

Warsaw's tiny bank succumbs to progress



ALLAN PAYNE RECALLS BANK OPENING
Car travel has reduced its use

AFTER 61 years with its own banking facilities, the village of Warsaw, 13 miles east of Peterborough will be without them Oct. 26 when the Royal Bank of Canada closes its small rented office on Mill St.

Closing of the one-day-per-week office won't be a calamity for the village's 200 residents and the surrounding area's farmers, but most feel there will be some problems and are sorry to see it go.

In a building 15 feet wide and 25 feet long, the miniature bank has been a branch of the Royal Bank at Norwood, 12 miles southwest. The Norwood bank's manager (now James Parsons) and one teller have travelled to Warsaw each Thursday for the one-day operation.

Most businesses here use bigger banks in Peterborough or elsewhere, but farmers, pensioners and other residents and small organizations find the bank a convenience.

Although they did not rely on the small bank, operators of the two large grocery stores in the village also do not like to see it leave.

There are many recipients of family allowance cheques, as well as pensioners, in the

area, and the two storekeepers — Martin Herz and Hedley Anstey — figure loss of the bank means they may be asked to cash more cheques. They prefer not to have a lot of cash on hand.

Also, farmers came to town especially for the one day of banking and this generated a little more business for the stores.

Work in city

The bulk of the village's young adults work in Peterborough or elsewhere and loss of the bank is not looked on as a great inconvenience for them.

Mr. Parsons and the teller on duty this week, Mrs. Irene Wood, look on the closing with mixed feelings. The trip has been a pleasant change for the bank personnel handling the one-day assignment.

On the other hand, said Mrs. Wood (with a shiver), the basementless, coal-and-wood heated building became something of an icebox in winter with customers opening and closing the door only a few feet from the counter.



TELLER MRS. IRENE WOOD LIKES OUTING BUT NOT BANK'S WINTER CHILL
Customer Mrs. Gerald Hampton says, village will miss the bank