

**EIGHT DAYS IN HOSPITAL**

**Merrett Blames Bad Water**

A Heritage Road resident was recently confined to Winchester Hospital for eight days to recuperate from a persistent chest infection on which her doctor blames the contaminated local water supply.

Heather Tremblay, who with her husband Michael and their three children has resided in Russell Village's Heritage Subdivision for three years, is feeling much better after being released from hospital Oct. 12.

Metcalf's Dr. Don Merrett unhesitatingly blames bad water for causing his patient's general health to run down and allowing the chest infection to develop.

Dr. Merrett treated Heather, Michael, and children Sandra, 2, Christine, 4, and Jeffrey, 6, for Giardia Lambia, a rare parasite nurtured by fecal contamination in drinking water. Even when a person stops drinking known polluted water, the parasite can continue to thrive in her system.

The treatment administered by Dr. Merrett was effective and there's now no sign of the bug in any Tremblay family member. But the doctor warned that it could return if the "disgraceful" water situation remains unchecked.

"Mrs. Tremblay's general condition deteriorated over several weeks," the doctor said. "For awhile, she had diarrhea every 15 minutes, her kids were sick, she was depressed. Finally the chest infection set in."

Dr. Merrett knows of no other cases of Giardia Lambia in the subdivision. He has examined other Heritage residents but has found none as severely affected as the Tremblays.

Water and Earth Science Associates, a consulting firm hired by the Ministry of Environment to recommend corrective action in the subdivision, has examined the 35 private water supplies and is now preparing its report.

Roger Woeller, a hydrologist with the firm, would not comment on findings other than to say that the work has been given "high priority" and that recommendations would be made to the ministry shortly.

Tom Evans, president of the Heritage Road Homeowners' Association, said the consultants undoubtedly found improperly drilled and cased wells and shabbily-built septic systems.

The well driller who worked in the Heritage subdivision and has since left the province has been faulted by the ministry's Gerry McKenna for not building wells according to specifications.

The Evans family — Tom, Esther, Chantal, 3, and Braden, 2 — also suffered for a long time even after they stopped drinking their tap water. The children had bouts of diarrhea and vomiting which cleared up only when they were taken from Russell for extended periods of time.

But lately, symptoms have

disappeared, a phenomenon Mr. Evans attributes to his \$600 water purifications system which includes an ultra-violet sterilizer to neutralize poisonous impurities and a conditioner to remove iron.

"The water is still black sometimes but sampling shows that its free of contamination after it goes through the system."

Heritage Road homes were built by Chantal Developments which has remained tight-lipped about the situation. Chantal co-owner Gary Patterson prefers not to make a public statement in case legal action is launched by residents.

Mr. Evans admitted that some thought had been given to suing the developer but residents were holding off at least until the outcome of the corrective survey is known.



**LEGION 25 YEAR AWARDS**

Mike Gloss, President of Russell Branch of the Canadian Legion, presents awards to the Women's Auxiliary on their 25th anniversary. From left to right: Mike Gloss, Ernie Weatherall, Auxiliary President, Bessie Honey and Yvette Morrow. (Photo by Rowsell).

**Osgoode Seniors' Home still thought "idealistic"**

The idea of senior citizen accommodation in Osgoode Township continues to snowball with councillors, churchmen, doctors, service clubs ...virtually everyone pledging support.

But organizers of the movement have been warned not to pull hard in two different directions. Such action could result in the dream being shattered, says Metcalfe Dr. Don Merrett.

Dr. Merrett supports the concept of a combined nursing home and residence for township seniors. Twin study groups which sprung from the original task force headed by Councillor Albert McKeown are looking at two separate possibilities: a nursing home or non-profit apartments.

Many leaders of the movement are saying: "Why not both?"

Dr. Merrett cautions that in going after two distinct institutions, the community could end up with nothing. He advises that there should be one objective — one complete facility located anywhere in the township.

He maintains the movement remains "idealistic" and that it needs an injection of young business people and professionals with experience to get it going in the right direction.

