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# The North Halton Compass

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Volume 4, Issue 9

"A Rural Paper to Call Our Own"

December, 2001

## Citizens seek pesticide alternatives

by Donna Danielli

A group of Milton citizens, concerned about the effects of pesticides on health and the environment, joined forces two years ago and formed "Pesticide Alternatives for Milton."

Over the past two years they have organized eight information booths at the Milton Farmer's Market and the Milton Mall, where they have found support in their endeavours to educate the public about alternatives to pesticide use. On October 29, Dr. Erika Ristok, a local naturopathic doctor who acts as a representative for Pesticide Alternatives for Milton, presented Milton Council with a petition calling for a local ban on cosmetic pesticide use.

"You, our Councillors, have a duty to help protect the health and safety of the citizens of the Town of Milton, both present and future," said Dr. Ristok. "We ask that you help us by initiating the process of phasing out pesticide use on private and public lawns."

Dr. Ristok also reminded Council members that a recent land-

mark case in Hudson, Quebec that was taken before the Supreme Court, carried the ruling that municipalities have the authority to regulate the use of pesticides on private and public property. Towns and cities in Ontario that are investigating the imposition of a ban on pesticides include Toronto, Georgetown, Waterloo and Guelph.

"According to the National Research Council, the population is at great risk from the existing allowable levels of pesticide residues," said Dr. Ristok. "And the data strongly suggests that exposure to these neurotoxic compounds at levels believed to be safe for adults, could result in permanent loss of brain function when it occurs during prenatal and early childhood periods of brain development."

Alternatives to pesticide use outlined by Dr. Ristok included aerating, mulching, top dressing with compost, overseeding, adding clover to grass seed and nourishing the lawn with non-chemical fertilizers.

The delegations that followed Dr. Ristok's presentation encouraged

Council to take Dr. Ristok's words with a grain of salt. Mr. Tony DiGiovanni, the Executive Director for Landscape Ontario Horticulture Trades Association, warned Council to be leery of environmentalists.

"They are targeting Councils with presentations that are full of half truths and generalizations," commented Mr. DiGiovanni. "They use studies that have been discredited. The Hudson ruling was a jurisdictional ruling and had nothing to do with safety issues."

Michael Ufkes, a representative of the Environmental Coalition of Ontario, reminded Council "All products we use are federally tested and provincially regulated. If there was an organic product that we could use, we wouldn't be here tonight. It's not necessarily true that because it's organic, it's safer and better."

Mr. Ufkes encouraged the Council against the banning of pesticide use without more concrete evidence of safety concerns.

"We have to be careful we don't ban everything we can't prove is safe,"

(Continued on page 5)

