

Bayham plans extensive road work

J. L. Dennis, reeve of Bayham, reports that a year-long roads study had been completed and plans are being made for implementing improvements.

One of the jobs will be done in three stages, each taking a year. This is the straightening of the road across the Big Otter that joins Talbot Road to the Culloden Road. It is a well used road in summer as people from Ingersoll area travel to the park at Port Burwell and is also the shortest route for the fire truck to reach the northern part of the township. The present bridge is not strong enough to carry the fire truck.

This year the council hopes to have the engineering completed and land bought for the project. The bridge will be similar to the one on the Carson road west of New England.

The council also plans to pave a portion of the streets in Straffordville, beginning at No. 19 Highway, east along First Street and south to Talbot, across to Main Street and west again to No. 19. This is to be a heavy hot mix pavement.

The Second Concession from Vienna to the Malahide township line is to be made into a first class road. This will involve rebuilding the roadbed, ditching, building culverts where needed, and applying a heavy coat of gravel to a depth of six or eight inches.

The portion of the Third Concession from Lot 21 to the

Houghton township line is also to be rebuilt.

The reeve said that there are plans to gravel other roads during 1974 as a result of the needs study and an increased grant for road purposes.

He noted that the township has been repaid a sum from the county because of an over-payment in past years. This with the increased grants, he said, should make it possible to do the work with very little addition to the mill rate.

The township has an agreement with the Ontario Water Resources Commission to make a study of the possibility of extending the water pipe line from the corner of Lot 10 on the First Concession across to No. 19 Highway and then north. A group of householders along the highway have requested the water service, the reeve said.

Reeve Dennis noted that people who live along the present pipe line can have the water service simply by making application for it. They could buy water from the OWRC, he said, far cheaper than they now buy it from private suppliers.

The reeve mentioned the possible extension of a 12 inch water main from the point on the First Concession north to Vienna and possibly to Straffordville. He speculated that for Eden and points further north it might be better to bring water from

Tillsonburg, but he has no definite plans on this matter.

The council has plans to build more garage facilities at Straffordville when the acquisition of land has been completed. The reeve noted that the township has received delivery of a new pickup truck and a new Case front end loader. Both are '74 models.

Reeve Dennis said that he was satisfied with the installation of the Straffordville storm drain and the new community centre built by the Lions Club in Straffordville. He thinks that the ratepayers are satisfied with these projects.

In response to a question of the direction of the reorganization of Elgin County, the reeve said that he is one of a five-man committee working on a study of this. He said that the committee worked with the city of St. Thomas and Elgin County to build a new library.

The committee has applied to the province for a needs study of the county. It would take about three years to complete. Anything faster would cost more than the ratepayers could afford, he said.

Reeve Dennis speculates that the county might have three subregional units, the one in East Elgin being that which is included in the East Elgin Planning Board area. That covers South Dorchester, Malahide, and

Bayham and the towns and villages in the area.

The reeve said that the park at Port Burwell has been greatly improved and he believes it will be very popular as a camping ground. Trees have been planted and camp sites laid out and the beach is the best in the area, he said.

Of Port Burwell residents' need for employment the reeve said that he felt that the industries of Tillsonburg can provide this. He recalled that the railway still links the towns and that at one time three trains a day carried passengers both ways. If the fuel shortage requires it, he believes that the railway can still be used to take people to and from their jobs.

