

CVCA controls hurt smaller areas says Mayor

Credit Valley Conservation Authority has been accused of hurting smaller communities in the watershed by trying to choke off development.

Pointing the finger of blame was authority member and mayor of Halton Hills, Russ Miller.

Rampant development left Mississauga scared and now CVCA wants to prevent any repeat of the massive development in the south of the watershed by throwing up a red light to development in the smaller municipalities to the north.

He told authority colleagues recently that is wrong.

The mayor's comments came during recent discussion by members of a new policy to manage storm water runoff from development in the watershed.

The policy is aimed at halting water quality deterioration, significant erosion and flooding dangers.

Staff conducted a massive review of existing rules and standards and found them wanting.

Authority officials urged members to endorse the interim policy they had framed. The changes would tighten control of storm water runoffs from future development and prevent more of the kinds of problems created by urbanization in the southern reaches until fresh, permanent regulations can be drafted.

The interim policies will hit developers hard in their wallets, Miller maintained.

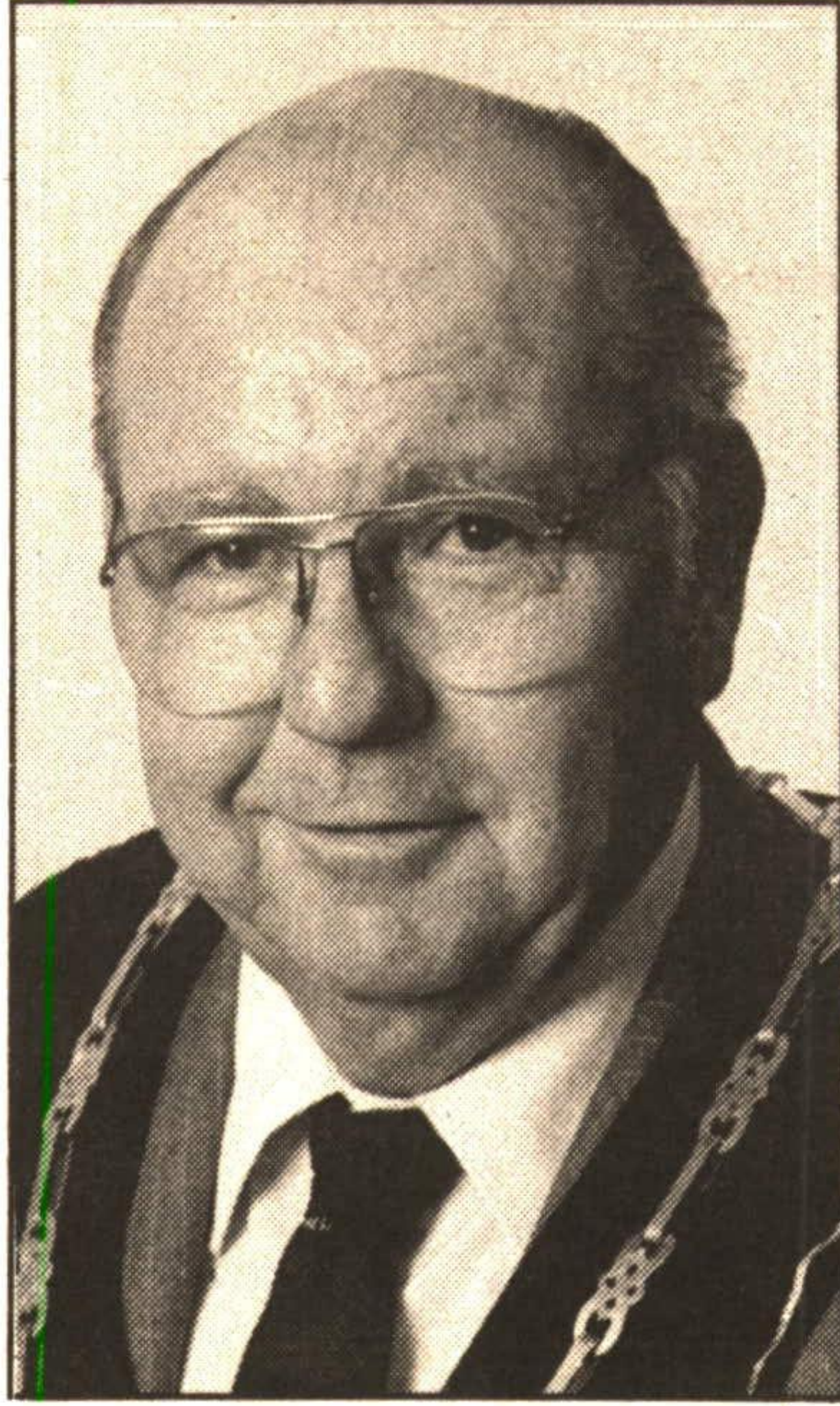
That will hurt the north part of the watershed where municipalities need to grow, increase their tax bases and improve services.

