



INTERLAKE FLYER

February, 1975





EDITORS NOTE

The function of the FLYER is to keep people in the Interlake aware of what their tax money is doing in the region. Although we don't get a chance to cover everything that the government is doing, we do try to get information out on most of the programs. An example is the story on the Vogar housing project in which several departments and agencies cooperated.

Another regular part of our function is to report on the meetings and activities of the Area Development Boards. One of those activities is the Ministers Interlake F.R.E.D. Advisory Board. Once a year the boards sit down for a day with the Minister of Agriculture to openly discuss any and all issues that may be of relevance to Interlake residents. The discussion covers all topics that the boards feel important and no subject is considered sacred. This year the topics ranged from the governments role in beef and dairy industries to government ownership of farmland. A report on the meeting is carried on page 18 complete with questions from board members and direct responses from Mr. Uskiw.

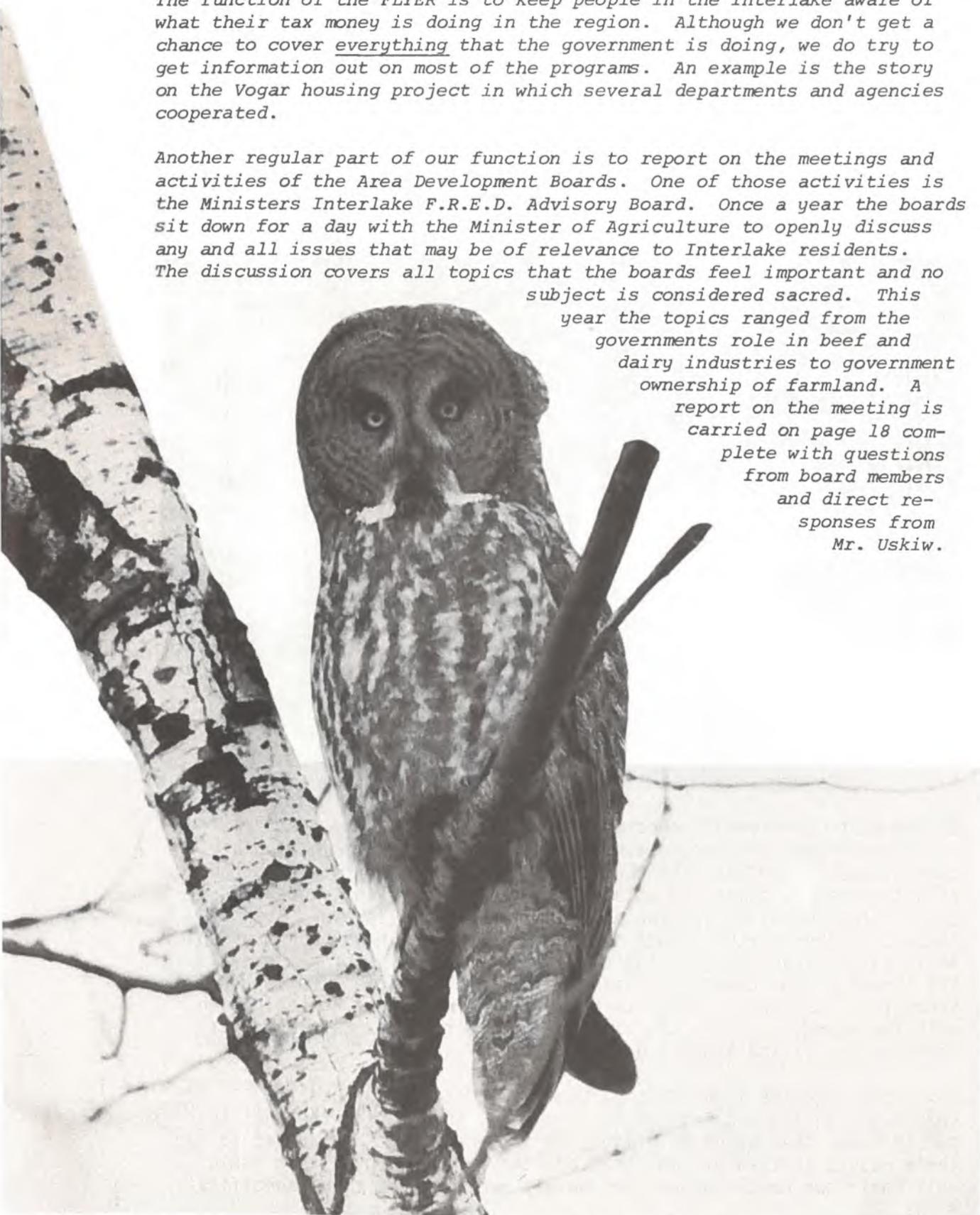


Photo by Robert R. Taylor

Housing From The Ground Up — Vogar

Shelter from the weather has always been one of mans primary needs. This fall, the people at Vogar figured that their shelter from the weather just wasn't good enough. When members of the Vogar Housing Committee made up their minds to do something about the situation, they weren't just horsing around. They got the rural municipality, two provincial departments and one federal department all working together on a common project. Right now, seven men with three horses are working out in the bush cutting and milling logs so they can start building new houses next summer.



In the past, government agencies had always been reluctant to provide the normal types of housing assistance that were available in other communities. The fact that the village is located on Crown Land and is not served by sewer and water are some of the reasons Vogar didn't qualify for the usual housing programs. If the village had been located farther north, remote housing programs may have been available. As it was, however, Vogar didn't qualify for any type of program and the income of the community, based on winter fishing and summer construction, just wasn't adequate to build the necessary houses. With only two sound houses in the village, it's agreed by most residents that housing is the biggest problem facing Vogar.

Six months ago the Vogar Housing Committee decided to take the initiative on the project and do as much as they could with what they had in hopes that other help might be forthcoming. They wanted to own their houses instead of rent them and they wanted houses that would suit their own needs rather than merely meet someone elses specifications.

The committee, an affiliate of the Manitoba Metis Federation local at Ashern, figured that with an abundance of native timber in the area, they had an opportunity to mill their own lumber and greatly reduce the total cost per house. Realizing that they couldn't solve the whole problem in one year, the committee set ten houses as their goal for 1975. The following round of letter writing, phone calls, meetings and application forms brought positive results.



The Emergency Housing Repair program, which is jointly sponsored by the Rural and Native Housing Corporation, provided funds for immediate repair to some of the existing houses. This program payed for materials and labor to weather proof those homes that needed it the most. But this was really only a stop-gap measure. The real challenge was to obtain the lumber and materials to build new houses.

In October the Housing Committee, under the chairmanship of George Murphy, submitted a Local Initiatives Program application with the backing of the M.M.F. local. The L.I.P. Constituency Advisory Group approved the project and shortly after the new year, work began to cut and mill 100,000 board feet of local timber. Logging permits, which had previously seemed unobtainable, were willingly granted by the Resources Management Division of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management.

In recognizing the housing needs of Vogar and approving the application, the Constituency Advisory Group has set a precedent that may benefit other communities similar to Vogar. The \$12,000 L.I.P. grant is providing employment for seven men for 13 weeks this winter. It's hoped that an additional grant may be available next winter to provide more lumber to help meet the communities housing needs.

In November, the M.M.F. and the Housing Committee foresaw possible technical problems in administering the project and approached the Rural Municipality of Siglunes for a hand. According to Reeve Art Hoffman, "The R.M. has been working with Vogar for the past four years now looking for winter employment for the men and helping out like that. When they came with this L.I.P. project, the council gave unanimous approval. Some people around here might still be a little skeptical, but the R.M. is willing to continue this support for another year if that'll help. Siglunes is administering the funds and providing the day to day, on the spot supervision but the Rural Development Counsellor from the Department of Agriculture had done a lot also. The main push for this whole project, though, I think came right directly from the people in Vogar. That's where the credit should go."



The next step after the 100,000 board feet have been milled and piled is to plane the lumber, pour footings and frame the houses. This phase of the project will be sponsored by the Interlake Manpower Corps. The Corps has been active in Vogar for the past two years with carpenter training projects. A Manpower Corps crew from Vogar was employed a year ago constructing veterinary clinics around the province and last year building M.H.R.C. homes at Ashern. Some of the Vogar residents have received adequate work experience training in the past two years to land good jobs on their own each spring. For those who haven't yet received any training or need further skill development, roughing in the ten houses this summer will provide them with further opportunity to learn the trade. The first Manpower Corps phase will start on June 15 when the poplar and spruce should be dry enough to run through the planer.

The planer has been borrowed from a local farmer and the sawmill that's presently in operation is being operated on a custom contract. The Vogar Housing Committee hopes to purchase their own equipment for next years operation. This year, costs of logging permits and running equipment is being shared equally by the families who will be receiving houses. It's estimated that the cost of lumber will run about 25 dollars per thousand board feet. To further cut costs, lumber will be used for sheeting walls, roofs and floors rather than plywood. An estimated 10,000 board feet of local lumber will go into each house.

The first Manpower Corps project will last about ten weeks and will terminate when the ten houses are roughed in. The next step depends upon securing further funds for windows, doors, shingles and wiring. The Vogar Housing Committee has approached C.M.H.C. and received indication that funds will likely be available to provide these materials if certain criteria are met.

