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FARM NEWS

Keen Interest in Farm Pond Policy
 Falling springs, streams and wells in recent years have been the cause of much concern not only in Halton but in many other parts of the province. It is generally recognized that an adequate water supply for livestock, domestic purposes, fire protection, spraying and irrigation is an essential in any farming community.

In the county of Halton, the great majority of the springs and streams arise on the escarpment which passes in a northerly direction through the county. Consequently the reforestation program inaugurated some years ago by the county council in co-operation with the Department of Lands and Forests of the Ontario government has to date been confined to marginal rocky land above or on the escarpment.

In all, some 1,200 acres have been purchased by the county for this purpose. More recently, those responsible for the selection of additional areas for reforestation purposes have endeavored to secure blocks of land on which some of the streams of the county have their headwaters. As a means of conserving water, reforestation is definitely sound. However, several decades may pass before the full effect of this program will make itself manifest.

Early in 1952 therefore, the Conservation Committee of the county inaugurated a farm pond policy. Under the policy the county of Halton, in co-operation with the Ontario Department of Agriculture, agreed to pay 50 per cent. of the cost of approved ponds up to a maximum of \$300. per pond per farm.

A sum of \$2,000. half provided by the county and half by the Ontario Department of Agriculture, was set aside for this project in 1952. To date, 55 applications have been received. In all cases the proposed site must be approved by a representative of the Department of Agriculture Engineering at the Ontario Agricultural College, before operations commence.

Following construction, the pond or dug-out properly fenced to keep out livestock, must pass a final inspection by a representative of the same Department, before the subsidy is paid. It is anticipated that as a result of the policy at least 20 ponds or dug-outs will be completed before the end of the year and at least a similar number in 1953.

The number of farms in the county now equipped with such ponds totals approximately 200, which indicates that farm ponds or dug-outs have over the years sold themselves to the farmers of Halton.

Plans Under Way for Community Night School
 The Community Night School idea has sold itself in Halton. First undertaken in the fall of 1950, 332 enrolled with a 74 per cent. average attendance for the 12 nights. In the second effort a year ago, 489 applications were received, 459 accepted and the average attendance for the season was 77.5 per cent.

In response to the demand, steps have already been taken to make tentative plans for the coming season. At a meeting held on October 7, the following Management or Planning Committee was appointed, chairman, A. T. Woodley, Milton; R. R. secretary, Mrs. Velma Stessie, Milton; treasurer, Mrs. Charles Johnson, Milton; committee members, Miss Lorna Lawrence, Oakville; R. R. 2; Mrs. G. F. Thompson, Milton; Mrs. R. M. Clements, Milton; Cedric Harrop, Milton; R. R. 5. Ex-officio members of committee, Lloyd Minshall, Community Programs Branch of the Ontario Department of Education; J. E. Whitelock, Agricultural Representative.

Announcements are now being prepared for distribution over the county. A wide selection is being offered, involving some 18 different subjects. The courses will be held in Milton, covering 12 Tuesday evenings, commencing on Tuesday, November 25 and concluding on March 3.

Halton Plovers Make Fine Showing at International
 A delegation of eight Halton plovers attended the International Plowing Match at Carp last week. Stan May, Hornby's mould-board artist, was Halton's lone contestant in the walking plow classes and what a showing he made. First in his class on both Wednesday and Thursday, and on the final day in the Esso Champions Walking Plow Class, he was runner-up to the overseas trip winner, Algie Wallace of North Gower, Carlton county.

Bob Nelson, another Hornby stalwart, was first in his only class on Thursday. On Friday, John Cunningham, 15-year-old Hornby boy in competition with much older competitors took first, with C. F. Picket of Hornby in third position and Jack Taylor of the Appleby line, Nelson township, in fourth position.

J. Spencer Wilson of Norval, who was Halton's representative in the Esso Champions Tractor class, placed fifth to Doug Reid of Brampton, the overseas trip winner. Mr. Wilson also took a fifth in the utility class on Thursday.

In the boys' classes, under 21 years, Halton was represented by their most youthful contingent in some years, namely 15-year-old Arnold Howden; 15-year-old John Cunningham and 16-year-old Barry Archer, and incidentally, Hornby claims them all as "her boys".

In the class for boys under 16 years on Wednesday, Arnold How-

FORMER ACTONIANS ON STAFF OF NEW SCHOOL OPENED RECENTLY IN WATERLOO

Opening of the new McGregor School in Waterloo was of interest to many Actonians in view of the fact that Mr. N. A. McKernan is the principal and Miss Anne MacDonald is a member of the staff. Education Minister Dr. Dunlop officiated at the opening ceremonies and the Kitchener-Waterloo Record gave a very interesting story and pictures of the new school.

It is a fine, new modern 16 classroom school, all on one floor and has radiant-heat in the floors. It was built on the site of the old school which was deduced to the School Board in 1829.

The inter-county tractor event on Friday, open to teams of two plow boys under 21 years, brought 25 counties in competition. Halton's representatives were Barry Archer and Arnold Howden. While they were not successful in taking top position, which was won by the team from Ontario county, nor have we as yet learned of their placing, we have it on good authority that they were well up and a real credit to their respective coaches, Harold Picket and Thomas Howden.

We would also like to congratulate Leonard Lister, who took time off to go down and coach John Cunningham, who as indicated above, also made an excellent showing.

It will be interesting to watch the battle between these three youthful competitors at Halton's own "Little International" to be held on the Lorne Laing farm, Nelson township on Thursday, October 23. Incidentally, the Halton prize list is now available and thanks to the many co-operating firms and individuals, some outstanding prizes are offered. Dr. J. D. MacLachlan, president of the Ontario Agricultural College, is to be the guest speaker at the evening banquet to be held in the Milton Town Hall.

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