

QUEEN'S PARK REPORT

From

J. Albert Belanger M.P.P. Prescott-Russell

This is my first report of the new year, one which I sincerely hope is happy and prosperous for each and every one of you.

Many people will begin 1977 by making their traditional "new year's resolutions", others will want to look back at 1976 and reminisce on the high points. In this latter vein, I would like to take a brief look at the Fall Legislative Session here at Queen's Park.

The minority situation certainly kept our government on its toes, debates were never dull! Twenty-six bills were given Royal Assent and a number of these will have a major impact across the province.

On December 14th, just before the House recessed, the government's Farm Income Stabilization Act was passed. The programme will supplement the federal government's inadequate national stabilization scheme by establishing a voluntary, contributory plan for farmers. It will ensure a floor (not a ceiling) price for their products.

Another example of important legislation is the new programme set up to help finance the costs of repairing and-or rebuilding

community arenas. As these facilities are often extremely important to the area they serve (as witness many in our own riding), it came as a hard blow when many arenas were found to be unsafe. The government considered it appropriate that it step in and absorb some of these costs, in some cases, actually up to 75 percent, and leave the remainder of the community itself to raise. A real "Wintario Windfall"!

A bill introduced by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations abolishes compulsory annual returns for corporations unless the desired information has changed. This is a break for small businessmen who often complain of growing government regulations at every level.

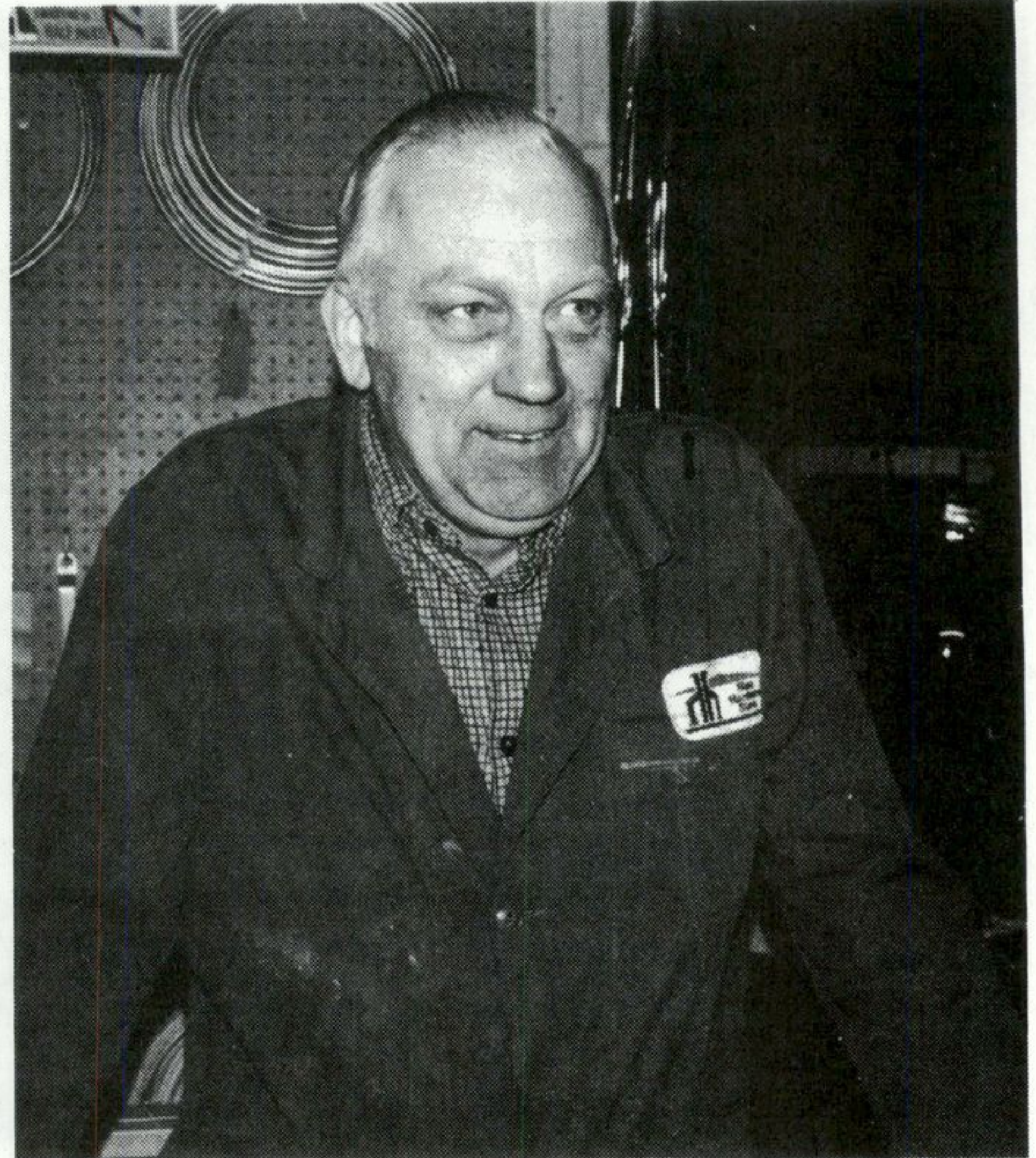
To further open the lines of communication between small business and government, a Progressive Conservative Members' Committee on Small Business has been formed. Lanark M.P.P., Doug Wiseman is a member of this committee and will ably represent the interests of eastern Ontario.

