

Hunters' survey shows

Majority of landowners favour controlled hunting

A majority of landowners in Nassagaweya Township would allow recreational hunting on their property if the hunter sought permission, carried liability insurance and held a valid licence, officers of the Halton Hunters' Association told Nassagaweya Township Council at their meeting Monday.

The association filed results of a landowner survey of 207 Nassagaweya properties and a draft proposal to amend the Petty Trespass Act as they urged the council to reconsider a suggestion to ban the discharge of firearms throughout the township.

Their brief urged stiffer penalties for trespassers, extra personnel and expanded duties for police and Lands and Forests Department officers. Present trespass laws and light penalties don't make it worth a landowner's while to file a trespass complaint, they pointed out.

This winter the sportsmen surveyed 211 landowners in Esquimaung and 207 in Nassagaweya. Their survey included six questions: "Would you be in favor of allowing

recreational hunting on your property if the hunters: 1—came to you seeking permission; 2—could show proof of liability insurance; 3—used rifles; 4—used shotguns; 5—used rifles only if groundhogs were in season; 6—could show proof of valid hunting licences.

The 207 landowners in Nassagaweya were mostly owners of 10 or more acres of

land. Just 31 (or 15 per cent) gave a "no" answer to all the questions.

There were 81 per cent in favor of hunting with permission, 73 per cent in favor if hunters had insurance; 28 per cent in favor of use of rifles; 55 per cent favored shotguns; 58 per cent okayed limited use of rifles; and 78 per cent approved the idea of valid licences.

"The problem does not seem to be with hunters or hunting per se but with illegal trespass, lack of responsibility of the sportsmen (and here we include fishermen, snowmobilers, dune buggy enthusiasts, etc.) and the disregard of licensing regulations now in effect," the sportsmen said.

The brief notes the landowner has little choice but to post his land and hope hunters obey the signs.

In co-operation with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, the local sportsmen are requesting amendments to invoke stiffer penalties in the petty trespass act. They call for fines of \$50 to \$500 for trespassing on any land which is enclosed, as a garden or lawn, or any area where trespass is forbidden by word of mouth, in writing, by posters or signs visible from every point of access to the land. If the trespasser has any gun, bow and arrow, fishing tackle, motorbike, snow vehicle, dune buggy or automobile in his possession, they recommend a fine of \$100 to \$1,000 and suspension of the trespasser's licence or motor vehicle registration plates for one to two years.

Changes requested include a penalty of \$200 to \$1,500 and loss of licence or plates for two to five years for a second or subsequent offence or a conviction while under suspension.

They also recommend that any fines levied be awarded to the complainant.

The brief urges public liability and property damage insurance be held by all hunters when seeking a hunting licence of any kind. A resolution to this effect is being considered by Department of Lands and Forests and The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.

The brief claims it is up to the landowner to say who he will have on his land and who he will not. If insurance was compulsory the landowner could rest assured any damage could be reclaimed from the insurance company. The hunter's name and address would be readily available from the licence.

It is pointed out no legislation from any level will entirely wipe out the bad hunter. "A no discharge of firearms by-law would not alleviate the problem. Not only would the township lose revenue from the sale of township licences but there would be the added expenses of employing a by-law control officer to enforce this no discharge by-law. Neither the Ontario Provincial Police nor the Department of Lands and Forests Conservation Officers have the jurisdiction to enforce a municipal by-law."

The authors of the brief point out a case in Saltfleet Township where a no firearm by-law was passed and produced undesirable results. Rabbits and other pests are apparently causing an imbalance in nature in Saltfleet and eating market crops.



Grass fires sign of spring Bureau concerned about losses

There's one sure sign that Spring can't be far away; Halton's first grass fires of 1970 were reported last week in Oakville.

Halton County Fire Prevention Bureau, a county-wide group of men who work to prevent fires before they start, is once again getting concerned about the grass fire menace in Halton. In one recent year, Spring grass fires were estimated to cost the county's taxpayers over \$30,000.

Besides being dangerous, grass fires are illegal unless you have a special permit from the Air Pollution Branch of the Department of Energy and Resources Management, and permission of the local fire chief.

