

Improvements in farm industry needed: NDP

Farming must give the farmers a better return for their labour said NDP candidates for Simcoe East and Simcoe Centre. Improving the farm industry was one of the major concerns voiced at a May 19 taping session for the NDP at the Midland Maclean Hunter Cable TV studio.

The program will be aired tonight at 9 p.m. on channel 12 and on May 31 at 6:30 p.m.

The half-hour information program was set up in question and answer form with candidates Roger Pretty (Simcoe East), Paul Wessinger (Simcoe Centre) and Gordon Hill (Middlesex) providing the answers. L.P. Harney, who works for the Roger Pretty campaign, directed the questions.

Hill, president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture from 1970 to

1977, said marketing boards are necessary for Canadian farmers but they are not being used to their full advantage. Farmers are not getting a fair market price for their produce so it is necessary for the government to intervene he said.

"If farmers are left to the free market we wouldn't have any more farmers," said Hill who has been a farmer for 24 years.

He added that some marketing boards are more successful than others. "Some of the reasons farmers don't get a fair price is due to circumstances beyond the control of a marketing board."

More realistic border protection is needed in the future said the Middlesex candidate. The tariff is set at a rate of cents per pound but if it were set as a percentage instead, the farmers would benefit the

NDP candidate told the television audience. Pretty noted that the farm population in Simcoe East has dropped substantially since 1966. The high cost of land, poor profits and people retiring were cited as some of the reasons.

Machinery has also contributed to the decrease: "Farming has become more efficient in the last 20 years than any other industry," said Pretty. "He (the farmer) has had to be efficient in order to survive."

After the taping session the candidates answered questions from the media. Pretty said D'Arcy McKeough, minister of finance, was wrong giving generous tax credits to corporations in order to create jobs. "A better way to stimulate the economy would be to reduce the personal income taxes," he said.

Although some of Pretty's campaign literature said he'd like to eliminate sales tax he softened his stance when questioned. "It's fundamentally a regressive tax and I'm not for eliminating sales tax entirely," he said there should be sales tax on fur coats and diamond rings but not on more essential things like blue jeans.



NDP taping

Farming must be made more profitable NDP candidate recently Gordon Hill (second left) told a television audience. Roger Pretty (NDP Simcoe East) and Paul Wessinger (NDP Simcoe Centre) discussed NDP policy through L.P. Harney's questions. Left to right are Wessinger, Hill, Pretty and Harney.

Chemicals won't affect fish eggs

by Bill Schiller
The use of Diquat or Reglone A, a chemical to curb weed growth in Midland's Little Lake, will not affect the spawning beds of the lake's bass population. Assistant Parks Manager Bill Bowker said this week that sufficient precautions will be taken for the special project and that the chemicals will not be used in areas where spawning beds are located. The project will be carried out around June 10th.

Speculation arose last week when a column appearing in The Midland Times expressed concern for the eggs of the bass once the chemical was sprayed into the lake. Columnist Bryan Berriault suggested that the fish eggs could be in danger and that the Parks Board had not examined all of the possible side effects of such a project.

"We're carrying out the project in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment," Bowker said on Monday, "and I'm confident that if there were any potential problems with fish or swimmers, MOE would make us aware of them."

Bowker said that the spraying of the weeds is a

complicated procedure and that park's employee Steve Woods had to pass a stringent test set by the MOE in order to carry out the task.

The area to be sprayed is approximately 250 feet from the main swimming shoreline; it is 60 feet wide and 2000 feet long.

"We're not going to damage the fish or the eggs in anyway. In fact we went out of our way to contact the people who are really in the know," Bowker said that he and Parks Manager Mac McAllen had consulted with several MOE officials in preparing for the weed control program. He said they had met and talked with senior biologists Dennis Veal and Terry O'Neill from the ministry and that plans had been carefully studied.

Bowker explained that the problem became all too evident last year when some small horsepower boats became stuck in the tall weeds.

"You couldn't get a five horse power motor through it," Bowker said, "and can you imagine what would happen if someone became tangled up in that heavily weeded area while swimming—it would be game over," he emphasized.

Sunnyside water system may be studied

A study of the Sunnyside water system may be undertaken in the future, once a quote on such an engineering study is received from consultants J.D. Reid and Associates.

