spends most of his time these days. You can see him seated on his blue plastic cushion on the sidewalk, sketch pad on his knee, pencil in hand, with deft strokes putting down on paper the building across the street that he wants in his visual

record of Ingersoll buildings. He is concerned that so many of the town's old buildings have already been torn down. "What will we have, when all the old buildings go?" he asked. "Ingersoll will be nothing but a sleeping town. It will lose all its character." He would like to see the old buildings remain. But he knows many are condemned, must go. He loves old things. That's why it bothers him that so many people do not care enough about

old buildings to preserve them. He mentioned a deserted pioneer farm house on the River Road that had been left to rot away. In England people have a habit of conserving old buildings, but in Canada, it doesn't seem to matter," he said.

Mr. Whitwell, who was born in Wales, came to Ingersoll when he was eight years old and maintains some of that old country feeling. He's glad he cared enough to capture some of Ingersoll's old buildings, during the fifties, that have since fallen under the wrecker's hammer.

SUMMER PROJECT

Although he is a man of many talents, and many hobbies, he will devote all his time this summer to preserving the images, at least, of the old buildings that are part of Ingersoll's history.

"The minute you take down an old building, it's gone forever. How will the younger generation ever know what has been there before?"

He hopes to complete his collection of the town's old buildings by October. He has been asked to put it on display in the Ingersoll Public Library at that time.

Many of the works in that show were drawn years ago. There is a very old pencil and chalk drawing, in color, of the Town Hall when it had the bell tower on top. It's so old, in fact, that it was done before the town had electricity, as the lack of utility poles clearly shows.

"This is where the horses came out. I remember, as a boy, chasing them," the artist said, pointing to a door in the drawing.

There are also drawings of the old collegiate, on the spot where the present high school is, the old post office, where the Bank of Montreal now stands, the St. Charles hotel that stood where there is now green space and the chalet.

In a picture dated 1962 he pointed to the Massey Harris implement store, a bakery and the Bell Telephone building. "They all went down for the municipal parking lot south of the police station."

SKINNER BUILDING

The old Skinner building, a wood-working factory in the old days, more recently a youth centre, was captured by Mr. Whitwell before it was condemned and torn down. Still other drawings depict Wilson's Dairy located on Thames Street, where there is now a Becker's store, and the back of what used to be Bigham's ice cream parlor. There is also a picture of the old J. A. Coles Furniture Company building that now

houses the Ingersoll Casket Company.

These buildings would be no more than memories in the minds of a few older town residents had not Harry Whitwell captured them permanently with his pencil. Small wonder that he has set out on a self-appointed mission this summer to sketch the fine old buildings that still grace Ingersoll's core area. He said it's therapy for him. He is convalescing following a heart attack last Christmas.

"My doctor told me to keep busy but do nothing strenuous, and get lots of fresh air." Mr. Whitwell said he can't think of a better way to follow those orders than sitting on street corners, soaking up the sun, while he sketches the old town buildings he loves so much.

Many of the sidewalk drawings that Mr. Whitwell is working on are rear views of old downtown buildings that now have modern fronts. He pointed to the crumbling walls at the back of one building. "Unless they fix it up, it is going to be no more."

As he showed a drawing of the rear of the public library and nearby stores, he pointed to the deteriorating brickwork. "I've got to get these before they go. They're not going to last much longer."

DRAWINGS SOLD

Some of his drawings are being bought by those with a vested interest in the subject. Clair Bray bought his pen and ink drawing of the Bray building for \$63. A former Ingersoll couple, now living in Sarnia, have spoken for a splendid watercolor of the new Bank of Montreal building because they remember the old post office stood on the site when they lived in town. It shows the Ingersoll Pharmacy, the Fishleigh building and the building lettered McKenny Block. The price will probably be \$75 for it, he said. His drawing of the Avco building was also sold.

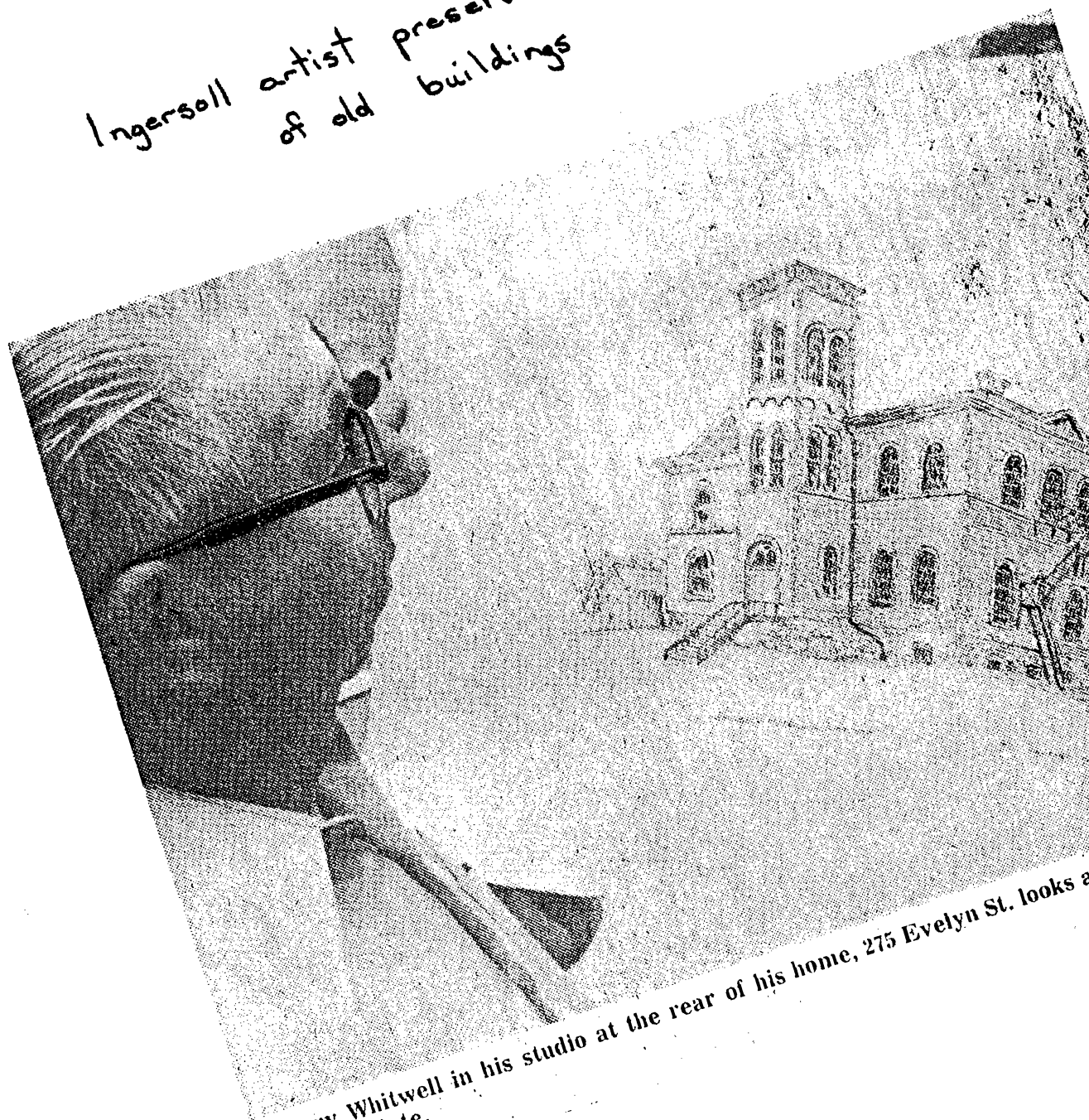
Original drawings by Harry Whitwell have long been on display in the window of Douglas Furniture at prices ranging from about \$15 to \$50. However, he is now preparing many sketches of old town buildings for printed reproduction. He plans to reproduce for postcards and note paper, as well as larger sizes for framing, the old collegiate, the public library and the old post office.

It just may be the way to awaken in town residents an awareness of the important old buildings that surround them. Seeing the town through Harry Whitwell's eyes one can agree with him that "Ingersoll is a beautiful place to live."

Sentinel Review
May 22, 1975

WHITWELL
Harry

Ingersoll artist preserves memories
of old buildings



Harry Whitwell in his studio at the rear of his home, 275 Evelyn St. looks at old collegiate.

WHITWELL, Harry

OLDEST BUILDING

Local artist Harry Whitwell, Thurs., was painting one of Ingersoll's oldest buildings, a red brick structure at 65 and 67 King St. East (formerly the old stage coach road). Watching the work is the present owner John Witcombe. He bought

the building in 1939 from Edward Gray who operated a second-hand furniture store there. Mr. Witcombe said he paid Mr. Gray \$500 for all the furniture stored there, and then went into the second-hand furniture business in the evenings to

get rid of it. (He worked at Ingersoll Machine and Tool during the day). Mr. Witcombe said the building at one time was used as a post office. It was built around 1848, Mr. Whitwell said. (Staff photo)

WHITWELL, Harry



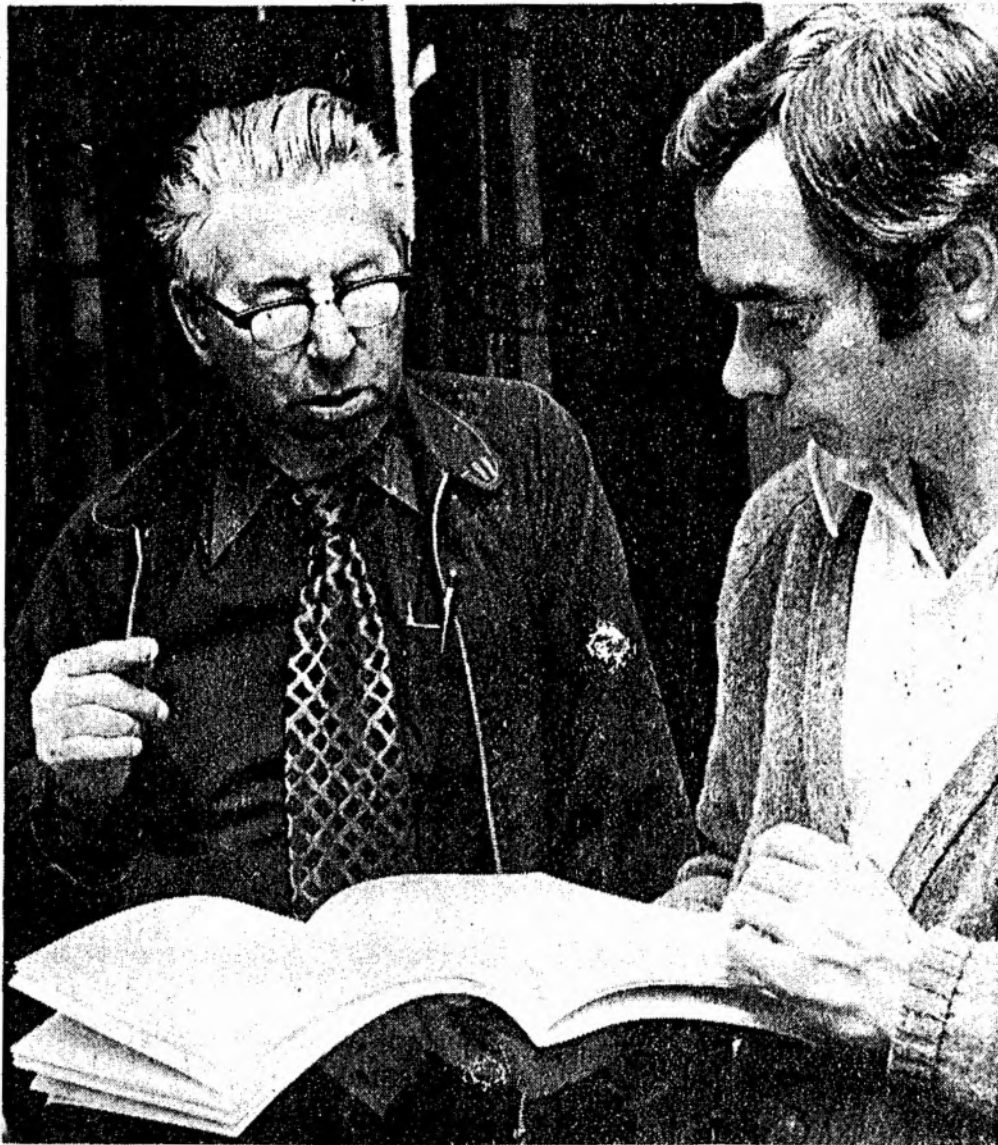
Local artist Harry Whitwell is busy at work on sketches of Ingersoll as it once was. His assistant Michelle Hanlon looks on. Mr. Whitwell is working under a government grant and is hoping to have the material he and his crew have gathered, printed in a book form.

