

# Former U.N. consultant content on farm

by Diane Hart  
Carlo Testa knows what he is talking about when it comes to schools. As a former consultant with the United Nations, he has spent a lot of time in classrooms all over the world, designing and building schools in Israel, Britain, El Salvador, Iran, Costa Rica, Spain, Guatemala, Honduras and countless others in Europe.

At 43, the University of Toronto architecture professor has lived in these countries for periods at a time, trying to figure out what the best school is for the people.

Three years ago, he came to Canada and has been living with his family on a farm in Ballinacree ever since. "I prefer to have a farm and live out of the city," he said.

In 1973, he was asked by UNESCO (United Nations Education Scientific Cultural Organization) to work in Iran for three years, reorganizing their educational system of constructing schools.

The three years in Iran were spent planning educational facilities which Testa maintains were "very much haphazard before 1973." By 1976, he had designed and built over 40 schools in the country, in the city and rural areas.

"My biggest challenge in Iran was how to build schools with little money," he said. "In Canada,

costs are about \$50 a square foot, but in Iran it is much less. And in a country like El Salvador, for instance, it is about \$6 to \$10."

A larger challenge to Testa was discovering how he could use the schools as a tool for development. "If you could train local people in construction, then there would be two products at the end—a building and trained, local people," he explained. "In effect, it is optimising the use of facilities and people."

"We started this process in Iran, with no success," he said, adding Iran was more developed than he thought initially. But Testa mentioned the process was more popular in less developed Third World countries.

After he had completed his work in Iran in 1976, he was asked by UNESCO to be the regional architect for Latin America and the Caribbean.

"I had 25 countries to play with, which hardly makes any sense," he said. "But we concentrated on Central America and two in Latin America, so we only had eight schools to work on."

Generally speaking, Testa believes schools in Halton should become more efficient. "Schools all over the world are badly utilized," he stated, noting hospitals are used 24 hours a day. "But schools are used only about 50 per cent of the

time. They are the second worst under-utilized buildings after churches."

But Testa said facilities in Ontario are "one of the best in the world." "What is kind of disappointing is the type of education we provide is not the best in the world," the professor claimed.

"In short, we have a very good structure and a very poor product," he added, later saying that it may not be "poor" but is certainly mediocre.

"The students today are not learning the necessary skills to survive in our world," he maintained. Testa says that he has students who frequently cannot write and are "practically illiterate."

Besides that, he would like to see an increase in efficiency in schools in Halton. "We should develop adult education more and concentrate on retraining those people who will not get their jobs back in the same field," he said. "Three million people will be unemployed soon if something is not done about retraining."

This energetic, intense man is now involved in a project for the National Science and Engineering Research Council and has gone to Cannes to present the finding to a conference. Rural houses in Erin Township were used as part of his three year project.



Carlo Testa has designed classrooms all over the world.

## newsmakers

Georgetown/Acton, Wednesday, December 15, 1982



Merle Gunby, Executive Director of OFA, on right, presents the "Farmer of the Year" award to John McNabb and his wife Doris.

### Federation of Agriculture names

## John McNabb Farmer of Year

For the first time in its history but starting a tradition, the Halton Region Federation of Agriculture has named one of its members—John McNabb of Halton Hills—as Halton Farmer of the Year for 1982.

The annual award has been initiated to encourage and promote outstanding achievement in the field of agriculture in Halton. To qualify, a farmer must live in Halton and be actively farming. Outstanding achievement in the field of agriculture during the year: contributions to agriculture in the past; and involvement in other community activities are all criteria for selection.

Merle Gunby, Executive Director of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, presented this "first" at the annual dance of the Halton federation on November 27, in Milton. An engraved plaque commemorating the presentation and donated by Ross Segsworth, Burlington retired farmer and long-time Federation supporter, will be displayed at the office of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food in Milton.

John McNabb exemplifies the high standard of farming in Halton Region. While the business of agriculture is, in itself, immensely demanding of both time and energy, yet not only McNabb, but his entire family, are actively involved in farm organizations at both the regional and provincial level.

McNabb is President of the Ontario Guernsey Breeders' Association and, in 1981, was Chairman of the Halton Milk Committee and President of the Metro Highlands Guernsey Club. He is former President of the Halton Junior Farmers and past Chairman of the 4-H Leaders Committee.