The only hang up so far in the whole plan is the reoccurring issue of land ownership. The C.M.H.C. regulations require that a home owner either has title to his land or a long term lease. The people at Vogar only have renewable one year permits. In order for further federal loans or grants to be made available, the land on which Vogar sits will have to be converted to a long term lease or turned over to the individual residents of the village. The people at Vogar have expressed a strong desire to purchase the ground they live on. Preliminary talks with the Manitoba government have indicated that this may be legally possible and the final decision is up to the cabinet. When this technicality is straightened out, Vogar residents hope to get positive confirmation of funds from C.M.H.C.



Once funds and materials are available, phase two of the Manpower Corps involvement can begin. Electrical work and exterior finishing will be done by the same local Manpower Corps crew that put up the houses. The finishing phase will start in late August and the ten houses should be ready for winter by the time the first snow flies. The Manpower Corps will serve a dual purpose in Vogar this year by providing on the job training to ten residents and at the same time help the community with their housing project.

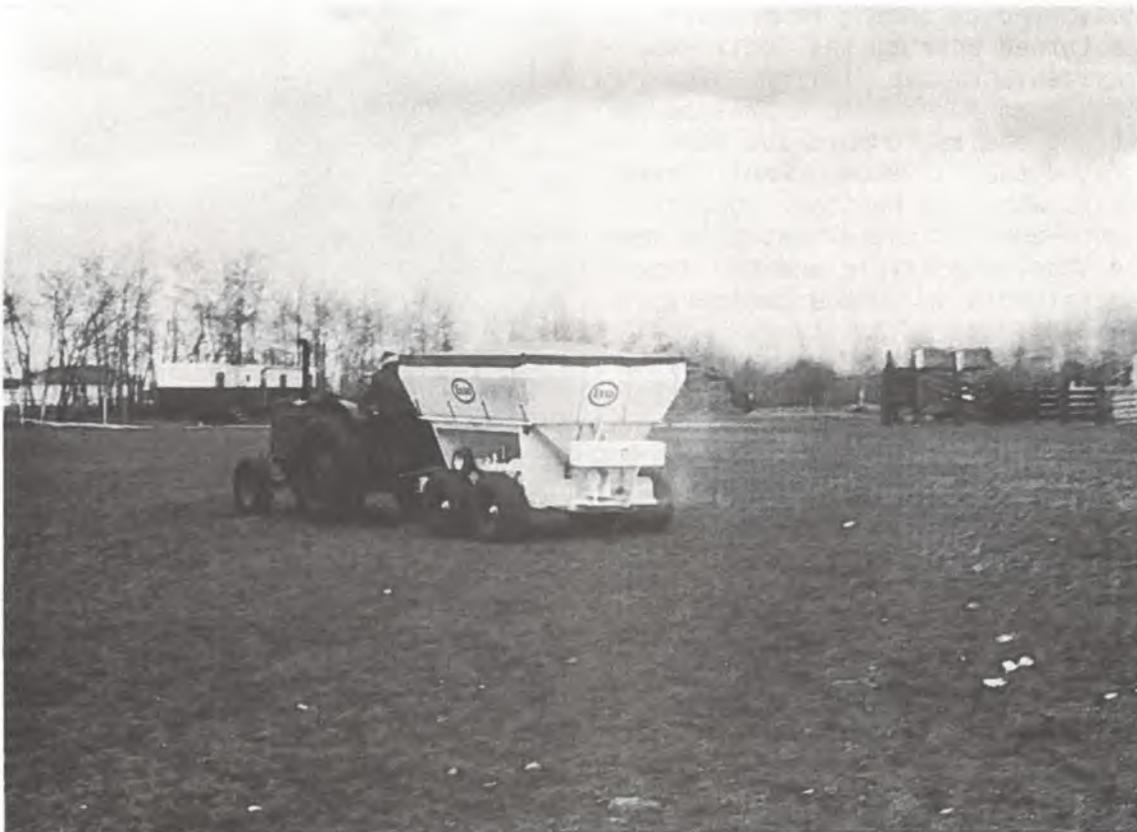
Each new home owner in addition to paying his share for the lumber, is also responsible for clearing the site, painting, landscaping, interior finishing and cabinetry. The Vogar housing project is a prime example of what can be accomplished with local initiative and coordination of outside help.

Grassland Society in Perspective

When the Interlake Grassland Society got off the ground and leased some land at Teulon back in August of 1971, their expressed purpose was simply to develop the most economical year round management system for producing finished beef from weaned calves.

Three and a half years ago, it would have been difficult to accurately predict today's beef situation. Nobody connected with the Grassland Society back then could have really foretold the increases in production costs or the drop in market prices.

Three and a half years later, the system that has evolved at the Teulon pasture may not only prove to be the most economical way for producing finished beef -- it may be the best available means for livestockmen to ride out the current squeeze and still stay in business. In 1974 the Interlake Grassland Society documented the fact that it is possible to put 300 pounds of gain on a steer at less than 20 cents per pound!



During the seedling year of 1972 the Teulon demonstration pasture produced beef at 21 cents per pound. The Society showed that it was possible to graze one head per 1 1/2 acre of Class IV land for over 120 days and still put on gains of 2.4 pounds a day. Ninety percent of the animals on the pasture graded A1 and A2 upon sale in October.



The following year provided a better opportunity to carry out the total year-round management cycle. The pasture managers had a better idea of how much more productivity they could expect out of the grass and they could gear the winter feed lot operation accordingly. The members brought their 85 steers into the feed lot in the fall of 1972 and watched them average one pound gain per day until spring. The feed ration was designed to grow out the frame of the animal and prepare it for quicker pasture gains throughout the summer. In the summer of 1973 the cattle averaged 1.8 pounds gain per day at an average 27 cents per pound. This cost per pound was more than the previous year because of a higher grain ratio being fed and the cost of three dead cattle averaged into the overall figures.

The third and final year of the Teulon Stocker demonstration probably gave farmers the most significant information in view of the developing market conditions. Grassland weight gains averaged 19 cents per pound in 1974!

In October of 1973, 50 farmers each volunteered two steer calves to be put in the Grassland Society feed lot. The steers were kept on a "growth ration" that prevented them from gaining more than one pound per day. This ration conditioned them for faster gains on the grass pasture the following summer.

The 136 acre demonstration pasture consists of two main paddocks, each with a different grass mixture. The straight grass mixture consisted of two pounds Brome grass, three pounds Intermediate Wheat grass, two pounds Timothy and four pounds Orchard Grass. The second mixture was identical except that three pounds per acre of Alfalfa was also seeded at the same time. These two mixtures allowed the Society to compare beef production from pure grass pasture and grass-alfalfa mixed pasture.

After two years of intensive grazing, Orchard Grass and Timothy are the predominant grass species. It was found that in the second paddock, heavy nitrogen application will increase the percentage of grass while heavy phosphate applications will increase the percentage of Alfalfa. Due to bloat problems, Alfalfa should not exceed 25 percent of a stand unless a bloat prevention treatment is used.

Rotational grazing was utilized during the first two summers to insure that the herds always had the best possible forage and also to allow each area of the pasture adequate time for recovery after being grazed. Because of the larger amount of time and labor required to carry out rotational grazing, the Society decided to employ a set stocking system for 1974.

The animals came out of the feed lot and onto the pasture at the end of May. Fifty steers were released onto the 45 acre straight grass pasture. Forty-nine steers were released onto the 45 acre grass-alfalfa pasture. Each group of cattle had access to it's entire pasture throughout the grazing season. The idea was to replace rotational grazing with regular fertilization. In this way the cattle could still be assured of having maximum forage, re-growth would still occur and less time and labor would be expended. The pastures were top dressed with nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium in the fall of 1973. Nitrogen was then applied three times during the 1974 grazing season.

<u>Straight Grass</u>				<u>Grass-Alfalfa</u>		
N	P	K		N	P	K
11	48	45	Fall "73	22	96	45
84	0	0	May "74	42	0	0
42	0	0	July "74	21	0	0
41	0	0	Aug. "74	20	0	0
178	48	45	TOTALS	105	96	45

As in 1973, the grass-alfalfa pasture yielded slightly higher gains. Beef on the grass-alfalfa pasture cost an average of 18 cents per pound of gain compared to 20 cents on the straight grass. However, it was necessary to keep the percentage of alfalfa down to only 20 percent of the stand to avoid repeating the 1973 bloat problem.

The Grassland Society steers were weighed off pasture in early October and marketed in three separate lots. The 70 head group of steers that were sold through the Marketing Branch of the Department of Agriculture probably received more publicity than any other cattle have for a long time.

The front quarters were exported to Israel for a special beef sales promotion. Israeli reaction to the grass fed meat was quite favourable. The hind quarters were marketed through the Hudson Bay Store in Winnipeg, and again the recorded reactions to the grass fed beef was good. Nearly half of the shipment graded A1 or A2. In addition to the special promotional 70 head shipment, 13 steers were marketed at St. Boniface and 16 steers were sold at the Inwood auction.

