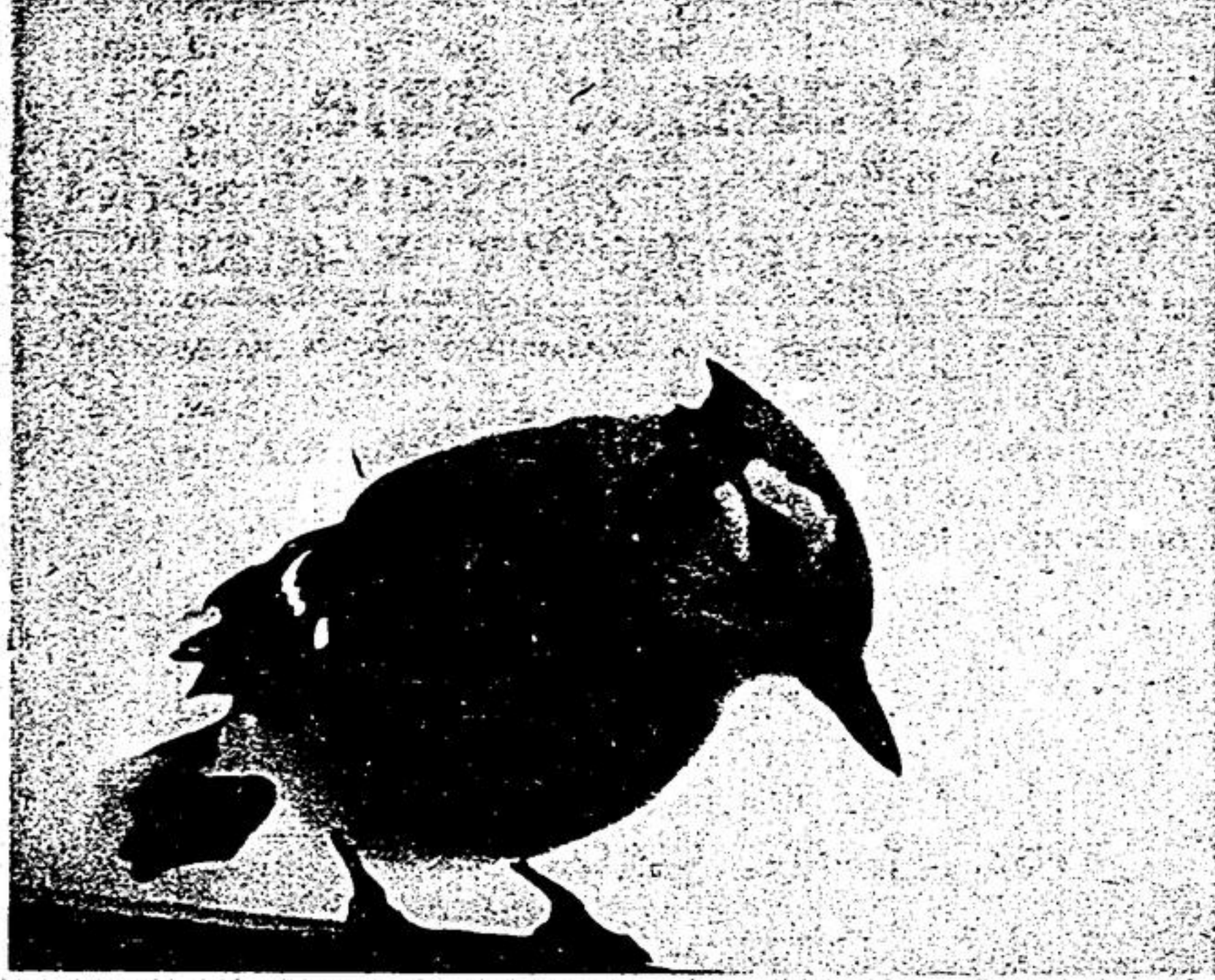


Farm

Tribune



A colorful Blue Jay enjoys a meal of sunflower seeds from a feeder near the home of Edgie and Betty Pegg, Claremont, R.R. 2. —Photo by Betty Pegg

With Binocular And Camera

Blue Jay Welcomed In Winter

By Edg. and Betty Pegg  
With recent storms and snow piling up, many birds are flocking to feeding stations. By making your backyard or window sill a landing spot, you can study, identify, photograph or just enjoy these winter visitors. Birds help to hold insects in check, by feeding them now, your garden may benefit next spring.

Atha. This increased our present winter list since Dec. 1 to 75. Other rarities last weekend included a Snowy Owl and two Mute Swans at Whitby Harbour, a Robin that hopped about in a tree at Pickering and a Brown Thrasher at a feeder north of Dunbarton.

It enjoys peanuts and sunflower seeds. Included in its diet are some insects, however its main foods are corn, beechnuts and acorns, more of which are buried than eaten. There is little doubt that many of our oak and beech forests were planted by them.



