

Chinese get closer look at Dobson's Grass-fed Beef

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Lifestyle – It used to be his great-great-grandfather William's farm in the 1850s.

But the farm looks a lot different now. Once the home to lots of chickens, pigs, cows and some cash crops, the focus for the past 30 years has been on livestock production, hence the name Dobson's Grass-fed Beef.

Sept. 11, Dobson hosted a tractor-pulled, wagon-ride tour for 19 Chinese visitors.

"What I hope is that they learn something they didn't know before they came, about certain agricultural and water-management practices," said Dobson.

The delegation's interpreter, Joseph Liu of Ottawa, accompanied them on the two-and-a-half-hour tour, whose first stop was a shelter belt of trees.

Shelter belts, two to 12 metres in width, are intended to protect both the pastures and cattle from strong winds, thus contributing to health-

ier growth of both vegetation and livestock. The foliage also provides a home for wildlife, which in turn helps with insect control.

Dobson's farm – located on Snake River Line just west of Cobden – features three kilometres of these condensed belts of trees across prevailing winds. There's also another three kilometres of buffer zones of tree and bush growth near his creeks that serve as berry-growing and anti-erosion sites.

The big focus on Dobson's 200-acre farm is sustainable agriculture, with 96 per cent of revenue coming from selling the beef products of more than 100 cows each year. The other four per cent comes from the sale of on-site elderberries.

Dobson, who estimated that maybe one of his cattle comes down sick every two years, said he doesn't use antibiotics, pesticides or herbicides, grain or corn supplementation, or growth hormones for his cattle.

See GRASS-FED BEEF, page 10



A modest investment allowed the installation of this solar-pumping watering system. This creates a healthy component of the farm known as Dobson's Grass-fed Beef. Cattle are fed water in troughs from a spring-fed pond throughout the year.



This delegation of officials from China's agricultural arm of the department of finance is ready for a wagon ride around Dobson's Grass-fed Beef farm on Snake River Line. From left, in the front row, are Algonquin College forestry technician Frank Knaapen, Bob Dobson, delegation head Guoliang Han, agrologist and veterinarian Kelly Butler of Beckwith Township and interpreter Joseph Liu.

A VOTE FOR TOM PECKETT IS A VOTE FOR DEVELOPMENT.



Township Council held a meeting earlier this year for developers, contractors and real estate personnel. The question was asked: why is there so little development in McNab Braeside Township? Everyone at the meeting had the same story—extreme difficulty in dealing with the township office and constantly being referred to the County of Renfrew office in Pembroke for their requests. Hiring our own planner to work with these business people, making development easier, is the answer. More development means a wider tax base to help keep taxes down.

More to come next week!

**ELECTRONIC VOTING (COMPUTER OR PHONE)
STARTS OCT. 17TH TO OCT. 27TH
VOTE TOM PECKETT MAYOR -
TOWNSHIP OF MCNAB/BRAESIDE**

0925 R00323009234



Information Corner
TOWNSHIP OF HORTON
Website: www.hortontownship.ca 613-432-6271

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A FEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2010-14 TERM OF COUNCIL

- Revamped Township website
- Initiated archives and document scanning of our old minutes and by-laws
- Implementation of Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation and Multi-Year Plan for Horton Township
- Residential tax rate down to 6th lowest of the 17 municipalities in the County. Was 8th lowest in 2012.
- Reserves grew from \$603,765 in 2010 to \$1,077,295 in 2014
- Long Term Debt reduced from \$881,838 in 2010 to \$552,294 at the end of 2014.

THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON ALL CANDIDATES NIGHT

Horton Volunteers have organized the HORTON TOWNSHIP ALL CANDIDATES NIGHT, to be held in the Horton Community Centre, 1005 Castleford Road on Wednesday October 1st 2014, at 7:00 p.m.
All electors are invited to attend and participate.

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Grass-fed Beef

Continued from page 7

The farm also works with a local abattoir, five kilometres away in Micksburg.

Dobson's Grass-fed Beef, Dobson points out in his own handout, is high in protein, low in fat and requires 30 per cent less cooking time than conventional beef.

Dobson also views the farm as an educational home, with two or three agricultural student interns coming each year, from France and other overseas countries.

"They learn, and I feel I'm contributing to something that they're all about – sustainable agriculture," said Dobson, who has hosted about 50 students from 15 countries in the past decade.

This helps maintain an average staff contingent, including Dobson, of 1.5 people per year.

