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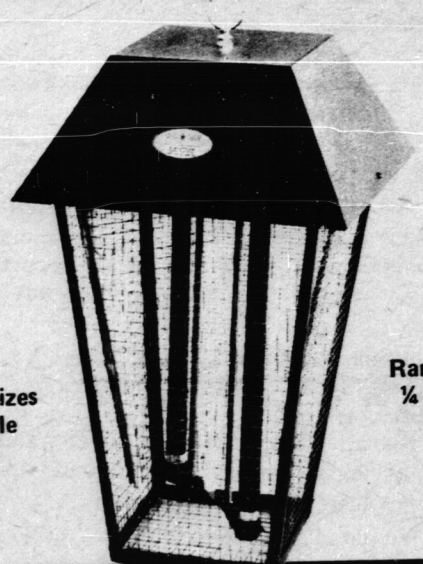
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Information Centre answers

by Trisha Banks

If you need to know how high your terrace steps can be before you must install a railing, want to know the phone number of the Registrar General, or how big a lot must be to put a house on, Haldimand-Norfolk Information Centre has all the answers.

The centre is manned by 19-year-old Jean Anderson, R.R. 3 Caledonia, and Kathy Mowat, 20, of R.R. 1 Selkirk. Miss Anderson is taking a degree course in Biology at the University of Toronto, and Miss Mowat is studying for her Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology at the University of Waterloo. For both Jean and Kathy, Information Centre is a summer job with a challenge.

The Centre went into operation on October 21, 1974, and is located in the Recreation Parks Building, 95 Pond St. Simcoe. Information Centre is supported by grants from the Secretary of State, the Ministry of Community and Social Services, Texaco and Simcoe.

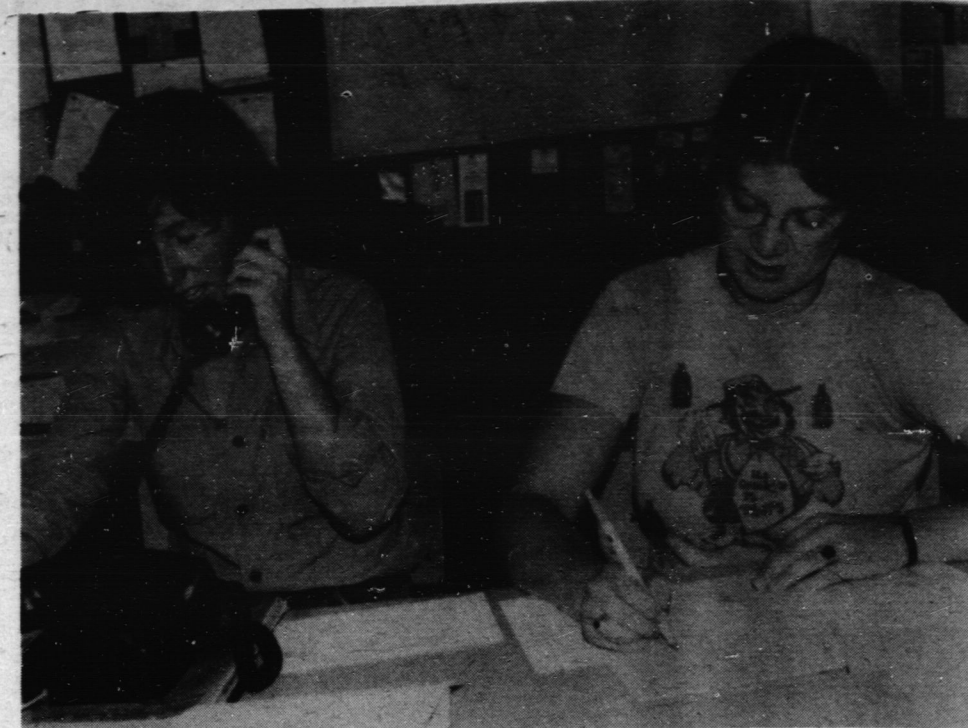
Last week Information Centre helped 61 callers solve their problems, and Miss Mowat says, "Phone calls are on the increase every week. It is more or less

just a problem of getting established. Once people know we are here, they are more likely to call us and get the facts, rather than suffer through any problems they might have."