INGERSOLL TIMES
FEB. 15/78

WHITWELL, Harry



Ruth Merrill and Merriel La Rose are shown here reviewing some of the information they have gathered with Mr. Whitwell, on the town's history. Mr. Whitwell and his three assistants are doing all the research and art work under a government grant.



AUTOGRAPHED COPY

Harry Whitwell, left, and Mayor Douglas Harris check out the first copy of Ingersoll--Our Heritage, a history of Ingersoll from United Empire Loyalist days to present

created last year under a Canada Works grant. The book was received from the printers last week.



Harry Whitwell
...dies

Artist Harry Whitwell dies

INGERSOLL - Harry Whitwell, the 67-year-old noted town artist often seen perched on a folding stool sketching historic landmarks here, died Sunday at Alexandra Hospital.

Last year he realized a life-long dream with the completion of an illustrated 108 page book, *Our Heritage - A History of Ingersoll*. The book illustrated the history of Ingersoll from the day of the United Empire Loyalists till the present.

Born in Wales he moved to Ingersoll at the age of six.

He had previously printed a book featuring sketches of area churches, entitled *Through These Portals*, which was recently run as a series in *The Sentinel-Review*. His book *Our Town Ingersoll* also featured historic buildings within the town.

Whitwell for many years has instructed oil painting sessions at the Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre and is a respected senior artist within the town's art circles. He also had many exhibits displayed at the arts centre featuring his artwork, hand crafted jewellery and artistic stone collection.

He is survived by his wife, the former Bertha Marr. Funeral services will take place Wednesday.

Harry Whitwell and his art

Harry Whitwell, who died Sunday, was more than a man who loved art and his community of Ingersoll.

Many of Ingersoll's artists received instruction at the Creative Arts Centre from Whitwell, a man comfortable in every media from oil painting to hand crafted jewelry and who once studied with Fred Varley, a Group of Seven painter.

There is little doubt Whitwell acted as a catalyst for the intense interest in art in Ingersoll.

Last year he completed an illustrated

history of Ingersoll, Our Heritage-A History of Ingersoll, to cap his love for the town.

Ingersoll and northern Ontario were dominant themes for the paintings that came out of the crowded and busy studio behind his home.

Ingersoll may change in future years but the gentle and colorful sights we saw through Harry Whitwell's eyes will live on.

Harry Whitwell was a man who put as much into his community as he took out.

WHITWELL, Harry

Gifted and giving

The town of Ingersoll has lost one of its most gifted and its most giving citizens. The death of artist Harry Whitwell is a loss not only to his closely-knit family but to the entire community and to the art world in general.

The one consolation to those who loved him, respected him and admired him is that through his legacy, he will live on in the memories of all those who knew him. He has left so many gifts behind. Paintings by Whitwell hang in the halls of schools, in banks and offices, in galleries and in private homes.

He saw beauty in everything and whatever he saw, he liked to share. He took pieces of rough stone and rock that others would step on and converted it into pieces of jewellery or ornaments that people would love to see and to touch. He created things with his hands that others could enjoy.

However, his legacy is made up of more than tangible things. No matter how busy Harry Whitwell was, no matter how successful he became, he was never too busy to explain to the uninformed.

He loved to teach, in fact he was anxious to teach and was never more excited than when he discovered promising new talent. He always had time for his old friends and was glad to make new ones. His relationship with his family was also a special one - but then Harry Whitwell was a very special person.

He saw beauty in everything and he wanted to share that beauty with the world.

INGERSOLL TIMES
March 14, 1979

'Ingersoll. . . where my heart is centered and my roots are deep'. . . Harry Whitwell ...

Ingersoll artist dead at 67

BY YVONNE HOLMES MOTT

"If all citizens felt towards their community like Harry Whitwell did, there wouldn't be many problems in this world of ours" observed Mayor Doug Harris as he paid tribute to the late artist. Mayor Harris described Mr. Whitwell as "always pleasant, interesting and enjoyable." Speaking of his contribution to the art world and the community the mayor suggested his work will affect many citizens both now and in the future. "Citizens like Harry are sorely missed" was Mayor Harris' final comment.

Mr. Whitwell died Sunday, March 11, at the age of 67.

His contributions to the community were many. An art career that began, as he was

fond to remember, at Sacred Heart School when Sister St. Anne kept him in after class because she caught him drawing when he should have been doing mathematics, grew to a full time occupation in his retirement. When he had to stay in after school, his teacher, instead of the reprimand he expected, gave him his first box of paints. He never stopped painting from that time until his death.

For many years, while employed at the Ingersoll Machine Company, he spent all his spare time painting, teaching art and studying. An avid reader, he had upon occasion copied out entire books by hand, when he felt he might want to refer to them again.

He created many paintings, sketches, black and white drawings, water colors

and oil paintings. Still lifes, scenes, portraits and impressionistic painting were all part of his accomplishments.

Assisted by his wife, Bertha, who was always his favorite companion, he studied and collected all forms of rocks and gems. Corresponding and trading with people all over Canada and in other parts of the world, he built up an impressive collection which he was always willing to show and share. From his raw materials he created jewellery, book-ends and other works of art.

At shows he was nearly always assisted by his wife, or his daughter Betty and his son George and in later years was joined by his grandchildren as well.

His paintings have been hung in many galleries and on at least two occasions he

was invited to show at the prestigious Tom Thomson gallery in Owen sound.

Serious health problems never were permitted to interfere with his art work. After his retirement he was able to devote all his time to it. In the last four years he had published three books of art, all relating to the history of Ingersoll. His last book, funded by a Canada Works project was published in 1977.

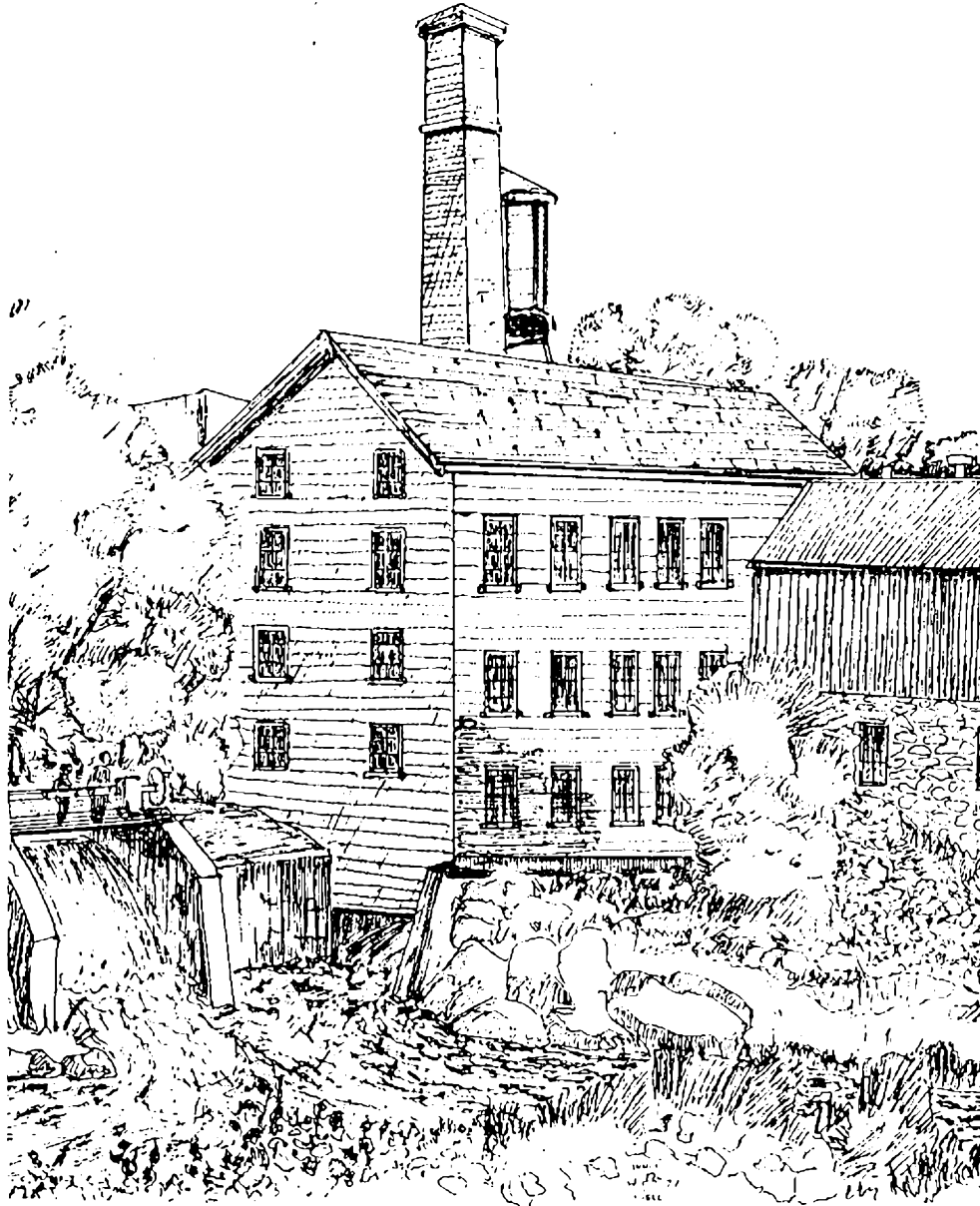
Perhaps his dedication in that book sums up, better than anything else could, his feelings about his town: "Dedicated - to the people and the youth of Ingersoll. The writings and illustrations are intended to record an aspect of the older history of our town. Where my heart is centred and my roots are deep. Henry Whitwell."

(page 1 of 3)

INGERSOLL TIMES
March 14, 1979

WHITWELL, Harry

WHITWELL, Harry



The Thomas Waterhouse Wollen Mill in Ingersoll, was one of many historic pictures the late Harry Whitwell completed. The famous Ingersoll artist died at the age of 67 on Sunday, March 11, 1979.

WHITWELL, Harry.

HARRY WHITWELL

Funeral mass for Harry Whitwell, formerly of 275 Evelyn Street, was held this morning, March 14 at 11 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church.

Mr. Whitwell died March 11 at Alexandra Hospital. He was 67 years old.

Son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry Whitwell, he was born in Cwm, Wales and came to Ingersoll at an early age. He attended Sacred Heart Separate School and the Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute. Mr. Whitwell was employed at the Ingersoll Machine and Tool Company for 44 years before retiring to devote full time to his art work.

Three years ago he was officially recognized by the Canadian government for his contribution to the art world.

Surviving are his wife, the former Bertha Marr; one son George of Thamesford and one daughter Mrs. Fred Summerhayes (Betty) of Ingersoll; six grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Also surviving are two brothers, George of Whitwell, England; and Charles of Worcester, England; three sisters, Mrs. Mary Bray and Miss Agnes Whitwell, both of Worcester, England and Mrs. Mary Singleton of Wolverhampton, England; two aunts, Mrs. Emily Williams of Ingersoll and Mrs. Frances Wilson, Victoria B.C.

Temporary entombment was in Ingersoll Mausoleum with interment later in Harris Street Cemetery.

Local poet was World War I pilot

Williams,
Thomas F.

BY LAURA PLUMTREE

Thomas F. Williams is 97 years old, although anyone looking at him would find it hard to believe. His blue eyes are bright and alert, and his mind is forever ticking away, registering things for future reference. He has kept trim over the years and is immaculately dressed.

His active mind is apparent in his published collection of poems written between 1966 and 1979. Although Mr. Thomas said he no longer writes poetry, he still gets many requests for his book.

