



The Kinsmen tour of lights was held under a drizzle of rain last Wednesday, but the Seniors enjoyed their warm bus tour nonetheless. Don Mashinter (back row, left to right) and Pete Worton were escorts to (middle row, left to right) Sadie Davidson, Edith Ditchfield, (front row, left to right) Florence 'Bubs' Mino and Edna Hill. (Herald photo)

### Halton's farmer of the year

**Herald Special**  
Richard Sovereign, 1983 Halton Farmer of the Year, exemplifies the high standard of farming in Halton. While the business of agriculture is, in itself, immensely demanding of time and energy, Mr. Sovereign is nevertheless involved in both farm organizations and his community.

Mr. Sovereign is a man who returns as much to the land as he takes out. To this end he has been very active over the past number of years in the Halton Soil and Crop Improvement Association. He has served as vice president and president of the H.S.C.I.A. and has participated in several erosion control and field demonstration projects. As a member of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, he is a director representing the counties of Halton, York and Peel. He has been a member of the Soil Conservation Committee, the Fertilizer Analysis Committee, and the Crop Insurance Committee.

In addition to his work in soil and crop improvement Mr. Sovereign is actively involved in the Halton Region Federation of Agriculture and is a member of the Halton Agricultural Advisory Committee. As if the work that Mr. Sovereign contributes to Agriculture weren't enough, he is also very active in other activities within the community. Mr. Sovereign is captain of the Volunteer Fire Department at Kilbride, is an active member of several committees of Lowville United Church, and is a member of the North Burlington Ratepayers Association.

The Sovereign farm is located on the Guelph Line just north of Lowville. It is 120 acres in size. In addition to his own land Mr. Sovereign leases another 1050 acres. His farming activities are centered around the production of corn and grains, commonly known as cash crops. In addition to the production of cash crops Mr. Sovereign has a very large grain storage and drying plant which he uses for his own crops as well as custom grain drying, storage and transport for other farmers in the area. Mr. Sovereign is a long time resident of Halton county, born and raised on a farm on Plains Road in Burlington. He began farming

on his own in 1958 and from 1958 till 1963 he did custom harvesting. In 1963 he purchased his farm at Lowville.

Mr. Sovereign's son Tom, age 13, takes an active role in helping his father around the farm.

He stresses the importance of his family in the operation of his farm. While his wife Helen and

daughter Beth are not necessarily out driving equipment on the farm, "they're there when you

need them...especially for moral support."  
—Courtesy Halton Federation of Agriculture

# Sovereign chosen top farmer

# Cobourg's James Henry Clarke becomes Judge on birthday

A new Halton County Court judge appointed by the federal government was sworn in Dec. 15. James Henry Clarke, Q.C., of Cobourg, was officially installed the day after his 50th birthday. He joins four other Halton County Court judges.

A senior partner in Clarke, Stewart and Mitchell, Judge Clarke was called to the bar in 1960 and received his Q.C. (Queens Council)

honor in 1976. As a county court judge, he will be hearing every kind of case except those involving treason and murder. Those are strictly heard by Supreme Court Justices.

Judge Clarke takes over the seat vacated by Halton County Court Judge Kenneth Blair. Judge Blair retired Nov. 17, having reached the mandatory retiring age of 70.

Elected a member of the National Council of Canadian Bar Association in 1960, 81, 82, Judge Clarke has extensive experience in criminal (jury and non-jury) and civil litigation, administrative law, estates, corporate, family and real estate law. He has appeared in Small Claims, County and Supreme Courts as well as the Court of Appeal. Judge Clarke won't be sitting on any cases until Jan. 3. He's getting settled in to his new court house office over the holidays, setting up his law books and other reference sources from his 23 years of law practice.

# Better pedestrian control at Acton intersection

Halton regional police should work with Robert Little School to establish a safety patrol at the Mill and Main Streets intersection in Acton, town council suggested Monday night.

crossing station at the intersection of Main and Prince Streets in Glen Williams.

However, council said it would keep an eye on the Glen Williams situation.

Vicki Bridgen complained to council that her daughter has almost been struck twice by cars while crossing the intersection. Council recommended against hiring adult crossing guards for the intersection where the traffic flow is controlled by signals. However, council agreed that it would consider "walk box" signals at the intersection when it prepares the 1984 capital budget.

While it agreed a dangerous situation existed at the Acton intersection, council declined a similar request for a school

It's your choice...Lung cancer kills at least 6,500 Canadians every year and smokers are 20 times more likely to get lung cancer than non-smokers. Smoking is the number one preventable cause of cancer. Participate in the Provincial "Time To Quit" smoking cessation program this January. It's YOUR choice.

# Assault and sexual assault - the new law



By JUDITH KEENE L.L.B.

On January 4, 1983, the Federal Parliament passed a law that changed several important sections of our Criminal Code. The new law replaces the old offences of common assault, causing bodily harm, rape, and indecent assault.

What is assault? Everyone knows that if you deliberately hit someone with an axe you can be charged with assault. However, assault is more complex than that. The new law identifies three actions that could result in a charge of assault. You can be charged with assault if you: 1. deliberately apply force to another person, without that person's consent; 2. attempt or threaten to apply force (the other person must reasonably believe, because of your actions or gestures, that you are able to carry out the threat); 3. obstruct somebody, or get in somebody's way, or beg, while openly wearing a weapon or an imitation of a weapon.

