



Christmas '76 - this is a very short eulogy to a house - a gift for something kind, warm, loving and comfortable. It's been four years since our little log cabin emerged from a pile of cedar logs. Sounds very pioneer, but it's actually a modern Panabode made from pre-cut B.C. cedar. However, the spirit is there and wood is one of the coziest, warmest of building materials.

This little house, tiny by conventional standards (less than 1300 sq. ft.) feels like a friendly rabbit warren to me. Every time I come home, I pull it around me and dive into its safe depths. I've never felt this way about a house before, it must be home.

**Cupboards at last**

After years of renovating huge ungainly farm houses, to plan a compact residence with CLOSETS and wall space was a dream. We had such fun surveying the ten acre site, choosing the angle of foundation, and watching the hole dug. Mack merely built the house. To me fell the enormous job of making endless phone calls, organizing assistants and shaving the pennies off the budget.

We were plagued by strikes. The house was six weeks late, having sat on a siding in B.C. all that time held up by the lumbermen's strike. When it finally arrived, we had only three weeks before we had to leave the farm.

We were informed one Friday that a car load of lumber for us was at the Rockwood station and we could remove it when we wanted as long as it was soon. All day Saturday, with the help of many friends we carted pieces of house the seven miles to our site.

For days we sorted the endless jigsaw puzzle, gazing awestruck at the great pile of logs and the minute instruction booklet. Actually, the house was designed so well, very few instructions were necessary. If you thought in terms of building blocks, it seemed very simple.

Three weeks later, the house was up and we moved in. In fact, I was moving boxes into the basement the day after the cement floor was poured. I was even carrying furniture up the stairs as the carpenter was laying the last steps.

The fact that we didn't have hydro or plumbing (remember the hydro strike?) didn't seem to matter. We were home.

**Travelling logs**

Four years later, the house has settled. We'd probably never be able to remove the penny I stuck between the logs during building - the penny that indicated we'd never be completely broke.

Being log construction, the house is alive and moves as the logs contract and expand with moisture. It's quite eerie to see the thermostat wire become slack or taut depending on which way the house is travelling - kind of like the tide.

It's now comfortably decorated in early kitty litter. The living room is done in gold shag rug and beige cat hair. Plants and wood are everywhere. The only exception to my very strong anti-animal skin feelings is an Icelandic sheep skin (rationalized by the fact that the animal was killed for meat anyway). It drapes over a chair in such a way the Himalayan cat finds it a good place to snooze. Unfortunately she's the same color as the rug and frequently gets sat upon.

A great deal of the furniture is Mack-made, the rest is just old and pleasant. The walls are covered with horse pictures and family nostalgia. The focal point is the central fireplace forming the wall between kitchen and living room. Made from old colonial brick, it adds warmth and makes an interesting conversation piece.

**A lot to thank**

The people who made this house possible will be always remembered - Alec Johnson for patiently finding the property; June Warner for whimsically referring to the land in transactions as our "10.482 acre ranch."; Don McDonald, then TD bank manager, who engineered the financing; Joe Benham and Bob Justin, carpenters without whom we would still be living in a hole in the ground; and the many friends who tossed logs around in return for a beer.

Christmas is a time for sentiment and nostalgia and it seems as if I'm doing my share. I only know this house is special and we become more aware of these things at Christmas.

From all of us - from Mack, Jenny, Pat, and Erica, all the animals - and from Tinkersdale - Merry Christmas.



OSPRINGE SCHOOL CHOIR sang Christmas carols at the annual School Christmas concert held last Thursday. The gym was filled to capacity with parents and friends anxious to see the efforts of every class.

Erin Township

# Elmer McKinnon closes a chapter

by Doris Fines

On December 31, 1976, Elmer McKinnon will close the book on a chapter of his life that began 24 years ago.

His municipal career started in 1952, when he assumed the role of Welfare Officer for Erin Township; then he spent 12 years as tax assessor. Meanwhile, in 1962, he accepted the position as Clerk of the Township, moving up to Clerk Administrator in 1967.

Many changes have taken place since those first years. Assessment of Erin Township has tripled, but they are using the same basis as in 1964. Taxes have increased from \$63.60 per thousand assessment in 1962, to \$166 in 1976, 90 per cent of the increase is for educational purposes, and for the county. Erin Township taxation, itself, waxes increased very little. During that time the road budget has increased from \$75,000 to around \$285,000.

