

Letters

Airport destroying essential farm resource

Dear Mr. Editor:
"Lands rated Class I for agriculture by the Canadian Land Inventory constitute a very small proportion of the total Canadian land areas and should be regarded as a scarce and highly valued resource, particularly when occurring in close proximity to major urban centres." So states Environment Canada.

18,000 acres, most of them Class I rated land have been expropriated for the proposed airport. In 1971 part of this land produced: four million quarts of milk, 200,000 dozen eggs, 375,000 lbs. of pork, \$2.25 million worth of beef (1971 prices!), 45,000 bushels of wheat and 30,000 chickens.

Only 17 per cent of our population use airports. All of us have to eat.

The need for a second airport appears highly questionable considering developments in the last two years. Cost of aviation fuel has quadrupled, the corresponding rise in air

fares has produced a drop in passenger traffic. Many airlines including Air Canada had to cut down their number of flights and have reported financial losses.

Many international airlines are in serious trouble, i.e. Pan Am reported a loss of \$48.5 million in the last quarter of 1974.

How many planes are going to use airports in the future? To persist with the predicted passenger load of 62,000,000 by the year 2,000, a figure arrived at several years ago, is quite ridiculous.

Yesterday Mr. Marchand again voiced his determination to railroad the Pickering Airport through. I seriously question his intelligence.

One can only hope the cabinet is keeping in mind the realities of our present: i.e. inflation, spiralling food costs, world starvation, rising fuel costs, depletion and destruction of our non-renewable resources — when deciding on the feasibility of a second airport.

May sanity prevail!
MRS. BEATE MANSFIELD,
126 Westwood Lane,
Thornhill, Ontario.

Is Mayor Evelyn Buck ready to listen?

Dear Mr. Editor:
In her column in last week's paper, Mayor Evelyn Buck seeks "clear and concise answers" to all the questions she has about Family Life Centres.

But when she gets clear, concise answers—and many of us have been working overtime to get them to her—then is she open to listen and be persuaded?

Let us consider some of the questions which she asks:
(1) Is there a need? What more evidence is required as a fitting answer. One month ago an inter-church brief was presented to the regional council, backed up by some 1900 names on a petition of support for the four Family Life Centres. This brief stated that in 1974

a total of 1534 persons were counselled and over 5,500 persons were involved in educational events. These figures show a real increase over 1973. The facts speak for themselves, and a significant number of the community support them.

(2) "Will other organizations also abandon their fund raising endeavors and demand public funding for their service?" This question is incredible! Mayor Buck knows the funding requested is at most 70 per cent of the total 1975 budget. The centres will continue to work to secure the rest through fees charged and through individual and group contributions. The question is not whether the Family Life Centres are "abandoning"

their fund raising responsibilities? The real question is: Is the region prepared to support or abandon these Centres?

(3) "How effective have counselling services proven to be?" Are we to take from this that the new chairman of the health and social services committee of the region is questioning the validity of counselling services in general?

Mayor Buck has also worried about possible duplication of counselling services. She will know by now that practically all other social agencies in York Region are firm in their support of the Family Life Centres. I appreciate the underlying frustration of Mayor Buck and her fellow

councillors, i.e. the total lack of financial support from the provincial government. We have been in touch with them on this.

However for Mayor Buck to state "the regional property tax, basically, is meant to provide services to property" is very misleading and disturbing. All the more so when we consider that she is the present chairman of the health and social services committee.

All essential regional social services stand threatened by that attitude. Surely it will not prevail on February 27 when the regional council must again consider the fate of the Family Life Centres. (Rev.) Robert McElhinney, Box 677, Oak Ridges, Ont.

Pierre Berton's letter symptomatic of society's ills

Dear Mr. Editor:
Having read Pierre Berton's recent reproach to Mayor Garnet Williams regarding development in Kleinburg, I can conclude only that it is symptomatic of the many ills currently facing Canadian society.

I refer to a newspaper headline of the past week, **Violence: A Growing Fear in Canada.** The previous week, Prime Minister Trudeau remarked that, "Nobody trusts anybody, anymore, in government."

Recent statistics show murders within Metro have increased by 250 percent since 1970 and rapes and robberies are up by 13 percent.

Where there is a less violent reaction, where blood does not flow, we find segments of society bitterly opposed to social changes.

For example, over 200 people recently opposed a rezoning, which would have provided a home for 14 disturbed teenage boys.

Our government no less indifferent to the needs of society, has recently spent no less than \$11,000 in order to have an illegal immigrant kept under guard.

In lamenting society's changing attitude toward fellowmen, a Globe and Mail editorial of last week commented, "We have our white power freaks—a tiny minority of course, but still frightening."

