

Letter to the Editor

Leg-hold traps not humane

To the editor of the Herald: I am extremely disappointed at what appears to be the typical North American attitude regarding the control of wildlife resources, as was noted in the letter by Art Hawes (November 7th). What we must realize is that this problem is an international one, not a local one. As the human population increases, and more people move out from the urban areas, the conflict between man and the environment increases. On a condensed scale, this is happening locally, as it is happening in various intensities elsewhere.

I do not agree that the leg hold trap can be used in a humane manner. Mr. Hawes did not give any plausible explanations discussing how this trap can be used humanely other than stating "Competent trappers check their traps every day to minimize suffering". He has stated here that some suffering does occur. Another obvious fact he has overlooked is that since the bulk of local mammal species are nocturnal, certain species such as Red Foxes, Coyotes, Muskrats and other are known to have chewed limbs off in order to escape the barbaric trap.

In other instances, harmless, beneficial, or unique species may be trapped accidentally. There are several species of mammals unique to Canada found in the deciduous forest belt in South-western Ontario. An example is the Gray Fox. Another is the Virginia Opossum. What if one of these was caught? Birds are susceptible to the leg hold trap also. Blue-Jays, common crows and even birds of prey such as Great Horned Owls are documented to have been caught in this trap. Though the risk is minimal, it still does exist. In the instances of any of the above accidentally being caught, as has happened, a "sorry" would not suffice.

In North America, over-trapping has extirpated species such as the Pine Marten, Fisher and the Black Footed Ferret in many localities. Mr. Hawes says "Who are we to question the Ministry of Natural Resources?" I do in many ways. Wildlife management in Canada has been poorly run in many distinct ways. In the 1930's at Rondeau Park, the deciduous swamps were cleaned of much of the natural debris, thus wiping out many of the breeding Prothonotary Warblers which bred in this habitat. Are we to trust that this ministry always knows best?

The leg-hold trap, which ever way you look at it, is a barbaric device which will one day be banned, I am sure. Jeff Harvey, R.R.1, Acton.



FIRST PATHFINDERS (Herald photo)

Members of Georgetown's first Pathfinder group, a new division of Guiding for girls 12 to 15, were enrolled at Harrison public school recently. From row from the left: Debbie McConnell, Corie McElroy, Paula Hansen, Lisa Pleace, Janet Power, Carolyn McConnell. Centre: Kelly Brown, Julie Hannah, Aggie Kavanagh, Helen Bilik, Karen Buswell, Lee Blendell. Back: Lynda Ellison, Teresa Thompson, Nancy Daniels, Dawn Russell, Debbie Lane, Janet Cummins and Johanna Delroy.

FASHION FUN



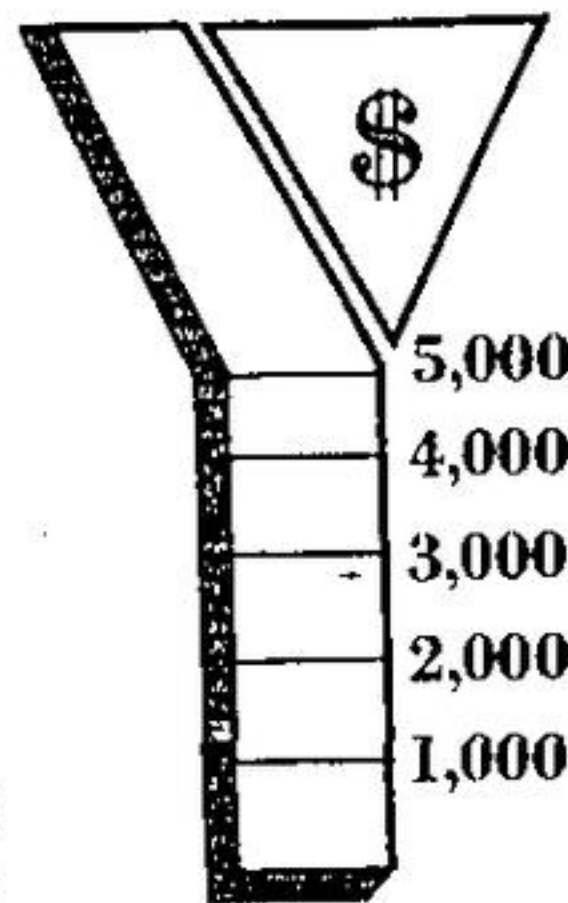
Bob shows the styling of this sports jacket, which he wore with co-ordinated brown slacks, at the fashion show for the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded. The men's fashion in the show were provided by Silvers. (Herald photo)

Y fund-raising campaign is kicking off tomorrow

The Georgetown and District YM-YWCA kicks off the residential portion of its annual fund-raising campaign tomorrow (Thursday), with an objective for this year of \$5,000.

