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DO YOU SAY PHIL?

Acquitted on Driving Charge

When a Hamilton man was charged with driving while impaired, his defence witnesses testified Tuesday morning that he was not drunk enough to last the defendant perhaps six months.

Four defence witnesses testified Tuesday morning. One was a close friend of Mr. Page, Ann Doyle, who said a group of people to which Mr. Page belonged frequently partied in Hamilton where the use of "bennies" was common.

She said the group would go on "runs", a colloquialism for a consecutive period of time when the pills were consumed. These runs lasted sometimes three days, she said, during which 10 to 15 pills a day were consumed. Mr. Page would take part in this type of activity three to four weekends a month, she said.

NO RE-SALE
 All witnesses who testified in Mr. Page's defence said they did not buy any drugs from him

GRCA PURCHASING KORTRIGHT

\$160,000 Gov't

By **WAYNE CAMPBELL**
 Staff Writer
 Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) will complete purchase of Kortright Waterfowl Park within a few days after receiving a \$160,000 grant from Ontario ministry of natural resources.

The grant covers province's 50 per cent share of a \$320,000 purchase-price for the 116-acre park and its buildings.

City of Guelph pays 40 per cent (\$128,000) while the GRCA picks up the remaining 10 per cent (\$32,000) under a GRCA purchase formula.

The park at Hanlon Creek and Speed River in the southwest corner of the city is owned by Ontario Waterfowl Research Foundation (OWRF).

LONG STRUGGLE
 This week's transfer of ownership will bring to an end almost two years of struggling negotiations.

In 1975 OWRF announced it wanted to sell Kortright Park by the end of the year. Foundation trustees said they could no longer afford to operate the bird sanctuary.

City aldermen said they wanted the parkland kept in public use but didn't want to spend tax dollars attempting to run a waterfowl operation.

City council appealed to GRCA to buy the land last spring and GRCA formally approved purchase last September.

Meanwhile a citizens' group, Niska Wildlife Foundation, was formed to operate and maintain the waterfowl operation which OWRF was abandoning along with the lands.

Niska will continue as tenants of the GRCA.

For the GRCA the purchase increases the size of its Hanlon Creek conservation area to 547 acres.

Eventually it hopes to have 800 acres along the creek to protect wetlands from encroaching housing developments in Guelph's southwest corner, said Mac Coutts, GRCA general manager.

It will also provide parkland and open space for future residents of the area, he added.

For Niska workers struggling

through a severely cold winter of smashing ice and caring for sick birds, the purchase finalization is a ray of sunshine.

"I'm very happy, I think it's going to be an amicable arrangement," said Eileen Hammill, the park's general manager, about the change of landlords.

Everyone concerned with the bird sanctuary, and the lands felt the GRCA ownership was the best solution for the community, she added.

Mayor Norm Jary said today he was "very pleased" to have the matter completed. He and city council support GRCA's plans to protect the Hanlon Creek watershed.

"And as I told them (GRCA officials) at a meeting last fall this (Kortright Park) was a key parcel of land for the protection of the Hanlon watershed, since it was at the junction of the river and creek," he said today.

He praised Dr. John Roff and Prof. Ted Heeg, Guelph's GRCA representatives, for their work on the Hanlon watershed matter.

Years Count For Pensions

OTTAWA (CP) — Legislation changing the eligibility rules for federal old-age pensions may be in force before the end of the year if it encounters no serious obstacles in Parliament, government officials say.

A bill introduced in the Commons this week by Welfare Minister Marc Lalonde proposes a system under which the amounts collected under the old-age security program would depend on the number of adult years spent in Canada.

Benefits for both native-born Canadians and immigrants would be based on total years of residence in Canada between the ages of 18 and 65.

No one now receiving benefits would be affected by the new regulations. Nor would any Canadian resident who was at least 25 years old when the law came into effect lose any potential benefits.

No Order To Fingerprint Local Employees Of UIC

By **JOHN D'ALTON**
 Staff Writer

Al Bidewell, Unemployment Insurance Commission (UIC) district manager said Tuesday he does not expect the 29 local employees to be fingerprinted for security reasons.

UIC disclosed this week that it has ordered more than 1,700

The background of employees is obtained when they join UIC. These files are kept in the regional office and are referred to each year when the employees are evaluated. These files are also combed when vacancies occur or a promotion is in the offing, he said.

Collecting information would be

Another Storm

By **THE CANADIAN PRESS**
 Relief and rescue operations continue in the wake of a winter storm earlier this week, but Environment Canada warns that another storm is expected to move into Ontario late today or early Thursday.

The storm is expected to dump another five to eight centimetres of snow on areas still digging out from the earlier storm. The snowfall will not be accompanied by the high winds and blowing snow which caused havoc in much of the province this week. Temperatures will be milder, approaching the normal for this time of year.

The weather office said the new storm is not expected to be as fierce as the earlier one that blocked roads, closed schools, stranded motorists and resulted in the death of a Ferguson man.

That storm ended Tuesday, although much of the province is still feeling the effects of drifted snow, sub-zero tempera-

tures and winds with gusts up to 65 km.p.h.

Environment Canada predicted that clear skies across the southern part of the province today would aid work crews trying to clear parts of nine highways still closed Tuesday night.

A convoy of 12 to 14 oil tanker trucks and road-clearing equipment planned to push through snow-blocked Highway 4 from London today in an attempt to relieve fuel shortages in Lake Huron communities.

Escorted by provincial police, the convoy was to head for Exeter, Clinton, Goderich, Wingham and Kincardine with about \$1 million in supplies.

SOME SCHOOLS REOPEN

Many schools, closed Friday when the storm began, reopened Tuesday or today, although many in rural areas remain closed.

Meanwhile, Premier William

Davis announced that the province is settling a settlement with the federal government over the storm, but the province is still recovering from the storm, and the province is still recovering from the storm, and the province is still recovering from the storm.

He said a study by the two provinces is still in progress, and the province is still recovering from the storm, and the province is still recovering from the storm.

In Ottawa, the government announced a \$1 million postal by R member Niagara Falls government the cost of the storm, and the province is still recovering from the storm, and the province is still recovering from the storm.



DURING WINTERS LIKE THESE COSTS "BLOW" HIGHER