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"ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED"

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 1993

Development 'death knell'

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

Councillor Norm Elliott wants immediate action on a Ministry of Environment letter that he claims "sounds the death knell for future development in Acton."

An agitated Elliott tabled the letter, from MOE special projects co-ordinator Wes Lammers, at Monday's Council meeting and called for a meeting with the Town, Region and MOE to deal with the grave concerns the letter raises.

"The letter places tremendous restrictions on the water supply to Acton from the Prospect Park well, limiting it to a quarter of a million gallons a day, which is not going to provide any eventual solution to development issues in Acton," Elliott said in an interview after the meeting.

"The report suggests much more stringent restrictions, monitoring and controls than are now in place.

"As far as I'm concerned, without some kind of leverage from the Region on this, it could mean

that development will not proceed in Acton," Elliott warned.

Elliott said that is very disturbing, especially since after years of no growth, Acton development seemed to be on track with the current land-use and urban review studies. Those studies recommend Acton grow by 2,500 people to a maximum population of 10,000.

"All of a sudden this may just completely shut down develop-

ment until we have an absolute, guaranteed source of water.

"In essence, the letter said that the Prospect Park well is not guaranteed and the MOE are not willing to allow any more water to be taken until every guarantee is in place," Elliott said.

The MOE letter also raises concerns about potential harm to the Black Creek trout fishery and

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Project helps kids deal with abuse

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

Halton educators and social service agencies hope to stop the cycle of family abuse with a pilot project at M.Z. Bennett Public School.

With parental approval, the project will work with children who have witnessed abuse at home.

Studies show that violent behaviour is learned, and that between 40 and 60 per cent of men who assault witnessed wife abuse during their childhoods.

Statistics indicate that children were present during half of the wife assault incidents reported in Canada last year.

Halton Family Services clinical supervisor Susan Peacey says education is the key to preventing abusive behaviour.

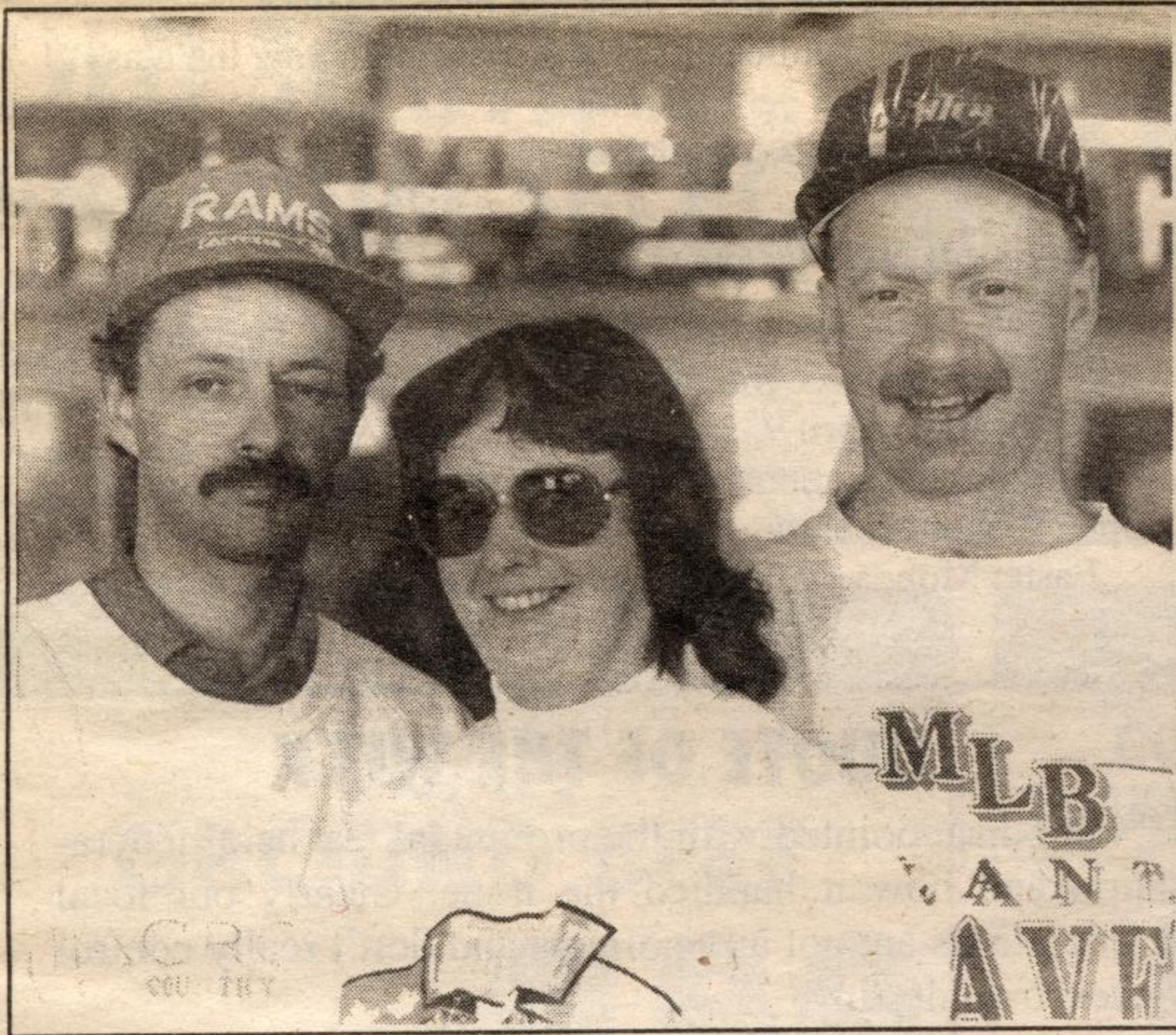
"Our biggest hope for changing the pattern of abuse is to educate and prevent the abuse before it begins," Peacey explained in an interview last Wednesday.

"Children who witness abuse are traumatized and often need long-term help to feel okay and to have the possibility of having a different relationship themselves. Plus, they need to learn safety tips for themselves," Peacey explained.

The pilot project at M.Z. Bennett will be run by Halton Board of Education child and youth worker Judy Crichton, who recognized the need for specialized counselling during work with students whose parents have separated or divorced.

"Children who have witnessed abuse are traumatized. Most have

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LACROSSE FEVER: Business was brisk at the Acton Rams Lacrosse sign-up on Saturday at the arena. Organizers Wayne Young (left), Linda Newman and Pat McDonald were on hand to help register Acton's future lacrosse stars. (Elizabeth Kessler photo)



PEDAL POWER: Connor Doppelt, of Cook Street, happily checks out a new set of wheels at the Robert Little school "Wheel Exchange" on Saturday. All money raised at the first annual event is earmarked to buy equipment for students. (Elizabeth Kessler photo)



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