

# Commodity-based mortgages rejected by OFA's board

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture's board of directors, in its monthly meeting, unanimously rejected a federal plan for commodity price-based mortgages.

"Michael Wilson's budget speech announcement led farmers and consumers to believe that farmers now have access to six per cent money. This was out and out misrepresentation on the part of the federal government. The fine print tells the real story," said Harry

Pelissero, OFA president.

The House was not told - as budget papers released later revealed - that farmers would have to actually take on a mortgage at 14 3/8 per cent, (two per cent higher than the current rate for FCC loans). "Rather than giving

interest rate assistance to farmers, this program actually charges a two per cent penalty to enroll in it," commented Pelissero.

While the mortgage is registered at 14 3/8 per cent, a "side agreement" will allow FCC to fix the interest

rate at six to nine per cent, tying the principal due to commodity price fluctuations.

Government budget papers stated that, given a moderate price increase in commodities, the program

would not be any more or less expensive than conventional financing. Pelissero said he in-

terprets this to mean that the program would not cost the government any money. "In fact, with the two per cent

surcharge, it could actually make money for the government."

The OFA board of directors passed a resolution to "demand that the federal Minister of Agriculture and the FCC develop a program

which truly reflects a legitimate loan program and restructured mortgage program, using the \$700 million outlined in the budget, as promised in the past years, with affordable interest rates."

## Holstein bulls are off to U.S.S.R.

Two plane loads of superior quality bulls departed from Lester B. Pearson International Airport, Toronto,

Ontario on March 11 and 13 destined for Simferopol, USSR in the Crimean region near the Black Sea.

This is only the second shipment of dairy cattle from Canada to the USSR in 15 years.

A previous shipment of 125 bulls and heifers in November 1983, was also coordinated by Rowntree Farms Ltd., Brampton, Ont.

Canada and the USSR are active trading partners in numerous commodities; two-thirds of the wheat exported from Canada goes to the Soviet Union.

One hundred and thirty-five black and

white, and red and white males were purchased by Rowntree through the Canadian Commercial Corporation from leading Holstein breeders from Edmonton to Halifax.

The bulls, varying in age from 17 to 36 months, all carry breeding certificates, and after 60 days in quarantine, where they will undergo further testing, will be delivered to artificial insemination centres within the Soviet Union.

Careful selection was made of the males after a detailed search of the purebred Holstein population by the HAC

computer.

The dams must have produced in excess of 8,500 kilograms of milk with a 3.8 percent butterfat test in one lactation. Additionally, the bull dams classified

Very Good or Excellent and, in some cases, where the dams were two or three-year-olds, Good Plus was accepted.

This shipment of bulls was scheduled to depart last summer but due to technical misunderstandings between veterinary officials was postponed until this later date.

## Cream rises to top over Simcoe County

1984 (the last year for which complete statistics are available) proved busy and productive for Simcoe County dairy operations.

During that year, the 306 fluid milk farms in Simcoe County supplied 73,597,177 litres of milk.

Meanwhile, 210,786 kilograms of butterfat were produced between August 1983 and July 31, 1984, from the 119 Simcoe County farms supplying fresh cream. Average production per farm was 1,771 kg.



### To wed in April

Deborah Ann Juneau, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Juneau, Port McNicoll, to wed Mark Eplett, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Eplett, Willowdale, this month of April 1986, at St. Margaret's Church, Midland.

