

Uphill struggle not over



Dr. Charles Godfrey, well-known for his opposition to the Pickering airport, is seen in another role on his Goodwood farm where he

enjoys doing the chores. In a Tribune interview he said the fight against the airport is far from over.

By TED WILCOX
GOODWOOD — It has been a long, uphill struggle for Charles Godfrey, the People or Planes chairman. And with the government's recent decision, it appears his cause is finally lost.

But not as Dr. Godfrey sees it. In his view, the anti-airport forces have a better chance now than ever.

"For a long time now, it's been thought that it was just a small group of people who were expropriated from their land who were opposed to the airport," he told The Tribune recently. The opposition now, he said, includes a much broader spectrum.

From his farm near Goodwood, Dr. Godfrey has led the People or Planes group since its inception in 1972.

It isn't the noise in Stouffville or Pickering that is primarily at issue, he said, "but a whole philosophy: Do we want to have uncontrolled growth in this part of the world? It is my feeling that we don't."

"We may have been entranced with the glamor of air travel four or five years ago, but now other things are more important now." Among ways Dr. Godfrey felt the "two billion dollars" could be better spent were homes for young families and for the aged, and subsidies for young farmers.

Recently, Dr. Godfrey moved into the broader realm of political issues by accepting the NDP party's nomination for the new provincial riding of Durham West. At present, he serves as director of rehabilitation at Toronto's Wellesley Hospital.

His experience with People or Planes has taught him a lot about politics, he feels. "I have gained a lot of fascinating insights into the way government works — just how dirty government can be." He qualified that, saying, "It's not really dirty, but super-salesmanship: presenting only the good side of the airport to the people." Another thing that impressed him from his POP experience was that "old people can really be hurt through this expropriation process. Several families have had nervous breakdowns."

Summarizing his argument against the airport, Dr. Godfrey said, "There is no need for an airport: there is a need for reducing noise at Malton. If they still must have something right now, they do have Camp Borden, but they have refused to consider it."

Letters to the editor

Reply to airport letter

Dear Sir:
 I would like to explain to Mr. Orchard and the rest of the silent minority (68 per cent oppose the airport) that he had been misinformed as to the purpose of the airport protest. We are not saying, "stop growth and leave us the way we are." We are saying stop uncontrolled, unplanned growth. The Ontario government's Toronto Centred Region Plan called for a greenbelt around Metro Toronto and restrictions on the growth of Metro. Should an airport be built, the population of Metro would increase to unreasonable proportions.

Mr. Orchard suggests that the unsatisfied move to quieter fields. If he can find a quiet area within 30-mile radius of Toronto, I would be thrilled; but unfortunately none exists except ours.

We are not saying that the airport should be put, "somewhere else, not near us." I would oppose this airport no matter where they wanted to put it because I feel that the government hasn't justified its need; when pilot's associations, DeHavilland aircraft and numerous concerned groups present a substantial body of evidence that future airline needs could be fulfilled by Malton, at no increase in inconvenience to Malton residents.

The airport will not bring jobs to the area. At Ste. Scholastique in Quebec, the only jobs filled by residents were night watchmen positions. Immigrant laborers were brought in to do the jobs untrained farmers were unable to do.

You talk about distributing the tax burden Mr. Orchard. An airport would add at least \$400 a year on the taxes of every Canadian.

Insulation or not, we won't be hearing much from Dickson's Hill if the planes take off overhead—there'll be too

Recycling proposed

Dear Sir:
 I have lived in Stouffville for only a year but in that time have become involved in several local activities. One thing in which I have taken no part (other than adding my name to a petition) is the garbage site dispute.

However, as a member of the recycling depot Committee, I would like to suggest that one area in which to attack the garbage problem is at its source.

The recycling depot has already proved its worth and we now have something in excess of 240 families using the depot regularly. I feel that if

much noise. Go out to Malton and see (hear).
 Madeline Nevins
 Stouffville

more publicity could be given to the Depot, either editorially or by means of articles, even more people could be persuaded to use it. Also those who have gardens could be encouraged to start a compost pile.

In this way the amount of garbage which would have to be disposed of at a dump would be greatly lessened. Hopefully, as it becomes technologically and economically feasible to recycle more and more waste products, i.e. plastics, the garbage problem could be reduced to an absolute minimum.

No pick-up for family

Dear Sir:
 Our family does not want the proposed

Whitchurch - Stouffville garbage pick-up. Garbage pick up encourages waste—the production of garbage. Re-cycling of paper, tins, glass requires work. People willing to exert this effort should not be saddled with the extra tax cost for garbage pick-up.

Services of the type proposed have an initial cost estimate but costs will go up—and up—and up (purchase of trucks next step, more staff etc.). All of us will suffer a permanent increase in our property taxes, this even has a lowering value on property values.

Encourage thrift, give people willing to recycle an incentive—simply charge for the bags to be picked up when they are not out.

Mr. Tom Stem
 R.R. 3 Stouffville

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