



May 4, 1979

VOGAR

Institute of Cultural
Affairs
144 Coxwell
Toronto, Ont M4L 3B2



VOICE

ENVIRONMENT WEEK EVENTS

This week, "Environment Week", has been full of new developments and happenings. Three community meetings were held to discuss concerns about the school landscaping, CMHC housing, and Rural Municipality services. The big event in Stake II was cleaning up around the corner at Vogar Products and R&L Grocery. Also, the new Vogar Human Development Project Office was renovated and opened for community use.

On Wednesday afternoon the women of Vogar Products, several of the Canada Works men, and the ICA staff joined together to clean both the inside and outside area around Vogar Products building. Three loads of scraps and trash were hauled to the dump, and the area was raked and cleared of leaves and debris. While some worked outside, the rest cleaned and washed inside and rearranged the storage area and shelving. At 3:00 the work was completed by digging two holes and erecting the Vogar Products sign in its permanent location.

On Thursday afternoon a major brushing job was done just east of the store. Again, Canada Works helped haul several truck loads of brush and old pop bottles to the dump. The clearing of the undergrowth now makes it possible to see the store building as you approach from the east.

Renovation at the ICA staff residence has resulted in a new "Vogar Human Development Project Office." Closing off the top of the kitchen partition, adding both an interior door and new exterior

ENVIRONMENT WEEK, CONT...

door, building a shelving unit for storage and for the mimeograph and ditto, adding linoleum, have created a space that is very suitable for small community meetings and for general office space. As soon as the weather permits, a side walk will be constructed. You are invited to drop by and take a look.

Detailed reports of the three meetings will be found on other pages of the Voice.

BILL URUSKI/TERRY SARGEANT VISIT

Bill Uruski, the MLA from this district visited Vogar with Terry Sargeant this week. Sargeant is the NDP candidate for Parliament in the coming election.

MANPOWER OFFICE FOR VOGAR

Representatives from Manpower will be in Vogar on a regular basis each month. They will be at the Vogar Construction Company office on May 25. They are concerned with putting people in touch with various training opportunities and helping with other employment issues.

Vogar Products Ltd.

SPECIAL SALE OF QUILTS AND

WALLHANGINGS

Seconds and discontinued items

As low as \$10

Cash or
Cheques.

Top quality for \$60

TODAY THROUGH NEXT FRIDAY.....

ENVIRONMENT WEEK MEETINGS.....REPORTS

SCHOOL LANDSCAPING: Tuesday, May 1

A group of Vogar residents met with School Trustee John Johnson on Tuesday evening at the school. John presented some facts as background for discussing the landscaping of the school yard. He said that the school buildings, including Vogar's, are paid for by the Province. This helps to spread the cost out over all citizens.

He further noted that the two temporary school units, which are being renovated for a teacherage, were provided at a small cost by the Public School Finance Commission. The School Division received a Canada Works grant for the labour. An additional \$15,000 of materials have been put into the building. The other unit- now located to the north of the teacherage- will be hauled out by the Public School Finance Commission.

Because of the amount already invested in these buildings, no immediate plans have been made by the School Division for landscaping. However, John can go to the Board and ask for funds for specific projects.

After questions and discussion there was a workshop to list the most important tasks and how to get them done. The results of the workshop are in the next column.

CMHC HOUSING MEETING: Wednesday, May 2.

CMHC homeowners met with Leon Levasseur of Central Mortgage and Housing. Also attending were five other housing staff, including Greg Morrison, the CMHC inspector, one of the housing councilors, and Lloyd Pelletier, the MMF housing officer. Lloyd chaired the meeting.

Many issues were discussed relating to the houses including proper heating and ventilation, sweating around corners and ceilings, the effect of the freezing and thawing of the ground on floor levels,

School Landscaping Tasks

I. GRADING: major work needs to be done on preparing the yard for seeding and to be sure the drainage is OK. John will approach the school division to see if a cat can be sent out as soon as the ground is dry enough.