And the changes will also carry a hefty price tag for municipalities, he warned.

His fears were echoed by other voices from northern municipalities.

Miller's comments about Mississauga were disputed by its representatives who contended that there has been a lot of development, but it has been good growth.

Miller agreed his words might



RUSS MILLER

have been harsh, but his view was the result of seeing little growth above Brampton, Mississauga and Oakville in the watershed.

He said the CVCA's tougher rules would hurt northern communities from attracting the kinds of growth they need.

Miller said he doesn't think staff listens to the smaller communities.

Staff countered that all local concerns are taken seriously and reminded members that big issues from anywhere in the watershed winds up in their laps anyway.

Protecting the environment, preserving rural areas and keeping green areas has become paramount in Ontario and storm water controls was part of that drive. By tightening regulations CVCA was just doing its part, officials said.

Knowledge about storm water and how to control it, as well as design and technology measures are advancing quickly.

So by reviewing its rules and revamping them, CVCA was just keeping up with the times, staff maintained.

And study of the subject has resulted in findings that some measures employed in the watershed aimed at controlling storm water runoff have actually caused more problems than they solved.

For example, measures to retain peak flows of storm water have caused erosion further down the Credit valley.

The answer to solving storm water problems on a development by development basis doesn't work today.

And, it's expensive.

It makes sense to adopt a watershed wide policy, staff said.

Under the proposed rules, every time a second land use plan was brought to the authority for approval, a thorough drainage plan would have to be done.

Free information

Information about cancer can be obtained free of charge by calling the Cancer Information Service at 1-800-263-6750.

ASSIC ALERT!



Phone us before you throw out!

If you have household items you are planning to throw out, please call us first. These may be of use to somebody else. The Acton Social Services want to encourage people to be "Good Neighbors." Think of those less fortunate, and pass on what you are not using. We will pick up items and ensure they are given to those in need. This recycling also helps our environment by generating less garbage.

We have an urgent need for the following: chesterfield/chair; kitchen chairs; coffee/end tables and fridge.

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If you are in need of furniture please call us or drop into the office.

Our phone number is 853-3310 and we are in the Old Town Hall, 19 Willow St. North in Acton. Our office hours are Monday to Friday 8:30 to 4:30.

LEN TUITMAN AND STAFF PRESENT GREEN THUMB GARDENING DID YOU KNOW?

- Large, showy flowers can be produced on plants such as: Dahlia, Canterbury Bells, Chrysanthemum, Carnation, Peony, Roses by disbudding. Do this by removing the small side flower buds but leave the central one. You will have fewer flowers but those remaining will develop into a larger size.

- Removing finished flowers from Geraniums, Ivy Geraniums, Petunias, Fuchsias, Pansy, Roses and other flowers encourages more flowers to develop. They will also appear more tidy and it will prevent them from getting too long and "leggy."

- Frequent, light watering promotes shallow rooting of plants, heavy watering promotes deep rooting and are therefore more drought resistant.

- Ants are seldom a problem in the garden, but their presence indicates that you may have other damaging insects such as aphids and/or mealy bugs. The ants feed on the honeydew (sweet secretion) that they produce.

- Annuals are growing vigorously and require a regular fertilizer schedule.

- Bearded iris should be divided between midsummer and early fall. Always plant them shallow - no deeper than one inch.

