



WHAT AN ARMFUL! Twice in two years Mrs. Madeline Rail, 63 McIntyre Crescent, Georgetown, has welcomed twins into the family, much to both her and husband Leonard's surprise. In her arms are two week old Nancy and Joanne, and beside her two year old Paul and Blair.

Twins twice in two years

Madeleine and Leonard Rail, 63 McIntyre Cres., Georgetown feel it may be double the pleasure and double the fun, but enough's enough.

Two sets of twins in two years, and total of five children in five years, leaves Mrs. Madeleine Rail with her hands full.

Two weeks ago Nancy and Joanne weighing 6 pounds 6 1/2 ounces and 5 pounds 10 ounces respectively made their debut.

Two years ago the first set of twins, Paul and Blair arrived, but Paul made an unexpected entrance at home, causing some consternation, while Blair waited to make a more conventional entrance in hospital.

The fifth child Daniel is now five years old, and is the proud oldest brother to the four other children.

Two Erin traffic mishaps

Two more traffic accidents underlined the need for study of a couple of controversial intersections near Erin.

Mishaps at the T-intersection of Sideroad 17 and County Road 23 and at the junction of the same county road and Highway 24 resulted in no personal injuries.

Ministry of transportation and communication officials last week promised MPP Jack Johnson a study of the sites will be undertaken.

Area residents recently petitioned council for a study. They also made some suggestions to make the intersection's safer.

The fatal auto accident at the T-intersection took the lives of two Hillsburgh residents on November 8.

Legion party

The Christmas party of the Acton Branch 197 of the Royal Canadian Legion is being held this Sunday at 1 p.m. Children of Legion members will be attending.



ENJOY A PIECE of freshly baked apple pie and a cup of coffee or apple cider at Chudleigh's. Lillian Landsborough and Mary Fay were busy baking Wednesday. The natural barn setting

allows customers freedom of movement while shopping and there is even a fireplace at which one can warm their toes while sipping the freshly made cider.

Province's code to cover oddities

The province advised Erin township council of the importance of passing an official plan and bylaws to cover oddities in land use.

The code applies only to land zoned agriculture.

For example, anyone owning 25 acres can have no more than two horses. Someone with just a couple of acres can have the same number of horses.

But as many horses as the land can carry are allowed on a 26-acre farm.

A representative from the ministry of agriculture and food and Wellington County's agriculture engineer were at council last week to introduce

a province-wide agricultural code of practice.

The pair stressed agriculture development as related to housing and environment.

Farmers may apply to county agriculture offices for a certificate of compliance, which will allow them to farm within the code's guides and local bylaws, if farmers wish to expand their operations.

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HFA pres. says farmer must take second job

Faced with severe financial difficulties of running a farm many Halton farmers have taken second jobs in factories according to Halton Federation of Agriculture President Bob Merry.

"Farming is not really a part-time job, but unfortunately many are forced to take on another job, usually in a factory," Merry said in an interview recently.

In spite of tax reductions and provincial grants, many farmers facing financial difficulties have become part-time farmers, Mr. Merry explained.

"There is a good percentage of the membership in the HFA who are part-time farmers and there are more becoming like that," Merry said.

One of the problems is defining a farmer, said Mr. Merry. There are very few "bonafide" farmers, actually living off the land, but many are receiving capital grants and tax cuts. "People are taking advantage and it does not help the real farmers," he said.

He explained that real estate development in Halton Region is one of many problems facing farmers.

"The Halton area is a prime location because of its commuting distance to Toronto, and its closeness to rural and urban areas," said Mr. Merry. Farmers are competing to buy farm land against doctors and lawyers from Toronto, who want a place out in the country. There is just no way we can compete against them."

Farm land prices in the area have doubled in the last few years said Mr. Merry. "You used to pay between \$750 and \$1,000 an acre a few years ago, but that has doubled now."

"Development is not good in this area, because the developers can pay out so much more. They should be buying the poor agricultural land, but they are not and it makes it very difficult for anyone trying to enlarge his farm."

Farmers in northerly regions are not faced with the same problems said Mr. Merry, because "they are not bothered by speculators."

"There is just no way though, that real estate development can be compatible at a close proximity, when I am getting rid of 1,000 gallons of pig manure, daily."

Mr. Merry stated he has fought the planned 1,400 acre industrial park north of Highway 401. "The town should be looking at agriculture, and considering its importance, said Mr. Merry. The industrial plot should be situated in the rocky area of Nassawega, and not in a good farming area, he said.

In addition to rising prices, machinery prices have also skyrocketed according to Mr. Merry. A 75 horsepower tractor is now worth between \$12,000 and \$13,000, he said, when a few years ago, machinery costs were a lot less.

"The costs have been escalating in the last five to 10 years, but our products have not gone up," Mr. Merry blames the increased costs on factory labor wages which he charges are passed on in the cost of the machine.

"The plants decide what price is going to be charged, based on their expenses and labor wages, but the farmer is not able to set his own price," charged Mr. Merry.

With approximately 250 individual farming members in the organization the biggest complaint concerns product prices, said Mr. Merry. "Most farmers feel they are not getting a fair price for their product. One example is the beef industry, which for the last two or three years has been at the bottom, but is now slowly picking up."

"There are some government restrictions on beef, but the meat is still coming in a good deal cheaper than Canadian farmers can give the government," he said. "In Australia, beef farmers are paid 10 cents a pound for

grass-fed beef cattle, so you can imagine the difference in price."

Farming today is not easy, said Mr. Merry, and one really has to like it to make a go of it. "I don't think the young generation is willing to take it with all the problems. Factory wages are very good, and they don't have to worry about having all sorts of money tied up, in a farm operation."

In the last three years, three good farms have gone out of production in his area. "They have been sold to businessmen from Toronto, who are using the farms part-time," he said adding he felt the farms were not being used at their maximum capabilities.

Despite concern with the present agricultural situation, Mr. Merry expects improvements within the next year. "Things are going to get better, because I don't think it can really get any worse."

"As well, I have just added on another barn, and no

matter what, I will have to keep it going."

"You have so much tied up in this business, you really have to keep going," explained Mr. Merry.

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Legal to carry paying riders

In an energy conserving move, legislation has been passed making it legal to carry paying passengers in cars, vans and station wagons.

The legislation exempts vehicles from the Public Vehicles Act with a seating capacity of 12 or less, including the driver, providing the owner does not operate more than one car pool, unless he is the employer of a majority of the commuters.

Ministry of Transportation and Communications Jim Snow said an increase in car pools will help energy conservation and reduce rush hour traffic.

The exemption applies to vehicles used for commuter trips, where the driver makes no more than one round trip

per day, and where commuters pay for the service no more than once a week.

Won't ban

Halton Hills finance committee refused to endorse a resolution from the City of Stratford calling for legislation to allow municipalities to ban the sale of non-returnable soft drink containers.

Councillor Roy Booth and Pat Patterson said they would not endorse it, while the rest of the committee agreed but made no comment.

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