The McNabb farm is about 67 acres, plus another 200 acres which he rents for his cash crop production. On the east side of Trafalgar Road, two miles north of Hornby, his operation consists of about 70 pure bred Guernsey dairy cows.

Having spent nearly 50 years in

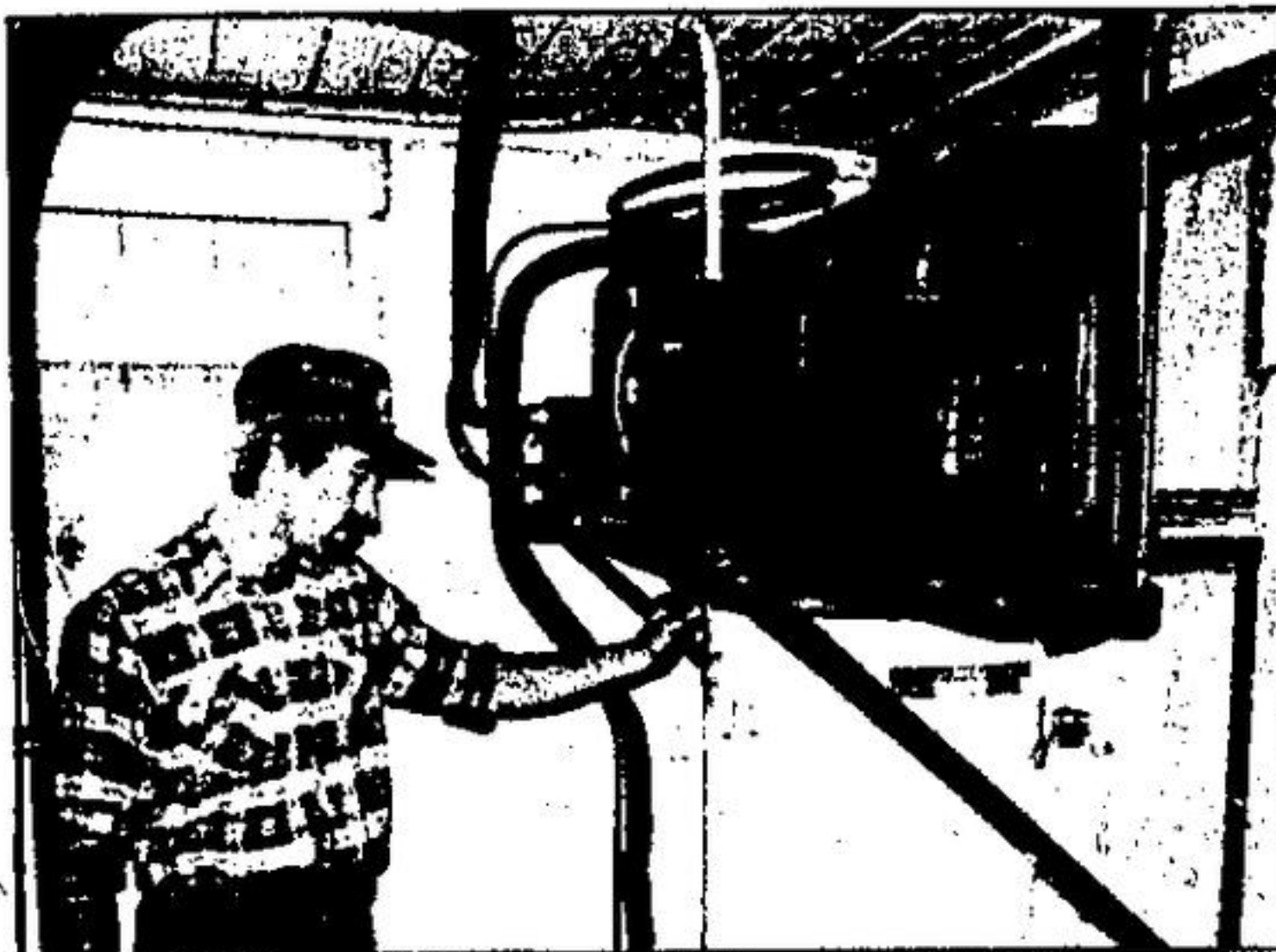
the breeding of Guernseys, McNabb possesses one of the finest herds in Canada. He was won many Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor awards at the C.N.E. (Canadian National Exhibition) and Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. In 1981 alone, these awards included two firsts and Jr. Champion awards at the C.N.E. and, at the Royal, the M.F. Schwartz trophy for the best bred and owned two-year-old. In both 1977 and 1978, he won awards for the grand champion cow at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

