

Current 'just too strong'

# SUMMER CLAIMS ITS FIRST VICTIM

Three men, who, until last Thursday afternoon had little in common, today share a very painful memory and one which will be a long time in leaving them. It's the helpless remembrance of a futile struggle to save a young Georgetown boy's life.

For what one of them called "a life time in one afternoon" the three men struggled last Thursday to save 11-year-old Kevin Robbin from drowning in the Credit River, just west of the Town Line bridge in Norval.

A strong current, however, won the battle as it claimed the life of the young boy, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Robbins of 141 Rexway Drive.

The incident began shortly after noon on Thursday. Kevin and his brother Steven, 12, and David Fendley, 12, of 69 Mountainview Road, had biked down to Norval for an afternoon's swim just above the remains of an old dam which was partially destroyed by Hurricane Hazel in 1964.

Suddenly all three boys became entrapped in a strong undertow which began to pull them into the dam. The current runs through a small opening approximately 20 inches below the surface and, because of the large water flow, the pull is extremely strong.

The two older boys managed to pull themselves free but the current pulled Kevin further into the dam.

At that moment, Bob Wolfe was pulling

into the parking lot of the Hollywood House, about a quarter-of-a-mile away. His intentions were to have a quick beer before heading back to work but "I heard some kids screaming. It didn't sound right at all so I hopped into the truck and drove down there to see what the problem was."

When he saw young Kevin being pulled below the surface of the water Mr. Wolfe scrambled into the river and attempted to pull the boy to the surface. He found that the river's grip was "just too strong. I tried to pull him up but the current just kept pushing him back down."

Mr. Wolfe was joined just a few moments later by Robert Callahan, a Brampton lawyer and an alderman on the city council. Mr. Callahan had gone to Norval to see about his boat which had been stored at Credit River Boats just across the road from the site of the incident. He was just walking back to his car when a woman from a nearby house yelled at him that a boy was drowning in the river.

He immediately rushed into the river to join in the fight against time but, even with two men, the current was still too strong. "Try as we might, we couldn't get him up enough to get his head above water," Mr. Callahan recalled.

He soberly commented that it could have, possibly been one of his two sons, who with a friend, were with him on the trip to Norval. Just before going over to the marina the boys had asked to go over to the river for a swim

but, hearing the sound of rapids in the distance, he refused to let them go.

He said he heard children playing in the water but, not knowing the river, didn't consider that they might have been playing in a potentially dangerous area.

A third man shortly joined Mr. Wolfe and Mr. Callahan but they still remained powerless to save the boy. Brian Farrell, a Halton Regional policeman, was off-duty when he heard the call for assistance on his radio, and quickly rushed to the scene. Jumping fully clothed into the river he joined the two men perched precariously along the dam.

It eventually took a number of members from the Georgetown Volunteer Fire Department over 10 minutes to bring the boy's body to shore. There an immediate attempt was made by a crew from the Georgetown Volunteer Ambulance Service to revive him, but to no avail. The boy was declared dead on arrival at Georgetown District Memorial Hospital.

Release of the victim's name was delayed until Ontario Provincial Police in Milton managed to locate and inform the boy's father who was on a business trip in Saskatchewan.

Kevin was in a number of sports, particularly soccer. In memory of the boy the Georgetown Minor Soccer Association has planned a special tribute. For more details see page 8.



RECOVERY OPERATIONS—Members of the Georgetown Volunteer Fire Department bring the body of 11-year-old Kevin Robbins to shore. A brief attempt by a waiting ambulance crew was made to revive the boy but to no avail.

# the HERALD

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1975

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills

15 CENTS

## 33 Ontario Scholars from GDHS

Georgetown District High School announced its list of Ontario Scholars last Friday. There are a total of 33 students who topped 80 percent in the school, thus receiving a scholarship.

The highest standing was obtained by Deborah Hunter of Norval who earned 91.3 percent standing. Miss Hunter plans on taking the four year, Natural Science Course at McMaster University.

Karen Hauser of 31 Moore Park Crescent, obtained the second highest standing of 90.7 percent. Miss Hauser plans on majoring in math with hopes of taking the Business option at the University of Waterloo.

Both girls began their high school studies at Georgetown District High School and thus graduated from the same school.

Other Ontario scholars (listed in alphabetical order) and their percentages are: Duncan Bassett, 85.8; Marie Boissonneault, 80.0; Mary Breckenridge, 80.0; Steven Burns, 81.8; David Burt, 84.2; Wendy Butchart, 89.2; Randall Dubien 84.0; Deborah Dunn, 88.8; Robert Gillanders 88.0; Lindsay Gunn, 82.5; Heather Hamilton, 87.5; Gloria Hildebrandt, 82.7.

Karen Hughes, 80.0; Peter Hurley, 88.2; Ted Kewley, 87.8; Louise Kiteley, 81.7; Peter Koch, 85.0; Angelika Kubnt, 90.2; Frank Mandarino, 89.3; Patrick McCarthy, 83.0; Melaine McCracken, 81.2; David McDonald 80.5;

Maria Pacheco, 81.3; Ina Pilutti, 89.2; Mark Ruab, 83.3; Terry Ryder, 84.8; Kimberly Schenk, 89.5; Randall Smith, 80.0; Thomas Teder, 89.5; Paul Thompson, 83.0 and Kathleen Wilde 83.2.

