

ly becoming a relic of the past. We feel that our province is without adequate and effective legislation to keep in Island hands the ownership and control of Island land. And the only law that we do possess which to any considerable extent limits the sale of land to non-residents is presently being challenged in our courts by two American citizens. If we should lose this case, then we shall be virtually defenceless before the onslaught of scores of zealous developers, speculators and tourism-promoters, all seeking to make a fast buck by turning the Island into a summer playground--a place which everyone visits but which only the caretakers call home. We fear that many Islanders are unaware of the gravity of the present situation. The Island public seems neither inclined to demand nor to support Government action which will effectively come to grips with the non-resident problem.

This is in marked contrast to the feeling of the Island people of one hundred years ago. At that time one of the conditions upon which Island people agreed to give up their cherished separate colonial status and join Confederation was that the Federal Government promise to assist them in obtaining for Island farmers the several hundred thousand acres of land still remaining in the possession of absentee proprietors. We are afraid that our province will once again fall into the possession of absentee proprietors, and that local farmers will once again find themselves tenants and day-labourers rather than free and independent agriculturists. This process is already well under way, as is evidenced by both the large acreage of absentee-owned land currently being cultivated by Island farmers, and the existence of an operation the size of Dundas Farms.

And, ultimately, we feel that in this whole matter of non-resident ownership of our very status as a separate Canadian province is at stake. There are already those who advise us to give up our independent provincial status and submerge our identity in a Maritime Union. We are currently losing our land at the rate of 2% each year; for how long can this continue and the Island still hold up its head as one of the ten provinces? The Brothers and Sisters of Cornelius Howatt have embarked on a campaign intended to help Save our Soil. We appeal to all like-minded Islanders to join with us in our attempt to bring home to both the Island public and the Island Government the gravity of the present situation, as well as the necessity for prompt and effective action.

### Debating Tournament To Be Held

The First Canadian Invitational Debating Tournament, will be held on Saturday, January 19th, & Sunday, January 20th 1974 at Osgoode Hall Law School on the York University campus.

Anyone interested in debating should contact the Student Union Office and we will direct them to the people responsible for making the arrangements.

### Rebates On Medical Fees

Remember students - you paid \$8.00 for medical insurance upon registration-if you are already covered on your own or your parents policy you are able to claim a rebate. If you wish to have your spouse or children included in your coverage, you may do so by making a

small additional payment. This insurance is a real bargain and you are urged to take full advantage of it. For rebates, applications for additional insurance or any information about your group insurance, go to the Student Union Office in the basement of Memorial - or phone 4-4913 and ask for Jane.

## cadre

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views, THE CADRE is the place to air them. A special invitation to President Baker, we would like to hear your comments and plans for reversing the trend of decreasing enrollment.



president will have to be more than just a super star.