

# Tonnes of weeds pulled from Fairy Lake

BY DOUG HARRISON

The Acton Tanner

A lot of that dreaded "seaweed" was taken out of Fairy Lake last week. Tonnes, actually.

In four days, some 30 tonnes of aquatic vegetation were removed from the jewel of Prospect Park.

Port Credit's Aquamate Services completed the \$8,000 project last Wednesday, removing a mass of weeds at the bottom of the lake, formerly managed by Beardmore's and now the Town.

Aquatic contractors Ed Connors and Gord Harse harvested the 30-

acres of weeds along the north shore, down the channel to the south end of the beach and to the dam and point of Prospect Park.

"With a job like this you're looking at three things: fish habitat, recreational use and biological health of the water," said Connors on-site Wednesday.

"Other than esthetics, it was nutrient removal; you're changing the filter. It's a nutrient-absorbing medium, so once the weeds are cut and removed, there's a net benefit to the system."

A pathway at the southwest end

was created; by cutting the weeds to a six-foot depth, aquatic life can maneuver more easily.

"There is still a large mass of vegetation at that end of the lake, but it's shallow and there's light penetration for the weeds, which is good," said Bryan Shynal, the Town's superintendent of parks, on Friday.

"The water temperature is also warm, which will compound the rate of weed growth."

Shynal said 95 per cent of the vegetation was Eurasian Milfoil and five per cent was pond weed.

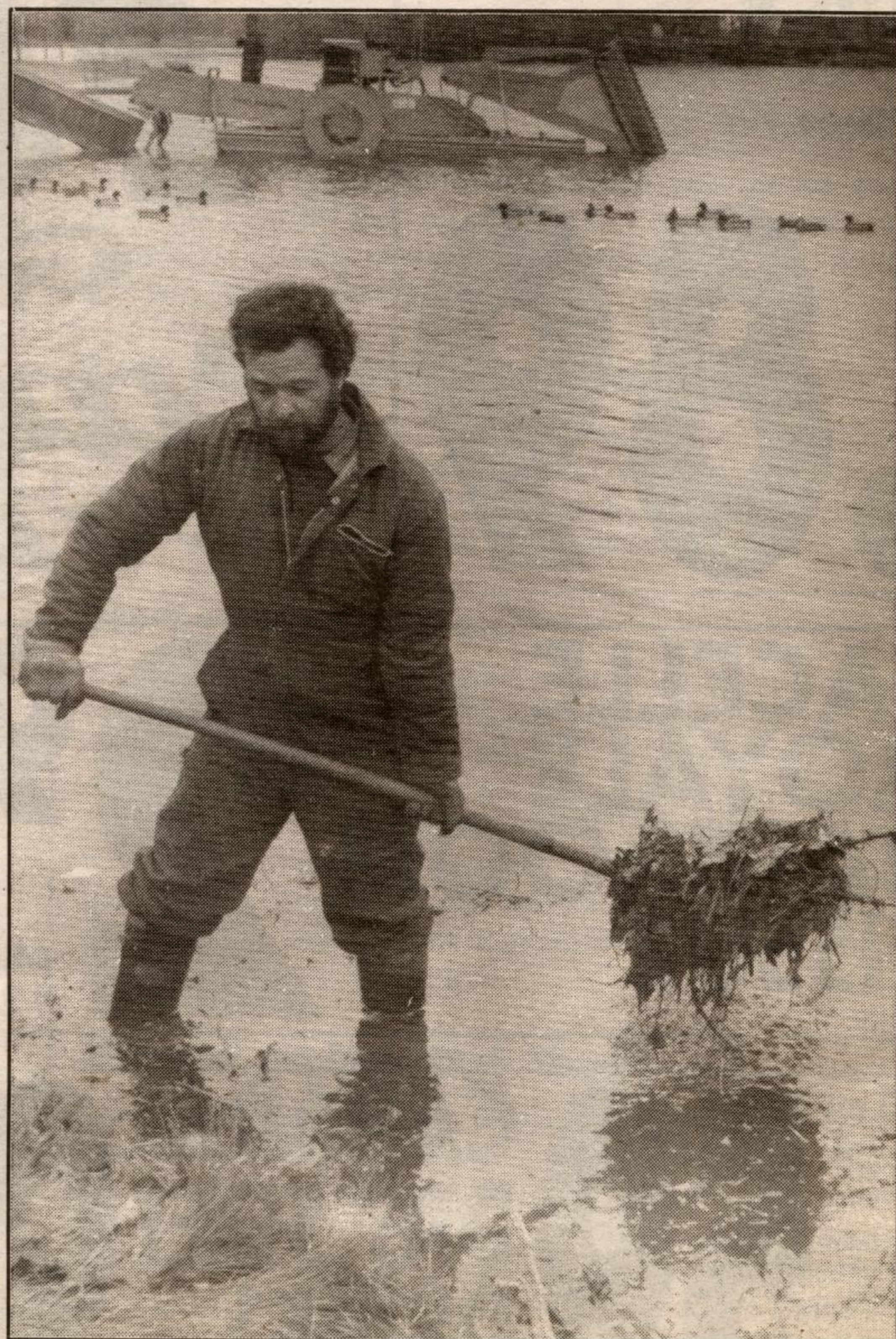
Shynal was pleased that the physical hazard has been removed, so that Actonites can now enjoy the lake a little more.

