

# The Cobourg

*Sunday Star March 24, 1972*

CANADA'S OLDEST WEEKLY -- FOUNDED 1831

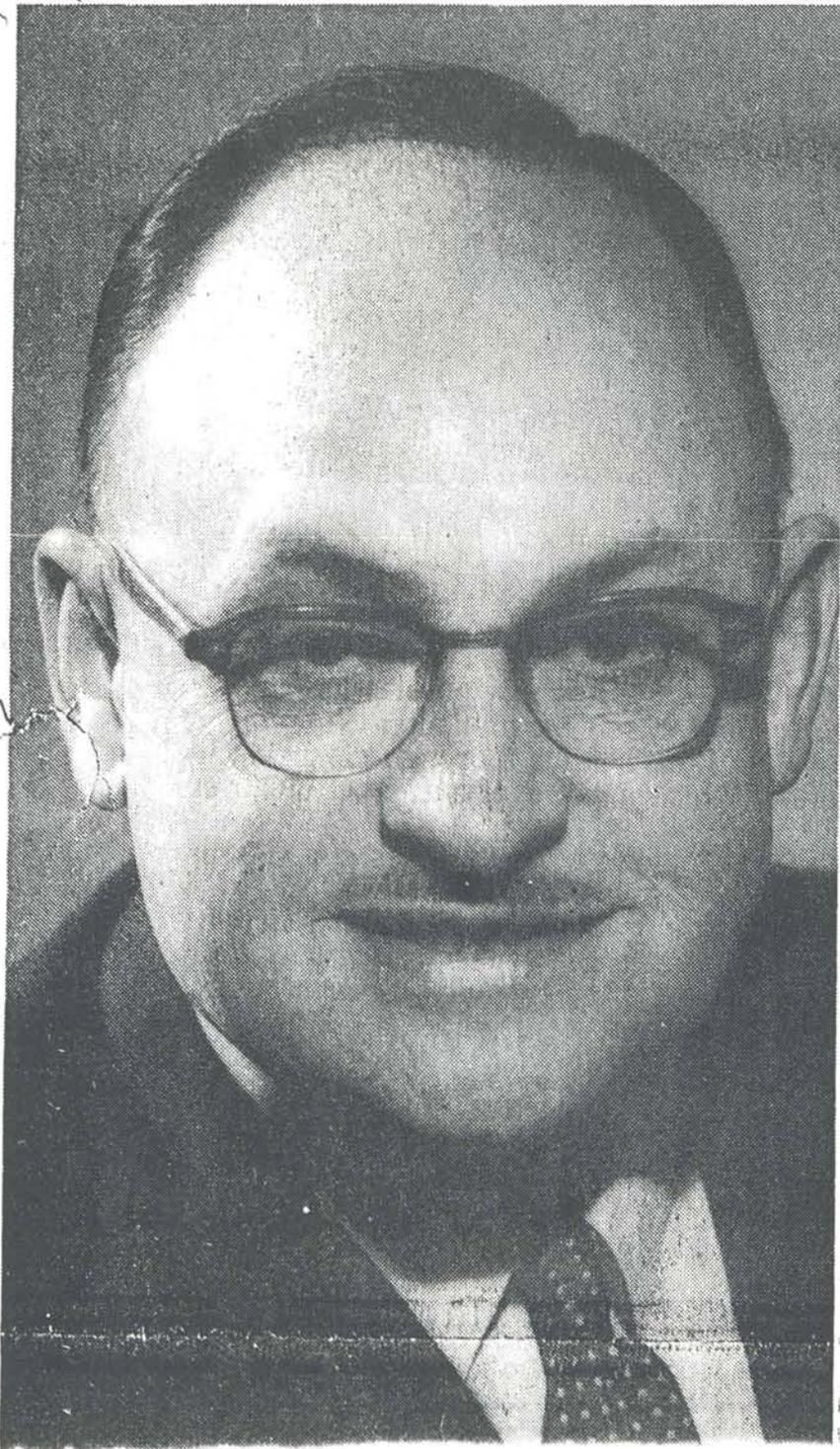
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Plant started with 3...

...now 160 jobs

**Otto Curtis was leader  
in business community**

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Otto James Curtis, 64, will be buried today (Wednesday, March 29, 1972), in Union Cemetery, Cobourg, after services at Calvary Baptist Church at 2 p.m.

