



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

NATURE'S FIRE
*Learning can be Cool,
 Educational...and Fun!*
 Sat., April 21, 10 am-12 pm
 Free Craft Play Day
 Boys & Girls 5-12
 (must be accompanied by an adult)
 223 Main St. E. Milton
 (905) 878-0084
 www.NaturesFire.com

The North Halton Compass

**Bergsma's
 Paint & Wallpaper**
 Imagine inviting surroundings with
 helpful, knowledgeable staff
 Imagine a warm ambience
 to inspire your creativity
 Imagine no more!

 Georgetown - Marketplace Mall
 Milton - Downtown
 Brampton - Hwy 10 N 407
 Serving Halton since 1968

Volume 4, Issue 1

"A Rural Paper to Call Our Own"

April, 2001

Cattle tagging program a vital tool for tracing disease

by Naomi Powell
 The Compass

In the barn behind Sandy Grant's farmhouse in rural Milton, the cattle look a little different. The large plastic tags dangling from the ears of these enormous creatures are the key elements in a tracing program that the Canadian Cattle Association says will dramatically improve their ability to track and eliminate diseases like those now devastating European farmers.

The program, announced on January 1st 2001, stipulates that tags approved by the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA), each bearing a unique number and bar code, must be applied to an animal before it leaves its herd of origin. The tag number is then entered into a central database along with information on the animal's owner or producer. Should a health or safety issue

emerge at the point of carcass inspection, this information will provide the crucial first step in the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's investigation into the animal's movements.

Cattle producers like Sandy Grant are happy to oblige. Grant, who tends approximately 43 head of cattle on her farm, sees the new system as a necessary measure "to contain any possible problems." Likewise, George Early, whose farm in Middlesex County is home to 175 cows, says cattle producers "are concerned that they sell a good product for consumers to eat." The tagging program, he says, provides "a check in the system to build confidence in [our] product."

Not that the new program didn't receive a mixed reception among cattle producers at first. Although he supports the program,

Early says some producers initially complained about the costs involved with tagging their herd and argued that there was no guarantee that the tags would remain with the animal for a lifetime. Cindy McCreath, Communications Manager for the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency, dismisses these complaints, quoting the average price for a tag is between one and three dollars and therefore very affordable.

McCreath says many of the objections initially directed at the program came from producers who had never experienced a health threat to their herds and felt the system was unnecessary in Canada.

"The news out of Europe has shot that argument right down," McCreath states.

(continued on page 2)

