

Dufferin expansion

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companies genuinely want to help the community, and they don't turn around and ask to break the rules for a self serving reason."

Mrs. Halsall also called into question the Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) that lies at the base of Dufferin's plan for the groundwater management of the quarry and it's buffer zones. This AMP will be managed by Dufferin while the quarry is in operation, with Conservation Halton accepting the long term operation of the water management system, although Dufferin will maintain the financial liability of the AMP in perpetuity.

"This is a bizarre plan where we take a robust ecology and put it on life support until the end of civilization," argued Mrs. Halsall. "And much faith is being put in the agreements that will cover the AMP with monitoring and on-going maintenance 'in perpetuity.' But agreements are not foolproof."

Local environmentalists Diane McCurdy and Fiona Reid highlighted the need to protect the nationally threatened Jefferson Salamander and the five nationally significant species of birds found in the area.

"No other site on the Escarpment supports as many rare bird species," explained Mrs. Reid. "Perpetual artificial maintenance of the wetlands is untenable, these are the wetlands that these species depend on."

Professor John Morton, a geologist/hydrogeologist, told the Commission that "Much of Dufferin's studies were well done but they were based on the wrong criteria." Both he and Stephen Worthington stated that the dolostone rock which permeates the area will shift and eventually dissolve during Dufferin's rehabilitation into tiered lakes.

Opponents to the application come from far outside the area, as was demonstrated by the presentation of a petition to the Commission by Marion McMeeken. The petition contained 2,257 signatures from residents all over Ontario and one signature from Australia. "This is not a local issue but one of far reaching interest well beyond the borders of Ontario," Mrs McMeeken told the Commission.

In the end, the application which has already received support in principle by the Region, the Towns of Milton and Halton Hills, Conservation Halton and other provincial Ministries, received a tentative approval to proceed by the Niagara Escarpment Commission. The approval is based on meeting a number of considerations that include the exclusion of three wetlands, appropriate buffer zones and a legal agreement with the Region and Conservation Halton for the long term operation of the water manage-

ment system.

"There's no question in my mind that it will be up to the Cabinet ultimately to make the final decision as the NEP is a Cabinet document," commented Mayor Gord Krantz, a member of the NEC since 1996. "I suspect we're at least a year away from a final decision."

Trafalgar Sports Park underway

By BRENDA MATHIES

At a groundbreaking ceremony on September 30, Halton Hills Mayor Kathy Gastle initiated the construction of the new Trafalgar Sports Park. This multi-use facility, situated on 98 acres at the northeast corners of Trafalgar Road and 17th Sideroad, will eventually house 7 unlit soccer fields, 6 lighted soccer fields, 1 tournament level playing field, 4 baseball diamonds with lighting, 3 playgrounds, sheltered picnic areas and concession/washroom facilities.

Full construction is scheduled for completion in 2010. This \$10.2 million dollar project will benefit Halton Hills area residents in many ways. Mayor Kathy Gastle, on behalf of the Members of Council, stresses, "Our community places great value on the vision of improving the quality of life for it's citizens. The Trafalgar Sports Park plays a significant role in this vision of ensuring that our community benefits from these multi-purpose facilities for future generations."

