

Authentic look takes time at Ste. Marie

by Terri Howell
When most people want to reshingle a roof, they merely go to a building supply store and buy asphalt shingles. When Dave Hudson has to reshingle a roof, he has to find a supply of elm bark.

Why elm bark?
Dave Hudson is the maintenance supervisor for Ste. Marie Among the Hurons. In order to keep the site as close to what it must have looked like 350 years ago, elm bark shingles must be used.

Dave says he started looking to find a supply of elm bark a few years ago

knowing it would not be long before the roofs would need reshingling. He had two criteria in mind: one—the tree had to be alive before it was cut down and two—the tree had to be cut down for some purpose other than getting the elm bark off it.

Finding the trees was not easy. The ones in our area of Ontario are almost all dead now, because of Dutch Elm disease. The bark from trees stricken by the disease is useless since decay has already set in. Finally with the help of

the Ministry of Natural Resources, Dave managed to find a supply down near Cornwall. In that area "Dutch Elm disease has not hit as hard," he says. Through the ministry Dave got the names of loggers and bush workers that were cutting down elm trees along with other trees. Since the bark is waste anyway, he negotiated for it.

Problems
The next problem was inventing a way to remove the bark so it would look like it did 350 years ago and so it would

be possible to put it on the roofs without too much trouble.

For starters, Dave and two other men from Ste. Marie went up to Perth, Ontario, where there was a supply of cut elms. Here they worked out a method of getting the elm bark off.

"The bark can only be removed when the sap is going up the tree, which is usually in June," says Dave. This is when the bark is loose and easier to remove. At any other time of the year, the bark is better adhered to the tree.

The technique to take the bark off uses different tools than the early French men and the Indians would have used. A chain saw is used to "ring the logs" about every 30 inches. The bark is then cut the length of the log. Dave and the two other men that were in Perth with him, invented a chisel—like tool out of an old car spring. This chisel was worked under the bark. The shape of it allowed it to go part way around under the bark loosening it off the log. Dave says the width of bark pieces depends on how well the pieces are removed.

The technique was then taught to the loggers that were cutting the elms and they were paid for their

labour to remove it. Dave says it is not unusual, now that they have the methodology down pat, to get shingles 4 feet by 8 feet.

The Indians and the early French settlers did not have the luxury of chain saws, so they would have used axes, according to Dave. However, like Dave and the other men, they also would have had to invent a tool to get under the bark to loosen it.

Care in handling
Once the bark is removed it has to be immediately crosspiled. Dave says the bark is "just like rubber when it comes off the tree". It is very important that it is stored flat. When it is transported, once again care must be taken to keep it flat. Dave says that if it curls up, it is impossible to work with.

Half of the buildings are being reshingled at Ste. Marie this fall. That calls for 22,000 square feet of elm bark. Dave says the rooves now has been there for 14 years. Modern shingles, by comparison, last about 15 years.

The bark is put up in much the same way as modern shingles are put up. No more than half of the shingle is exposed to the elements. The dif-

ference between it and modern asphalt shingles is the thickness. According to Dave sometimes it takes four or five-inch spike to nail it to the roof.

As much as possible, nails made at Ste. Marie over the course of the summer are used to replace the bark. However, it will be necessary to use some modern nails.

Ste. Marie has two full time maintenance carpenters. Dave says when they came to Ste. Marie they almost had to learn carpentry all over again. He says there is 350 years difference between their carpentry methods and the methods used in the days of the French and the Indians. He says in some cases, carpenters that come to work for them have to learn to use axes. For the sake of speed, the carpenters will often have to develop methods of doing things to make it look like it was done 350 years ago.

Up until the time that Dave found the supply of elm bark the roofs were only patched. None of them had been reshingled. Dave says he does not know where the original bark came from 14 years ago, or how it was removed from the trees.

The person doing it then, left no records.



Scaling the roof

Workman at Ste. Marie Among the Hurons busily take off the old elm bark shingles and put on the new ones. The old shingles have lasted for 14 years - the same length of time an asphalt shingle can be expected to last. This fall half of the buildings will be reshingled using the elm bark. Staff photo

Fred Hacker will seek national PC position

Fred Hacker to run for National P.C. Party executive

Fred Hacker, a Midland lawyer, is a candidate for a prominent and important position on the National Executive of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada.

The North Simcoe P.C. Association announced this week that Mr. Hacker is seeking election to the position of National Vice-President for Ontario. In that capacity he would sit on the National Executive and also on the 6 member Executive Committee of the Federal P.C. Party.

The election will take place at the National Assembly of the Party in Quebec City November 6, 1977. More than 1000 delegates from across Canada will vote on the position. Both Fred and his wife Barb have been elected delegates to represent North Simcoe at the National Assembly.

The Simcoe North Election of delegates was held Tuesday, October 11.

Mr. Hacker is a lawyer in Midland in the firm of Haig, Hacker and Lunnie. He is a Midland native, the son of Jean (now Bonyun) and the late Stan Hacker. Fred is the fourth generation of his family to reside in Midland and received his primary and secondary education in Midland.

He received a Bachelor of Arts at McMaster University where he was

Chairman of the Student Union. He majored in Political Science. He then attended the University of Toronto and received a Bachelor of Laws degree. He was called to the Bar of the Province of Ontario with Honours in 1973.

Mr. Hacker has been active in community affairs in Midland. He is President and a founding director of the Huronia Branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society. He is a member of the Midland Rotary Club and serves as Director responsible for Community and Vocational Services. He is a member of Knox Presbyterian Church in Midland.

Fred is married to the former Barbara Macaulay and they live on Seventh Street in Midland with their daughters Kim (aged 5) and Kristi (aged 3).

