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Dearie,  
do you  
remember

# Farm Forum



**COUNTRY CHARMER**

4 bedroom home on 10 1/2 acres with stream at rear of property. Gracious living room provides lavish entertainment area. Spic and span. Move right in. Call Jessie Finley, The Royal Trust Company Realtor, 214 Woolwich Street, Guelph.

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If you're not a middle-aged farmer, chances are you've never heard of Farm Forum. Chances are you have never heard of a way of life that included sitting around the big farm kitchen table Monday nights at 8, listening to a familiar voice on CBC radio announce "Farm Radio Forum."

Between the years 1941 and 1953 over 1,000 farmers and their wives belonged to 50 Farm Forum organizations in what was then Halton County. Broadcast from coast to coast in Canada, the programs would include a discussion on a pertinent farming subject followed by a suggested list of questions for the radio audience.

Group discussions At 9 p.m. the radios would switch off and the farmers, mostly drawn from neighboring farms, would hash out the issue raised and send their findings in to their provincial secretary. Farm Forum Guide, a tabloid style publication, was distributed to members with facts, figures and arguments on the pros and cons of the broadcast topic for the coming week. The Guide listed supplementary reading and sometimes a list of films related to the topic under discussion.

Financing for the Guide and head office activities came from the 25 cent fee paid by each farm couple at the meetings.

One group left One of the few remaining Farm Forums in Canada is here in the region of Halton. Thirty-four years after it began, the Pinegrove Forum in Norval still meets. Now it is strictly a social get-together. The 30 members still maintain the sense of community of the earlier meetings. Although the majority of the meetings were held in the large farm homes, the one-room Pinegrove School was also used for broader community activities.

Bought school Members of Farm Forum purchased the old school —



CLARE BURT was the Ontario Provincial Secretary for the Farm Forum during the years 1948 to 1954. At one time he had as many as 1,000 Forums meeting each Monday night. The average number was 900 across Ontario.

for many, the school of their childhood — and it is now used for the group's regular eucyre parties every second Monday night to help finance upkeep of the historic building. The old No. 4 Esouesino school is also used for meetings of the Junior Farmers, for reunions and presentations, as a polling station and the occasional pre-wedding stag.

According to Clare Burt, Farm Forum's Provincial Secretary from 1948 to 1954, there is still a group going strong in Teeswater, Ontario. "They've never missed a meeting," he attests, "and are an alive and wide-awake going bunch."

During his six-year term of office Clare Burt had as many as 1,000 Forums meeting each Monday night across Ontario, the average number in the mid 900s.

Dwindled by 1954 By 1954 no more than 15 groups were still meeting in the homes in Nassagaweya, Nelson, Esquesing and Trafalgar Townships, Nassagaweya, the township with the fewest number of farms, at one time had the largest Nelson Township was one of the first formed in Halton in 1941. The group discussed among other things, agricultural practices, concerns with Veterans' Land Act and the county schools.

Members of Limestone Forum adopted a child through the Save the Children Fund. They sent CARE parcels to England and donated to the Winnipeg Flood Relief Fund. Expenses to a course at the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph were paid for several local students.

Federation formed The first Forum organizers were directors of the newly formed Halton Federation of Agriculture. The Federation was organized and maintained by the farmers themselves with little or no help from the non-farming community.

Exceptions were with some teachers helping where the meetings were held in schools. Attempts were made to bring everybody in a school district to a single Forum but they rarely succeeded in getting more than a minority of the men in a school district.



LAST FARM FORUM group in Halton is the one which still meets regularly at Pine Grove School near Norval. They are one of two in Ontario, the other at Teeswater. The group are, back row from left, Albert Hunter, John Brander, Wellington Stringer, Chester Early, Earl Wilson and Richard McLaughlin. Third row from left; Spencer Wilson, Mac Alexander, Claude McLaughlin, Cliff Hunter, Bruce

## the golden days of radio . . .

No action Some people thought Farm Forum of little value, no more than a place for a lot of talk and no action. Some saw it as a pressure group, as a means of putting pressure on governments to change unfavorable legislation and to improve the lot of the farmer.

From 1941 to 1945 the Federation was the only local organization actively engaged in promoting Farm Forum. Support was irregular until the appointment of a Federation field man in the summer of 1945.