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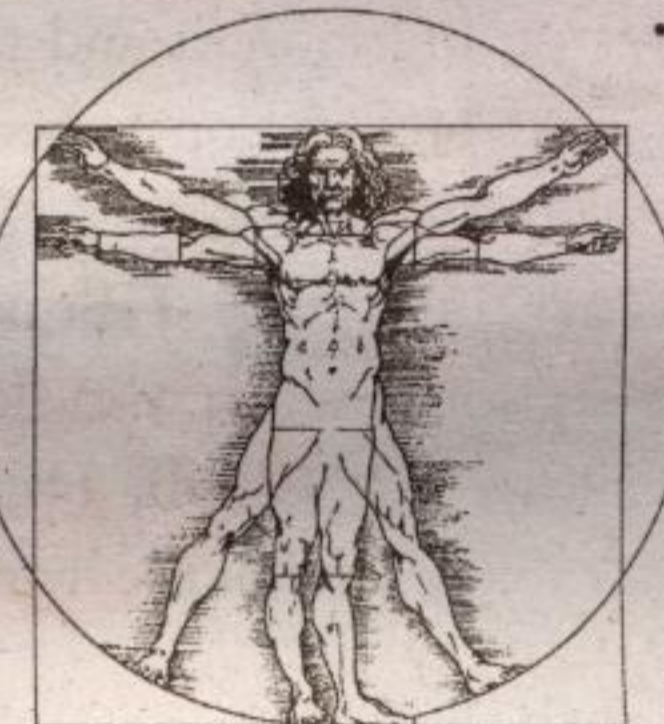
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