

# Holstein dairyman Verne Rumney worries about future of farming

by Dave McCausland  
Take one part farmer, one part longshoreman, one part businessman, one part amateur political analyst, and one part longtime resident of this area, and you will have a recipe that ap-

proximates Verne Rumney. Verne Rumney is an interesting man to speak with, and an even more interesting man to listen to. Whether he is talking of his work unloading boats in Midland Harbour, about the problems

of farming, or the various personalities of this area, with many of whom he went to school, he has strong opinions on them all. But he is first and foremost a farmer.

He has lived on a farm all his life and he certainly doesn't want to go down to the city. A visit once in a while is all right, he claims, but he wonders how long it will be possible to remain on the farm.

Various people have accumulated great amounts of money and are able to buy out the farmer, he said, and a person has to decide whether or not it is worth facing the problems of

running a farm or selling out to live off the proceeds.

And there are certainly lots of problems. Today's dairy farm is complex, he said. "There are so many things that demand your attention that you never feel free." And there are always things that need fixing. Waving his left hand, he said, "I almost lost my hand the other day when I was trying to fix the 'stable cleaner.'"

Verne's wife Betty echoed his sentiments. "I always say that the farmer has to have a real good backbone since there are so many things to knock their feet out from them."

Take this month's storm for example.

The snow was drifting so badly he wasn't able to get one of his heifers to the

water. As a result, it died. The farmer "just survives on the thin edge of existence," was his way of summing up the problems.

Verne Rumney works hard at his farm. He puts a lot of what he makes from his sale of the milk from his registered Holstein herd (the only one in Tay Township) back into the operation of the farm. "You know, the farm won't exist if you don't put every dollar you make back into it." He's just bought a new \$14,000 Massey Ferguson tractor to improve the operation of his farm.

But though the farm is central to his life, it is not by any means all of it. He works from time to time as a longshoreman, and has for years. When interviewed earlier this week, he had just finished a number of long

days unloading grain from the Sir James Dunn and the Westdale at Midland port. He enjoys his work on the boats and comments that he is working with many of the men who were his former schoolmates at the Riverside School in Tay Township many years ago.

Rumney has clear and decided opinions on many of the topics facing area politicians, as well as some colourful descriptions of the politicians themselves. He is concerned about civil servants and their right to run for elective office. He is concerned about the monetary policy of a government that he thinks could have controlled inflation had it wanted to.

His only active involvement in politics was his seat on the old high school board before it was re-organized as part of the Simcoe County Board of Education. When asked if he had given any thought of running for a seat on the Tay Township council he said no. "Education is my interest," he said. "I've encouraged my neighbours to run for township council."

He has, in any case, reservations about politics in general. He wonders if there is any place in politics for an honest man.

"If you're an honest man," he said, "there are too many times you have to compromise high principles on minor issues." But left to oneself, he said, your "in-born morality will contrive to give you the right attitude. It's only when you become devious that you go wrong."

The farm is named the Holly Bee Farms. The man is Verne Rumney.

