



From Around Home

by Roy Forrester

It has been snowing and snowing over the past week and it's still snowing to which I have no objection even though a good part of one morning was taken up shoveling out the driveway with help from our neighbour and Donna who always pitches in being the early riser in this household.

As I am typing this late Monday evening, I am aware there is more shoveling in the immediate future. We are up for it.

The snow does mean much much more than shoveling and has so over the past week providing daily opportunity for cross country skiing along the trails in the Orono Crown Lands at the west end of Station Street at Ochonski Road.

As far as skiing is concerned the temperature and condition of the snow so far this year has been such that it has been perfect for lots of glide with little effort and with proper waxing climbing knolls and hills has come with ease. It has been a joy even with the minus thirty degree temperatures that seems to

want to hang around day after day. It becomes a matter of layering clothing.

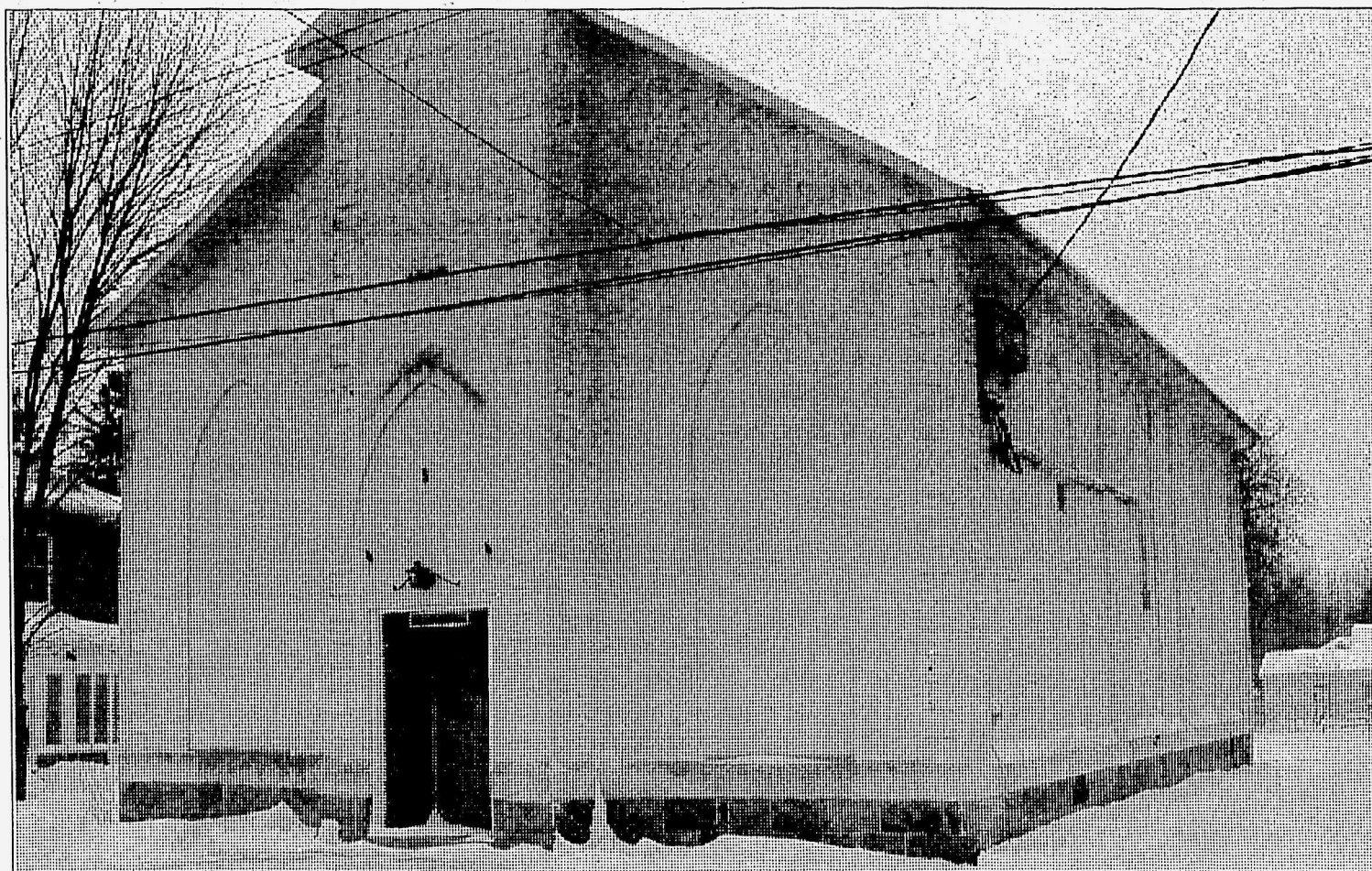
There are a number of options to enjoy within the property from going through a hardwood bush to seed orchards, plantations and shrubby areas.

