# Wool market sought by area sheep farmers

By MAGGIE HANNAH Herald Special

On top of the usual market problems of low prices and high costs, Ontarlo Sheep Association farmers are having a very bad time getting a market for their wool, says a director of the sheep associa-

Peter Branch, a Norval resident and director of district five, has about 5,000 pounds of wool in storage accumulated

during the past two years. Mr. Branch has contacted four Quebec firms and two have told him their warehouses are full. A third said they would give him 50 cents a

pound for clean, bagged wool delivered to their Quebec warehouse.

Mr. Branch said he needs at least 85 cents a pound to cover his costs which include a minimum amount for labor and the services of a professional shearer. There would be no return for management of the flock or return on his investment. He runs a flock of 260 sheep and 70 goats on his farm south of Norval.

Canadian wool is at the bottom in quality on world markets, Mr. Branch said, because so many Canadian sheep are crossbred and because the Canadian climate requires sheep to be wintered in a barn where the wool becomes dirty.

Mr. Branch said he is investigating exporting his wool to Boston, the centre of the wool market in northeastern United States, which wasn't a viable solution some years ago but with the difference in Canadian and American currency values plus a reduction in duty soon, the market picture may have changed.

If he chooses to export his wool, he'll have to transport it and he'll be expected to leave a deposit at customs for 25 per cent of the estimated value of

# Solutions are aim of rural forum Sat.

"The loss of agricultural land is the number one concern of many Halton residents," says Marilyn White, chairman of the Halton Community Pulse Group (CPG).

This was revealed by a recent survey of Halton resi-

# Queen's Park helping cattle

By HENRY J. STANLEY Halton Ag Rep

breeders

It was announced by Ontario's Minister of Agriculture in the Legislature Dec. 1 that the government of Ontario will make payments of \$40 per cow for beef calf producers. This additional assistance to the beef industry will be available for cows on hand as of Aug. 1, 1981, provided these cows were bred in Ontario to produce a calf in 1981.

The minimum number of cows eligible is five, and owners must be residents of Ontario. The deadline for applications is Feb. 28, 1982, Forms are available at the Agricultural office, Milton.

Lorne Henderson stated that there are about half a million cows eligible under this program. It is expected that the program will run to \$20 million. Combined with the \$37 million already committed to the slaughter and stocker sectors, this represents a \$57 million investment in Ontario's industry.

#### Ministry of Agriculture and Food to speak on the loss of agricultural land at a public Forum this Saturday (Dec. 12). Grant Lee of Georgetown will address environmental concerns and Bonnie Newton of Nassagaweya will discuss the need for dialogue between rural residents and politicians. This is an opportunity to discuss Issues on a

dents, so the CPG has invited The forum will be held in Henry Stanley of the Ontario the main auditorium at the

Halton Centennial Manor on Highway 25 in Milton from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Coffee and a light lunch will be provided. People planning to attend are asked to inform the CPG; c-o Halton Region planning department (Georgetown call 876-8113 ext. 309 and

Acton call 853-0601 ext. 309)

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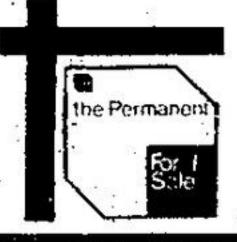
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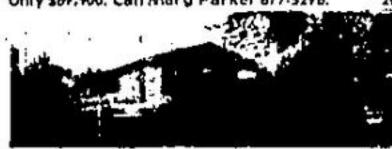
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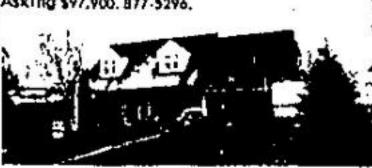
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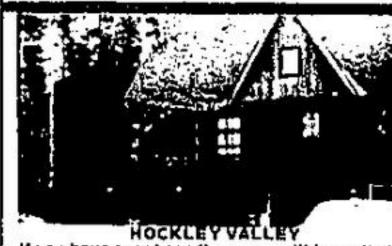
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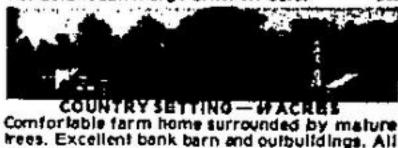
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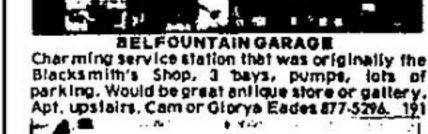
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