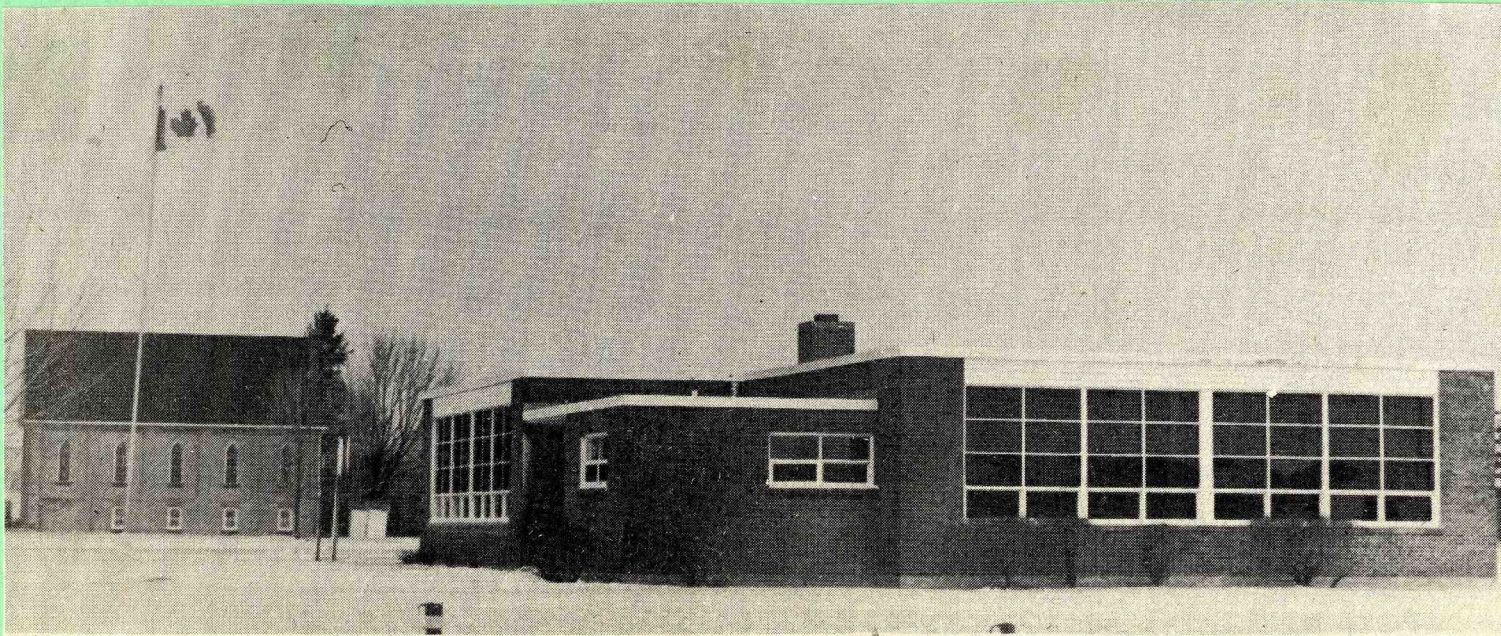
The people of Bayham have expressed the wish that the rural nature of the community be preserved, the reeve said, and he believes that allowing the steel complex to be built would completely destroy that nature. It is not the complex alone, he said, but the resulting attraction of other business and industry that would end the agricultural nature of the land.

Elgin County has placed the rebuilding of Talbot Road from No. 3 Highway on the roads program. This will not be done all in one year because it will be a major project involving widening, straightening, and repaving as well as a new bridge

over the Little Otter. Reeve Dennis remarked that there is a rumour that this was on the program once before and dropped. He said that this is not true. He is on the roads committee for the County and has seen the records. This is the first that the project has been put on the program, he said.



The Calton General Store serves the little community on the edge of Bayham on County Road 45. It was closed for a short time last year, but Mrs. Bill Norton bought it and moved from RR 3, St. Thomas, to live in the apartment behind the store. On the left is the new owner's husband, who helps out on week-ends. Both Mr. and Mrs. Norton were pleased at the welcome they received from the community when they moved in last September.



This is the Calton Public School which is integrated with the Straffordville Public School. In the background is the Calton Baptist Church. Opposite the church is the old public school

building which has been converted to a community hall, the scene of many social functions every year.

DOMINION

July 3/1974

Maurice Landon



Terry and Audrey Heffren of 5 Scott Street, St. Thomas, took home \$266 worth of groceries from Aylmer Dominion Store recently, after winning a 10-minute shopping spree at the

store, sponsored by the Aylmer Optimist Club. Optimist Maurice Landon (left) and store manager Len Durnin (right) helped the Heffren's pack their winnings.

July 1974

75 Motorcyclists Complete Annual Golden Leaf Enduro Competition

Seventy-five motorcyclists officially finished the 172.5 mile course of the Otter Valley Riders' Motorcycle Club's fourth annual Golden Leaf Enduro which started and ended at Aylmer fairgrounds, Sunday.

This was an international competition including riders from Ontario, Quebec, New York, Ohio, Michigan and Pennsylvania. Two hundred and eighty competitors were entered but not all of them showed up.

The premier award was won by Fred McGlen of Hannibal, N.Y. followed closely by Eric Nielson of Hamilton, Ont.

The riders started in a heavy rainstorm, leaving the

fairgrounds in waves of four per minute at 8 a.m. Those who completed the course were arriving back at the fairgrounds from 2 p.m.

The course went west from Aylmer to the Sparta area then southeast to the Port Burwell area and then north to Tillsonburg and then southwest to Calton and back to Aylmer.

Special tests of speed and time were held at the Sparta dragstrip and cross-country tests were held in the Calton area.

Competitors aiming to take part in the International Six-Day Trial in Italy later this year were also required to compete in a timed tire-changing contest at Aylmer fairgrounds.

The enduro is a comprehensive test of skill in riding a motorcycle on roads, across country and through natural obstacles such as swamps and streams and wooded areas. It is not essentially a test of speed but of disciplined riding in that they must arrive at ten checkpoints on time or lose points for being late. Those who arrive early are given that time to maintain their machines and also to give themselves a rest from an exhausting competition that in several places means manhandling the motorcycles over obstacles.

The course was staffed by members of Otter Valley Riders whose president is

Jim Manning of Tillsonburg. This is the first time the enduro was held from Aylmer. In other years it has been centralized at Tillsonburg.

The winners in various classifications were (listed in order of first, second and third)

125cc Junior—Jeff Sivell, Bruce Lawson, Albert Lake.

