

Poisoned Trees, Forest Wrecked By Beavers Viewed by Halton County Council During Tour

Poisoned trees and forest wreckage by beavers were only two of the many sights viewed by county council representatives and forestry officials when they covered more than 70 miles touring Halton's forests, Tuesday, October 4.

The sightseers had a pleasant fall day as they began the tour from the Court House in Milton. As many as 25 people were massed at one time for certain parts of the tour. The first jumping-off spot was the Cox Tract near Speyside on the Nassagaweya-Esquesing Township Line. This acreage was the first county tract purchase in 1939 and was planted in 1940 under the direction of county engineer Roy Smith. The trees are about 22 years old and are still growing well according to Roger Cunningham, zone forester, who led the caravan of cars through the sideslopes and across fields.

Ice Storm Havoc
About 30,000 trees were planted, 20,000 being red pine. However, a severe ice storm drastically thinned out the larch. Pruning was carried out two years ago. Lower branches were removed for sunlight to enter except for the outside trees whose lower branches serve as windbreakers. An important feature of this tract and some of the others are the fireguards which consist of cleared space filled with mineral soil. This tract also has a fireguard on its frontage.

Unnecessary fences were removed to allow for the fireguards in the past few weeks. Mr. Cunningham noted there were few cattle around this spot and even if a few cows did stray into the trees, the pines were now strong enough not to be damaged.

Entire 20 acre stands of red pine are broken into blocks by the fireguards. This tract is one of 13 being reforested and all have been purchased by the county except the Coulson estate at Hornby. One would never think the Cox Tract was once formerly pasture land. All of the 100 acres have been bought. Around the back are 400 acres of hardwood. After inspecting the planting and learning how it is being cared for, the group which included Warden Doug Sargent drove off to the Finney Tract.

Swamp Thickets
This tract comprises 50 acres bought in 1944 and planted from 1945 through the years to 1955. An estimated 50,000 spruce and red pine were planted throughout the period. The foresters pointed out the best examples of cedars grown in an uplands region. He added these trees are normally swamp thickets.

Members commented on the arrow-like straightness and the thickness of these trunks which, according to the zone forester would ultimately be used for poles and posts. All but six acres of the tract is plantation. Other foresters explained the new signs which were made in the department's own shop.

Also included in this tract are white spruce and white pine which as the Cox Tract are broken up by fireguards. Scotch pine are farther back and the smaller ones are cut for the Christmas tree market. The foresters pointed out the white pine and explained the difficulty in controlling it.

When it was first brought into the country, it was hailed as a "wonder tree" said Mr. Cunningham, because it would grow anywhere. He added it was discovered later that the people's dismay that it grew in a poor shape and steps have been taken and are being taken to give the white pine a pleasing shape. Adding to the tree's distortion is the effect caused by white pine blister rust and weevil, mainly the latter.

They Do Fall
He informed the group that needles of the evergreen do fall off and are totally replaced within a period of three to four years. The tree is pruned up to 18 feet and flush to the trunk so as not to leave a stub which would not heal.

The caravan rolled on to the Britton Tract where the members were appalled at the blackened skeletons of what were once trees at the old Beaver Flooded Area. In 1949 four beavers were captured alive in Grey counts at a cost of about \$600 to \$700. They were set free in this area where they built a dam.

Flooded Again
The beaver dam caused flooding of the old road and about \$3,000 was spent to build the road higher. The beavers didn't like the idea. They built the dam higher and flooded it again. Eventually the beavers ran out of their popular tree food but their numbers had increased steadily. They ambled along to more suitable locations until farmers' damage reports became so numerous that the dams had to be dynamited. However the beavers did some good by creating a 20 acre pond which fire fighters claim is an aid as a fire reservoir.

The beavers and the trout don't get along well because the beaver muddy the streams. Be-

avers in this area are reported as a "nuisance" because they can not be controlled.

In 1957 and 1958, 42 beavers were taken out and the foresters estimate another 50 have to be evicted as undesirable tenants. These vagrants have gone as far as Esquesing and just north of Milton on Highway 25.

Clean It Up
Archie Service said he had much to do with the leasing of this area to the beavers, but all that is past and he wants to see the neighborhood cleaned up because tourists have been coming to see the beavers. He would like to see county council set up picnic areas in the district. He wanted to see a complete plan sketched out before anything is changed.

A short drive through the Britton Tract brought the tour to the huge Christmas tree plantation where each tree is graded according to U.S. standards including color, shape and density. No tree is to dense stay the foresters. After the tree is graded it receives a special tag and is ready for market. The trees are well tended through the seasons and sprayed nearly every year if the insect invaders get too tough. White pine and white spruce are well distributed over the 50 acres. The 50,000 trees were not all planted at once, repeated planting through the years from 1953 to 1960 was carried out.

