

# Limousin cattle: new to Canada

by Jennifer Barr  
Limousin cattle are relatively new in Canada but the breed is thought to be as



**THREE MUSKETEERS**—Nordic Frenchie, Tim Dunlop and Tusa the dog. Tim manages Nordic Farms, Eden Mills, breeders of fine Limousin cattle.

much as 20,000 years old. Looking like a cross between a Jersey and a buffalo, these beef cattle are noted for their fast growth and superior feed conversion.

Nordic Farms, on the Eden Mills road, south-west of Rockwood, has been one of the leading producers of fine Limousins since 1969. Over a hundred head of these beautiful animals occupy the 245 acres of Nordic Farms, owned by Christina Bauman and R.H.L. Massie of Bridlebrook Farms, Eden Mills.

A foundation herd of 30 Limousins was imported from France in 1969 to initiate operations at Nordic. Prior to the '60's, import-export regulations made it too difficult for European cattle to be brought to Northern America. Fear of hoof and mouth disease made the transport of cattle too risky. With better disease control, import became a reality.

The first Nordic bull sold in 1972 for \$25,000. Cows have

been sold for \$35,000 and more. Because of recent increases in Limousins in Canada, current prices are coming down. Now a cow can be bought for a mere \$8,000, somewhat less for bulls.

U.S. buyers are the primary source of Nordic Farms' sales. Two Texans bought 20 animals in 1975. This year the first bull was sold to Cuba, aptly named Nordic Fidel.

Not all Limousin are Limousin. Several mixed beef cows act as recipient cows for ova transplants from Limousin cows. As many as five calves can be produced yearly from a single purebred female by this method. So far, 15 calves have been born from transplants.

The farm also boasts a few Gelbvieh cattle. Bridlebrook Farm, a sister operation, is presently replacing its fine herd of Simmental cattle with imported Gelbvieh animals. A German breed, these cattle

are originally dual purpose for milking and beef. In Canada, they are primarily used for beef because of their fast growth. Both Limousin and Gelbvieh cattle can convert a lesser amount of feed into beef in a shorter time than conventional breeds. Bridlebrook's Gelbviehs were imported from Germany via England to accommodate import-export laws.

One of the most important workers on the farm is Reuben, a donkey stallion. Reuben undertakes the halter-breaking of all the cattle for showing purposes. Wearing a special harness, to which a calf is tied, Reuben leads the youngster around the pasture for a day or so until the calf stops fighting the lead. Reuben has even trained full-grown bulls, knowing exactly how much to argue and when to plant his feet and become immovable. If a bull charges Reuben, he just bites the ear and changes

the bull's mind. Buyer became manager. Farm manager of Nordic Farms is Tim Dunlop, a young graduate in Animal Technology from Centralia College who has spent two and a half years working with Modern Ova Trends, Norval, an ova transplant organization, and a year at Ontario Vet. College, U. of Guelph.

A year ago Tim bought some three-quarter Limousins and became very interested in the breed. "Limousin is THE carcass breed," says the enthusiast. "In the future I think you'll see feedlots full of Limousin finishing steers."

As well as being mother to a very active 15 month old son, Ryan, Susan Dunlop is just as much involved with the farm as her husband. She takes care of the correspondence and spends a large part of her time working with the cattle. The large barn even sports a playpen for young Ryan. Susan used to be a secre-

lary at the University of Guelph but is delighted with the change to the farm. "I enjoy the outdoors much better," she says. "I don't like being confined." The Dunlops come by their love of the outdoors and animals honestly; they have a lifelong background with horses. Tim's grandfather used to be a harnessmaker, and Tim has always had ponies and quarterhorses. He is an active competitor in Western shows and has many ribbons to his credit. Susan rides English and Western, winning in both areas consistently. She rode as a child and comments that she and Tim "met on horseback."

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stabled at Nordic which fall under the realm of Susan's care. "I'm not complaining," grins Tim as he comments on the type of life he and Susan lead on Nordic Farms with the Limousins, Gelbviehs, cows, calves, bulls, horses and Reuben the donkey.

