



Above, curling in the arena

additional regular run is now an extra shopping bus, mostly for senior citizens, at noon on Friday.

Warsaw Bus Lines employs one full time and ten part time people.

The other big employer is the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority with 15-20 employees for the Warsaw Caves Conservation area, most of whom live in the hamlet.

Warsaw has been largely bypassed by the hordes of summer tourists to Peterborough County and so the towns people are not yet confronted by motels, restaurants, take outs and neon lights of places like Lakefield, Buckhorn and Bridgenorth.

A liquor and beer store may be in the offing as early as next year and it could be a difference that makes all the difference. It's a good eight to ten miles shorter to Clear and Stoney Lakes via Warsaw than via Lakefield.

With the holidayer's penchant for the liquid from fermented grain, an LCBO might attract them to the shorter route to the cottages, completely changing the focus of the small commercial sector.

Actually, the tourists might already be taking the Warsaw route if they knew about Warsaw Lunch. They serve the best homemade pie north of Thurston's Restaurant.

below, Sherman Nelson



Community Centre is the social centre

If a small place is to remain a community, it needs a focus.

Until the social revolution of the sixties, the churches provided such a centre of social activity. Although Warsaw still has three Protestant churches with varying attendance, the real heart of the community's social life is down the road at the arena.

Warsaw Community Centre was built in 1950 with natural ice facilities. The problem with natural ice was that home games could only be played from December to February when winter was at its harshest. It's hard to win if local fans can't cheer the home team throughout the season.

Sherman Nelson had two main objectives when he first found himself on township council- to get a fire hall and to get artificial ice in the arena. Without an expanded use or the community centre, he felt that Warsaw would continue to slide as a vital community.

In 1971, the township bought a used ice plant from Beaverton. Before installing the plant, they invited a consulting engineer to test the roof, and found that it would cost \$40,000 to bring its stress up

to the 45 pounds per square foot required by the National Building Code.

By September, 1973, the roof had been reinforced and money was raised through community drives and a loan taken out by the Lion's Club to pay for installing artificial ice. An arrangement was worked out with the cement contractor and most of the labour was donated by the men of Dummer Township. About 35 men poured 160 yards of cement from 8 am to 3 pm one day.

The artificial ice facilities were opened in January 1974.

An arrangement with the Lion's Club has given them the use of the concession booth in the arena for five years. Already, they have been able to pay back \$6,400 of their \$10,000 loan for the artificial ice.

Five minor hockey teams and two men's teams have first priority for ice time, and the rest is rented, even to Peterborough teams that can't get ice in the city.

Mixed curling happens Monday nights, and women's curling Tuesday mornings. Figure skating classes are held Wednesday nights and Saturday afternoons, and there's public skating Saturday nights and Sunday afternoons.

Gerry O'Toole, who formerly played for a men's league in Peter-

borough, said he never saw such crowds to watch men's leagues in the city. The arena is busy every night until midnight or after, "even though some people thought we were crazy to build it," said Sherman Nelson.

He spent almost all his time at council, the bus lines, and the arena that winter. His wife, Jean, looked up from the supper she was preparing, smiled and said, "If that arena hadn't been finished soon in 1974, Sherm would have been a bachelor."