Middlesex County Road Supervisors 40th. Anniversary Sept. 9, 1999.

Mr. Don Kipp, President, Warden Mel Veale, Members of County Council , members of the Middlesex County Road Supervisors Association, Company Members and honoured Guests. Congratulations on this your 40th. Anniversary year.

It was May 21, 1959 when your Association was formed at a meeting in Coldstream, with Vermont Pow of Elgin County as guest speaker. Middlesex formed an Association with all Township Road Superintendents at the meeting. Those pesent were William Cook Assistant, D. H. O. Engineer, Walter Brown, Adelaide; Tom Hodgins, Biddulph; Wilfrid Switzer, Caradoc; John C. Brown, Delaware; Elwood Armes, North Dorchester; Frank Nichol, Ekfrid; Eli Currie, Lobo; W.H.E. Goddard, London; Dean White, McGillivary; Martin Walker, Metcalfe; (who is present to-day) Stan Massey, Mosa; William Taylor, West Nissouri; Melvin Dale, Westminster; Russell Currie, Williams East and Austin O'Niel, Williams West.

The meeting agreed unanimously to form a Middlesex County Road Superintendents Association. The objective of the new Assoiation was to acquire new information re: construction and maintenance of roads and bridges, machinery mainteance, legal advice, weed spraying etc.

The following Officers were elected for the year 1959. Honorary President William Cook, Ass. Municipal Eng. D. H. O., President J. C. Brown, Delaware Twp., Vice President Wilfrid Switzer, Carodoc Twp. Appointed Sec.- Treas, Melvin Dale, Westminster Twp. The Associaion soon expanded to include the Road Superintendents from the Towns of Parkhill and Strathroy; Villages of Ailsa Craig, Glencoe, Lucan, Newbury and Wardsville; County of Middlesex and the

City of London.

During the 40 year history of this Association, it has prospered due to the support of the Middlesex Municipalities, the work of dedicated, diligent, industrious Municipal Road Members, Company Members and their faithful Executives.

Your Association has been a major player in the success of the Ontario Road Superintendents Association with Presidents John C. Brown, 1972, and Don Dean 1988, Executive members Melvin R. Dale, Ross C. McKenzie and Don Dean. Your association sponsored the 1987 Trade Show.

Feb. 20, 1961, the Ontario Road Superintendents Association was formed with Vermont Pow of Elgin County Elected President and Melvin R. Dale appointed Secretary - Treasurer. Middlesex Coumty members present were W. H. E. Goddard. J. C. Brown, Martin Walker, Eli Currie, Wilfrid Switzer and Melvin Dale. (see page 7 of history book)

Middlesex County has played an important role in the founding and life of the Ontario Association. I was Secretary - Treasurer from 1961 to 1979. In 1972 John C. Brown, Middlesex County was elected President of O. R. S. A . I retired Feb. 28, 1978 from the Town of Forest and wanted to retire as Secretary - Treasurer of O. R. S. A. but was asked to continue on as Secretary - Treasurer. In the meantime I convinced William Taylor of Huron County to take over my position and he was appointed Secretary - Treasurer at the O. R. S. A. Convention meeting, his duties to start at the Road School O. R. S. A. meeting in May of 1979.

William Taylor took ill in the fall of 1984. At the 1985 Convention Meeting he informed me that he thought because of

medical problems he should resign. I convinced him, he was doing an excellent job and to see how he felt at the Road School meeting in May. William called me in April that he had to resign because of ill health and perhaps I should come back to the Association.

Happily William has regained his health.

Middlesex County Association had a Secretary - Treasurer, Ross McKenzie, who was doing an exellent job for the County Association. I had a talk with Ross if he was interested in being Secretary - Treasurer of O.R.S.A. he said he would think about it. I called Ross later in the week. He said he was interested. I told Ross to be at the Road School Meeting of O. R. S .A. and when William Taylor handed in his resignation, have the Middlesex County Road Superintendents at the meeting to nominate him for the positon of Secretary-Treasurer of O.R.S.A.

The result, Ross was appointed the new Secretary-Treasurer in May of 1985 and later he became Executive Director of O. R. S. A. Ross was doing an excellent job and the Association was expanding and progressing well when suddenly Ross was taken ill and passed away in 1993.

Ron Gelderland, President of O. R. S. A. contacted me and asked what I thought the Association should do? Should the Association call for applications for a person to direct the buisness of the Association or try to find someone in O. R. S. A. that could fill the position. I told Ron there was only one man that could fill the position that I knew of who would qualify for the position, namely, Don Dean .

Don Dean was with Ross attending meetings as Middlesex County representative on O.R.S.A. As past President, Don was conversant

with the operation of the Association, member of the Certification Board and the Spotlight Magazine.

In October, 1993, Don Dean became the third Middlesex County Road Superintendent to be appointed to guide the Association of Ontario Road Superintendents as Chief Administrative Officer.

At this time, I pray the Middlesex County Supervisors Association has continued success and growth in the next 40 years to celebrate your 80 th. annivesary year.

I doubt if I will be here in person! But hopefully I expect to be here for the 50 th. Anniversary in 2009.

Wishing you God's Blessing and a safe journey home.

Melvin R. Dale.