

FARMING REPORT

By AL WALL

Richard Colwell

Heads Potato Club

Over 100 hundred 4-H Club members in York County will start Centennial projects this week. Two maple trees will be given to each member this Friday to plant at their homes. The trees are well started and in a very few years will add to the attractive appearance of large numbers of 4-H homes. This is one phase of York's Rural Centennial Project sponsored by York County Council and the Ontario Department of Agriculture.

PAINT UP
Painting farm buildings is fairly expensive but it changes appearance more quickly and more dramatically than anything else. At least part of the expense can be offset by the increased value of the property. With very little interior moisture to worry about in most buildings, painting problems are rare. Dollar for dollar, a gallon or two of weed spray can have the best effect. Lawns, fences and areas between buildings can be weed-free very easily. Some perennials may need two sprays, but 2, 4-D will take out almost any weed around buildings.

PLANT NOW
Improvements to the appearance of farms is a good idea in Centennial year. Trees can do the job well by softening the contrast between buildings and their natural surroundings. They can screen the necessary but unattractive parts of farm operation, and serve as a windbreak too. Cost often isn't high. Suitable young trees can often be found on a farm and transplanted. Planting should be done right now before they leaf out. Hard maple, red oak, white ash, white birch and black walnut are the most suitable kinds of deciduous trees. White and red cedar, white spruce and Norway spruce are the best kind of conifers.

NEW APPOINTMENT
A new Assistant Agricultural Representative has been appointed for York County. Jack Westlake from Smithville, a graduate from Macdonald College started work here this week. A former 4-H member and Junior Farmer, Jack will be working with these organizations here, as well as general extension work.

UXBRIDGE — A number of Ontario County Potato Growers met in the Department of Agriculture and Food Office, Uxbridge, April 25, for the purpose of re-organizing the 500 Bushel Potato Club for 1967. This club was organized in 1945, and has carried out a successful competition each year. Nineteen potato growers completed this high yield club in 1966.

The winner of the 1966 competition was Mr. Stan Lunney, Zephyr, with an estimated yield of 652 bushels per acre. The average estimated yield for all nineteen growers in the 1966 competition was 445 bushels.

Contestants may use any recommended potato variety they wish, and they may use any means at their disposal to secure the highest possible yield from the one acre they have entered in the competition.

Anyone interested in joining this high yield potato club for 1967 should send his application, together with a \$3.00 membership to the Department of Agriculture and Food Office, Uxbridge, by June 1.

The officers and committee for 1967 are: Chairman, Richard Colwell; Claremont, R.R. 1; Vice Chairman, Albert Hockley, Claremont, R.R. 1; Secretary Treasurer, H.L. Fair, Uxbridge; Committee members, Chess Oldham, Zephyr; Walter Savage, Uxbridge; R.R. 1; Walter Kerry, Port Perry, R.R. 1; Bill Lockie, Zephyr; Albert Hockley, Claremont R.R. 1; Murray Crone, Mount Albert, R.R. 3; Richard Colwell, Claremont, R.R. 1; Stan Lunney, Zephyr; Bob Timbers, Mount Albert, R.R. 3; Horner Walker, Zephyr; Frank Hendy, Claremont, R.R. 1.

Two youngsters were walking home from Sunday School after having been taught a lesson about the devil. One of the boys said to the other, "What do you think about all that devil stuff?" The other, thoughtfully replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your dad."



A Centennial Farm In Whitchurch

STOUFFVILLE — In the year 1852, Phillip Bartholomew purchased about 200 acres of lot 3, concession 9, Whitchurch Township.

That was 115 years ago and the property has been retained in the family name ever since. It is one of several Century Farms in the County of York.

John Bartholomew bought the land from his brother a few years after the initial purchase and erected a small sawmill. Water power was acquired by damming up the creek. However, to obtain an additional supply of water, he bought up another 25 acres at the rear.

John Bartholomew had seven children. A son, Audrey, remained on the farm with his father and carried on following his death in 1926.

Audrey had nine children, Herbert, Allen, Gordon, Frank, George, Harold, Blanche, Jean and Olive. Seven are still living. George, the present owner, has carried on since the death of his father in 1960. His mother lives with him.

Mr. and Mrs. George Bartholomew have two daughters, Karen and Janet. Both hold secretarial positions in Toronto.

Cleanup Time For Septic Tank

If the septic tank needs cleaning, do it now before the frost comes next fall, advises Professor R. W. Irwin, Ontario Agricultural College.

"Most septic tanks fail, and have to be replaced simply because they haven't been cleaned in time," this agricultural engineer explains, "and this frequently means replacing the septic bed."

