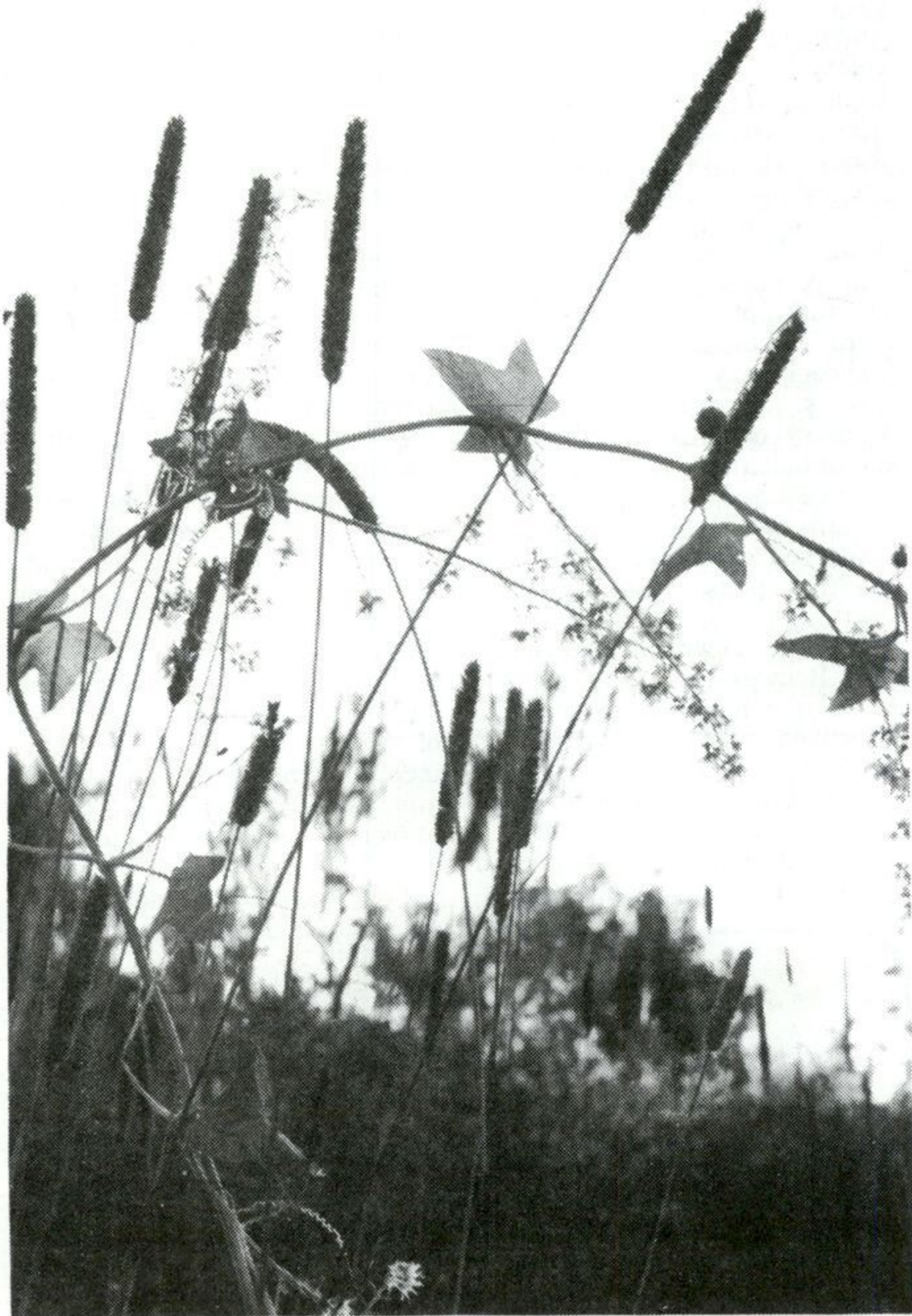


CASTOR COMMENT



(Photo by Rowsell)

Going to seed

September Song

NOW mists of sombre-petal dawn
Melt into amber-blossom noon.
And sapphire-dapple shadows close
In early dark and frost-tip moon;

New furrows follow wisps of steam,
And corn-stalks scarcely move at all;
The sturdy clumps of marigolds
Are showing ochre tones for fall.

