

IN YOUR OPINION:

Question: Is spring a good time for provincial election? Miller to call a provincial election? Premier Frank



FRANK MCKIE of Georgetown said yes. "Before the kids get out of school for sure, late May or middle of June." He said the public's mind is free then. They haven't gone on holidays and they're still close to home then.



KEVIN PEAKER of Georgetown said spring was the best time. "Best for him, anyway, he's still got people's interest in himself," he said. He also noted there's better weather in the spring. Mr. Peaker said he thought Mr. Miller would score better then, than in the fall.



CHRISTINE CLIFTON said she thought Mr. Miller could call an election for any time. "Spring's a nice political time, because everybody's full of hope for the future." "The fall's not a good time because then you're thinking about winter. It's a down time," she said.



"I would imagine that probably spring or early summer would be a good time," **JOHN CARTER** of Georgetown said. "Because, frankly, I think the federal government's going to come in with a budget and it could be a reasonably restrictive budget."



TOM ROBINSON of Georgetown said the timing didn't matter. "They have to do it. The timing of the election promises is more important," he said. "I'm hoping they're going to smile on small business again."

Nails that shimmer

Would you like to know the secret to keeping your fingernails looking beautiful? April 3 from 7-9 p.m., Georgetown resident, Doris Zillo will be at the Library to give one-on-one demonstrations of the techniques of manicuring. Phone the Georgetown Library at 877-2881 to make an appointment. Take advantage of this free program, but hurry and phone. The number of appointments we can make is limited.

Gifted students talk

There will be an information meeting to explain identification procedures and placement alternatives for gifted students. The meeting will be held April 1, 8 p.m. at John T. Tuck Public School in Burlington. Guest speaker Roger Watt is being hosted by the Association for Bright Children. For more information call 877-2887.

Narcotic charge

A routine check of a vehicle by Halton regional police turned up a small amount of suspected marijuana on Main Street in Acton Friday. An Acton resident has been charged with possession of a narcotic.

At the movies



By **DANNEY RUSSELL**

The "sure thing" comes only once, but the "right thing" is forever. The Sure Thing is a movie that tries to teach love and morals, but it is disguised as a comedy. It's about a guy (John Cusack) who hitchhikes from New Jersey to California to see a girl who his friend promises is a "sure thing". There are no worries about strings attached, no guilt involved and no questions asked. It's a bit hard to believe that a guy would go across the country in search of his dream girl. But don't be fooled; the bikini-clad girl sun-bathing on the beach in California is only seen for about ten minutes in the movie. In the end John's conscience gets the better of him and he eventually finds the right girl. Incidentally, the "right girl" is the one he travels to California with.

Erosion problems

Embankment threatens Irwin homes

By **ANIPEDERIAN**
Herald Staff

The backyards of 15 homes on Georgetown's Irwin Crescent are slowly sinking down into the Silvercreek valley.

Although several of the homeowners have concrete or log retaining walls at the ridge of their backyard, they haven't served their purpose.

Credit Valley Conservation Authority water resources manager, Don Tefft said shear cracks were noted in the backyards in the late part of February and early March.

Since that time, the problem has increased and a serious embankment failure is apparent behind 15 of the homes.

"It's been getting worse every day. When we first went out, it was five homes, then nine, then 15 and there may be 17 homes now," Mr. Tefft said.

He said the drop is from three to 15 meters deep behind the homes.

"Damage has been sustained to swimming pools, patios, stone terraces, landscaping, steps, grass and trees," Mr. Tefft said.

The embankment is slipping and it's getting to be an emergency situation for some homes very close to the edge.

"When you get within three meters, which some of them are, it's rather dicey. There are four homes like that," he said.

Mr. Tefft said the Authority had received a letter signed by concerned residents last week.

He said the Authority was recommending an investigation be undertaken by Peto MacCallum into what has caused the sliding, determine the soil, and what alternatives are possible to rectify the problem.

Such a study would cost \$15,000, and with a 10 per cent contingency budget, would come to \$16,500.

Although the 1985 special levy requirements from the town have already been sent to Halton Hills for Authority projects in the community, Mr. Tefft received additional town support Monday night from councillors.

Councillors voted in favor of contributing \$7,500, or 45 per cent of the total budget, towards the project.

Town engineer Bob Austin said the money will come from a surplus in the 1984 regional levy for conservation projects.

The remaining 55 per cent is expected to come from the province.

"We suspect that when the original subdivision was built, they took excavated material from the basements and threw it in the bank," Mr. Tefft said. "There's been signs of bank instability in the past."

This winter, frost went into the ground, saturated the soil, making the bank even more unstable.

