

Shorthorn Club Highlight Dinner With Special Guest and Awards

"These were your people" was the subject of the inspiring historical address delivered by George E. Elliott, Q.C., of Milton, at the recent dinner meeting of the Royal Shorthorn Club held in Guelph on Wednesday evening of last week. Smith Griffen of Acton, H. R. Z. president of the club, was the able

chairman of the evening's excellent program, which had been lined up under the chairmanship of T. C. Amos of Moffat.

Another interesting feature of this outstanding program was the presentation of a number of trophies won at the regional Shorthorn Show at Erin last fall. Here

Halton Juniors were in the limelight with the W. C. Woods Trophy for the best steer in the Show being presented to Carolyn Gardiner of Milton, H. E. and the Bank of Commerce Trophy for the best heifer calf in the same show, to Katherine Merry of the same address.

Elect Officers For Acton Tractor Club

Farm safety was the keynote of the evening's program at the organizational meeting of the Acton 4-H Tractor Maintenance Club held in Ray Thompson's Garage in Acton on the evening of April 18.

Ross Milne, Agricultural Engineering Fieldman of the Extension Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, was in charge of the evening's program. Acton Junior farmers are the sponsoring organization and those taking a leading part in the program were Mac Brown, Win Price and Sandy Buchanan.

New Type of Crop, Eases Price Squeeze

Haltion livestock men have long been convinced that hay and pasture are their most valuable crops. This year we have been impressed by the number of Haltion farmers who are talking in terms of Vernal Climax and LaSalle.

In short, it is no longer just a question of Alfalfa. Timothy and Red Clover is quite apparent that most of Haltion's leading farm operators realize that the sowing of inferior strains and varieties is not only a waste of money but also a hindrance to help them solve the Cost Price Squeeze. True, the initial cost may be somewhat less but on an average basis, the increased cost of these new, improved strains and varieties is almost "Nil" and in the final analysis, the so-called cheaper seed is the most expensive.

It is also encouraging to note that the bulk of the available local supplies of Garry and Rodney Oats and Hunt Barley have been picked up. There is, however, the odd lot here and there and about any of our readers have underlined their requirements, we think additional supplies of the two varieties of oats, at least, can still be secured.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Writer Astonished By 15% Tax Increase

The Editor, The Acton Free Press, Dear Sir,

The publication in your last issue of the letter from "The Evicted Three" is encouraging, in that it indicates that a nucleus of citizens does not subscribe to the general apathy shown by Actonians towards the management of their community affairs. I do not wish to enlarge on the observations contained therein, they are sufficiently damning in themselves, but I will make the prediction, with confidence, that the efforts of this small and untiring band of vigilantes will be better understood when the 1957 tax bills are despatched to the already heavily burdened housewives.

Claim Pork Too Fat Demand Better Bacon

"Canadians are becoming increasingly fat conscious." Any further deterioration on the part of our hog quality or even lack of improvement over present quality production, can have disastrous effect upon the Canadian hog producer. This was the statement of H. Puttick at the annual meeting of Canadian Meat Packers.

Frankly, we are in accord with that statement. This past week we attended a meeting of the Agricultural Committee of the Kingsway Kiwanis. This is the service club organization which for some years has taken such an interest in Haltion's 4-H club program.

All of these men were not born and brought up on the farm, nevertheless they are interested in agriculture and the farmers' problems. At the meeting in question, we were asked to answer this question, "Why can't we get better quality bacon and other pork products most of the stuff we are offered is too fat?"

High Temperatures Assist Winter Wheat

Last week's higher temperatures, coupled with odd showers liberally made Haltion's meadows and fields of winter wheat jump. Prospects at the moment look excellent for both of these crops. Here and there, cattle are already out to pasture and on the higher, earlier fields the tractors and seed drills are in action.

While some folk are complaining about the heat, in our opinion it is a very happy contrast to conditions of a year ago.

Former Ont. Minister To Address Meeting

J. A. Carroll, former Assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, is to be the guest speaker at the Halton Twilight Meeting in Hays Salps Arena near Trafalgar on May 17, states G. Leslie, Peer president of the Halton Club.

The members of Haltion's 4-H Halton and 4-H Jersey Guernsey Club are to be guests on this occasion. With the National Halton Sale scheduled for the same point on the following Monday, the event will also provide a preview of the cattle being offered.

We also understand that the officers of Haltion's Jersey and Holstein Clubs, in co-operation with their counterparts in Peel County, have already made plans to hold their annual Field Day at the Ontario Agricultural College on Saturday, June 8.

April Brings Smelt Run To Thousand Fishermen

April brings the smelt run and once again nature begins a cycle of reproduction which evidently cannot be stopped once it has begun. Even though thousands of Ontario fishermen, both sport and commercial, will, as usual, remove thousands of pounds of fish from the water, there'll still be millions of fish left.

