

There's nothing more essential on an outdoorsman's equipment list than his hat. Whether one's capped by a woollen toque, Aussia fedora, or the famous Tilley, a trip in the wilds is not complete without being crowned in character.

When I go fishing I trust the luck of my golf hat, complete with self-tied flies decorating its brim, more than I would my angling ability. Winter camping would be miserable without the company of my warm toque, with its bright colors and fluffy ball. And, last but not least, canoeing would be an impossibility without my durable baseball cap donated to me by the owner of the Rugged Clothing Company (no, I do not belong to the Tilley hat society).

Unfortunately, however, my canoe hat saw its last trip last week. It now sadly lies on the muddy bottom of Three Mile Lake in Muskoka. That's right, the same hat that survived the harsh winds of Georgian Bay, Lake Superior, and Lake Temagami simply flew off my head during a weekend excursion with some friends and sank like a rock.

Early Saturday morning I launched my canoe off my friends' dock for a quick paddle around the lake. When I returned three of my chums were preparing the old noisy motorboat to try their luck for smallmouth across the lake. Eager to catch breakfast I quickly pulled up my canoe alongside the dock and jumped in the boat with them. In my haste, however, I forgot to change hats. Instead of wearing my

## May my hat rest in peace -- at lake bottom

lucky fishing hat I went out in the speedy motorboat with my rugged baseball cap.

It only took the first rush of wind to blow my cap completely off my noggin. "My hat! My hat!" I screamed as Doug, the driver, quickly turned around and headed for the lost cargo. Mike, one of my boatmates, grabbed an oar and I grabbed a fishing pole. The plan was simple: Doug would drive up alongside my hat while Mike attempted to snag it with the oar. My fishing pole was back-up, in case Mike missed.

It all happened so fast. Doug definitely drove the boat as close to the hat as possible; so close as a matter of fact that he literally ran over it. Mike swatted instead of snagged it and I completely missed with the fishing pole. To make matters worse the motor stalled while we were turning about for a second pass.

As we watched from a distance the faithful cap slowly sank into the cold waters of Three Mile Lake. Call me crazy, but I think it has to be one of the most dishonorable ways for a canoe hat to die. In any case, we

all lowered our heads as I wished my hat to rest in peace.

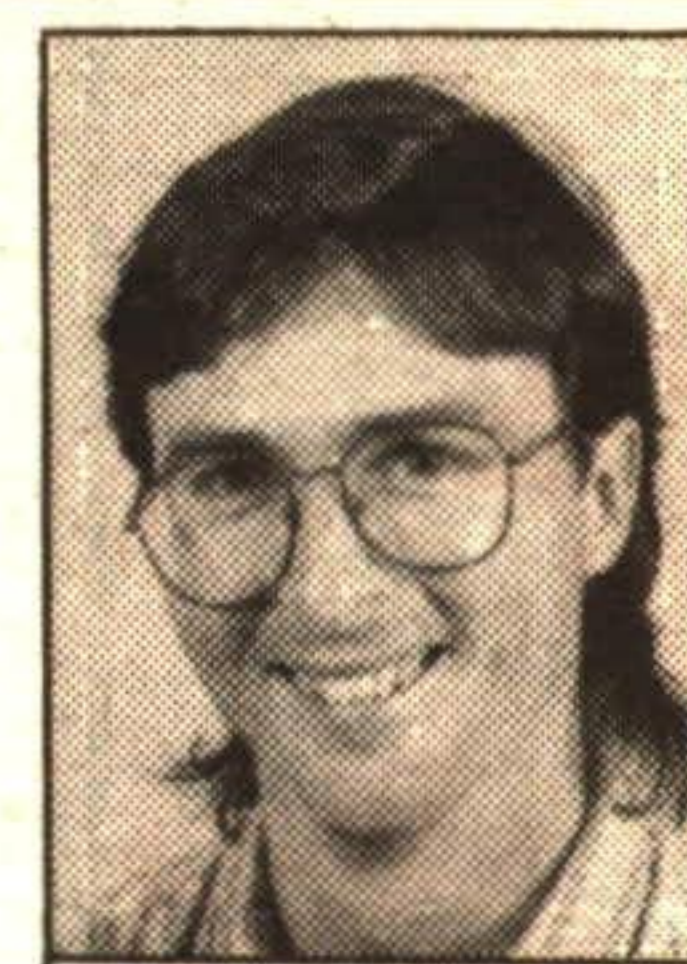
### Retired canoe to be sold

Every year, for the last three years, Hiker's Haven in Oakville has graciously allowed me to borrow a canoe from them to assist me on my writing projects. This year they lent me a 16.5 H. Kevlar We-no-nah.