"We are not going door-to-door this year," Y president Cheryl Lightowers told the Herald. "Residents are being requested to drop off their donations at the Y office (89 Mountainview Rd. S.) or at either branch of the Commerce Bank in Georgetown."

The industrial campaign has already begun, and money raised through the campaign



goes to next year's budget.

Money raised in program fees just covers the cost of the programs, said executive director Sheila Finn. There is no money left over for operating expenses. Rent alone amounts to \$5,800 and staff salaries are in addition to that.

The Y also subsidizes certain programs such as the Blue Triangle Club and certain pre-school programs.

The Y is not a self-supporting organization and in order to continue programs the community's financial assistance is needed, Mrs. Finn said.

Layman's guide to rates

Halt regional council is determined to give residents an easily-understandable explanation of the uniform sewer rates which come into effect January 1, despite at least one member's contention that \$15,000 is too much to spend on the planned publicity campaign.

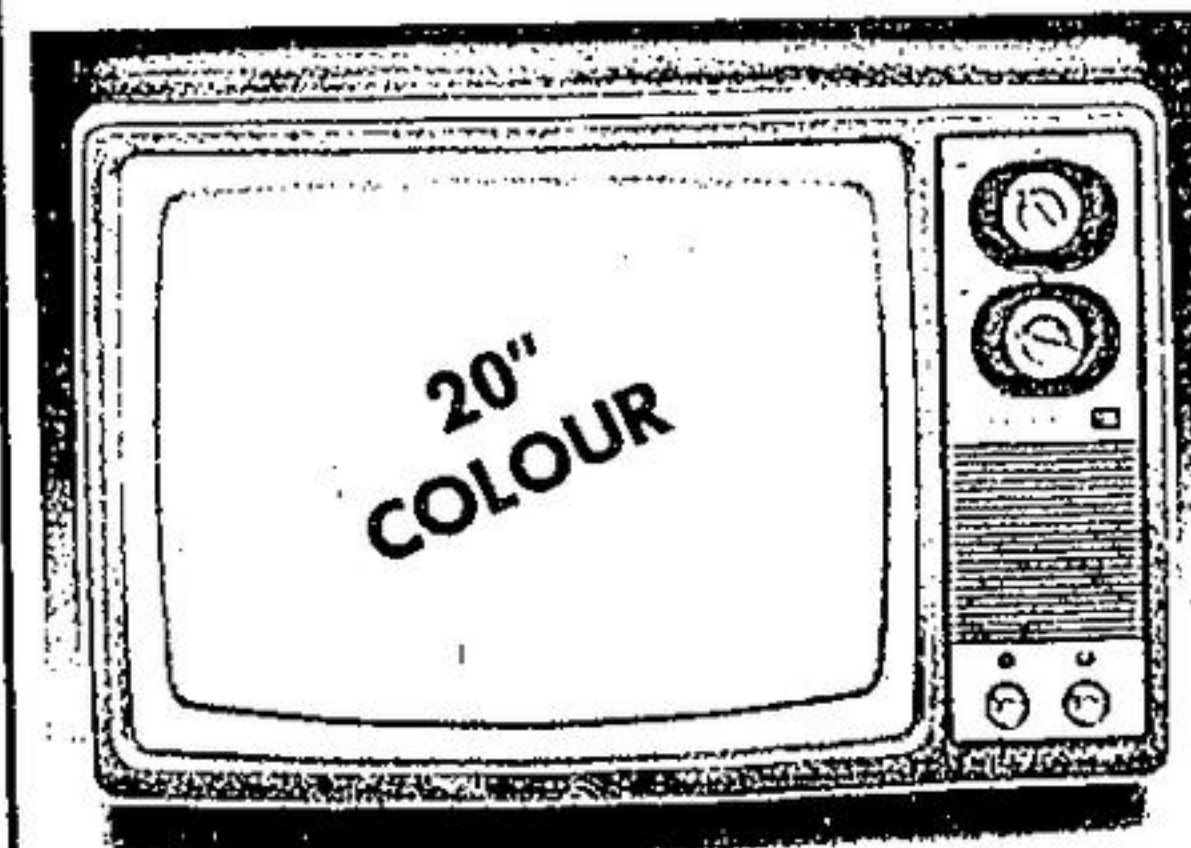
Criticized last Wednesday by Oakville Coun. Laurie Mannell, the public relations cam-

campaign was defended by Burlington Mayor Roly Bird, who calculated that its estimated cost of \$14,300 works out to about 20 cents for every household in Halt.

