

Water restrictions invoked

Halton residents were asked by the Region to restrict the use of their water. Two weeks ago Halton asked residents to voluntarily restrict watering their lawns, with even-numbered houses watering their gardens on even calendar days, and odd-numbered houses watering on odd days. If dry weather remains, and reservoirs can't keep recharging fast enough, Halton may enact mandatory water restrictions, said Halton's Manager of Water Plant Operations, Vince Suffoletta.

Willow Park residents may have found themselves a new home. About 47 acres of land just east of the northeast corner of the Sixth Line and Sideroad 20 may be where the 30 families living in the Norval trailer park will call home. Trailer park community association chairman Roger Perryman said the land owned by Hank and Bill Lenstra, is "prime location."

Two suspects held a Georgetown



Main Street jewelry store owner at gunpoint Friday and demanded \$80,000 worth of jewels, Halton police say. Store owner Gale Dodokin said a man and woman claiming to be browsing waited until the store emptied and then approached the counter, pulling out an 11-inch revolver.

Varian Canada in Georgetown has become the first Blue Ribbon contractor in North America designated by the United States Army's communications electronics command (COMSEC). The award is given to

those firms achieving at least 90 per cent on-time delivery with no more than two defects in items delivered over a 12-month period.

The walkway between Irwin and Dawson Crescents will not be closed. Town council decided July 18 that increased lighting and a garbage can is the best way to halt vandalism and "anti-social" behavior that were reported problems in the walkway area.

Developers of the Meagan subdivision in Glen Williams will have to take a second look at storm water drainage before they start to build the houses. Council wants Meagan Developments, who are building a 50-lot subdivision on the east side of Sideroad 21 between the Eighth Line and the Ninth Line in Glen Williams, to agree to "review and implement possible storm water solutions" before it approves the final drainage plan.



The summer of 1988 was one of the hottest on record, and sent people scurrying to find relief from the extreme humidity. Some found getting into the swim of things was the way to go.

Farmers ravaged by drought

by DONNA KELL
Herald Staff

Without irrigation equipment, and with the critical time for cash crops approaching, Halton Hills' farmers are losing money in the worst drought since 1949, Corn Producers' vice president, Frank Anthony, said last week.

"From an Ontario perspective, the loss of money from corn alone is \$20 million for each day it doesn't rain. For all crops combined, the loss is \$50 million," said Mr. Anthony, himself a Limehouse farmer with 6,000 acres of cash crops, including oats, soybean, corn and hay.

Grain corn fed to livestock and used in the manufacture of "2,500 different products" is reaching a crucial period, according to Mr. Anthony. Stalks that normally reach a six-foot height are measuring under the height of a meter stick.

"If we don't get rain for two or three weeks, it may virtually wipe out grain corn," said Norm Biggar, farmer and president of the Halton Federation of Agriculture.

Despite crop insurance, "you do a whole year's work for nothing," he said.

The price of grain corn, a corn used for starches, cereals, livestock feed, prints, dyes, garbage bags, adhesives and sucrose (the sugar found in sodas), has almost doubled since last year. A bushel of grain corn is selling for \$100 to \$170 up from last year's \$50 a bushel list price.

Right now, if you want to buy

corn, you'll pay a high price if you can get it, but the people who own the corn - the farmers - are not rushing out to sell it," said Murray Brownridge, a farmer south of Ashgrove.

And the scenario for dairy farmers is not much brighter. Hay fields normally providing food for local cattle and hay for export may not yield a second cutting in this season which usually produces three cuttings (growths of hay).

"Our second cutting is going to be very poor. It could be as bad as 25 per cent of the normal yield," said Mr. Brownridge.

Halton Hills' grain crops are also suffering. Oats, barley and winter wheat (used for pastry flour) are "severely affected," said Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food Representative Phyllis MacMaster.

"It's a very serious situation. There has been no rain since May 15," she said. "We're getting to the stage where it may be too late to save the crops."

Most Halton Hills' farmers have no irrigation equipment to water the crops because it has never been necessary. "We've never had to irrigate before," said Mr. Brownridge.

And irrigation is costly, and therefore, out of the question for farmers, said Frank Anthony. He added that his farm soil is dry for

two to three feet below the surface.

"We need two or three inches of rain over a 24-hour period to get a real benefit. When you get into these

kinds of conditions, the ground's so hard that a fast rain just runs off," he said.

And the drought is not just impacting on Halton Hills. It's been described by Frank Anthony as a continental problem. "The scary part of this drought is that it extends from Calgary to Ottawa and as far south as Georgia. What usually is a regional problem is happening all over North America," he said. Mr. Anthony's farm recently shipped bales of hay to troubled American farmers. Normally, export volumes to other countries would be much higher, he said.

Saskatchewan farmers are calling this drought "the worst since the Dust Bowl of the mid 30's," said Bill Lasby.

Mr. Anthony added that the drought will have long-range impact on farmers, right into the winter of 1989, and will probably affect consumers next year, he said.

Agricultural representative Phyllis MacMaster agreed: "The lack of moisture will severely affect yield and revenue down the road." She added that the soil is "caked and cracked", and that sunshine and heat are further drying the already parched ground.



The Village of Norval was converted to 1950s Waco, Texas for a film for an upcoming TV mini-series. The shots will be used for the opening credits of the production.

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