

Editorial

Hidden agendas

On Monday, the NDP Government of Ontario released two consultation papers inviting public comment on what is obviously a re-structuring of housing policy and programs in the province.

Information released by the Ministry of Housing, stresses the contents of the two respective papers are being divulged to the public, more in the sense of being used as a sounding-board for the provincial government to get input from Ontario residents, than an outline of governmental policy.

According to the release from the Ministry of Housing, consultations - one assumes with the public - will occur over the summer with a deadline set for August 30.

Ontarians would be well-advised to get in on the purported consultation process, because if some of the suggestions contained in the respective papers do indeed become government policy, the housing industry in Ontario will be virtually government-owned and government controlled.

The first paper, "A housing framework for Ontario" outlines the government's objectives in housing policy.

The second paper, "Government land for housing" outlines the government's housing priority policy and according to the ministry release, "...solicits ideas on using surplus government land more effectively for housing."

In releasing the two papers for public consumption and comment, Housing Minister Dave Cooke states, "I believe that the best way to develop a sound housing policy is to listen to the people who will live in that housing, and to the groups that will build, manage and finance it."

Sounds good until one delves into the consultation papers and notes some of the ideas supposedly up for discussion.

Concerning the 'Housing Framework' paper, the development of community-based land trusts is suggested to keep non-profit affordable housing for future generations. This is blatant government land-grabbing.

It is also suggested that tenants get involved in the design and management of non-profit housing. Another fiasco in the making.

Would you want a bricklayer to remove your teeth? Or, a brain surgeon to tune up your car? Obviously not, you would want people competent in their field of endeavor to perform required tasks.

Another area supposedly open for discussion centres around the government inviting "... innovative ways to reduce housing construction costs."

Taken another way, this could also mean a government-controlled construction industry.

The 'Housing Priority' paper also appears to have hidden agendas.

It is suggested, for instance, that municipalities, school boards and other transfer payment agencies be required to sell the lands they no longer need to the province.

But who decides when this land is no longer needed? Similarly, who decides how much the land is worth/ - or will this simply be settled by government decree?

In the government release, Mr. Cooke goes on to state, "The current consultations will help us in developing an integrated housing strategy that will serve the people of Ontario for years to come."

We beg to differ.

If some of the suggestions contained in the consultation papers do indeed become government policy, Ontario will indeed become a welfare state, with the politicians virtually owning the province.

Those interested in obtaining copies of either paper can call Ruth Esdelle, Ministry of Housing, 416-545-7041.

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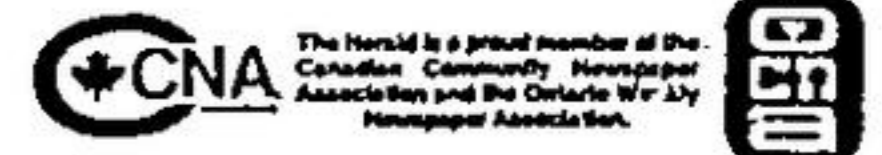
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People's Forum

Sad adieu to historic house

Dear Editor:

It is with regret we learn that yet another historic house on Maple Ave. West, that of Christian Barnes, United Empire Loyalists' family, who fought so well to keep Canada free, is slated for demolition.

Christian Barnes, one of the earliest settlers of Esquesing Twp., was granted 100 acres, March 10, 1819, Lot 18 W Con. 8, now Trafalgar Road, when land was opened for settlers by Sir Peregrine Maitland that year. Christian was granted another 100 acres in June that same year, extending his property to what many years later was to become Main St., Georgetown, from Wesleyan St. to Maple Avenue.

When Surveyor David Young obtained his deed the next year or 1824 (both dates given by the Archives) for 100 acres, Lot 17 W Con. 8, now North Halton Golf and Country Club, Christian obtained this land also.

Christian, son of Lieut. George Barnes of the British Army in the War of Independence, had been resident farmer of Grantham Twp. 22 years and had taken part with distinction, in the War of 1812 and was said to be a major. He was one of the Town Officers at the first Ratepayers meeting of the Town of Esquesing, Jan. 1, 1821. He had 85 acres of his land cultivated, the most land cultivated in Esquesing Twp. by 1831.

It was on that land, now North Halton Golf, that Christian's son George and in turn his grandson, also named Christian, carried on a successful business in lumbering, orchards, hop-growing, a hotel and finally a cotton batting industry, employing a number of people. The house built in the centre of this 100 acres is believed to have been one of those referred to

in the Ratepayers Meeting of 1830, which was demolished in the 1950's.

Christian, born May 16, 1842, grandson of the first Christian, and Thos. McAlpine built the large home in the 1890's on Maple Ave. on the northwest corner of his 100 acres, now North Halton Golf, and resided there. Christian's next-door neighbors were the Arnotts in the large brick house recently demolished. His daughter Eva married Albert Arnott. This daughter, Clara Louise, graduated as a nurse

from the old Grace Hospital in 1898. She practiced in many places including New York. She was also an artist and had paintings of the old house in the centre of their land and the "new" house. She died in 1971 in her 92nd year.

There are 5th and 6th generations of descendants of the first Christian Barnes still living in this area.

Sincerely,
L. Emslie,
Georgetown.

NDP called incompetent

Dear Editor:

The Ontario NDP government finds itself in trouble because of the incompetence of its elected representatives. The retroactive raise in salary to 2,200 top bureaucrats may be an attempt to keep them on side (a \$20 million bribe?). It seems that the bureaucrats run the government! For example, Ruth Grier, one of the most experienced NDP ministers, told the P.O.W.E.R. group demonstrating at Queen's Park that she cannot do anything to stop the outrageous proposal to bury garbage on the Niagara Escarpment. The bureaucracy cannot be stopped! Millions of dollars of taxpayers' money will be spent to "assess" what all levels of government and the citizens already agree on: burying garbage on top of an aquifer within the Niagara Escarpment does not make any sense. So the assessment money feeds the machinery, and the retroactive raises do the oiling.

The real aim of a socialist government is not to increase the wealth of lower income people, but to increase the size and

powers of government. That is, they want strong powers to "redistribute" wealth, but they have no plan for wealth creation. This is particularly evident when, in a time of recession, the Ontario NDP government approves an average increase of 8% to its bureaucrats earning \$60,000 to \$110,000 per year. For some this represents a \$11,000 increase retroactive to last January 1st.

As the total number of civil servants is ever increasing and represents a major share of the population, is it any wonder that a family of four ends up paying, on average, over \$27,000 per year to support the Ontario government alone! This is how productive people are penalized for their efforts.

The NDP intention not to support the really needy is also manifest in their last budget, where only 4/100th of the \$9,700 million deficit was allocated towards new program to directly help the lower income people. This is socialism for you!

Sincerely,
Giuseppe Gori,

Columnist criticized

To the Editor:

Mr. Ryan's column of May 24 is entitled "God is a baby whose work is never done." He says this is "a pretty good metaphor for God."

May I suggest that the Christian God could never be called a baby. Even baby Christians know He is a holy triune God of Father, Son and Holy Spirit - a fact Mr. Ryan must accept if he wishes to quote Matt. 28:16-20 where we read "Go ye therefore and teach

all nations, baptizing them in name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

To become a baby Christian, we must be acquainted with the Holy Spirit who births spiritual babies, and with Jesus Christ who died and rose from the dead so that we may enter the presence of our holy, triune God. Our Lord Jesus Christ is "King of Kings and Lord of Lords" (Rev. 19:16). He is no baby!

Doreen Palmer,
Georgetown.