

Cost of boundary change 'deplorable': MP

Simcoe South MP Ron Stewart, in a press release, says that he deplors "this costly process of redistribution" of federal riding boundaries, especially during a period of restraint.

Subtraction of portions of the south end of the riding have been proposed to bring the riding, which now has over 120,000 residents, close to a population of 80,000 residents. Eighty thousand residents is the number that officials feel allows for the most equitable representation in Parliament.

"I see absolutely no need for millions of tax dollars to be spent in this manner, and at this time," Stewart said. "And, if redistribution does take place, I certainly hope it will be the last time it occurs."

The proposed changes of riding boundaries in Ontario will be tabled for discussion and debate in the House of Commons next year, the MP said. Once the Act, containing the changes, has been proclaimed, a full year is required by law before the adjustments can be made fact, he said.

If an election were called in the interim, the present boundaries would apply, he said.

Responding to the claim that the proposed changes would be of advantage to the affected residents, Stewart agreed that redistribution would enable MPs to concentrate on issues significant to their remaining constituents.

"If the proposed changes go through I will be sorry to lose the south end of the riding," Stewart said, "as I have enjoyed representing the diverse ethnicity which exists in the Bradford Marsh area. This segment of the

population, I feel, is certainly a microcosm of Canadian life."

Another loss which Stewart said he regretted, was the "vibrant, new" community of Tottenham. "I have worked hard to dispel the feelings of the residents that they are the forgotten area of the riding, just because they are at its extremity."

"On a more personal note, it is indeed sad for me to learn that my birthplace, Beeton, will not be included in the proposed new riding of Barrie Simcoe.

Snow announces new disabled symbol plates

A new licence plate to identify vehicles of the handicapped and their drivers will be available at no extra charge, starting Feb. 1, 1983. Ontario Transportation and Communications Minister James Snow said recently.

Snow told the

legislature the internationally-recognized symbol for the disabled will be used in place of the first two letters on the plate.

"They are a direct response to requests by the disabled and organizations representing these drivers,"

Snow said. "And the symbol will make it easier to identify vehicles entitled to use some of the parking spots which we see being offered more and more these days for the handicapped."

The plates will be available at all MTC

vehicle licensing offices but, because of the relatively small number of plates required, they will not be available through licensing agents, the minister explained.

"However, drivers of handicapped people or the handicapped themselves may obtain

an application at any outlet and request the plates by mail. When requesting such disabled symbol plates, they will be required to sign a statement attesting either to his or her disability or role as a regular driver of a handicapped person," said Snow. "There will

be no extra charge and the plates will be mailed to the applicant."

MTC staff also have fulfilled an initiative identified during 1981—the International Year of Disabled Persons—by devising a model parking bylaw to help municipalities in legislating standing, stopping and or parking privileges for the handicapped.

Snow said he hoped municipalities would adopt the bylaw's key elements of eligibility, enforcement and scope (i.e. on-or-off-street parking, legal use of no-

stopping zones, etc.) In this way, he said, Ontario would be taking the first step toward some level of consistency in its laws regarding disabled drivers.

In co-operation with the new plate series, the Municipal Affairs and Housing Ministry is expected to introduce changes to Ontario's Municipal Act during the legislature's next session so the new plates can be legally recognized within municipalities extending privileges to the handicapped.



Santa and Jane have picture taken

Regent Public School in Midland was a busy place Saturday. It was the day members of the school's PTA staged its annual Christmas Carnival complete with you know who from the

North Pole. That's Santa with a "helper" from Regent, Jane Dubbin. From all reports a good time was had by all, ho, ho, ho!

Holiday this winter 'down on the farm'

A winter farm vacation offers Ontario travellers a unique holiday experience that's easy on the pocketbook.

Thirty-eight of the 55 vacation farms in the province offer a wide variety of activities during the winter months, says Sharon van Son, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food (OMAF) agricultural employment co-ordinator.

"You can skate on the farm pond, take the children tobogganing, or enjoy an old-fashioned sleigh ride," she says. "Many farms offer snowmobile and cross-country trails or have downhill ski slopes nearby."

After all this outdoor activity, you can feast on great home-cooked meals and relax with a cup of hot chocolate by the fireside.

Van Son says farm vacations are becoming increasingly popular because people are looking for alternate types of holidays.

"They're tired of the plastic of hotels and the high prices. A farm vacation is a unique, warm experience that allows visitors to relax and learn more about rural life today."

Price is another attractive aspect of the farm vacation. Rates vary with each type of farm and most holiday packages include three meals a day.

Vacation farms report more than 2,000 guests so far this year, says van Son. Many farmers say the business is providing them with a viable second income without having to work off the farm.

Visitors can stay for the day, the weekend or for a week or longer. Brochures are available at tourist outlets, local OMAH offices or from Ms. Samme Putzel, RR 2, Vankleek Hill, Ontario K0B 1R0.

Teenager, juvenile, charged

A 16-year-old Gloucester Street, Midland, man, Brian Lacroix, has been charged with the break and enter with intent on Oct. 18 by Midland town police of an unnamed Midland school.

Police have also charged a Midland juvenile with one count of attempted break and enter, and with one count of break and enter

with intent, in connection with incidents in the town in early November.

Stats tell story

The average length of stay at Huronia District Hospital during the month of October was nine days.

So indicates a monthly report tabled at Monday night's meeting of the Board of Huronia District Hospital.

During October there were 329 admissions while a total of 1,267 visits were made to the hospital's emergency department last month.

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INVITATION
to the Residents
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You are cordially invited to attend the Inaugural meeting of the Council of Corporation of the Village of Victoria Harbour to be held on Monday, December 6, 1982 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building.

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