

Region says planning water management key

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

Planning is the key to protecting Halton's groundwater and a pioneering report recommends restrictive zoning in the Official Plan to protect wellheads and hydrogeologically sensitive areas from developments that are common sources of contaminants.

Prevention is now seen as the best way of ensuring a safe groundwater supply and Halton hydrologist, Steve Holysh, said the Region is a leader in groundwater management in Ontario.

Through a network of 21 wells, Halton supplies groundwater to about 60,000 people in Acton, Georgetown

and Milton and another 20,000 residents in the rural area. Acton has seven wells (three are backup) drawing from the Amabel aquifer.

Holysh said mapping shows hydrogeologically sensitive areas around Fairy Lake where there's a lot of sand and gravel or limestone with a shallow water table that needs to be protected.

"Road salting, septic systems and any of that stuff can

very quickly move into the groundwater system, so you want to be very careful in those areas," Holysh said when asked what the implications of the report are for Acton.

Eight adults and two children attended the public meeting - a very poor turnout for an important report. Limehouse resident Susan Cox, whose well water levels have been dropping over the

past few years, questioned how the water taken by Blue Circle Aggregates during quarrying might affect her water.

"I want to make sure that we have enough water for the future, but I'm also here because I'm on the separate school council and we want to know how much water there is, so a lack of water can't be used as an excuse not build a new school," Cox said.

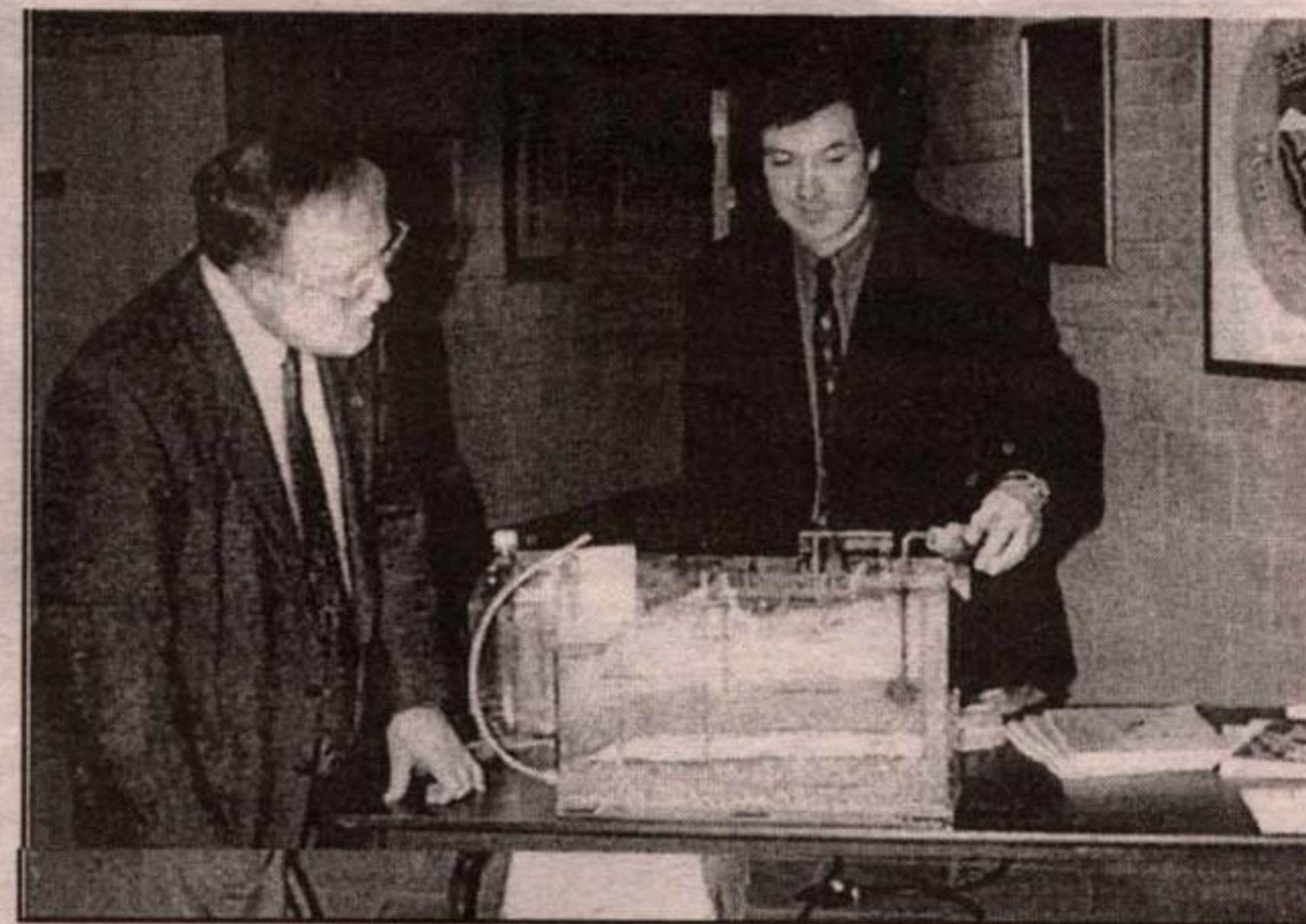
Holysh said after collecting the technical information the next step is to turn the information into policy that will reduce groundwater pollution. The draft report is being circulated to the local municipalities for input. Final approval by council is expected by May.

