

## Gas Customers Rather Fight Than Switch Fuels

Natural gas is a fine economical source of energy, Union Gas consumers told the Ontario Energy Board Thursday and Friday. And, the cost of conversion and continued use of a desirable alternate fuel would be so exorbitant, that they'd rather fight than switch.

Union Gas Ltd. is seeking approval from

the Board to discontinue service to 235 Walpole, Dunn, Rainham and South Cayuga township customers. They claim the lines are uneconomic and should be replaced.

Some of the 77 customers who oppose the application had their first opportunity to testify Thursday and Friday. And, respondent

testimony will continue when the hearing resumes May 19 at the Cayuga Court house.

Leo Miedema of R. R. 1, Jarvis, a respondent who did not sign any agreement with Union Gas, told the board he has been a customer of Union Gas for 18 years. And, he used the fuel for heating and cooking.

He testified that a Union Gas representative called at his home two or three times in 1972 offering monetary compensation to change from gas to another fuel.

At first, Mr. Miedema said he was offered a flat \$150 to switch to any fuel he wished. Then he was offered an additional \$100 to buy back his seven year old furnace and eight year old stove.

When Mr. Miedema informed the representative that if necessary, he preferred switching to oil - not propane, he was given an alternate proposal.

The new verbal agreement required Mr. Miedema to obtain an estimate on oil fuel conversion and contribute \$300 towards cost. He said the representative stated Union Gas would pay the balance, but backed out when he learned the estimate.

Mr. Miedema said the estimate included \$773 for the furnace and overhaul (oil) and \$298 for a stove (electricity). See Page 6, Col. 1

## Some Rural Fuel Bills May Be Higher

Some rural fuel bills may be 2-4 times greater if the Ontario Energy Board approves an application made by Union Gas to abandon eight gas lines in Haldimand County.

H. Gordon Hill of Chatham, manager of Utilization and Development for Union Gas Ltd., provided statistics comparing the price of oil, propane and electricity with that of gas at Friday's hearing in Cayuga.

Mr. Hill said the company conducts summaries twice a year on the cost of competitive fuels.

If natural gas is used throughout the home for heating and appliances, it costs consumers \$1.07 per million B.T.U. (British Thermal Units), he said.

In comparison, propane costs \$2.17 per million B.T.U., oil costs

\$1.79 per million B.T.U. and electricity costs \$3.96 per million B.T.U.

Mr. Hill qualifies his answer on the natural gas rate pointing out that use of gas for cooking alone would cost \$1.40 per million B.T.U.

Union Gas Ltd. is seeking approval from the Energy Board to discontinue service to 235 Walpole, Dunn, Rainham and South Cayuga township customers. They claim the lines are uneconomic and need replacement. 77 customers are opposing the application because they consider natural gas the most economical source of energy.

Mr. Hill stated gas rates will definitely be increasing due to higher costs which will narrow the gap between fuel pricing. However, Ian McNabb of the Energy Board suggested it

See Page 6, Col. 2

## Lions Celebrate 25th

Wine, wives and song set the mood for the Jarvis Lions gala 25th anniversary celebration held last Saturday night in the Jarvis Community Centre.

The evening was a special mark in the history of this organization which has served as the backbone in Jarvis community life for many years. Old and new members alike gathered to sing, dance, dine, laugh and reminisce together over an impressive past.

Wives and lady friends were honored with gifts, lovely purple and gold corsages and a special toast from the group of men which has grown from 39 to 74 Chartered members.

Lion president Bruce Miller welcomed everyone to the birthday party, noting that the hall and adjoining ball park are just a couple fruits of Lion labour. Also, the club has given leadership over the years to Scouts, Brownies, hockey and baseball teams.

A giant birthday cake, decorated by Irma and Bob Lysch was the hall's centerpiece and sported candles for each year of lionism in Jarvis.

## Columnist Speaks On Boredom

John Robinson, a Hamilton Spectator columnist, was the witty "after dinner mint" at the Jarvis Lions 25th anniversary celebration Saturday night.

Mr. Robinson gave a humorous account of his personal campaign See Page 5, Col. 4



Spectator columnist John Robinson was the guest speaker at the Jarvis Lions Club's 25th Anniversary Celebration and Ladies Night Saturday. He is pictured here with Lion president Bruce Miller. (Staff Photo)

Allan Wicker of the Port Dover Club, a man who helped Jarvis Lions get on their feet, lit the candles while Bill Snowden took everyone on a trip down memory lane.

He briefly travelled

through the 25 years of Jarvis lionism, recognizing and paying tribute to the excellent efforts of each president and club.