Release Report
Dad's Restaurant in Campbellville served the touring party lunch and a short informal meeting was held. Deputy Reeve Gordon Gallagher of Burlington was welcomed to county council in the vacant seat occupied by the late William Bennett. The Comprehensive Report on Halton County Forests from 1946 to 1958 was distributed and some mention was made of the contents. Up to date total expenditures tally up to \$2,810. The report shows products removed in woods operations and the approximate returns, lists trees planted by seasons and species, (129,000 trees were planted by the end of March 1958), lists properties and purchase price. An interesting feature of the booklet shows the Cox Tract in 1940. Members will receive supplements from time to time as further operations are carried out.

After lunch the tour stopped at the Mahon-Turner Tracts, which are next to each other. Foresters explained how the Mahon Tract was improved by thinning out 600 board feet of logs, removing 56 cords of high grade hardwood. Maple covers most of the tract with interspersions of oak and hickory. Mr. Cunningham noted, it cost more to put low grade hardwood out than what they are getting for it. The forest is for select cutting.

A sign at the Turner Tract read Trepass at Own Risk because of poisoned trees. Before entering the poisoned area Mr. Cunningham told members this tract was the hardest to plant because of the shallow soil on a thick layer of bedrock. Many trees died because the sun heated the bedrock, drying up the roots which could not dig beneath the rock for sufficient water. Not all the trees in the 12 acres were poisoned by the foresters, just the unsightly warp-

ed ones which could not be used for logs. Each ugly tree was marked with yellow paint so hatchet men could hack below the bark and spray Atlas A into the life stream of the trees.

This is a powerful arsenic compound squirted into the open wounds at the bottom of the trunk, which gradually kills the whole tree. It is the latest and cheapest way of destroying unwanted trees. The poisoned ones which are mostly maples, die and break up where they stand. Cutting the trees only creates a fire hazard and involves a great deal of time. The poison may be inserted anytime during the growing season, preferably July and August and they will not bloom during the next season. The poison is usually washed out by the abundance of moisture in winter.

Need Protection
Questions arose on why the foresters do not plant hardwood. It was explained that the hardwood needs the protection of other bushes and cannot take the heat as well as their broad leaves speed evaporation. Also rabbits and mice love to munch on the trunks.

A quick look was taken at the Elliott Tract which was also a problem because of too much water in the soil. A drainage ditch was installed and other steps were carried out which resulted in good growth on the 98 acre, 1948 purchase. About half of the acreage is plantation. There is a variety of trees on the land with a prominence of spruce. A number of old elms, some dead on their roots will soon be removed.

Last stop on the fall outing was the Frank Tract, a 1944 purchase. Planting was carried out in 1945-47 of 100 acres, 20 of which are plantation. Red pine is prominent at the front and spruce is dominant at the back. Members were amazed to see a huge pile up of cut poplar logs on the property. Foresters estimated 27 cords of logs were sold two years ago for export but the owner failed to pick them up.



COUNTY COUNCILLORS and members of the Department of Lands and Forests enjoyed a 70 mile tour of several Halton forest tracts on Tuesday, October 4. Above, members of the tour discuss tree problems with Department officials during a stop at the Cox Tract in Nassagaweya township.

Nation's Top Agriculturalists Finalize Plans for 1960 Royal

Toronto—Many of the nation's top agriculturalists, including the Hon. Douglas S. Harkness, Minister of Agriculture for Canada, and the Hon. W. A. Goodfellow, Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, are among members of the Board of Directors for the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair and with the management and staff, are now finalizing plans for the Royal's colorful opening here on November 11.

Billed as the "Champion of Show" and the show of "Champion of the Year," this year's Royal promises to be among the best in the history of this big, annual exhibition which dates back to 1922. Each of Canada's provinces is expected to be represented by the thousands of exhibitors who will be on display as exhibitors compete for the Royal's coveted trophies, ribbons and cash awards totaling nearly \$100,000.

Thrilling Show
Indications are that the Horse Show will again be a thrilling and colorful spectacle with some of the world's greatest riders and finest horses. Teams from the United States, Ireland, Venezuela and Mexico will compete against Canada for honors in the international jumping competition. Another highlight of the horse show will be personal appearances by Duncan Renaldo of Hollywood, more commonly known as the "Osco Kid".

More than 100 judges from three different nations will be in attendance to select prize winning entries from the 1,200 horses, 2,500 cattle, 1,000 swine, 1,200 sheep and goats, 4,000 poultry and pet stock. They will also judge large displays of grain, vegetables, dairy and poultry products, fruit and flowers, tobacco, tropical fish and maple products.

