

Halton Farm Safety Council president Cecil Patterson with his John Deere tractor that boasts an enclosed cab for safety.
Photo by Graham Paine

Tractors a killer on Ontario farms

By ANGELA BLACKBURN
The Champion

Tractors are the number one killer on Ontario farms. Statistics show they claim about half the lives lost, a good number of those children under five.

Ontario's recent Farm Safety week (July 25-July 31) highlighted tractor safety. Local farmers were urged to remember — all year — their helpful machinery can be a deadly nemesis.

The Halton Farm Safety Council will have a farm and tractor safety display at the Milton Fall Fair in September.

Local, and provincial, farm fatality statistics are improving but "tractors still rank as the number one 'killers' on Ontario farms. Fifty per cent of all work-related deaths on Ontario farms are linked directly to tractor use," said Ontario Farm Safety Association public relations coordinator Steve Zronik.

About 40 per cent of tractor accidents involve rear or side rollovers. If the gruesome accidents don't end in death, they often do end up in disabling injuries.

"Tractors, over the years, have been continually killing people," said Mr. Zronik from the association's Guelph office.

In the 15 years, from 1979 to 1993, Ontario farm fatalities totaled 531. Of those, 254 involved tractors.

Mr. Zronik said numerous pro-

• see GROUP on page 8

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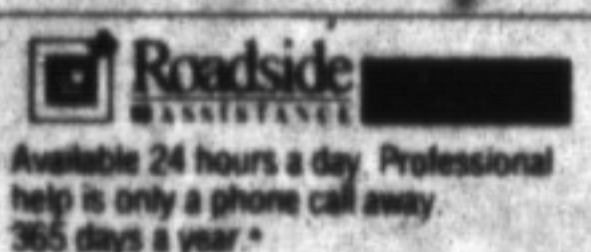
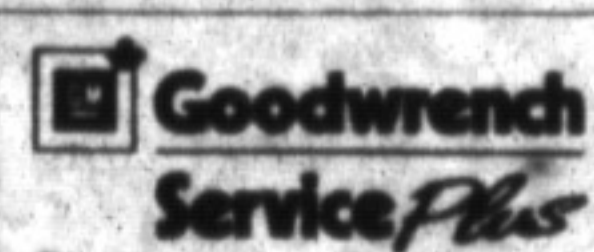


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