

# The North Halton Compass

Reach then a soaring quill, that I may write  
As with a Jacob's staff to take a height

CLEVELAND

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# Brass Tacks - Editorial

The Farm Museum may no longer be abandoned but its ability to grow and prosper now rests solely with the rural community whose rich history it chronicles and celebrates.

Formerly known as the Ontario Agricultural Museum, it fell victim to the cutbacks of the Harris government. The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs was unable to continue funding the museum, located on Tremaine Road, Milton.

A Board of Directors, drawn from Ontario's vast rural community is working diligently to breath new life into the museum. Over the past year, the board has succeeded in keeping at least a pulse at the museum. The gates remain open for educational programming on a part-time basis, mainly through volunteerism.

Meanwhile, to ensure the Farm Museum's survival, its guardians need cold, hard cash to continue operating what is one of the best agricultural collections in Canada. To meet this end, the board of directors have thrown the museum's door open for rental of its facilities for weddings, conferences, meetings, etc.

But will that be enough? The Farm Museum is already home to many historical



buildings and collections, including some from Halton. With so much of our past already preserved at the museum, maybe it's time to define this community's role in ensuring that the Farm Museum becomes viable for the long-term and grows to meet its full potential.

In these times of fiscal restraint, it's a safe bet no other such facility will ever be built in this province as dedicated to the rural

experience as the Agricultural Museum was. It may be wise to hang on to what we've got.

It comes as no surprise that the Halton Women's Institute and Halton 4-H are already helping out through volunteer staffing. However, what else can the Farm Museum expect from Halton?

Perhaps the best way for the people of Halton to assist the museum in an atmosphere of financial stability is to simply use it.

Over the years, there have existed whisperings of relocating the Halton Region Museum to a more desirable site than its present location at the Kelso Conservation Area. Why not relocate the Halton Region Museum to the grounds of the Farm Museum? The site sits almost dead centre at the crossroads of the four traditional townships of Nelson, Trafalgar, Esquesing and Nassagaweya.

Now, I realize Halton Region and its Towns are very busy with the management of

the future right now, but what is already established shouldn't be altogether neglected.

There are also several organizations in the area that rent facilities for meetings and events that could just as well be held at the Farm Museum. There are many other potential uses for the museum that require just a little imagination. For example, why is the Halton OMAFRA office located in Georgetown rather than on Tremaine Road?

The Farm Museum should not be viewed as a victim of provincial restraint, but rather a living museum with vast potential at the local level.

Sometimes, to preserve the past, we must pay close attention to the present.

"The reward of one duty is the power to fulfill another"

GEORGE ELIOT

## Blue Springs Soapbox Compass Correspondence

### Remembering Joe's Model "T"

It is with great pleasure, I write to you: Our warmest thanks for the paper you so kindly gave to my dear sister in Acton: "Mrs. Robinson".

We all knew the Henderson's and what lovely delightful memories as we read "Shoebos Memories". Oh to ride once more down the old dirt road in Joe's Model T Ford, so long ago. My husband, now 92 and I 84, really enjoyed the paper. Again a very sincere thank you.

Sincerely meant,

Galdys and Reg Purkis  
Cambridge, Ontario

# The North Halton Compass

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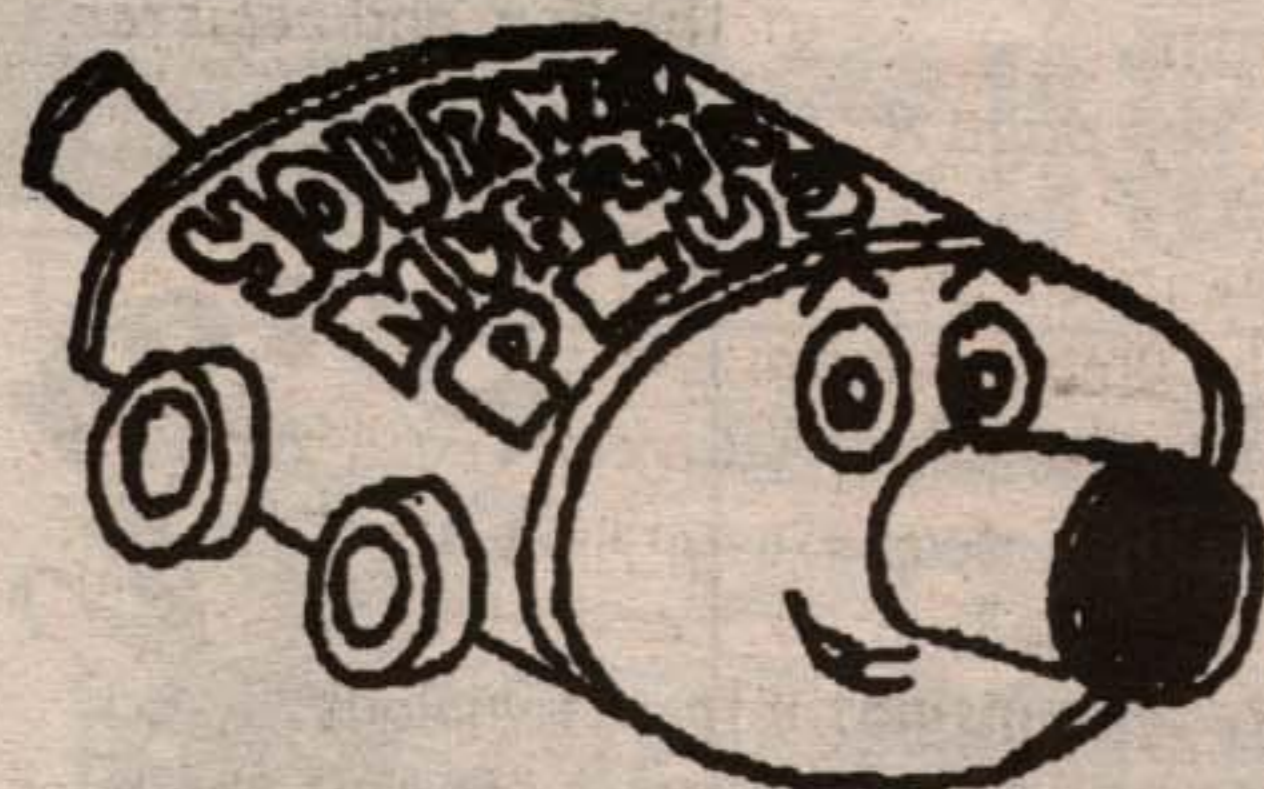
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