250 Jr.—Brian McNally, Bob Porter and Terry Wolfe, Port Burwell.

Open Jr.—Dennis Nantais, John Harris, Stan Robinson.

125 Senior—Bill Taylor, Brian Taylor, Larry Kennedy.

250 Senior—Fred McGlen (Premier Award winner), Terry O'Brien, Carl P. Miller.

Open Senior—James Reynolds, Don Wilson, Ron Thorpe.

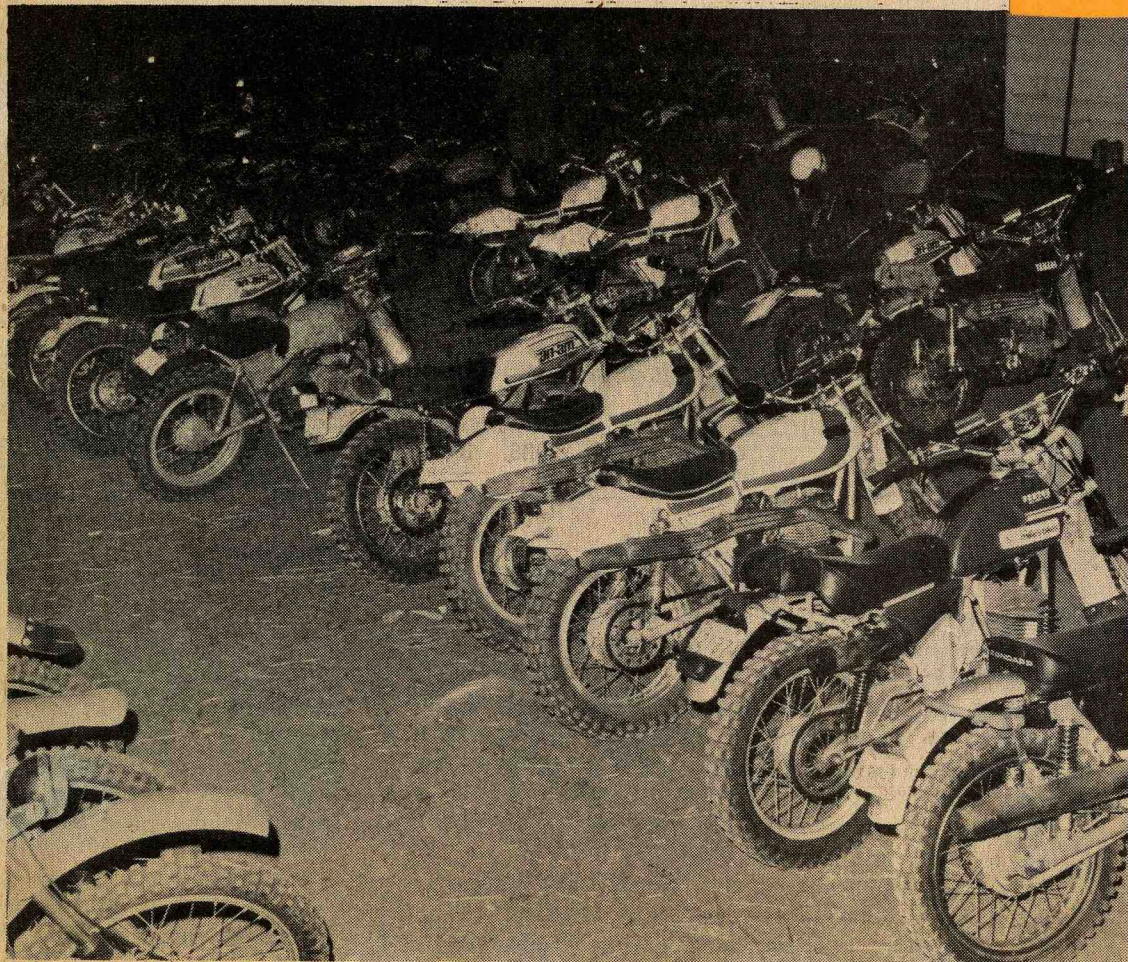
125 Expert—Helmut Clasen, Jerry Harris, John Milehan.

250 Expert—Eric Nielson, Ron Matthews, Paul Cole.

Open Expert—Don Cole, Val Seager, Fred Perry.

Old-Timer—C.J. Miller, age 48 who finished among the top 15 rides for the day.

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More than 200 motorcycles valued at close to \$250,000 were stored in the cattle barn at Aylmer Fairground last Saturday night be-

fore the start of the Golden Leaf Enduro Sunday morning.

Pete Baxter

Ron Phillips



Fred McGlen, left, of Hannibal, New York, holds the premier award trophy which he won in the Golden Leaf Enduro organized by Otter

Valley Riders Motorcycle Club here Sunday. Jim Manning, centre, club president and Peter Baxter, Enduro chairman congratulated him.

Eric Nielson, left, awaits the "go" sign from Ron Phillips, holding clipboard, before starting a cross-country speed test near Calton, Sunday. This was part of the Enduro. Nielson took 20 seconds too long in this phase and it cost him the premier award.