

A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

Bruce Halliday, M.D., M.P. for Oxford

It has become somewhat of a tradition for the newspapers in the County of Oxford to publish year-end greetings from elected representatives. I welcome this opportunity to speak to the readers of the St. Marys Journal-Argus.

Hindsight is easy!

As each year becomes history, one can recognize its shortcomings and problems, but as man is imperfect, so must be his accomplishments. It is, however, the nature of man to rebound from adversity and try again! We therefore anticipate the year to come with hope and determination.

If each one of us becomes just a little bit more involved in the matters which concern us all, and works just a little bit harder at our respective jobs - whether we are craftsmen, farmers, executives, housewives, professionals, students, or indeed politicians - then we will surely make a meaningful contribution towards overcoming whatever ills we see in society.

A significant increase in recent months in the volume of mail and number of telephone calls which have been directed to me, indicates that the people of Oxford are concerned, and very often have offered constructive corrective suggestions in many areas of federal jurisdiction. This trend is both healthy and helpful. I encourage and welcome it.

As we greet the year 1977 with optimism and vigour, may I - together with my wife and my staff - wish you all a Happy New Year.

Jan 5 - Journal 1977

40th ANNIVERSARY

Some 80 relatives and friends enjoyed a beef dinner at Thorndale United Church on December 29, 1976, in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Arthur's 40th Wedding Anniversary. All of their family and 15 grandchildren were on hand. Some came from as far as Bracebridge, St. Louis Mo., Sault Ste. Marie; and

others from London, St. Marys, Thamesford, and Thorndale. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur received many lovely gifts. *Jan 5 1977*

Brown's Corners

Mrs. Reg. Harris - 349-2285

Holiday visitors with Mrs. Betty Beavers were Mr. and Mrs. Donald Potter, Kevin and Jeffery, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Wright and family, St. Marys; David Beavers and Laurie Baldree c Lindsay and Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Shervill of Grand Bend.



Child Of The New Year

Mr. and Mrs. William Semeniuk of R.R. 4, Thamesford are the proud parents of St. Marys' first baby born in 1977, and also their very first child. Young Robert William Semeniuk arrived at 5:50 p.m. on New Year's Day.

Points Out Serious Lack Of Nursing Home Beds

Rotarian Vern Tozer told his fellow Rotarians on Monday evening that the St. Marys Ministerial were very concerned about the shortage of nursing home beds in the St. Marys area. They were very interested in the nursing home situation, and hoped to pursue a course in 1977 which would lead to some improvements for the community in this regard.

He pointed out how many older people had to be sheltered in a home twenty to thirty miles away in order to find a place to spend their last years. They were taken away from former friends and neighbors who were often unable to visit them because of the distance.

Rotarian Vern, who with Rotarian Ross Crosby, spoke for the Ministerial group, said that they had been pursuing the matter with several government

agencies but had not found too much help as yet. The authorities seemed to feel that St. Marys had sufficient nursing home beds for the population hereabout, and yet in the municipality of Tavistock some 242 beds were available.

STRONG SUPPORT

The Ministerial President said that their group really needed strong support from other local organizations. He suggested that if a million dollars could be obtained for a new arena, surely half of that could be secured so that enough nursing home beds could be made available. "Most of these people are very lonely", he said, describing some of those who were in out-of-town nursing homes. "Having visitors from persons their own age is often quite a trial."

As well as making this appeal concerning the elderly citizens, Rotarian Vern, on behalf of the Ministerial extended best wishes to each Rotarian and his family. This was his own family's third winter in St. Marys, he said, and they were enjoying living here very much.

"MISS DEAR FRIENDS"

Rotarian Ross Crosby seconded Vern's comments concerning the nursing home situation. He said that most people had no idea of the number of persons who were confined to the out-of-town nursing homes. He added: "Older people miss their dear friends with whom they have associated over the years."

The Club members welcomed back Rotarians Herb Sparling and Hugh Munro, both of whom have returned from lengthy hospital stays.