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## Ont. Ombudsman "cuts no ice" on bumpy road

According to Halton Region's Public Works Committee Chairman Jack Haffis, the Ontario Ombudsman doesn't cut any ice when it comes to influencing a decision of his committee. Haffis made that statement during a discussion at the committee meeting Wednesday. Ombudsman Arthur Maloney has called Milton Mayor Anne MacArthur on a number of occasions requesting consideration for the removal of the hump in the road in front of his Nussagaweyn home. The road in that area is said to be hazardous and Maloney has reported a number of ac-

cidents in the area. Mrs. MacArthur has on a number of occasions carried his complaints to committee meetings but she hasn't been satisfied with the lack of action.

He can wait. "I can show you any number of dangerous spots on the North Shore Blvd. in Burlington and we haven't been able to do anything. Being Ombudsman doesn't cut any ice with me, he can stand in line and wait."

"He's a citizen with a problem and being Ombudsman has nothing to do with it," the Mayor retorted. The matter is under study.



**NORDIC FRENCHIE**, a yearling Limousin bull, poses proudly with handler, Tim Dunlop, in front of Nordic Farms sign. Tim has been manager of the well-known cattle breeding establishment for six months.

## Poor administration but 'good politics'

According to Carl Eriksen, Halton Regional Council's move to stay within proposed federal guidelines for staff salary increases is good politics but poor administration.

Eriksen challenged the logic in the action urged by Burlington Mayor George Harrington at the last regular council meeting.

Eriksen charged that Harrington had used the guidelines as a way to jump into the headlines. "It's good politics," Eriksen conceded.

"Shoddy" approach. "We all like to play the game when we can, but I think it was a rather shoddy approach. Good politics doesn't solve the problem."

Eriksen said he felt the fact that council has said it would go by federal guidelines intimated that council would go to the 10 per cent. He felt council should not have publicly dealt with anything that pertained to salary negotiations.



**REUBEN THE donkey** has his work cut out as he trains this young Simmental heifer to lead. Reuben is part of the staff at Nordic Farms, Eden Mills, handling the halter training of all cattle including the bulls.

## Lounge nixed

### Against isolation

Regional councillors should not be able to isolate themselves from the public or press attending Regional Council or committee meetings, according to Oakville Councillor Carl Eriksen. It was partly that sort of reasoning that caused members of the Region's Administration Committee to recommend no action be taken on a suggestion to build a councillors' lounge outside the chambers. "I don't like this idea of all marching out in time to start a meeting and then all marching back into the councillors' lounge after the meeting. "I like the chance to mingle with the public," Eriksen said.

Want report Chief Administrative Officer Ernie Reid said he had been requested by Council to file a report on what it would cost to provide a lounge. His estimate showed the lounge itself would cost \$875 but furnishings would cost about \$2,000, bringing the cost to about \$2,875. During previous discussions on that matter several councillors had expressed interest in having a spot where they could chat over coffee with each other. In Southeast Asia alone, 100,000 children go blind each year as a result of lack of Vitamin A. The price of a small bag of potato chips or a candy bar—donated to UNICEF—can provide the Vitamin A capsules needed to protect three children from blindness for an entire year.

## 9 o'clock meetings too early

It's one thing for a city slicker or town boy to complain about having to be at 9 a.m. meetings, but Oakville Councillor McLean Anderson was taken aback when farmers Fred Nurse and Harold Middlebrook told the Region's Administration Committee that 9 a.m. was a bit early for them to attend a meeting. "Nine o'clock in the morning is early for a farmer," Anderson said, amazed at what he had heard. "I know I found it came early for me this morning—but a farmer, wow."

At that point Anderson, still amazed, apologized for his own tardiness and explained he had been watching the world series game until late the night before. "When Carlson hit that homer I had another brandy and tumbled into bed." Middlebrook and Nurse attended the meeting to express opposition to Milton's industrial park north of Highway 401.