**On council**

24 years ago Goldwin Burt and Albert Wheeler were reeve and deputy reeve, and when Elmer took over the books in 1962, the reeve of the Township was Mel Barden and deputy reeve was Robert Rowan. Councillors were Stan Fuller, Harold Griffin and Alex Jackson.

Elmer was born on the farm, lot 20, on the 5th line, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Neil McKinnon, and has lived there all his life. He farmed until 1974 when he sold it, retaining a lot on which he and his wife Grace have built a house. They have one daughter Marion.

Beside his other accomplishments, Elmer has been associated with the Erin Agriculture Society, serving as director, president, and secretary-manager; and the A and B section of Ontario Association of Agriculture Societies, serving as president of that body in 1968. He is the only one from this area who has worked on that Board.

**Loves horses**

Elmer is a lover of horses. He has judged horses at fairs all across Ontario and Quebec, and earned his knowledge in that capacity by raising and showing his own horses at Erin, Acton, Orangeville and Rockwood Fairs, and the Guelph Winter Fair.

Now as the pages of the book are turned over, Elmer says it has been an interesting job and he has met many nice people. He has always been interested in municipal affairs, as his forefathers before him, and like as not he always will be.

money in providing service to our area. Maybe this whole uproar will make them realize that the way to avoid losses is to improve service so that more people will be willing to rely on the buses. I'm convinced that if the service were good enough, there would be enough customers to make it pay."

Mr. Johnson said he was glad the Government has sent the matter back to the Highway Transportation Board for reconsideration and that he hoped that this would solve the problem.

the federal government allowed the railways to cut off service to this area." Mr. Johnson said "but there is a great deal it can do about bus service and I intend to push strongly for improved routes."

Mr. Johnson was critical of the decision, saying "a company like Greyhound shouldn't be allowed to come in and make a lot of money from one busy route without providing service to smaller, less profitable, communities."

"I'm not that strong a supporter of Gray Coach, either," Mr. Johnson pointed out. "They claim to lose a lot of

## Johnson wants better bussing, not cutbacks

Jack Johnson, M.P.P. for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel, spoke out strongly against the threatened reduction of bus service to Western Ontario. "I'll oppose any cutbacks right down the line; what we need are more buses, not fewer," Mr. Johnson said.

The future of bus service to such centres as Ferguson, Shelburne, Orangeville, Mount Forest and Arthur is uncertain in the wake of a recent Ontario Highway Transportation Board decision permitting Greyhound to run buses on the lucrative Buffalo-Toronto-Sudbury route. Gray Coach which had previously enjoyed a monopoly on this run, claims that it stands to lose hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenue as a result and that it will be forced to reduce or abandon unprofitable Western Ontario routes in order to break even.

"Senior citizens, students, and other people who don't have cars, need to be able to get around and the bus service we have now is already very limited and often inconvenient. There was not much the Province could do when

NOTICE HOLIDAY REFUSE PICK UPS

Refuse normally picked up Monday, December 27th, 1976, will be picked up Tuesday, December 28th, 1976. Further, refuse normally picked up Tuesday, December 28th, 1976, will be picked up Wednesday, December 29th, 1976. Refuse normally picked up Monday, January 3rd, 1977, will be picked up Tuesday, January 4th, 1977. Refuse normally picked up Tuesday, January 4th, 1977, will be picked up Wednesday, January 5th, 1977. THANK YOU TOWN OF HALTON HILLS DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS

## ACTON LANES Proudly Presents For The First Time

Acton Bowlers on Global T.V.'s "5 for the money" 5 pin bowling show next week Monday through Friday our Ladies team will appear 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

- Monday, Dec. 27 — Joan Knight
- Tuesday, Dec. 28 — Jackie Parker
- Wednesday, Dec. 29 — June Bousfield
- Thursday, Dec. 30 — Jackie Higgins
- Friday, Dec. 31 — Pat Wood

