

Russell Review

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Box 359 • Russell, Ontario • Phone 445-2051

Man and His World

The Woods on a Winter Eve

The sun was down and the gloam well settled on the woods as I turned for home. There was plenty of light for walking. The day still lingered on high western clouds and along the line between earth and sky.

But the stark forest already had the feel of a winter twilight and I reacted instinctively. I hurried. Some ancient, muted chord urged me toward fire and shelter.

This phenomenon is not new to me. I've always been acutely aware of this mood change and of the intense, mystical appeal of a campfire, or cabin light, as it beckons in the early dark of a winter eve.

The long, lingering twilights of July coax and cajole a hike to dawdle on the trail. Any stump or stone is sufficient excuse to tarry awhile and count fireflies. But in winter, there's a distinct, almost sinister change settles over the bush as the gloom thickens. There's a brooding sullenness in the moan of the wind through skeleton branches and a subtle hint of power in the swift penetration of the night frost.

And Man reacts. He reacts with an insidious build up of tension

even apprehension. The bush, so pleasant, scant hours before, now seems alien, hostile, intimidating. There was doubt about the route and the tension flares and is translated immediately into a tangible urgency to strike the toe road home and be out of it. The pace quickens in direct proportion to the decrease in visibility.

Then, suddenly, the yellow glow of the cabin lantern, or the flicker of the campfire, or the glare of the porch light is there ahead and the tension breaks.

I'm not sure why a person reacts in this manner to night fall in the winter bush, maybe not everyone does for that matter. But I do, often, and I've seen others catch the mood too. Surely it's because of this mood that the sight of camp has such an impact. The one, I'm sure, is the product of the other.

Whatever the cause and effect there's no doubt that the emotions felt during that last few minutes on the trail, triggered by the light ahead, and the promise of warmth and shelter and food, are among the best that come to a woodsman — and they come only at winter camps. Sort of a winter bonus.



The Old Mill

Previous to 1888, a sawmill on the south bank of the Castor, was run by waterpower. It was just below Delacie Rombough's property and was owned first by Mr. Simpson, who was part negro. To prevent their dam being washed away by spring freshets, two

Wallace, giants of men, carried huge boulders through the river. Brandy was supplied to keep up their circulation. Lumber was taken off the land close to the river, leading to deforestation.

Herman Rombough later owned a Carding Mill and after his death, his wife ran the mill

and did dressmaking as well, with three apprentices, Gertrude Howes, Maggie McNair and Jessie McDonald. At a still later date, William Stearns owned this mill. The mill burned down three times.

Diane Berube

Fifth Column Activity

What a weekend the 20th - 22nd of February turned out to be. Outside, our best yet Carnival was rolling along, while inside every political type in the community was glued to the T.V. set. And what a Convention it was! Even the Grits out there have to admit it was an event of which the whole country may be proud.

Old Man Winter isn't dead yet, folks. It may sound trite, but it seems he hits us hardest when we think he's just about played out.

Last issue was top-heavy with advertisement. It's gratifying to have all that support, but we're cutting back a little to appear more balanced.

The St. Patrick's Day Party looks like a good affair, what with Jug-O-Punch and all, and in support of your R.M.H.A. Only \$2.50 will buy you the best night of the year.

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Those of you who own fruit trees will soon be out there pruning — spring can't be far away! Now is also the time to spray plum trees against "plucket". Really!!!

Car pools will always be advertised free in this paper.

Tired of getting "junk mail" with your Bell Telephone and Chargex Statements.

Why not mail it back to them with your remittance — might as well clutter their place as yours. Nasty, but fun.

J.N.B.

Watch the hand that butters you up

It's sure to have a knife in it!!

Russell Winter Carnival

Reigned over by our '76 Queen, Maureen Shirley, we have just completed our first Winter Carnival in our new arena. Overall we feel it has been successful if for nothing else than the start of better things to come in future years. It is hard to plan and co-ordinate events when you have no experience behind you. You don't know the mood of the village in regards to what they prefer in activities. The Carnival parade was a real success as hundreds turned out to see and participate in it. The Senior Citizen's Friendship Circle won first prize for the best float. The Casinc and Monte Carlo night was enjoyed by almost all the people and they are looking forward to next year's event; especially so, our 2½ million dollar winner, Aline Meikle.

Winner of the 50-50 draw in the amount of \$216. Was Madeleine

Scharf.

Our thanks to all the people who participated in the Castor North and Castor South competitions. They were an enjoyable series of events with the winning North side being declared in the final event.

This year we were late in booking ice time for the Carnival but it is now in the process of being booked for a whole weekend next year to make the Carnival a more coherent movement.

A Carnival is an event to have fun and by the mood of our closing events, Sunday afternoon we feel we have accomplished fiesta spirit that has only started to take root.

Again, thank you for your support and participation in this year's Carnival and expect more and better things for next year.

Russell Carnival Committee

RUSSELL MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

presents the

JUG-O-PUNCH

St. Patrick's Day Party

Fri., March 12

RUSSELL ARENA

\$2.50

Bar Open - 8 p.m.

Annual Meeting ...

Russell Agricultural Society

The Annual Meeting of the Russell Agricultural Society was held Monday evening, January 19th, in the Russell Arena Hall. The ladies provided a "Pot Luck" supper which was enjoyed by everyone present.

The meeting was brought to order at 8:45 p.m. by the president, Harry Heymans. After thanking the ladies for the supper, he introduced the Russell County Dairy Princess, Miss Dorothy Bowhuis of Vars. She thanked the Society for her

invitation and brought greetings from the Russell County Milk Committee Board.

Mrs. Janet Rathwell gave a short address about the convention held in Toronto on Feb. 18th and 19th. Mrs. Rathwell is now 2nd Vice President of the Ladies Division of Ontario Agricultural Societies.

The Chairman of each committee gave favourable reports on the past fair and the report's work. The Treasurer's report was circulated and indicated a fairly

successful year's effort financially.

The Assistant Agriculture Representative, Roger Pommanville presided for the election of officers for the coming year. They are as follows:

President — Donald E. Graham
1st Vice-President — James Eadie
2nd Vice-President — Lola Wood
Sec.-Treas. — George Young