

Supporters tour Schmidt farm on eve of pre-trial hearing

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The annual open house for the supporters of raw milk held at the farm of Michael Schmidt, according to this story, took on a new dimension this year as Schmidt faces an uphill battle to legalize the sale of unpasteurized milk products.

As well as getting a first-hand look at the farming operation Saturday, cow shareholders met their stock and heard a number of speakers on topics ranging from the fight to legalize the selling of raw milk to supporting local food production.

Selling raw milk is illegal in Ontario but Schmidt and about 170 "investors" are taking advantage of a loophole in the Milk Act that allows farmers to drink raw milk from their own cows. Investors can buy a share of one of Schmidt's cows, making them part owners. They claim they are entitled to drink that milk legally. The concept has yet to be tested in court.

Pam Killeen, co-author the "Great Bird Flu Hoax", was cited as saying there's a connection between the incidence of chronic and degenerative disease and consumption of processed foods, adding, "Let's reduce the processed food and replace it with traditional foods that help enhance our immune system - foods such as yogurt, kefir, raw milk and raw dairy products that are coming from grass-fed cows."

Killeen was further cited as saying that milk from pasture-fed cows is healthier and more resistant to pathogens than milk from cows confined to barns and fed on grain and corn, and she is calling for more research to show the health benefits of raw milk products, adding, "We're not playing on a level playing field. If there could be some funding to show the health benefits of raw milk, I think it would help validate it and stop the fears within society."

Judith McGill of Richmond Hill is a 12-year owner of one of the Schmidt cows and the head of the Food Rights Alliance, a coalition that promotes close connections with local food producers, was quoted as saying, "I need to look eye to eye every week with Michael (Schmidt) when I pick up my food."

Shane Jolley, Green Party candidate for Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound in the upcoming provincial election, was cited as speaking of the benefits of local food production as a way of ensuring food security and a boost the local economy, adding, "What we really need is to bring our economy back to a human scale," and that local food production is a way of standing up to multinational corporations.

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