## Launching books in Eden Mills

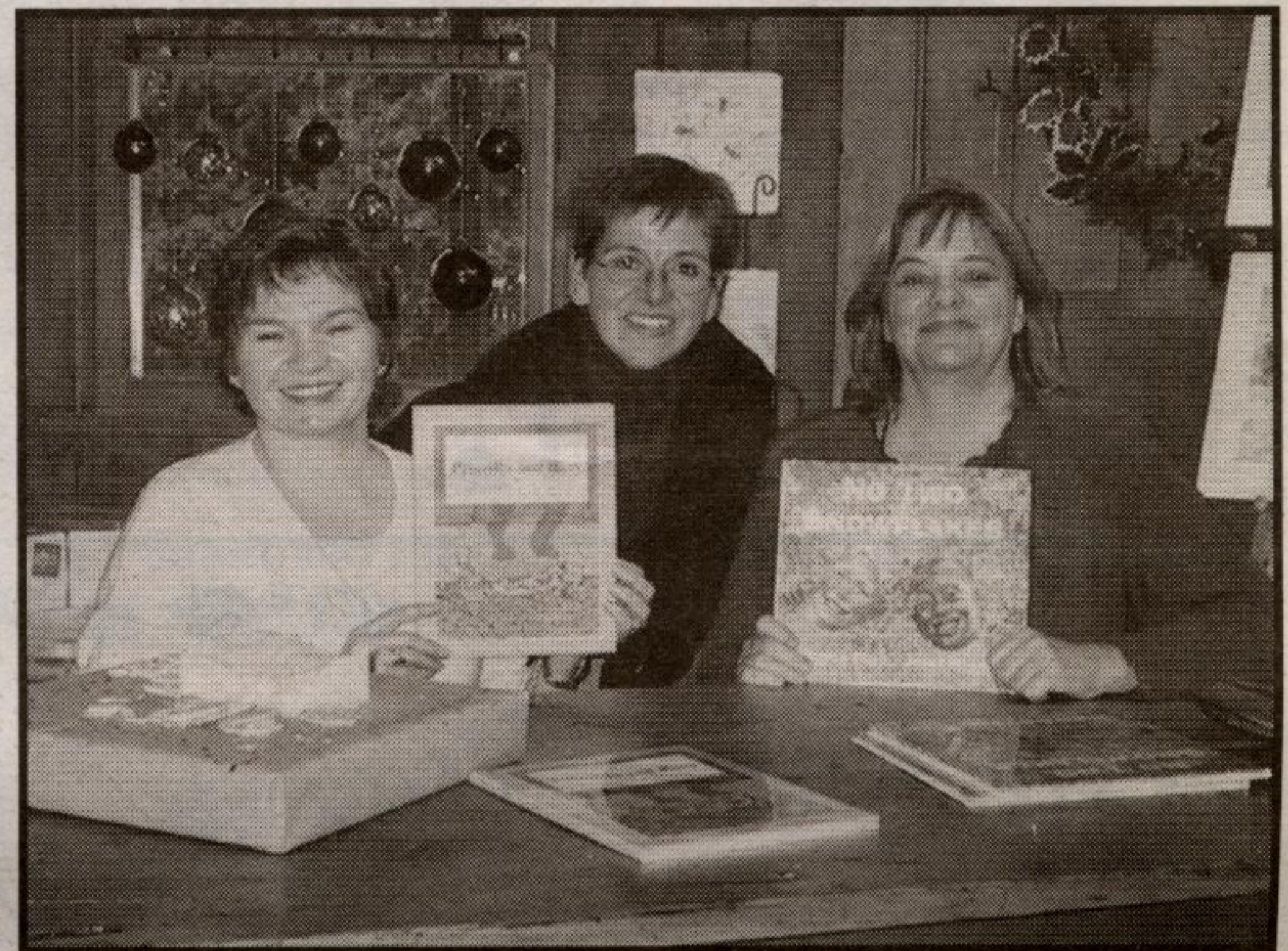


Photo by Deborah Qualle

From left to right, author Sharon Jennings, and illustrators Linda Hendry and Janet Wilson held a successful book launch for two recent books, *Priscilla and Rosie* and *No Two Snowflakes*. The event was held November 24 at Eden Place Village Glass and Gits in Eden Mills. Fans were treated to hot chocolate, cheese and snowflake crackers to emphasize the themes of the stories. Jennings and Hendry worked as author and illustrator on *Priscilla and Rosie*, and Wilson illustrated *No Two Snowflakes*, written by Sheree Fitch.

## Inside this Month's Compass

### Shoobox Memories

Robert and Annie Mae Pewtress farmed his father's farm on Lot 12, Conc. 5, Trafalgar Township and later moved to the Presbyterian Manse in the village of Hornby.

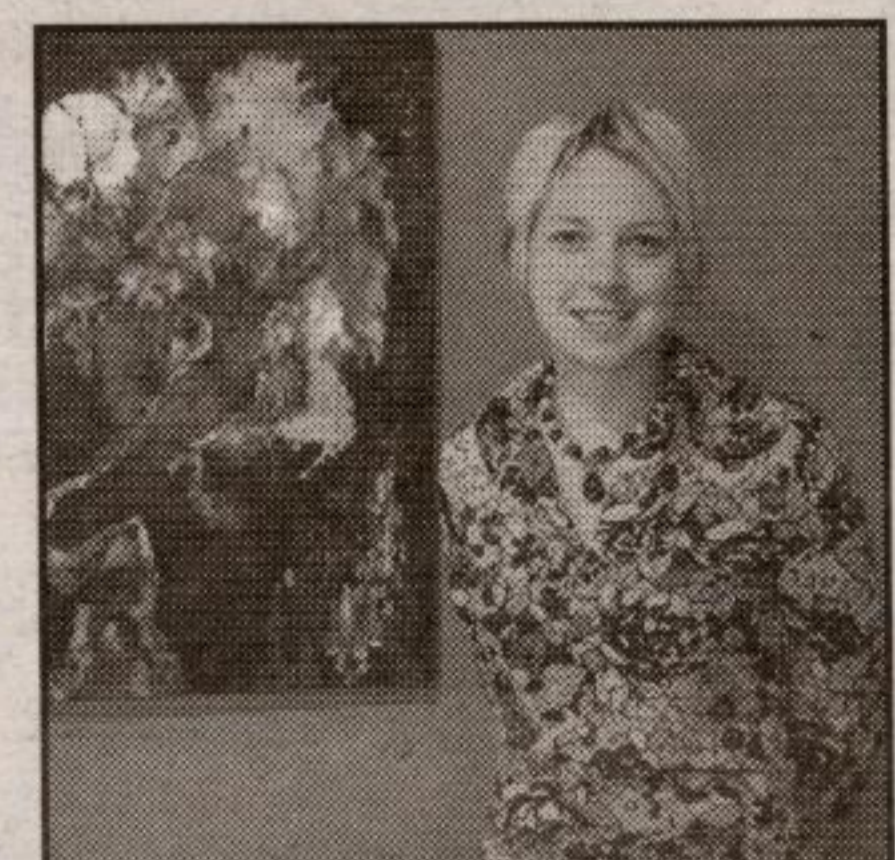
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### Idle Pursuits

