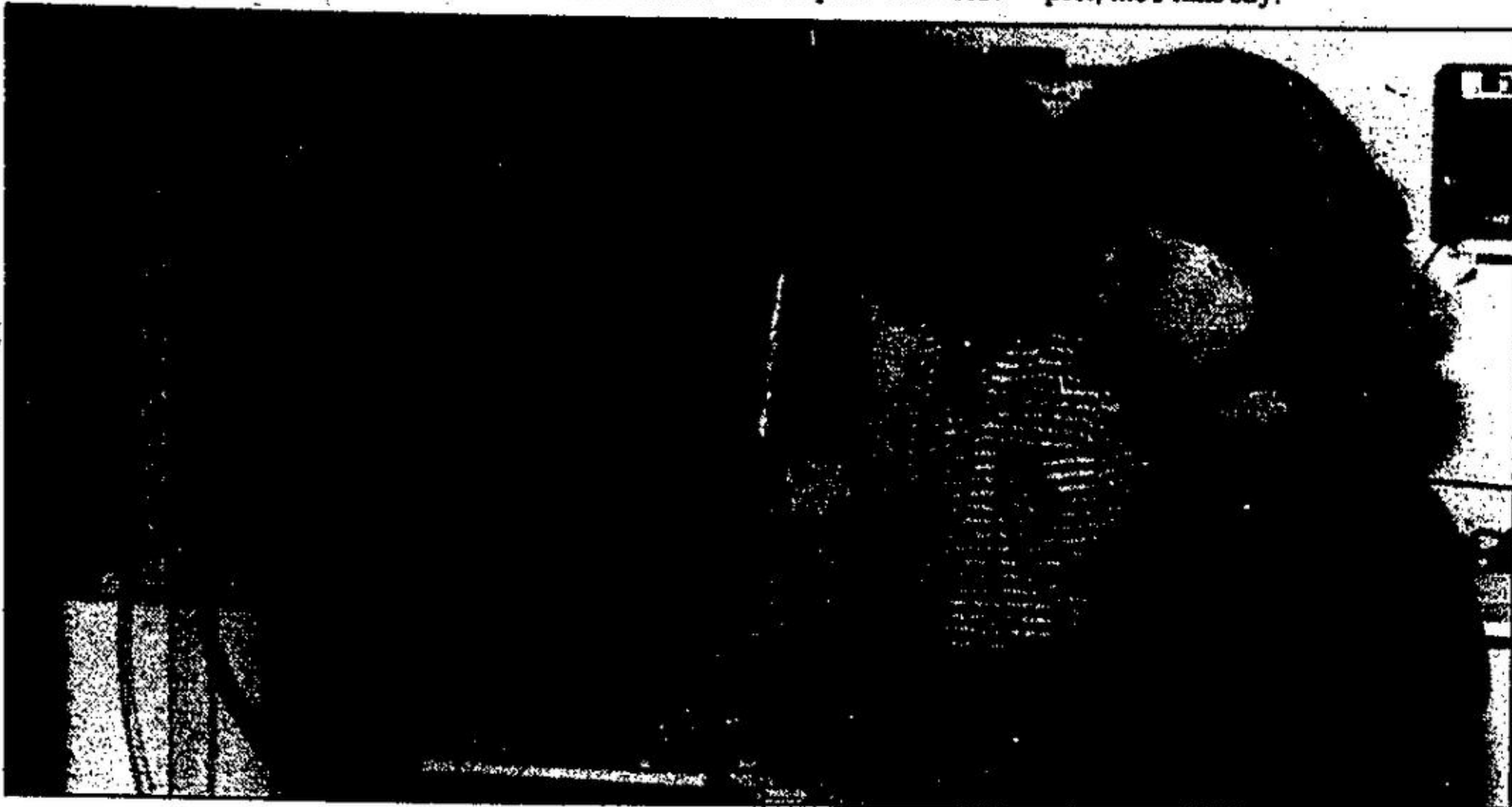


Take a vacation in your own back yard

If you're looking for a vacation right in your own back yard Wendy and Mike Finn may have just the

or you can do it yourself in just a couple of minutes. Maintenance on a pool can cost

anywhere from \$200 to \$600 a year, depending on the size and type of pool, the Finns say.



Wendy and Mike Finn put some water through the computerized testing lab at their store on Guelph St.

The Finns say you can have an inground pool in your own back yard in a week. (Herald photo)

And there are plenty of products on the market - such as an automatic vacuum - to make maintenance that much easier.

But it's that daily routine of taking two minutes and checking the pool, that ensures cheaper and proper maintenance, Wendy Finn says.

"Algae can attack in a moment's notice."

Many people keep the warming blanket over their pool without moving it for a week, perhaps

because of bad weather, then roll it back and find a green pool containing algae, the Finns say.

Once you're hit with an algae problem, there's the work involved to clear the pool and the let down of going a week without being able to swim.

However, if you're looking for a bargain, the Finns say you should make sure the store has the ability to service the pool and supply you with information once it's filled with water.

ticket.