From the mouths of future farmers

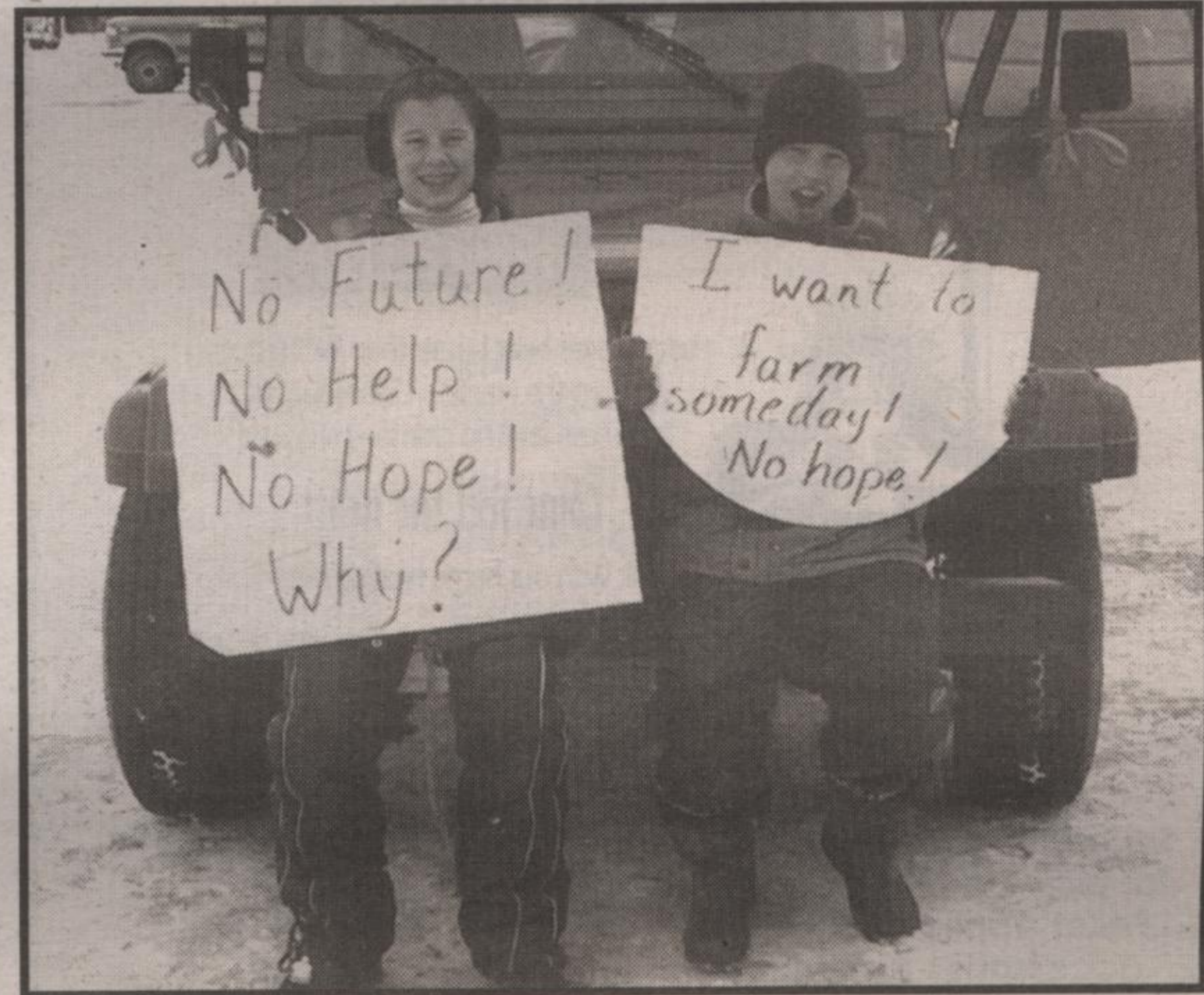


Photo by Deborah Quaille

Angela Laidlaw, left, and Tom Hamilton, right, are cousins from Norval that are fed up with the poor reception farmers get from the Federal Government. They participated in the Day of Action with a slow drive to Guelph to voice their disgruntlement at the Agriculture Canada Building on Stone Road in Guelph on March 14.

Inside this Month's Compass

Mullen it Over

Ramona Shaw was a teacher who, in the fall of 1948 and fresh out of Normal School, arrived in Nassagaweya to teach at S.S.#8, a one-room school on 5th Line between the 20th and 25th Sideroads.

page 9



Shoebbox Memories

Evan and Sarah Price built a large two-storey stone house with field stone from the farm's hillside at the front of their Esquesing Township, Halton County property in the early 1840's.

page 14



Quaille Reviews

Illustrator Janet Wilson has a new children's picture book out for spring entitled, *The Biggest Fish in the Lake*. Her work is a reminder of sweet summer days spent fishing at the cottage.

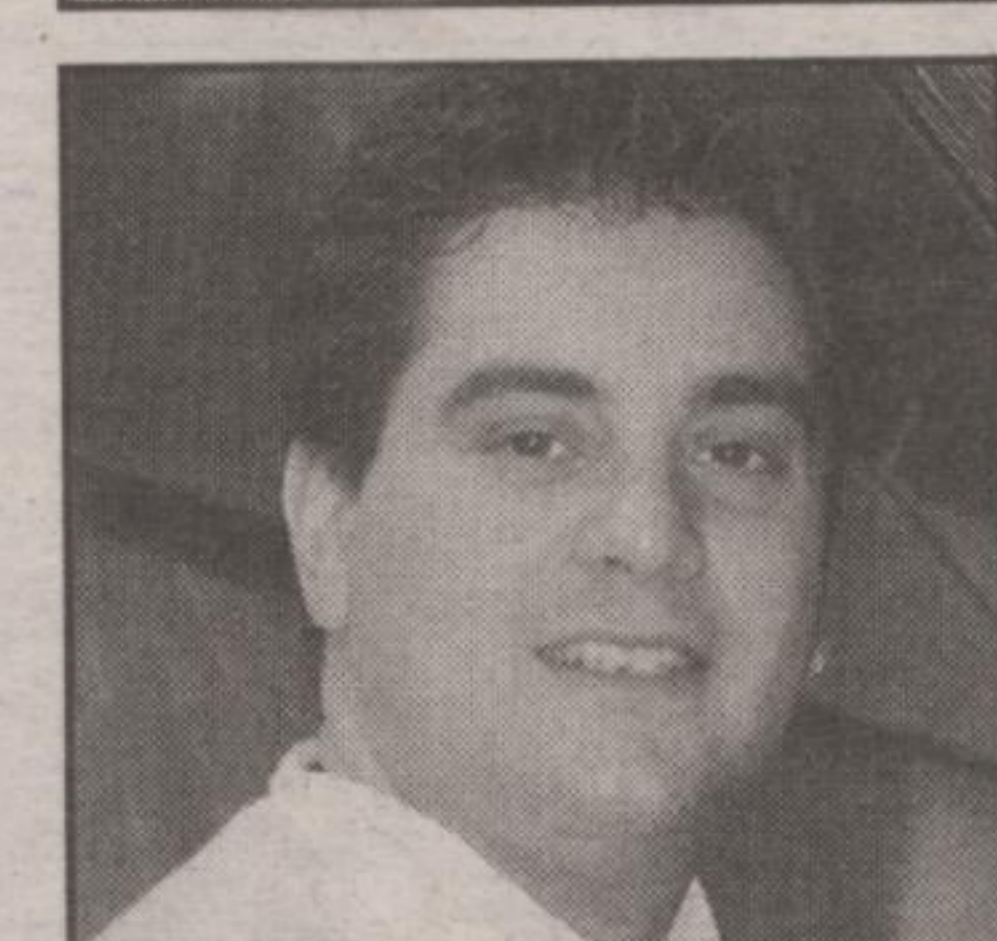
page 16



Business Feature

Paul Mattina of Mattina's Cucina Ristorante in Georgetown makes you feel like one of the family at his restaurant for fine Italian cuisine. Mattina is chef and proprietor along with his wife Cherie.

