

High cost of dough suspends bakery plans

Plans for a Russell Village bakery have been temporarily iced because of high interest rates.

"I'm not going to go ahead when small businesses are going broke," said Emory Mead, who has proposed building a bakery on a Concession Road lot owned by Edgar Loucks.

"I have first dibs on the lot if I ever go ahead," Mr. Mead said during an interview.

Now a member of the Armed Forces, Mr. Mead retires in 18 months and is looking at a bakery as a way to keep busy.

He would call the business "Heritage House Bakery" and would produce his own bread and pastries.

"I've talked to the man who owns the bakery at Winchester and he would let me work with him for awhile to learn the trade."

Mr. Mead pointed out that he's already an avid home baker but he realizes it's more complicated to bake commercially.

Should interest rates return to an acceptable level, Mr. Mead would erect a one-storey, "heritage-look" structure to accommodate the bakery.

"It would probably be a cement slab floor with block walls covered on the outside with cedar shakes. I was thinking of two bay windows in the front both for looks and to display my baked goods."

The official plan will be amend-

ed to allow construction of the bakery, said planning committee chairman Baird McNeill. The site had been reserved until the plan for residential development.

Mr. Mead will also need a change in zoning to allow the specific commercial function in question before he can proceed.

Some opposition has been raised to the zoning change. Ian Cunningham, who lives next to the proposed bakery site, filed a letter with the township in which he ob-

jected to the number of allowances which would be required for the change to be approved. He was also concerned that such a change could set a precedent for commercially developing the residential section of the main street north of the Loucks property.

Neighbor Joan Van Dusen also sent a letter, supporting in part Mr. Cunningham's concerns. She said she found a bakery desirable but hoped any building would follow rural architectural lines.

Castor farmers place well at farm show

By Grant McGuinty

Area residents walked away with some high honors at the Ottawa Valley Farm Show, March 20-23.

Yvan Leclerc, of R.R. 2, Russell, picked up the highest honors when he placed near the top in the Seed and Forage competition. His first cut Legume grass ranked second among 21 entries and his Timothy grain rated sixth best.

"This year's crop was exceptional. I was very surprised, but happy that I placed so well. I expected no better than seventh place," Leclerc said.

Claude Lapalme, of R.R. 2, Embrun, produced what he called

a "good soya bean crop" and placed third for his efforts. The 42-year-old dairy farmer said, "I'm pleased with the results but that certainly wasn't the best crop I've produced."

Leo Brisson, of R.R. 2, Embrun, also produced some grain corn that impressed the judges. His Warwick brand was good enough for third place and his Funk brand finished fourth.

"I had a chance to pick much of my crop by hand. There were few bad kernels so I entered the local competition. I fared well and entered the Ottawa-area fair."

Other winners were Sylvain Arcand — sixth place for her shelled corn — and Albert Ménard — sixth for his Potatoes Norland. Both are residents of Embrun.

The Embrun Agriculture Co-op Trophy went to Anita Brohf of Bainsville, Ontario for her top-notch seed and forage.

Pass the salt

A \$25,000 salt shaker?

Russell Township roads superintendent Lucien Millaire is hoping the province will help him buy one.

And that's not all. He wants provincial help to pay for a \$50,000 storage shed for salt and calcium and \$26,000 to buy a mechanical sweeper to keep village streets tidy.

The salt shaker is actually a five-ton, salt and calcium spreader. Equipment owned by the United Counties of Prescott and Russell is now hired by the township to salt the streets. The counties also provide the salt — for a fee of course. Mr. Millaire said there are inconvenient delays of up to 10 hours before the counties can do township work.

"If an accident occurred during that time because the roads were icy, we could be held responsible."

The township is looking for supplementary funding to cover 55 per cent of the cost of the three items.

If approved, the salt shed would be installed in the township industrial park behind the Embrun Co-op plaza.

New sidewalks for Russell?

Russell Village could step up in the world this summer with \$60,000 worth of new sidewalks.

But only if Russell Township council can get the money from the provincial government, roads superintendent Lucien Millaire said during an interview. While it sounds like the money would go a long way, Mr. Millaire pointed out that concrete sidewalk installation costs about \$10 a running foot.

"We certainly wouldn't be able to do the whole village. But we could cover about 6,000 feet."

The work would be done on parts of Concession Road, Castor and Craig Streets. Residents would not be seriously inconvenienced, he said.

