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# the HERALD

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills - Established 1846

# FAMILY

## SECTION



SECTION B, THE HERALD, Wednesday, August 20, 1986 - Page 1

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## Discover rural Ontario; it's yours



Marg Roberts here is shown here busily threading a loom for weaving. The loom is located in the Clark-McLeary house, which was built by British immigrant Joseph Clark in 1830. After threading the loom, it can be used to weave both yarn or thread into cloth. (Herald photo)

What was it really like to be a resident of rural Ontario prior to the turn of the century?

If you wish to find out the answer, taking a trip to the Ontario Agriculture Museum could prove beneficial.

The Museum features items from that time period, and gives visitors a clear insight as to what it was really like as a resident of rural Ontario at about the turn of the century.

The Museum covers about 80 acres and portrays the evolution of agriculture in Ontario. The idea of such a museum was conceived in 1966, and in that same year the present site was acquired and developed.

Also in 1966 the Government of Ontario obtained an extensive collection of equipment, machines and tools which were assembled over the years by Charles Matthews of Langstaff, Ontario. This became the nucleus of the Museum collection and with the cooperation of many donors throughout Ontario the Museum continued to develop. In 1979 the Museum officially opened its gates to the public.

The Museum site consists of three facets involved in Ontario's rural heritage. First of all, a series of Farmsteads recall both the domestic and agricultural duties on the farm. Secondly, the Crossroads Community contains theme buildings which represent service available to the Ontario farm community. Lastly, the third facet consists of Display Buildings which consist of various agricultural related industries and house one of the largest agricultural equipment collections in North America.

The Museum is open from May 12 until October 13 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for both seniors and children from six to 17 years of age. Family rates are \$7.50 for two adults and children 17 years of age and under. Group visit rates are \$2.50 for a group of 20 or more (reservations preferred) and school visits are \$2 per student with reservations required.

The Museum is located in Milton and interested individuals can obtain further information by calling 578-8151.



Back in Pioneer days, houses like this were the norm for the average family. The dwelling was usually constructed of trees first cut down and made into logs. Then the logs fitted together to create such a home. (Herald photo)

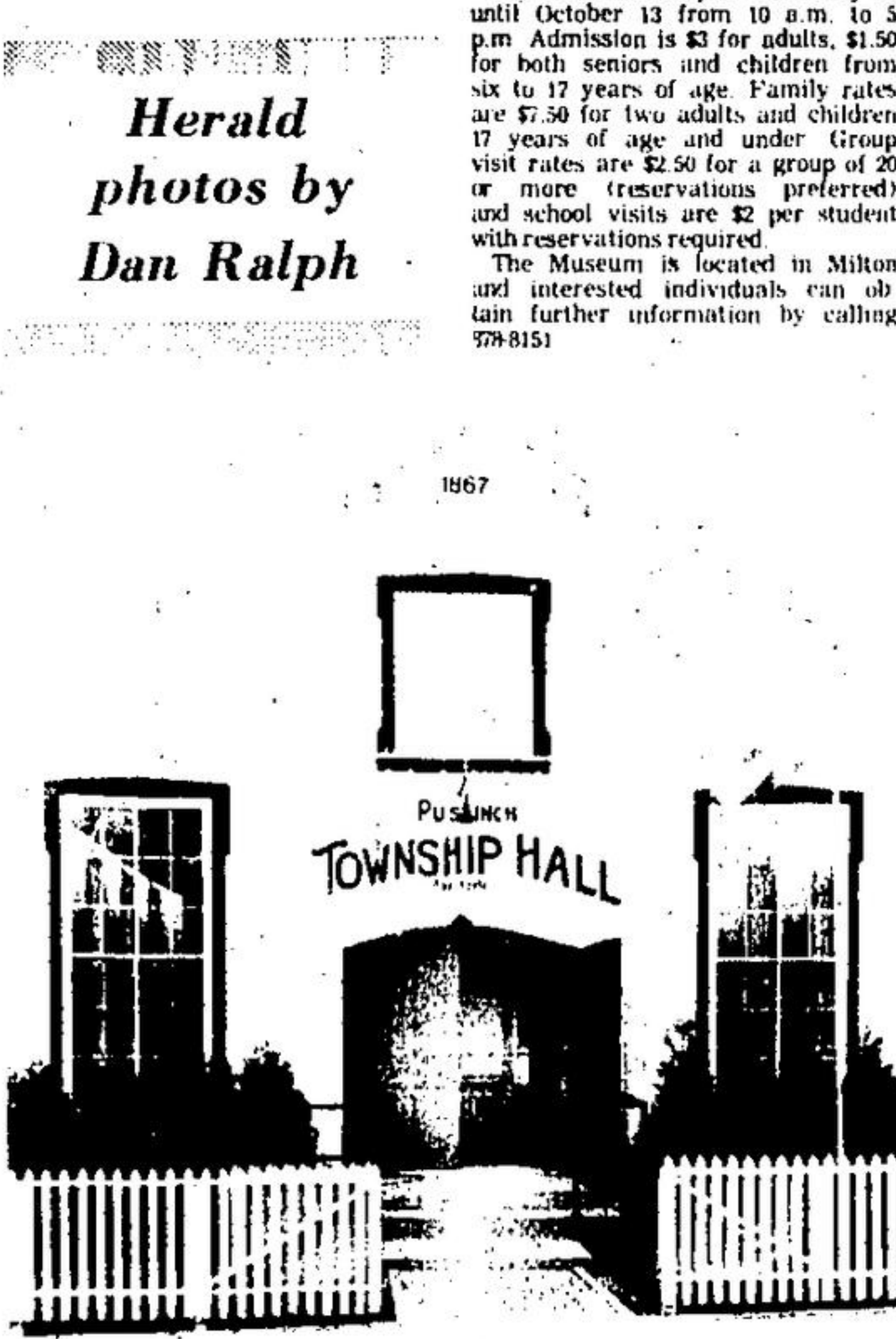


*Herald photos by Dan Ralph*



Keeping livestock clean and free of potential parasites which could bring harmful disease was important to Pioneer settlers. Here a farm hand tries to clean the hooves of a

