

Let's talk about HORSES



By Jennifer Barr

The 11th annual Caledon Races were held at Caledon Hunt Club on September 9 and I was there! At least, for most of the afternoon I was there.

The races featured two steeplechases, a couple of western Quarter horse dashes, pony races, a polo game, and a parade of hounds. An auction went on through-out the afternoon competing with the refreshment stands.

Caledon Hunt Club is situated in some of the most beautiful country around, near Terra Cotta. The spectator visibility of the races was certainly better than most of these events. All you see usually, is a group of hunt caps flash by and that's the race. At Caledon not only were the caps constantly visible but also the feet, horses and all the tumbles.

Church to church

Unfortunately, the quality of the riding was generally poor with a few noticeable exceptions. The winners were those who rode the race up in their stirrups with their weight over the horse's withers. But too often, the riders were sitting and flapping on the back of the saddles, with flailing feet and crops, thus hindering their game animals. The pony races and Quarter horse dashes had too many of this type of rider.

The steeplechase course was interesting. A steeplechase is a race over brush jumps and originated in England several hundred years ago when gentlemen

would race cross country from church steeple to steeple. It is a much more exciting form of racing to watch than flat racing.

It seems a shame that there is so little 'chasing in this country.

I have just had a tearful call from a lady who keeps three ponies tethered in the yard. Ten minutes before, she had found one of the ponies dead—hanged in a tangled rope; a terrible experience for anyone.

She wishes me to put out a plea to all owners to fence rather than tether their horses.

It does seem as though a great deal of accidents occur while a horse is tethered.

Unfortunately, another pony was killed on the road at Ballinacree recently, having escaped from its fenced field.

Seems you're damned if you do and damned if you don't.

Common defects

He noted in some schools one heat register served four or five rooms and caused some overheating. Many of the defects noted were in the lighting, poor acoustics and the lack of electrical outlets.

Campbellville, Robert Little School in Acton, and Martin St. School in Milton were among those schools studied.

The report suggests no corrective action be taken at Campbellville but indicates that the school should be closed and students transferred to Brookville and Speyside Schools.

The school suffers from the lack of storage space in classrooms and the general purpose room is undersized and has low ceilings.

An annex

The school with a capacity of 106 students has an enrolment of 69 and is decreasing. That school was one of three in the north Halton area sche-



HARRY PETT, R.R. 1 Caledon East, prepares for the parade of hounds at the Caledon Hunt Club annual races held Sept. 9. (Photo by J. Barr)

Committee notes defects

A program of visitations to Halton schools more than 35 years of age has led to an updating program that will cost approximately \$448,500 in anticipated renovations over the next two years.

An ad hoc committee of trustees and Halton County Board of Education staffers toured all schools in the county and made recommendations on what needs to be done to improve facilities where they appeared to be substandard.

In all, 15 schools were examined. Committee chairman Fred Armitage said several inadequacies were found but he noted it wasn't a matter of facilities falling apart or staff being hopelessly demoralized. He said many of those things which the committee mentioned were already included in capital forecasts of the board.

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