"At first I only ordered about 100 to be copied. Now I'm nearly through 200 and people come back for more. It's a good sign."

Approximately 30 poems are published in the book, which Mr. Williams explains as a collection of his thoughts. "It's just my ideas on different things. An idea would come to me that I'd like to express. I'm an admirer of the English language.

"The result of that is that people appreciate it. It's the application of my life, and how I see it today."

Mr. Williams said he's been writing ever since he can remember, although not necessarily poetry.

"I've been writing correspondence since I was a small boy, even back before the turn of the century," he said.

Mr. Williams is a native of Ingersoll, although his ex-

periences have taken him halfway around the world. The first half of the book deals with his experiences flying, especially in World War I.

At the beginning of the war, Mr. Williams said he was always interested in flying. "At that time I'd no more thought of flying than going to the moon."

However, in 1916 he said the Canadian Corps, which he was in, was sent to the Somme in France. He'd spent the two years before that on the lines.

"My part of the war made it necessary for me to know the country. It was such a different part of that country. In order to relate the area with the map, we went to Candass. There's an air station there. So I went there to get a ride in the plane to relate the area with the map.

"I got an hour's flight, and I realized I'd been on the lines two years and I hadn't seen anything. I felt so much at home in the air that I wrote in my diary, I feel I could fly one of these things myself. That was on August 29, 1916."

After that, Mr. Williams said he made up his mind to get transferred into the flying corps.

"The first of October I went back to Candass to see if the commanding officer could get me some tips on how to get in the air force. I learned the process required to get transferred -- you had to satisfy the officer that you were qualified."

Mr. Williams explained a recommendation from the major-general of the Canadian Flying Corps helped him a lot. "He recommended me for the flying corps, although I was way over age," he said, adding that they wanted young men in the age of their early 20s or late teens. "I was 31 at the time. I always was the oldest one in all the corps! was in."

Learning to fly was no trouble at all for Mr. Williams. "It came naturally to me. I got to France in 1917 as a navigator. And I had nearly three months on the western front. I got shot down twice on that front but never damaged an aircraft in landing."

At that point, he said, they were flying Sopwith Camels. Then, he said, his squadron was sent to Northern Italy to protect that part of the country.

"We spent eight months flying the Italian front, and at a much higher altitude than normal. Up to 18,000 or 19,000 feet with no oxygen."

Eng Times Dec 15/82



Thomas Williams, at 97, has written a collection of poems that he feels expresses his life's experiences. Many of Mr. Williams' poems are based on his flying experiences, and the time he spent flying in World War I.

He was forced to take a rest because of damage to his heart, he said.

"I left the lines August 1, 1918," he said. "During that time I was decorated with the military cross, an Italian medal equal to the military cross, received my captaincy, and was given command of the flight in the 28th squadron."

Mr. Williams recalled one time over Italy when he was shot down by anti-aircraft weapons. "I glided over 20 miles so as not to come down in enemy territory," he reminisced. "I glided into a deep gorge with cliffs on both sides and a river in the middle. After that they repaired my plane and then I flew out of there again."

Mr. Williams finished the remainder of the war as an examining officer for a school of aerial fighting. He did very little flying there, he said.

Before the war, he said, he was homesteading in Alberta. However, when he returned, he didn't really like the looks of the place anymore. So, when the government offered a refresher course to World War I flyers, at Camp Borden, he jumped at the chance and came back to Ontario.

Later, he received his civilian flyers license, and an air engineers license which would enable him to go into aviation if he decided to fly again.

"I made my last flight when I was 86 years old," he said. "I had my license until 1972, and I dropped it voluntarily -- I didn't have to."

Although that was the last time he flew a plane, it was by no means the last time he was in one.

"The Greenland Forces Base in Nova Scotia were flying their Aurora's this fall, and got permission to land in London to pick me up as their guest speaker," he said. "I was in Nova Scotia for four days. That is the largest base in the Maritimes. That was certainly a tribute to me."

Out of his many poems, he said it is very hard to pick a favorite. However, he said one that has received the most comments was an ode to his wife who has been dead for 10 years.

"This book is not intended to be a life history," he said. "It's just my ideas on different thoughts that come to a person of my age and my experiences."

Williams, "Tom"
(Thomas F.)

The London Free Press

SATURDAY, MAY 22, 1948

Veteran Pilot Establishes 32-Year Flying Record

Tom Williams Still Loves Adventure Amid Clouds

BY J. STEWART WATSON

Free Press Woodstock Bureau

WOODSTOCK, May 21—Silvery-thatched Tom Williams, of Sweaburg, a few miles south of here, sat in the long spring grass beside his Fleet Canuck airplane, chewed on a dandelion stem and "talked flying."

In an hour and a half interview, and we were loathe to leave then, Tom, quietly and with twinkling eyes, packed in a lifetime of adventure in the air which opened with the dangerous flying days of the First World War.

With the soft spring breeze ruffling his hair, he gazed down the 2,000 foot pasture-like runway at his farm and recalled the glorious freedom of bush flying. He told of thrills during his 32 years of flying to do the ordinary man a lifetime, or, even two.

Even now, when most men his age are content to forego the freedom of the skies for solid earth, Tom and his plane are still a familiar sight in the "wild blue yonder" over Oxford.

In his checkered flying career which dates back to 1916 in World War One, Tom has been a war pilot, a bush flyer, an instructor and, through the last war, a test pilot. Now he flies mostly for his own amusement.

If you were to meet him and ask if he was Mr. Williams, he's the kind of man who would reply: "No, Tom Williams." He is the type of man who seems close to the earth and yet, in his bearing and man-



Tom, seated in the cockpit of his fleet Canuck, on his Sweaburg farm.

ner, possesses the freedom of the skies. He talks quietly, easily in a good home-spun, common-sense manner, in fact, it is fun talking to him.

Reticent about his age, Tom went overseas with the First Canadian Division in the First World War. A major took him up for a spin and he liked it. After an interview with the proper authorities, he was

transferred to the Royal Flying Corps in 1916.

In 1917 he was back in the front lines flying a Sopwith-Camel. "It was a good ship in those days," he smiled. He recalls that he soloed in three hours and was only 25 hours in the air when he was shot down by the famed German Richt-hofen Circus. Altogether he was downed three times in 48 aerial combats. Although he holds the

Farm In Oxford Has 2,000-Foot "Pasture-Runway"

Military Cross, won in 1918, he only admits "knocking down a few."

When he came back he didn't care if he ever saw an airplane again and just wanted to resume farming. He credits a \$25,000 prize offered for a London to London flight offered by a brewery company with reviving his interest in flying. "I always wanted to fly the Atlantic," he observed.

It was when the London Flying Club started about 1926 that Tom bought his first plane. Since then he has owned about 10 different planes. He held a license for an airport on his 130-acre farm for about 20 years. He lost it when the last world war started at which time he joined the Fleet Aircraft Company in Fort Erie as chief test pilot.

He is well-known throughout Western Ontario as a flying instructor, having taught flying at Kitchener-Waterloo, and London clubs.

Flying by the seat of his pants is no novelty to Tom who has flown the bush districts in Northern Ontario and out west around Winnipeg. Bush flying to Tom is great fun and he can recite many hair-raising experiences while occupied in that hazardous occupation.

Working around his farm today, Tom has all the appearances of the traditional farmer. It wasn't until he squatted down besides his plane and talked of flying that you got the vision of a man who is part hawk by nature.

Tom Williams, once Canada's oldest pilot

Tom Williams, Canada's oldest active pilot until he quit flying at the age of 87, died yesterday in Woodstock Hospital.

The Woodstock resident was admitted to hospital earlier this summer for a series of cancer operations. He was 99, three months short of his 100th birthday.

Mr. Williams, who was originally refused pilot training during World War I because he was "too old," went on to become a war flying ace with 14 confirmed kills.

Born in Ingersoll, Mr. Williams grew up on the family farm at Sweaburg and homesteaded in Alberta before joining the Canadian Army on the outbreak of the war.

He served as an artillery spotter and was turned down for pilot training with the British Royal Flying Corps in 1916. The following year, the 32-year-old tried again and was welcomed into the air arm.

Red Baron

During his two years of military flying, he was shot down three times — by German air ace Manfred von Richtofen (the legendary Red Baron), by German artillery, and by "friendly fire" — an Allied machine gunner too quick to fire.

He held the rank of captain when the war ended. Among the many medals he was awarded were the Military Cross and the Valore Militare, Italy's highest military decoration.

Yesterday, his daughter Alena Fines recalled her father as "a very principled man" who had been awarded every major Canadian service medal.

After leaving the military — as one of the founding fathers of the Royal Canadian Air Force — Mr. Williams trained for a commercial



STAR PHOTO

Bon voyage: In this 1969 photograph, 84-year-old Tom Williams waves from his Fleet 21M biplane before taking off. The World War I flying ace, with 14 kills to his name, was once shot down by the legendary Red Baron. He won the Military Cross and Valore Militare, Italy's highest decoration.

pilot's licence. His original commercial pilot's certificate was signed by Orville Wright, one of the fathers of flying.

During the 1920s and the 1930s, he earned his living barnstorming with his Eaglerock biplane throughout Ontario.

During World War II, Mr. Williams worked as a test pilot for

Fleet Aircraft and Irvin Air Chute in Fort Erie, where he tested both airplanes and parachutes.

In 1971, Mr. Williams — then 87 — took his Fleet 21M biplane up for one final solo flight. The following year, he was listed in the *Guinness Book Of World Records* as the world's oldest active pilot. He sold the plane at auction in 1973.

Mr. Williams also worked as a

farmer, operating both his family's farm and a nearby farm owned by his wife.

Mr. Williams, who was predeceased by his wife, Alma, in 1972, leaves his daughter, Alena Fines of Woodstock, three grandchildren and a brother, Jack, of St. Thomas.

A funeral is to be held at 2 p.m. Monday in Sweaburg United Church, followed by cremation.

Toronto Star
July 26, 1985

Williams, Tom

Tommy Williams dead at age 99



THIS CITY'S famed aviation pioneer, Tom Williams, died at Woodstock General Hospital early today, just a few months short of his 100th birthday. Always a much respected, much loved, pilot and person, Williams is shown in a familiar pose in this circa, October 1970 photo. (File photo)

By GREG ROTHWELL
of The Sentinel-Review

Woodstock's famed aviation pioneer, Tom Williams, died at Woodstock General Hospital today, just a few months short of his 100th birthday.

A funeral service is to be held at the United Church in Sweaburg, the community where he spent much of his life as a farmer. Monday at 2 p.m. Funeral arrangements are being made by the R.D. Longworth funeral home, public visitations are to take place there Saturday and Sunday.

Tom's daughter, Alena Fines, called her father "A very principled man."

He was a First World War air ace, a founding member of the Royal Canadian Air Force, a member of the Canadian Aviation Hall of Fame and was also one of Oxford County's most innovative farmers. In 1972 the Guinness Book of Records honored him as the world's oldest active pilot when he made a solo flight the year before at the age of 86.

BORN NEAR INGERSOLL

Born in what is now a part of Ingersoll on Oct. 12, 1885, Tom received his schooling in that town. He travelled to western Canada about 1911, when the

First World War broke out in 1914 he joined the Legion of Frontiersmen in Calgary. He resigned from the ranks almost immediately and enlisted with the Corps of Guides, and transferred again to the Provost Corps of the First Canadian Division. He arrived in France in February, 1915.

Tom was a distinguished soldier and served in the lines until he was recommended for a commission in the Royal Flying Corps by Major General Sir Arthur Currie.

Trained in Scotland and England, awarded his wings and promoted to Lieutenant, he was posted to No. 45 Squadron of the Royal Air Force in France as a fighter pilot. He flew in the front lines against Baron Manfred von Richtofen's Flying Circus. During this period he destroyed four German aircraft in combat. No. 45 Squadron was posted to Italy in 1917, and within three months of operations Tom had raised his score to 10. He was awarded the Military Cross, and the Italian government decorated him with the Valor Militaire.

His string of victories resulted in a promotion to the rank of Captain and he was named flight commander of No. 28 Squadron of the RFC.

