

## Barry Lee on agricultural survey of China

By Bernadette Ward

He may not be going by slow boat, but Town and Regional Councillor Barry Lee left the country on March 26, embarking on a two-week journey to China with the intention of adding to his knowledge of world agriculture.

Lee, councillor for the most rural areas of Milton - Wards 1 and 3, has joined more than 22 other delegates on a study tour with AgriTours Canada Inc., where they will visit several agricultural operations dealing with the dairy industry, swine production and one or two food processing plants.

"China plans to move an enormous number of people to urban areas," says Lee. "Just how they are going to handle their agriculture, intrigues me."

Although not everyone on council was in agreement about the necessity of the trip, there was consensus for the most part and Lee thinks that what is happening in China has relevance to some of the changes that are happening in rural Halton.

"They're going to live on agricultural land that's going to be developed," says Lee.

Councillor Lee is no stranger to the world of agriculture and rural living. He has been a farmer for more than 20 years himself, cash cropping corn, wheat and soybeans as well as producing beef and pork.

He is and has been involved in numerous committees and boards such as the Grand River Conservation Authority, Halton Waste Management Site Advisory Committee, Country Heritage Park and the Halton Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Lee believes that we tend to get bogged down in processes here and he is interested in see how, with all the pressures of population and pollution, things are done. He thinks that there is something to be learned from China, in terms of what works and what doesn't.

"Our problems are miniscule compared to what's happening there, but it's similar," says Lee. "I'm going to look for something positive out of what they have done."

For more information about the study tour to China, try the website [www.agritourscanada.com](http://www.agritourscanada.com).



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