



### SCHNARRS ON ICE

It was great weather for practising skating techniques and three-year old Ted Schnarr got a helping hand from uncle Chris Schnarr (left) and grandpa Cyril Schnarr Sunday afternoon. The son of Credit Valley Conservation Authority general manager Glen Schnarr was one of hundreds out to take part in Terra Cotta's "Winter Sweetheart Carnival". (Herald photo)

### Halton Hills reps help with water management, information

## Whillans vice-chairs CVCA

At the recent inaugural meeting of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, the election of officers for 1982 took place. Ken Whillans of Brampton was elected vice-chairman and Robert Harrison of Mississauga was elected member at large. They, along with provincially appointed chairman, Howard Stewart of Brampton, will be the Authority Management Committee and, along with the four advisory board chairmen, will provide an executive committee for 1982. The Water Management Advisory Board is to initiate research and study and to implement "a comprehensive water resources management program including flood warning, flood damage reduction, erosion and siltation control, Lake Ontario waterfront development and shoreline protection in the watershed area of jurisdiction". Chairman is Harold Kennedy of Mississauga and vice-

chairman is William Hunter of Caledon. Members are Richard Martin representing the province, Pete Pomeroy of Halton Hills and George Winnett of Oakville. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is to plan and implement "a comprehensive program for the acquisition, development, operation and maintenance of Authority (multiple-use) Conservation Areas". This includes master plans, fee structure and development and enforcement of regulations in all multiple-use conservation areas. The 1982 chairman is Clark Glassford of Caledon and vice-chairman is James Lyons, also of Caledon. Members are Robert Harrison of Mississauga and Henry Wheeler of Erin township.

The Information and Education Advisory Board is to initiate and implement "a comprehensive program of public information and conservation education" in the Credit River Watershed. This includes the planning and operation of interpretive programs, public information programs and displays, operation of the conservation education centres and development of primary and secondary school water and resource management programs. Chairman is James Dods of Orangeville and vice-chair-

man is Peter Novak of Mississauga. Members are John Garabuso of East Garafraxa township, Marilyn Serjanboon of Halton Hills and Ted Southern of Mississauga. The Conservation Services Advisory Board is to initiate and implement programs "for the acquisition, development and management of forest, wetland, fish and wildlife areas" and also to plan and implement reforestation assistance and habitat improvement programs in the watershed. Included in the work of this advisory board is the operation of the erosion control nursery and the management of maple syrup production and sale operations.

Chairman is Harold Darragh of Orangeville and vice-chairman is Charles Bryan of Amaranth township. Members are John Hutton of Mono township and Evelyn O'Sullivan of Erin village. Several persons who have expressed a particular interest in the programs of a specific advisory board are appointed by the Executive Committee and add their expertise as lay-members. Each board is responsible for recommending an annual program and necessary budget to the Authority through the executive committee.

## Mountsberg was ideal for Scout carnival

By JEAN LAYMAN Herald Special

Mountsberg Wildlife Centre was the centre of attraction for over 200 Beavers, Leaders and parents from North Halton District for the annual Winter Carnival. Following registration, the opening ceremony was led by Beaver Co-ordinator Sue Wal-

ton of Acton. The colonies were divided up into groups and rotated among various activities. The Interpretive Centre is where the Beavers had the chance to see films, either "Splash" or "I'm a Mammal - So Are You". In the classroom of the Centre, Gord Douglas, president of North Halton District of Scouts Canada, spoke on birds and nature. A question and answer period followed each session and all boys left with a better knowledge of wildlife. A horse-drawn sleighride was a real attraction, as was the sleigh drawn by a caterpillar tractor to the hill for tobogganing. Many of the Beavers enjoyed sleigh riding on the hill by the main entrance while others were skating on the pond. Even visiting the animals in the barn was fun too, it was a chance to get out of the frigid weather for a few minutes. It was some cold. Parents looked after the hunch and lit campfires in the picnic area by the pond. District Commissioner John Sharples visited the winter carnival in the morning. Fourth Georgetown Beaver Leaders under the leadership of Bryan Osatchuk made this event a successful day for the Beavers. Everyone had a good time but a few went home feeling the cold. For Cross Country ski parties, contact 877-4131.

