

By William Hodgson MPP

# Government plans ahead for gas shortage

How long will it be before we get out of the Deep Freeze, the phrase which all of us will use to remember the winter of 1976-77? We may have to endure the Deep Freeze for the rest of this winter. Let's hope not! Certainly, we will remember the critical shortage of natural gas suffered by our American neighbors and the extensive impact which this natural gas shortage has

had on the United States economy: thousands of workers laid off, schools closed, home heating temperatures lowered to 55° F (American) and finally the realization that the United States is permanently short of energy reserves.

It will be the winter to remember that Canada shipped billions of cubic feet of natural gas south, showing that we are good

neighbors to our American friends — despite some real and substantial differences on various issues.

The Deep Freeze winter will also be remembered as the year President Carter asked Congress for authority to allocate natural gas among interstate pipelines to get it to areas which most need this gas. In that connection,

away back in the mists of time, your Ontario Government presented an amendment to the Ontario Energy Board Act to develop allocation plans for natural gas should an emergency of the scope which the Americans are now experiencing ever face us. That amendment was introduced and passed in November 1975 by Energy Minister Dennis Timbrel.

The principles of this legislation involved:

- 1) any natural gas allocation plans should be placed with an independent agency such as the Ontario Energy Board;
- 2) this body already controls the rate and facility aspects of Ontario's natural gas distribution;
- 3) the current natural gas distributors who have contracts with Trans Canada Pipe Lines are the sensible group to put the plan into effect should it ever arise;
- 4) all people affected by this bill would have the opportunity to file an objection;
- 5) the legislation would prevent large customers from buying natural gas

for themselves from the producers.

The last principle provides that Ontario's consumers will get top priority in a critical shortage era.

The intent of the 1975 bill was to anticipate in advance the remotest possibility that Ontario might some day in the next five years or so face a similar shortage of the depths with which the Americans are now having to cope. It is an interim measure to overcome that period of time before the energy sources of the frontier areas may become available or before coal gasification is a full scale

## Fewer Deaths due to belts

OAK RIDGES — Ontario Provincial Police Detachment have credited seat belt legislation with dramatically reducing the number of automobile accident injuries.

The number of deaths as a result of accidents during the past year was down by almost 50 percent.

energy reality.

A lot of critics have suggested that the plan was not really necessary and that our efforts should be put into energy conservation. I know from previous reports that we have outlined some of your Ontario Government's operations in energy management. More can still be done. Current critics have said that Canada should not be exporting any more natural gas to the United States. These people forget that Ontario imports 95 percent of its coal from south of the border.

Even beyond economic considerations, it is simply being a good neighbor to our American friends — a way of helping when one human being needs help immediately. To fail to do so is like ignoring a drowning man because you happen to think that he should be able to swim.

Canadians need not be too smug about American energy problems because some day the same shortage may be staring right down our noses.

The 1975 legislation awaits and is solid preparation for any future shortages like a fire truck is ready in case of a fire. It represents a realistic example of good forward looking planning.



A lot of people have been singing the praises of the town's works department for the efficient manner in which they handled last week's heavy snowstorms, but Nellie Szucs living on the 6th conc. was not so sure. Plows dumped a 10 foot high drift of snow in her driveway, sealing her in. Mrs. Szucs termed the enormous barrier "a terrible

thing," and said she might sue if she got no action from the town. "There's no way to get out of there," said Mrs. Szucs. Shovelling would not be the answer, since the pile of snow is at least as wide as it is high and is hard-packed. The Szucs' five foot high gatepost, dwarfed by the snowy barrier, can be seen on the right.

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## "Retirement" The Fourth Quarter

By LESLIE HOLBROOK

Back when I was fettered to an office stool (to lift a phrase from Gilbert and Sullivan), I used to see a man with one (just one) deformed

leg work his way past my office window. He was going to — or coming from — the National Library and Archives next door.

He was old. He was badly beaten up physically. On icy days I sweated it out while he navigated the slippery way to a bus stop up the street.

One day, meeting him, I could not resist asking him what he did that brought him out each day — foul weather or fine.

He was doing research at the Archives, learning all he could about pioneer days in Western Canada — where he had spent his earlier years — for a book on which he was working.

He told me he was 77 but hoped to finish before Gabriel blew his horn. If not, he was enjoying the chore anyway.

Sometimes it seems that those with the

greatest handicaps get the most out of life. They don't let their difficulties get them down. They keep active.

There is a direct relationship between idleness and poor health. If you spend your retirement days watching TV, snoozing away the hours, or bellyaching about the boredom, you are heading for trouble.

I "retired" about the same time as a fellow worker. He couldn't wait to "get my feet up, have a few beers and watch the ball game". He had developed no serious interests outside his job. Before the second year "on pension" was out he was dead.

The old notion of retirement as "going over the hill" is obsolete. It never did make much sense and interested, active people, always have rejected it.

You hear about the well-known oldsters who

keep right on doing what they most want to do: Pianist Rubinstein still superb in his late 80's; entertainer Stanley Holloway still tops at 81; Agatha Christie writing best-sellers in her 80's; author Shaw still sparkling at 90.