Average selling price for the 1974 Grassland Society herd was 42 cents per pound. When the years total costs, excluding labor and fixed costs, were added the Society lost seven cents per pound. These losses, caused by high calf prices in 1973 plus high interest rates and feed costs, were experienced by many livestock operators in 1974. Some operators suffered losses far in excess of seven cents per pound.

In 1974 the Interlake Grassland Society showed that the principle of raising beef on tame grass still holds up, especially in view of the present beef situation.

Stocker Deadline March 31st

Farmers who plan to keep stockers for another year and who still haven't applied for the Manitoba stocker program have until Monday, March 31 to make their application.

Under the program, a Farmer can receive a \$100 interest-free cash advance for each steer or heifer calf he keeps on the farm. The total number of calves eligible is 50, making \$5,000 the maximum interest-free advance that any farmer can get. Individuals intending to put calves other than their own on the program must complete the purchase no later than April 15.

The purpose of the program is to enable livestock producers to keep their calves and gamble on the future market rather than being forced to sell them at depressed prices. Full details are available at your Ag. Rep. office or from your M.A.C.C. agent.

Birds of Prey Protected



The Interlake has seen an apparent increase in the number of birds of prey in the past year. Hawks, Owls and Eagles are among the species that are presently becoming more plentiful in this region of the North American continent. Unfortunately, as the birds increase, reports of illegal shooting of these species are also increasing.

Conditions during the last breeding season, natural cycles, and the present abundance of mice, rodents and other feed supplies are only some of the factors that may be responsible for this upsurge in the bird populations. Hawks and Owls are increasing in number in most parts of the Interlake and Eagle sitings are becoming more frequent in the northern areas of the region and on Hecla Island.

Although the value and natural beauty of these birds cannot be recorded in statistics, most people who have observed them in their natural state agree that it would be a crime to do anything that might bring harm to these creatures of the air. The Manitoba government agrees that it is, indeed, a criminal offense to hunt, kill or capture any bird of prey in this province.

Under Section 26 of The Wildlife Act, anyone who takes a bird of prey may receive a penalty of a \$200 fine, or one month confinement, OR BOTH! This penalty applies not only to people shooting and retrieving the birds, but also to anyone illegally possessing one. If you do pick up a dead hawk or owl alongside the road, report it immediately to the nearest RCMP or Conservation Officer. If you attempt to keep the bird and have it mounted, you will be liable for prosecution under Section 26.

Mounting birds for private display purposes is also illegal according to the Wildlife Act. Taxidermists throughout the province have been notified that a permit is required to have any hawk or owl mounted. Permission to have protected birds mounted is granted only to persons specially authorized to collect them for educational purposes.

Hawks, Owls and Eagles form an integral part of Manitoba's balance of nature. These birds also add immensely to the natural beauty of the region we live in. Approach them with curiosity and a camera -- leave the gun at home.



Photos by Stephen J. Copen

Cow-Calves Take To The Grass

In 1975 the Interlake Grassland Society is expanding upon their three year stocker demonstration by carrying out a cow-calf demonstration at the Teulon pasture.

Four months from now, 25 members will each ship two cows with calves to Teulon for grazing on the tame grass. The objective is to obtain cost figures on bringing a bull calf from birth to weaning. Data collected from this cow-calf demonstration will be combined with the present data on wintering weaned calves and finishing them on managed pasture. The final result will give Interlake livestockmen a total picture of beef production based on the intensively managed pasture system. The cow-calf data is the only part of that managed pasture picture that the Society hasn't put together yet.

Approximately 100 cows with calves will come onto the 136 acre pasture in May and they will be rotationally grazed for a couple of weeks until all spring growth is established. They will then be grazed for the remainder of the summer using the set stocking system which was initiated last year. Under this system, each group of cattle will remain on, and be free to roam a large pasture area. Nitrogen will be applied three times throughout the grazing season to maintain proper regrowth and to make sure that the animals have the necessary forage. Fertilizer was also applied to the pasture last fall after the stockers were weighed off.

The pasture will remain divided into straight grass and grass-alfalfa paddocks for 1975. One cow-calf unit from each farmer will go onto the straight grass and the other cow-calf unit will go onto the grass-alfalfa mixture. In this way, the difference between the two pastures can be assessed on cattle from the same basic herd.

A new aspect of the demonstration is the soil testing that will be going on throughout the grazing season. Gerry Breakey, Interlake Grassland Specialist at Ashern, points out that testing the soil is the most accurate way to determine if you're under fertilizing and thus not obtaining full potential or if you're over fertilizing and wasting money. The Grassland Society will be keeping a careful record of the Nitrogen content in the soil at the Teulon pasture. Expected fertilization will be as follows:

<u>Straight Grass</u>				<u>Grass-Alfalfa</u>		
N	P	K		N	P	K
11	48	42	Fall "74	22	96	42
60	0	0	May "75	30	0	0
40	0	0	June "75	20	0	0
40	0	0	Aug. "75	20	0	0
151	48	42	TOTALS 1975 season	92	96	42

The grass-alfalfa only gets half as much nitrogen fertilizer as the straight grass. It's assumed that the legumes will naturally provide much of the needed Nitrogen.

With 50 cows and calves on the straight grass pasture and 50 cows and calves on the grass-alfalfa pasture, the Society is faced with the opportunity to carry out an additional side experiment. Half of the bull calves on the grass-alfalfa pasture will be castrated during the grazing season. Regular weighings from May through October will determine what affect this has on weight gains. Some Society members are predicting that the castrated calves will gain as much as 40 pounds more than the other calves. The results next fall should prove to be interesting.



The cow-calf demonstration that'll be carried out at the Teulon pasture this year will provide Grassland Society members with complete information covering everything from the birth of an animal through to finishing for market -- a total grassland management system.

Community Affairs Corner — *Bud Stupnisky*

Leadership In Rural Communities

Why is it that some rural communities are active while similar ones are discouraged? Why do some communities stay active for a number of years then slow down? What is it that puts the "spark" into some towns and not others?

A close look at your own area will tell you that the "spark" is really the quality of leadership that is provided by individuals in the community. The people who provide leadership are the citizens who have the ability to work effectively in their community. Most often, they possess some, or all, of the following characteristics:

- They know their own abilities and they have the confidence to use them.
- They know how to analyze a problem and how to get to work on it.
- They know how to keep a group of people together long enough to get a job done.
- They understand who in their community has influence and power, and they understand why those individuals are influential.
- They know how to motivate people and how to overcome apathy.
- They know how to handle red tape and when to cut it.
- They know how and where to get information.

These people were not born with leadership characteristics. In one way or another, over a period of time, they learned how to work with people and get things done in their communities. Whether they learned to be leaders in the military, 4-H, by running the family farm or business, in their church group or some other place, the important thing is that they learned to be leaders. Nearly every member of every community possesses leadership skills to a certain degree. Unfortunately not everyone uses these skills to the fullest extent.

If you would like to develop your leadership skills a little more, then you will be interested in the Rural Leadership Workshop planned for young Interlake residents. It will be held at Aspen Lodge, Gimli Industrial Park, April 2 - 4. Some of the leadership abilities that will be worked on include:

- Personal communication.
- Managing a meeting.
- Dealing frankly with conflict.

- Setting goals and making plans,
- Getting improvements and projects going in your community.
- Motivating people to participate.

The Workshop will combine short lectures with group and individual exercises, and will try to relate all learnings to back home situation.

If you are interested visit your local agricultural office and pick up a registration form. The Rural Counsellor there will also be able to give you more detailed information. You can also get a registration form by contacting Bud Stupnisky, Community Affairs Specialist, Box 2000, Arborg, Manitoba (Telephone 376-5212).

There is no tuition fee. Because accommodation and meals will be provided by the Community Affairs Program, participants are asked to register before the deadline which is Wednesday, March 26. If possible, try to get another member of your community to attend as well.

"We Did It Ourselves"

What does it take to build a modern "city style" bungalow when you live on an isolated island 150 miles north of Winnipeg and you don't quite have a "city-sized" income? That's a good question but a better question is what does it take when a whole community decides to do it!

That's exactly what the people at Mathison Island decided to do four years ago when Lake Winnipeg was closed to commercial fishing. How they did it is the subject of their movie "We Did It Ourselves".

Mayor Bill Bennett, the counsellors and other residents of the island explain how they bought their sawmill, pooled their time and energy and used every possible resource in order to obtain adequate housing for the village. The contrast between "what was" and "what is today" is enough to convince anyone of the merits of working together with your neighbor. The initiative and cooperation of the Mathison Islanders might possibly serve as an example for communities or groups who know what they need but aren't quite sure how to start getting it. The Mathison Island story shows how clear thinking can help a community get the most out of available resources, including government programs.

This fall the F.R.E.D. Administration, in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, went to the island to record on film the changes that have occurred at Mathison. The result is a 15 minute, black and white, 16 mm film entitled "We Did It Ourselves". A copy of the film is available for loan from the MDA Interlake Regional Office, Box 2000, Arborg or MDA Publications, 200 Vaughan Street, Winnipeg.

Grassland Society Moves To Ashern

To convert 250 acres of Class IV bushland into productive tame pasture in just two years time is the goal of the Interlake Grassland Society as they start their second major project.

