

TAX RETURNS

GUNNING & GHOSH
Professional Service
at a Reasonable Price
AJOY GHOSH
C.G.A.
796-2599
VODDEN PLACE
341 Main St., N. Suite 211
Across from Fortinos

POWER told to look for flaws

By **STUART JOHNSTON**
Staff writer

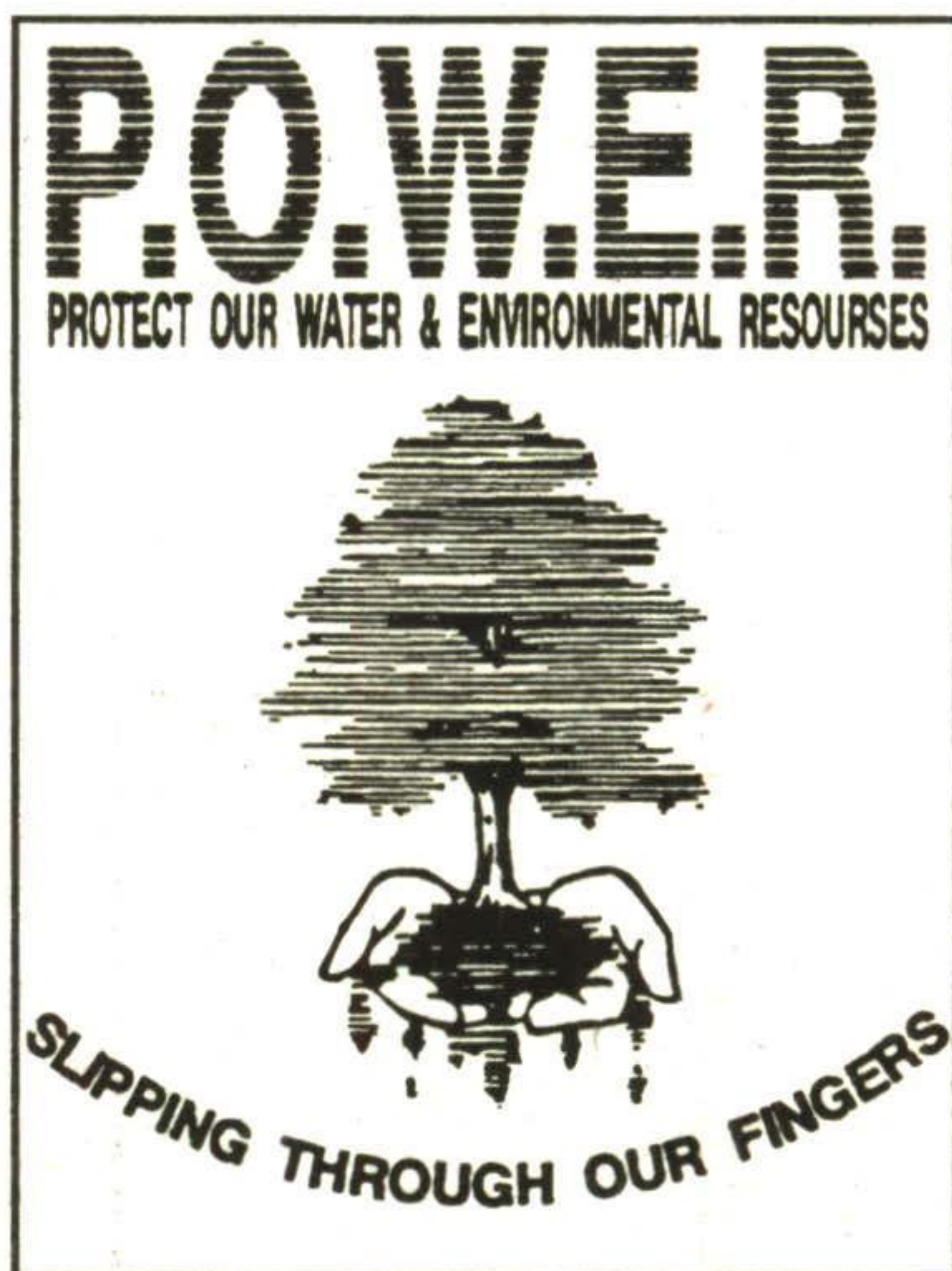
The Acton Quarry landfill proposal can only be defeated by citizens looking for flaws in its plans and by exerting pressure on public officials through the media.

This is what a modest group of POWER (Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources) members were told at their Feb. 26 meeting. Guest speaker was Steve Johnston, one of a group in Arthur who successfully defeated a recent landfill proposal in their area.

He stressed the importance of knowing the proposed site and its plans inside and out, in order to

argue intelligently about it. In addition, all levels of the media should be kept up to date with their fight against the dump, as a way of embarrassing provincial officials to reject it.

"Get in touch with all of the networks, radio and newspapers — find out who's in their news departments and producers and call them, tell them what you are doing," Johnston said. "You really need exposure...Find out as much as possible about the site — its geology, underground structure, the criteria being used, investigate the company as much as possible...Collect the information, find out if there's any-



nize and respond to the proposal. POWER and other groups have been fighting Reclamation Systems Inc.'s plans for the Acton Quarry since 1987.

