

Steel - April 7/05

By Bruce Bell p. 7
THE INTELLIGENCER

PRINCE EDWARD — Big Island just got a little smaller.

The Prince Edward County community north of Demorestville said good-bye to one of its better known businesses this week when Vel and Carolyn Post closed their meat processing operation after more than three decades.

"It will take some getting used to, that's for sure," said Vel Post, as he and Carolyn put the finishing touches on the last of the beef in their shop Tuesday afternoon. "It's been a long time and we are very grateful for the living this has provided for us and our kids but know it's time to move on."

The Posts will trade in their knives for bicycles after more than 30 years in the meat processing business. They are expecting delivery of a pair of brand new bikes any day now and will spend some of their spare time cycling the quiet roads of Big Island.

An avid gardener, Carolyn is looking forward to turning her attention to something else for a change.

"I'm really looking forward to not having to come out here (to the shop) everyday," she said. "It will be nice to spend some time outside for a change and enjoy the yard and scenery."

The Posts, who will celebrate their 43rd wedding anniversary this fall, started their business in the early '70s. They started to work in Prince Edward County a decade earlier, Carolyn as a nurse in Picton and later with the VON while Vel was the meat manager at Gardiner's IGA and Food City in Belleville.

When they opened their plant they were the first government inspected plant in the county and over the years, served customers as far away as the Toronto and Ottawa regions.

At the pinnacle of their operation, the Posts had more than 300

acres and raised as many as 150 head of cattle at a time. After selling most of the land a couple of years ago, they still have 10 acres with a small feed lot as well. Although they have no major

plans for travel in their immediate future, Carolyn does hope to travel to Vancouver soon to visit a granddaughter. Del will look after the remaining property. "It will just be a hobby farm to

keep me busy," he said. "We're looking forward to our retirement but we are going to miss visiting with our customers and the neighbours who came in here everyday to visit and keep us up to date on the news."