

Huge Crane Helps Hydro Remove Trees Crippled by Elm Disease

A creeping fungus that rots the core of Canada's lordly elm tree is devastating the landscape throughout vast sections of Ontario.

The dread ceratocystis ulmi causes Dutch elm disease — an affliction as incurable as cancer. Since it was discovered in North America 33 years ago, the disease has cut down elms at an average rate of more than 1,000,000 a year.

Foresters believe the disease entered Europe from Asia about 40 years ago. It got the tag "Dutch" because much research was done in Holland after its discovery.

The fungus, a whitish spore which rapidly clogs the plumbing of the mighty elm, is carried by a sharp-nosed beetle. The beetles—there are two varieties, the European and the less-aggressive native—carry the disease by flitting from tree to tree and boring into the bark to feed or breed.

Rapid Spreader
First discovered in Canada at St. Ours, Quebec, in 1944, it spread rapidly through the St. Lawrence and Ottawa River valleys. A second wave moved through the Windsor district in 1950.

It has been estimated that 200,000,000 trees in towns and cities throughout North America may fall prey to the fungus—and the cost of uprooting the corpse could be more than \$15,000,000,000.

The mature, high-branching elms that spread through many Ontario communities like lines of gothic arches, have little defence against the disease. Once the fungus penetrates, the tree dies fast.

To W.M. (Bill) Grundy, Ontario Hydro's Chief Forester, Dutch elm disease has become a real problem, because it is killing thousands of trees along power lines, and each one represents a potential power outage.

Must Remove 10,000 Trees
"It's terrific in the Metro Toronto area and Central Region where we'll probably have to take down 10,000 elms in the next five years," he says. "And it is bad in Western and West Central Regions."

The disease is widespread south of a line between North Bay and Pembroke and there are isolated cases through to Sault Ste. Marie.

The rapid increase in the spread of the disease is probably related to the sleet storms of 1960.

"The sleet storms didn't help a bit," says Mr. Grundy. "They shattered elm trees badly—thus reducing their vitality and making them more susceptible to the beetles that carry the fungus."

In the past it has been a hazardous job for foresters to bring diseased trees down because, after it sets in, the tree's limbs become extremely weak and brittle.

The problem was largely overcome by Hydro last September with the purchase of a crane that can put a man 100 feet into the air.

Save On Costs
"Doing the job of removing 10,000 dead elms in Central Region by contract could amount to \$1,000,000", Mr. Grundy said. Using the crane, our crews will be able to remove these trees for approximately \$400,000. (Ontario Hydro's Central Region is a triangle bounded on the south by Lake Ontario and extending from Bronte on the west to just east of Newcastle and the apex is at Sutton on Lake Simcoe in the north.)

For the men in the field, who have found Dutch elm disease a serious matter from the safety angle, the crane is Hydro's ace-in-the-hole. "Without it, there's a lot of trees we couldn't dare touch at all," says A.F. (Red) Potter, Central Region's forestry superintendent.

With its limbs can be brought down weighing up to 1,500 pounds. The crane requires a crew of three, and two groundmen recruited from the area, compared with the standard seven-man forestry crew.

Dutch elm disease is very widespread in the Brampton, Woodbridge and Richmond Hill areas. It is not as prevalent in the north and east as it is in the southern part of Central Region, Mr. Potter stated. He said that the disease, however, is travelling eastward toward Oshawa and Bowmanville quite rapidly. This is particularly noticeable where there are main highways, because the bark beetles are "hitch-hikers" and they catch on to vehicles, especially trucks, and drop off at convenient places where they can attack elm trees, he declared.

The only way to prevent the

disease spreading is to keep the tree as healthy as possible, using DDT spray to kill the disease-carrying beetles, and by burning diseased trees, once they are felled.

But while Dutch elm disease

is a fatal scourge, foresters are not forecasting the extinction of the lofty shade tree. The consensus is that, with increased knowledge and preventive measures, Dutch elm disease will be controlled. Elms are here to stay.



