

Pickering Farmers Not Concerned Over Assessment



Platform executive members attending the Pickering Township Federation of Agriculture meeting at Brougham, April 5 were (left to right) — Jack Powers, Ralph Jones, Bruce Taylor and Frank Brumwell. —Staff Photo.

Eighteen At Meeting

BROUGHAM — Even a topic of assessment and taxes failed to prompt farm residents of Pickering into attending the annual meeting of the Federation of Agriculture in the Brougham Hall, April 5. Only 18 persons, including one newspaper reporter, were present. Guest speakers included Mr. Frank Brumwell, well-known Markham Township farmer and a member of the York County Federation of Agriculture and Mr. Bruce Taylor of the Ontario Federation.

Mr. Ralph Jones, re-elected President of the Pickering organization, expressed disappointment at the small turnout at a time when farm taxes and assessment were pressing problems in the municipality.

INCOME ONLY
Mr. Brumwell said that

he and members of his executive had waged a strong campaign in York County against unfair farm assessments. He charged that future use of properties should not be considered. He stated that farm land values were only as

high as the market value of products that could be produced. He said that the committee's report in the form of a brief had been submitted to the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Mr. Taylor said that much work was being done at the Ontario Federation level, but since recommendations to the Legislature seldom made headlines, few farmers were aware of benefits gained.

On Wednesday, April 19, the North Pickering Rural Ratepayers' Association will hold a meeting in the Brougham Hall and the topic for discussion will once again be TAXES. All rural property-owners are urged to attend.

GARDEN GUIDE

Flowering Shrubs Are A Good Investment

By JOHN BRADSHAW

Flowering shrubs add true beauty and distinction to any house and garden at a very low cost. Some of the most spectacular color effects in nature are those produced by flowering shrubs such as lilacs, forsythias, and numerous others.

With a little judicious planning a selection of shrubs can be obtained that will give the garden a fine display of bloom from early spring to late autumn.

There are also shrubs which not only give the garden a fine display of bloom but develop brightly colored fruits which are enjoyed both for their color and the birds they attract. Still others beautify the garden with the varying hues of their foliage. Lastly, there are shrubs that add winter color to the garden with their bark.

One of the most important reasons for using shrubs is the fact that they're valuable time savers. Once planted they need little care. Except for an hour or two of pruning during the year, most shrubs are not touched from one year to the next. Even if neglected completely, as they often are, they continue to grow and perform the purposes for which they're planted.

Weeding is seldom a problem in established plantings. Until shrubs are mature and hide the soil completely, a mulch not only solves the problem of keeping the weeds under control but even serves as a source of plant-food. If mulches are not wanted, then the new pre-emergence weed killers can keep the area devoted to shrubs, clean with less than an hour's labor a year.

Shrubs are a good investment! The prudent man is always interested in cost. It's here that shrubs have much to offer as a sound business proposition. As we've already pointed out, they're very economical of labor and call for little expense in maintenance. However, their most important asset is that money spent for shrubs is, practically, the only investment in a home which increases in value with each passing year. No matter how fine an air conditioning plant or dish washer you may place in the home, the day it's installed and in use, it begins to deteriorate in value and continues to do so. Shrubs, on the other hand, add value to the home and property every day they're in place. Many real estate agencies estimate a good home planting around the average small home adds at least 1,000 dollars to its worth.

In the area surrounding Metropolitan Toronto one of the finest shrubs to plant is the Buddleia or Butterfly bush growing anywhere from 4 to 6 feet in height. As an ornamental lawn shrub and a summer cut flower the butterfly bush is in a class by itself. It's unsurpassed in beauty and usefulness for gardens large and small. From July until frost it produces an abundance of rich dazzling panicles of bloom that demand instant attention in the garden. Each of these measure from 6 to 14 inches in length.

It received its common name of Butterfly bush because the flowers attract butterflies to the garden in great numbers. The rich colors of the flowers are greatly intensified under artificial light and they harmonize well in all types of flower arrangements.

Provided you buy quality stock, you should get bloom the first year. Home gardeners who've already some buddleias in their garden, know that to get the maximum bloom every year they have to prune their bushes down to within one foot of the ground each year in late winter and early spring. This type of pruning is severe when compared to pruning other shrubs, but it forces the bushes to give masses of top quality bloom. A buddleia is like a hybrid tea rose and flowers on the new wood produced each spring.

The Smoke Bush is a fine flowering shrub which has the added advantage of having attractive foliage as well. Plants have a neat compact habit of growth and make excellent specimen shrubs for the lawn. The cut branches are very useful as fillers for bouquets, especially with chrysanthemums.

Deutzias are a group of flowering shrubs whose blooms appear in late spring. They're one of the few shrubs that will bloom reasonably well in fairly heavy shade. Most of the varieties are white but some have a distinctly pink tinge.

Each bush produces many stems which rise up directly from the root, curving upward and outward. The foliage almost completely disappears under the tremendous panicles of small, frilled, bell-like flowers.

