

Biology society may be quiet but isn't inactive

By J. W. PASCOE

The York University's Biological Society is an organisation of students whose principal aim is to provide opportunities for learning in an informal way about the many fields generally related to biology. At present the membership consists of biology students. It should be stressed, however, that the society welcomes anyone with an interest in biology, be he enrolled in a biology course or not.

Being quiet does not mean inactive. The society is presently in the midst of a two year field project, investigating the effects on vegetation by small mammal grazing. The project area is at Uxbridge, Ontario, and to date a number of weekends (in warmer weather) have been spent at the site collecting samples and other pertinent data.

In another area, closer to home, it has been noted that all the elm trees on the campus have died in the past 10 years. Dr. Boyer of the biology department is in the process of organising a campaign to rectify this disagreeable situation. The Biological Society and the Vanier Science Club will combine forces in the field in an endeavour to regain that piece of nature which we have lost.

An event planned for the immediate future, and of relatively short duration — an evening — will take place on Wednesday, March 17. It is a discussion by Dr. Moens and Dr. Haynes on the Mechanism of Evolution. The discussion will begin at 5 p.m. and will be held in McLaughlin Senior Common Room. There will be a cash bar.

Anyone wishing additional information about York University Biological Society, or any of its projects, should contact the Secretary, Ingrid Jensen, at 635-9225.

Ontario Liberal leader at Moot Court

Saving farmland is Smith's first priority

By EVANLEIBOVITCH

After a short delay due to inclement weather, the newly-crowned Ontario Liberal leader Dr. Stuart Smith addressed a packed house at Osgoode's Moot Court last Wednesday, on, of all things, farmland.

Smith's speech marked the second time in a month an Ontario party leader has come to York leading observers to suspect an Ontario election might be in the offing. Stephen Lewis spoke at Curtis in late February.

Former Toronto mayor and present Liberal MPP for Armourdale Phil Givens was also on hand for the meeting.

But the spotlight fell on Smith and he used the occasion to outline what he viewed to be the most pressing issue facing Ontario — the Conservative government's policy of encouraging urban growth at the expense of farmlands and Ontario's northland.

URBAN VS. RURAL

Smith outlined the economic implications of "encouraging growth in the urban areas to the south of the province while precious farmland is destroyed."

Singling out Toronto, Smith gave witness to the huge number of people who flock into the city from small rural areas in the vain hope of making their fortune in the big city.

"The way it's growing, Toronto can only accommodate this rapid growth in one of two ways, both of which," according to Smith, "are equally bad — increasing density or through urban sprawl."

The former would only exacerbate the present density problem in Toronto, said Smith, while the latter would

"irrevocably destroy the fertile farmland in the surrounding urban areas."

The provincial Liberal leader harped on the importance of farmland in Ontario throughout his speech, claiming that food exports would soon become of great political importance to this country.

WORLD BREADBASKET

Canada has the capacity to "use its farmland to become the breadbasket of the world for economic purposes" and could use food as a lever to help its manufacturing industry in world markets, said Smith.

He was pessimistic about the state of Canada's manufacturing industry, and claimed that it was not attempting to be competitive due to "branch plant" industrial investment. According to Smith, "up to now, Canada's chief export has been its autonomy, and the manufacturing industry may well be past the point of no return".

NORTHERN COLONY

Smith was also critical of the Ontario government's present policy concerning smaller urban centres, and the northernmost areas of the province. The north was simply being treated "as a colony of the south" and that too few incentives have been planned to help develop the area, he said.

He also criticized the treatment of smaller cities in the province. Cities such as Kingston could be made into large centres that would be pleasant to live in, at little expense to farmland, he said.

Returning to the dominant theme in his speech, Smith said that farming had to remain a viable lifestyle or much land will go to waste.



"Canadians must be prepared to pay a small amount now to ensure Canada's agricultural security in the future," he said. Smith also emphasized the importance of developing a better transportation system, in his speech. He singled out rail as the most important mode of transportation, "as air and highway transportation use up too much energy."

While Smith offered few concrete solutions, he suggested subsidies be given as incentive for manufacturers to locate outside of urban areas, and to maintain services in rural areas such as small, localized, hospitals.

TOBACCO TAX

In a question period that followed, Smith suggested that said he supported cutbacks in four areas: university administration, regional government, Ontario government administration and highway

construction in urban areas. He dismissed extension of highway 400 as a waste.

He also said that he supported an extra luxury tax and increased tobacco tax to increase revenue, though he maintained that Ontarians did not need extra income taxes.

Concerning university education, Smith said he supported increasing tuition according to the inflation rate for those who could pay it, but that OSAP grant assistance be raised accordingly to aid those students who could not. He said that students and other recipients of social assistance were being used as scapegoats, and denounced the limit of 5.5 per cent increase for social services as "outrageous". Unfortunately, society would rather ignore the poor and the Liberal could never win an election on that issue, said Smith.

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