Although more important to northern ridings where mining is an economic mainstay, I felt I should note the Employees' Health and Safety Act. This allows for the centralization of occupational health and safety within the Ministry of Labour, encourages the information of labour-management safety committees and gives employees more direct involvement in the safety standards of their own work environment.

Of course, during the recess of the House, committee work will be continuing as usual. M.P.P.'s will be gearing up for a Budget and the Throne speech and also for debate on legislation introduced by various Ministers in the autumn months.

For instance, Attorney General Roy McMurtry introduced some significant changes to various sections of Ontario's family law, changes which are aimed at making individual equality a reality.

Over the coming months, I will be reporting to you on this and other topics of interest. In the meantime, Happy New Year to you and yours.



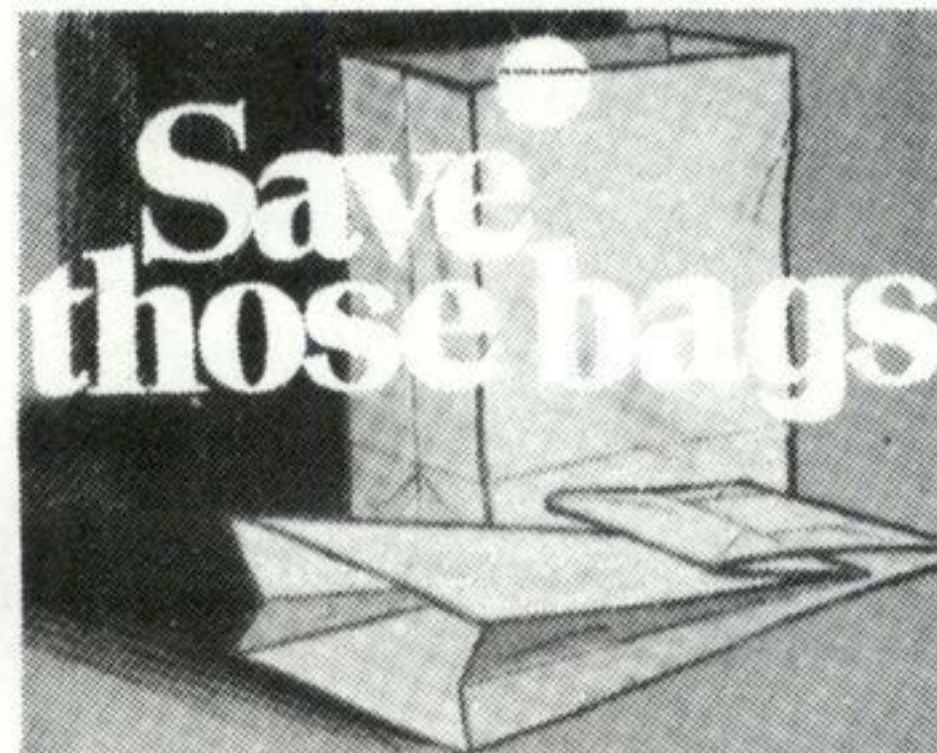
Lorne Wade to open new Store

After operating Loral's Home-Hardware Store in Russell for the past 17 years, Lorne Wade has sold the business and plans to open a new store in the old Shahan's Store.

Loral's Hardware will be run by Mr. Ted Lehowski, soon to retire from the R.C.M.P. Ted lives in Ottawa and will be taking over the store on March 1st.

Meanwhile renovations con-

tinue in Shahan's Store where Lorne hopes to be open for business by mid-March. If approved, the new store will be known as Wade's Footwear and Dry Goods. Lorne plans to carry GWG jeans and workclothes as well as Greb shoes and workboots. Russell residents will be glad to know that Lorne will continue to sharpen skates and do leather repairs!



Most brown paper bags end up lining the garbage can, but they can do many more jobs for you.

When oiling the electric fan, slip a large bag over the blade guard and let the fan run for a few seconds. The bag catches the excess oil and keeps it from splattering walls and curtains.

If you have a cherry tree that birds find irresistible, inflate small bags and hang them from the branches among the ripe fruit. As they sway and turn in the breeze they will frighten the birds away.

When preparing a meal, tape a paper bag to the edge of the counter. You can make a clean sweep of all vegetable parings and tin cans as you finish each job.

When grinding foods such as bread crusts, nutmeats, crackers or carrots, just tie a paper bag lined with a plastic one over the grinder. The finely ground food can then be stored right in the plastic.

Place freshly fried French fries and some salt in a bag, shake, and you'll salt and drain the potatoes at the same time.

To reheat day-old rolls, put them into a bag and twist the end shut, run the bag under warm water, put into a 400 degree oven until the bag dries. They will have a just-baked flavor.

When painting a ceiling, tie a bag over the light fixtures on which the paint is apt to drip. Easier than cleaning them later.

Drop pieces of chicken or meat into a bag along with flour and spices. Two shakes does the job evenly and with no messy hands.

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