-Odessa Photography

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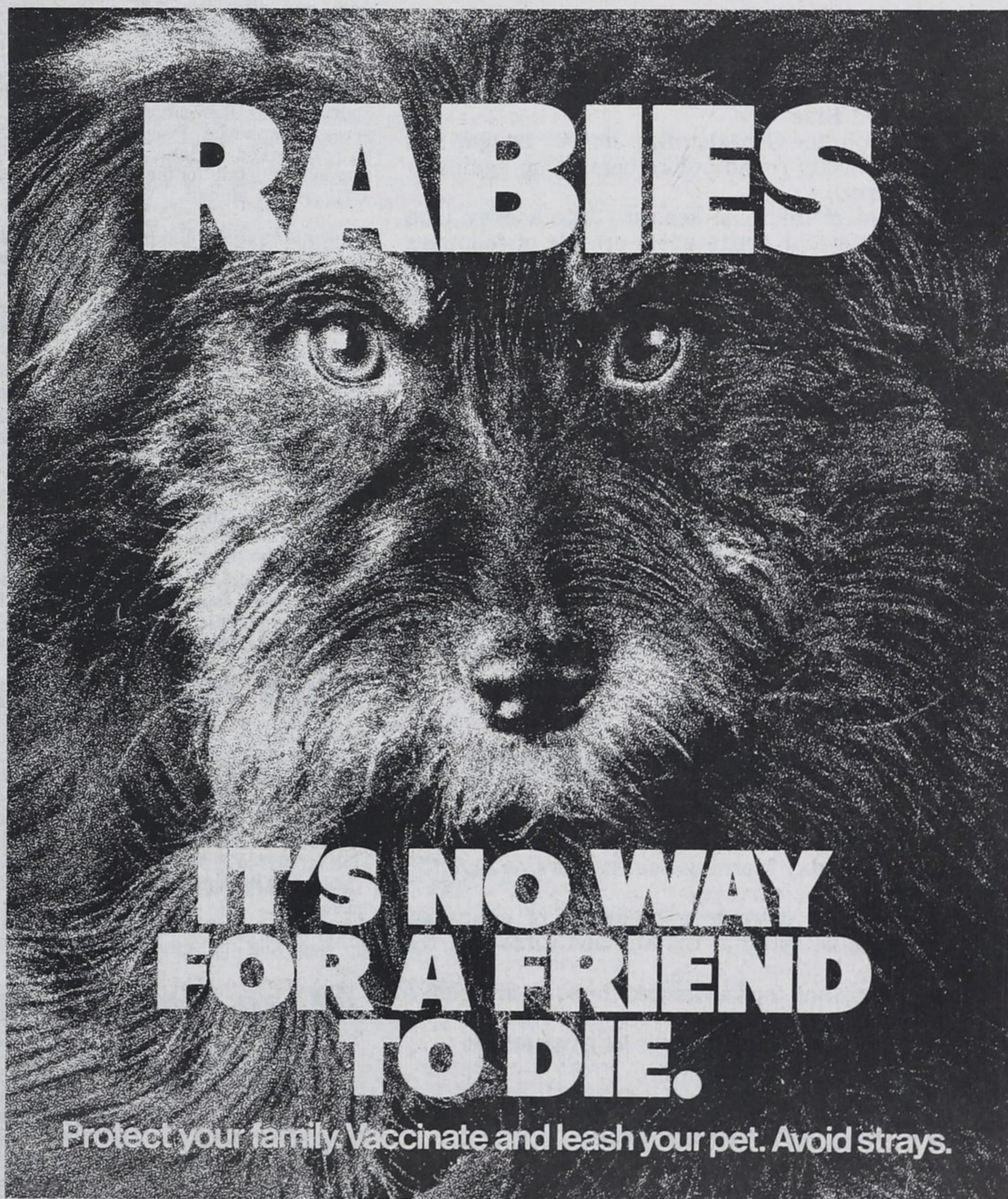
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# IT'S NO WAY FOR A FRIEND TO DIE.

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Last year in Ontario 2,150 people were treated for rabies exposure. As a result, the Ontario Ministry of Health is urging all residents to be extremely cautious. Since the disease is fatal to humans as well as pets, anyone who's been in contact with a rabid animal must take a series of shots.

You can protect your family by taking these simple precautions. First, vaccinate your pets against rabies. Second, keep them on a leash. Third, everyone, especially children, should be taught

to avoid strays and wildlife that might carry rabies. Always wear gloves when handling a dead animal. Remember, farm animals can be infected too.

Protect your family and friends by protecting your pets from rabies. It's no way for a friend to die.

Ministry of Health  
**Ontario**

Minister, Hon. Murray Elston  
Premier, Hon. David Peterson



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