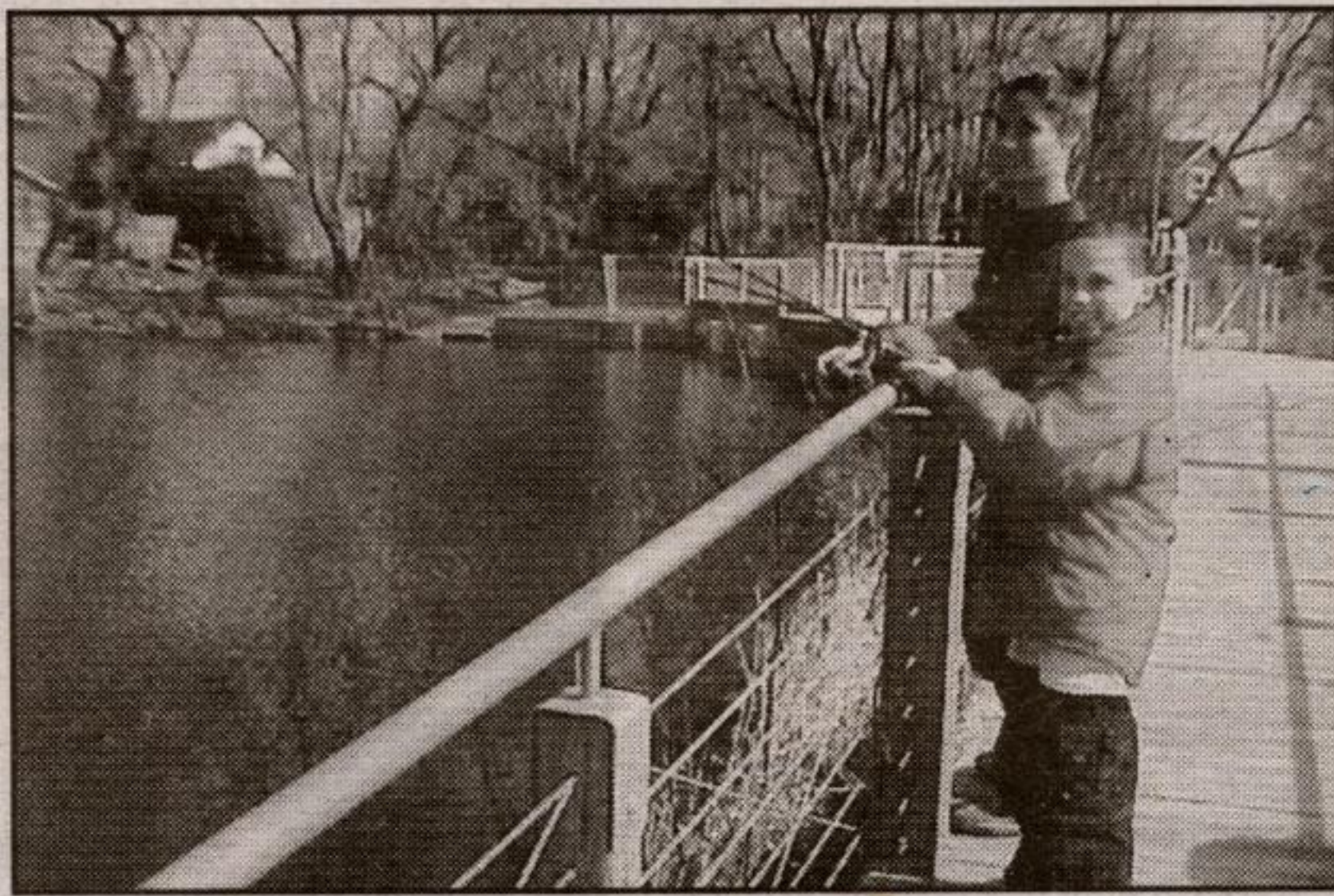


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Help Wanted

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IN SEASON: The fishermen are back at Fairy Lake. On Saturday, Howie Jeffery, 13 (rear) and his brother, John, 11, took to a morning go at catching the 'big one'. – Angela Tyler photo

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Good News for Halton

A lower than expected tax increase means good news for Halton residents. An increase in growth resulted in Regional Council's ability to lower the increase to 1.8% rather than the previously reported 3.1% figure. "It is good news for Halton that the growth we have experienced has resulted in a lower than expected cost per household for regional services in 2002," said Halton Regional Chairman, Joyce Savoline. "When Council first approved the budget in December, it was believed that a higher increase was required to maintain the Region's existing infrastructure and to provide the services needed by Halton's growing community." Regional services account for approximately 42% of a Halton property tax bill (of which 31% are for Regional services and 11% are for Police Services). These services include waste management, Regional roads, public health, Ontario Works (formerly know as social assistance), senior's and children's services, social housing, heritage programs, and Regional planning. Provincial education costs account for approximately 30% of the tax bill and the area municipal costs are approximately 28%. On the assumption that education tax increases will be held at zero per cent (the Province has not yet announced the education tax rate's) total property tax increases in Halton will range from 0.8% in the Town of Milton to 2.9% in the Town of Oakville. The following table summarizes the 2002 expected property tax increases for a residential property with an assessed value of \$220,000:

	2001 Taxes	\$ Increase	2002 Taxes	% Increase
Burlington	\$2,758	\$64	\$2,822	2.3%
Halton Hills	\$2,720	\$65	\$2,785	2.4%
Milton	\$2,551	\$19	\$2,570	0.8%
Oakville	\$2,723	\$79	\$2,802	2.9%

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