

Farmers to draft statement on rights

By **TED BROWN**
Staff writer

More than 100 Halton area farmers gathered at Hillcrest United Church Tuesday night to exchange ideas on how to preserve their rights as agriculturalists in today's society.

Organized by Halton Region Federation of Agriculture (HRFA), and entitled a Forum on Landowners' Rights, the evening featured three speakers, all sharing their ideas on how today's farmers can convince all levels of government to address and preserve their needs to carry on with

the business of agriculture in the region.

"The Tuesday night meeting was an information meeting," said HRFA's Jamie Fisher, one of the organizers. "It was organized to give local farmers an idea of the issues we're concerned about, and give them a chance to give them some thought, so they can bring their own ideas back to the second meeting, and put together some policy statements."

The second meeting is planned for Tuesday, Jan. 30 at Hillcrest Church, and will begin at 9:50 a.m. At that time, a focus group will be set up to look at the various ideas and work towards drafting a statement.

Issues under consideration range from guidelines for agricultural land use to dealing with nuisance

complaints from nearby urban residents. Other policies suggested could include expropriation procedures, severances, notification of zoning or designation changes and perhaps trespass laws.

"The present landowners' rights policy of 'the right to use and enjoy property' is a little too general," said Fisher, "We want it to be more specific from an agricultural point of view."

Fisher expects the final draft of the proposal will be finished by the end of March, at which time it will then be used to lobby for changes in the current system.

Anyone planning to attend the all-day Jan. 30 meeting is asked to preregister with Jamie Fisher at (905) 336-7499.

Parents opposed to vaccine unite

A public meeting is being held Monday in Oakville for parents concerned about the mandatory measles vaccination of Halton pupils.

The meeting is hosted by Variance (Vaccination Risk Information and Alternatives Resource Group) and will focus on parents' rights and the legalities of mandatory vaccines.

The meeting is at the Holiday Inn (formerly Howard Johnson's) from

7:30-9 p.m. There is a \$5 admission.

The Halton Regional Health Dept. will be giving a second dose of the measles' vaccine to 65,000 students in Halton, from JK to OAC, between February and June, 1996.

Parents who want more information call Variance at 416-534-1477 or call the Halton Region's Health Dept.'s Measles Information Line at 825-6190.

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