

Workshop for farmers coming up Dec. 6

While local farmers already know how to grow crops, they can also learn how to grow opportunities at a workshop slated for December 6.

The one-day conference, entitled 'Growing Your Opportunities — Farm and Food', will be hosted by the Halton and Peel Federations of Agriculture at the Brampton Fair Grounds.

It'll provide farmers and related stakeholders with a chance to investigate emerging trends in the agriculture and food industry. They'll also be able to explore new marketing ideas and strategies to adapt to changing agricul-

tural and consumer markets.

"Providing producers with access to innovative ideas and solid business planning expertise is the goal of this day-long conference," said Ontario Federation of Agriculture representative Henry Swierenga.

The workshop's speakers and networking opportunities will provide practical approaches to help farmers address challenges unique to their farm operation so they can make the necessary steps to move forward in today's competitive marketplace.

Last year, eight similar conferences

were held across the province, receiving an overall satisfaction rating of 96 per cent.

In addition to the Halton and Peel Federations of Agriculture, the Town of Caledon, Halton Region, Greater Toronto Agriculture and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs are partnering to host the event.

Registration costs \$20 and includes lunch. To sign up contact Halton Region Federation of Agriculture coordinator Nancy Comber at (905) 878-4955.

'Belonging' meets on the last Mon. of every month

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really where I came from. If I have my mom's nose or her smile, or my dad's eyes," she said.

When Karen turns 18 she will try to take the necessary steps in contacting her birth mother.

McDonald said rejection is the main issue that expands into other problems.

"The bottom line is rejection. And when they feel rejected, it comes out in that they're not going to attach. It comes out in different types of behaviour, or different kind of disorders, or dysfunction. Rejection is the core."

With proper knowledge and counseling these children can have great lives, said McDonald.

McDonald's goal is to bring awareness to the community to let them know that they're not alone, that there's support.

"I really want to get the knowledge out there in the community that there is support, if you've been touched by adoption in any way," said McDonald.

Two other couples, Esperanza and Brad Peacock and Sonja and Richard Spikman, came on board and became partners with McDonald when she decided to form the support group.

The group meets on the last Monday of every month, and had its first meeting in January.

The group took a break from May to August and resumed again in September.

Meetings include a guest speaker and a mini review of a book on adoption.

The support sessions are held at Compass Point Bible Church, 2501 Eaglesfield Dr., in Oakville from 7:15 to 9 p.m.

Further information can be found at www.adoptontario.ca where there's a link to the support group.

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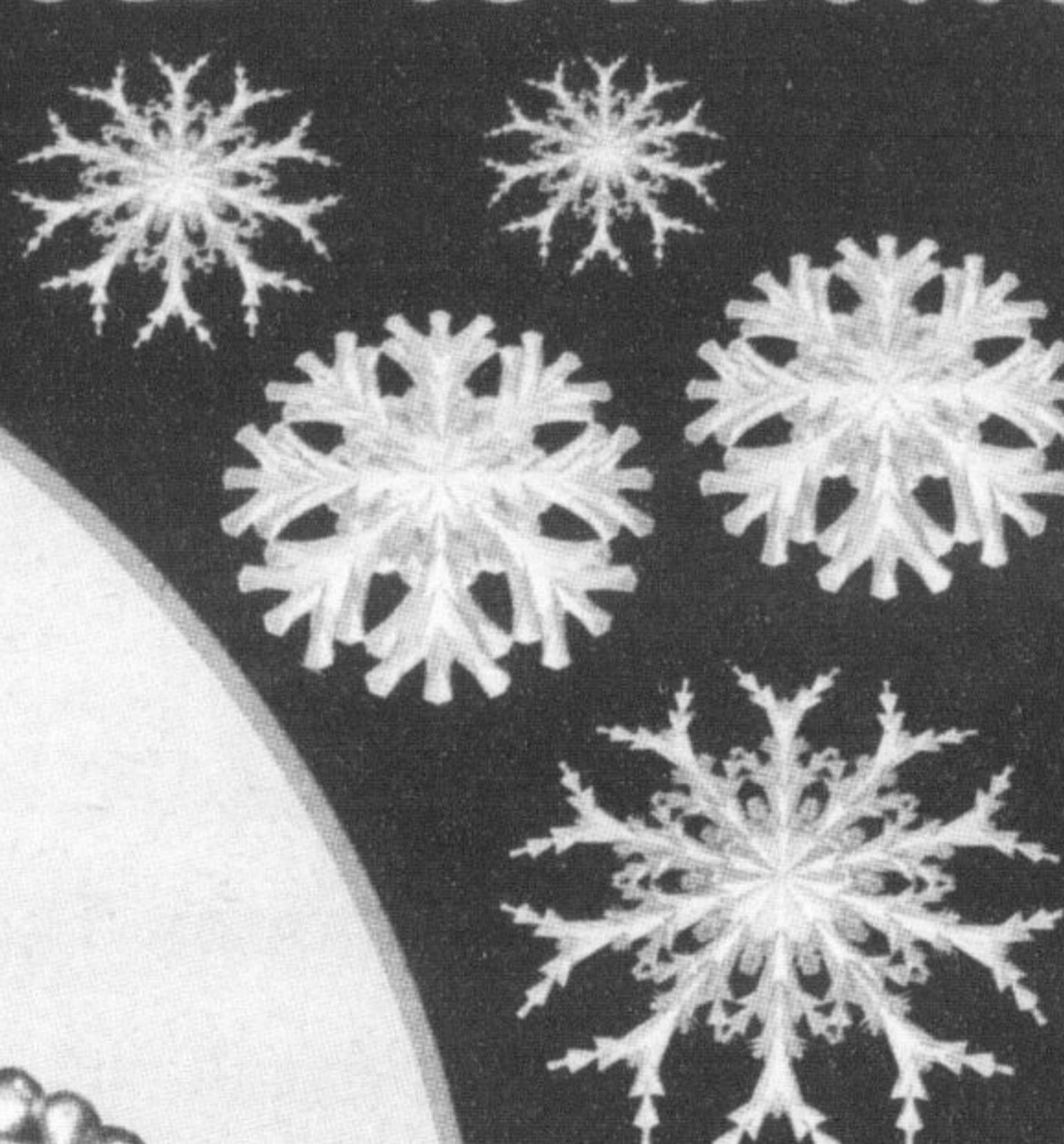


