

St. Joseph's Separate School put on a good show for parents and siblings in Robert Little auditorium. The crowd enjoyed everything from gift wrapped children, (top), to live trees (middle left), Mork and Mindy, (middle right), and stars and wise men. All children in the school took part in the concert.

Halton—where the buffalo roam

Rattlesnake Point Conservation Area near Milton was the first Ontario home for buffalo to roam. Now, 12 years later, offspring from Ontario's first, natural herd can be seen at various parks, zoos and larms.

North America's largest hoofed animal, the buffalo roamed the wilderness for thousands of years on a range that extended from Northern Mexico to Great Slave Lake; from the Rockies to the Appalachians. Buffalo foraged the American section of the Niagara Escarpment until settlers drove them westward in the early

At their peak, buffalo numbered over 60 million. But, in the last half of the nineteenth century, the population dropped from countless millions to less than 600

By the turn of the century, the conservation minded were beginning to lament the buffalo's irst national herd was started at Banff National Park in 1897 when the Canadian Government was presented with three calves from Texas. In 1907, the Government purchased a herd from Montana. Subsequent herds ranging in size from a few to almost a hundred were acquired.

Today, for the most part, there are no wild buffalo; the survivors are carefully protected in parks and private herds. In Canada, there are some 20,000 to 22,000 buffalo, most of them hybridized-crossed between the Woodland and the Plains species.

In October, 1965, to help visually portray the buffalo's story of near extinction and wildlife preservation, the Halton Region Conservation Authority imported five buffalo ta bull and four cows) from Wood Buffalo National Park.

The first herd was established on a 70 acre pasture at Rattlesnake Point Con: e vation Area where the herd could graze in their centuriesold style. Two years later, the herd almost doubled in size when all four cows gave birth. The timeless ritual continued with calves born every succeeding spring.

The experiment proved so successful that in 1974 the herd was split and

several buffalo were shipped to Mountsberg Wildlife Centre, Now, 18 of these one ton animals roam Rattlesnake Point and half that number reside at Mountsberg.

Several buffalo, mostly the offspring of the original bull, Bashful Bobby' (his named turned out to be misnomer) have been sold or donated by the Authority. Some of the new homes include Wasaga Beach Zoo. Bowmanville Zoo and Confederation Park in

A sad story surrounds the shipment of a buffalo to the New Brunswick Zoo in St. John's, A baby buffalo named Billy was earmarked for shipment to New Brunswick. After a week of tempting the youngster with corn and hay into a cage trap, Billy was shot with a tranquillizing gun. Billy never woke up after the dart hit him. One of his half-brothers took the ride to the zoo.

Bob Edmondson, the Authority's Wildlife Biologist, explained that buffalo are one of the most difficult animals to tranquillize because their size and weight can be misleading when obfield, and consquently pounds warning visitors

proper dosage is difficult to prescribe. Also, if the buffalo falls

on its side after being tranquillized, the animal's great weight pushing aginst the lungs can literally squezze the life out of it. In the Fall of 1975

another buffalo was subdued before shipment to a private individual. When the animal felt the effects of the tranquillizer dart it started choking on grain it had eaten beforehand. To the rescue came Authority members Martin Wernaart and Bob Edmondson, and Dr. Norman Fish, Professor of Veterinary Sciences at the University of Guelph who was supervizing the tranquillizing operation. After 15 minutes of artificial respiration by

volatile nature.

buffalo were sold into a

life of leisure in parks and

sold or donated to the

University of Guelph

Animal Research

Program for cross-

breeding. In addition, two

young bulls were

slaughtered for meat

which was given to a

Hamilton Medical Centre

for consumption by

persons who were

allergice to most common

Efforts to domesticate

buffalo date back to 19th

Century Europe, but be-

cause of the animal's

failed. However, cross-

breeding of buffalo with

cattle has had some

success. These hybrids,

called either beefalo,

cattalo or 'catta-yak-alo'

when an Asiatic Yak is

introduced in the cross-

breeding chain, produce

more meat with less fat

than ordinary beef cattle.

types of meat.

rule are easy-going creatures, they are unpredictable. A case in point is when an Authority staff member misjudged the mood of a sometimes capricious buffalo during a feeding nature all attempts period and consequently found himself up a tree looking down at the angry

heart massage the

Although, buffalo as a

animal breathed again.

Signs were erected around the Mountsberg served at a distance in the and Rattlesnake com-

Acton High School students, who didn't stip away about the buffalo's early last Friday were entertained by the grade 13's during the annual Christmas concert. Not all the Authority's

The one stumbling of these hybrids are 2005. Other animals were

block is that the offspring usually sterile.



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A young buffalo waiting for shipment to Bob McCalg to increase his herd on his hobby farm

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Co-operative learning, finances are studied

Co-operative education and collective bargaining contracts were two of the source of the school and issues examined by community for the Halton's representatives during the board of education's first year as a member of the Association of Large School hand technical ex-Boards in Ontario.

Co-operative education was discussed by the association's curriculum committee of which Acton-Esquesing Trustee Betty Fisher is the Halton board's representative.

Deputy Oliver retires

After 31 years as a policeman, Deputy Chief Fred W. Oliver is hanging up his badge.

Deputy Oliver's resignation was approved by Halton Regional Police Commissioners during their Thursday meeting at Oakville.

Oliver starts his retirement January 2. He holds the position of deputy chief in charge of support services. He has also been the deputy in charge of administration and in charge of operations. He became a deputy after the formation of the Halton force.

Starting in 1962 when the Trafalgar Township and Oakville forces joined, he became chief of the new Oakville force. He started his police career as a constable with the township force in

He was past president of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police. He also sat on committees for the Canadian and the international association of police chiefs. dollars for equipment Hamilton has two of-Oliver was also one of

development of the

students' vocational and

avocational interests."