In 1918 his aircraft was disabled by enemy anti-aircraft fire, he glided his plane 21 miles through the mountains and made a safe landing at an Allied base. Tom was credited with destroying 14 enemy aircraft during the war, before being ordered to England for

medical reasons. He was posted to the School of Air Fighting at Beamsville, Ont. as an examining officer. In 1919 he returned to England to resign his commission.

COMMERCIAL LICENCE

When he returned to Canada he earned a commercial pilot's certificate and air engineer's licence. He bought his father's farm at Sweaburg, leased an adjoining estate and purchased and airplane, turning the operation into an airport.

He owned a commercial air service in southwestern Ontario from 1927 to 1931 and became a flying instructor at the Kitchener-Waterloo Flying Club.

In 1934 he was named a chief flying instructor at the London Flying Club and earned his instrument flight rating. In 1937 he was hired to fly a daily service out of Winnipeg, Man. to the mining areas of northern Ontario. When that flying company ceased operations a year later he became a charter pilot and instructor in Rouyn, Quebec. When the Second World War commenced he joined the Fleet Aircraft Company at Fort Erie as a chief pilot, he held that position for eight years.

When he retired he purchased a Fleet airplane to test-drop parachutes, as well as for pleasure flying.

Inducted to Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame in 1973, a citation there honors "His exemplary conduct in aerial combat and his half-century of dedication to

the science of aeronautics, despite adversity" which "has inspired young and old alike. His total involvement has been of outstanding benefit to Canadian aviation."

Tom maintained an interest in all things aeronautic to the end of his life. Last year he was named honorary chairman of the Toronto Air Show, and last October, on the occasion of his 99th birthday, a party attended by family and friends was held at the Woodstock branch of the Royal Canadian Legion in honor of his 99th birthday.

ALSO AN AUTHOR

Tom was also an author, with a work of his prose and poetry published in 1982.

The final stanza in his book is a tribute to the chivalry of the 'knights of the air' he fought, but respected, 70 years ago.

"The duel in the air was a contest fair, with principals fairly pitted;

A man on the ground could be skilled and sound, but lose out to some lout half-witted.

Hatred toward our foe could be modified; one had to admire skill.

Respecting the braven and despising the craven for selecting the easy kill.



Williams

SENTINEL REVIEW

July 25, 1985

Williams Tom



INGERSOLL TIMES
July 31, 1985

The flag-draped coffin of World War One flying ace Tommy Williams is taken from the Sweaburg United Church after a funeral ceremony Monday. Mr. Williams was born in Ingersoll and died last Thursday at 99 years of age. He was a highly decorated WW I fighter pilot who flew with the Royal Flying Corps

in 199 missions. Participating in hundreds of dog fights, Mr. Williams was shot down three times, always escaping serious injury. Being the oldest pilot to maintain a license gained him a place in the Guinness World Book of Records. His license incidentally, was signed by no other than Orville Wright.

First year with Ice Capades an enjoyable one for Wilson

By MARK REID
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Ingersoll native Amy Wilson is back in Canada skating with the eastern company of Ice Capades in Toronto this week.



Wilson, a 19-year-old graduate of Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute, has performed in over 60 shows south of the border already this year. *On Top of the World* is a new show touring eastern Canada and the United States. Wilson, whose family lives at RR 4, Ingersoll, is a line skater and a chorus girl with the company.

"If a principal skater is sick, I go in for them," she says.

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There are three Ice Capade companies. The eastern com-

pany, with the stronger skaters, is the first group to perform a show. The show will be performed by the western company the next year then the continental company the following year.

Wilson, who set her sights on joining the Ice Capades about two years ago, says she did not experience the butterflies when the show opened in Duluth, Minn., on Oct. 7. The tour ends April 14 in Denver.

"The show is really relaxing to do," she says. "It's not like competing... it's a lot easier on you."

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Prior to touring, the first-year skater practised daily from starting in August, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. In addition to on-ice practice, Wilson was involved in ballet and worked out in a gym.

Skating since 1974, Wilson tried out for the company in Toronto last December and was told she made it in May.

Wilson, who enjoys travelling, would like to tour with the western company next year.

Daily Sentinel Review
November 29 1990

Amy Wilson makes Metro debut

By MARK REID
of Ingersoll This Week

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Prior to touring, the first-year skater practised from early August through Sept. 28 from 10 a.m. through 6 p.m. In addition to on-ice practice, Wilson was involved in ballet and gym facilities were made available to the skaters.

Skating since 1974, Wilson tried out for the company in Toronto last December and was told she made it in May.

Wilson, who enjoys travelling, would like to tour with the western company next year.

Daily Sentinel Review
Ingersoll This Week
December 4 1990

The Ingersoll Times, Wednesday, February 17, 1988

Wilson documents family history in detailed book

Everett Wilson never knew his grandfather. He died shortly after the birth of his own son in 1911.

Still, Wilson had an unsettling need to investigate his past and share those discoveries with his children. From that need the pages of "The Land is their Heritage" were born.

Written by Wilson, the book chronicles, in great detail, the lives of his grandfather and great aunts and uncles who may have otherwise been forgotten through the passing of time.

Wilson wanted to create more than a "bare bones family tree" so he began researching his past, discovering it was deeply seeded in the land.

In the forward of his 126-page text, Wilson described his ancestors. Richard and Sarah Wilson, his great grandparents, left their native England to settle in Dereham, beside what is now Highway 401 in 1831.

Richard Wilson II, one of Richard and Sarah's sons, married Catharine Gregg in May of 1860. They had nine children.

"The boys acquired the knowledge of how to turn the sod, Wilson wrote, the proper time to plant and harvest the crops, the care of the cattle, from on-the-farm training."

Wilson, who runs his own farm in Salford, described his ancestors as unique in that each and every one of the six sons was able to have a farm of his own, with a total acreage of nearly 850. Two of the daughters also married farmers.

Wilson began his search for the past in 1971. Sifting through hours of taped interviews with family members, writing, analyzing documents, visiting cemeteries and contacting the land registry office to confirm exact dates, Wilson was able to compose the nine biographies recorded in his book.

With the help of his grandmother, Mary, who died in 1974 at age 91, Wilson was able to piece together much of the puzzle. A shoebox col-

lector of memorabilia, Mary was the only member of the founding generation Wilson was able to interview. The death of Wilson's father in 1976 was another inspiration.

It is to his father, Austin, that Wilson dedicates the book.

"He watched its progress with great interest," Wilson said. "He made valuable suggestions during the first years of writing."

Although Austin did not live to see the finished work, his death spurred on Wilson's determination to finish. The finished manuscript, written, edited and rewritten over and over again was finally in Wilson's hands 16 years after he began, at Christmas time 1987.

"It is a book about people," Wilson, who made "the dry bones of the names and dates come to life" with 85 photographs which capture his ancestors in their youth, said.

Wilson said there are a considerable number of his relatives still farming, five in the Salford area alone. It is for them that Wilson wrote the book. He hopes they will continue to add to the history.

"I wanted to share the information," Wilson said. "I hope I can get them spread around for interest, reference and nostalgia."

Wilson has sold nearly 100 of the 225 books in print. He considers them a fitting and lasting memorial to those who made the basis for his life.

"I don't claim anything is original or inspiring," Wilson said. "It's not a literary work, it's a labor of love."

INGERSOLL TIMES

February 17,
1988

Sentinel Review
Aug 21, 75

Wilson, Harold A.

Ingersoll sportsman to Hall of Fame

TORONTO (CP) — Broadcaster Jack Dennett, long a fixture in hockey broadcasts from Maple Leaf Gardens and chairman of the selection committee of Canada's Sports Hall of Fame, will be among five Canadian sportsmen inducted to the hall Saturday.

Dennett, 59, will be inducted into the Hall for his contribution to sport along with boxer Yvon Durelle, golfer Pat Fletcher, speedboat driver Harold A. Wilson and Australian-born oarsman H. R. (Bobby) Pearce.

Dennett, who began 43 years of broadcasting in his native Calgary, has been associated with hockey broadcasts from the Gardens for 30 years.

Durelle, the Baie Ste. Ann, N.B., fisherman, had the world lightweight crown within his grasp on Dec. 10, 1958, when he had titleholder Archie Moore on the canvas three times in the first round.

That the champ recovered to score a knockout of his own did little to tarnish the Maritimer's image as one of boxing's more colorful figures.

HAD 104 FIGHTS

Holder of the Canadian and British Empire crowns, Durelle fought the best of his day, including Floyd Patterson and Tony Anthony, in a career that spanned 104 professional fights. He won 84 of them, 43 by knockouts.

Fletcher, born in Claxton-On-



Harold Wilson
... sportsman

Sea, England, in 1916, moved with his family to Victoria at the age of four, turned pro at 20 and was runner-up in his first play-for-pay start, the Alberta Open.

He is the only Canadian in 61 years to win the Canadian Open, turning the trick in 1954. While living in Saskatoon, he was instrumental in organizing the game at the high school level and subsequently has been involved in junior development

programs across Canada.

Fletcher also became the first president of the Quebec Professional Golfers' Association and served two years as president of the Canadian PGA.

SETS SPEED MARK

Wilson, a native of Ingersoll, Ont., raced competitively his Little Miss Canada and Miss Canada series of inboard boats from 1928 to 1949.

He drove Little Miss Canada II to victory in the first world championships for boats with engines of 225 cubic inch displacement at the Canadian National Exhibition in 1933 and set an official North American record of 139 miles an hour in Miss Canada IV in 1948.

Pearce, a 6-foot-1 200-pounder, won Olympic singles rowing titles at the 1928 and 1932 Games wearing Australian colors, although he was already living in Canada in 1932.

He competed for Australia at the 1930 British Empire Games here, winning another gold medal.

In 1931 he won the Diamond Sculls at Henley, England, while rowing for Canada and in 1933 turned professional, beating off all pretenders to his global crown until forced into retirement at the start of the Second World War with no more would-be challengers.

Pearce has also been honored by Australia as its athlete of the last 200 years.

'Miss Canada' speedboats brought fame to town

BY MARJORIE FLEMING

Over the years, Ingersoll has produced many fine athletes and sportsmen. The passing of those years have dulled a few memories of Ingersoll's finest but when files are searched and memories jogged, a flood of information and verbal reminiscing surfaces.

"I remember when" and "I'll never forget" bring back the heroes of yesteryear and provide us with a glimpse of those who earned themselves a place in sports history.

Harold Wilson of Ingersoll is one sportsman who will not soon be forgotten. His career in speed boat racing won world wide attention and captured the hearts and imagination of the people in his hometown.

Harold Wilson's racing career began when he was only 16. It was in the late 1920's, and he was racing mostly inboards, runabouts and outboard hydroplanes in Barrie, Picton and Gravenhurst. These racing events netted him close to 75 trophies which gained him enough experience and skill to advance into a larger class of boats.

In 1933, Harold and his father, E.A. Wilson, a local industrialist in Ingersoll and an enthusiastic sportsman, built the 'Miss Canada 1st', and it was the beginning of the 225 cu. in. class of racing craft.

Father and son entered their new craft in the international event which took place at the C.N.E. and in 1934, Harold Wilson captured first prize at the C.N.E. by winning three races in three days for the best total score.

With their first world championship race won, the Wilsons decided to build Miss Canada II and III, which were 732 cu. in. power boats, and they entered them in the unlimited Gold Cup Class.

The boats, which were powered with specially built 100 h.p. engines, were tested at the Machine and Tool Co. in Ingersoll then entered in both the Gold and Silver Cup races.

Miss Canada gave a beautiful performance in the competition for the Silver Cup and resulted in Harold Wilson winning the championship. Miss Canada defeated Miss Pepsi, a well-known speed boat at the time.

One of the biggest thrills of Harold Wilson's speed boat career was winning The

President's Cup in 1939, with Miss Canada. It was the first time in the history of U.S. boat racing that the Cup was captured by a foreigner, and Wilson was personally presented the Cup by President Roosevelt at the White House.

At the president's concert, Wilson was allowed to bring the Cup to Canada for one year. It was the first time the Cup had ever left U.S. soil.

World War II interrupted most sporting events, so it was 1945 before the Wilsons were really back into boat racing full steam. Rumours abounded that the Wilsons might challenge for the Harmsworth, which was considered the greatest prize in boat racing. If the Wilsons were to challenge, they would need a larger and faster boat. So a decision was made to equip Miss Canada III with two Rolls Royce Merlin engines, the result of which garnered Wilson the Silver and Gold

Cup Championship.

