

Farmers pepper Newman with green paper questions

Ontario Agriculture Minister William Newman predicted that about 500,000 acres will be needed by the end of the century to house and service some 12 million people.

The minister's statement came during a meeting to discuss the Green Paper on Planning for Agriculture: Food Land Guidelines, at Georgetown Monday.

Given we'll have just less than 12 million people by the year 2,000 Newman said, with services highways and corridors, we'll need between 400,000 and 500,000 acres.

Full-time and part-time farmers from Brampton, Erin, Georgetown, Milton and area, numbering about 80, turned out to give the agriculture minister their views on the proposed legislation and other points bothering them.

By the applause at the end of the two and a half hour meeting, the audience appeared pleased with the minister's performance.

Agriculture minister Newman said he wants people with ideas and concerns about the green paper, which is proposed legislation, to write them down and mail them to him.

Newman stated he hoped there would be co-operation in the working out of the guidelines. "We're counting on common sense, not confrontation, to make the best use of guidelines," he said.

One purpose of the guidelines, contained in the eight page green paper, is to try and show local governments the high priority of agriculture lands in their official plans.

"We have enough land designated in official plans to last to the year 2,000," Newman said.

One lady took issue with the green paper's suggestion that a long-time farmer, about to retire, consider a mobile home or moving to a nearby village instead of severing his farm for a retirement lot.

Retiring to a mobile home, I find that hard to take, Eleanor Branch, R.R. 2, Norval, said to a ripple of applause. "You wouldn't suggest that to any other businessman", she told Newman.

The reason for the suggestion, said the agriculture minister, is that a mobile home would not require a severance. If a home built by a retiring farmer, is eventually bought by a non-farmer, the severance could cause problems to the adjacent farmer, Newman said.

Countering criticism from Erin area part-time farmer Jack Martin, that the farmer can't be helped because he can't muster enough voting power, the agriculture minister said his ministry got the second highest budget increase, in the recent budget.

Martin said the first paragraph of the green paper is suspect. "It's bunk", he told Newman. The paragraph states the government is committed "to maintain a permanent, secure and economically viable agricul-



AGRICULTURE MINISTER William Newman spoke on the green paper at Georgetown Monday.

ture industry". I'm not sure you're ever going to have viable agriculture here, Martin said.

Newman simply replied with his beliefs in the free enterprise system and that politicians are in their profession to serve the community.

Land freezing is something the agriculture minister said he does not believe in. However, land banking for agriculture is a policy of the Ontario government. He cited the example of 17,000 acres in a bank near Pickering. He said the government is buying land elsewhere, but he could not disclose the location.

In response to a question about shortages of land, food and oil, Newman agreed there is no shortage of food. He added that the green paper should be used to plan.

"What we are saying in Ontario, that we should be planning ahead so we don't have to rely on other countries for food supply," Newman said. He told the audience that he wants food self sufficiency for the province, though fruits can be imported cheaper than growing them on the Niagara Peninsula.

Bousfield heads 4-H

By John H. Reid
The first meeting of the Halton 4-H Field Crop Club was held at the Agricultural Office, Milton on April 18.

Election of officers was held with these results, president, Bill Bousfield; vice-president, Doug McPhail; secretary, Marilyn McNabb; and press reporter, John H. Reid.

Members judged two classes, one of hay and one of oats. A few members gave reasons. Plans for future meetings were discussed.

The president, William Bousfield, closed the meeting.

Erin councillor Jo Schneider was told by Newman that he did not know if there will be an appeal of land classifications. She wanted to know how to change the rating of land that is for example Class Two quality but is classed as number Three.

Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed told Newman he supports the green paper's intent on preserving farm land. However the MPP said he thought agriculture land will be used to ease the energy problems by the end of the century. He also said he was pleased to hear Newman come out against being in favor of land freeze.

Phyllis Ferrier, R.R. 1, Milton, turned the meeting's attention from the green paper to the Agricultural Code of Practice. Newman denied her assertion that the booklet favors non-farmers in farming areas over farmers.

Now, new people must stay x-number of feet away from farm operations, said the agriculture minister.

Concern over the largeness of government was voiced by Dr. Richard Kunica, R.R. 2, Georgetown. He said there are too many committees which are a waste of time and inefficient. Farmers and planners he suggested are growing farther apart, because there are fewer planners who know the lands of farmers.

Dr. Kunica later proposed a motion, that was adopted by the meeting, calling for the return to local municipalities of planning functions carried on by the regional.

Agriculture minister Newman was also pressed unsuccessfully by Tom Jackson of Tullamore, north of Brampton, on the point of assessment. He asked why farm land is not assessed for taxation as farm land, instead of as something else. If agriculture land was assessed as such, farmers would not have 90 per cent of taxes paid by government, Jackson said.

Jackson also hit a responsive note in the crowd when he said, though he voted for the government all his life, he wouldn't vote for it now.