Now that I have finished researching my new book *Canoe Routes of Cottage Country*, I'm returning the canoe back to Hiker's Haven. So, if you're looking for a fantastic canoe, cheap, I suggest you visit their store in Oakville in the next couple of weeks. You're guaranteed a great deal!

### Nature's Way

By  
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### CRIME STOPPERS



OF  
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## Three board members needed

Crime Stoppers of Halton Inc. under its constitution allows for a Board of Directors to number 18 strong. At present there are only 15 members on the Board.

Sergeant Dan Farr, the police co-ordinator for the program, has been authorized by the Board to request through the media, that any interested person submit a resume to Crime Stoppers of Halton Inc.

Any concerned citizen, who wishes to become involved in this rewarding program is invited to send a letter to the nominations committee of the Board of Directors of Crime Stoppers of Halton.

The Board is looking for people who are self motivated, concerned and accessible. Please forward any resumes to Crime Stoppers of Halton Inc., c/o Box 2700, 1151 Bronte Rd., Oakville, Ontario L6J 6E1 or call 1-800-668-5151 for further information.

### Foot care clinic

The Victorian Order of Nurses will hold a Foot Care Clinic in the Emergency Department of Georgetown Hospital on November 5, 1:30-4 p.m., November 19, 1-4 p.m. The cost is \$15. For information or appointment call 1-800-387-7127 or 7128.