If Information Centre cannot answer your question right away, they take your name and phone number and call you back when they do have the answer. "We don't like to leave anyone just hanging on," says Jean. If we cannot find the answer for them, after searching through our files or calling other people, we phone them back and tell them."

"We started out as a referral service," says Miss Anderson. "If someone phoned us up and had a problem, we would give them the number of an organization or section of the government that could give them the answer. Now, however, we do most of the phoning around ourselves and then get back to them. A lot of senior citizens get upset when they start being switched over to this number or that, and a lot of the calls are long distance. If saves them a lot of work."

One problem the girls have found with the service they provide is that they are often called upon to be referees, or just someone to talk to. "We really have to avoid trying to be counsellors when someone phones in and starts to open up about their



Jean Anderson, of RR 3 Caledonia, and Kathy Mowat, of RR 1 Selkirk, man the Information Centre in Simcoe. (staff photo)

personal lives and problems," said Miss Anderson. "A lot of people just phone up to complain. When that happens we just listen and are very sympathetic."

The office is equipped with two entirely separate telephone lines for a very good purpose. "It hasn't happened to us yet," says Miss Mowat, "but we are prepared in case anyone should phone up and tell us they are about to commit suicide or something like that. In that case, one of us would keep the person talking while the other one phoned the hospital. We hope it never happens, but

you have to be prepared for anything when you are running a bureau like this. Miss Anderson feels that a lot of people react to the name of the Information Centre. "As soon as we say HALDIMAND-NORFOLK, some people tend to get really hostile and act like we are responsible for everything that goes bad in regional government. One guy told us he hated anything that smacked of political backscratching."

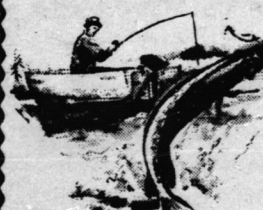
Miss Anderson is also angry with the attitude some people have about getting help. "People don't even care what is happening to

them and they don't try to solve their problems—they just accept what is happening to them. If they would phone us, we could get them in touch with someone who could help solve their problem."

In September, when Miss Anderson and Miss Mowat return to university, the Centre will hire a co-ordinator and more volunteers will be used to man the telephone lines. The Information Centre is open Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you need information, or help solving a problem the number to call is 426-6655, and yes, you can call collect.

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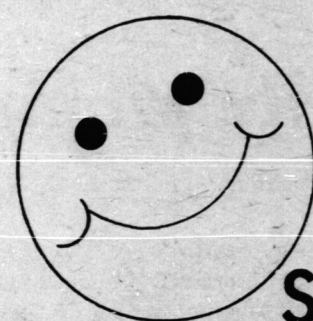
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I have met many friends along my way, and thank God for every one, but no one could take the place of Him. He understands my longings and secret thoughts, when He is near all is well of

course He is never far away at any time. There are those moments of loneliness when we all know what that is like, to feel rejected by everyone and misunderstood and when we know we are facing some crisis, how wonderful it is just to give it all to Him, and let Him solve it.

It is so much better than a struggle of self determination. Now that you have met him, I trust that you will learn to love Him, because He is a friend that sticks closer than a brother.

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Editorial

Affair with press over

It has become increasingly obvious to the editorial staff of the PORT ROWAN NEWS, that people do not want press coverage—at least not by their local paper.

I am referring, of course, to the meeting of the Turkey Point Property Owners' Association with members of Delhi council.

Delhi council has repeatedly "just not bothered" to let the smaller papers know when they are meeting. During the summer months, Delhi does not meet at regular times or days. They held the meetings when it suits them—if you happen to be so unfortunate as to not be on the list of elite press people to phone—too bad.

The entire problem is, of course, that Delhi's "overlooking" in notifying the local press of council meetings and other affairs which are of interest to the general public, is just a small cog in the tremendous machine that generates disapproval, dislike, and general out-and-out rudeness to the press in this region.