ONTARIO HYDRO ATLAS CRANE is shown on one of the roads in Vaughan Township being used to remove a diseased and hazardous elm tree. This tree was not safe for men to climb and the crane hoisted Hydro forestry workers into position so that they could cut limbs and main sections of the tree safely. The only live branches of this tree extended directly over rural power lines and this presented a possible hazard to service for rural customers.

Change Parcel Rate On Packages to U.S.

Postmaster William Randell today reminded local mailers that recently-announced convention governing the postal service between Canada and the United States came into effect on July 1. Under the new convention, there are changes in parcel post and newspaper rates from Canada to the United States, and an increase in registration indemnity for articles posted in Canada and destined for the United States.

In reminding the mailing public of the changes, he pointed out that under the new agreement the weight limit on parcels mailed in Canada to the United States had been increased from 15 pounds to 25 pounds and that the maximum indemnity for the loss of a registered article mailed in Canada to the United States has raised from \$25 to \$100.

Parcel Rates
Under the new rate, Canadian parcels mailed to the United States will require postage ranging from 40 cents for a one-pound parcel to \$4 for a 25-pound package. Registration fees on mail for the United States will now be identical with domestic rates, ranging from 20 cents for a maximum indemnity of \$25 to 40 cents for a maximum indemnity of \$100.

Mr. Randell noted that the United States administration had recently announced increases in rates governing printed matter, samples, registration fees and parcel post on items mailed in the United States for Canada.

Police, Safety Officials Ask You Drive Carefully

Police and safety council officials are asking motorists' cooperation this summer in cutting down on the number of accidents involving children playing on or near streets.

Today, Milton marks 391 days since the last fatal accident in town. Our last fatality involved a boy riding a bike on the street.

But just this week another small boy was slightly injured when his bike cut in front of a car. Motorists are warned to take extra precautions now that summer holidays are here and children are everywhere.

Some Have Law
Some municipalities even have laws against children using streets as playgrounds. While it isn't effective in Milton, North York children can be fined from \$10 to \$25 if they are caught playing in the streets. Co-operation of parents is really needed here.

Let's all do our part to keep the figure of fatality free days climbing!

Premier Leslie Frost Not in Favor Of Restaurants, Gas Stations on 401

There's not much chance of Highway 401 through Halton County getting any fancy restaurants or gas stations, according to statements made this week by Ontario Premier Leslie Frost.

He said he didn't favor eateries or filling stations on either Highways 400 or 401.

"It is a different affair on U.S. throughways," he explained, "where they are owned and controlled by the throughway authority." "This isn't a parallel case with our free highways." Just off our highways at intersections, he said, are privately-owned gasoline stations and good restaurants and the highways department has put signs up to tell where they are located. To allow restaurants and gasoline stations on 400 and 401 would cause serious competition.

The premier doubted the two stations on Highway 400 which started as an experiment have been successful.

On 400 and 401 the province is trying to avoid mistakes made on the QEW back in the '30's, and trying to eliminate as many entrances to the roads, he said.

Michigan, Premier Frost said, is attempting to follow Ontario's action on its new free throughway.

Local, Toronto Cars Collide at Corner
Two cars were involved in a collision on Saturday evening at the Martin St., Base Line intersection.

A car driven by John Andrew Reid of R.R. 2 Milton collided with a car driven by Albert Ernest Dalziel of 1444 Avenue Rd., Toronto. The Reid car was proceeding south on Martin St., while the Toronto man's car was travelling west on the Base Line.

Damage to Mr. Reid's car amounted to \$75 while damage to the other car was \$50. Constable Joe McCann investigated, day morning.

Flames Ruin Passing Car

Police and firemen termed a 1958 Hillman car a "complete write-off" Sunday after it caught fire on Highway 401 near the Fourth Line overpass east of Milton.

Homer R. Smith of Toronto was driving east when a passing truck honked its horn and the passengers pointed to Mr. Smith's motor. He stopped and found the motor flaming. Police and firemen arrived at the scene but the car was beyond saving.

