

Beneath Halton's pastoral serenity

...runs an undercurrent of tension

By STEVE ARNOLD
Herald Special
A current of tension is running beneath the pastoral serenity of Halton Region's rural countryside, according to a University of Guelph study.

Prof. George Penfold blamed that tension on increased residential development.

Mr. Penfold's study was started two years ago as part of the University's Rural Development Outreach Program.

MAJOR ISSUE: Based on data gathered in the review, he said, non-farm residential development in the rural

area will be the major issue in the future, replacing the traditional concern of farmland lost to urban expansion, but questioned if it is really detrimental to good farming.

Mr. Penfold noted in 1976 Halton Region had 796 census farms, totalling 117,866 acres. Despite the growth in rural residential development, however, that number increased to 969 in 1981, accounting for 129,030 acres.

Debbie Reid, who assisted with the study, said there has been a trend in Halton to increase the amount of land lost to residential

development.

Up to 1980, she noted, the region's planning committee had reviewed 3,217 severance applications, 42 per cent of which were in the rural area and 79 per cent of which were approved.

"Industrial and commercial applications were seldom rejected," she added.

These severances, she said, become the lots which are sold to non-farm residents after their first use, usually as retirement lots for farmers, is finished.

She also noted, however, over 1,200 such lots in rural Halton have not yet been developed even

though their severances have been approved.

"It seems clear that in the immediate future," Mr. Penfold said, "it is not likely that this extra urban development will be contained."

Ms. Reid reported a survey she conducted on farmers in Halton revealed most felt their farms and their lifestyle had been damaged by the creation of so many non-farm homes.

These fears, she said, include the idea that the traditional rural community was being lost as former city dwellers started to demand urban services, such as garbage

collection and sewer mains, raising property taxes to farmers.

Most of the people responding, she said, reported at least six severances within a mile of their farms in recent years and all said they had noticed an increase in the conflicts they have with neighbors.

In addition to new rural residents complaining about the sometimes pungent aromas of farming, farmers complained about dog problems and littering they blamed on their new neighbors.

"A lot of them are afraid of being squeezed out of the rural area,"

she said. Mr. Penfold argued a policy is needed to allow government to intervene in the process of converting farmland to rural homes.

"I think this trend certainly raises the question of whether the traditional concept of the family farm in Halton is appropriate any longer," he said.

Despite the mounting problems of such development, he noted, most farmers do not seem to have changed their willingness to sever bits of their land to meet special needs.

—Courtesy
Guelph Mercury

Hunt unwelcome

Deer hunters beware! You're not welcome on or near school properties in Halton Hills.

The Halton board of education, the Halton Roman Catholic Separate School Board and the Upper Canada College Norval School have requested the town

amend its bylaw to designate properties owned by school boards a no-hunting area.

The two Halton boards are also requesting that all lands within a half-mile radius of their property be designated

as a no-hunting area.

Deputy clerk Delmar French has recommended town staff report back to councillors on these requests. A final decision on that will be made next Monday night.

Awaits change

If councillors grant a zoning change next Monday to lands owned by Sharmount Investments Limited in northwest Georgetown, development of 14 single family homes could begin.

Halton never considered

Town councillors took offence Monday night at last week's newspaper headlines and the assertion of a developer that the Japanese Honda plant to be built in Alliston, Ontario, could have located in Halton Hills.

"The region of Halton was never considered for the Honda plant," Coun. Dave Whiting claimed. "We never lost that deal."

Mayor Miller also took offence when Gibb Industrial developer Bruce Hugh said, "I don't think it's too far fetched to say that Acton could have been considered."

HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU



Georgetown's Dale Wood is the conductor of the Choral Society and the Cantante Singers. He is a University of Toronto graduate and classifies music as his full time employment. He instructs 62 students a week in singing, piano and keyboards, along with composing choral music and working with orchestras in Toronto.

Mr. Wood's second love, fishing, turned into a business six years ago. His company is called Glendale Charters which takes fishermen on Lake Ontario for fishing expeditions. Dale Wood has been a Georgetown resident for eleven years.

FAVORITE MOVIE: Sound of Music
FAVORITE TV SHOW: Airwolf
FAVORITE BOOK: Hawaii

FAVORITE MUSIC: "Anything but opera. Really, there isn't a favorite."
FAVORITE VACATION PLACE: Moon River, Ontario
HOBBIES: Fishing, Golf
HEROES: "I was very sports minded in high school. I have a sports idol, Tobin Rote, which I guess is the same thing."
FAVORITE RESTAURANT: Chez Marie
FAVORITE YEAR: "1977, the year I got married."
PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE: "Living each day to the fullest."
What do you hope to be doing in ten years: "Furthering my music career."

