



DONALD MACDONALD, MPP York South, addressed the Halton-Burlington NDP Association.

Provincial agricultural policies 'gutless' NDP farm and food critic claims

A prerequisite to putting a "freeze" on agricultural land in Ontario is to ensure that the farmer will make a living on the land, said Donald MacDonald, MPP York South and NDP agricultural and food critic, at a meeting of the Halton-Burlington NDP Riding Association last Wednesday in Georgetown.

Calling the government's policy of constraining urban growth by zoning "patently inadequate," MacDonald went on to say "foodlands cannot compete in the marketplace with urban development and hope to survive."

He said the Ontario Association of Rural Municipalities as well as the Ontario Institute of Agrologists have demanded government legislation to preserve foodlands and urged that any application for exemption to use prime farmland for any other purpose should be subject to review by all the normal local planning bodies, up to the provincial planning authorities, with a

final appeal to a provincial Land Tribunal.

"But the government chooses to ignore all these urgent pleas and dismiss any legislation to preserve foodlands, even if accompanied by the machinery to consider legitimate exceptions, as being a freeze," MacDonald said. "That's a gutless political stance which commands the support of nobody except the Ontario Liberals."

In the last 20 years the amount of each dollar spent on food going to the farmer has dropped from 60 cents to 35 cents on the average, MacDonald said, although in the past four or five years it has risen to 40 cents.

"But that's gross income at the farm gate," he said. "The net income of a farmer in Ontario is between eight and ten cents, (on each food dollar)."

He said the average net farm income in Ontario dropped from \$6,200 in 1974 to just less than \$5,800 in 1975.

"Farmers have been leaving farming in droves," he said. Over 40 percent have left since 1966, he added.

Of those who remain, "distinctly more than half are part-time farmers," because they are not able to make enough income from farming alone so they have to supplement it to meet the family's needs, he said.

"The food industry is the largest in Canada, bar none," MacDonald said, but the farmers represent less than 20 percent of the industry. The

balance, dominated by the giants, Loblaw-Weston, Dominion, Steinbergs, Safeway and A&P are among "that growing horde of middlemen crowding between the farmgate and the checkout counter," he said.

"People in this country are paying at least four percent more for food," MacDonald told the 50 people who heard his speech. Of the \$4.7 billion spent on food in Ontario, excess profits of middlemen account for \$188 million.

He said that the Loblaw-Weston empire own the entire production chain from the farm to the checkout counter. "They're taking their cut out at every bit. No wonder the price is right."

He said he is disturbed by minister of agriculture and food, Wm. Newman's "trying to lull the people of this province," that there is cause only for concern but not alarm.

The issue of how much farmland is or is not going out

of production each hour in Ontario "has been getting lost in this futile argument on figures," MacDonald said.

"A new batch of figures is pouring out of the computer," this week indicating farmland is coming back into production, according to Newman at a rate of 6.6 acres per hour. MacDonald said. But this figure is equally open to question as is the figure of 26 acres of farmland going out of production per hour which the NDP originated, because of the unreliability of data used as a research base.

"Newman is more interested in coming up with new figures" and downgrading the urgency of the issue, MacDonald charged.

He said that by the year 2000 when the estimated population of Ontario will be 12 million, "if agricultural production increased by 70 percent we will need approximately one acre per person to feed ourselves."

"Today we have a little over 10 million acres of prime farmland available," MacDonald said. "We've got to save 10 million and reclaim two million in order to feed

ourselves alone." Between now and the year 2000 there should be a "double barreled objective," MacDonald said. "No more agricultural land must go out of production and two million acres must be reclaimed from land developers, city farmers, hydro corridors and highways, he said.

He predicted that if agricultural land continues going out of production at the current rate, "by 1985 there will be only two or three products in Ontario where we will produce enough for our own needs."

If the rate of food importation over the last quarter of a century continues, MacDonald warned, "by 2000 will be importing 60 percent of our food stuffs."

He also predicted that in the next decade there will be a farm income stabilization programme across Canada, similar to the one in British Columbia which saw 90 percent of the farmers there voluntarily enter the programme and an increase in the number of people working as farmers.

Quebec has already moved to follow suit, MacDonald said, and Nova Scotia and Manitoba are considering it.

He called the \$20 million in Ontario's budget for farm income stabilization "inadequate."

He said that farmers face an inequity of property taxes worse than homeowners. "Farmers carry a tax on the tools of their trade," Agricultural farms should be "completely exempt from equity tax."