With almost half of the Societies membership coming from the Northwest corner of the region, it seemed only fair that the second major demonstration pasture should be in that area. The chosen site is located west of Ashern on the Ralph Connor Grazing Co-operative pasture. The Ralph Connor Co-op is made up of a dozen members who lease 5,000 acres of Crown Land along the east shore of Lake Manitoba.



The bush work is presently underway and the cattle should be grazing good grass on this site by next year.

The land, only a stones throw from the shore, presently has a maximum carrying capacity of one head of beef per eleven acres. The Grassland Society feels that they can develop the capacity to a ratio of one head per acre. That's over ten times as many beef cattle on the same area of land and that means more efficient production in anyones books.

The objective of this new project is to demonstrate how a non productive piece of bush can be turned into a money making pasture in a relatively short time. Since the pasture is located on Crown Land, the Lands Branch of Agricultural Crown Lands is also using the project to gather information on the costs of land clearing and development. Crown Lands is paying the cost of clearing the land. When the work is done, they will compare their costs with the present land development grant structure to determine how realistic the \$50 per acre rate is.

The schedule for the project is set and if everything goes according to plan, the cattle will be grazing the new pasture by June of 1976. Knocking and piling of the bush will be completed this spring, the breaking, rock picking and final preparation of the soil will be done this summer and the seeding will be done next spring.

Although the Ralph Connor pasture was originally slated to be a cow-calf demonstration, the Society will likely watch the market trends over the next half year to determine whether a stocker project or a cow-calf project would be most appropriate. Whatever decision is reached, it seems likely that the information gained from the demonstration can at least give Interlake livestockmen a better picture of how to make the most out of efficiently managing their present pasture.



According to the plan the bush in the first photo will look like this by June next year. It's expected that the current grazing ratio of 11 acres per head will be cut down to one acre per head!

Ministers F.R.E.D. Advisory Board

Tuesday, January 28, 1975

According to the terms of the F.R.E.D. Agreement, the Minister of Agriculture meets annually with representatives from the ten Area Development Boards. The F.R.E.D. Advisory Board meeting is held to give Interlake residents a better opportunity to voice their concerns to the Minister and to suggest possible courses of action relevant to the Interlake situation. The Minister may respond immediately to matters of greatest concern while he may take other matters under consideration. Mr. Uskiw saw fit to address himself in detail to questions concerning the current state of Manitoba's beef and dairy industries and to explain the governments position on land ownership as it relates to the Land Lease Program and grazing leases.

In Attendance

The Honourable Samuel Uskiw

Minister of Agriculture

Mike Huewan, Fraserwood
Nick Huminicki, Winnipeg Beach
Emil Graboweski, Sandy Hook
Emanuel Schon, St. Laurent
Abe Giesbrecht, St. Laurent
Yves Kerbrat, St. Laurent
Lucy Lindell, Eriksdale
Einar Solmundson, Hecla Island
Stan Schofield, Selkirk
Walter Skrupski, Selkirk
Myrs Tretiak, Broad Valley
Peter Kalyta, Fisher Branch
James Greig, Balmoral
Gerry Palmer, Grosse Isle
Cec Phillips, Inwood
Joe Klym, Arborg
Dennis Kroeker, Riverton
P. O. Chummy Sigurdson, Lundar
Elizabeth Betke, Moosehorn

Gimli A.D.B.
Gimli A.D.B.
Gimli A.D.B.
St. Laurent A.D.B.
St. Laurent A.D.B.
St. Laurent A.D.B.
Eriksdale A.D.B.
Hecla Island A.D.B.
Selkirk A.D.B.
Selkirk A.D.B.
Fisher A.D.B.
Fisher A.D.B.
South Interlake A.D.B.
South Interlake A.D.B.
Central Interlake A.D.B.
Bifrost A.D.B.
Bifrost A.D.B.
Lundar A.D.B.
Camper-Gypsumville A.D.B.

Ted Poyser, Winnipeg
Al Watkins, Arborg
Ed Somers, Winnipeg
Bud Stupnisky, Arborg
Ron Lyseng, Gimli

Development and Analysis, D.R.E.E.
Regional Director, M.D.A.
Plans Analysis Officer, M.D.A.
Community Affairs Specialist, M.D.A.
Communications Specialist, M.D.A.

1. Gimli Area Development Board - Huminicki and Huewan
 - 1.1 The deteriorating state of the livestock industry is the major concern. Production costs and current prices will force livestockmen out of business.
 - 1.2 Drainage remains a problem. Provincial drain along P.R. #229 should be completed because many acres of nearby cropland are flooded almost every spring. Ten farmers couldn't get onto their land until mid-June.
 - 1.3 The forage seed assistance policy should be reinstated to help offset the high cost of grass seed.
 - 1.4 P.R. #229 between P.T.H. #7 and #8 receives heavy tourist traffic as does P.R. #222 north from Gimli. Both roads should be hard surfaced.
 - 1.5 Can the province provide 50 percent financial assistance for local drains?

Minister's Reply

The market is definitely bad and costs of production are going up. Many of the factors causing this situation cannot be controlled under our present system. Our best hope right now is that following a number of good livestock years, most producers will be able to cope with a couple of bad years with only a degree of public assistance. *"The Stocker Program is not designed to redress the financial situation, but it's designed to give people an option to gamble on the future market rather than being forced to sell now. Whether it's going to prove very beneficial, I think, remains to be seen. We look at it just as another tool for the farmer to use. Whether they use it or not is always entirely up to them!"* Another thing that the province is doing to aid livestockmen is eliminating the rent portion from Crown Land leases. The leasee will pay only that portion of the lease that goes to cover the local taxes. The province has also been holding inquiries into the beef industry and the results will soon be available.

2. St. Laurent Area Development Board - Schon, Giesbrecht and Kerbrat
 - 2.1 Livestock is considered to be the priority problem. It costs \$140 to bring a cow over the winter and calves are only averaging \$90 each. A \$50 per cow grant to cow calf operators would ease the situation.

- 2.2 Hog operators are feeling the squeeze as well and many are closing down their barns. Manitoba should follow the Saskatchewan example of instituting a 57 cent per pound floor price on hogs, (has been reduced to 49 cents).
- 2.3 The province should reinstate the grass seed policy because, with todays prices, it's impossible to put new land into forage.

Minister's Reply

Manitoba's cow calf operators have just recently organized and they don't seem to have their goals and objectives really clarified yet. *"One of their key spokesmen presented a brief to the committee of the legislature on land policy, knocking the hell out of government for getting involved in too many programs... The very next day the same individual was representing this group (cow calf operators) who said give us a \$100 per head subsidy. On the one hand you have the same individuals saying please don't interfere with our business and on the next breath, but give us a hundred bucks a head cause we're in trouble. But I suggested to them that I would like to know what it is they are going to do for themselves before I could indicate to them just what government is prepared to do for them. The \$100 per head proposal that they had would amount to 40 million dollars, and that, I told them, was completely unrealistic."*

"Income stabilization is a national responsibility. Provinces really shouldn't be in that kind of a program. They (cow calf operators) should be knocking on the doors of Ottawa for cash assistance which there is federal legislation for and which is used from time to time. To the extent that provinces get into these kinds of programs, it just takes the government of Canada off the hook financially. If the province of Manitoba subsidizes the production of cattle for export to eastern Canada, then the Manitoba taxpayer, in essence, is subsidizing food for Ontario and Quebec. The province is doing all it can to apply pressure to the federal government to assist cow calf operators. As I read their statements, the federal government is most receptive to doing something in the marketing area, if the producers wanted it done...very much interested in trying to stabilize agriculture. But they're not going to do things if the farmers themselves don't want them."

Further on the subject of public assistance or intervention in the beef industry: Rather than ask government to subsidize the costs of production by supplying bailing twine or barbed wire, producers can pool their resources or utilize existing co-operative situations to buy in bulk those items they need. *"You can't expect to have government intervene whenever you're in trouble without first developing a planned approach to production and marketing. Canadian cattlemen are not at all interested in organizing their own markets. In my view, they are their own worst enemy. You can't just ask the taxpayers to bail them out every time they're in trouble."* The same thing applies to hogs except that the hog industry isn't presently experiencing the same price panic. The fact remains that prices for Manitoba products are determined by the North American market and there's only so much that can be done on a provincial basis.

In response to the question of why consumers aren't gaining the benefits of low cattle prices, the Minister replied that our system necessitates a profit. You take the highest price the market gives and if you have some people in the system making a larger profit than others, you have to consider that you'd do the same thing in that situation. *"After all, who said there shouldn't be any profit?"*

3. Eriksdale Area Development Board - Lindell
- 3.1 Activities of the past and current year were reviewed including defensive driving, a proposed Community Development Fund, upgrading courses and G.E.D. tests.
- 3.2 Livestock is a concern. Where do heifers and holsteins go once the hide is off and who benefits from lower prices paid to farmers for these animals? Do consumers ever see it?
- 3.3 Another concern is the Crown Land Program. Why don't adjacent Crown Lands go along with a piece of private property when the vendor sells his own land?
- 3.4 The current rule requiring ten students to be present at each adult upgrading class session should be changed. The instructors grant should be based on the average number of students for each course to compensate for weather conditions which prevent students from attending every class.