The owners of Acadian Pools on Guelph Street in Georgetown say the demand for above-ground pools has increased slightly this year over the inground variety.

And although the peak pool-buying season finished in June, you can still have a water haven in your yard in as early as a week. It takes only seven days to install an above-ground pool but the installation period stretches to between three and four weeks for an inground model, said Mr. Finn.

Pool types and variety are decided by the room the buyers have in their yards and by financial constraints.

While an elaborate above-ground pool may cost up to \$5,000, the inground variety may run up a bill of \$20,000.

But, if you're good at following directions you can install your own inground pool for only \$2,000, said Mrs. Finn.

And once the crystal water starts sparkling in your back yard, there's maintenance to consider.

The Finns have devised a system for the pool owner to keep their pool free of algae by spending 10 minutes every two weeks. Algae is probably enemy number one when it comes to pool maintenance and Acadian Pools can test your water free of charge.

"We've had customers for years that have never had algae (in their pools)," said Mr. Finn.

Acadian Pools will test your sample for you - if you bring in a litre of water from a level 18 inches deep from the deep end of the pool -

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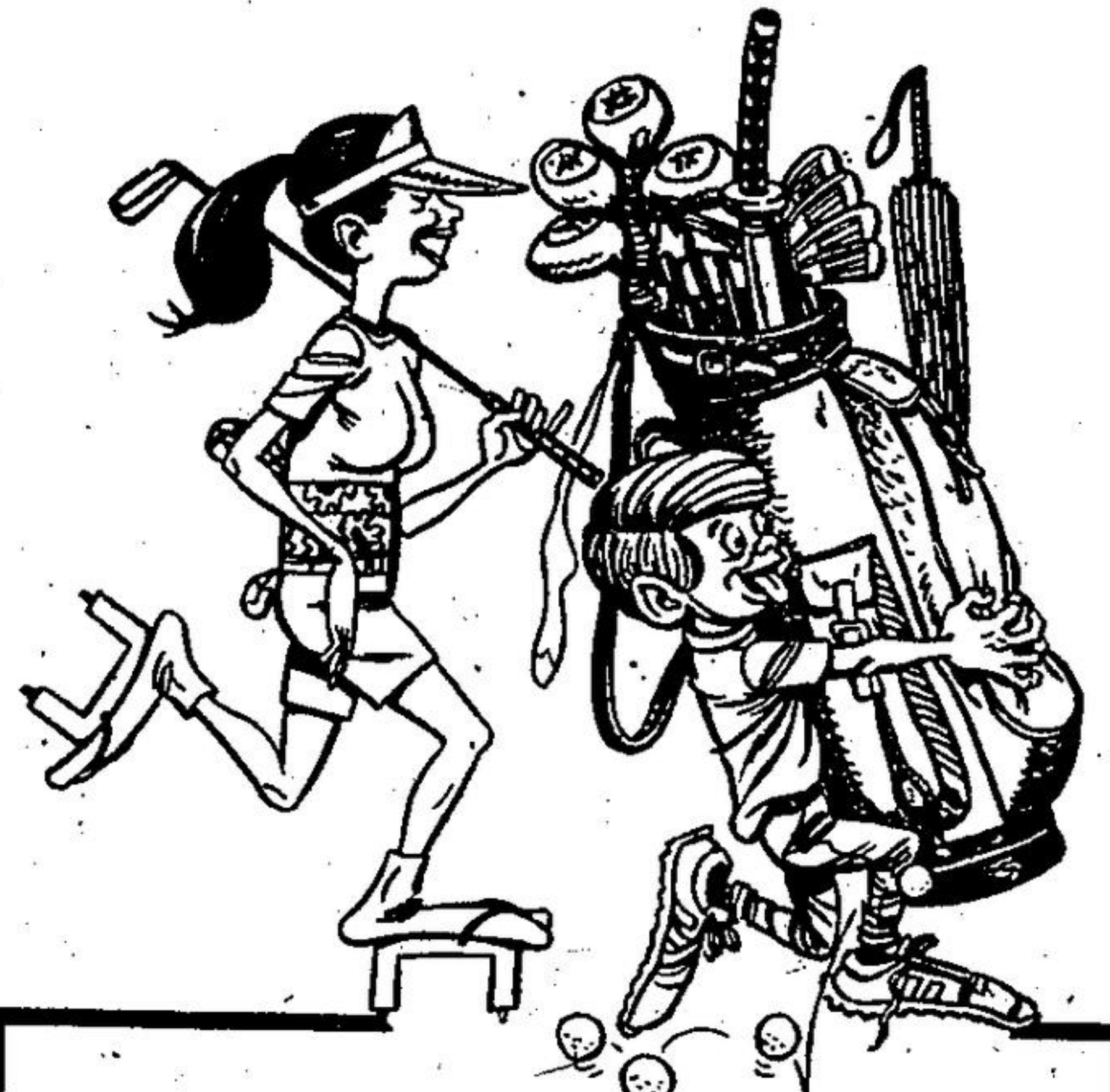
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