

Silvercreek 'dig' unearths old village site

BY MAGGIE PETRUSEVSKY
The New Tanner

The archeological investigation of the old community of Silvercreek at the bottom of the Escarpment on Highway 7 is expected to finish tomorrow (Friday).

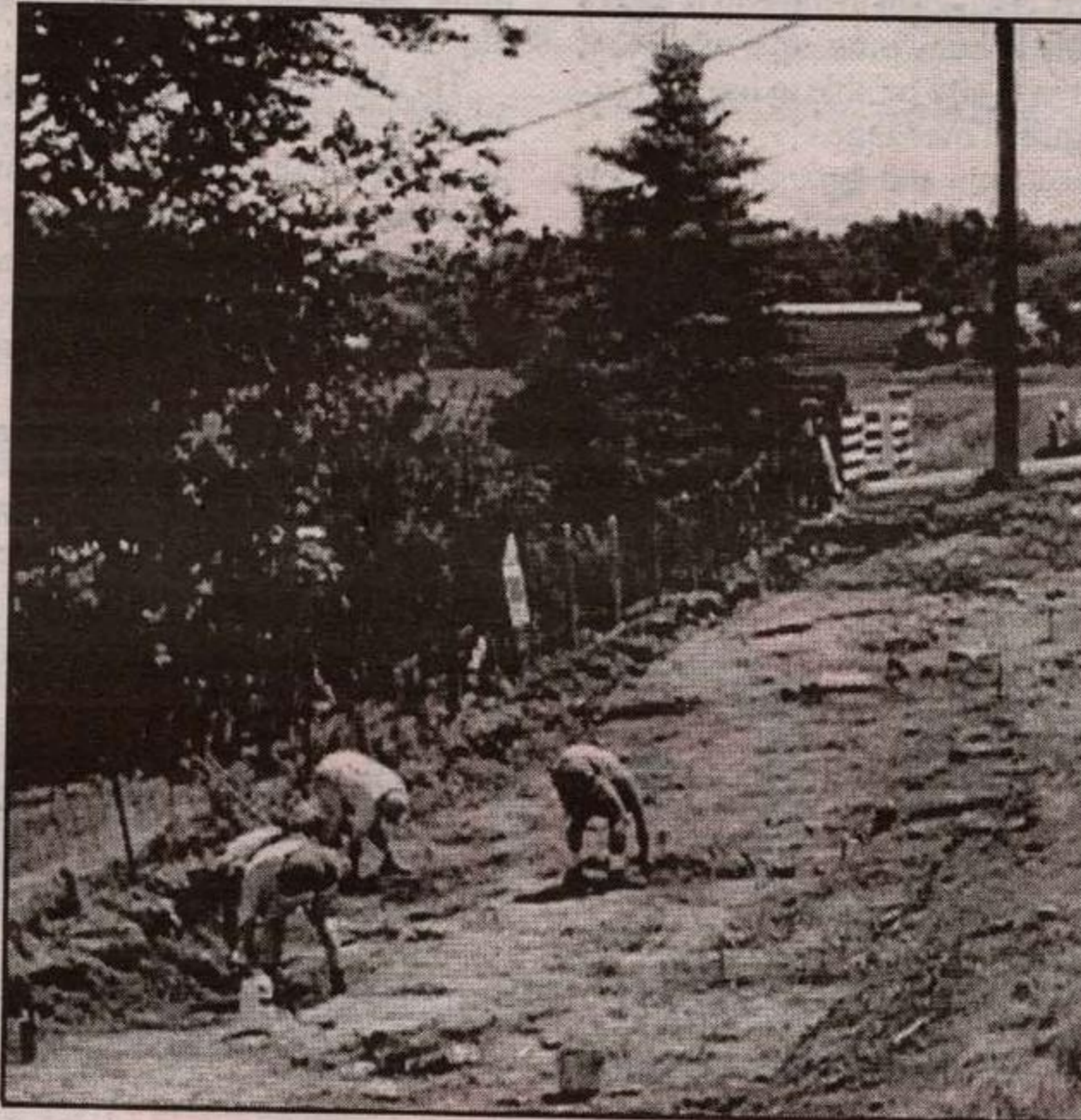
Heather Henderson of Historic Horizon in Toronto says the actual digging up of foundations is complete but the archival work, going through old tax records, registry office deeds, voters' lists, census files and so on, will require some more time.

