

# NEIGHBORS

## Gord McDonald

When the antique trade slows up in the winter, Gord McDonald likes to get out on a hunt.

He enjoys the exercise: "The dogs chase the fox and I chase the dog"

But, perhaps even more, he appreciates the battle of wits between hunters and hunted: "It's always interesting to see if the dogs will outsmart the fox or if it'll go the other way."

Gord's hunt-mates are two Walker hounds which specialize in deer as well as fox and are not adverse to tracking wolves.

Gord and his wife Doris have lived in a bungalow on the Russell-Metcalf Road since 1962 when they launched their thriving antique business.

The couple came to Russell in 1950 to take over the Commercial Hotel following a stint at Ottawa where Gord "cleaned up" the old St. Charles Hotel which had a dubious reputation.

"It was a real cathouse," he

recalls. "But I did such a good job, the place was sold shortly after I went to work there."

He operated the Commercial for about five years, sold out and bought the Billy Booth farm near Russell. He retired from farming after seven years of shipping milk to Producers' Dairy at Ottawa.

But Gord, who was raised in the Chatham area, wasn't content to sit back and vegetate: "If you retire with nothing to do, you die. To me, retirement is doing exactly what you want when you feel like doing it."

Impressed by his wife's fondness for old furniture, he began accumulating stock and eventually opened a shop. While his storehouse of merchandise has been depleted by thieves on occasion, Gord says he still has "enough stuff to last quite awhile."

Although business has dropped off a bit during the current

recession, Gord insists interest in fine old furniture will never die.

In fact, he says, the younger generation is more interested than ever before in setting up house in Canadiana. Perhaps it's due to financial necessity, he suggests, noting antiques are still a better bargain than good new furniture.

Gord, who deals almost exclusively in Canadiana, says his biggest problem today is locating quality items at reasonable cost; a growing number of families want to hang on to their heirlooms.

When discussing his accomplishments, Gord defers to his wife, claiming she's the more talented member of the team.

Mrs. McDonald, who met her husband while he operated a grocery store at Whitby during the Depression modestly admits to dabbling in handicrafts.

The couple has two children; Jim of Perth and Jeannette of Russell.



**Russell is Winter Royalty**

The judges at this year's Russell Carnival Queen Pageant had an exceptionally difficult time choosing three winners from among 12 highschool entrants. They finally decided on left to right: Princess Kim Eadie, Queen Nancy Mulders, Princess Mary-Jane Ouellette.



**Among the curios**

## St. Patrick's Dance

**Russell Comm. Hall**

**Friday, March 17, 1978**

9:00 p.m. — 1:00 a.m.

Music by the  
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