

# Cheap food for too long Whalen tells Liberals

Canadians should quit quibbling about the price of beef and food, Federal Minister of Agriculture Eugene Whalen told Halton Liberals at a fund-raising dinner in the Pine Room of Oakville Arena Friday.

Whalen said Canadians have had cheap food too long and should be prepared to pay for good food. He said the country must attempt to preserve family farms but if society insists on treating farmers and farm families as peasantry, family farms will soon be a thing of the past.

Whalen said that with the coming of district schools and closing of small rural schools, have come problems for the farmer. Many farm children

spend four hours a day on school buses. Society should pay. Questioned following his speech, Whalen said that often the four hours would



FARMERS DESERVE a better break from society than they are receiving now, Eugene Whalen, Minister of Agriculture told Halton Liberals at a fund-raising dinner in Oakville. Elizabeth Robson and Rud Whiting were among head table guests at the dinner. (Photo by B. Burt)

"Society has done this and society should be prepared to pay for it — not the farmer."

"Farm children have abandoned the countryside and the family farms of Canada by the tens of thousands over the past two generations. They have taken jobs in the cities, but if you ask them how they like living in the city, most will tell you they hate it. They would love to move back to the country and to the farm. But Canadians have concentrated their dollars and their thinking on cities and industry, and have forgotten the farmers," he said.

Whalen said the farmer is the "forgotten person" when it comes to growth and development in our municipalities. "Urban planners grab off the best farm land and turn it into industrial parks, shopping centres and subdivisions. Cities hand out incentives by the bushel to attract industries and stores, but give nothing to farmers. Speculators drive out into the countryside buying up farm land to hold for future profits. And the profits must come from some use other than farming."

Higher prices. "The farmers who want to remain in business, or expand, are forced to pay the higher price for land, a price that makes farming a non-profit operation. There are thousands of farmers across Canada today who are counting on selling their land to realize the profit they have been denied in the actual business of producing food. Their farm is their pension."

New provincial governments are bringing in legislation to keep farm land in agriculture, he noted. British Columbia passed the strongest legislation we have ever seen in North America to preserve farm land. One unfortunate side effect is that the legislation has, at the same time, sharply reduced the value of the pension many farmers were counting on. In Newfoundland, they are going to pass a law to lock the entire Avalon Peninsula in agriculture.

"Here in Ontario, the government is moving to keep green belts and the Niagara fruit belt out of urban development, and in agriculture. These moves are not being made for the farmer. They are being made for the rest of society. Too often the farmer is completely forgotten, even though it is his farm, his pension, and his future that is most affected by the new policies and law, Whalen concluded.

## New name

Milton Community Credit Union is changing its name to Halton Community Credit Union. Members celebrated their 15th anniversary and the attainment of \$5,000,000 in assets at a dinner dance at the Home Social club, Milton.

# 300 guests mingle with VIPs at Tory fund-raising night

About 300 Halton Tories crowded into the ballroom at the Holiday Inn in Oakville Friday to take part in a fund-raising dinner for the Halton P.C. Association.

The crowded room was sprinkled with prominent Tories. Those on the VIP list included provincial cabinet minister Bob Welch, Jim Snow, George Kerr, Margaret Birch, Eric Winkler and John Clement. Federal Conservative members attending the function included Dennis Trimble, Jim Gillis, Duncan Beattie, Don Blunkarn, Perrin Hearty and Halton MP Terry O'Connor.

The dinner broke away from the traditional political program where one guest speaker is invited and addresses guests after the dinner. The federal and provincial Tories attended the function mingling with the guests prior to the dinner and answering some questions after the dinner.

Efforts were made to have a federal member or a provincial cabinet member sit at each table during the dinner.

Association president Bob Jones termed the event a success. Party workers noted the tickets were sold out early and more could have been sold if a larger hall had been booked.



SEVERAL PROVINCIAL cabinet members and federal Tories attended the Conservative fund-raising dinner in Oakville Friday night. Halton East MPP Jim Snow chats with Bob Welch, provincial secretary for social development and Allan Lawrence, who left his Secretary of Justice post with the province to take a seat with the federal Tories. (Photo by B. Burt)

## Tour again

Burlington Teen Tour band will compete in a band contest in Philadelphia Nov. 3. The competition is known as the Parade of Champions. The band members have practiced over 9,000 hours and marched thousands of miles collectively for the event.

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## Halton Museum

# Tour for councillors but only four came

Several large trays of fancy sandwiches, dozens of cups and coffee were on one table. Another table was covered in neatly prepared brochures about the Halton County Museum. Museum staffers and some board members were on hand, ready to greet regional councillors.

The open house was to have run from mid-afternoon to six o'clock Thursday and museum staffers explained the purpose of the tour and open house was to show Halton's regional councillors what facilities were on hand, what had been done and what would be done in the near future.

Four went. But even at 5.45 p.m. all but four of the 25 brochures remained on the table. Coffee cups remained on their saucers, untouched, and for the better part the big containers remained nearly full. Pretty young girls who double as hostesses and guides for the museum wandered about, offering coffee and sandwiches to the four councillors and few board members who attended.

In other years county councillors were invited to an open house near Christmas time. The visit was traditionally highlighted by a tour and a social gathering in the museum. In other years a makeshift bar was set up and the event was traditionally successful in luring county officials to the museum.

Disappointed. Staff and board members were obviously disappointed

at the poor turnout at their open house Thursday. Regional councillors Gordon Brown of Oakville, Marjorie Powys of Milton and Pat McKenzie and Len Coxe of Halton Hills attended the function.

Museum Board Chairman Frank Oakes was asked after the event whether another attempt would be made to familiarize the regional councillors with museum facilities.

"No. We gave them a chance to learn about a segment of the region and this will be a function of the region that they will have to know about," he said.

Chairman absent. "Yes, we're disappointed, and no, we won't provide another chance for them to learn. I'm disappointed the regional chairman Allan Masson didn't appear. The open house was booked around his date a month

ahead of time. Yes, we're disappointed," Oakes said. Curator Erla Brittain said the board had hoped all the councillors would have come. A tour had been planned to provide first hand knowledge. "When they look at the budget they might wonder why. If they were here, they would know why. We wanted to put them in the picture and show them things behind the scenes that wouldn't ordinarily be seen," she said.



HALTON HILLS' COUNCILLORS Pat McKenzie and Len Coxe are amused by the "Halton Flame." Noreen Loos, assistant curator, explained points of interest in the Halton Museum. (Photo by B. Burt)



BARBARA SNOW CHATS with provincial cabinet minister Margaret Birch during a Tory fund-raising dinner in Oakville Friday night. Mrs. Birch was among several cabinet ministers and federal members attending the function. (Photo by B. Burt)

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