

Backtrack



Ah yes, the good ol' days. Here's Russell shortly after the turn of the century — peaceful, serene, seemingly waiting to be discovered. This panorama was photographed from the steeple of the Methodist church, corner of Concession Road and Church Street. The church burned to the ground several years ago. On the left is a woolen mill with its dam and behind it, to the right of the United Church, is the old Russell Continuation School. On the right is the main street with its buildings, some still standing, others long gone. All in all, a scene of less hectic times.

(Photo courtesy Alex and Mabel Little)

Driving down to St. Isidore

Ken Clark, a well-known Canadian journalist, formerly with Canadian Press, now with Agriculture Canada, a connoisseur of things old and true, recently made a foray into the Eastern Ontario countryside. This is his story of the trip.

Recently, I drove down to St. Isidore de Prescott to buy a desk and in so doing added a new layer of meaning to my relationship with this country and its people. I wasn't going to Eaton's or The Bay, or some assembly-line merchandiser to buy my desk. Instead, I loaded my wife and two daughters in the family car and embarked on an adventure to St. Isidore an hour's drive from my home in Ottawa.

The trip was triggered by a telephone call from Fleurent Villeneuve, who lives a mile out of St. Isidore (pop. 700) with his wife and three vibrant kids, ranging down from eight years, in an oldish, white-painted frame farmhouse with a weathered barn and big tin shed in the rear.

I met the Villeneuves at a flea market where they were selling old furniture which they had collected, stripped and refurbished. Some of it, according to mildly snobbish standards, was certifiably antique, some just old.

I bought a few articles from them and later went to their home which gleams with the same immaculate intensity as the snowy countryside around. The Villeneuves remembered I was looking for an oak desk to replace a piece of veneer junk I had owned and was uncomfortable with for years. On one of their collecting forays, they found a suitable specimen.

It was a blustery winter day and we were stopped by heavy drifting, 500 yards from the Villeneuve house on a concession road, a 1980s reminder that trees make the best snowfences and don't need to be put up and taken down.

We left the car and walked, enjoying the modest challenge, leaning into the wind gusting across the fields and occasionally turning our backs to the blast. Halfway there, Fleurent spotted us from the house and came out in his pickup to drive us the rest of the way.

We warmed up in the huge kitchen, five Villeneuves and four Clarks, dulling hunger pangs with superbly made local cheese and hot chocolate. Our conversation was a mixture of French and English, with the Villeneuves, of course, providing the bridge over the language barrier; Canada functioning in the kitchen.

We went out into the wind and the grey barn: in the shadows were the old dressers, chairs, tables and sideboards that the Villeneuves

had restored to their original beauty. The desk was nothing spectacular; but it was almost luminescent as we brought it out of the shadows into the sunlight, dark oak, in very good condition. It had clean, simple lines, with a touch of rectangular puritan elegance, worth every cent of \$80.

Back to the kitchen. Drink and conversation: The little girl read to my 17-year-old daughter from an English text. At eight, she is perfectly bilingual. We talk about the Villeneuve's upcoming trip to Pennsylvania for antiques. They'll do the trip, all five in the family truck, making a living out of our

society's reaching out to the past. Villeneuve and I drive down to my car in his truck and then I drive back to the house and pick up my family. Carefully, wrapped in blankets to prevent damage, we load the desk into the truck. We feel that we have obtained something of value and at the

same time made a discovery. It's all out there, waiting, just beyond the city's periphery. Think about things like quality and neighborliness, reaching out to Canada's past, the Canada that we lost somewhere along the line and that everybody would like to get back.

"Non-Consignment"

METCALFE SERVICE CENTRE LTD. Auction

FARM MACHINERY

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

commencing at 10 a.m. sharp

Auctioneers
Carson Hill 821-2946
Stewart James 821-2784

Approximately 50 Used Tractors from 20 h.p. to 120 h.p.

Service is our middle name

PHONE 613-821-2893
METCALFE
ONTARIO KOA 2PO
Farm Equipment Dealers

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGEMENT
Having engaged the services of Carson Hill and Stewart James we will hold our gigantic non-consignment machinery auction at our place of business on
Saturday, April 26th, 1980
This sale is due to our past expansion of our business premises, consequently we are reducing our inventory of some new and used equipment.
With our large inventory on hand this will be a real opportunity to purchase your equipment at the price that you set.
Taking the opportunity now, we would like to thank our friends and customers for their past patronage and we are looking forward to being of service to you in the years ahead.
JOHN BOUWERS, Manager

Uni Systems
New Idea Power Unit Sheller, 3 row corn head
New Idea Power Unit Husking Bed, 3 row corn head
New Idea Diesel Power Unit Super Chopper, corn head
New Idea Power Unit Harvester, pickup

Miscellaneous Implements

Planters	Elevators	Discs
Sprayers	Bladders	Rotovators
Fertilizer Spreaders	Swathers	Cultivators
Grinder Mixers	Plows	Seed Drills
Snow Blowers	Semi-Mount Plows	Stone Pickers

Combines

New Idea Power Unit Combine, grain head
Cockshutt 428, Self-Propelled Combine, grain head
Massey 27, Self-Propelled Combine, grain head
Massey Clipper Pull-Type Combine

Hay, Forage, Etc.

Trail Mowers
Rakes
Stokers
Balers
Forage Boxes
Wagons
Mower Conditioners
Forage Harvesters
Flail Choppers
Forage Blowers
Corn Pickers
Manure Spreaders
Loaders
Miscellaneous

Many, Many Other Unlisted Items

Metcalfe Service Centre LTD.

HIGHWAY 31 AT METCALFE CORNER TWP. OSGOODE, 12 MILES SOUTH-EAST OF OTTAWA
1 MILE WEST OF METCALFE

Lunches and Refreshments are available on the premises served by the Metcalfe and District Lions Club —

Support your service clubs.

Delivery Can Be Arranged
All Articles Sold and Left Over 14 Days Will Be Forfeited Unless Other Arrangements Are Made

Terms of Sale
Cash — Cheque
or a 10% Down Payment will hold purchase for 10 days only.
Financing Available On The Spot

All Machinery Listed Subject to Prior Sale