

## Ralda Waters sets very high standards

By Oksana Buhel

Some of the highest standards in milk quality are being attained by a Halton Hills woman and her two daughters.

Ralda Waters took over the operation of the Trafalgar Rd. farm with her daughters Kathy and Linda two years ago when her husband Stan died of cancer.

"It was no great upheaval," Waters admitted modestly. She explained she had been working the farm with her husband since they were married with the "help" of their seven children. Before that she worked on her parents' farm, also located on Trafalgar Rd.

Waters' relatives on her father's side were the early settlers of Hornby.

Waters remembers sitting on the family tractor with her feet hanging off the side. "We had a lot of fun," Waters reminisced, "but there was a lot of work to do too." Waters completed Grade 8 before she began to work steadily on the family's farm.

Waters has continued to work hard on her own farm, along with Kathy and Linda.

According to Halton Agricultural Advisory Committee (H.A.A.C.) vice-chair, Cecil Patterson, they have "set a standard in the county when it comes to milk quality."

Waters' cows produce such a high quality of milk,

she only keeps 33 cow, despite having 42 stalls. "Our cows milk that much better," she boasts.

Three years ago, Waters was recognized as a "Milk Quality Master," an honor bestowed by the Surge milking company. She was given a stainless steel plaque in recognition. Waters has also received the "Silver Tray" milk quality award by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce for eight consecutive years.

Waters' most recent award was given to her in September - a "Host Farm H.A.A.C. Farm Tour" plaque, by representatives of Halton Region. Her farm was one of four farms selected in the Region (three of them in Halton Hills) to demonstrate and educate regional and municipal representatives, members of the media, and an African delegation, on Halton's agricultural industry and related issues.

Waters' farm seems to have a history of "firsts."

It was the first in the area with a sealed silo. This year is the first time Waters has used a new self-propelled combine to harvest her 172 acres.

Asked if there were greater difficulties associated with being a woman farmer, Waters quickly responded, "Heck no! I'm dealing with people I've been dealing with for years."



Ralda Waters shows off her commemorative plaque, given to her by the Halton Agricultural Advisory Committee during the Halton Farm Tour, for exemplary operation of her dairy farm. Behind Waters is a "Milk Quality Master" stainless steel plaque, presented by Surge milk production company three years ago for exceptional milk quality.

photo by Oksana Buhel/HHTW

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## Chamber breakfast

The Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce is hosting the second seminar of the "Chamber Breakfast Club". The Breakfast Club is open to everyone and is an opportunity to learn something new and meet fellow members of the community.

The next Breakfast Club is tomorrow Thursday, 7:30 a.m. at North Halton Golf and Country Club. The seminar "Influence, Persuade and Win - Skills and Techniques for Every Day Negotiation" will be presented by Vince Da Costa.

The seminar will focus on your personal style (you are a message), communication (breaking through to people), preparing to negotiate

(how to position for power) and conflict resolution (dealing with your emotions).

Vince Da Costa is a specialist in communication and leadership techniques. He is an author, trainer, consultant and an award-winning speaker. His clients include: General Motors, Chrysler Corporation, Air Canada, IBM, Ontario Hydro, Bell Canada, City of North York, Revenue Canada, Imperial Oil, Texaco and now the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce.

For reservations, please call the Chamber office at 877-7119 or Fax 877-5117.

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