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Johnson disputes hunting claims

By NORMAN NELSON

Complaints over the annual Halton deer hunt have decreased in recent years, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). But Milton regional councillor Bill Johnson disputes that claim.

The (MNR) is in bed with hunters and anglers. They're in bed with the aggregate industry," he told Wednesday's planning and public works committee meeting.

The ministry, he contended, is not going to release statistics compromising the hunt.

According to the MNR, last year's deer hunt in Halton saw 553 hunters kill 165 deer with only one complaint received.

This was down considerably from 1986, in which 420 hunters shot 150 deer, with 20 complaints.

"I've had more complaints than that," assured Mr. Johnson. After the meeting, he said he doesn't think Halton's shrinking rural forested areas, which lie mostly in Milton, are an appropriate place for hunters.

The staff report noted that "increased hunter education and better public notification of the hunt has led to a decrease in hunting related complaints."

The report also concluded that "the deer population has stabilized and the concerns of the agricultural com-

munity with respect to crop damage have diminished."

Halton Region decided to ban hunting and the use of guns in its forests in 1985 in response to concerns expressed by landowners and residents. The following year, it decided to re-open its forests for the MNR's annual four day deer hunt.

However, it also adopted a set of 37 recommendations, some of which included: Requesting that the Halton Federation of Agriculture regularly hand in reports on crop damage inflicted by deer; that the MNR increase visibility and enforcement and that the MNR document firearm complaints.

"Staff are of the opinion that the purpose of the recommendations... (has) been met," stated the report.

The MNR advised council that this year's deer hunt will be held Nov. 5-8. The archery deer season will be held Oct. 15 to Nov. 4 and from Nov. 9 to Dec. 31.

As in the past, hunters must compete for a limited number of hunting permits through a special lottery.



Photo by JOHN WARREN

Getting ready

Dan Dexter works on a ride as the Milton Fall Fair gets ready to open this weekend. The popular event features a wide array of exhibits and, of course, the midway.

Fall fair set for fun

Milton residents can get a better view of the Town's new recreation centre at the annual fall fair, which opens tonight. A model of the \$8.6 million facility, which arrived at Town Hall Monday, will be on display at the fair.

The 46,000-square-foot centre, to be built near the southeast corner of Thompson and Main streets, will include a \$5.4 million swimming pool, gymnasium and fitness centre.

Construction of the project's first phase is slated to begin in early November and be completed by this time next year. The second phase is to be completed a year later.

The model is just one of the many displays to be enjoyed by visitors at the town's 137th fair. Competitions in cattle, horses, sheep, agricultural crops, plants, crafts and antiques are also popular events at the three-day fair.

Featured at opening ceremonies (grandstand, 7 p.m.) will be Leanne Caputo of Milton, runner-up to Miss World 1990, followed by a country and western music show by Mike Holly and Elayne, plus the popular Terry Sumson and his band Stagcoach.

Saturday's lineup includes a kids' pet show, bike decorating contest, barrel racing horse show, 4-H showmanship competition, tractor pull, horse competition, cattle show, exhibition theatre program for women and 40-car demolition derby.

Drury's Terry Fox Run raises \$1,100

Students and staff at E.C. Drury High School raised more than \$1,100 in their Terry Fox Run last Friday.

The amount is a 30 per cent increase over last year, said Clare Balch, co-ordinator of the event.

"This year we changed our fundraising tactics," she explained. "Instead of limiting the run to only those who collected pledges, we made it possible for every student to participate at the last minute by paying their teacher

one dollar at 3 p.m."

Students who gathered pledges paid a \$5 admission and ran the 10-kilometre course on the Ontario Street school's back bicycle path at 2 p.m.

At 3 p.m., the runners were joined by other students who paid a dollar and ran, walked or cycled for a mile.

The E.C. Drury School for the Hearing Impaired and Trillium School held their runs yesterday.



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