

# Nelson sees light on the horizon for forestry

M.o. Nelson, Chairman of the Board of the Ontario Forest Industries Association and President of the Newsprint, Pulp and Forest Products Group of Kimberly-Clark, spoke recently to the Association's 40th Annual Meeting in Toronto.

Nelson said, "Economically 1982 was a distressing year in the history of the O.F.I.A. Our industry was forced into shutdowns, layoffs and production cut-backs. Fibre handled by O.F.I.A. during the year was down 18.6 per cent from 1981 or 5.8 vs. 7.2 million cunits.

Work with the Ministry concentrated mainly on strategic land use planning and parks. Formal and informal meeting with the minister,

deputy, and senior staff, addresses to public hearings, media briefings, an M.P.P. briefing, a steady stream of interviews with the media and addresses to service clubs, schools and other organizations constituted much of the higher visibility activity of your association. Committee work continued during the year although somewhat reduced due to travel restrictions by many companies.

The previous two annual reports of the O.F.I.A. chairman as well as this one reflect some trying times. Yet, I feel that there is some light on the horizon, with some including an improvement in housing starts.

General

Canada's economic prospects are dominated by its ability to compete in North American and other markets. A comparison by the federal department of finance shows that over the period 1972-82, our inflation average rate exceeded that of the U.S.A. (9.0 per cent compared to 7.5 per cent).

Our Canadian wages have more than doubled since 1972, increasing at an annual rate of 11.3 per cent. The U.S. rate of increase has been 7.8 per cent. Unit labour costs have increased 38

per cent more rapidly than in the U.S.A.

And yet Canadian productivity has been marginally worse than the U.S. for the last half of the decade. Labour costs in Canada have been increasing at the rate inconsistent with the objective of keeping inflation in check.

These few items show where a major problem lies but don't provide answers. Workers are naturally trying to keep ahead of inflation. The term "reduced expectations" sounds fine when applied to someone else. When the markets re-

turn we must be a high quality low cost producer in order to compete in world markets.

## Lumber

Canada ships 65 per cent of its lumber production to the U.S.A. The forecasts for the U.S. housing starts are therefore important reading for all of us. From 1,060,600 starts in 1982 which was the lowest since 1946, the forecast is for 1.4 million in 1983. This encouraging news is offset by the threat of up to a 65 per cent countervailing duty being applied by the U.S. on lumber imports. The Canadian government, provincial resource ministers, and industry are presently making a determined effort to convince the U.S. Trade Commission that there is no substance to the charges that Canadian lumber is subsidized heavily by governments and so should not incur such duties. Needless to say - the imposition of such a heavy duty would constitute a major disaster to our sawmilling industry. A tentative decision is due in March of this year with a final decision due in July.

Hardwood lumber mills ran at almost 60 per cent capacity in 1982. There is some

guarded optimism about 1983. Prices have risen 3 to 4 per cent since the

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## School Board...

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wage Trustee Larry Urbanowski agreed and said, "I think the press made a real attempt to blow that up." Urbanowski went on to say that he did not know why Commissioner Allan had bothered putting the section in the Report at all. Other Trustees said that the inclusion was justified. "I think we have to recognize that this was the situation."

Schreiber Trustee Tim Delaney said, "I think I know why he put it in."

Delaney said that he felt it was a psychological ploy by Allan to set off "just the kind of debate we are having here. We all have our backs up and we are going to prove him wrong by making this Board work." Terrace Bay Trustee Joan Nugent said, "I haven't got my back up, and I don't intend to prove anything."

The Board decided at the end of the meeting to hold a public meeting at the high school in Schreiber on Tuesday, April 26 at 8:00 p.m. The final debate and the vote on the fate of the school will take place then.

## THANK YOU

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our family and friends for their cards, gifts and numerous visits during our stay in hospital. A special thank you to Dr. Wilkes, Mary Shack, Debbie McGrath, Danielle Salesse and the staff of The McCausland Hospital for their care.

Paulette & Kyle Brend.



## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Ron and Paulette Brend are pleased to announce the arrival of Kyle Steven Paul, on March 18, 1983. Proud grandparents are Steve and Vicky Brend and Paul and Dot Coupal all of Terrace Bay.



