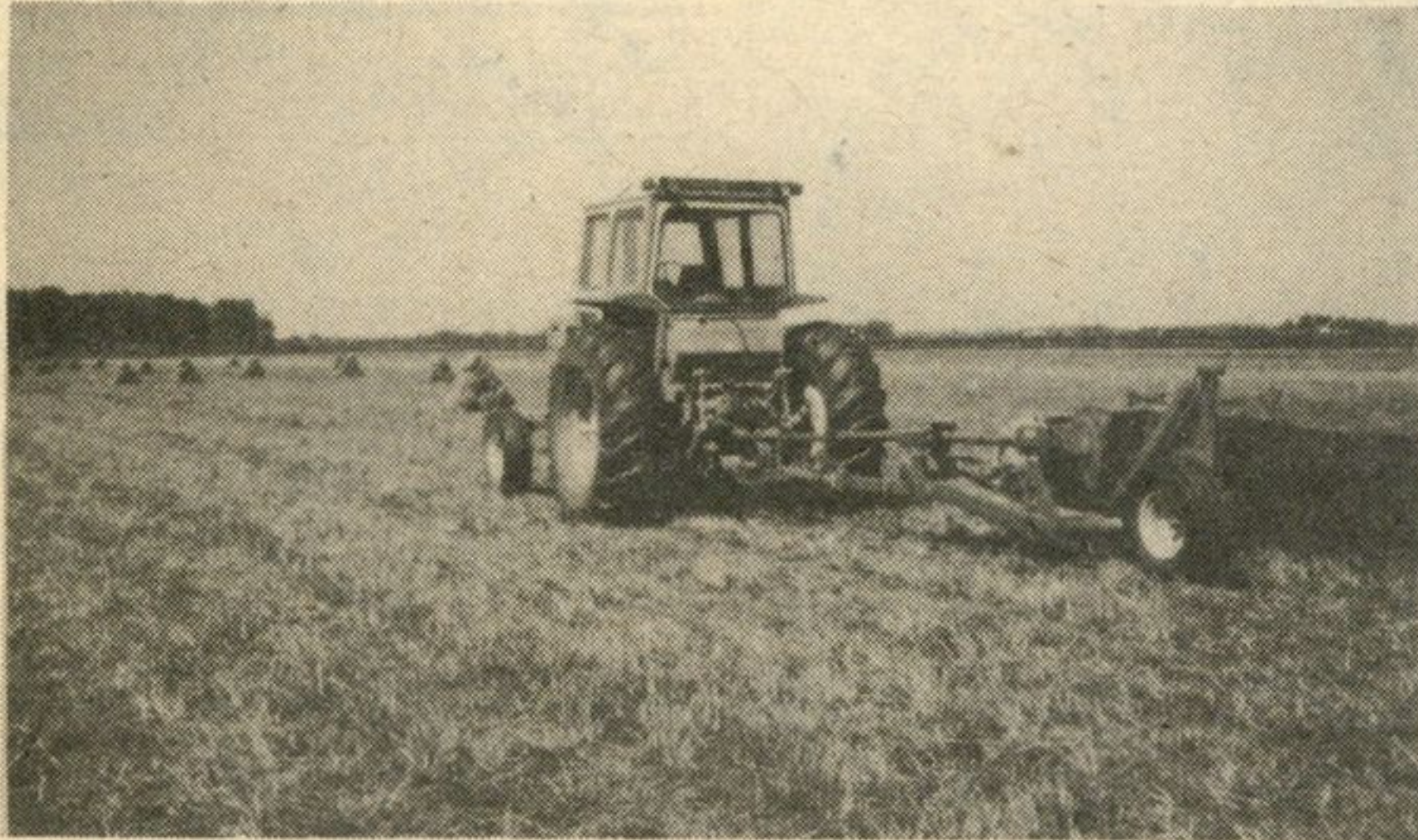


Chatter

Russeller in Windsor

When the National Bank of Detroit decided to open its first Canadian office in Windsor, Ontario who did it choose to be the new branches first manager? A former Russeller — Jim Morrow. Jim was born in Russell and still keeps up with the local news by reading Russell's best monthly newspaper — the Castor Review.