Minister's Reply

Holsteins and heifers often show up in the meat market at normal prices. *"That is one of the reasons that we have asked the Inquiry Commission to go through the whole process so that they can explain to the public of Manitoba just what does take place between the farm gate and the consumer retail store."*

Crown Land Leases can not be automatically transferred when a land owner sells his own adjacent land. The crown, not the leasee, actually owns the land. Consequently it's the responsibility of the government, not the Vendor/leasee, to decide who should get the next lease on a specific piece of land. Any individual who personally profits by determining who his lease shall be transferred to is reaping a profit at the public expense. Individuals can make their profit by farming the publicly owned land, but not by dealing in publicly owned land. The new Agricultural Crown Lands policy says that the leases should be distributed according to need and a specific formula is used to objectively determine which applicant needs the land most. *"The Land Lease Program itself has been set up to facilitate young farmers staying on the farm. The purpose is to have more people out on the countryside rather than having larger ranches taking over the whole industry. We don't want one farmer in the Interlake, we want hundreds of farmers in the Interlake."*

Further on the subject of public ownership of land: *"There's nothing new about the crown leasing out land. We lease about 2 million acres a year and have for decades. We've had Crown Land Leases now since 1964 and long before then (since Crown Lands turn over, 1933) the crown has leased land to farmers."*

4. Hecla Island Area Development Board - Solmundson
- 4.1 The four mile road through the swamp which connects the causeway with the island should be rebuilt as it washes out and has to be repaired every year.
5. Selkirk Area Development Board - Skrupski and Schofield
- 5.1 The Selkirk Industrial Park facilities are ready for occupation but industry isn't responding. Can the government do more to promote new businesses coming into the park such as has been the case at Gimli.

- 5.2 The Marine Museum will be a tremendous tourist attraction and economic boom to the area when it's completed. There isn't enough capital available to buy the much needed Bradbury. The government could offer more encouragement and guidance in this project and perhaps more financial support.
- 5.3 There is a need for further development of camp grounds and public beaches in the Selkirk area.
- 5.4 An environmental buffer zone should be established around the town of Selkirk to prevent agricultural and industrial land uses from interfering with town life. A study of regional government or establishment of a regional planning commission in this regard could be helpful.
- 5.5 The average Canadian at age 30 is in the same physical condition as the average Swede at age 60. Better recreational and health facilities should be available to everyone.
- 5.6 The drainage ditch from Cloverdale Road to the Red River isn't functioning properly because the culvert under the C.P.R. Railroad still hasn't been installed.
- 5.7 The Garrison Diversion in North Dakota can have severe affects on many aspects of the Selkirk area and the government should take a larger role in this matter.
- 5.8 More should be done to protect and preserve wildlife from human destruction.
- 5.9 The town is doing what it can to clean up the sewage disposal system but financial considerations are slowing things down.

Minister's Reply

On the matter of the Selkirk Industrial Park, the Minister pointed out that the employment situation of Gimli, relative to that of Selkirk, has changed drastically. The Gimli situation necessitated a greater input in that town.

The environmental buffer zone would no doubt benefit some people in urban areas but it can also impose severe economic hardship on some other people. *"Representation is something you must guard jealously...If Winnipeg's outer zone carried halfway to Selkirk and Selkirk's outer zone carries halfway to Winnipeg the people in between have lost all control of their government."*

6. Fisher Area Development Board - Tretiak and Kalyta
- 6.1 The cow calf situation is of greatest concern.
- 6.2 More work should be done on the Icelandic River drainage system to carry the full amount of spring runoff. The government should also provide Local Government Districts with more funds for local drains.
- 6.3 Provincial Roads #16 south from Poplarfield and #228 down to Inwood should be upgraded and hardtopped in order to cut the Winnipeg trip down by 15 miles.
- 6.4 Campsites are needed along roads heading west and north out of Fisher Branch. The government should spend less money on subdividing cottage lots and more money on public campsites.
- 6.5 The Oak Point Road and P.T.H. #7 heading into Winnipeg requires a great deal of work. The proposed four lane should begin soon.
- 6.6 Since the Selkirk Whey Plant won't be completely self supporting by just processing whey, milk collection will also be necessary. The plant might take milk away from the Arborg cheese plant and may drive all eight creameries in the Interlake out of business. A lot of cream shippers don't want to convert to milk shipping.
- 6.7 Can the government do something to help ease the cost of twine situation?
- 6.8 There is concern that retiring farmers who sell their land to the government won't get the best possible price.
- 6.9 Both the Arborg and Hodgson rail lines are up for abandonment. The federal government should subsidize the existing lines rather than allow new lines to be built.
- 6.10 M.T.S. tolls should be eliminated for calls between the various communities in the area.

Minister's Reply

Before responding to the land price question, production costs and rail line abandonment, the Minister entered a lengthy discussion on dairy policy and the Selkirk Whey Plant. It was explained that environmental considerations first prompted discussion of a whey processing plant. If the provincial government hadn't taken the initiative in establishing a plant for disposing of dairy waste, the environmental commission could have clamped down on each of the separate plants such as Arborg's.

A second factor is that the plant could be versatile enough to also receive and process milk. Thirdly, the plant would eventually be turned over to the producers and the profit would be returned as a dividend to the producer. A fourth major factor in the decision was that the Interlake and Eastern regions both have a much larger capacity for dairy production and a processing plant would have to be established first before more farmers would consider going into dairy. *"The feasibility is based on 185 million pounds of whey and 35 million pounds of milk...The only way we will get that much whey is if Arborg increases their through put and other plants increase their through put. So it is tied to an increase of production in the existing plants."*

On the subject of retiring farmers selling their land to the government, the Minister replied that the vendor sells to the highest bidder, whether it's government or another farmer. The government can't offer prices above the current market price because such a move would drive surrounding land prices higher. The Minister then proceeded to explain that the Land Lease Program is simply an alternative way to facilitate the transfer of land from one farmer to another. The government will buy land that's for sale and lease it to a farmer who needs it. After five years the leasee has the option to buy the land from the Crown. *"We really aren't banking land. A person comes to us for land and we have to scan the area to find a parcel of land that's for sale, and maybe he's already picked it out. So we go in there and we negotiate a deal (with the designated vendor) and eventually he can buy it from us. So whether we continue owning it or not as a government, depends on whether he exercises his option to buy it. Or, if he thinks the rental arrangement is better for him, it's up to the individual. I personally like to own my own land, quite frankly. But for a lot of young people that have no money it's one way to stay in agriculture."*

On the subject of twine and rising production costs, the Minister responded, *"I don't think that it's necessary for government to become a distributor of any commodity. The facilities are there for you to do things for yourself. If you had a group of your own (co-op) you could probably contract ahead for twine and get a better price."* The Minister informed the boards that the provincial government is very much involved with the government of Canada on the matter of Branch line Abandonment. It is expected that the federal government will rationalize the railway system within the next two years.

7. South Interlake Area Development Board - Greig and Palmer
- 7.1 The board concurs with most of the concerns expressed by the other boards.
- 7.2 Expansion of Hutterite holdings and the higher prices that the colonies can pay for land is preventing other farmers from expanding their operations. Can the province do anything about this matter directly or else adapt the Land Lease Program to help alleviate the problem?
- 7.3 The Land Lease Program should be expanded to allow more farmers to take advantage of this management tool.

Minister's Reply

In response to the matter of expanding Hutterite holdings, the Minister replied, *"You can't legislate land ownership laws against any specific group. To say that because of the way in which certain people want to live that they have to be denied certain basic rights and privileges is stretching things quite a bit. That's discriminatory law. I would never sit in my chair as your representative recommending a discriminatory law because of the way people want to live. I think people should have a right to live as they wish to live, whether it's based on religion, tradition or whatever. The Land Lease Program in its present form can be used by farmers who need to expand their holding. However, the government can't bid above Hutterite bids or above the fair market price for a tract of land because that would make the government the price leader in land prices."*

In response to the suggestion that the Land Lease Program be expanded the Minister replied, *"I want to mention that we have within the Interlake area a resolution just contrary to that wherein the resignation of the Minister of Agriculture is asked for because members of the South Interlake Board feel that the province is attempting to take over agriculture. It might be worthwhile to find out from the South Interlake group just what the thinking was at the time of the passing of that resolution. The message we're getting here today is just the opposite."*

(At this point representatives from the South Interlake Area Development Board explained that the board had since undergone a change of executive. On the night the resolution was passed "There was a great deal of emotion and not too many people thinking. The board has since discussed some of the other problems and has not discussed the original letter or reply.")

In response to the idea that the eligibility guidelines should be raised from \$60,000 to \$160,000, the Minister said, "The program is not for the person that can borrow money. The person that can borrow mortgage money and buy his land doesn't have to come into this program. This program is for the young fellow that doesn't have any means of borrowing money, or for a guy that's already up to here in debt and he cannot get a hold of any more money. We may have to change that \$60,000 net assets limitation because of the increased values. But you really don't need the program if you've got clear assets of \$160,000. What you're really telling me is that no one then should bother mortgaging or buying land, they should rent it all, even the biggest operators. But alright, if that's how your board feels now, why don't you send me a resolution from your board telling me that we should make this program available for people that have assets greater than \$60,000. It might help me change the program if you feel it's not adequate."