The meeting also passed a motion calling for three members of the South Esqueving Landowners Association to negotiate with the town, region and province a reasonable land use policy.



FRAMED BY SHOP EQUIPMENT, Campbellville's Andrew King puts the finishing touches on part of his latest project, while Mr. and Mrs. Lehrer and son, of Moffat examine the room. Brookville School held its open house April 20.

G. McLure heads calf club

By Heidi Stadler
The first meeting of the Halton 4-H Dairy Calf Club was held at the Boyne Community Centre on Monday, April 11. A number of new

faces were among the 25 members present. Members elected club officers for the year. Glenn McLure was chosen as president, David Robinson vice president, Kim

Wingrove secretary-treasurer and Heidi Stadler press reporter. The club leaders are Ken McNabb, Doug Wingrove and Jeff Nurse.

The 4-H signs for posting at the end of each member's lane and over the project calf's pen were handed out, along with record books. The record books will be used to record the calf's feed intake, growth and costs for the project year.

Each 4-H member will also be expected to plant and care for two trees as a special project. The trees will be handed out on Saturday, April 30 at 10 a.m. at Hornby Park. Each member will receive one Silver Maple and one White Ash. Their progress will be checked during the farm visit this summer and will count for 50 points.

A film was shown on care and management of a 4-H calf and, after reading and discussing the first lesson for this year, a short quiz was given. Members were reminded that project calves must be chosen and the yellow identification sheet turned in to the Agricultural Office by May 1.

Teachers say

Install seat belts on school buses

School buses should have seat belts and other safety improvements, the Halton Elementary Teachers' Association (HETA) says.

A number of the recommendations the HETA committee has come up with are the same as ideas proposed by the Pineview Concerned Parents' Committee which has also been examining school bus operations in Halton. The Pineview parents' report will be presented to Halton Board of Education this Thursday and the HETA report later this month.

Both groups looking at

school bus safety suggest drivers be trained in first aid and two-way radios be installed in buses.

HETA urges seat belts and other passive restraints be installed in school buses. In addition, the committee would like to see bus floors improved structurally so seats and belts can be fastened to the floor and not rip out if the bus is in an accident.

A roof hatch should be mandatory equipment the teachers' report says and non-flammable materials should be used in the interior of all buses.

HRCA to distribute birds

The Halton Region Conservation Authority is again looking for possible sites to distribute pheasants as part of an experimental breeding program according to Bob Edmundson, a biologist for the HRCA.

Edmundson said in past years they have released 300-400 ring-necked pheasants along the watershed but haven't had much success in recording the survival or breeding rate.

The problem, he said revolved around finding a

suitable band and tag for the birds. The current band they use has a habit of falling off.

Despite these problems the HRCA has been encouraged by sightings of hens with young chicks in the following springs and summers.

The program is aimed more at increasing the pheasant population in Halton rather than providing game for hunters.

The birds are distributed in groups of 25 to farmers whose land has been found suitable for breeding pheasants.

Junior Farmers urge non-farmers to join

"You don't have to be one, to be one" is the new slogan adopted by Junior Farmers across Ontario. Clearing up a popular misconception about the organization, Halton Junior Farmer president Frances McLean said this week "you don't have to be a farmer or live on a farm to belong."

Halton Juniors are currently running a membership campaign and Miss McLean invites prospective members to obtain more information from her at 451-5474 or 833-2464 or contact Halton's Assistant Agricultural Representative Mark Leahy at 878-2314. Or everyone is invited to a Junior Farmer Rally this Saturday, April 16 at St. Paul's United Church in Milton, starting at 8 p.m.

Under the motto "Self Help and Community Betterment" the Junior Farmer Program provides opportunities for young people to develop themselves personally and to help better their community, she said. "This is achieved through social and educational activities which satisfy the personal needs and interests of the individuals involved, and through service projects which meet the needs of their community."

At present there is only one club in Halton which meets once each month to plan activities such as sports events, social events and

community betterment projects, but it's not all business. Social recreation plays a large part at some meetings, as do guest speakers and films.

"Jr. Farmers provides the opportunity for you to explore your individual talents and potential in almost every area you could mention; whether it is sports, music, square dancing, photography or public speaking. The program helps guys and girls meet and get to know each other while participating in some of the events or at Leadership Training Camp, communications retreat or Provincial Conference," she explained.

A total of 7,388 young people from all across Ontario found out in 1976 that there is plenty to do and a lot to learn and experience in Junior Farmers. The easiest thing about Jr. Farmers is becoming a Jr. Farmer.

Travel plays a large part in the Jr. Farmer program. Whether it's travel to Drumquinn to play baseball; North Simcoe County to curl; Nova Scotia on the Inter Provincial Exchange or to the United Kingdom for six weeks on an exchange; everyone has a chance to meet new friends, broaden their "horizons", and have a good time. Dances and booths at the Steam-Era and fall fairs raise funds to help finance activities and projects. It is also a tremendous opportunity to practice your organizational and public relations skills, she added.

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