This year the smelt hunt will be even more intensive, for by a change in fisheries regulations, no licence is required for dip nets up to six feet in diameter by residents. Last year it cost \$1 for dip nets of over three feet. For a 30-foot seine the dollar licence is still required by residents.

In a relatively few years, smelt fishing has become one of Ontario's major fishing events, and no one seems to understand why. The fish are still taken of course in salt water. But it became established in fresh water lakes along the east coast of North America. Michigan officials according to records of the Department of Lands and Forests, planted some of the fish in Crystal Lake near Lake Michigan. They escaped into Lake Michigan, and that was the start of smelt runs, smelt runs, smelt runs and high jinks of all kinds in the Great Lakes and tributaries.

The original idea was to provide food for newly introduced salmon. Now, no one can say with authority that the smelt feed on the eggs or fry of other fish and thus threaten large game or commercial varieties. Nor can anyone say authoritatively that nature herself will take care of the situation. It is a fact that a few years ago, after smelt had increased tremendously, a sudden epidemic wiped them out by the millions. Since then, they've come back.

Very large runs of smelt occur in practically all the streams flowing into the Great Lakes. In the Parry Sound and other districts, they are found in a number of inland lakes and it is felt that it is only a matter of time until many tributary waters have a population.

"It is worth noting that the smelt eats plankton and some fish," Department biologists report. "There is no proof that it has actually affected valuable game fish, and it is actually an important item in the food of some lake trout populations." The smelt has a more direct value in providing sport and food during the spring months.

Points and beaches of the Great Lakes, washed by strong currents, appear to favor the spawning aggregation of smelt and large catches are taken in these areas. In some districts, the duration on the beach is less than a week and it isn't known whether the rush to very shallow inshore waters is controlled by some factor or factors of the environment or whether it is the result of random movements of the fish.

The males appear in the spawning areas first, milling around for some time before the females appear. At the time of spawning, the fish do not appear to feed, but at other times feed heavily on zooplankton, insects available in mid-summer and fall, the fish are found in deep, cooler waters of the lakes where they are "hard to fish." Hence, commercial utilization has been held back because commercial quantities of good quality are available for only a short period of the spawning run.

There is no skill required during the run. The equipment may be almost anything from an old pair to a dip net. Along the streams running into the Great Lakes, the fishermen simply congregate with their implements, many standing waist-deep in water in what they regard as the most strategic positions. Then it's a matter of dip and dump and dip until wants are satisfied. There is no limit on the smelt, many fishermen catch hundreds, even thousands of the little fish, which is almost small like cucumber.

The smelt is slender and silvery and has strong teeth. Scales are readily shed. There is considerable variation in size with average length in Canadian waters around six to seven inches while in some American waters they may reach 14 inches.

In weight, they go in ounces. Many commercial fishermen will weigh a few thousand in the docks, guess at it and hand out about 12 fish to the pound. They're not far out in the rough calculation.

The fish are expected to appear almost momentarily in Lake Erie waters. A few days afterwards, they'll be in Lake Ontario streams and the annual "run" will be on its way.

Draw Postponed

Due to the heavy rain on Saturday, the weekly Merchants' Draw was postponed.

Next week there will be a double draw with two awards for the coupon draw and one regular weekly award, as last week's was drawn before the rain commenced.

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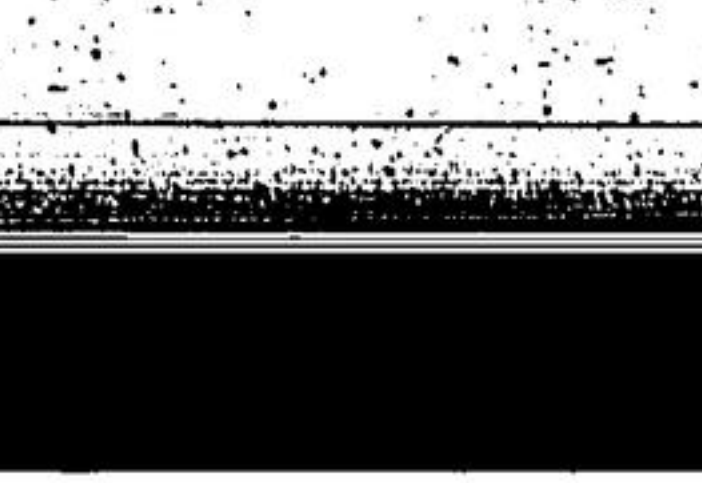
A Mature Man Who Has Served His Community and Country

- Born and raised in Halton County.
- Five years Milton town council, two as reeve.
- Warden of Halton County 1951.
- Chairman Milton Public School Board 1954.
- Nearly five years army service, May, 1941 to Feb. 1946.
- Overseas June, 1943, to Dec., 1945 Discharged with rank of Captain.
- Charter President Rotary Club of Milton.
- At present practising law in Milton.
- Friend of Dick, Dick and McWilliams.
- A respected resident of Milton where he lives with his wife, daughter Sally and son Kenneth.

THE MAN TO ELECT IN HALTON JUNE 10th

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