

Jack Riddell comes calling

Halton farmers bend minister's ear

Despite being over 45 minutes late for a special meeting with 10 Halton farm organizations, Ontario's Minister of Agriculture and Food was warmly welcomed, Thursday night.

Waiting patiently for him at the Acton Legion were: Peter Lambriek, Halton Region Federation of Agriculture president; John Lindsay, Halton-Peel Weigh Club director; Frank Anthony, Halton Corn Producers chairman; Jeff Nurse,

Halton Milk Committee Director, Evelyn Gillies, Boyne Britannia Citizens Group member; Russell Armstrong, Cream Action Committee director; Ed Segsworth, Halton Provincial Director of OFA; John Kitching, Halton Task Force on the Deer Hunt farm community representative; Michael Halburton, Milton Sheep Improvement Club president; Dr. Joanne McKinnon, Halton Veterinarians member; and Ken McNabb, Halton Soil and Crop

Improvement Association president. They all had agricultural concerns to air with Mr. Jack Riddell.

"You can be sure it doesn't stop here," the Minister told them right off the bat. "I go back to Toronto with your concerns and address them with my policy staff."

He told Weigh Club Director John Lindsay the red meat program introduced by the previous government has been working "extremely well from all reports, and there's no

reason why we shouldn't continue it."

In fact, the Minister said the province is looking at expanding this program, which was brought in as a five-year program in 1983.

Halton Corn Producers chairman Frank Anthony of Acton asked for a duty on American corn imports to counter the U.S. Farm Bill which decreases the export price of U.S. corn by 25 per cent.

"I'm highly supportive of countervailing corn coming in from the U.S.," Mr. Riddell reassured. However, he said his government can't institute it, but can only give support to such a measure, which is a federal matter.

Mr. Anthony also asked the Ontario corn stabilization program to change the enrolment date to Dec. 1 from Oct. 1. The enrolment date is the date corn growers must estimate the size of their crop. October is too early, and is before harvest begins, Mr. Anthony said.

Corn producers also pointed out the price support levels don't reflect the absolute costs of production and are inadequate when prices are depressed for a long period of time.

"I'm hoping I might have some good news for you there," Mr. Riddell said.

As for encouraging the production of corn sugar, the Minister said he has spoken with federal agriculture Minister John Wise, telling him that whatever he is doing for the sugar beet industry, he should be also doing for the corn sugar industry.

With regard to producing ethanol fuel from agricultural crops, the minister supports it.

"I believe we should be making a move, and as a government I think we should be supporting it," Mr. Riddell said, suggesting a pilot project be introduced to produce ethanol.

The Cream Action Committee is two years old and wants a conversion policy that would allow serious cream producers the option of converting cream quota to market sharing quota without any assessment penalty.

"Quota values have become a real concern and we realize they're a problem, but it's got us beat," Mr. Riddell admitted. "We don't know what to do about it."

He said he's hoping the farm products marketing boards will be able to come up with a solution to quota values and restricted entry into the milk industry.

"I, as a minister can't make decisions for the farmers," Mr. Riddell said. "Elected people run the marketing boards. It's not my job to dictate what the marketing boards can do."



Ten Halton farm organization representatives bent the ear of the Minister of Agriculture last Thursday night. Speaking with the

Honorable Jack Riddell (far left) are (left to right) Ken McNabb, Jeff Nurse and Ed Segsworth. They represent the Halton Soil and Crop Improvement Association, The Halton Milk Committee and the Halton Federation of Agriculture. (Herald photo)

TANKS GIRLS



Bringing a bit of sunshine and lots of customers Friday and Saturday to the Co-op gas bar were Argo Sunshine Girls (left to right) Michelle, Denene and gas bar supervisor Dawn Davies. (Herald photo)

Minister wants farms preserved

Although there's a worldwide surplus of food today, that's not a good enough reason to use farmland for other than agriculture, the Minister of Agriculture and Food said Thursday evening.

"I want people to say at least Jack Riddell did something to try and preserve this agricultural land so that future generations will have enough food to feed themselves," the Minister told farmers at the meeting in the Acton Legion.

He noted that half of one per cent of Ontario land is class 1 and 2 land, and that it's a finite resource. The wind is blowing away Ontario's lands, and the rainwater is eroding the flat lands in Essex.

"The ironic thing about this is, those farmers who say, no we want the right to sever our land are also saying we want Right to Farm legislation," Jack Riddell said.

Farmers want to sever their lands, and build houses on these severed lots.

Agriculture concerns Free trade studied

The benefits and costs of free trade are being studied by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Halton farmers were told Thursday evening by Jack Riddell.

The provincial minister said his ministry is conducting a study to see what the impact of free trade would be on every sector of the agricultural industry.

"I don't think the federal government has conducted a study..." Mr. Riddell said. "I really think we're going into this blindly."

He said he stressed to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney that agriculture in this country is unique and must be given special status.

"I'm a little disappointed the prime minister didn't adhere to his word that the premiers would have a chance to sit around the bargaining table and have their say," Mr. Riddell said.

Hunt will return

There's going to be a controlled deer hunt in Halton, the provincial Minister of Agriculture told representatives of farming organizations Thursday evening.

"I believe there's going to be a controlled hunt on deer in Halton," Jack Riddell said, at a Halton Farm Organization meeting in Acton.

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ADMISSION SPECIALS

- June 11th - Parent Night - Parent accompanied by a child admitted free
- June 18th - Boys Night - All males admitted for 1/2 price
- June 25th - Schools Out Night - All students admitted for 1/2 price
- July 2nd - Canada Night - Wear a Canadian Flag for 1/2 price admission
- July 9th - Girls Night - All females admitted for 1/2 price
- July 16th - Adults Night - all adults (over 18 yrs) admitted for 1/2 price
- July 23rd - Teen Night - All teens admitted for 1/2 price
- July 30th - Couples Night - Couples admitted for \$1.00
- Aug. 6th - Numbers Night - Wear a shirt with a number for 1/2 price admission
- Aug. 13th - Hat Night - Wear a hat for 1/2 price admission
- Aug. 20th - Parent Night - Parent accompanied by a child admitted free
- Aug. 27th - Family Night - Family Admission \$2.00 (min. 1 adult)
- Sept. 3rd - Back to School - all students 1/2 price admission

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CONTRACT P-86-C-1

GLEN LEA SUBDIVISION RECONSTRUCTION PHASE III ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

SEALED Tenders, clearly marked as to contents will be received by Mr. Delmar French, Acting Clerk, Box 128, Georgetown, Ontario, L7G 4T1 until 12:00 Noon Local Time

Wednesday, June 25th, 1986

for the third phase of reconstruction of Glen Lea Subdivision in the Town of Halton Hills (Acton). Approximate quantities are as follows:

- Excavation - 3200 m³
- Granular Base - 4350 tonnes
- Curb and Gutter - 850 m
- Hot Mix Asphalt - 880 tonnes
- Storm Sewer - 365 m

Plans, Specifications and Form of Tender may be obtained at the office of the Town's Purchasing Agent or the Consulting Engineer upon payment to the Town of \$25.00 which is non-refundable. A certified cheque or bid bond in the amount specified in the tender documents must accompany each tender.

Tenders will be opened at 12:15 p.m. Wednesday, June 25, 1986 at the Halton Hills Administration Building, Trafalgar Road, Halton Hills (Georgetown), Ontario. Those submitting tenders are invited to attend.

Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

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Mr. Delmar French Acting Clerk Town of Halton Hills P.O. Box 128 Georgetown, Ontario L7G 4T1