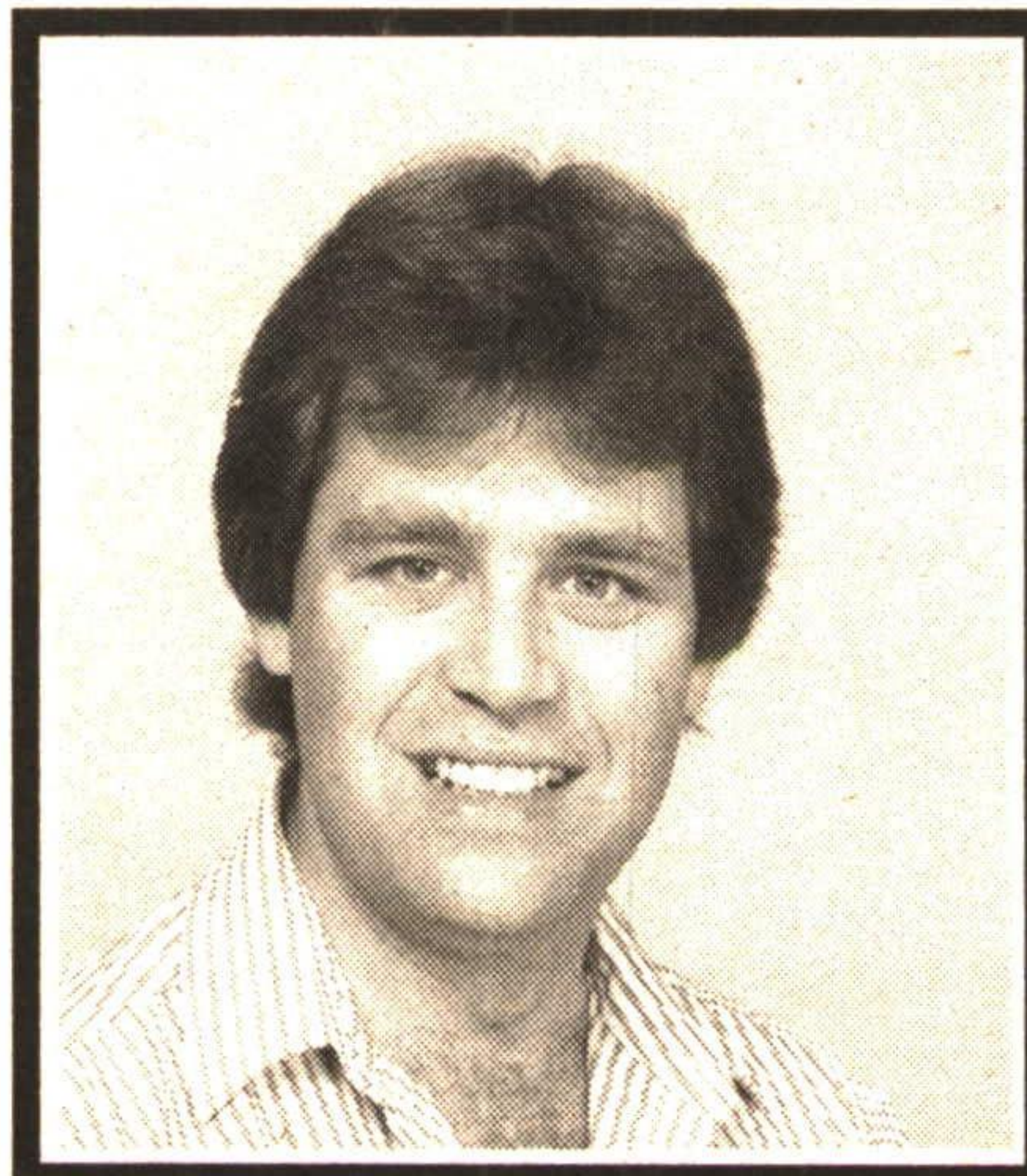
- The white and green varieties of annual nicotine plants are more fragrant than the red and crimson ones.

- The flowers last longer on the deeper colored clematis varieties.