Not Ready?

High school text books went on sale in Milton recently, but to date the sales have been fairly slow. Either everyone is away on vacation or the students aren't too anxious to purchase reminders of back-to-school just yet.

According to Harris Stationary owner Ron Harris, most of the books Milton high schoolers will need in the fall are now available. The publishers have held up delivery of a couple of volumes. Sales are expected to rise as September nears.

NEW USES FOR OLD-TIMER COPPER

Old-timer copper, used by man for more than 9,000 years, is due to get new uses now under study by producers' development associations.

No more smog problem from cars and trucks: "Stainless" copper used in big buildings that won't change color; Embossed copper foil on an asphalt backing that will give a new look to house roofs; Brake drums made of copper-based materials to prevent fade; No tree roots clogging sewer pipes.

HALTON COUNTY Weed Control News

by V. E. McARTHUR, COUNTY WEED INSPECTOR

"COMMON RAGWEED"
The air-borne pollen of plants causes a great deal of suffering each summer to nearly 100,000 Hay Fever victims in Eastern Canada, with Common Ragweed, sometimes known as Short Ragweed, Hogweed, Bitterweed or Roman Wormwood, being one of the chief offenders, according to the Field Crops Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture.

Ragweed is an annual with a much branched and slightly hairy stem which grows from one to three feet high, with leaves that are very finely divided, giving the plant a ragged appearance. The flowers are yellowish, on long slender spikes at the ends of the branches; a single plant being able to produce as many as 5,000 seeds.

Although an annual, Ragweed is difficult to kill because it often produces seeds late in the year after cultivation, mowing and spraying have ceased. It also produces seeds low down on the

plant where they may be missed by the mower and so care should be taken to mow low and often to prevent seed formation on second or third growth plants.

Repeated Cultivation
Ragweed may also be controlled by after harvest cultivation. Stubble land should be given repeated cultivation at intervals until late fall. Hoed crops also help control it if preceded by thorough fall and spring cultivation.

Ragweed is quite susceptible to 2, 4-D and may be controlled by 6 to 8 oz. of 2, 4-D acid per acre. New plants spring up throughout

U.S. Price Up
Because of increased postal rates, this paper's subscriptions to United States after August 1, 1961 will be \$5. Subscriptions to England and other commonwealth countries will remain at \$4 and subscriptions to Canadian subscribers remain at \$3 yearly.

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BIG ITEM

The ace sales agent returned after six weeks on the road and presented his expense account to the manager. "What's this big item here on the account?" "Oh," replied the salesman, "that's my hotel bill." "Well," grunted the boss, "don't buy any more hotels!"

Country people are those who really want to know when they say "How are you?"