As a rule of thumb, a septic tank should be cleaned when the sludge of the bottom plus the scum on top equals one-third of the liquid depth, which is about every three to five years. Lighted matches should not be used while making the check: gases form in septic tanks and explode. The build up of solids may be measured by using a stick or old broomhandle.

Many septic tanks stop working because the tanks or seepage beds are too small. Therefore, anyone building a septic tank would be wise to build one bigger than is presently needed.

A fellow we know has a good thing going with a shop specializing in gifts to go with poor alibis.

Too Many Milking Units Dairyman Ragged

When too many milking units are used, the dairyman is run ragged, the machines are not used to their full capacity, and poor milking practices result. The cows are often overmilked and each cow's udder is often damaged internally as the teat cups are jerked off to keep "on schedule." This warning comes from Dr. F. C. Nelson, Head of the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food's Veterinary Services Laboratory in Guelph.

A time study on milking procedures was conducted at the University of Illinois several years ago to see how many cows a man could effectively milk. In a stanchion barn with bucket milkers, researchers found that a man could milk more cows in an hour with two milking units than he could with three.

"When a farmer uses the correct number of milking machines, he raises the milk production still higher if he takes precautions against mastitis," Dr. Nelson says. He advises these steps for mastitis control: the milking machine should be functioning correctly; it should be used correctly; and sanitation barriers should be set up.

YORK COUNTY FARMERS

Your Days Are Numbered!

Hurry and join in the Centennial fun.

Improve the entrance to your farm — place your name, township lot and concession number on your mail box or front entrance. Take a photograph showing NAME, LOT AND CONCESSION NUMBER. Place your name and address on the reverse side of the photograph and mail to Box 105, Markham, Ontario.

A DRAW will be made at Schomberg Fair on May 27th for the following prizes:

1st & 2nd prizes: 3 day tour of EXPO, June 16-19, for two persons; or \$100.00 (the first draw has first choice).

3rd prize: \$75.00
4th prize: \$50.00
5th prize: \$35.00
6th prize: Bronze plaque donated by J. H. Mathews Co., Milton.

Those whose names are drawn will be asked a qualifying question. The person whose name appears on the reverse side of the photo receives the prize. The decision of the Committee is final. Entries must be in by May 24th, 1967. Open to all farmers or residents (15 acres or more) in York County.

Please remember, THIS IS NOT A CONTEST; THIS IS A DRAW.

Sponsored by the York County Agricultural Committee and the York County Federation of Agriculture.

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GARDEN GUIDE

By JOHN BRADSHAW

Catch That Crabgrass Now!

More lawns are ruined by crabgrass each year than by any other cause. During late July and early August is the time to be on the lookout for the crabgrass plants to show up in your lawn. It takes from the time the blades are in bloom in late May and early June until sometime around the 1st of August for them to grow large enough so that they can be easily recognized.

Many persons call me or write me around the middle of May and say that they already have crabgrass in their lawn. Nothing could be further from the truth. What they really have at that time is quack grass which is sometimes called couch grass. It has broad leaves about a quarter of an inch wide with very sharp edges. Quack grass is a perennial that spreads by both seeds and underground roots.

Crabgrass on the other hand, is an annual which survives from year to year in the lawn because of its tremendous ability to reseed itself. A single, well developed plant can produce as many as 100,000 seeds in a single season. These can lie dormant in the soil for 50 years and still germinate when brought to light and moisture.

What does a crabgrass plant look like? Its leaves are a broader and lighter green in color than most of the desirable lawn grasses but it's still very difficult to distinguish from other grasses until the purple seed heads start to appear around the 1st of August.

Crabgrass likes the hot weather of July and August just about as much as Kentucky bluegrass dislikes it. Just about the time that Kentucky bluegrass starts to go dormant in July, crabgrass starts to grow rapidly.

Lawns infested with crabgrass should be mowed at least once and preferably twice a week from the 1st of August on to remove the seedheads as they form. It's an excellent plan to gently rake the lawn before mowing it to raise the purple fingerlike seedheads so that they are removed before the seeds are ripe. Be sure and catch the clippings in a grass catcher or bag.

A grass mixture containing a minimum of 40 per cent Merion Kentucky bluegrass is the best seed mixture to sow if you wish to avoid crabgrass. Merion bluegrass doesn't go dormant in the hot weather of July and August and so the crabgrass plants don't get the opportunity they need to take over the lawn.

Crabgrass will not tolerate shade so a thick dense turf cut no shorter than 1 1/2 inches will be a big help in controlling it. Fertilizing a lawn the recommended five times a year is also a big help in preventing the crabgrass plants from getting a hold in the lawn.