The continual falling of an abundance of white snow has also collected on boughs and seed pods of the conifer trees outlining a Christmas decoration of which no two are the same. A winter wonderland indeed.

Bird Reports

Ken Stevenson of Conc. Rd. 4, east of Hwy 115, reports a Northern Shrike lurking about in his discarded Christmas tree with an eye on other small birds. Doug Ferguson, Conc. 9, reports a sighting of two robins in the Leskard School area as well as cardinals on Leskard Road. I viewed some twenty to thirty wild turkeys north off Taunton Road west of the Clarke/Darlington Town Line. These birds have been in the area for a number of years generally being seen west off the Town Line.

Historic building listed



Orono's Masonic Hall will be listed on the open market now that the Municipality has no interest in purchasing it.

In a letter to Mayor John Mutton and Council Members, dated December 13, 2003, Orono Lodge Vice President Victor Harrison wrote that the Masonic Hall Corporation intended to list

their property at 21 Centerview Street in Orono on the open market within the next 30 to 60 days. The Lodge gave the Municipality the opportunity to purchase their property which is assessed at \$214,000, prior to listing it with a real estate agent.

Costs such as taxes, insurance, and utilities continue to

go up, making ownership unaffordable to the 80 members who meet at the Lodge monthly, Herbert Duvall told an Orono Times reporter on Tuesday. Lodge members felt the town might be interested in purchasing their property which is next to the library lawn and the band

BUILDING continued page 4

Growth

Continued from front

very thorough study and shows there is no impact from the proposed lots on the neighbouring community. While the property is zoned agricultural, Ricciuto says it is very limited to what you can do with it since it is land locked. "With farming comes concerns with wells in the area because of fertilizers and other activity that would take place to farm that property."

Besides the water concerns, neighbours were also anxious about the wooded area on the north of Ricciuto's 20 acre parcel of land. Not only is the approximately 12 acre wooded area a favourite recreation site for residents, it would also provide a buffer from the 407. The land abutting the northern portions of Ricciuto's property is owned by the Ministry of Transportation for the pro-

posed 407 East Completion. "The beauty of this property is the wooded lands in the back," stated Ricciuto, "we have no intention of cutting down those trees whatsoever," he stated.

While Mr. Ricciuto's application will continue to be processed by the Municipality following Monday's public meeting, it

does fall under the Greenbelt Protection Act introduced by the Provincial Government in December 2003. This act places a one year moratorium on land use planning. Therefore, the Municipality can make no decision on official plan and zoning amendment application on lands outside existing settlement areas.

Fashionably late.

Miss Jalynn Jean Pauline Cox

Born Jan. 20, 2004

8lbs. 1oz.

Love, Granny, Gramps,
Uncle Tom & Aunt Becky

~ HAPPENINGS ~

Saturday, January 31

Euchre Tournament - St. Francis of Assisi, Newcastle at 7 p.m. \$10 - includes lunch. Elevator Access.

Saturday, January 31

Durham Central Agricultural Society Annual Meeting - 1 p.m. at St. Saviour's Anglican Church, Mill Street, Orono. Open to the public.

Monday, February 2

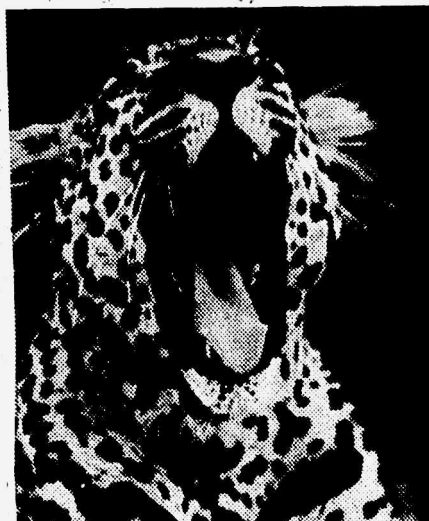
The Newcastle Village and District Historical Society Show & Tell and Annual Meeting 7:30 p.m. at the Newcastle Community Hall, Historical Room, King Ave. & Mill St., Newcastle. Bring your interesting item and tell us about it! Call Myno at 905-987-5482 for further info.

February 3, 5, 11

Orono Soccer Registration - 7 to 9 p.m. at Orono Arena Meeting Room.

Saturday, February 14

OAAA Fundraising Valentine's Dance at Orono Area and Community Centre. 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tickets \$20/couple.



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