Halton Hills

VEEKEND KEN BELLAMY

Publisher

The Halton Hills Weekend, published every Saturday at 211 Armstrong Ave., Georgetown, Ont., is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing group of suburban newspapers which includes: The Acton Free Press, Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, The Aurora Banner, Barrie Banner Advance, The Brampton Guardian, The Burlington Post, The Erin-Hillsburgh Echo, The Etobicoke Advertiser/Guardian, The Georgetown Independent, Markham Economist & Sun, The Milton Champion, The Mississauga News, The Newmarket Era, The Oakville Beaver, Oshawa/Whitby This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, The Echo-Review, The Scarborough Mirror, The Stouffville Tribune, The Willowdale Mirror. Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing is a division of Harlequin Enterprises Ltd.

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Price: Store copies 50¢ each; subscription \$19 per year by carrier; \$52 per year by mail in Canada; \$75 per year in all other countries. Plus G.S.T.

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DISTRIBUTION/CIRCULATION/ SUBSCRIPTIONS - 1-800-268-8719 **TORONTO LINE - 798-7950** Manager: Nancy Geissler, Mark Esposito Staff: Jean Brander

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Mailing Address: 211 ARMSTRONG AVE. GEORGETOWN, ONT. 873-0301 L7G 4X5

Canada Post does it again!

By MICHAEL WYCKS

Canada Post has done it again. They did what they've done every year for the past four years and eight out of the last 10: applied to Cabinet for a postal rate increase. Routinely, when Canada Post petitions for an increase it almost always receives an increase. It's a habit which is becoming painfully expensive for Canadians.

Specifically, the Crown corporation has asked for a 2-cent increase (five per cent hike) in regular letter mail as well as increases of four to 5.7 per cent for non-standard, oversize

and commercial letter mail.

There are a lot of things one can say about Canada Post's latest attempt to dig deeper into the public's pockets. Slurs and outrage aside, Tory politician Felix Holtmann and Liberal Don Boudria were among those quick to voice strong objections to the move. Holtmann, who heads the Commons consumer affairs committee, has urged Cabinet to block the increase; Boudria says if the corporation wants to find more money, it should trim the fat within the organization, such as in perks for executives.

Business reaction to the proposed price hike was also swift and negative. Jim Bennett, vice president and general manager of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, says the proposed increases fly directly in the face of the federal government's stated commitment to fight inflation.

"At a time when the government has taken positive steps by restricting all government spending increases to three per cent and freezing cabinet ministers' salaries altogether, Canada Post's actions are extremely offensive," Bennett said.

'Lower inflation is achievable only through consistent application of government policy. One set of clearly stated rules, standards and objectives for Canadians and a different set of standards for Canada Post is both insulting and unacceptable."

Canadians have been "insulted" over the past 10 years with first class postage stamp increases totalling a whopping 26 cents. If this trend continues, look for a 50-cent stamp as a fact of life in the next three to four years, GST included (that's just for a first class, regular sized envelope - for other

postal services the cost will be even higher).

One of the few supporting Canada Post and its actions was Harvie André, minister of state and government house leader. Support may be an understatement, considering André's appearance on a nationally televised morning show where he proclaimed: "Canada has the best postal system in the world." Nationalist rhetoric aside, André's statement regarding Canada Post's position in the world of postal systems deserves a closer look. The United States Postal System (USPS), for example, has six-day mail delivery, Saturday post office hours and a first class postage stamp costing 29 cents (even exchanged into Canadian funds, the American stamp is considerably less). Also in the U.S., the postal union does not have the right to strike, a law which applies to many but not all of the "essential" services provided in Canada, and certainly not Canada Post. Since 1965, the corporation has experienced approximately 65 disruptions (including the 42day full-scale walkout in 1981), a thoroughly unenviable record.

Unlike Canada Post, the U.S. postal management is not in the continual position of having to pay off their unions with excessive wage increases and benefits in order to keep the mail moving. André says Canada has the "best postal system in the world" - unfortunately, André's "best" is clearly not good enough.

There's no question Canada Post is the target of habitual criticism. Judging by their galling request for yet another postal rate increase, this habit will be hard to break.

