

Farm Tribune

Farm tax increase unfair

A.A. Wall
Agricultural Representative for York County, Newmarket.

Farm taxes are up significantly this year. The normal reaction to this fact is so what everybody's taxes went up. But it's quite important to consider if they all went up in the same proportion.

It's my opinion that tax load for 1970 shifted toward farms and farm land. Reassessment on market value just has to have a big impact in a county like York, with highly inflated land prices.

When York was reassessed, an attempt was made to keep land values in line with value for farming purposes. The general level for top land was just below \$400. per acre and the price dropped with the quality of land.

At this level, the assessed value was reflection some speculative element, and was seven or eight times the previous assessment.

The increase for some other classes of property was not as great so that farm land in 1970 bears a greater proportion of taxes than it did before.

A committee was set up by the government last year, to deal with this problem. It was made up of farmers and officials of both provincial and municipal governments.

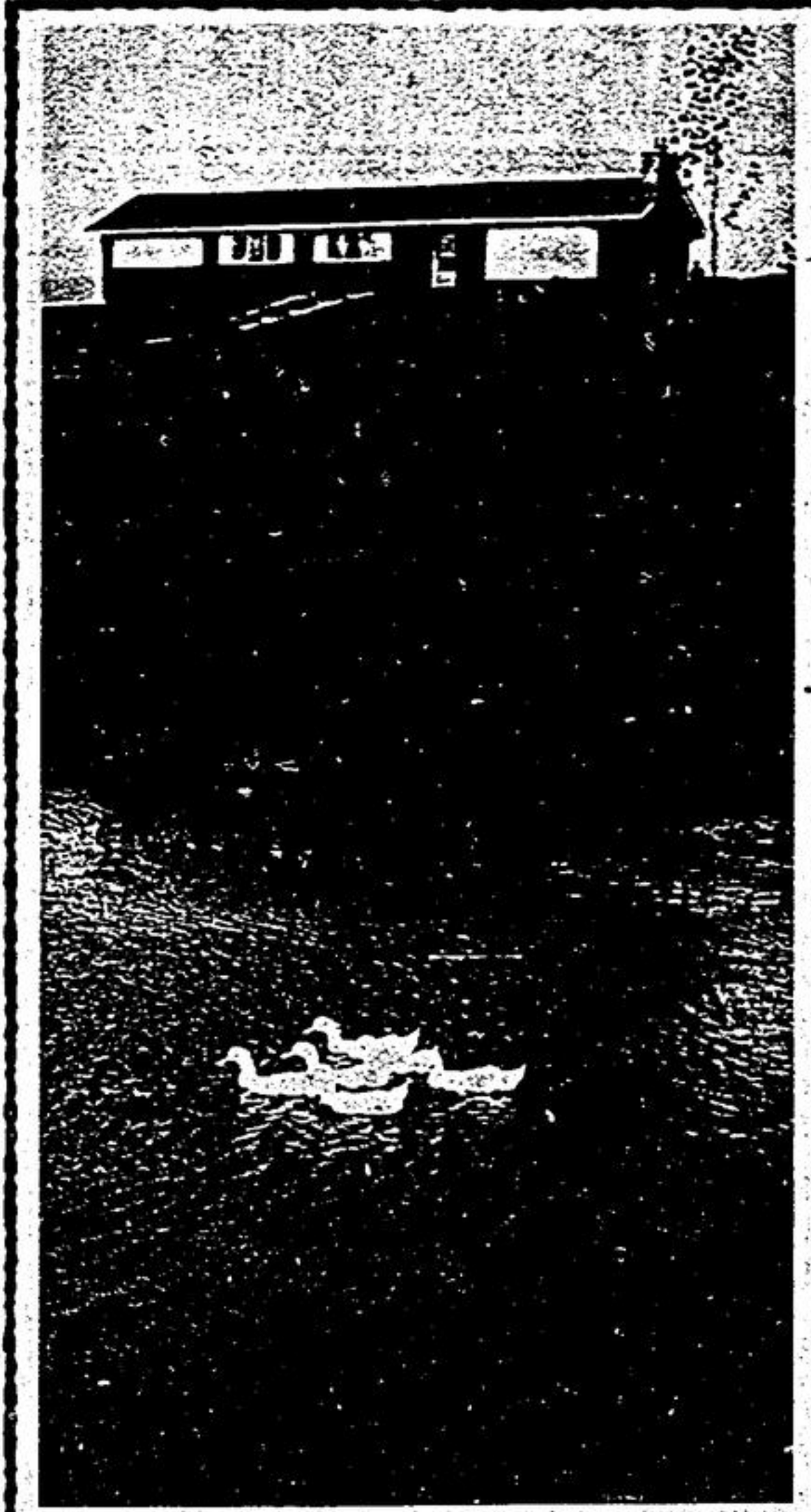
This committee made several recommendations, the main one being that farm land be assessed strictly on its value for farm use. This principle is valid, because the tax has to be paid from the income the land brings in each year.

The top price for land, to be farmed, can be argued all over the place. The committee however, reviewed all the available statistics and set up the top price at \$200. per acre. This drops according to quality, to a low of \$15. per acre for wasteland.

If this report were adopted, it would roughly cut land assessment in half, here in York, and likely reverse the shift that occurred this year. It would have quite an impact on municipal financing too. These points are

Both first and second prize plowmen came from Manitoba; Edwin Mills of Prince Edward Island will accompany Gerald Lytle to the World Match in England next year.

In the warm-up, June 24, Ivan topped the field with 12 entries participating. "I should have saved a few of those points for the next day," he said. He used a Case plow and a Massey 44 tractor.



Country quiet

In the heart of rural Uxbridge, a flock of ducks enjoy the privacy of a pond on the property of Robert Wilson, conc. 2, north of Hwy. 47.

being reviewed now by the government.

The Federation of Agriculture and Scarborough Farmers' Group are both taking action in the important area of farm taxes. Every owner should study the situation

carefully and be ready to express an opinion.

Peter Hulshof, Stouffville, R.R. 3, has received a 4-H Certificate in recognition of honor standing in six 4-H projects. The wards were

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Crash!

DICKSON'S HILL — Minutes after Mr and Mrs George Clark entered their presented at recent 4-H safety meetings held in Cannington, Brooklin and Uxbridge.

home on the former Harvey Moyer property at Dickson's Hill, Saturday night, a section of a large tree came crashing down in the front yard.

The family, including a son Ian, 11, had just returned from a farewell gathering for Mr and Mrs Robert Walker, moving

shortly from the community to Stayner.

"Ordinarily, we enter the house by the front door," said Mrs. Clark. "Luckily this time we went in the back!"

The tree, believed to be over 100 years old, had only recently been safety checked.



Stouffville student — A 4-H scholar

Interest in 4-H work and high academic standing has won 17 year old Jean Miller, conc. 6, Whitechurch, a two-fold scholarship. On June 25, she received the York Women's Institute \$100 award at a ceremony in Vellore. On June 26, she attained an Ontario Scholarship with an over 80 percent average in Grade 13 at Stouffville Dist. Secondary School. She will enter Toronto University in the fall. — Jas. Thomas.

Plowman places 6th

MT. ALBERT — While he didn't win the Canadian Championship or place in a runners-up spot, veteran plowman Ivan DeGeer won the respect of all competitors in the big match at Portage La Prairie, Manitoba, June 25.

He place 6th out of 14 entries.

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Hon. Thomas L. Wells, Minister