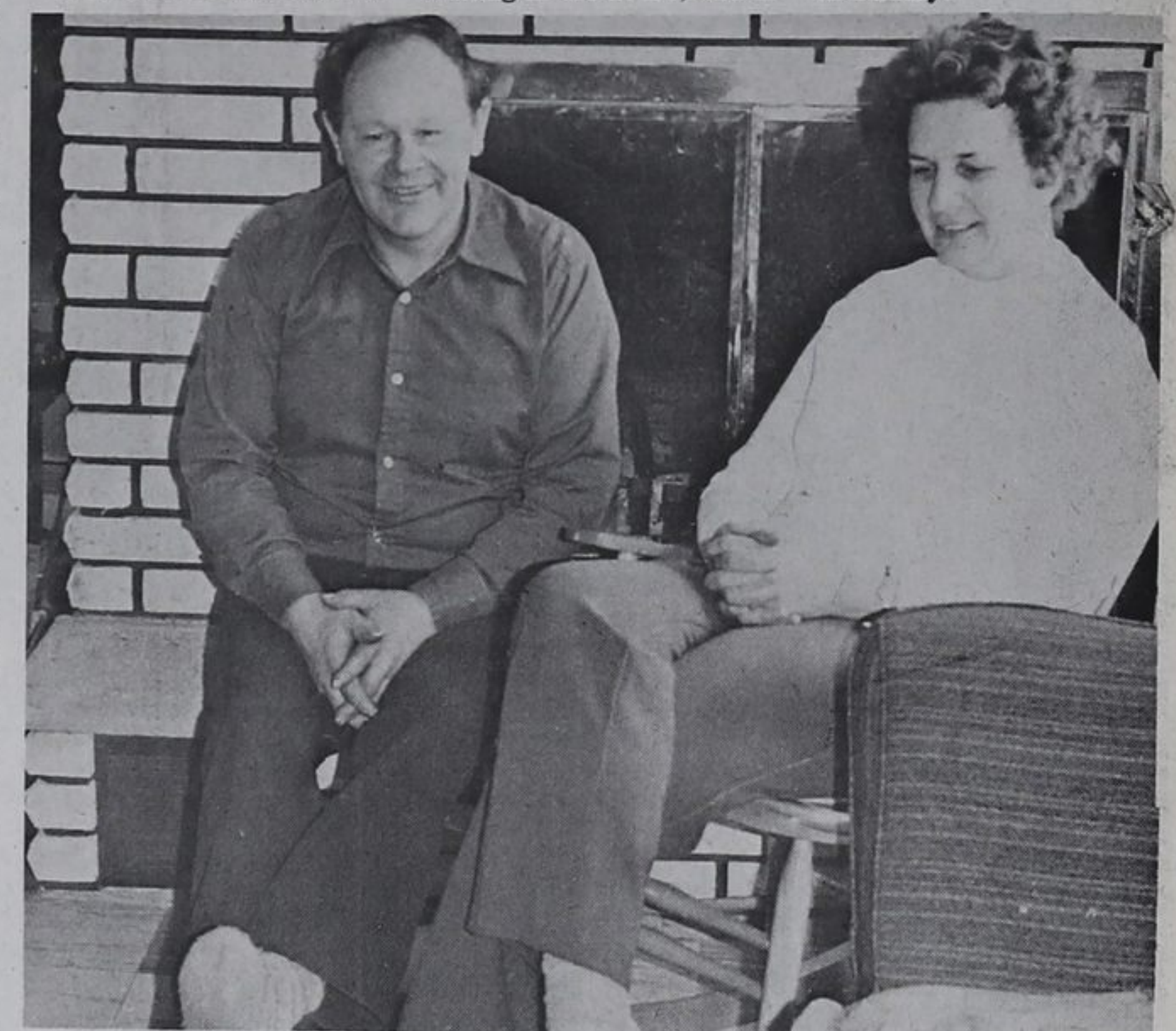
As he looked out over his field you could see a man in love with the land. Tay Township stretched out to the north, and Georgian Bay glistened in the distance. And, with a shake of his

head about the snow that only a few days ago had blanketed everything, he wished the reporter a good day.

After all, visitors were waiting in the house, and in

only a few hours he would have to get busy again.

You see, there are these forty or fifty Holsteins that need his attention twice a day. Every day. And always on Sunday.



They keep a full schedule

Verne Rumney and his wife Betty relax before the fireplace as two of their poodles enjoy the carpet at their feet. A native of this area, Rumney has the only registered

Holstein herd in Tay Township. He also finds time to work as a longshoreman unloading grain in Midland. Dave McCausland photo