Until this time there was little inter-Forum visiting and few techniques learned

concerning discussions. Sometimes political arguments actually resulted in the break-up of a local Forum.

Women joined From 1942 onwards women — many of whom belonged to Women's Institute — became more involved in Forum and meetings moved from schools to individual homes. Refreshments and entertainment periods became an important part of the meetings. Films and speakers were added to the programs.

Some Forums were used as a means for farmers to get together and discuss immediate problems rather than the broad range of topics offered by the broadcasts.

Federation helped During Clare Burt's time as Provincial Secretary a full-time field man was acquired by the Halton County Federation of Agriculture. It was during these years 1945 to 1952 the number of Forums went from 23 to as high as 1,000.

Clare Burt had the ability to arouse enthusiasm and devoted much time to suggesting methods of increasing the numbers of Forums. His visits to individual Forums increased morale and resulted in increased organizational activity. Despite his efforts, the turnover of Forums was high.

In Halton a Farm Forum Committee was formed in 1949, under the direction of the Federation field man and Clare Burt. They would attend the first local meeting and go through the entire evening's program with the group, although it is reported that on one occasion only the organizers and the janitor of the school were there. Most meetings, however, had at least a half-dozen people.

County rallies Annual county rallies were held each spring by the executive of the Halton Farm Forums. Rallies brought from 150 to 200 people and the programs would consist of speakers, reports, entertainment and social hours.

Action projects initiated by the committee included the sponsoring of Folk Schools and the building and equipping of Louville Park. They also produced three half-hour radio broadcasts, two in 1950 and one in 1951.

Folk Schools The Folk School was patterned after the Scandinavian Folk School Movement. People would gather to live together under the guidance of a leader, someone who had ideas for enriching life through art and expanded human relationships.

Men and women would come together in a local home for upwards of 10 days and learn at the feet of a guest leader. It was at one such meeting Clare Burt, now manager of the Clare Burt Travel Agency, decided to go into business for himself. "I heard a Quaker doctor from Simcoe County talk about the joys of having a business of one's own and he made a great impression," Mr. Burt recalls.

Folk Schools were financed by County grants, the Federation of Agriculture, and contributions by participants. Neither the Folk Schools nor the Farm Forum lasted much in Halton past the mid-50s.



ESQUESING FARM FORUMS in March, 1955, were represented at a gathering in Bannockburn School. The members of four forums heard an address by the National Secretary of Farm Forums Floyd Griesbach. From left, front row are Stan Turner, chairman of Halton Farm Forums, Mrs. Griesbach and Mr. Griesbach. Back row are Alan Harrop, president of Pine Grove Forum, Mrs. R. L. Davidson, president of Bannockburn Forum, Robert Miller, President of Stone School Forum and Harry Davis, president of Ligny Forum.

## Lift freeze

Following the general decline in membership in the '50s the educational purpose adopted by some groups became secondary to the social benefits. In a UNESCO publication dated 1954 and edited by R. Alexander Sim, the opinion is voiced that farmers initially supported the Forum idea because they thought it was a mouthpiece for voicing their protest rather than a means for self-improvement. When it became obvious it held little clout, interest waned.

Whatever the reason for the decline of groups, there is no doubt the advent of television in the early '50s had a decided effect. . . television, and the disinterest of the upcoming generation of farmers who were communicating through more sophisticated Department of Agriculture programs.

Bob Carbert, now director of the new Ontario Agricultural Museum at Kelso, was responsible for making a pilot television version of Farm Radio Forum. The year was 1956 at CKNX-TV in Wingham. The programs were shown locally but never did get off the ground on the national network.

Television Farm Forum couldn't save the inevitable fate of the radio version.

Dissemination of information to the farming community in Canada has been left in the hands of the various farm magazines, CBC rural broadcasts and the Rural Learning Association.

Halton's George Atkins, senior farm commentator for the CBC, recently visited Zambia as a guest of the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association. There he held training courses as an instructor of Farm Forum-type broadcasting.

Deputy Treasurer Jim McQueen explained that the region has saved in excess of \$7,000 because of its staff freeze. Board of Health appointee George Gray asked how long the committee intended to keep the freeze on. He suggested it was a little onerous on the Health Unit and wondered what that department had been singled out for the restraint program.

