

Oxford Federation

Oxford's elected representatives quizzed at Oxford Farm Forum

by Ruth Skillings
The Innerkip Seniors' Drop-in Centre was the sight of the Annual Farm Forum, sponsored by the Oxford County Federation of Agriculture. John Finlay, MP; Ernie Hardeman, MPP and Mark Harrison, Warden of the County of Oxford. OCFA president Howard Cornwell chaired the meeting during the day.

Vice-president, Nancy Walther gave the OCFA Brief raising concerns for each level of government. She was very concerned about the down-loading of costs from the province to local municipalities. Hardeman chose to fall is a realignment of costs, which with the taking away of education taxes would be revenue neutral. It is well past budget time, but still the historical costs are not completed from the province, so no municipality has a real handle on real costs.

Sheila Greason, vice-president of Oxford North District WI gave the Women's Institute brief with help from Mary Moore. Some of the topics covered were the MAI, education, immigration, justice, 911, discarded tires, genetic engineering, food safety, nutrient management and water quality.

Jim Walton spoke on behalf of the Oxford Agricultural Training Needs Committee. These are the people we need to get in touch with to get OATI courses in Oxford to meet our needs. A severe reduction in funding means users will have to pay most of the cost of a course. They are looking for partners, computer courses will be very expensive.

Mark Kirwin for Oxford Dairy Herd Improvement is still dealing with the cutting of government funding. Many steps have been taken to cut the costs to make up the difference, there is really no more places to cut. Everyone benefits whether on the DHIA program or not.

bring in dollars for research. They look forward to the opening of the Chatham ethanol plant next fall.

George Fulop for the Tobacco Board raised concerns with the larger School Boards, whether young people were to be allowed to have a delayed starting time so students can get their education, but also hold down harvest jobs in tobacco. Ernie was sure this would be approved.

John Gras from the Chicken Farmers of Oxford said the USA will produce as much chicken in three weeks as Canada produces in one year. They are anxious to get all the way in. Seven per cent of chicken sold in Canada is imported. Supply management does work, for the consumer and for the producershe said.

Richard Gerber of the Oxford Cattlemen said farmers are willing to protect endangered species, but society should help pay the costs. Farm trucks should have different requirements than commercial trucks, as they usually don't travel very far from home and are not on major highways. they are concerned that 800,000 stockers are not coming into Ontario any more. The distances are too great from the west without transportation subsidies and are being held up at the border for non health reasons, when coming from the USA.

John de Bruin of Oxford

Pork wanted the borders between provinces and countries kept open for trade. With the major strike at packing plants in Ontario, producers' only salvation was the ability to send hogs to Quebec and USA for slaughter. Concerned about live hogs coming in that are going to farms as breeding stock.

Oxford WI presents brief @ Farm Forum

Evelyn King recently donated this picture of the Christmas 1996 WI meeting. Relaxing after lunch & waiting for the start of the meeting are:
 @ to @
 Donna Waken, Christine (Waken) Harris, Mary Smith, Susan Davis, Louise McKennan (née Waud), Helen Hryniv



Lakeside WI yearly fund raiser - @ St. Mary's Market - June 20/98
 @ to @ Eleanore Ball, Ida Anne Harris, Anne Roxburgh, Evelyn King, Brenda Mills, Helen Holden, Linda McCorquodale.