



# Neighbors

When Don Hope helped his father cart milk to the Greely Cheese Factory years ago, he never suspected he would someday be working there.

But by the time Don got a desk in the Highway 31 landmark, it had long gone out of service as a milk processing plant and had been transformed into the comfortable offices of Maurice Ross Realty.

Don, a Metcalfe area resident for the past 20 years, became a real estate agent five years ago when it occurred to him that "it might be easier to sell farms than to work them."

Prior to taking an Algonquin College real estate course and signing up with the Ross firm,

Don farmed the property he now owns. Before locating at Metcalfe, he spent an additional 10 years farming with his father near Uplands Airport.

Six months after his birth in 1931, Don's father left downtown Ottawa for a place in what was then the country. Don Sr. had worked for the former Producers' Dairy delivering milk by horse and wagon; he felt there might be a better future in producing the raw product.

Don says local real estate sales are picking up although prices for older homes have dropped from the highly-inflated values of a few years ago.

Owners of older homes forced to sell because of job transfers or

other reasons are losing money, Don points out. Meanwhile, the value of new homes keeps going up due to high material and labor costs.

"The best buy today is a used home," he says. "You get more space for your money."

Don and his wife Marion, who operates a hairdressing shop out of the home, have five children: Scot, 20, who lives in Calgary; Kathy, 19, who works in Ottawa; Karen, 18, in Grade 12 at Osgoode High; Ann, 14, a junior at Osgoode; Greg, 11, a student at Metcalfe Public School.

Despite all those years in farming, the Hopes keep no livestock at all.

"Not even a cat," Don says.

## Don Hope: From sowing to selling

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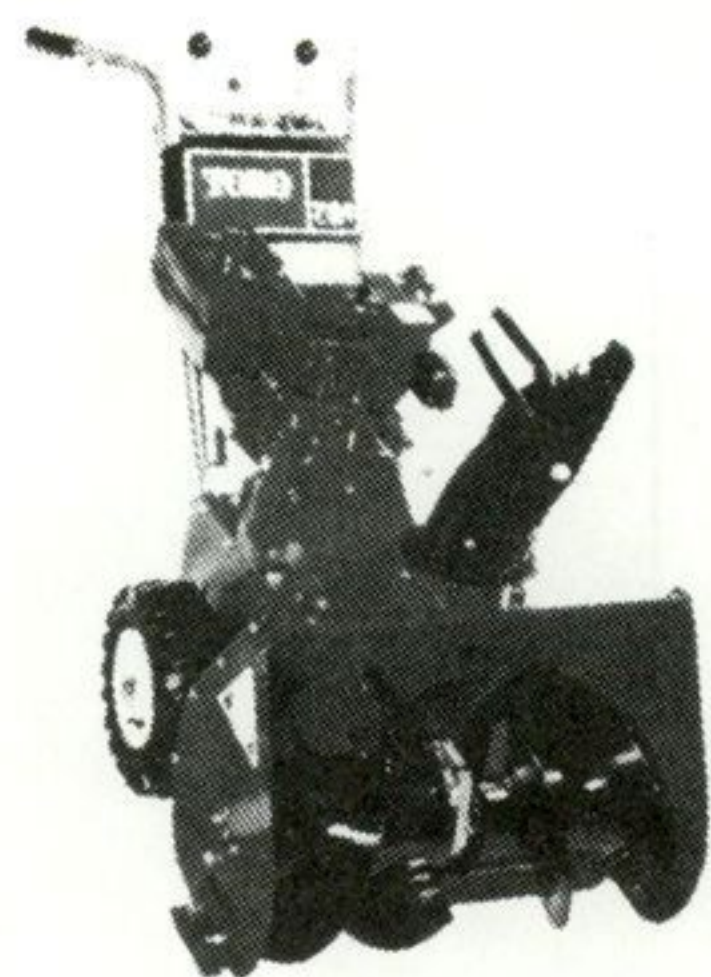


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