Getting provincial approval for two separate institutions in the township is unlikely and Reeve Albert Bouwers has warned that a choice will have to be made.

Louise Harris, a community development worker with Algonquin College, said approval of two institutions would be a "utopian situation."

The development worker helped conduct a survey this summer of township seniors which showed a distinct need for nursing care within the community. The survey also indicated there would be no problem filling a 30-unit apartment building such as the one set for Russell Village.

**Bell tower gets repairs**

The bell tower on St. Jacques Church in Embrun is being repaired at a cost of \$19,800, necessitating borrowing by the parish in the amount of \$15,000.

"The bell was about ready to come crashing through the church ceiling," Father Robert Huneault said.

Recently, the presbytery was re-roofed at a cost of approximately \$3,000.

**Clean The Streets! — McNeill**

By Ed Schroeter

Village Streets in Russell are due for a manicure and a good cleaning, Russell Township Council has decided.

Reeve Gaston Patenaude told The Castor Review after a council meeting, Sept. 24, "It's going to get done one way or another."

The decision was made after Councillor Baird McNeill criticized council and the roads department for neglecting the streets.

"I've been after the roads department all summer. The village is a mess. There's garbage lying on the streets. People are complaining.

"I want someone to clean up the streets," Mr. McNeill said.

But Reeve Patenaude told The Castor Review after the meeting there must have been some misunderstanding.

He said Councillor McNeill

"never mentioned anything to me before."

Deputy Reeve Albert Bourdeau told McNeill, "I went through Russell. It's not that bad.

"We can't clean it every week."

Mr. McNeill pointed out nobody is taking responsibility for the streets right now, so their condition deteriorates.

"It's our responsibility to keep them clean."

He said there must be some money in the road maintenance budget available for a clean-up.

"There are lots of ways to get them in shape. Someone could pick up the litter twice a year, and we could get the fire department to hose them down once in a while."

Councillor McNeill urged someone at least to be sent out several times a year to check the condition of village streets.

Reeve Patenaude told councillors, "We can take a serious look at this. In Embrun we clean up once a year."

