

Clean Castor in '81

By Sherri Young

People will be able to cool their bodies in the Castor River in the summer of 1981, says an Environment Ontario official.

"The river will clean itself of bacteria problems and oxygen deficiencies once raw sewage isn't allowed to flow into it," Gerry McKenna said.

"Currently, in some areas, swimming is not allowed and public health objectives aren't reached."

Russell, Saint-Albert and Chrysler have been flushing their raw sewage into the Castor River for about 150 years. But a new sewage treatment system in Russell is to be fully operational by next fall and St. Albert and Chrysler are planning to install similar systems. The raw sewage will be pumped directly to vast stabilization lagoons and treated. The purified effluent discharged into the river twice yearly.

Mr. McKenna said the fish in the river are safe to eat.

Boundary 417 link approved

The Ontario Ministry of transportation has approved a \$2 million Boundary Road link from Marionville to Highway 417. Construction is to start this summer.

Roads Minister James Snow approved the 11.5-mile project at a meeting of the Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) in Toronto Feb. 26.

According to the scheme approved verbally by the minister, the provincial government will defray 90 per cent of the cost of Russell Township's share of the project, 75 per cent of Osgoode's and 55 per cent of Cumberland's.

It means that Russell will pay \$40,000 for the 10.4 miles of the link along which the township lies. Osgoode, which borders the total length of the link will pay more than \$100,000. Cumberland comes in at only a fraction for the mile or less upon which it fronts. The province will pay the full cost of replacing two old cement bridges at Cochrane's Corners along the link.

The percentage of provincial cost-sharing is based on traditional tax-base formulas. Although Winchester will benefit, it will not pay anything since the link does not enter the township. Written approval of the project was expected by mid-March.

Construction of the link is to start at the northern end with brush-clearing. Over the next three to four years, the Boundary Road will be widened, rebuilt and paved. Upon completion of the project, local residents will be able to cruise smoothly between the 417 and Marionville.

Approval of the project came after a petition of 950 names was sent to Mr. Snow at the Good Roads meeting. Marvelville resident Keith Dugdale, one of the organizers of the petition, said a campaign pressing for the link was geared to the roads meeting and "it all clicked into place pretty well."

"Some people said we weren't going anywhere with this thing. The results show it's not what you know but who you know."

Mr. Dugdale excused Reeve Patenaude from earlier criticism over his noticeable absence at community meetings held to discuss the project.

"Gaston really went to town on this. He did quite a bit of work on it."

Osgoode Reeve Albert Bouwers, who strongly criticized Mr. Patenaude in the past, disagreed.

"You can give him all the credit you like, but it was really MLA Norm Stirling who got that link."

As for Mr. Patenaude: "I'm glad I missed those meetings because, as a director of Good Roads, I was meeting with Mr. Snow about this project. I met with him three or four times."

"I want Mr. Bouwers to know that I had a lot of participation in this. I don't like being shoved against the wall with both arms pushed against my sides."

High school Break-ins Inside job?

Police suspect an inside job in the rash of break-ins that has plagued Osgoode Township High School since late last year.

"Indications are that doors and windows are being left unlocked," said Sgt. Garry Holmes of the OPP's Manotic detachment. "It could be students, it could be friends of students, or it could be employees."

There have been five break-ins at the school, all of them showing similarities indicating that only one party is responsible, Sgt. Holmes said.

One hundred dollars in cash and audio equipment valued at \$1,000 have been taken from the building which has suffered extensive damage during the break-ins.

"It was destructive damage done with no purpose," the officer said.

Surveillance, including posting officers inside the school overnight, has failed to net the culprits.

"Our men got there on a Sunday night to find the thieves had been there first. It was almost as if they knew what time we would arrive."

The ransackings always occur on weekends, between Thursday and Sunday, Sgt. Holmes said. Ed Price, vice-principal of Osgoode High, said the thieves have become quite a nuisance.

"It makes life difficult for a music teacher who shows up in the morning to find that the receiver and speakers have disappeared."