In 1948 and 49, Harold and his father built Miss Canada IV and installed Rolls Royce Griffin engines, and it was with this boat they were ready to challenge for the Harmsworth.

Harold Wilson made two unsuccessful attempts to win the Harmsworth, but he did manage to set an unofficial record of 142.292 m.p.h. at Picton, Ontario. This record surpassed Sir Malcolm Campbell's mark of 141 m.p.h., which had been set 10-years-previous. The record was not officially recognized due to technicalities set up by the racing commission. The craft had to have a two way run to qualify, and Wilson completed just one leg of the course.

Harold Wilson eventually gave up boat racing and took up car racing. He became president of the Canadian Automobile Sports Club and went on to become a director at the Mosport Race Track in Bowmanville.

In 1975, Wilson was one of five Canadian sportsmen inducted to Canada's Sports Hall of Fame, after a long and illustrious career.

Harold Wilson will long be remembered for his contributions to the sports world, and his speed boat racing career will be discussed and reviewed fondly for many more years to come.



HAROLD AND Lorna Wilson (at right) met some friends during an autograph session for *Boats Unlimited* in Ingersoll Friday. Dolly Harvey (seated) and May

Rowland are the mother and sister of the late Walter Harvey, who was a mechanic for Harold during his racing days.

AT BOOK-SIGNING SESSION

Former boat racer meets some old friends

INGERSOLL — World class boat racer Harold Wilson was on hand here Friday to autograph copies of his book *Boats Unlimited*.

Wilson, who grabbed the world racing championship at Toronto's Canadian National Exhibition twice in the early 1930s, said his stop at Carr's Book and China Shop is the last of his promotional jaunts for the book which came out earlier this summer. Gravenhurst and Bracebridge are among the places that have already felt the Wilson touch.

Never one to give up his love for the sea, Wilson — along with wife

Lorna — are planning on heading on a round-the-world freighter tour in a few weeks.

A freighter cruise is a first for the couple. As Lorna puts it, "we'll play it by ear."

It is "quite possible" another book could be forthcoming, she says.

If there will be another work, he says it will have more to do with characters and will include more general interest material than contained in *Boats Unlimited*.

There is an incentive for more

writing, Lorna says, as the 3,000 print run of the current book has almost sold out. It is likely another run of *Boats Unlimited* will be undertaken.

Daring racing adventures hit the printed page

By ERIC SCHMIEDL
of Ingersoll This Week

The daring speedboat racing adventures of a local sportster who achieved induction into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame are now available in book form.

Harold Wilson, who was inducted into the national hall of fame in 1974 and into the Ingersoll Sports Hall of Fame in 1986, wrote a biography of sorts in *Boats Unlimited* which hit bookstores in June.

"My family's been after me for years" to write the book, says Wilson, adding it took three years to write.

The award winning racer related some of the highlights of the book:

winning the President's Cup in 1939 was one of most memorable points of Wilson's boat racing career. To receive the award, he had to go to the White House to accept it in person from President Franklin Roosevelt.

The cup had never before left United States soil — FDR said to Wilson "I'll suppose you'll be taking this back (to Canada) with you."

At that, one of the cameramen present piped up.

"I'm sorry, Mr. President, you can't do that."

Wilson said FDR looked like a man not to be fooled with. The president glared at the cameraman and said "You had better realize something, Canada is not a foreign country."

The cameraman "just collapsed. He realized he had the ground cut out from under him, so he just shut up."

Turning to Wilson, FDR said "You take it home."

The cup went to Canada

in a race in Baltimore. Wilson was in second place attempting to overtake the lead boat when he was hit with a splash of water. By the time he had gotten his eyes cleared, the lead boat had vanished from view.

He thought he had passed around the lead craft. However, it had done a flip and Wilson's boat had gone underneath it.

the same year he and Lorna Reid married, the pair were in a race in Detroit with their boats placed one after another

Coming out of a turn at speeds greater than 100 miles an hour, Wilson saw they were headed for a solid stone wall.

"I cut the throttle at the last minute.

"I could have reached out and touched the wall."

Born in St. Catharines, Wilson was raised in Ingersoll and attended Victory Memorial School. He later went to Ridley College in St. Catharines and then went on to the University of Toronto, where he graduated in engineering.

He first started racing in 1926 in Muskoka — "I got into it and stuck with it."

The thrill of racing played a big part in his early exploits.

"At that age, you don't think that much about what you're doing."

Racing the Miss Canada series speedboats, which were built by himself and his father E. A. Wilson, he captured a number of titles and speed records.

Eventually, Wilson turned his attentions to car racing as the president of the Mosport race track in Bowmanville.



HAROLD AND LORNA Wilson were at Carr's Book and China Shop Friday to autograph copies of Harold's book *Boats Unlimited*. The book recounts his exploits in boat racing and sailing.

Riding the crest of Wilson's waves

Book review
by ERIC SCHMIEDL
of Ingersoll This Week

If you hate boating, high-paced adventure and around the world travel, do not pick up *Boats Unlimited*.

However, if any of the aforementioned attractions appeal to you — anchors aweigh, by all means.

Authored by world-famous boat racer Harold Wilson, *Boats Unlimited* is a Wilson nautical autobiography. It takes the reader from his watery beginnings as a boy to his international-class racing exploits and rounds up with his more recent sailing exploits.

The book starts off slowly as Wilson relates background information. The generally fast pace also gets bogged down with an occasional lean towards the more technical aspects of boating, which a non-boater has to struggle through. A

healthy editing dose would make things easier to get through.

However, a severe boating enthusiasm shines through and becomes contagious, pulling the reader along for the ride. A large number of photos (about 60) help paint the picture, although a few of the more out of focus and battered ones would have been better off left out of print.

As a fair bit of local historical information makes its way into the writing, the book should be of particular interest to Ingersoll folk.

The book keeps an optimistic pace throughout, even though the author puts forth a mix of racing triumphs and downfalls which

dominate the first portion of the work.

Delving into his sailing exploits, right from one mast vessels up to majestic four mast ships, the action — now of a slightly different flavor — continues. As separate as the racing and sailing sections are, the book reads almost as if it were two.

Boats Unlimited retails for \$29.95 and can be bought at bookstores or ordered by writing the Boston Mills Press at:

132 Main St.
Erin, Ontario
N0B 1T0

WILSON, HAROLD

DAILY SENTINEL-REVIEW
INGERSOLL THIS WEEK
Sept 25, 1990



Ingersoll native Harold Wilson signs one of his books, "Boats Unlimited," for John Loveridge at Carr's Book and China Shop in Ingersoll Friday afternoon. (Liz Dadson photo)

Ingersoll native autographs his books at Carr's

Ingersoll native Harold Wilson autographed his book for the public at Carr's Book and China Shop Friday.

His book, "Boats Unlimited," has been three years in the making and chronicles the Wilsons' life with boats.

"My family prompted me (to write the book)," Wilson said. "It's about what I did in my days before they came along and about our life with boats."

He had a number of articles published in boating magazines, said his wife, Lorna, who was also signing her name to some of the books.

"Out of that grew the idea for a book," she said. "And at the family's request, he wrote the book." Lorna then proofread it.

The author lived in Ingersoll for more than 60 years. The couple resided there for 35 years until they moved to the Lake Muskoka area where they still live.

"We've been out of Ingersoll for a few years but obviously people haven't forgotten us," Lorna said.

The Maude Wilson Pool was

named after Harold's mother and he noted he will hate to see it disappear (as has been discussed recently by town council).

"It's nice to have an indoor pool," he said. "But in my humble opinion, to the general public, swimming is a summer event in the open air."

He noted the pool in the town's new recreation complex will be for year-round swimming enthusiasts.

"I'm a big swimmer but I wouldn't care to swim in the winter," he said, adding it would be sad to see that the Maude Wilson Pool, which filled a vacuum for a long time, would no longer be around.

Recreation director Ray Boogaards said the closure of the Maude Wilson Pool has been considered because its restoration would take more than \$100,000.

"It needs a whole new shell," Boogaards said. "And it needs work on the filtration system and on the building."

He said there has been no actual discussion about closing the pool which was built in the late 1940s or early 1950s.

Daring racing adventures hit the printed page



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INGERSOLL MID-WEEK

ADVERTISER

Oct. 2, 1990

Ingersoll industrialist dies at 84

Harold Wilson was also known for speedboat racing accomplishments

A former Ingersoll industrialist who was catapulted to local fame for his achievements in speedboat racing has died.

Harold Wilson, 84, who was inducted into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame, died at his home in Montserrat, West Indies, Monday, Dec. 11. The long-time Ingersoll resident moved there in his retirement in the late 1960s.

His father, Ernest Wilson, took over the Ingersoll Machine and Tool Co., which owned the Morrow Screw and Nut Company in the early 1900s, where Harold served as president until he retired.

"Their companies were the industrial backbone in the town for many years," said Ted Hunt, clerk-administrator for the Town of Ingersoll. The Maude Wilson pool, which closed when the new facility opened at Victoria Park Community Centre, was named after Harold's mother. The family, which paid for the pool's maintenance for many years, believed that every child should have the chance to swim, Hunt said.

"He was an excellent man in every respect of the word," said Ingersoll Mayor Jack Warden. "He made a lot of anonymous contributions to the community that were never known by people."

Shirley Lovell, curator of the Ingersoll Cheese Factory Museum and Sports Hall of Fame, said Wilson will live on in the town through the speedboat Miss Canada IV, which became a permanent exhibit of the museum about two years ago.

Wilson set a number of unofficial speed records with the vehicle in



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the late 1940s and competed with it in Detroit.

"It was amazing — there were a lot of busloads of people who went down to watch," Lovell said. "Lots of other people kept their ears on the radio — he was a native son of Ingersoll who brought a lot of pride to the community."

Wilson was married to Lorna for 58 years. His son, Ernest Wilson and wife Cathy still live in Ingersoll. Wilson was also father to daughter Launi and husband Bob Elliott of Whitby, daughter Marion and husband David Korell of Oshawa, son Harry and wife Anne of Rockwood and daughter Pat and husband Eric Warden of Peterborough. Also surviving are grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The funeral will be held at Christ Memorial Anglican Church in Oshawa tomorrow at 2 p.m. with visitation one hour before the service. Donations can be made to Foster Parents Plan or the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

WILSON, Harold

Ingersoll Times 20 Dec 195

Ingersoll mourns Wilson's passing

By YVONNE HOLMES MOYTT

motor boat racing - a recreation that lasted him a lifetime. Ernie Wilson of Ingersoll recalls that his dad always said his boat and most important achievement was meeting Lorna Reid, in first year of university. That friendship spread to Lorna becoming a riding mechanic with Harold in the race boats as well as an extremely capable member of the Wilson Racing Team.

During their university years Harold won the World Championship for 225 cubic inch inboard hydroplanes in two successive years.

The racing moved on to bigger and faster boats with the building of Miss Canada III as a gold cup class boat; and after the war, Miss Canada IV, the unlimited Harmsworth class boat.

Ernie Wilson explains, "Dad's successes included winning the President's Gold Cup in Washington, D.C., setting the World Speed Record for boats, and having a fastest officially timed speed of over 173 MPH. When I came along, I am retired from being a riding mechanic for the races, and Charlie Volker took over."

(Continued on page 5)

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He was born October 14, 1911 in St. Catharines.

The E. A. Wilson family moved to Ingersoll from Detroit in 1912. Wilson attended public school in Ingersoll and then went to high school in Ridley College at St. Catharines. During his years of studying engineering at University of Toronto, he became more and more actively involved in



HAROLD WILSON

Wilson's zest for life led in many directions

(Continued from page 1)

with Walt Harvey of Ingersoll being Dad's riding mechanic in the Harmsworth Trophy races.

"As a result of Dad's successes in boat racing, he was a member of the Gulf 100 Mile Per Hour Club, Gulf Marine Hall of Fame, the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame, and the Ingersoll Sports Hall of Fame."

His son recalls, "The support Dad received from the town of Ingersoll for his boat racing was wonderful. I remember the stories of busloads of supporters going from Ingersoll to Detroit to see the races."