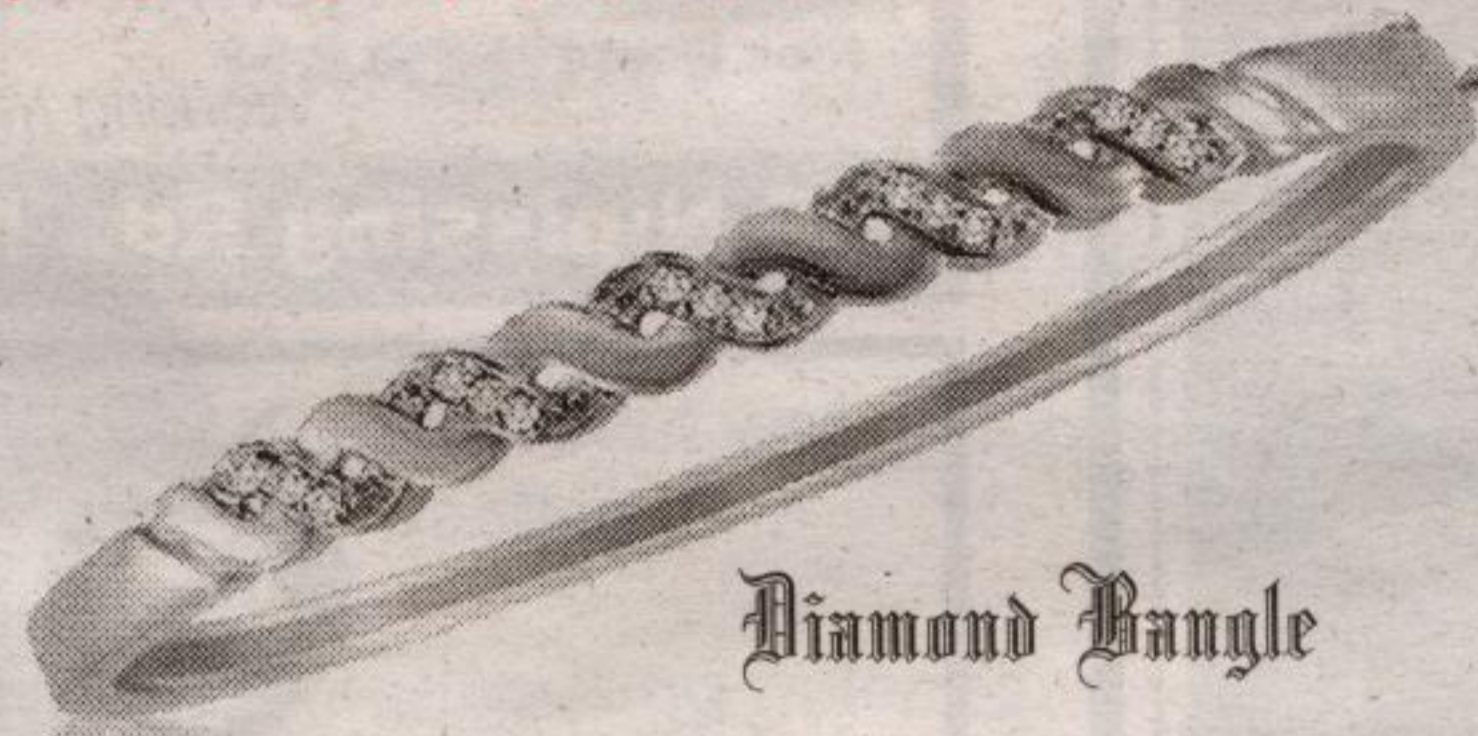
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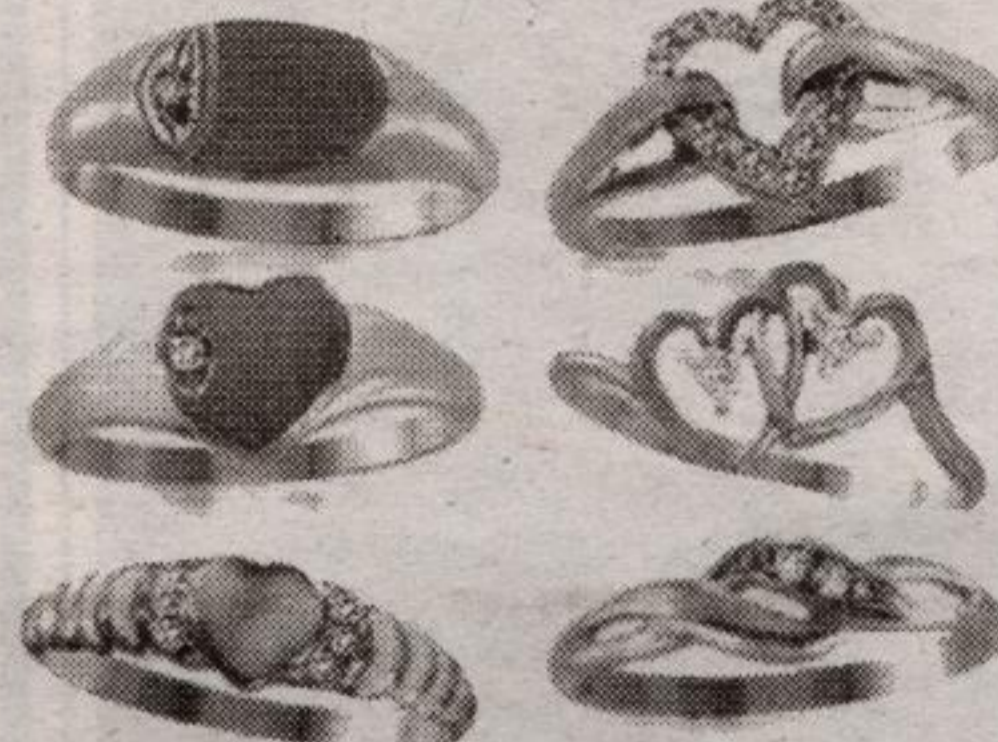
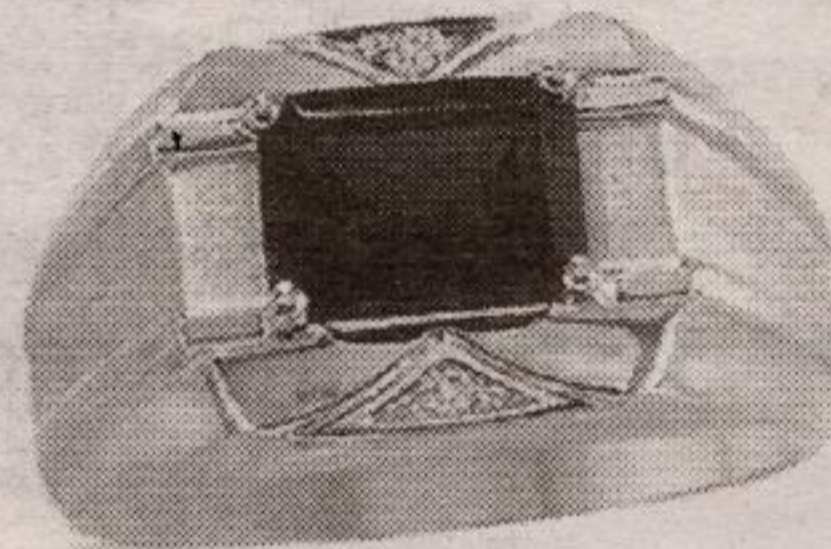