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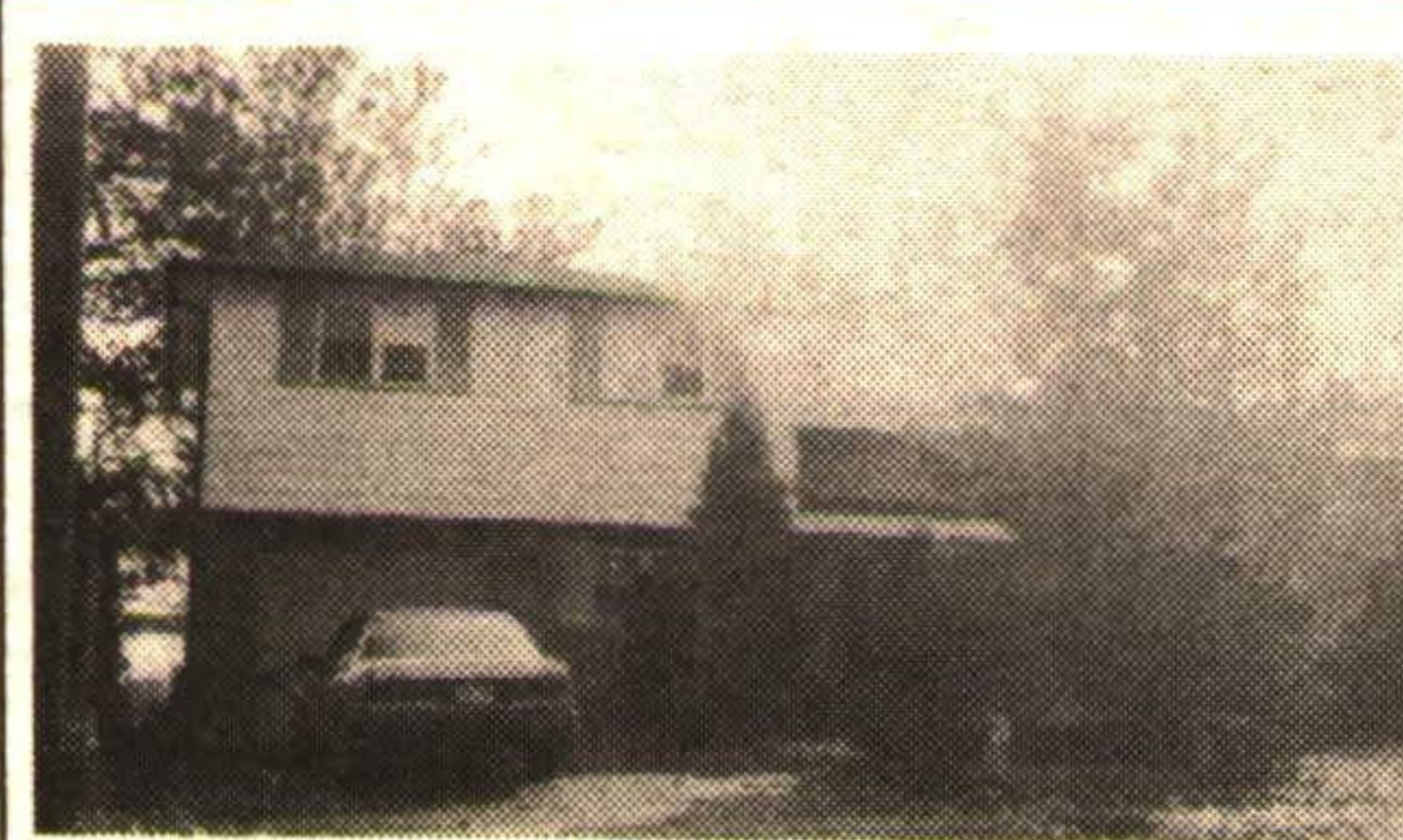
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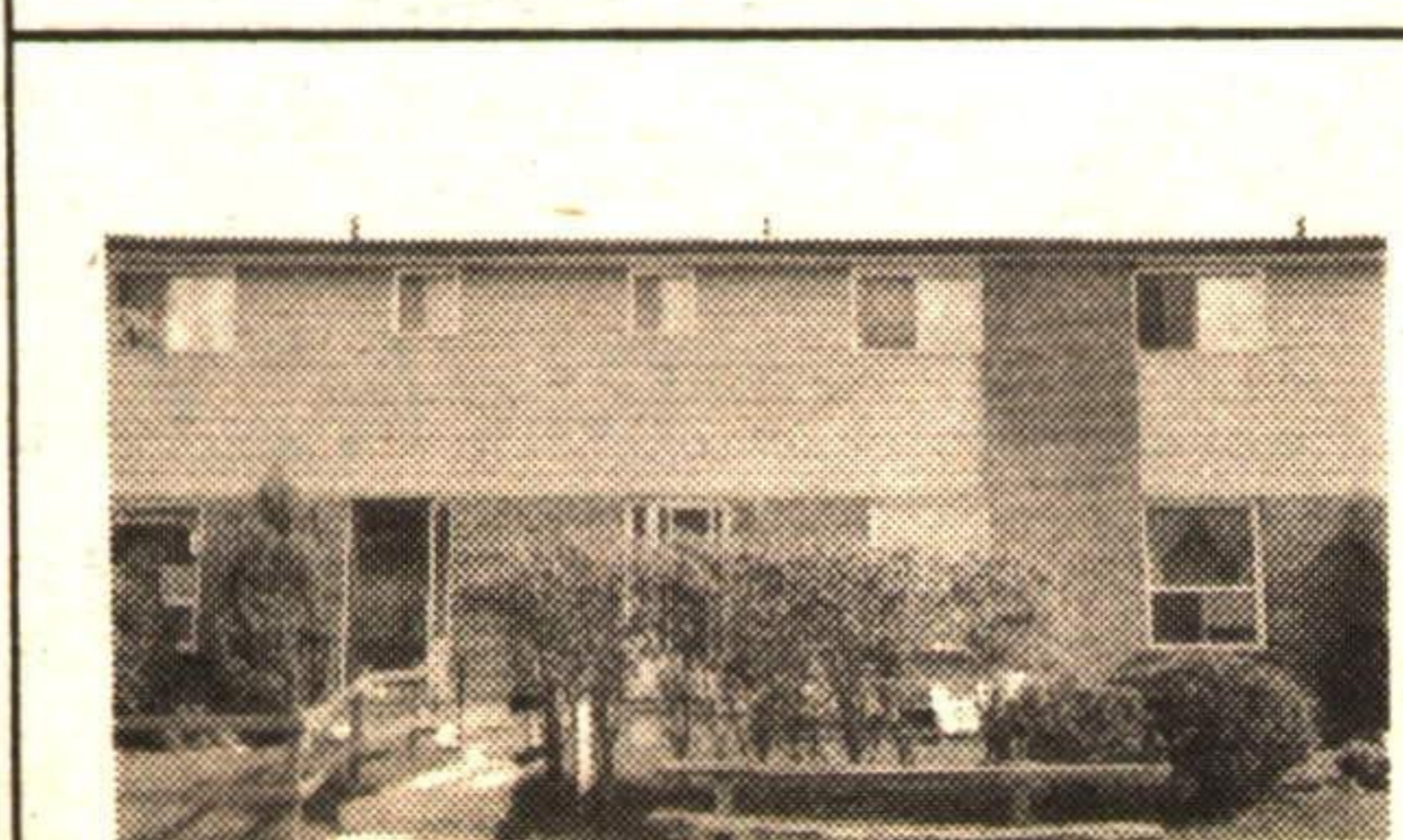
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