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# Education tent planned for Georgetown Fall Fair

By JANET DUVAL  
Special to The Independent/Free Press

A new Education Tent at the Georgetown Fair next weekend (Sept. 9, 10 and 11) will give children and their parents hands-on experience with modern farming and food production. Look for it at the west end of the fairgrounds.

Inside the tent, you can count the 10-litre jugs containing one day's water supply for a cow, then observe the milk output from that same cow. You can watch a milking, then see the milk as it is separated and churned into butter.

Local dairy farmers Jeff Nurse and Emerson Clark will be sending along some of their Holsteins, Scotch Shorthorns, and caramel-colored Brown Swiss cows for visitors to enjoy. You can gaze at a giant Clydesdale horse, courtesy of Don Brander's farm, or pose beside a little Morgan pony.

Children are welcome to smell and run their hands through bushel hampers of grain, haylage, corn silage, and roughage, all the food that a cow might eat in a day.

"Children today don't have any idea where their food comes from," says Fair Board member Austin Carpenter, who is organizing the Education Tent. A science teacher at Erindale Secondary School, he's enthusiastic about the displays he'll be setting up, all part of an Agriculture in the Classroom program sponsored jointly by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ministry of Education.

Grade 3 children from many Georgetown schools will make a special visit to the display on Friday as part of their classroom studies. Carpenter hopes the exhibits will inform teachers of all

grades as well as students. He notes the Food Systems unit in the Grade 9 and 10 Science curriculum that gives some teachers difficulty. "They're not familiar with cash cropping, pork and dairy production, or farm machinery. Farming today is a big, fast-moving industry."

Have a look at the vermiculture display: worms composting in a unit that can fit under the kitchen sink. "You can almost hear them munching," says Carpenter. "They process twice their weight in organic wastes in 24 hours, turning it into nitrogen-rich soil." Some senior elementary students in Caledon have raised worms on lunch-time waste for several years, selling the finished soil to their parents for planters and gardens.

Elsewhere, there's a Name That Tool exhibit, and a Mystery box that builds children's sensory perception as they try to guess which livestock feeds they are touching through holes in the box.

Many local school children are already preparing their entries for a sunflower growing competition that Carpenter has organized. Flower heads will be judged on fullness, size, and seed production. All elementary children are welcome to bring sunflower heads with 30 cm. of stalk attached to the Home Crafts building at the fairgrounds by 7 p.m. on Wednesday, September 7.

"We did this Education display on a very small scale last year, with no advertising and just the students from Park School participating," says Carpenter. "Principal Al Zanatta was very enthusiastic. This year, we've expanded it. We want to raise the level of awareness of children of all ages."

## Police Blotter

### Vandal sought

Halton police are investigating a vandalism incident which occurred in the Georgetown Marketplace parking lot Saturday night between 9 and 11 p.m. Police say someone jumped on the hood and roof of a 1993 Dodge Shadow parked in the lot causing about \$1,000 worth of damage.

### Police investigating

Police are investigating an alleged sexual assault which occurred Tuesday Aug. 23 at a residence in Georgetown. Police report a four-year-old girl was alleged to have been forced to perform sexual acts on a man who was staying at the house. No charges have been laid.

### Cross-fire

Someone threw a rock through the back window of a 1991 Chevrolet parked on Cross St. at around midnight Tuesday, resulting in about \$500 damage, police said.

### Horse trailer fire

A passing driver alerted a man pulling a horse trailer that smoke was coming out of the trailer at noon Saturday. The trailer was heading west on Steeles Ave. in Halton Hills. A vet who was driving past noticed and stopped. The Halton Regional Police were called, along with the Milton Fire Department. The horse, a four-year-old stallion, couldn't be taken out immediately, but eventually broke free on his own. He survived, but suffered from burns. Someone may have dropped something in the hay on the floor of the trailer.

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