

Councillors call for stricter gun control laws

Strict gun control laws will help prevent violent death and should be fully supported by Halton Region, several councillors argued Wednesday.

Burlington mayor Walt Mulkeiwich questioned why a health and social services committee shied away last week from supporting the non-profit group Coalition for Gun Control in its bid for tighter laws governing firearms.

He argued that governments "should be controlling guns," because people are being killed by them across Canada every day, and successfully convinced his colleagues to approve of tighter controls.

"The issue of human life is gun control," Burlington councillor Ralph Sholtens added, who is a

member of the committee.

Sholtens noted, however, that the committee didn't endorse the coalition's suggestions because it felt that it wasn't a health or social services issue. He quickly added that it was a close vote, with arguments on both sides of the issue.

However, Mulkeiwich shot back that "killing people is a health issue," and asked councillors not to get hung up on "the definition of what a health issue is."

The coalition is pushing for an improved screening process, a ban on military assault weapons, registration on all guns and controls on the sale of ammunition.

Both the town of Oakville and Halton's police services board recently endorsed the coalition's goals.

Vigil planned tonight to remember victims of violence

The Halton Inter-Disciplinary Committee on Violence Against Women is a group of concerned people who meet regularly to discuss issues related to prevention of violence against women.

The committee consists of members of the Halton school boards, police, social service agencies and government.

December 6, 1992 marks the third anniversary of the murder of 14 women at L'Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal, the greatest single tragedy ever experienced by women in Canada.

The committee urges the people of Halton to reflect on the issue of violence in our society and to make a personal commitment to taking

action, however small, to make our neighborhoods a safer place for women.

There will be a vigil to remember the victims of the Montreal Massacre and all women who have experienced violence at 7 p.m. at St. George's Square, Trafalgar Rd., Oakville on Dec. 6.

The Halton committee also supports and endorses the work of the White Ribbon Committee in bringing the issue of violence against women into the public conscience.

The committee urges all citizens of Halton to support this campaign by wearing a white ribbon this week.

For further information contact Karen A. Thompson, 338-7941.

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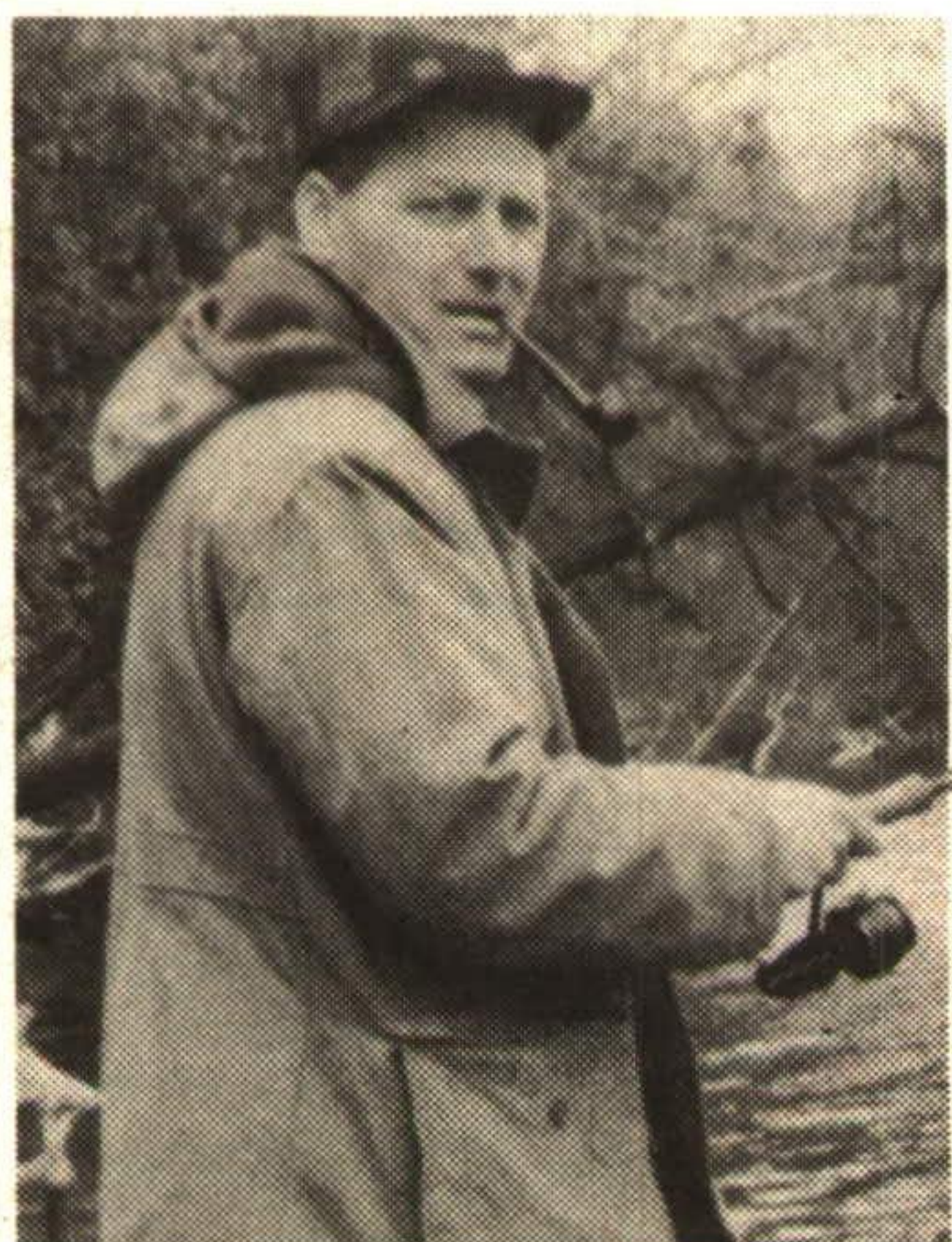
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