

# EDITORIAL

## Daring young man

A brave man was set to plunge into Lake Ontario Tuesday, hoping to be the first disabled swimmer to conquer the lake.

In the past, the grueling 52-kilometre (32 mile) swim from Niagara-on-the-Lake to Toronto has bested many — all of them "able bodied" — swimmers.

The swim is considered one of the most difficult marathon swimming challenges in the world.

But Carlos Costa, 19, is not going let the fact that he had both legs amputated below the knee stop him from beating the lake.

Challenging water is not new to Costa — a native of North York. He holds several records including the Canadian record in the 100-metre Freestyle.

What strikes the most about Costa is the huge effort he is taking to make people more aware of the disabled.

People are suddenly realizing that people with physical handicaps — handicaps of any sort, for that matter — are capable of great things.

In an interview, Costa asked: "Why put people into categories, labeling them physically disabled and have them shoved aside?"

We wholeheartedly agree.

In the impatient, perfection-driven society in which we live, people who do not live up to certain societal specifications are automatically thought of as somehow inferior.

They are then looked down upon and cast aside — or forgotten.

It is an attitude that has to stop.

And Carlos is not just taking on Lake Ontario to prove something, he is doing the swim to raise funds for Variety Village, a sports training facility for the disabled.

While Costa will be battling the lake on his own, he has Canada's premier marathon swimmer — Vicki Keith — as a coach.

Keith has crossed Lake Ontario five times and holds more than a dozen world records for marathon swimming.

She has been helping Costa with his training regime and will spend time in the lake with the youngest swimmer to attempt the crossing, pacing him on his venture.

For Keith the work must be a thrill. To set her own records and then use her knowledge of the lake to help someone else set a record can be nothing but enjoyable.

And we strongly with Keith when she says that Costa "isn't a great disabled athlete. He's a great athlete who happens to have a disability."

## Thanks for coverage

Dear Editor;

I would like to thank the Halton Hills This Week for the coverage which has been given about the proposed dump sites for Peel region which are on the east side of Georgetown. Although these sites are in Peel the impact zones lie within Halton Hills because they are so close to Winston Churchill Blvd. which divides Halton and Peel. One of the sites borders the road and 500 metres is the furthest distance that the others are set back. The Credit River and an Environmentally Significant Area lie behind the properties on the Halton Hills side of Winston Churchill Blvd.

People should think about the pests which are usually associated with dump sites because "as the crow flies" the new Georgetown Mall will be less than 3 kms. away and the Norval end of Delrex Blvd; less than 2 kms away. If the dump is built the height of an eight storey building then it will be visible on

the horizon from highway #7.

I encourage everyone in Halton Hills to write to IWA to let them know that these Peel sites (B15B, B22C, B22D) are too close to our border and the Credit River.

I should also like to take this opportunity to set the records straight. I did NOT request the meeting which took place at the Interim Waste Authorities (IWA) office in Brampton on Tuesday August 4, 1992. Mr. Robert Sculthorpe phoned and requested a meeting with the people who were in the area of the dump sites. He also asked for input about the people's concerns. Therefore this meeting took place at the request of the consultants hired by IWA and not me.

Thank you once again for making the people of Halton Hills aware of the closeness to them of the proposed Peel dump sites. Well done! You are doing as good job.

