

Farmers flay ministry . . .

(Continued from page Three)

audience, many of them aware both men had recently announced they would be New Democratic candidates in the next election. Many also disagreed with Federation policies at a meeting in 1976.

However, Sam Brown of the Federation of Agriculture, praised both the code and Mr. Nodwell. He said he thought farmers should praise Nodwell because the only reason the Ministry of Agriculture got into the act was because of the Environmental Act which provided fines for contaminating the environment. He said the Ministry's intention was a code of practice to eliminate loopholes that took advantage of loopholes in the law.

Brown, an R.R. 1, Mount Albert resident, said meetings such as Wednesday's gave farmers the opportunity to speak out and get the code of practice changed. He said they should be attacking the Environmental Protection Act because that's where farmers got caught. The act regulates smells, sights and other areas of rural life.

Hulton-Burlington MPP, Julian Reed, himself a farmer, suggested that if Mr. Brown was right and the Environmental Protection Act bore the responsibility for restrictive legislation, then he still didn't see anything in the agricultural Code of Practice which would provide protection. "We need amendments to the legislation," he suggested.

Reed said there is a certain hypocrisy in the Government striving to achieve better agricultural practices and at the same time issuing a Green Paper on the preservation of agricultural land. He said his riding is being hit from both ends—saving agricultural land on the one hand and restrictions on farmers on the other. He felt it couldn't be accomplished by shackles.

"We recognized when we came here that not everyone would agree," said Nodwell. "We're not trying to steamroller over anybody. We knew there are negative opinions about the Agricultural Code of Practice."

Ward Two Councillor Russ Miller told the meeting consultants had been brought in before the restrictive by-law had been passed but in his opinion it was wrong for farmers to make all the concessions.

Earlier the meeting discussed the recommendations in the code over disposal of manure. The code says manure should be stored and spread in such a way as to cause the least inconvenience to neighbors and called for better management from farmers such as visual screening of manure storage, good sanitation and fly control around buildings and proper transport for manure on public roads to prevent spillage and leakage.

"Reduction of odor levels can be accomplished by the proper design and management of the ventilation system in the building," it recommends as well as proper drying of poultry manure in the barn to keep odor levels acceptable.

Among other recommendations was one which suggested solid manure should be spread on the ground when it is not frozen and incorporated into the soil within 24 hours if it is applied closer than 600 feet from a non-compatible use such as a building for human occupancy or food preparation.

Farmers in the audience flared at the suggestions.

One woman said all these problems arose when urban people moved into agricultural districts and complained. She said she had moved from the city 25 years ago next to a farmer with pigs and put up with it and lack of other urban amenities such as school buses and doesn't see why people now cannot

accept things as well. "You should have told people to stay where they were," she told Ministry representatives. "I resent people telling me how to make us over. They only have rights because you told them they had rights," she accused the Ministry. "I resent paying people like you to regiment us."

Another woman questioner said the code would prohibit them from putting manure on 43 acres if it was followed. She said if people want to eat they are going to have to get used to manure. "The ethnic people know how valuable manure is," she said. "They're smarter, because they had to handle garbage in their home lands and know what produces food for them and its value."

"What right have you guys got to tell us when to spread manure?" asked Ralph Denny of RR 2, Acton, "coming from Toronto and telling us what to do. Were you raised on the farm?" he asked. Given an affirmative answer by Nodwell, Denny growled, "Well, then why didn't you stay there."

Nodwell replied that he came to the meeting to explain the code and would have had more problems if he had not helped draw it up.

Spencer Wilson of RR 1, Norval, wondered why nothing in the code said anything about sewage, especially Georgetown's which flowed past his place. He said farm odors were healthy but sewage hardly qualified. Nodwell said that came under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Environment not the Ministry of Agriculture.

Despite Nodwell's statement that there has been reasonable acceptance for the code from both rural and urban people, most at the meeting felt little empathy for it.

The meeting started with the election of Peter Branch as chairman and Mr. Nodwell, from the Extension Branch of the Ministry of Agriculture, explained the Agricultural Code of Practice with the aid of a small explanatory booklet and slide presentation.

He said the code is a tool available to protect and promote agriculture and ensure its future. "The code has never been a set of regulations," he said. Minister of Agriculture of the time (1970) Bill Stewart said all need a few rules and he expected farmers to take it from there. However, Nodwell, said, mistakes had been made since it was first drawn up in 1970 by a committee of 10 farmers and people in agriculture.

A second printing with revisions was made in 1973 and the newest came in January of 1976. "We were told it would drive farmers out of Ontario but now British Columbia is considering it with some modifications," Nodwell told the meeting.

He said the Ministry of the Environment had many complaints about the smell of barnyards, hogs and other farm use, and the first code was a crude attempt to put guidelines in use for farmers. Although it provided guidelines for farmers the Ministry hoped someone else would provide protection from encroachment around farms.

The final book is based on a period of six years and the work of 10 people on the committee, he said.

Nodwell's slide show, "A Code for Good Neighbors" explained the code simply and he said most things in the code of practice grew out of necessity. Although most people would think problems arose between urban and rural residents, Nodwell said there were also difficulties between farmers with dairy-men not appreciating the smell of pigs. The Ministry of the Environment was also concerned about the amount of time their people spent with agricultural problems, so the code was a necessity, Nodwell claimed.