When Harold Wilson retired from active racing, the boats were sold to Supertest in London to become the Miss Supertest series of race boats. Eventually Miss Canada IV was restored and returned to Ingersoll where it holds a place of honour in the Ingersoll Museum.

Retiring from boat racing just allowed Harold Wilson more time to be active in other sporting events. Sports cars followed boat

when he bought a sporty Jaguar XK 120 and became a founding member and president of the Western Ontario Sports Car Association (WOSCA), Canadian Automobile Sport Club (CASC) and Mosport Park race track.

He was also a very active member of the Ingersoll Golf Club and the Ingersoll Curling Club.

Sailing became an integral (if a bit slower) part of Wilson's boating career, with many chartered sailing trips in the Caribbean as well as crewing on a 153-foot square-rigged "Tall ship" in the English Channel at the age of 75. Boats and sports cars remained paramount in Wilson's sporting days.

Successful industrialist
Sports, however, were only one facet of this man's life. He was a very successful businessman.

During the boat racing days, he steered and developed the successful growth of Ingersoll Machine and Tool Company Limited and the Morrow Screw and Nut Company. He started at IMT

full time in 1936, became president of IMT and General Manager of Morrows in 1963 when his father, E. A. Wilson died; became chairman of IMT in 1968. The company was sold to IVACO in 1969 and Wilson retired in 1970.

He co-ordinated the manufacture of defence products at IMT during World War II.

IMT became an important supplier of steering gear assemblies and automotive parts to the auto industry. It began the development of the trailer axle business under Wilson's direction and at the same time Morrow Screw & Nut Company became a leader in the manufacture of bolts and nuts.

Ingersoll Mayor Jack Warden, who worked at IMT before and after the war as Sales and Production Manager of the Washing Machine Department, remembers when Harold Wilson designed and put into production the Ingersoll Washer.

"There were 22,000 manufactured," he notes, "and some are still around today."

Warden also remembers when the Maude Wilson Memorial Pool was built for the town for \$25,000 in 1948 by the Wilson family.

Through Harold's sponsorship through IMT and Morrows, many people of all ages were taught swimming and were able to swim in the summer months for many years.

Warden says that E. A. Wilson and Harold Wilson did "many, many kind things for many people in Ingersoll."

The mayor says they always insisted on complete anonymity and people never knew where the help came from.

Harold Wilson was an early member of the Kiwanis Club of Ingersoll, a strong supporter of St. James' Anglican Church and a member of its choir during all his years in Ingersoll.

A supporter of Foster Parents Plan of Canada for over 40 years, he supported and visited his many foster children throughout the world. He also brought them to his home in

Canada to live with his family during summer vacations.

A supporter of scholastics, he provided the E. A. Wilson Scholarship at Huron College, UWO. He made it possible for some of the Montserrat islanders to come to Canada for further training and to go on to lead successful lives.

Harold Wilson loved to write. His book, *Boats Unlimited* was a great success.

After Harold and Lorna sold their home in Ingersoll and retired to spend their summers in Muskoka and their winters in the West Indies, Harold continued to keep in touch with his many Ingersoll friends by letter. Every day he wrote to friends throughout the world.

Above all, stresses his son, "Dad was deeply devoted to his family. He was dedicated totally to everything he did. He lived a complete and full life. But he still wanted to do more!"

"He did so much for this town," adds Warden. "He will be missed by all who knew him."

Ingersoll mourns Wilson's passing

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The Ingersoll Times, Dec. 20, 1995

WILSON, Harold

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Joseph Wilson is no stranger to the intricacies of the television chassis. He lays claim to building Ingersoll's first set and takes credit for selling the first "tube" in town as well. However, this week marks a shift of emphasis from the "tube's" chassis to those of his consuming hobby - antique sports cars. After more than 48 years under the Wilson name, the Thames Street television store changes hands.

Wilson a proud ITOPA member

Winnie Wilson finally made it onto the Park Place Theatre stage this year.

The Ingersoll Theatre of the Performing Arts veteran enjoyed her first speaking role as the maid in *Critic's Choice*.

She almost made it once before but broke her wrists just before opening night. And she did have a non-speaking role in another play although most of her time was spent doing props.

Wilson is one of the founding members of the group and is described by past-president Bill Stearman as "the backbone of ITOPA."

In her 13 years with ITOPA, Wilson has done just about every job backstage except directing although she knew nothing about theatre when she started. She has produced, helped with wardrobe and stage managed. But she is best known in the props department and is once again a member of the play reading committee.

Back when ITOPA did children's theatre at the schools, Wilson has fond memories of having to take the props home overnight. "I'd like to do more children's theatre," she said, noting there has been discussion on some type of children's program for next summer.

Wilson also recalls ITOPA's days at the Old Town Hall. The present quarters at Park Place Theatre are vastly superior and she would like to see the purchase of the building.



The group has seen many changes in the past few years. New people have been welcomed into ITOPA, something very positive. But the ITOPA veterans are needed now more than ever. Wilson explains anyone on stage can forget a line. But a newcomer might not know what to do whereas an experienced theatre person can help him or her over the rough places.

Becoming part of ITOPA is something a person any age can do. Wilson was almost 60 when she became involved and says,

"You're never too old." The key is doing something you like, but there has to be the commitment. "It's a good way to meet people and is a lot of fun."

When asked about her plans for the coming theatre season, Wilson said she has nothing specific in mind other than props.

She is proud to be part of ITOPA. "I don't think we have to take a back seat to anyone."

Wilson is an active member of Trinity United Church, a Meals on Wheels volunteer and helps with bingo at the nursing home on Wonham Street.

PROMOTION INGERBOLL

May 30, 1977

Research by Grant Miles

Resource:

August 26, 1931

DESCENDANTS HONOR NAME OF YORKSHIREMAN WHO FOUNDED WILSON FAMILY
IN DEREHAM

Miniature Sailing Vessels

Typifying Voyage of 1830 and Anniversary Cakes for Richard and Sarah Wilson Adorn Table at Reunion Today on Original Homestead.

By George F. James

Ingersoll, Aug 26 -- For a period of one hundred years the deed to lot 23, first concession of Dereham township, has been in the name of Richard Wilson. The forest home in 1831 of Richard Wilson, the original owner, is today the inviting, well-tilled farm of his grandson, Richard Wilson, who inherited it from his father, also Richard Wilson, youngest with progress one hundred years ago. And not altogether links in the chain of events covering the past century that the present owner of the farm has a son Richard, who no doubt some day in keeping with the family decree will survey the broad acres with the proud and independent sentiment of possessor.

The whole history of the Wilson family is interwoven with a monster gathering today on the very ground on which Richard Wilson settled one hundred years ago, and to his memory, and to that of his wife, Sarah Foster Wilson, who shared with him the trials and the triumphs of pioneer days sincere and affectionate tributes are being paid.

LARGE GATHERING

The gathering numbers between 250 and 300, although during the progress of organization kinship was established with more than 400 persons. From various parts of Canada and even remote sections of the United States have come relatives eager to join

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FILE: WILSON FAMILY

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PROMOTION INGERSOLLDESCENDANTS HONOR NAME OF YORKSHIREMAN WHO FOUNDED WILSON FAMILY
IN DEREHAMLARGE GATHERING (continued)

in the festivities and in retrospect be with Richard Wilson and his wife, Sarah Foster Wilson.

Actual reminders of what the district was like one hundred years ago are indeed scant. One by one the things that belonged to the pioneer days gave way to the more pretentious, more substantial and more efficient, as the march of progress continued. Even the little log house that was to Rich

PEOPLE WANTS OR RICHARD WILSON HONOR MEMORY

(Cont. between pg. 1)

and Wilson and Sarah Foster Wilson in 1831 has disappeared. A photograph, however, shows its cramped & dimensions as compared to present-day homes, but it was warm and comfortable, radiating happiness and hospitality, and it was a powerful factor in inculcating those principle which not only make good families but good communities. For a setting it can readily be visioned, it had vast stretches of timber on all sides, through which stalked the denizens of the forest.

Lonely? Yes! But it was the courage and the deterioration of the men and women of one hundred years ago, their perseverance and their unflinching faith that made possible all that exists here today.

A CHANGED SCENE

In the home of Richard Wilson today there is everywhere an indication of rejoicing. Flags are flying and from all parts of the spacious grounds may be heard merriment and laughter. The farm is situated about three miles from Ingersoll, following the Culloden Road to what is known as Prouse's Corners and then making a right turn. It is the second farm on the south side of the road.

Stretched across an evergreen archway to the premises is a large streamer bearing the wording, "Welcome to Wilson Manor,"

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FILE: WILSON FAMILY

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PROMOTION INGERSOLLDESCENDANTS HONOR NAME OF YORKSHIREMAN WHO FOUNDED WILSON FAMILY
IN DEREHAM

the house, with its spacious rooms and its old-fashioned warmth of friendship and hospitality, is also bedecked with flags and hunting, while on the lawn is a huge tent under which the centennial meals will be served and the program presented. The duties of chairman for occasion devolved upon Richard Wilson, the genial host, who heartily welcomed all.

ANNIVERSARY CAKES

The object of keen interest on the table when the elaborate dinner was served today were two anniversary cakes, one in memory of Richard Wilson, and the other in memory of his wife, Sarah Foster Wilson. These were cut by the two oldest members of the family present the honours ~~x~~ being shared by Richard Wilson of Folden's Corners, & Mrs. George Collins, of Toronto, both representatives of the third generation.

MINIATURE BOATS

Two miniature sailing vessels typical of the time when Richard Wilson and his wife made the voyage across the Atlantic, were also objects of interest and curiosity. Having made the perilous voyage separately, there was a boat in memory of each, their names being carried in red on the little streamers attached to the boats, while the date, "1831" stood out conspicuously.

Much interest on the part of all in the gathering was centred on a group of pictures conveniently arranged on the wall of the living room of the house. These included the original log house of Richard Wilson, "The Laundry" of his wife, a spot in the Hislop creek, and the last resting place of the two pioneers.

OUTSTANDING SUCCESS

The reunion was the great success that had been anticipated from the time the first details of organization were undertaken some time ago. Full credit for its ~~xx~~ success was unhesitatingly

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FILE: WILSON FAMILY

Cont. on pg. - 4 -

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PROMOTION INGERSOLLDESCENDANTS HONOR NAME OF YORKSHIREMAN WHO FOUNDED WILSON
FAMILY IN DEREHAM

OUTSTANDING SUCCESS (cont. from pg. 3)

given to Mrs. Mabel Cronk Smith great granddaughter of Richard and Sarah Foster Wilson, who gave personal attention to virtually every detail that brought together so many representatives of the Wilson family.

Representatives were present from Oak Bay, Victoria, B. C.; Albion, B. C.; Wilmette, Ill.; Ottawa, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Buffalo, Chicago, Toronto, Windsor, Port Huron, St. Marys, London, Woodstock, and the neighboring district.

THE WILSON FAMILY

The following history of the Wilson family was written and read today by Mrs. Mabel Cronk Smith, granddaughter of Robert and Elizabeth Nancekivell Wilson and great granddaughter of Richard and Sarah Foster Wilson, the original settlers on the farm on which the mammoth reunion is being held.

In the late summer of 1830, Richard Wilson left his home in York, Yorkshire, England, to seek a home in the New World. Glowing accounts had come to England of the wonderful land of opportunity across the sea. There all men were free and equal, and good fortune awaited the willing worker.

"After five weeks on the ocean, in a sailing boat, he arrived in New York and was offered a position to go to the Southern States and drive slaves. This he refused to do, but he accepted a chance to work his way on a canal boat, and came up to Buffalo on the Old Erie canal, finally arriving at Niagara. Here he met Colonel Ball, a retired English officer.

Colonel Ball had served King George IV in the war of 1812, and as a reward for his services he had been given a large tract of land in Oxford county. Upon learning of the wife and sons in England, he suggested that Mr. Wilson buy some of this land and make a home in Oxford. He agreed to sell him as much as he wished

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FILE: WILSON FAMILY

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PROMOTION INGERSOLL

DESCENDANTS HONOR NAME OF YORKSHIREMAN WHO FOUNDED WILSON FAMILY
IN DEREHAM

for two dollars an acre, to be paid for as Mr. Wilson was able.

