Deer hunt needed

By HENRY J. STANLEY Ag. Rep.

The Halton Agricultural Advisory Committee, at their October 2 meeting, were quite disturbed by the adverse publicity on the upcoming hunt and the numerous stories and pictures in local papers on availability of "No Hunting" signs. Members of the committee unanimously agreed that the farmers' viewpoint should be presented.

The deer population has been steadily increasing since hunting was outlawed over a decade ago. As a result, the deer - vehicle accidents in Halton have increased from 12 in 1968 to 82 in 1978. This results in high property damage and greatly increases risks of injury or death.

DAMAGE

Deer cause extensive damage to grain and corn crops, to nursery stock and especially to fruit trees during the winter and early spring. Up to 60 deer have been reported feeding on the trees in a local orchard. Livestock farmers are also concerned about the spread of leptospirosis, a disease that can cause possible death to the cow and abortion of calves. Harold Middlebrook, Chairman of the Halton Agricultural Advisory Committee, states that he lost a cow and four or five calves a few years ago from leptospiro-

Deer drinking in the streams on the farm were suspected as the cause. The controlled deer hunt for Halton, Puslinch Township in Wellington County, and Flamborough and Beverley Townships in Hamilton-Wentworth Region is to be held November 3rd - 5th. It will be under close supervision by the Ministry of Natural Resources, Cambridge, with a helicopter in use and several extra staff on hand.

A total of 1,682 applications were received at Cambridge for the 935 permits to be issued. The area of Halton north of 401 highway will be allocated 300 hunters with 175 to be permitted in the south part of the Region, north of Burnhamthorpe Road. Puslinch Township has been allocated 100 hunters, with the remaining 360 in Hamilton-Wentworth. Shotguns and muzzle loaders only are permitted.

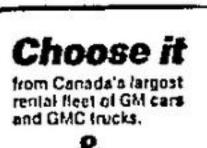
PERMISSION The hunter must get permission from the landown-

er to hunt. Under the new Trespass to Property Act, trespass without permission carries a fine of up to \$1,000 and assessment of damages to property of up to \$1,000.

The new Occupier's Liability Act also removes any liability for entrants on farm property, as long as the owner does not deliberately create a danger to an entrant on his property. Thus Halton farmers are not only protected by these two new Acts when they allow hunters on their farms, but are also assured that any violations will be looked after by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

The controlled hunt in Simcoe last year was most successful. Let us hope for similar success in Halton in reducing our deer population to a level that will allow a co-existence between agriculture and the deer.

Be considerate of the nonsmokers around you and think before you light up that cigarette. The Halton Lung Association says, it's a matter of life and breath.









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