

## Rains raise river, delay crops

Heavy rains this weekend have both property owners whose lands line the major river branches and farmers across the region fervently hoping that clear skies are not far away.

Credit River water flow at Cataract, north of Terra Cotta, rose from 98 cubic feet per second Friday to a worrisome peak of 349 cubic feet per

second Monday, according to Rose Menyes of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA).

While the increase in flow is being satisfactorily accommodated by river banks along the watershed, she said, authority staff is "keeping an eye on things."

Ms. Menyes pointed out earlier today that smaller tributar-

ies of the Credit will be adding to the volume of water passing through Glen Williams near Georgetown, but again, no reports of flooding have been received.

With plans for a flood warning system currently on authority drawing boards, Ms. Menyes said, the part-time "river watchers" who once lined the Credit are no longer

utilized by the authority. The fact that there is "always a danger" that the river may breach its banks during and after heavy rainstorms, however, prompts staff members to monitor water levels regularly.

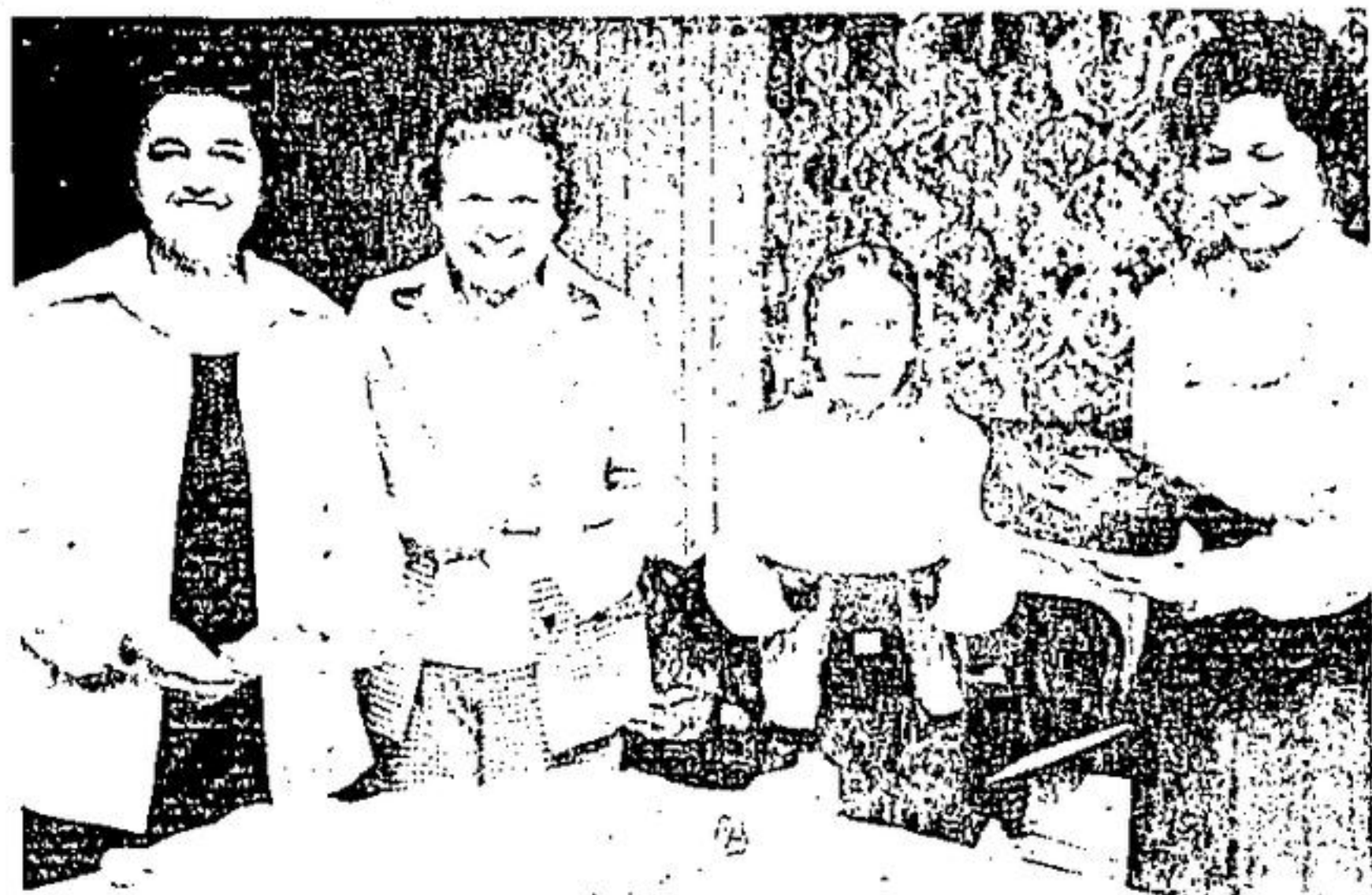
Halton agricultural representative Henry Stanley, meanwhile, reported local farmers are already about 10 days behind schedule in getting corn and grain planted because of continuing rains. Only the pastures are benefiting, he said.

While most farmers have their fields about two-thirds planted, Mr. Stanley observed, they must now wait several more days for the soil in unplanted fields to dry out

somewhat. Along with the rain, uncommonly cool temperatures are hampering agricultural operations, with crops planted two or three weeks ago only now beginning to come up. As a result, Mr. Stanley said, the potential for good yields this season is greatly reduced.

Mr. Stanley added that some farmers who have yet to finish harvesting last year's crops may not be able to replant those fields at all this season.

Farmers who suffer financial loss from crop damage due to adverse weather conditions can be compensated by the government if they applied last spring for grain crop insurance, Mr. Stanley noted.



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