

January 27, 2001



### Happy Birthday

Brida Smyth got birthday honours from non other than Erie-Lincoln member of Parliament John Maloney Thursday at Albright Manor in Beamsville. Brida was celebrating her 100th birthday. She and her husband farmed on Mountain Street shortly after marrying in 1921.

Photo by Tom Wilkinson

## Farmer feeling frustrated by rural dumping

□ Says he will do whatever he has to do to keep his land clean

by Terry McNamee  
Weekend Edition

What goes around comes around whether you like it or not, and in the case of a few Jordan residents they will soon have their misdeed returned in the form of truckloads of garbage.

Owner of 35 farms and vineyards in the Niagara Region, Howard Staff has been experiencing extreme difficulty at his 19th Street property across from the Glen Elgin subdivision.

For the past 10 years neighboring residents have taken it upon themselves to dispose of their excess garbage onto Mr. Staff's land, rather than disposing of it properly in an official dump site.

"This past summer one of our neighbors came in and said someone is dumping some things on your land. I went down to investigate and sure enough there were eight garbage bags," said Mr. Staff.

"I called the police to come and investigate it and sure enough a man's freezer had been unplugged and the bags were everything that was in the freezer.

They paid their two kids to go and dump the material out at the St. Catharines dump, but instead the boys just drove out to the rural area, dumped it

and bought a case of beer with the money."

This example was just one of the many listed by Mr. Staff who has presently come to the end of his rope. Officially there is little that he can do to solve the situation.

Not only has he contacted the police and made them aware of what was happening, he has also requested the Town of Lincoln to post, no dumping signs on his property. Although the signs were immediately posted by the bylaw enforcement officer, the first sign only lasted one day, and the other three days before they were removed entirely by the locals.

"Some people recognize the situation and said it is only five or six families doing it but they still won't give me the names," he explained. "One day I'll catch them. These people will get it back, and that's not a threat that's a promise."

During a Council meeting on January 15, Mr. Staff presented his situation to members, warning them that from now on he will do whatever necessary to rid himself of this problem.

Officials agreed that there was not much they could do, since it is impossible to watch over the site 24 hours a day.

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