In terms of water quality, the amount of dissolved oxygen increases in the winter months, but the cut pathway will provide some breathing room for the fish.

This isn't to say Fairy Lake will never see weeds again.

"People think it's like cutting trees, but it's cutting grass — only we cut it down six feet," Connors explained. He added the water will slowly become clearer and that heavy metals and nutrients will get sucked up.

"They (Connors and Harse) did more for us than we contracted them for. We're quite happy," said Shynal, who said the pulled weeds will be composted and a proposed maintenance program for the lake will go to council as part of the parks budget.



**WEED MAN:** Ed Connors, an aquatic contractor with Aquamate Services, was busy last Wednesday taking weeds out of Fairy Lake. The four-day, \$8,000 project saw 30 tonnes of aquatic vegetation taken out of the lake. (Doug Harrison photo)

## Town to warn Royal Bank about dump

BY RICK SOUTAR

The Acton Tanner

The Town of Halton Hills agreed to draft a letter to the Royal Bank restating the Town's objection to a proposal which locates a dumpsite at the Acton quarry.

The committee adopted the resolution Monday after hearing from Barbara Halsall, president of POWER (Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources), who said that the letter would put additional pressure on Reclamation Systems Inc. because parent company, Armbro Enterprises, is seeking to restructure using financing from the Royal Bank.

Halsall said the bank may not be aware of the political opposition to the dumpsite and may wish to reconsider funding Armbro if the dump is involved because it could result in negative publicity and bad debts if a costly legal battle erupts over the dump.

"I would hope that the Town of Halton Hills would pass a similar motion (as before) to inform the bank that we are opposed to the dump," Halsall said at the committee meeting.

RSI has tendered a new application to locate the dump in Acton. The new application means the company can start the approval proceedings afresh, and opposition from previous applications will not be included in the file.

If someone were to inquire about the company and the application for the dumpsite they would be told there is no objection, Halsall said.

By restating the Town's opposition, the bank will become aware of the negative political consequences and have an opportunity to opt out of a volatile situation, or at least pressure Armbro to abandon the subsidiary scheme.

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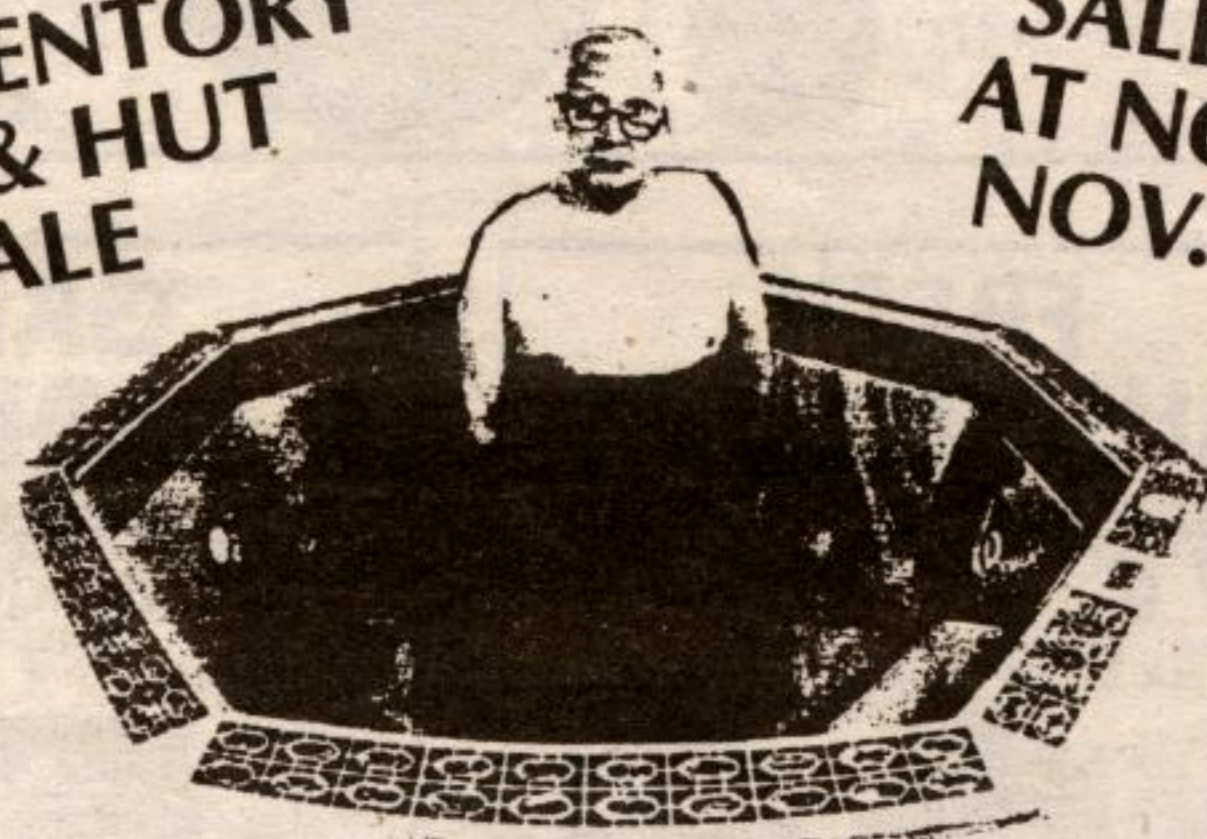
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