

GATT gauges dairy farmers

Every time a Canadian crosses the border to buy American milk at cheaper prices, dairy farmers across Canada could pay a penalty, says Harold Middlebrook, the Halton Milk Committee Chairman. Halton dairy farmers are concerned current GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) negotiations will create greater American competition.

Since Canadian dairy farmers are paid according to a market quota system, the less Canadian milk consumers buy, the greater the penalty farmers will pay on surplus milk, said Mr. Middlebrook.

In addition to paying over-production penalties, Canadian dairy farmers have to pay to export surplus milk, said Mr. Middlebrook. He stated that milk from American dairy farms is imported into Canada. However, American taxpayers cover the exporting costs. Canadian farmers can't compete with the American dairy farmers because American farmers don't have to pay over-production penalties, the chairman said.

Mr. Middlebrook has received letters complaining about consumers, near Sault Ste. Marie, bringing American milk back across the border at half the cost. The dairy industry will pay penalties but there is nothing anyone can do because there is no way to check if people are bringing milk over the border, he said.

Ontario Milk Marketing Board Chairman, John Core, was disappointed with a draft GATT document which he believes undermines the stability of Canadian dairy farmers.

Mr. Core argues that the document, which describes the strategy for the remaining six months of international trade negotiations on agriculture, doesn't support Canadian import controls. Import controls are necessary to manage Canadian dairy supply, he said.

The document was written by Aart de Zeeuw of Holland, who is Chairman of the GATT Negotiating Group on Agriculture. Mr. Core argues that Canada cannot support policies which stress the minimization of trade distortion and increase market orientation of production.

Ontario Milk Marketing Board relations officer, Bill Mitchell, said if nothing changes from the current GATT negotiations the United States will be importing more dairy products into Canada. American dairy farmers will have cheap access to Canadian markets, however, Canadian farmers will still pay to export.

Canadian farmers can't compete with dairy farmers in southern states like California because they don't require buildings to house the cows in the winter, said Mr. Middlebrook.

He said if the Canadian border opens up to more American dairy products, some dairy farmers will be forced to fold. It will be especially difficult for anyone to establish a new dairy farm as the competition will be too fierce to offset the initial expenses, Mr. Middlebrook said.

The federal government doesn't understand the impact of added American competition, Mr. Middlebrook said. He added that Halton dairy farmers don't feel protected and are fearing for their livelihood.

Maple Avenue development realizes \$14 million in sales

The development firm, Zupet and Associates, recently held an invitation-only information and sales meeting at the North Halton Golf and Country Club about the company's proposed Maple Avenue project, and more than \$14 million worth of real estate (apartment condominiums), was tentatively sold, said the firm's real estate agent, Fred Harrison.

"There hasn't been \$14 million-plus worth of real estate sold in this town in a long time, especially since these are tough times," said Mr. Harrison.

The real estate agent stressed that 93 per cent of the tentative sales went to Halton Hills residents.

When asked if the high percentage of the purchases from Halton Hills residents shows there is local

support for the two 15-storey condominium development, Mr. Harrison responded, "does it ever. The number is a lot higher than we thought and we're getting calls daily from interested people all from Halton Hills," he added. A lot of the members belong to the North Halton Golf and Country Club, said Mr. Harrison.

There are a total of 266 apartment condominiums available of which 57 have been tentatively sold, said Mr. Harrison. The condominiums range in price from approximately \$135,000 to approximately \$360,000.

The chairman of Residents Against Indiscriminate Destruction and Development, (R.A.I.D.D.) and a Maple Avenue resident, Clovis Roy, suggested Monday that there is no way of telling how many of the tentative sales

represent speculation. "I know of at least one person who bought a condominium for speculation, said Mr. Roy. But he wouldn't give the person's name.

RAIDD is a recently formed group comprised of Maple Avenue residents and other townspeople who are opposed to the Maple Avenue development.

RAIDD currently has a petition totalling in the hundreds of names, all from Halton Hills, supporting the group's cause, said Mr. Roy.

But Mr. Harrison said based on his 23 years experience in the real estate business, none of the tentative sales went to speculators. "There are no speculators these days," said Mr. Harrison, "because the market is so slow." "We are discouraging speculation," he added.



Graduate

Wendy and Norm Wilcox are proud to announce the graduation of her son Jeff Forsyth from York University. Jeff graduated in June with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science. All four years, he was a member of the Dean's Honour Role and the Stong College Master's Honour Role. He has been awarded a Bell Canada Scholarship to continue his education and take his Honours in Computer Science. Congratulations from all your family.

