

Control chemicals tested in Coldwater

Researchers review blackbirds' study program with local farmers

by E. Lorraine Orr
Coldwater and area farmers met this past week with represen-

tatives from the University of Guelph, to review what efforts are being made to control the serious influx of crop-destroying blackbirds in Ontario. Since February 1974 testing has been done by several groups from the university to learn how the birds destroy the corn, and how to prevent it. The Redwinged Blackbird is the main culprit and all of Ontario is affected, with the Coldwater area being a "hot spot". The researchers conducted their experiments in the Kent County-Lake St. Clair area. A selected field was sprayed with corn kernels of which one in every one hundred had been treated with Avitrol. This particular chemical, when eaten by the birds, causes them to become distressed and to vocalize to the other birds thus warning them away. The results showed 21 per cent of ears in treated fields were damaged compared to 33 per cent of ears in untreated fields. Another test field was sprayed with a chemical called Mesural which contains repellent properties. The birds are turned away by the smell and taste of the treated fields. In this case the treated area showed 8 per cent damage and the

untreated area 17 per cent damage. It was also discovered that bird damage does not always mean a yield loss. The time the damage occurs decides the loss of yield. The blackbird prefers the corn when it is immature, when the damage is done early it is found that the remaining kernels grow larger and kernel weight does not decrease. Late damage to mature kernels brings about crop loss. Following bird damage, there is an increase in mold and insects which destroy the remainder of corn. Coldwater farmers test spray several farmers in the Coldwater area had agreed to treat their fields last summer. They were required to pay for

the airplane and chemicals used, the average cost being \$50.00 for one treatment. Howard Hawke could not see where the Avitrol did any good. He asked why the birds should go to the ground for kernels when there were so many available on the cobs. Bruce Durnford distributed the Avitrol twice by hand in a small field. He could not pass judgement in the results but felt it was too expensive. Cecil Biggs found the fields he sprayed twice at a cost of \$100.00 were the worst hit. Stewart Alderson unfortunately had rain immediately after his two sprayings of Avitrol. David Gratrix also experienced rain but could measure no difference between treated and untreated. He felt it could possibly be the variety of corn.



Waubaushehene team

Waubaushehene Public School successfully defended its Southern Georgian Bay Broomball Championship this year. It was its second straight undefeated season. The players from left to right are (back row) Karen Potter, Steve Bird, Mark

Bean, Robert Southern, Cathy O'Connor, Glen Southern, Rhonda Tucker, Dennis Schneider, Bill Bird; (front row) Sandra Osterreich, Sharon Shierlaw, Steve Geroux, Robin Sallows, Jeff Marshall and Susan Jones.

Staff photo

Midland, Cambridge horticulturalists exchange notes on spring garden swap

by Shirley Whittington
Midland Horticultural Society Members picked up some tips on landscaping public and private property when three members of the Cambridge Community Services Committee gave illustrated talks to the group last Monday night. Under his supervision, Recreation Coordinator Michael Guierro introduced Cambridge to Midlanders with pictures and commentary. Since the Midland club is participating in a garden swap with the Cambridge horticulturalists next spring, information about the city of 70,000 was received with great interest and not a little envy. Cambridge has six skating arenas, six swimming pools, and 1200 acres of parkland which

includes a two-mile jogging trail, plus outdoor recreational training facilities which are used by the schools and by the general public. Parks Superintendent Lynn Illingsworth talked about gardens, "symbols of fertility and loveliness". He urged that dead wood and stray branches be cut out flush to the trunk of the tree, and the resulting scar painted over so that the bark will heal across the wound. If the wound is not painted, rot will enter the tree and kill it. Tent caterpillars? "Put a plastic bag over them, and cut off the limb. You have to do this in the evening. During the day the nest is empty."

