



Life on Zeron

The Halton Hills recreation department kept the summer camp busy studying life on the planet Zeron at Prospect Park in Acton last Friday. Here, the Zeronians attempt the circular lap sit. Mark Hallow, Joel Springer, Tommy Dales and Betty Chou give it their best shot. (Herald photo)

"Blue bag" program scheduled for 1990

Halton Region is proposing to spend almost \$450,000 on a blue bag recycling program that could be in place before 1990.

The blue bag recycling program will service the apartments and townhouses in the Region just as the blue boxes have served the Region since 1987. Blue boxes arrived in Halton Hills in January of this year.

Among the collectables will be newspapers, corrugated cardboard, glass jars and bottles, metal food and beverage cans and plastic soft drink bottles.

The Region first tried the program on eight apartment buildings in Oakville. Three 340-litre roll-out containers were provided for every 30 units. Questionnaires given to the apartment tenants said 90 per cent were using the blue bags to store and deliver recyclable goods.

A Regional report says that about 25 per cent of all Halton residents live in "multi-unit dwellings," like apartments or townhouses. The cost to operate a blue bag program is only half the cost of a blue box program for the same number of residents, the report says.

Costs for Regional vehicles to pick up the recyclables would be \$190,000 for two trucks. The Region would spend \$100,000 to purchase 1,000 340-litre containers for apartment and townhouse collection.

The pilot phase of the project, with container and bay costs included, would be \$20,000. Another \$80,000 would pay for 15,000 blue bags at \$4 each. Promoting and advertising of the blue bag program would cost the Region \$30,000.

The Regional report says driver's wages and vehicle fuel and maintenance would cost \$47,000 for six months before 1990.

Operating costs for 1990 are projected at \$124,000. Halton Hills has said it will need a recycling vehicle by 1990, the report says. The Region will send instructions with each blue bag for the apartment landlords to give to tenants. By 1990, there will be a bylaw in place for multi-unit dwellings.

The trial use of blue bags in Oakville had good results, says a Regional report. The collection of regular garbage is down 50 per cent at some apartments since blue bags were introduced.

Beaches closed

Two beaches in Acton remain closed for high bacterial counts this week.

The new beach on Fairy Lake and the beach at Smallwood Park are closed. The Region will be conducting intensive studies of Fairy Lake all through the summer.

Beaches in south Halton are also affected by high levels of faecal chloriforms, the substance from inside the stomachs of warm animals.

The Region is conducting twice weekly testing at all beaches in Halton throughout the summer. This week, there are a total six beaches closed, including Coronation Park in Oakville, Spencer Smith Park and Sioux Lookout, as well as the two closed beaches in Acton.

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IT'S YOUR MONEY

Paul J. Rockett

"John, I'm desperate," said Jerry. "I've borrowed everything I could from my children so that today I owe them over \$50,000, and have no hope of ever repaying them. I don't know where to get enough money to buy food for Muriel and I."

"What a shame," replied John. "Yes I still can remember that day in 1968, when we were both aged 60, and both had a bang-up party, because we had decided to retire, and live off our savings, and the company pension plan."

"Yeah, I remember too," Jerry replied. "Life sure looked great back then, for both of us, each having \$50,000 in savings, our company pension plan, and the old age pension from the government would begin at age 65. I thought I was set forever. Boy, how things have changed for the worse."

"For you!" emphasized John. "For me, I'm in greater financial shape than I was back then, I haven't had to borrow a penny to make ends meet, and I am worth over \$156,000 to boot."

"How can you be?" asked Jerry. "We both had the same pension, and the same \$50,000, and we've both had virtually identical living standards since then. What's the difference?"

"The difference," replied John, "is you chose to invest your \$50,000 into 'guarantees' that would pay you 10 per cent per year. I chose to invest in a mutual fund with no guarantee."

"Oh yeah, I remember," remarked Jerry. "And we both decided to only take \$4,500 that year from our investments, so that combined with our pension of \$3,500, we'd have \$8,000 a year to live on."

"Yup, that was enough to live on comfortably in 1968," agreed John.

"But the cost of living went up, so the next year we each took \$4,680, so we could enjoy the same living standard as \$4,500 would buy the year earlier."

"I know," lamented Jerry. "And today (1989) I need over \$16,000 just to match that \$4,500 in '68. By increasing my payout each year, I ran out of money in 1983, and that's when I started borrowing from the kids. They've been great, helping Muriel and I out, knowing full well we can never repay them. I'm 81 years old now, and can't work to replace that income."

"Well, I'm 81 now too," said John. "But I've taken the same income each year you have, never borrowed a penny from my children, and now have, over \$156,000 'left' from my original investment of \$50,000 into mutual funds."

We wish we could change the above "story," about our two fictitious friends, but we can't. It is a mathematical fact that a person with \$50,000 in 1968, investing it at 10 per cent, and taking out \$4,500 that year, increasing that payment each year by the rate of inflation, needed \$16,000 in payout by 1988. But, that person would be dead broke, and in fact, over \$50,000 "in the hole" if he's been able to finance it (we called him Jerry).

