



Roll over to explore



eBay.ca

Shop Victoriously

Find Yours

TORONTO
SUN.comClick to
Enlarge ▶

SERVICES

SUBSCRIBE

EMPLOYMENT

NEWS RESEARCH CENTRE

CLASSIFIEDS

ADVERTISING

IN TOMORROW'S PAPER:

Read Bill Harris' interview with musician/TV talk-show host Henry Rollins in entertainment

TORONTO
SUN

Tue, January 22 / 08

EMAIL US

Torontosun.COM

Current Conditions



Overcast

-4°C

Full Forecast

Home

News

Toronto & GTA

Canada

World

Other News

Columnists

Year of the Assassin

Video

Sports

Photos

Blogs

Entertainment

Comment

Columnists

Lifestyle

Money

Autonet Drive

Travel

Homes & Condos

411.ca

Business Name, City

 Find a Business Find a Person

SEARCH

News Columnists

Connie Woodcock**Organic farmers' big city snow job on Toronto**

Mon, January 21, 2008

[Full Column](#)**Fire up the Clarington lakeside incinerator**

Sat, January 12, 2008

[Full Column](#)**Time to curtail the ATV expansion plan**

Mon, January 7, 2008

[Full Column](#)**BREAKING NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWS****Report: Carla Bruni says she's not yet married to French president Sarkozy**

PARIS - A French newspaper is reporting Tuesday that the country's president has not yet married model-singer Carla Bruni and she is not accompanying him on a state visit to India this week.

[FULL STORY](#) [More at CNEWS](#)

- [MD: 'I can kill you in 2 seconds'](#)
- [Doc accused of house-call sex](#)
- [Witnesses sought in T.O. shooting](#)
- [44,000 volts killed copper thief](#)

Powered by **canoe.ca****Wood they just leave us all alone, please?**

Tue, January 1, 2008

[Full Column](#)**Rural residents not ready to grin and bear it**

Mon, December 17, 2007

FEB. 15-24, 2008

AUTOSHOW

[CLICK HERE FOR TICKETS](#)**THE
PLAZA
AUTO
GROUP****Plaza**
PONTIAC BUICK GMC TRUCKS3400 DUFFERIN ST.
TORONTO, ON M6A 2V1
TEL: 416-781-5271
FAX: 416-781-7008
WWW.PLAZAGM.COM**CLICK HERE
USED CAR
INVENTORY****Plaza**

HUNGRY CITY

THIS ELECTION, MAKE A POVERTY REDUCTION PLAN A PRIORITY

TORONTO SUN.com

Click to Enlarge



SERVICES SUBSCRIBE EMPLOYMENT NEWS RESEARCH CENTRE CLASSIFIEDS ADVERTISING

IN TOMORROW'S PAPER: Read Bill Harris' interview with musician/TV talk-show host Henry Rollins in entertainment

TORONTO SUN Contests

Tue, January 22 / 08

EMAIL US

Torontosun.COM

Current Conditions



Overcast

-4°C

Full Forecast

Home News

Toronto & GTA

Canada

World

Other News

Columnists

Year of the Assassin

Video

Sports

Photos

Blogs

Entertainment

Comment

Columnists

Lifestyle

Money

Autonet Drive

Travel

Homes & Condos

411.ca

Business Name, City

Find a Business

Find a Person

SEARCH



Special Sections:

See the SUNshine

Girls of 2007

Summer Swimsuit

Marlies Dance Team

Miss Steelback

Gallery

AV Integration

Reader's Choice

Awards

Consumer's Choice

Awards

Q107 Anniversary

Golf Guide

Higher Education

Calendar Search '07

On Campus

Continuing Ed.

Jobboom

New Homes and

Condos

Diverse City

Contests

Classifieds:

Classified Extra

Jobboom

Dating

SUNshine Girl



On Canoe:

Health & Fitness

Trends

Discovery

Eat

Sex Files

Gadgets

DIY

Lotteries

Comics

Crossword

Horoscopes

TV Listings

Movie Listings

Services:

Subscriptions

Advertising

News Research

About Us

Privacy

Contact Us

Buy Sun Photos

News Columnists

Connie Woodcock

Mon, January 21, 2008



Organic farmers' big city snow job on Toronto

By CONNIE WOODCOCK

E-MAIL TO A FRIEND



PRINT PAGE



WRITE US



LETTER TO THE EDITOR



The organic farmers in my area are in a snit. Seems they don't want to go to the local farmers' markets anymore. They have a number of reasons but when the hemming and hawing are all done, they're having trouble selling enough stuff to make it worthwhile.