Another of the 11 stops on the tour gave Dobson a chance to emphasize the point that all his cattle receive a pasture diet that's half grass and half legumes (trefoil, alfalfa and clover). No grain or corn is fed to his cattle, who reach the abattoir around 1,025 pounds and one and a half years in age.

WATER MANAGEMENT

Stops during the wagon ride gave the Chinese visitors chances to view separate watering systems. One was a solar-pumping system to access a spring-fed pond dug locally. Installed in 1994, this system keeps cattle out of local waterways and provides clean water for up to 200 head of cattle.

The system cost \$5,500, while batteries need changing every five years. The underground location of the water, between pond and trough, allows the water to be fed year-round. The trough's capacity is 4,000 litres.

The second part of the water-pumping system is another trough with capacity for 1,200 litres. This system also operates in freezing temperatures.

The Chinese also saw Dobson's two hectares of black elderberries, which are sold as fresh, frozen and concentrated products.

The delegation's leader was Guoliang Han, deputy director general for the Chinese Ministry of Finance's state office of comprehensive agricultural development.

The main reason for the visit to Canada, which included trips to Ottawa, Toronto and other Ottawa Valley farming operations, was to establish international co-operation and exchange with those who practise sustainable agriculture.

The delegation also viewed the winter feed storage facility for haylage and hay, and heard about the farm's almost exclusive focus on direct marketing and sales to consumers. Dobson's Grass-fed Beef make twice-monthly



Some of the livestock at Dobson's Grass-Fed Beef.

trips to sale locations in Ottawa, do regular online sales through the Ottawa Valley Food Co-op and sell at the Carp Farmers Market.

The only two retail outlets that sell his beef are Pura Vida Nutrition Store and Wheatless Wonders in Renfrew.

Dobson also has a cooking tip or two. In particular, don't use microwaves or high temperatures to cook beef. And if you like it well done, cook at low temperatures in a marinade.

For more about Dobson's Grass-fed Beef and his cooking tips, visit www.dobsonfarm.com.



As interpreter Joseph Liu looks on, beef farmer Bob Dobson explains the dietary importance of having legumes (like alfalfa) and grass in his livestock's pastures.

STEVE NEWMAN/
METROLAND



TOWNSHIP OF WHITEWATER REGION

DISPERSAL OF EQUIPMENT TENDER

The following equipment is available for dispersal through a tender process. Packages can be picked up at the Municipal office at 44 Main Street, Cobden.

**Tender closes Thursday October 2, 2014
at 1pm local time**

1989 Pumper Truck GMC 7000, 74,493km

1981 Tanker Truck Chevrolet C70, 21,247km

1994 Fire Rescue Ambulance Ford Econoline
350, 226,629km

1984 Fire Rescue Ambulance Ford Econoline
350, 151,893km

1999 GMC Safari Van All Wheel Drive,
276,391km

2002 Ford F150 4X4 332,893km

Kuhn 5 Disc Mower – Model # GMD500SHD

**Contact Bill Misener, Public Works Manager with
any questions – 613-635-2358**

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NOTICE TOWNSHIP OF ADMASTON/BROMLEY



The Preliminary Lists of Electors is available at the Municipal Office 477 Stone Road for Ratepayers/Residents of Admaston/Bromley to review to ensure they are eligible to vote."

Whereas more candidates have been nominated for the following positions:

Mayor Vote for One (1) candidate to be elected at large

Councillor Vote for up to Four (4) candidates to be elected at large
(Admaston/Bromley ward system has been dissolved)

Trustee, Renfrew County District School Board

Trustee, Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario

ADVANCE POLL

Saturday, October 18, 2014 – 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Location: Barr Line Community Centre – for electors in Poll 002 (Former Wards 1 & 2) Stone Road Council Chambers – for electors in Poll 001 (Former Wards 3 & 4)

REGULAR VOTING

Monday, October 27, 2014 – 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Location: Barr Line Community Centre – for electors in Poll 002 (Former Wards 1 & 2) Stone Road Council Chambers – for electors in Poll 001 (Former Wards 3 & 4)

IDENTIFICATION

In accordance with the Municipal Elections Act, Section 52 (1) (ii), electors must show proof of name and qualifying address before receiving a ballot.

VOTING BY PROXY

Proxy Voting Application Forms will be available at the office of the Clerk-Treasurer. Any elector who is unable to vote on polling day or at the Advance Poll may appoint another elector to cast his or her ballot by proxy.

Proxy Voting Application Forms must be completed and filed with the Clerk, Township of Admaston/Bromley during normal office hours and during the period from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 18, 2014 but no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 27, 2014.

Annette Louis

Clerk/Returning Officer

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