"It looks as though the story will be told in simple layman's language," Oakville Coun. McLean Anderson commented, saying he had already seen rough drafts of campaign literature.

Council voted to hire the Ontario Editorial Bureau, a public relations consulting firm, to advise staff about mounting the campaign ready for inclusion among January utility bills. Ray Gentle Communications will prepare newspaper advertisements and mail brochures explaining the revised system, sharing with the Bureau a budget limited to \$15,000 or less.

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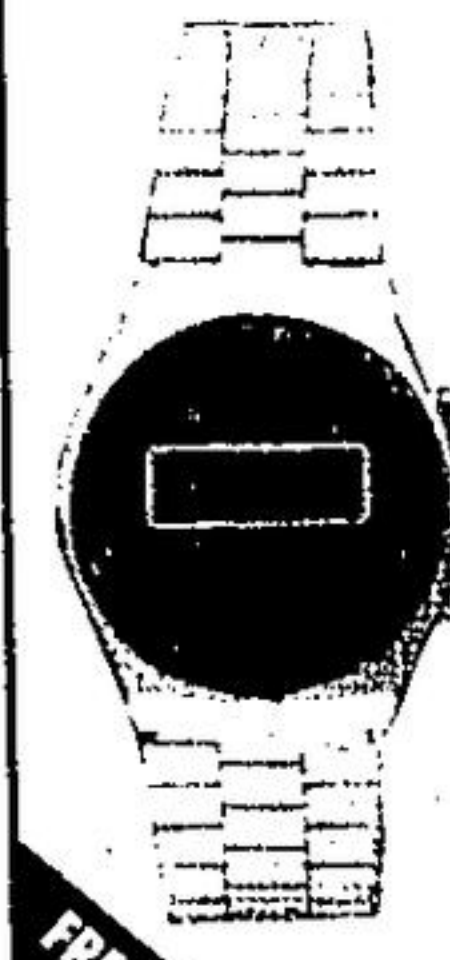
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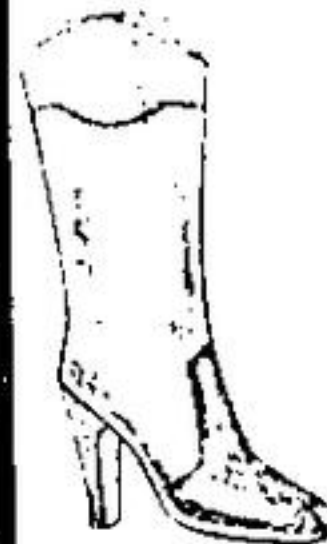
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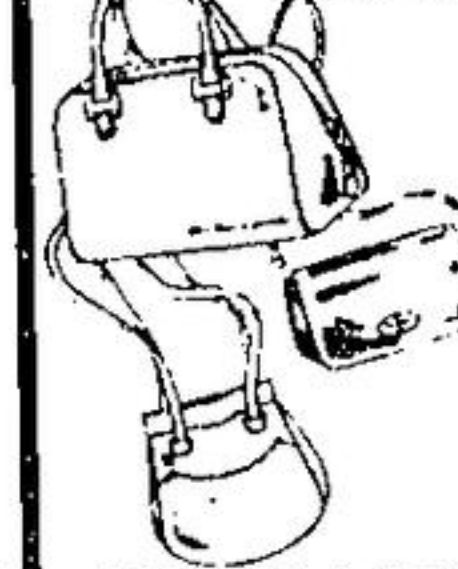
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Heather models a lovely street-length dress at last week's fashion show. In addition to the up-to-the-minute fashions displayed, the show also featured entertainment by disco dancers Chantilly Lace and performer Mike Mulherne. Disc jockey Dave Smallwood provided the music, and area broadcaster Jack Carpenter provided the commentary. (Herald photo)