

INTRODUCTION

It is important to all Canadians that the future of Kent County be bright and prosperous, that successful development programs be embarked upon so that the people of Kent are able to receive both economic and social reward for their continuing contribution to the Canadian way of life. For, it is these 26,000 inhabitants of Kent County that represent the plight that has been inflicted upon so many people in similar situations in Canada. Kent County represents the struggle of the rural community in Canada to survive the infectious "big is best" attitude that permeates Canadian society. And hence, Kent County not only represents the plight of rural Canada: it is Rural Canada. From British Columbia, across the Rockies to the spreading Prairies, in the shadow of the bright lights of Ontario and Quebec to the less densely populated Maritime provinces, there are many Kent Counties.

Since Kent County is so typical of many rural areas, it is representative of the plight of rural Canada at a time when society's priorities tend to ignore the potentials of the rural areas. Because it represents all of rural Canada, Kent County must be saved! Thus, the publication of "Kent County Can be Saved!" This present report deals with the resources of Kent, the land, the climate, and the people. It deals with opportunities that can be acted upon to help Kent move back into the sound economic and social environment that once was characteristic of the region. The opportunities for development in Kent are many. Although this report discusses exclusively the opportunities facing agriculture and the role of agriculture in the future of Kent, it also recognizes the important role that has and must once again be played by the forestry and fishing industries in Kent County.

The opportunities are there, the resources are there. Kent's most important resource, its people, can and must continue their work towards the future development of Kent. This report has been written for these people for without their support, nothing is possible and with it, all is possible. It is hoped that governments will recognize this and work with the people of Kent to achieve the potential of so rich a land. For if Kent County fails, we as Canadians fail. The very basis of what makes our country so rich is lost. We as Canadians must not allow Kent County and rural Canada to disintegrate before our eyes. The struggle must continue and Canada must win!