

They're back at the track

by Jennifer Barr

The pungent smell of horse liniment and sweet feed, the quiet, efficient bustle as grooms change harness, the splash of water buckets and the impatient stamping of hooves signify Mohawk in Campbellville is open for another season.

Acton and district is the home of many prominent Standardbred trainers, most of whom are spending considerable time around the racetrack these days.

It's good to get back to the fraternal order of trotting men after three months of biding time and watching the snow blow. During the morning training sessions, owners and trainers take a moment to smoke and discuss the chances of that little three year old filly. Young grooms sponge the spring mud from the harness and curry winter hair from horses' backs.

Women are certainly in evidence around Mohawk Stables but it appears to be predominantly a male world of leather, sweat, and camaraderie.

This reporter visited Mohawk one shinning Saturday morning when most trainers were concerned with qualifying their horses. Trotters were harnessed, warmed up during the trot from stables to paddock, then sent flashing round the oval track racing a stopwatch. Only the time tells which classes that horse is capable of winning - maybe.

Although time was of the essence and horses were unharnessed, washed down, rubbed and put away with a speed that would make most pony-clubbers wince, there was little evidence of the temperamental tension usually present at such gatherings. Handlers assisted each other and found time to joke even when the next horse was due on the track in five minutes. Any horse coming up to the door after each trial became to focal point of a well choreographed ballet as grooms ducked and passed around the animal, each performing a duty. It was somewhat reminiscent of a car racing pit stop.

Mohawk Raceway, attracting spectators from all over the province for nightly racing, is alive again and is surely one of the happiest signs of spring.



PAUSING FOR A SMOKE, Bill Wellwood takes time out to discuss qualifying times at Mohawk Raceway. Wellwood's training farm is situated just north of Acton.



STEVE MARSHALL makes sure everything fits before he takes "Pop McKlyo" out for a brisk trot at Mohawk Saturday. Steve and his father, Bob Marshall are avid Acton enthusiasts of Standardbred racing.



BRIDLING IN A HURRY, Larry Walker of R.R. 4, Acton checks the bit on "Torio Council" at Mohawk. Harnessing during training sessions has to be done rapidly, often in less than five minutes.



YOUNG GEORGE WARNER calms "Reason for Reno", a two year old colt in training at Mohawk for his first season. George and his father, Roy Warner, of Acton are recent converts to trotters from the world of Thoroughbred flat racing.



OFF COMES the harness and "Jet Susan" is finished for the day as Ron Waples of Rockwood completes his qualifying rounds at Mohawk Raceway.

McKenzie questions safety

Halton Region's Public Works Committee has awarded a contract to Menary Contractors Ltd. to operate the Georgetown Landfill Site. The contract is for one year and will cost \$10,317 per month.

Halton Hills Councillor Pat McKenzie expressed concern about proper safety precautions at the dump. Public Works Director Bob Moore said there had been a problem with one machine operator but the contractor is anxious to co-operate.

A few months ago a man had driven his car to the landfill site to dump some refuse and had the car rammed by a bulldozer.

Mr. Moore said the employee had not lost his job over the incident but the employer was concerned. No one was hurt.

Budget \$12,788,000 to handle garbage

Halton Region's Public Works Committee approved a capital budget Thursday calling for an expenditure of \$12,788,000 over the next five years on landfill and resource recovery projects.

The budget as it stands provides for an expenditure of \$1,838,000 for land acquisition and site development at the proposed landfill site at the corner of Tremaine and Britannia Rds. this year.

There was some doubt expressed by committee members about the need to allocate funds for site development this year. Most projections indicate the site, if finally approved, wouldn't be ready by the end of this year anyway.

Members agreed to provide money in the budget in 1979 for a front end resource recovery plant and then provide another \$3,000,000 to add a component so the plant could handle refuse-derived fuel. The initial cost of the plant will be \$6,850,000.

Public Works Committee Chairman Jack Raftis told the committee it should be concentrating on the landfill site instead of worrying about resource recovery. He said resource recovery is premature because the region isn't even sure where the landfill site will be.

The budget provides an additional \$500,000 in the 1977 budget for land acquisition to accommodate a transfer station and an operations centre for the southern part of the region.

The two facilities would be

built on the same site and could share a common administrative building. The operations centre would allow the works staff in the south to work out of one building instead of the several buildings they now use.

