

Comment

A simple solution

Ontario Hydro, owned by the people of Ontario, and created to realize Sir Adam Beck's dream of cheap hydro power proposes to raise rates — which are already high — by more than 50 per cent. The proposal itself shows the extent to which Hydro under its present managers has removed itself from reality.

When one examines the background, Hydro's isolation from what is going on in the world is even more evident. The public utility has more power now than it can use for years to come. It wants to bring six nuclear generators on stream to increase its already surplus power. It has just lost a major American contract which makes even more unused power available to the system.

The simple solution to Hydro's expansion problem is for the Ontario government to freeze Ontario Hydro at its present position for at least two years. This would save many millions and cancel out the incredible rate increase proposed by Hydro's managers at a time of destructive inflation in Canada. It would also temporarily halt the over-building which has made of Hydro a kind of voracious monster feeding on the Ontario economy, rather than supporting it.

Hydro and its affairs should then be subjected to a searching inquiry by a special task force in order to ascertain why the corporation has departed so far from its original purpose. Following that, legislation should be enacted to bring Hydro back under control of the people of Ontario. Under no circumstances should Hydro be granted a rate increase which can only prove devastating to Ontario's economy.

See you in September

Your valiant *Castor Review* crew of volunteers is taking a break. We'll see you in September. After ten issues, this volume is over — and the volunteer list in the office now has 30 names. All those willing hands brought you these ten issues of words and pictures.

Thanks to great community support, our spirits floated through a nasty winter and a dreary spring. And because of that support, we're crazy enough to say we'll do it again.

Have a great summer.

By the bye, please take a look at the small print on this page. That's where you'll see the names of all those volunteer spirits who float through the pages of your local newspaper.



MORRISON'S CHEESE FACTORY — Owner Morrison stands outside his North Russell cheese factory with employees for a photograph during the early years of this century. (Photo courtesy Clelland and Ruby Hamilton)

From my kitchen window...

The Great Garage Sale Resolve

By Maria Darragh

Garage sales are truly the bane of my existence.

There is no escaping the cardboard signs which dot the landscape most summer Saturdays. They beckon and tug away at all one's resolve.

Who can resist a bargain, a treasure hunt, a peak into a grandmother's attic?

We all carry around in our heads a list of items we'd love to have but which either the family budget or an inbred puritanical streak just won't allow.

Many of the items are frivolities: an attractive plate for a bare spot on the plate rail; a nick-nack; a piece of furniture to fill an odd bit of space; a couple more bowls to replace the last casualties of infantile hands.

Garage sales are such a boon. We all know that tucked in

amongst all the junk will be the desired 'thing' to be had for a pittance. So nice to be frivolous without any pangs of guilt.

This year as part of an annual ritual and with a little persuasive arm twisting from my better half, I've resolved not to go to any more garage sales.

Traditionally resolutions for the new year are made on January first. But what a miserable time to give up what few pleasures in life the Liberal government has left us. How is winter to be endured without a little wickedness to ward off the numbing cold?

Better to wait until summer has made its debut and the first leaves of garden-grown lettuce have been tasted before turning oneself into a paragon of virtue.

With a little well water and a few nibbles of Stokes' loose leaf lettuce we sealed the pact: No more garage sales.

And yet where else but at a garage sale could we have found the little bronze fish which sits so snugly in the palm of the hand and so cleverly doubles as a bottle opener. Or the crystal chandelier which casts rainbows on the surrounding walls. Or the rocking chair my husband enjoys so much.