Perhaps since this is political merry-go-round time, we should not be mentioning the sad state of affairs that this region and the press has fallen into.

We feel it is obvious at this office that we are NOT just here to print personals and social notes, although those are an integral and very important part of any local newspaper. We are also here to try and give the public, our readers, and advertisers, the best dollar value for their reading.

We run a paper which we feel, carries articles of interest to people in the Port Rowan area, and we are your informer—your spokesman. When area councils and other associations continually refuse to notify us of their meetings, it is a slap in YOUR face. It proves that there is absolutely no consideration for the taxpayers they represent.

To prove just how badly relations between the press and the region have become, I give you this. On August 14, press members have been INVITED to attend a small conference with Mr. Ciona, Chief Administrator for the region, and Mr. McCombs, regional chairman, to "discuss relationships between the press and the region."

Continually, at the regional council level, the press has not been supplied with reports of various committees that should have been included in the agenda they were given.

Continually, the press is shut out of council and regional meetings when the debate becomes a little too hot to handle, or councillors feel it is something that the public should not know about for a while.

Continually, we are given the "run-around" by councillors and government officials who are afraid that a little publicity might hurt them at the ballot boxes.

What have they got to hide? The press realized that this region was not prepared for the tremendous influx of newspapers and reporters which accompanied regional government and the Nanticoke development. They were not, perhaps, accustomed to being questioned by reporters and having to account for some of the bylaws they passed or recommendations they made.

That, however, is no excuse now—one year later. There are 16 newspapers which cover this region. Each of these papers have reporters whose job it is to cover local meetings, councils and news.

Excuse me, MR. COUNCILLOR, but do I come down to your insurance office and hassle you?

Ms. Trisha D. Banks

Chit Chat

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Ms:

In reply to the article reported in the Chit Chat section of your paper by an Anonymous writer in your publication of July 17, page 3.

The following facts appear to be a more accurate representation of the situation on Long Point as revealed through my research of the statistics kept by the provincial park district office.

Camping and Day use are higher than ever before to this point in the summer at the Long Point Provincial Park.

Long Point Provincial Park represents the busiest Park in the district higher than Port Burwell or Turkey Point. Long Point Provincial Park has one of the lowest incidents of thieving and drowning of any park in the Province.

It appears then that the Provincial Park offers excellent facilities for the occasional visitor, which include change rooms, toilet facilities, picnic and barbecue facilities all under the capable management of a knowledgeable superintendent and staff.

I do not wish your fine community paper to misrepresent itself. Therefore I am interested in determining a) Does this article in the Chit-Chat section represent

the work of one of your reporters and if so where did the information come from? b) Does your paper have a policy regarding anonymous letters?

As written the article seems to represent the view of your editorial staff.

Yours Truly
Muir M. Sumner

Editor's note—The editorial policy on anonymous letters at this office is that the letter must be accompanied by both name and address of the writer, although the writer may request anonymity if he or she so desires. This article was written by one of our

staff reporters, Richard Houghton. The EDITORIAL department of this paper feels strongly that public beach users should not be harassed by cottage owners who want the beach for their private use. The EDITOR also respectfully suggests that the writer did not read the article very carefully. This article refers to public beach—not the Provincial Park.

Ms. Trisha D. Banks

The article written under the head Chit-Chat was not directed at the staff, facilities or users of Long Point Provincial Park. It was directed at a group of people who feel they have exclusive rights to the public beach in Long Point and the streets of the town. The reference in the article to the use of Long Point was in reference to the public area and not the provincial park.

However, in response to your research, I have checked with the Ministry of Natural Resources and on the weekend of July 20, they report Long Point Provincial Park having 4500 total visitors, while Turkey Point Provincial Park was host to 17,813 total visitors.

Richard Houghton

A Nite Out

by Gary Thomson

I bought the latest James Taylor album on May 23, the day after his Hamilton McMaster concert, and whether it was the concert or whatever, the people at the record store said that they had sold all the copies of the album within a two day span and one fellow said "James Taylor never had it so good."

Correction: James Taylor's never sounded so good.