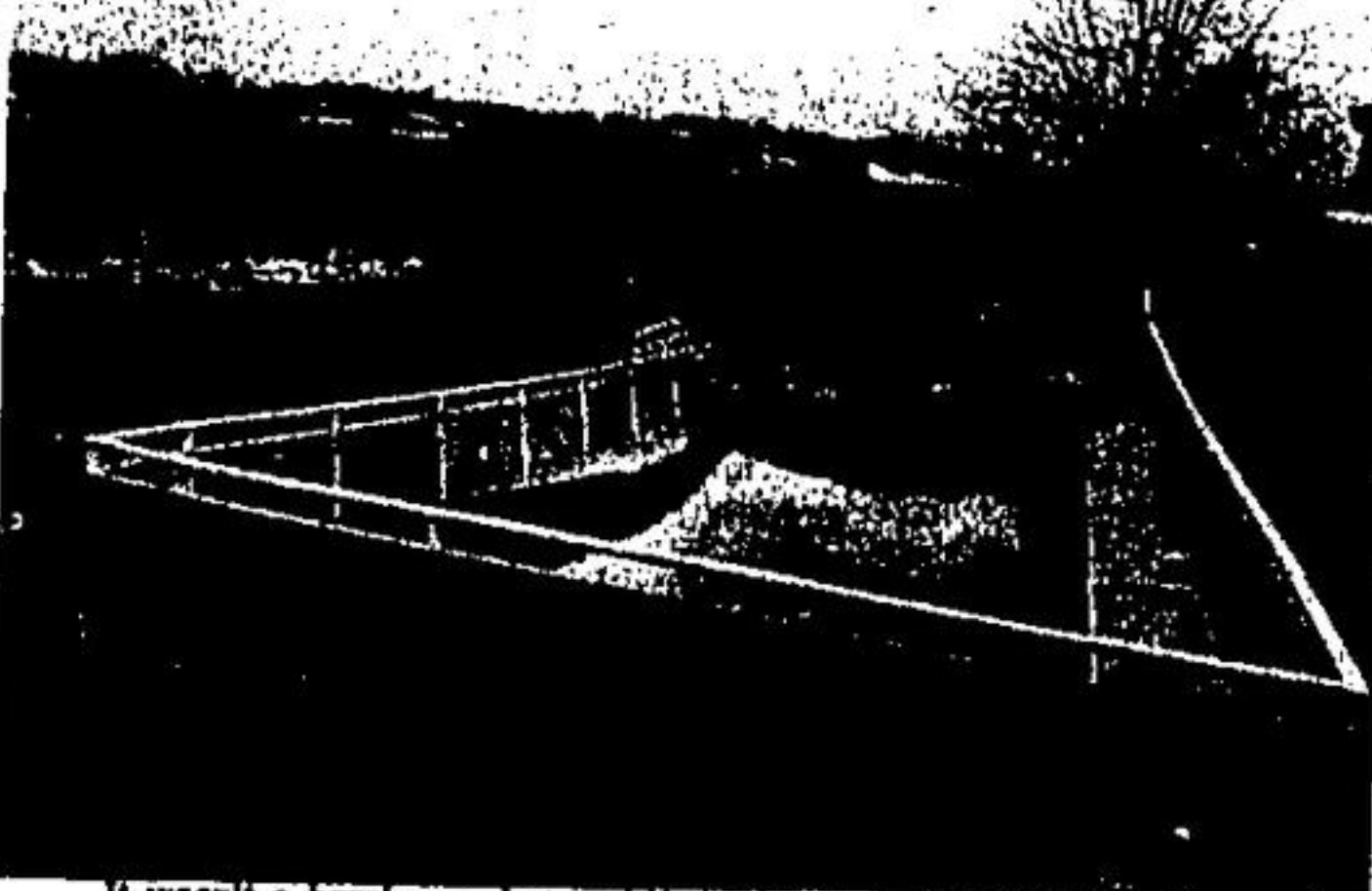
"It just got too heavy for the top layers of earth and they just went," Mr. Tefft explained.

The homes were built by George Wimpey Canada Limited back in 1970 and '71.

"That wouldn't happen today, because we have regulations we didn't have in 1972. We ask for a stepback far greater than the one there," he said.

As well, dumping isn't permitted.

Conjecturing one solution to the problem, Mr. Tefft said the backyards could be excavated to take the load of unstable



It wasn't a hurricane, but a shift in the ground that twisted the Snow family's pool on Irwin Crescent. The Credit Valley Conservation Authority suspects the shifting backyards may be due to the dumping of fill there over 15 years ago when the area was being developed. (Herald photo)



Nature played a nasty trick on several homeowners on Irwin Crescent. About 15 of them had part of their backyards shift down into the Silvercreek Valley over the past month, including Mark Snow. (Herald photo)

Swimming on an angle

A swim in the backyard pool is going to be impossible for Georgetown resident Mark Snow, 19, this summer.

The Irwin Crescent resident has watched the earth sink from under the above ground pool in his backyard over the past few weeks.

Right now, the pool looks a twisted mess, and Mark says the family intends to sell it.

"We can't use it as it is," he said. "It's all bent out of shape." Plans to build a deck over the sloping land that extends into Silvercreek valley have been put on hold, perhaps forever.

Mark's dad wanted to build the deck this summer, since the steep grade of half the backyard made it unuseable. He'd built a retaining wall last summer of fat logs, to gain the family more of a backyard.

The Snow family moved to Irwin from Prince Charles Drive two years ago.

Two houses down, at 53 Irwin Crescent, Kerry Collins hasn't experienced the three foot earth slides of his neighbor.

Mr. Collins said his brother is an engineer and had advised him to put a retaining wall of guard rails to hold the back of his property secure from earth slides.

Although the posts of the split cedar fence separating the Collins' property from the neighbors' have moved, the guard rails have stayed put.

earth off. This would make the slope less steep and less of a problem.

Basements that are now underground, could become walkout basements.

"That could be done very nicely," Mr. Tefft said. "There are a lot of things that could be done, I can't speculate."

He said the problem won't be cheap to correct, estimating it would be somewhere between \$100,000 to

"This house, also isn't as close to the edge. There's more level and flat land before the slope," he said.

However, part of the Collins' backyard is too steep for human use, and provides a dangerous challenge when it comes time to cut the grass down there.

"If you kept goats, it would be useful," Mr. Collins remarked.

It wasn't the backyard that sold Mr. Collins his home back in 1971. It was the view.

"I mean, how many people have that for a backyard," he said, sweeping his arm to demonstrate a horizon showing no signs of human habitation except for two barns. "There's a farm over there and it's about it. It's so quiet and peaceful back here."

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