Local artist, Tina Newlove has a flare for art. She has turned this talent into a career that has led her far from her Campbellville home. Currently she has returned to her roots - showing her work in Campbellville

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### Clippity Clips

From plain sheets of glass to glorious stained glass animals, Helene Hansmann takes every step with delight creating unique portraits of your favourite pets.

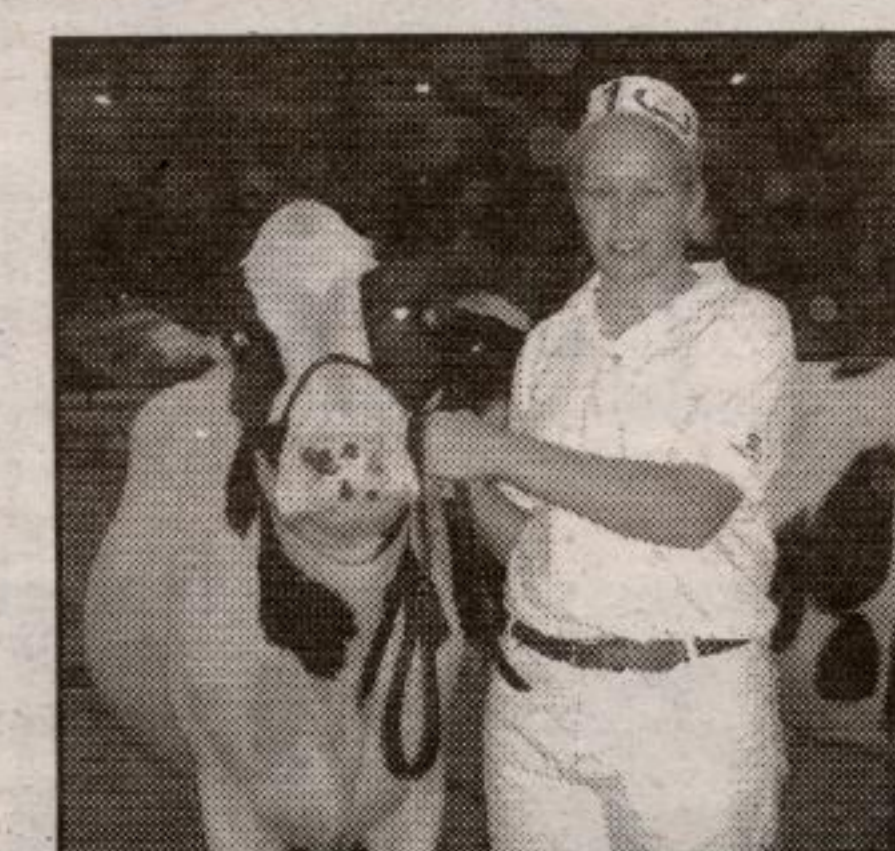
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### Halton 4-H

