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END EVIDENCE IN ASSESSMENT HEARING



PLOWMEN FROM SIX COUNTIES competed in the annual match of the Halton Plowmen's Association on the L. W. Laing farm last Thursday. Shown here is a portion of the crowd seen in the centre dividing line between sections on each side. Forty plowmen competed in the annual event and despite the dry condition of the soil, the quality of the work was well up to standard according to Alex Black, of Guelph, former champion plowman, who with John Hargreaves of Beachville, were the official judges of the day. —Staff Photo

L. W. Laing Farm Scene of Halton's Annual Match

The Lorne W. Laing farm, Lot 6, of the 7th Concession of Nelson proved an ideal site for the annual match of the Halton Plowmen's Association on Thursday of last week. Forty plowmen from the counties of Ontario, York, Peel, Wellington, Waterloo and Halton met in friendly rivalry. Despite the dry condition of the soil, the quality of the work was well up to standard, according to Alex Black of Guelph, former champion plowman, who with John Hargreaves of Beachville, were the official judges of the day.

The large head ridges in both match fields, as well as a third field which housed the splendid machinery display, were crowded with interested spectators.

The Esso Champions Special for the best ridges plowed by Halton contestants with Tractor and Horse drawn plows, were won by Spencer Wilson of Norval, and Stanley May, of Hornby.

The Bank of Commerce Trophy for the best land in second class tractors, was won by John W. Pickett, of Hornby; while the Bank of Nova Scotia Trophy for the best ridge by a Halton contestant under 21 years was won for the third time by Arnold Howden, of Milton.

Don Taylor, twelve year old from Appleby Line, Nelson Township, and Glen Irwin, Milton, of the same age, won the Geo. E. Elliott Specials for the youngest plowmen in the field.

The Stanley May Special for the best "In and Outs" by a Halton contestant in the boys' classes was won by John Cunningham, of Hornby.

In the tractor mounted class Vern McArthur of Milton won the Stirling-Dynes Special for the best ridge by a Halton contestant.

Some 250 attended the Banquet held in the Milton Town Hall the same evening. Here President Harold Pickett of the Plowmen's Association presided over the excellent program.

Dr. J. D. MacLachlan, president of the Ontario Agricultural College delighted the large audience with his able address describing agricultural conditions as he found them on his recent trip to Great Britain, Denmark and Holland. In referring to Denmark, he stated "the Danes are doing a splendid job in adapting their agriculture to meet present day conditions in that country," and "due to their lack of coal and minerals, two-thirds of their exports consist of agricultural produce."

"Their livestock," stated Dr. MacLachlan, "is rated on performance." "In Holland too," he stated, "agriculture is the life blood of the country, which is approximately 200 miles by 200 miles, and contains 10 and one-quarter millions of people."

The speaker also stated that in all countries visited they look on Canada as a young, virile country and envy us the opportunities which are ours. He concluded his most interesting and informative address with some beautifully colored slides showing some of the points of interest in the countries visited.

Others who spoke briefly included Warden J. M. Wickson; Mayor G. F. Thompson, of Milton; Reeve C. L. S. Palmer, of Nelson Township; E. I. McLoughy, associate director of Extension for the Ontario Department of Agriculture; and Stanley Hall, M.P.P. Vocal selections by Eleanor Cairns and Jerry Homewood of Campbellville rounded out an excellent evening's program.

The following is a list of the prize winners in the walking plow classes:

HOLD SERVICES AT HALTON MANOR; PLAN HALLOWEEN PARTY

The resident ministers of Milton have commenced services at the Halton Centennial Manor each Sunday. Rev. Green took the services two weeks ago and Rev. Osborne last Sunday. Rev. J. L. Blair will be in charge of the service next Sunday, to be followed by the Baptist minister the following Sunday.

Owing to church services being held from 1.30 to 2.30 p.m., visiting hours at the Manor have been changed to 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. and 7.00 to 8.30 in the evening.

A Halloween social evening Friday night is planned for the residents, with movies and special refreshments.

M. McPHAIL IS LIBERAL CANDIDATE SUGGEST CLEAVER FOR SENATE

Murray McPhail, 39, was elected by an overwhelming majority on the first ballot to carry the Liberal standard in the next federal election. At the Liberal Convention in Milton town hall on Saturday of last week a motion was also unanimously endorsed that "in recognition of the long and outstanding service in the government, Hughes S. Cleaver, Burlington, the present member for Halton, be appointed to the Senate."

Elected in 1935, Mr. Cleaver announced earlier this year that he would not again contest the seat. Addressing the convention, Mr. Cleaver said, "When I felt I could not fully carry out the duties as I should it was with a great deal of reluctance I decided I would not offer my name for re-election. This will be the last time I will be standing on a convention platform as your federal representative."

