

More letters

NDP farmland statistics criticized

Dear Sir:
After reading the letter sent to you by the representative of the NDP, I think it is only fair to point out some of the statements which have appeared in the press regarding their so-called statistics.

Just where do his 'statistics' come from and what exactly do they mean? Well, it is important to realize that not even the NDP representative knows for sure of what he is talking about.

No doubt, many people have heard the myth that every hour, every day, 26 acres of food land are vanishing into some kind of blacktopped limbo. This

information originally came from some federal government economists who have taken the Canada Census figure for 1966, then deducted the comparable figure for 1971 from the next census, then divided the result by the total number of hours in the intervening five years.

If you can figure out exactly what those figures stand for you are not only ahead of the gentleman who wrote the letter which appeared in the September 30 issue of The Tribune, but anyone else who tries to get at the facts.

These federal statistics are suspect for a couple of other reasons

as well. One being they come from a source whose top man had told the people that "inflation has been beaten" but if you had someone to pick up your food bill, good salary, two homes, three cars etc. at your disposal you would probably think inflation has been beaten. (He wears a flower in his lapel, sometimes in his mouth and says 'fuddle duddle').

First of all, for the farming statistics, a farmer is anyone with an acre or more of land who sells at least \$50 worth of produce a year. He might run a large, modern operation - or he might be someone with a large lot and henhouse or a couple of beehives.

The second reason to distrust these federal statistics is that the Central Farm Register in Ottawa has been rather lax in keeping their figures up-to-date between census years. When the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food passed on the names of 12,100 farmers who enrolled in its Cow-calf Assistance Program last year, Ottawa had not heard of 2,650 of them! If each of those farmers own 100 acres apiece (an entirely reasonable assumption) that would mean an additional 265,000 acres that Statistics Canada did not consider productive farmland.

Interested in staying on his farm if he can give his wife and family just as good a living as the guy at General Motors, and would be happy to write the chap who wrote the September 30 letter, (I believe, he is a teacher).

Zoning and other planning that affects farmland is decided by your municipal councils, and they are the ones who say 'yes' to the shopping plazas, the industries, housing developments, etc. etc.

So, I would suggest that before anyone writes to the editor he get his facts straight, and get back to the source from which they came, before you accuse the farmer of getting rid of his farmland - because he is the one who signs the bill of sale. He has every right to make as good a living as the next guy and will not give up his farmland if he can do it through farming.

It is all well and good to say that we must freeze farmland, but if you cannot get the farmer to stay on the farm because he cannot make a decent living then who will run the farm? The countries who do have state farms i.e. China, Russia are one of our biggest customers when it comes to farm produce. The farmer is

He announces that the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food has completed a county-by-county land inventory. Where are the results of this inventory? The NDP has urged the government to act on this problem for some time and are still waiting.

Mr. Hodgson may be "amazed" at the debate over farmland loss but it is a vital issue and one which concerns the future of all of us.

IAN SCOTT,
NDP Candidate,
York North.

Real estate board seeks development supporters

The York Region Real Estate Board solicits your support for a positive balanced growth program for York Region. Our board with over 750 members directly represents, with their families, over 2500 residents in the Region of York.

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diversity and richness.

GINO MATRUNDOLA
President,
York Region Real Estate Board.

26 acres per hour figure not refuted says Ian Scott

Dear Sir:
Mr. Hodgson in his Queen's Park Report (Oct. 14) expresses his "amazement" at the debate over the loss of good agricultural land. This is probably because so little has been done by the Conservative government to prevent this loss.

He expresses his "amazement" by attacking the "26 acres per hour figure", but offers no refutation of this figure.

He depicts the New Democratic Party as a knight in shining armour

who, because of being in opposition, has the certainty about what it proposes to do.

He somehow equates the modern land developer with the pioneer in the development of Canada.

He believes that government resourcefulness to preserve farmland "flies in the face of some world realities". This "reality" is justified by looking at the recent election results in Sweden. However, the comparison between Sweden and Ontario is really inappropriate.

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IAN SCOTT,
NDP Candidate,
York North.

Second letter agrees paper disappointing

Dear Sir,
I am in total agreement with the letter saying The Tribune is disappointing.

The Tribune has for the past few years covered news of Markham and Unionville interest. The past May Queens, grade thirteen graduates, hockey registration and yes Markham Fairs have tended to receive one liners compared to in depth coverage of Markham events. Markham paper carried the Spang baby picture - we gave the incident one line.

As for hockey registration I never found the Stouffville ad but the Markham and Unionville advertisement was very visible.

As to your reply, being unhappy with Stouffville changes does not mean we lose community pride, spirit and concern.

If I wanted Markham news I'd buy the Markham paper, surely I'd like to know about other areas but I'd like to

see main coverage of Stouffville news in the Stouffville Tribune. What other way can we learn varied opinions and ideas except for the 'Power of the Press'.

Thank you,
DONNA BELL
Stouffville.

Editor's reply:
There is one very good reason why the reader saw the Markham-Unionville hockey registration advertisement but didn't see the Stouffville one. Whitchurch - Stouffville Minor Hockey Association chose not to advertise whereas Markham-Unionville spent considerable money to purchase space. The Tribune, as a public service, donated editorial space free of charge for five consecutive weeks to publicize the local registration.

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 4. 50 winners up will each receive a TOP COUNTRY LP from AN COUNTRY MUSIC PLACE. The person submitting the best picture of Frank will receive a 500 dollar C.B. check.
 5. GOOD LUCK... and GOOD LISTENING!... from THE COUNTRY MUSIC PLACE... CFGM 1310.



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