

# And we have it rough!?

These hints on how the early inhabitants of our area prepared for winter were included in the November edition of the Friends of Sainte-Marie newsletter.



## Ackroyd in concert

Gale Ackroyd, above, was one of a group of Midlanders whose performances were taped recently for the New Faces television program. The Midland performers, and Midland, will be featured on Nov. 28 on Channel 11.

We think everyone will agree that it is much easier these days to just change your furnace filter and put up the storm windows.

The cold North-West winds have grasped Huronia and we all prepare for the winter to ensure both comfort and enjoyment of the months ahead. In the 17th century, similar preparations were being made by Native and French alike, only their preparations were for basic survival in the harsh environment.

Wood was collected for warmth and cooking; harvested crops were being dried and stored; extra clothing was prepared; longhouses and shelters were readied; snowshoes and sleds were repaired; and all activity focussed around the family and the home. Huron hunting and warring parties returned from their adventures and women and children

returned from the fields.

In addition, French Jesuit missionaries and their volunteer helpers departed the safety of the palisaded walls of Sainte-Marie among the Hurons, to live among the Huron people in surrounding Native villages. Their task was one of teaching. A few men remained behind the palisades of the mission headquarters to co-ordinate the Christianizing movement.

Often we think of the hardships these people endured. No doubt French and Native alike had to endure the fierce thrashings of the winter, however, I believe their high technological knowledge of survival and their spirit of co-operation ensured success.

## Who turned out the lights?

A power failure on the Ontario Hydro lines Wednesday afternoon caused a blackout over a vast area of North Simcoe. The region entails from Woodland Beach to Port Severn, including Midland and Penetanguishene.

According to Hydro spokesman Mike Kelly, some air brake main-

tenance was under way when they experienced an insulator failure, which in turn caused a short circuit. The short circuit took out five transformers in Waubashene which feed this area.

Officially the blackout lasted two minutes, from 1:23 p.m. to 1:25 p.m.

## Book on county history

# Financial support for project to help

The Board of Directors of the Ontario Heritage Foundation has awarded the Simcoe County Historical Association a grant of up to \$4,500 to assist with the cost of publishing "Monty Leigh Remembers".

This is an informal and charming series of insights into life at the turn of the century, in Orillia and Oro Townships, from the vantage point of Monty Leigh, a lifelong resident, farmer, and historian of Simcoe County.

The Foundation is an agency of the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, created to assist and encourage the preservation of the province's heritage and culture.

The author, the late Jabez Montgomery Leigh, was born in Oro Township in 1894. Of pioneer stock, he lived his whole life in the neighbourhood, which was settled, cleared and farmed by four generations of

Leighs before him. A farmer who believed in co-operation, he was formerly chairman of the local Milk Producers' Association, and an active member of the District Agricultural Society.

He had a strong sense of community, and a keen interest in the historical life of the county. A director of the Simcoe County Historical Association and the Orillia Historical Society, he was widely known for his stories of life in the area during the early part of this century.

These stories have now been collected in book form. Illustrated with original drawings and period photographs, the work is at the printer's and will be ready for distribution in time for Christmas. The Simcoe County Historical Association is now offering the book at a special pre-publication discount price of \$7. When published, it will sell for \$8.

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The Farquharson character isn't unique to a small area of Ontario. Harroon recalls when he was age 15 and working on a farm near Lindsay, for \$20 a month, and going to work for \$6 a day, for a farmer in Saskatchewan who sounded just like Farquharson does. The Americans who saw him on Hee Haw neither knew or cared that he is Canadian, he said.

Asked about his political preferences, Farquharson replied that he was not a party man. He liked

Tommy Douglas, and Lester B. Pearson. "I liked Stanfield, because of his underwear. I didn't feel trapped."

Readers who wonder about the spelling and grammar in Farquharson's new book can blame Farquharson. Any sections of proper English that might appear in the book are the corrections of a Lithuanian recently arrived in Canada who set the type for the book and who tried to correct Charlie Farquharson's spelling.

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