

should walk around with a small bag of guilt."

Myrna Ogden of the Community Nursing Home says their enterprise is serviced by Strano's, a food wholesaler. That means the home is not particularly impacted by the closure of the local grocer. But, she sees the closing having a major impact on people who relied on it for their groceries.

"I would go in," she explains, if she needed milk or bread. "The store was not in that great a shape. Things were not 100 per cent," she says.

"Maybe we're getting more into a touristy community," she says, noting the new café Ambrosia "is a good little store."

Mr. Peters predicts the Foodlands closure will not have a huge impact on the business community and speculates that it won't be long before another grocery store moves in.

Warkworth is far from dead, he notes, observing the new business activity on Main Street.

"I'm really encouraged by the new businesses and investment being made in the main street (area)," Mr. Peters says. "It's becoming a destination for people. That's bringing increasing numbers of people in the community ... The arts and culture community has added a great deal to Warkworth and they should be welcomed."

Some observers of rural communities say it's a marvel Warkworth managed to keep a grocery store this long. And they're amazed at other businesses still in operation just 30 minutes north of the busy Highway 401 corridor, competing with retail centres in Belleville, Cobourg and Quinte West.

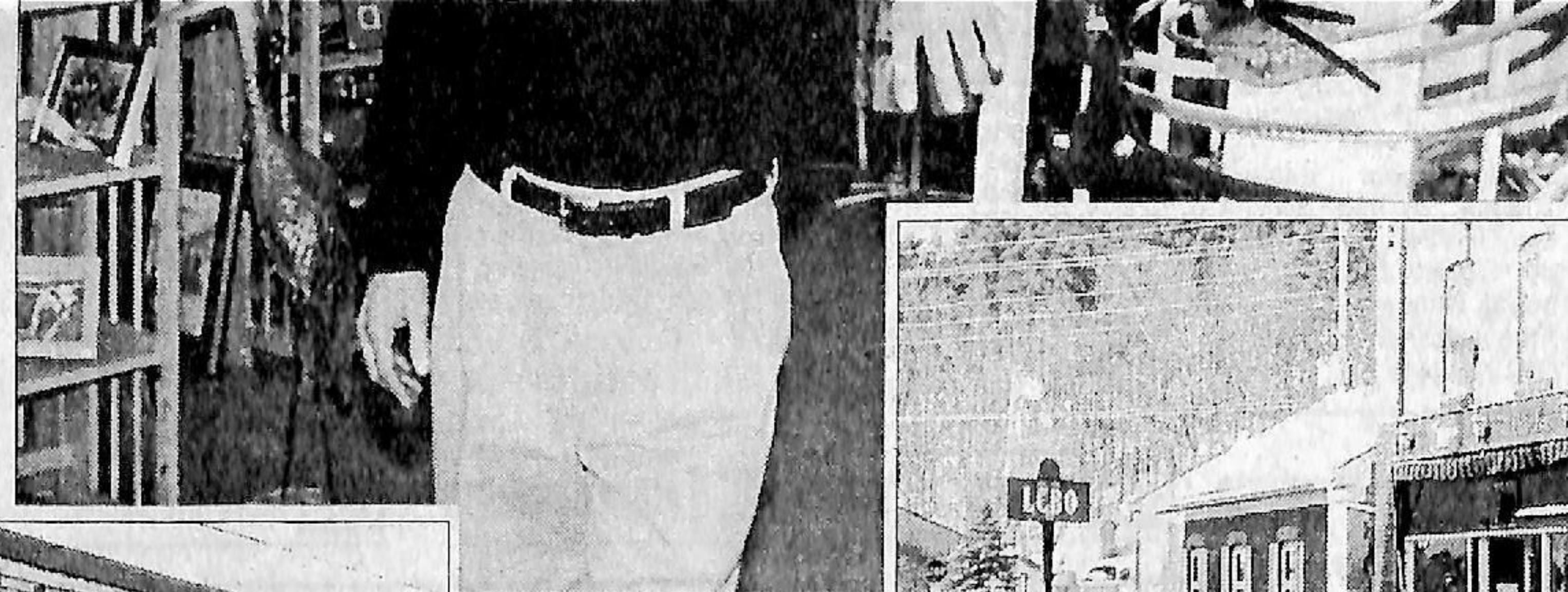
"People are so mobile. They're going to work in other communities and they just go in and save a few bucks on their way home," explains Professor Tony Winson of the University of Guelph. "There's not a lot of consciousness of the implications."

"If people make the decision not to shop locally then, of course, they don't have a grocery store."

Prof. Winson says people have developed a "fetish" for convenience and bigness.

"The ones that have survived have found a niche - like specialty crafts," he says.

