# OMAFRA News

### **COMING EVENTS**

June 2 Peel Federation of Agriculture Directors Mtg., Agricultural Resource Centre, Brampton Fairgrounds, 12942 Heart Lake Road 8:00 p.m.

June 8 Halton Agricultural Society General Meeting, Boardroom, Milton Fairgrounds, Robert Street, Milton

8:00 p.m.

June 17 Halton Federation of Agriculture Meeting, OMAFRA, Georgetown

8:00 p.m.

June 24 & 25 Ontario Pork Congress, Stratford Fairgrounds - "Facing the Challenge" Trade Shows/Education Program/Carcass Competition /Innovations/More. For more information contact (519) 625-8811

June 25 Halton Soil & Crop Assoc. 60th Anniversary Barn Dance at The Farm Museum in Milton -The "GOOD BROTHERS" are playing. Cash Bar Charity Auction/Late Buffet - Tickets \$20 from Bob Hamilton, Fergus.

Prepared by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs, 332 Guelph St., Hwy 7, Georgetown L7G 4B5. If you require further information, call 905-873-9930 or 1-800-361-6989. FAX: 873-9934. Office hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays with closure for lunch break.

### **Halton 4-H Rabbit Club**

BY DAVID GOODING

The second meeting of the Halton 4-H Rabbit Club was held on Monday, April 19th at Ward's (and Trix's) as promised. The roll call was name one reason why people raise rabbits. The most popular answer was for pets, but rabbits can also be raised for meat, for wool, for showing, and for breeding and selling. After you know why you want to keep rabbits, then you can choose which breed to best suited for your needs. We then split into two groups and discussed what breeds you would raise if you were supplying a pet shop, raising rabbits for meat, exhibiting at rabbit shows, or raising rabbits for their hair that can be spun into yarn. For example, if you were supplying a pet store, you want rabbits that are small, colourful and cute so they are easy to sell. Breeds you might select are Mini Lop Ear or Netherland Dwarf. We also learned the 16 parts of a rabbit and things that might disqualify you at a show. We then split into two groups again, and had a race to see which group could put a puzzle of the parts of the rabbit together the quickest. The winning group got first choice of the donuts after the meeting and luck for me, I was in that group!! For the next meeting, the members are welcome to bring their rabbits, so it should make for an interesting time. Thank you goes to Ward Brownridge for hosting this meeting and supplying the refreshments afterwards.

### Halton 4-H Marketing Club

SUBMITTED BY BETTY BROWNRIDGE

The Halton 4-H Marketing Club held its Achievement Day on Monday evening, May 3, 1999 at Stewarttown School. The members put on a interesting programme for parents and visitors. Eric Wilson was master of ceremonies. Each of the ten members took part in presenting the report of activities in which they were involved.

The young people had gone in parties to various local businesses to learn about their method of advertising and how they marketed their type of business.

Amy, Eric and Lorna Wilson led in learning a new 4-H song, "Follow the

4-H Trail." We watched a video promoting 4-H.

Award presentations were made by Marie Martin and Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline. Companies that were involved with the young people are: Gorrund Auto Place; Molinaro Farms; Atlas Van Lines; Scannell Moving and Storage; Schuyler Home Hardware and Freherguard. The Royal Bank, (Milton Mall), supplied refreshments.

The leaders of the club were Lorna Wilson, Carol Brownridge and Carol McDonell. The 4-H members were: Amy Wilson, Brad Adkins, Donna McPhail, Deanna McPhail, Eric Wilson, Katie Patterson, Lindsay Rogers, Naomi Lutes, Nathan Ella and Scott Martin.

