Society has said no to risks of raw mill

BILL MITCHELL For The Sun Times

Once upon a time, farmer Michael Schmidt could pontificate about raw milk and freedom of choice, and then buy a news paper or turn on a TV to hear his words repeated with little or no challenge

The media tide seems to have nurned in favour of public safety and facts as the lengthy legal process nears its end.

Schmidt was once a licenced and inspected Ontario dairy farmer who "quit" dairy farming to, instead, sell raw milk illegally in the early '90s. In 1994 he pleaded guilty and was fined \$3,500 and given a two-year propation order as a result of charges laid by two provincial ministries enforcing public health and safety laws

He later resumed distributing raw milk, which he now openly admits, and is currently being prosecuted for 20 charges relatg to distributing raw milk that is produced and processed in unlicensed facilities without any spection or testing, which are oth required by the province of

Schmidt has already been arged a total of \$55,000 by a dge after being found guilty in ctober of contempt of court larges related to this case. He as in contempt because he ontinues to carry out his activies in spite of court orders to ase and desist distributing raw milk. This is of great concern because in hot summer weather people should clearly understand milk from Michael Schmidt's farm is not pasteurized, inspected or refrigerated.

LOGIC AND SCIENCE

Schmidt tried to legitimize his actions with what he calls a cow rental plan, but there is nothing about his business that exempts him from public health laws that require pasteurization. Fortunately, in recent months, editorials and columns in many prominent Canadian media have stripped away the veneer from Schmidt's dairy fairy tale using logic, science and common

One example of informed media commentary comes from Connie Woodcock, whose Toronto Sun article "An unhealthy debate on milk" looks past Schmidt's carefully cultivated rural marketing image.

"Michael Schmidt is no hay seed and he's not a benign freedom fighter. He's a slick and devious businessman trying to destroy a law that protects us from ourselves and he wants to wreck Canada's supply management system for his own selfish. purposes," Woodcock wrote. "I hope the judge throws the book

"You'd think last summer's huge meat recall - and the deaths and illnesses that accompanied it - would have taught



Sun Times file photo

Michael Schmidt

us food safety is hard to guararitee and you don't miss it until it's gone. Louis Pasteur must be rolling in his grave

Drinking raw milk is not a matter of personal choice, as Schmidt proclaims, because pathogens that can be present in any raw milk can cause trans-

missible diseases. A two-yearold child who is allowed to drink Unit, told Sun Media public raw milk can spread those diseases, including tuberculosis, to human illness linked to the con everyone in their daycare and beyond. Society has said no to that risk

Officer of Health for the Peter- people were sickened and two

borough County-City Health health units continue to report sumption of unpasteurized milk And according to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention Dr. Rosana Pellizzari, Medical in the United States, 1,000

died between 1998 and 2005 as a result of drinking raw milk. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration calls raw milk "inherently dangerous" warning, "It should not be consumed by anyone."

The Michael Schmidt court case decision is expected this

Shoreline Beacon Tues., May 5, 2009

Local News

Everything old is new again at This n' That Antiques

This n' That Antiques and Collectibles had their grand opening Friday at their location on Goderich Street in Port

Owner Fred Schildroth says he "turned his hobby into a business." Schildroth has been collecting antiques for 10 years now and he saw an opportunity to turn his love of antiques into a business that everyone can enjoy

Opening an antique shop has been a dream of Schildroth's

for awhile now and that dream became a reality when he purchased the building that was formerly Strauser's

The shop will provide great antiques and collectibles for those looking to add to their home or cottage. "Antiques are an investment and we have all kinds of antiques to appeal to different tastes" says Schildroth.

Schildroth choose this particular location because he believes that this type of business was needed on the main street. The location he choose is also very visible from the road and quite accessible.

I have many interesting and hard to find items," said Schildroth. "Some I can remember from my grandparents house. If you don't see it in my store, I can probably find it for you"

Not all of Schildroth's collection is in store yet, only about 50 per cent of it. He said he will slowly



Mayor Mike Smith, cuts the ribbon at This n' That Antiques Friday afternoon as Anne Marie and Fred Schildroth look out from the front doors of their new business.

ALL SMILES FOR THE FLU SHOT

on Brown's face tells you, did not hurt one bit.

The first H1N1 immunization clinic offered by Grey Bruce Public Health open to all residents was held Wednesday in Port Elgin. Pat Brown of Port Elgin was one of the first to get the shot at the clinic at the United Church. Registered Nurse Joanne Rodgers administers the shot, which as the look

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Photo by Patrick Bala

start to bring in more of his items as he goes

"Come in and see what we have and tell your friends and neighbours all about it" is Schildroth's message to his potential cus-

This n' That Antiques and collectibles is located on in downtown Port Elgin beside