

# Ombudsman Arthur Maloney sends in his resignation

Following are parts of the letter sent to Premier William Davis by Ontario Ombudsman Arthur Maloney advising the premier of his intention to resign Oct. 9.

Mr. Maloney has told the press that he will not make any public comment beyond the scope of his letter until the day after his resignation takes effect.

There have been occasions in the time that has intervened since my appointment when I have been in confrontation and controversy with some of the members of the Legislature.

No one who knew the circumstances would regard this as evidence of any lack of either respect for the office of the elected member or appreciation of the importance of that position. The strong stand I have taken on several such occasions was intended merely to manifest my determination that the office of the Ombudsman would—so long as it was under my direction—remain untainted by any suggestion of outside direction or control. This had to be the case if Ontario was to have an Ombudsman function in the tradition of its counterparts around the world.

The Legislature, with its power to dismiss the Ombudsman for cause and to determine his budget has, with these controls, the fullest measure of authority over the office.

In my three years' experience with the office I have become immensely impressed with the amount of good it can do for the people of the need for it and of the importance that it continue strong and independent in the people's service. There is no appointed public function that belongs more especially to each of Ontario's citizens than that of the Ombudsman.

Costs of His Office  
Questions arise from time to time about the cost of the Ombudsman operation. The total budget of the Province of Ontario for the present fiscal year is fourteen billion, five hundred million dollars (\$14,500,000,000.00). As I stated in my fourth report the budget approved for this period is four million, one hundred and sixteen thousand dollars (4,116,000.00). This is 0.0283 per cent or indeed less than 1/35th of one per cent of the total. Considering the millions of dollars that the government of Ontario must spend annually to investigate the agencies of government that he feels, rightly or wrongly, have been unfair to him. The people are surely entitled to no less.

Extended Authority  
For many months I have urged that the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman be expanded to include authority to deal with complaints by citizens against any agency that has a decision-making power likely to affect his rights and interests and where that agency is financed in whole or in substantial part by the Ontario taxpayer.

Specifically, I have taken the position that the jurisdiction of the office should be extended to include municipal or local governments, boards of education, universities, hospitals and nursing homes. This, as you know, is a practice that works very well in many other Ombudsman

jurisdictions in Canada and around the world. As I leave the Office I re-state this position and urge that this jurisdiction be conferred on my successor.

Insofar as my successor is concerned you have my assurance that I will lend him or her every possible assistance and this I undertake to do for as long as may be necessary.

The Province-Wide Hearings  
I think it important that my staff has taken great pains to ensure that the office of the Ombudsman its service and its facilities have been brought to the people. The carefully organized program of tours around the province has resulted in hearings in over 100 different municipalities. All this has served as a great convenience to thousands of Ontario residents to whom Toronto is not that easily accessible and has assisted members of our staff, who participate in the program of hearings, to get a clearer picture of the people and their needs. This has also worked to the advantage of the farmers and other rural residents of the province whose special problems have always been of concern to us.

North Pickering  
I very much regret that the positive and agreeable tone of this letter must be marred by a necessary reference to the problems arising out of the land acquisition procedures in North Pickering which have not yet been resolved. The hearing agreed to between me and the Honourable John Rhodes when he was Minister of Housing and which is being conducted by Mr. Keith Hollett under the Ombudsman Act commenced in December, 1976, has proceeded with expedition and without delay. It has been thorough and exhaustive.

Over two hundred witnesses have been called to give evidence. The landowners—numbering approximately 70—have been represented by counsel; so has the Ministry of Housing and so were the land acquisition agents. The taking of evidence should conclude during the month of September. Your government undertook to carry out whatever recommendations the Ombudsman saw fit to make in all of the cases being dealt with in this hearing. It is the wish and understanding of the Ministry officials that I should delegate the authority to preside over this hearing to Mr. Hollett and the Ombudsman would in turn make Mr. Hollett's recommendations his own—whatever they may be. Mr. Hollett has conducted a careful, thorough and courteous inquiry—in a manner we are entitled to expect of someone entrusted with such a serious responsibility. Whatever his recommendations may be it can be assumed they will be just and fair to all. I feel a heavy responsibility to all parties involved in the Pickering controversy, to their right to a fair hearing and to the right to just compensation in any landowners in those cases where this is deemed appropriate.

