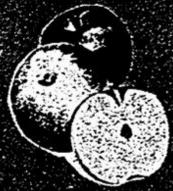




**Apple Day
this week**

The Boys Scouts of Stouffville will be coming around this weekend as part of the annual Apple Day fundraising drive. Local Scouts will be at your door Saturday morning with delicious apples for sale. Help the Boy Scouts!



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Pickering Airport

Families struggle against land deal

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Lori Fearn-Rouss and her family feel cheated and disregarded by the system.

These average working people fears they may be tossed out of their home and out of their community after 17 years.

Fearn-Rouss says she and her family are victims of a governmental blunder who are being cast aside as politicians scramble to fix a major land use oversight in Pickering.

"(The federal government) is ignoring so many issues and has acted only to curb its own liabilities," the mother of two teenagers said during an interview this week.

Fearn-Rouss lives on a one-acre property in Glasgow-Altona, a small community situated on the southwest corner of Uxbridge and just five miles east of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Her house and one-acre property are part of a 145-acre farm which is worked by another tenant of the federal government.

The feds recently announced plans to sell about 5,100 acres

of excess land they no longer need, since it won't be building an airport in Pickering after all.

This decision will affect about 150 Glasgow-Altona residents and, while they won't have to get municipal severance approvals, must still get around many other local zoning restrictions before sales can be finalized.

But she said the government's severance plans will create estate lots in a relatively

"low income community" which will mean a demand for more services and ultimately higher taxes.

"That will be the end of us," she said.

Fearn-Rouss and most of her neighbors insist the federal government has not taken into consideration the social impact the sale of lands will have on small communities.

"This is a piece-meal way of doing this," she said, and explained that while the feder-

al government will sever her small residential parcel from the surrounding agricultural land without municipal interference, she is left land-locked without access to a road.

"We're surrounded by several hundred acres on either side of us and I'm a half-mile from a road," she said.

"They're selling only for the dollar value and are not looking at the social point of view," said Fearn-Rouss, who recently travelled to Queen's Park to

take part in a provincial government protest.

She feels that the federal government should offer the people living on lands long-term mortgage packages with CMHC insurance approvals and other transitional assistance during this move which dramatically affects so many.

Fearn-Rouss said the government has also not dealt with the issue of water quality, which is so poor, Government

(Please see page 3)

Dog with rabies discovered

Local pet owners should watch their animals closely during the next few days since the death of a rabid dog earlier this month.

The Durham Region health department is warning pet owners that a dog in the vicinity of Altona - located between Uxbridge and Stouffville - has tested positive for rabies after dying from the disease on Oct. 5. The dog may have been running loose in the area just prior to its death, during which time it may have infected other animals or people in the community. Anyone who may have seen this large, thin German Shepherd cross male, tan with black markings should call their vet immediately.



Photo: CELIA BRONKHORST

Ready for Oktoberfest

Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce directors Rob Shannon (Stouffville Country Sales Barn) and Brian Littlejohns (Total Design Co.) flank Chamber president Helene Johnson, as they prepare for the upcoming Oktoberfest celebrations in Stouffville. This year, the festivities will be all over town, with two evenings planned at the Sales Barn.