Careless abuse threatens streams

Halton's streams are a valuable resource, but care must be taken to prevent their unintentional abuse

The stream corridors of Halton Hills are a limited resource of the community and a natural feature of the landscape that are often taken for granted and unintentionally abused.

While many sections of streams in some corridors are quickly approaching critical levels in their ability to receive treated salitary sewage and untreased storm water runoff and fill sustain desireable lifeforms, other sections of streams remain practically undistribed and unaffected by development activity. In man urbanized and expanding communities, streams and villey land vegetation and wildlife are among the few remaining natural, living lines with our

effects.

as well.

recreationists diminish, but

stream corridor deteriorates

Frequent use by recrea-

tionists and their associated

activities have a most notice-

able effect on soil and vege-

tation in the form of surface

compaction of stream bank

soils and reduction of

ground cover. This environ-

mental damage can lead to

instances of sheet erosion

followed by siltation of the

stream, loss of topsoil, expo-

sure of shrub and tree roots,

reduction of soil organic

the environment of the

These natural, dving corridors are important to man for the provision of cool water supplies oxygen supply, species diversity and, historically, leisure opportunities for outdoor recreationists. fire use of stream corridor; for recreation may be defimental to the fragile envionment of these areas if ativities are pursued withou an aware-



By Grant Lee

ness of their potential matter necessary for growth of other organisms and reduction in the water infilt-Sites along streams most attractive to recreationists ration capacity of the banks that may in turn lead to tend to slowly deteriorate unusually low levels of soil through overuse to conditions unsuitable for most moisture content. recreational activities. Not Trees and shrubs often only do the expectations of

suffer mechanical injuries such as mutilation by axes, scorching by cooking fires and sometimes elimination if seedbeds are compacted. Trampling of vegetation can also lead to the appearance of more traffic-tolerant species at the expense of the loss of sensitive or rare species.

The disruptive effects of activities related to the recreational use of stream corridors extends beyond changes to soil and vege-Human waste in heavily

frequented areas can seriously degrade water sources

J. Novak D.T.

for drinking and contact activities (e.g., swimming) at the same time causing biological contamination and nutrient enrichment of the

Uncontrolled fires as atways a possibility along frequently used sections of stream corridors. Fires have been shown to be responsible for eliminating actual and potential wildlife nesting and grazing sites. Burned-out areas also encourage the introduction of non-native pioneer species and elevated rates of erosion due to the destruction of living vegetative cover.

Aside from the obvious detraction from the beauty of an area, littering can increase the populations of noxious insects, birds and animals possibly leading to outbreaks of disease or poor animal health.

Aquatic habitats are often unintentionally ruined by recreationists who are able to use these areas with the help of technological advances in clothing (e.g. chest waders) and recreational vehicles.

High quality sections of stream corridors still remain in Halton Hills. If we wish to preserve these limited resources for future generations to enjoy, we must start

now to acknowledge their Importance to the community. With an awareness that recreational activilies along these natural corridors can sometimes seriously damage the environment, substantial progress can be made toward reducing unintentional

abuses. Attention could then be directed toward issues of immediate concern such as the diminishing capacity of streams to receive sewage and still sustain desircable lifeforms, knowing that efforts and expenses incurred are not wasted.

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Halton 4-Hers chobsing club executives

By NANO' SCHMIDT Ha on 4-II HALTON 4-BHOMESIAKING

ACHIEVERENT NIGHT The Haltor 4-H Homemaking Clubs hell a very successful Achievenent Program April 29 to colclude the spring project "Which Came First -The Chicken or The Egg" Ninety-eight members from eleven clubs completed the project.

A large number of family and friends enjoyed in evening of club presentatios packed with imagination, Formation and entertainment (pecial 4-H Homemaking Clu Awards were presented w members who had complete six and 12 projects.

Members receiling County Honors for the empletion of six projects wee: Barbra Alexander, Palimo; Janet Baynton, SusaniBeeler and Sue-Lin Clegg If Nassagaweya; Katherin Johns and Jennifer McLea of Dublin: Christeen Opsten of Hornby South, Valerie Plant and Cheryl Robinsmpf Ashgrove; and Hellen Schwirts of Ballin-

The next projet is "Ready, Get Set, Sew". Jembers will have the opportuity to sew a vest or skirt. Fr more information regarded joining a club or becoming a leader, please contact Nncy Schmidt, 3 Elizabeth St. 5. Brampton L6Y 1P7 - Telepone: 451-5474 (Brampton) 878-2314 (Millon office).

> By JOHN &PHAIL HaltoH-H

HALTON 4-H SVINE CLUB The first meting of the Halton 4-H Swhe Club was held April 15. The meeting started with alilm on swine management. following the film there washe election of officers. The President Is Richard Stanfy; Vice-President - Kim Pedic; Secretary -Gerhard Treiranus; and Press Repoter - John McPhail. Clu Leaders are Dennis McClue, Tom Parker and Lance Prock. The meeting was adjouned.

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By STUART McPHAIL Halton 4-H HALTON 4-R FARM

Club was held at the Agricultural office April 21. Doug Miller. 4-H Co-Ordinator, election of officers.

Harris: Vice-President - Allan Cunningham; Secretary David Wilson; and Press Reporter - Stuart McPhail. The members were given their books and projects and the marking system was discussed. Achievement Day is to be at the Halton Plowing Match September 12. The meeting was adjourned.

MACHINERY CLUB Halton 4-H Farm Machinery opened the meeting with the 4-H Pledge followed by the

The first meeting of the

The President Is Scott

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June 1, 1981

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Room	\$15.00	\$17.00
Meals (each)	\$ 1.30	\$ 1.40
(weekly)	\$27.00	\$29.00
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April 1, 1982

\$ 3.50

\$ 2.65

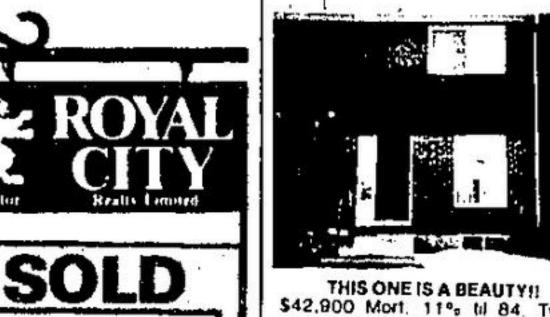
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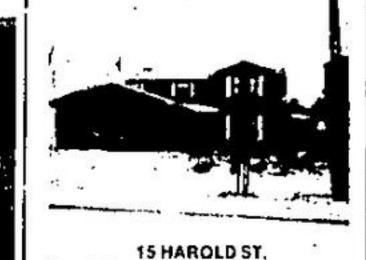


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