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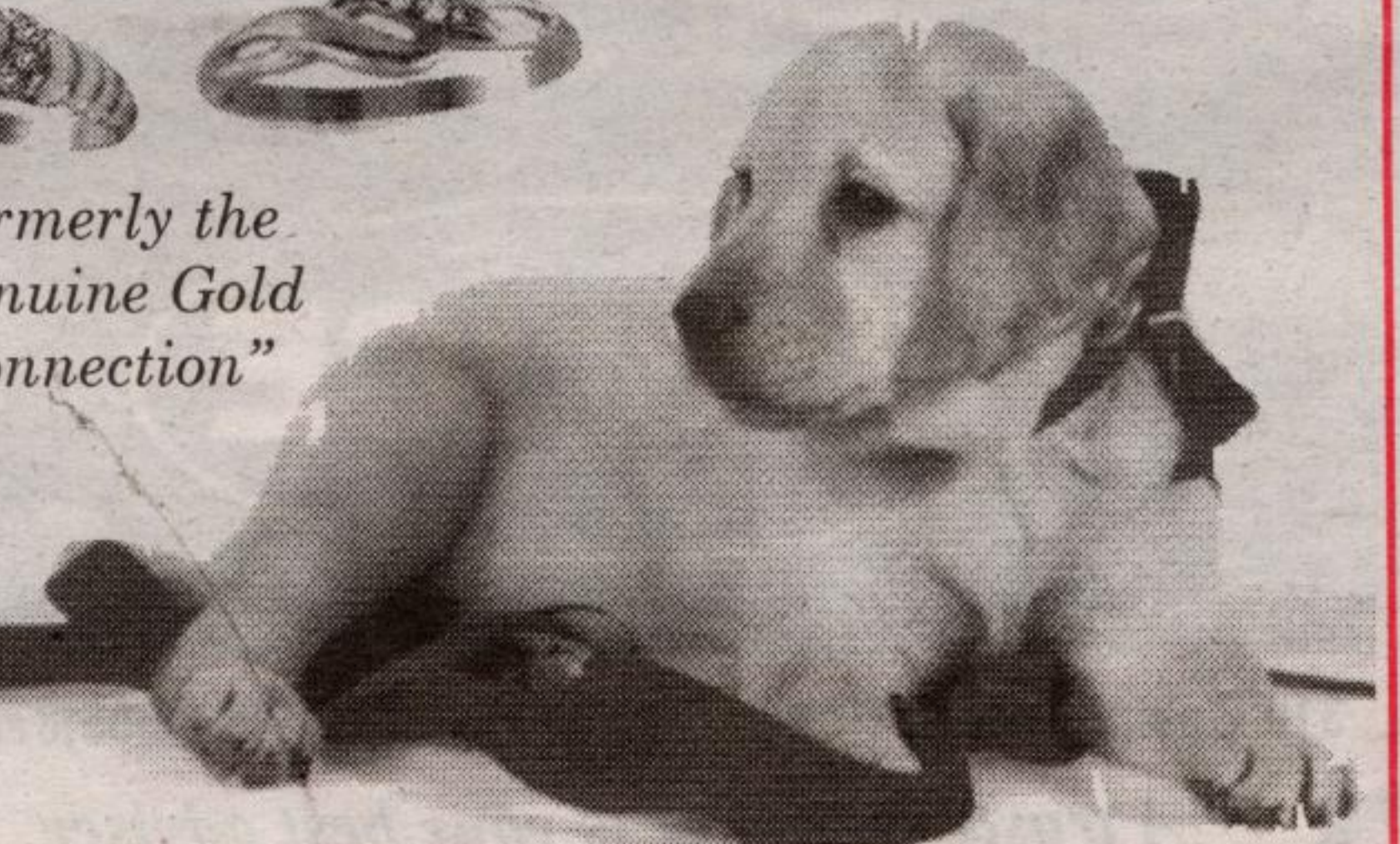


