

Poor communication stems from values

The general lack of communication and understanding between farmers and urban residents, particularly transplanted urban residents, stems from two "totally diverse sets of values," says a longtime local activist.

Mrs. Newton said farmers and long-time rural residents have come to resent high taxes, particularly when the level of service has not improved.

"Our property taxes have skyrocketed—tied to the flaming tail of equalized assessment, to meet their needs—which it would seem they can not live without," Mrs. Newton said. "Olympic-size swimming pools, roller rinks, ice skating arenas, daycare centres, bigger if not better schools, ski trails and ski runs—recreational amenities that they couldn't afford to pay the taxes for in town, but which they think we should subsidize for them now that they have moved to Milton."

Yet, Mrs. Newton said there is no improvement in roads, there is no sewer system (other than septic tanks), no street lights or sidewalks.

"In the rural areas we see no improvement in our roads, subject to heavier use by the commuter driver," she said. "Our rural roads are fast reverting to their original corduroy condition."

But, Mrs. Newton said she doubted most new residents would or could understand the resentment felt by farmers.



BONNIE ELVA NEWTON

Bonnie Elva Newton, one of four guest speakers at Halton Rural Forum 1981 last weekend, told the forum that new arrivals come from an area of "indefensible space."

"The city, founded at crossroads, is a marketplace where protection had to be bought and paid for and still is," she said. "The only defences in the country we ever needed were our stump and cedar rail fences—fast disappearing to give a truly rural look to town lots. I'm having what is left of mine electrified and my wood lot mined."

Environmental ethic needed in Halton

Halton needs an agreeable, identifiable, environmental ethic with no vested interest other than that of basic human values, a local minister told farmers and urban residents gathered at Halton Rural Forum 1981 last weekend.



REV. JOHN GRIFFIN

Rev. John Griffin of Hornby, one of four guest speakers at the forum, sponsored by Halton Community Pulse Group and the Rural Development Outreach Program, told the gathering the ethic must be void of

political, social and ecclesiastical allegiances.

"We need to form an ethic which would cover the relationship between man and the land, between man and resources and between man and the natural environment," Rev. Griffin said. "The prophets of all religions and in all ages, including our own, have said that the destruction of the land is wrong—but these cries go unheard in the face of vested self-interest."

Rev. Griffin warned that unless residents have a social belief that man is accountable to the environment, that he is not on a par with the supreme being and can do what he wants with what he has, then they are going to be in trouble.

"Ultimately, the environment is going to have the last say, and we many may not be around to hear it," he warned.

Bankruptcy facing more farmers in '82

By ALEX MATHESON
Special to The Champion
Next year there could be a big surge in Halton farm bankruptcies, if there is not a significant improvement in cash crop prices, particularly corn.



HENRY STANLEY

"We could survive the interest rates if the prices were better," he said.

Currently, farmers are getting about \$2.70 a bushel for corn. If they got \$4 a bushel—and they did within the past couple of years—they could pay the interest charges, he added.

Local corn growers got a better than average yield this year, but it took more than average to break even, he said.

Yields ranged from 80 bushels to over 100 bushels per acre. Eighty to 85 is normal.

Although the break-even point varies from farmer to farmer, 85 to 90 bushels per acre would be average, Mr. Stanley said.

Farmers who sold some of their crop in advance at higher prices may have done better.

Mr. Stanley expects local cash crop growers will plant as much next year.

They have to utilize their equipment to the optimum level or they will lose more. Farmers continue to have to strive for maximum yield because it is that little bit more that is the profit," he added.

Halton to open area VD clinic

Counselling and treatment for venereal disease will shortly be available right in Halton, members of the Region's health and social services committee were told last week.

Dr. Peter Cole, medical officer of health, said plans are being made now to open two family planned and venereal disease clinics in Oakville and Burlington.

There would be the first such clinics in Halton. The majority of the funding will be provided by the provincial Ministry of Health.

In a telephone interview, Dr. Cole said people from Milton would most likely go to the clinic in Burlington, to be held Tuesday nights at the Burlington Square Health Unit office.

Clinic hours are from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The Oakville office, to be located on Maurice Dr., will be open from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., he added.

"I think the need for this service is as great as anywhere else," Dr. Cole said, "but it isn't greater than anywhere else."

Family planning programs will also be offered in the two clinics.

Champion Report

John Challinor, Editor of The Canadian Champion, attended the Halton Community Pulse Group's public forum about the concerns of the region's rural residents. John gathered together this brief synopsis of remarks made by invited speakers and with an assist from Burlington Post reporter Alex Matheson, filed this report as well as the covering story on page one of today's paper.



JOHN CHALLINOR

Water resources are "under stress"

Halton's water resources are "under stress" and signs of increasing problems are "clearly materializing," farmers and urban residents gathered at Halton Rural Forum 1981 were told last weekend.



GRANT LEE

Grant Lee, one of four guest speakers at the forum, sponsored by Halton Community Pulse Group and

the Rural Development Outreach Program, said Halton's agricultural community is under "constant economic pressure" to produce more food with decreasing resources.

"They must resort to using ever increasing quantities of commercial fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides and fungicides in order to increase crop yields," Mr. Lee said. "Examples of pasturing livestock and cropping right up to stream banks can be found throughout Halton, thereby reflecting attempts by many farmers to maximize use of available resources."

Mr. Lee criticized the three area conservation authorities for not taking a stronger stand on water resource problems faced by Halton.

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