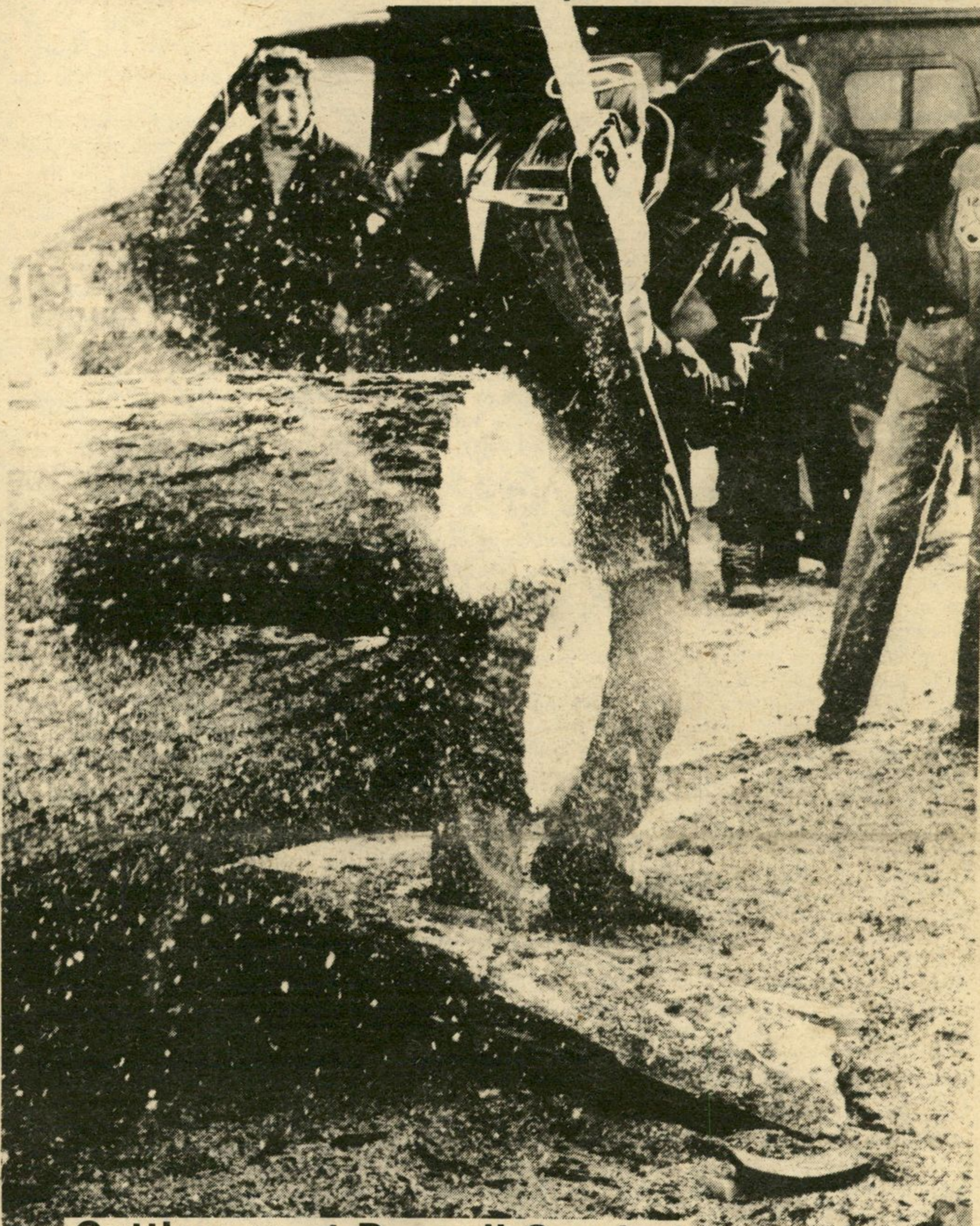
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Two pages of Carnival photos inside



Cutting up at Russell Carnival (Estelle Yaternick Photo)



Sidewalk Talk By Mark Van Dusen

I'm rooting for a tree-plant

"Hey, that's a great idea!" I've heard it over and over again when someone bravely proposes a new idea that captures the imagination. Unfortunately, that's where such ideas often end, with exuberant exclamations of goodwill. Ask the same people to put a commitment where their exclamation points are and they quickly bleat their way out of it. The people who run fairs and carnivals will tell you that.

And so will Paul Boardman. Paul is a Russell house-builder whose speciality is smart angular bunagglows with plenty of brick and natural wood in individual settings. Paul knows the value of wood; he works with it, he understands the importance of trees to a well-landscaped lot. Boardman — the name fits.

It wasn't too surprising then when Paul came to the Castor Review in January with his idea for a spring plant-a-tree day. "Hey, that's a great idea!" I clapped, promptly forgetting to send in the involvement form that the

paper so enthusiastically printed. It seems most everyone else forgot too since when I contacted Paul more than a month later to see how many legions of volunteers he had, only one person had sent in the form. One person.

It's hard, if not impossible, to deny the soundness of the idea — replenishment of our stocks of trees that have become drastically depleted and that are continuing to disappear through indiscriminate cutting, development and disease.

Every time a road is widened, trees fall. Scores of them were ripped from their roots when the south branch of the Castor River was dredged a few years ago. A new house goes up and more bite the dust. A Marvelville man is still seething at the recent toppling of a "beautiful, live oak" by a municipal works crew and, this, after Russell Township had enacted legislation to protect its trees from wood-burning scavengers. Dutch elm disease, spruce budworm, we all know the

devastation they have wrought.

An insignificant number of these trees have been replaced. One result: you drive along a local road and the highest things on either side are fence posts. A bleak landscape is one thing but there are less visible and more dangerous effects such as wind and soil erosion where there are no trees.

Enter Paul Boardman with his idea to give nature a helping hand. A few hundred people, a pickupful of seedlings, a crash course on how and where to plant and in one day the Russell area could be well on its way to recovering arboreal spender. It could become an annual event, make a educational outing for the kids.

Paul was disappointed by the initial reaction to his idea but is willing to give it another try. Thing is, he has to know immediately whether he will have the bodies to do the job so he can order the seedlings. There's a form on page 10. I've sent mine.