Pruning tips
He suggested that natural results from pruning can be achieved by locating and cutting back leaders, instead of simply chopping off anything that sticks out. "If you want a perfectly conical shape, you can get it by dropping a string from the top of the tree to the ground in a pyramidal shape. Confine your pruning to this pattern. The results of bad pruning, or no pruning, became evident to everyone as he showed slides of typical plantings

from homes in the Cambridge area. "You know," he said in conclusion "trees do not die of old age. We kill them, with pollution, tarmac, underground cables, by not feeding them enough..." The Cambridge-Midland garden swap begins in May when Midland horticulturalists travel south to bed down their plants in a spot chosen in Cambridge. "Cambridge already has an athletic swap with a town in the United States," said Midland president Agnes Milward. "The flower garden swap is a new idea, and is a great way for us to kick off our 80th birthday." There are other big dates coming up for the Midland group. In March 12, there's a bus trip to a mini-flower show at the Civic Centre in Toronto. On May 14, there will be a plant sale at Hobson's Sunnyside home. The next meeting will be held on March 28 at Regent School. A representative of the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton will discuss pruning and propagation. A membership drive is in full swing. Fees are \$2 singly, and \$3 for a couple.



Duncans honoured

Mr. and Mrs. David Duncan of Port McNicoll recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary. Family and friends honoured the Duncans at a reception at the Port McNicoll Legion.

Staff photo

1-737-1090  1-726-4562

Spinning Wheel Upholstery
ANTIQUES
AND MODERN FURNITURE

Recovery Free Estimates

Ray Valentine 49 Morrow Rd. Barrie

"I expect this Husqvarna 2000 to be around for the graduating class of 1999."

"Our Husqvarna sewing machines work so smoothly and are built so well that sometimes I think they'll last forever. They're ideal for students—so easy to use."

Beverley Elashuk,
Home Economics teacher,
Oshawa, Ontario.



For over a century, the people at Husqvarna have been designing and perfecting sewing machines. Which explains why the Husqvarna 2000 is such a remarkable machine. Where else will you find a 100% jam-proof hook? Or an actual gear shift that allows stitch-by-stitch control without sacrificing motor power. An extra long straight stitch (up to 6mm.) and a machine that never needs oiling. Besides the Husqvarna 2000 there's a complete line of Husqvarna machines to fit all budgets. Come in and discover what sewing is all about.

Husqvarna 

"The ultimate in sewing."

MIDLAND SEWING CENTRE
235 King St. Midland
526-2574

Y offers children's March break program

For four winters now the program department at the Midland Y.M.C.A. have been offering your children a fun and enjoyable March Break Program. Time, has once again rolled itself along and applications for the full week of activities are now being accepted. The program for those six to fifteen years begins Monday, March 21st with a visit to Toronto's Royal Ontario Museum. There the youngsters will tour a number of galleries from the Egyptian mummies to yesterdays dinosaurs. The following morning the boys and girls will tour a country sugar bush, with sampling of course, of the great maple candy. In the afternoon, the program will continue with a film entitled "Prin a Zebra in the Kitchen", a movie for all ages. Other specials to be included in the week's activities are: games and relays, sleigh-rides, tobogganing, skating at the Penetanguishene Arena, movie "Flipper's New Adventure", another "Penny Carnival" and a swim with our second annual Money Dive. For further information contact Anne Bourgeois at 526-7828. Don't forget our Gigantic Book and Record Sale to be held Saturday, March 19th. Do your housecleaning now and donate your old books, magazines and records to a well deserved organization. Those not able to get their items in, can simply call and a driver will be made available to pick them up. By popular demand another pottery class will begin Thursday, March 31st. This course will consist of 10 weekly sessions including slab, pinch and coil methods along with glazing instruction. The day babysitting program is now holding its own, so we have decided to continue with this worthwhile service. The babysitting is offered for both full day and half day service from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for the ages of 1 1/2 yrs. and up.

