

Knox Presbyterian Church, Belmore, Ont.

100th Anniversary Service

September eleventh 1977

Services, 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Guest speaker, Rev. Robert Sinclair

formerly of Belmore

Lunch following morning service

# Belmore booms

## Hamlet plans maple syrup festival

**Free Press Huron Bureau**  
BELMORE — Seldom does anything big happen in this tiny hamlet, about 12 miles northeast of Wingham.

Back in 1950, the 50 or so inhabitants of Belmore—together with their neighbors in four surrounding townships—built a community centre so their children could skate and play hockey.

It was a big event.

But excitement died down and everything returned to normal. It was quiet and peaceful again.

Now, there's an old familiar rum in the air once more.

Everyone, it seems is talking "maple syrup" and waiting for "that big day."

Belmore's first—and possibly only—syrup and pancake festival is only two weeks away. Crowds of up to 1,000 are expected April 13 and

that's enough to make the ordinary resident wince.

About 3,500 maple trees—most of them along township roads—are giving so that Belmore can buy a roof for the community centre.

The present aluminum roof has worn in spots and about \$7,000 is needed to replace it.

What better way to raise funds than a syrup festival, thought Walter Renwick.

Mr. Renwick, a farmer who lives about two miles away at RR 1, Clifford, talked to a few friends, persuaded them that the idea had merit and formed a committee.

With support from the Belmore Memorial Arena board, the committee began the task of collecting syrup.

Farmers now bring the sap to Renwick's sugar shack in the hamlet, recently a truck

shed. Groups of five or six men work in shifts around the clock gathering the sap, cutting wood and manning the fires.

And when school's out, children from the townships are driven in to help.

"It's going to be pretty interesting around here," has been a typical comment passed on to a neighbor. "Kids are all up in a fuss," another says.

The festival has been on almost everyone's mind for the past two weeks — ever since about 60 persons began boiling down maple sap and collecting the syrup.

It's safe to say almost everyone is involved.

Belmore has thrived on community support. The hamlet, sitting at the corner of Turnberry, Howick, Carrick

and Culross townships, is considered part of each.

So far, about 400 gallons of syrup has been collected, committee member Bruce Harkness, another Clifford area farmer, said last night. Warm weather during the past two days has reduced the flow of sap but farmers are expecting it to cool this weekend.

Meanwhile, the women of the community are making preparations to cool thousands of pancakes and sausages, hundreds of apple pies and gallons of coffee.

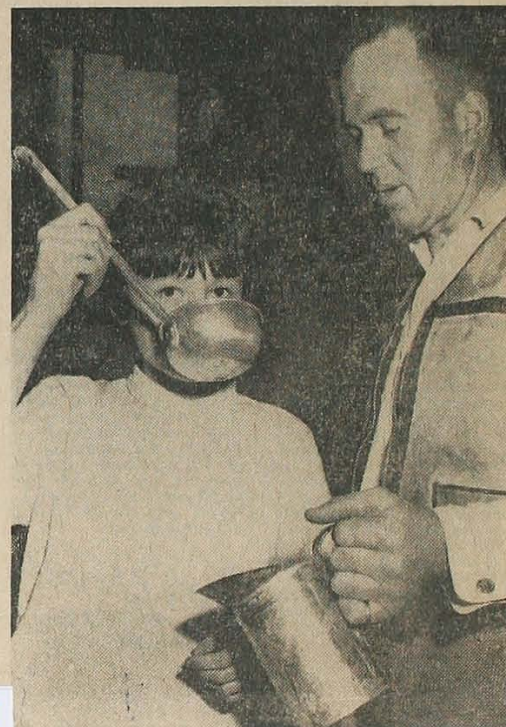
The festival will be held in the centre from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

"The centre's been known to hold about a thousand in the past. Don't expect any problems," Mr. Harkness said.

But there is one problem. How to get Belmore back to normal when it's all over.



Cutting wood to fuel the fires that boil the sap are from left, Douglas McPherson, RR 2, Wingham; Otto Hohnstein, Bruce Harkness and John Newans all of Belmore district



—Free Press Huron Bureau  
Christine Scott gets her first taste of maple syrup from Walter Renwick, chairman of the Belmore committee raising money for a new roof on the community centre.



About 70 district residents are spearheading a community drive at Belmore for a new roof for the com-

munity centre. A syrup-making project is under way. John Leeson found the sap refreshing.

### Knox anniversary

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BELMORE — Anniversary services were held in Knox Presbyterian Church on Sunday, Sept. 9th, at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Dennis Freeman was in charge with Rev. Donald Sinclair of Guelph as guest speaker for both services.

In the morning Mr. Sinclair spoke on "How Firm a Foundation" with special music being provided by the junior choir as well as a ladies' trio.

The evening sermon was "Don't Pass-Push". The youth choir and a men's choir provided the music.