

Spill in Fairy Lake caused by 'clean' oil from transformer

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

Oil leaking from a transformer in the parking lot of Halton Hills Hydro contaminated a tributary of Black Creek that runs into Fairy Lake on Thursday.

Using a rowboat, a two-man works crew with the Town's spills containment unit put dams and absorbent material in two locations on the creek to try to contain the leak which looked like spreading gasoline with globs of opaque material that disintegrated when touched.

Halton Hills Hydro president Dan Guatto said their investigation found that the hydro transformer had been damaged when it was unloaded recently in the parking lot of Hydro's Alice Street headquarters.

"We found a transformer that had a damaged bushing and oil had leaked out, and because of all of the precipitation we've had lately, this oil washed into one storm drain in a corner in the parking lot, and that rain water dumps into little Black Creek," Guatto said on Friday.

He said the leak of approximately one-gallon of a "very clean" vegetable-like oil, used as a coolant and insulator in the transformer leaked, did not cause any



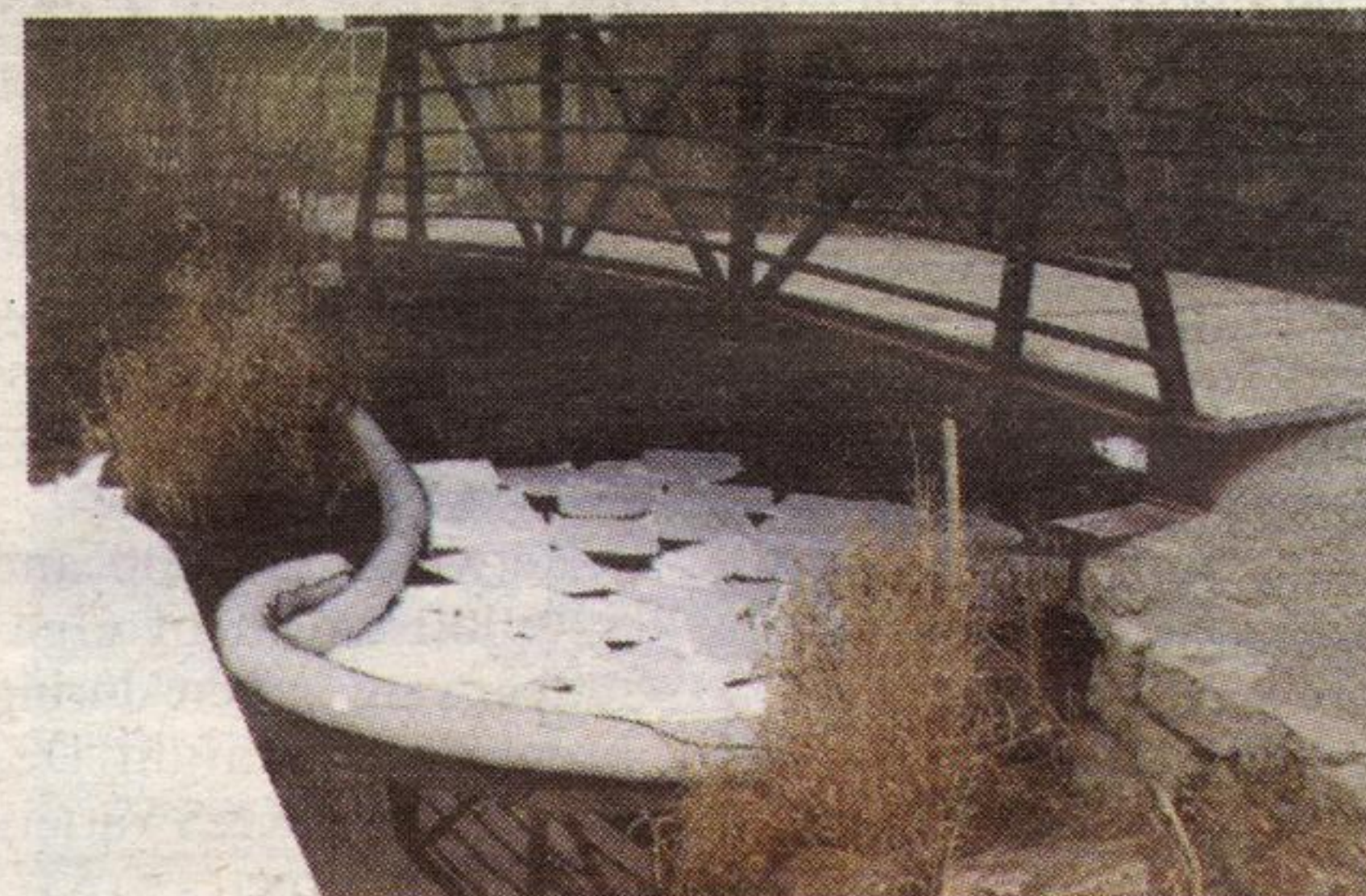
CLEAN UP: Gary Halls and Al Bowen of the Town Staff spread what they call "diapers" on oil slicked Fairy Lake water last Thursday morning using equipment from Halton Hills Spill containment unit. Ice on the lake helped contain the oil, which leaked from a transformer on the Halton Hills Hydro parking lot.

