

Above normal hay crop, abundant winter wheat in Halton - Ag. Rep.

by Jennifer Barr

Hay crops in Halton have never been so good, according to Henry Stanley, Agricultural Representative for Halton. He says he can't remember better yields.

"We've had excellent hay crops, away above normal. Some farmers got their crops off without rain at all if they started early enough."

Winter wheat is now being harvested across the county and Mr. Stanley says the crop is above normal. "Very good yields, above normal, normal, some yields are as high as 70 bushels per acre."

The present rainy spell is a godsend for the corn but is hampering wheat harvesting in those fields still unthreshed.

The wheat is beginning to sprout, says Stanley, and farmers are racing to get it off as soon as possible. However, the rain is going to improve patchy corn crops.

This year has been much like last year although not quite so dry. The late cool spring made planting difficult affecting crop yields now.

Early planted corn has been tall enough to withstand the dry weather in July while late plantings have suffered and aren't even tassled out yet (indicating the start of corn cob production).

Corn is "very variable" according to the Ag. Rep. and some farmers are wishing they planted spring grain instead.

He went on to explain the second crop of hay looked good, some area farmers in Milton have started a third crop, pastures are recovering from the dry spell and spring grain (oats, usually) is doing well.

Insect infestation seems to be at a minimum this year, Stanley says. He hasn't heard of any army worms in Halton and the alfalfa weevil, a menace a few years ago, has done little damage.

A certain kind of wasp which fed on alfalfa weevil larva was introduced recently in attempts to control the devastating little pest whose larva strip the leaves off alfalfa plants. It's too early to tell if there are positive results yet, says Stanley, but Frank Anthony, Limehouse custom farmer harvesting thousands of acres, feels the pest control is doing some good.

Anthony also describes the hay crop as "exceptional" and the wheat crop as "better than expected." Spring grain is lighter than usual "just average," he said, due to dry July.

The corn crop is "a little bit behind" but will be

"100 percent better with this rain," according to Anthony.

Pat Aciri, another custom farmer from Acton, describes the corn as "funny"—some early corn is doing well while late crop is poor.

"If August is wet, we should have a good crop."

He feels crops in general are "not too bad" but farmers with soybeans planted are "out of luck". With the recent dryness the crop is only a foot high and some farmers "mightn't even bother combining it," Aciri says.

The average personal savings deposit at the Canadian chartered banks now is \$1,972, more than double the \$869 figure 10 years earlier.

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Mr. and Mrs. Arlie White celebrated their golden wedding anniversary yesterday (Tuesday), but were guests of honor at an open house in St. Joseph's hall, and a dinner party at the band hall Saturday.

Arlie, Elimere White mark 50th anniversary

A honeymoon to Weland followed the marriage of Arlie White and Elimere Papillon in St. Joseph's church, August 14, 1929. Now, fifty years later more than 70 people helped them celebrate that occasion.

Mr. White was born and raised in Acton, but his wife came from Bracebridge. When the Beardmore tannery closed down there, like so many others, came to Acton to make their home. Three years later, they married.

Mr. and Mrs. White lived on Church St., with her parents until 1947, when they bought the present home they live in now, also on Church St. There, they raised two children, Joan Tyers of Acton, and Jerome, of Sault Ste. Marie.

In the meantime, Mr. White worked at the tannery until 1971, marking 51 years of service with the firm. He has also been an avid sportsman, taking part in baseball, hockey, lawn bowling, etc. Since his retirement he has been campaign chairman for the Canadian Cancer Society, Acton branch.

Mrs. White has been busy looking after the household duties, while still finding time to belong to the Catholic Women's League.

The couple is proud of the fact that they are the third of Mrs. White's family to celebrate 50 years of marriage in the past few years. Brother and sister-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Archie Papillon marked the occasion in September 1977, and another brother and wife,

Mr. and Mrs. Theo Papillon, celebrated their silver anniversary last February.

An open house was held Saturday afternoon in St. Joseph's hall with close to 70 dropping by. Later, a dinner and dance were held for the immediate family at the Acton Music Centre. Grandson John Tyers was master of ceremonies, and guests admired a cake made by Mrs. Tyers and decorated by their granddaughter, Marianne Tyers. The couple's three granddaughters and one granddaughter-in-law served.

Special presentations were made from Halton MPP Julian Reed on behalf of Premier Davis, and another Tuesday evening at a Mass from Father Leo Speagle on behalf of Pope John Paul

Town rejects aid

Over the objections of Councillor Roy Booth, Halton Hills council turned down requests from the Township of Carleton, and the region of Sudbury for financial help for disaster funds.

The Township of Carleton suffered flood damage when the Ottawa River overflowed its banks, and similarly the Sudbury region when homes and businesses were damaged in the spring flooding.

When the province includes an area for financial aid, the money raised publicly will be

matched dollar for dollar.

Booth argued the town should help since disasters can happen in Halton Hills at any time, when help may be needed here.

"If we can support boat people we can support our own," he commented.

The mayor pointed out council has not given financial aid to the boat people.

Booth emphasized the town has continually turned down request for help from other areas,

Police news bulletins not press released

A new police-news media procedure was introduced to area media by the Halton Regional Police force at a press conference Friday.

The department has decided to discontinue the practice of allowing press to gather information from police news bulletins, according to Deputy Police Chief James Harding.

In lieu of the bulletins, specific police personnel will be assigned to handle all press information on accident, crime and police feature news items.

Deputy Chief Harding said the new format is intended to create a more personal and meaningful relationship between members of the press and the police force.

An eight-page report issued by the force on the subject of media-police relations sets out all procedures for press to follow in securing news information from the force.

The report states that in the event of a special news feature involving the force, no fewer than three people will be present for the interview. They will include the subject being interviewed, the senior officer in charge of the district and a member of the Community Relations and Crime Prevention Bureau.

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\$3,500 slated to parks

Halton Hills is spending \$3,500 to plan and design five prototype play areas, in hopes of increasing the use of local parks.

In a report to general committee Monday evening, recreation director Glen Gray explained that a number of the established playgrounds in Halton Hills are either underdeveloped or poorly developed. As a result, the report said, they are not used to their full potential.

Some \$6,000 was provided for in the parks capital section of the operating budget to develop the appropriate playground construction package, Mr. Gray noted. The project provided landscape architectural services for five areas. The cost of the service included design sketches, final layout plans, construction detail drawings and specifications and consultation with the municipality to ensure appropriate design approaches and approval of work.

Thirty-four landscape architectural firms, in the playground design

area were approached to submit tenders. Sixteen were received, ranging in price from \$15,000 to \$30,000. Committee, on the recommendation of Mr. Gray, accepted an offer by Team 73, Landscape Architects for \$3,500. Council will give final approval Monday.

Councillor Roy Booth questioned why there was a \$12,000 difference in the lowest and highest bid. Mr. Gray explained the lower bids were more experienced in municipal

work and had the expertise on hand, while those charging more had to subcontract parts of the project, adding to their expense.

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