"We felt that it was a crafty tactic on their part to announce their plans and then a public hearing right in the middle of spring planting, to ensure as little response as possible — they were wrong," he added. "We had a two-pronged attack — the technical side was handled by an engineer and we hired an environmental lawyer from Toronto. We just picked apart their proposal. We put up a lot of noise, and anything we could bring to the public's attention we did...Put together garbage and a fresh water problem, and that's dynamite for the press."

Johnston noted that the Acton Quarry was considered by Wellington County and Guelph as a potential dump site, but it was discarded because it wouldn't be ready in time.

"Three months helped keep our enthusiasm and interest up, there's no doubt, but we also made the press interested in attending everything we did," he said. "We were very careful about finding flaws in the plan, and we made them public — we didn't let up...We urged everyone who had anything to say on it to say it all at the public hearing."

In the end, the citizens were successful in getting both proposed sites turned down, he added.

"They said the reasons were because they did not meet their own criteria, so they ended up changing the criteria, and hired a new consultant."

Johnston told the POWER members that his local governments "seemed bent and determined to put a dump somewhere," but stressed that people must be strong in their fight against such proposals.

thing wrong, if the plans are done poorly — any reason for outcry.

"If there's enough of an outcry, then politicians will have to take a serious look to see if they will go out on a limb to approve it...Be as embarrassing to political figures as much as possible. As long as people are kept quiet, they can always say they knew nothing about it."

Johnston recalled that in 1983 Wellington County and Guelph began a waste management study, which quickly turned into a search for a landfill site. However, it wasn't until early 1989 that two proposed sites were announced — one in Alma, and the other in Arthur, one kilometer down the road from Johnston and his family.

The Arthur proposal was for a 200 acre landfill on 600 acres of grade one farmland, Johnston said. As soon as the sites were announced, it "caused quite an uproar," and citizens began banding together to fight it.

Johnston admitted that they had several things in their favor to fight the dump — they had a large amount of evidence stating it would be detrimental to the environment, and they had three months to orga-

UNLIMITED METRO CALLING

FOR GEORGETOWN, HALTON HILLS, VICTORIA, CALEDON EAST



"MAKE METRO A LOCAL CALL"

NEW CUSTOMERS
1/2 PRICE ONE-TIME RESIDENTIAL
ACTIVATION FEE
NOW ONLY \$25⁰⁰

CALL TORONTO & AREA AS OFTEN AS YOU WISH
AND TALK AS LONG AS YOU LIKE

ANYTIME!

INCLUDES

- Mississauga (Streetsville, Clarkson, Cooksville, Port Credit)
- Malton
- Castelmore
- Bolton
- Caledon East
- All Toronto Exchanges

\$24⁹⁵
Per Month Residential Plus GST

\$39⁹⁵
Per Month Business Plus GST (Starts at)

Service • Savings • Worry Free Calling

METROPHONE

GEORGETOWN
NORTHVIEW CENTRE
(Mountainview & Guelph St.)

873-6600
IF BUSY 873-6601

OSHAWA
(OSHAWA CENTRE)
NEWMARKET
(YONGE-DAVIS CENTRE)
RICHMOND HILL
(10165 YONGE ST. -
CANTEL PRINCE COMMUNICATIONS)

Creative writing students join WIER pilot program

Creative writing came to life Thursday morning for a Grade 11 and 12 class at Acton High School.

Noted Eden Mills area writer, Leon Rooke, visited the school to talk to students about creative writing techniques. Rooke is well known for his organization of the annual Eden Mills Writers' Festival and his many award winning works of fiction.

Through a sometimes colorful and theatrical presentation, Rooke was able to show the students how they can take little bits of themselves and create fictional characters.

By reading some of his own works and other authors, Rooke illustrated the power of creating tension, conflict and language in stories and the part they play in successful fictional writing.

His visit was the first step to prepare the students for the Writers in Electronic Residence (WIER)

program, in conjunction with Simon Fraser University in British Columbia. Through the program, some 50 schools across Canada will be connected, by means of a modem, to the university. Students write their short stories, poems and other creative pieces, and submit them for appraisal by a number of recognized authors.

Acton High School's participation in the WIER program is a \$1,000 pilot project approved by the Halton Board of Education.

"We're quite excited about the project," says AHS teacher Dave McConnell. "Its purpose is not only to have the students' work appraised, but give them confidence having their work read by some highly regarded writers."

McConnell's creative writing studentscourse will be submitting their work over the year and he hopes more authors will be available to visit the school.

THE FURNITURE MART

Invites You to Our **OPEN HOUSE**

OF HOME FURNISHINGS
in our
Permanent Manufacturers' Showrooms

March 14, 1992
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Bring this ad to any showroom & receive a \$1.50 discount coupon off the admission price to the International Spring Home and Garden Show in the same location

International Centre
6900 Airport Road (at Derry Road)
Mississauga, Ontario
677-8883
Free Parking

