



An Eighth Line dairy farmer, James Reid is also the president of the Halton Federation of Agriculture. He's beginning his second term of office for the organization which monitors a number of important issues in farming today, from product marketing to the loss of good agricultural land due to urban development.

(Herald photo)

Jim Reid heads 'helpful agency' for area farmers

By CHRIS AAGAARD, Herald Staff Writer

If you think farming in Halton should take a backseat to urban development, don't argue with James Reid. You'd lose.

Mr. Reid, who raises 160 head of dairy cattle on his Eighth Line farm just north of Steeles Avenue, is beginning his second term as president of the Halton Federation of Agriculture.

In addition to the Federation's role monitoring trends in agribusiness, it has voiced concerns over expanding urban boundaries and increased non-farm development in the rural area.

Mr. Reid wholeheartedly supports the work of the Federation's publicist, Bruce Wood in making urban dwellers and non-farm rural residents conscious of how important farming is to the region.

SOCIAL ISSUES
"In the last few years," Mr. Reid told The Herald Friday "the things the Federation has dealt with has included social issues as well as farm issues, but there are skills and knowledge on the Federation's directorship to answer these questions."

As an informative, helpful agency for area farmers, the local Federation keeps track of

such issues as farm prices and marketing, farm financing, agricultural programs, insurance and farm safety - the traditional concerns of a farm operation.

Lately, it has been making people aware of the problems farmers have from trespassers, people who steal their firewood or cut their own without permission from a farmer's woodlot; the Federation has also addressed issues of land fragmentation in the rural area and cut-backs in provincial funding to district offices of the ministry of agriculture and food which has led to staff cutbacks.

SERVICES LOST

"We're also concerned about the loss of farm services in the rural area," Mr. Reid said. "We've lost machinery, feed supply and veterinary services and it's even getting hard to find a decent country hardware. It takes a lot of time out of your day to

go up to Ballinacraig, Guelph or Erin to find parts for these machines."

He indicated that land-use remains an extremely important issue for the Federation's membership in the immediate and long-range future. Mr. Reid can point to examples of land-use concerns near his own farm operation.

About 500 meters to the south lies a strip of farmland between Steeles Avenue and Highway 401. It has been designated as prestige rural industrial land in the town's official plan.

A few kilometers to the north, lies the new urban boundary for Georgetown.

There's still farmland inside the boundary, but it's an area where large acreages are owned by development interests. The Federation is concerned that it may only be a matter of time before the farmland is subdivided into dozens of new Georgetown neighborhoods.

Pre-school playshop

There is a limited number of openings in the Acton pre-school playshop beginning Jan. 17. Don't miss out - drop in the office today or phone for more info, 877-5185, ext. 219.

Terra Cotta programs

If you're a winter enthusiast, Terra Cotta has a number of programs for children and families.

Today, there is a pre-school program for youngsters 2-4 years and their parents starting at 10 a.m. The topic of the special nature outing is "Where do animals go in the winter?"

Sunday there is an open house starting at 9:30 a.m. and a bird-feeder workshop which starts at the Interpretive Centre at 1 p.m. Sunday Jan. 22 there is a ski-hike for all ages.

Meet at the Interpretive Centre at 1 p.m. For more information call 877-9650.

Stewarttown news

By J. ROSS and R. STEWART, Herald Correspondents
Next Sunday Jan. 15 Bishop C. Mitchell will conduct the church service at St. John's. Get well wishes are extended to Mrs. A. Rodgers of the village. St. John's Guild has its first meeting of the year Wednesday, Jan. 11.

Farm problems familiar, says new ag rep

Replacing someone who has represented farmers in Halton for about 20 years is a formidable task, but it's not unnerving Phyllis McMaster.

She's Halton's new agriculture representative - "age rep" in the official jargon - based at the provincial ministry of agriculture and food's district office in Milton.

"We'll do our best to keep programs rolling," she said in an interview Friday. "And our department is prepared to work a little harder

during the settling in process to keep all the services we provide up to date."

Miss McMaster is taking over from Henry Stanley who has been named the ag rep for Ottawa-Carleton region. Among the ministry's 54 district offices in the province, she is the first woman ag rep.