McNabb's entire family is also involved in farming. Son, Ken, attended the University of Guelph and now works with his father on the farm. Also very involved in the agricultural community, Ken is President of the Metro Highlands Guernsey Club, Halton Director of Ontario DHIA Corp. and past Chairman of the Halton 4-H Leaders' Council. Personally a winner of many 4-H awards, Ken is often a judge for 4-H and fair competitions.

Daughter, Lois, was an active 4-H member in the 60's-70's and is now an economist with the British Columbia government. Marilyn, currently completely her fourth year at the University of Guelph, has been an active 4-H member and top showman. In 1982, she was the Halton Dairy Princess and a finalist in the Ontario Dairy Princess competition. In 1980, she was Ontario Guernsey Queen.

Wife, Doris, is a member of the Halton Agriculture Advisory Committee and a Past President of Halton District Women's Institute. She is also President of Hillcrest United Church Women in Hornby, while McNabb is a church Elder.

In addition to farming and family activities, the McNabbs are well known throughout the community for their support of, and involvement in, local fairs. McNabb is a member of the Milton Fair cattle committee and associate director of the Georgetown Fair.



John's son Ken McNabb inspects the newly installed heat exchanger system which utilizes waste heat from the cooling of the milk in the bulk tanks to heat water used to clean the dairy equipment.

### Fact Finder's report: Some issues unresolved between board, teachers

The Report of the Fact Finder for the dispute in Halton County involving the teachers of the Secondary School panel was made public on December 6. The report was prepared by Douglas Belch, a Kingston lawyer, following meetings with the parties held early in November, 1982.

The Fact Finder noted that the board and teachers had reached agreement on many issues but that there were still some issues remaining in dispute. The parties have been bargaining in the shadow of the voluntary restraint measures of "6 and 5" as suggested by the federal government and the proposed Bill 179 limiting increases in the public sector of nine per cent (9%) in the first year of a contract and five per cent (5%) for the second year. As this Bill is not yet law and its final makeup is not yet known, the parties have therefore been somewhat at a disadvantage.

On the outstanding issues the Fact Finder made the following recommendations. That the duration of the contract be for one year rather than the two years requested by the Board as the final composition of Bill 179 is unknown.

The teachers' request for full board funding of the extended health, O.H.I.P. and dental benefits package was handed back to the parties for consideration at the time that they reach settlement with respect to compensation. In this regard the teachers have requested an increase of 12 per cent to the January 1, 1982 salary scale while the Board has offered eight and one half per cent.

The Fact Finder recommended that the parties consider nine per cent (9%) but pointed out that as the proposed legislation appeared to limit compensation package increases to nine per cent (9%) for everything, the parties would have to decide whether the nine per cent (9%) would either be in pay increases or some pay increase together with some incremental increase by the board toward the funding of the health and dental benefits.

The teachers further request that principals, vice-principals, heads, associate heads, directors and co-ordinators receive increased com-

penation was also recommended at nine per cent.

The Fact Finder appears to have recommended the nine per cent based on the data from comparative Boards in the Golden Horseshoe and the fact that nine per cent (9%) appears to be in keeping with the suggested guidelines of Bill 179.

The Fact Finder rejected the teachers' request that the board fully fund the costs of the Employee Assistance Plan but recommended instead that the cost of the plan be shared equally by the elementary teachers, secondary teachers and the board. The Fact Finder suggested that the teachers should only receive paternity leave with pay if the health of the child or mother was endangered.

The Fact Finder sent back for further study the request of the Board to limit the Employment Gratuity Plan compensation at \$30,000.00 and accumulated Sick Plan at 240 days.

The report also deals with management rights, early retirement incentive plans, leaves of absence, summer and night school, professional development fund and working conditions.