The houses sigh in waiting gray
Till troops come rushing home from school:
And mother turns the furnace up -
So father quotes the cost of fuel . . .

Then crickets click their sleepy beads,
And crimson drips from quiet trees;
And pickle kettles spice the air -
To tease us with old memories.

One grave thought, let us grieve upon:
Another summer's come and gone.
Ruth E. Scharf

Georgian Bay Sunset

Hush filled air at dusk
Bent pines sharply etched
Shadowed curve of endless rock
Warmed by lingering rays of orange.
Rippling grain of quiet waters
Reflecting peach blue hues of light.

Alana Forrester-Verge

Correspondence

Editor, Castor Review,
My daughter, Elaine Griffith,
sent me two copies of the Castor
Review. Very interesting. Liked
the poem about the old barn
expecially.

Am sending you some fall
poems. Hope you can use these in
your fine little paper. Could you
use an occasional piece about life
in the Castor district & years
ago?

I lived in Russell from 1940-46.
Driving to Russell from Edwards
was quite a big thrill in 1925, even
if it meant a trip to the dentist.

Best regards,
Ruth E. Scharf,
Ottawa

Editor's note:

The Review heartily welcomes
the contributions of Mrs. Scharf
whose stirring poetry is well
known to area residents. Her
idyllic "Castor River" recently
appeared on these pages. The
Castor Review is proud to present
her timely "September Song"
and looks forward to bringing
readers her other submissions,
along with those of other authors,
in future issues.

Editor, Castor Review,

It has been ten years now that I
have spent anywhere from ten
days to three weeks every
summer vacationing on Georgian
Bay. Its beauty remains relatively
untouched and on our island
cottage you will find no tele-
phone, T.V., or radio.

Although poetry has never been
my metier, perhaps you could
include in the Castor Review this
little piece as a reflection on the
beauty of summer. Sunsets on the
Bay are extraordinary in their
calm but impossible to describe
unless you're a real artist. That I
will leave to the Group of Seven.

Yours truly,

Alana Forrester-Verge

The editor, Castor Review,

I enjoyed the accounts of Dr.
Kinnaird's and Dr. Morrow's
tributes very much. I thought
"Ode to a Country Doctor" was
very appropriate.

Best of luck and success with
the Castor Review.

Sincerely,

Jean T. Campbell
Prince George, B.C.

Beav' bopped over Groundhogs
Dear Beaver Bob,

I think you should ask any local
farmer what he thinks of your
friend the groundhog and I'm
afraid you would be told in 'not-
so-many-words-a-flaw' that the
groundhog is a glaring menace.

Every year his burrows cause
hundreds of dollars of damage to
farm machinery and valuable
farmland, causing not only the
expense but a loss of valuable
time.

The groundhog has always
been a continuing danger to
domestic animals breaking a leg.
Any avid horseman can tell you
what happens when a horse gets
sight of a groundhog hole. It is
nothing short of dangerous when
taken at a full gallop.

I am sure many village people
are also disgusted with the
groundhog's damage to their
flowers and garden plants, to say
nothing of the mess that they can
make of lawn that has been
levelled, seeded and given tender
love and care.

Even referring to an encyclop-
edia, you will find that the
groundhog or marmot is consid-
ered a pest, causing soil erosion,
being a carrier of disease and a
threat to domestic animals hurt-
ing themselves.

Please don't take me wrong. I
am not cold-blooded. I cringe at
the sight of any dead animal, but
I'm afraid that I am of the
opinion that the groundhog is
hardly a boon to society.

Fed Up Farmer

In the spirit

Robert Lalonde, the entrepreneur who owns the Brick Block
in Metcalfe, can ignore the feelings of village residents if he so
chooses.

