

Editor's Mail

Saving farm land

The following is a copy of a letter received recently by Whitchurch-Stouffville Council from David Lee Jenkins of 51 Finch Avenue East, Pickering. It deals with the preservation of agricultural land and the shortage of food that will result if steps in this direction are not taken. The letter follows:

Dear Council:
In the course of the past decade, I have been living and working in the area of farms that were purchased by the provincial and federal governments with the intent of building an airport and surrounding commercial and residential uses. I have also taken various courses at York University, including reasoning, economics and political geography.

As a result of this experience, I have philosophically taken affront to individuals like Prime Minister Trudeau who called farmers "chronic complainers" and Marx who described the "idiocy of rural life". (Most farmers, despite 60 plus hour work-weeks, and less than eight per cent return on investment, lead good family lives and enjoy it).

Of most importance, I have come to believe in the rightness of groups like People or Planes, The Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Preserve Agricultural Land Society, Christian Farmers and the Ontario Foodland Coalition. Their aims are the conservation and the development of farms and agricultural industry like food processing, packing and canning.

To realize the importance of defending foodland, try solving the following mathematical test. Take the total acreage of dry land on the face of the earth (57,469,928 square miles, multiplied by 640 acres per square mile). From this result, subtract that acreage of land occupied by desert, arctic tundra, mountain regions, cities, suburbs, parks, highways, roads, parking lots, airports (military and public), open-face mines, gravel pits and garbage dumps. Proceed with this answer which gives you the remaining good, bad and average agricultural land on the face of the earth. Divide it by the total number of men, women and children alive to-day (4.5 billion) and the answer gives you the number of acres of farm land in the world per capita.

Unless planning and preservation increases in the next few years, the future of a still growing world is going to be economically and physically cruel to tens of millions of people, including poor Canadians.

Sincerely,
David Lee Jenkins,
51 Finch Avenue East,
Pickering, Ont.



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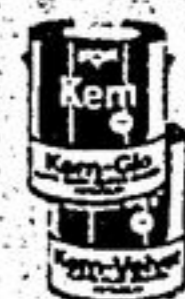
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