Founder of one of the town's largest industries, Curtis Products Limited, he was probably Cobourg's most successful local businessman of his generation, a leader in his industry throughout Canada, a strong supporter of his community and church, and an unofficial advisor to scores of Cobourg people on private business matters.

The company which he founded 28 years ago with three employees and his wife, now has over 160 on the payroll, and is the largest manufacturer of metal office furniture and equipment in Canada, as well as a leader in the beauty salon furniture field. He sold the firm in 1960 to Steelcase Canada Limited.

"You can always hope things go well," Mr. Curtis once recalled, "but I never thought it would get this big."

He also owned apartment buildings in Cobourg as well as other property. He and his wife were enjoying a winter holiday at Hillsboro Beach, Florida, when he became seriously ill, and they returned home. He entered Toronto Western Hospital six weeks ago, and died on Sunday. Since selling his business, he kept active in other ventures, but also travelled extensively in Europe as well as spending the winter in the South.

His funeral service this afternoon will be conducted by Rev. Fred Jewell, Calvary Church, and Rev. S. D. France, Commerce, a director of the Golf and Curling Club, and until recently, a director of the Cobourg District General Hospital.



Cemetery.

# Otto Curtis

Continued

of Nathaniel and Tamson Curtis. He attended Mill Valley School, and as a young man in his late teens, left for Detroit to join the Ford Motor Company, as did many young Canadians of his generation. He worked in the Ford factory, and in the early 1920's was in Pontiac, Michigan, when he said later he worked on the first Pontiac car ever produced.

In 1928, he took the step which would lead eventually to his factory in Cobourg - he opened a barber shop in Pontiac.

In 1931, Mr. Curtis came back to Canada, and settled in Toronto as Eastern Canada supervisor for the Ontario Beauty Supply Company. In 1944, he decided to begin manufacturing beauty salon furniture and equipment, and came back to his old hometown of Cobourg, taking over the old gasworks building where the present post office stands.

A decade later, business had expanded so much that Curtis Products had moved to a new building on Ball St., to which several additions have since been made. Employment continued to rise.

Mrs. Curtis is the former Edna Staples, also of the Baltimore area. They have three sons, Edward, Ralph and Paul, all of Cobourg, and four grandchildren.

Also surviving are brothers of Mr. Curtis, Ross and Kenneth of Orillia and Carl of Baltimore; sisters Doris (Mrs. George Stephens), Baltimore, Evelyn (Mrs. Kenneth Hall), Thornhill, Marion (Mrs. C. Jenkins) and Jane (Mrs. George Bull), both of Cobourg. Two brothers, Rev. John, and William, and one sister, Bernice, predeceased him.

...car and was taken home. Mr. Ferguson said he saw Mrs. Wilson unload the dog and take it into the house. He said he had warned Mrs. Wilson twice about the dog being at large. Asked by the court if the dog were owned by Robert Wilson, Mr. Ferguson said he thought it was.

Town treasurer George Footitt said the dog is registered to "R. Wilson" on the tax assessment roll, but Mr. Wilson's lawyer Harry MacDonald presented a receipt signed

## Snow law may be changed

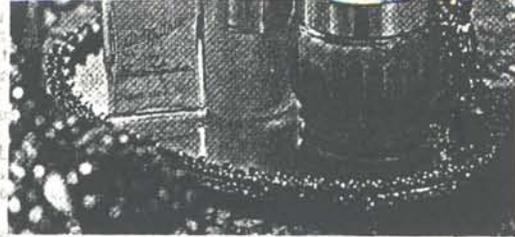
An amendment to the town's snowmobile bylaw will be presented and voted on, in the form of a bylaw, at the next regular meeting of Cobourg town council.

Coun. Mac Lees, chairman of the traffic and bylaws committee, said the amendment covers three main points.

"It makes an attempt to clarify what the bylaw means by no snow vehicle is permitted to be started up within the town limits," he said. "It doesn't really mean you can't start it up on your own property for checking or loading or unloading."

"It concedes the fact that there are major open spaces on the fringes of the municipality which are private property that could be used by snow vehicles without any detriment to the community should snowmobilers be allowed to use it within a reasonable hours."

Coun. Lees said permission would have to be granted from the landowner before being used by snowmobilers. He also said that the size of the



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