

## Rent-A-Bee Program Boosts Pollinization

Modern trends in agriculture, mechanization, chemicals, pesticides and clean cultivation have greatly increased agricultural productivity but have decreased native bee populations. Bees used to be important pollinators when fields were small and fencerows provided suitable nesting sites and foraging areas.

The fewer the bees, the more important their role as

pollinators of fruit and seed crops. Every year, thousands of colonies of honeybees are rented from beekeepers to perform the vital service of pollination.

In Ontario, honeybee pollination — the transference of the male element of flowering plants (pollen) to the stigma, or female element, of other plants — is mostly concerned with the fruit industry, notably in the Niagara Peninsula. Pollination is essential before flower fertilization can take place, and the bees, carrying the pollen as their food, are thus natural "Sparkplugs" for the fertilization process.

Dr. M. V. Smith, Department of agriculture, University of Guelph, estimates that from three to four thousand colonies are rented out by licensed beekeepers to help with the pollination process. In the course of a season, an

average colony of honeybees will gather about 60 pounds of pollen from an estimated 375 million blossom visits.

Dr. Smith says that while the number of colonies rented out and in use as pollinators has increased in the United States, it has remained relatively static in Ontario. In the United States, with the introduction of mechanical harvesting, colonies may be used on three or four crops a season. Dr. Smith feels that this trend could possibly carry over into Ontario.

Those farmers wishing to have their crops pollinated this year should start considering hive rental now. The main pollination season is from early-May to mid-June for fruit crops, but it may begin as early as February for greenhouse cucumbers.

Dr. Smith says that fruit growers should be sure that their orchards include proper pollinizer varieties. Most fruit trees are self-unfruitful and require another variety for crosspollination.

Where pollinizer varieties have not been provided, it is possible to ensure crosspollination by top-grafting the trees with other varieties, or by placing bouquets of a suitable pollinizer throughout the orchard during the

blooming period. The use of pollen inserts at the hive entrances is also recommended.

Hives should be placed in small groups in open, sunny locations, in or beside the orchard, and be protected from cool winds. For best results, colonies should be moved into the orchard just as the blossoms are beginning to open.

Dr. Smith notes that because Ontario beekeepers keep colonies in permanent locations all year round, additional time and labor is required to move them to the pollinating grounds. As there can be little revenue to be made from honey production at this time for the renting beekeeper, growers should be prepared to pay a satisfactory rental fee for the beekeepers' vital services.

Additional information and addresses of beekeepers are available from the Department of Agriculture, University of Guelph.

## Wood As Food

Ottawa. — Two federal government scientists have developed a method to turn wood into a feed similar to hay.

In recent experiments, the scientists tested steam-treated poplar wood against medium quality hay as roughage for sheep.

The results show that, as a source of energy, the two roughages are equal; the trials verify laboratory (in vitro) tests conducted earlier.

The two scientists are Dr. David Heaney, and animal nutrition expert with the Canada Department of Agriculture's Animal Research Institute, and Dr. Fred Bender, head of the chemistry section of Fisheries and Forestry.

They have converted poplar into a feed equal in digestibility to medium quality hay by steaming it under pressure for 30 minutes to an hour at temperatures ranging from 320 to 390 degrees (Fahrenheit).

After laboratory tests indicated that the processed wood has a digestibility rating of between 50 and 55 per cent, they treated enough poplar to run trials with sheep.

The sheep were fed the same ratio of alfalfa hay in place of the wood.

At the end of the experiment, comparisons showed that the average daily gains were essentially the same for both groups. The gains were also comparable to those reported by commercial farming operations in Canada.

The comparisons were carried through to slaughter and showed both groups were equal in carcass grades, dressing percentages and shrink.

Besides this experiment, the scientists also conducted digestibility trials with sheep fed only roughages and no concentrates. The trials indicated that treated wood has about 50 per cent dry matter digestibility similar to medium quality hay.

The experiments, verified the digestibility data the scientists obtained earlier in the laboratory.

Sheep apparently found the treated wood tasty

enough because they ate it readily, says Dr. Heaney.

When we offered the sheep only treated wood and alfalfa hay, the treated wood could comprise up to 70 per cent of their daily feed.

Treated wood has essentially no nitrogen content, but approximately one per cent ammonia can be injected at the end of the steaming process, says Dr. Bender.

"This would be sufficient to neutralize the organic acids formed from the wood," he says.

The resulting ammonium salts are a suitable source of

nitrogen for ruminants and would be the equivalent of six per cent protein, Dr. Heaney adds. Ammonia is inexpensive.

The scientists say their processed wood will be economically competitive with medium quality hay.

"It should be of particular interest to large pulp and paper or plywood companies," says Dr. Bender.

"Some of these plants are producing up to 200 tons of waste poplar a day."

## THE WH RECORD

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## Carpenters Out — Weather Clause In Contract

Some 180 carpenters left their jobs Friday over a difference in interpretation of a weather clause between their union and management of construction of the Ontario Hydro Generating Station at Nanticoke.

Leo Vamplew, public relations officer for Hydro, told The Record that the men insisted it was raining hard enough Friday for the clause to be in effect and walked off the job.

"The men didn't start showing to work until yesterday."

Mr. Vamplew says management will talk to the workers about the matter since they came back to work.

"The walkout would have started to effect the rest of the project eventually and probably would have meant lay offs for other workers", he said.

The men started reporting for work after 9 a.m. yesterday.

A meeting to end the grievance between the carpenters and management was scheduled for yesterday. No report has been made as to the outcome of that meeting.

## Taxes Lower In Jarvis

Municipal taxes in Jarvis will remain unchanged from last year.

This was announced by Clerk Robert Lysch on Friday.