"And we have too many people who chronically accuse immigrants of robbing Canadians of everything from jobs and housing to subway seats and parking places."

On January 6, the Toronto Daily Star editorial in accusing the municipalities of being the villains of the housing shortage advised that "... when soft words fail, it is time to bring out the big stick."

In my opinion, we could top the list of society's laments by citing the biggest cancer of Metro society... Rochdale College. This dishonorable and costly institution is now under the jurisdiction of the Honorable Barney Danson, MP York North.

Yes Mr. Editor, it is not an easy task to solve the problems of our society. This week I was even more disturbed to discover that the malaise is so close it is affecting my spinal cord and is a source of much personal irritation.

I am referring to an open letter, directed from Pierre Berton to Mayor Garnet Williams of Vaughan, which appeared in the February 5 issue of The Liberal.

Mr. Berton referred to a plan of subdivision which was before the municipality for two council periods and had been discussed for over three years at countless planning meetings where study after study was reviewed.

Mr. Berton emphasized the plan approved by council was approved neither by his committee nor the Kleinburg ratepayers, but rather was a plan of Mr. Dewar, the local planning director.

He told the mayor neither he nor the community "... want the influx of 2,700 people on a community of 1,000 people. It would destroy the social fabric of a tightly knit community and play havoc with the present social institutions."

Moreover Mr. Berton does not "... think anybody in Kleinburg any longer equates progress with size. Most people have come to Kleinburg because they like the rural atmosphere and they are determined to keep it."

He advised the mayor that "... it is important,

therefore, that the council, before it makes any further plans, listens to the citizens of the Kleinburg area carefully to be sure it knows exactly what it is the people of this area want" ... all of which, seems like quite a mouthful to me.

Here we have an instance of violence of the pen rather than that of the sword.

How can Pierre Berton, dare to question the decision of council, headed by a mayor who has enjoyed three acclamations during a time when the Kleinburg plan was being considered?

How can Mr. Berton make reference to the "rural atmosphere" of Kleinburg when in fact 90 percent of its residents are living in an urban setting, on 50 to 60 foot lots?

What is most disturbing to the writer, is the change in Pierre Berton, who during the 1950's wrote as the champion of the underdog, who were and are in need of homes ... or shelter of any kind.

There was a day, when there was a Pierre who opposed the establishment — an establishment which today is the villain of the housing shortage.

Is Mr. Berton, no longer the socially conscious individual who fought for equality of the dollar bill and the principle of share and share alike?

Come on Pierre, you equate progress with the size of a book that you write. And is progress not equated to size when considering the four-acre lot on which you have built your Kleinburg home?

Surely you must have the same heart, as you did a few years ago, when you were prepared to defend the right of a family, to build a home on a fifty foot lot, particularly, when that was all they could afford.

If the fibre of the community of Kleinburg, is endangered by the addition of 2,700 people, did the absorption of 35,000 people in one year, by North York, produce an inferior society?

Be careful Pierre, your friends Vass and Cameron are a product of the North York society and earn their livelihood from its resources which people such as myself helped to develop.

By what right can Mr. Berton and the ratepayers he represents dictate the development of land which they do not own?

Neither Pierre Berton nor the ratepayers know whether or not the owners are prepared to develop a "Dewar Plan" or a "Council Plan" or a "Berton Plan"; or if they will, propose low cost housing or a "Milani" futuristic city, plot a cemetery or raise pigs.

They have never really asked us our intentions!

Mr. Editor, I am sick to the bone of the violence of the pen but I am affected to the marrow by violence of the pen, for the latter is known to be more deadly than the sword.

Perhaps I should take the advice of The Toronto Star and begin to realize it is time to bring out the 'big stick'.

For you see Mr. Editor, I am one of the owners of the land in question and under the Canadian constitution I have basic rights that a thousand Pierre Bertons cannot usurp.

What gall some people have! What, violence of the pen! CAMILO MILANI, Millani and Milani Holdings Ltd., 44 Uplands Avenue, Thornhill, Ont.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

In the estate of Francis James Guttridge.

All persons having claims against the Estate of Francis James Guttridge, late of the Town of Vaughan, in the Regional Municipality of York, who died on or about the 10th day of January, 1975, are hereby notified to send particulars of same to the undersigned on or before the 12th day of March, 1975, after which date the Estate will be distributed, with regard only to the claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice and the undersigned will not be liable to any person of whose claim she shall not then have notice.

DATED at Richmond Hill, this 13th day of February, 1975.