8. Central Interlake Area Development Board - Phillips

- 8.1 P.R. #228 should be rebuilt to open up east-west transportation links and also to allow the lime quarry to reopen.
- 8.2 Other concerns of the board were similiar to those expressed by the other boards.

9. Bifrost Area Development Board - Klym and Kroeker

- 9.1 The Farm Machinery Act is abused by the manufacturers, parts warehouses and dealers in Winnipeg and the rural areas.
- 9.2 An additional grant is needed for the weed control district to hire an enforcement officer to carry out the Noxious Weed Act.
- 9.3 The Icelandic River may be above its carrying capacity. Is there any alternative means for draining water into Lake Winnipeg.
- 9.4 In the last year 18 milk shippers have switched from Arborg to Winnipeg.
- 9.5 Ducks are ruining crops and the insurance isn't always adequate. Can farmers be permitted to shoot ducks that are molesting their crops?

10. Lundar Area Development Board - Sigurdson
- 10.1 The board reported on their current activities including the low income housing survey, swimming classes, dental clinic, effects of the Garrison Diversion, the goose statue and adult education.
- 10.2 The board is concerned with the low prices being received for beef cattle; especially for those farmers who have obtained large Farm Credit loans to purchase farms and livestock.
- 10.3 More land should be improved through bush clearing and drainage.
- 10.4 Forage supplies vary greatly from year to year because of the drainage situation. A drainage district should be formed to include parts of St. Laurent, Coldwell, Armstrong and Eriksdale.
- 10.5 Tent caterpillars should be controlled if possible.
- 10.6 Another concern is the lack of local employment opportunities for young people graduating from high school.
- 10.7 Improvements and extension of Lundar Beach should continue and a public beach should be considered at Long Point.
- 10.8 The forage seed policy should be brought back in.
- 10.9 P.R. #511 east from Oak Point should be improved.

Minister's Reply

On the question of Tent Caterpillars, the Minister pointed out that the Department of Agriculture was coordinating the spraying of farm yards and residential areas. He noted that this was not a government program, but merely a means to facilitate the spraying. Each farmer is still responsible for paying three dollars per acre.

11. Camper-Gypsumville Area Development Board - Betke
- 11.1 The main concern of the board is the capital costs for gyms, community centres and recreational equipment. There is enough volunteer labor to run recreational programs, but not enough facilities.

I.D.C. Meets

Meeting of December 12 at Gimli.

The meeting was held at the Industrial Park and started in the afternoon with a guided tour and general explanation of the Saunders Aircraft operation. Reg Kersey, President of Saunders Aircraft Ltd. outlined the companies history and detailed plans for future expansion. The firm is presently in the process of tooling up to produce new aircraft from scratch. The last of the lengthened and remodled ST27 aircraft are coming off the assembly line and the first of the all new planes should be ready by mid-year. It's expected that the ST-27B can be licensed for sale in the United States. Approximately 60 percent of the 500 employees come from the Interlake. When the plant reaches full potential it will employ 1000 workers. Mr. Kersey pointed out that personnel are already finding it difficult to get suitable housing in the area and he hoped the people in Gimli would take appropriate steps to correct this problem.

Colonel Jim Dunlop, resident Manager of the Gimli Industrial Park, addressed the meeting and gave a brief summary of the varied operations carried out in the park. At present 821 persons are employed on the former air base and that number could almost double in the next few years. Activities on the park range from building and maintaining aircraft, to training railroad engineers, to curling, swimming and automobile racing. Mr. Dunlop predicted that the overall park operation will reach the break even point in 1975 and will probably realize a profit for the government. He added that the housing shortage in the area is a key issue. (Colonel Dunlop had been Base Commander at Gimli before the base had been closed down.)

Carol Erlendson reported that the Interlake Recreation Council had done a good job of preparing for the Centennial Games. Suggested projects for the new year include supporting a regional crafts co-op, cross-country ski championships, an Interlake Snowmobile Rally, arts and crafts show, talent contest, Interlake Recreation Conference, Leadership Training Events and producing a newsletter.

Ken Reid expressed regret that Brian Johnston, Interlake Recreation Director for the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, would be leaving. He explained that Brian had been the moving force behind the Recreation Council but he was moving west to start his own recreation consultant business.

It's hoped that small businesses in the Gimli and Winnipeg Beach area will take advantage of the Community Management Development Program which will begin soon. This business consultation program, which costs Industry and Commerce \$350 per client, is available for only \$25 and generally produces increased revenue for businesses through better management practices.

On the subject of Railway Branchline Abandonment, it was reported that the task force wouldn't take their next step until they saw what action the railways would take when the federal government lifts the freeze on railroad rates and branchline abandonment.

On the Garrison Diversion matter, the corporation has received the second annual report of the Manitoba Environmental Council. (Copies available from Box 139, 139 Tuxedo Avenue, Winnipeg.) Unless the U.S.A. comes forward soon with an acceptable alternative to their present plan of routing the overflow waters from this project into the Souris and Red Rivers, the Canadian Wildlife Federation intends to take the issue into the courts.

The annual meeting of the Interlake Development Corporation is to be held on Thursday, February 20 at Teulon.

Operation Access, a two day seminar, will be held in Winnipeg in February to let Westerners know what goods the federal and provincial governments need to purchase and how to obtain a greater share of this market. At the present time, Western Provinces sell only 12 percent of the goods which the federal government buys.

The Manitoba group of the Woods and Water Scenic Route Association has approached the Winnipeg Chambers of Commerce, requesting their support for this tourist concept.

The Task Force on Tourist Associations in Manitoba met with the Minister on December 12. Joe Sigurdson reported that the task force cited the Interlake as a fine example of how regional groups could work together. It is still hoped that a way will be found to keep the Interlake Tourist Association alive and functioning.

Some of the directors expressed strong concern over the abuse of native hunting privileges, particularly jacklighting, and requested that the manager take this matter up with the Attorney General of Canada and report to the next meeting of the board.

The subject of low return for beef to the producer and high costs of beef for the consumer was brought up again. It is understood that the low prices are related to the surplus, but the meeting was very concerned that these prices were in no way reflected in the stores. Ed Somers, FRED Administration, MDA, suggested that the Corporation present the case for the Interlake beef producers before the Manitoba Food Prices Review Board, which is currently holding meetings in the province.

Al Watkins, Interlake Regional Director, MDA, has suggested to the Corporation that the two agencies cosponsor regional meetings between professors from the Agricultural Department of the university and senior high school students. The board felt that at least two of these meetings would have to be held in order that students from the entire region could participate.

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The January 23 meeting was held at Grosse Isle.

The Interlake Recreation Council will hold a regional recreation conference on March 24. The Council hopes that by that time they will have full representation from all towns, R.M.'s and L.G.D.'s.

On the matter of Railway Branchline Abandonment, there were indications that certain elevator companies want to close down some Interlake elevators, "and that there is a sort of quiet agreement between the elevators and the railways to allow gradual deterioration and eventual abandonment."

Correspondence on the Garrison Diversion Project is continuing with External Affairs. Further discussions between Canada and the United States are continuing. "Some observers feel that the U.S. Department of the Interior intends to delay any concrete agreement between the U.S. and Canada until the Garrison Project has proceeded so far that it will be prohibitively expensive to change to any alternative plan. The U.S. State Department has asked that the project be halted, but their request has been ignored by the Department of the Interior."

Joe Sigurdson reported that the Tourist Branch is aware of the financial problems faced by the regional Tourist Associations and that some financial assistance should be forthcoming. The Interlake Tourist Association will be holding their annual meeting just prior to the Corporations meeting on February 20 at Teulon.

A letter was received from the Fisher Area Development Board requesting a study on the feasibility of an alfalfa processing plant in the area.

A Wild Oat Seminar will be held at Teulon on Friday, March 14 to make farmers more aware of the economic loss caused by Wild Oats. The Corporation will cosponsor the seminar with the Department of Agriculture.

Operation Access -- How To Do Business With Governments -- will be held at the new Convention Centre in Winnipeg on February 26 and 27.

Gerry Palmer, newly elected Chairman of the South Interlake Area Development Board, addressed the meeting explaining that the board is currently working to establish a veterinary clinic to serve Rosser, Woodlands, Rockwood and Stonewall.

The prospect of holding the 1979 Winter Games in the Selkirk area was discussed and it was agreed that this would be a tremendous boost for the whole Interlake but it would require considerable effort by everyone.

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The annual meeting was held at the Rockwood Centennial Centre in Teulon on February 20.

In the proposed program for the upcoming year the corporation agreed to concentrate on the following ten areas of concern:

1. Work closely with the Department of Agriculture to endeavor to improve the agricultural economy.
2. Work to develop better communities with good health, education, housing and water facilities.
3. Conduct a survey on present and future housing needs.
4. Work to aid expansion of industry.
5. Work to increase tourism and recreational activity in the region through better facilities and promotion.
6. Continue the task force on rail line abandonment.
7. The task force committee on the Garrison Diversion Project will continue their work and will do all in their power to get this project in its present form halted.
8. Continue cooperation and communication with various levels of other government departments and other organizations within the region.
9. Appoint task forces to examine other concerns.
10. Encourage individual communities to seek out their own industries.

