

Outlook on Halton Hills

Speaker tells of work with Third World farmers

Using a large wall map of the world liberally sprinkled with stick-on dots George Atkins told the audience at St. John's United Church Thanksgiving, Oct. 24 of his wide, sweeping swings through the Third World in the interest of improving the lot of small farmers in whose hands the permanent solution to world hunger basically rests.

George Atkins, retired after 25 years as CBC Farm Commentator, is most enthusiastic about his present project. Always interested in bringing agriculture and farming to the fore, he is now completing ten years as the heart, brains and voice of something called Developing Countries Farm Radio Network. It is a network that does no broadcasting of its own. Instead it gathers information on grassroots agricultural techniques in the Third World and makes it available in the form of tapes and scripts to upward of 300 participating radio outlets in more than 70 developing countries. Its world-wide audience is estimated at 100 million!

Information packages geared to small scale farmers will provide appropriate technology to improve food supplies and nutrition and at the same time decreasing losses. The packages are sent out to Third World radio broadcasters in English, French and Spanish. Scripts can then be translated for local listeners. Inexpensive radios - e.g. in Fiji \$3, batteries 20 cents each; in Zambia one in 16 Africans have a radio. Some examples of items exchanged:

-To have clean water in Lebanon they found they could purify water using ultra violet light

-In Indonesia fuel can be made from corn cobs which have been burned in a 40 gallon oil drum to make charcoal

-"In one item we reported that in Botswana they mix wood ash into

grain because of weevils" Mr. Atkins said. "It discourages them 100 per cent. This is important information in places where weevils can reduce food stocks by as much as 50 per cent. They had never heard of this practice in Nigeria, Mexico or Chile."

-Another item concerned the widespread problem of storing animal feed. At a bull farm in north-western India, Mr. Atkins discovered, they store green grass by mixing it with molasses, throwing it into a straw-lined pit in the earth and covering it with gunny sacks and a layer of soil. The grass remains green and nutritious well into the dry season.

Information such as this went all over the world. To some more or less familiar with scientific agriculture such items as mentioned above may seem quaint. Nevertheless, the information provides food in parts of the world where such things can never be taken for granted.

The Developing Countries Farm Radio Network is sponsored by Variety (formerly Massey-Ferguson), the University of Guelph, the Canadian International Development Agency and general public donations.

George Atkins has recently been presented in Ottawa with a prestigious award - a centennial medal. On its 100th anniversary the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food chose one hundred people in Ontario to receive this medal. Mr. Atkins is certainly a most deserving recipient!

Churchgoers are reminded of the constant need of the food bank and are urged to continue bringing in canned goods and food staples.

Keep in mind the Annual St. John's Bazaar Wednesday evening, Nov. 16, 7 p.m.

Wellhouses being redesigned in answer to public outcry

Public outcry has forced Halton Region to redesign the wellhouses at Cedarvale Park at a cost of an extra \$150,000.

Georgetown draws 40 per cent of its water from the pumps at the well in Cedarvale Park and last year a second well was drilled in the area to provide emergency water.

But the buildings there are now badly in need of repair, said Halton's public works commissioner Robert Moore.

The Region had originally designed a \$225,000 structure but area residents complained.

They didn't want what looks like an ugly industrial building in a residential area, said Mr. Moore.

So Halton redesigned the building, added more landscaping and the

cost has now soared to \$375,000.

Oakville Coun. Fred Oliver said that kind of a cost for a pumphouse is equivalent to building a house valued at between \$450,000 and \$480,000.

The people who saw the original design for the new building "were very, very upset," said Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson.

The pumphouse sits in one of Georgetown's major parks in full view of area residents, she said.

And the residents now support the newly redesigned structure which proposes one building, said Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller.

"I don't like large costs either but I urge the committee to give it due consideration," he said.

Coun. Pam Sheldon also supported

the need for the new structure.

"Esthetics are very important to people," she said.

Burlington Coun. Joan Little wasn't pleased about the additional costs. "What would you want, something awful or something pretty that's going to cost you?" she asked.

Increasing the costs by more than 50 per cent without prior discussion from council is not a wise move, she said.

"It is not unusual for us to make some accommodations from the public hearings," replied Mr. Moore.

The planning and public works committee approved the building Oct. 26 and Regional Council will discuss it next Wednesday.



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Employment and Training Canada

Halton Hills Job Board

The Canada Employment Centre is located at 232 Guelph Street, Georgetown and is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. The following represents only a few of the Career Opportunities listed on their Job Boards.

Order 0916062 - TOWER-CRANE OPERATOR - Permanent fulltime. Must have a Hoisting Engineer Licence. Approx. \$20/hour.

Order 0930049 - CONSTRUCTION LABOURER - Permanent fulltime. \$7/hour plus, depending on experience. Previous general construction experience preferred, or will train someone interested in learning the trade.

Order 0913782 - FURNITURE FINISHER - Permanent fulltime or part time hours available. \$6/hour to start. No experience necessary. Employer will train. Must have an interest in furniture refinishing. Reliable, pleasant telephone manner. Neat and tidy in appearance.

Order 0920625 - TRUCK DRIVER, GENERAL - Permanent fulltime. \$10-\$12/hour depending on experience. Must have clean class "D" licence and be mechanically inclined. Previous welding experience an asset. Prior farming background also an asset. Must be able to work every other Saturday a.m.

Order 0939048 - CONSTRUCTION HELPER - Seasonal fulltime. \$6-\$8/hour, depending on experience. Previous experience working on a construction site preferred, but not essential. Must have own transportation to employer.

Order 0932838 - REPAIRER, RADIO COMMUNICATION - Salary to be negotiated (trainee \$2/hr.). Permanent fulltime. 40 hours a week plus overtime. Employer prefers an experienced Bench Technician who has a number of years experience making repairs to Audio Equipment. Employer will train someone with a good electronics background.

Order 0937268 - RECEPTIONIST - Permanent fulltime. \$6-\$7/hour depending on experience. Must have some typing ability. Previous office experience is an asset. Must enjoy performing a variety of duties in a small office.

If you are interested in these positions, or any other type of occupations, visit the Georgetown CEC. We are located at 232 Guelph St. and our hours are Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.