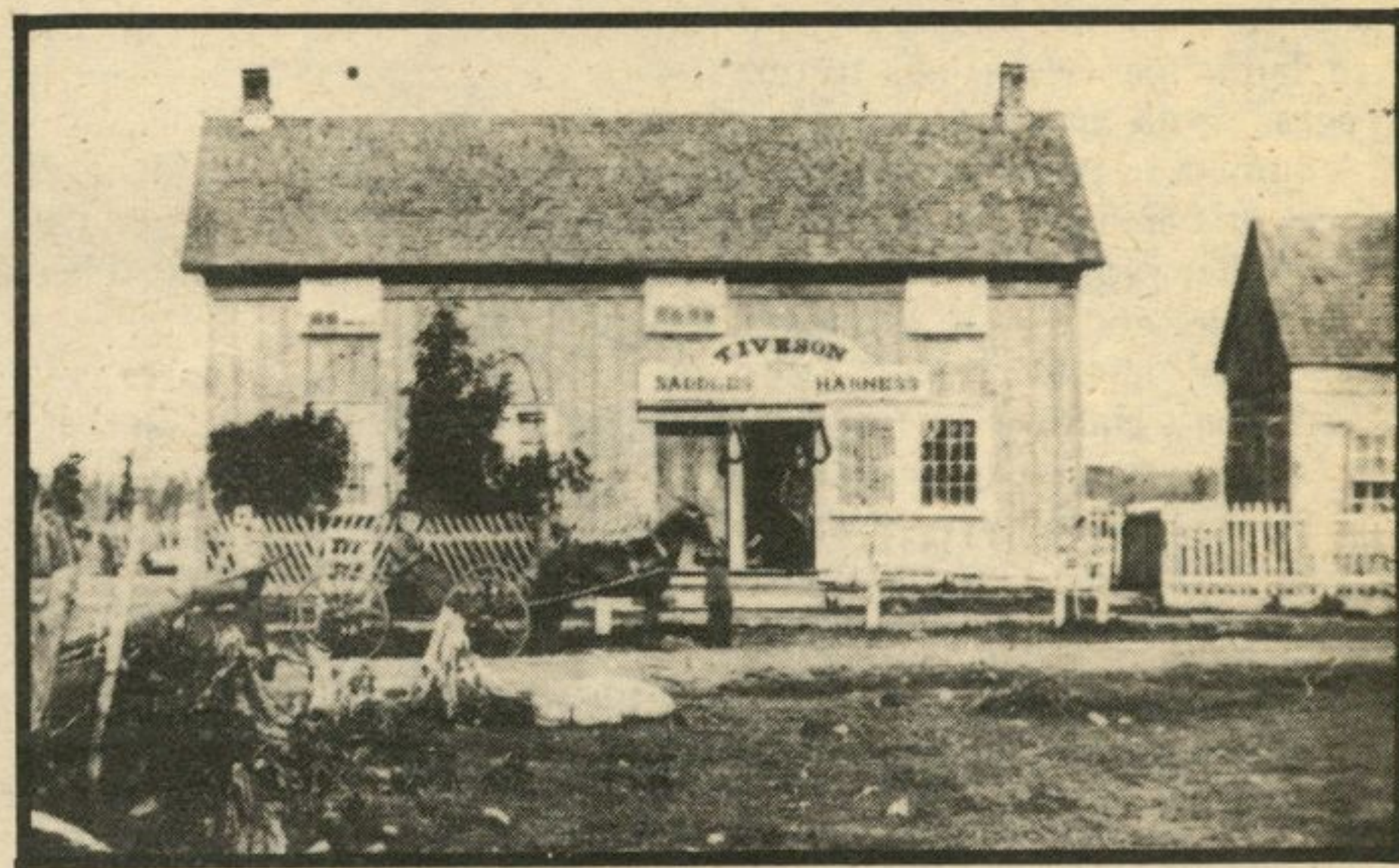
He suggested it might be worth spending \$1,000 a year to clean the streets in the spring and fall.

**Church To Be Paved**

Residents along the western section of Church Street in Russell Village are getting an early Christmas present from the township.