Farms organizations pointed out farmers were using the code but others did not and this created criticism. A model zoning by-law was floated but the Ministry of the Environment was still not happy until it incorporated MDS formulas for setbacks.

Nodwell said there were other routes a municipality could take but they were pleased when they used the MDS formula for severances and he felt land division committees were approving severances and keeping abreast of most of the situations developing in rural communities.

Jim Nyslik of the Ministry explained the MDS formula in more detail, showing how the

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Ministry hoped to reduce potential environmental conflicts between non-compatible uses by application of a formula using 1000 foot distance as a guide. Three formulas had evolved to determine the minimum distance between other land uses. He said calculations are designed to reflect the odor potential of well-managed livestock operations.

He said there had been 700 certificates of compliance in 1976 mostly for expansion. Farmers failed to see how the Ministry could issue certificates of compliance and then indicate the code of practice was not mandatory. Ministry people said the code was flexible and recognized reasonable odor, unreasonable odor, depending on farm management.

That didn't satisfy one farmer, who suggested that if he moved to a farm he would have to expect smell. Shirley Baile, project officer for the Food, Land and Development Branch of the Ministry of Agriculture, also attended the meeting, noting her department often makes comments on plan of subdivision.

Although the meeting never seemed to resolve any problems the subject is bound to appear again when the Minister of Agriculture, William Newman, speaks on the Green Paper at Gordon Alcott arena, Georgetown, on Monday evening, April 25.

The committee endorsed a separation of 53 acres from 90 acres on Second Line, Nassagaweya for Ernest, Helen, Mary and Pearl Dmytruk, and Leslie and John Lawrynovicz. The land will go to the Lawrynovicz, who plan to build a home and work the rest as farmland.

Other land on the property will be used at a later date for the Hydro corridor. Finally, a separation of 27,700 feet from 96 acres owned by Harold and Diane Patterson was approved. The land, at 5130 Tremaine Rd., will be used as a retirement home.

—St. John Ambulance will have a display at Milton Mall this weekend.

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The divisions encompass only 11.2 acres of the farm. Industrial use is proposed for two 1.5-acre parcels of land on Main St., west of Wilson Drive. A concrete block foundation has already been built on one half of the land, which was separated as one parcel previously. The land is owned by Morobel Ltd.

The Committee approved a separation on Commercial St. between Oak St. and Charles St. for Del Nin Holdings Ltd. Two corner lots, 68 by 85 feet and 97 by 86 feet were approved. Planned use is two semi-detached dwellings.

Committee members

Omagh

Beatys go to Brazil to promote farming

by Mrs. Cecil Patterson
A large crowd attended the farm sale of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Beaty, Fourth Line on Friday, April 8. Mr. and Mrs. Beaty will be moving to Brazil in cooperation with the Share program, initiated by Peel and Halton farmers. They will work with the people in Brazil and aid in promoting dairy cattle and good farming.

We wish them well in their enterprise. The farm on the Fourth Line has been owned and worked for many years by Hugh and his parents before him.

The April meeting of Omagh W.A. and W.M.S. were held on Thursday in the church hall. Mrs. R. Brownridge, president, chaired the W.A. meeting. The scripture reading, theme and prayer were given by Mrs. M. Turner. Letters of thanks for flowers were read from Mrs. B. Marshall, Mrs. Snow, and also one from Save The Children fund giving the history and progress of the child sponsored.

Fifty dollars was voted to the flower fund to purchase Easter lilies and gifts for the sick. Arrangements were completed for a booth at a local sale.

Mrs. Cecil Patterson welcomed the ladies to the W.M.S. portion of the meeting. Letters were read regarding tours to other lands, an invitation to Hillcrest Daffodil luncheon on April 21, and a letter asking for baking donations to the Halton Manor bazaar on Wednesday, May 11, from 1.30 to 4 p.m. It was decided that the bale

of new and used clothing would be used locally. Usually it is packed for northern mission fields.

Fifteen ladies answered the roll call with a scripture verse with the word feed. Mrs. Jean Douglas was program convener and conducted a Bible contest. Also readings for Easter were given by Mrs. Milligan, Mrs. McDowell, Mrs. Hilson, Mrs. R. Marshall and Mrs. Patterson. The meeting closed with the hymn and benediction.

Afternoon tea with fruit breads and a cheese tray was served by Mrs. Ada McCann. A sale of plants added funds to the flower fund. Special music, with many lilies on the altar front made for a happy Easter service at Omagh Presbyterian church on Sunday, April 10. Rev. Rod Lewis and Rev. William Milligan were in the pulpit and a large congregation attended.

Easter day visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Morris Turner were Miss Kathleen Armstrong, Mrs. Florence Odem of Oakville, Mrs. Annie Bain, Guelph, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Galbraith of Orangeville and Mrs. W. Snow, Milton.

The spring meeting of zone 3 for the Farm Safety Council was held in Harrison United Church, Wednesday, April 5, hosted by Peel County. Chairman for the meeting was vice-president Peter Fisher of Burlington assisted by Larry Swinn and Ted Whitworth.

An officer from community services of the OPP spoke on the work performed by this

group and showed a film. The officers patrol 387,000 miles of roads, there are 17 districts and 185 detachments. He stressed frauds perpetrated by peddlers, counterfeit bills, child molesting, auto thefts,

and identification of property. The OPP have several films on these subjects and will be invited to show them at Halton meetings soon.

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