Proposed 1975 budget is \$46,380.

The resignation of Dr. Baldur Kristjanson as ex-officio director was accepted and Dr. Helgi Austman, Assistant Deputy Minister, MDA, was appointed to fill the chair. Dougie Barr (MDA), Ted Dupley (Industry and Commerce), Ed Somers (FRED) and Herb Schultz (DREE) will remain on as ex-officio directors.

The Interlake Tourist Association will hold a meeting on April 10th at Teulon to determine for sure their future course of action. It was noted that last summers Interlake Travel Week did a lot to increase Winnipeg awareness of the region.

Other matters dealt with included the fact that well drillers aren't included in industrial employment surveys and too much bush clearing may be going on in some areas which is wasting wood that future generations may need for cooking and heating. The possibility of establishing an industry to utilize used oil was discussed and it was revealed that the fish ladder at the Fairford Dam was again postponed. A question was brought forth as to why gas stations couldn't put signs up along the Highway advertising their free washrooms.

During the informal part of the meeting the corporation heard briefly from Dr. Helgi Austman (Assistant Deputy Minister, MDA), Stewart Webb (Director of Regional Development, Industry and Commerce), Herb Schultz (DREE), R. G. Davis (Industry, Trade and Commerce), H. A. Jonasson (Assistant Fire Commissioner, Labor), Norman Peterson (C.M.H.C.), Dave Gallagher (Municipal Planning Branch, Municipal Affairs) and A. A. Watkins (Regional Director, MDA).

Following the reception and dinner, the meeting heard guest speaker Dr. J. C. Gilson, Vice-President of the University of Manitoba. Dr. Gilson talked about the steadily increasing farm income within the region which generates additional income in the trading centres. He commented that the Interlake has the potential of developing a major outdoor recreational industry. He also cautioned that in attempting to attract industry to the Interlake, it was necessary to be careful and realistic in assessing the long run viability of the industry. Dr. Gilson also quoted the results of a study which showed that: For an increase in crop sales of one million dollars, the area will experience an actual income increase of \$381,000 and 12 new jobs will be created. An increase of one million dollars sales in livestock will result in \$353,000 increase for area income and 11 new jobs. A one million dollar increase in the regions tourist industry will generate 43 new jobs and \$251,000 addition income. Dr. Gilson pointed out that these figures show clearly that agriculture and recreation-tourist type activities have great potential for the Interlake and the I.D.C. should emphasize its work in these areas.

Around The Boards

Camper - Gypsumville

The December 13 meeting was held at the Alf Cuthbert School in Moosehorn.

The board is in full agreement with the proposed exchange trip to New Brunswick. The St. Martin Community Club require a grant for caretaking costs of the skating rink. The board will be represented at the next Grahamdale LGD local meeting to discuss the proposed landing strip in the Camper-Gypsumville area.

The board moved to protest the disgusting content of the programming on CBC-TV noting that there are no alternative stations in the area.

Information is required concerning instructor fees for a pottery course, grants for skating rinks, grant to renovate the Moosehorn Handicraft Centre. The board also moved that P.R. #239 from P.T.H. #6 into Steep Rock be upgraded.

The February 12 meeting was attended by J. Kebel, J. Sveinson, C. Hornby, M. Rawluk, Wm. Gabbs, J. Kolomaya, A. Rawluk, Mrs. E. Betke, John Sanders (MDA) and Bob Smith (MDA).

Grants for adult education instructors were reviewed. The Vocational Branch of the Department of Education provides an instructor grant of four dollars per hour for a wide variety of courses. Red River Community College offers other courses that do not duplicate courses from the Vocational Branch. The Department of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs offers an instructor grant of five dollars per hour for arts and crafts courses.

The board will send a letter to the Minister of Highways protesting the condition of highways #513 and #239. The board will also write to the Department of Fisheries inquiring about the construction date for the Fairford Dam fish ladder.

Cake decorating courses will be held in Moosehorn and Gypsumville. A request from the Moosehorn Student Council requesting assistance in purchasing cross country skis was tabled for the next meeting.

Central Interlake

The first meeting of the season was held on November 28 and was attended by Jim Whittington, McDonald, Dwornick, Axelson, Campbell, Lindgren, Dzedzic, Kletke, Phillips, Holland, Ernie Hochleitner, Walter Hradowy and Otto Penner (MDA),

The past years flooding was discussed and possible preventative action was suggested. Otto Penner explained what the Department of Agriculture could do to compensate those who had been affected by the flooding. The board passed a resolution urging the government to assist farmers to reseed those areas flooded out last spring.

Jim Whittington resigned as board chairman and Cecil Phillips was unanimously voted to be the new chairman. Bruce Dwornick is the new vice-chairman.

A committee was appointed to investigate means of carrying out a clean-up and anti-litter campaign.

Fisher

The October 28 meeting at Chatfield was attended by Metro Kempa, Mrs. Kampa, Mike Ledohowski, Mrs. Ledohowski, Joe Mazur, Mrs. Mazur, Myrs Tretiak, John Jaremy, Ray Pearson, Peter Kalyta, Ernie Rindal, Rick Klimack (MDA) and Bud Stupnisky (MDA).

Bud Stupnisky elaborated on the exchange trip between the Interlake Area Development Boards and the Northern Regional Development Council, New Brunswick. The board voted to participate in the trip.

The board discussed future programs including senior citizen housing, R.E.A.P., A.D.B. workshops, a leadership laboratory and Crown Lands policy. The board invited M. Thompson, Area II drainage engineer, to the next meeting to discuss future drainage programs.

The December meeting was attended by Myrs Tretiak, Peter Kalyta, Mike Ledohowski, J. Lindal, Ray Pearson, Mike Stadnychuk, Dmytro Kempa, Ernie Rindall, Robert Holowka, Leonard Payment, Morris Hnatiuk, Ed Senkow (MDA) and Rick Klimack (MDA).

There was a lengthy discussion on the beef problem and Robert Holowka of the Cow Calf Producers Inc. reported on their recent meeting with the Minister of Agriculture. The main proposals presented to the Minister were deferral of capital and interest payments on cattle loans, reduction of Crown Land leases and the exclusion of feedlot cattle from the formula used in calculating Crown Land lease rates.

The board voted to support the efforts to stop the Garrison Diversion by contributing to the Prairie Environmental Defense League.

The board will approach the Interlake Development Corporation regarding studying the feasibility of an alfalfa processing plant in the area.

The February 25 and 26 Operation Access program was discussed and it was indicated that top level representatives from provincial and federal governments would explain how government purchasing operates and how Western businesses can take better advantage of it.

Gimli

The January 21 meeting was attended by Oli Narfason, Emil Graboweski, Mike Huewan, Adam Franz, Nick Huminicki, Peter Capar and Ian Menzies (Youth Secretariat).

Mr. Huminicki contacted Mr. Connors from McGregor Drugs at Winnipeg Beach and received \$100 to cover the cost of 100 copies of Land In The Middle which had been left with the late Mr. McGregor.

It was noted that the MDA Regional Office had moved from the Gimli Industrial Park to Arborg. The board moved to renew their subscription to Hansard.

Board members attended the December 12 I.D.C. meeting at the Industrial Park and toured Saunders Aircraft. "Various allegations and other aspects of the plant were heard and discussed but due to a lack of any concrete evidence there were no motions or suggestions made."

"The letter from the Hon. Minister of Agriculture Eugene Whelan, was read. In the acknowledged receipt of the letter and according to him, he is still waiting for the original petition. He expressed his concern but didn't agree with such generalities and innuendo as, 'hand agriculture to corporate interests' and 'subtle squeeze plays' used to 'get more farmers out'.

It was reported that the proposed Regional Crafts Co-op was going ahead.

A letter from the Gimli Womans Institute regarding the Garrison Diversion Project was read and concurred with.

"The letter from the Interlake South Area Development Board was read. It was pointed out that it was too late to act on it especially in view of the fact that the Premier had already replied to it in the last edition of the Interlake FLYER."

Mr. Menzies addressed the meeting explaining that the Youth Secretariat, in affiliation with the Department of Education had a program to provide employment for those students who would otherwise leave school because of a lack of funds. Need for the program in the Gimli area was being considered.

Concerns to be brought to the Minister at the annual meeting include local drains, Grass Seed Assistance, Labor for Agriculture, paving of P.R. #222 and #229, livestock assistance and the matter that "farm ownership must remain in the hands of the farmer and the owner and not the government".

Lundar

The December 11 meeting was attended by P. O. Sigurdson, H. B. Backman, Joe Sigurdson, Fred Kell, Paul Palsson, John Nikkel and John Corbey (MDA).

Low income housing was discussed and it was felt that the board take action to obtain signed applications for tenancy, which is a pre-requisite to establishing this type of housing. The board voted to engage someone to canvass the district for potential applicants.

