



ONE OF 225 FARM PONDS dotting Halton County is located on the J. C. Bell and Son farm at R.R. 1, Burlington. The guley was bulldozed out and the dam constructed for a cost of about \$200.00. A trough will be provided from the pond to supply the cattle on the back of the Bell farm. A by-pass is provided so the temporary streams that feed the pond will not damage the dam in spring floods.

# Farm Ponds Take Important Place In Modern Farming

Water supply on farms in southern Ontario is obtained from wells, streams, springs, ponds and cisterns. With the mechanization of farm operations, the improvements in sanitation and with larger and better herds there is an increased demand for water. Supplies, on the other hand, are diminishing. Shallow wells often get their supply from "perched" water tables which are rapidly disappearing and are not likely to be re-established. Deep wells and some shallow wells draw water from the permanent level of underground water. This, in many regions, has lowered considerably. Streams, springs and ponds are drying up or are being filled in, partly through mismanagement but largely from the gradual change in the physical features of the land which goes along with the change in land use.

Against this increased demand and diminished supply can be balanced one outstanding natural feature, namely, that Southern Ontario receives on the average, 30 inches or more of rainfall in a year. Although there is often a lack of rainfall in the summer months there is an ample supply in winter and spring. The need therefore is to store some of this spring run-off by proper land use in the earth itself, and thus increase the ground water supply and maintain summer flow in streams and springs.

Farm ponds are directly connected with soil conservation. The study of soil erosion in Southern Ontario

reveals that the most important single remedy for arresting this insidious process in the establishing of good soil cover. This in turn would provide a considerable increase of grazing land. One of the biggest obstacles to establishing improved pasture on eroding land is the lack of watering places for herds. Properly managed springs, streams and natural ponds give the cheapest and most reliable supply of water. Small ponds offer the best form of management and provide reservoirs in time of drought.

The hazard of fire is becoming increasingly important with higher costs of buildings and equipment. Much is being done for fire protection by better organization and equipment, but fire-fighting apparatus requires ample supplies of water from which it can draw. Wells in many instances are inadequate for pumps. Natural supplies are not dependable and often remote from buildings. Therefore well built ponds, favorably located, are much better sources for this purpose.

Many farmers know that good facilities for recreation are necessary to make farm life attractive to hired help and to their own children. Water, especially for swimming and skating, fishing and boating, can be the focus of recreational activities. There is increasing interest in ponds for this purpose.

Conservation aims at the creation of a balance between all living things, including wildlife population such as muskrats for commercial ex-

ploitation, game for hunting, fish for angling and certain species of birds and mammals for control of pests. These purposes can be served by farm ponds or by well managed natural streams, and in some instances they may be suitable for a combination of uses.

Recent spells of drought have created interest in irrigation. Ponds can serve a useful purpose in this regard, either by preservation of pasture or protecting a valuable cash crop. For example, a half-acre pond of average depth of 4 feet contains 24 "acre-inches" of water, enough to cover a 12-acre field with two inches of water. Throughout much of South Central Ontario there were in 1949 four weeks during June and July in which there was no rainfall at all in a period in which at least two inches could be expected as the average fall. Conveniently located, a pond of the above size could be used to take up this slack.

It is generally believed that any measures to hold water on the land would improve ground water levels and summer flow in streams as well as mitigate flood conditions on rivers. It would take a good many ponds to affect a measurable improvement in this regard, but in view of the many other advantages in controlling surface flow of water it is not too much to hope that small ponds might become numerous enough to improve the whole situation materially.

—Dept. of Agriculture pamphlet

## Fife, Drum Band Planned by L.O.L.

At the last meeting of Stewarttown L.O.L. 68, a good turnout of members welcomed visiting delegations from Acton, headed by County Master Jack Fox and W. Bro. A. Moore, Master of L.O.L. 467, and Milton, headed by District Master Ernie Wilson. Members from Georgetown L.O.L. were also present.

