

THURSDAY, OCT. 16, 1975

Farmer Bill Newman is new minister of agriculture

QUEEN'S PARK — Durham North Riding MPP Bill Newman was moved into a new slot in the provincial cabinet last week. From being Minister of the Environment, he was shifted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Mr. Newman, himself a Balsam area farmer, told The Tribune he was unaware the change was coming "except the day before." He said he thought he was "going to enjoy the challenge" of his new post.

Regarding Pickering airport property, Mr. Newman said he has advocated putting abandoned land "in production immediately." He said that 1170 North Pickering project acres have been put back into production, through, for the most part, renting a house and farm together "as a unit." He said he hoped that "much of that could be done there (on airport land) as well."

Mr. Newman added that concerning the land freeze surrounding the airport, he hoped it could be "resolved as quickly as possible." The situation there has been going on "long enough," he said.

The new agriculture minister was re-elected last month by a 111-vote margin over Liberal Clare Morrison with NDP candidate Leslie Griffin running third. A request by Morrison for a recount had been turned down in provincial court recently.

Mr. Newman represented the former Ontario South Riding from the time of his election in 1967, and was appointed Minister of the Environment in February, 1974. Under recent changes in electoral



BILL NEWMAN

boundaries, he now represents Durham North Riding.

Before his election to the legislature, Mr. Newman served as councillor, deputy reeve and reeve in Pickering. He maintained a commercial dairy farm before entering the legislature.

With "Mike the Kite"

Hang-gliding is a way of life

CLAREMONT — For Michael Robertson of Cone 7, Pickering, "flying high" isn't just a cliché; it's a way of life. Mr. Robertson, known as "Mike, the Kite," manufactures and demonstrates "hang gliders."

This fast-growing sport involves leaping off the sides of hills or mountains with a "gull-wing" kite, and silently floating on the wind for up to 13 hours (the world record).

Mike is no stranger to such aerobatic feats, having been world flat-kite champion from 1968 to 1971. "Flat-kites" and the kind pulled behind a boat.

Mike got into hang

gliding two years ago, and his company, "High Perspective," both gives lessons to beginners and builds custom kites.

A workshop for the kites is located in a barn behind his 7th concession home.

When talking to Mike there is no doubt that he enjoys his work. Hang-gliding, he says, is a "beautiful, safe... sensitivity-oriented sport."

While some bad accidents have recently been publicized, Mike says "it's as safe as you want to make it or as dangerous as you want to make it."

"High Perspective" kites have a distinctive design in two respects, Mike said. In them, the body is held prone, face

down, rather than seated in a sling, and the kites have wheels on the bottom as a safety feature.

Most hang-gliders are built for distance, but theirs are made for "how it feels," Mike said.

Prices for a complete kite range from \$485 to \$580. However, High Perspective suggests a person learn to fly at one of their clinics before buying a kite.

High Perspective has high ideals for their work. Their pamphlet says "We believe sky sailing (hang gliding) has the potential to be the vehicle of the new consciousness as it ascends to broader horizons of individual freedom and awareness."

The pamphlet also wishes the reader "falcon fantasies."

Making a profit, Mike says, takes a second place in the company, to their belief in the "new consciousness."

Mike himself worked for five years as a university book representative for Prentice-Hall of Canada before, he says, he began "living for a living."

For three years, he travelled with the "Flying Circus," doing demonstrations at car-

nivals and headlining the waterfront show at Expo in Montreal, among other things. In 1972, he made national headlines by flying over the parliament buildings in Ottawa in protest of the proposed Pickering airport.

He was also on hand with a sound truck at the World Plowing Match in Oshawa, where he planned to confront Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, who as it turned out, never showed up.

Another recent political activity was Mike's occupation of a farm house on airport property while it was being assaulted by bulldozers.

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The lecture, in honor of the College's 10th anniversary, will be on "The Role of the Citizen in Government." It starts at 8 p.m. at the Meeting Place at the college, 1260 Military Trail, West Hill.

Planning board considers proposal

Principal to speak

UXBRIDGE — Peter Bernhard of Uxbridge will be giving a special slide presentation Monday in Toronto on the Canadian Save the Children work in the West Indies.

Because of funds raised by Uxbridge Secondary School for Can Save — former U.S.S. principal Becky Wedley expressed an interest in viewing the property and Mr. Higgins suggested they look at it and he would appear at the next meeting with zoning maps showing the industrial to the north

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Cedarwood's prospects dim

PICKERING — With the cancellation of the Pickering airport, the North Pickering Project has seen a drop in popularity among some local politicians.

Recently a recommended development scheme for the area was announced, with a population of 75,000 planned by 1991.

Pickering Councillor Jack Anderson told The Tribune that "without a viable alternative for industrial development" to the airport, that the Cedarwood project is "not feasible."

He said the province would have to produce the same percentage of commercial and industrial development as any other developer in Pickering. The official plan requires 40 per cent commercial-industrial.

The recently released tentative plan places residential, commercial and industrial development east of Duffins Creek, with leased farmland to the west. Originally, up to 250,000 people were expected to inhabit Cedarwood.

Oshawa Mayor Jim Potticary has come out strongly against the project since he says it is now "well beyond" the means of the region. Half of the capital projects slated for social services

would have to be borne by Durham Region.

They also turned down a last-minute plea by Councillor Don Kitchen that the town at least come under Metro Toronto planning.

The approved report was prepared by town clerk administrator Noel Marshall and says Pickering residents would pay higher taxes and have less political clout by joining Metro.

In Councillor Jack Anderson's view, the Durham Regional council is "starting to come together" from the Township of Uxbridge.

Mr. Anderson said that since council first indicated an interest in joining Metro that "co-operation" by the region has improved.

Pickering has been concerned, he said, that they get their "fair share" of industrial and residential assessment.

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Pickering favors staying in region

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It came as quite a surprise to Mervyn Brethour, R.R. 3, Stouffville, when he dug this monster beet out of his garden. Mr. Brethour told The Tribune the beet weighs four pounds, 14 ounces "according to the scale at the IGA."

There were several others in the garden that were nearly as big and all his vegetables were extra large this year. "I've gardened all my life and this is as good a crop as I've ever had," he concluded.

— John Montgomery

Uxbridge plan needs change

UXBRIDGE — The old Township of Uxbridge consultant Alex Grant wrote that he agreed with Mrs. Luk in that respect since too much rural housing can prove to be very costly to the Township.

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She recommended council establish adequate guidelines "as to the amount of estate lots in a given period" of time.

He said she was apparently referring to Century City by the comment, but he believed that if development meets the criteria laid down, it should be allowed to go forward.

He suggested the more detailed Scott Township plan be adopted since "more comprehensive policies" for estate residential development are needed.

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