

THE BUILDING OF THE SOBEY'S STORE

by: Paul Bears

Sobey's has proposed building a supermarket in East Royalty. They have received a mixed reaction from Charlottetown residents and merchants. While some people see the new store as creating new jobs and being easily accessible, others see the new supermarket as threatening present jobs, weakening the downtown core and hurting locally-owned businesses.

The Sobey's proposal seems attractive to residents as a convenient place to shop: parking would not be a problem, and shoppers could avoid downtown traffic. That very convenience, however, creates a problem for businesses in the downtown core. Other cities, such as Moncton, have seen their downtown collapse as shoppers were drawn to more easily accessible malls located in the suburbs.

Another part of Sobey's proposal which seems attractive is the promise of new jobs. We certainly need businesses that provide new job opportunities; but when they threaten existing jobs, we need to take a closer look. Many of the downtown merchants depend on shoppers visiting their stores while

getting groceries. The merchants have already seen some of their business going to the Charlottetown Mall. The addition of another suburban supermarket could force some core businesses to start cutting back on staff or closing down.

One effect that many do not consider is the effect the Sobey's store

would have on the Island Cooperative stores. These stores are supported by a large number of island shareholders and are operated in ways that many islanders appreciate. Sobey's, one of the biggest chains in Canada, probably would not feel the same level of responsibility to the island community.

Charlottetown residents can only gain by supporting locally-owned businesses.

On the surface, the building of the Sobey's store seems attractive. However, in light of the problems such a proposal could present to Charlottetown businesses, much more than a casual acceptance is

required. An in depth study of the possible implications could prevent Charlottetown's downtown core

from reaching the emergency conditions that other city centers have suffered.

by: Sam Okello

According to sources from Primate World Relief and Development Fund, the crisis in Ethiopia continues.

"The absence of television images does not mean that the famine crisis has ended," the PWDRF reports.

The report mentions basic needs required by farmers in Ethiopia. Such needs include seeds, tools, fertilizers, veterinary supplies and ways to conserve water and store

crops. These needs are necessary in improving the welfare of millions of people now facing starvation.

For a long time, Ethiopia has been a country where drought has overwhelmed an already precarious system of food production and distribution. Behind the hunger crisis, lies an array of natural and man-made causes. The causes consist of climatic changes, deforestation, economic recession, trade-barriers, debt burden, inadequate infrastruc-

ture, land take-over for export crops, loss of skilled personnel, corruption and neglect of long-term development in the rural sector as Ethiopia scrambles to survive economic shocks.

The burden of these problems — local, national and international — is borne by the poor. The pictures of famine-stricken Ethiopian men, women and children reveal the devastating effect of a failure to address the causes. The graphic photographs and gripping reports

from Ethiopia and the desire of the Western countries to contribute to international funding, have created

a promising environment in Ethiopia. The drought which has lasted for several years, is a daunting reminder that persistence and pa-

tience are essential. But there is no choice. It would be fair for societies bestowed with abundance to save the lives of these people who are threatened by the famine crisis.

ETHIOPIA CRISIS NOT OVER



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