"The Davis government's so-called 'new' agricultural land use policies represent an elaborate effort to propagandize the public into believing that something more is going to be done when, in fact, the inadequate policies of the past are simply being camouflaged in a new outpouring of political rhetoric," MacDonald said.

Flat \$2,000 raise for region's department heads

Regional council has approved an across-the-board \$2,000 pay raise for seven regional department heads following a lengthy in camera session last Wednesday afternoon in Burlington.

Councillors had questioned the blanket \$2,000 increase and

whether or not the cost-of-living increase granted all employees would put the total raise above the Anti-Inflation Board regulations.

They also noted that the general \$2,000 increase meant a change in policy on how merit increases should be awarded staff members.

Inefficient dump operation costly

Terming the operation at the Georgetown landfill site as "phenomenally inefficient" Halton Hills councillor Ric Morrow unsuccessfully tried to block an increase in the dumping charges at all Halton landfill operations from \$3 to \$4 per ton, effective next year. "People are getting mad," Councillor Morrow told council about the costs of dumping at the landfill site, which he claimed "are totally out of control."

He criticized the region for not considering using regional staff at the site and renting equipment rather than giving the job to a contractor.

Councillor Morrow was critical of the contractor for using the wrong kind of bulldozers on the site which, he said, inevitably leads to increased maintenance costs.

The cost of operating the Georgetown dump has jumped from \$25,000 just a few years ago, said Morrow to approximately \$160,000 this year.

Morrow criticized, claimed Jack Rafitis, chairman of the region's work committee, "is a dam good politician...but totally ludicrous." He added "all we're doing is looking after a poor legacy. If you think \$3 to \$4 is bad just wait a year or two."

Library adds 100 children's records

The Junior Library in Georgetown has recently added over 100 new records to its collection.

Most of these records are reading of classic and contemporary award-winning

children's books.

While they will be of interest to all parents and children, they should be of special value to those children whose enjoyment of these works is marred by impaired vision of

reading difficulties.

Being read to is often a spur for children whose motivation to read is low or whose reading skills are slow to develop. In most cases the books that match the records are also available.



ALL SET FOR A PARADE—This group of moms and kids are all ready and raring to take part in this Saturday's Children's Parade through downtown Georgetown. All children are invited to take part in the parade by decorating their bicycle, tricycle, wagon, doll carriage, pet or even themselves. The parade will start at 1:30 from Remembrance Park and will end up in the Fairgrounds. This group of disguised paraders include Jeanie, Deniella and Caroline Petrelli, Joanne Terashita, Marilyn, Jamie and Scott Thomas and David Wood.

UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
143rd Anniversary Service
 Sunday, May 30th, 1976
 11:00 a.m.
 Speaker: Rev. R. G. MacMillan, D.D.
 Formerly of Oakville

Come to Church

HALTON HILLS PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLY
 Trafalgar Rd. and No. 7 Highway
 Pastor Rev. E.J. Friesen
 Sunday, May 30
 10 am Family School
 11 am Morning Worship
 7 pm - Evening Service
 Special Guest Soloist
 Rev. Ron Matherson
 Cambridge, Ont.
 Wednesday 7:30
 Prayer and Bible Study

Immanuel Lutheran Church
 Windsor Road at Carole St.
 Rev. Harold R. Patzer
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 11 a.m. Worship Service
 Church of the Lutheran Hour

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH
 OF GEORGETOWN AND GLEN WILLIAMS
 Minister: Rev. F.G. Batsdon, B.A.B.D.
 Mr. Dale Wood, ARCT Organist Mrs. Shirley Ingils
 SERVICES OF WORSHIP
 9:30 am Glen Williams
 11 am Georgetown
 Sunday School for all ages at both places of worship
 Nursery Care

GEORGETOWN ALLIANCE CHURCH
 14 Main St. S.
 Pastor Peter Ralph
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 11 a.m. Morning Worship
 7 p.m. Evening Worship
 Everyone Welcome
 "Come make our church your church"

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH
 Anglican
 Rev. R. Gallagher, B.A., S.T.B.
 Sunday May 30
 8 am Eucharist
 9:15 am Family Eucharist
 11 am Choral Eucharist
 Church School
 9:15 am 11 am
 Nursery service
 9:15 and 11 am

Mohawk graduates

Three Halton Hills students were among 637 students who graduated Saturday, May 15 from Mohawk College in Hamilton.

Lorne Wilson has graduated from the Civil Engineering Technology program and Geogrey Pantling has graduated from the

Recreation Leadership course. Both are Georgetown students. Stephanie Lister of Acton has graduated from the Recreation Leadership program.