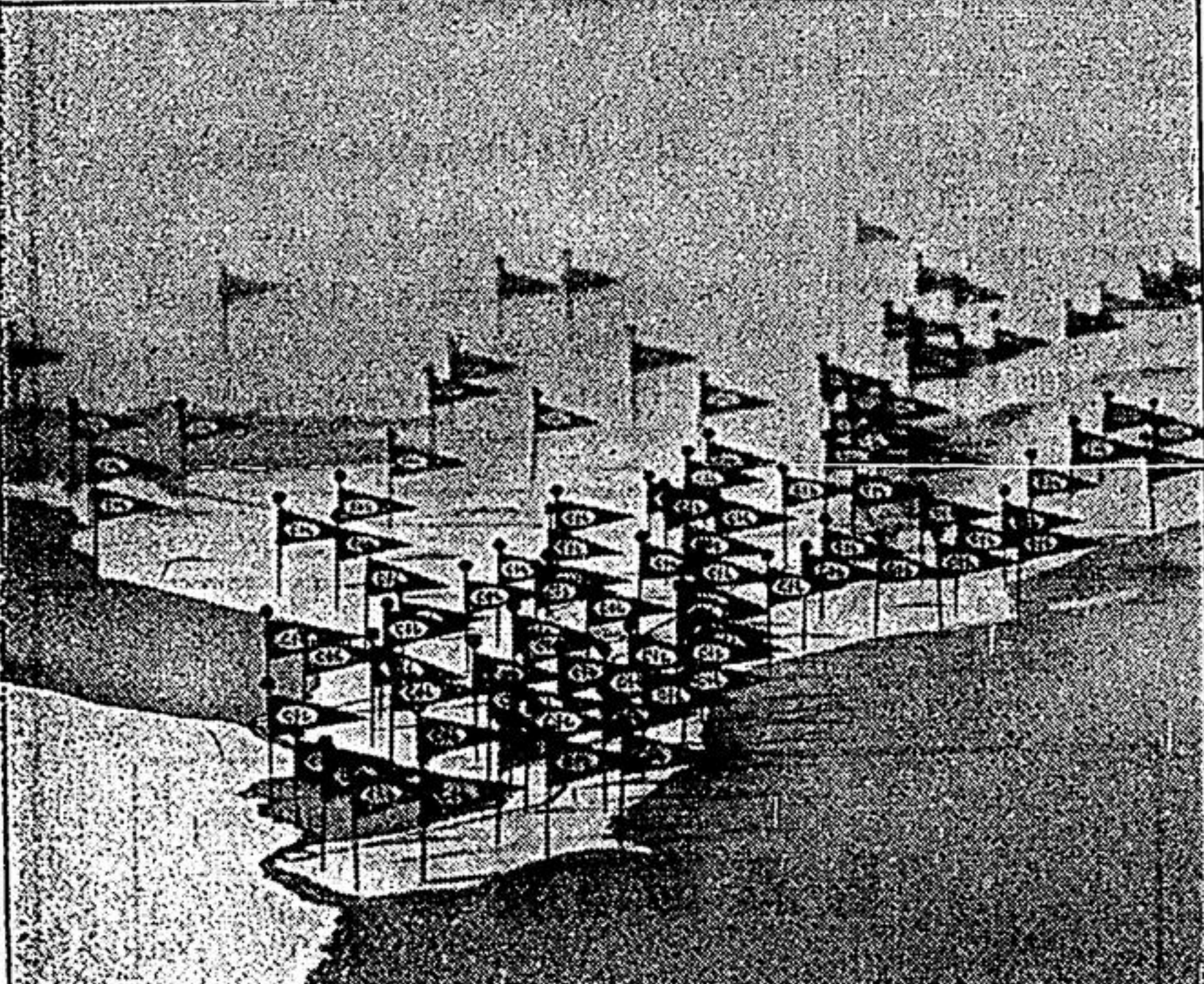
Fortunately one application of a pre-emergent crabgrass preventer will destroy anywhere from 90 to 100 per cent of the seeds as they germinate. The seed-killing ingredients are highly insoluble and will remain on the surface of the soil for two or more years to continue the job of killing the crabgrass seeds. This is another good reason for not raking the lawn heavily in the early spring.

Pre-emergent crabgrass killers need to be applied with care for the active ingredients which provide the controls are very insoluble materials. They're used at a very light rate and to get uniform control every single square inch must receive a coating of the material. When it reaches the surface of the soil it becomes fixed to the particles of earth and remains as a very thin but uniform coating.

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