II. MOVING BUILDING: The school Division will ask the Public School Finance Commission to move the old unit as soon as possible. This will provide more room for playground area.

III. PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT: Canada Works will be asked if they can move the log equipment into a new location, filling under it as needed. The ICA will furnish a truck to haul gravel if needed.

IV. PLANTING GRASS, FLOWERS, SHRUBS: After the grading is done, Young Canada Works will be asked to help with the seeding. This would take place in July and August, and include preparation of the ground.

V. SCHOOL SIGN: A "Dog Creek School" sign is needed for the front of the school. A small group can create a design and submit it for approval.

VI. DITCH PLAN: Some concern was expressed over the large ditch in front of the school. Several suggestions were made, resulting in a decision to raise the question at the RM meeting, and to work on a complete plan for the ditches.

CMHC HOUSING, cont.

pricing, surveys, landscaping and improvements.

Mr. Levasseur indicated that he expects that official transfer of the titles to the new owners can take place beginning late in June. There are several steps involved in transferring the titles, but Mr. Levasseur will come to Vogar for the first step. The housing counselors will also help explain the process. The transfer takes a number of weeks to complete.

Next week, the inspector, Gregg Morrison, will be in town to look into needed repairs. Since the homes have not been officially transferred to the new owners yet, CMHC will continue to cover certain kinds of structural problems and "normal" repairs. "Abnormal" damage- like an axe through the door- probably won't be covered. Look around your house so that you can point out problems to Mr. Morrison. He will then determine what repairs should be made. If you are in one of the first--ten houses (built by Manpower) it may be possible to have some work done on yards or driveways.

Mr. Levasseur explained that the final selling price is based on the cost of production at the time the house was built. The payments on the houses are based on your ability to pay- that is how much income you have. The more you make, the more you pay- up to \$250 per month. No one pays more than that.

Many other details about the houses were discussed. If you have questions either the inspector or counselor can answer them

RURAL MUNICIPALITY SERVICES: Thursday, May 3

Members of the community met with Raymond Larson, our councilor, for the purpose of discussing common concerns and possible ways of solving them. Some of the concerns had to do with water drainage, the condition of the village dump, and dogs running loose. In the case of the water drainage, a committee has been formed to look into the situation and build a plan for correcting the problems. The R.M. has a bull dozer scheduled to come to Vogar to bulldoze the dump, and Canada works is constructing a fence there. Relative to the dogs, an announcement will be made soon about ways in which the dogs might be handled.

MINTO CONSULT

Steve Allen was one of the leaders for the Minto consult, held in March of 1979.

Minto became the 19th community in North America to launch a Human Development Project. It was the 219th village around the world to become part of a global band of demonstration communities- Vogar was number 24.

During the week-long consult, almost the whole village came every day to work on solving their issues.

MINTO, cont

Almost every day there was some kind of celebration, including traditional songs and dances.

The people of Minto plan to open a general store, form a trapper's cooperative, and form industries around wood products and traditional crafts. They are going to build a community showerhouse and laundromat, and community hall. Minto, like Vogar, and other villages is on the move.

VOGAR GETS YOUNG CANADA WORKS GRANT FOR SUMMER

Vogar has been awarded a Young Canada Works grant of approximately \$12,000 to hire 9 students for July and August.

"The Vogar Youth, 1979 Project will focus on community beautification with a drop-in activity for rainy-day work. It will consist of:

1. Maintainance of the new community park. A 8 acre park is cleared and ready for seeding this spring. Summer tasks will include keeping the new grass weed-free, further clearing of roots as needed, and mowing later in the summer.

2. Maintainance of two cemeteries and roadside ditches. The fence at the Anglican cemetery will be repaired and painted, both cemeteries will be mowed regularly, and trash and weeds will be cleared from the roadside ditches along the main road in town.

