



Some of the damage

A government employee walks away from the derailed train cars in Medonte Township towards the nearest concession road. Beside him are

lengths of fire hose leading to the main body of the derailed cars, behind him two derailed box cars and a detached wheel section.

Commotion disturbs 1,300 mink in heat

Sunday's train derailment near Hillsdale may not have caused any personal injury, but it may have severely damaged the personal livelihood of at least one area resident.

Todd Grignon, who operates a mink ranch about an eighth of a mile from the accident site, says the occurrence and resulting commotion couldn't have happened at a worse time for his business.

Grignon said the female mink -- about 1,300 of his 1,500 breeding stock -- are in heat only once a year for only about 36 hours. For most of them, that 36-hour period is right now.

But the mink, a high-strung animal to begin with, will refuse to

breed if distracted by outside influences or sudden changes in their environment.

And that, says Grignon, is exactly what has been happening since CP Rail Train No. 405 jumped the tracks early Sunday morning.

"They've been upset since the whole thing happened," Grignon said Monday. "With the planes and the helicopters and the noise, they just aren't catching. Plus there's been a strong smell -- maybe not dangerous chemicals or anything, but an odor from the burning wreck that has set them off, too."

Tuesday, Grignon said about 20 per cent of the animals were vomiting, and though

the area had quieted down some, there were still helicopters hovering nearby.

Grignon says he fetches about \$40 a hide for the mink, but he can't afford to have the breeding process halted the way it has been the last couple of days.

He was ordered away from his ranch, but later received "special permission" to go back to work. He sent his wife and children to stay with friends and asked his two assistants to come in and help him with the breeding headaches.

"But they didn't want to come in," he said. "I had to offer them an extra \$300 a day. They took it then, so this whole thing is costing me even more."

Grignon says he heard the derailment about 7 a.m. Sunday morning.

"First I heard the clunk and clang, then a whoosh! like you hear when you set a match to a fuel-soaked barbecue. Only it was a lot louder."

Works Commissioner attending meeting

Midland's Commissioner of Works Percy Ehler has received the green light to attend a one-day "Job

Evaluation for Municipalities" meeting in Metro on March 31.

One evacuated family's story

by Adrienne Graham Gardner

Peggy and Norman Pridham, with their seven-month-old baby, Russell, were among more than 1,000 Hillsdale-area residents evacuated following Sunday morning's derailment there of a CPR freight train.

Peggy said, "I was ready to go to church in Barrie when a cloud

went over our house and we commented on how dark it suddenly was."

Following a news bulletin on the radio which gave the voluntary evacuation order for the Hillsdale and Orr Lake area at 10:40 a.m. Sunday, Peggy picked up a friend Carol Webb and her baby Jonathan. The two women and their babies arrived in Barrie to stay with relatives Leighton and Nancy Clark. The Pridhams live on Concession 2 O.S. in Medonte.

On Monday night, Mrs. Pridham was still not home. She said over the telephone, "It's been wearing, but we were fortunate to have somewhere to go."

Her husband Norman was ordered by OPP to leave his home Sunday night and joined other evacuees at Georgian College in Barrie.

Although he returned home Monday morning, Peggy and baby Russell

were waiting one more night.

Mrs. Pridham said,

"We're hoping to all be home Tuesday afternoon."

World Day of Prayer March 5

by F. Craig

World Day of Prayer Service for the surrounding area will be held this year in Crown Hill United Church on March 5 at 10 a.m. Coffee time will precede the service at 9:30 a.m. The service was prepared by women of Northern Ireland and Ireland. Miss Heather McLean will be the special speaker. All ladies of neighbouring communities are cordially invited to join in this world-wide service of prayer and fellowship.

Our secretary read the reply she received to our letter to the ministry expressing our concern that a home economist to replace Marjory McDonald be sent to North Simcoe as soon as possible.

The W.I. will be sponsoring a talent night in the Community Hall on May 7. Proceeds to go for hall upkeep. We hope all the talented people will volunteer to perform. Call Fay Craig or Vivian Ivey (or they will call you).



