



Each week, some residents of Green Gables Manor have been enjoying a dip in the therapeutic pool at York County Hospital in Newmarket. Here, Bill Reidel is accompanied by Jackie Howes, a volunteer from R.R. 4, Stouffville. Volunteers go in the water with the residents to be of assistance should they need any. According to Green Gables activities director Jackie Manser, the water is kept at 92 degrees Fahrenheit "and it feels good to the volunteers as well." She said more volunteers from the Stouffville area are needed. By Ted Wilcox

NDP candidate charges

Farmland crisis reaction 'piece-meal'

Dear Sir: An example of the Conservative party's response to the land crisis in Ontario was provided by MPP Bill Hodgson in his Queen's Park Report carried in your paper on Sept. 23. Mr. Hodgson tells us that a new procedure has been developed by the Food and Agriculture Ministry to review local government plans for commercial, residential and industrial uses of land. The Ministry is to work in partnership with municipalities to preserve farmland. He also explains that a new proposed taxation change on farmland was introduced in the 1976 April budget but "this proposal is still a proposal."

The Conservative Party has held power for 34 years and has only recently reacted to a crisis that has been evident for a number of years. It is reacting in a typical fashion with piece-meal proposals that will do little to preserve our farmlands or provide incentives for farmers to produce the food that we need.

The NDP is concerned about this problem and, unlike the other parties, has developed a long-term policy which would assign development priorities to various classes of land. Prime agricultural land would be preserved for the production of food. New industrial, commercial and residential developments would be encouraged to locate on scrub lands. In some cases multiple uses would be possible and desirable.

Land is a non-renewable resource. Yet it has been treated by the Ontario government as a limitless commodity to be sold to the highest bidder. As a result some of our finest agricultural land has passed into the hands of the speculator.

At the same time, the Ontario government has done little to provide incentives to keep the farmer on his land producing food. An NDP government would encourage the preservation of the family farm by guaranteeing sufficient income to meet the costs of production and ensure an adequate return for labour and investment.

If the people of Ontario are to have sufficient food supplies at reasonable prices in the future, the alarming erosion of our agricultural lands must be halted. The Conservative government in Ontario has not come to grips with this reality despite the protestations of Mr. Hodgson in his Queen's Park Report.

Yours truly,
IAN SCOTT
NDP Candidate
York North.

Residents have reason to be cynical of government

Dear Sir: In the Tribune of September 23 it was most interesting to read the letter from the N.D.P. candidate, I.E. Scott, on the preservation of farmland and then be able to drop down on the same page to the official views of the Conservative government as expressed in incumbent William Hodgson's article. The irony of an advertisement for Niagara grapes on the facing page could not be missed.

Certainly "good farm management" is a key to high Canadian agricultural productivity. For this to continue, however, adequate farmland must exist to permit such management. The present projections of the rate of disappearance of productive agricultural land indicate that even the most sophisticated management procedures will not be able to balance the loss.

The cost of land banking will be high - but in the long term still less than the cost to the tax-paying consumer of the importation of food necessitated by a future inability to feed a growing society.

Perhaps the Ministry of Agriculture and Food can do better than the Ministry of the Environment in protecting the interests of the citizens at large. To date the residents of Whitchurch-Stouffville have every reason to be cynical about the inadequate efforts and professed interests of the ministries of the present Conservative government.

ROGER GLAZIN,
Stouffville.

Train station offer refused

"Council doesn't feel they wish to spend any more money on buildings at this time," Mayor Gordon Ratcliff emphatically replied to a question from The Tribune regarding the fate of the Canadian National railway station.

An offer made last week by CN to give the building to the town, on the condition it be removed from railroad property, was rejected by council.

The mayor said no attempt had been made to determine whether the structure would be suitable for use by the Whitchurch - Stouffville Museum. The museum has been trying to acquire a second building for some time.

"It is in pretty bad repair," said the mayor, "but if there is any interest in it it still could be obtained."

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