

## Planning Minister W.M. Nickle Presents Conservation Report

Following is an address given at a banquet in Brampton on May 23rd of the Credit Valley Conservation Commission, when the recent survey report was given. The Honourable W. M. Nickle, Q.C., Minister of Planning and Development on Conservation was the speaker.

"When one considers the beauty of the Credit Valley, it is not surprising that for many years the people in this area have been interested in conservation. There is no part of Southern Ontario which has a better proportion of clear-running streams, rugged hills covered with natural hardwood bush, and a good share of productive agricultural land. Your valley, as you are fully aware, commences in Mono and Amaranth and extends for 42 miles to Port Credit on Lake Ontario.

"Considering these natural advantages of the area, it was only natural that after The Conservation Authorities Act was passed, which permits all municipalities in a river valley to proceed with their conservation problems, that the people living here should promote the formation of an Authority. In this valley, however, it was not as easy to achieve as in some others. The members of your municipal councils, who of course are responsible to you for conducting your business, of which financing is no small part, wanted to make sure that funds so allocated would bring in justifiable returns. In fact, I am informed that it was only after four official meetings were held that the final decision was taken to establish an Authority. Since then, however, your leaders have addressed themselves well to the task in hand, and this year, I understand, have embarked on a broad program of work with a budget which has been increased from \$2,000 last year to \$20,000 this year.

"When your Authority was established in 1954, you were promised, in accordance with the policy of the Department of Planning and Development, that a conservation survey would be made of our valley for the purpose of appraising its conservation needs, the results of which would be presented to you in a report. This survey was undertaken in the summer of 1954 and followed the same pattern of other surveys conducted by the Department and dealt with six subjects which include all types of conservation: namely History, Land Use, Water, Forestry, Wildlife and Recreation.

"The emphasis on one or more of these subjects differs on each watershed, depending on its needs; but here in the Credit Valley all six subjects are in good balance, which means that your Authority has wide scope for a broad conservation program.

"The history of this area goes back to the early days of settlement in Ontario; the problem of soil and water erosion on cultivated land is one which requires correcting in certain areas, as is the case in other parts of the province; there is a need for increased summer flow in your river, and some protection from flooding; and in the upper part of the watershed and on certain areas of farm land, reforestation and woodland management are required. When corrective measures for these problems have been taken care of, the habitat of wildlife and increased fish population should be improved. However, the most striking natural attribute of your valley, and one which impresses every visitor to it, is the number of remaining unspoiled areas which lend themselves to recreation.

"The appraisal of all these problems in any valley and the best way of solving them is the work of specialists. This at long last has been accomplished. It was hoped that the report would be ready for you last year, but owing to the extra burden of work which my staff had to carry after Hurricane Hazel, your report had to be temporarily laid aside. However, as the different sections were completed, they were forwarded to your Authority, and many excellent projects have already been started. This type of action is a sign of an active Authority, because there are many schemes which can be initiated before the final report is presented, and this your Authority had the foresight to do.

"And now, ladies and gentlemen, may I remind you that we are gathered here tonight so that I may have the pleasure of presenting to the members of your Authority, and through them to all the people in your valley, the full conservation report on your watershed. A copy will be made available to each member of the Authority, who, as you know, are your representatives in this great work. A limited number will be made available for schools, institutions and other bodies. At a future date it is hoped that a printed edition, summarizing the full report, will be made available in larger quantities, for distribution throughout the valley.

"In presenting this report to you, I ask you to study it carefully; keep it by you continually; look at the pictures, study the maps, and read the text. Furthermore, I would remind you that this report is not something which can be acted upon in its entirety this year or next, but rather that it is intended as a pattern for years to come, a working plan which can be used by the Authority for carrying out conservation schemes and thereby improving the conservation potential of the whole Credit Valley, a blueprint to be used by your people to retain

and improve the natural resources of this part of Ontario, not only for your children but also for the increasing number of people who in the years to come will be attracted to your beautiful valley.

"Mr. Chairman, I take much pleasure in presenting to you, and thru you to the people of the Credit Valley, a copy of the Credit Valley Conservation Report."