3. Completing landscaping of Vogar's main corner and community Hall area. Vogar residents are working on a land use plan which will include decisions on landscaping and beautification of the main bus stop corner and up to the community hall area. We expect that the unfinished tasks could be done by the students: planting shrubery, building a new bus stop shelter, creating a "Welcome to Vogar" sign and community directory. The exact tasks to will be carried out in accordance with the community land use plan as finalized by residents this spring.

4. Construction of trash containers and playground equipment will include trash cans for the park and other public areas and one or two pieces of new log playground equipment of time permits.

cont: next column

YOUNG CANADA WORKS cont

5. Constructing and relocating "Vogar" signs. Highway construction this summer will necessitate moving a log "Vogar" sign at the east entrance to town. It will be relocated and another built for the north entrance.

6. Conducting a "Rainy-Day Drop-In" for younger children will include creative activities such as art, story hours, puppets and informal drama, music and dance activities and Metis heritage activities. Making historic plaques for some of the public buildings and cemeteries will be included in the activities. "

The above is a direct quote from the grant application. The request for this funding for Vogar was submitted on behalf of the Manitoba Metis Federation local by a committee consisting of Leonard Desjarlais, Doreen Paul, Breena Monkman, Elsie Desjarlais, George Murphy Jean Smith and Albert Loyer. A number of other people either helped write the proposal or checked it before it was sent. Special thanks should go to the youth who met for a workshop in which they brainstormed ideas and selected priorities.

The committee will meet at some time in the future to decide on guidelines for hiring, supervision and work habits of the students. They will also work with the group during the summer, providing adult input as it is needed. The grant states that the community will support this project by : "loan of various equipment belonging to the community, Local or ICA; use of Vogar Hall as needed; and volunteers from the MMF and ICA will work with the project manager and workers and planning and implementing program on a daily basis."

THE METIS : A NEW NATION

"There were three types of life styles which Metis people followed prior to 1825. One typified those who had secured permanent employment with the fur trading companies as clerks, interpreters, canoe men and packers. These had permanent homes close to trading posts. Though the men, on occasion, might have duries which took them from home for extended lengths of time, the family as such stayed permanently in one location. These families, settled close to people who were capable of educating; and often having had an educated forefathers, produced many of the early Metis leaders.

A second lifestyle was folloed by the semi-settled people who lived on small farms. Large gardens, small plots of grain and some live stock occupied them for part of the year. Portions of the summer were devoted to annual hunts of the buffalo which, depending upon the location of the herds, might take a few weeks or a few months. In other months some commerical freighting with Red River carts might be undertaken.

The third type of Metis were those who made their living as hunters and trappers. They followed the buffalo herds in summer as did their Indian bothers and during the winter trapped in areas holding a promise of plentiful furs. Home to these Metis was where they temporarily pitched a teepee or built a log shack.

In each of these three types there were to be found French speaking half-breeds and English speaking half-breeds.

The Ojibway Indians perhaps gave the best description of the mixed-bloods. They described them not as farmers, buffalo-hunters, voyageurs, Metis or half-breeds but as "wissakodewinmi," meaning "half-burnt woodmen." The description of their lighter complexion, as compared with Indians, became shortened to "burnt wood" or "burnt sticks" and seemed apt. The French picked up the translation and the term "burnt wood-Bois Brule" came into current use.

From their maternal background, the Indian, the Metis gained a broad knowledge of the traditional ways. Yet their asoociation with a white father gave them a competitive spirit, a knowledge of other ways, and often an access to the knowledge contained in books. Whether by himself or with the help of the father he began to improve upon the Indian way of life... To observers at that time it seemed that the choice (for the Metis) was clear. The mixed-bloods could become nomads of the woods or plains, or they could become as Europeans and be governed by the pen and the plough. The Metis chose neither one, but pulled both ways incessantly and sought a compromise between the European and Indian ways, between paganism and Christianity, between hunting and agriculture.

NEXT TIME: DANCING AND RACHING

from Les Metis, "One Plus One Equals One" by D. Bruce Sealey, Manitoba Metis Federation Press, 1978, pp.6-7.