Several members of the committee felt the initial intent was that the freeze would apply to all departments in the region. After considerable discussion the committee agreed to ask council to lift the freeze and allow the Health Unit to hire up to its full complement.

## Prostitution nil petty theft high

Prostitution and gambling seem to be at a low ebb in Halton Region. No charges were laid under these two offences in March, according to the March statistics released by Halton Regional Police.

Petty theft, under \$200, ranked highest in charges laid, with 291, followed by 146 break and enter, 99 liquor offences and shoplifting close behind with 89, during March. Fifty three fraud and 51 drug charges were laid throughout the whole region.

On an average of the year to date the solution rate is running at 50.44 percent, on a total of 3401 charges. Males run afoul of the law more frequently than females. So far this year charges laid against adult males have outnumbered adult females 100 to one, with 1040 males and 104 females. In the juvenile section males charged this year

## Easter Sunday fire

Acton volunteer firefighters were called to a fire on Cobblehill Rd. on Easter Day. George Barnes of 147 Cobblehill was working in his garage, according to fire chief Mike Holmes, when a neighbor told him a pile of scrap wood and straw between his home and the next house which was under construction was on fire. Mr. Barnes called the fire department who doused the flames. The fire occurred at 12.30 p.m. There was no damage, the chief says.

**Penney REALTOR**

Exclusive listing agents for Milfon Towers Condominium apartments on Millside Drive.

EXECUTIVE RETREAT

On a very large scenic lot abutting Rockwood's conservation area, this spacious, custom built home features cathedral ceilings, ground floor laundry room, separate games room plus an elegant rec room complete with wet bar, log burning fireplace and patio walkout. Many valuable extras are included in this reasonable price of \$84,900.00. See it now with June Warner.

A REAL CHARMER

Three bedroom bungalow, broadloomed throughout, loads of kitchen cupboards, finished recreation room and more and only \$59,900.00. Call Mary Villa now.

IS BUYING A HOUSE A GAMBLE? NOT IN THIS CASE

This four bedroom backsplit can be readily adapted to your lifestyle. This home comes complete with 1 1/2 baths, broadloom throughout and an excellent 1st mortgage at 10 1/4 per cent. Asking \$57,900.00. Contact Terry Sanderson.

A TOWNHOME NAMED DESIRE

An immaculate three bedroom town home with a garage. Included in the low purchase price of \$45,900 is a fridge, stove, washer, dryer, and dishwasher. The vendor will also assist with secondary financing if required. To see the exceptional buy please call Dunc Archibald.

\$43,539 AT 10 1/4 %

Beat the current interest rate and save about \$60 per month by purchasing this three bedroom backsplit with attached garage. The home features broadloom throughout, fridge and stove. Backing on to a park gives this home an element of privacy. Asking \$57,900.00. Call Terry Sanderson.

SUPER SIDESPLIT

Are you looking for a four level sidesplit complete with main floor family room, large kitchen and living on a good size lot on a quiet crescent? We've got one for you now! Asking \$64,500. Call Terry Sanderson.

LAND — LOTS OF LAND

30 acres gently rolling and partially wooded—prime location between Milfon and Acton. \$75,000.00.

10 acres with a view and trout stream near Bellwood Lake \$34,500.00.

Call June Warner.

COUNTRY ESTATE

Beautiful hand crafted field stone adorns the front of this large two-storey, four bedroom custom built home on 10 acres just 30 miles north west of Milfon. Special features include a spacious ground floor family room with patio walkout and fireplace, formal living room also with fireplace and a separate dining room, quality broadloom throughout, two baths and oversized double garage. Priced for quick sale at \$94,500.00. To view this and other town or country properties Call John Maier.

