

Champion Farm Page

Farmers included are assessment bill too

Farm Assessment, as well as home assessment, will be frozen until 1974 if a bill introduced by Municipal Affairs Minister Dalton Bales is passed.

However the news media reported that the bill would freeze home assessments; they did not mention farm assessments.

Bruce Taylor, Durham county farmer and executive member of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture learned this Thursday when he met with William Palmer, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs. "Palmer clarified the position for me", Taylor said later. "He explained that this freeze on assessment would apply to all property not just homes — but farms, commercial and industrial property too. This means that farmers won't be taxed out of their pants in the next few years," Taylor said.

Can increase \$2,500
New buildings, enlargements and improvements won't increase assessed values unless they increase total market value by more than \$2,500. The bill does not rule out the right of farmers to appeal their present assessments.

"This freeze on property assessment until 1974 is preparation for a complete revamping of the system", Taylor said. "Palmer told me that his department was developing a new land value schedule for farm valuation. This schedule might be available for discussion in six months, but it'll be several years before the department is ready to revise all assessments."

Broader educational opportunities for Ontario's trainable retarded children were announced last week by Minister of Education Robert Welch. Mr. Welch said legislation will be introduced to standardize the school attendance of trainable retarded children with that of other students in the school system. They will, he said, have the opportunity to attend school full time from age five until 21, dependent upon their capability to profit from the school experience.

Only half days
Under existing legislation trainable retarded students under 10 years of age may only attend school for half a day and all must leave the system at age 18.

Responsibility for deciding if trainable retarded students will attend full time will rest with admission boards that now work in co-operation with school boards on matters dealing with trainable retarded students. Mr. Welch said the move extends to all students. Ontario's concept of equal educational opportunity. The Minister said he

STREAM AND WATER CLEANUP at Mountsberg Picnic Area has several of the SWEEP students up to their waists in chilly water. The high school and university students cleared the shores of the lake, free of dead trees and stumps as well as driftwood, this week. —(Staff Photo)

Extend school period for retarded youth

Seek farmers as hosts for students

According to Evelyn Weatherston, Co-ordinator of the Urban Rural Exchange program for Halton County there are more youngsters eager to visit the farm than there are farms that are willing to have the young visitors.

considering they were only on the farm for a week," she said.

Need more hosts
Two more groups are slated for the weeks of Aug. 3 to Aug. 10 and Aug. 17-24. Miss Weatherston expressed some disappointment in not being able to locate more than 30 youngsters so far.

The idea of the program is to allow students who ordinarily would not get to a farm or learn anything of the rural way of life to live the life of a farmer for a week and experience both the leisure and work aspects of the farms.

Farmers interested in the program should contact Miss Weatherston at the Milton office of the Department of Agriculture.

Only one third of the youngsters who have applied have found farms to go to. About 40 to 50 are still hoping that Halton farmers will open up their homes and give them an opportunity to escape their suburban environment and live the rural life for a week.

According to Miss Weatherston those who have been involved as hosts or visitors have enjoyed the program. "The urban students have learned a great deal

Rebates are slow blame assessors

Some Ontario farmers have not yet received their property tax rebates for 1970. The problem, according to Department of Municipal Affairs officials, is that some properties are incorrectly coded on local assessment roles.

to correct it, and pass the information on to the Department of Municipal Affairs in Toronto."

Hill said that if the property owner doesn't insist on correction no-one will.

"After you have spoken to your assessment office", Hill continued, "write to me at the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, 387 Bloor St. E., Toronto 285, giving me details of your assessment and property. We have found that some assessment offices are reluctant to make coding corrections. But if we have the necessary information we can exert pressure from this end too."

"This is an extremely unfortunate situation", Ontario Federation of Agriculture president Gordon Hill commented on hearing the report. "This rebate was awarded to all farmers, and all farmers should receive it."

The property tax rebate was announced in October 1970 by then Prime Minister John Robarts. It amounts to 25 per cent of net farm property taxes.

Do this
"If any farmer hasn't received his rebate, here's what I suggest he do. First he should contact his local assessment office to check the coding on his property. If it's coded residential or commercial, or something other than farm, he should ask the assessment office

"I invite any farmer who hasn't received his rebate - whether he's a member of the federation or not - to write to me about his rebate problem."

Halton Federation president Bruce McClure said all farms must be at least 11 acres to take advantage of the rebate. Mr. McClure said farmers could submit complaints to him and he would forward them to Hill if they so wished.

Flood control plan receives approval

Halton Region Conservation Authority members approved final plans for a \$3,000,000 flood control scheme in Burlington Thursday.

Burlington Bay. Hager Creek will be diverted by the channel midway between Brant St. and Maple Ave.

The channel was proposed in 1964 in an engineering report of J.F. MacLaren Ltd., of Toronto. It ran into stong objections from property owners in the area but regardless, Burlington council decided to ask the Authority to proceed as planned.