CFIB Feature Service

It's Drowning Prevention Day

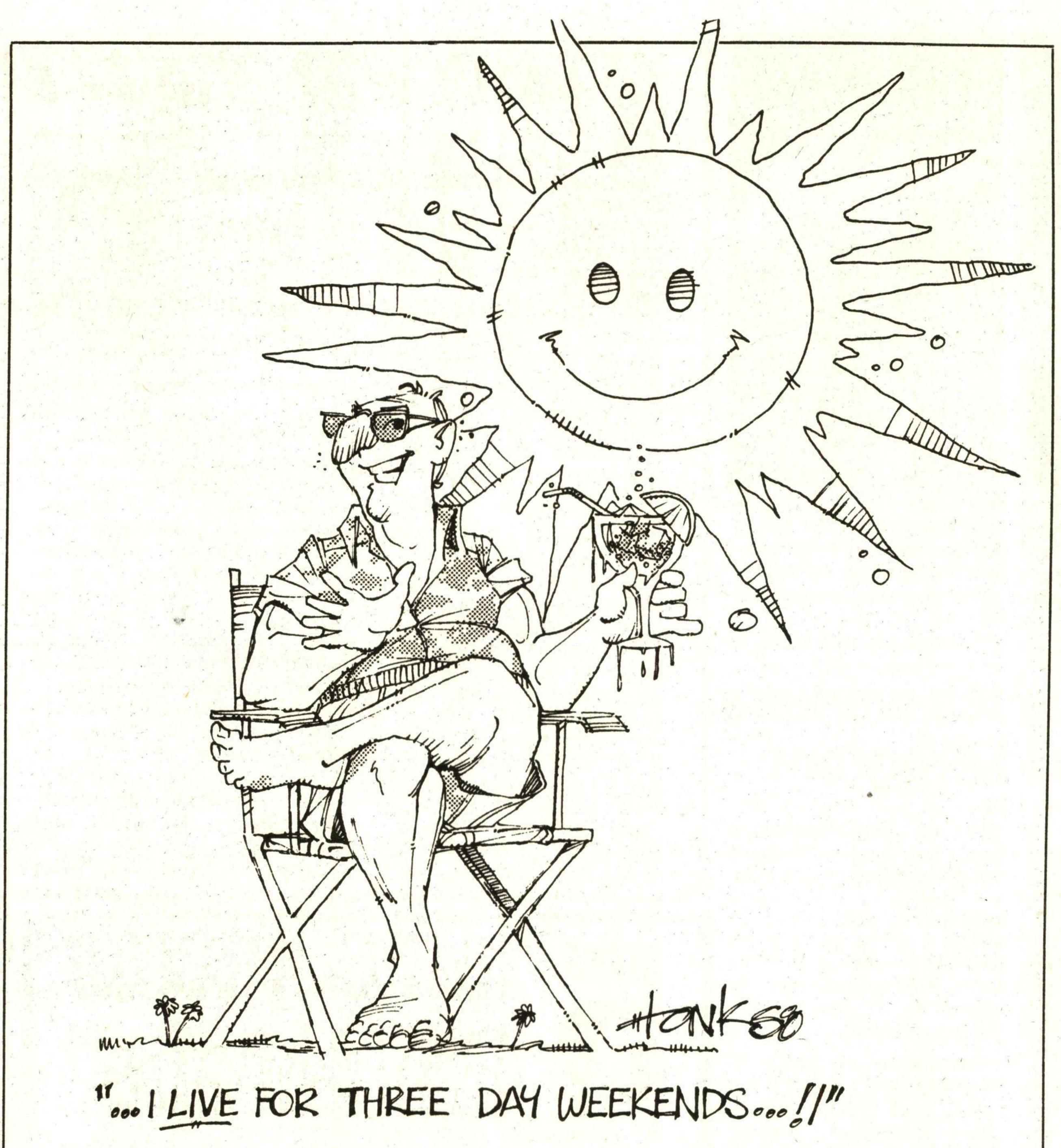
Today, August 3 has been declared throughout the Province as Drowning Prevention Day. It is a good day to review the yearly statistics about drowning and remind yourself that they all could have been prevented.

Drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death in Canada of people under 55 years of age — over 1,200 Canadians drown each year.

The overwhelming majority of drowning victims are males, representing 85 per cent of the total. In the 15-49 age group, nine out of 10 victims are male.

One third of all drownings are suspected or known to involve alcohol, one third involved boats, especially boats under 18 feet and almost all are not wearing a lifejacket.

Remember enjoy the summer, but enjoy it safely.



Our Readers Write

There's better ways than EFW

(Editor's Note: The following letter was filed with this newspaper for publication.)