W. Bro. Fox stated that the county had made great strides last year and asked that each lodge try the "each member get another" system.

L.O.L. 68 hopes to have a fife and drum band in the near future. Plans are already under way for installing electricity in the hall and for redecorating the exterior of the building.

Agricultural College, Guelph was scene of the first inter-county Junior Farmer Drama Festival on Friday evening of last week. The counties of Halton, Peel, Waterloo, and Wellington were represented and the large audience received a real treat in drama.

Halton Juniors were represented by the Milton Juniors who presented their play, "The Legend", which won the award at the Halton Junior Farmer Drama Festival held at Oakville a few weeks ago.

The members of the cast, namely Dorothy Course, Sheila Henderson, George Clements, Dick Course, and their director, Mrs. Charles McArthur of the Milton High School staff, came in for a good deal of commendation for their choice of play and general performance, from the adjudicator, Albert State, Vice-President of the Hamilton Players Guild.

While the top award went to the Maryboro Junior Farmers of Wellington County for their presentation of "The Valiant", the Halton entry received "Honorable Mention", or in other words, got second place in the strong competition.

Sheila Henderson Best Actress  
The award for the best actress went to Sheila Henderson, of Hornby, who thereby repeated her triumph at the Halton Festival. Keith Dickson, of Wellington County, received the Best Actor award.

Inter-County Drama Festival Outstanding Success  
The War Memorial Hall, Ontario

## STRONG COUNTY COMMITTEE FORUM MUST CLIFFORD WAITE TELLS MEETING

Renewed spirit of interest and enthusiasm was evidenced when the provincial annual meeting of the farm radio forum was held in the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, April 7. Wellington Sutton, Peterborough county, acted as chairman and in presenting his annual report for the 14 annual meeting urged all to feel free to discuss problems and decide policy for the coming year. "This," he said, "is your meeting and the combined individual assistance is only means of making it a success."

He stated the farm forum movement in Ontario is the educational arm of the Federation of Agriculture, and the farm forum reports help shape the policy of the Federation of Agriculture. Thus, along with the decline in farm prices, there never was a greater need for rural people to get together and discuss their problems. Keep constantly in mind that the farm forum has an increasing vital role to play in tomorrow's community, he pointed out in conclusion.

In the report of the provincial secretary, Clifford Waite, a note of sadness was sensed. This was his final report as secretary, due to the fact he is leaving to pursue graduate study at Emmanuel College. He claimed his two years' association with farm forums had been richly rewarding in human relationships. In that time he came to realize what a wonderful instrument farm forums provides for promoting neighborliness, creating community spirit, developing human personality and building an agricultural industry in which thoughtful men and women keep informed so they may more ably take their responsibility in building a better Canada.

This year the province reports 46 less forums than last, albeit better quality forums spending less time on eulogie and giving serious consideration to farm problems. Local forums are taking a greater interest than ever before in adult education and copies of a national and international nature.

Total provincial membership this year is 719 and the total of membership fees received \$16,565.90. Many forum people realize that education is often a slow process, but have not given up faith in its effectiveness. Mr. Waite recalled that a faithful forum member who,