Phony bill seminar

Ever been stung by a counterfeit \$50 bill? Or maybe just one of a lesser denomination?

If so, you'll be interested in the seminars sponsored by

Halton Region on Wednesday, March 22 from 8:30 to 11 a.m. or Thursday, April 6 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Halton Regional centre, 1151 Bronte Rd., Oakville.



WATER WONDERS: Halton hydrogeologist Steve Holysh (right) uses a model to show Acton Councillor Norm Elliott how groundwater contamination occurs at a public meeting last week to review Halton's plans to reduce groundwater pollution with an aquifer management plan. - Frances Niblock photo



LEGION NEWS BRANCH No. 197

By Joyce Buchanan

Golly, I used up all my pity in one week. I can't complain about the snow storm because most of it passed us by.

I have a deadline for news for the News Letter and I can't even get that. I also have

a deadline for the letter to be sent out. I feel like a shrew (some think I am anyway) always complaining. I think the operative word is cooperation. I hope to have the Letter out before the General meeting on March 13. At that meeting we are planning initiation of more members, so please try to attend.

I did hear that the dart players did not win last week, but did have a good time. March 19 is Alf Oates Memorial Darts at the Branch. Maybe they will shine there.

Sadly, once again we send sympathy to the McNabb families in the passing of Marg who was a long time member of the Ladies' Auxiliary.

Don't forget the bus for Rama on March 4 will be leaving at 8 a.m. and returning at 5:30 p.m. This includes a buffet while you are away and a snack at the Branch when you get back. You can sign up at the Bar. Have you paid your dues, and is your address and telephone number current?

Enjoy the sunshine. I think Spring is coming. To all who are ill, we wish a speedy recovery and hope to see you at the Branch soon.



