

1965

# County school board an asset

**PETERBOROUGH** County warden Howard Darling speaks enthusiastically when discussing the public school board for the county, effective Jan. 1, 1966.

He was one of its prime supporters in council during debate of the board and played a strong role in the outcome of the final vote.

Probably the greatest asset of the board says the warden, is its elimination of municipal boundaries for education purposes, thus affecting a great saving in transportation costs and providing for better all-round administration.

### More efficient

Referring to the problem of his own township of Dummer he said: "It's ridiculous having children only a few miles from Warsaw public school having to travel many more miles to Coronation School simply because they live in Douro Township.

"I can't see where this is making much of a contribution to education."

Opposition to the board in council came from the northern townships and Warden Darling explains this is because of their high cottage population and low number of school children. Consequently education costs are not high.

"Under the county board-system, they will probably pay more for education... but they will also derive many more benefits which they couldn't get before.



**HOWARD DARLING**  
Favors new board

"Administration will be much more efficient. We had 15 separate school areas before, with five people on each area board... that's 75 people. I don't see how you can have good administration with that number."

The township system also limited the perspective of the trustees, says Mr. Darling, but now they will gain insight to the problems of the entire county.

Elimination of the one-room schools will result in a higher calibre of teaching he says.

"If a teacher is specially

good in teaching one subject and not good in the others she teaches under the one-room school system, she will have the chance to spend more time on her best subject under the graded-school set-up. This, of course, will be better for the children too."

### Patience needed

Warden Darling foresees a need for patience in the initial period of adjustment for the new board, especially in the area of board representation in which the nine trustees must realize they represent the entire county and not their respective townships.

"But as long as you make changes, there will be controversy. You can sit still and be a wonderful fellow, but what are you accomplishing?"

"Sure, there will be suspicions at first, but once they (the trustees) get to know one another and work together as a team, these will disappear."

What next for the county?

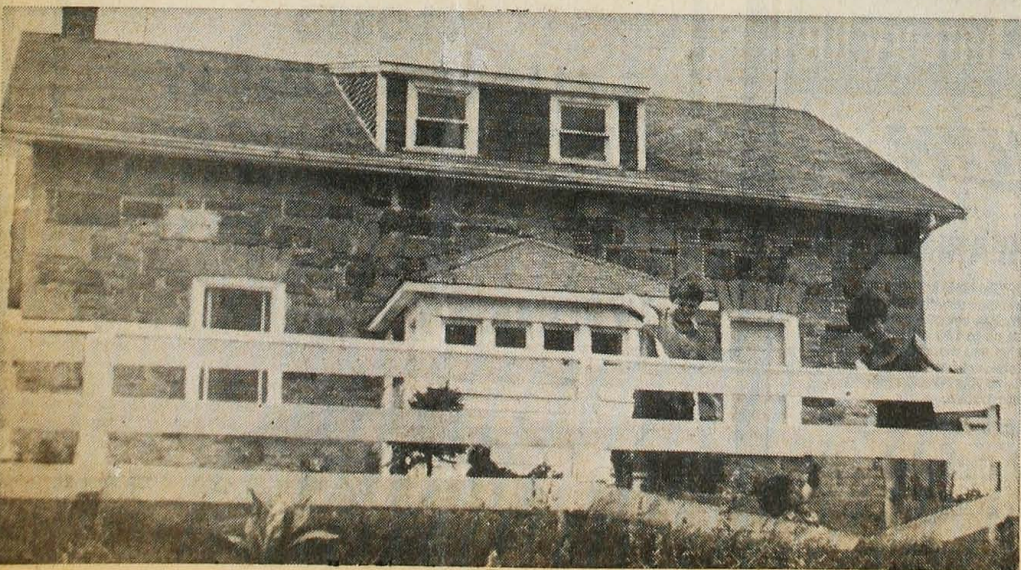
"I would like to see a county planning board now that we have the school board. This would make for proper location of new schools in accordance with the best administration from a county standpoint.

"A planning board could see the problems of the entire county whereas township boards are only aware and worried about the problem as it affects their own townships.

"I think this is the next move for the county."



**HOWARD DARLING WITH MODERN MILKING MACHINE**  
There are almost 100 head of cattle on his farm



**CHILDREN HELP DURING SUMMER VACATION BY DOING CHORES AROUND THE HOUSE**  
Painting fence are from left: Cheryl Clysedale, Lynn, Kay Darling