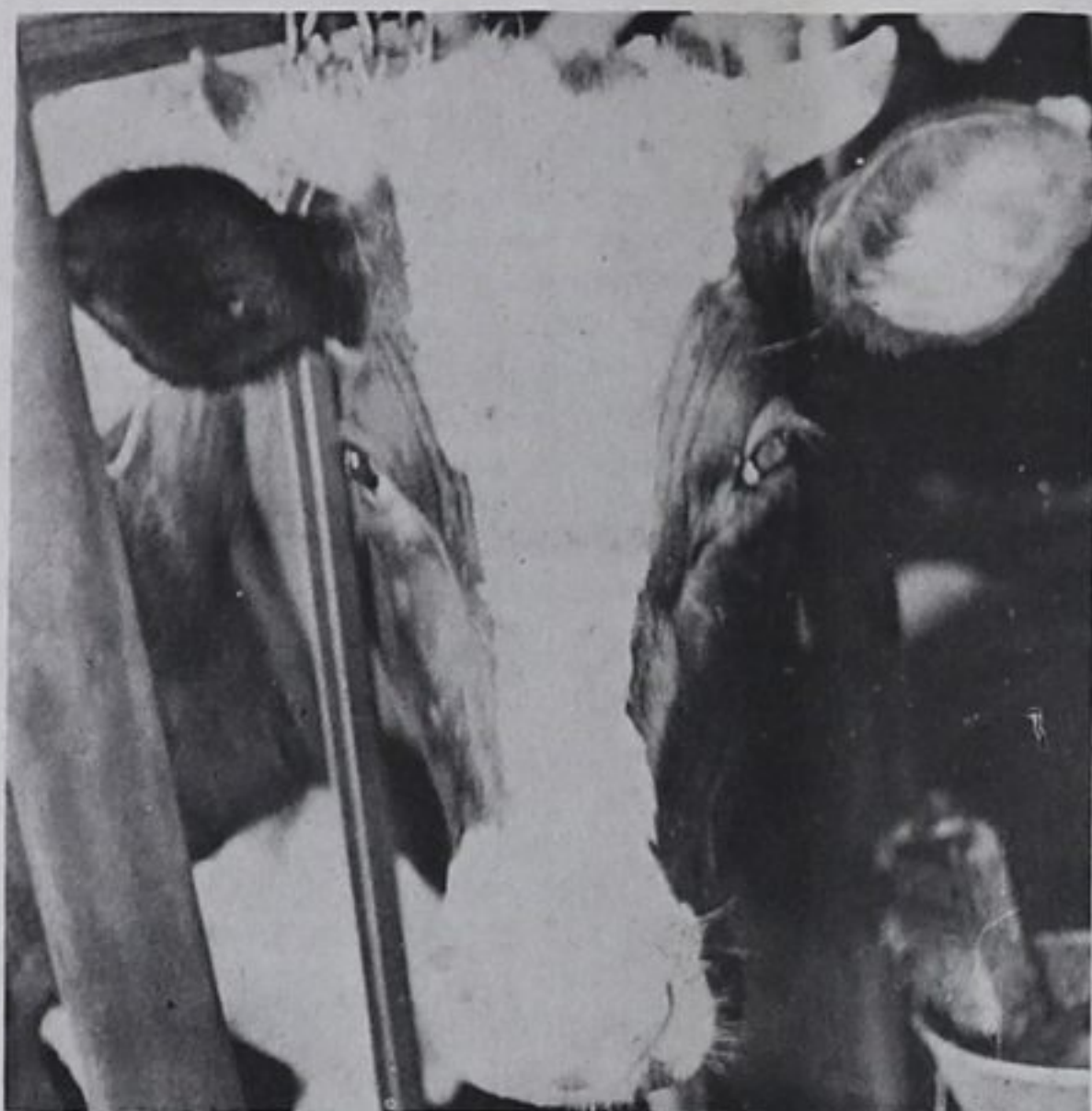
**CORNTROL OIL**  
PLEASE ORDER EARLY FOR THIS ITEM.  
It would be appreciated  
**Esso** T.R. McKENZIE  
ELMVALE 322-1781

**BROWN and BELL**  
Farm Dairy Equipment

- Your authorized Delaval Dealer
- Round the barn pipelines . . . milk transfers . . . parlours
- Bulk tanks - s all supplies

726-0338 or 728-6766  
RR 5 Holly Ont

Give your cow a treat instead of a treatment - try Delaval soft touch milking



**SELF-UNLOADING**

**FORAGE BOXES**

**MOREAU'S FARM EQUIPMENT** DION — DEUTZ — FOX SALES AND SERVICE  
R.R. 1, Phepston, Ontario Phone Elmvalle 322-1770

**Moo !**

**INFLATION FIGHTER**  
200 GAL. CONTINENTAL TRAILER SPRAYER  
\$920.00 F.O.B. LEAMINGTON LESS TIRES

YOU CAN PAY A LOT MORE, BUT — you cannot buy a better sprayer anywhere that will apply the proper amount of herbicides to kill and control your weeds.

100 GAL. TANK WITH THREE POINT HITCH \$790.00

**Bellamy Equipment**  
218 KING ST. S. STAYNER (705) 428-3130

## 100 at Tiny recreation conference

Recreation must have been "good business" on Saturday, as approximately 100 persons took part in the recreation service conference sponsored by the Tiny Township recreation, parks, and community centre board, held at the Wyebridge Community Centre.

The day-long conference whose theme was "Recreation is good business," featured a panel discussion in the morning with guests Ron Marchildon from Penetanguishene speaking on planning and staffing, Peter Cavill talking on organization, direction, and co-ordination, and Midland trustee on the Simcoe County Board of Education John McCullough speaking on budgeting.

