

# 4-H news

## HORTICULTURE CLUB

by Sandi Hunter

The third meeting of the Halton 4-H Horticulture Club was held on Wednesday, June 9 at the Saliba Farm. Burke McNeill introduced Tony and Jim Saliba, the father and son team who run the business.

They discussed how they planted cauliflower in seedling trays, which are made of styrofoam. Members travelled to the outdoor seed bed and then saw all of the stages at which cauliflower grows. We also saw red, green, and savoy cabbage. We took a look at the machinery used, and the cooler. We were told how they steam sterilize the soil and then the meeting was closed.

## JUNIOR DAIRY CALF CLUB

by Sandra Egger

The third meeting of the Halton 4-H Junior Calf Club was held at Mr. and Mrs. Walter Egger's farm, Milton, on June 21.

Leaders gave members two classes to judge. One was 4 year old Holsteins and the last class was 2 year olds.

John McNabb came and showed members how to make rope halters, an interesting thing to see and learn.

President Frances Chisholm closed the meeting before Mr. and Mrs. Egger served doughnuts and drinks.

**BEEF CALF CLUB**  
by Dave McCann

On Wednesday, June 30, the Halton 4-H Beef Calf Club visited United Breeders for a tour of their facilities.

The operation of the breeding area was shown by a tour guide.

The animals from which the samples were taken were also shown to the members.

After the tour, pamphlets were given to the members about the types of bulls available.

# Town support for education doubles in five years

By CAROL STEWART-KIRBY

## 37% increase in salaries since '79

The contribution made by area municipalities to support public education in Halton has doubled over the last five years from \$34.8 million in 1977 to \$69.7 million in 1982.

But, the actual cost to taxpayers has seen about a 60 per cent increase or 12 per cent annually, according to Halton Board of Education area superintendent of finance Ron Warren.

The number of taxpayers in Halton has increased over the last five years which spreads out the higher cost of education amongst property owners, explained Mr. Warren. The number of

residential property owners has increased by about 20 per cent since 1977 and commercial property owners have increased by about 24 per cent since '77.

"The increased mill rate (about 60 per cent) shows the net impact on the taxpayer in Halton. No matter how many taxpayers there are in the region, they will all be paying an amount today which is roughly 60 per cent higher than five years ago," said Mr. Warren.

The actual cost of education has risen by about 61 per cent since 1977 and according to Mr. Warren the figure would have been higher if Halton was not experiencing declining enrolment.

The number of students in elementary and secondary schools in Halton has dropped by about 11 per cent since '77. "Our increases in costs have been offset by declining enrolment but it is difficult to say by how much. At least so much

of our costs, such as plant operation, are fixed but some like supplies for children, are ordered according to the September registration figures," Mr. Warren explained.

Pupil transportation, and plant operation and maintenance are two

costs which have increased dramatically since '77. Transportation is up by 94 per cent and plant costs are up by 81 per cent.

Instruction, which includes teachers' and principals' salaries, is up by 64 per cent. Warren said 80 per cent

of the instruction figure is salaries and it would be safe to say the 64 per cent increase is indicative of salary increases over the last five years.

According to 1979 figures for salaries, the total for principals and teachers from both elementary and secondary

schools was \$64.8 million compared to 1982 of \$89 million. This is an increase of 37 per cent over three years.

Mr. Warren said compared to 10 other school boards of similar size, or in the same geo-

graphical region as Halton, Halton is the second lowest in cost per pupil figures. "Halton has always been recognized as a low-spending board and in my opinion will continue to be a low-spending board," Mr. Warren said.

The cost per pupil in Halton for elementary students is \$2,542 in 1982 and the cost for secondary students is \$3,455 this year. The elementary figure has increased 89 per cent since 1977 and the secondary has jumped 70 per cent.

## CAS settles budget with the Ministry

The executive committee of the Halton Children's Aid Society met with the new Deputy Minister of Community and Social Services, Art Daniels, Al Strang, the new area manager of the Children's Services Division at Hamilton, July 19, when the Ministry announced it is granting the Society a \$400,000 increase to its base budget for 1982.

This will raise the present CAS budget from approximately \$2.8 million to \$3.2 million and end budget negotiations only \$12,000 apart.

According to Ron Coupland, executive director of the Halton CAS, "This money will end our perennial problem of reviews and

arbitrations in order to get our fair share. We haven't gotten all that we need, but the additional money has certainly taken the edge off the problem."

John Graham, president of the CAS board of directors, took the same tack. "We haven't gotten all the money we need, but \$400,000 added on to our base budget is very good. We've had financial difficulties for four years, and with this additional money we will be able to live with our annual percentage increase to cover inflation. The additional money will help us make our foster parent rate more competitive with surrounding Societies, and will also help keep our staff salaries equitable."

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