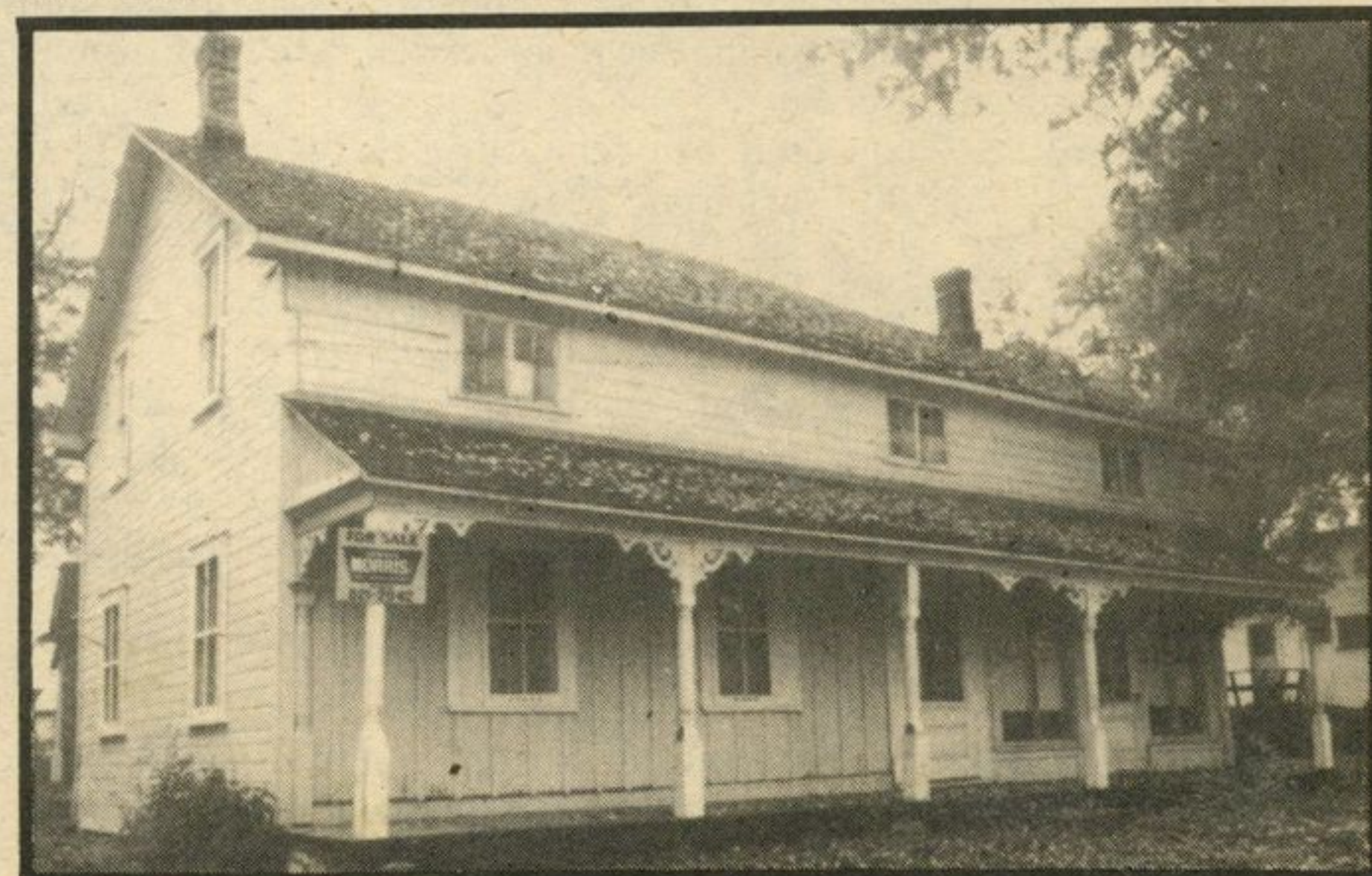
A half-mile of Church Street running west from Concession Street as well as Heritage Road, Trillium Crescent and Drentex and Bols Streets will be paved the week of Oct. 22. In all, 3.6 kilometres of dirt and gravel road will be blacktopped by Beaver Paving, of Ottawa, at a cost of about \$32,000. No extra charge; the money is in the road budget.

The paving job will be one of the last for the township this year before icy weather makes this type of work impossible.



**T. IVESON — 1860**

There wasn't much else on Metcalfe's main street about 1860 when T. Iveson operated a saddle and harness shop out of the building that could become part of Upper Canada Village. At one stage in its long life, the building became a tinsmithing shop and that's the role it would serve in the pioneer village. Gerald Morris obtained the picture from the National Archives photography collection. The bottom shot shows the historic house as it now looks.



**CASTOR REVIEW CHRISTMAS GIFT CERTIFICATE**



This Certificate entitles the recipient to a one year subscription of the Castor Review. Just write the name and address of a friend you especially want to please on the Christmas Gift Certificate and mail promptly along with your cheque or money order (\$3.50 in Canada, \$4.50 out-of-country). Before Christmas a gift card inscribed with your name will arrive. Say Merry Christmas to a friend with a Castor Review gift subscription. Send to the Castor Review, Box 359, Russell, Ont.

Please send one year of the Castor Review as my gift to:

Name .....

Address .....

City ..... Prov. ....

Postal Code .....

My gift card to be signed .....

I enclose \$ .....

**THE CHIEF**

**THOMAS VAN DUSEN'S TALE OF DIFENBAKER IN OPPOSITION**

Send \$5 (which includes postage) to **The Chief, Box 437, Russell, Ont.** for your copy of this glossily-bound book.

Call 445-5770 for more information.