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Vol. 98, No. 24

Thursday, June 12, 1975

Serving the City of Nanticoke, Hagersville, Cayuga and Rural Areas

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Prime Minister Trudeau is welcomed by a Port Dover well wisher as he steps from the Canadian Forces Helicopter. (Photo by Richard Houghton)

## Trudeau charm still works

by Richard Houghton

Pierre Trudeau proved once again, last Saturday in Port Dover that the charisma that has helped win him three federal elections is still going strong.

An enthusiastic crowd of 500 was at Port Dover Composite School to welcome the prime minister, at 4:52 p.m. and try to get close enough to shake his hand. He and his company arrived in three Canadian Forces Helicopters.

Labour minister John Munro accompanied Mr. Trudeau.

From the helicopters Mr. Trudeau was taken by bus to the Erie Beach Hotel to freshen up and to have a meeting with some of the local liberal officials. The party then proceeded on foot from the Erie Beach to the Summer Gardens where Mr. Trudeau and Mr. Munro both circulated among the crowd giving everyone a chance to meet the prime minister.

Prime Minister Trudeau addressed about 800 people at the Summer Garden on adapting to change, and the rapid industrial growth of the area.

He mentioned that travel by helicopter better allows one to get a perspective of the area.

"We can see how development is moving into what was once a predominantly rural riding," he said.

"We must decide whether we want a Canada with three

massive belts of industry and population, or whether we want to encourage industry to move into other areas."

He was presented with a variety of gifts by the Haldimand-Norfolk riding associations for his wife and children. There were t-shirts emblazoned with Port Dover for Justin and Sacha, a leather purse for Mrs. Trudeau and a leather belt for the prime minister. The leather products were made by the Sandalmaker in Port Dover.

## Renfrew petition unjustified

In response to a petition presented at Haldimand Council two weeks ago, Richard McCormack, 25 Renfrew Street, Caledonia, presented his side of the argument for the benefit of council.

A petition signed by 25 families protested against allowing Mr. McCormack to keep pets such as chickens, roosters, and hounds in his back yard.

Mr. McCormack told council he has lived at 25 Renfrew St. for 10 years and has

always kept chickens there but, "I never had any complaints until two years ago." Mr. McCormack stated that although his chicks did run around his back yard, the hens were kept locked in a cage and, "the chicks don't wander too far away from the hens."

"The only time one of my hens got loose was this spring and it went on somebody's property but we locked her back up right away."

Mr. McCormack also keeps pigeons, but said, "I let

them out in the morning and they stay on the coop all day. I have racing pigeons, which I race every week, and the chances of them being all around someone else's house are almost impossible. Your pigeons might get a bit confused and land somewhere else for a minute or two but they wouldn't stay there any length of time."

Mr. McCormack told council, "I am not angry at my neighbours but I am really hurt over some of the things they said. I was never notified when inspectors were coming, they just dropped in. That was false, it's just not true at all."

Mr. McCormack hunts coons, and used to have two hounds, but one was sold last week. "I only keep five chickens now and I never kept coons. They may have seen some dead ones waiting to be skinned, but never live ones. Coons are treacherous animals and I have young children. I wouldn't dare

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## Balloonist drops in

by Richard Houghton

The Port Rowan area had an unexpected visitor drop in last Monday, when Bob Sparks landed his hot air balloon in Long Point after being blown off course by wind.

Bob started from Blenheim last Monday to cross Lake Erie in his balloon, which he intended to land somewhere near Erie, Pennsylvania.

However, one problem with a hot air balloon is that it is powered by wind. This not only means that it goes the same speed as the wind, but it also gets blown in whatever direction wind blows.

Mr. Sparks started off fine on Monday morning leaving Blenheim and heading towards Cleveland in the basket of his balloon, until the wind changed direction and blew him off course. After being in the air over Lake Erie for seven hours and four minutes, he finally brought the balloon down at Long Point.

When looking for a place to launch from, the Sparks crew must find a place shaded from the wind so the balloon does not get blown away until it is high in the sky.

A spot on Stark's Golf Course near the road which runs out from Main St. in Port Rowan was chosen because the trees around the greens provide adequate shelter from the winds which can be dangerous on take off.

As Mr. Sparks crew

prepared his balloon for the take off, 250 pupils from Port Rowan Public School marched out the road in single file down to the golf course to witness the event.

The excitement and tension of the moment was written on the faces of the children as they watched Mr. Sparks suit up, and his crew begin filling the balloon by the European method.

This means that men pick up the edge of the balloon at the end where the air goes in and shake it, like you would a blanket only slower. This pumps air into the balloon and puffs it up so that the hot air can be blown in without causing damage.

As Bob Sparks changed from his street clothes into the special thermal protective wet suit he wears when flying over the lakes, he talked to the school children and gave them a short lesson on ballooning.

He explained that the balloon flies because of the force of the hot air rising inside.

"Children, when you see smoke rising, it doesn't rise because it is smoke, but because it is hot," said Mr. Sparks.

It is easy to see how Mr. Sparks could capture and hold the attention of the children, when you realize that before he took up ballooning he was a singer

and stand up comic.

It was while he was entertaining, that Mr. Sparks was actually introduced to ballooning. He was doing a show at a little summer resort in the Pocono Mountains, a resort area in Pennsylvania.

While he was doing the show a balloon flew overhead and stole the show. A loud voice came down from it saying, "Hello earthline." "That was when I decided to become a balloonist," said Bob.

At 10:55 a.m., amid cheers from the children the balloon lifted off successfully. Bob Sparks shouted good-byes from the basket to the school children as he drifted with the wind out over Lake Erie.

Drifting along with him were the day-dreams of all the children there, and even though they wouldn't admit it, most of the adults, too.

"The ballooning team is sponsored by the Liggett-Meyer tobacco company of United States," explained Mr. Lewis Hodges, a public relations man for the company. "It is sponsored just like some companies sponsor a race car."

Mr. Hodges said Sparks flies at an altitude of 6500 feet and at true air speed of zero.

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The balloon sponsored by Lark cigarettes from the United States begins lift-off as Bob Sparks fills it with hot air from his burners at the other end.