Hired by the Ministry of Transport to do an assessment of the area before the

highway is widened between Georgetown and Silvercreek, Henderson says it is standard ministry policy to conduct such investigations.

This time she had heavy equipment in to remove the top layers of soil because of expediency. Because the area has already been disturbed several times in the course of building and improving the highway through the years, it wasn't as though they were afraid of being too aggressive with a "pristine site," she says.

Only historic items have been uncovered, from early white settlement, she says. Nothing prehistoric from indigenous settlement has sur-



SILVERCREEK HISTORY: An archeological survey of the remains of Silvercreek has uncovered the ruins of three buildings and a well to the east of Highway Seven at the foot of the Niagara Escarpment.

- Maggie Petrushevsky photo

facted.

Henderson's team of six has located the footings for three buildings and a well. The more easterly structure was probably a store and be-

came a private home around the 1920s. It was torn down around 1960 when the Miller brothers built a new house on the west side of the road by

their barn.

The foundation at the westerly end of the site was for a house, probably torn down in the 1880s or 1890s, which Henderson says was built by a fairly good mason.

The way the foundation had been filled in indicates the structure was probably torn down rather than burned or left to fall down, she says.

They have also found a number of artifacts. While they are essentially the trash, they still reveal interesting facts about the people who discarded them. Buttons, broken dishes, broken pipes, bottles, toys, pins and needles from sewing, all show something of the lifestyle their previous owners lived.

Bottles, for example, reveal what patent medicines they used. Toys tell what funds they had available to spend on their children. Dishes tend to say something about how their owner liked her table to look, regardless of their quality or cost.

Old records show

Silvercreek as a small settlement with a number of lots during the 1850s to 1870s. How many of them were actually built upon as opposed to just separated ready for building is also unknown although a number of the parcels seem to have changed hands fairly frequently, Henderson says.

Silvercreek had a church, an inn, a general store with a post office and at least one police investigation of note - a murder at the inn which has been included in the history of Halton's police being compiled by local force members Bob Andrews and Bill McGrath.

Henderson will file her report with the ministry when she has finished compiling her results.

As a private firm she conducts archeological research for various government departments as well as private developers and small museums. She hires her team members as needed for projects.

Hospital protocol ...

Cont. from Pg. 1

the Ministry of health. In the event of an invalid card, patients are provided various options to pay - debit card, credit card, or they can be billed for the services. Patients who have difficulty with their health card at the time of registration are given the opportunity to return with a valid health card and receive a refund.

"The hospital protocol is that all patients who present to the emergency are seen by the physician."

"The patient had been assessed in the emergency department on previous visits

and it is unfortunate that there was difficulty with the health card on this occasion and the patient left the department before being assessed by a physician," says Leo Steven, President and CEO. "We know the verification system is sometimes difficult for patients. We will ensure patients fully understand the various options available to them, including the offer of assistance from our Patient Ombudsman."

The mother said her daughter had hit her head after falling down stairs and had a big bump on her head and was disgusted that the hospital refused to see the child, any child, in that situation. She said the receptionist told her it would be \$225 up front to see a doctor but then agreed to bill her \$175 for the room and that the doctor wanted \$100 before he'd see Sheila. However, the receptionist gave her a toll free phone number to Sick Children's Hospital and staff there told her to watch the baby through the night.

The baby has since recovered and Hendry has sent for a new health card for her but Hendry says she is praying nothing happens before the health card arrives.

"Where would I get \$225?" Hendry, who's expecting a second child, told The New Tanner.

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Mischief

The criminal code definition of mischief is to destroy or damage property.

Recently we have had a rash of mischief in the downtown area of Acton, with people damaging the flowers, damaging cars, littering, and doing other stupid things. I have a name for persons who do this but the paper will not print it. Though the people who have created the damage probably do not read the paper anyway.

If you as a citizen want to help, be prepared to identify these criminals and call the police. Maybe together we can put a stop to this senseless destruction. The police cannot do it all. The Criminal Code provides that persons convicted of mischief can receive up to two years in jail.

To the people that try to beautify the town, thank you for your effort. I know it is difficult but keep up the good work.

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