Students can obtain first

For example, ac-

cording to Fisher,

technical education is ill-

equipped to offer the

plastic mould trade be-

cause of the lack of

perience.

Water, Air Rescue Force). Oliver plans to relax in his retirement, perhaps

vacation.

The association is also asking the province to the founders and hold up on changes to the commander of TOWARF Education Act with (Trafalgar and Oakville respect to Special Education until the implications of changes for other ministries and funding is extaking on a golfing amined.

Co-operative education ' ferings of co-operative

a bouse.

the trustee's eye. There

is a credit summer school

course for girls in office

practice. There is also a

home building course in

which students belp build

ALSBO is studying,

with its legislation and

finance committee, in-

dividual teacher con-

tracts and collective

agreements. Halton is

asking that committee to

also study the effect of

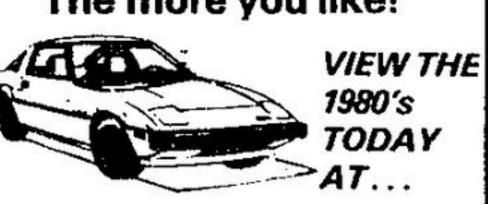
early retirement on

superannuation funds.

achilles

was defined as "the re- education which caught





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TV interference from Hydro line?

TV viewers who have Ontario Hydro's east-west 500kV line separating them from their favorite stations may experience some reception problems, according to a citizen's group.

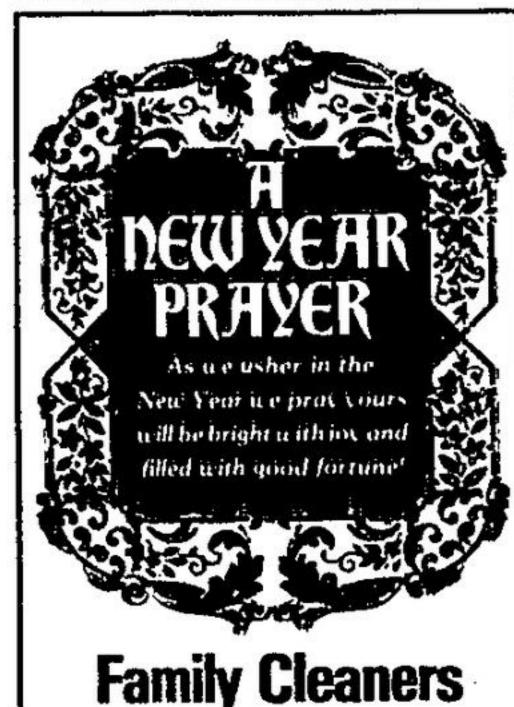
The Interested Citizens' group (ICG) claimed this week that Ontario Hydro boosted the power on the Nanticoke-Pickering line to 500 kV from what it was running at 230 kV. "They are experimenting," according to ICG

spokesman John Minns of Glen Williams. The hike in power was on Dec. 4. The Nanticoke-Pickering line runs east-west along Milton's north border. The ICG opposed con-

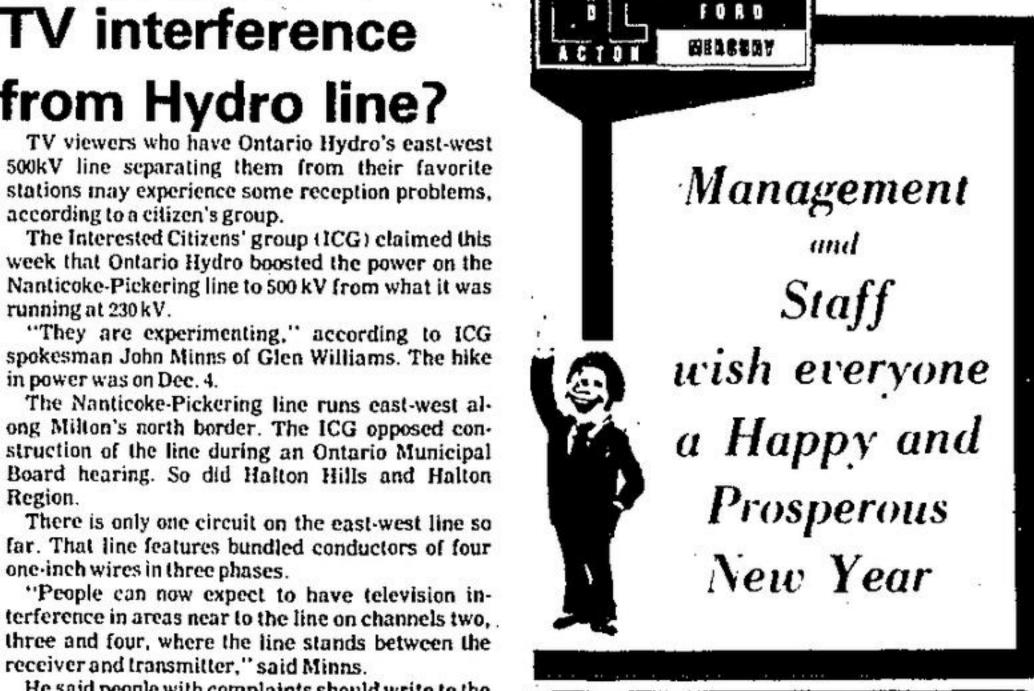
Board hearing. So did Halton Hills and Halton Region. There is only one circuit on the east-west line so far. That line features bundled conductors of four

one-inch wires in three phases. "People can now expect to have television interference in areas near to the line on channels two,

receiver and transmitter," said Minns. He said people with complaints should write to the Canadian Radio and Television Commission.



DOWNTOWN ACTON



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Thurs. March 13

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