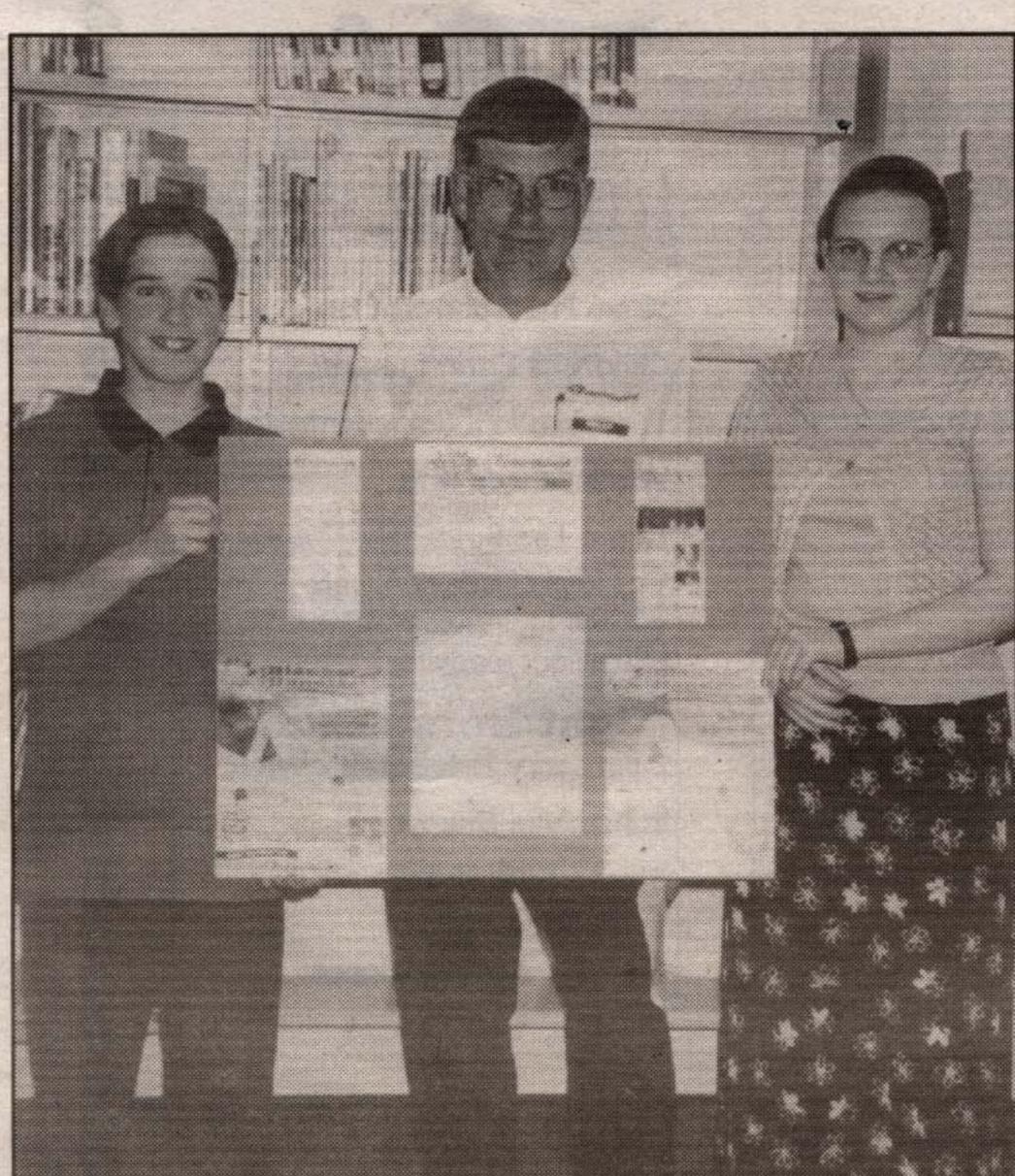


PHOTO BY BETTY BROWNRIDGE

HALTON 4-H MARKETING CLUB ACHIEVEMENT DAY Pictured L. to R. - Eric Wilson, Wayne Guard of Freherguard and Katie Patterson.

## **WEEKLY CROP REPORT**

by Bob Hamilton, Soil & Crop Specialist

WEATHER: The dry spring continues to allow farmers to get their crops planted much sooner than a normal year. A few scattered showers have fallen but more rainfall is needed to have normal crop growth.

#### **CROPS**

WINTER WHEAT: The crop is growing well with good colour. Disease pressure is low due to the dry field conditions with high temperatures. Some fields are not growing well due to smaller root systems that were caused by dry conditions last fall at planting.

SPRING CEREALS: Most are emerged and growing well. Weed growth should be monitored to see when the proper timing for spraying should occur.

SPRING CANOLA: All is planted and growing. Continue to monitor for flea beetles because the Counter may not be activated yet and the high temperatures will allow the flea beetles to multiply faster.