ELMVALE AUTO SUPPLY
ELMVALE 322-1111



1974 DATSUN PICK-UP
Safety certified, excellent condition
\$1895⁰⁰

Fast money.

FIRST AND SECOND MORTGAGES IN 72 HOURS.

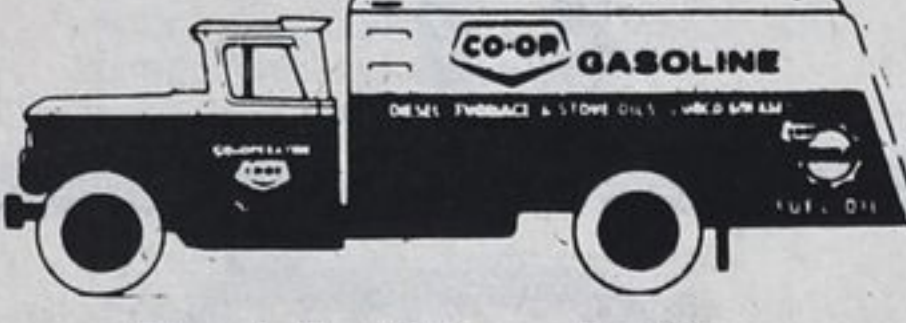
Sterling Trust delivers first and second mortgages. Fast. In fact we can deliver up to \$100,000 within 72 hours on first mortgages. No arranging fees or hidden charges. In fact, we won't even charge the appraisal fee if your mortgage is not approved. Come in and talk. We're not only friendly, we're fast.

STERLING
STERLING TRUST CORPORATION

526-3768

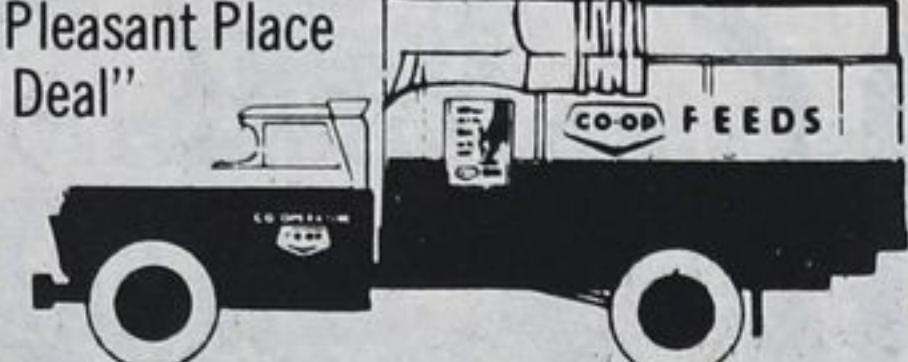
CO-OP

Farm & Home Fuel Service



Feed-Fertilizer-Ag-Chems

"A Pleasant Place to Deal"



SIMCOE DISTRICT CO-OP
259 Innisfil St. BARRIE
726-6531

BRING YOUR FRIENDS...
BRING YOUR CASE...
COME FOR THE FIRST TIME!

IT'S OUR FIRST ANNUAL
ANY CASE IN THE PLACE

ONLY \$1.99
(Plus Deposit)

That's right Folks! 24-10 oz. (just about 8¢ each) or 12-30 oz. Bottles (just about 16¢ each). of Great Tasting Soft Drinks or Mixes

You Mix or Match from 14 Favourite Flavours - Diets Too - Any Way You Wish. But Please Drop In Early Because at This Low, Low, Price it's First Come, First Served

While Supplies Last.
LIMIT TWO CASES PER FAMILY.

THIS THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY ONLY

It Won't Be Hard to Find — Just Look For the Lot With All the Cars and Smiling Faces

CANADA'S SOFT DRINK SUPERMARKET

The Pop Shoppe

Hwy 27 & HUGEL ST., MIDLAND

* T.M. Reg'd Pop Shoppes of Canada Limited
* Trade Mark of Pop Shoppes of Canada Limited