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That produced the highest average income\* over a 3 year period?  
Sex-Sal-Link

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Landscaping

The Home Investment That Pays Dividends

By JOHN BRADSHAW, Garden Editor  
Anyone considering the purchase of a home should not look upon it as merely a financial transaction. The pleasures of home ownership are much more important than what the price might be if you are forced to sell at some future date.

It's true that the sharp rise in prices of all commodities since World War II has made resale at more than cost almost a certainty at the present time. However, this fortunate condition may or may not hold true in the future. Why not give some thought to what can be done to increase the sales value of your property if you need to sell later on? For 99 out of 100 people the biggest single investment they'll ever make in a lifetime will be in a house and surrounding property.

Of all the items that enter into the construction of a home, only two increase in value and are worth more with use than they were initially. One of these is the lot or acreage on which the home is built. We usually find that this is worth more with the passage of time, unless neighborhood deterioration brings about a decrease.

The second element that is almost automatic in its increase in value is landscaping; the home investment that grows. A single tree planted at the time a home is built can increase its value anywhere from \$500 to \$1,000 in less than 20 years.

Real estate men will tell you that a lawn in good shape adds at least \$1,000 to the value of a \$20,000 home. Shrubbery and perennial borders are equally valuable in upgrading property values.

These are reasons why conscientious architects usually recommend to their clients that they spend 10 per cent of their total investment for the property in landscaping.

I certainly don't advocate cutting down plans by 10 per cent to allow for this. It may surprise you to know that many banks and loan companies are perfectly willing to allow extra money for landscaping.

When this is impossible, you should consider doing the job piecemeal. Grading is one part of landscaping which will have to be done anyway. Common practice calls for skimming off all the top soil and piling it away from the centre of operations until the house is done. Unfortunately in many subdivision projects this is considered the property of the builder until the house is sold and provides him with an extra source of profit. I strongly believe that morally it belongs to the property, a valuable asset that has been built up through the ages of time.

Trees should be chosen carefully. The devastation of Dutch Elm disease in southern Ontario during the past few years — and the recent ice storm — has made us more conscious of the need for this. Of course, we cannot go overboard and try to anticipate every pest that may attack, but we can at least diversify. For instance, if the neighborhood is largely in oaks, select some other type of trees such as Lindens, Maples, or the various new varieties of thornless Locusts.

Another good tree for southern Ontario is the Maidenhair tree, which is known botanically as Ginkgo biloba. Here we have a living fossil that outlived all its enemies. Another living fossil that is becoming generally available is the new Dawn Redwood. Be sure and ask the advice of a reliable nursery for any particular situation where an unusual problem exists.

Naturally, any existing trees on the property, if in good condition, should be carefully protected against injury. Make sure the contractor doesn't strangle the trees by raising the level of the surrounding soil by more than twelve inches. If it's necessary to raise the level any higher, arrangements must be made for tree wells to be constructed.

Facts About New County Crops

By A. A. Wall, Agricultural Representative, York County  
This year's changes in recommendations for crops are available now. They are published in our bulletin.

The newest idea is an entirely new crop. It's called Triticales and it is an important step in the science of plant breeding. Triticales is the first man-made plant species. It has been developed from the cross breeding of wheat and rye.

While it's a very significant development, it is not a crop that everyone should go into right away. The winter types are not hardy enough for York County, and the spring-sown strains will not have any yield advantage over our regular grains.

Triticales plants are big, leafy and strong, and should have lots of potential, but more work will have to be done to get yields up.

Another change is in oat varieties. An old reliable, Rodney, is no longer recommended. It is replaced by Kelsey, a similar type but with stronger straw.

In forage varieties, the Flemish type alfalfas are given more prominence, particularly in Orchard grass mixtures. Saranac alfalfa is one that gets strong support, but Cayuga has been removed.

Meadow Fescue is a plant that is not being suggested for forage mixtures and the trend in mixtures continues to more simple ones of just one or two kinds of plants.

The corn list has changed drastically. A lot of hy-

Albert Hockley

Heads Potato Growers

CLAREMONT — Albert Hockley, Claremont, R.R. 1, has been named president of the Ontario County Potato Growers' Association for 1968. The annual meeting was held at Uxbridge, Jan. 23.

Richard Colwell, Claremont, R.R. 1, reported on the annual Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Conference in Toronto. He stressed the need for an increase in the production of seed potatoes in Ontario. He also suggested that growers should strive to produce a better graded product in more attractive packages and with a better continuity of supply. He said that most of the Ontario grown potatoes are marketed in the fall.

brids that we have had for a long time have been discontinued and replaced by new ones. It's a good idea to get seed orders in early this year, with all the changes that have been made.

Everyone should have a copy of the new recommendations, and we are always pleased to send them to anyone asking. A phone call to 895-4519 will do it.

Our congratulations this week to Carman Boardway of Mt. Albert, for winning the top place in this region in the Ontario Corn Competition. Mr. and Mrs. Boardway were awarded an expense-paid trip to New York, at the Crop Convention last week.

Mr. Colwell was named the association vice-president. The secretary-treasurer is Gordon Rynard of Zephyr. Laplander — A private secretary.

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