It follows I was much surprised to read early in July on my return from Russia a letter dated June 23 sent to me by the Minister of Housing—the Honourable Claude Bennett—in which he

puts forward the totally unwarranted suggestion that I had breached the agreement entered into between you, me and his predecessor the Honourable John Rhodes on October 1, 1976. He then indicates he does not feel bound by Mr. Rhodes' commitment under that agreement to give effect to the Ombudsman's recommendations in the cases before Mr. Hollett. I can't think he seriously feels this to be the case nor can I bring myself to believe that your government, when the time comes, will not honour its agreement and keep its word solemnly entered into with the Ombudsman. To do otherwise would be very grave indeed.

I have already expressed my extreme regret at the way in which the Donnelly Commission discharged its mandate. It failed to appoint Counsel; it failed to conduct an investigation; it failed to require the presence of appropriate government officials and the landowners as witnesses.

# U of G trail for handicapped

A "touch and see" trail for the blind and a nature "walk" for visitors in wheel chairs may soon enable the physically handicapped to enjoy and learn about nature in the University of Guelph Arboretum.

An investigation team, funded through a three-and-a-half month Young Canada Works grant, is studying ways to increase the use of the Arboretum by the handicapped. The team will identify areas on the trails suitable for demonstration to specific handicaps, recommend modifications to the Arboretum buildings and trails, and design nature education programs suitable for handicapped adults and children.

The grant, amounting to almost \$6,000, covers the salaries of three young adults for the summer. Under the direction of Guelph naturalist Alan Watson, the group is focussing on Victoria Woods trails because of their proximity to the J. C. Taylor Nature Centre and because they are free of poison ivy. "With relatively minor changes," explains Project Manager Mary Coles, "part of the trail network in Victoria Woods could be made accessible to wheelchairs. We are evaluating different types of trail surfaces such as cinders and rock dust."

"A primary goal in designing trails for the handicapped," she continues, "is providing the necessary feeling of security." Blind people, for instance, can be fiercely independent or terribly insecure outside a building. On a trail for the blind, the security could be provided by a low kick rail along the trail, braille signs,



RECYCLE PLAYERS, a group of young entertainers from Toronto were in Acton last Wednesday to perform for playground kids. The group is sponsored by the Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Resources. The play itself is on Energy Conservation.

# Recycle Players perform

A group of young people from Toronto visited the summer playground program and performed a play on Energy Conservation.

The group, known as the Recycle Players, are university students sponsored by the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Resources. There are six members to the group and there are ten groups across Canada. One in each province.

The group is hired through student manpower to write and perform a play on Energy and Resources.

The Recycle Players have

been all over Ontario performing and are at the Canadian National Exhibition until this Friday.

# Judge sheep

By Ruth Gillies

On Aug. 9 the last Sheep Club meeting took place at Russell Hurren's farm. Holly Hurren, vice-president, called the meeting to order and Heidi Stadler led the 4-H pledge. Ellen Hurren read the minutes of the last meeting.

Holly told about the 4-H Family Day planned for Sept. 3 at the Hornby Ball Park. Six lambs were brought out for showmanship. Doug Gardhouse explained what judges are looking for in showmanship and what exactly we should do.

There were two classes. The more experienced members were in the first class.

With existing Arboretum facilities, it is possible to design programs for groups of blind, deaf or physically handicapped children or adults. Mr. Watson hopes to provide facilities so that handicapped individuals, or families with a handicapped member, could use and enjoy the Arboretum trails on their own.

# ACTON FALL FAIR

Sept. 15, 16, 17 at Acton Park

Friday Night - September 15th  
4:00 p.m. - Hall exhibits, poultry exhibits, concession exhibits, midway, food concessions.

7:30 p.m. - Heavy Horse Pull under the lights  
8:00 p.m. - Entertainment by the "New Comers" with the Crowning of "Miss Acton" for 1978-79

Admission: Adults & High School Students \$2.50  
Public School Students & Children \$1.00  
Parking \$1.50

Saturday, September 16th  
9:00 a.m. - Hall exhibits; poultry exhibits, midway, concession exhibits, food and refreshments, Carlsburg Team and Wagon

11:00 a.m. - Beef Cattle Show, Junior Beef Cattle Show, Junior Horse Show, Heavy Horse Show, Light Horse Show, Harness Ponies, Sheep and Swine Show, inside concessions, exhibits, outside concessions and exhibits.

12:30 p.m. - Large parade  
2:00 p.m. - Baby Show  
6:00 p.m. - Old Time Fiddlers Contest

Admission: Adults & High School Students \$2.50  
Children 'FREE'  
• Bus Service To Parking Area •

"Fun For All Ages!"