Bruno Beefs

The chain store massacre

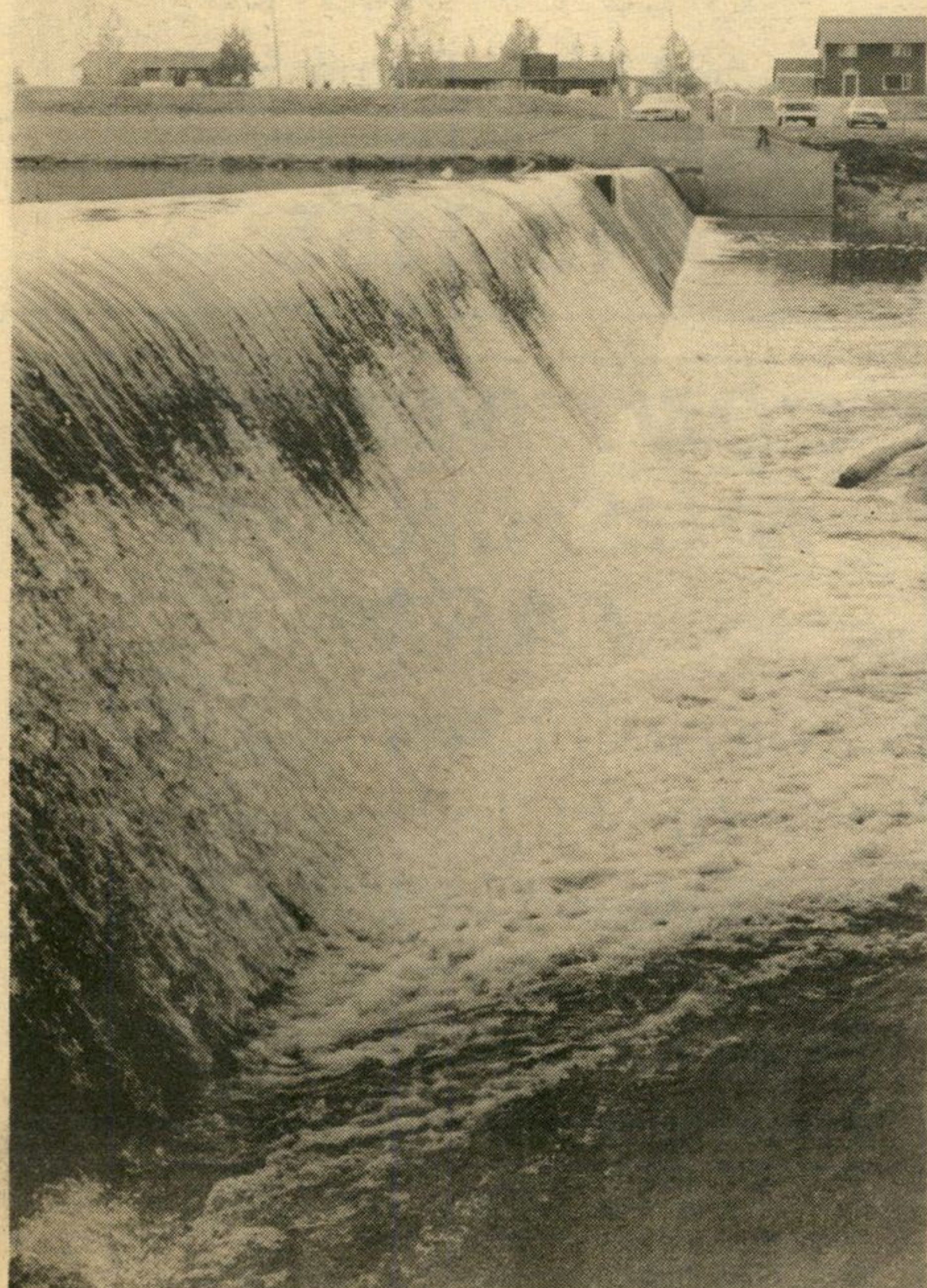
By Bruno Santilli

The chain store wars seem like a Godsent to the Ontario public because of the seemingly lower prices. What we fail to recognize, however, is the dangerous games that these people are playing — because some store will lose, badly. When the smoke clears, the shopping public and the former employees are the biggest losers.

Self-serve gas stations have already proved it. Hundreds, if not thousands, of Canadian workers were tossed out of their jobs — at no loss to corporate profits — and the consumer seemed to be saving.

In the chain store wars we are being asked by these seemingly concerned owners to sacrifice variety for the sake of savings. But when the losers of the price wars drop out of the marketplace, competition among stores will disappear, and we will be left with the same limited choice, less service but the savings will not be there.

Keep in mind that the people who are laid off because of business cutbacks still need to eat and have spending money. So, in the end, the shopping public loses twice.



Castor River cascades over the Russell dam. Ian Darragh photo

The Castor Review

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Editor: Dennis McGann

Advertising Sales: Theresa Griffith: 445-2820, Emerald Miller: 445-5362
Office Manager: Jude McGann: 445-3108

No more copy, no more headlines...no more printer's deadlines. The paper's out for the summer. We're taking two months off. And, if a whole lotta people come back in September with extra energy, we'll be rarin' to go before the leaves turn brown. Editing the *Castor Review* has been a great experience. It's one helluva way to find out what's happening in the area. But this paper is not the result of one person's effort. It couldn't possibly be. Theresa Griffith and Emerald Miller sold the advertising without which there would be no paper. Jude McGann co-ordinated the paper's business — sending out cheques and taking them in, along with all that other management stuff. Marc Belanger is your news editor, he spent many a weekend in the office. Joel Nordenstrom pulled all the advertising together and presented you, as well, with some excellent graphic work. Phill Potter processed out photographs and added many pics of his own. Ian Darragh co-ordinated the photos and took tons of cover shots himself. Kathy Kelsey joined us from Metcalfe with her excellent pics. Gillian Rokosh made sure subscribers received their papers and presented us with labels for every issue's mailing. Barbara Overell pulled Greely's contributions together. Bruno and Diane Santilli deserve special praise for fronting the paper and collecting articles, ads and subscriptions. Lola Wood kept us in touch with horses (and babysat Erin while Dennis and Jude did paste-up). Connie Belanger was a regular paste-up person and contributed news items. Eileen Hamelin kept up with the calendar, Kit Collins dropped in occasionally. Donna Nordenstrom added 'For Kids' and enthusiasm. Greg Rokosh worked hard on Recreation and was a paste-up regular. Elke Bietz pasted up when she could. Maria Darragh wrote very well from her kitchen table. Ina Kincaid brought us Russell Library news. Dorothy Marquette was a reliable Visitors columnist and kept you all up to date on births, weddings and deaths. Margot McCallum had our mouths watering with the recipes until she left to winter in warmer climes. Jack McLaren handled all the sports and kept abreast of countless leagues. Garey Ris left us mid-season when his camera was pinched. Suzanne Schroeter is back at school but kept involved and even wrote again. Tommy Van Dusen contributed occasionally, but still believes. So does Tom Van Dusen who wrote most of our editorials. It's been a good time. We hope to be back. But we'll need some help. If you'd like to get involved in this interesting community project, please call me, Dennis at 445-3108. Till later, then, ta ta.