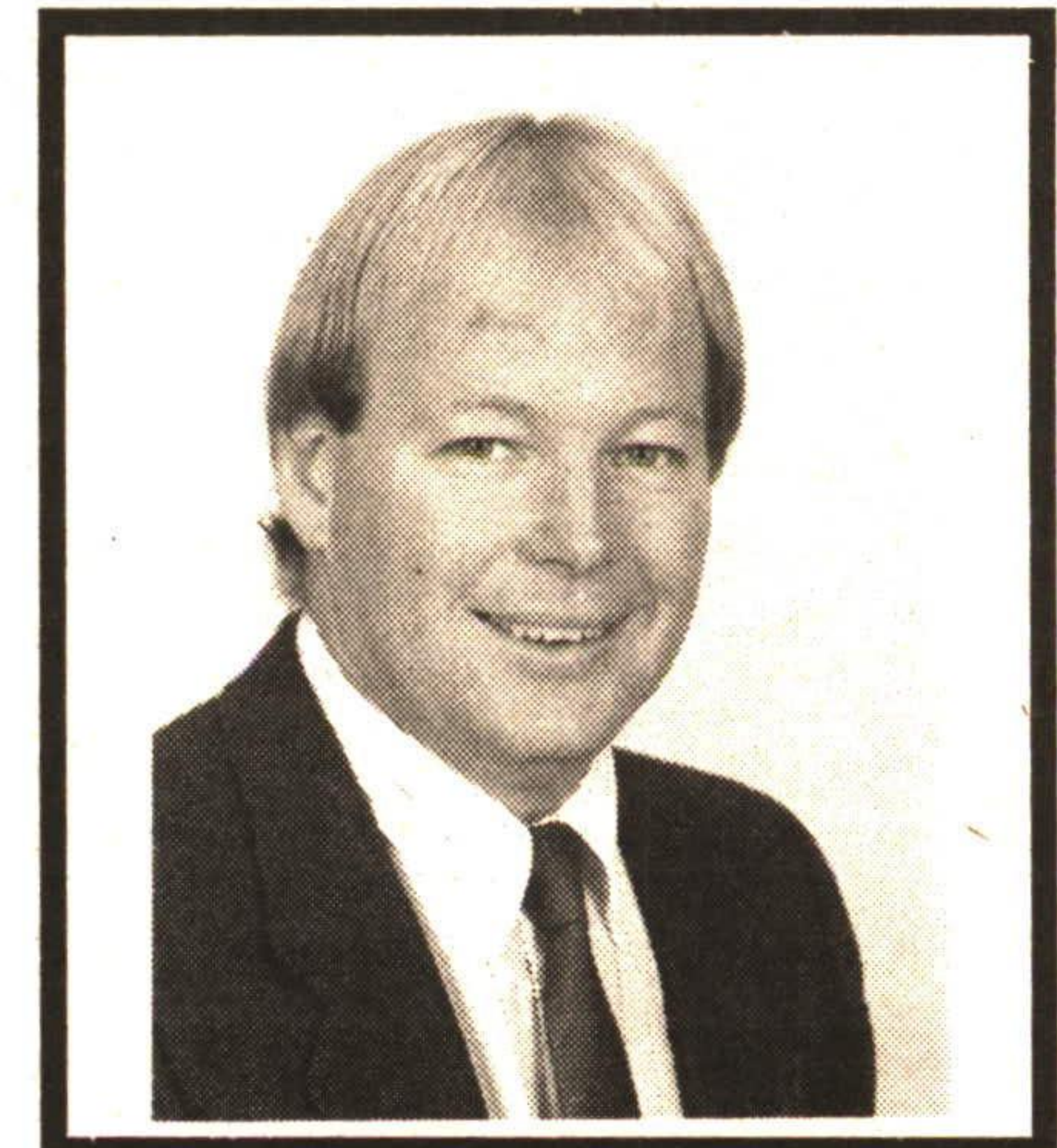
- Remove "sucker" growth from roses and other grafted ornamentals. Pruning them off may encourage more to develop. Remove them when they are new and soft by pulling down and out (away from the plant) in one motion.

Each week Christine Cole of Tuitman's Garden Centre and Landscaping, Highway 25, 1 mile south of Acton, 853-2480, will be presenting helpful tips and information to assist you in creating your garden showplace!

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