But there are thousands of ordinary folk doing the same sort of things in less spectacular ways. There is, for example, Dorothy Cameron, Wellington County (Ont.) library employee, who "retired" at 80 to become assistant to her librarian replacement. I could fill this page with other examples.

Examples which are proof positive that age is no obstacle to achievement and fulfillment.

And you'll find that aches and pains will bother you less if you get into an absorbing, challenging program. You may be a bit of a hypochondriac anyway — worrying unreasonably about how you feel. (If so, pay heed to Keith Mossman in his book "Looking Forward to Retirement": "It is best not to make a hobby of health in case it develops into a full-time occupation".)

Try for the greatest degree of physical activity your body can safely achieve (your doctor's guidance here) and you've still got plenty going for you — for another 10, 20, 30 years!

Except for occasional worthwhile offerings, save the boob tube 'til your 80's at least. You have to be in your second childhood, anyway to stomach a lot of what TV offers.

# Loblaws passport to the movies

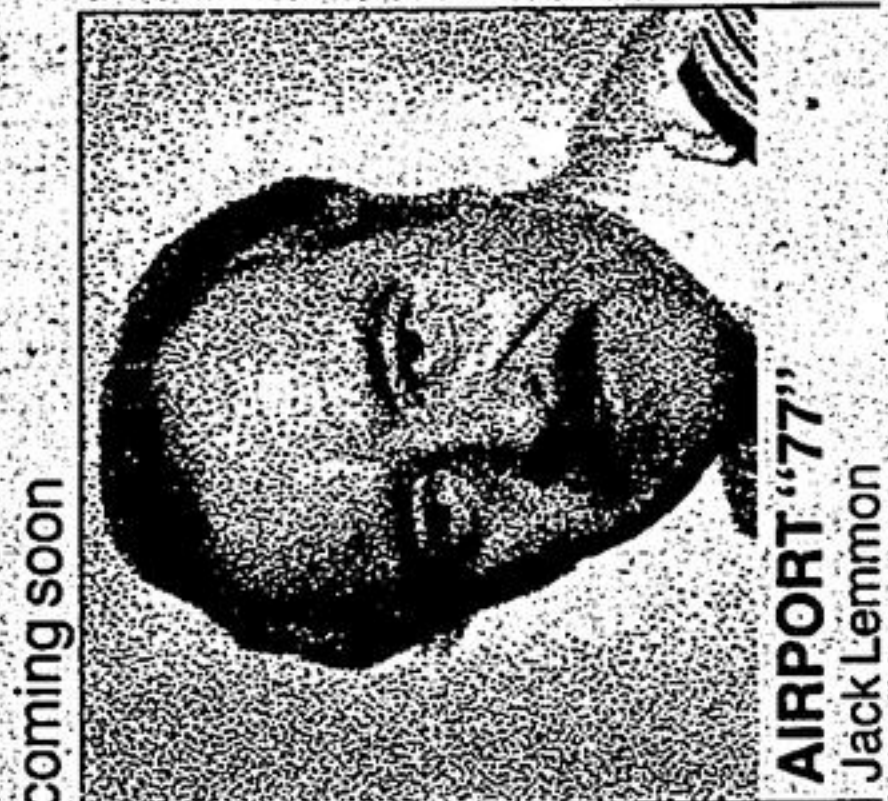
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- Only one coupon per admission may be redeemed.
- Other good at all participating Ontario movie theatres (listed in passport) until midnight June 16, 1977.

**Passport Includes:**

- 21 coupons, each worth \$1.00 off any adult admission to 21 first run movies (listed below) plus:
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coming soon



coming soon



now playing



now playing



now playing



now playing

## Loblaws passport to the movies

another reason why more than the price is right.

Loblaws cash tapes must be dated from Jan. 26, 1977. Offer valid until Feb. 19, 1977, or while supply lasts.

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## Old Age Pensioners Guaranteed Income Supplement

Application forms.

**Fill them out! Send them in!**

Guaranteed Income Supplement application forms were mailed recently to all pensioners now receiving the Supplement. To make sure that your Supplement to the Pension continues beyond March 31st you must reapply. So make sure you fill in your form and return it in the addressed envelope enclosed with the form, as soon as you possibly can.

Health and Welfare Canada  
Santé et Bien-être social Canada  
Marc Lalonde, Minister

## County Breakers benefit dance

GOODWOOD — The County Breakers CB club is continuing its efforts to raise funds for the Brown Family Fire Fund.

On Saturday, Feb. 26 they will hold a dance at the Goodwood Community Hall for their benefit. The dance starts at 8 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person and this fee covers a buffet, spot dances and door prizes.

People wishing tickets can call: Rouge Base, Bill or Gladys 640-2532, Criss-Cross base, Ken or Gina, 294-6302; medical Base, Bill or Pat, 640-3894.

The County Breakers, who collected clothes and furniture for the Browns, say that the burnt out family now has all the apparel and household goods needed. The CBers plan to hold a sale of the extra furniture collected and give the proceeds to the Browns.

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