

Free Press Farm Page

"Bien venu"

Picnic at farm home for exchange students

A delightful happening in Rockwood last Saturday afternoon was held on the grounds of Wishwood Farm belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Price when Marie Ellen Saunders was hostess to the Guelph and Quebec Exchange students at an outdoor picnic.

Vincent and Ruth Price, acting as aides to Marie Ellen, welcomed the young people, girls and boys, saying in French "Soyez le bien venu" and continuing in the native tongue of the Quebec students explained that, having learned of Marie Ellen's trip to Drummondville, they were very pleased that one of Rockwood's girls should have such an opportunity and, because French culture was so typified in the beautifully preserved and

restored historical Quebec building, said they felt it would be interesting for the visiting students to be introduced to two examples of early English Canadian homes.

Tour homes barn
The students were then treated to a tour of the beautiful old home and the unique 4 storied barn which was originally designed by the famous architect, Sir Casimir Gzowski, 130 years ago, for Colonel Strange on his Rockwood Estate Farm. Afterwards the Quebec girls and boys and their English counterparts then enjoyed a true Ontario outdoor picnic lunch while the ladies on the committee, Mrs. Richard Butts and Mrs. Jack Maschio from Guelph, and Mrs. Herb Saunders of Rockwood together

with their husbands, visited with Mr. and Mrs. Price.

Also assisting in the afternoon activities were Marg Slaven and Gordon Morris, two other young people from Acton.

Casual visits
It was a wonderful afternoon which began at 3.30 in the afternoon until 6.30 p.m. It was not marred by the cloudy weather however, a stereo had been set up in the barn quarters for indoor activity in case of rain. Earlier in the week Marie Ellen and her guest from Drummondville, Clare Montplaisir had taken time off from the busy planned itinerary for casual visiting and many of Marie Ellen's Rockwood friends had the opportunity of also meeting her acquaintance from Quebec.

Farmers included are assessment bill too

Farm Assessment, as well as home assessment, will be frozen until 1974 if a bill introduced by Municipal Affairs Minister Dalton Bales is passed.

First announced on Wednesday, July 14, the bill proposed a freeze on all assessments. However the news media

reported that the bill would freeze home assessments; they did not mention farm assessments.

Bruce Taylor, Durham county farmer and executive member of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture learned this Thursday when he met with William

Palmer, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs. "Palmer clarified the position for me", Taylor said later. "He explained that this freeze on assessment would apply to all property not just homes — but farms, commercial and industrial property too. This means that farmers won't be taxed out of their pants in the next few years," Taylor said.

Can increase \$2,500

New buildings, enlargements and improvements won't increase assessed values unless they increase total market value by more than \$2,500. The bill does not rule out the right of farmers to appeal their present assessments.

"This freeze on property assessment until 1974 is preparation for a complete revamping of the system", Taylor said. "Palmer told me that his department was developing a new land value schedule for farm valuation. This schedule might be available for discussion in six months, but it'll be several years before the department is ready to revise all assessments."

Seek farmers as hosts for students

According to Evelyn Weatherston, Co-ordinator of the Urban Rural Exchange program for Halton County there are more youngsters eager to visit the farm than there are farms that are willing to have the young visitors.

Only one third of the youngsters who have applied have found farms to go to. About 40 to 50 are still hoping that Halton farmers will open up their homes and give them an opportunity to escape their suburban environment and live the rural life for a week.

According to Miss Weatherston those who have been involved as hosts or visitors have enjoyed the program. "The urban students have learned a great deal considering they were only on the farm for a week," she said.

Need more hosts
Two more groups are slated for

the weeks of Aug. 3 to Aug. 10 and Aug. 17-24. Miss Weatherston expressed some disappointment in not being able to locate more than 30 youngsters so far.

The idea of the program is to allow students who ordinarily would not get to a farm or learn anything of the rural way of life to live the life of a farmer for a week and experience both the leisure and work aspects of the farms.

Farmers interested in the program should contact Miss Weatherston at the Milton office of the Department of Agriculture.

Rebates are slow blame assessors

Some Ontario farmers have not yet received their property tax rebates for 1970. The problem, according to Department of Municipal Affairs officials, is that some properties are incorrectly coded on local assessment roles.

"This is an extremely unfortunate situation", Ontario Federation of Agriculture president Gordon Hill commented on hearing the report. "This rebate was awarded to all farmers, and all farmers should receive it."

The property tax rebate was announced in October 1970 by then Prime Minister John Roberts. It amounts to 25 per cent of net farm property taxes.

Do this

"If any farmer hasn't received his rebate, here's what I suggest he do. First he should contact his local assessment office to check the coding on his property. If it's coded residential or commercial, or something other than farm, he should ask the assessment office to correct it, and pass the

information on to the Department of Municipal Affairs in Toronto."

Hill said that if the property owner doesn't insist on correction no-one will.

"After you have spoken to your assessment office", Hill continued, "write to me at the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, 387 Bloor St. E., Toronto 285, giving me details of your assessment and property. We have found that some assessment offices are reluctant to make coding corrections. But if we have the necessary information we can exert pressure from this end too."

"I invite any farmer who hasn't received his rebate - whether he's a member of the federation or not - to write to me about his rebate problem."

Halton Federation president Bruce McClure said all farms must be at least 11 acres to take advantage of the rebate. Mr. McClure said farmers could submit complaints to him and he would forward them to Hill if they so wished.

ESQUESING Township Council HIGHLIGHTS

At their regular meeting Monday night, Esquesing Council:

—Reve Tom Hill received an invitation to the Open House and official opening of the addition to the ARC workshop in Hornby, September 11 at 2 p.m.

—Instructed building inspector Tom McLean to inspect property owned by Harry Hooper, Lot 24, Con. 1, regarding operation of a wrecking yard and give a written report to council.

—Instructed roads superintendent C. E. "Bud" Snow to erect CURVE signs on each side of the bridge on Five Side-road between Concessions 8 and 9.

—Endorsed a resolution, passed by Georgetown Council, petitioning the Minister of Municipal Affairs not to accept the recommendation of the Select Committee on Election Laws, namely that any resident of Ontario since the first day of January in any election year otherwise qualified to vote in any municipality be entitled to stand for office in any other municipality and that the disqualification of candidates be generally less restrictive than heretofore and such grounds as non-payment of taxes be eliminated.

—Endorsed a resolution passed by Kitchener Council asking the province of Ontario to amend its grant regulations, so as to provide a 75 per cent subsidy on all cost involved in all matters of water management, including water supply, water control and water quality.

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Farm Safety Week