Development firm to donate house to local charity

Although the development firm Zupet and Associates, which is behind a proposal to build two 15-storey apartment buildings on Maple Avenue located beside the North Halton Golf and County Club, has a demolition permit for 329 Maple Ave., the company has decided to donate the house to a local charity, said Fred Harrison, the firm's real estate agent.

The company has decided not to demolish the house, said Mr. Harrison, because "it is 10 times better

than the one located at 327 Maple Avenue." The company tore down the house at 327 Maple Ave. earlier this summer.

He was referring to the fact that the insides of 327 Maple Ave. had been severely vandalized before being torn down.

Zupet and Associates hopes to find a local charity willing to take the house within the next 30 days, said Mr. Harrison. If no group is interested in the house, then the company will sell the house and donate the money to charity, he explained.

Whatever happens to the house, it will have to be moved from the current location to make room for the proposed apartment buildings.

The other affected area house is at 333 Maple Ave. and it definitely won't be demolished, said Mr. Harrison. If the development proposal receives town approval the house would initially be used as a sales office for the apartment buildings. Mr. Harrison said the house would eventually be donated to a local charity.

Region financial constraints predicted to get worse

The financial constraints Halton Region has had to face during the last few years will only get worse in the next decade, predicted Halton's Chief Administrative Officer, (CAO), Peter Fleming at last Wednesday's Regional administration and finance committee meeting.

"The next decade will be one of the worst if not the most difficult period in years," Mr. Fleming told committee members.

The CAO made his comments in reference to a staff report overview of the issues that will be prevalent for the Region in the areas of Regional staff, legal services, planning and development, social services, health, public works, and finance during the 90's.

Several of the committee members suggested that the

Region might have to reduce staff in the upper levels of management to help the Region maintain the existing levels of Regional services.

Both Milton Mayor Gord Krantz and Oakville Mayor Ann Mulvale said that the number of senior level Regional government positions might have to be reduced to cut costs.

"If the Region doesn't take action soon "it could be faced with a tax revolt," warned Mayor Krantz.

"The Region is going to have to bite the bullet because there are a lot of disgruntled people out there," said Mayor Mulvale.

The Oakville Mayor stressed Regional taxes will continue to increase if the province keeps increasing the number of services that come under municipal jurisdiction.

"We (the Region) have to make it clear to the province how unfair it is burdening the municipalities," said Mayor Mulvale.

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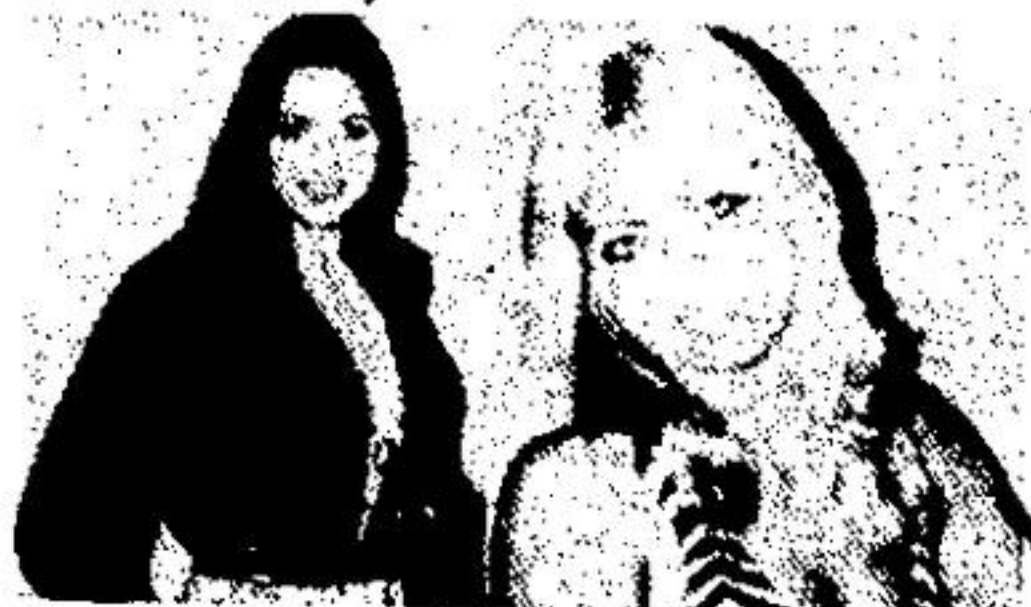
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