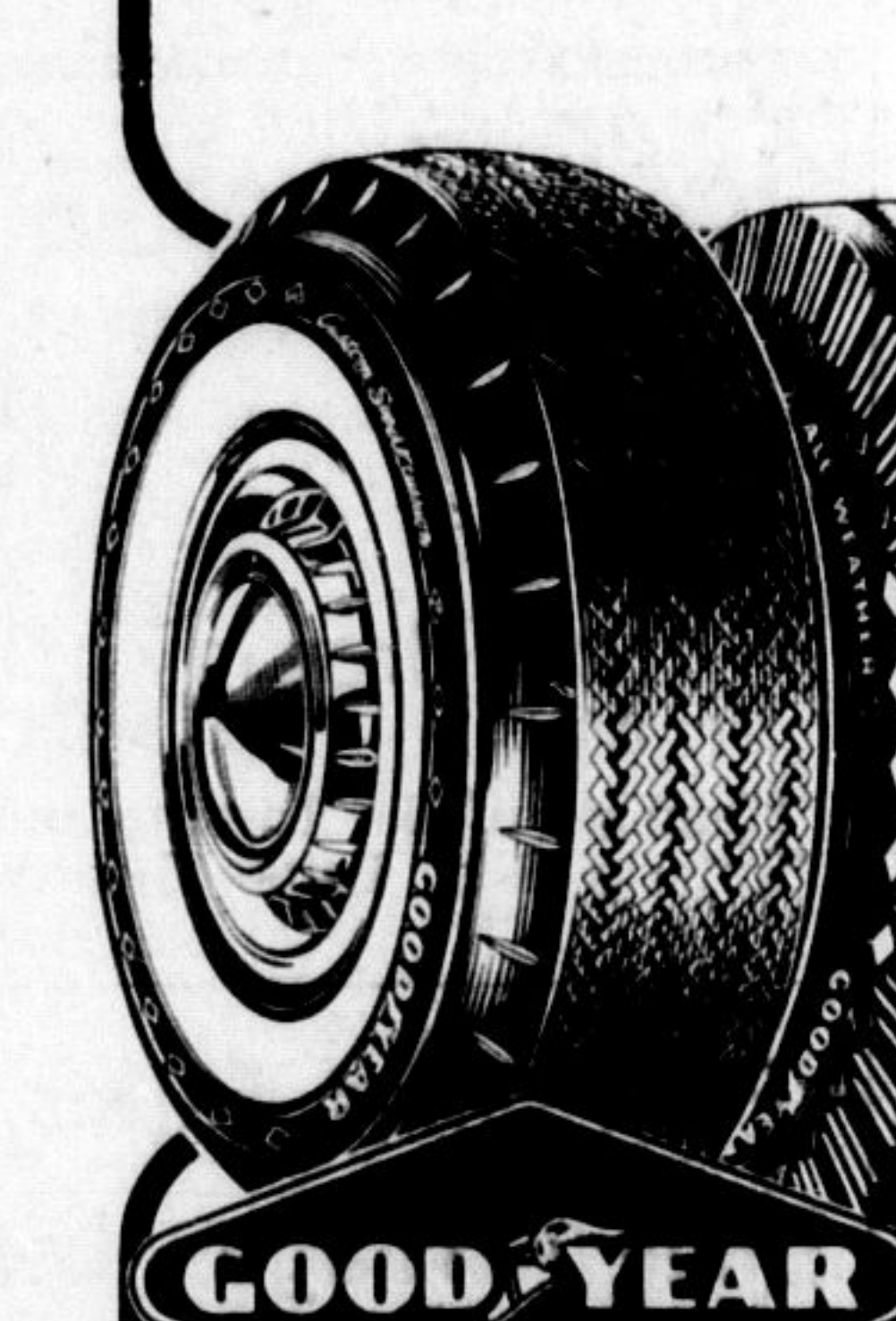
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BEST TIRE VALUES IN TOWN

Trafalgar Golfers Capture Low Gross

Trafalgar golfers shot enough sizzling rounds at the North Halton club to score an aggregate low gross win in the second return match of a home and home inter-club set with a Georgetown men's team Saturday.

The North Haltons, however, played sub-average golf and walked off with low net honours. The first match, at Trafalgar, was played in June.

75 Low Gross
Malcolm McNeil of Trafalgar

fired a 75 to take low gross honours, just three strokes ahead of Harry Sanderson of North Halton. Bill Wood of Trafalgar was just 2 off his team-mate's pace with 77 and Sam Mackenzie of North Halton was second to Sanderson with 80.

Alf Sykes' 67 led the field in the low net department for North Halton followed by teammate Dick Crichton's 68. Dick Chretien of Trafalgar had his club's low net a 71, Bill Wood also of Trafalgar, was runner up with a 77. The most honest golfer prizes went to Don Schenk of North Halton and Jack Higgins of Trafalgar.

The presentations were made at a dinner following the competitions, by golf captain Dick Crichton and professional Russ Kelly.

—The O.M.B. has approved a \$375,000 addition to the Burlington Central High School, including an auditorium, four classrooms and a music room. The auditorium will seat 600 people.

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