

Chinese delegation tours research centre

BY ANDY COMBER

Essex Mayor Ron McDermott and Harrow Councillor Peter Timmins greeted a small delegation from Fushun, China, during their visit to the Harrow Greenhouse and Processing Crop Research Centre in Harrow April 12.

"I hope we have something to offer to you," said McDermott, who exchanged mementos with the three Fushun officials, Vice-Mayor Wu Guang, De Ming Ye, director of rural economy, and Liu Zhuangchun, vice-director of foreign affairs.

Dr. Qingguo Wang, a greenhouse researcher at the centre, and Roberto Michelutti, a research biologist, conducted the tour of the Harrow facilities.

"It is important to communicate," said Michelutti, who explained the centre's Canadian Clonal Genebank, designed to preserve the genetic diversity of Canadian fruit crops including peaches, apricots and nectarines, some that originated in China.



A delegation from Fushun, China toured the greenhouse facilities at the Harrow crop research centre April 12. From left, greenhouse researcher Dr. Qingguo Wang, and Fushun officials, Vice-Mayor Wu Guang, Liu Zhuangchun, and De Ming Ye.

Fushun is one of the oldest industrial cities in northeast China, consisting of four districts and three counties in Liaoning province.

Many foreign companies have been established in Fushun, which has already established friendly relationships with more than 10 "sister cities" in Germany, Finland, Japan and other

countries around the world. With its land area of over 11,000 square kilometres and population of 2.3 million, Fushun is a veritable giant compared to the entire Town of Essex with its population of about 20,000 and a land area of 278 kilometres.

Essex is also in its infancy compared to Fushun, which boasts 7,000 years of history

and was the birthplace of the last dynasty, the Qing Dynasty.

Fushun grew from an important base for energy and raw materials to a diverse industrial city involved in five major industries, including petrochemicals, coal mining, metallurgy, chemistry, and machinery.

Education minister on 'working' visit

BY ANDY COMBER

Following a luncheon fundraiser in support of Liberal MPP Bruce Crozier at the Ciociaro Club April 15, Ontario Education Minister Kathleen Wynne spoke to the media about bridging the divide between government and educators.

"What is really important is that we change the tone of the discussion between the government and the education sector," said Wynne, who met with school board officials, teachers and local school interest groups.

"We put support in place for new teachers - we've got more teachers in the system - we've got more support workers in the system, and all of that means our kids are able to thrive," she said.

Wynne said the government's investment in education has created smaller classes in the early grades, higher test scores, and higher graduation rates from the province's high schools.

"We've really turned around the public's confidence in publicly funded education."

Despite the success of recent years, Wynne said there were still a number of



Ontario Education Minister Kathleen Wynne speaks to Essex Councillor Peter Timmins, centre, and Essex MPP Bruce Crozier following a luncheon at the Ciociaro Club of Windsor April 15.

challenges facing schools and school boards across Ontario.

"School boards around the province need the resources to have the programs in place to keep kids who have been disenchanted with education," said Wynne, "They need the resources for more co-op programs and more hands-on opportunities, and we are providing those resources."

Wynne also took time for an impromptu meeting with supporters of Harrow High School.

"I believe the research that says small schools work," said Wynne, speaking to members of the Harrow High Community Group, Doug Balsillie and Barry Mannell, who is also co-chair of the Coalition for Small Schools.

Balsillie said threats to close Harrow High have come forward four times since 1990.

"The issue won't go away," said Balsillie, who believes part of the problem is a lack of representation in the county because the board

is structured in favour of Windsor trustees.

Wynne said the rural-urban split was a common problem with many school boards in Ontario.

"We've got to work on that issue," she said.

Earlier, Wynne told media that Crozier had been a big advocate for Harrow High.

"My understanding is that it's open, and it's on pretty good footing," said Wynne, adding that she would like school boards to make their decisions "based on local needs."

Beef Up!

Woodslee United Church
Spring
ROAST BEEF DINNER

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2007
4:00 - 7:00 P.M.

TAKE OUT AVAILABLE
Adults: \$14.00
Children (5-11): \$5.00
For more information call
519-723-4601

DPM
INSURANCE GROUP

DPM INSURANCE GROUP

29 Talbot Street North,
Essex, Ontario

Phone: (519) 776-6457

TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE
WWW.FORSYTHTRAVEL.COM

Forsyth TRAVEL Ltd.

ESSEX 776-6439
Established in 1948 • OT 0046911 76 TALBOT ST. N.

Apr 28 *Tanger Outlet, Howell Michigan \$45.00
May 10 *Tulip Time, Holland Michigan & Turkeyville \$219.00
May 22 *Shipshewana Flea Market \$65.00
May 26 - June 6 *Scotland, Loch Ness, Isle of Skye & more \$3289.00
June 9 *Grand River Boat Cruise, meal included \$83.00
June 13 *The Walter's Family Country Music Show, buffet lunch incl \$98.00
June 18-21 Wisconsin Dells, Water Ski Show, House on Rock, Dells Cruise \$499.00
June 21 To Kill A Mockingbird, Stratford Fest, lunch included \$139.00
June 27 *Closer Walk with Patsy Cline, Port Dover, lunch included \$98.00
July 30-Aug 12 *The Maritimes, Cabot Trail & New England, Save \$50.00 book by May 1. \$2099.00
Sept 14-23 European Spree, Germany, Italy, Switzerland & France \$3215.00

* Indicates Guaranteed Departure. Prices based on twin and taxes are included.

GOLD MEDAL

Property Maintenance Ltd.

Residential • Commercial • Industrial

Specializing in lawn cutting
Sodding, Seeding - Landscaping
24 HR Snow Removal
Trucking & Backhoe Services • Power Washing

Fully Insured
Free Estimates
Barney Chauvin
Owner

Tel: (519)839-5929
Fax: (519)839-5900
Email: bchauvin@gosfieldtel.com

Low Mileage Trades are our speciality!

CHECK OUT THESE DEALS!!!

2004 GMC Envoy SLT, 4X4, leather, sunroof, very clean, 67 800 KM	\$23,995
2005 Buick Allure, V6, power seat, lots of power options, blue, 43 000 KM	\$15,995
2006 Pontiac Grand Prix, drivers package, loaded, black, 39 000 KM	\$16,995
2003 Saturn Vue, SUV, Auto, power options, fire red metallic, 79 200 KM	\$13,995
2005 Pontiac SV6, Mini-Van V6, 7 seater, power equipment only red or blue	\$15,888
2004 Pontiac Montana, RWB V6, cruise control, power options, blue	\$14,995
2004 Chev 3500, flat bed truck V8, gas, auto, power flat bed truck, white only 6 800 KM	\$21,995
2006 Chyr Sebring Convertible, V6, loaded, Silver 8 700 KM	\$23,995
2003 Chev Venture Van Ext. V6, captain chairs, power options, only 69 800 KM	\$9,998
2006 Pontiac G6, V6, loaded, alum wheels, white only 8 900 KM	\$17,988

- 150+ Point Inspections
- Manufacturer's Warranty
- 24-hour Roadside Assistance
- 30 day/2500 km no hassle exchange privilege

Paul Griffiths

Roy Griffiths

"Where Great Prices Sell Cars!"

548 COUNTRY RD. 34 519-776-7354

Visit us at: www.essexpontiac.com