



Georgetown resident Ulrich Watermann shows off one of his birds of prey, a four-year-old Golden Eagle who happens to be a Georgetown native as well, at his birds of prey exhibit. The exhibit is one of hundreds at the annual Sportsmen's show running this weekend at the CNE Coliseum. Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## Municipalities want better basement apartment controls

By HOWARD MOZEL

Special to The Independent/Free Press

The fight to prevent — or at least to properly regulate — basement apartments continued when the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) took its case to Queen's Park.

The group's contingent, led by AMO president Mabel Dougherty, stated its position before the standing committee on general government. In so doing, AMO again added its voice to a choir of disapproval from fire departments, municipal staff and others who are opposed to Bill 120 in its current form.

This legislation, the Residential

Property Statute Amendment Act, is designed to increase affordable housing by allowing homeowners to create apartments in their house as long as "reasonable standards are met." It also plans to increase the protection of tenants in unregulated care homes under the Landlord and Tenant Act, the Rent Control Act and the Rental Housing Protection Act.

The AMO recommended that Planning Act amendments to allow apartments in houses be deleted, arguing that regulation alone will not lead to improved living conditions nor the "great activity in the renovation industry that the government predicts."

The AMO maintains Bill 120 is

an "unwarranted intrusion and interference" into municipal zoning authority and is in conflict with the findings of the Sewell Commission, which recently stated that the province should set "broad policies" for land use planning while municipalities handle "specific implementing policies."

Worried Bill 120 will hamstring municipalities' ability to deal with neighborhood planning concerns, AMO asked that new regulations clearly state municipalities have the right to: apply general standards to houses with second units; control the exterior appearance of alterations made to create accessory units; and require one parking space for each accessory unit.



### ENGAGEMENT

Art & Jannette Harwes are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Tammy to Mihovil Sućic, son of Antun and Emilija Sućic of Oakville.

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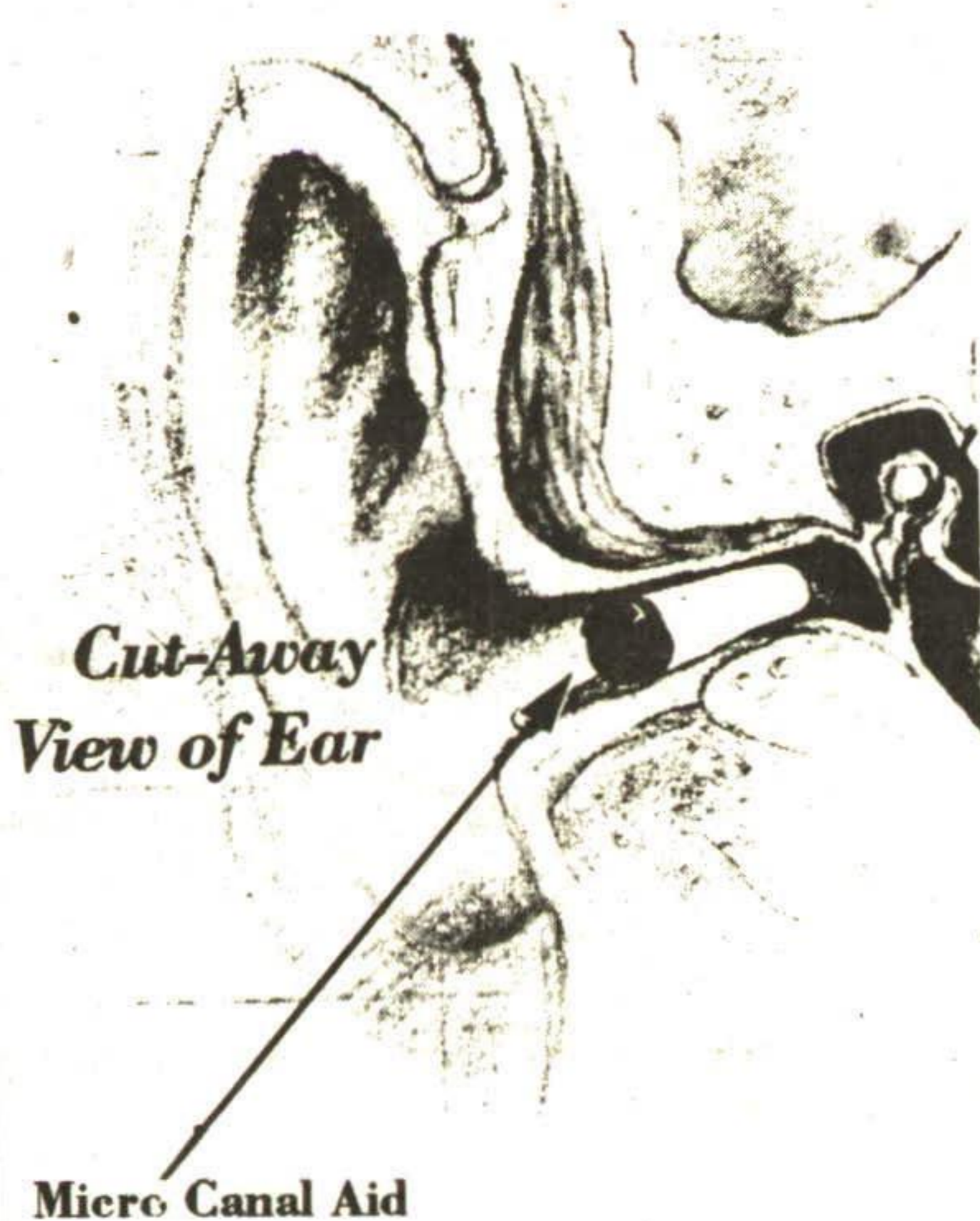
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