And he adds that food retailers need a much larger population base than 800

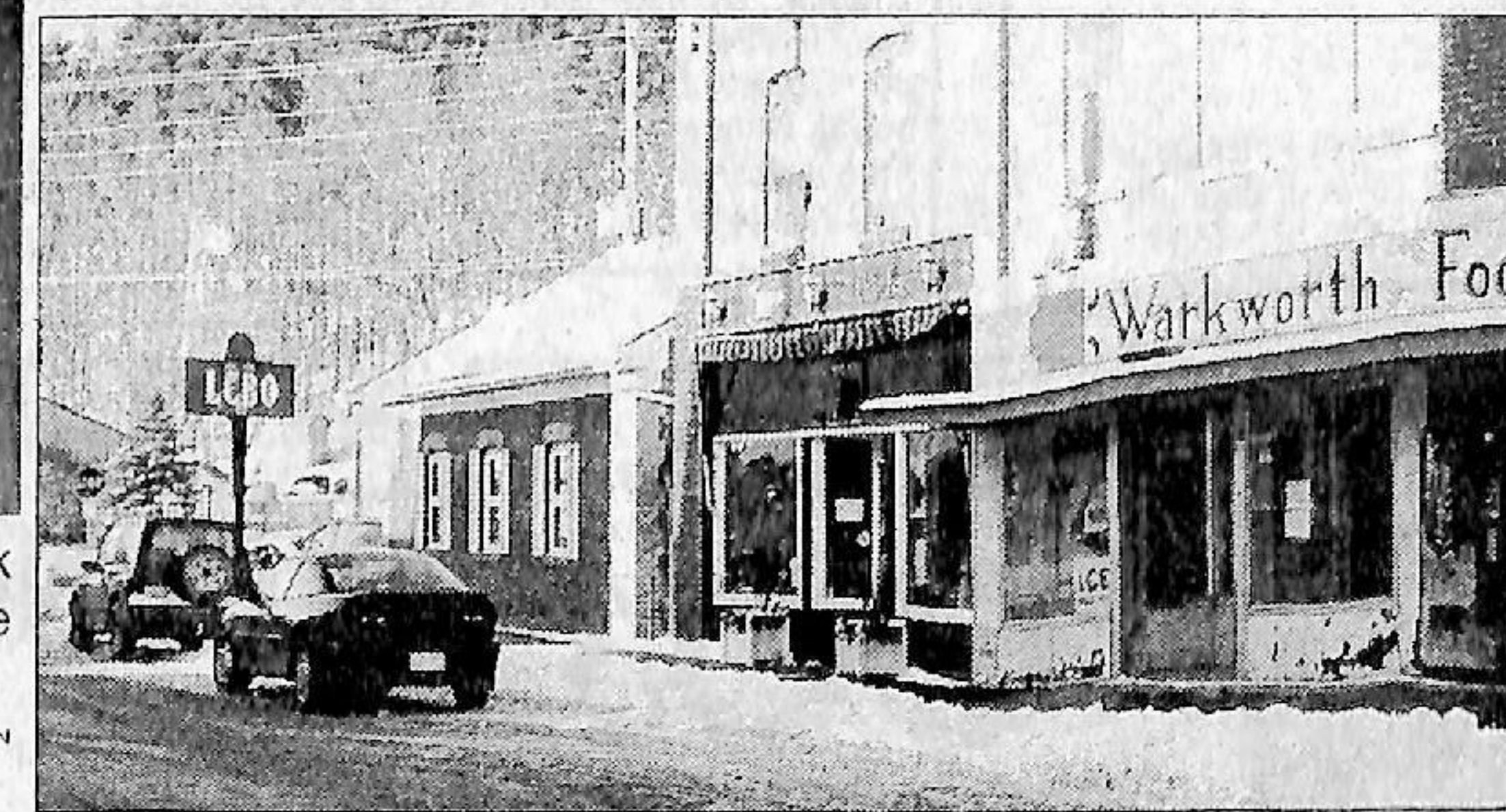
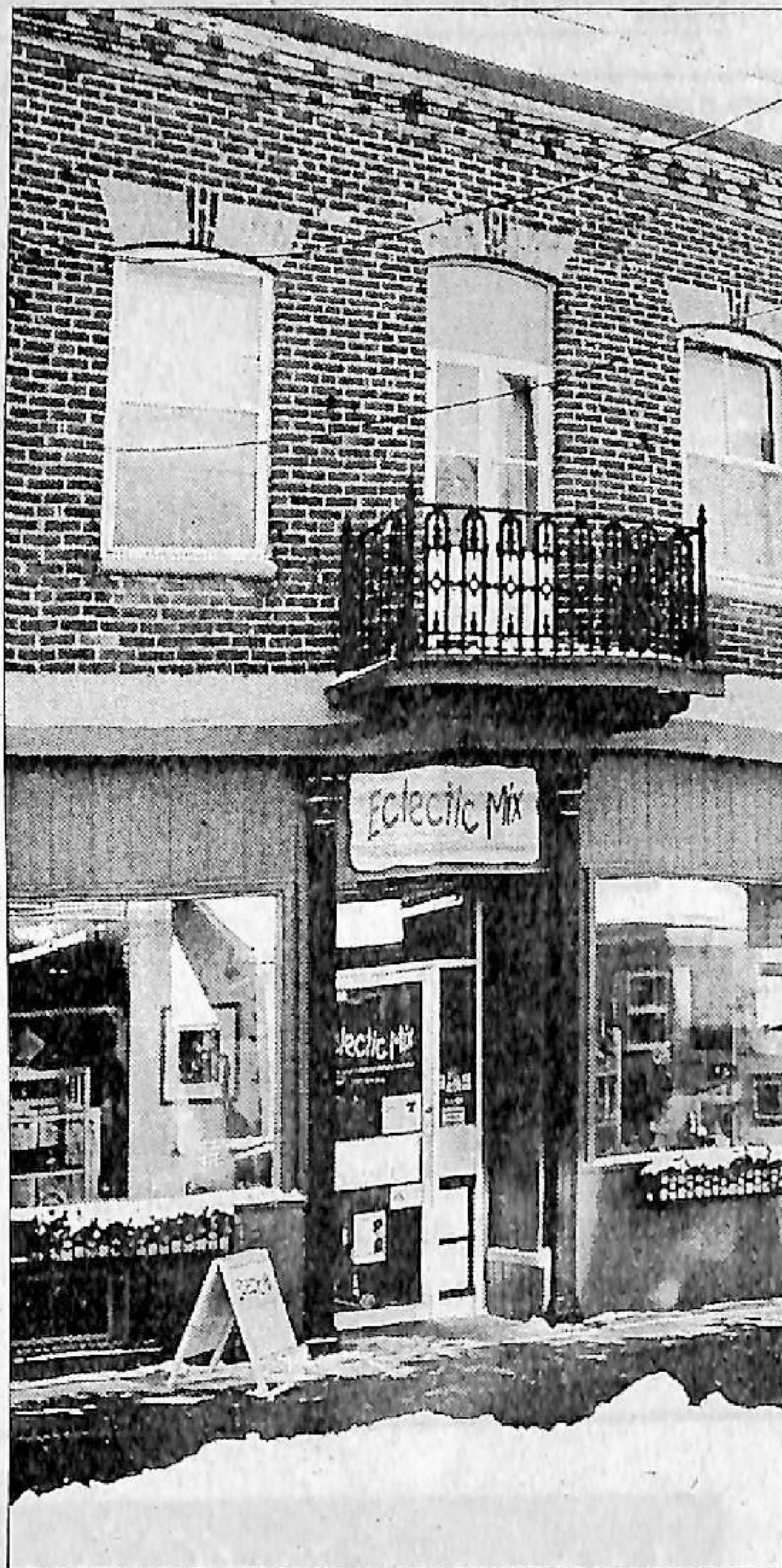


