

Big turnout for farm issue talks

BY TED BROWN
Special to The Champion

More than 100 Halton area farmers gathered at Hillcrest United Church last Tuesday night to exchange ideas on preserving their agricultural rights.

Organized by the Halton Region Federation of Agriculture (HRFA), and billed as a Forum on Landowners' Rights, the evening featured three speakers, all sharing their ideas on how today's farmers can convince government to preserve the business of agriculture in the region.

Pat Murphy of Halton Region's planning department spoke to the group about balancing land use and property rights.

He was followed by Herman Turkstra, a lawyer who specializes in dealing with various agricultural agencies.

Concluding the evening was James White, an agricultural consultant, who gave his vision for agricultural landowners' rights in the future.

"The Tuesday night meeting was an information meeting," said HRFA's Jamie Fisher, one of the organizers. "It was organized to give local farmers an idea of the issues we're concerned about, so they can bring their own ideas back to the second meeting, and put together some policy statements."

The second meeting was planned for yesterday (Tuesday) at Hillcrest Church.

Issues under consideration range from guidelines for agricultural land use, to dealing with nuisance complaints from nearby urban residents. Suggested policies could include expropriation procedures, severances, notification of zoning or designation changes and perhaps trespass laws.

"The present landowners' rights policy of 'the right to use and enjoy property' is a little too general," says Mr. Fisher. "We want it to be more specific, from an agricultural point of view."

Mr. Fisher expects the final draft of proposals will be finished by the end of March. Following that the group will lobby for changes in the current system.



Andrew Finnigan

Hellish and hopefully hilarious night at rink

The sport of curling, along with a lot of laughs, will be featured in the Milton Players Theatre Group's upcoming production of the "Black Bonspiel of Wullie MacCrimmon."

The W. O. Mitchell comedy, which will open Friday at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre, is set in Wildrose, Alberta when a certain travelling man visits the town. The "gentleman," played by Pat McManus, is a curling skip with a powerful rink.

He challenges the town cobbler, the Scot Wullie MacCrimmon, to a curling bonspiel in an effort to get him to play third in his rink.

The play examines how Wullie, played by Andrew Finnigan, deals with the de-

ous dilemma and how he settles Satan's hash.

Geoff Ford, who has built Players' sets for more than seven years, will make his directing debut with the play. It will also star David Catron, Joan Clement, Julian Ford, Gino Raimondo, George Grdic, Gary Metcalf, Brian Cranford and Chad Tummon.

The production will open with a dinner theatre Friday at the seniors' centre, 500 Childs Dr. It will also be staged in dinner theatres February 3, 9 and 10. The bar will open at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. Curtain time is 8:45 p.m.

A show only will be staged Thursday, Feb. 8. Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. and curtain time will be 8 p.m.

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