## TROUT FOR PARIS

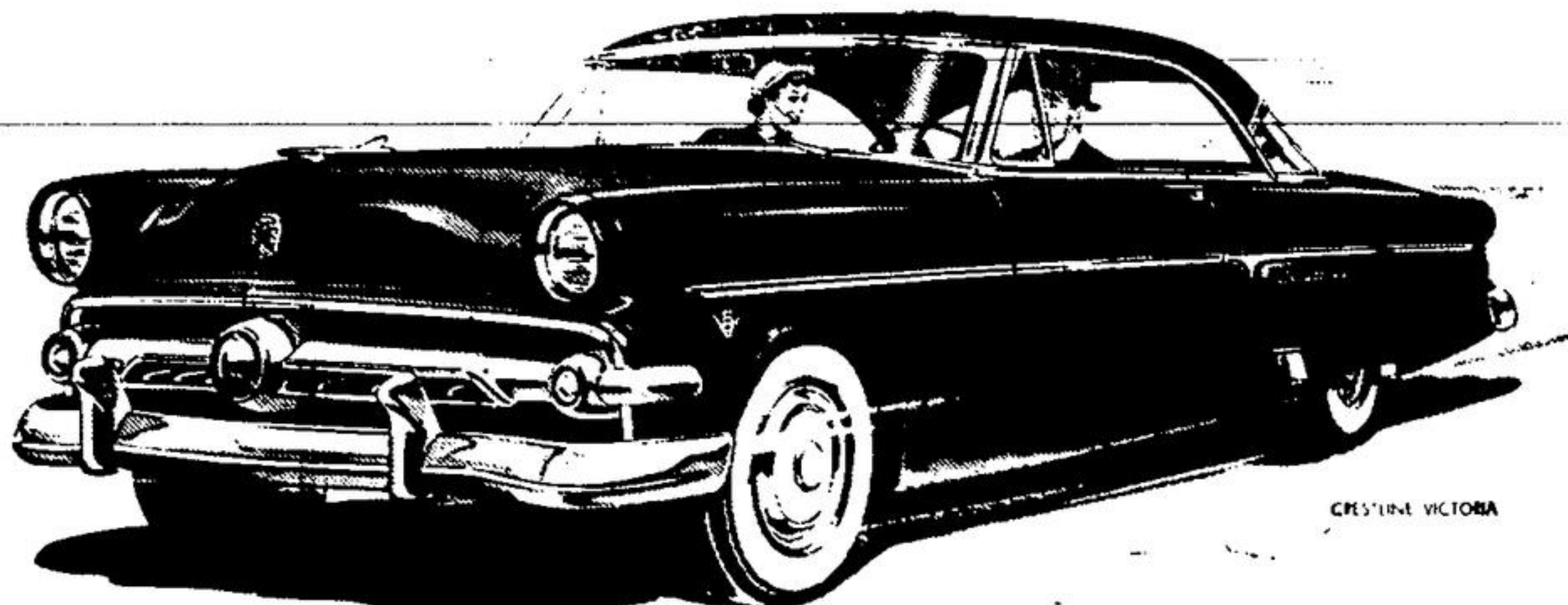
France is to enjoy Ontario lake trout raised there from eggs shipped from the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests hatchery here. Some 8,000 eyed lake trout eggs have been flown to Paris, arriving in good condition. The eggs were in a French hatchery 36 hours after reaching the capital.

The farm forum movement is the farmer's movement—and it is only as good as you and I make it.

Need Strong Committee  
He stressed the necessity of a strong county committee as one of the biggest needs in our Farm Forum movement. We shall never have viable forums in the province without imaginative and vigorous county committees properly financed and with an active program, working in close co-operation with the County Federation of Agriculture.

All agreed that a great deal more can be done in getting facts pertinent to agriculture before people and stimulating each other to study and action that will enrich farm living. That is the challenge that faces all of us.

The farm forum movement is the farmer's movement—and it is only as good as you and I make it.



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## FARM NEWS From Halton's Farm Lands

### Halton's 1954 4-H Club Programme

Applications are still arriving at the Ontario Department of Agriculture office in Milton, from rural young people between the ages of 12 and 21 who wish to join one or more of the six 4-H clubs being offered in Halton County this year. There is still time to apply, and for the convenience of any one who didn't receive an application form in the mail, one has been placed in this week's paper. New members are always welcome.

### 4H Calf Clubs

Three Calf Clubs will be organized again this year, which will accommodate members with any dairy dual purpose or beef breed. The 4H Holstein Calf Club with 52 members in 1952, and 49 in 1953, has been the largest club in recent years. This club is made up of boys and girls who use Senior calves, born between September 1st and December 31, 1953, or Junior calves born between January 1 and April 31, 1954. Junior and Senior calves are shown in separate classes, and the group system of judging will be used again this year. That is calves are divided into three groups, so members receive a first, second or third prize. In the Showmanship section, members of the Holstein club are divided into two groups, according to ages: 12 to 15 are Juniors, 16 to 21 are Seniors and the same group system of judging is used.