CORN: 95 % of the crop is planted except for a couple of late fields that will be put in for corn silage. The early fields have emerged to the 2 - 3 leaf stage. Annual grasses have also reached this stage and preventative measures need to be taken even if the field had a pre-emergent herbicide program to control the escaped weeds.

SOYBEANS: By the end of the week (May 21) over half the soybeans will have been planted. Some beans are emerging within the week due to the warm temperatures and packing of the planted fields. Burn downs are still being applied to future No-till fields.

HAY/ FORAGES: Dairy farmers who are always the first to start taking off haylage will be starting by the week end. The growth appears to be shorter than normal but this is still the 3rd week of May and the lower soil moistures have not allowed for maximum growth.

Halton / Peel Regions

Planting is ahead of normal for the heavier soils and crop emergence is excellent. Corn is 95 % planted and soybeans are half in. Some farmers will start having early next week.

## **HRFA** Report

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is over 300 square kilometers in size. This study will provide a comprehensive strategy to support environmental stewardship, guide development, and recommend restoration strategies. The recommendations will be developed in conjunction with a stakeholders group, composed of community representatives, special interest groups, agencies and municipalities. Watertaking is a serious issue with conflicts arising between water users and the aquatic environment. The Watershed Stewardship Project is to provide an opportunity to connect with the landowners of the watershed, develop an understanding of their needs, and work with them to help promote an ecological awareness.

At the May HRFA meeting Allan Thompson and Dave Lyons from the Peel Federation of Agriculture (PFA) and Marolyn Morrison, Regional Councillor, Peel Ward 2, made a presentation regarding the lack of sufficient water in the rural communities of west-central Peel and east-central Halton. Engineers are investigating the feasibility of piping water to these areas, which would be a costly initiative, but one that is being examined given the seriousness of the current water situation and its impact on our communities. HRFA has resolved to work together with the PFA to try to develop a water strategy plan. There is concern over the impacts of water shortages on agriculture. The importance of agriculture as a major industry, with economic and employment spinoffs in the primary and secondary industries to our communities needs to be recognized, in order to prioritize the protection and sustainability of water resources. The Agricultural Impact Study for the Regions of Halton, Peel, York and Durham which is expected to be completed in July 1999 is expected to be a useful tool in promoting the importance of agriculture.

Water quality is also of concern, particularly in areas with new development. Water testing is the best method to ensure property owners have a benchmark for determining water quality changes and help detect problems. The Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition have developed a Baseline Water Well Testing Program. HRFA is subsidizing the cost of the basic package of this program for the first 30 farmers who complete this package. For more information on the Water Testing Program please call the OFA (1-800-668-3276). For information on the HRFA subsidy please call Jeanne Bullock at (905) 336-1859.

#### CAR SAFETY SEAT CLINIC

Think your child's safety seat is being used correctly? If you haven't had it checked by authorized personnel, you may be dead wrong!

"Car Seat Clinics and surveys show that 85% of all car seats are not installed or used properly." (Infant & Toddler Safety Association, 1996)

The Road Safety Challenge Committee of Milton is offering a free clinic and information on correct car seat usage at Milton Police Station, Saturday, June 5. The Clinic will run from 10 am to 2 pm. by appointment only; call: 878-5511, ext. 2405.

#### KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE

Car seat checks conducted by the Public Health Nurses of Halton Region. Recycle your old or obsolete child safety seats. Take them to the O.P.P. Collision Reporting Station at Steeles and Hwy 25 before May 30th.

At noon on Monday, May 31, Milton Mall, a steam-roller will turn all those old seats into recyclable material. Outdated, obsolete, seats that have been in an accident, or seats dropped from a height greater than four feet, are not safe to be used. You could be dead wrong if you do! Get rid of them now. Let us recycle them for you.

> Road Safety Challenge Committee - Milton

## Compass Classifieds

**HELP WANTED** 

Part-time tow truck driver. No experience necessary, we will train. G license with abstract a necessity. Please call Ann, 905-854-0169, at C.A. Towing.



Compass	CLASSIFIED ADS  Deadline: 20th of the month  Rate: Up to 30 words - \$10.00, additional word - \$0.20
Name:	Advertisement
TVAINC.	The second of th
Address:	
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Payment by mail to MRK Communications Ltd. 419 Wilson St. Eden Mills, ON, N0B 1P0	
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