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### It starts all over again

By BOB RUTTER Herald editor

Just as almost everyone predicted at the beginning of 1977, housing starts in Canada are lower than the record high level of 273,000 units in 1976.

The Mortgage Insurance Company of Canada, a firm which watches closely the housing market across Canada, says the expected year end total will be between 254,000 and 250,000. The prospect for 1978 is for a further 10 per cent drop influenced by high inventories of unsold houses in most market areas and by the continued high unemployment levels across the nation. The past year saw many people taking

advantage of various government programs to influence the market, but MICC doesn't see the same level of response from the economy for 1978.

The most unexpected comment in the company's report is the record high level of institutional-approved mortgages exceeding \$15 billion, an increase of 29 per cent over \$11.6 billion committed by companies across Canada in 1976. This was influenced by the stabilizing of the sales market with buyers having the advantage; and of course, by a slight drop in mortgage interest rates to 1014 to 1012 per cent from the 1977 level of 101, to 12 per cent.

But don't start looking immediately for a house expecting that a good buy will be combined with a lowering of the interest rate. MICC is also predicting a slight upward gain in interest rates.

"The outlook for interest rates is always a hazardous area but the consensus seems to be that only minor changes will occur with

## Ashgrove News

By MRS. JOHN BELLBODDY Herald correspondent

Early in December Mr. and Mrs. William Allison of the Eighth Line had the pleasure of entertaining her first cousins from Dunedin, New Zealand, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Todd, their two sons Stuart and Wayne and daughter Tracy, also a friend Miss Lynne Murray. They landed by plane in Los Angeles Nov. 28 enroute to Davenport, Iowa, where their oldest son John graduated Dec. 10 from the College Palmer Chiropractice. They stayed three days with the Allison rented camper that they picked up in Los Angeles for Niagara Falls, New York, Grand Canyon, Mexico and back to Los Angeles for flight

are rejoicing over the birth of their first granddaughter. their daughter Janet - Mrs. Lawrence Guimond Hanover gave birth to a baby girl on December 17. Two and a half year old Christopher is at home waiting to welcome

his baby sister Merry Christmas, and when this year is through, may the New Year bring contentment and happiness to you.

Happy 1978 to everyone.

family then left in their

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Nurse

Happy New Year, everyone.

most of the 'mortage experts' predicting an

upward adjustment in the 14 to 12 per cent

be for continuing of the present housing

situation and that unemployment, already

high, may be aggrevated by the predicted 10

weeks, what with Christmas and all, to thank

Joyce Beaton and Janice Johnson for the

wonderful reception, complete with

snowstorm that left me stranded at Mohawk

Canadian Life, a monthly publication sup-

porting our Canadian heritage. It's taken off

like a best seller in the year or so that Joyce

anniversary of ECL, was a huge success. The

wood fire, the quiet conversation and the

delightful atmostphere of the Inn, make it for

me a most pleasant experience, one that I will

the rocket enters it second stage and the

powerful boost pushes ECL even higher

I hope that 1978 will prove the year when

The Herald staff has cause to celebrate.

We are preparing a major expansion within

the community by building a new production

plant and the staff is happy and second

guessing just what will be in store for when

we enter the new facility. I can't say too much

at this time, but I warn you it is going to be

and Janice have been toiling together.

Joyce and Janice are partner in Early

The party, called to celebrate the first

So it appears that the outlook for 1978 will

I have been remiss over the past few

range," the MICC monthly report says.

per cent drop in housing starts.

Inn Dec. 8.

likely never forget.

something spectacular.

home Jan 13, 1978

Hope you all had a very

### Shots Fired

By R.C. (BOB) OLLIVIER

Ontario Outdoors

I hope that you took time out over the Christmas Holidays to get outdoors. I still feel that Christmas indoors is only half of the fun of the season. There is so much to see and do when you get out into the country side and the hills that it makes everything come together as far as I am concerned.

After all, Christmas did start in somewhat of a country setting, what with the shepherds and the stable where Christ was born.

Regardless of whether you believe in the religious significance of Christmas, the traditions alone all point to an outdoors atmosphere. Just remember to respect our outdoors heritage and do your part to reserve it. The Credit Valley Comealong, at Terra Cotta Conservation Area is an excellent place to get close to "Nature" and there are lots of activities for the whole family. Phone at the authority offices for complete details of the program.

One of the most interesting hobbles, I have come acrose is KNIFEMAKING. This is a highly skilled trade, and yet Mr. Savoie makes it a hobby and it requires more patience and attention to detail than most other pastimes. Knifemaking is very complex in that various

materials are available and the wrong choice will ruin the whole project. Depending on the final use of the knife is the selection of the steel, with various tempers or hardness, and differing amounts of carbon and other factors determining the ability of the steel to "hold an edge". An example is the deer skinning knife Luc made on request. The choice of M2 steel means you could actually skin

out 5 deer before sharpening the knife. The shape of the blade is sometimes decorative but more often practical. Hunters, fishermen and butchers have all come to Luc Savoie with their ideas for the knife that best suits their needs, and Luc puts it together for them. While I was visiting Luc's basement workshop on Dayfoot Drive in -Georgetown, I noted various skinning knives, along with special purpose blades for leather working as well as choppers and large knives for butchers.

The material for handles are often as varied as the steels. Two, often used wood, are Walnut and Beech; both providing service as well as beauty. Bone of course is well known and deer and moose horn has been used for some hundreds of years. The modern epoxy cement makes the knifemakers task a lot easier as the handle can be mounted without drilling and the handle becomes one with the steel. The handle including the bone ones, are finished with varnish or sometimes a coating of Peanut Oil is worked into the wood, which preserves the wood and still

adds a nice finish. Please remember what I emphasize more than anything else in this column, Preserve and Protect our ONTARIO OUTDOORS.

A man has been arrested following an incident involving a firearm outside Limehouse on Monday.

two shots through the windshield of a car. No one was The accused will be appear-

a tirearm after allegedly tiring

ing in court on Wednesday for The man has been arrested, charged with dangerous use of a bail hearing.

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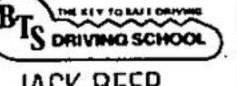
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