Asked not to show

Town councillors were asked not to show up July 12 at an Ontario Municipal Board hearing for two severance applications by Rene March.

Larry March, a planner and son of the property owner asked the town not to send representation to the appeal. The application was refused by the Regional Land Division Committee March 27.

Mr. March wants to create two single family residential lots on Part Lot 32 Concession B in Ballinacra.

Other regions don't want our garbage

By ANI FEDERIAN
Herald Staff
Nobody wants Halton's garbage. Regional councillors were told last week that adjacent regions aren't receptive to loaning space in their dumps for Halton's wastes.

"It wasn't done recently, but three months ago we did, on a staff-to-staff basis, discuss trading space. They weren't receptive to it," the region's chief administrative officer said.

Halton is looking for an interim solution to the waste that will be accumulating once the current landfill site in Burlington is full mid-July.

Planning and public works committee chairman Ann Mulvale said Halton's interest in trading space hadn't been well received in preliminary discussions with neighboring regions earlier.

A long-term solution in the form of an Energy From Waste plant that would incinerate 75 per cent of the region's garbage in future is now being studied in detail. A preliminary study has recently been published.

Temporary housing in storage building

A farmer bequeathed 50 acres by the late Theresa St. Jean, a popular figure in the French Canadian community, has applied for permission to convert a storage building on the property into a temporary home.

Julien Croteau recently became the owner of the lands west of Stewartown on Part Lot 15, Concession 6. In her will,

Miss St. Jean granted legal tenancy of the original farm house to the tenant family until 1995, with the option of vacating earlier at their discretion.

As Mr. Croteau has recently been served notice to vacate rented accommodation, he wishes to renovate the galvanized storage building on the bequeath-

ed property into a temporary residence until he can move into the main house on his property.

Councillors were told the storage building is equipped with its own well, septic disposal system and entrance driveway from Sideroad 15.

A public meeting may be called for the rezoning application. Councillors make their final decision next week.

Rummage sale

Holy Cross Church will be holding a rummage sale of new and used clothing in the church hall on Maple Avenue June 30 from 8 a.m. - 12 noon.

Proceeds will go to help the St. Vincent de Paul Society. For more information call 877-7430.

Awards banquet

The Pioneer Girls Club at Maple Ave. Baptist Church held a Spring Awards Banquet where a total of 390 awards were given out. The Highlight of the evening was six girls getting the Pioneer Girls Highest Honor award for their group. They were Rhonda Ninaber, Karen Boyes, Sarah MacNeill, Back row right Julie Fishback, Jennifer Hutzal, and Shelley Russell.

Canada Day crafts

The Second Annual Halton Region Craft and Bake Sale, originally scheduled for June 17 was postponed because of rain.

It is now rescheduled for July 1 at the Halton Region Museum, Kelso Conservation Area where it will run in conjunction with the Great Canada Day Ice Cream Crank Off, (ice cream making demonstrations and contests for the whole family).

The fun begins at 10 a.m. and lasts until 5 p.m. For further information call 878-3232.

Mayor objects to expansion

The mayor of Halton Hills would like to see the Croatian Social and Cultural Centre return to agricultural use.

In Monday night's general committee meeting, he told fellow councillors that as a member of the Halton Agricultural Advisory Committee he's very much opposed to expansion at the site.

On Winston Churchill Boulevard and Sideroad 5, the Croatian Centre has made applications to the town for expanding its facilities.

Mayor Miller said he objects to the loss of agricultural land and the impact on the neighboring agricultural community that further development on the 160 acre property would cause.

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Favourite Recipes

STRAWBERRY RHUBARB PIE

1 1/2 c. sugar
3 tbsp. quick cooking tapioca
1/4 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. nutmeg
1 lb. rhubarb cut in 1/2 inch pieces (3 cups)
1 c. fresh sliced strawberries
Pastry for 9" lattice top pie
1 tbsp. butter

Combine first 4 ingredients; add rhubarb and strawberries. Mix to coat fruit. Let stand about 20 minutes. Turn into pastry-lined 9" pie plate. Dot with butter. Adjust lattice top, seal. Bake 400 degrees for 35-40 minutes.

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