

Who Does It

Asparagus farmer loses

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 Bill McDonald
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by Eric Elstone
 Society's rules are meant to be followed, even when a member disagrees with some of them, a stubborn Acton area asparagus grower learned in provincial court Friday.

Fourth Line farmer Casey Boss was found guilty of growing asparagus without a licence and also of refusing to allow an official to measure his asparagus field.

Judge Douglas Latimer said he could come to no other conclusion. However, he gave Mr. Boss a suspended sentence. Mr. Boss's lawyer, Richard Howitt, had asked for the minimum penalty of a fine.

The charges were brought against Mr. Boss by the Ontario Asparagus Growers Marketing Board (OAGMB) under the Farm Products Marketing Act. Board Lawyer Peter Lingard, of St. Catharines, told the court the board has an obligation to enforce the regulations so as to be fair to other growers.

"Well I guess in today's world there are regulations, regulations and regulations," Judge Latimer said.

"Most people want to be well regulated," said the judge.

He went on to say: "I guess you're one of those people who still believes there are too many of them (regulations). But it is there, like it or not, to benefit the community."

"I must admit, the court admires your free spirit. You're stubborn," Judge Latimer told Mr. Boss.

The court learned from testimony, Mr. Boss refused to permit inspector Cyril Mervis, who was appointed by OAGMB, to measure an asparagus field at Lot 23, Concession 4 on July 3. Mr. Boss had also refused permission in 1978.

Also OAGMB secretary-manager Dave Lopus indicated there is no record of Mr. Boss having paid the board's fee.

OAGMB charges members \$25 per acre. The minimum acreage is one-half acre before anyone is considered to be a commercial grower, according to Mr. Lopus.

OAGMB is made up of two types of growers: one aims his produce to the cannery market; another, like Mr. Boss, grows asparagus for the fresh market.

"We fresh growers were not satisfied with the board. We felt it was not legal," testified Mr. Boss. He went on to say an acre of asparagus requires an investment of three years and \$800 before it matures.

Mr. Boss said he has not sold or cut asparagus for two years.

Mr. Boss has a \$3,600 investment in his 4½ acres of asparagus. If he only wishes to gaze upon it, he must pay the OAGMB fee, according to regulations.

"Then someone suddenly says you owe so much per acre," said Mr. Boss. "The farmers are the backbone of the country. I feel we shouldn't be pushed around."

Mr. Boss mainly raises pork. Fresh asparagus producers first came under the board's rules two years ago.

Mr. Boss' anti-board stand represents less than two per cent of the board's membership, according to Mr. Lingard. There are 175 OAGMB members.

"This is rather unique," observed Judge Latimer. "Boss is a man of his own principles. He's quite stubborn, as he's entitled to be."

After the trial Mr. Boss indicated he may rent the asparagus part of his 73-acre farm in half-acre parcels, and escape the OAGMB rules. "That is the only way out," he said.

Mr. Lopus, of the OAGMB, said: "If he is to circumvent the regulations, more power to him... What can you do? That's their way of going round it." Fees collected by the board amount to \$152,000.

The OAGMB has controls on the market, to protect farmers, said Mr. Lopus. Last year, for instance, the board set a minimum price of 65 cents per unit. The fresh market grower could get 85 cents. However, if he could not sell his produce, he could always turn to the board, indicated Mr. Lopus.

The OAGMB case is not the first time Mr. Boss has battled on his principles. For some time he resisted the expropriation of about 21 acres of his 100-acre farm for Ontario Hydro's 500 kV north-south corridor.

Trustees favor three year term

Most Halton Board of Education trustees indicated support for serving three year terms rather than the present two year term.

Thursday trustees completed a survey which asked if they were in favor of increasing the term of office for all councils and boards in the province.

The survey is carried out by the Association of Large School Boards at the request of the Ministry of Education.

The association wrote trustees it has found that "certain municipal organizations and ministries of the provincial government are considering increasing the term of office of municipal elected officials from two to three years."

Church Services

ST. PAUL'S OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
 Main St. at James St.
 The Rev. E.T. Jack Birch
Sunday, March 30/80
 Palm Sunday
 9:45 a.m. - Family Service
 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
 Membership Sunday
 Sermon - "Look Who Is Coming"
 All welcome
 Church School & Nursery facilities.

ANGELICAN CHURCH OF CANADA GRACE CHURCH
 317 Main St., Milton
Sunday, March 30/80
 Palm Sunday
 8:00 a.m. - Holy Communion
 10:30 a.m. - Parish Eucharist
 9:30 a.m. - Senior Church School
 10:30 a.m. - Junior Church School
Thursday
 10:00 a.m. - Holy Communion
ST. JOHN'S
 Nassagaweya (Guelph Line, N. of 401)
 9:30 a.m. - Holy Communion & Sermon
 Church School

ST. GEORGE'S
 Lowville (Guelph Line & Derry Rd.)
 11:00 a.m. - Holy Communion and Sermon
 Nursery & Church School

EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
 245 Commercial St.
 878-3908
Sunday, March 30/80
 10:00 a.m. - Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes
 11:00 a.m. - Assembly & Worship
 Sermon: "Spectators at The Cross"
 7:00 p.m. - Evening Praise & Bible Study
 Sermon: "The New Jerusalem" (Revelation 21 & 21)
Tuesday
 9:45 a.m. - Coffee Hour & Bible Study
Wednesday
 7:00 p.m. - Family Night
 Nursery Services are provided at all meetings.

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 Minister: Brian Cox
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Sunday, March 30/80
 10:00 a.m. - Bible School class for all ages
 11:00 a.m. - Morning worship and The Lord's Supper
 7:30 p.m. - "Preaching of The Gospel"
Wednesday
 7:30 p.m. - Bible Study
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Friday
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 11:00 a.m. - Church School & Divine Worship

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 Palm Sunday
 9:45 a.m. - Church School
 10:00 a.m. - Adult Bible Class
 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship - Sacrament of Baptism
 7:00 p.m. - Communicants Class
 Holy Week - Monday, March 31 - Thurs. April 3
 Devotional Services 12:15 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.
 Good Friday April 4
 Breakfast 9 a.m. - Service 10:30 a.m.
 All welcome
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