

# Mayor Ken Peers discusses outlook

BY NANCY GALL

Action on the roads needs study and discussion of the Oxford County Official plan will be two major areas facing Norwich Township council in the upcoming year, according to Mayor Ken Peers.

The roads needs study was presented to council last month and is under discussion by the public works committee. The five-year plan may result in more generous allocations from the Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

Copies of the fourth draft of the county official plan were circulated to members of municipal councils in the county for their perusal and discussion. The official plan outlines development in the county for the next 20 years.

Ensuring a satisfactory water supply for the village of Norwich remains a priority item, Mr. Peers said. In the past, Mr. Peers has said a guaranteed water supply would encourage industry to locate there.

Mr. Peers attended a Norwich PUC meeting earlier this month. Drilling in one site came up with nothing, but Mr. Peers said the PUC is looking around for another site.

Mr. Peers favours the encouragement of small industry in the township, but a proposal to establish an industrial park near Norwich has resulted in little action at the municipal and county levels. However, Mr. Peers said, a private citizen "seems to be developing something."

Mr. Peers, who is also warden of Oxford County, said there has been some discussion on the matter at county council, but so far no action has been taken.

"However, the time will come shortly, within four or five years, when the county will have to get into buying here," he said. "If the local municipality sees property (suitable for an industrial park) for sale, the county has to buy it."

Revitalization of the downtown areas of Norwich and Otterville continue to be priority items, although the Norwich District Chamber of Commerce has taken some steps in that direction in the downtown area of Norwich village.



Mayor Ken Peers

Mr. Peers has been mayor of the township for just over a year, and said it has been a satisfying year.

"We get along very well, and we have a very good council," he said. "Of course, you never get everything you want done, but we're quite happy that last year our tax rate was held right down and I don't think there'll be any great increase this year. It's also satisfying to get the official plan and roads needs study completed."

Mr. Peers was reeve of the former East Oxford Township in 1970, 1971, and 1972 and before that served as a councillor for five years. On Norwich council in 1975-76, Mr. Peers was councillor-at-large and was a member of a number of county council committees. He was elected warden of Oxford County January 12, 1977.

## New crest acquired by township last year

It shouldn't be long until Norwich Township councillors are holding Calamity Jane next to their hearts.

Calamity Jane is the Holstein cow who tops the Norwich Township crest. A man plowing with a two-horse team, a corn field and a tobacco field make up the rest of the crest, along with the words "Historical, Agricultural, Beautiful."

A sample crest in gold thread is being prepared by Reg Hall Ltd. of Woodstock. If council is satisfied with the sample, crests for councillors' jackets will be ordered, Township Clerk Robert Watkins said.

Council presented enamelled township crests mounted on walnut plaques to players, coaches and managers of teams honored at a sports recognition banquet in November, 1977.

Controversy over where and when the crest should be displayed has emerged from time to time in township council. In August, 1977, council allowed engineer Ken Smart to use the crest on a roads needs study booklet, but refused the Chamber of Commerce permission earlier that month to reproduce the crest for display at the CNE for Woodstock and Oxford County Day.

"This is a very sacred thing to me, this crest," Councillor Jack Burn said at the Aug. 8 council meeting. "I don't want to see anyone with it unless he's a councillor."

Councillor Norm Lusk agreed, saying, "I'd be very proud to have the exclusive rights to wear it as a councillor."

Ross Butler's design was chosen to grace the township crest after a contest in the municipality in May, 1975 and two proposals by International Coats of Arms of Toronto failed to turn up a design acceptable to council.

Council rejected the first coat of arms submitted by the Toronto firm because it didn't include a cow to represent dairy production in the township.

However, council decided the worst point of the second coat of arms submitted by International Coats of Arms was the cow right in the middle. The crest was returned to the company after council rejected a resolution to accept it if the cow's horns were removed. Les Dickson, the mayor at that time, said any councillor could sit down and do a better sketch than either of the two from the Toronto firm.

In February, 1977, Mr. Butler completed work on his design.

However, Councillor Norm Lusk pointed out, the crest could not be the township's trademark without the township having exclusive rights to it. At the June 13 meeting of council, a resolution was passed offering \$750 to Mr. Butler for exclusive rights to the crest and a transparency to reproduce it, to which Mr. Butler agreed.

Mr. Butler is to be honored for his contribution to agriculture at a special recognition banquet in April. A Norwich native, Mr. Butler now lives near Woodstock. He is known as one of the world's most talented artists in the area of livestock art.

## One year old, Arthritis Society has successful 1977

Although the Norwich; Burgessville and Otterville Branch of the Arthritis Society was only established a little over one year ago, it has proved to be an organization many...

total of \$1,830.00 was raised in the area, a terrific increase over the 1976 total of \$439.00.

This year's fund raising campaign will be held...