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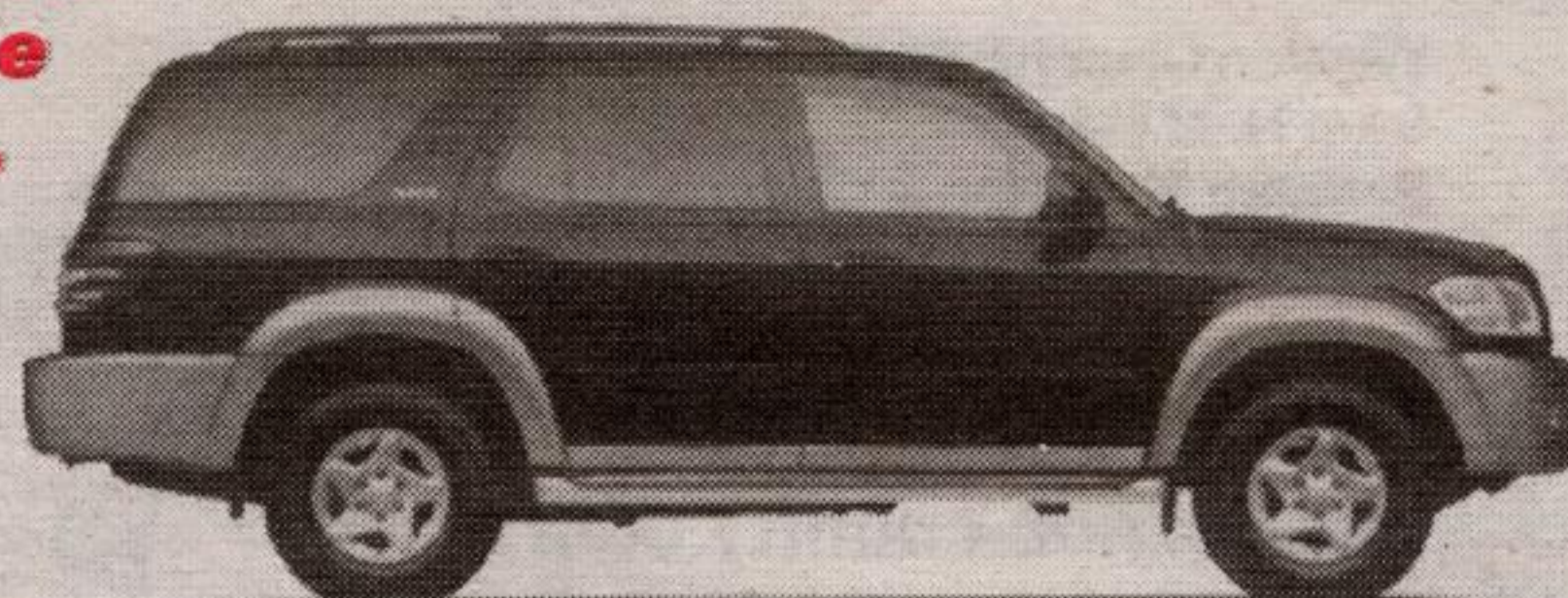
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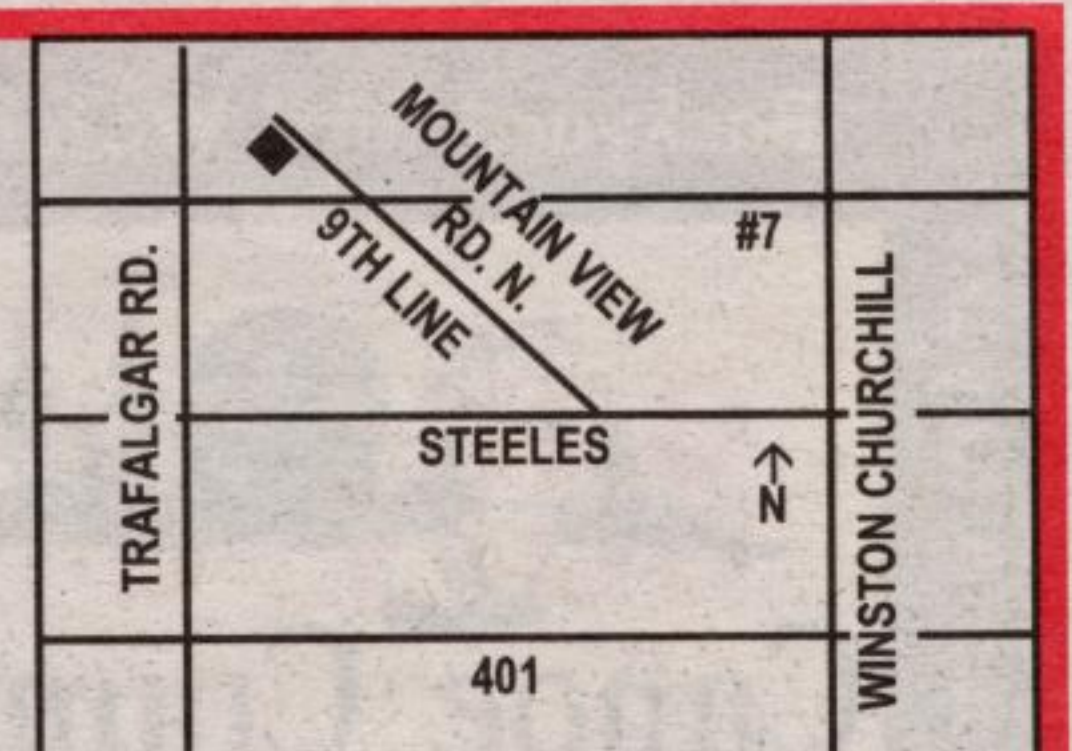


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