Paul Palsson suggested that a Mechanics Course should be held in the area to assist school drop-outs.

The January 15 meeting was attended by P. O. Sigurdson, H. B. Backman, J. S. Sigurdson, Paul Palsson, Fred Kell, John Nikkel, and John Corbey (MDA).

Thirteen low-income housing surveys have been completed and returned. A permit has been obtained from Highways Department to erect a structure within a controlled area.

Paul Palsson reported that a business management course for ladies of the Lundar area was to be held soon. This would be sponsored by Canada Manpower. The possibility of a upgrading course is going to be investigated. Medical facilities and care homes were discussed at length.

St. Laurent

The December 9 meeting was attended by Emanuel Schon, Abe Giesbrecht, Ken Lang, Ray Bernard, Lil Fontaine, Shirley Lang, Susan Buhler, John Gratton, Wilf Chartrand, Mike Shpak, Yves Kerbrat and Peter Buhler.

There are still fears that the arena will place extra burdens on the tax payer. The board agreed that this should not be the case. The canvassing campaign should still be carried out.

An advanced welding course will be offered during February. Mr. Schon reported on the Hog Marketing Boards annual meeting in Brandon and Mr. Bernard reported on a recent Cow Calf operators meeting at Oak Point.

The January 13 meeting was attended by Emanuel Schon, Peter Buhler, Susan Buhler, Shirley Lang, Ken Lang, Ray Bernard, Lil Fontaine, Jack Gratton, Wilf Chartrand, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Dumont, Mrs. Lavalley, Mrs. Lambert and John Corbey (MDA).

Mr. Schon is going to fly to Mexico to investigate purchasing baler twine. The canvassing for arena funds may be carried out in the spring. A plan is being studied whereby an addition to the school could house a new gym and arena.

Matters to be brought before the Minister at the annual meeting include reinstating the grass seed policy, floor price for hogs and a subsidy for cow calf operators.

Beach dwellers at St. Laurent are opposed to having signs indicating the location of public beaches even though the beaches are, in fact, public.

The January 27 meeting was attended by Emanuel Schon, Lilian Fontaine, Ken Lang, Shirley Lang, Ray Bernard, Wilf Chartrand, Mike Shpak, John Gratton and Abe Giesbrecht.

On the matter of purchasing twine in Mexico, Mr. Schon was awaiting confirmation that he could buy it at \$15 per bundle with \$2 per bundle for transportation. Mr. Schon will fly to Mexico to make sure that the twine is of good quality and to complete the financial transaction.

The board will again sponsor some courses and if there aren't enough applicants from within the R.M. then people from outside who have requested course entrance will be admitted.

A private phone line will be arranged for so that people can have a better chance of getting Mr. Schon as the line at the Killing plant is often busy.

A brief will be presented to the Minister of Agriculture outlining some of the problems facing farmers in the St. Laurent area. The grass seed policy should be reinstated and the government should provide some assistance to cow calf operators and hog producers.

The February 10 meeting was attended by Emanuel Schon, Abe Giesbrecht, Ray Bernard, Ken Lang, Shirley Lang, Lilian Fontaine, Mike Shpak, W. Chartrand and P. Buhler.

Representatives met with the Minister on January 28 and discussed support for cow calf operators, beef prices, hog support program, grass seed program, Crown Land rentals and government land acquisition.

A sod seeding machine will be in the area during seeding time and people wishing to use the machine should submit their names to the agricultural committee.

The Community Affairs program is sponsoring two Rural Leadership Workshops for the Interlake. The first workshop will be held from February 28 to March 2 and is open to all residents. The April 2 - 4 workshop is specifically designed for young Interlakers in the age group 18 - 25.

"Operation Access", or How to Do Business With Government, will be held on February 25 and 26 at the new convention centre in Winnipeg.

A letter was received from the Central Interlake Development Board seeking support for a resolution to obtain funds for reseeding flood stricken grasslands. Hogs must be marketed through the Hog Marketing Board in order to qualify for the \$5 per head grant.

The arena committee and the school board are working on a plan to put the new arena adjacent to the school.

Housing was discussed and the feasibility of a Co-op housing program looks good.

The board discussed a Conversational French course for people in the area.

Selkirk

The November 26 meeting was attended by D. Pruden, B. Stemken, D. McKenzie, L. Soverin, P. Pearse, E. Arndt, L. Macklin, K. Wait, G. Howard, W. Regehr, W. Nesar, S. Schofield and the Honourable Howard Pawley.

The Marine Museum and purchase of the M.S. Bradbury was discussed at length. The provincial government will advance two thousand dollars as a down payment on the Bradbury. The National Museum Board cannot grant the Marine Museum any funds, However. Local municipal councils will be approached for financial assistance.

The Honourable Howard Pawley spoke to the board on Regional Government Planning as a means to rationalization of public services. He stated that there is definite resistance by the local councils to planning on a regional basis, but this is the only means to stop some of the best of our farmlands being turned into residential areas. These subdivisions with individual sewage systems could eventually pollute the water supply in these areas. Mr. Pawley suggested that if the R.M. of St. Andrews, the R.M. of St. Clements and the town of Selkirk agreed to a regional planning scheme, they would have the whole hearted support of the provincial government. He mentioned that one good set of recreational facilities in an area like the Selkirk district could be more useful and economical than three smaller sets of recreational facilities.

Percy Pearse suggested that all members present discuss the regional planning issue with their organizations so the matter could be brought up at a future meeting.

South Interlake

The December 9 meeting was attended by Gerry Palmer, B. Marcus, L. Grandmont, E. Peltz, J. Senkew, R. Tully, J. Riddel, J. Whitehead, J. Lillebo, W. Yule, and Maureen Schwanke (Argus).

A letter is to be sent to MDA Regional Director A. A. Watkins pointing out that letters sent to various government representatives often receive no reply.

A letter is to be sent to the Honourable John Gottfried inviting him to the next meeting to discuss P.T.H. #7, sewer and water for senior citizens, P.T.H. #236 and conversion of the Stonewall Post Office into a library.

There is no regular bus depot service in Stonewall. Further letters are to be sent to Grey Goose Bus Lines and Bud Stupnisky to explain the situation in detail.

More information is available on the program providing for training assistance to employees. The wage assistance may be as high as 80 percent if the person is handicapped.

The board will approach Rosser, Rockwood and Woodlands concerning veterinary clinics in the area.

There is a waiting list of people wanting to take the meat cutting course that was started this winter. Harold Ross has heard from other areas that would like this same course. The board will pay one third of the tuition fee plus hall rental for the course at Grosse Isle and Lake Francis. Plumbing, car maintenance and Rural Water Services courses are being looked into.

The January 13 meeting was attended by Gerry Palmer, J. Whitehead, J. Greig, R. Tully, W. Yule, J. Senkiw, B. Marcus, J. Lillebo, Dr. J. McPhedran (Veterinary Services Branch, MDA) and Maureen Schwanke (Argus).

Dr. McPhedran outlined the Veterinary Services Program and distributed information about it. It was felt that a meeting with the Councils of Woodlands, Rockwood, Rosser and Stonewall and Dr. McPhedran would be beneficial and steps will be taken to facilitate this meeting. A resolution was passed to be sent to local governments in the area.

The STEP Program will be carried out again this year with a few changes. No mileage will be paid and farmers will sign time sheets to assure a full eight hours of work each day.

Two Rural Leadership Courses will be held at Gimli this winter. The February 28th course is open to all residents and the April Course will be open to Interlake Youth.

Terry Holovach reported that only 35 people had taken out loans on the Stocker Program.

The meat cutting course for Argyle has been set up for January 20 and 27. The Lake Francis course will be held on January 22 and 29. A course is being considered for Marquette. An auto maintenance course is still being looked into and a Parliamentary Procedure may also be considered. Information should also be available for a plumbing course before the next meeting.

The board passed a resolution urging the provincial government to make a grant available to the Stonewall Veterinary Clinic so that adequate extra help could be hired at times of high demand.

The February 10 meeting was attended by John Whitehead, Reg Tully, Wayne Yule, John Senkiw, Joan Lillebo, Gerry Palmer, Alan Beachell, Bob Marcus, Jim Greig, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Elliot and Maureen Schwanke (Stonewall Argus).

The possibility is being investigated of having a Senior Citizens group handle some of the functions of a bus depot.

No instructor is available for the plumbing course but a course on the metric system will be offered next fall. A one evening course in meeting management will also be sponsored in March with Dr. Nebitt conducting the session. A course in farm law was also suggested by Harold Ross and the board moved to contact two possible instructors. The Auto Maintenance Course will have to be held next fall as no instructors are immediately available.

The board briefly discussed the Rural Leadership Workshop to be held on April 2 - 4 as well as the proposed New Brunswick exchange program. A letter was read from MDA Interlake Regional Director A. A. Watkins concerning communication between the board and government officials suggesting that the board make requests through the Rural Development Counsellor.

A letter was received from Highways Minister Peter Burtniak replying that nothing could be done with regards to Driver Testing at the present but the resolution would be filed.

J. Greig and G. Palmer gave a brief report on their meeting with the Minister stating that it was a good meeting.



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