

Nov. 1989

## Hamlet riverbank project delayed

Citizen staff

**LEMIEUX** — A \$1.5-million safety project in this tiny hamlet is being delayed at least a year.

Earlier this year, Ontario had rated the project — to stabilize the banks of the South Nation River below the hamlet — its second most important erosion control project.

The provincial government said

it would pay 85 per cent of the \$1,275,000 project cost so the South Nation River Conservation Authority could complete it this year.

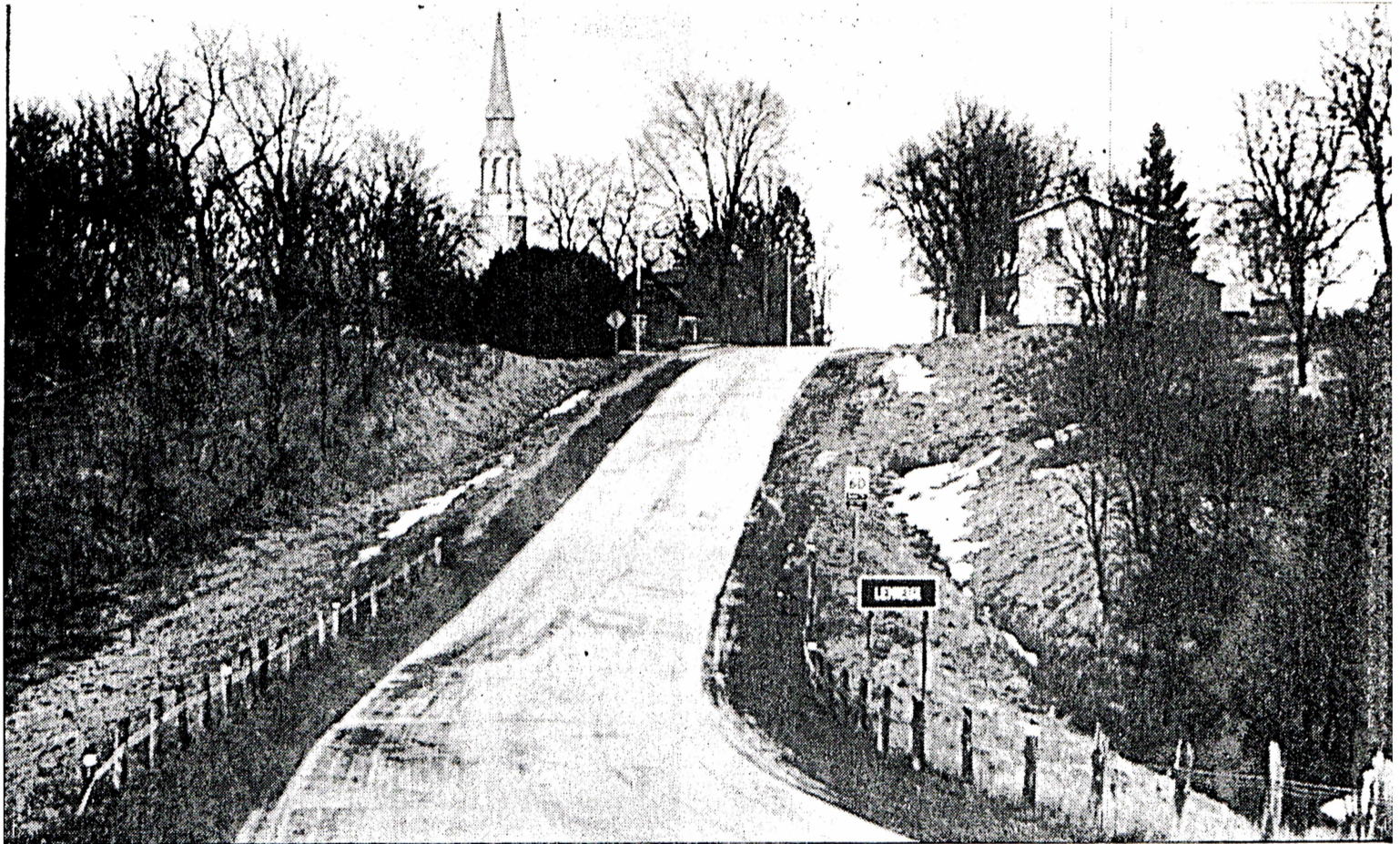
But the project is being shelved because of wrangling over how much local landowners should pay as their share of the work.

The authority's tabling of the matter makes it impossible to get work started this year.

## LEMIEUX

### Residents vote on hamlet's future

Residents will decide at a public meeting Monday whether they want to contribute to the \$1.5-million cost of protecting their homes from sliding into the South Nation River. The local conservation authority is also giving local homeowners the option of selling their houses to the authority and moving away. About 30 homes on 60 to 70 plots of land in and around the hamlet are in danger of sliding into the river.



—Citizen file photo

Because of unstable soil, there's a danger the hamlet of Lemieux could slide into the South Nation River

# Buyout OK'd for Lemieux landowners

By Jamie McDonell  
Citizen correspondent

**LEMIEUX** — Residents of his landslide-prone hamlet may be able to sell their homes and leave in as little as two weeks.

The South Nation River Conservation Authority will start buying out any interested landowners as soon as an appraiser assesses the value of the 25 homes in the community, says general manager Dennis O'Grady.

Appraisals should be ready within two weeks, says O'Grady.

The authority got permission Tuesday to use a \$1.28-million grant to buy out the hamlet's landowners. The provincial money had originally been slated for rock berm and grading work

to protect the hamlet.

The grant will cover 85 per cent of the cost of buying out local landowners. The conservation authority will kick in another 10 per cent, and South Plantagenet Township will add five per cent for any landowner who relocates within the municipality.

"We've had a half-dozen homeowners approach us about being bought out," said O'Grady. "Once the appraisal is complete, we can start buying any property where we can get clear title."

Hamlet resident Lucien Dore wants to see the price offered by the conservation authority before he decides whether to leave his home of 33 years.

"We're in no hurry to leave,"

said Dore, "We feel safe enough here."

"We had (an appraisal) done before, but the price didn't suit us," he said. "If I can't get a fair price, I'll take the risk (of a landslide)."

Appraisal of the lots in the hamlet are being conducted by the Cornwall firm, Enns and MacEachern.

Lemieux homeowners will be given the option of moving their houses — as long as it doesn't cost more than their appraised cost, said O'Grady.

Once local landowners sell out, they will have up to a year to leave the hamlet.

O'Grady says up to 10 homeowners could be bought out by the end of the year, "but I'd say

a half-dozen is a more realistic estimate."

Homeowners unwilling to sell and move will continue to be restricted from making any major improvements to their homes. A building ban has been placed on all lots in the hamlet.

While the ban does not include work that affects the habitability of the community's homes, no work that would increase living space is permitted.

The landslide danger in Lemieux stems from a thick layer of leda clay about 30 metres beneath the hamlet on the banks of the South Nation River.

The unstable clay caused a 70-acre piece of farmland three kilometres upstream to slide into the river in 1971.