The person who chose to invest his \$50,000 into the mutual fund (we

called him John) took exactly the same income year by year, but is not "broke" because the value of his investment remaining at the end of November, 1988 was over \$156,000.

The 10 per cent guaranteed result is mathematical facts. The mutual fund results are exact past performance, as mutual funds have their results published daily, and their long term results published in Canada's financial newspapers.

It's a shame, but most financial writers tell you that because you are older, you should be in guarantees.

Who would you rather be? "Guaranteed" Jerry, or "mutual fund" John?

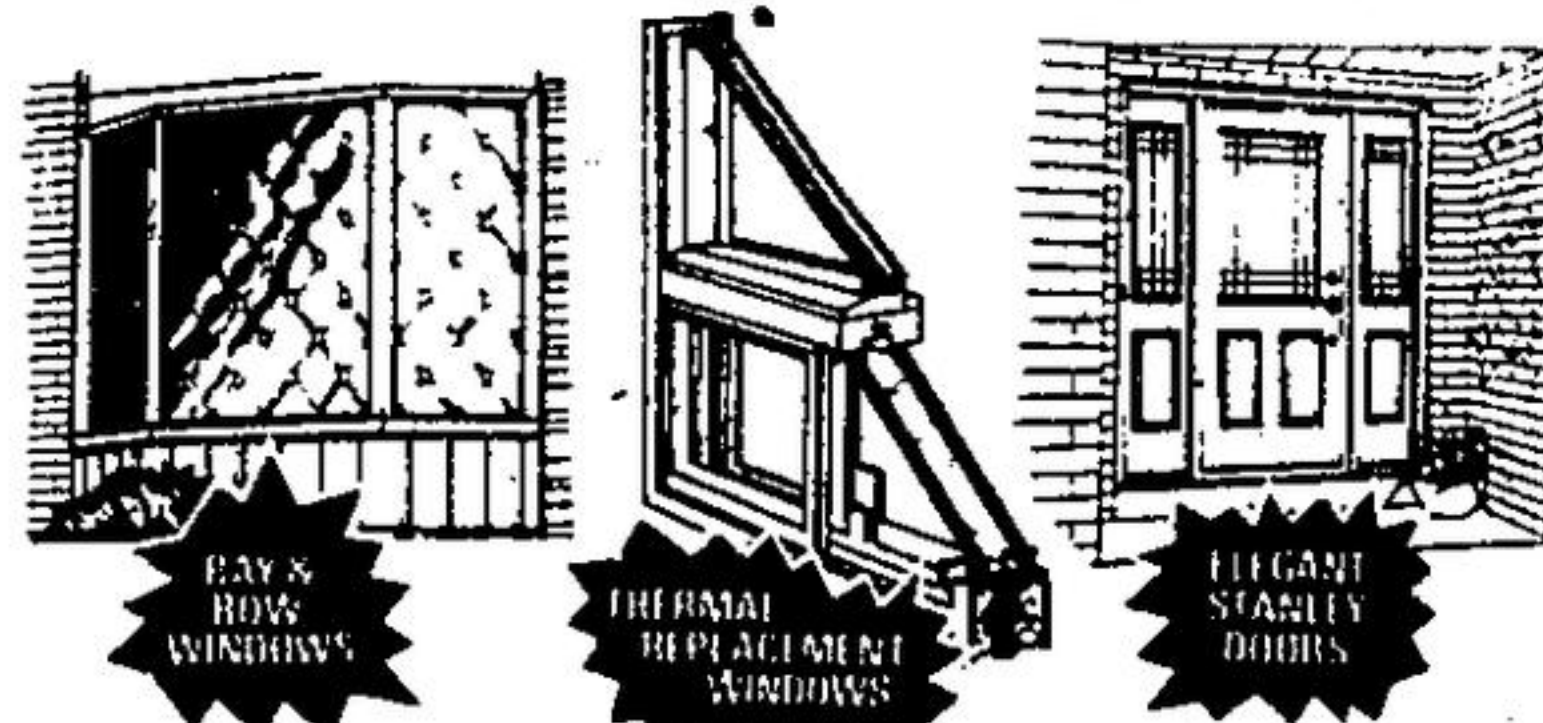
(P.S. - The mutual fund used was Industrial Growth Fund).

For a FREE chart showing a \$100,000 investment into a mutual fund, taking an indexed payment each month, ask for "indexed withdrawal." Contact Peter C. Masson, 10 Fagan Drive, Georgetown, Ont. or phone 877-7216.

Paul J. Rockett is the author of the best seller "Why I Invest in Mutual Funds," and President of Regal Capital Planners Ltd.



