

Business

The Hobby Horse helps support Ontario quilters

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT
The Herald

When it comes to quilts, there's no horsing around by 'The Hobby Horse' of Glen Williams which, along with the Halton Agricultural Museum in Milton, has taken over displaying and sponsoring quilt shows at local fairs and an Ontario-wide quilt show after Canada Packers, the traditional sponsor, was sold.

Canada Packers' quilt collection, made up of top Ontario quilts, has been given to the Agricultural Museum. But since the company also awarded prize

money to winning quilts at agricultural fairs and annually bought Ontario's top quilt for their display, with the sale of the company, this sponsorship may have been terminated.

But thanks to the generosity of Gail Spence and her shop, The Hobby Horse, quilt makers will continue to receive prize money for their creations and have them displayed at the Halton Agricultural Museum, which will continue to buy Ontario's top quilts for its new quilt collection.

"We've always sponsored classes at agricultural fairs and

we think it's important to promote quilting in Ontario," said Mrs. Spence whose business serves quilters with materials and other quilting supplies.

Together, she and the Museum are hosting 'Country Quiltfest' which is a new show designed to showcase five items from each of the 60 quilting guilds in Ontario.

"We hope to have lots of displays, hands-on fun and activities for the whole family," she said. The event will take place on August 9, 10 and 11.

Cash prizes ranging from \$300 to \$75 is what the Hobby Horse is contributing to winners in the

show which amounts to a substantial amount of donations. They will also be hosting a fashion show called 'Cotton Parade' at the event, co-ordinated by Mrs. Spence's daughter, Angie West.

Taking part in the sponsorship and promotion of quilts in Ontario is a continuation of Mrs. Spence's love of quilts and quilting. She is herself, a quilter, who travels frequently to the United States to brush up on her quilting techniques and bring back new ideas to the local quilters she teaches almost daily in the shop's quilting classes.

The announcement of The Hobby Horse and Milton Agricultural Museums participation in quilt promotion was made at Royal York in Toronto last Wednesday evening.

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Gail Spence, of The Hobby Horse, located on R.R.2 in Georgetown, makes no bones about her love for quilts or the art of quilting. The store will be providing prize money for Ontario quilters filling the vacuum created when Canada Packers, a traditional sponsor of quilting, was sold. (Herald photo)

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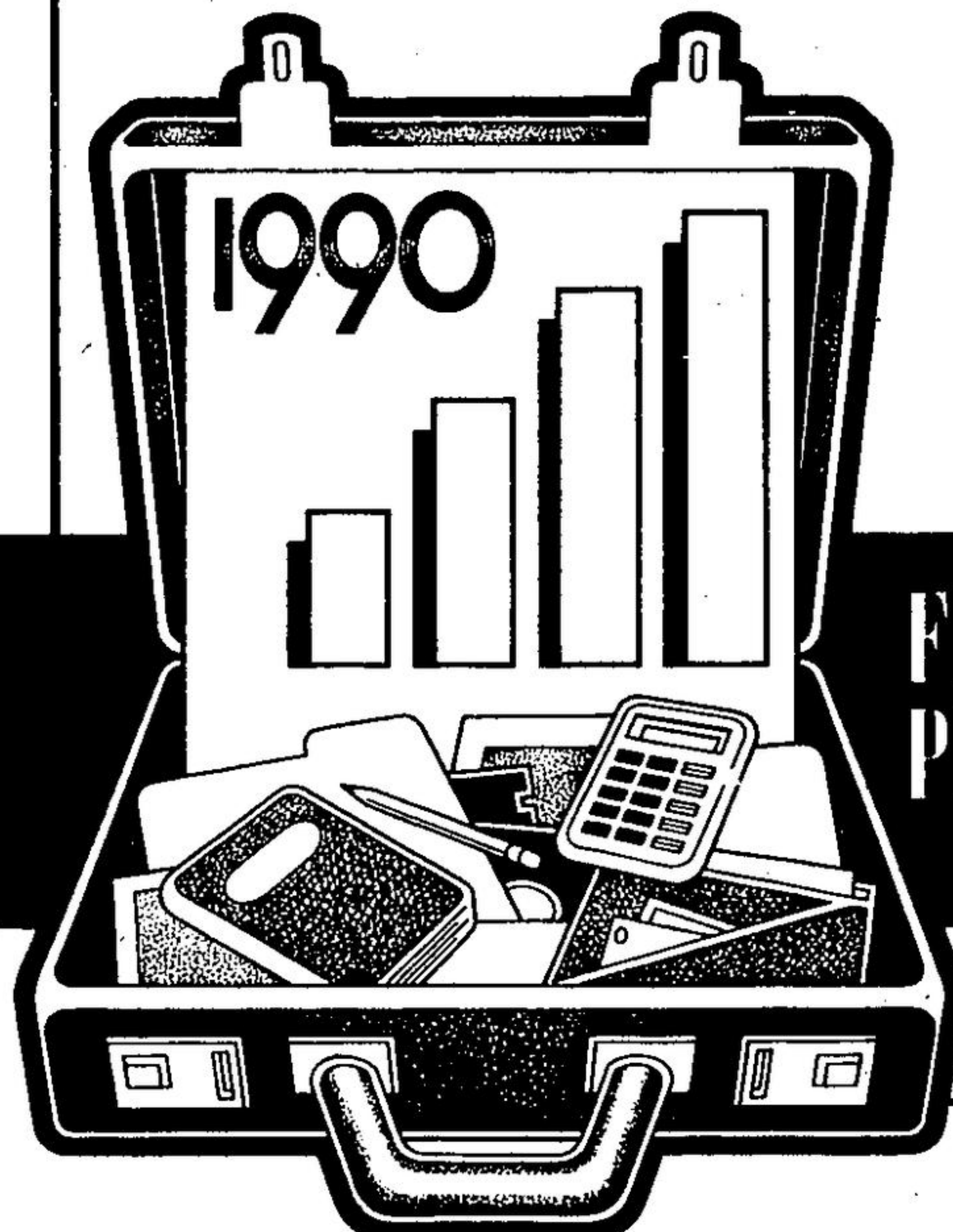
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