

**HALTON'S PEOPLE**

# Town foreman retires to try something new

By **MAGGIE HANNAH**  
Herald staff writer  
Some people try their hand at many different fields before they find the one that suits them; others are content with what they do, but can't resist the chance to tackle something different just for the challenge.

Retiring Halton Hills outside works foreman C.E. (Bud) Snow says he fits the latter category.  
"I'm satisfied in the work I'm doing but I'm always interested in venturing further to try something different," he told *The Herald* recently. "That's why I'm moving now. It's been a good job with the township and the town but I want to try something else before I get too old to make the move."

Mr. Snow was Roads Superintendent for the township of Esquesing from 1963 until the job was absorbed into the Halton Hills works crews in 1974. He is taking an early retirement effective Dec. 31 in order to start up an automotive machine shop and automotive supply business in partnership with two others.

Acton Automotive and Supply, a division of Snow and

McArthur Enterprises Ltd., will take over an existing shop on the Second Line north of Acton which was once a dairy.  
Mr. Snow says he always enjoyed tinkering with machinery so his new business won't be a great departure from what he has always done on his own time.

**OLDEST OF FIVE**  
As the second oldest in a family of three boys and two girls, Mr. Snow says he left Blue Mountain school before passing his entrance because he was needed to work on the family farm. His father owned 100 acres on the Seventh Line just below Ballinacree and was a general farmer as well as a custom thresher.

"I didn't like school much anyway," he admits with a grin, "and I had a teacher in the first grade who used to lift me out of the seat by my hair, so that kind of finished me on it. I didn't mind quitting. The only time I was in high school was when my sister graduated."

Mr. Snow was about 14 when he began helping his father custom-threshing. During that period he had a couple of minor mishaps with the machines, both of which involved

hills. Once he rolled backwards down the Stewarttown hill on his father's separator and was lucky enough not to upset it; another time, he rolled down the hill west of Norval, right into the heart of the village without any mishaps.

In the Norval incident, he missed a gear while making a change and then had no brakes worth the name. He rolled right down the hill and missed three Grey Coach buses coming up the hill while his father stood helplessly and watched. The machine slowed and stopped opposite the Hollywood House.

"It really didn't cause any trouble," Mr. Snow smiles. "It just scared the hell out of my father. He swore he didn't sleep for a week after that, but I was only 17 and it didn't bother me a bit."

Accidents have dogged him to the point where, he says, he has been referred to as a cat with nine lives. In addition to the incidents with the threshing machines, he has also upset three trucks and clearly remembers a couple of near problems involving township equipment and trains.

**FREAK ACCIDENT**  
"I don't feel carelessness was involved in any of them," he says. "They were all just freak accidents."

Mr. Snow enjoyed his years on the roads crew, and says that even now he could go to anyone in the area and talk to him about a problem if it was necessary. Problems did occur with some residents and temp-

ers rose at times, but they were never things that seemed to leave grudges behind.

Snow, ice and dust were the three worst offenders guaranteed to set off a spate of complaints or inquiries if the crew didn't get every road done as fast as its residents expected.

Sometimes the quantity of calls would get so bad, Mrs. Snow says she and her six children would take shifts answering the telephone.

Mr. Snow says when residents became too harsh in their criticism of councilors, he'd remind them that these were elected representatives and if they weren't doing the job well enough, the councilors should step forward as candidates in the next election. The usual reaction to that would be a firm assertion that wouldn't take the job for love or money. That usually finished any arguments, he says, because no one has much right to complain about the way a thing is done if they aren't willing to tackle doing the job better.

When regional government was formed, the Esquesing roads crew consisted of only 10 or 12 men. In the early years, there were only four full-time men on the crew. Mr. Snow says, although he occasionally lured an extra man or two for certain jobs that needed extra hands over a short period only two of the original crew, Red Roemer and Bob Lindsay, are still with the town crew.

Despite criticisms that implies just the opposite, Mr.

Snow feels that the town gives too good service to many of the residents.

At one time, most residents looked after their own problems. Today, they just pick up the telephone and call the municipality. They expect to be catered to, he complains. Residents coming from cities to live in rural areas, in particular, can be disillusioned at the state of county roads. It isn't that the roads are any worse than those in other parts of the town. It's just that many newcomers aren't used to rural roads and some expect city standards.

**CLARENCE EDWARD**  
Mr. Snow is another one of those people who have perfectly good names no one ever uses. His initials, C.E., stand for Clarence Edward but he was dubbed Bud early in life and it stuck.

"As I hear it, my sister Lydia, who's just a year older than I am, couldn't say brother," he grins. "Somehow 'budder' turned into 'Bud' and it stuck. I have a couple of aunts who called me Clarence, and when they did, I used to look to see who they were talking to."

Mr. Snow says he "never was a whiz at farming" so he got out of it at the first opportunity. He drove a truck for a year, worked as a carpenter, worked in construction in Western Canada and came back to Ontario with a notion of continuing it, he worked for Mansell Nellis for 11 years and was on the Esquesing crew for 11 years.

He even worked in Ferguson's blacksmith shop in Ballinacree for a short time.

One of Mr. Snow's early job changes involved a spur-of-the-moment decision to go west when he left the farm.  
"I came in Friday evening and told Evaline to get packed because we were leaving for the west Monday morning," he says.

The financial situation wasn't that good, but they went anyway and Mr. Snow terms it an experience trip. Their daughter, Louise, was 18 months old at the time.

"When you run out of money with a wife and a baby in western Canada, that's an experience," he grins. "I had to get a job in a hurry."

He wound up with a construction crew on a highway earning \$1 an hour, which wasn't bad money in 1948. They only stayed for the fall and Mr. Snow began working for Mansell Nellis the next year.

**FIRST COUSIN**  
Mr. Snow is a first cousin to provincial transport minister James Snow of Hornby, but laughs off any suggestion of

future political ambitions.

"I thought about it at one time," he grins, "but not too seriously."

Mr. Snow has taken an active part in his community throughout the years. He was a Scout leader, a member of the Ballinacree United church and served on all its boards and also served on the Ballinacree Community Hall board for a time. He is a Mason, a member of the Independent Order of Foresters, the Ontario Steam and Antique Association and the Ontario Road Superintendent's Association.



C.E. 'Bud' Snow

**TOWN OF HALTON HILLS**  
35 MAIN ST. SOUTH  
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877-5185

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
The Council of the Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills is considering the enactment of a By-Law to regulate the erection and location of signs and advertising devices within the municipality.  
A copy of the draft By-Law can be obtained or reviewed at the Building and Zoning Administrator's Office and the Clerk Administrator's Office located on Trafalgar Road, or the Town Office, 40 Mill Street East, Acton. Inquiries concerning the By-Law should be made to the Zoning and Building Administrator at 877-5185, Extension 42.  
The Council invites comments on the draft By-Law to be submitted in writing to the Clerk Administrator, The Town of Halton Hills, 35 Main Street South, Georgetown, Ontario, L7G 4X1, no later than December 31st, 1979.  
MR. K. R. RICHARDSON  
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