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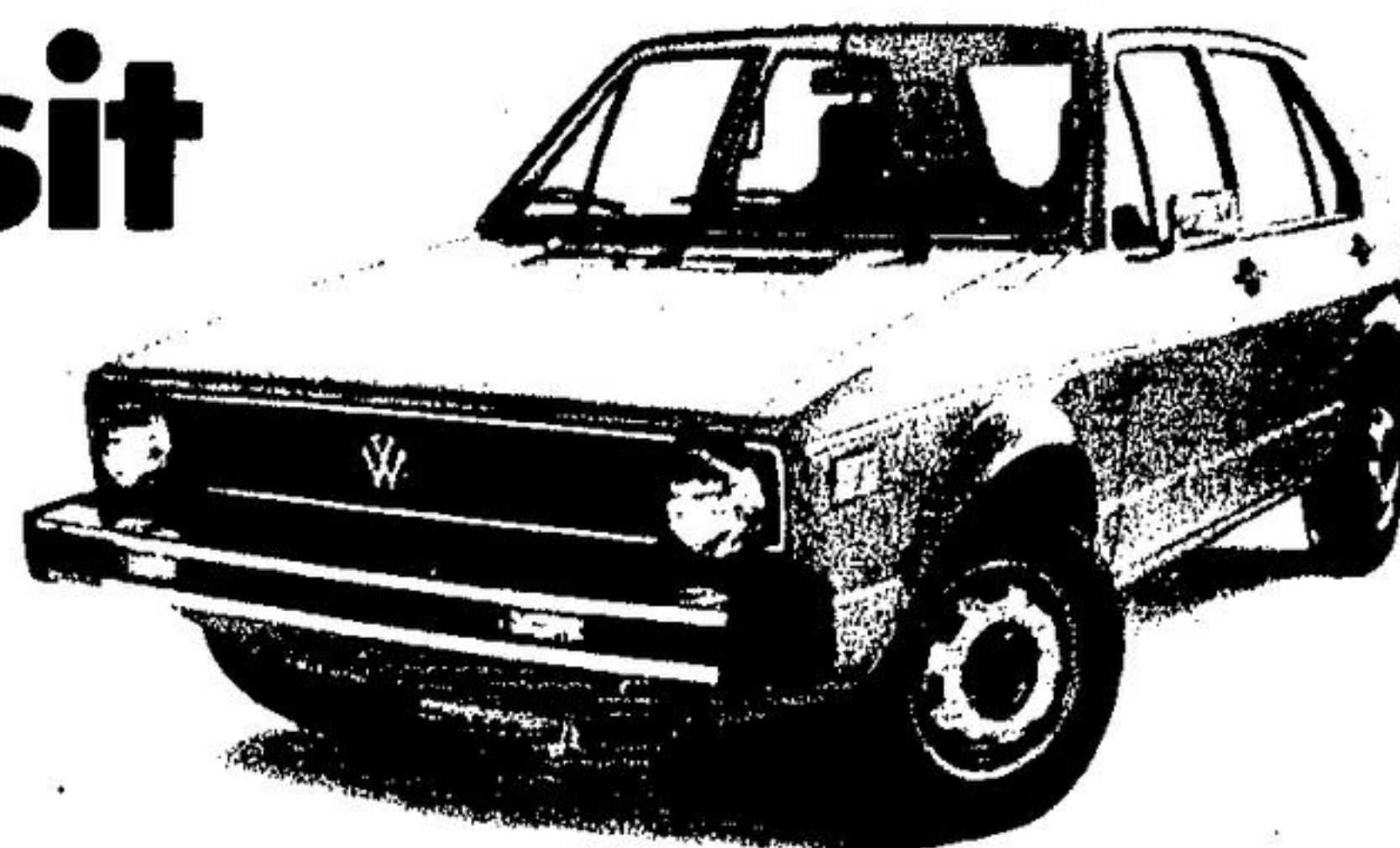
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