

## Letters to the Editor

Due to the recent one-sided coverage in the Hamilton Speculator lately, about lake-front cottages, I decided to go down and take a look at these so-called "cottages" for myself.

I picked homes at random and asked if I could be allowed to take a look around inside.

The main controversy seems to be that the planning and development department is calling those "cottages" inadequate.

Well, I certainly wouldn't mind living with a little inadequacy. Most of the cottages had two bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom (with shower), living room and sun porch. To me that doesn't seem to be too inadequate.

The question I have for the planning and development department, who says that people living all-year round in their cottages are causing "environmental problems", is: what's the difference between a person who lives in a "cottage" for six months of the year and doesn't care about what sewage problems they may leave behind, and a retired couple who live in a "cottage" for 12 months of the year and conserve their water, and generally do not

use their sewage systems too much?

The problem with the planning and development department is that they deal with cold facts without even a dash of humanity. Can they not see that these people have paid their debt to society? Of all the cottages on the lake-front only 10 per cent are occupied all year round. About nine per cent of that number are retired citizens

who have worked, reached retirement age, taken the small amount of money they have saved, and converted their cottage to a home.

That's what they are — homes. Mr. Pinder, senior planner with the ministry of housing, claims these people will soon begin to "demand all the soft services that a municipality provides." What would a retired couple demand? Only to be left alone so they can enjoy

themselves in their own quiet way.

It might be more interesting were the region to investigate some of its sewage problems.

Three huge developments can locate in Nanticoke because they have money, and everyone says, "yes, sir", but a retired couple, who can't really put out as much garbage as the three monsters sitting down in Nanticoke, can go whistle Dixie. After all, who are they???

Anonymous

# Effective May 1 the minimum wage goes up.

## And it now includes agricultural workers.

Everyone in Ontario who's covered by the Minimum Wage Act—and that now includes agricultural workers—will be entitled to an increase beginning May 1.

The new basic rate will be \$2.40 an hour.

All agricultural workers engaged in the harvesting of fruit, field vegetables and tobacco will be entitled to the new rate.

People employed by agencies as domestics and people working as funeral directors or embalmers must be paid not less than \$2.40 an hour. Learners in general industry must be paid at least \$2.30 an hour during their first month of employment, and the full rate after that.

Those employed in construction work or as construction site guards are now entitled to at least \$2.65 an hour. There is no learner's rate in the construction industry. Ambulance drivers, helpers and first-aid attendants must now receive at least \$115.20 a week or, if they work less than 48 hours in a week, the regular rate of \$2.40 an hour. Students under 18 who work 28 hours a week or less, or during school holidays, must receive at least \$2.00 an hour.

When employees occupy a room or eat meals supplied by their employer, \$10.00 per week for the room and \$1.05 for each meal or \$22.00 per week for meals may be included when calculating the minimum wage.

Employers of agricultural workers who are entitled to minimum wage will be limited in the maximum deductions they can make from minimum wage, for room and board to \$32.00 per week; for the provision of a fully serviced house to \$40.00 per week; and provision of an unserviced house to \$30.00 per week.

If you have any questions or would like more information, contact your nearest Ministry of Labour office.



Ministry of  
Labour

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