The Guernsey-Jersey-Ayrshire Club is made up of members using Junior or Senior calves of these three breeds. The different breeds are scored separately on type, but all members will participate in the showmanship competition together.

The ages of calves used in the beef and dual purpose Club differs somewhat from those used in the dairy clubs. The age for Junior calves is the same but Senior beef calves must be born between August 1st and December 31st, with steer calves having a different age limit. May 1st, 1953 to February 28, 1954. Steer calves for the Queen's Guinea class, of course, must be entered with the Agricultural Representative before

May 1st, and should be hornless now. The various breeds in this Club will be scored separately except the steers which will all show together regardless of breed or age. Achievement Day for the three Calf Clubs will be held on the Saturday of Milton Fair.

### 4H Grain Club

Since the original announcement of this Club, the Halton Soil and Crop Improvement Association has decided to pay for two bushels of Reg. Laramie Oats for each member of the 1954 Grain Club. Payment, however, will not be made until the member satisfactorily completes the project, which consists of growing one acre of oats, keeping cost records, attending meetings and exhibiting a peck of oats at the Achievement Day, which will likely be held in conjunction with the Seed Fair next spring.

### 4H Swine Club

We understand very few applications have been received for the Swine Club project. The price of pigs is high but there are pigs available and assistance will be given to members who wish to purchase two gilts or one gilt and a barrow for this interesting project. The formation of this Club hinges on whether the minimum ten members are available. Pigs used in the project should be born after March 1st, so they can show in the under six months class at the Open shows this fall. If the Club is formed the Achievement Day will be held at the Georgetown Fair.

### 4H Tractor Club

The Milton Junior Farmers are sponsoring the 4H Tractor Maintenance Club this year for members 14 to 21 years of age. This has been one of the most popular Clubs in recent years, and for 1954 will be confined to members from the areas covered by the Milton and Brookville Junior Farmer Clubs. Members need not be Junior Farmer members. As yet plans for the Achievement Day are incomplete, however an engineering fieldman will attend regular monthly meetings and a wealth of practical instruction will be given to members

### Organization Meeting

The organization meeting for all three Calf Clubs, and the Grain Club will be held in the Court House, Milton, on Tuesday, April 20th at 8:00 p.m. Should any of our readers have young people at home within the ages mentioned and who have not already submitted their names to the Agricultural Office, Milton, an application form will be found elsewhere in this issue for those who are interested.

### Halton County Achievement Day April 3rd

Halton County 4-H Homemaking Clubs brought their winter season to a grand climax on Saturday, April 3rd when they held their Achievement Day in the town hall in Milton. Seventy-five girls, through the winter months, have been working on the project "Being Well Dressed and Well Groomed," and on Saturday came in from all over the county to demonstrate what they had learned and to receive recognition for their accomplishments.

Under the chairmanship of Mrs. Mabel Borgstrom, County Home Economist for the Department of Agriculture, the program began at 9:30 in the morning with the introduction of clubs and their leaders and then the activities commenced. Each member was required to prepare a sample of darning from materials provided, and to judge a class of white cotton slips and a Dress Parade. The latter was quite a treat for club members for the Home Economists acted as models in the Parade and it was the girls' privilege to criticize their clothing, grooming, posture, etc.

In the afternoon the situation was reversed when the club provided the program and were criticized by visiting Home Economists, Miss Fosta Durnin, of Grey, Dufferin and Wellington counties, Miss Florence Arnold of Kent, Essex and Lambton, and Mrs. Marion Montgomery of Toronto.

Exhibits were prepared by Acton on "How to Look Your Best" with Judy Moles commenting and by