It's also difficult to find a shrub that flowers in late summer. The Pee Gee Hydrangea is the answer to this problem. These extremely attractive shrubs grow well in the sun, in partial shade, or even on the north side of the house.

In August immense cone-shaped heads of bloom start to appear and these remain in flower until the end of October. In the beginning they open up a creamy white in color and then gradually change to a fascinating shade of pink. When hit by the heavy frosts in late October or early November they change to a fine shade of bronze.

The Pee Gee hydrangea is handy almost anywhere. It can be grown either in the shrub form, or in a standard or tree form, similar to roses. Be sure and specify which type you want when you order from your nursery or garden centre.

Both the shrub and standard forms are pruned back severely at this time of year, because the bloom will be produced on this year's new wood. In the case of the tree form, you would cut back each branch to within 3 inches of the crown at the top of the stem.

No garden is really complete without at least one Beauty Bush (Kolkwitzia). It's known as the shrub of a thousand flowers. I don't know of another flowering plant that provides so many blooms each June and July.

The centre branches of the Beauty Bush grow up right to a height of about 7 feet, while the outer branches arch out and downwards to the ground. They bear clusters of deep pink, bell shaped flowers with attractive yellowish brown throats.

Each bush seems to shape itself and is never thin or bare at the bottom. You'll find that it grows well even in the poorest soil and needs little or no pruning.

Extend Ontario Crop Insurance Plan

Already in effect as far as winter wheat is concerned, the Ontario Crop Insurance program has now been extended to cover oats, barley and mixed grains. Hon. Wm. A. Stewart, Minister of Agriculture and Food stated this week.

Coverage includes the hazards of drought, flood, frost, hail, wind, excessive rainfall, excessive moisture, plant disease and insect infestation.

To meet the requirements of the individual farmer the insurance plan is flexible, with the amount of coverage being optional. A farmer may insure up to 60, 70 or 80 per cent of his normal expected yield.

Coverage is written on a continuous policy basis which runs from year to year until cancelled by the insured or the Crop Insurance Commission.

R. D. Blackburn, General Manager of the Commission, points out that farmers, who insured their winter wheat with the Commission last Fall, may add Spring grain to their policy contract by submitting a new application and acreage report.

The insurable value of Spring grains has been set at 2.2 cents per pound or 44 a ton. Due to premium subsidies, amounting to 25 per cent by the Federal government and 5 per cent by the Ontario government, the coverage is available at much less than cost. In addition the administrative costs are borne by the two levels of government.

Under the plan provision has also been made for the adjustment of early losses where the farmer wants to abandon the crop or put the damaged acreage to other use. Payments in these early stages are made at a reduced rate.

Final date for this year for the acceptance of applications for coverage on Spring grains has been set by the Commission as May 1st.

Further information is available from all agents of the Crop Insurance Commission.

County Agricultural Schools Advocated

Henry DeJong, a successful dairy and hog farm operator at Baltimore, Ont. is critical of Canada's lack of agricultural schools for the teaching of good farming practices.

A panelist at a recent Federation of Agriculture meeting, Mr. DeJong advocated an agricultural school for each county offering teaching on subjects from bookkeeping, soils and crops and animal husbandry to fertilizer and farm machinery.

Born and educated in Holland, he came to Canada with his parents at the age of 15. He is director of the Northumberland Hog Producers' Association.

Farming practices in Europe and a comparison with Canadian farming was outlined by three immigrant farmers on the panel which was moderated by Howard McCann.

Robert Singer, farm manager for Harold Macklin, Cobourg, is a beef cattle specialist. He arrived in Canada with his wife and three children less than one year ago.

Raised on a farm in Scotland, where by tradition the farm goes to the eldest son, Mr. Singer as a younger son was forced to farm elsewhere. He chose Canada.

He said he finds it nearly impossible for a young man without a family farm to get started in Canada because of the investment involved.

Fritz Rycart brought his family from Switzerland to a farm at Nestleton, where he worked until he was

Purchases New Home

BEATRICE JOHNSTON PINE ORCHARD — Miss Helen Reid has purchased a house in Newmarket and will be moving later this month.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Rose of Newmarket were recent dinner guests with Mr. and Mrs. Howard McClure.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Brammer were recent visitors in Columbus, Ohio.

Mrs. Edith Lundy visited with her sister and brother in Stouffville for a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Brandon visited Miss Aleta Widdifield recently.

A woman was driving along a country road, when she noticed two linemen start up a telephone pole.

They certainly are stupid," she said to her friend, "they must think I never drove before."

Farm Partnership Vs. Corporation

With farms today organized under various business arrangements, it is sometimes difficult to understand the difference between a farm partnership and a farm company.

Farm Management Specialist Don McArthur, Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food, Guelph, gives this explanation:

A farm partnership is a business arrangement between two or more people that can involve both operation of the farm and transfer of farm assets. This includes an operating agreement on how expenses and receipts are to be shared, plus wages and distribution of profits.

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