

**Trying times for farmers**

**To sell or not to sell?**

AN EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT

By Henry J. Stanley  
Agricultural Representative, Halton County

"To sell or not to sell? Aye, that is the question."

This is the question bothering most Halton County farmers during the past few months. Real estate people keep driving into the farm in increasing numbers, offering increasing prices for the property. What are some of the thoughts running through the farmer's mind?

In favor of selling — "The amount offered will allow me to move to town and live comfortably all my life if I invest it at 7 1/2 per cent, it will allow me to move to another county to the north or west where I can buy a larger farm, with more mechanization and have money left for investment; I can move out of farming before a Capital Gains Tax is implemented or before my area is permanently zoned agriculture or declared a Green Belt; I can move to a county where taxes are realistic and where I know that farming will have a future for my sons", etc.

Against selling — "I am going to find difficulty in getting land and buildings similar to the present; I can only get one third down payment and this does not give me enough money to buy a new farm and renovate buildings; my farm may continue to increase in value and I would lose it if I sell now; I can stay in Halton and rent land here at a low cost in future, the Halton County municipalities may realize the importance of keeping agriculture in the county for the next 40 to 50 years and may give greater consideration to the farmer by lowering land assessment", etc.

All these arguments are worth considering. Each farmer must decide for himself. However, this type of land speculation occurred in the 1950's with unfavorable results in some cases. Halton is known throughout this province for its abandoned and run down farms in the southern portion. We may be witnessing the return of this cycle. Watch that you, the farmer, are not caught in the middle.

If you plan to sell, use a good lawyer, be sure the terms are what you want, and be careful that the sale of your farm has resulted in more than just the freezing of value on your farm. If you plan to stay, do not put a value on your farm or it may be sold, keep fighting to get fair taxes, and don't keep thinking day and night as to whether you have made the right choice.

This is a trying time in Halton, a time when the future of agriculture is at stake.



Still snow along country roads.

**Time to get growing**

**Lawn and garden hints**

By H. J. Stanley

The bulbs of forced tulips, hyacinths, and daffodils must be allowed to mature when they have finished blooming. Make sure they have sufficient light and water to keep the leaves green. This enables the bulbs to store enough food for next year's growth. When the leaves begin to turn yellow, reduce watering and let the bulbs dry out. Store these for fall planting or put them in the garden this spring.

Rake lawns in the spring as soon as the ground is dry, but before growth begins. Spring

raking should be light enough to remove only dead leaves and twigs. For this purpose a leaf broom is handier than a heavy steel rake. Don't try to take all the dead grass out of the lawn. It will rot and disappear.

Most lawns require about four applications of fertilizer each year. The first application should be given in early spring before active growth begins. Turf fertilizers such as 10-6-4, or 7-7-7, are suitable. Regular farm fertilizers, such as 10-10-10, are less expensive, but must be applied with care to avoid burning. Rate of application would be about 10 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. Care must be taken to make a uniform distribution with no unfertilized strips.

This spring there is excessive mouse damage throughout Halton County. The mice have eaten off the grass at the roots. If a large area is badly damaged, it should be reseeded early in the spring. If damage is scattered, topsoil can be spread over the damaged areas and adequate fertilizer used to permit the old grass to fill in the bare spots.

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**Free Press Farm Page**

**One voice for farmer an end to confusion**

By H. J. Stanley

Many Halton County farmers are in a state of confusion at the present time. They must decide whether to sell and move to a new area, or stay and hope that farm taxes will be brought back to a reasonable level and the future of farming in the county assured for a considerable number of years.

This is the time for farmers to unite with one voice. It is time to support your Halton Federation of Agriculture. They are working to try to preserve agriculture in this county.

A general farm organization for all of Ontario is being proposed. Tom Foster, a swine producer and corn grower from Burlington, will be calling meetings throughout Halton in May, to discuss this new organization. Local units of approximately 1,000 farmers are planned.

Let's hope that all Ontario will accept this idea. This will mean one voice for all, not a split voice as in the past.

**Jim Jenkins returns to family farm work**

Jim Jenkins, Extension Assistant with the Halton and Peel County offices of the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food for the past year, has returned from the service and has returned as a partner in the family's dairy farm in Elgin County.

His new address is R. R. 3, Belmont and the farm south of Belmont is situated between St. Thomas and London.

"I have enjoyed my past year working in Halton and Peel Counties with 4-H members and leaders, Junior Farmers, and the participants of the winter nutrition course. I know I will have many fond memories of the people and organizations in these counties with whom I have been involved, and I have developed a great sense of

respect for the farmers here, who despite adverse conditions inflicted by Metro growing pains, optimistically strive for a better life in this business of farming. My only hope is for their success," he said.

To date no successor has been named.

**Are you up to date with OMSIP?**

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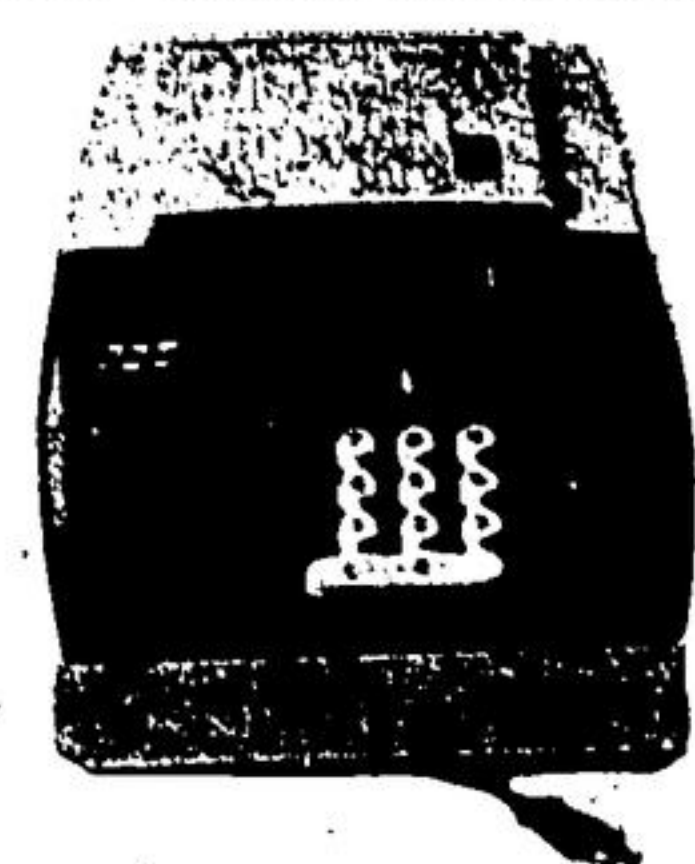


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**Club studies care of ewes**

By Bill Stokes

The March meeting of the Halton 4-H Sheep Club was held on Thursday, March 27, in the Board Room of the Agricultural office, Milton. Jim Jenkins conducted the election of officers for the year, which are as follows:

President, David Cation; secretary, Susan Currie; press reporter, Bill Stokes. The lesson was given by Club Leader Joe Willmott, on the care of the ewes at lambing time. It proved to be very interesting and informative.

The assignment was given for the next meeting, which will be on feeding and management of the flock.