Finally, during the hearing it was pointed out that pupil Teacher ratio for the Halton Secondary panel for the year 1982-83 was 17.4. The Fact Finder suggested that the parties work at reducing this ratio in at least an incremental way in order to improve the Board's standing in relation to the comparative Boards and the province in general.

### Mayor for chairman is only a "joke"

In a move regional councillors said later was a "joke," Halton Hills Mayor Peter Pomeroy was almost nominated as the regional chairman for 1983-85 at the recent inaugural ceremonies.

But Pomeroy shrugged off the idea as anything but a joke, saying he "wanted to stir things up a bit." Asked if he would like to be regional chairman, he said "not this time, but you never know—maybe in the future."

Councillor Russ Miller, who had his name on two nominations for chairman stated that he, too, enjoyed "a bit of fun."

"It was just a joke," Miller claimed, adding he did not realize there would be "so many people here." The council chambers at the region were jammed during the ceremonies.

Regional chairman Jack Raftis was elected prior to the inaugural on Wednesday by councillors, but Pomeroy said he wanted to "have a little bit of fun" at the inaugural and suggested to other councillors someone else should be nominated for the chairman's position.

Oakville councillor Fred Oliver wrote out the motion for the nomination, seconded by Russ Miller. (Miller also moved Raftis's nomination for chairman before the inaugural.)

Regional clerk David Varley main-

### Program cost is investigated

In spite of a request to offer industrial arts family studies program in all schools with grade 7 and 8 pupils, Halton Board of Education is going to investigate these areas in attempts to cut back costs.

Hurlington Trustee Cam Jackson noted, "If we are going to expand some areas, we have to contract in other areas, and I feel this (family studies industrial arts) is where there is room for contraction.

Esquering trustee Dick Howitt pointed out his motion for an investigation into the costs of running the programs is in direct contradiction to a recommendation from Robert Dixon, superintendent of curriculum services and director of education.

Wally Beevor, which asks for the program to be expanded.

Jackson explained that the contradiction was true, but noted that the board could not assume the investigation is going to lead to them abandoning the program.

## Standing only at Region inaugural

It was standing room only at the Halton Region Administrative Building Wednesday afternoon when regional councillors were sworn into office for the next three years.

Piped in by Scotsman Ken Alexander who works at the region, councillors filed into council chambers for the ceremonies. The Sheridan College Symphony Orchestra played at various times during the inaugural.

Five of the 24 councillors—including Halton Hills' John McDonald, are beginning their first term at the region.

Jack Raftis was officially declared the 1983-85 chairman of the region by clerk David Varley and was sworn in by Judge John Robinson.

In his nine page address Jack Raftis outlined the concerns facing council in the next three years. Although vague about pointing out, exact concerns, he mentioned that "this council can expect continued pressure for police services throughout Halton."

"Where there is a demonstrated need," he said, "it must be met. The police department

must become more accessible and responsible to the needs of the residents of Halton."

Raftis claimed that fiscal responsibility, economic development, needs of the elderly, increased demands for social and health services, a changing basis for provincial funding and grants, solid waste disposal and the preservation of Halton's farmland will all have to be addressed.

Four specific issues were mentioned in his speech. One was the police, another was improvements to the transportation system. "An advanced light rail

transit line (will be built) between Oakville and Hamilton within the next four years which will eventually connect to the airport," said Raftis.

The aggregate issue, which Mayor Peter Pomeroy mentioned at the Halton Hills inaugural, was also cited by Raftis. "We are still a long way from the resolution of this issue to the satisfaction of the residents of the region and the aggregate industry," he said. "It is clear from the public meeting in Halton Hills and Milton that we must listen to and respond to the concerns of these

residents in seeking a solution."

Raftis added he and the mayors will be meeting with the province "very shortly" to discuss the aggregate issue.

"Sporadic attempts" have been made to include the public in the region in the past decade, according to Raftis. He listed public meetings about the Region's Official Plan as one of the attempts made for public involvement.

"During this term, we will pursue the implementation of a public



Dave Whiting and John McDonald were sworn in as regional councillors last Wednesday afternoon. awareness strategy and motion by-law," he added.