"After a long, and tedious walk over a blazed forest trail, our pioneer ancestor arrived in Oxford and selected lot 23, where today we are gathered to honour his memory. He journeyed back to Niagara and worked for the colonel during the winter.

"With the opening of spring, Colonel Ball supplied him with an ox-cart and what tools, provisions and seed he needed to begin farming. He went back to his forest lot and began to prepare a home for his wife and family,

Which had been increased by the birth, On February 2nd., 1831, of his own, Richard II.

"His was a hard task, but he labored happily. He cleared as much land as he could and planted some corn and grain. Evenings he worked on his log cabin, and, like a worthy father, he made it as comfortable as he could. The logs were cut, rudely doventailed at the corners and the spaces filled with clay. There was a fireplace inside for cooking and heating, and the furniture was hand made.

"In June 1831 his wife, Sarah Foster Wilson, accompanied by Charles 15, William 13, Leonard (9), Robert 5, and baby Richard sailed for the new world. The weather was very unfavorable and seven weeks passed before they finally arrived in New York. At Niagara Colonel Ball volunteered to take them toward home, as he knew he would meet Mr. Wilson coming for them. They met near what is now the city of Hamilton, and after almost a year of separation the family was united.

USED INDIAN TRAIL

"They followed a blazed Indian trail through the forest and stopped at night at different homesteads along the trail. The last stop was, was made with a family named Gilbert, who lived on the farm which is now owned by George Groves.

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31/5/77

PROMOTION INGERSOLLDESCENDANTS HONOR NAME OF YORKSHIREMAN WHO FOUNDED WILSON FAMILY
IN DEREHAM

USED INDIAN TRAIL (Cont. from pg. 5)

"Arriving at their woodland home they found plenty of work for all to do. They cleared as much land as possible, cut what grass they could find in the open spaces and stored it for winter. They cut wood for heating and for keeping the necessary fires burning during certain seasons to protect them from the wild animals. Wolves, bears and deer roamed the forests, and there were plenty of wild geese, turkeys, ducks and ~~xxx~~ other game. They furnished their meat supply, and the skins of the wild animals were used for clothing, moccasins, and often times to cover the hand-made furniture. From the bear fat candles were made, which were used for light. Their Indian neighbors taught them how to preserve the hides of the animals to make them soft and pliable.

"Berries and fruits were gathered and dried for winter, as also were vegetables and herbs. The Indians taught them to boil the sap of the maple trees to sugar, and thus nature supplied a great many of their necessities. Sometimes they were lucky enough to find a "bee tree" and the honey was enjoyed by all. From the Indians they learned to grind the corn by pounding it to a hollow stump of a tree to make hominy. From this hominy corn-bread and corn-cake were made, which were very nutritious.

"The grain was cut with a cradle and threshed with a flail. During the winter months Mr. Wilson worked for many of the settlers at what was known as the "Harris street settlement" and used to thresh most of the grain grown by them. He received a percentage of the threshed ~~xx~~ grain in payment for his services and used to walk many miles, some times as far as Brantford, to have it ground into flour. He would return home with the sack lightened considerable by the miller's toll.

"Mr. Wilson was always very friendly with the Indians

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31/5/77

PROMOTION INGERSOLLDESCENDANTS HONOR NAME OF YORKSHIREMAN WHO FOUNDED WILSON FAMILY
IN DEREHAM

USED INDIAN TRAIL (Cont. from pg. 6)

neighbors, and the Indian returned this friendship. When they held their "Fall Chase" he would cart the slain animals to their settlement with his oxen. They repaid him with a portion of the venison and taught him to cure and preserve the meat for future use. The Indian also gave him much useful information concerning the medicinal~~xx~~ values of many herbs and tree barks.

ALL-NIGHT JOURNEY

"Each year more land was cultivated and more grain grown. Finally there was a surplus and he decided to take a load of grain to Brantford to sell. He had raised a span of colts, and, accompanied by his son Robert, he left home at five o'clock the next morning. The horses were very tired, and the wagon became lodged in the sand of the main street. Willing hands, however, helped them out of their difficulty. All too soon he learned that he could not get the grain. He accepted the only offer available and returned home with a barrel of salt which he had received in exchange for his load of grain.

While in Brantford he learned that he could earn real money by teaming salt from Hamilton to London. He would leave home Monday morning, go to Hamilton & get his load, deliver it in London, returning home Saturday. This was a hard task, but the one advantage was that he received \$5 in cash each week. At this time cash was very scarce and most of the produce had to be ~~xxx~~ exchanged for necessities of other kinds.

"The older sons had received their education in England, but the younger boys were taught by Mrs. Ranney at Salford. There was no school there and this worthy woman taught the pupils at the own home. As they attended the school only in the winter months, they used to go to Salford Monday morning and return home Friday night. They worked in their spare time for Mrs. Ranney

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FILE: WILSON FAMILY

Cont. on pg. - 8 -

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PROMOTION INGERSOLLDESCENDANTS HONOR NAME OF YORKSHIREMEN WHO FOUNDED WILSON FAMILY
IN DERHAM

ALL-NIGHT JOURNEY (Cont. from pg. 7)

and paid for their tutoring with farm produce.

"There was no churches near, but a clergyman travelling on horseback visited the different settlements, and it is needless to say that he always found a hearty welcome. Later, as the country became more settled, the people would meet at the different homes for worship. The first church deed in Oxford county was given the West Oxford Methodist church in 1823. The first church was built in 1828 and rebuilt in 1854. It is very fitting that these early pioneers should rest in the quiet church yard of this, the mother church of Oxford.

OWNED YORK GAZETTE

"Mrs. Wilson was, before her marriage, Sarah Foster of York, Yorkshire, England. Her father was the publisher and owner of the "York Gazette," and she had never know hardship of any kind. She came to the new country and readily accustomed herself to pioneer life. She wove her own cloth and made clothing for her family; spun yarn and did all her own knitting. The family washing was done in the creek which flows through the Hislop farm, as they were unaware of the existance of a creek a short distant to the west of where they lived.

"Mr. Wilson had to walk to Niagara to make payments on his land, and many times accompanied by one of his sons he would make this trip through the forest. When forced to spend a night in the woods they would crawl into a hollow tree, as a protection against wild animals.

Ingersoll consisted of two small huts, and Mrs. Wilson sent Charles and William with some English gold to purchase tea. The boys passed through the village and some distance to the north were met by Mr. Ingersoll, for whom the village was named. He recognized their English clothing and upon inquiry learned they were lost. He brought them back where they bought their tea,

/DB

FILE: WILSON FAMILY

Cont, on pg. -9-

PROMOTION INGERDOLLDESCENDANTS HONOR NAME OF YORKSHIREMAN WHO FOUNDED WILSON FAMILY
IN DERHAM

and returned home.

"As the country opened up the village grew in proportion, and Squire Brown came out from England and opened a tannery there. Here Mr. Wilson brought his hides to be tanned and made into shoes for his family. His son William became interested in the work and finally became an apprentice with X Squire Brown. Later he conducted a very successful business of his own in Woodstock. His tannery was situated at the corner of Mills and Main streets. He built a leather store and dwellings on Dundas Street, which is today "Fred Hodges meat market." To this home he brought his bride, and here their children were born.

FIRST OIL LAMP

"William was very progressive and had the first coal oil lamp in the locality, having brought it from New York. At ~~xxx~~ that time the lamp was considered very wonderful. He died in 1872 at the age of 54, and his wife afterward built a home on the opposite side of the property which extended through to Simcoe street. This house is now a duplex and is situated at Nos. 325 and 327 Simcoe street. The four other sons were all farmers and all resided in this section. They made cheese and took it to London and surrounding towns to sell. There were no factories to take the milk as there is today. The first factory for cheese making in this section was on Harris street.

"From these five sons had grown the present large family of Wilson. We are proud of our pioneer ancestors. Their honesty and loyalty has remained unsullied throughout this one hundred years. It is with a feeling of deep ~~xxxxxx~~ reverence and gratitude to them that we are united today to respect and honour their memory. May we always try to attain their high ideals, and may our children find in us the same honest perseverance and industry that finally crowned with success the lives of Richard and Sarah Foster Wilson.

? /DB

FILE: WILSON FAMILY

500 members of the clan coming to IDCI

Wilson's gather to celebrate 150th anniversary

By MICHAEL BARRIS

Sentinel-Review staff writer
INGERSOLL — More than 500 members of the Wilson clan, prominent in the history of South-West Oxford Township, will gather at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute this weekend to celebrate the clan's 150th anniversary.

Hailing from as far away as Tennessee, Victoria, B.C. and Chicago, most of the guests will spend two days meeting relatives they never knew existed, according to reunion chairman Everett Wilson.

"It'll be a time for acquiring knowledge of people you didn't know before," Wilson, a Salford dairy farmer, said Wednesday.

The celebration will involve approximately 330 relatives Saturday and 320 Sunday who will examine displays of family

photographs and mementoes, hear a history of the clan presented, tour the original Wilson homestead and graves and watch a talent show.

South-West Oxford Township Mayor Cecil Wilson, a clan member, will officially welcome the guests.

HISTORY

The Wilson story tells much about South-West Oxford Township's early history.

Richard Wilson, a laborer, his wife Sarah and their five

sons came to the Ingersoll area in 1831 from Yorkshire, England, to farm the land. The Wilsons added to the handful of settlers who first arrived here in the late 1700s.

The family owned 200 acres at lot 23, concession 1 (near Culloden Road, south of Ingersoll) in what was Derehem Township. The property was purchased for £100 from retired British army officer Col. John Ball and his brother George Ball.

Like other pioneers, Wilson eked out a subsistence from his property. He farmed the

land and built a log house. Later, when he outgrew the log dwelling, he built a brick house. Both he and Sarah died at 72. He died in 1861, she in 1859.

The couple's five sons were Charles (eldest), William, Leonard, Robert and an infant, Richard, Jr.

Ironically, four generations of Wilson males named Richard owned the Derehem Township homestead. Richard Wilson's great-grandson, Richard N. Wilson, sold the property in 1967. The original house, with

some additions, still stands.

ANNIVERSARY

The Wilsons celebrated the 100th anniversary of their settling in Derehem in 1931 at the Derehem house, then owned by Richard's grandson. Some 250 members of the clan attended the event.

This weekend's celebration has been in the works since February. Five local members of the family, each descended from a different son of the original Richard, was responsible for inviting his branch of the clan to the

get-together.

"We made contact with nearly 1,000 people," Everett Wilson said.

For the reunion, the IDCI gymnasium will be sectioned off into five different areas with each area representing a different line of the family, featuring pictures and artifacts from that era.

All the guests are paying their own travelling and accommodation expenses. A \$3 registration fee will go to cover the cost of renting the hall and decorating expenses.

Everett Wilson, 48, has been studying his family's genealogy for 10 years. Despite its age, the family doesn't include any exceptionally distinguished individuals.

"They're just ordinary people, most of them farmers," he said. But all are "very down-to-earth, solid citizens."

ingersoll news

WILSON, Richard
& Family

Daily Sentinel
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WILSON, Richard & Family



RICHARD WILSON, grandson of the Richard Wilson, who was one of Oxford County's first settlers, stands with his wife Ivah in front of the Wilson homestead near Ingersoll in a picture taken about 1915. Approximately 500 members of the Wilson clan will gather at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute this weekend for a 150th anniversary reunion.

Actor to appear on TV show

When John Woods visits his native Yorkshire in September, he'll be seen by more than just family and friends. As many as 2 million television viewers will see the Oxford County comedian do another guest spot on "Calendar," a popular one-hour news and entertainment show in Yorkshire.

Woods, a custodian at Alexandra Hospital, is well known to Ingersoll audiences for his comic presence as a bumbling cop in several of

ITOPA's plays last season - "Dead Easy" and "Sinners." He also does a bang-on impersonation of W.C. Fields, which got him on Yorkshire T.V. four years ago just after he began impersonating the deadpan comedian with the bright red nose.

Calendar is the Yorkshire television version of the Johnny Carson show, Woods said. "It's a kind of Who's Who in Yorkshire."