The following is taken from Lion Bills' notes: See Page 6, Col. 1

## County Appoints Weed Inspector

At a "cut and dry" meeting Friday, Haldimand County Council approved a bylaw for the appointment of an area weed inspector under the Weed Control Act.

Elroy Thompson of R. R. 3, Caledonia is the new inspector.

\* William Austin, reeve of Jarvis, reported that the West Haldimand General Hospital had a deficit of \$72,954 at the end of 1972.

He said the hospital is not coming to council for money, but are going to try to work their own way out.

It would certainly help the hospital's financial statement if they could increase their \$40 a day rate by \$10, Dr. Austin said. The Dunnville War Memorial Hospital has a per diem rate of \$51.

\* Gordon Miller, reeve of Walpole township See Page 5, Col. 2

## Housing Slated For Area

The multi-million dollar land assembly scheme straddling the Haldimand - Norfolk boundary is slated for residential development.

Andrew Cherkas, a Toronto-based real estate man who has directed land assembly operations for the past two weeks in the Jarvis area for unnamed developers, said late last week the land is being sought for housing.

He said his developers have \$21 million tied up in 13,000 acres of land under option now. Total cost may reach \$30 million.

Options are also being obtained along the periphery of the prime development area, which Mr. Cherkas said developers hope to utilize for recreation and greenbelt. Altogether, he is aiming to get 14,000 acres under option.

Mr. Cherkas said plans include the construction of a great variety of housing and

a rapid transit system to industrial areas.

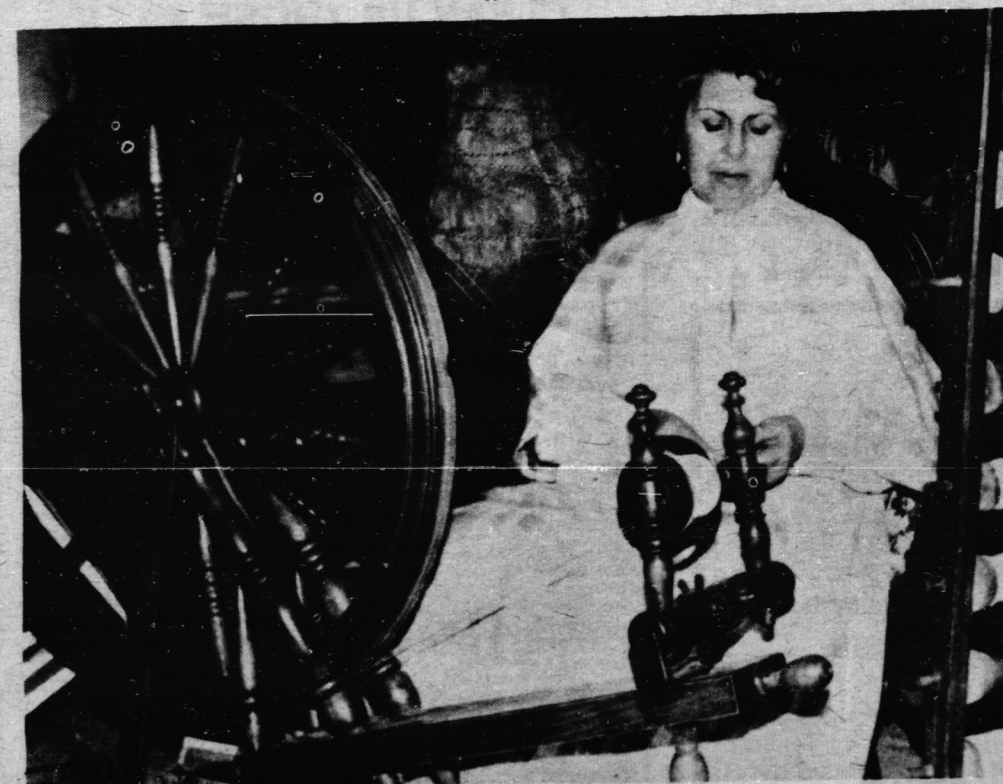
Haldimand - Norfolk county line to the east, Mr. Cherkas said.

About 5,000 acres of land under option in Townsend township are roughly bounded by Concession 11' to the north, Villa Nova Road to the west, Highway 3 to the south and the

Another 2,000 acres of prime development land has been optioned along Concession 9 and 10 of Walpole township east to the Springvale Nanticoke Road, he said.



Lion Allan Wicker of Port Dover lit a candle for each year of Lionism in Jarvis at the 25th anniversary dinner Saturday night. (Staff Photo)



Many area people attended the Arts and Crafts Show, sponsored by the Triple F Club, in the C. E. Wing of the Hagersville United Church Friday. Pictured here at the spinning wheel is Coral Clark of Hagersville. See inside for additional pictures. (Staff Photo)