

No representation

"Russell Village got what it wanted"

By Thomas Van Dusen

The fact that Russell Village is now without direct representation on Township Council has caused some consternation in the village.

"It is definitely a bad situation," said Norm Inglis, a member of the board of trustees while that body lasts.

Keith Dugdale, who failed to secure the necessary number of votes for election Nov. 10, said it looked as though Russell got what it wanted.

"Without a turnout of only 25% in the Village, what can you expect?"

Reeve Gaston Patenaude is apparently concerned about the situation and felt it would make his job as head of council a little more difficult.

Baird McNeil, the other Russell Village candidate and councillor for four years, was not downhearted.

"We can count on the Reeve to be fair," he told the Castor Review. "And Leo Marion will keep an eye on our interests."

Others were not so optimistic. A number of long-standing Russell residents were disturbed at the way in which Village Trustees have been deprived of their powers.

"They are nothing now but Hydro Commissioners," Keith Dugdale said. "And there is a move to centralize Hydro in Embrun. I think we should fight it."

Norm Inglis was of the same mind.

"The Village Trustees have been reduced to figureheads. We used to have control over the Russell Village budget. That was before my time. Now, we have been told in effect that, in spite of the Ontario Municipal Act, we have no real function."

Former Village Trustee Meredith Rombough is disturbed at the turn of events.

"If this goes on, Russell Village will simply disappear from the map. We will be just a wide spot in the road. With the absence of representation from the Village and the cutting down of the powers of the Trustees, Russell has no voice in the decision-making process. This is a sad turn of events."

Mr. Rombough feels that the Trustees — Norm Inglis, Wilton Gamble and Rudolph Bols (acting) — should have put up a fight to maintain their official powers.

"Their powers are set out under the Act and they are required to exercise them. They can't simply take the word of the municipal council that they are no longer recognized."

Mr. Rombough stated that the only way in which the powers of the Trustees could be altered was by the Municipal Board or perhaps by the provincial legislature.

"None of this has been done."

"If Russell Village is to have representation then we must reactivate the Trustees and they must function as provided in the Act, not as suggested by the Township," Mr. Rombough stated.

Keith Dugdale suggested that perhaps the citizens of Russell might form a Ratepayers' Association to protect their interests.

"This has been done in other communities and it has been effective in stopping this wave of centralization sweeping across the province. Let's face it, the taxpayers must have some rights. Everything can't be dictated by the bureaucrats."



Castor Earl

Listen here, boy — Merry Christmas

I've been hearin' through the grapevine about some grumblin' and gripin' along the Castor. I've been hearin', and I know this is hard to believe, that some people ain't too happy with ol' Earl.

They're put out 'cause I ain't been writin' my column lately. They're sayin' I'm probably out on a toot and can't sober up long enough to get it wrote. They're sayin' the ol' coot is burnt out, finished, washed up.

Well, none of it's true. Well, there may be a bit of truth in the toot part but not in all them other slurs on my sparklin' reputation.

Headin' up all the gripers is young Tyo over to the Red and White. What's the matter Jack? Can't you control that boy. Didn't you teach him no respect for his elders?

Listen here, boy. You just tend to your grocerin' and let me look after the columnin'. Deal? I've been busy lately if you must know. I've got a lot of preparin' to do for Christmas.

I've got to figure a way to stop Santa Clause from comin' down my chimney this year. It weren't so bad in the ol' days when expenses weren't what they is now. But it can run up to quite a cost reparin' damage to a body's roof after 12

reindeer used it for an airport. Them hooves can really chip into the shingles, you know.

And besides, I'm not sure I like the idea of a bearded fat man in a red suit comin' down my chimney in the middle of the night. It makes me a mite nervous.

If he gets stuck in it and I have to call someone with a winch to haul him out, it could get costly. Maybe I'll leave the fire on just to discourage him. But he hasn't got stuck before so it may be alright.

So I say: Down with Santa Clause — and not down my chimney.

I almost forgot. Merry Christmas, You to, boy.



Hairless heifer

Cold winter for holstein

By Linda Kessler

From bee stings to baldness in just three weeks.

The road to recovery will be a long and cold one for Andy Shield's holstein in Greeley.

Several weeks ago the cow suffered severe swelling of its hind and front legs, hips and chest — apparently the result of bee stings. Now the cow is losing all its white hair due to a condition called "photosensitization."

This disease is usually caused by the ingestion of a weed toxic to the liver. When the liver reacts, it sends enzymes to the tissue under the skin covered by white (non-pigmented) hair. This causes the skin to be sensitive to sunlight and if light hits these areas, the hair falls out.

Dr. Brian Mills, a veterinarian, said: "I can't associate the two incidents. They just happened to fall one after another."

The treatment for this condition is relatively simple. The cow must be placed inside, away from the sunlight, and creams of vitamins A and E are rubbed on affected areas.

Dr. Mills said the cow is responding well to treatments and he feels certain she will recover. A calf due in March, "is 100 per cent."

It may be a very cold winter for Andy Shield's heifer.

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