Butterflies will halt horses on nature trails

By NORMAN NELSON

What's the fastest way to hold up a horse and buggy in rural Milton?

Jesse James, you say? Try a butterfly.

Before Campbellville resident Anne Taylor could get regional approval to hold a one day pleasure drive for horse drawn carriages in a forest near her 15-acre equestrian farm, she first had to address concerns, raised by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), that the event conflicted with the "prime flight period for the West Virginia White Butterfly."

Regional staff, however, advised members of Halton's planning and public works committee Wednesday that "a lead rider will be ahead of the carriages for safety purposes who will also watch for the presence of the butterfly.

"The lead rider will be capable of identifying the West Virginia White Butterfly and will stop the ride, momentarily, to let the butterflies pass by."

Committee recommended the event be allowed, and that it be used for trial

purposes to evaluate whether the fast growing pastime of carriage driving should be permitted on municipally owned land. The decision must be ratified by full council, which meets next Wednesday. The event, to be held on April 29, is being hosted by the Central Ontario Pleasure Driving Association and is expected to attract up to 20 participants. "This is a social event and not an organized competition," Mrs. Taylor informed the committee. "The drive will last for approximately two hours and

will start from and return to our farm." The issue has surfaced because of ever advancing urban sprawl.

When the Taylors first moved to their Fourth Line property in 1983 it was a "quiet road with the odd car." Now there's considerably more tourist traffic, and Mrs. Taylor said many of the drivers simply "don't know how to drive in the country. They come up behind honking their horn, pass too close to the horse, or pull in too soon.

"The horses are tremendously trained, but they're still flesh and blood," she said.

Mrs. Taylor, who runs a stable for injured race horses and brooding mares, see HORSES on page 7



Campbellville resident Donald Evans will have to put the brakes on when he encounters West Virginia White butterflies, say regional councillors.



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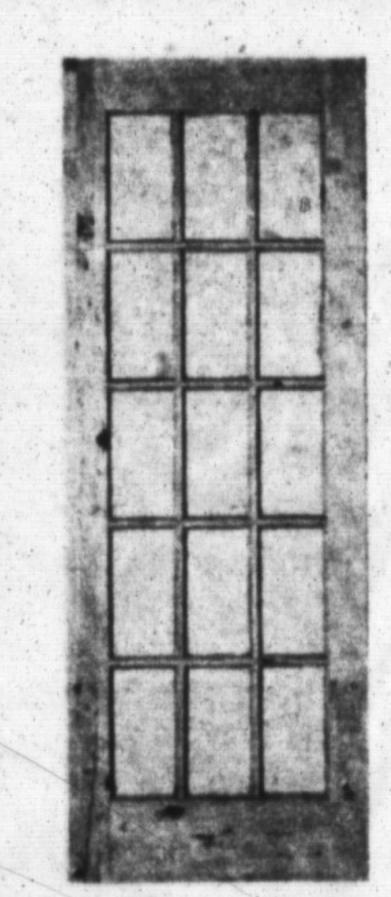
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