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### Government rebates in jeopardy, farm group says

## Federation fears tax change

A proposal in the Ontario government's last budget, if implemented as written, will have serious implications for property taxation of farmland, according to the Halton Federation of Agriculture. In a press release issued last week, the Federation points

out that Ontario farms must currently produce at least \$5,000 worth of agricultural products annually to qualify for property tax rebates. But the government's proposed change would raise the requirement to \$12,000, the Federation notes, and would also

apply to leased land. In Halton and other counties surrounding urban centres, a great deal of the prime agricultural land is being leased and farmed in parcels of less than 50 acres. However, the Federation estimates that at least 55 acres of land is

necessary to produce \$12,000 worth of cash crops such as corn. Landowners faced with loss of rebates may pass on an increased fee to farmers leasing the land, or take their land out of production and instead plant trees which would de-

signate the land as a managed forest under another section of the proposal and make it eligible for rebates, the Federation says. Another clause in the taxation proposal suggests that farms should be split into two units for assessment purposes. The farm residence plus one acre of land would be assessed as a separate unit and taxed at the same rate as a similar residence and lot. However, since a farm residence cannot be sold separately from the farm, the Federation argues it should not be assessed at the same rate as a residential lot. The farm residence plus one acre may not have the same advantages such as road frontage which apply to residential lots. The remainder of the farm and farm buildings would comprise the second unit for assessment purposes. In several years it would become totally exempt from property taxes according to the proposal and the province would compensate the municipality for the loss in tax revenues. The Ontario Federation of Agriculture has a Property and Assessment Committee which has met several times with the province to discuss the taxation proposals. The Federation has recommended that the \$5,000 production requirement be increased to only \$6,000 in 1982 and further increases should reflect increases in the value of farm products. It was suggested that leased parcels should qualify for the tax rebate regardless of size as long as they are being farmed. Also, the committee recommended that the acre of land under a farm residence should be assessed at the same value as the rest of the farm, since it cannot be separated from the farm. The Federation committee has yet to hear any government response to its recommendations.

## 'Dramatic change' concern gives farmers a new voice

Recent press coverage of farming activities has intensified concern within Halton's agricultural community over dramatic changes taking place in Halton according to the region's Federation of Agriculture. Over the past two decades, Halton has developed from four separate townships with strong rural-agricultural economies into a large region with vast surges of population both within the southern urban section and into the countryside the Federation pointed out in a press release last week. With the great influx of

new families and with the reduction in the number of family farms, few Halton residents have direct contact with agriculture the Federation states. While farming generates over \$60 million a year to the region's economy, Halton farmers have seen a steady decline in the awareness of agriculture among Halton's non-farm residents and politicians. Faced with these concerns, the Halton Agricultural Advisory Committee (HAAC) appointed a subcommittee to explore various ways of improving relations between the agricultural community

and the general public. The subcommittee took the results of its study to the Federation of Agriculture and proposed that the position of press secretary be created. The function of the press secretary would be to improve relations between the media, the general public and the agricultural community. By attempting to keep in touch with the activities of all farm organizations within the region, the press secretary would be able to direct media inquiries to the appropriate individuals and groups.

Bruce Wood was appointed to the position Dec. 10 by the Federation. He operates an apple orchard in north Burlington. Before taking over the family farm three years ago, Mr. Wood attended York University in Toronto, specializing in media. This led to a career in broadcast media including producing CBC current affairs programmes in Saskatchewan. His appointment is seen as the first step towards a better understanding of agriculture in Halton. He can be reached at 335-5915 or by writing 5860 Blind Lane, RR 3, Campbellville, L0P 1B0.

### AT THE THEATRE

## Bring your own whitewash!

One of the most appealing and enduring tales of American literature, Mark Twain's "Tom Sawyer", will be recreated March 17 and 18 at the John Elliott Theatre by students of Centennial Senior Public School. Tickets are on sale at the school throughout this month for the two 7:30 performances. Bring your own whitewash and paintbrush.

### Dogpatch revisited

Hold the hominy and pass the grits, "Li'l Abner's" coming to town April 1, 2 and 3 (no foolin') courtesy of Stewarstown Senior Public School. The wagon leaves for Dogpatch at 7:30 p.m. So don't be late. Tickets and information are available by calling 877-9153 or 877-7076.

### Symphonic sounds

The highly-acclaimed London Symphonia performs at the John Elliott Theatre April 7 at 8 p.m. in a Halton Hills Arts Council presentation. Call 877-4607 for ticket information.

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