

## POLLY'S POINTERS



Polly Fisher

### Don't risk death through canning

By Polly Fisher

DEAR READERS — Several weeks ago, I wrote that the old open kettle method of canning tomatoes without processing the sealed jars in a boiling water bath was not safe. Since then, I have received many letters from folks who canned this way for years or had parents who canned this way, etc.

Many wrote to say they even canned low-acid vegetables such as green beans by simply cooking them, putting them into jars and sealing the jars without any further processing. And no one died.

Well, the truth is that while, in the past, most people may have had few problems canning this way, SOME

people did. SOME people got sick. SOME people even died. That's because you never know whether the produce you are about to can may contain toxic mold spores or deadly botulism spores. Without proper processing — a boiling water bath for fruits, tomatoes and other high-acid foods, or pressure processing for low-acid vegetables, meats and seafood — you can't be sure that the food will be safe to eat.

Botulism poisoning can occur with foods that look, smell and taste fine. Other spoilage — molds, bacteria, etc. — may cause illness or just cause the can of food to spoil. But when you're packing the produce in those little jars, you just don't know if these organisms are present or not. PROBABLY everything will be fine — but that's not always the case. Canning without proper processing is just like playing Russian roulette: The odds may be in your favor, but are you willing to gamble that the "bullet" won't be in your next batch of beans?

Please, can safely. That means, follow the government-recommended methods of canning; use a good, current cookbook for recipes, and make sure your equipment is in good repair and your work surfaces, hands and equipment are scrupulously clean. Don't be the one in 100 or 1,000 that has a problem. Play it safe. — POLLY

DEAR POLLY — I'm going to be taking my two cats on an 11-day auto trip this summer. Would I be breaking the law if I did not confine the cats to a carrier while in the car? — JEN

DEAR JEN — There is no federal law saying that cats must be confined to a carrier while you are driving with them in your car, but there may be state and local laws that apply. However, no matter how well-traveled your cats are, or how well-behaved, I urge you to keep them in a carrier while you're driving.

It only takes one incidence of a cat crawling under your brake pedal at a crucial moment for you to realize — too late! — the seriousness of this issue. In addition, most cats feel more secure in their familiar carriers, and you can even put a small bowl of water or food (if tolerated by your pet while driving) in some of the larger carriers.

If you absolutely cannot confine your cats to a carrier, perhaps they can be restrained by a very short leash tied somewhere in the car. However, you must be extremely careful that the cat does not inadvertently strangle itself while on a leash. (A harness-style is safer than a plain collar.)

And, of course, you know you must stop frequently to let your pet exercise, use its litter box and just rest from the rigors of car travel. This is a good time to offer plenty of cool water, too. Food can also be offered, but most cats travel better if only lightly fed.



## PUBLIC NOTICE

### MOUNTAINVIEW ROAD AT SUMMIT LANE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 301 of The Ontario Municipal Act, R.S.O. 1980, Chapter 302 as amended, that the Council for the Regional Municipality of Halton proposes at its meeting on September 7, 1988 to pass a by-law for the Reconstruction of Mountainview Road at Summit Lane, Town of Halton Hills (Georgetown).

Plans showing the proposed work may be inspected at the Public Works Department offices, 2316 South Service Road West, Oakville Ontario.

On Wednesday, August 24, 1988, 9:30 a.m. in Committee Room 1 at the Regional Administration Building, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, Ontario, Council through its Planning and Public Works Committee will hear in person, or by his Counsel, any person who claims that his lands will be prejudicially affected by the said by-law and who applies to the Regional Clerk, no later than Tuesday, August 23, 1988 to be heard.

David J. Varley  
Regional Clerk

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## Notice of Meetings PROPOSED ACTON QUARRY LANDFILL

A series of meetings will be held to present and discuss technical aspects of a proposal by Reclamation Systems Inc. (RSI) of Milton to develop a solid waste landfill in the Acton Quarry. The next meeting will commence at 7:00 p.m. and will take place at:

Gordon Alcott Arena  
Upstairs Hall  
221 Guelph Street  
Georgetown, Ontario

All meetings are open to public observation. Consultants will be available from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and following each meeting to answer questions.

The topic of discussion for the next meeting to be held on Wednesday, August 17, 1988 is "Operations Plan".

Questions, comments and requests for further information should be directed to:

Ms. Jillian Daffern  
Project Liaison Officer  
Eco Logic Inc.  
143 Dennis Street  
Rockwood, Ontario  
N0B 2K0  
Phone: (519) 856-9591

## THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF HALTON INVITES ALL APPLICANTS TO SERVE ON THE COMMUNITIES INFORMATION GROUP FOR THE ENERGY FROM WASTE STUDY

The Regional Municipality of Halton is undertaking a study to examine options for energy-from-waste (EFW) facilities. A significant public information and consultation program is part of this study. In this regard, the Region is establishing a Communities Information Group that will serve in an advisory capacity to the public participation consultant. The Group will ensure that the public is effectively involved in the study process and that the information provided to the public is meaningful and understandable.

The Communities Information Group will meet approximately monthly with the public participation consultant throughout 1988 and 1989 to:

- give advice and assistance in involving the community in the public consultation program;
- review the public consultation and information materials;
- assist in the dissemination of information on EFW to the general public through each member's links in the community.

The Group will be comprised of 12 individuals from the general public, with representation drawn from the four area municipalities roughly proportional to the population in each area municipality. Individuals should be interested in and conversant with community affairs in their area and be actively involved in community and citizens group activities.

A knowledge of waste management and Energy From Waste is NOT NECESSARY.

Interested individuals should submit a brief letter or resume to Ms. Linda Friesen, Region of Halton, P.O. Box 7000, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, Ontario L6J 6E1. NO LATER THAN AUGUST 29, 1988. Any questions should be directed to Ms. Friesen, at 827-2151, ext. 463.

If necessary, interviews with prospective members will be held in late August and early September.