page 20



Lease & Finance Rates
 as low as 1.9%



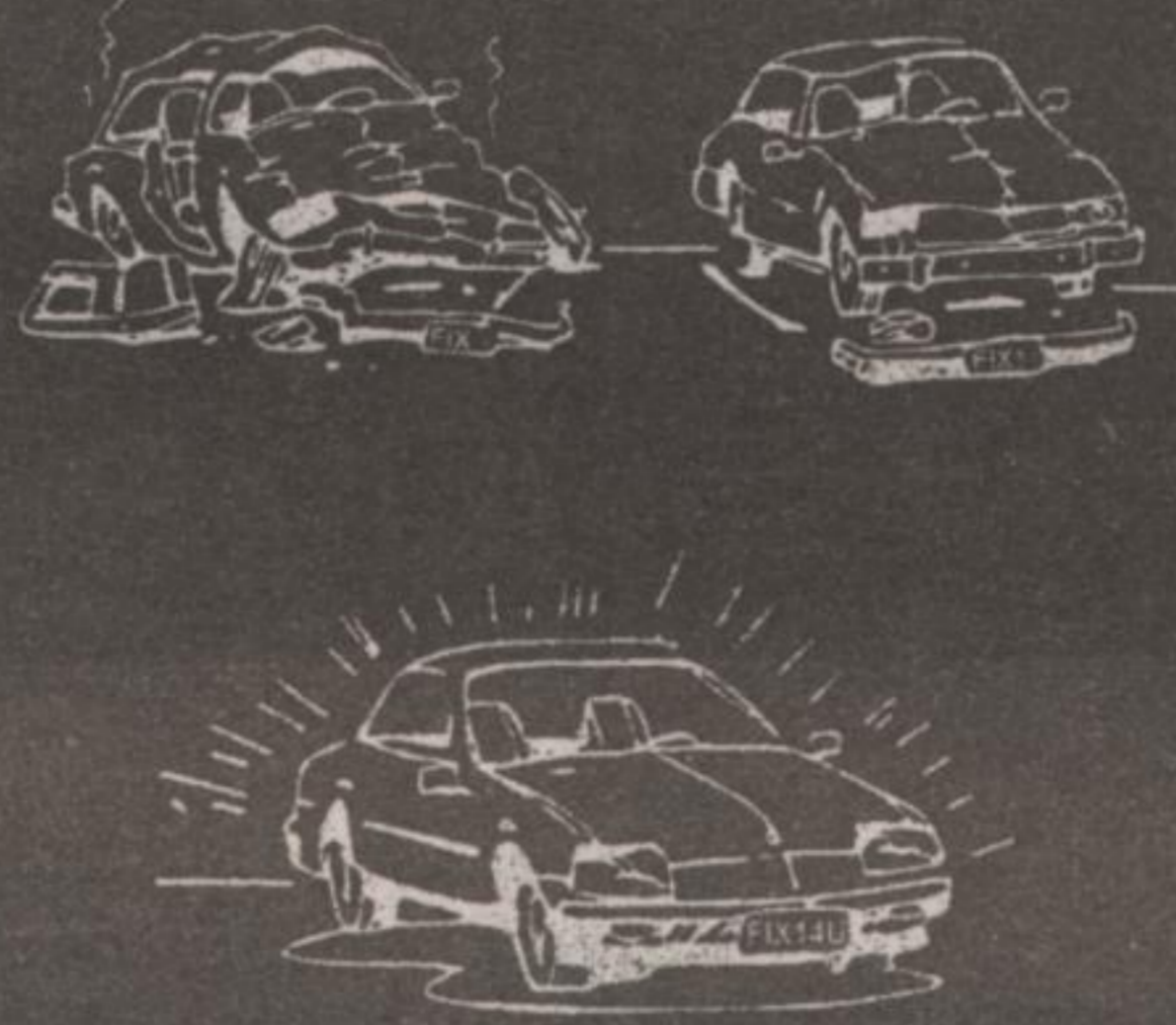
Wallace Pontiac
 Buick

Cadillac • Pontiac • Buick •
 GMC Trucks

801 Main Street East,
 Milton
 (905) 878-2355

MILTOWNE
 COLLISION INC.

"We meet by accident"



751 Main Street East,
 Milton
 905-878-6919

LIFETIME WARRANTY

Thrifty Car Rental

Two locations to serve you.

164 Guelph St., Georgetown
 905-877-7777

88 Ontario St. N., Milton
 905-875-3738

The more selection we have,
 the more choices you have.

[Here's to more of everything.]

Choose from a wide variety of vehicles for all your
 transportation needs at Thrifty.



Thrifty features quality products of DaimlerChrysler and other fine cars.
 A licensee of Thrifty Rent-A-Car System, Inc.