More letters to the editor

'Magic' farmland figure is explained

Dear Editor:

As one of the proponents of the claim that Ontario farmland is disappearing at the rate of 26 acres per hour, may I reply to "More facts needed on agriculture issue", by William Hodgson MPP, in the Tribune of Oct. 14.

Considering that the world's inventory of first class farmland is non-renewable and in diminishing supply, while the world population is steadily increasing, it is therefore reasonable to postulate that every acre of food growing land is precious and must be preserved to feed ourselves and future generations.

Believing that the wise use of the world and all of its life is our sacred responsibility, conservationists have for years been disturbed by the reckless squandering of prime Ontario farmland for urbanization, pipelines, and etc. When the federal Liberal government and the provincial Conservative government jointly announced on March 2, 1972 that they intended to expropriate 42 thousand acres of Markham and Pickering farmland for an airport and satellite city, we were shocked upon realising that government itself was planning to wantonly destroy so much of our fertile earth!

In an attempt to prevent this irrational action, local conservationists joined the People or Planes group and with limited funds but skillful determination we began to battle the federal and provincial giants. After months of letter writing, speech making and using many gimmicks to publicize our cause, we then discovered that in the Canada census it was reported that in the past decade over 10 million Ontario acres had gone out of food production. By reducing the ten years to days and hours and dividing this into the total acreage, the MAGIC number of 26 acres per hour was calculated!

Using this magic number we began to flood the province with the news that during the past ten years we had been losing 26 acres of farmland per hour, and that if this waste continued into the future, most of the Ontario farmland would be lost to food growing within fifty years! This magic number was indeed magic and it caught on everywhere. Soon, newspapers, politicians, tradesmen and housewives became aware of it, and many of them repeated it in their speeches and conversation. We were delighted with our success!

Whether the Candian census figure of 26 acres per hour is accurate, that does not really matter. What matters is that this magic number has made government and responsible people aware of the truth that foodland is precious and must be protected!

Mister Hodgson mentions how the pioneers developed Canada. Well let's face the truth about our ancestors: - They certainly weren't conservationists and necessity forced them to be ruthless predators! By export and fire they destroyed the forest and its ecology so they could make the soil available for agriculture. They dispossessed and drove back the native people, annihilated the passenger pigeons, almost annihilated the buffalo. As their children we have followed in their footsteps and continued to ravish and exploit our natural resources, converting much of them into garbage which we then burn or bury. Our cities, mines, paper mills, factories, machines, and contemporary system of agriculture have polluted our air, water and soil with ever-encreasing tons of toxic substances.

Mister Hodgson questions our reliance on government to solve our problems. Well there are many things that the individual could and should do, but there are also things that only government can do, and one of the government responsibilities is to make certain that the environment is protected.

Mister Hodgson also states that a government land inventory has been made and will soon be available to the public. This is good news and we welcome an accurate measurement of our food growing acreage. We hope this inventory is more accurate than that federal government petroleum survey which recently misled us into believing that Canada's oil reserves were almost inexhaustible.

John Livingstone
R.R. 1, Locust Hill

Referendum is puzzling to resident of Goodwood

Dear Sir:

Undoubtedly you have watched with interest and concern, the developing controversy over the Uxbridge Council's attempt to establish a Federal Maximum Security Reception Centre within our Township. The Council was firm in its initial resolution to proceed with the project, and would not waver to the demands of citizens' groups to grant a public vote on this issue. However, at the last regular meeting, the same council completely reversed its earlier decision with regard to a public referendum, and actually is permitting the democratic process to prevail. Thus, on December 6th, we shall go to the polls not only to elect a council, but also to decide upon a prison in our area. Naturally, we are gratified with the opportunity of rightfully making our decision regarding the federal penitentiary, but we are puzzled at the sudden reversal of the council's decision on this matter. It is to be hoped that the reversal of the council's original decision is a result of honest reconsideration of the matter and a realization that dogmatic behaviour must surrender to democracy. Let us hope that his change of heart is not merely a political manoeuvre at appeasement in order to gain support for incumbent candidates in the approaching municipal election.

No matter what motivated this mysterious change of events, we do owe appreciation to the Uxbridge Penitentiary Review Committee for presenting well-researched information for consideration, and Harry Stemp, editor of the Uxbridge Journal, for his conviction that the ballot is the valid answer to the prison question. Surely both have had an effect on the council's conscience.

Apparently the solution to the prison controversy is in the hands of the electorate of Uxbridge Township so together the citizens shall provide the answer on December the 6th. Personally, I shall vote "no" for many of the reasons advanced through the media in the last few weeks. However, each voter has a personal commitment and let us hope that each eligible vote is definitely exercised!