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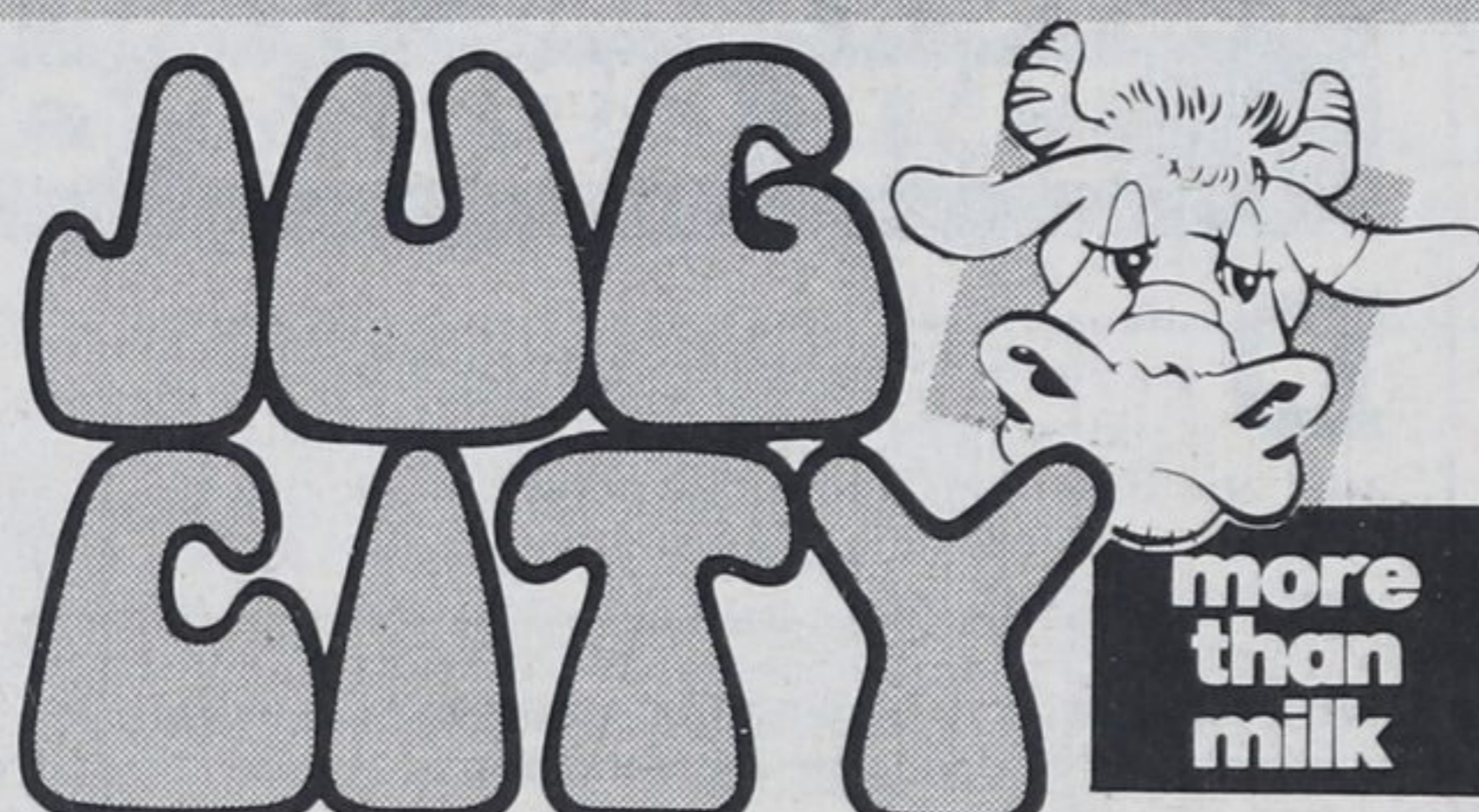
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