

# Falcon found alive

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT  
The Herald

Jennifer the falcon is back home in Georgetown and was given a meal without working for it by her owner Ulrich Watermann as a treat after her two-week long ordeal.

The falcon, missing since someone released it from a perch on the Toronto waterfront earlier this month, was captured in a parking lot while eating a bird Sunday afternoon.

Two Toronto Harbour Commission port patrol officers spotted the bird, realized she was the \$10,000 bird owned by Mr. Watermann, and caught the bird by throwing a blanket over her.

Jennifer had been in the harbour front area since her release and Mr. Watermann said she must have been able to capture and eat birds because she wasn't suffering.

"She lost a little bit of weight but she's doing fine," he said.

The two-year-old fully-trained falcon had been perched in the harbour before her disappearance to prevent ring-billed gulls from nesting in the marina.

Someone had released the falcon from the five-pound perch and dumped the perch under a pile of debris.

After the initial release, someone had removed a leather strap from the bird's leg which could have been instrumental in causing the bird's death by strangulation.

Jennifer is now back home at the Watermann research station where Mr. Watermann, a professional falconer, has more than 50 other falcons and birds of prey.

# Hydro hikes hinted

"That's terrible," said Halton Hills Hydro Commissioner Bill Smith, upon learning Friday Ontario Hydro wants to increase the amount it charges utilities for power by 8.9 per cent next year.

According to an Ontario Hydro press release disclosed during the Halton Hills Hydro Commission meeting Friday, Ontario Hydro has requested the Ontario Energy Board approve the 8.9 per cent increase.

Mr. Smith objects to the increase since Ontario Hydro requested, and was granted, permission for a similar increase for 1991.

Commission General Manager Gerry Trudell said earlier in the week he wasn't surprised at Ontario Hydro's request because it doesn't vary from the requests made in past years.

If the 8.9 per cent increase is approved by the Ontario Energy Board for next year, Halton Hills Hydro, like the other utilities in the province, will pass along the increase to their respective customers, said Mr. Trudell.

In the press release, Ontario Hydro President Robert Franklin is quoted as saying "these are difficult times for both Hydro and its customers, and in proposing this increase, we have tried to steer a middle course between our own growing costs and our customers' ability to absorb them."

Halton Hills Hydro Commissioner Jim Fisher defended the proposed increase saying Ontario Hydro has an "aging system and the expenses are horrendous." He also pointed out that Ontario has the cheapest power in North America.

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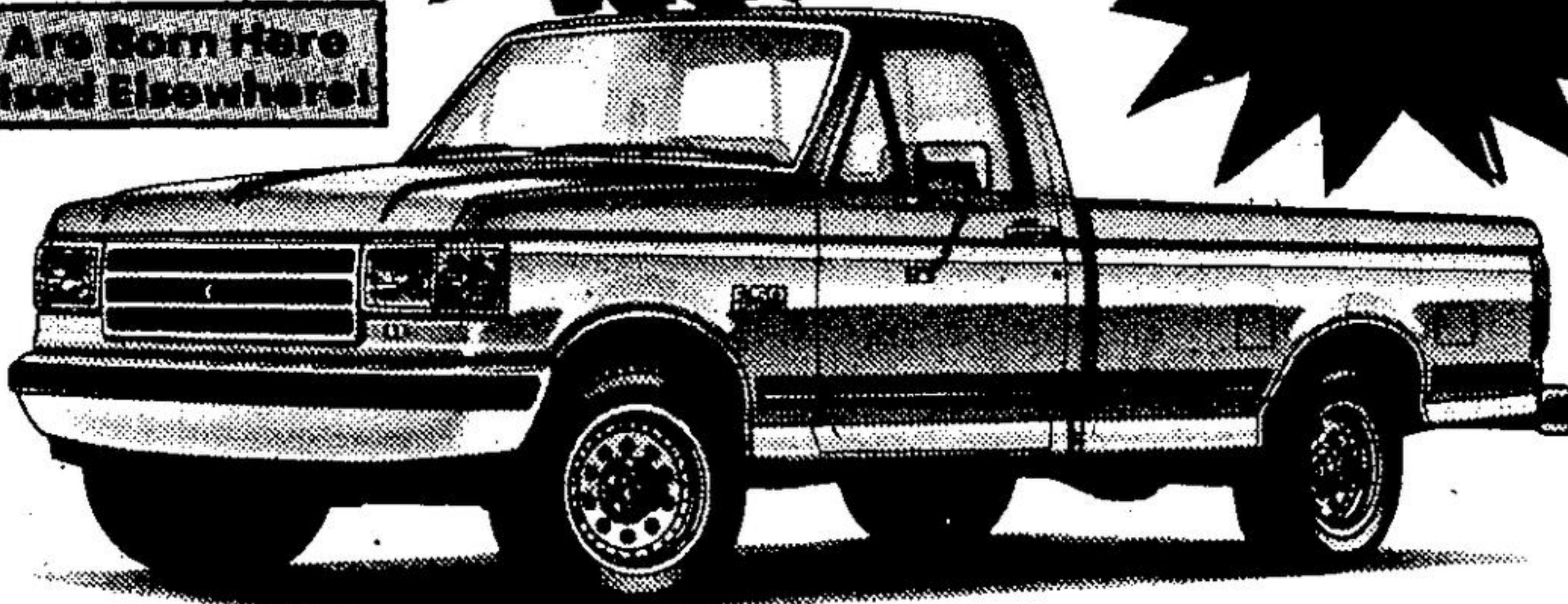
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