Sincerely,  
Pam Soward

## Letters Welcomed

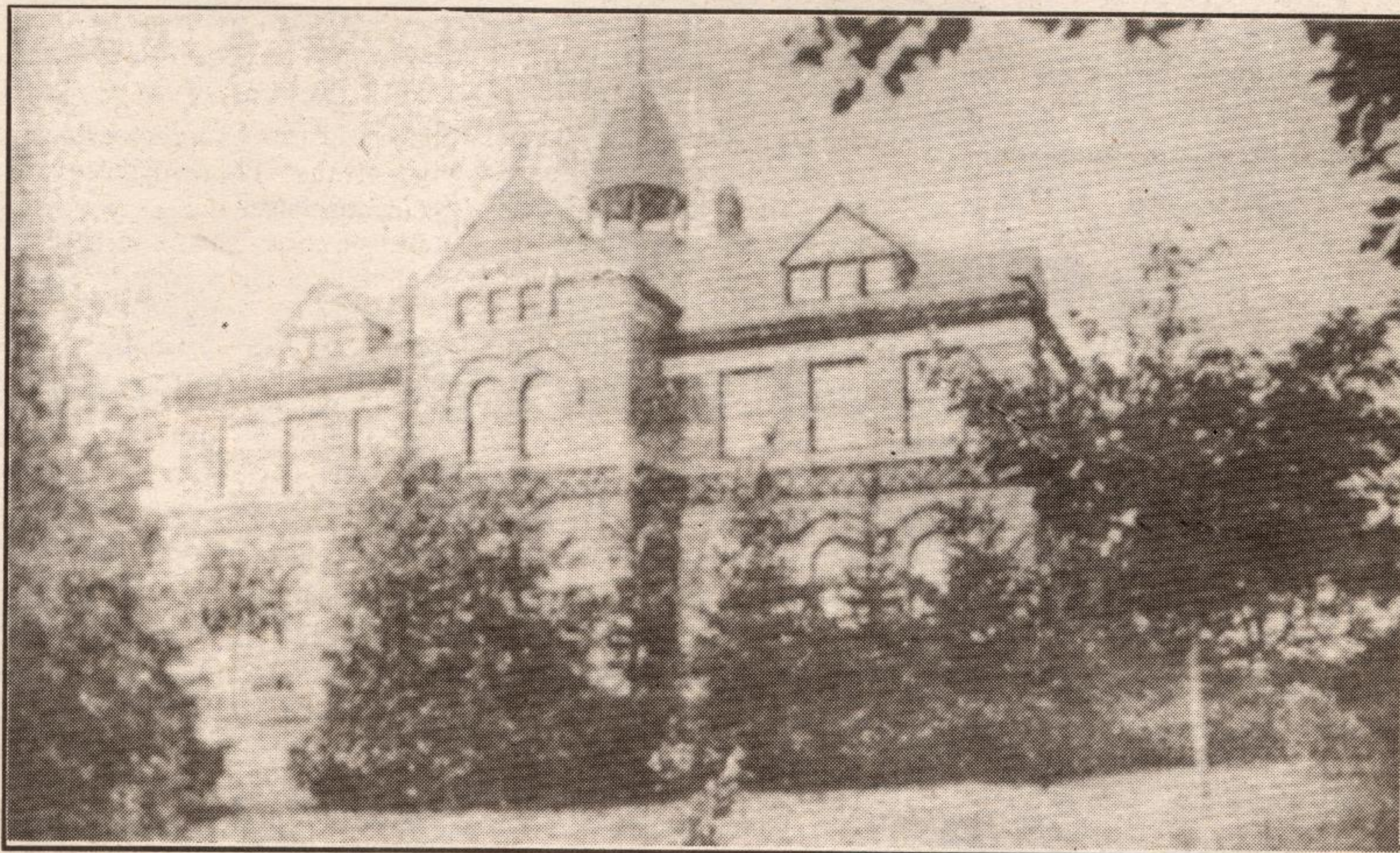
Halton Hills This Week welcomes your letters. Letters must be signed and include your full name and address. Names will be withheld on request.

Halton Hills This Week reserves the right to edit, revise, or reject any letters on the basis of factual errors, punctuation, spelling errors

or as a result of space limitations.

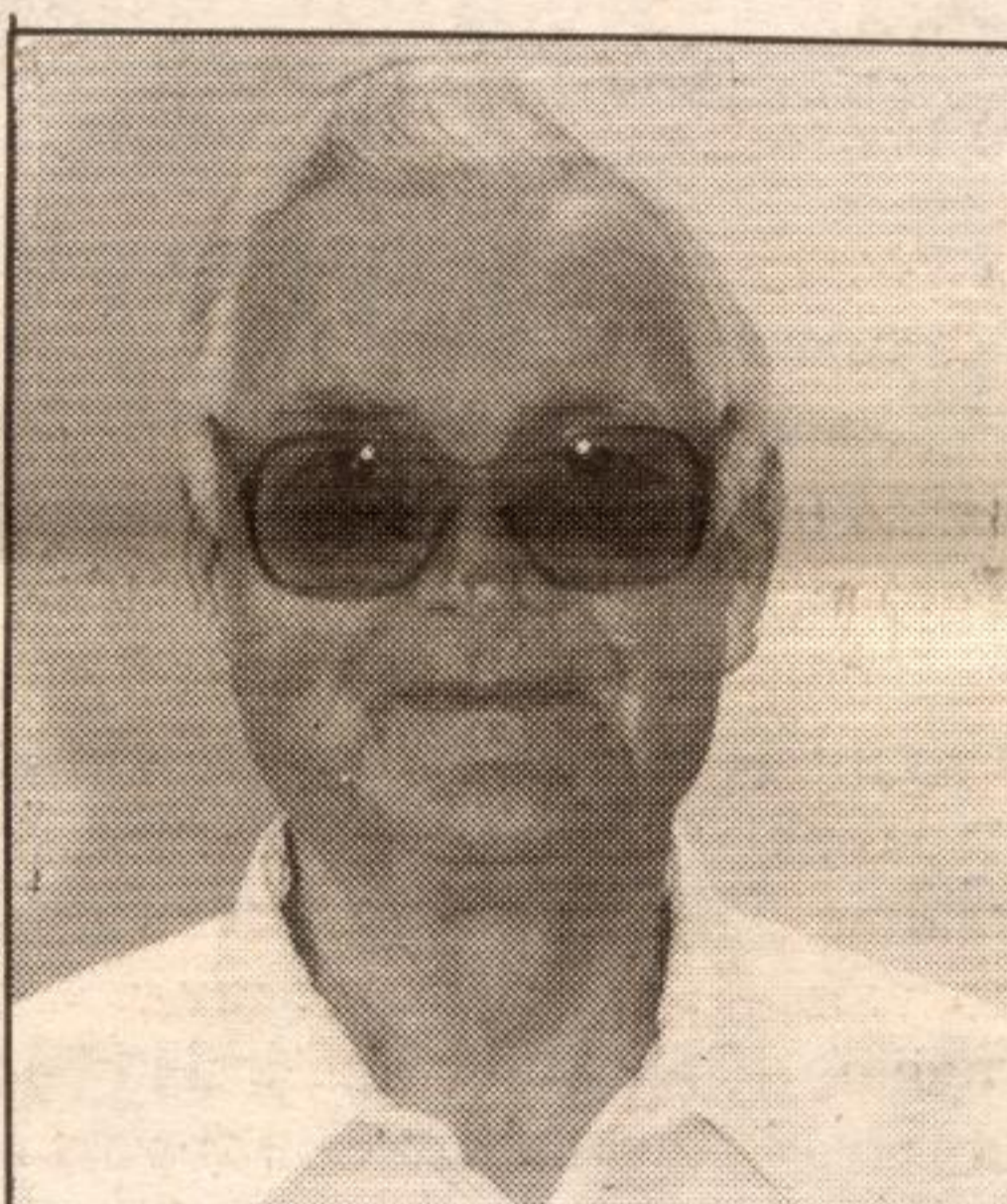
Send your letter to:  
**The Editor**  
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## That was then...