FAMILIAR PROBLEMS
Before coming to Halton, Miss McMaster spent four and a half years at the ministry's office in York region as

an assistant agricultural representative. York farmers, she said, face similar problems with urban and rural conflicts.

Miss McMaster added that Halton has wisely started a regional Agricultural Advisory Committee (HAAC) which, because of its association with the regional government, "has something to say about landuse."



"It recognizes that agriculture is important and should be preserved," she said, "and it keeps agriculture in the forefront here in Halton."

The oldest of seven children, Miss McMaster

was raised on a dairy farm in Gengarry County, near the Ontario - Quebec border. She's a graduate of the University of Guelph with a Bachelor of Science in agriculture, major in animal science.

There was no time wasted when Miss McMaster began her new job last week. She's already plunged into the programs set to run for the winter season, including a series of workshops on farm management.

Miss McMaster will also be helping farmers re-apply for financial assistance under a provincial loans program and she'll have to inform farmers about the province's new Red Meat Plan for the beef and sheep industry.

"I'll also be working with young people," Miss McMaster said, "either through the 4-H Clubs or young farmers just starting out."

"There's lots of

programs to make them aware of such things as new farm advances and the improvement of farm financial records."

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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ASST. PASTOR: Father Con O'Mahony
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14 Main St. S., Georgetown
PASTOR: Rev. Peter Ralph, B.A., M.Div.
CALL: 877-9816, 853-3923
Morning Service 11:00 a.m., Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Evening Service 6:30 p.m., Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.
This Saturday 14th 8:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast
A CHURCH OF THE CHRISTIAN & MISSIONARY ALLIANCE IN CANADA

LEGION LINES

By LLOYD HOUNSELL, Herald Special

Now that the festive season has been and gone we can now get back to a more normal routine. I hope everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and by now have fully recovered.

Our New Year's Eve dance was quite a success and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and saw the New Year in with a bang. The New Year's Eve was also well attended and was quite a lively affair.

The Club Room is at present being redecorated and will not be finished until the end of this week or early next week, but the Lounge will be used for all normal activities.

For those who have not yet picked up their 1984 Membership Cards should consult the list which is posted on the Sports Notice Board, and if available can be picked up from the Stewards.

EUCHE: The winners Jan. 6 were, 1st - Ethel Anthony and Kay Prust; 2nd - Sharon and Danny Kavanagh with the Booby Prize going to Gord and Jean Harley.

CAR DRAW: The winners Dec. 29 were Bob Freestone; 833 Dick Appleyard; 318 Dan Peggle; 191 Max Jack; 335 Mary Bower; 050 Clint Peacock.

ENTERTAINMENT: In the Lounge Jan. 14 will be provided by the Pubtones.

SICK LIST: Georgetown Hospital - Fred Weaver, Bill Watson and Joyce Markham, Toronto General - Ed Shorthill, Brampton Hospital - Lorne Crosse, Sunnybrook - Bernie Postlethwaite, Henderson Hospital - Phoebe Collins.

THE SUMMIT: The January 1984 edition should be available by the early part of next week and can be picked up from the Branch.

FROM LADIES AUXILIARY: (Liz McNeilly), Happy New Year Comrades, I hope you all had a good holiday with your families, and are looking forward to the upcoming season at the Ladies Auxiliary.

I hope one of your New Year's resolutions is to attend the monthly meetings regularly. We do need your support, ideas and opinions.

Our next General Meeting is Jan. 19 at 8 p.m. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Recreation Report

GET FIT IN '84
Register for our winter session of fitness programs: aqua fitness; fitness, swim and sauna; adult fitness; 60 minute work-out or pre-post natal fitness. All exercise programs are 8 weeks in length, \$22 per person, starting Jan. 16.

Full program descriptions can be found in our fall-winter brochure or call 877-5185, ext. 260.

LAST CHANCE
There are still openings left in the power skating programs both in Acton and Georgetown and Parent and Tot learn-to-skate, Memorial Arena, Georgetown.

Register today to attend the first class.

POLICE BEAT

Jewellery Stolen

A stereo component set and jewellery worth \$4,000 were stolen in a break-in of an Esqueving Township home on First Concession Friday sometime between 9:30 a.m. and 10 p.m. Halton regional police said the windows had been broken by the thief.

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