



Sideroad 5
with Jennifer Barry

When your dear sweet horse suddenly leaps in the air at the sight of a mailbox and deposits you on the ground don't blame him, blame the nature of his eyes.

A horse's eyes are very different from a human's. Our eyes are on the front of our heads (in most cases), and, although we see two different pictures with each eye, the point of focus is only a few inches in front of our noses.

The horse has his eyes set on the sides of his head and his point of focus is two or three feet in front of his nose. That's why horses have difficulty seeing an object held quite close to their nose. They will usually turn only one eye on the object, or recognize it by smell.

Leaping mail boxes
Have you ever looked at an object with one eye covered? If you quickly remove your hand and cover the other eye while still looking at the same object it will seem to move, because your eyes see differently. The horse has the same conformation but because his focal point is so much further away than ours, the object he looks at seems to jump several feet.

When your horse shies at a stationary and quite harmless object, he's usually seen it first with one eye and then with the other. That mail box has suddenly leapt at him and he is understandably frightened.

Focus on danger
Have you ever watched a horse approach something he's not sure of? His head will bob up and down and he'll look from side to side. He'll also point his head straight forward as if he's trying to get the strange thing in focus. That's actually what he's doing. Not until he's had time to get the source of his fear in focus can he identify it and decide whether he

"For sale" signs common in Acton Splash

Houses in Acton are just not selling these days. Realtor Alec Johnson made a personal count which revealed about 50 resale homes in Acton on the market. There are also plenty of brand new homes still vacant.

He says he cannot recall such a slow market here. His experience goes back to 1961. In the two large subdivisions, Bovis and Kingham Hill, all the houses planned are now completed. There are several unsold homes on Churchill Rd. N. as well as in the subdivisions.

Little interest
Some people putting their present homes on the market are distressed to find little or no interest from buyers. One district family waited a year for a suitable buyer, after a job transfer to a city. Houses are plentiful but apartments and rental accommodation are much harder to come by.

From Canadian Real Estate Association reports, Mr. Johnson has assembled a survey of real estate conditions in other parts of the country, which he thinks Free Press readers will find interesting.

Survey
"BRITISH COLUMBIA—The real estate business in general appears good, although some softening in prices seems to be underway in a few areas."
"MANITOBA—The real estate industry in Manitoba has been stable during the early months of 1976, with the market slightly stronger than during the same period of 1975. Construction in both Winnipeg and Brandon, the two major centres, is oriented mainly to the single-family dwelling market, although all apartments coming on stream are being absorbed immediately with the overall vacancy rate remaining at a



ABOUT 50 resale buyers in town. Market is unusually slow this summer.

nominal 1% to 2 per cent. "ALBERTA—There was an indication in Alberta that the market started to level off with a slight decrease in the average selling price of homes particularly in the large urban centres. There appears to be concern regarding the availability of serviced lots in these areas. Indications are that large land developers are controlling a very large majority of serviced land which is consequently causing some concern for smaller contractors in the residential field.

MIS listings have increased considerably and one local board reported that in February approximately 80 per cent of listings submitted were sold. There was a sharp decline with only 20 per cent sold in April.

"ONTARIO—Increased buyer resistance to rising home prices and high mortgage rates has resulted in a substantial slowing of the number of sales in Ontario in the past few weeks. This is forcing many vendors to take a second look at asking prices.

As expected, residential rental properties are moving very slowly as the effects of rent review and the new security of tenure legislation are starting to show a broad effect. Investors obviously view rental properties in Ontario as a very uncertain investment at the present time.

"PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND—The real estate market in Prince Edward Island is quite buoyant as is expected at this time of year. New starts are not as numerous as in years past. However, there are a number of new development projects operated jointly by the Prince Edward Island Government and CMHC, and a number of co-op groups.

A number of contractors have already declared bankruptcy because of the lack of prospects for higher priced homes and it is almost certain that others will be declared insolvent. In view of this, there will be fewer starts by private contractors this year because some of the bankrupt contractors have in the past built a large number of homes each year.

Raise for CAO

Ernie Reid, Halton's Chief Administrative Officer, got a \$700 increase in his annual salary Wednesday.

But it took members of Regional Council an hour and 10 minutes to approve the raise.

When the in-camera session ended and the regular meeting opened, a motion adjusting the CAO's salary to Step 3, Grade 9 was approved on a 13-7 vote. The adjustment was to be made retroactive to Jan. 1, 1976.

There is a water safety reminder for all those boaters out there! Please wear your lifejacket, whether you're a strong swimmer or not. Why? Because it could save your life, especially, if you are thrown out of the boat and knocked unconscious. The life jacket, approved by the ministry of Transport, has been designed to float the person face up and therefore allow them to breathe whether unconscious or not.

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