The Midland lawyer has been deeply involved with Progressive Conservative politics for many years. He worked on the 1971 leadership campaign of now Premier William G. Davis. He worked at P.C. Provincial Headquarters during the 1971 Provincial Election. He also assisted in the Don Mills campaign of Dennis Timbrell (now Health Minister in Ontario).

In the 1972 Federal Election campaign he worked at Toronto Federal Party Headquarters. In the 1974

Federal Election he was a fund raiser on behalf of Dr. P.B. Rynard, M.P. for Simcoe North.

In 1974 he was elected to the Riding Executive for Simcoe East Provincial Association. In 1975 he served as Campaign Manager for the Midland area in the successful re-election of Gordon E. Smith, M.P.P. for Simcoe East.

In 1976 Mr. Hacker was elected 1st Vice-President of the Simcoe East Riding Association. He was also appointed to the Ontario Progressive Conservative Organization Committee and assisted riding associations throughout Ontario with election organization and preparation for the 1977 Election.

In 1977 he served as Area Campaign Manager in the re-election of Gordon E. Smith, M.P.P. in the Ontario Provincial Election.

Mr. Hacker's hobbies include sports, boating, music, photography and community activities. He regularly works out at the Midland Y.M.C.A.

Fred's candidacy for National Vice-President for Ontario on the P.C. Party National Executive has been warmly and enthusiastically received by Progressive Conservative supporters locally including Dr. P.B. Rynard, M.P., and Gordon E. Smith, M.P.P., and by Fred's friends and colleagues in other parts of Canada.

Local police chiefs react to Collingwood slaying

Midland Police Chief Ernie Bates reacted to the recent shooting death of a Collingwood sergeant by calling for the reinstatement of capital punishment.

Bates admitted even if the law was changed, it couldn't be made retroactive to deal with the punishment of Gerald Patrick Chater and William Paul Frederick, the two charged in Wednesday's shooting death of 32-year-old Sgt. Ronald McKean. But he felt they may have thought twice about it if the death penalty was still in force.

"I'm saying capital punishment should remain on the books," Bates said. "And I'd have to think if a poll of Canadians) was taken it

would never have been taken out."

Bates was among eight Midland Police Department officers who attended McKean's funeral Saturday.

"We all knew him," he said. The police chief was quick to point out he felt the death penalty should be enforced for any premeditated killing, not just the shooting of police officers or prison guards.

"Any first degree murder," added Sgt. Bruce Hook.

As it stands now, the penalty for murder is not sufficient, said Bates. "They'll get 25 years and they know they'll only have to serve 15. Even if they do serve the full amount they're only going to be 46 when they get out...I'm only 46."

"It's got to be the point now where they've (murderers) got nothing to lose."

Increase in violence Bates has noticed an

Chief Bates

increase in violent crime over the last 10 years in Midland.

"We never knew what an armed robbery was until the past few years," the chief said.

Hook added that a great majority of the police officers on the Midland force were in favour of capital punishment. "I'd almost go as far as saying all of them were."

Collingwood Police Chief Carl Johnston expressed similar sentiments.

"I sincerely hope capital punishment is reinstated, as I've always supported it."

When a person is murdered there must be punishment, and the punishment now is insufficient...a complete mockery of the system."

Johnston also expressed concern with the ease in which some prisoners are granted temporary leaves of absence from penal institutions. Chater was at large on such a pass.

"The frequency with which these persons are at large account for added criminal activity."

Shortly after Chater failed to return from his pass, a bulletin was sent to local police departments with a description of Chater and a warning that he was considered dangerous. "If they knew he was dangerous why was he let out," questioned Midland Chief Bates.

Doolittle concerned Staff Sgt. Len Doolittle of the Midland Ontario

Provincial Police detachment was one of eight local OPP officers to attend Saturday's funeral. He was in charge of service arrangements

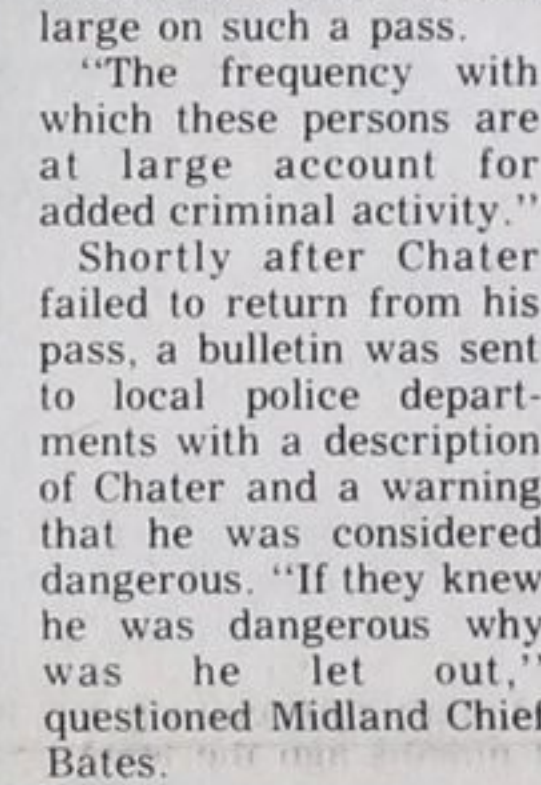
and Constable Chuck Coulson handled press reports, allowing all Collingwood officers to work on the case and attend the funeral.

"I'm definitely in favour of capital punishment, speaking as an individual," said Doolittle, "not only for the murder of police officers but for the premeditated murder of private individuals and citizens."

"Although violent crime seems to be increasing throughout the country, fortunately we have not had a noticeable increase in the immediate area."

Doolittle added no changes would be made at the Midland detachment as a result of the killing so close to home.

Sgt. Doolittle



Sgt. Doolittle

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