BEVERLY ANN GUTTRIDGE, Executrix of the Estate of Francis James Guttridge, by her solicitor, Robert H. Blackburn, c/o Messrs. Lawlor, LeClaire, Stong & Nevins, Barristers and Solicitors, 10265 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4C 4Y7.

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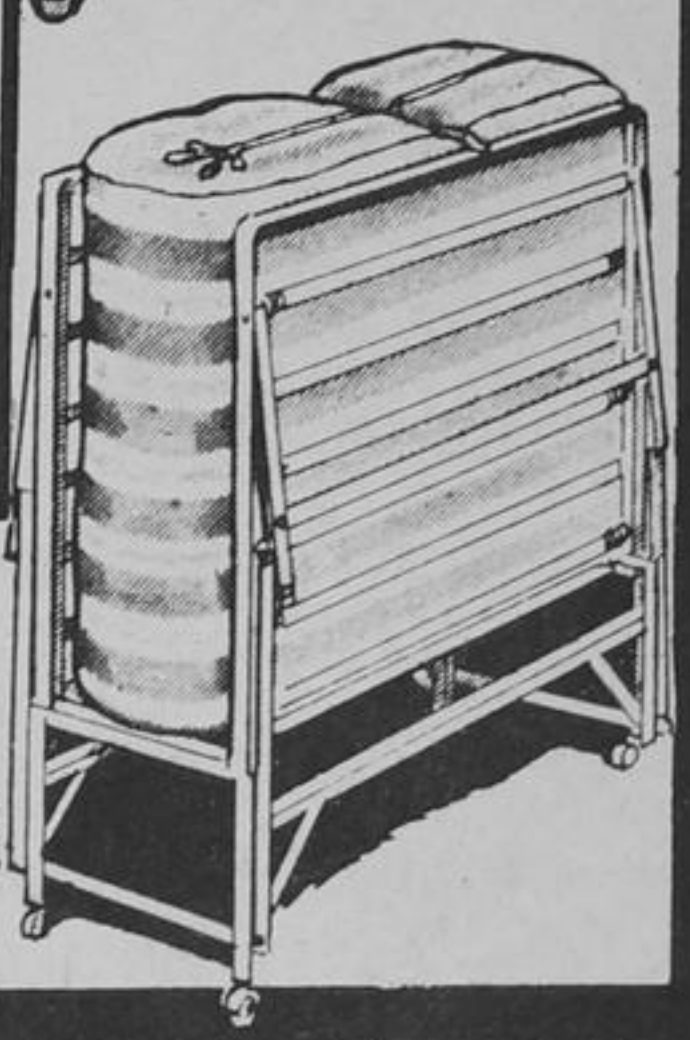
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YESTER DAYS...

Railway coast-to-coast by 1889

By Mary Dawson

By the spring of 1889 the Canadian Pacific Railway had linked Canada coast to coast and was pouring settlers into the Prairie Provinces.

The Liberal of March 21, 1889, records that "The emigration this spring to Manitoba, the North-West, British Columbia and other places is greater than it has been for several years. No less than 600 people took passage by the Canadian Pacific Railroad from Toronto's Union Station Tuesday last. The majority were farmers, who are a most desirable class of settlers."

"On the same day six cars of freight and 10 passengers left Richmond Hill depot for Calgary, Brandon and Morden. Should the Manitoba crops be good the present summer the emigration next spring will be greater than ever."

Another item in the same issue states E. H. Clubine left Tuesday for Manitoba where he intended to settle. In partnership with his brother-in-law, Mr. Clubine had been sending horses to that province during the past year, in which business they had been quite successful. Mrs. Clubine was to follow at a later date.

The demand for horses in Manitoba must have been very great in those years because The Liberal also reported at an earlier date

Messrs. R. Trench and R. Raymond shipped two carloads of horses to Manitoba February 15.

Among these was an excellent stallion purchased from Andrew Russell and an imported brood mare bought from J. Palmer. The news item ended "By all odds they are the best Mr. Trench has yet sent from this place."

By March 21, Trench, who came from Brandon, Manitoba, was back in Richmond Hill looking for more horses. He preferred mares weighing from 1200 to 1400 lbs. and stayed at the Palmer house while in town.

Internationally it was reported two professors of the Pasteur Institute in Paris had identified the generative microbe of diphtheria, the first step in developing the vaccine which has practically eliminated this once dreaded scourge from the world.

It was also reported the managers of the Nicaragua Canal Company said they would begin work as soon as U.S. President Cleveland signed the bill incorporating the company. The canal still hasn't been built and is again being proposed to ease traffic congestion in the Panama Canal.

The Panama Canal was under construction at that time, but de Lesseps was in financial difficulties and had had to lay off all his workers.