

Haldimand Norfolk Presbyterian

The annual meeting of the Haldimand-Norfolk Presbyterian of the United Church women was held last

Wednesday, Feb. 19th in St. James United Church, Simcoe. Close to 150 delegates attended the afternoon and evening sessions which were presided over by the president Mrs. Marvin Link of Cayuga. Following the business, think-in groups were conducted in Hambleton Hall under the headings of leadership and citizenship. Mrs. W.K. Lawson, president of Hamilton Conference U.C.W. presided for election of officers, which was followed by the installation service, conducted by Rev. W.L. McSpadden of Cayuga, Chairman of Presbytery.

The evening speaker was Rev. W.M. Carson, director of Wesley House, a social centre in Hamilton which is sponsored by the United Church. He described the centre's work in counselling

young people, many of whom come from broken homes and often have no other place where they can turn for help. Mrs. Marvin Link, R.R. 2, Cayuga was re-elected as President of the Presbytery U.C.W. Other officers are as follows:

Past president is Mrs. Lee Simington, Waterford; vice-president, Mrs. Harry Lambert, R. R. 1, Delhi; regional chairmen, Mrs. Wesley Leonard, R.R. 1, Port Rowan; Mrs. James Murray, R.R. 3 Caledonia; Mrs. Keith Richardson, R.R. 4 Dunnville and Mrs. Murray Butcher, Simcoe; recording secretary, Mrs. Lloyd Sutor, R.R. 2 Cayuga; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Robert Kiefer, R.R. 4, Cayuga; treasurer, Mrs. W.L. Cardiff, Simcoe.

Portfolio secretaries: program, Mrs. H.S. Royle, R.R. 1, Scotland; community friendship and visiting, Mrs. Iva Kelner, Delhi; literature and communications, Mrs. George Abbott, Selkirk; press and publicity, Mrs. Ivan Lamb, Delhi; stewardship and recruiting, Mrs. Ralph Gowan, R.R. 3, Jarvis; supply and welfare, Mrs. Russell Chambers, Simcoe and Mrs. James Lindsay, Nanticoke. Committee chairmen,

Lambs Comers W.I.

Twelve members and two guests were present for the Feb. meeting of Lambs Comers Womens Institute, held at the home of Mrs. Mae Kitchen.

Mrs. Russell Hare, President opened the meeting with the roll call "My favourite casserole."

Mrs. Wray Dennis read the minutes and gave the treasurers report. Thank you notes were presented. The visiting committee reported that several visits and gifts of fruit were taken to the sick in the community. Mrs. Hare reported that the Spring Rally is to be held at Fisherville. The food Forum and the April Daffodil Luncheon at Kohler. It was moved to pay the drivers of cars who take the members, wanting to go.

District Commissioner

Beginning a three year term as Hagersville District Commissioner of the Girl Guides of Canada is Mrs. John Britnell of Jarvis.

Mrs. Britnell is the wife of John Britnell, who is manager of Master Feeds of Nelles Corner, and also a councillor for Jarvis, and is the mother of three children. She is active in the West Haldimand Hospital Auxiliary and in the Order of the Eastern Star.

While living in Prescott, Ontario, Mrs. Britnell was Captain of a Guide Company for three years, then was Ranger Captain. After moving to Jarvis, she was instrumental in the formation of the Jarvis Guide Company, and was Lieutenant of the Company.

Mrs. Britnell's District includes Hagersville, Jarvis and Selkirk. As Commissioner she will be responsible to develop Guiding; to find suitable leaders; to be sure a high standard is maintained in Brownie Packs and Guide and Ranger Companies; and to keep in touch with all other areas of the Guiding Movement.

Day Of Prayer

March 7 has been set aside for Prayer by the women of the world. Last year 3,000 communities in Canada and 140 countries observed this rite. This year the theme "Growing Together in Christ" has been composed by the All African Church Conferences.

Locally, six churches will be represented at St. Anne's Church Walpole at 2:30 p.m. As this is the first time the service has been held in St. Anne's, it is hoped for a good

Other Editor's Views

LAST WEEK BOTH the Brant County Council and the Wentworth County Council gave their endorsement to a resolution from the Ontario Association of Rural Municipalities, objecting to the proposed system of regional government for Ontario and declaring the plan contrary to the British North American Act and the whole system of democracy.

The Association's resolution went on to express dissatisfaction with the manner in which regional government is being implemented, which can only result in centralization of all government powers and functions in the provincial government. Rural municipalities, it declared, do not want to be consolidated in whole or part with industrialized towns or cities, rather they want to retain their rural character in the agricultural community. Also condemned in the resolution was the unseemly haste in implementing the system, with little or no regard being given the views of elected municipal representatives.

