

Group aims to lower alarming rate of tractor accidents

from TRACTORS on page 4
grams to improve tractor safety were
launched in the 1980s. A steady

decrease in the statistics is encourag-
ing, he noted. Last year there were 24
farm fatalities, 13 involving tractors.

That's roughly half the numbers of
the early 1980s.
"We've got our fingers crossed this

year will be the best we've ever seen
in keeping the numbers down," said
Mr. Zronik. This year the association
and province produced a new tractor
safety video, print materials and dis-
tributed a special issue of the
Farmsafe Newsletter to 60,000 Ont-
ario farms.

reattach the end of his finger after it
was chopped off in a corn harvester.
"The teacher got the test wrong," he
said wryly.

This is one of the busiest times of
the year, when farmers are putting in
hard work and long hours, he noted.

Mr. Zronik said the new farm safe-
ty video highlights tractor safety and
young children.

"A good number of tractor riders
and bystanders are children. The
younger ones, the under five age
group, have been heavily implicated
over the years in the statistics," said
Mr. Zronik. Between 1977 and 1993,
about 59 children killed by tractors
were under five.

Mr. Patterson said the recent histo-
ry of tractor-related fatalities in
Halton is "scary reading." Seven
lives were lost between 1979 and
1993, the victims aged three to 65.

Many 1993 Ontario farm fatalities
involved those over 65. Mr. Patterson
said it reflects a trend that "mom and
dad are still involved in the family
farm."

The most recent local accident
claimed a three-year-old child north
of Milton in 1991. Three children
were riding bicycles into long grass
in an apple orchard. A farmer cutting
the grass saw two children clear it,
unaware of the third. The tractor
rolled over the child.

'Classic accident'

"To me that's a classic farm acci-
dent, children in long grass," said
Mr. Patterson.

In June, 1990, a 23-year-old man
cutting grass under a hydro right-of-
way in Burlington with a tractor and
rotary cutter fell off, was run over by
a tractor wheel and repeatedly struck
by the blade.

In 1985, a 65-year-old man tripped
and fell under a truck delivering hay
into a barn.

In 1983, a 47-year-old man suffer-
ed a stroke while driving a tractor.
In 1982, a 45-year-old man was
travelling in a truck that collided with
a transport truck.

In 1981, a Georgetown farmer
found vandals had started a tractor,
letting it move through a field. The
43-year-old man jumped on the side
of the tractor, said Mr. Patterson. He
fell off and was run over.

In 1980, a 32-year-old man clean-
ing a corn dryer caught some cloth-
ing on the machine and was pulled
in. Mr. Patterson said the man wasn't
discovered for several hours.

Mr. Patterson stressed training in
operating tractors, usually worth
\$30,000 to \$50,000.

Carelessness is often at the root of
tractor incidents, admitted Mr.
Patterson. Tractor operators should
always know where their vehicle's
wheels are, he stressed.

Other safety tips to avoid rollovers
include:

- Never hitch loads higher than
drawbar
- Avoid backing downhill or
turning uphill
- Start slow and change speed
gradually
- Back out of mud if possible
- Avoid steep slopes
- Lock brake pedals before high
speed travel
- Keep loader buckets low during
transport

All tractors operated on roadways
should display a slow moving vehi-
cle sign.

Farmers are urged to read operating
manuals, thoroughly train new opera-
tors, do pre-operational checks, clear
the area before moving a tractor,
avoid carrying riders, use rollover
protective structures and seatbelts,
keep all shields in place and always
remove keys when not using a trac-
tor.

The Canadian Champion, Friday, August 5, 1994

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MON.-THUR. 10-6
 FRI. 10-8
 SAT. 10-5

10 stitches

In Milton, long-time dairy farmer
Cecil Patterson, who owns the 154-
year-old Cedar Hedge Farm, knows
only too well farm dangers. Involved
with farm safety over 20 years, Mr.
Patterson is president of Halton's
Farm Safety Council.

Last year, he received 10 stitches to

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6:30 p.m. — Gospel Service

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Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth,
and the life: no man cometh unto the
Father, but by me" John 14:6

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Sunday 8:30 am & 10:30 am

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ST. PETER'S CHURCH
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Rev. John Graham,
Deaf Church Pastor
Rev. Jay Black, Youth Pastor
Rob Heyman,
Children's & Bus Pastor

BABA'I FAITH

Order

"Soon will the present day order
be rolled up, and a new one
spread out in its stead"

Baha'u'llah

For general inquiries or information
on bi-weekly open houses and
prayer meetings please contact:
Box 13, Milton, L9T 2Y3 878-3098

**ST. PAUL'S
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878-8895

Rev. Robert Hyde Rev. Elaine Longland
Director of Music - Judy Hunter

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ORDINARY TIME

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Thursday 7:00 p.m. — Bible Study

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10:45 a.m.
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New Life Deaf Church
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