Four years ago he did a ten minute

spot on location in Ellend, a suburb of Halifax, Yorkshire. Dressed up as W.C. Fields, he walked through the village cracking jokes with astonished locals.

A film crew recorded the episode and ran it on Calendar. "Walking around later in Halifax, people would stop me for autographs and ask me for a picture," Woods recalled.

Filming in Ellend was great, he

said. About half the size of Ingersoll, "the streets were cobbled and with the magpie buildings it looked like something out of Charles Dickens. Fields really fit in with his costume."

I just wandered around and spoke to people on the street. It was mostly ad lib. Some people knew who I was, and those who didn't probably thought I was a nut."

People generally smiled and listened politely to his jokes, Woods recalled, although a few were shocked to see W.C. strolling about their fair town.

"I went up to one lady with a toy poodle," he remembered, and the words just sprang out of his mouth: "My goodness, they even take mice for walks in this country."

The lady cracked up, Woods said. "I was going to say rat, but I thought it over at the last second and decided I'd better keep it calm."

Woods has a London agent who handles engagements for him when he travels back to the Auld Sod. His ten minute spot on Yorkshire T.V. went over so well he was invited to come back whenever he returned to England.

"It was a terrific experience," he said. "They gave me a free hand. They just said go do what you want; they put me in a setting, and said 'go do your thing.'" Woods opened the show in addition to his 10 minute feature segment.

He looks forward to a return engagement. "I've got better material now. I had only just started back then." His Fields impersonation has been finely honed since then.

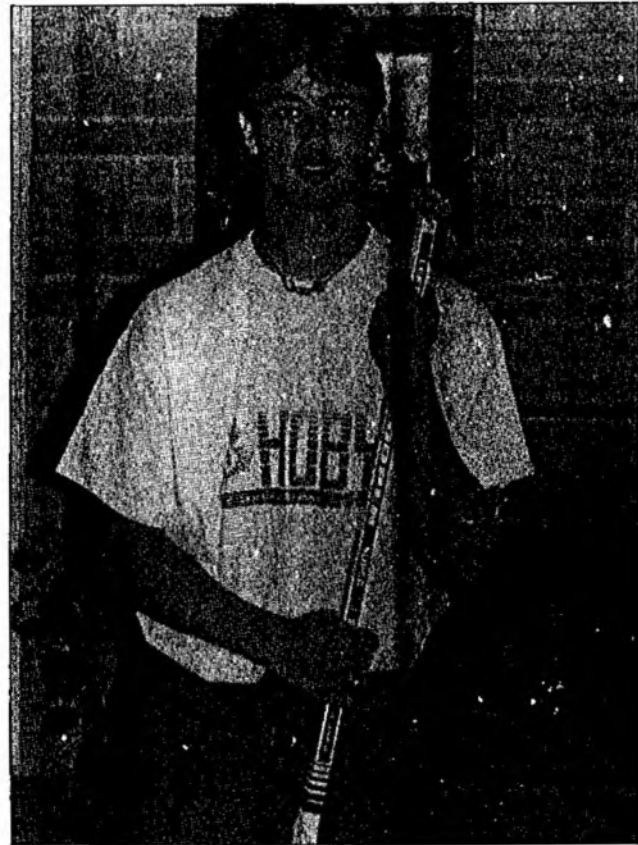
"I've got more one-liners, more jokes and stories now." He is also more adept at relating them to a specific situation, having increased his concentration as well as building up a large reservoir of material.

A long-time fan of English vaudevillian Benny Hill, Woods marvels at the things the rubber-faced star "can get away with."

"It's just fun," he grinned, a naughty twinkle in each eye. "You get away with all kinds of stuff."

Yates, Chris

The
Ingersoll
Times
June 5, 1991



Chris Yates is on his way up. The 16-year-old goaltender attended the Ontario Minor Hockey Association's prestigious under-17 development camp last weekend at the University of Western Ontario in London. (Matthew Smith photo)

School comes first for rising goalie

BY MATTHEW SMITH

Chris Yates is a busy young man.

The 16-year-old goaltender plays for three different teams and recently, he attracted the attention of some minor hockey scouts.

Yates so impressed the scouts that he was selected to attend the Ontario Minor Hockey Association's under-17 developmental camp that was held this past weekend at the University of Western Ontario in London.

Yates got the idea to try out for the camp from his coach, Gary

Easton. He first went to a regional camp in Welland, where he was scouted. The camp at Western was the next move up. Some day, he'd like to play in the NHL.

"It's pretty much everybody's dream," he said.

Yates not only juggles three teams and hockey camps, he's also an honor student at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute.

"School comes first," he said.

His father, Steve Yates, is very proud of his son. He's pleased with his success, but stresses the importance of education.

"I want him to get as far as he can and get an education," he said.



Former Ingersoll resident celebrates 100th birthday

Former Ingersoll resident Edith Mary Yule marked her 100th birthday in grand style with three celebrations.

About 150 friends and family joined in a birthday party on June 8 at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Ingersoll.

Eleven of 13 grandchildren and nine of 12 great-grandchildren from California, British Columbia and Ontario, along with Yule's four sons were present for the family celebrations on June 29 at her Clearview Cottage on Big Clear Lake, Arden.

And on June 30 at the Arden Community Centre, more than 100 family

and friends enjoyed lunch provided by the Arden United Church Women.

Eldest son, Alex, master of ceremonies, read greetings from the president of the Bank of Montreal, while sons, Bob and Don, read greetings from all levels of government, highlighted by greetings from the Queen.

Glen Matson, reeve of Kennebec Township, brought greetings from the County of Frontenac.

Yule lived in Ingersoll from 1930 to 1989. Her husband, Alex, was manager of the Bank of Montreal. He died in 1962.

Zegers files away X-cellent career move

By JEFF TRIBE

Ingersoll native Kevin Zegers began his acting career by falling into a pile of teddy bears.

Since then the 11-year-old has fallen into a number of bigger and better roles and situations, including hanging out with actors like Michael J. Fox on the set of *Life With Mikey*, and Kate Jackson while shooting a dog-sledding/action movie in the Yukon.

But his biggest of all - to date - was in full view Friday night on the Global Television Network. The young man many knew first as a schoolmate, teammate or simply as a friend, took to the screen as Kevin Kryder, a youth with stigmata (spontaneous Christ-like wounds), pursued by a sinister killer. As Kryder, Zegers has landed the lead role on Friday's episode of the popular T.V. series, *The X-Files*.

"Definitely the biggest one I've had so far," said Zegers last week. "It was a lot of fun."

In the week Kevin was booked for the part, over 22,000,000 people in North America watched the show. Obviously, Zegers' fame is spreading well beyond the borders of Oxford County, but ironically, his occupation has largely remained a well-kept secret closer to home, which since June of this year, has been in Woodstock.

"To see him or to talk to him, you'd never know it," says his mother, Mary-Ellen. "He doesn't look like he'd be the type, really."

Mary-Ellen explains that the goal has been to keep her son's life as normal as possible, to avoid having his occupation place a 'glass wall' around him.

"That's the way it is, we have been successful for four years in keeping everything low-key."

But also ironically, it was Kevin's expanding horizons that have necessitated more community awareness. The process of attaining a Green Card, necessary to work in the United States, will be helped

by local press.

"We just never wanted it in a newspaper before," said Mary-Ellen. "We thought there would be nothing worse than people whispering when he walked by, or treating him differently."

Kevin has actually followed his sister Katie into the modelling/entertainment business. She won a Sunburst pageant in Toronto, with all winners encouraged to get into that kind of work. Katie, now 10, continues in the field while Krista, 12, has chosen to concentrate on figure skating.

Kevin's career took off quickly, with at the age of seven, only his second audition producing the teddy bear experience, as part of a commercial for a mall in Toronto. Mary-Ellen says auditioning would appear to be one of Kevin's strengths, noting that often, hopefuls can take a year or two to land a job.

"He warms up to anybody and everybody," she said. "And he's very energetic, that's definitely what they look for in commercials."

In acting, she adds, being able to take direction and appear natural are attributes, being able for example to say the same line three different ways.

Kevin's career has gone well beyond print and television commercial work. His resume includes the role of a young Michael J. Fox in the feature movie *"Life With Mikey"* when he was eight and as Kate Jackson's son in *"Murder on the Iditarod Trail"*. He has, his mother says, portrayed everything from an autistic child to a bully.

"He's just been able to be so many different kinds of characters."

But Mary-Ellen admits his lead appearance on the *X-Files* is his largest to date - and could be a large stepping stone.

"This they say will be his very big break in this business," says Mary-Ellen. "Now we're just waiting to see."

Kevin flew to Vancouver for the episode, which took a total of 10 days to shoot, as com-

pared to the 28 he was in the Yukon.

"But they were long days," he says. "It (the Yukon shoot) was longer, but it wasn't as hard work. There were some days I would go to work and work an hour and have the day off."

"On the *X-Files* I didn't have five minutes off, I would go and do the walk-through and they would shoot it."

Typically, Kevin's day on the set would be around 7:30 - 8 a.m., finishing up around 3:30 a.m., with sleep being grabbed while moving from scene to scene.

He admits he was nervous when he started, "but now I'm not nervous at all."

As an actor, Kevin says "normally it's hard to do all the emotional scenes and all that. But I just like doing everything."

Instead of the demanding hours while on set, he says blocking, or standing around while the lights and camera actions are finalized, is the worst part.

"I don't really like auditioning," he adds later. "When you get it, it's a lot better."

In his 'normal' life, the biggest downside to his modelling and acting career is the time-consuming nature of three or

four trips to Toronto a week, which among other things, can cut into hockey practice or game time in the winter, and time on the golf course in the summer.

"He just loves hockey," says Mary-Ellen, "hockey and golf."

On-set tutoring diminishes any impact on his academic standing, while sibling experience cuts down on sibling rivalry.

"They've done it themselves," Mary-Ellen says. "Krista goes skating, he goes and shoots a movie. She thinks they're both just extra-curricular activities."

Pluses include the travel, in the spring Kevin was in the Yukon, this November in Vancouver. It is also, Mary-Ellen admits, financially rewarding.

Mary-Ellen says she and husband Jim do not discuss details with their children, allowing them to be honest when they say they don't know how much they make.

"All they know is they can all go to university and not worry," she says. "That's all we've really explained to them until they're old enough to understand."

She is also careful to help Kevin understand the trappings surrounding the enter-

tainment industry. "It's easy to get caught up in that kind of business," she says, alluding to the pampering and attention given to an actor in a lead role.

"You can see why stars get a little cocky," she said. "And they don't have a mother there with a thumb on them saying, 'hey!'"

"When you're there, everyone treats you like you're really good and you get all the attention," agrees Kevin. "When you come back home, you have to do chores and stuff."

Not that Kevin is complaining about his share of jobs around the house, but he is looking to get back on the set. Future goals include a series like home improvements and a feature film.

"I want to have a lead role in a feature film."

Wherever his entertainment career takes him though, Kevin is comfortable to have the support, not the pressure of his parents.

"They don't put any pressure on me, they just say whenever you are not enjoying it or it stops being fun, tell us and you can stop doing it," he says.

"But I don't ever want to stop."



Ingersoll native Kevin Zegers can be forgiven for dropping a few names. His "work" picture album includes snapshots of, among others, (top) Gillian Anderson of the *X-Files*, (below) Robbie Alomar of the Toronto Blue Jays, and (bottom right) Michael J. Fox. The trio are just some of the famous individuals Zegers' career in the entertainment business has seen him cross paths with. (Submitted Photos)



The
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Young actor from city on X-Files tonight

The truth is out there — just ask Kevin Zegers of Woodstock.



Zegers

The 11-year-old St. Rita's School student is an aspiring young actor and Oxford residents will have a chance to see his work to-

night as he plays a central figure on an episode of the popular television series *X-Files*.

The plotline, as described in *TV Guide*, says "The murder of a reverend leads Mulder and Scully to a boy who exhibits stigmata, marks resembling the wounds of the crucified Christ, and the boy's institutionalized father claims "the forces of darkness" are after his son." The young boy is played by Kevin Zegers. Kevin was featured in a story in the *Daily Sentinel-Review* last Saturday.

X-Files is on Global at 9 p.m.