

Conservation Authority celebrates 40th anniversary

The Credit Valley Conservation Authority celebrates 40 years of conservation in 1994.

In the mid 1940's the Credit Valley Lions Club Community Betterment Committee chairman Elmer Wright proposed the club promote the improvement of the marshes and outlet of the lower stretches of the Credit River. At the same time the Georgetown Lions Club proposed a program to eliminate pollution and flooding.

A.H. Richardson, chief conservation engineer in the provincial Department of Planning and Development suggested a meeting be held in Brampton in 1949, where he promoted the idea that the Orangeville, Georgetown, Brampton and Credit Valley Clubs work

towards establishing a conservation authority.

After five long years of discussions, opposition and delays, the motion to establish the conservation authority received a two-thirds majority vote in Brampton on April 29, 1954 and the Order in Council established the authority on May 13, 1954.

For its 40th anniversary year the authority plans to begin exploring a new direction in conservation.

"One of the things we have found over the years and something we may have lost sight of for a while is that if conservation is going to work it has to come from the grassroots," says CVCA chairman Harold Kennedy.

"This authority began as a

grassroots organization in 1954 and we have to find that support again in the very near future if we are to remain a viable and beneficial organization to the community. We are currently working on a more flexible way of dealing with the regulations process and hope to make changes in 1994," added Kennedy.

"People today see the authority as much more than an agency responsible for flood and erosion control," says Kennedy. "Our uniqueness and visibility in the community has opened up opportunities and sometimes very high expectations among the public to be involved in issues where we have no legislative mandate."

"I think our focus has to shift from being an authoritative organization, enforcing regulations, to more of an advocacy group designed to implement conservation programs, study the watershed, deliver information and education

and provide technical advice and assistance to the local municipalities on planning and environmental issues," says acting general manager Ken Owen.

"It is widely accepted today that land use decisions are best made at the local level, natural resource management should occur on an ecosystem basis, and, there is too much overlap and duplication in government. This year we are vowing to work at being part of the solution, not part of the problem."

"I think our strongest link is with our local municipalities," says watershed planning manager Charley Wrote.

The trend throughout the rest of the country is to give more implementing powers to local agencies or volunteer groups themselves. Large government bureaucracies are inefficient ways of delivering effective conservation programs.

"It's simple, less management

and more delivery in the field by the local community. We need to develop a stronger trust between ourselves and municipalities not as regulators in the planning process but as a professional advisory body with broad public support," says Wrote.

"It is clear that tax dollars are becoming more scarce and the public once again is going to have to decide if they want to invest money to protect and enhance their local environment," says Owen. "We are going to have to examine new funding sources and build stronger partnerships with the private sector."

"This doesn't have to mean downloading more of the tax burden to the local level," says Chairman Denny. "We understand that the authority will have to examine its funding requirements and plan for a new agenda for the 1990's and beyond if we are going to be effective in the public eye."

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Alarm on Todd Rd.

A fire alarm was activated last Thursday at 9:47 a.m. on Todd Rd., but when the Halton Hills Fire Department arrived, they found the alarm was caused by a water flow problem and there was no fire.

Smoke in house

Firefighters were called to a Greystone Cr. home in Georgetown last Friday at 10:15 p.m. There

Fire

Briefs

was smoke in the house, and the fire department believes this was caused by a furnace problem.

Restaurant alarm

There was a fire alarm at

Belamy's Restaurant Saturday at 9:37 p.m. When the Halton Hills Fire Department arrived, they discovered it was only a false alarm.

Furnace problem

The Halton Hills Fire Department was called to 490 Guelph St. in Norval at 8:44 a.m. Monday because of the smell of smoke.

The problem turned out to be with the furnace.

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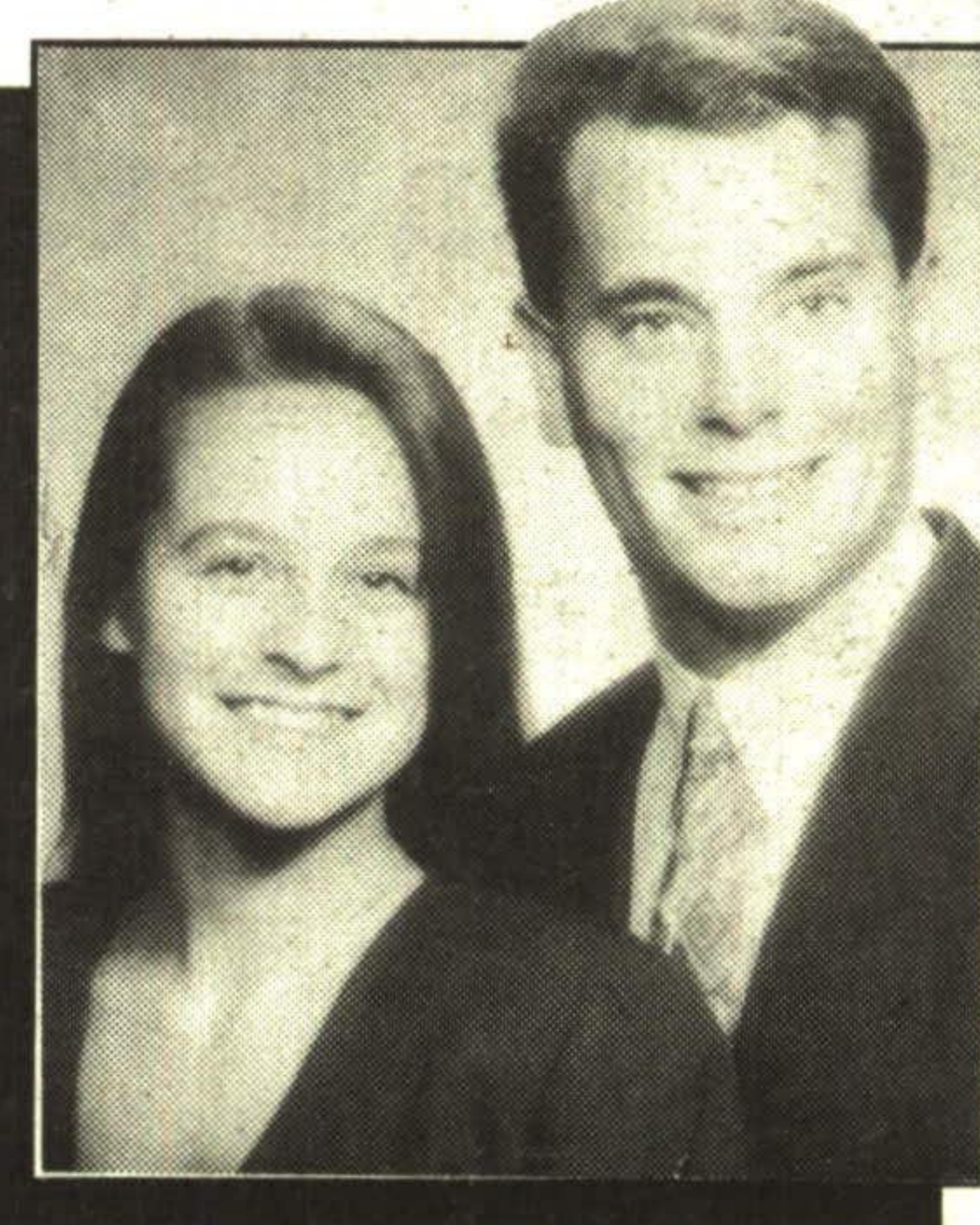


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