This earful for the Queen's Park bureaucrats came right on top of strong objections from Fort William, Port Arthur in the north and the city of Welland in Niagara district over the proposed creation of regional governments in those areas, which would vitiate local autonomy and centralize municipal administration. No doubt there will be many more objections raised in coming weeks as the strategy of the braintrusts become more evident. It seems likely that many more county councils will support the resolution presented by the Association of Rural Municipalities, especially since it appears that county councils will be wiped out by the advent of regional government.

Just what plans the Department of Municipal Affairs geniuses have in mind for Norfolk County, we are aware. Originally it was laid down that each region in the new system would require to have a population between 150,000 and 200,000 persons. Many observers in Norfolk County were alarmed lest this would mean the absorption of this county completely in some new regional set-up with its administration focussed in a city such as Brantford, Hamilton or London. There is some indication that a region incorporating Norfolk County with Brantford as its capital was originally planned.

However, the big new Hydro and Stelco development, straddling Norfolk and Haldimand Counties and portending a big expansion in population in the next 10 years, has caused the municipal bigwigs to have second thoughts.

They may now permit Norfolk and Haldimand Counties to form a region of their own. Certainly so far as overall planning of this big new inter-county development goes, joint action is imperative. Already, too, we have a joint public health unit for two counties and some measure of educational supervision. But the idea of submerging the identities of these two historic old counties and merging them into one region with a single municipal administrative body is scarcely one that will appeal to either county.

The nature of the agricultural and industrial components of the two counties is entirely different. For instance, Norfolk has its tobacco industry, while Haldimand has great fertilizer wealth as well as considerable livestock and important seed crops. In addition stone quarries. Each has its own interests and each knows best how to capitalize upon them. Each county has numerous public-spirited citizens, ready and willing to give their time and ability to county projects. Each of Norfolk and Haldimand counties has demonstrated for a century and more that it can run its own affairs without too much dictation from Queen's Park.

This does not mean that an overall planning body for the two counties is not needed. Actually it is of paramount importance for the immediate future and for many years to come. Just let the provincial experts give us some direction in this regard, give us the promised \$50,000 minimum for the planning-program, and leave us alone so far as the administration of our own local municipal utilities and institutions are concerned. We want no part of more authoritarian dictation from on high nor more workings of high-salaried bureaucrats, coupled with the steady but sure erosion of local autonomy and the wiping out of historic names and boundaries of our local municipalities.

Judging by the eruptions of protest from many quarters, the Robarts administration best give second thought to its hasty and drastic action in trying to implement regional government. Rural Ontario, including towns and villages, are anything but fallow reception. It could prove a hot potato that might well cause the greatest political turnover in Ontario's history - The Simcoe Reformer.

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REGIONAL GOVERNMENT IS "When", not "if". That is the terse summation of the situation regarding the proposed regional government system now under discussion. First move anticipating this contingency was a meeting of the Town of Tillsonburg and five adjacent townships to discuss the possibilities of amalgamation. The general response showed a marked lack of enthusiasm for amalgamation of any kind, as well as diversion of opinion as to the regional centre which would be the core of the new regional area.

A London regional officer of the Department of Municipal Affairs stated that in considering any unit it is important those around it are not deprived of any possibility of amalgamating their own region. The criteria is that it should have minimum of eight to ten thousands population, based on urban centres and surrounding rural municipalities, which are similar social, economic and physical characteristics.

To further impress the importance of the discussion, the meeting was informed that "You can sit back and wait for annexation, or you can work to see if you can bring about a marriage." Plain words, giving not much excuse for quibbling.

However, the North Norwich representative expressed a feeling that his township had closer ties with Woodstock. So that the consensus must be considered cloudy and intangible. It also indicates that achievement of the regional concept, to which the Ontario government is committed, will entail considerable blood, sweat and tears.

There is little likelihood, however, that the proposal by Reeve Gehring will receive serious consideration. The tug-of-war will be between Tillsonburg and Woodstock, with Delhi on the sidelines. The key for Delhi, nevertheless, could be the suggestion that it is important no area capable of constituting a unit be deprived of the estimate of doing so.

Taking a rough estimate of adjacent townships and villages, it is not inconceivable that the Town of Delhi could constitute a core as required by the formula. If agreement took place between the municipal authorities involved, an estimated area population of 9,000 could be achieved. Experience with the preliminary negotiations referred to above, however, indicates the difficulties which must be overcome.