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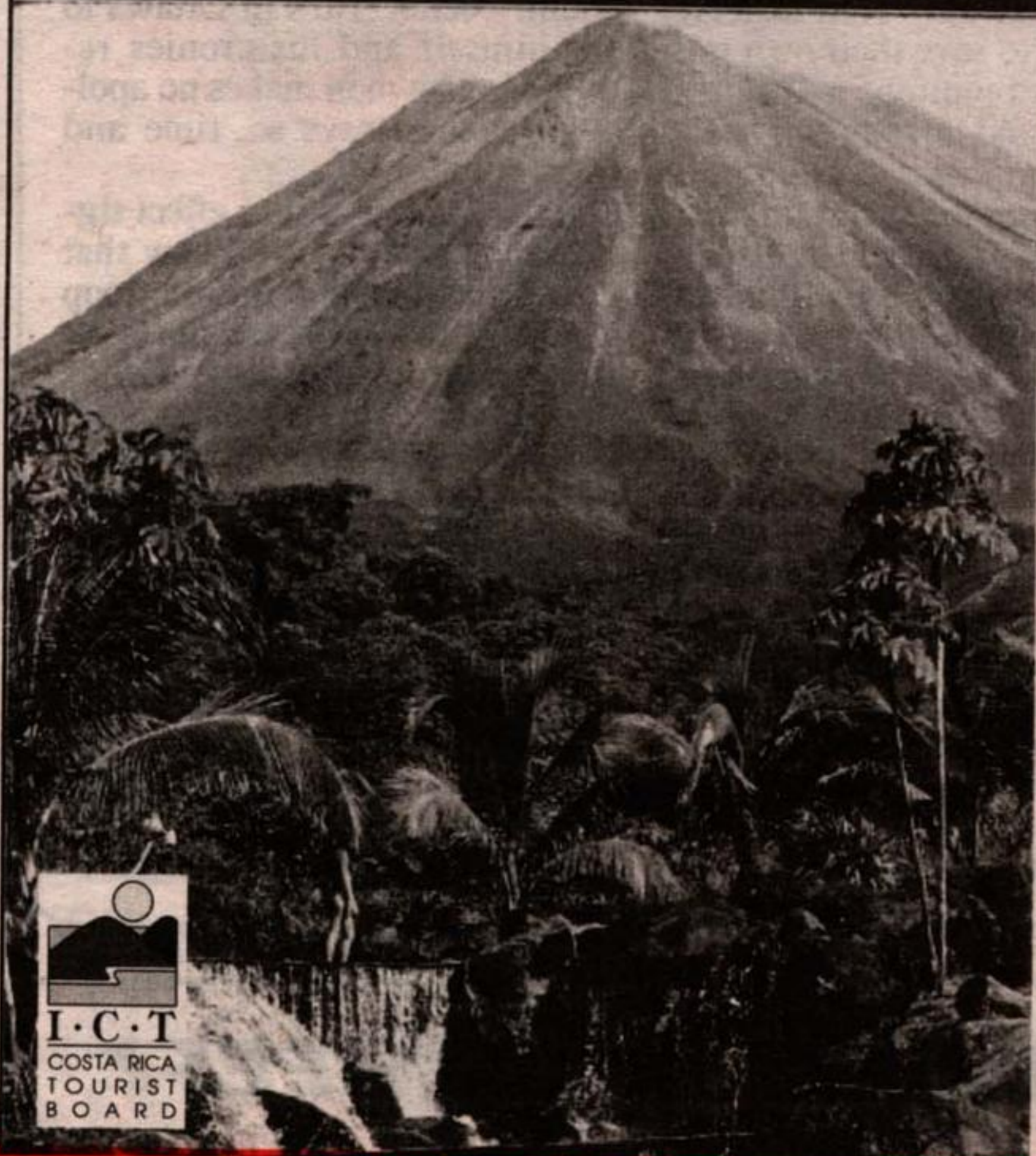
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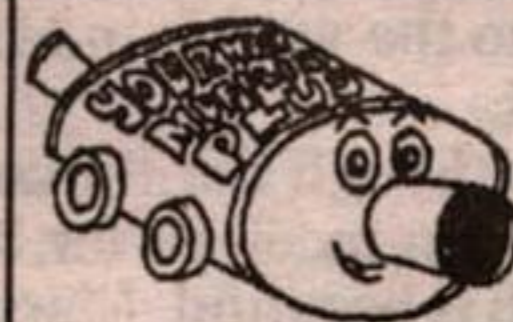


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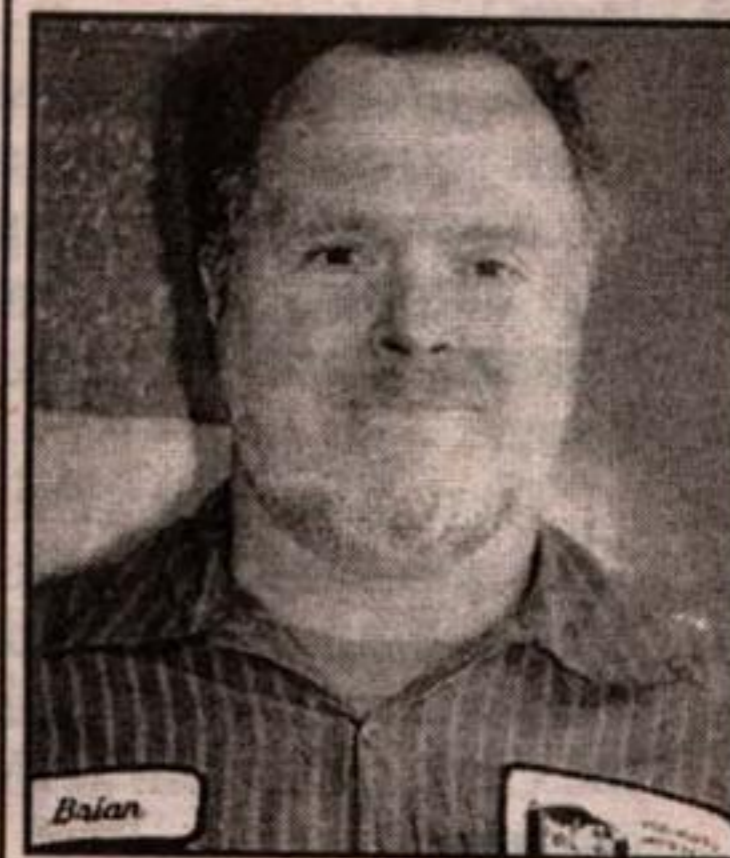
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