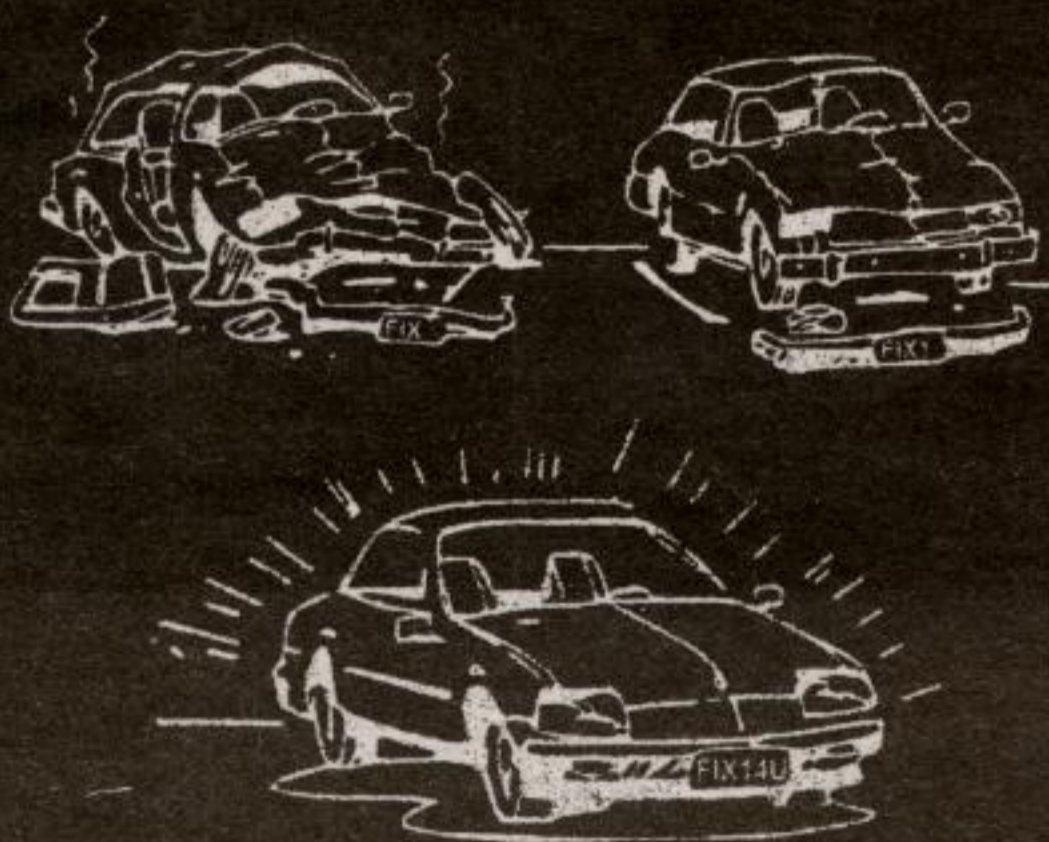
The best of the best attended Toronto's Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in November. It's no surprise Halton 4-H members excelled in both the dairy and beef classes.

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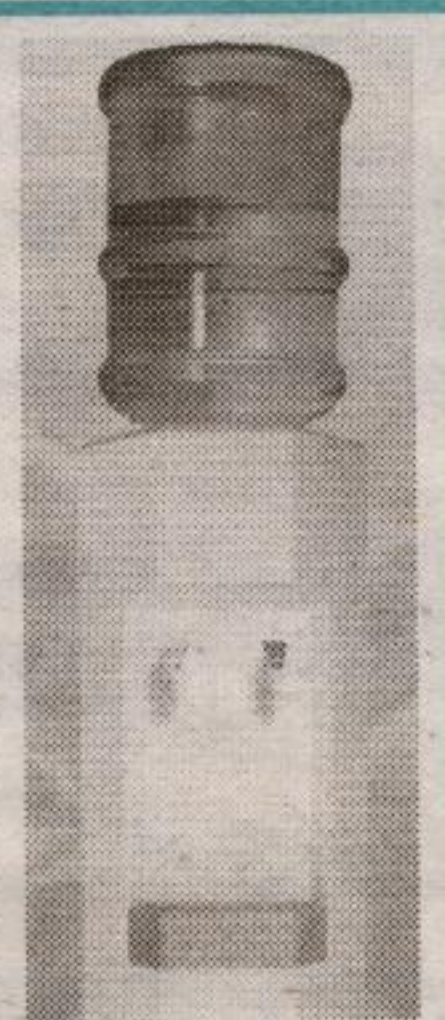
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