Council set its mill rate at 17.4 for residential and 19.5 commercial for public school supporter.

The residential taxpayer will pay \$1.74 for every hundred dollars of assessment. Commercial will pay \$1.95.

Assessments will be made under the new assessment system whereby taxes will be based on true value of property. For example if a home is valued at \$20,000 total taxes will \$345 to \$350.

The total assessment for the Village now stands at \$5,497,235 compared with the total assessment in 1968 of \$956,085. This means that the same amount of money can be raised from the lower mill rate figure.

Hagersville was also able to hold the line in municipal taxes. The details of the Village budget will be released later this week.

## Weekly Weather

Mixed weather for the next four days is the regional outlook of the Simcoe Weather Bureau.

The forecast for Friday is warm with showers and thunder showers. Temperatures will range from the high 70s during the daytime to the low 50s at night.

Saturday will be cool with showers and temperatures ranging from the low 50s in daytime to the 40s at night.

Sunday it will warm slightly with clearing skies said the forecaster.



Up it goes. This 270 ton steam drum is being lifted 20 floors at the Ontario Hydro Generating Plant. The job took eight hours and a lot of tricky maneuvers to get it to its final resting place at the top of the building. (Staff Photos)

## 1st Time In Haldimand

## 300 Attend Scout Conference

Some 300 scout leaders attended the first regional conference ever to be held in Haldimand at the Hagersville Secondary School, Saturday.

Alex Thompson, fieldman for the Niagara Region, Scouts of Canada, was the keynote speaker at the all day conference.

He told delegates that the aims of scouting are the same as in the past but a new approach to it has been added.

He emphasized the handicapped boy or the lone scout (one scoutmaster with one boy in a troop) shouldn't be forgotten.

"We should give them as much help as possible", he said.

Jack Brownhill, assistant district commissioner of provincial headquarters Toronto, opened the meeting.

Jack Kincaid, Hagersville council member, brought greetings from the village.

In the afternoon session groups were formed for discussions. Discussions were held on problems arising within group committees, packs, troops, companies and ladies auxiliaries.

A noon meal was served cafeteria style by Mrs. Ila Walker and catering staff.

Delegates also viewed displays that were set up.

Mrs. C. Clark served supper. Entertainment was provided by excerpts from 70 gang show.

The council executive expressed regret that more didn't attend the conference. Thanks was given to those who helped make the day a success.

## 'Thank You'—Dutch Canadians

The Haldimand group of the "Thank You Canada Committee" of Dutch-Canadian immigrants have organized a special program, to be held in the

Auditorium of the Cayuga Technical and Commercial High School on Tuesday evening next, May 5, 1970, which all Haldimand residents are cordially invited to attend.

## Agriculture Appointments

CAYUGA — Two new faces will be seen at Haldimand's Agriculture office after May 18.

Bruce Thompson, who has been assistant agriculture representative for Leeds County, has been appointed assistant for Haldimand.

He succeeds Charles Sterling who is leaving the branch to enter a veterinarian course at university.

Martyn Riddle, agriculture engineering specialist for Brant-Norfolk, has been appointed to Haldimand until September. He replaces Robin Daynard who is leaving to begin a world tour.

Featured on the program, which the Dutch-Canadians have arranged as an event commemorating the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the liberation of their Motherland by Canadian Troops, will be several guest speakers, special musical selections by the Jarvis Christian Brass Band and a choir from the Jarvis area, as well as remarks by area Clergy representing three different denominations, and the Padres of the Haldimand Branches of the Canadian Legion. Those who have been extended an invitation to address the expected capacity audience include: His Honour, Judge W. W. Leach, Haldimand's Warden, Mr. Clare Kindy, Mr. William Knowles, M.P., and the Hon. Jas. N. Allan, M.P.P.

## Census Starts This Week

CAYUGA Haldimand householders will be greeting the enumerators of Ontario for the annual census taking this week.

The census will take about two weeks says R. W. Palmer, Manager of assessment support services for Haldimand-Norfolk.

The enumerators will be visiting property owners in the two county area.

The information gathered by the census takers determines the voting lists for municipal citizens as well as allocating whether the person is a supporter of public or a separate school.

Mr. Palmer said the enumerators are sworn to secrecy and will only ask those questions covered under the Assessment Act.

He stressed that the information sought is necessary for a municipality to function but also is beneficial to the person supplying the data.



This workman is operating a huge lifting crane on the ground floor of the Ontario Hydro Generating Plant at Nanticoke. A telephone communication system is used to give him lifting instructions.

## J.P. Landon

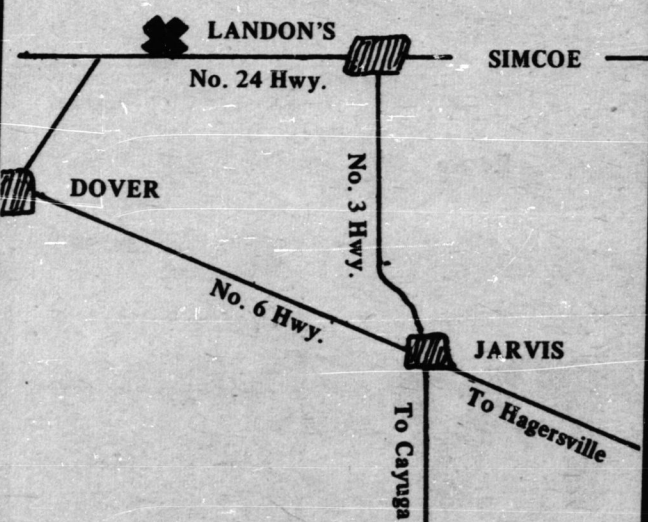
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