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'Immigrant Crisis' the Key to Survival for the Family Farm?

By Maurice Smith Stouffville Free Press

For centuries Canada current worldwide immigrant crisis to the federal politicians and the hearts of all Canadians. However we can look back to earlier times and use as a reference the latter part of the 18th century when a sect known as in various countries in the British Empire. Many families settled in England. pulled up stakes and made their way to Canada.

that treacherous journey farming in the community of Whitchurch. Shortly after arriving they were able to

on what, even then, was known as The Ninth Line. Eventually John's brother, James, who subsequently has acted as a haven made the same journey, immigrants. I leave purchased the adjoining fields. On these two properties the families struggled together to clear the grounds and start a new life as farmers.

The Huguenots fled from no building developers with and his family to develop France and took up refuge ready laid out roads and the lands. An essential homes in which to reside. trait of those early farming These settlers had to cut days was the assistance timber for their homes, between farmers within and after a few years many barns and winter fires. The each community soil, although abundantly rich, had to be cleared of trees before any planting In those days it was a 10 could be undertaken. Each to 12 week journey from family would start with a England by land and sea to small clearing and over Ontano. In 1852, the family ensuing years expand the of John Grose undertook harvest across their entire land holdings. Wheat, corn, and eventually started peas and potatoes were their main crops.

just south of Davis Drive homestead. Brick homes raised their own children

with strong foundations did not sprout up till years later. The current two storey home which can still be seen on the property was not constructed until 1880. The first large permanent barn was not built until 1900 with an additional one erected in 1946.

Most chores were Of course, upon their completed using an axe, arrival 15 years prior to hoe and rake and indeed it Confederation, there were took a very industrious man

The 100 acres John had chosen would become the family farm for generations. Today Kevin and Mary-Anne, the fifth generation to work these same fields. will attest to the long hours it takes to make a relatively small farm (now 147 acres) successful. They were raised as farm children. A log cabin was an went to local schools and find an available property essential part of any new churches, married and have

and continue to contribute to the local community.

The family farmer has a tough time trying to make a living in today's technological market place. Whitchurch-Stouffville's independent farmers are challenged with finding innovative ways to raise herds of cattle, grow fields of crops and take them to market just to survive. Automation is costly, the hours are long and the farmer's children often go off to University and look to the big cities for careers in many different disciplines

We often see the slogan "Farmers Feed Cities" We can only hope that the Whitchurch-Stouffville family farm community. along with many others just like it in Canada, survive to do just that. Perhaps having Canada take our fair share of new immigrants will help.

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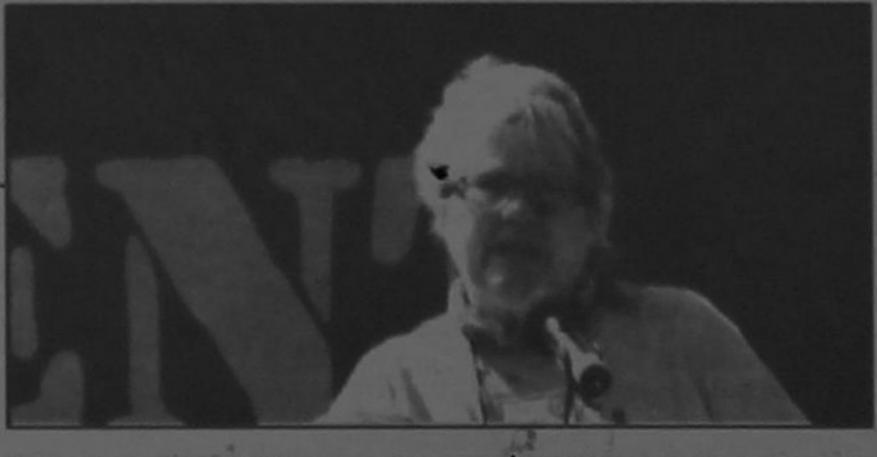
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Over 1,100 participants . and 120 volunteers took to the streets of Stouffville for Terry Fox Run 2015 September 20.

Over \$100,000 was raised for cancer research. bringing the Town's total to just under \$1.7 million since 1982.

The run marked the last hurrah for Sandy Schell Kennedy (top picture) as Chair of the Stouffyille Terry Fox Run as she is stepping down after 25 years at the helm.

Bruce Stapley Photos