bull. (In this occasion the bull proved quite stubborn and put up quite a struggle before finally relenting to the cleaning process. (Herald photo)

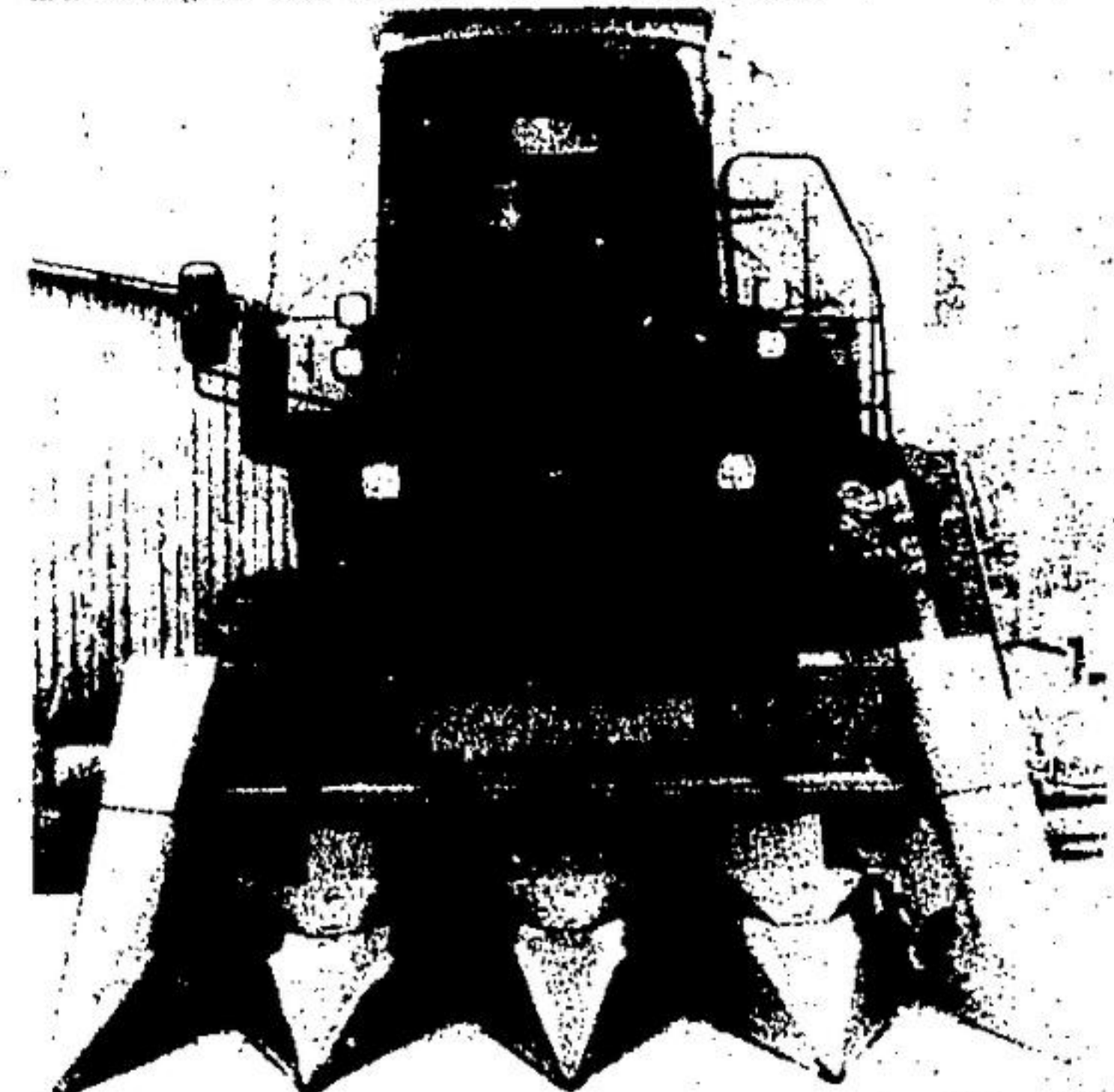


Like many of the exhibits present at the Museum, this is an original. This Puslinch Township Hall was constructed in the village of Aberfoyle in 1867. It provided a setting for

meetings, receptions, dances and other activities until 1960 when it was donated to the Museum in 1982 by the members Puslinch Township Council. (Herald photo)



Wearing authentic clothing symbolic of Pioneer times, Pauline MacLeod here is shown spinning wool on a spinning wheel that was originally built in the 1850s. After first carding the wool, MacLeod was then able to spin it. (Herald photo)



Here is a close view of what the modern-day farmer uses when it's time to harvest his crop of wheat. This combine can make what used to be quite a long task a lot simpler and quicker. (Herald photo)

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