


# The Independent Weekend & Free Press

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## Cars collide

Halton Police Acting Sgt. Jason Mather takes notes at the scene of a three-vehicle crash Wednesday at 1:40 p.m. on Trafalgar Road, south of Five Sideroad. Police report a northbound Nissan, driven by a Mississauga man, collided with a southbound tractor-trailer, then struck a southbound Dodge Colt driven by an 18-year-old Georgetown woman. Both car drivers received minor injuries. The Nissan driver was charged with careless driving.

Photo by Ted Brown

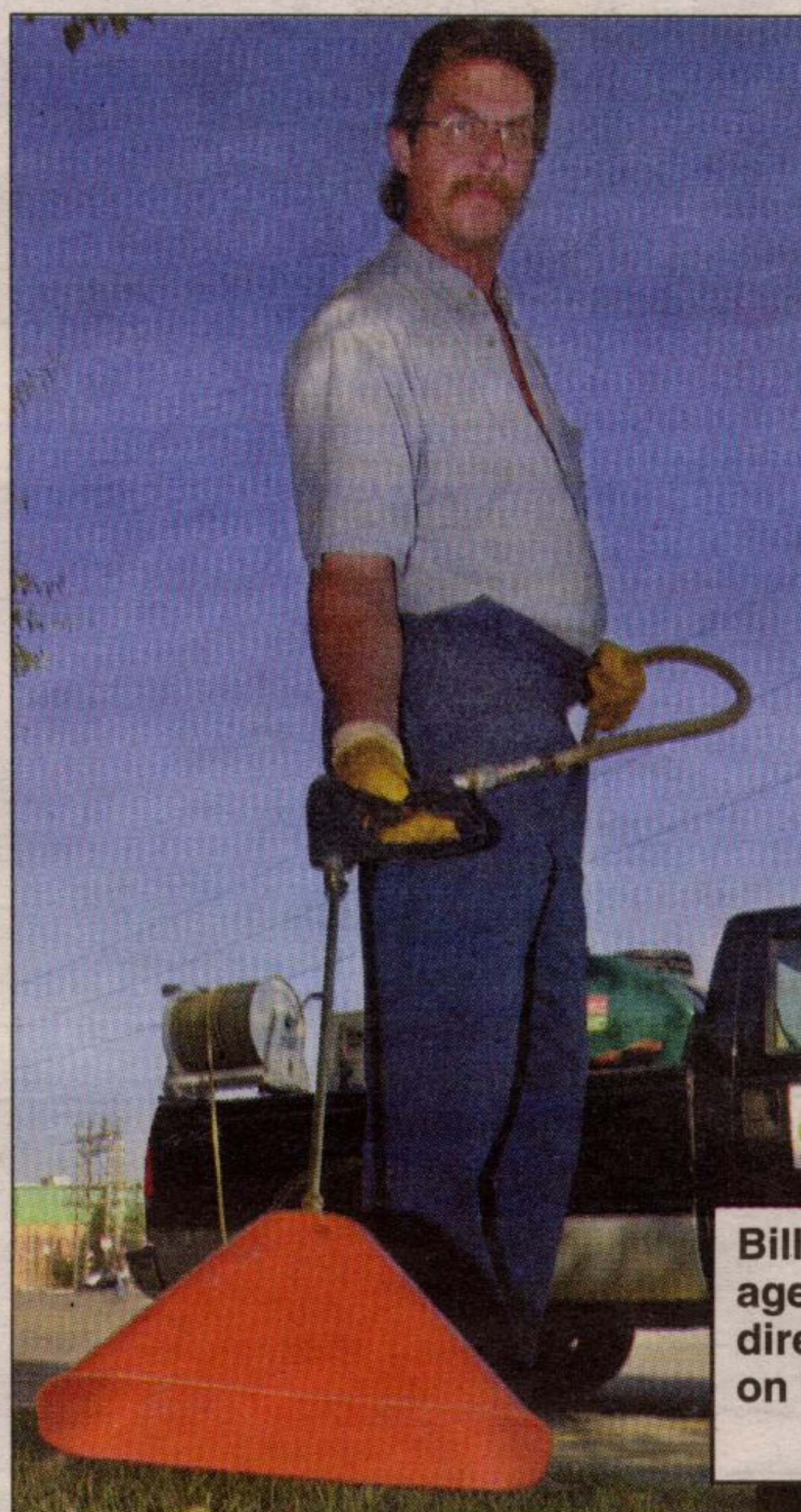
## Town changes mind on use of pesticides

The Town of Halton Hills will go back to spraying its sports fields, parks and cemeteries with pesticides to control the growing weed problem.

According to the new Pesticide Application in Turf Areas Policy approved by town council Monday night, pesticides will be used as a "last resort" when public safety or turf replacement become issues.

This is the second year the town has gone without using pesticides as part of a 2002-approved policy banning their use on all town-owned or leased properties over a three-year period. At that time council gave the go-ahead to begin an Integrated Plant Health Care Program, which involves more seeding, aerating and other labour and dollar-intensive procedures. However, council failed to back up this program with cash at budget time, even though they were warned that turf in the town's parks and sports fields were deteriorating without the required money.

According to Warren Harris, manager of parks and cemeteries and author of the turf policy report, the new goal is still to reduce the reliance on pesticides, in addition to continued turf monitoring, budget



review, public awareness and naturalization initiatives.

"I think they're (town staff) going in the right direction with this," said Bill VanRyn, a professional turf care manager in Georgetown, at Monday's meeting. He has long opposed the town's method in the original Integrated Plant Health Care (IPHC) program. He said the town has wasted thousands of dollars on a program that has only created unsafe and hazardous conditions. VanRyn said this new policy gives town staff the right tools to do their job properly.

But TEAC (Town Environmental Advisory Committee) representative Ruth Kuchinad disagreed, calling the new policy a "knee-jerk response to sports groups complaints and is "just a quick fix."

Kuchinad also wondered why the pesticide use is being extended to parks, cemeteries and other town properties as well.

See COUNCIL'S, pg. 5

Bill VanRyn, a professional turf care manager, says the town "is going in the right direction" after council changed its mind on banning pesticide use on public lands.

Photo by Ted Brown

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Cookin'?

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