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## COMMUNITY JUSTICE WEEK APRIL 17-23

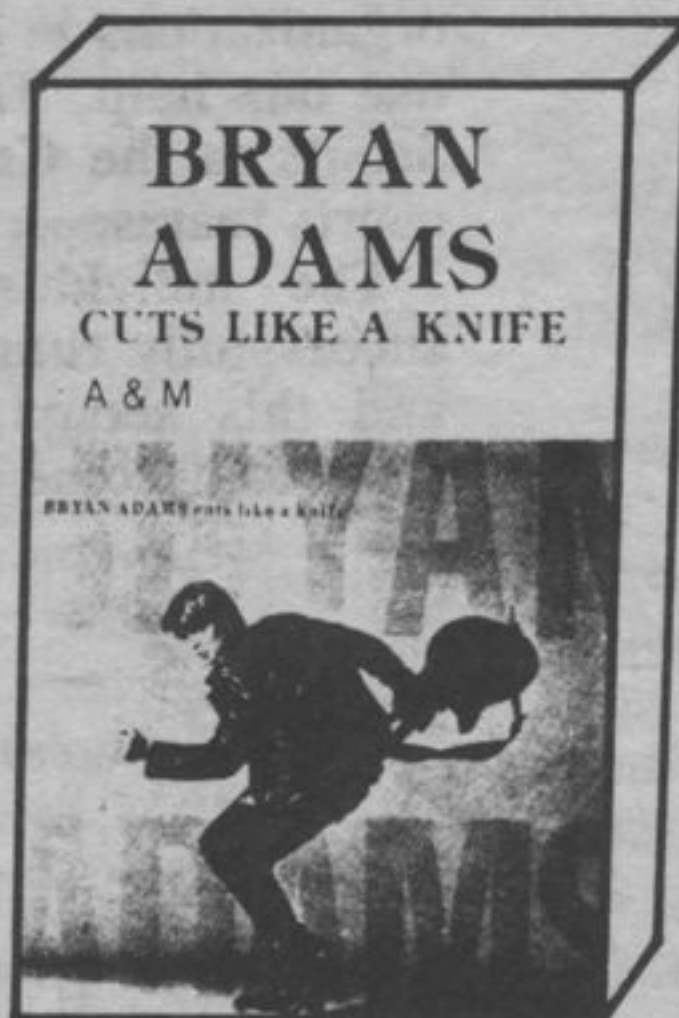
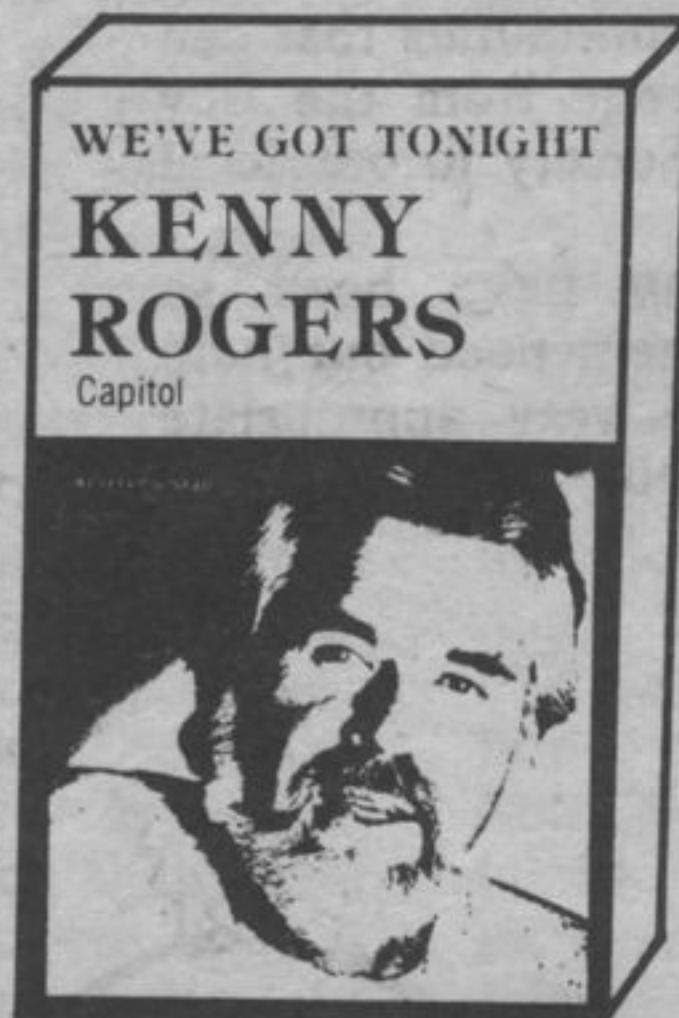
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