



A MONTHLY SURVEY THROUGH THE FARM FENCEROWS AND VILLAGE VERANDAHS OF NASSAGAWEYA, ESQUESING AND SOUTH ERAMOSIA

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VOLUME 3, ISSUE 5

"A RURAL PAPER TO CALL OUR OWN"

AUGUST, 2000

Taking aim on firearm compliance

BY DONNA DANIELLI
THE COMPASS

If you currently own or plan to purchase a firearm, it's crucial that you understand what Bill C68 means to you. That's why the Department of Justice initiated "Outreach Firearms Program 2000."

Under the tutelage of Halton Provincial Firearms Officer Sherry McAdam-Sadauskas, four Firearms Licensing Assistants are travelling all over Southern Ontario to assist the public with compliance with the Firearms Legislation.

Under Bill C 68, all firearms must be registered by January 1, 2003, and all firearm owners must have a license by January 1, 2001.

There are two licenses available for owners, a Possession Only License for individuals with current firearms and no plans to purchase more, and The Possession and Acquisition License, for individuals planning to both keep and purchase firearms. Both licenses need to be reviewed every five years. This renewal is part of a continual qualification process, under which individuals who pose a threat will not be eligible to own firearms, thus leading to a safer community.

"This legislation and the continual qualification addresses public safety," explains McAdam-Sadauskas. "Public safety is not a negotiable issue and that is a cornerstone of this legislation." Failure to comply with Bill C68 is

a criminal code offense. Those individuals who choose not to be licensed by January 1, 2001, can voluntarily turn their guns in to the police as part of an amnesty program.

The four members of the Summer Outreach Program, Lisa Hodgson, Debbie McDowell, Erryn Wilson and Kimberley Ford are all from the Halton area and are each involved in post secondary school studies. As of mid July, the two teams of two had traveled to Burlington, Milton, Cayuga, Oakville, and Waterdown and had assisted approximately 3,200 people.

These students passed through a difficult selection process, training by seasoned firearms officers, and extensive testing before going into the public to answer face to face questions about different firearms and the new legislation. They offer administrative assistance with the application forms and take the necessary photographs for the licenses. They also do all their own planning, administration and media relations.

The four Licensing Assistants offer individualized information to firearms owners, as everyone's situation may be a little different. They are also available to clear up any misinformation or misconceptions that firearm owners are experiencing.

Bill C68 is extensive as it is a legislation that had to be written in a way that was applicable

whether you resided in Baffin Island or Toronto, and be applicable for all firearm owners, whether they are target shooters, casual hunters or sustenance hunters. All situations are covered under Bill C68 and Hodgson, McDowell, Wilson and Ford are on a quest to make sure that each firearm owner knows where his/her place is under Bill C 68.

McAdam-Sadauskas is justifiably proud of the work her four students have done and asks the public to remember that, "The students did not create this legislation. They're here to assist people in their compliance. They are only the messengers."

Lisa Hodgson echoed this statement saying, "We understand people's frustrations. We're not trying to force anything on them, we're just here to help them."

"The students are correcting misinformation and this has alleviated frustration," McAdam-Sadauskas added.

The teams of Licensing Assistants will be at Canadian Tire in Milton August 3-6, Canadian Tire in Burlington (corner of Fairview Road and Guelph Line) August 3-6, Georgetown Marketplace August 9-12, Canadian Tire in Georgetown August 10-12 and Acton's Leathertown Festival August 13.

For more information call 905-878-5511, ext. 5200 or 1-800-731-4000 or check out their website at www.cfc-ccaf.gc.ca.

BILL C 68 ASSISTANTS



PHOTO BY DONNA DANIELLI

Four Halton area students are assisting gun owners with firearm registration as part of the Department of Justice initiated "Outreach Firearms Program 2000." The Firearms Licensing Assistants are Debbie McDowell, Lisa Hodgson, Erryn Wilson and Kimberly Ford and they can be visited at various locations across the Region for information concerning Bill C 68.