This album is purely professional, and also, I may add, fun to listen to. Sweet Baby James has evolved

(through One Man Dog and Walking Man) from a folk-style music into arrangements and songs that fit no genre, only James Taylor music. The arrangements, by James himself, are very good (gorilla, dig Jules Jacob's clarinet pieces in that song) and lend a sort of laid-back fun to the most serious of songs. Taylor has not forgotten his folk beginnings, either (Lighthouse and Wanderin') and even they sparkle nowadays.

The albums single, "how Sweet it Is (to be loved by you)" has come from Junior Walker's hit of a few years

back, to James Taylors slowed-down, rolting version you hear on the radio today. Less of a frantic dance number to a celebration of being loved.

Whether he's writing song poems to his daughter (Sarah Maris, a sequel to "Walking Man's" Daddy's Baby) or about love (Love Songs, where in he admits he must be an "old softy, still believing in love.") to his livelihood (Music, "let the music change my life" and "don't you know I dig the big-time rock and roll") Sweet Baby James has evolved into quite the artist, and no doubt, quite the man.



One foot in the furrow' by Bob Trotter

Letters are appreciated by Bob Trotter, PO Box 267, Elmsra

Consumers are being forced to subsidize manufacturers, based mainly in Quebec and southern Ontario, through protective tariffs.

These tariffs raise prices both for imported goods and domestic goods. The protection is given to petroleum and coal producers, poultry processors — not producers — shoe factories, the rug industry, knitting mills, the copper processing industry, toiletry manufacturers, sugar refiners and dairy factories.

And those are just the top ten. Dozens of other industries are included in the list prepared by the Economic Council of Canada. The council is suggesting free trade between Canada and the U.S.

This may be a good idea, depending on the industry, but my point is that the agricultural industry is not the only industry getting government help.

So many times, farmers are accused of being a drain on the country's economy. They are said to be constant complainers asking for more government handouts than they deserve. When farm prices increase, every major newspaper in the province screams to high heaven.

But when labor strife on the west coast last year caused demurrage costs of \$17 million, Prairie grain farmers paid those costs and few newspapers that I read ever mentioned it. And a couple of weeks ago this column mentioned that farmers are now forced to pay an extra 45 cents per hundred-weight for powdered milk sales outside of Canada, a total of 90 cents now for every hundredweight.

This extra charge cuts dairy profits considerably at the farm gate yet no major newspaper nor consumers associations has come forward with any sympathy for farmers who have already planned their dairy year and are now faced with that much less for their product.

This is not a treatise to agree with the Economic Council since I am not an economist. I'm not suggesting that all protective barriers be cancelled although the council may be

right. All I'm saying is that when the hue and cry against subsidies for farmers gets loud and clear, don't sit quietly back and agree.

When big business and industries in this country survive unprotected in the free market places of the world, then perhaps it will be time for farmers to be treated the same.

Perhaps, too, it's time to add that a lot of the troubles dogging farmers today rests at their own farm gate. They are still fiercely independent individuals. They rarely speak for themselves and are quite content to sit back and let others do the talking for them. Something like making snowballs and having someone else throw them.

And if that sounds as though I'm a little cheesed off with farmers, so be it. Their independence — their "I'm-all-right-jack-it's-the-other-guy-who-is-in-trouble" attitude — is sounding the death knell for many struggling enterprises who need help. Small farmers are finding it increasingly difficult to remain on the land.

Some of the big operators who have been around for a while and do not find it necessary to float huge loans at high interest rates are doing fine, thank you. They'll tell you so, too. They'll tell you that marketing boards and commodity groups and income stabilization plans are only to subsidize the inefficient farmer. But if many huge corporations need aid from time to time there must be some inefficiency in big business as well yet we, as taxpayers, see fit to help them out.

What, then, is wrong with helping farmers along the road to a successful enterprise?

Still, I can't figure out why farmers themselves are content to sit back and take little action or write few letters or become vocal in the mass media.

They are having massive problems and the general public knows little about them.

It's about time farm news got back on the front page where it belongs instead of being stuck back with the truss ads where only farmers read it.

Port Rowan News

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