Fair Night Dance  
Acton Curling Club Dancing To B.J. Wright  
Admission: \$5.00 per person  
Men: Shirt & Tie - Ladies: Dress or Pant Suit  
Advance Ticket Sales for Saturday Night Fair Dance Sept. 16 to B.J. Wright on sale at the Village Variety Shop, 41 Mill Street East, Acton - Limited Tickets Available

Sunday, September 17  
12:00 Noon - Carlsburg Team and Wagon, The Pet Show, Dairy Cattle Show, Junior Dairy Cattle Show, English Horse Show (Jumpers), Western Horse Show, hall exhibits, inside and outside concession exhibits

1:00 p.m. - Tractor Pull  
1:30 p.m. - Fireman's Water Ball Contest  
2:00 p.m. - Fashion Show in the arena

Admission: Adult & High School Students \$2.50  
Public School Students \$1.00  
• Bus Service To Parking Area •

HALLIDAY DALEWOOD  
\$18,700  
NEW LOCATION  
HALLIDAY HOMES DISPLAY COURT

FRONTIER FLORIST & GARDEN CENTRE LTD.  
"Guelph's Largest Flower Shop"  
R.R. 2, Guelph  
3 Miles West of Rockwood  
FLORAL DESIGNS FOR ALL OCCASIONS  
WE CARRY A COMPLETE LINE OF TREES, SHRUBS, FRUIT TREES, EVERGREENS, ROSES, PERENNIALS & BULK STOCK.  
POTTED SO AS TO BE PLANTED AT ANY TIME  
WE CARRY A LARGE SELECTION OF CEMETERY WREATHS, 'TROPICAL' AND FLOWERING PLANTS  
SPECIALISTS IN PERSONALIZED ARRANGEMENTS, FRESH, SILK AND DRIED FLOWERS.  
"Three Experienced Designers to Serve You"  
Free Delivery in Guelph Acton, Rockwood, Eglon Mills  
Minimum Order of \$5.00  
VISIT OUR GIFT SHOP  
OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK  
STORE HOURS  
Closed Monday  
Tuesday-Saturday 9-6  
Sunday & Holidays 10-5  
WE ARE AS CLOSE AS YOUR TELEPHONE 822-2361 After Hours Phone 856-4635

ROXY THEATRE 878-3272 878-3208  
Wed. 23 Thu. 24  
GREASE is the word  
Show Time 7 p.m. & 9 p.m. Every Day  
ADMISSION: Adults \$3.00 Students \$2.50 • Children \$1.75  
Fri. 25 Sat. 26 Sun. 27 Mon. 28 Tue. 29  
THE SWARM is here!  
Wed. 30 Thu. 31 Fri. 1 Sat. 2  
THE BUDDY HOLLY STORY  
Show Times: Sun. to Thurs. 8 p.m. Fri. and Sat. 7 p.m. & 9 p.m.

The Baldwin GUARANTEED BEST PRICES SALE  
ALL OUR SELLING PRICES ARE A GUARANTEED \$100.00 LOWER THAN ANY Canadian National Exhibition Display Prices  
MILTON MALL STUDIO and BURLINGTON STUDIO EXCLUSIVE • LIMITED TIME OFFER  
• 6 FREE PIANO LESSONS with each new instrument purchased  
• FREE 20% DISCOUNT CARD APPLICABLE ON ALL FUTURE MUSIC PURCHASES  
\* AS LONG AS YOU OWN YOUR INSTRUMENT  
\* THIS OFFER GOOD AT THE MILTON MALL STUDIO & THE BURLINGTON STUDIO ONLY  
EXCELLENT QUALITY Baldwin Piano Model No. 422 FINISHED IN DARK PINE INCLUDES MATCHING BENCH  
REGULAR PRICE \$2,320.00  
SALE PRICE \$1,788<sup>53</sup>  
SAVE \$531<sup>47</sup>  
SALE PRICE INCLUDES BALDWIN'S FAMOUS GUARANTEE  
• FREE DELIVERY  
• TUNING AFTER DELIVERY  
• 10 YEAR PARTS & LABOUR GUARANTEE IN WRITING  
THE Baldwin FUN MACHINE SAVE \$360  
Put new fun in your family's life. The Fun Machine comes with a complete music kit, headphones and more.  
BUY NOW & SAVE 17%  
Regular \$2,055.00 \$1,695<sup>00</sup>  
NOW ON AT  
MANY MORE FANTASTIC BUYS! HURRY IN FOR BEST SELECTION  
Baldwin Pianos Organs  
SERVICE LESSONS  
Milton Mall 878-8202 ACROSS FROM THE BAVARIAN INN  
Burlington 632-5131 752 GUELPH LINE Opposite Burlington Mall