Prominently contesting the election of the candidacy were John Kehoe, Burlington, and Reeve E. R. Lauder, Oakville; Thomas A. Blacklock, former M.P.P., and William Anderson, both of Oakville, declined to stand after receiving nominations.

Addressing the meeting, Hon. Walter Harris, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, dealt with the government's promises of 1949

Singer, Speaker Highlight Services

The highest expectations of the congregation of Knox Presbyterian Church were fulfilled last Sunday as they celebrated their ninety-seventh anniversary. On a perfect October day, large numbers of Presbyterians and their friends gathered to hear Rev. D. S. Jackson of Port Credit as he offered two exceptionally fine sermons.

In the morning, he dealt with the present world situation and appealed to his hearers to help to improve present conditions by the consecration of their own lives to Christ and His Church.

In the evening, a thoughtful discourse, delivered with quiet earnestness and sincerity, centred the thought of his hearers on the true values of life and the true measure of life's greatness. Both sermons were followed with close attention by all present.

The musical part of the services consisted of two anthems by the choir under the leadership of Mrs. G. Newell and several solos by Ronald Stewart. Most of those present had heard Mr. Stewart before and came with great expectations. None were disappointed and perhaps their sentiments were best expressed by the evening congregation. After the benediction had been pronounced the whole congregation remained to hear Mr. Stewart sing another number or two, thus paying an unspoken tribute to the excellence of the service he had rendered throughout the day.

Members of St. Paul's United Church, with their minister, were present at the evening service. Rev. J. L. Blair offered prayer as Rev. Mr. Orsborn had done two weeks before in the United Church. This evidence of fellowship between the churches was much appreciated and served to fill to the brim the cup of contentment for all who had looked forward to the occasion. It was a great day in every respect.

Five Hospitalized After Cars Crash

Five persons were taken to hospital following a three-car crash on No. 7 highway near the Ontario Reformatory at Guelph on Sunday evening. Injured were Harvey McDougall of R. R. 1, Rockwood; his brother, Gordon McDougall; Paul Johnson, R. R. 6, Milton; Ross Johnson, 9 and his sister Marion, 12.

The car driven by Harvey McDougall was driving toward Guelph when it hit the rear left corner of a vehicle driven by Harold Irwin of R. R. 2, Guelph. The car caromed off and across the road, crashing into the Johnson car which was travelling east. While the Irwin car was only slightly damaged, the McDougall and Johnson cars met head-on and both are a total loss.

Harvey McDougall suffered multiple abrasions and possible concussion; his brother, Gordon, facial lacerations and shock.

Nine-year-old Ross Johnson suffered concussion and facial lacerations and a possible fractured jaw; his sister Marion, multiple lacerations to face, neck and legs, possible concussion and fractured right ankle. Paul Johnson suffered head lacerations, concussion and facial lacerations and a possible fractured jaw.

All were taken to Guelph General hospital.

Investigation was carried on by Constable Robertson of the Provincial police.

Items For Bazaar Brought to Guild

Mrs. Ken Ella was hostess to the St. Stephen's Church Guild on Wednesday evening, October 22nd. The president, Mrs. Glen Saunders, presided and Mrs. William Bradley acted as secretary in the absence of Mrs. Hunter.

Many articles were brought for the bazaar, which is to be held in the newly constructed Parish Hall in the basement of the church. It was decided to have the next meeting in the hall to prepare for the bazaar.

After the meeting closed, refreshments were served by the hostess.

HORNBY

Old Fashioned Lady Wins Competition

A Halloween party was held at St. Stephen's Anglican Church basement on Saturday afternoon for the pupils of the Sunday School and the Little Helpers. The girls and boys in their various costumes presented a colorful picture of clowns with eyes, goblins and ghosts, the prize for the best costume going to Doreen Harrop who made a most charming, diminutive old fashioned lady. After many games had been played, lunch was served and Halloween candy was given out before the party was brought to a close.

Clean-up Bee

Quite a number of the members of St. Stephen's met at the church on Monday evening, with scrub brushes, brooms, dusters, etc. to clean up after the plastering of the church. The addition of a new basement, a heating system and electric lights to St. Stephen's has made an improvement in the old church of which the congregation is justly proud.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Thompson have recently returned home after a motor trip to the Eastern Coast.

Assessment Appeal Ends Counsel Concludes Case

Hearing of the County assessment appeal concluded Monday when counsel informed the Court all evidence had been presented. Judge W. N. Robinson said it had been agreed by counsel to present their argument in written form, having until November 17 for that purpose.

