

# Teen still bitter but now knows farm situation

By Gord Wainman  
of The Free Press

LAKESIDE — Sherry Rounds was only 11 in October, 1982, when a banker and receivers moved onto the family farm just east of here to seize her parents' crops. But the action ground to a halt when farm survivalists and members of the media, including national television, appeared.

On Wednesday, nearly four years later, she saw cars loaded with an

estimated 16 or more RCMP and provincial police officers descend on the northwest Oxford County farm with a trustee in bankruptcy to seize equipment. By mid-afternoon she saw her mother Sharon, 44, and brothers Steve, 24, and Glenn, 22, hauled off in handcuffs by RCMP officers and taken to the Woodstock OPP detachment.

By nightfall, her mother and brother Glenn had been released without charges being laid. Steve Rounds was released later after being charged with obstructing justice and is to appear in Woodstock provincial court Oct. 7.

Husband and father Clarence Rounds, 48, and another brother Keith, 19, who lives at home, remained at the farm Wednesday. Eldest son Ken, 25, lives in Alberta.

At age 15, Sherry Rounds said she's bitter about both incidents but is better able to understand than when she was 11.

"When they came before, yeah I was here. I was scared because I didn't know what they were doing to us. I didn't know what was happening to us. I thought we wouldn't be living here ... it scares you, yeah," she recalled.

"I'm still scared, but I hope we can do something about it now ... We're a strong family, and we'll make it ... I'm pretty sure we'll make it."

At times police seemed to outnumber farm friends who came to stand by the Rounds. RCMP Sergeant Walter Somers of London said he thought a count of 16 policemen was high, "but I wouldn't tell you if I knew."

Farmers came and went over the sometimes tense 10 hours, which ended when a harvesting combine, the last of a handful of pieces of equipment to be seized, was removed from the farm as the sun went down. At any one time about 30 farmers and 16 or more police roamed the farmyard.

Embryo farmers John Langlois, secretary of the Catholic Rural Life Conference, and Albert Rutherford, a provincial director for the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, were there.

"If anybody has any conscience, they know there is something immoral going on," Langlois said of the general deterioration in the Ontario farm economy.

Rutherford lamented the timing of the seizure of harvest equipment, right before Clarence Rounds could begin harvesting his weather-sensitive bean crop.

"I'm here as moral support for all farmers who are in trouble. This isn't a new situation," Rutherford said, but creditor tactics have changed. "They're now in here with the Mounties to do their dirty work for them."

Before Sharon Rounds was re-

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