



CHAMPION horsewoman Bea Farber guides her horse out of the paddock at Mohawk Raceway Sunday night prior to her first race. The area's snowstorm

caught the veteran harness racer by surprise. Mrs. Farber is accustomed to racing in Florida and California.

**Breaks vow**

# Champion horsewoman tackles driving snow

By Rod Lamb  
A tough girl is Bea Farber. The 38-year-old driver received a good dose of Canadian winter at Mohawk Raceway Sunday night. Freezing temperatures and driving snow combined to give a chill factor the petite woman found rough. "It's cold," she exclaimed when asked how she felt after her first race. "I'm not accustomed to racing in this." A veteran of balmy Florida and California racetracks, to her Mohawk was as cold as ice. "They said come up, it's nice," Mrs. Farber said of her invitation to race the first weekend in Easter. She had made a rule to never venture north until after April 15. This year she broke it. "I didn't come prepared."

She wore summer shoes and a pair of thin driving gloves. "If I knew it would be like this, I would have brought my winter gear." Her Canadian counterparts, all men, were warmly-suited in traditional harness. However, the cold and snow didn't stop her from venturing out into the swirling whiteness to work on her stirrups. After the first race in which she had misjudged and clipped another driver, she went out to make the repairs herself. The move is a trait of Bea's. The second best driver in North America regardless of sex, Bea's average was 432. "I've had a lot of good horses," she said modestly. "A good horse makes the driver look good. Everything depends on it."

In nine years of racing, she's had her spills. Once an accident up ahead resulted in Bea breaking her plastic goggles. The stem went through the side of her eyeball. "It missed the bone," she said. "I almost lost it," she said of the eye. Another time, a mishap resulted in a horse falling onto Bea, breaking her pelvis. Although in pain, she drove in two heats afterwards. Injuries are not strangers to Bea's husband either. "He broke his collar bone last week when the horse somersaulted," Bea said matter-of-factly. Despite the threat to life, Bea enjoys the work. "I used to work as a legal secretary," she said. "I used to work my butt off and have nothing to show for it."

"Now, here, I can work hard and have something to show." Bea has recorded over 36 two-minute victories and has been honored with several trotting championships at raceways in the United States. Bea's colors are white, green and gold. "I wanted red and maroon," she said. "But the U.S. authorities wouldn't register them." "They wanted to give me red and gold." The reason is red and gold show up better on color television, which is a feature at many tracks. She regrets the decision. "My husband had red and maroon for 25 years. 'I don't see why I couldn't have had them too.' Bea competed in five races. She was disqualified in one, came second once and third twice. In the fifth she failed to reach distinction.

# Hydro rates may go up if rural area acquired

Hydro rates to rural consumers in Milton are almost certain to go up if a report on restructuring in Halton is approved. The report which recommends Milton Hydro assume responsibility for rural areas now serviced by Ontario

## Halton to spend

When regional council holds a special meeting today, it will be asked to approve a \$42,505,339 budget. Most of this is slated for the regular operating budget amounting to \$36,703,014. The balance, \$5,802,325, deals with waterworks. Regional treasurer Don Farmer told this newspaper Monday council may make slight modifications but the budget will remain essentially the way it is. Of the \$36,703,014, a total of \$17,303,360 will be

Hydro, was ordered by the province when regional government came into being. Bill Rowney, chairman of Milton Hydro, headed a delegation to council. Councillors tried several times to get an answer from Mr. Rowney

and the other members of the delegation on how much it would cost for Milton Hydro to assume the rural areas. Firm responses were not forthcoming. Approximate estimates placed the figure at \$4

million, depending on a number of variables. The money would be raised "by rates to local consumer" said Mr. Rowney. He said the rates could go up.

Ontario Hydro is trying to get out of rural service because of the cost. Mr. Rowney estimated the net loss of rural service at around \$50 million province-wide. Halton Hills, however, has opted to continue having Ontario Hydro service rural Esqueving while local utilities in Acton and Georgetown provide power to those towns. Mr. Rowney was asked

why this was so. He said it was because Milton was less parochially-minded than Halton Hills. "Halton Hills chose the status quo. That's what they wanted, and that's what they got. Milton's representatives on the (restructuring) committee felt this was the way to go", said Mr. Rowney.

Milton's representatives on the committee were Mr. Rowney and Mayor Don Gordon. Mayor Gordon defended his decision to have Milton Hydro service the whole town, saying the whole area was one town now, and having one utility service

the area made sense. Councillor Rick Day disagreed, saying he lives in former Oakville and pays his hydro bill to Oakville Hydro.

He said if he had to pay "one dime more" so he can pay his bill to Milton Hydro, he'd rather "suffer the indignity" of doing so. Council was told their only recourse is to appeal directly to Reuben Baetz, Minister of Energy. The restructuring report, said Mr. Rowney, is on his desk, and he is expected to deal with it during this sitting of the legislature. The report was tabled by council for later study.



A SURPRISE HONOR was bestowed on Milton couple John and Isobel Hickson Saturday, March 31 at the semi-annual Milton Boy Scouts dinner and dance. Making the presentation is Aurele Lanois, (right) district president of the organization. Mrs. Hickson is the assistant district commissioner for Beavers. The award was the first of its kind, according to Mr. Lanois, and represented the appreciation of the club for the couple's dedicated efforts towards the Scout movement.

**Lions go plumbing**

Milton Lions Club members plan to become plumbers, one weekend soon. The club has agreed to spend up to \$1,000 on plumbing supplies for Camp Dorset, a kidney dialysis camp. They plan to visit the camp and rough in the plumbing on some of the cottages. Last week the club hosted visitors from Mount Hope who were campaigning for Alex Ironside, a candidate for District Governor.

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- Check for an airtight seal by closing the door on a sheet of paper. If the paper pulls out easily, you may need a new gasket.
- Space food on shelves to insure free air circulation.
- Don't let your refrigerator run colder than necessary. Check the control. Perhaps it could be set back a notch or two.
- Don't open the door more often than necessary, or for long periods of time.

**milton hydro**  
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