

## County Weed Control Fight Quite Successful

"The weed situation in Ontario County is showing a general improvement," Inspector Ryerson Beare of Greenbank told the press last week. Not only on the county roads, but throughout private property are the beneficial results of spraying year after year, now becoming apparent.

"We do not look for complete eradication, but for reasonable control of weeds," said Mr. Beare. "Our road spraying program began somewhat later this year than usual but in a way that may be a good thing since we can get some of the ragweed and wild carrot which would not otherwise have been killed."

Working from 10 to 13 hours each day, except Saturdays when heavy traffic would interfere with the job, Mr. Beare, assisted by Roy McMullen of Cannington and Fred Wetheral of Derryville, has now covered more than two-thirds of the Ontario County road system. Their big sprayer, bought in 1938, is old, but is operating efficiently. It has an 800-gallon capacity. The crew is using a 2-4-9 ester for weeds and a strong brush kill mixture for the roadside shrubs. This is the third successive year that brush spraying has been done although all the 230 miles of county roads cannot be thus treated in any one year.

"We have also cleaned up some very bad patches of poison ivy," said Mr. Beare, "and I note that there has been a small return. As for the weeds, the mixture we use is making a good kill."

Some new roads are being sprayed this year but the work is limited by the budget supplied by the Roads Board of the county. Spraying expenditures are 50 per cent subsidized by the province. At some points along the road, all that needs to be done is a little touch-up work where growth is showing after last year's treatment.

The seventh concession of Scott Township, which is the much-travelled road from Uxbridge to Udora, is being sprayed for the first time in the last five years, if not longer. This road is getting a thorough job done on it both for weeds and brush.

As to his work as County Weed Inspector, Mr. Beare said: "We find that more farmers are using their own sprayers on their own property each year. The results are especially good in those fields which they intend to combine for it kills the green weed growth in the bottom of the field, making it easier to combine. Also it takes all the mustard out of a crop."

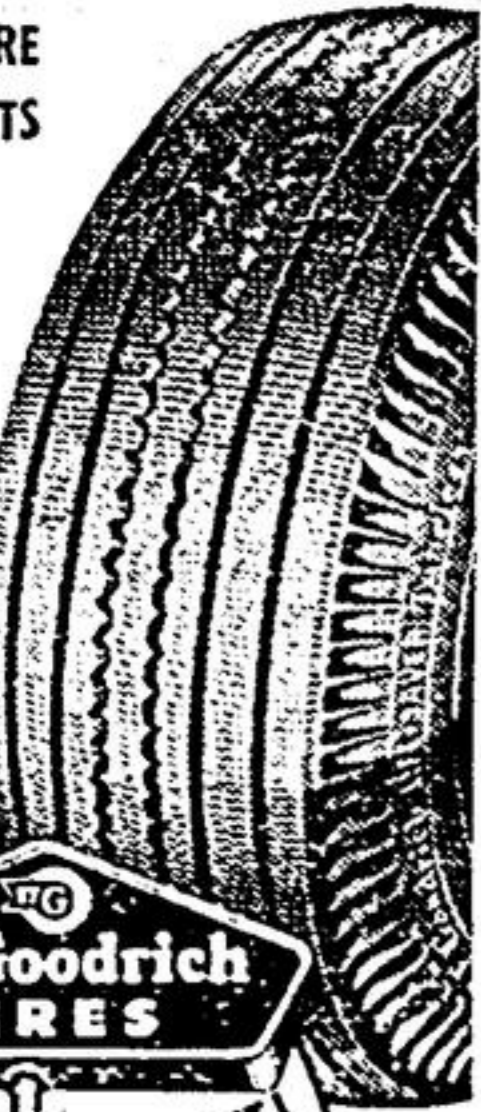
In a few days, Mr. Beare will finish his work on the roads and will turn his attention to investigation of the complaints about weeds which are beginning to pour into his office. Using tact and persuasion, he is usually successful in getting co-operation from the offenders. Often it is the larger owners, government land or railway land which cause the most trouble.

In the late fall, Mr. Beare will return a full report on the year's work to the Ontario County Council.

The average worker would want to watch the clock less if he didn't watch the thermometer.

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## Hurled 75 ft., Woman Killed at Crossing

Every morning for four years, Mr. and Mrs. Karl Kundra, immigrants from Latvia, have crossed the same railroad tracks near Agincourt in their jeep at 10 minutes to 7 o'clock.