### An Essential Measure Of Canada's Growth

Generally, the recent growth of Canada's urban population is regarded as something remarkable. Actually, the urban proportion of Canada's population has increased every ten years since the first census in 1871—practically since Confederation. Further, the rate of increase in each of the first four decades from 1871 was greater than in any of the latter four.

In 1871 there were about four rural dwellers to one urban. By 1921 the numbers were nearly equal, with 49.5% urban and 50.5% rural. In 1951 the urban population reached 62% of the total. Five provinces—Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan and Alberta—still had a larger rural than urban population in that year. In the other five the urban population ranged upward from nearly 54% of the total in Nova Scotia to nearly 71% in Ontario.

During the ten years from 1941 to 1951, while the population of Canada (excluding Newfoundland) increased 18.6%, the urban population including all communities of 1,000 and over—rose about 30%. At the same time the total rural population grew about 3%; but this increase was due to a rise of nearly a third in the non-farm population, the farm population dropping about 9%.

In 1951 the number of cities of 30,000 and over had risen to 34 from 27 ten years earlier—Newfoundland accounting for one—and one-third of all Canadians lived in these cities. Much of the ten-year growth in city population, however, had occurred outside city boundaries. In all cities of 100,000 and over, the metropolitan area increases exceeded the increases for the city proper.

The 1941-51 growth in urban population extended to all provinces, the increases ranging from 13% in Nova Scotia to 69% in Alberta. Rural populations declined in the decade in the three Prairie Provinces and Prince Edward Island, but rose in the other provinces from 2.5% in Nova Scotia to 12.5% in Ontario and a striking 38% in British Columbia. Farm population declined in all provinces except British Columbia.

In the five years since June 1951 there have been further marked shifts in urban and rural population. The exodus of people to the outskirts of cities and towns and beyond into the country has apparently accelerated. At the same time great changes have taken place within cities and towns. Farm mechanization has also continued with its labor-saving effects and numerous urban and other non-farm employment opportunities have provided attractions for the young people on farms.

The 1956 census will supply greatly needed up-to-date information on the extent of the changes in the distribution of the people through these developments. It is only by the complete count of a census, which obtains data for local areas, that information of this kind can be obtained.

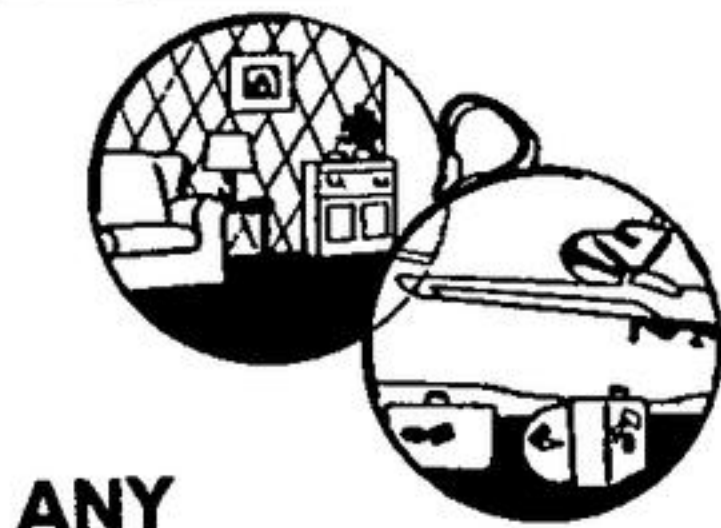
### NATIONAL 4-H CLUB WEEK IN NOVEMBER

November 10 to 15, 1956, have been selected as the dates of the twenty-fifth National 4-H Club Week. This national 4-H occasion is provided each year by the Canadian Council on 4-H Clubs and is scheduled to coincide with the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Toronto.

A number of important program changes will be introduced this year. One is that the recommendation of the annual meeting to delete 4-H judging contests from the program of National 4-H Club Week was accepted at a meeting of the executive committee on May 4th, and will become effective in 1956. Secondly, for the first time the program will commence on a Saturday which will assure seeing a professional hockey game at Maple Leaf Gardens and will result in the bus trip to Niagara Falls on Sunday afternoon to observe the Falls both in daylight and under illumination.