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Terry Sanderson (416) 244-4149  
John Maier 878-0718  
86mg52

## Church Services

**THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR**  
1872—Anglican—1976  
Corner Willow St. and St. Alban's Dr.  
Rev. Leonard Ewing Rector  
Director of Music Mrs. Frank Oakes  
Thursday 7:30 p.m.—Holy Eucharist  
Sunday, April 25, 1976  
9:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist  
10:30 a.m.—Matins  
10:30 a.m.—Church School and Nursery  
Wednesday, April 28  
10:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist  
4:15 p.m.—Confirmation class.  
Everyone welcome

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA KNOX CHURCH, ACTON**  
Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie, B.A., B.D., Minister  
Mr. E. A. Hansen, B.A. Organist and Choir Master  
Sunday, April 25, 1976  
10:00 a.m.—Minister's Confirmation Class for Teenagers  
10:40 a.m.—Session meeting  
11:00 a.m.—Church School for Beginners, Kindergarten and Grades 1 to 8  
11:00 a.m.—Divine Worship and Spring Communion. Address on Theme: "Let Us Keep The Feast."  
Babies and toddlers cared for in Nursery during service.  
Everyone Most Welcome

**CHURCHILL COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
Churchill Rd. N. Minister  
The Rev. J. L. McFadden B.A., B.D.  
and Mrs. Eleanor McFadden, B.A.  
Box 731, Guelph, Phone 821-3215  
Sunday, April 25, 1976  
11:00 a.m.—Worship and Church School  
The Church on the Hill is an interdenominational congregation, ministering to the needs of the community. All Welcome

**EVANGEL PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE**  
P.A.O.C. 33 Churchhill Rd. N.  
Rev. S. M. Thomas, Pastor 853 2715  
Sunday, April 25, 1976  
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School  
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship  
7:00—Evening Evangelistic Service  
Sunday 25—P.A.O.C. National Day of Fasting and Prayer.  
Tuesday 8:00 p.m.—Prayer Service and Bible Study  
Wednesday, April 21 8:00 p.m.—W.M.C. at Pastor's residence  
Thursday 6:30 p.m.—Missions and Boys Brigade  
7:30 p.m.—Junior Choir Rehearsal  
8:15 p.m.—C.A.'s Service.  
ALL ARE WELCOME!  
Excellent free town Bus Service for children and adults to and from Sunday School on the "All Red Buss". Also Rural pick-up. For Information phone 853-2715 or 853-2931.  
Isaiah 55: 6 and 7  
Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him return unto the Lord and He will have mercy upon him: and to our God for He will abundantly pardon.

**BETH-EL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**  
Sunday, April 25, 1976  
Sunday Worship Services at 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Pre-school Sunday School during the morning service. Sunday School during the afternoon service.  
You are welcome  
Church of the "Back to God Hour" heard over these stations: Hamilton C.K.O.C. 7:00 a.m. dial 1150, St. Catharines, C.H.S.C. 8:30 a.m. dial 1220, Toronto, C.H.I.N., FM 8:00 a.m. dial 101 M.H.Z., Toronto, C.K.F.H. 11:30 a.m. dial 1430.

**MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
177 Maple Ave., Georgetown (A Fellowship Baptist Church)  
Sunday, April 25, 1976  
9:45 a.m.—Sunday School for all ages  
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship  
6:30 p.m.—Evening Fellowship  
Thought—Peace rules the day when Christ rules the mind.

**UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA TRINITY CHURCH, ACTON**  
Rev. Chas. Beaton B.A., B.D. Dr. George Elliott M.A., Ph.D. Director of Music  
Sunday, April 25, 1976  
10:00 a.m.—Worship Service  
Sunday Church School and Nursery  
Everyone most welcome

**ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH**  
80 Mill Street East. Founded 1847  
Pastor: Rev. Das Sydney B.Sc., M.Div. Pastor's Phone—853-1835  
Thursday 7:00 p.m.—Quarterly Business Meeting  
Friday 7:00 p.m.—Choir Practice  
Sunday, April 25, 1976  
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School and Adult Bible Class  
11:15 a.m.—Morning Worship  
7:00 p.m.—Mission Circle, Thank Offering, Speaker Miss Edith Clifton, former missionary in India. Slides and Refreshments.

**BAHA'I FAITH**  
You are warmly invited to attend fireside discussions, Friday evenings at 8:30 p.m. Phone 878-6138.  
Among the teachings of His Holiness Baha'u'llah is, that religion must be the cause of fellowship and love. If it becomes the cause of estrangement then it is not a remedy; if it aggravates the disease then it becomes unnecessary.