It's lunchtime



BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

Because of the continuing rain, farmers were late getting into the fields this summer but by mid-August haying operations were well under way. In this scene reminiscent of the Saskatchewan Prairies, farm equipment waits while a farmer has his lunch.

Time to sprout whiskers

Beard sprouting should be springing up around the Castor area soon. Ray McNamara announced recently that the Russell Winter Carnival's Beard Growing Contest will return. There will be prizes in three categories again. One, which anyone can win, is for most unusual beard... hmm, that opens up all kinds of possibilities. We all have until February to think about it.

Society blooms

The Russell Horticultural Society held its fall meeting in late September to plan its next year's activities.

"The forty-five members who attended the meeting enjoyed a pot-luck supper," said Dorothy Kinkaid, the Society's secretary. "And then Betty Hay, the Society's President suggested a number of activities to take place in 1982. They included: trips, hanging baskets for the village and workshops."

"The Trillium Awards for outstanding landscaping in Russell and the surrounding area were awarded at the meeting. And that was followed by a general question and answer period on all aspects of gardening."

The members postponed a decision on whether to join with the Agricultural Society for the annual flower show until their next meeting in January.

Housing sales boom on

Sales of houses have picked up considerably in the Russell area during the last few months. Since May, approximately 30 homes have been sold, according to real estate agents. There have also been several sales in the Forest Park — Embrun area.

The reason for the sales boom, according to Glendon Loucks of Rhodes Real Estate, is that a new home in Russell can be purchased for approximately \$35,000 below the price of comparable houses in the city.

"This in itself is a powerful lever persuading people to buy outside the city," said Mr. Loucks. "After all, for that kind of price spread you can buy a lot of gas. City prices have soared as much as 18 per cent over last year while in the country they have in-

Vandals batter park

by Ian Darragh

Vandals caused between \$500 and \$1,000 damage to the Russell Dam Conservation Area when they dismantled a concrete bench and table and threw part of it into the Castor River.

"We're very upset and if the police lay charges, we'll cooperate in every way we can," said Ken Dunlop, treasurer of the South Nation Conservation Authority. Work on the nature park, which is on the south bank of the Castor in Russell, had only been completed in mid-September.

Dunlop said the foreman of the authority was heartsick when he saw the damage. He had been working with students on the nature trail all summer; \$3,000 was spent to make a gravelled path into a lookout over the dam, to put up benches and plant trees.

Dunlop said the conservation authority is planning to replace the broken benches next year and another \$3,000 is budgeted for improvements to the park next summer. It is used by many senior citizens who live in a nearby apartment complex on Church Street.

"We put everything back temporarily, but obviously we will not be spending that kind of money in that location, since it is not appreciated by a small minority," said Mr. Dunlop.

"We tried to make a nice park for senior citizens and now we have to start over. And our development grant is used up."

Before...



Ron and Menna Andrews enjoy a Castor Conservation area park bench with baby Tristan on a lazy Fall evening. The benches and tables were recently installed for relaxing beside the village dam.

...After



The same benches and table are unrecognizable after vandals finished their work. A nearby wooden bench was tossed into the Castor River during the mindless act. Workers have since done their best to repair the damaged public property which is often a welcome respite for seniors out for a stroll along Russell's nature walk. (Tom Van Dusen photos)

creased about 5 to 10 per cent".

Most of the sales have been to young couples moving out of the city. Many are looking for affordable homes with room to raise a family. Their dream home becomes a reality when they are willing to travel beyond the city limits.

About half of the homes changing hands were older village homes with a heritage aspect. Many purchasers are looking for older homes and are willing to do the work necessary to renovate or repair them in order to have the advantage of their solid construction, larger lots and charming characteristics of the period.

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