



G. ALEC JOHNSON donated his office on 4 Mill St., to the S.C.A.P. group for the summer and in appreciation the group presented him with a desk set last Monday. From left; Sandi Ross, Emily Hodgson, Larry McGilloway, Norman Moore, Melodie Hatt, Pearl Harris and Valerie McGinn. Presenting the set to Alec Johnson is Maryanne DeHaan.

Young farm couple woo and win council

Young love and willingness to start a dairy farm won out Wednesday night at Halton Hills council, when Halton Hills council reversed their decision of three weeks ago, and gave Valerie Ella and her fiance Chris Richardson, the go-ahead to place a trailer on their rented farmland.

Mr. Richardson told council he had rented land on the former Roy Wilson farm which has now been bought by land developers. He said Mr. Wilson was retaining the house and five acres, and he planned to raise dairy cattle on the remaining 75 acres.

Valerie Ella, quoting from an Ontario Federation of Agriculture report, said four dairy farmers a day are quitting farming in Ontario.

"We can't afford to pay \$125,000 to buy our own dairy farm, but want to start farm-

ing on rented land." She said land was being bought up by speculators, like the piece of land on Steeles Avenue they had rented.

Miss Ella said the land would only go to weeds if they didn't use it. She said they would farm at this location for three years at the most, then when the herd was up to a good size they would rent another farm, complete with house.

Mr. Richardson said he wanted to put in the septic tank, and have hydro hooked up. "We want to come back to our own home and the farm after our honeymoon," he added.

He pointed out there were four or five trailers within four miles of the area.

A muttered comment by Councillor Roy Booth reflected the mood of council, when

he said, "the quality of mercy is not strained."

Councillor Russell Miller came up with a solution, suggesting that the couple be issued a permit for the trailer, renewable only as long as they remain bonafide farmers. He emphasized the permit would be to them, not to the property.

Councillor Dick Howitt endorsed the idea, asking if they would be willing to enter into an agreement, saying the trailer would be removed at the end of two or three years.

Mr. Richardson said they would be more than willing to sign such an agreement.

Councillor Les Duby said young people wanting to keep the land in production should be given every co-operation to help them to get established. "They would be an asset to our municipality,"

Councillor Harry Levy said he was opposed to doing things the back way, but was fully in accord with the suggestions by Miller and Howitt if it could be done properly.

"When I see young people come to us willing to start dairy farming with the problems they have today I am all in favor of doing everything we can to help."

Councillor Len Coxie wondered if the municipality could make the agreement and suggested they were bound by Oakville's bylaw. He emphasized his sympathies were with Miss Ella and Mr. Richardson.

Councillor Hyde, acting mayor during Mayor Tom Hill's absence, said he didn't want to see another 80 acres going to weeds. He warned the town must take the precautions of having an agree-

ment, "or our necks are away out."

Miller said it took guts to start farming today with land prices so high. "All you see is speculators buying land and letting it grow up in weeds."

Howitt admitted he may be prejudiced against trailers, but pointed out the former township of Esquevas always allowed them in, on a limited time basis. He urged council to approach this problem in that manner. He pointed out they were not bound by Oakville's bylaw since Oakville council always used their own discretions in matters such as this.

Council unanimously voted to allow the trailer with the conditions set out as follows: the permit will be issued yearly at the discretion of council, the permit is not transferable and is only valid

as long as Mr. Richardson remains a bonafide farmer, the trailer will be removed if he ceases to farm or at the end of the three year period, whichever comes first.

With the good news for Mr. Richardson came a little bad news, as he drove in the driveway to the Seventh Line municipal building, prior to the meeting he was in a collision with another vehicle. Little damage was done, but he was shaken up.

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