While many grass fires are accidentally set — a carelessly discarded cigarette or a bonfire that gets out of control are the most common instances — many of them are deliberately set by farmers and rural landowners wanting to get rid of dead grass in lawns and fields. Such fires create their own wind and can fan themselves out of control, firefighters report. They are virtually impossible to control unless the person in charge picks a very calm day, prepares for the worst with plenty of old brooms and buckets of water, and surrounds himself with an army of helpers in case the fire gets away on him. The best rule is: don't light such a fire in the first place.

Fire Chief J. C. Cunningham of Georgetown, 1970 chairman of Halton Fire Prevention Bureau, says it is impossible to tell how many barns, sheds, outbuildings, woodlots and valuable trees have got in the way of a rampant grass fire. "But there have been plenty of them, all across the county, and more valuable property is being lost each spring through such carelessness," he adds.

Firefighters are hoping for a relatively "quiet" spring this year. They don't look forward to spending most of their weekends running around the country, beating out grass fires touched off by human carelessness. Give them, and your pocketbook, a break — be extremely careful with fire in the dry spring season, the Bureau urges.

Boon to mother

Standard sizing for Mason Knit

"Canada Standard sizes for children's clothing are catching on," says Ron Basford, Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. "A year and a half ago, before my department became involved with the Canada Standard Size program, there were only 33 licensees. Today there are 165, and applications keep coming in."

Mason Knitting Co. in Acton, makers of the Carter line of children's wear, is among the firms using standard sizing.

The Canada Standard Size system is voluntary. Firms that obtain a license agree to meet CSS specifications on any clothing they manufacture and label as a CSS garment. The CSS label carries the words "Canada Standard Size" within a coiled tape measure showing the figures of two different sized children.

"Because the system is voluntary," said Mr. Basford, "consumer demand will determine the extent to which it is used. I would urge all parents, therefore, to look for CSS clothing and if they don't find it, to ask for it. Measurement

charts are now in some catalogs and are available from my department."

The Canada Standard Size system was developed to help bring some order into the chaos of size differences in children's clothing. Years ago sizes were based on age, but as every mother knows, one six-year-old is not necessarily the same size as another six-year-old. And one manufacturer's size six could be quite different from another's. The Canada Standard Size system is based on body measurements.

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Improvements planned at ARC Workshop

The monthly executive meeting of the Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded was held on March 3 at A.R.C. Workshop, Hornby, with 20 of the 21 executive members present.

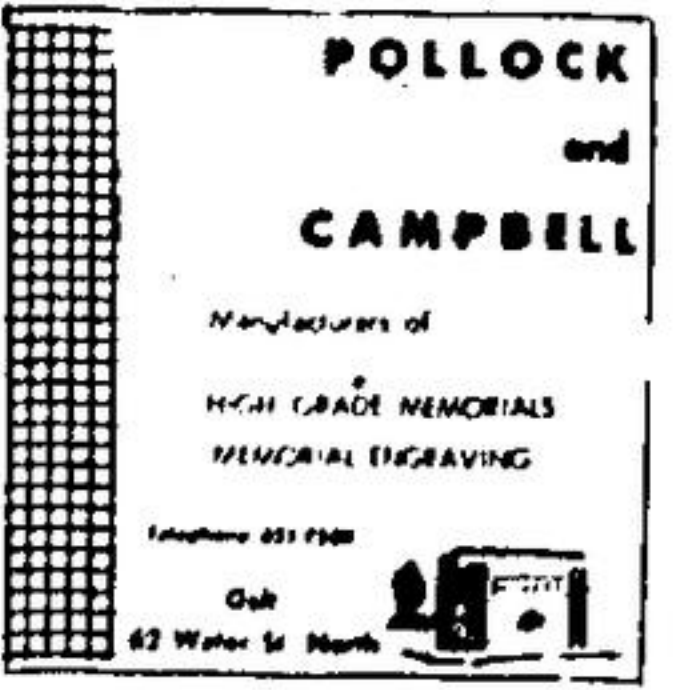
This year the Association has involved itself heavily in the improvement of the A.R.C. workshop. They expect to have a new roof and eavestroughing and other repairs, in order to keep the building in first class condition for the continued use

of retarded adults. The workshop provides these people with the employment and mental stimulation which are both necessary so that they may take their places, insofar as is possible, as useful and happy members of the community.

The residential committee is continuing to inspect suitable parcels of land for the proposed residence.

The Association extends to all members of the community an invitation to join them in

working for the retarded persons both adult and children, in our communities. "In serving others, we help ourselves."



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