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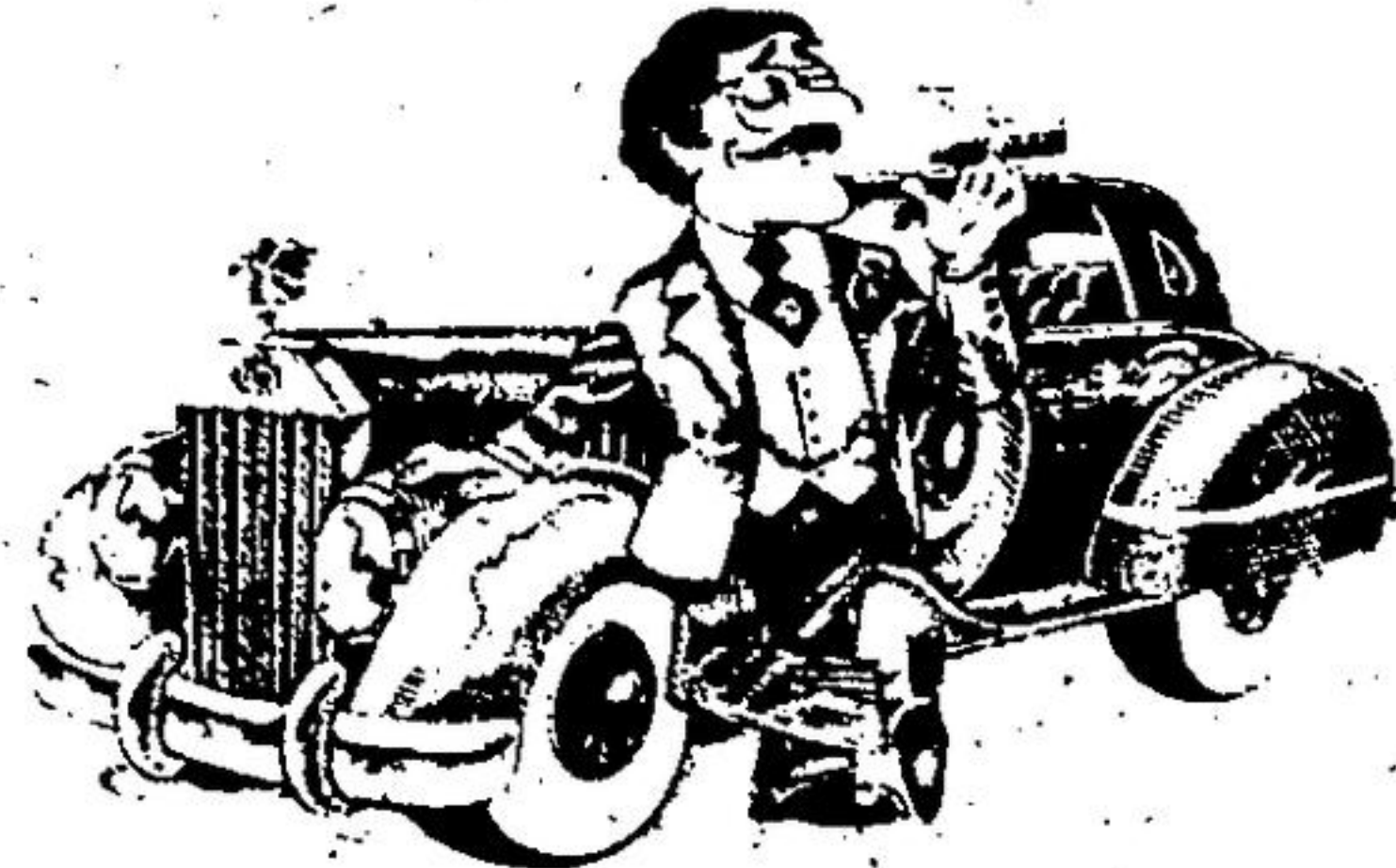
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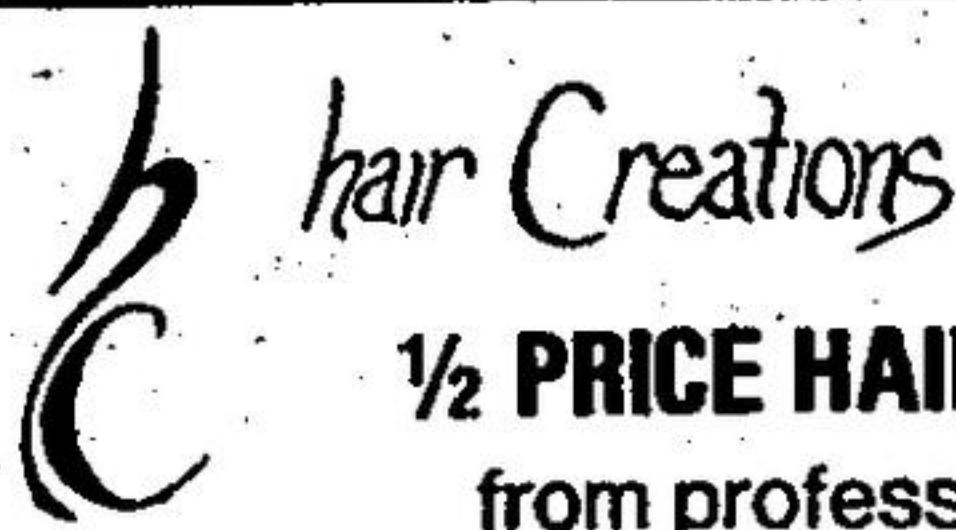
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