Georgetown District High School also announced the honor students of the school who earned between 75 and 79 percent. These students and their percentages are

listed in alphabetical order. The honor students are Rodney Beaumont, 77.8; Martha Buikeema 77.5; Leslie Culling, 75.8; Cynthia

Day, 77.0; Jerry Deroo, 75.0; William Ellenecky, 75.5; Mark Gaskin, 78.3; Lorraine Harrison, 77.3; Peter Hope, 77.7

Laurie Johnston, 78.2; John Laughton, 78.3; Susan Palichuk, 78.5; Michael Pierce, 77.5; Vicki Robbins, 76.7; Denys Roussele,

78.2 and Kathleen Slack, 77.0. Congratulations are well in order to all these students who worked extremely hard

throughout their school years in order to obtain such high recognition. All the best of success to these students for the future.



DEBBY HUNTER obtained the highest academic standing at Georgetown District High School.



KAREN HAUSER, a Grade 13 graduate of Georgetown District High School, was one of the highest Ontario Scholars in the school.



TOOMAS TEDER, received an Ontario Scholarship after graduating from Georgetown District High School.



WENDY BUTCHART, graduated from GDHS receiving an Ontario Scholarship.

### Dam should be removed

According to one resident of the Credit Valley the drowning death of 11-year-old Kevin Robbins last Thursday, "is one more good reason why the dams on the Credit should be taken out."

Dave Williamson of Glen Williams, a long-time proponent of the removal of dams along the Credit, commented, "They are definitely very hazardous. That has been our tragic history."

He recalled the incident at the Georgetown Paper Mill Dam a few years ago when a participant in the "Crazy Boat Race" nearly plunged to his death in the chilly waters when he ran into the dam.

"The danger is pretty obvious and it's about time the town or the Credit Valley Conservation Authority took a good, serious look at taking the dams out."

### Your Morning Smile

We heard about a fellow who found out that he gained weight when he tried to cut down his smoking. "I only smoke six cigarettes a day now. One after every meal."

## Halton teachers get 30% raise

Teachers in Halton will be receiving an average salary increase of over 30 percent following approval last Thursday night of a new, one year agreement by the Halton Board of Education.

The settlement, which includes an annual 3.5 percent increment sets salary ranges from \$7,706 to \$13,504 for elementary school teachers and from \$11,055 to \$23,500 for secondary school teachers.

The average elementary salary has increased 23.8 percent over one year, rising from an average of \$11,549 to \$15,047. The average secondary school salary is now \$18,705, up 33.1 percent from \$14,083.

The newly approved contract has no cost-of-living allowance in it nor is there any change in the teachers.

Principals in the system will receive pay increases of between 18 and 23 percent to a maximum of \$28,900 plus a \$900 increment for elementary principals, and a maximum of \$33,100 plus an \$850 increment for secondary principals.

The sizable increase follows on top of last year's 10 percent, across the board, increase. Fred Armitage, chairman of the board's salary committee, pointed out, however, that the 33 percent increase compares favorably with increases granted in other parts of the province.

"It can't be looked at in isolation," he told the board. "We have to consider what has happened elsewhere, whether we like it or not."

"We have to be realistic. In relative terms, I think this settlement is appropriate and, in fact, a good one."

Adding his support to the new agreement, trustee Doug Wood noted that Halton has one of the highest pupil-teacher ratios in all of Ontario at 24.5.

"We also have been among the lowest boards in per unit cost and this salary settlement will leave us in the same position."

As a result of some criticism of the new contract a recorded vote was taken but only six trustees opposed the settlement.

## Johnson NDP's candidate

Having tussled frequently with the provincial government over environmental issues Bill Johnson RR2 Rockwood has decided that it's about time he got even more closely entangled with Queen's Park.

Mr. Johnson a stationary engineer at Domtar in Georgetown,

was nominated last Wednesday in Milton to run in the next provincial election under the New Democratic Party banner.

Approximately 50 party members attended the subdued nomination meeting to select Mr. Johnson over a second NDP nominee, Don Wackley,

for the NDP nomination for Halton-Burlington.

Following the meeting Mr. Johnson noted that his platform in the up-coming campaign will be "giving the power of government back to the

Continued on page 18.

### Miller objects to plan

## Board approves Limehouse quarry

The town's subsidiary planning board has given its approval to the expansion of a sand and gravel quarry in Limehouse, despite objections by a councillor from that Ward, Russ Miller, that the firm has not been meeting its past promises of rehabilitating land already used for its operations.

"If I owned a house here," Councillor Miller told the planning board, "I would be here at council every Tuesday night objecting."

His remarks were aimed at the sand and gravel operation of J.C. Duff Ltd. The company had requested permission from the planning board to increase the size of its operations in Limehouse to include another

150 acres north of the firm's present quarry near the village.

Councillor Miller noted that a field adjacent to six homes is now "an eyesore" because of the company's operations on it.

J.C. Duff, representing his firm, told the planning board that his company has been delayed in implementing its rehabilitation plans but is still planning to begin them immediately. "We hope to have that particular area cleared up by the fall."

"I can't see anything that you have done in the past to rehabilitate the land you've already used," commented Councillor Miller, "and yet here we're now deciding on whether or not we should give you 150 more acres,

which is more than you started with originally."

The completion of a new \$100,000 crushing and washing plant to handle oversized stones has necessitated the requests for the additional 150 acres, Mr. Duff noted. "Without the chance of this property coming up we wouldn't have been able to start up this summer at all."

He added that, because of past problems, "we were caught with our pants down. Many things have frustrated me over the years and that's one of them. There will be improvements."