Mr. Peter Pomeroy

Chairperson Regional Municipality of Halton

Dear Mr. Pomeroy, I was very disturbed by the report in the July 13, 1991 edition of The Weekend which reported that you, some regional councillors and staff, believe we can not achieve 50 per cent waste reduction by the year 2000 unless we use EFW (Energy From Waste) which in reality is nothing but trash incineration. I believe it is irresponsible on your part to blame Ruth Grier and the provincial government's policy of banning incineration, as an excuse for not achieving 50 per cent waste

reduction. What makes me even more furious is the fact that you have been shown how we can achieve this 50 per cent goal - which could even go higher. On November 13, 1989 you sat in the chambers at the Halton Hills Civic Centre, along with Mayor Miller and heard Councillor Pat Trunso from East Hampton, New York, describe how his town achieved about 75 per cent waste reduction within a year and without the use of any type of incineration. Mr. Trunso was brought to Halton Hills at the

expense of the citizen's group POWER. Also, on Saturday, June 22, you attended the official opening ceremonies for Wastewise in Georgetown. This is a model of how we can reduce waste and even possibly achieve a goal of even far greater than 50 per cent. The Wednesday edition reported on July 10 that with its first shipment of paper not accepted in the blue box program, Wastewise received \$250 instead of costing the tax payers \$800 to dump. If a project like this was to be set up region-wide and given vigorous support and publicity, I believe the citizens of this

region would respond very positively.

Incineration of trash, whether you disguise it as EFW or by any other term, in reality does not reduce garbage. For every three tonnes of trash that is burned, one tonne of ash is produced. Of this, approximately 10 per cent is fly ash (from the smoke stacks) and 90 per cent is bottom ash. What makes trash incineration even more deadly is the fact that the remaining ash is highly toxic and is classified as hazardous waste. Disposing of hazardous waste is a far greater problem than simply taking the positive methods of reducing our garbage before sending it for disposal.

Since I have been sorting my garbage and taking to Wastewise what is appropriate, I find that about 75 per cent of what I now set out at the curb is food wastes which could be composted. I rent a small apartment and do not have property where I can set up an effective home composter. We know that the "brown box" composting can work. Why wait for the results of the model project? Why not start now to see how quickly we can implement this program for the entire region.

Our citizens are ready to respond in a positive way. The problem we now have is that we are lacking the leadership on the part of all levels of our regional government to take the proven steps necessary to easily achieve the goal of 50 per cent waste reduction, without the use of incineration.

I challenge you and all our other elected representatives to act as responsible citizens and leaders. Only candidates who have acted responsibly in the past and, who are willing to state publicly that they will continue to do so, will get my vote in the next election. I would appreciate your

Sincerely, Jean A. Hilborn

Halton Hills has room for old and new development side by side

Dear Editor:

Halton Hills is and hopefully always will be a leader in finding ways to save the environment. One most important way is to intensify housing

in the region. Sound contradictory? Well, it isn't.

By building "attractive" and I deliberately stress the word "attractive" condominium apartments which take up only 1,000 square feet of land and that includes parking areas, as opposed to one bungalow on a 50' x 100' lot that takes up 5,000 square feet, you can put more people closer to the centres of industry and commerce where they work and shop and play. By doing so, it relieves the pressure of spreading out and taking up more land than is necessary. Do you know what people in condominiums have? Pride of ownership. Ask anyone who lives in "The Sands." One of our secretaries lives there. So does the courier who brings our mail. So does the mayor.

Times have changed. We can no more be reckless about land use than we can about clean air and clean water.

We must conserve our land. Out town needs places for our families to grow and to stay close to each other. Do you know what

When it's time for the kids to leave home, wouldn't it be nice, wouldn't it be comforting to know they could live in decent affordable housing right here in their home town? Wouldn't it be a relief if there was affordable housing for your parents right here close to you but still independent of you? Wouldn't it be nice if after all your years of hard work you could live in a luxury apartment with a beautiful view and still live in a small town atmosphere? Possible? You bet it is.

Our area is unique because of the forward looking attitude of our town leaders and planners. They are doing their level best to give you the best of both worlds, not an easy task when they're getting opposition just for the sake of opposition.

There is a place for the old and the new side by side. This is what makes history, the stepping forward, a blending, the old and the new, the young and the old.

A visual and gradual change is taking place in our town. Appreciate it, enjoy it, discuss it but don't bicker over it.

Nancy Kelman

Show support for your library

Dear Editor:

While every segment of society is feeling a financial strain with staff reductions, budget cuts and service cuts, I am certain many of our library users are unaware of the difficulties being experienced in Georgetown Library.