In developing the program for this year's National 4-H Week the theme, "4-H and Our National Heritage" was chosen. The entire program will centre around this theme. For example, one of the important features will be meetings to discuss subjects affecting Canadians as citizens, with topics such as our expanding economy and population, Canada's role in world affairs, United Nations and other international programs. To accomplish this, highest ranking and best qualified men and women from government and industry will be invited to participate in the program.

National 4-H Club Week is recognized today as one of Canada's outstanding annual youth events. Bringing together as it does 4-H proficiency winners from each of the ten provinces, National 4-H Week is providing a rewarding experience to all who attend and is helping to build vision, understanding and closer relationships among the young people of rural Canada.



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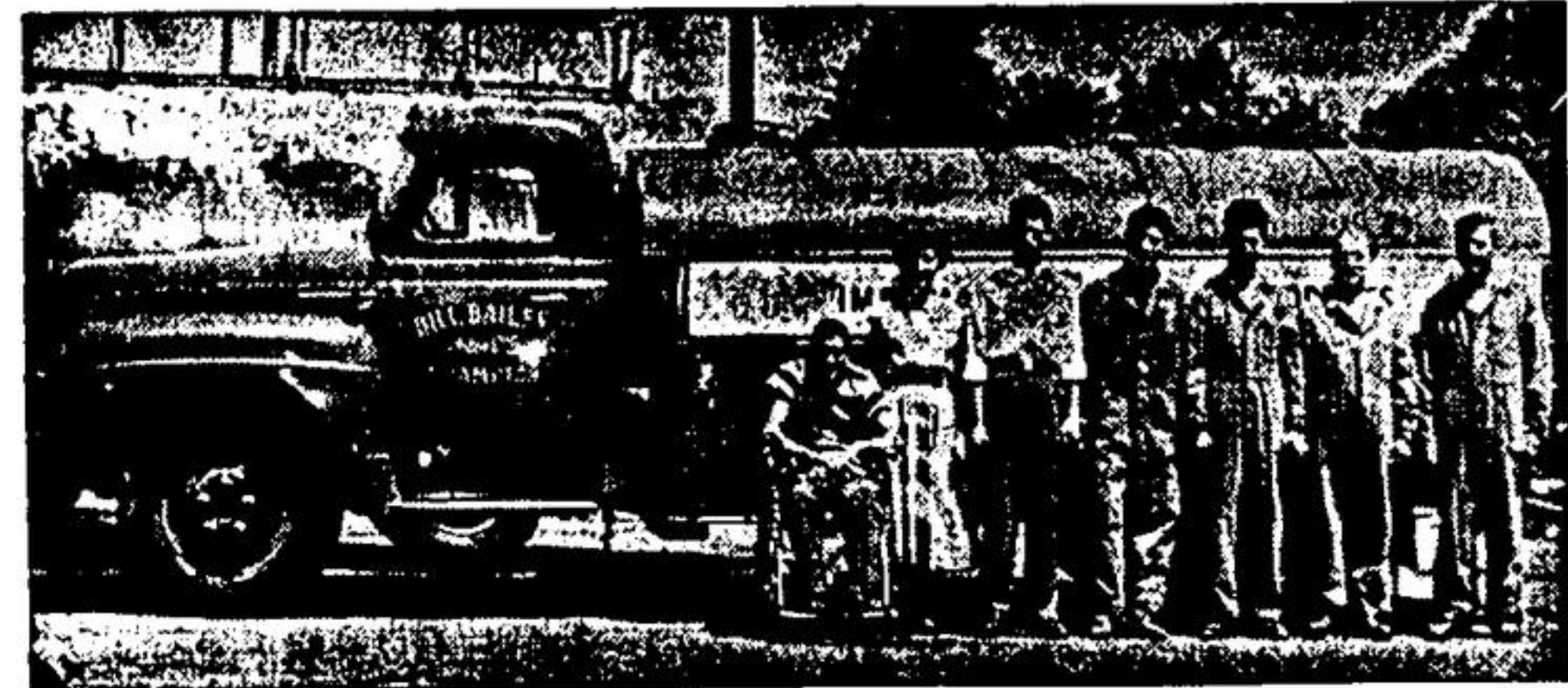
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