JOHN PAXTON,
Goodwood

Hodgson letter

Dear Mr. Hodgson,

I was extremely embarrassed to find the signature of Dr. Charles Godfrey on a letter to The Tribune, written a few weeks ago concerning the York Sanitation landfill site.

Why was such a letter not written by Bill Hodgson — our representative — instead of an MPP from a neighbouring riding?

I realize that by writing such a letter you would be joining against conservative government policy, but surely your constituents needs are more important than party policies.

I am concerned about the future of our town's water supply. If the experts cannot agree on whether the York Sanitation dump is polluting or will pollute our town water, then surely all dumping should be banned and the site closed until it is proven that Stouffville's water will be safe.

I hope that you will do everything possible to see that this site is immediately closed and assure your constituents of safe water.

Madeleine Nevins,
Church St.,
Stouffville.

Sensible land use

Dear Sir:

It is not surprising that the President of the York Region Real Estate Board advocates continuous development in York Region. (Real Estate Board Seeks Development Supporters - Tribune, Oct. 21, 1976).

One expects that a person in the writer's position will have the interests of his fellow realtors in mind when making an appeal to continue the development upon which their livelihood depends.

It is not entirely unexpected that the writer would be opposed to anti-development groups. He believes that their efforts are costly and harmful to the average taxpayers. He states that "with the rising of property taxes, the time has come for the public to realize that continued prosperity can only be guaranteed through continued development."

The "continued development" that he advocates to combat rising taxes has occurred in York Region for a number of years. Subdivisions, shopping plazas, industrial parks have proliferated. The average taxpayer, however, knows that his tax bill has increased rapidly along with this development. Future "continued development" will not guarantee the taxes will not rise.

Along with this development goes the loss of valuable agricultural land (48,000 acres in the Region of York between 1961 and 1971) and the eventual result that we will be dependent on outside sources for our food supplies. Food prices, because of the law of supply and demand, will soar.

The idea that all development is good and that all we need to do to prosper is "build, build, build" is outmoded today. It is time that politicians realized that sound, sensible land use policies must be introduced by the Provincial Government before it is too late. Otherwise we are acting like Louis XV in France - "Apres nous le deluge!"

Yours truly
IAN SCOTT
Newmarket

'Thinks that we're great

Dear Sir,

Enclosed please find a cheque for eight dollars to renew my subscription to The Tribune from Oct. 31, 1976 to Oct. 31, 1977.

I have been a long-time subscriber, also my parents before me.

I think your paper is great!

Yours truly,
(Miss) Evelyn Dishley
George St. Markham

Thought provoking and entertaining

The Glen Cole editorial!

Glen Cole;
8:05 a.m., 12 noon,
5:05 p.m., 11:57 p.m.

BIG COUNTRY RADIO
CKFH-1430

The 1977 Rabbit runs by fuel injection

The Rabbit has a remarkable engine that moves it from 0-50 mph in 8.2 seconds. This advanced four-cylinder overhead cam engine, fed by a fuel injection system delivers the precise fuel/air mixture that changing driving conditions demand. So, you get optimum performance and outstanding fuel economy. Isn't that beautiful!

AUTOCARS NORTH LTD.
7079 YONGE ST. (JUST NORTH OF STEELES)
THORNHILL, ONT. L3T 2A7 Phone 889-2001
TORONTO'S NEWEST VW & AUDI Dealership
AUDI

