

Youth's drowning inquest supports 'danger' signs

Recommendations made by a coroner's inquest jury over the drowning death of Jason Leonard of Norval are to be sent to Peel Region.

The 10-year-old drowned June 29, 1985 near the Credit River bridge where it crosses Winston Churchill Boulevard.

A coroner's inquest was held Sept. 30 and the jury recommended a "dangerous waters" sign be put on both sides of the bridge roadside, and signs be bolted onto the bridge support stating "dangerous and deep water".

Because Winston Churchill Boulevard is a boundary road between Halton and Peel regions, putting up the signs are a shared responsibility by the two regions. However, Peel now has maintenance and administrative responsibility over the Boulevard and is responsible for putting up the signs. They'll bill Halton for half the costs.

Halton is forwarding the inquest recommendations to Peel for implementation.

The coroner's jury reported Jason and his friends went swimming in the Credit River near Norval and while swimming the youngster got into difficulty and drowned. The river is approximately 60 metres in width and up to 10 metres deep.

The jury recommended school campaigns to identify dangerous waters in the area and techniques in calling for help, so that youngsters can be aware of the dangers in their community.

As well, the jury requested two complete sets of diving equipment be standard issue on all rescue trucks. Coroner D.H. Aikenhead of Milton had some difficulty in tracking down who is responsible for acting on the coroner's jury recommendations.

"Apparently the Town of Halton Hills wish to avoid any involvement or responsibility of preventing further drowning here," Dr. Aikenhead wrote in January to Ontario's Chief Coroner.

"How simple it would be to erect the signs or contact the Region to do so rather than get into a political wrangle," Dr. Aikenhead concludes in his letter.

Expect good, used books for all ages

April 12, 9 a.m. at Knox Church Hall, the University Women's Club of Georgetown will hold its 15th annual used book sale.

From small beginnings in 1972, outdoors at the Georgetown Market Centre, when we made profits of \$400, the sale has grown into a large indoor undertaking which takes an entire year's work and planning but which provides the Club with \$2,000 in funds to return to the community.

In 1972, our books sold at prices ranging from 5 cents to 50 cents. Can you imagine a hard cover book for 50 cents today? In 1986, our prices will range from 5 cents to \$5.

The book sale profits are used by the University Women's Club to fund its scholarships and other community donations. In 1985, they gave a total of \$800 in scholarships. Last year they also made cash donations to Kids on the Block, Canadian Parents for French, and the Halton Hills Anti-Drinking and Driving Committee.

In order to insure that the University Women's Club of Georgetown will always be able to give scholarships to deserving students, the Club has established a special scholarship fund. Some book sale profits were also placed in this fund.

The book sale is an excellent opportunity to stock up on good quality used books at bargain prices.



There will be books for every kind of reader, even those who can't read, at the University Women's Club 15th Annual Book Sale. Cameron McCrodon is taking time to get a closer look at one of thousands of books for sale. The book sale is at Knox Presbyterian Church Hall in Georgetown April 12 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Money collected goes to scholarships for Acton and Georgetown high school students.

Blow-by-blow steps to handle chemicals

Don't Know? Don't Go, It Might Blow. That is one of the mottos members of the Halton Hills Fire Department were hearing at a 16-hour seminar on recognizing and containing hazardous materials.

Dealing with hazardous materials is a growing concern of firefighters because there are more and more of them, said Len Mills, a fire services adviser from the Office of the Fire Marshall of Ontario. He was one of the teachers of the seminar.

Dealing with hazardous materials is a new kind of challenge. Firefighters are used to rushing to the scene and manning their assault as quickly as possible. In dealing with hazardous materials the key word is caution, Mr. Mills said.

Caution means stopping 800 metres from the fire or spill site and getting a good look through binoculars at what you are dealing with. The weekend seminar was mainly on recognizing hazardous materials.

The 23 volunteers and staff participating are the first in Ontario to take the 16-hour course. It will be taught in Richmond Hill and Windsor next.

The course concentrated on the problem of transporting hazardous materials. In Halton Hills trains, trucks and even planes carrying hazardous materials could create a problem if there is an accident. The kinds of materials posing the problem could be radioactive, corrosive, poisonous, flammable and more, Mr. Mills said.

Vehicles transporting hazardous materials are marked with labels with names or numbers. Using the emergency response guide firefighters are able to identify the material by the name or number and

learn how to deal with it, Mr. Mills said. Once they know this much they will call in experts if necessary.

Firefighters also learned about containing hazardous materials and how they affect the environment. To contain materials firefighters might have to build a dam or boom, or they



Len Mills

might have to skim the problem off of water to absorb it. Their goal is to prevent it from doing serious damage, such as entering the water supply, Mr. Mills said.

Barry Brassard is a captain and volunteer of the Halton Hills Fire Department, who has a special interest in hazardous chemicals. Until now he has been the main in-house chemical instructor. He has had this role for two years and admits the fire department should have started training firefighters about hazardous materials sooner. The Halton Hills Department is still ahead of other departments, he said.

So far there have been only minor incidents involving hazardous materials. These posed by an overturned propane truck or tanker truck, Mr. Brassard said.