4-H Club Week
While the 1960 Royal is in progress from November 11 to 19, the 29th annual 4-H Club Week, sponsored by the Canadian Council of 4-H Clubs, will be held in Toronto. As a result, many 4-H club members from different parts of Canada will have an opportunity to visit the Royal.

Children's Royal
Interesting features of the 1960 Royal will be a photographic competition, a children's Royal, an outstanding flower show, a horse shoe pitching competition, a fashion show, rare tropical fish and a novel display of six blindfolded boys drawing a miniature antique steam fire engine.

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
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TAKE NOTICE: that the Minister of Highways has acquired certain lands in Lot 23, Concession 2, in the Township of Esquesing by the Registration of a Land Plan on the 18th day of August 1960, which was registered in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of the County of Halton as No. 1056, a Plan and Description being attached thereto in accordance with The Highway Improvement Act, 1957.

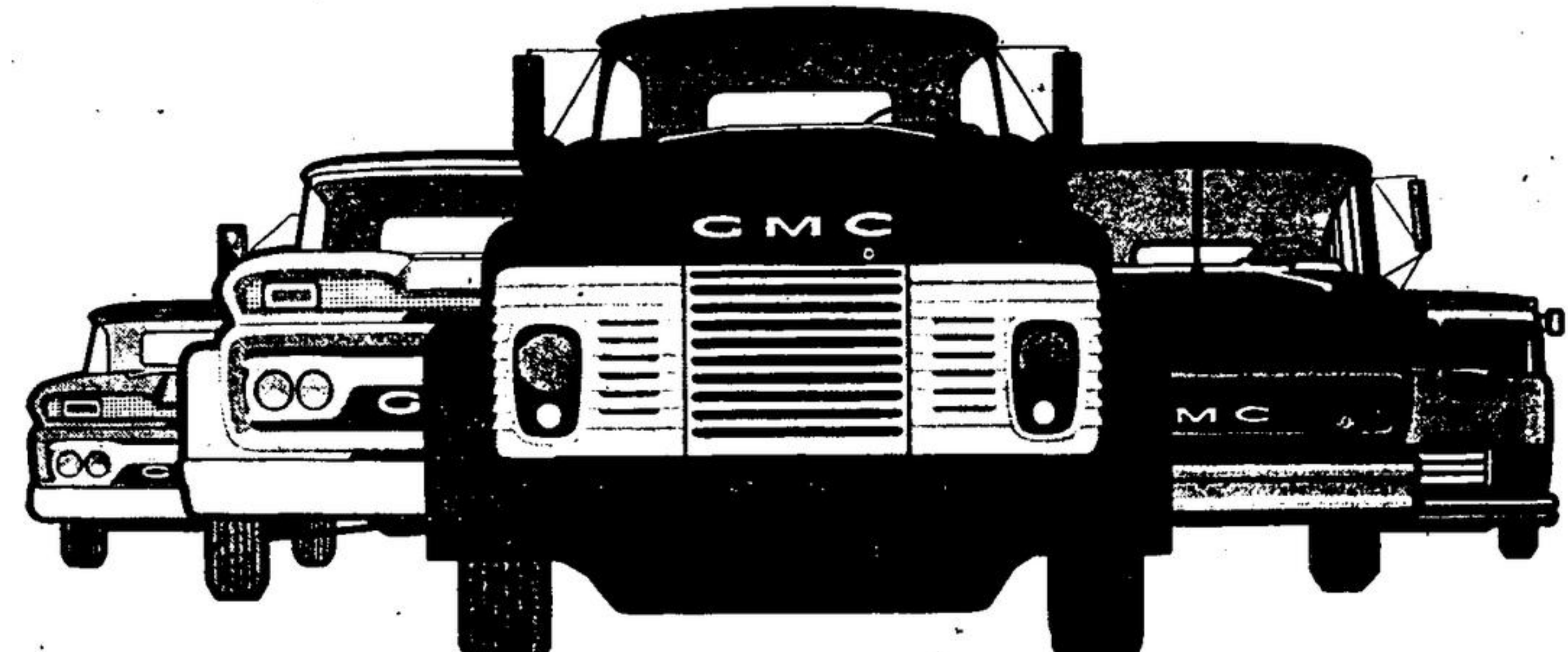
Every person having any claim to compensation under the said Act must file the claim in the office of the Minister of Highways, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, within six months from this date.

DATED at Toronto, Ontario, this 26th day of September 1960.

H. BARRY, Superintendent of Properties
Department of Highways

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