Sexual assault could involve any of the actions above if they are sexual in nature. Sexual assault could involve any kind of forcible, unwanted sexual behaviour, including what used to be called rape or indecent assault. An accused person will not be found guilty

of either assault or sexual assault if he or she honestly and reasonably believes that the victim consented to the assault. However, the victim has not consented if he or she gives in out of fear, or threats, or because he or she has been deceived. Also, the victim has not consented when he or she submits to an assault because of the exercise of authority. An employer who assaults an employee may be exercising this type of authority. And, of course, a parent, or anyone else who beats a child may be convicted of assault.

It is now possible for a husband or wife to charge the other spouse with assault or sexual assault, even while they are living together. (This is a change from the old law - a wife could not charge her husband with rape even if they lived apart when the assault occurred.)

What are the penalties for assault or sexual assault? A simple case of assault can result in up to five years' imprisonment. Sexual assault can result in up to ten years' imprisonment. If injuries result, or if a weapon (real or imitation) is involved, the penalty can be ten years' imprisonment for assault and fourteen years for sexual assault, plus an extra year if a firearm is used. If serious injury, such as wounding, maiming or disfiguring, results from an assault or sexual

assault, the penalty may be higher - up to life imprisonment for aggravated sexual assault.

Due to space limitations, this article cannot give a complete description of the new law in this area. If you would like more information, the Federal Government is distributing information pamphlets. They can be obtained by writing to: Public Affairs, Department of Justice, Justice Building, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0H8.

**IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ**  
This article contains general information about one area of the law. It is designed to help you recognize when the law can assist you with a problem. It does not provide a complete statement of the law in the area. If you have a legal problem, you need legal advice which this article cannot provide. To get legal advice, contact a lawyer or Community Legal Aid Clinic in your community.

This article was distributed in November, 1983. Because laws change, articles published months after the distribution date may no longer be accurate. Community Legal Education Ontario and the author of this article will not be responsible for any loss or damage caused by reliance on any statement contained herein, made negligently or otherwise

# Conference on problems facing Canadian farms

The Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

The dismal economic prospects facing the Canadian farmer will be given considerable attention at the federal agriculture department's annual "Outlook" conference in mid-December. Conference organizers have scheduled a half-day session at the two-day conference to focus on farm incomes and economies. As plans for the conference proceed, statistics continue to indicate that farm bankruptcies are still mounting and cash receipts are stalled.

Farm bankruptcies - monitored by the federal consumer and corporate affairs department - reached 228 at the end of June this year. At the same point in 1982, 215 had filed for bankruptcy. By the time 1982 had ended, a total of 410 farmers had gone under. Hardest hit were livestock farmers who represented 45.8 per cent of the failures, although field crop farmers suffered during the year as grain and oilseed prices dropped off. While interest rates created a crisis situation for farmers a couple of years ago, it is now more a problem of high farm input costs balanced against discouraging revenues. During the period of high interest charges, farm cash receipts were still rising. And from 1980 to '81, those sales advanced by a healthy 17.4 per cent. At that time, it was only the beef producers whose operations appeared to be in any jeopardy. But it now appears cash receipts have stalled. The federal fact-finding agency, Statistics Canada, reported a decline of 1.3 per cent in a January to August comparison of 1983 over 1982, but a late surge in grain prices may reverse that trend. Any gain in the total, however, is not expected to change the regional

picture. More than half the provinces have posted losses in cash receipts, ranging from a 7.7 per cent decline in British Columbia to a two per cent drop in sales in Ontario. Alberta receipts were off 6.6 per cent while New Brunswick slipped 3.8 per cent and Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland were off by four per cent and 4.1 per cent, respectively.

The real beneficiary of any substantial increase in grain prices would be Saskatchewan which, to the end of August, had already realized a gain of 1.5 per cent in cash receipts, and Manitoba, which reported a 5.6 per cent increase. Quebec, which realized a 1.8 per cent increase, and Nova Scotia, with a three per cent gain, were the only other provinces to report an improvement in gross sales.

The two-day Outlook conference has dealt previously with the economy, but the emphasis was placed on it at a time when aberrant interest rates were the principal problem and the financial difficulties were seen to be temporary. While interest rates have settled, they remain higher than traditional levels. However, the situation is now much more complex and the federal government has not been able to deal effectively with it from the farmer's point of view. In the past year and a half, the politicians and bureaucrats have been studying the issue of farm financing and incomes almost continuously. But for all their efforts, they have accomplished little other than to extend credit arrangements and funding and offer interest rebates.

The most meaningful legislation, a bill which would allow the courts some administration over a farmer's debts, has been mired in a House of Commons subcommittee since mid-March.

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We'll be closed Dec. 24 at 4 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Mon. Jan. 9/84

HAVE A HAPPY 1984  
Father Time's on his way out! Let's say a fond goodbye and welcome the New Year with celebration. Thanks to you, 1983 was wonderful!  
Jules & the boys wish success in the New Year to the nicest folks... our customers!  
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