Facelift

The corner of Park Avenue and Mill Street West in Acton will change its face soon.

Landowner B. Skoko received site plan review committee approval earlier this month to tear down the three unit apartment building currently on the site and build two semi-detached homes in their place.

This request had been approved previously but had lapsed.

Serger sewing

An Acton woman is hosting "Sewing with Sergers" seminars April 10 and 11 in Guelph. Sergers are machines that sew a seam, trim the seam allowance and overcast all in one step. The three-hour seminar costs \$28 and includes a free book on the subject. For more information, call Susan Ford at 853-3059 of The Sewing Den.

Grocery addition

Prestons grocery store at the corner of Wildwood Road and Confederation Street in Glen Williams is looking to expand.

Its application to enlarge its commercial property was deferred by the Halton Hills Committee of Adjustment recently.

Backyard repairs will have to wait

Nothing's to be done for the homeowners on Irwin Crescent who back onto a ravine this year by either the town or the Credit Valley Conservation Authority. Coun. Lillian Bowman was told

The residents' properties have been experiencing serious slippage problems over the years and residents want to know what action is going to be taken before the situation becomes irreparable.

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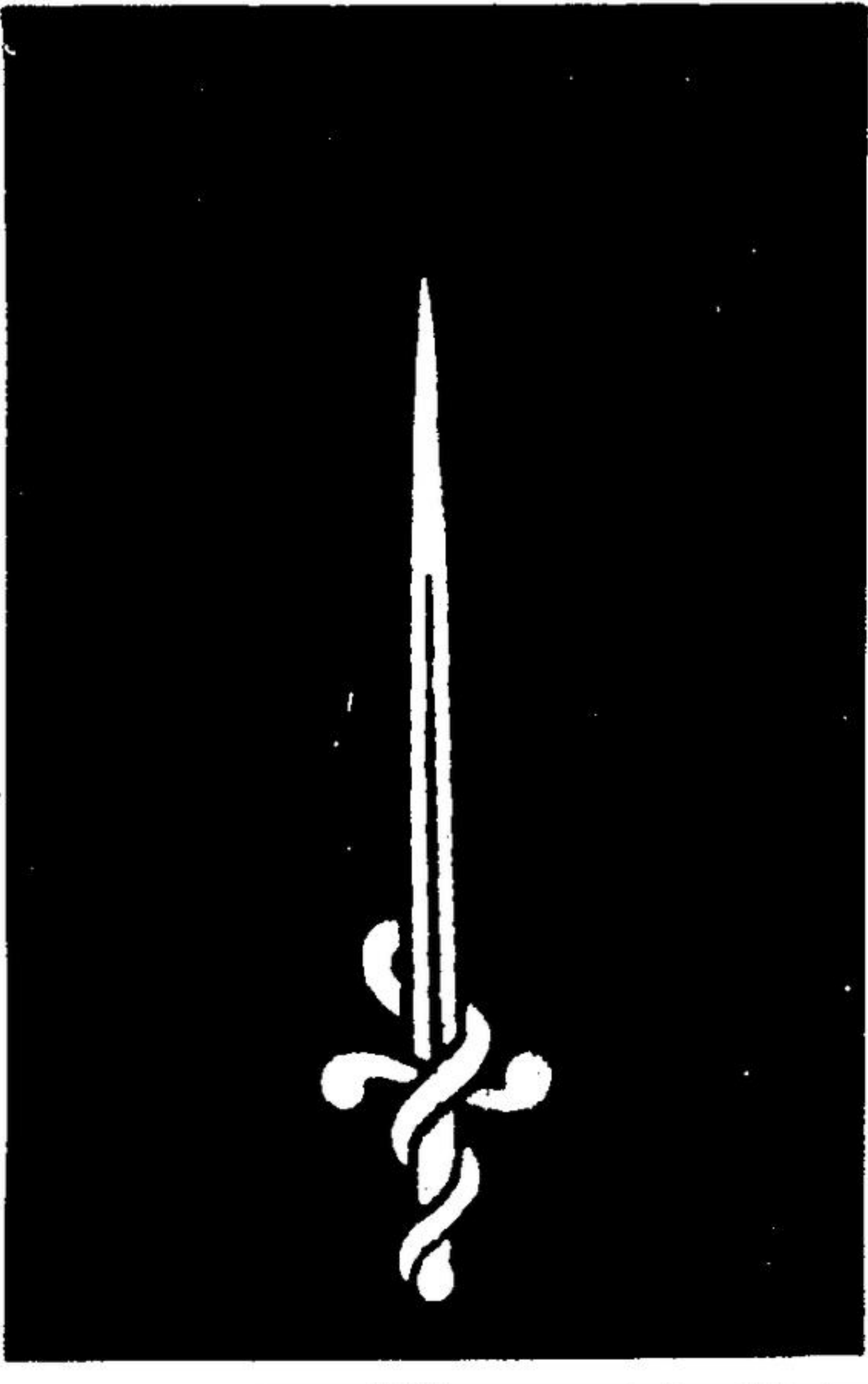
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