The transfer station will be

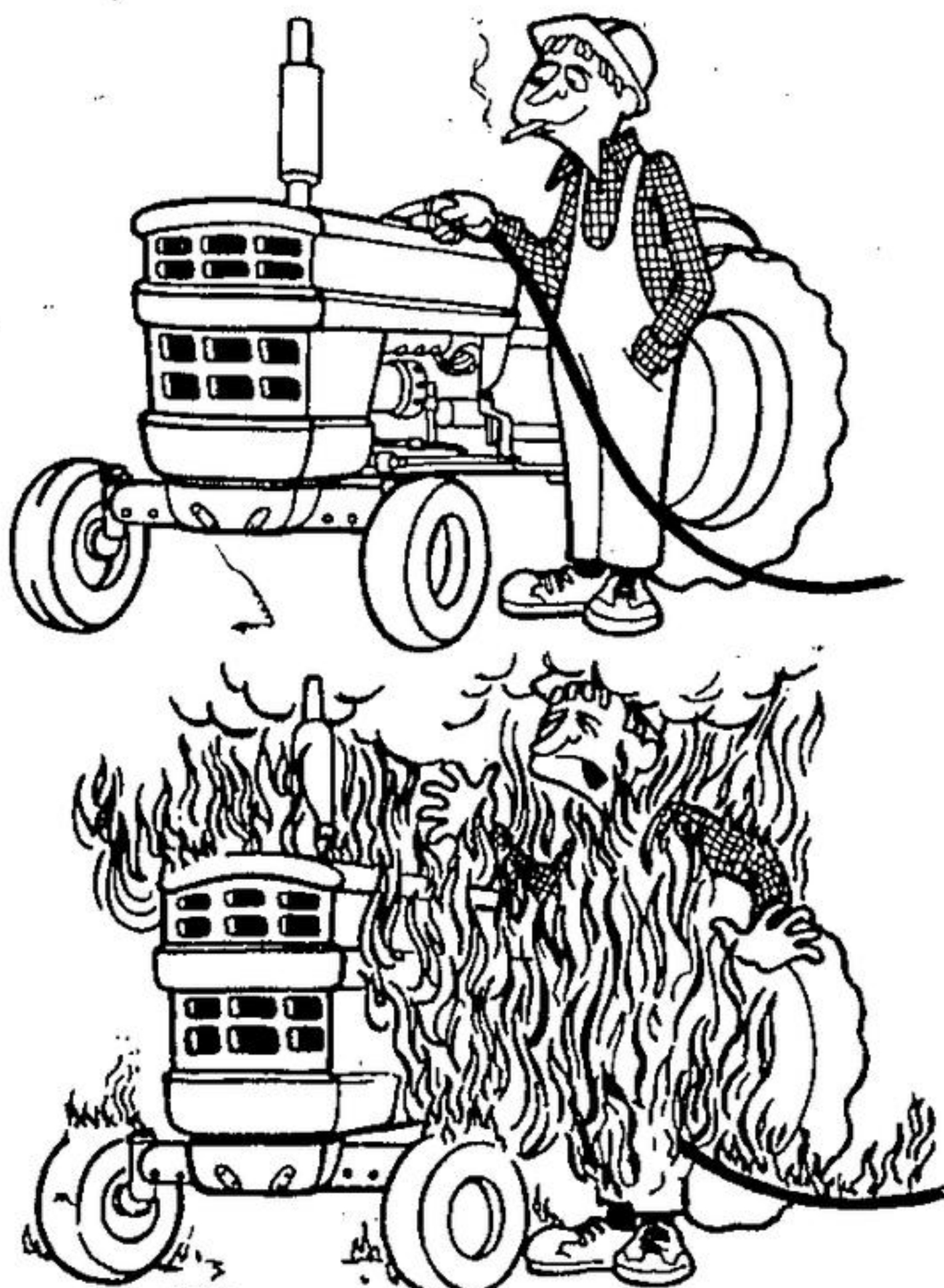
needed to assist in the overall waste management plan. Garbage from the south will be taken to the transfer station and then hauled in large trucks to the landfill site.

Regional Treasurer Don Farmer warned council it

could not afford to buy a resource recovery plant and stay within new guidelines for budgeting.

Members agreed to put the figures in the budget but indicated the incision did not commit the council to spending the money.

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Raise for chairman

Brian Fletcher, Halton Land Division Committee's new chairman, will receive a \$5,000 stipend per year.

That represents an increase of \$1,000 over the amount paid Les Preston who served as that committee's first chairman. He held the post for three years.

Mr. Preston was appointed by council to chair the committee for the first term, but Mr. Fletcher was elected chairman at a recent committee meeting.

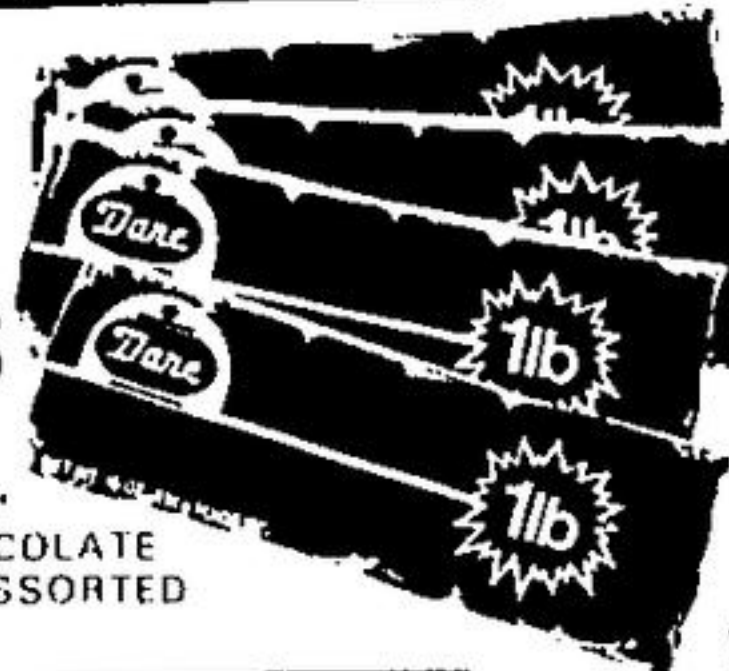
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