The library and Cultural Centre is constantly under threat whenever the Town of Halton Hills tries desperately to cover costs through taxation. The library is one of the weaker links in the picking order and has great difficulty standing up against arenas and daycare.

Unless the residents of Georgetown rally to the cause of the library, we may suddenly find it closed because of budget reductions and lack of

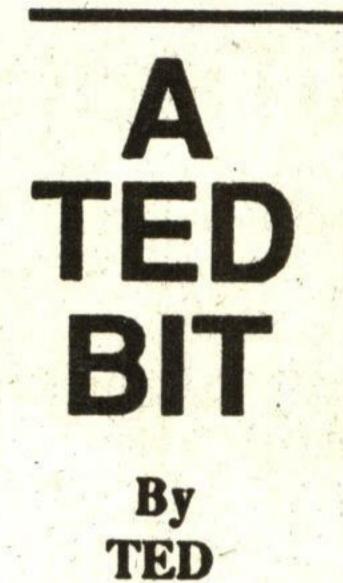
political will.

It would be interesting to know how many of our councillors, or the mayor for that matter, ever use the library service, other than Norm Elliott.

If you want the library service to continue you are urged to contact your councillor and determine what support he or she is prepared to offer, if elected or re-elected.

The time is short and the continuation of the service is of urgent concern. The staff at the library are to be credited for the excellent service they provide under extremely difficult odds.

> Yours truly, D.E. Christensen



BROWN



the crack if the price seems high

There's a beam in our barn with a crack in it.

That crack has been there all my life and there's a story behind it.

Recently, I dropped in to see my cousin, Harold Brown, for a short visit. He told me all about it.

It's a gigantic beam, hewn from white pine. In a barn frame, it's referred to as "the mud-sill." It's always had a huge bolt through it with a wooden brace, supporting the giant crack. The beam measures more than two feet in thickness, and I was always told it broke from storing too much grain in the granary upstairs above it.

I knew that much, but Harold filled me in on the details. His dad, my great Uncle Harry, had told him.

Apparently, the year was 1899, and my great-grandfather, John Brown had a terrific crop of wheat. The price was only \$1.95 per bushel that year, so he decided to store it over the winter, and sell it with the following year's crop.

When the crop for 1900 was harvested, the two years' crop consisted of more than 4000 bushels, or 120 tons.

It was a smart move. Great grampa John stored it, and managed to sell all his grain later that year for \$2.10 a bushel; a 15 cents per bushel increase, making \$600 more than the previous year. Not too shabby

He bagged the wheat by hand, and drew it to Limehouse Station, to be shipped out by train.

Unfortunately, the beam cracked under the excess weight of the grain, and had to be repaired. It was drilled and a large bolt was put through and tightened, pulling the crack together after the wheat was

And so it remains today. I told you that story to tell you another.

Recently, a press release from the Ontario Federation of Agriculture crossed my desk. It told of the bleak economic times our farmers are experiencing these days. Factory workers aren't the only ones in dire financial straits; just the ones we hear about.

At this time, we are in the middle of harvest. Golden grain is coming off, just as it did in 1900.

Of course, today's farmers take off crops with a lot less effort than 91 years ago, but they also harvest several times the acreage of their counterparts from 1900. And machinery costs money. Big money.

It's not bagged and drawn to Limehouse Station anymore. Today's wheat is trucked to flour mills and sold through the Ontario Wheat Board, a group that stabilizes prices so farmers in Halton receive the same for wheat as ones in Bruce or Oxford County. Know what they're getting paid

for wheat this year?

You guessed it; about two dollars a bushel, a smidge less than Greatgrampa John received in 1900. Now think for a moment of the

buying power of a buck from the turn of the century compared to today's dollar. And costs of operation for today are many times greater than 1900, with the high prices of fuel, machinery, fertilizer, seed and labor.

When my great-grandfather sold more than \$8000 worth of wheat in 1900, most the money was profit. Fuel cost nothing because the work was all hand labor.

By comparison, it's a joke what today's farmers make for their ef-

Every time we go shopping, it's common to hear shoppers complain about the price of food; milk, meat and bread in particular.

But I don't think they realize. Like everyone else, I've watched food disappear as our family pulls up to the table and dives into the trough like a bunch of hungry little piggies. And I've been astounded at the percentage of my paycheque that goes toward food.

But I've also been a farmer for much of my life, and seen the paltry return for the work of producing that food.

So why do farmers do it? Perhaps it's the only thing they

know, like an auto worker only knows how to assemble cars, or a salesman only knows how to sell.

But it's more than that. It's a way

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