Every morning a pusher engine has crossed the road at approximately the same time. On Friday morning the locomotive and the jeep met.

Mrs. Kundra was thrown 75 feet and killed instantly. Her husband is in East General Hospital with undetermined injuries.

Police report that the CNR pusher-type locomotive was heading south toward the crossing a mile north of Agincourt, with Hames Downs of Abbot St., as engineer, and Hugh Ward, also of Toronto, as fireman. The engine was not pulling coaches.

Karl Kundra, who operates a market garden at his Agincourt home and works in Toronto as a carpenter, was driving east with his wife on the first concession, Scarborough, in their open jeep.

Police believe the jeep had practically crossed the tracks when the engine crashed into the rear end, spinning it around and hurling Mrs. Kundra down the track.

The smashed jeep was thrown 25 feet to the side of the tracks. Mr. Kundra lay beside it.

Residents of the area say they did not hear the engine whistle for the crossing but are at a loss to explain the accident because visibility is good and the crossing is well marked.

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## Suggest Trouble In Markham Twp. Over Mounting Taxes

It has been suggested in a feature story of a Toronto daily last weekend that the trouble over mounting taxes which has occurred in Toronto Township is now headed for Markham Township and several other neighboring municipalities in South York.

Several homeowners in the Highland Park district of Markham Township are beginning to talk like those in Toronto Township.

A typical resident, Walter Ives, 38, who works for an oil company, says taxes will take up two months of his salary this year. He claims he and his wife and two children will have to forego their holidays as a result.

Mr. Ives received a tax bill of \$180 for his five-room stucco home on Grandview Ave. He says, near him, the owner of two acres pays only \$64.

William John Haeburn, former lieutenant commander in the R.C.N.V.R. is another Highland Park resident who is annoyed with tax boosts. He recalls being assured by his insurance company that his taxes wouldn't go beyond \$80. Now he has a bill for \$178.07 to pay.

Reeves of North York, Scarborough, East York and Etobicoke all claim their financial structure to be such that no large tax increases are threatened. If there are to be any tax increases in the next few years, they will be small and, in most cases, caused by growing education costs.

Nelson A. Boylen, Reeve of North York, and one of the Toronto district's senior municipal leaders, said Toronto Township is now going through the stage through which North York just passed.

"We learned through hard experience that you can't spend money if you haven't got it and there is no sense borrowing it if the taxpayers can't afford to pay it back," Reeve Boylen said.

To keep taxes from rising by leaps and bounds, North York this year stopped building schools and is putting up portable or groups of portables instead. In addition North York installs only a minimum of local improvements each year.

"Although our general purposes tax rate has gone up only two mills in the last six years—six years of raising costs—taxes in North York have risen considerably. The cost of education is to blame. We had to stop building schools because school taxes were becoming too much of a burden for the home owner," the reeve continued.

"We have set up a priority list on requested local improvements and build the ones which will bene-

fit the most people first."

Reeve Oliver E. Crockford of Scarborough said that not only was there no indication of tax increases in Scarborough but that there is reason to believe that taxes will remain the same or even dip a little in the next few years.

In Scarborough the general purposes rate, which the council spends, has dropped two successive years. With surpluses, a \$7,500,000 assessment increase so far this year and Scarborough's big industrial expansion, it should hold firm or drop again next year.

Reeve Harry Simpson of East York, said he did not anticipate any large tax increase in East York even if the township is forced by the Provincial Government to accept the re-assessment of the municipality recently completed under the provinces Toronto-area equalization of assessment scheme.

"It doesn't matter if your house is assessed at \$1,000 or \$3,000,"

Reeve Simpson said. "If the assessment of East York is doubled by the equalized assessment then our mill rate will accordingly be cut in two. The dollar tax is what counts, not the assessment," he said.

East York's taxes have, like other municipalities, gone up in recent years although the general purpose mill rate has only risen five mills in three years. Again education was blamed. East York's share of educational costs has increased \$400,000 in three years, the reeve said.

Etobicoke, where taxes increased 18 per cent last year (education again mostly responsible), hopes to "hold the line this year," said Reeve Bev. Lewis.

"We have reached the stage where we feel the people cannot afford to pay higher taxes and therefore we will have to cut back our estimates to remain within the limit."

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