

"Middle of road"

What do you like about The Tribune? What do you dislike? To find out, Jim Holt of the paper's editorial staff posed the above questions to a half-dozen people he met on the street recently. Their replies follow:

Wally Allsopp, Main Street, described the newspaper's content as "good". He sees it as "middle-of-the-road" politically, with very little repetition from week to week. Mr. Allsopp would like to see a section for young people only "to show them we care". He'd also like the paper to wage a campaign urging business, men and women to employ more teenagers.

Kim Reesor, Tenth Line North, claims The Tribune is sometimes "just too local". For the most part, she's happy with its content, but feels too many of the same names "keep popping up". Kim suggests the paper should do more in connection with newcomers to Town "to make them feel a part of the community".

John Miller, Park Drive, registered

only one complaint—poor delivery. "The Post Office service is terrible," he said.

Brenda Murfitt of High Point Drive, Ballantrae was the paper's severest critic calling it "dull". She recommended comics for the children and recipes for the women. A weekly short story or a continuing serial would be well received, she said.

Elgin Wagg, Park Drive North, agreed with Mr. Miller over the "bad mailing". He felt the classified ad pages left something to be desired, saying real estate ads should be separate from the rest. "Otherwise, I'm happy," he said.

Michelle Green, Second Street, described The Tribune as "basically good". "I like the local advertising and the Business Directory," she stated. She feels the paper's too parochial (confines its reporting to too small an area), "and a bit too self-congratulatory". Going a step further, she suggested more criticism of a political nature would be helpful.

Paying "lip service"

Our provincial politicians have been paying lip service to agriculture. The budget was their opportunity to put their money where their mouths are, but they blew it," Ralph Barrie, president of the Ontario Federation of

Agriculture said this week. The budget allocated an additional \$11 million in new money to agriculture, \$6 million for tile drainage and \$5 million for farmstead improvement. "The budget passed

by agriculture with barely a nod of recognition," Barrie said. "The politicians either don't believe there is a problem or they simply don't care."

Barrie said the \$6 million for tile drainage could have been attractive in more prosperous times. He said it is less attractive under present circumstances because of changes in the tile drainage program. The loan rate has risen two per cent to ten per cent. Governments used to subsidize up to 75 per cent of the loan, but now subsidize just 60 per cent, forcing farmers to borrow the other 40 at current interest rates.

The farmstead improvement program will just give farmers a "facelift," Barrie said. "It's purely cosmetic, and won't do anything

to make a farm more economically viable. Something more than a make-work program is needed, considering there have already been farm bankruptcies in Ontario this year."

Barrie said the increase in Ontario Hospital Insurance Plan premiums are also going to have a negative effect on the farm community. Over 70 per cent of farmers pay their own. This will cost farm families an additional 96 dollars a year.

Barrie said the OFA will continue to put pressure on the provincial and federal governments to deal with the two major farm problems—lack of affordable credit and the absence of programs to help farmers achieve price and income security.

Must pay up

UXBRIDGE — Township planning board, last week, gave an area developer a six-month draft approval, extension on his proposed sub-division, with one proviso: he must clean up an outstanding account of \$28,000 first.

Mayor Bill Ballinger said he wondered if council had "made a mistake in putting in services for a development (Dorchester Homes) that may not go."

However, the applicant, Fred Schaefer, said that, while "the money is in the ground nearly \$2 million, Dorchester is 'crippled' with a bankrupt partner."

"But, I'm sure it will be developed. It's ripe and ready to go," Schaefer said.

"If Dorchester fails, someone will pick up the pieces," he added. It was "in everybody's better interest to keep this alive."

Said planning chairman, Sandy Ewen: "We don't see the advantage of not extending approval, but the account must be paid."

A motion by Mayor Ballinger to grant a year's extension with payment of the account, was lost, and a subsequent one for six months, was approved.

The meeting also granted a one-year extension to Solridge estates development, which is awaiting Durham Region approval of the 35-lot proposal.



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The Tribune

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