



COMMENT

Canada needs policy now to ensure future

Much of the world is currently consumed with agricultural issues.

Foot and mouth disease along with mad cow disease is ravaging Great Britain and it has now come to France and Argentina. The outbreak is threatening the livelihood of thousands of farmers and anyone along the food delivery chain. And it's a long chain indeed.

And on Wednesday across Canada, farmers clogged roads in a national day of protest against a \$500-million federal aid package they have called inadequate. They argue that they're fighting tough competition for their commodities thanks to higher subsidies being paid to U.S. and other farmers.

Like most business people, farmers aren't heard from when times are good, only when there's a downturn.

But the fact is that someone has to produce our food and unless the federal government can produce an agricultural policy that benefits both the farmer and the consumer, this circle of blame will continue.

Somehow Canada has got to have a cohesive farm policy that gives our young people some hope that they can make a reasonable living off the family farm. Information from farm groups says that's not happening and that means a lot of trouble in the future.



OUR READERS WRITE

Couple upset by CN development says they feel their property now has no value to anyone but to them as a place to reside

(The following letter was addressed to Ian Thomson, CN director of communications, and a copy was filed with The Champion.)

Dear Editor:

We have received the letter from Mr. Heller with reference to the new intermodal terminal planned for Milton.

Our concerns are the following:

- Noise (first from construction, then the actual running of the terminal)
- Dust/dirt in the air (same as above)
- Lighting (needed to work 24 hours per day)

- Property values
- Air pollution (from the engines running)

We do know from attending the meeting at Milton council February 26 that Mr. Heller told us that berms will be constructed to try to help with some of these problems, but from previous experience we do know that this isn't the perfect answer. We also cannot see where berms will help with the lighting necessary to enable 24-hour-per-day work or with the effects of the exhaust fumes from the engines. Mr. Heller also asked us to have patience with

the process but while we have to wait patiently for more information from CN, how do we know that you are still not 'secretly' (as in your purchasing of the properties) making the process work for you.

We were also informed that CN had 'optioned' most of the area shown in green on the map. Unfortunately, this doesn't help any of us on the periphery of the designated area. We do think that CN should look at all the properties adjacent to the designated area, because, with your plan as it stands, all of these properties have a selling value of zero, as we're not going to be able to sell them in the foreseeable future.

On talking to the company that you used as purchasing agent for the properties already optioned, we were told that in 20 to 25 years time our properties would probably be designated as industrial/commercial and would therefore be worth a lot more to us. We haven't been able to assess the ages of all these property owners yet but we do know that some of us will not be around in

that time frame. Maybe CN, which will be around at that time should buy all this property now, at pre-announcement values so they can reap the benefits of increased property values then.

We're sure that most of our neighbours had bought their properties with the same thoughts in mind as us — that we wanted to move out of the urban setting we were in and live in a rural area away from any new construction, noise and heavy traffic — all of which we're promised by your new terminal. Further to that, we also hadn't planned to stay in this setting forever. Our plan was as we got to or close to retiring age, we would re-plan our lives by selling and moving whether to be near our children or grandchildren or to a retirement home. We feel we have been cheated out of that part of our lives because as earlier noted, our property has no value to anyone but us as a place to live for now. We look forward to an early answer to these points.

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Send letters by fax to 878-4943, email to miltoned@halton-search.com or drop them at our office, 191 Main St. E.



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by Steve Nease