The plan is to divert the Hager and Rambo creeks into a new channel to prevent flooding in the town's core.

General manager Murray Stephen said the next step is to ask the provincial Department of Energy and Resources Management to approve a 50 per cent grant for land acquisition and construction. He said he was quite optimistic the subsidy will be approved quickly.


Construction is expected next year and in 1973. Vice-chairman Alan Wright noted that land acquisition would begin as soon as the project gets government approval.

The province will pay three-quarters of the preliminary design cost and half of the cost for land acquisition and construction. The town of Burlington has agreed to pay 95 per cent of the authority's share of expenses.

Diversion channel
The Hager-Rambo channel will divert Rambo Creek in the area north of Edinburgh Drive and run west from Brant St. to Maple Ave. and the Queen Elizabeth Way before draining into Indian Creek, which flows directly into

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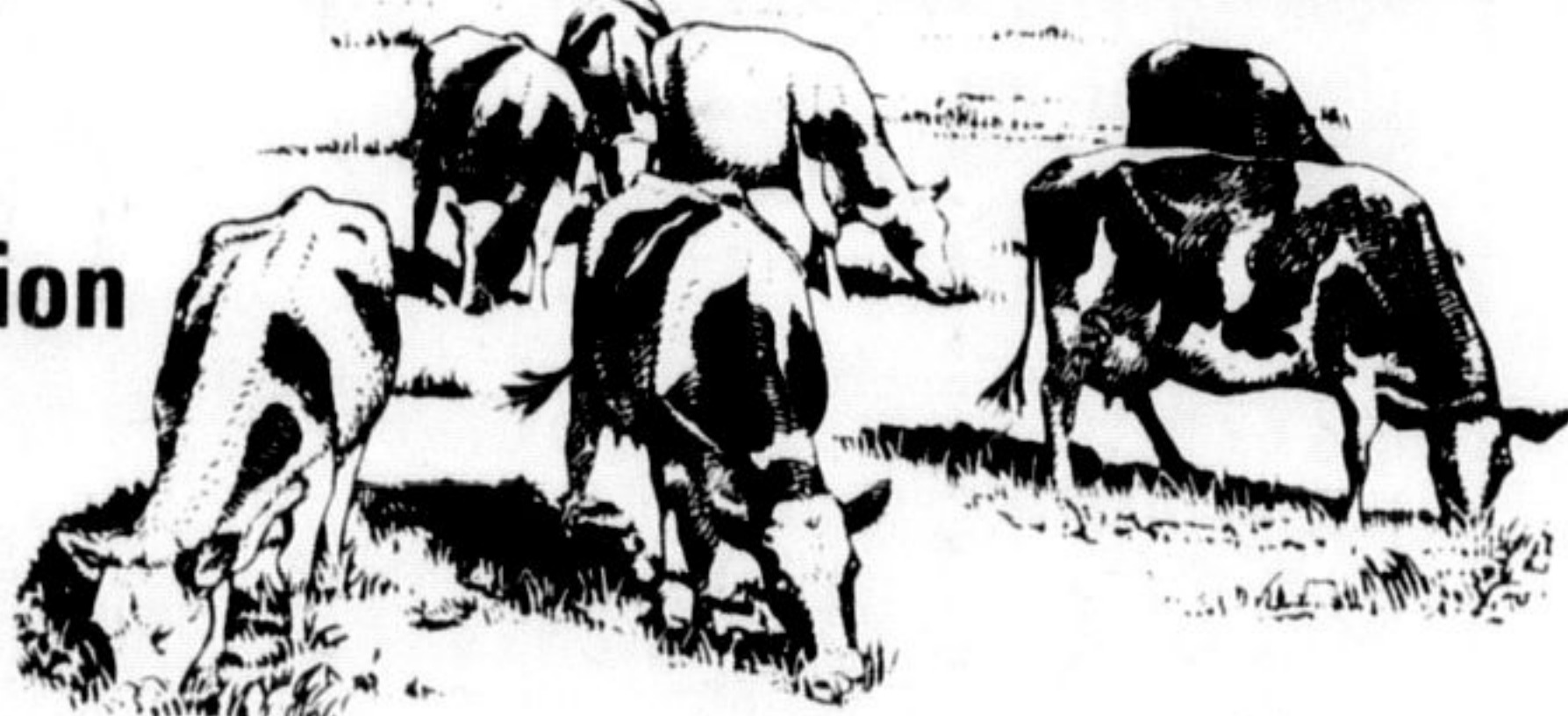
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In presenting the plans superintendent of Business and Finance Bruce Lindley explained the complex has possibilities of containing an arena, a fixed seat auditorium, and a swimming pool.

The project is to be built on a 30-acre parcel, 12 of which are board owned and the remainder belong to the town of Oakville. The plans approved were for the first phase only Wednesday.

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