His Honor complimented counsel, Hughes Cleaver for the appellants and Douglas McConachie, for Nelson and Trafalgar townships, in the manner which they presented their cases. "I appreciate the co-operation counsel have given in this case. There has been a good feeling throughout, and I think all phases of evidence have been reviewed."

A great mass of evidence was heard with a sheaf of 55 photographic documents, analytical surveys and other evidence was presented as exhibits during the long hearing, which was launched by the Towns of Burlington and Oakville following the passing of the annual equalized assessment by law by County Council last June.

Mr. Cleaver, on behalf of the appellants, sought to show the great difference between the assessment of property and the out-of-line prices purchasers have paid. During evidence, he disclosed where the Hon. Ray Lawson sold 4.9 acres of property for a total of \$62,900, which carried an assessment of \$14,200. Another, the Ryrle property of 550 acres, sold for \$58,000 and was assessed for \$21,275. Counsel then proceeded to have assessments confirmed on more than a dozen and a half properties which sold for prices ranging from three to nine times their assessed value.

Referring to the sale price of the Ryrle property, Mr. Cleaver asked witness if "he felt bound by the county assessor?" "Yes," witness replied.

"You know this property was held for speculation for years and the lowest offer was \$600 an acre?" "The Act says you can't assess for a potential," witness Dunham replied.

Witness also said there had been an upward trend in value of properties east and north of Oakville since the Ford development had begun. This was most noticeable especially that of vacant land being used for subdivision purposes.

"I would have thought the Ford development would hurt the prices here," the court queried.

"This has been accelerated during the last 12 months."

W. S. Hall, a witness who had sold his farm to the Ford company, said, "the sale price of my farm to Ford was away out of line for farm properties." It was disclosed this land had been assessed at \$45 an acre but sold for \$150,000.

Judge Robinson sought to learn if the assessment in the county was wrong, from J. Coomb, a municipal consultant called as an expert witness. He referred to the practice of allowing an obsolescence discount in all parts of the county while Oakville and Burlington were assessed on a 100 per cent basis.

Witness stated it was not necessary for a reassessment, but it could be done individually without hurting the present program. "I would suggest a re-alignment of the assessment figures."

Mr. Coombs strongly urged the blanket form of allowing a location discount be discontinued, but to institute a program of allowing a discount where individual cases merit it. He further stated, he thought the sub-divisions were reasonably well assessed, but "it's too bad other parts of the county had not been assessed on the same basis."

Of the eighteen counties in Ontario which has a similar assessment program, properties are assessed from \$44 to \$60 per acre. He felt Halton had done well to assess farm land at \$45 an acre for top-type farm lands. Witness also felt some properties named in evidence had been assessed too high, while some had been assessed too low.

Another expert witness, W. B. Sturupp, a Toronto Real Estate broker, concurred in the evidence given by Mr. Coombs, strongly urging that no building obsolescence should be allowed. He further recommended increasing land assessments ranging from \$75 per acre to \$2,000.

Charles Purnell, a Hamilton real estate broker, repeated evidence he gave on behalf of Burlington. He urged assessors to take into consideration sales prices when establishing assessment. He felt it had a bearing on over 9 million dollars enjoyed two and three quarter million dollars of sales during the year.

While Mr. McConachie pointed out sales were only a portion to be considered in establishing an assessment, witness thought they should be considered on a 60 to 75 per cent ratio.

Informing Mr. Purnell of a sale in Oakville, he was asked, "What would you do with a 55 foot property which sold for \$60,000?"

"That is a very startling case. Maybe that man is crazy." "It wasn't a man, it was a bank," Mr. McConachie added.

Witness agreed the price was away out of line for properties in that town.

Re-Elect President Of Conservatives

Percy Cleave of Georgetown was re-elected as president of the Halton Progressive Conservative Association at the annual meeting held last week. Tom Lawson Q.C. of Oakville was elected vice-president.

Mr. Cleave is the treasurer of the Esqueving Agricultural Society and is a member of the Georgetown curling club.

Miss Sybil Bennett Q.C., Halton's conservative candidate in the next federal election, spoke at the meeting on her recent tour of the Maritimes.

SLIDING SCALE
Preacher—Now that you've seen what's wrong with my car, how much will you charge to fix it?
Mechanic—Well, Reverend, \$20 if you stand watching, \$10 if you get out of hearing distance.



RECORD ATTENDANCE was recorded at the Liberal convention in Milton town hall on Saturday night to choose a candidate for the next federal election. Hughes Cleaver, on the left, present federal member for Halton, announced his intention earlier this year not to contest another election. Delegates voted unanimously in favor of Murray McPhail, centre, to carry the Liberal banner in the coming election. Shown at the right is president of the Halton Liberal Association, James Cunningham. —Photo by Pearen