A consultant with the new Ministry of Culture and Recreation reported to the meeting on important changes in Bill 137 on The Community Recreation Centres Act, and their effect on local recreational organizations.

One point stressed heartily by O'Connor was the need for individual communities to go through local township offices in the application of grants.

Nancy McLelland from the Simcoe County recreation department spoke on what's new in crafts and on senior citizens' programs in the county. Art Dyer, a member of the Georgian Shores Swinging Seniors told the meeting what progress is being made by his club and what problems encountered.

In Tiny Township deputy-reeve Hilda Sibthorpe's words, "it was a very worthwhile day" and well-attended by local groups and the general public. A real cross section of people was represented at the conference, she noted, providing a number of viewpoints.

The conference represented an opportunity for those involved in

recreational programs to exchange information and share ideas with the resource people at the conference. Tiny recreation co-ordinator Bernard Leclair said.

Considering that little encouragement was given to individual groups, the amount of work that went into the various crafts displays at the community centre was "amazing," he added.

The whole thing went over "very well", Leclair said. And no doubt, these conferences will become a habit in future years. The Saturday affair at Wyebridge was the third such conference sponsored by Tiny Township.

## 7,935 forest fires in '74

In 1974, a total of 7,935 wildfires burned over approximately 3,270 square miles of forest area in Canada.

Although this represents close to the same number of fires and area burned over compared to the average figure of the last 10 years, as usual there was a shift in locations where major outbreaks occurred.

Recreation and settlement fires continued as the major man-caused sources, while

lighting fires accounted for slightly greater than one-quarter the total number of fires, but a much higher proportion of the total area burned.

Although it is not yet possible to predict where wildfires may be most serious in 1975, the Ontario Forestry Association requests the co-operation of all forest users and travellers in reducing the start of forest fires caused by human carelessness.

**SAVE UP TO \$1000 OR MORE**

**ANNOUNCING!**  
**MASSEY-FERGUSON RED CHEQUE DAYS**

Save on both 100 and 200 Series Tractors and Matching Implements by May 1.

- Get a brand new tractor as it's introduced — not phased out.
- Get a tractor at the beginning of the season — not the end.

Purchase one of these tractors and matching implements by May 1 and get a cheque from Massey-Ferguson for hundreds of dollars.

Offer applies to current inventory.

**MF 100 Series Tractors**  
Stocks are low, but we can also offer cash allowances on world famous tractors: MF 135, MF 150, MF 165, MF 175. Offer applies to current inventory. Don't miss Massey-Ferguson's Red ChequeDays at our dealership by May 1. Now more than ever it pays to . . .

**Hitch up to Massey.**

**Robert Wood Sales & Service Ltd.**  
PARTS — SERVICE — WELDING  
Phone 534-7371, P.O. Box 39, Port McNicoll, Ontario  
AUTHORIZED MASSEY FERGUSON DEALER INDUSTRIAL & FARM EQUIPMENT

Field-proven Perkins engines. More hydraulic capacity than other makes in this size. 12-speed Multi-power transmission optional — or standard shift. Independent PTO optional or standard — live PTO.

MF 235 42 PTO hp.  
MF 255 50 PTO hp.  
MF 265 60 PTO hp.  
MF 275 67 PTO hp.

**SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER!**

Save \$475 on the brand new 12 speed MF 265 tractor during RED CHEQUE DAYS.

- Get a brand new model during its introduction.
- Get a tractor at the beginning of the season.

Purchase your MF 265 tractor by May 1 and get a cheque back from Massey-Ferguson for hundreds of dollars. When you buy a tractor, you save on matching implements, too. Ask us the amount of cash allowance on matching plows, discs, cultivators, drills, planters. Offer applies to current inventory.

Cash allowances apply to all new MF 100 series tractors as well as the brand new 40-70 hp 200 series models.

**Now more than ever, it pays to . . .**

**Bellamy Equipment** Hitch up to Massey.  
STAYNER 428-3130

**for TOTAL crop service call CO-OP**

**COMPLETE FERTILIZER SERVICES**

**CHEMICAL HEADQUARTERS**  
Your Co-operative has the complete range of chemicals necessary to control just about any condition during your crop cycle. Free booklets and instructions are available.

**SEED VARIETIES**  
CO-OP has the seed to give you a wide choice of varieties suitable for Ontario soils, climate and required yields.

**Simcoe District Co-Op** 259 Innisfil St. 726-6531 Barrie

"A pleasant place to deal"

**CO-OP CROP SERV**