So next summer, they're taking their veggies to Toronto where life for organic farmers is like dying and going to heaven.

The Quinte Organic Farmers Co-operative says it's much easier to truck their stuff to Toronto than it is to sell at the farmers' markets in their own neighbourhood -- Belleville and Cobourg.

They won't come right out and say it -- one executive says only that they were having "volume" problems -- but the implication is people who live in the Belleville and Cobourg area are cheap and not as well educated in environmental concerns as Toronto market goers. In fact, one local newspaper quoted the association's president saying exactly that. Now they're backtracking, saying they really didn't mean it to sound quite like that.

I love the local farmers' markets these people supply but I have to admit I don't buy much from organic farmers and maybe my fellow consumers feel the same way I do: The price is unacceptably high.

But I also think we locals, being closer to our rural roots than Torontonians, know something the city sophisticates don't.

We know an organic carrot looks, tastes and contains vitamins exactly the same as a regular carrot. It grows in the same soil, absorbs the same rainfall and has all the same particulate matter falling on it. In fact, the differences between the two are so minor, many scientists believe there is no significant difference -- just that the price of one is two or three times the price of the other.

GLOBAL WARMING

Which brings us to a report last week from Greenpeace that opposes all farming -- except the "sustainable" kind the organic farmers practise.

The environmental watchdog announced farming is one of the major causes of global warming and it wants the federal government to tax fertilizer to combat it.

Farming contributes 17 to 32% of emissions leading to global warming, the report said, much of it coming from overuse of fertilizer, but a lot also coming from animals we eat. Sheep emit the most methane, Greenpeace says, but cows are almost as bad and pigs aren't great either. Poultry contributes the least.

But even clearing more land and putting it to agricultural uses is now a bad thing environmentally, according to Greenpeace.

This is scary stuff. If food is too environmentally unsound to grow, what exactly are we going to eat?

Greenpeace wants a fertilizer tax so the government can provide programs for farmers to develop more "sustainable" practices. Or in other words, they want a tax on food.

You didn't hear much about this story because hardly anyone covered it. The issue of greenhouse gases from flatulent cows has already been fully exploited by the more extreme members of the environmental movement -- People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) for instance.

But it does make me wonder. Sustainable agricultural practices, in Greenpeace's terms, mean no chemicals and no chemicals mean organic farming, which is highly labour intensive to make up for it.

HIGH-MINDED HOBBYISTS

Which brings us back to those organic farmers and the reason their food has to be so expensive. Agricultural chemicals came into use strictly because the old methods, now making a comeback with greenies, didn't have high enough yields to be sustainable for the people doing the farming. Incidentally, I'd love to know how many organic farmers actually make a living at it in Canada and how many are high-minded hobbyists.

The global food supply is strong strictly because of agricultural chemicals. Go back to the old ways and a lot of us will be paying triple the price for our carrots. But environmental activists have been saying for years food is too cheap anyway.

Greenpeace doesn't mention anywhere in its report what will happen to the people who can't afford to pay the price.

• You can e-mail Connie Woodcock at cwoodcock@canoemail.com

• Have a letter for the editor? E-mail it to torsun.editor@sunmedia.ca

[Columnists Home](#)



PETS
make a HOUSE a Home



PJ'S PETS

Bringing people and pets together for over 38 years.

11 Area Locations
www.pjspet.com

Canoe Klix Advertise!

Travel info

Make travel plans, find travel info Search from 14 search engines in 1.

Welcome to Audi Canada

World car design of the year! Get your own now!

Toronto gifts for all

Find all the gifts you need in one Toronto getaway package!

Stocks info

Get info on stock quotes and news. Search from 14 search engines in 1.

Acrobranche Mont Tremblant

Give it a try. You'll be hooked!

Featured Advertisers

Best Travel Prices Online
YourTravelTickets.Com

East Court - TO's Lincoln Centre

Bye Bye Bad Credit - Go To YouAreApproved.ca

TORONTO SUN



Newspapers

This site is updated by 6:00 a.m. EST each day and includes stories and columns from the day's print edition of the Sun.

SUBSCRIBE EMPLOYMENT NEWS RESEARCH CENTRE CLASSIFIEDS ADVERTISING

Send a Letter to the Editor

CANOE home | We welcome your feedback.

Copyright © 2007, Canoe Inc. All rights reserved.

Proprietor and Publisher - Sun Media (Toronto) Corporation, 333 King St. E., Toronto, ON, M5A 3X5