Baseball association receives grant

A grant of \$215 has been made to the Georgetown Baseball Association from the province to assist the GBA in purchasing baseball equipment. The money was raised

through proceeds from the Wintario lottery.

A news release from the provincial ministry of culture and recreation outlining nine grants given to Halton organizations included among

those nine a grant of \$437 to the Streetsville Musicorp. Streetsville, under the provincially organized regional government setup, is included in the region of Peel and not Halton.

Firefighters don't want homeowners burned by equipment salesmen

Halton's firefighters would like to see smoke detectors used in every home in the region, but they are worried about reports of high-pressure salesmen using scare tactics to sell expensive protection devices to homeowners.

Captain Robert Gray of Burlington Fire Department, Chairman of Halton Region Fire Prevention Committee, says he is tired of hearing from worried homeowners who have been subjected to high-pressure sales tactics by door-to-door salesmen who:

-Scare people so much they don't want to spend another unprotected night in their home;

-Claim their products are approved by the local fire department;

-And try to sell homeowners a detection device for every room in the home, when one or two are sufficient protection for most single family dwellings.

Chairman Gray said unscrupulous salesmen have been active in some areas of Halton and he has had "dozens of complaints" from upset consumers. Recently the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations launched a crack-down on these firms and charges under the Business Practices Act were laid against one fran-

chise in Sudbury for using high pressure sales tactics and misrepresenting the product in a door-to-door sales blitz. The Ministry cautions consumers against buying detectors from door-to-door salesmen, and the Halton Committee repeats the warning.

"Some of these are over-priced devices which are no better than any sold in the local department store," Chairman Gray warns. In some cases the sales representative shows homeowners a gruesome audio-visual presentation about the dangers of being trapped in a home fire. He said beware of anyone claiming a product has been recommended, approved, tested or endorsed by the local fire department. "Only Underwriters Laboratory of Canada tests these devices to make sure they meet certain standards. Fire departments cannot and do not approve them," he warned.

The new Ontario Building Code says all new homes must have a fire alarm and some salesmen are using this Code as leverage to sell their costly wares to owners of older homes. Capt. Gray said one salesman even claimed he had lost children in a fire.

What should a homeowner do if approached by a firm

selling fire alarms? "Shop around," the Committee suggests—get comparative prices and don't grab at the first offer. Be on guard against high-pressure sales tactics and if the salesman says his product is approved by your fire department, don't take his word for it—call the fire department business office and ask if it's true.

Halton Region Fire Prevention Committee and the fire departments of Halton prefer "products of com-

bustion" detectors which will sound an alarm during any of the four stages of fire—incipient, visible smoke, flames and high heat. There are several good ones sold.

Some detectors don't sound an alarm until fire conditions reach the heavy smoke or flame level. Products of combustion detectors will respond while fire is still in the smouldering stage, and they are the best form of early-warning fire detection, the Committee points out.



Co-Op Home Centre coming to Armstrong, Guelph corner



ON THE SITE OF United Co-op's future \$600,000 Home Centre Dwight May, chairman of UCO's Halton Area Council, and Charlie Harris, UCO's Guelph area manager, inspect a sketch of the building.

Construction of a United Co-Op "Home Centre" in Georgetown is expected to begin soon with an opening date in the fall of this year, according to United Co-operatives of Ontario.

Situated at the west corner of Armstrong and Guelph St. the site will have an initial investment of more than \$600,000 in land and buildings. The building itself will be 21,000 square feet on a lot 108,900 square feet.

As one of four Home Centres the UCO will be opening this year in Ontario, the building will be serving the urban as well as the rural customer.

denly found ourselves surrounded by young urban householders," said Dwight May, chairman of the UCO's Halton Area Council.

In addition to the traditional UCO farm supplies, the Home Centre will carry outdoor indoor and outdoor supplies, appliances, kitchen and bath units, doors, windows and a full range of building materials.

"We want to offer the whole service package," May said. "When the stores open, our staff will have completed training programmes which will enable them not only to sell the product but to give sound advice on its proper use."

1st ANNUAL
PET SHOW
 BRAMALEA CITY CENTRE
 CHILDREN'S
 SATURDAY MAY 29th
 CHINGUACOUSY DOG FANCIERS
 BRAMALEA CITY CENTRE
 THE TOTAL SHOPPING CONCEPT
 HIGHWAY 7 & DIXIE ROAD