At its May 12 meeting, Tay Township Council approved a motion calling for a quote on a study of

the water condition of the Sunnyside water system. Walter Lumsden, Tay Township clerk, subsequently pointed out that studies like this are made periodically to ensure there are no major problems with the wells or water mains. There are currently no problems with the water system in the Sunnyside

area, Lumsden said. A request from the Bayberry Playground Committee for \$1,200 to repair their playground was referred to the finance committee by Tay councillors. The cost of repairs was apparently not included in the Bayberry committee's budget.

Liberal candidate

More colleges irresponsible: Bingham

From the Orillia office of Markle newspapers Liberal candidate Elinor Bingham says that the construction of a Simcoe College now would be irresponsible, as there is no need for more colleges or universities.

Bingham made that comment Saturday on a tour of the riding. Earlier in the week, she reviewed the status of the Simcoe College asking, "What is the status of Simcoe College ten years and three election campaigns later?"

"It is clear that the taxpayers have been deceived," Bingham said in a press release. "Neither the minister of education nor the sitting conservative member has the guts to tell you the truth—namely, that we have too many university facilities in Ontario now.... There is no future for another university for some years to come."

She mentioned that the taxpayers of Orillia and other donors, have \$284,000 sitting in a trust account not earning interest that can't be freed until a statement is issued from Queen's Park on the status of the colleges.

Saturday afternoon Bingham was guest at Midland's CKMP radio station. She canvassed

the Midland and Coldwater areas, as well as Orillia, Saturday. She was at the ODCVI Centennial celebrations in Orillia Friday night.

Thursday morning, she will be at the Midland

High School for an all candidates meeting with Roger Pretty and Gord Smith. Following the all candidates she will canvass Midland again. She will attend a barbeque at Shanty Bay School Thursday evening.

The highlight of her campaign week will be a meeting with Dr. Stuart Smith at Geneva Park 9:30 Sunday.

The itinerary is tentative and is subject to change.

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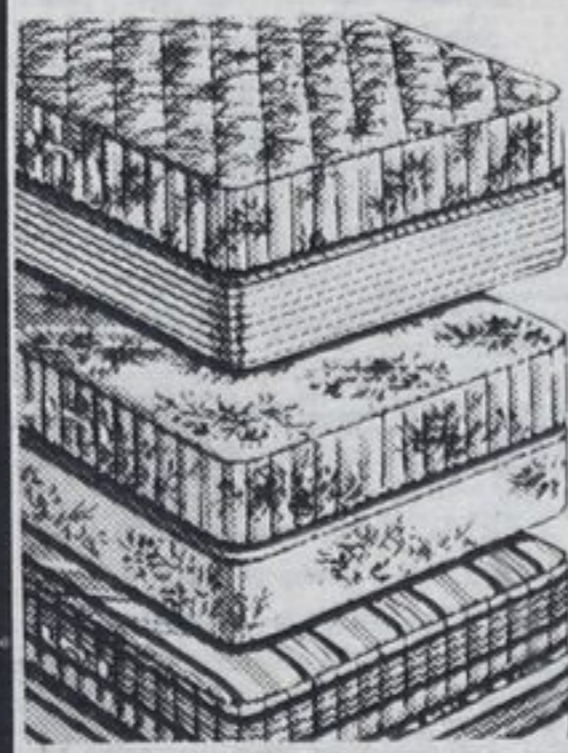
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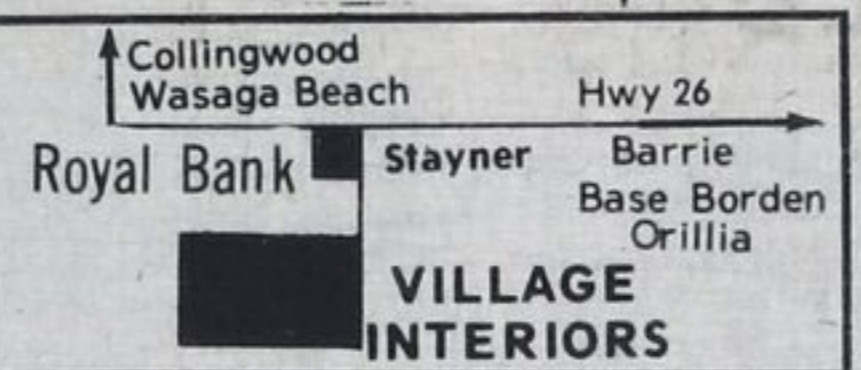
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