

Champion Country

Covering Rural Halton & Wellington County

Mounting piles of manure a problem at some local horse farms; supply outgrows demand

By ROBIN DOWNTON-POIRIER

Special to The Champion

Halton horse farmers have a stinky situation on their hands.

Mounting piles of horse manure are interfering with some horse farm operations, said Wards 1 and 3 Town and Regional Councillor Barry Lee.

He's hoping a use for the manure can be found.

"I am hoping that interest will arise for (topsoil) producers to find a new use for this product," he said. "It is an excellent product when blended with other ingredients to make topsoil."

Mr. Lee, speaking on behalf of local horse farmers, said the problem has developed over the last few years.

Previously, the horse manure was being collected regularly by topsoil producers who took it to their facilities, processed it, and made a usable garden product.

But in the last few years, the supply has outgrown the demand and the piles are mounting.

"Halton is growing in number of horse farm operations," said Mr. Lee. "There is now a large volume of horse manure and the demand has dropped."

Often farmers need to move the piles to continue with farm operation,

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COUNCILLOR BARRY LEE

but they're running out of space on their properties, Mr. Lee said.

While chicken and cattle manure is usually spread on the farm operation it comes from, horse manure composition is different and must first be processed.

Mr. Lee explained horse manure is more concentrated and potent and tends to pull nitrogen out of the ground, having an adverse affect on the land.

Mr. Lee said the manure isn't an environmental problem; it's an opera-



Photo by ROBIN DOWNTON-POIRIER

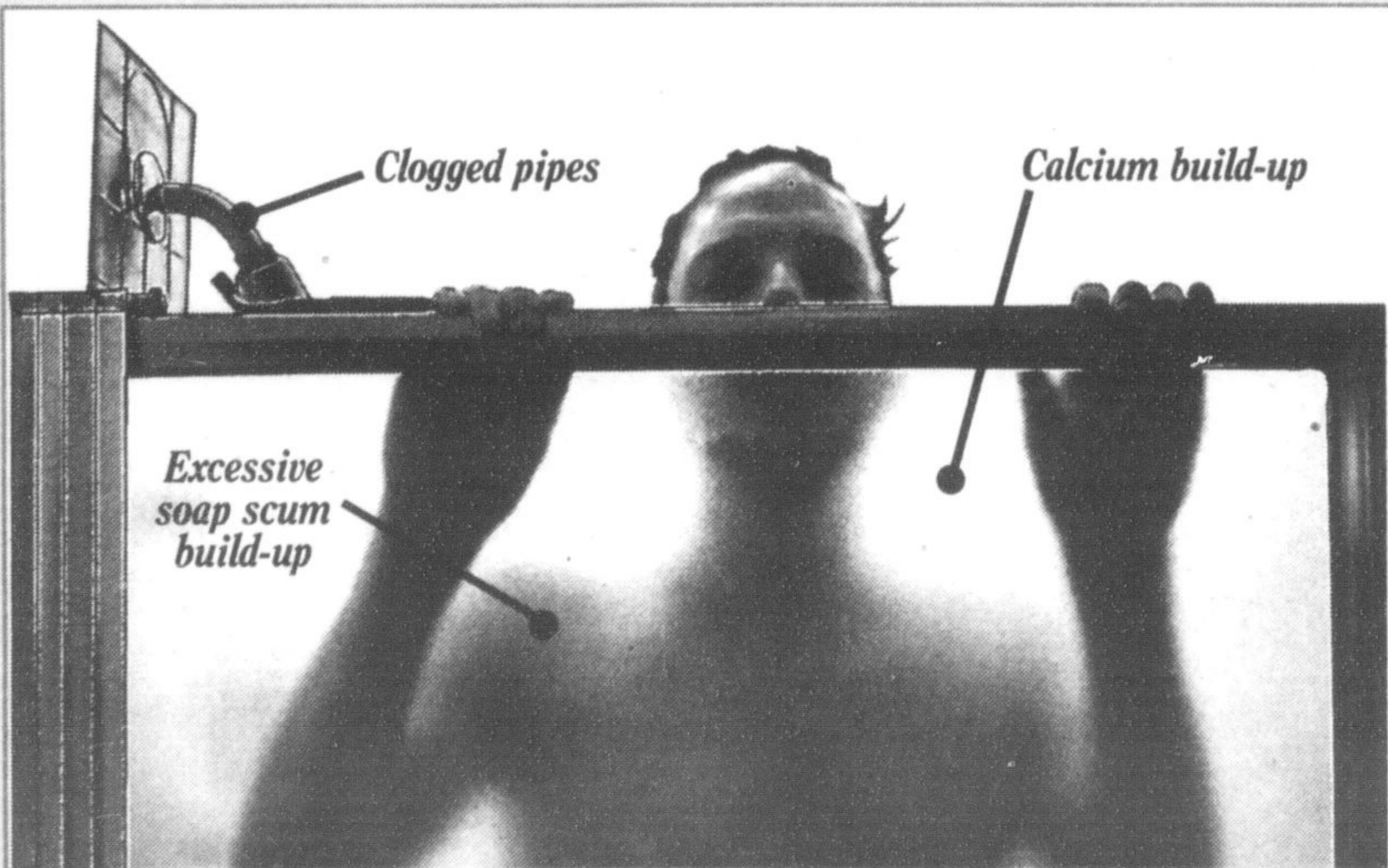
A solution needs to be found as piles of manure like this one on a rural Milton horse farm are mounting. It's not an environmental problem, but an operational one as the piles take up too much space.

tional problem.

He said hopes a solution can be found to help Halton farmers.

"We need to find a way to remove the manure in an orderly fashion from the farm operation and somehow

recycle it into something useful. I feel I have a responsibility to help find a solution to this problem," he said.



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