"The sewer project is finished so now we have to get the roads and sidewalks back in shape."

The new sidewalks would be at least four feet wide to accommodate snow removal equipment, the superintendent said.

MAY

The air is sweet with lilacs

And honeysuckle too,
The elm hedge needs trimming,
There's lots of work to do.

To sort from Nature's dowery
The treasures on our lot,
Will it be daisies or dandelions?
Fern or forget-me-not?

To create some law and order

Out of the wild seed's flight,
We'll give the house a 'setting',
We'll make the lawn look 'right'.
We each have our own ideas
Of just what 'right' should be,
But 'pleasing' is the password,
'Beauty' is the key.

Of course there is a limit

To all our efforts, true;
We plant and water the seedlings,
But there's little more we can do.
At this particular season,
More than all year long,
We work as a team with Nature,
And Nature gives back a song!

Thyra Warner Hudson,
Osgoode farm,
May, 1975.

Castor Chatter



For a long time, everyone doubted the Russell Village senior citizen apartments would ever be built. And who could blame them. For years, local folk received nothing but promises, not one concrete sign that the Church Street complex would ever materialize. But with spring has come that sign... concrete. Concrete with steel rods sticking out of it. Concrete surrounded by mounds of sodden earth. Beautiful concrete. They're actually working out there, ladies and gentlemen. The sweet sound of men and machines... much sweeter than the sound of empty words.

Vietnamese refugees and Kenmore residents Ha A Muoi, Diep Sao Kenh and Diep Sao Linh are quickly discovering what it means to live in a country made up of mish-mashed cultures. When the mother and her two daughters recently presented themselves on good advice at a school in Winchester to learn English, they were surprised to find that the government-sponsored course was for Swiss and German immigrants only. Seems they entered the wrong school, but when they finally found the right one it turned out the course was too elementary for them since they all have at least a basic knowledge of the language. They were rescued by Etta Hill, of Kenmore, and Pat Warner, of Russell, who are now teaching them the appropriate course.

Township workman Rhéal Piché was out cruising the streets of Russell and Embrun recently in a tractor and trailer, collecting the gutter debris left by the melted snow. When spotted in Russell, Rhéal had a full load of cans, bottles and muck, a not-so-gentle reminder that spring cleaning time is here for everyone.

You don't cut down a tree in front of Bob McDougall and expect him to forget about it. On Feb. 22, the Marvelville resident fired off a stiff letter to Russell Township Reeve Gaston Patenaude demanding some answers to the cutting of a "beautiful, live oak" in front of his home on Boundary Road. Although the Castor Review got some answers for him, Mr. McDougall had still not received a personal reply to his letter as of March 27 when he shot off a second missive raising some more specific questions and insisting on a response out of simple courtesy. Word is that he was to get a response, in writing, from the reeve.

A tip on entertainment — take in Dorothy Porteous at the Chateau 417 Restaurant. Dorothy, who recently played a roof-raising gig at the Russell Hotel, is now the resident entertainer at the increasingly-popular dining establishment. She can wrap her voice softly around a country tune, grate out a little blues with gusto or bash out a polka on her honky-tonk piano as if the place was on fire. She's been playing around local counties for quite a while now and our advice to Elfie and Peppi at the Chateau is to hang on to her as long as possible.

You know you live in a small town when, as editor of the local newspaper, you find yourself roaring off to cover a fire with hastily borrowed truck and camera. That's what happened the other day when Castor Review editor Mark Van Dusen rushed to the sidewalk at the sound of the village fire alarm. But he could only watch in frustration as the Russell volunteer firefighters went whizzing by since he had been temporarily left without transportation and could not contact a photographer. To the rescue, neighbor Ron Veh, who had also been lured to the street by the sirens. In a wink, Ron had thrown Mark the keys to his truck and had fetched the camera of his wife, Neighbors columnist Suzanne Veh. A few minutes later, Mark found himself snapping pictures of a truck with a boxful of burning hay two miles north of the village. That's small town life.

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Giant ice chunks were tossed around like pieces of flotsam during spring breakup on the Castor River. Mild temperatures and heavy rains speeded up the annual process. While the ice jumble was impressive, it fades when compared to the 1937 breakup (left) when huge ice obstacles were tossed up on the then unpaved, Russell-Embrun road. That was the year the Russell bridge was carried away by record-high floodwaters. Paul Rodier shot this spring's breakup looking west from the dam. The old photo was provided by Mabel Little.