

# Daylight Savings Time

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about life for families? Does it make it more or less difficult?" McGuinty stated in a news release.

"We're going to have to take a look at it obviously. We're not anxious to have a disconnect between us and our chief trading partner," he said.

Currently DST runs from April through October in Canada and the United States. Under the U.S. legislation, DST across most of the United States would start three weeks earlier in the spring, and add a week in the fall. The change is expected to take effect in 2007.

This would mean clocks in Canada and the United States would be out of sync in March and November and cause scheduling headaches for travellers and businesses. For example The Toronto Stock Exchange would open and close one hour after New York's markets. "This bill is not going to solve our energy challenges overnight," said Bush in a speech shortly before signing the bill at the Sandia National Laboratories. "Most of the serious problems, such as high gasoline costs or the rising dependence on foreign oil, have developed over decades. It's going to take years of focused effort to alleviate those problems."

# National plan for farming success

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expect to see their investments in such things as on-farm environmental and food safety projects recognized and compensated for as social contributions to society. This approach is just beginning to be offered through such programs as environmental farm plan development.

Producers and their organizations want governments to get more involved in market promotion of food products, both domestically and for the international market. Efforts at doing this have, until now, been sporadic and lacking co-ordination. We have seen great potential for Canadian agricultural products around the world, but government expertise is critical making such initiatives successful.

Development of a Canadian Farm Bill would also include a "Green Label" program, something aimed at creating a better link between consumers and producers. The objective would be to achieve a 'consumer premium' for all-Canadian production; be a voluntary 'country-of-origin label' program; and in the long-term provide better assurances of fair prices for farm products from Canadian farms.

While recently presented risk management proposals for grains, oilseeds and horticultural crops are being reviewed at the provincial level, they are now getting national consideration as a result of CFA's semi-annual meeting. OFA is pleased to be part of the process that is expected to improve the economic future of farmers.

# Oakville drafts noise by-law

By MANDI HARGRAVE

With the amount of media attention the draft Oakville Noise By-law has been receiving Phil Bouillon, Manager of By-law Enforcement, would like to stress that it is just a draft and not the law.

"A lot of people have been led to believe that this is now the law. But this is purely a consultation document. We're asking for input from the public on what they would like to see in the noise by-law," Bouillon said. "We've got a draft that we've prepared and that's what you see on the web page. But by the time this is approved by council it will undergo several changes based on the comments we've received from the public. It's out there for discussion and we would like to receive comments."

Bouillon said the comments can be sent in either through e-mail, letters or faxed. "Unless we hear from people we won't know that there are certain objections to different regulations or limitations that are set out in the draft by-law," he said.

Mayor Ann Mulvale said the issue has two main driving forces. One of them is the abutting industrial and residential land in Ward 6 at Iroquois Ridge. She said that although there is good separation between the two, noise is being carried and businesses do not understand the concerns of residents. Also, she said that developers and contractors are starting to work earlier than the 7 am permitted time.

"That sort of triggered looking at the adequacies or inadequacies of the by-law because circumstances change and you need to adjust to face changing situations," said Mulvale.

The second issue is happening in established neighborhoods where people buy large lots with small houses and tear it down to build a larger home that takes a year to build.

Mulvale said although this is allowed,

it's not building positive neighborhood relationships.

The draft noise by-law puts restrictions on 18 types of noise during six time periods. The streets bounded by Trafalgar Road, Spruce Street, Douglas Avenue and Palmer Avenue, that surround the Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital are designated as a "quiet area." This means noises such as horns; whistles, yelling and persistent dog barking are not permitted at all times of the day.

In residential or controlled areas yelling, shouting, hooting, whistling and singing are banned between 11 pm and 7 am; persistent dog barking, calling or whining is not permitted in any area at any time. Lawn mowing and weed blowing would be banned from 7 pm and 7 am (9 am on Sundays) in residential and controlled areas. In the 'quiet area' it would be banned from 5 pm. to 7 am.

"There are people who are concerned about their inability as they read it to do yard work after 7 o'clock at night so we're looking at that. Of course that was really an issue with power tools and implements that make noise. There's one lady who thinks we should ban leaf blowers of any sort. So you've got a range of people who think it doesn't go far enough and you've got a range of other people who think they're in general agreement, but are concerned about their inability to do yard work later than 7 o'clock at night in terms of using things like lawn mowers, so we'll review that."

"We've had a fair bit of input and we're taking it back to the public now for their comments and of course developers and contractors can also look at this and send in their comments. We're trying to get this right so we'll have greater compliance and fewer challenges to the intent of the by-law," Mulvale said.

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