environmental damage.

Guatto said the leak was found by hydro staff late Thursday morning and the cleanup was complete by 3 p.m. He said the cleanup crew called it a very minor spill of no significance.

Hydro staff continued to monitor the creek and the pads of absorbent material and two booms that were left in two places on the tributary were to be removed today (Thursday).

The geese and ducks avoided the eastern end of Fairy Lake where the tributary joins the lake until Saturday morning.



CONTAINMENT: Town staff placed a boom under the bridge at the mouth of the School Creek to contain oil which entered Fairy Lake from the creek.

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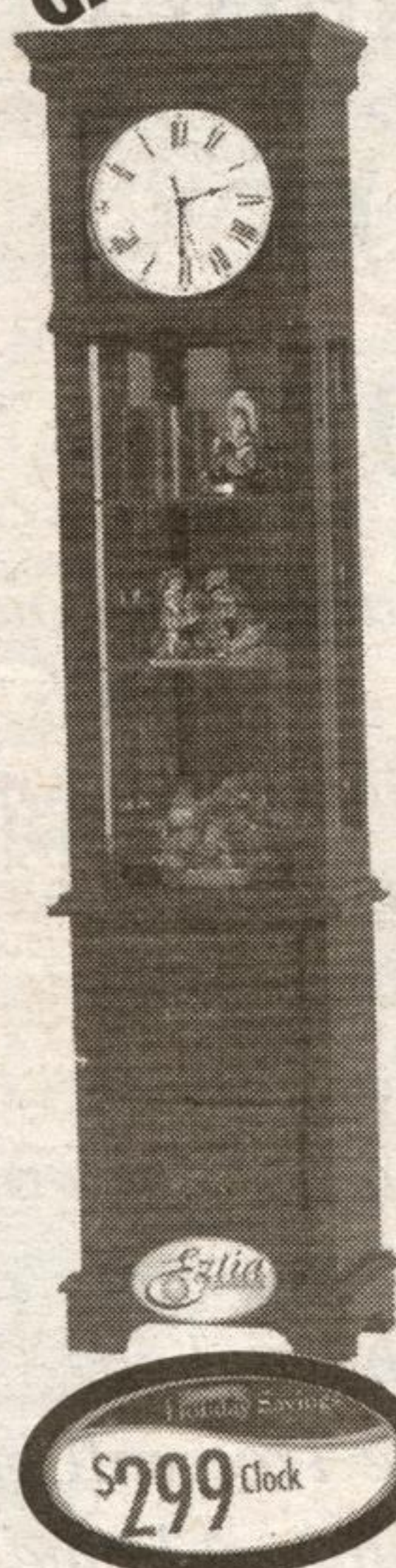
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