

Growth in rural homes is farmers' biggest threat

City folks moving to the country and buying scattered parcels of land throughout the agricultural areas represent the greatest of all threats to the future of farming in Halton according to the planning staff at Halton Regional Council.

In the opinion of Regional Planning Staff, the greatest threat to the agricultural industry is not the expansion of our major urban centres but is rather the insidious intrusion of scattered non-farm residential development into our agricultural areas," says planner Bob White.

In his report planner White claims, "This intrusion has resulted in the fragmentation of existing viable farm units, wastage of farmland, erosion of the farm community, escalation in the price of farmland, pollution of farmlands, harassment of agricultural activities and conflict between farmers and urban-rural residents."

The report, considered by the regional planning committee Tuesday, was prepared to identify and clarify the problems and issues within the agricultural community.

Mr. White claims both regional and local municipalities must recognize agriculture as an industry and not as an interim use of land, as has been suggested in many official plans. He says residential encroachment on agricultural lands should be viewed in the same context as residential infringements on valuable industrial lands.

While Mr. White sees that as the greatest problem or threat in the farm community, he points out it is only one of several.

Among the problems is the poor coordination of programs and policies at the various levels of government. Too much government "The agricultural industry is catered to and administered by virtually every level of government. Each

level of government has a large number of ministries, departments, boards and agencies administering various policies and programs which in some instances are counter-productive to the agricultural industry. The uncoordinated fragmented and sometimes contradictory policies and programs of these various levels of government, make resolution of specific agricultural problems very difficult," his report says.

The report recommends having one package of policies and programs geared to problems of agriculture in Halton.

Mr. White notes that from a farmer's point of view, the major problem is the poor economic return and opportunity within the business.

Consumer bargains Many farmers argue that the industry's present problems lie in the relatively low prices paid for agricultural products. Ontario consumers, they argue, receive one of the best bargains in the world in terms of agricultural products.

Mr. White points out that huge tracts of agricultural land have gone out of production in the last 25 years. His report attributes this in part to the economic situation. The report recognizes that some of the land that has gone out of production was marginal farmland to begin with.

On the other hand huge tracts of land—the best farmland in the region—have been paved over and lost to urban expansion. Speculation and uncertainty concerning the future of farming has caused abandonment of much of the region's farmland, the report says.

Halton farmers are caught in the spiralling increases in the cost of farmland. On one hand the farmer is ensured a good price when and if he sells, but at the same time it becomes very difficult for young farmers to acquire land or for existing farmers to expand their operation.

"Regional planning staff discussions with farmers have indicated considerable concern over the problems associated with good tile drainage of farmland.

Farmers have also been complaining about very poor weed control in the region due to increases in non-farm residential development and speculation on farmland," White's report indicates.



THE WOLF looks on as the newly-invested team of Mike Walton and son Anthony Walton congratulate each other. They were both taken into the Acton club pack on Monday.

Free Press Real Estate MARKET PLACE



PARK AREA—This classic 2-storey red brick older home is in immaculate condition throughout and offers 3 bedrooms, modern 4 pc. bathroom, 2 pc. washroom, formal dining room, extra large modern kitchen, sparkling hardwood floors, and it's set on a large lot on a peaceful tree-lined street with the rear yard overlooking the park. Asking \$59,900.



ATTRACTIVE GEORGIAN style home set on a large lot with mature trees. This brick home features a separate dining room, spacious living room with fireplace, ground floor family room with walkout to private patio, 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. If you want something a little out of the ordinary, see this one at \$68,900.



CUSTOM BUILT country rancher set on one acre overlooking picturesque countryside, minutes from Acton. Solid brick with all aluminum trim, double garage, 3 bedrooms, dining room with walkout, 2 fireplaces, broadloom, large workshop and recreation area. Asking \$76,500.

JUST MOVE IN—Everything's finished in this better-than-new 2 year old Tudor style bungalow featuring 3 bedrooms, en suite bath, 2 pc. washroom, family room with stone fireplace, quality broadloom, spacious dining area, paved drive, double garage, and it's professionally decorated and landscaped. Priced at \$63,900.

COUNTRY SETTING in Rockwood. This custom-built brick bungalow is set on a scenic 1/2 acre wooded lot and features 3 bedrooms, large living room with fireplace, separate dining room, 3 pc. on suite and 5 pc. master bathrooms, and a walk-out basement with Franklin fireplace. Asking only \$65,900.

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Legion news

Old-fashioned skating party was a huge success with the weather and the moon contributing as was hoped.

Comrade Patrick's committee did a fine job of tying in all the loose ends in such a venture. The cooking crew of comrades Doug Mason, Cal McIntyre, Bill Taylor and Ivan Kilby did a stellar job and the chili was delicious.

On behalf of chairman Vic I thank everyone who contributed in any way to skating party's success. Also I would like to thank the Acton Free Press in sending a photographer and the pictures that appeared in the paper.

Tournament
Saturday, Feb. 12, Zone B7 of the Canadian Legion Ladies' Auxiliary had a very successful Euchre and Cribbage Tournament held at our own Branch. There were 24 euchre teams and 17 cribbage teams entered from our Zone. Only two branches did not attend, Streetsville and Oakville.

Acton Branches "C" team captured first place in the euchre while Port Credit

region's farmland, the report says.

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Branch took first place in cribbage. The ladies all had a fine afternoon and my congratulations are extended from Branch 197 to our own ladies who comprised the Acton team namely Greta Morrow, Alva Masales, Darlene McDonald and Carol Adams. Good work, ladies!

Tournament
The Annual Minor Sports Hockey tournament starts this weekend, Feb. 18 through 20. This is a busy time for our membership and many are needed to help in the various jobs that must be done to make it successful. If you can help in anyway please see Comrade Bob Tingel.

The following comrades are on the Branch sick list at home, Vic Elliott, Paddy Dick, and Bill Ingles.

Many from our branch are enjoying winter holidays in Florida and or the Bahamas etc. Our very own Padre Rev. Andy McKenzie and our president Ab Irwin got away last Saturday morning for "Fun in the Sun". We hope they have a nice time.

League scores
The Darts league scores for this week are as follows: Nick's Helpers 63, The "D.P.'s" 74, What Stars? 63, Ridley's Rogues 69, The Greatest 63, Pete's Little Devil's 67, What "A" Team 52, Actoneer 55, Dez's Demons 53, The Diamonds 66, Bristol Boys 75, Dirty Doz. 55.

I understand from good authority that the Dirty Doz. is up for grabs. Don't know whether this is rumor or fact!

Cribbage scores this week are: 230 Club 96, Firemen A 93, Fireman B 104, Station 90, Legion "A" 105, Halton Hills Work Dept. 86, Command Records 89, T.P.S. 95, AM. Construction 120, Seven Elevens 97.

Hope to see many of you at the arena this weekend, Comrades, as we of Acton Branch play host to many young kids and adults across our province.

To err is human

An error in last week's Free Press saw Anthony Jank graduating from grade 12 at Acton High. Actually, it was Anthony Rouse.

The Free Press regrets any inconvenience or embarrassment the confusion in names might have caused the Rouse family.

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