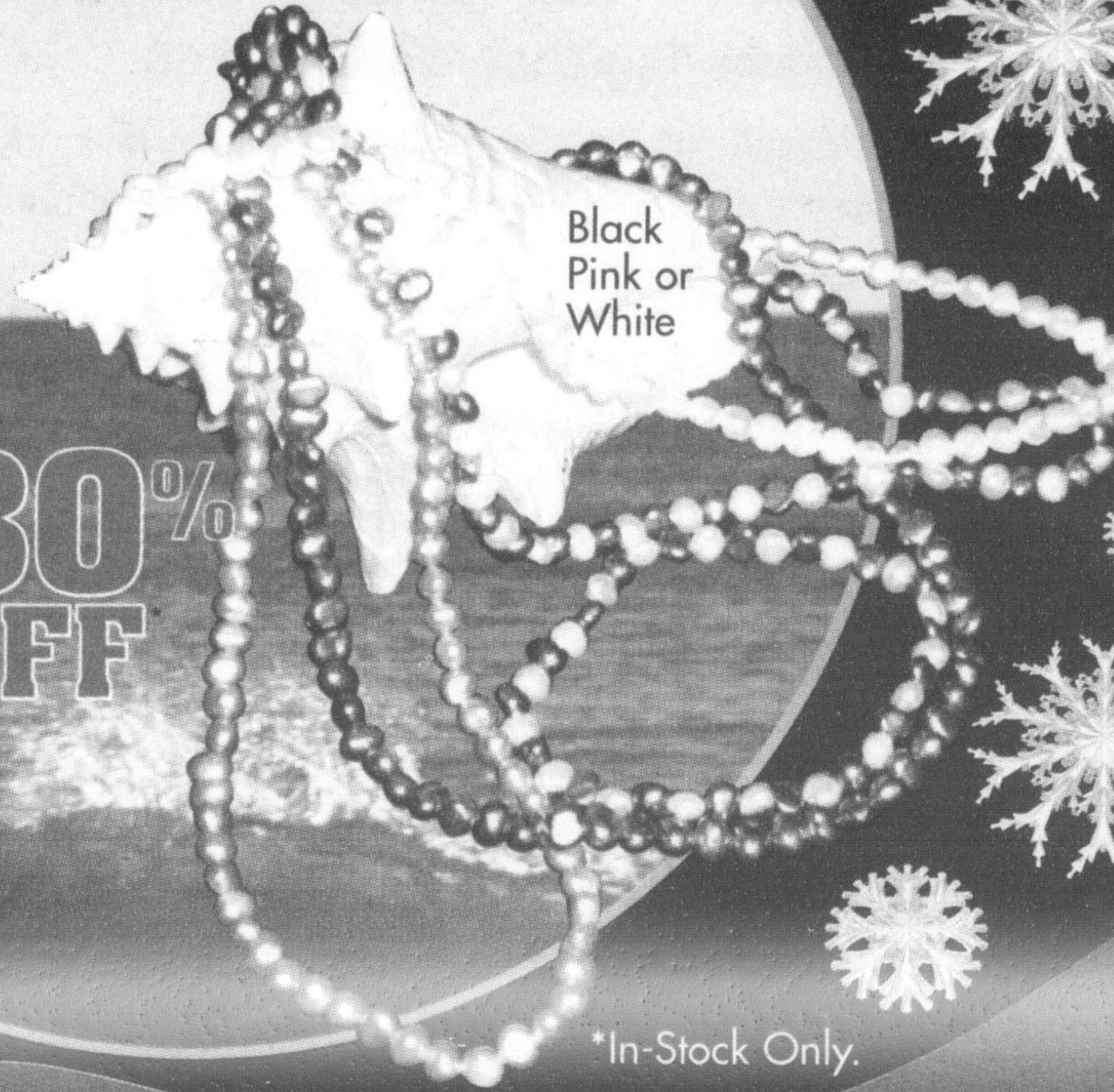
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