## GLOBAL T.V. — CHANNEL 6

Town of Halton Hills Recreation Department		
Christmas Ice Skating Program in Acton and Georgetown		
Acton Community Centre	Georgetown Memorial Arena	Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena
<b>PUBLIC SKATING</b> Dec. 23, 26, 27, 28, 29 & 30/76 January 2, 1977 1:40 p.m. - 3:40 p.m. Admission: 35¢ per person \$1.25 per family	<b>PUBLIC SKATING</b> December 22, 1976 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. December 27, 1976 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Admission: 35¢ per person \$1.25 per family	<b>PUBLIC SKATING</b> Dec. 23, 24, 28, 29, 30, 31/76 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Admission: 35¢ per person \$1.25 per family
<b>FAMILY SKATING</b> December 24 & 30, 1976 1:40 p.m. - 3:40 p.m. Admission: 35¢ per person \$1.25 per family	<b>FAMILY SKATING</b> Dec. 18/76 Jan. 8/77 1:15 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Admission: 35¢ per person \$1.25 per family	<b>FAMILY SKATING</b> December 19, 26, 1976 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Admission: 35¢ per person \$1.25 per family
<b>SHINNY HOCKEY</b> December 27, 29, 1976 11:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Admission: \$1.00 per person	<b>SHINNY HOCKEY</b> Dec. 23, 24, 27, 28 & 31/76 10:00 a.m. - Noon hour Admission: \$1.00 per person	<b>SHINNY HOCKEY</b> December 29, 1976 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Admission: \$1.00 per person
<b>PARENTS and TOTS</b> December 29, 1976 9:20 a.m. - 11:20 a.m. Admission: 35¢ per adult	<b>PARENTS and TOTS</b> December 22, 1976 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Admission: 35¢ per adult	<b>PARENTS and TOTS</b> December 22, 1976 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Admission: 35¢ per adult

"Season's Greetings to all our Patrons" from your Arena Managers: Harold Townsley, Doug Vivian and Don Gosling  
Note: The Arenas will be closed December 25, 1976 and January 1, 1977 to allow the Staff to enjoy the Festive Season.

# Farmers challenge Minister at Bruce-Huron meeting

There was more indignation for Bruce-Huron members of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Association at their annual dinner meeting in Formosa Wednesday, December 8, according to Jim Dunlop.

The reason was a group of 15 Bruce, Grey and Wellington County farmers who infiltrated the normally placid gathering to protest plans of the Davis government and Ontario Hydro to place a 500,000-volt transmission line corner-to-corner across their farms.

Main target of the farmers was Ontario Energy Minister Dennis Timbrell, guest speaker at the dinner meeting. Mr. Timbrell has stated several times that this line, whose route from Bruce to Milton was set five years ago "will proceed," regardless of objections from anyone.

Timbrell had just finished his speech (ridiculing the New Democrats and Liberals) when a young farmer, Andrew Dunlop, stood up and asked, "Why have the farmers had no independent study of less-damaging alternate routes?"

Despite being ruled out-of-order by the chairman, Dunlop then asked, "Why is Hydro so determined to push this line diagonally across

prime farmland, especially when it could pose a safety threat to farmers and their wives and children living and working near it?"

By this time several more of the uninvited farmers were on their feet. One of them, Harvey Wilson, demanded to know why Hydro insists on sending Bruce power to Milton when it isn't needed in the Toronto area.

Timbrell refused to answer the questions on the grounds "the matter is now before the court," referring to the surprise breakdown late last month of a Hearing of Necessity in Acton, near the southern end of the proposed line. The Hearing, at which Hydro was to show that its taking of land is "fair, sound and rea-

sonably necessary," collapsed when the chairman refused to hear evidence challenging Hydro's route decision. Lawyers for the farmers rejected this and have taken the whole matter to divisional court.

## Substitute

Some researchers conclude that the custom of sending Christmas greetings developed from the oldtime tradition of visiting friends on New Year's Eve. When a well-wisher discovered that the person he wanted to visit was not at home—most likely off visiting someone else—he would leave a note and a card as a reminder of the visit.

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## Last Minute Specials

ALKA SELTZER 25s	77¢	ATLAS MAGICUBE	\$1.89
NEW GILLETTE RIGHT GUARD DEODORANT STICK	\$1.19	FLASH CUBES	\$1.79
TONI HOME PERM	\$1.99	JUMBO CANDY CANE	66¢
CLAIROL 8 OZ. FINAL NET	\$1.47	BIC PEN & LIGHTER	\$1.79
100 ML. OIL of OLAY or OLAY NIGHT CREAM	\$3.79	14 OZ. ARID	\$1.99
SET of 6 GLASSES	\$2.49	BATH TOWELS	\$5.99 PAIR
2 LB. TEA TIME COOKIES	\$3.99	FRAGRANT FRUIT BUBBLE BATH	\$2.59
PHOTO ALBUMS	\$1.79		
12 BOWS and 50 FT. RIBBON	\$1.69		
RONSON ELECTRIC SHAVER	\$39 <sup>95</sup>		
CLAIROL CLOUDS of HERBAL ESSENCE	99¢		

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**Very Merry Christmas**

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