The crux of the problem, it would seem, is that whether you like it or not, it's going to happen. Preplanning and negotiation by the parties concerned could reduce or eliminate the full impact of a shotgun marriage, as pointed out by the government official.

Once the wheels are set in motion, and if no agreement has been reached, regions will be established by the planners, and local autonomy as it now exists will be of minor importance. These negotiations should not be used as an opportunity to pay off old scores and extract penalties. They should be approached in a spirit of mutual co-operation to solve the problems for today and the future, with the most satisfactory and economical method.

Reeve of our neighboring township Stanley Gehring of South Norwich was the most positive in his resistance as was Reeve Kokotailo of Middleton Township. Mr. Gehring bluntly declared: "The concept you have outlined does not fit into our requirements. . . We been given to understand from reports in a London newspaper that we would be annexed. You might win some of the battle, but you will have a lot of scars," he warned.

Mr. Gehring outlined a possible amalgamation of South and North Norwich, East Oxford and the village of Norwich as making a "nice square area" with an estimated population of about 9,659. - The Delhi News-Record.

What's In A Name? The regional government debate continues to rage across the land but has anyone thought about what these regions will be called after they are setup? I would hate to think we would go around calling ourselves region 2 while one to either side of us was region 3 and some other area was region 1.

A name doesn't mean very much until somebody decides to take it away from you. This is one concept I don't think the Ontario government has given much thought in its proposal to go ahead with the system - if indeed it does.

Names of places and things are usually connected with some historical event or some outstanding person. The people in any area if they are expected to give up this heritage are not going to do it without a fight.

If several areas are incorporated into one how will you go about pacifying all of them to be satisfied with any name. You certainly won't be able to put them all together to come out with a scramble such as Jarhagwaltownsend or some such madness.

It could just be this small point may be the one that gets all the municipal officers up in arms enough to make the Ontario government reconsider the whole scheme.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1092 Carmen Street Sudbury, Ontario February 24, 1969.

I am enclosing 30c for three copies of your February 20, paper with this special item.

Yours very truly, (Mrs.) Leigh Hodgson Niagara Area Public Relations Adviser Girl Guides Of Canada

The Editor, The Jarvis Record, Jarvis, Ontario.

I was pleasantly surprised (emphasis on surprised!) with the "special note" in the report on the Prayer Service in this week's Record.

In all fairness I want to point out that I indeed played the church organ that night and accompanied the choir, but the choir's director is Mr. Dam of Fenwick, while besides me our church is so fortunate to have three young ladies who take equal turns with me playing the church organ.

Thank you for letting me set the r(R)ecord straight! Yours truly, T. Bergsma.

Dear Sir: I am enclosing a cheque for the Record for 1969. If the price has gone up lease let me know.

The new face lift has made the Record look very dignified, and I really like the new look.

Best wishes to everyone. With thanks, Dorothy Smith

202 Oak Street Dunnville, Ontario.

Dear Sirs: Many thanks for your fine coverage and the splendid picture published in your paper February 20, of Mrs. Adkinson our new Niagara Area Commissioner of the Girl Guides.

I know you will receive good co-operation from our Haldimand Public Relations Secretary, Mrs. Vanni and I appreciate your co-operation.

COUNTER CLOCKWISE 20 YEARS AGO Stewart Brooks brought the first Radio Television set to Jarvis and gave the first demonstration on Saturday night, February 27th, in the Chas. Butts Bakery Building. Radio Television is commonly referred to as Video. Why Video—we don't know.

30 YEARS AGO The pupils of Mr. Armstrong's room Jarvis will have charge of the music in Knox Church on Sunday morning.

Congratulations are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Parkinson who celebrated their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary on March 2nd.

The Record extends congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. William Butcher of Nanticoke, on the occasion of their 55th Wedding Anniversary.

Spring flowers decorated Visitation Church, Detroit for the wedding of Mary Miss Myrtle Johson, Mrs. Brohman. Rev. Father Cameron, Miss Norma Stire, Miss Barbar Mills, Mrs. James Doughty, Wray Hagerman, M. L. Marshall, Robert Farris, and Kenneth Bousfield. Between acts entertainment was provided by Mr. Don Duxbury, Miss Meta MacMurchy and Mrs. Alex. Draper.

Owing to the very unfavorable weather and road conditions on Sunday the afternoon service was withdrawn at the Stone Church. The Renton Hockey Team won their group title from Mt. Pleasant on Friday night of last week.

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