He has the legal right to put any type of licensed establish-
ment on his property including a hotel and tavern as long as his
design conforms to planning and building bylaws.

But he would be unwise to ignore the concerns of village
teachers and churchmen who maintain a "watering hole"
would be more negative than positive.

Mr. Lalonde would certainly be off to a bad start if he opened
an establishment which the community opposed. Why not opt
for a quality restaurant serving wine, beer, and spirits, a place
Castor residents would be proud of and would undoubtedly
support wholeheartedly?

We doubt that another run-of-the-mill tavern would draw
patrons in the same numbers as a good dining room. Look at
the Old Heidelberg on Highway 31; it's packed almost every
night with people throughout the Ottawa area.

But this dissertation is probably unnecessary. Mr. Lalonde is
probably too shrewd a businessman to open an establishment
that won't win instant public favor.

That man Maloney

Since becoming Ontario's first ombudsman, Arthur
Maloney's fate was the typical one of the honest cop, resented
and criticised by the very people who appointed him. Now that
he has left the post it is impossible to evaluate the criticism at
its true worth.

Even the Ottawa Journal which feels that Maloney was
guilty of bureaucratic empire-building is forced to admit that
he has raised the office of ombudsman to a stature that it could
never otherwise have attained.

This was due in great part to the man himself. Arthur
Maloney is a product of the Ottawa Valley and proud of it. In
his political life when, like his father before him, he was an
adornment of the Conservative Party in the House of
Commons, he wore his Eganville origin like a badge of honour.
He would have been a minister in the Diefenbaker govern-
ment but for the fact that the party boasted a plethora of
ministers from Ontario and particularly Toronto.

Maloney's legal career, to which he now returns, was
perhaps the most outstanding and most honoured in the
province. When the chips were down and Diefenbaker was
under public attack by Dalton Camp, Maloney dropped every-
thing to stand by his old Chief. His outstanding characteristic
has been his readiness to spring to the defence of the underdog.
It has also been his chief quality as ombudsman and the in-
gredient which make it impossible for Arthur Maloney to lie
down on the job and be a patsy for the government.

No doubt the politicians are breathing a sigh of relief now
that Arthur Maloney has removed himself from the scene.
Most residents of Ontario and many thousands in the other
provinces will fervently hope that in some way this man's
services may be retained in an even larger sphere for Canada.

Constitution for everyone

There is a tendency, even among knowledgeable comment-
ators, to regard constitutions as dry, academic documents
locked away in a vault in the Privy Council, of no concern to
anyone but a handful of bureaucrats and politicians.

This is very far from the truth. As a matter of fact, the Con-
stitution affects every phase of Canadian living, the farmer in
the field, the retail merchant, the truck on the highway, the
householder in his taxes, the child trudging to school, all are
vital and dramatically affected by the operations of the Con-
stitution.

In a Federal state, the Constitution draws a line between
governments. It spells out the duties and responsibilities, the
powers and prerogatives of the Monarch, the House of
Commons and Senate, the Prime Minister and Governor
General, the Federal and Provincial governments.

The Constitution of Canada, was in effect, an agreement
signed by the four provinces existing in 1867 and ratified by the
British House of Commons. From time to time there have been
demands for change and from time to time, changes have been
brought about.

Never has a government proposed changes so serious and
far-reaching, touching the very essence of our system, as those
currently being brought forward by the Federal Government.

The majority of these changes, particularly those touching
on the role of the Queen, the re-structuring of the Senate and
Supreme Court, have been viewed with considerable alarm by
the provinces who are insisting on a go-slow approach.

Others have criticised the proposals not only for what they
contain, but for the manner in which they were conceived. The
argument has been advanced that since the Constitution itself
was reached by agreement among the existing provinces and
since it gave birth to a Federal government, then fundamental
and far-reaching changes affecting the rights and freedoms of
Canadians can be reached only by consultation and agreement
with the provinces. This, they maintain, has been conspicuous-
ly lacking in the latest exercise.

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