Inside This Month's Compass

Memories

In the summer of 1994 Linda Sword and John Crompton purchased Glencairn Farm on the Nassagaweya Fifth Line from Bill and Carol Gregg, gaining friendship, mentorship and inheritance which continue to enrich their lives even after Bill's death.

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Rockwood Business

Ralph MacDonald Appliance Service and Parts Depot is now owned by daughter Heather and her husband Matt Clark, who took over the reins from Ralph. They will be expanding their present retail outlet on Victoria Road in the autumn of 2000.

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Shoebbox Memories

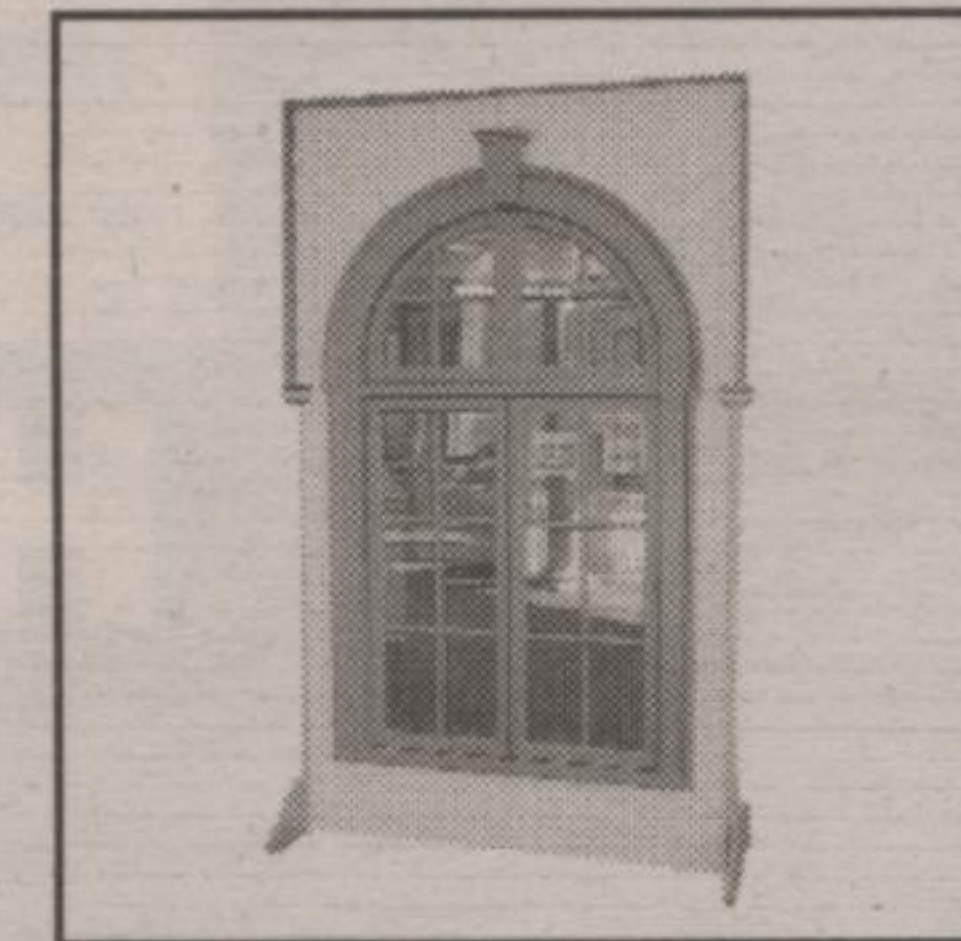
Under the guidance of Halton Agricultural Representative J.E. Whitelock from 1934 to 1959, the Halton Junior Farmers Association flourished with clubs for rural youth in Burlington, Milton, Acton, Palermo and Norval.

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Business Feature

Paul and Joanne Merritt of Ridley Windows and Doors can be confident that Ridley's reputation for quality and "affordable elegance" can only continue to grow with their new office, showroom and warehouse, just off the 401 in Campbellville.

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