Built in 1889, the old Georgetown High School was designed by Edward Lennox and stood until 1959. The original building had four classrooms, three teachers rooms and a board room. Photo courtesy of the Esqueing Historical Society.

## Have you got a minute?



Wheldon "Steamer" Emmerson

Halton Hills This Week is thrilled to have Wheldon "Steamer" Emmerson writing a weekly column. Steamer's anecdotes are always entertaining and usually full of insight into life's lighter moments. Look for Steamer's "Have You Got A Minute?" every week in this space.

Isn't it awful to be left in charge, while your boss is away on holidays, and something more serious than marriage goes wrong. When it happened to me I was bewildered for days. Not even a laxative helped. By George, I was uptight, I'll tell you.

Pour another coffee, while I painfully relate how I discovered \$35,000 repeat \$35,000 dollars worth of "marijuana", "pot", or "hemp had disappeared overnight from the locked holding cell upstairs in the county courthouse.

If you are a "pot" smoker you may prefer a "joint" with your second cup, but goodness gracious let me tell you there was no coffee-break for me that morning when I discovered the cell door open and the evidence vanished like a wisp of smoke.

Now if you believe the wheels of justice turn slowly, you should have been there that morning. Ben Johnson would have been tuckered out.

Here is the story of how the fox got in the chicken coop. A drug trial started the day before. The jury

## Left in charge: Where'd the "pot" go?

was selected, then told they could go home until the following morning, because the visiting judge was going to listen to evidence in the absence of the jury, which he may allow or may not during the course of the trial. In the halls of justice it is called a voir-dire.

Once the judge rose for the day, the Mountie, and O.P.P. Cpl. who had seized the drugs and still had them in their possession asked if it was all right with me if they stored them overnight in the holding cell. I pointed out at that time there was no security after 10 p.m.

In other words the cleaning staff would be finished at 10. Guarding the stuff would be up to them. Oh, I'll tell you there was some excitement in the morning when we discovered the fox had taken the chicken wings, and the feathers.

It was Howdy-Doody time, the Flintstones and Sesame Street all rolled into one.

Within minutes the press was all over me, microphone, cameras, tape recorders, and note pads. Let me tell you it was the first time in my life I never uttered a word when a "mike" was shoved in my face.

But the real test for me was yet to come. You see the sheriff or his deputy would often gown the visiting judge for a day or so until he

was used to the crew we had assigned to him. Then we would only be called to his retiring or robing room in case we were required to perform some duty.

Good Lord, have you ever stood shaking outside a judge's chamber, aware the jury had all showed up, the accused were in the cell, but the evidence had taken flight, and you were the one who was responsible to march in and tell him. My mind was awl, will I tell him right out or will I gently drape his shoulders with gown and purple sash and whisper in his ear, "the marijuana disappeared, stolen right out of the cell".

He took it really well. He didn't ask for a smoke, water, or a shot of rye, but I pushed his chair into the back of his knees as he slumped. I had to leave him.

The Attorney-General's Office at 18 King St. Toronto was trying to get in touch with me. I was the most wanted man in Ontario by the good guys, to explain.

The Mounties always get their man, and any day now I expect a call to say the thieves have been apprehended and a trial date in 2001 has been set.

By that time I'll probably be in Hell and able to get the best legal brains available.

**Halton Hills THIS WEEK**

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