Above, Derek Henderson misses the local grocery store.

PHOTO BY SUZANNE ATKINSON

Left, Mr. Henderson's store, The Eclectic Mix, in Warkworth.

PHOTO BY BOB OWEN



Jannine's Back-Talk Café and an LCBO outlet are just down the street from the former grocery store.

PHOTO BY BOB OWEN

Below, artistic displays and wares are offered at specialty shops moving to the village.

PHOTO BY BOB OWEN



The Warkworth Co-op, an Olco gas station and the former mill located at a main intersection of Warkworth.

PHOTO BY BOB OWEN

she's in Campbellford twice weekly and pick up what she can for others who can't get there as easily.

Because she's open only one night a week for dinner, she says she hasn't noticed a decline in business.

Wayne Caldwell, past chairman of The Ontario Rural Council, says small communities are able to maintain grocery stores when those businesses have been upgraded periodically.

"People tend to have shopping experiences," Mr. Caldwell, a professor at the University of Guelph, explains. "They will travel to a big box store. Grocery stores tend to be able to compete."

"(But successful local grocerias) would have been rebuilt. The mom-and-pop variety store where everybody went for

daily industry in 1980-81. Caldwell says he will carefully do the market analysis. The bank will want to make sure it's viable," Professor Caldwell says.

He sees the presence of other successful

businesses in Warkworth scenario as "an anomaly" when it comes to small, rural communities, "but it's probably a sign of strength. It's just a matter of finding someone who wants to run it."

Still, a Warkworth businessman who moved to town only one year ago is lamenting the loss of the personal

touch Derek Dickson supplied at the Warkworth Food Town.

"I miss that store," Fred Henderson says. "It's changed the whole nature of the town. It was, for me, the heart of the town. I love going in a store where people called me by name. It was stepping back in time."

"I shopped there every single day," Mr. Henderson says. He would decide what he wanted for dinner each day and invariably would find it at the Warkworth Food Town.

Derek would cut the steak the thickness he liked, Mr. Henderson says: there were fresh vegetables in winter and he could supply his grocery needs in one stop.

"I liked shopping there and I like the (Warkworth) downtown," Mr. Henderson says. "It's all part of the package of having a small downtown."

He describes Warkworth as "the most amazing community I've ever lived in. I'm in awe of how this town works together toward a common goal. The Main Street sings," he says.