INSTANT Nescafé Coffee 10-OZ JAR $2.89

60% WHOLE WHEAT, CRACKED WHEAT OR WHITE SANDWICH IGA Bread 3 24-OZ LOAVES $1

PARTLY SKIMMED FRESH! 2% Milk 3-QT. JUG OR POLY BAG (PLUS DEPOSIT ON JUGS) $1.19

LIQUID Javex Bleach 128-FL. OZ. PLASTIC BTL. 88¢

ASSORTED VARIETIES Heinz READY-TO-SERVE Soups 7 8-FL. OZ. TINS $1

UNSWEETENED, FROM CONCENTRATE BLENDED, GRAPEFRUIT OR ORANGE IGA Fruit Juices 48-FL. OZ. TIN 43¢

IGA All-Purpose Flour 5-LB. BAG 65¢

REGULAR OR MINT Crest Toothpaste 100-ml TUBE 99¢

QUAKER STATE, SUPER BLEND (10W30) Motor Oil 1-QT. TIN 77¢

send for a 10% cash refund

Downy Fabric Softener 64-FL. OZ. KING SIZE PLASTIC BTL $1.69

Comet Cleanser 2 22-OZ GIANT SIZE CONTAINERS 89¢

Oxydol Detergent 5-LB KING SIZE BOX $2.59

Spic & Span 48-OZ GIANT SIZE BOX $1.29

(MAXIMUM REFUND $5.00) ON YOUR GROCERY PURCHASES IN OUR STORE
SEE OUR DISPLAYS FOR DETAILS

IGA 2nd BIG WEEK Tablerite BEEF ROUND-UP

Round Steak Roasts BONELESS LB. $1.19

Sirloin Steaks LB. $1.49

Porterhouse Steaks LB. $1.59

FULL SLICE OR BOTTOM CUT, BONELESS Round Steaks LB $1.29

BONELESS Top Round Steaks LB $1.39

BONE-IN Rump Roasts LB $1.19

Boneless Rump Roasts LB $1.29

Fast Fry Loin Steaks LB $1.69

BONELESS Sirloin Tip Steaks or Roasts LB $1.59

Cube or Sandwich Steaks LB $1.69

FRESHLY MINCED Medium Ground Beef LB 79¢

SLICED, PREVIOUSLY FROZEN Beef Liver LB 39¢

LEAN, BONELESS Stewing Beef LB 85¢

IGA RINDLESS, SLICED Tablerite Side Bacon 1-LB PKG $1.59

IGA SLICED Tablerite Cooked Ham 6-OZ PKG 99¢

IGA Tablerite Wieners 1-LB PKG 79¢

IGA SLICED Tablerite Bologna 16-OZ PKG 89¢

IGA Tablerite Pork Sausages 1-LB TRAY $1.09

BETTY CROCKER ASSORTED VARIETIES Snackin' Cake Mixes 14-OZ. BOX 69¢

POWDERED Tide Detergent 5-LB. BOX $2.19

COOKED Maple Leaf Hams 1½-LB. PEAR-SHAPED TIN $3.29

BUDGET Dog Food 15-OZ. TIN 15¢

Swift's Beef or Irish Stew 24-OZ. TIN 89¢

CONTADINA – CHOICE Whole Tomatoes 28-FL. OZ. TIN 49¢

COFFEE CREAMER Borden Cremelle 22-OZ. JAR $1.49

Beehive Corn Syrup 2-LB. TIN 69¢

CHOOSE FROM 8 VARIETIES Jacques Candies 7-OZ. PKG. 59¢

McCAIN'S – FROZEN, SUPER FRIES STRAIGHT OR CRINKLE CUT French Fries 2-LB. PKG. 75¢

HOLIDAY FARMS – FROZEN Cabbage Rolls 16-OZ. PKG. $1.09

FARMHOUSE – FROZEN, BANANA, CHOCOLATE, COCONUT OR LEMON FLAVORS Cream Pies 12-OZ. PKG. 57¢

IGA – ROYAL GOLD Mild Cheddar Cheese 12-OZ. WEDGE $1.19

PRODUCER BRAND Baby Gouda Cheese 10-OZ. PKG. $1.39

ALL VEGETABLE Crisco Shortening 1-LB. PKG. 59¢

CHILLED, ORANGE OR GRAPEFRUIT F.B.I. Fruit Juices 32-FL. OZ. BTL. 45¢

Mom's Margarine 1-LB. PARCHMENT PKG. 25¢

Heinz Ketchup 15-FL. OZ. BTL. 55¢

MRS. GREEN IS AVAILABLE TO TALK "SHOPPING" TO GROUPS. CALL 236-1971

ENJOY A BUMPER CROP OF SAVINGS

Quality, Service and Value, all at IGA

FRESH for FLAVOUR

PRODUCE OF U.S.A. CANADA NO. 1 GRADE Tomatoes LB. 49¢

PRODUCE OF CANADA CANADA FANCY GRADE Red or Golden Delicious Apples LB. 39¢

PRODUCE OF CANADA CANADA FANCY GRADE Anjou Pears 3 LBS. FOR 99¢

ONTARIO GROWN CANADA NO. 1 GRADE Cabbage SIZE 16'S 3 FOR 87¢

PRODUCE OF U.S.A. CANADA NO. 1 GRADE Spanish Onions PKG. OF 3 49¢

PRODUCE OF REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA Outspan Oranges SIZE 112'S DOZ. 79¢

PRICES EFFECTIVE WED. TO SAT., OCT. 27 TO OCT. 30 WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES.

Quality, Service and Value, all at
STOUFFVILLE — IGA
Open Mon. to Wed. 6 P.M. Thurs. & Fri. to 9 P.M. Sat. 6 P.M.