

Construction dirt clogging Credit

The clogging of the Credit River with sediment from construction sites is becoming a concern for Credit Valley Conservation (CVC), and has turned to the town for help.

Biologist Robert Morris made the agency's case at a recent council meeting.

Sediment flowing from construction sites along the river is the number one source of sediment clogging the Credit River and its tributaries.

Sediment reduces a river's capacity, increasing its risk of flooding and reducing recreational opportunities such as boating and fishing. Sediment also reduces the photosynthesis process for plants, suffocates fish eggs, bugs and clogs the gills of fish. It reduces the ability of species to see and fills in habitat pools. In addition, sediment often contains toxins, bacteria or excess nutrients that could increase temperatures and degrade oxygen levels in the water. It also makes the water unsafe for drinking and recreation.

Morris said many construction sites lay stripped over several years, and sediment controls such as fences or stormwater ponds, are either inadequately maintained or improperly used. He said there is an 80 per cent failure rate at construction sites along the Credit River. The sediment rate from construction areas can be 30 times the natural rate.

Morris said there are solutions such as greater buffer zones, improved maintenance of fences, phasing of stripping, and most importantly, defining agency/government jurisdiction, adopting municipal topsoil bylaws and implementing regular site inspections.

While Morris does inspect some sites he cannot issue fines. Instead the agency refers

the matter to the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) or the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). "We need some help to enforce some of these sites."

Morris said he is required by law to report offences, but "you could probably go to any construction site and see this. We have a big issue out there and I'm looking for help everywhere."

Council unanimously approved a resolution from Councillor Joan Robson, the town's CVC representative, that staff report back on the feasibility and cost of a CVC resolution.

The resolution partially reads that the town work with CVC, DFO and MNR to conduct site inspections and adopt a topsoil bylaw to address sediment control on construction sites. As well, municipal bylaw enforcement officers may attend training seminars and assist with regular inspection and issuance of fines.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

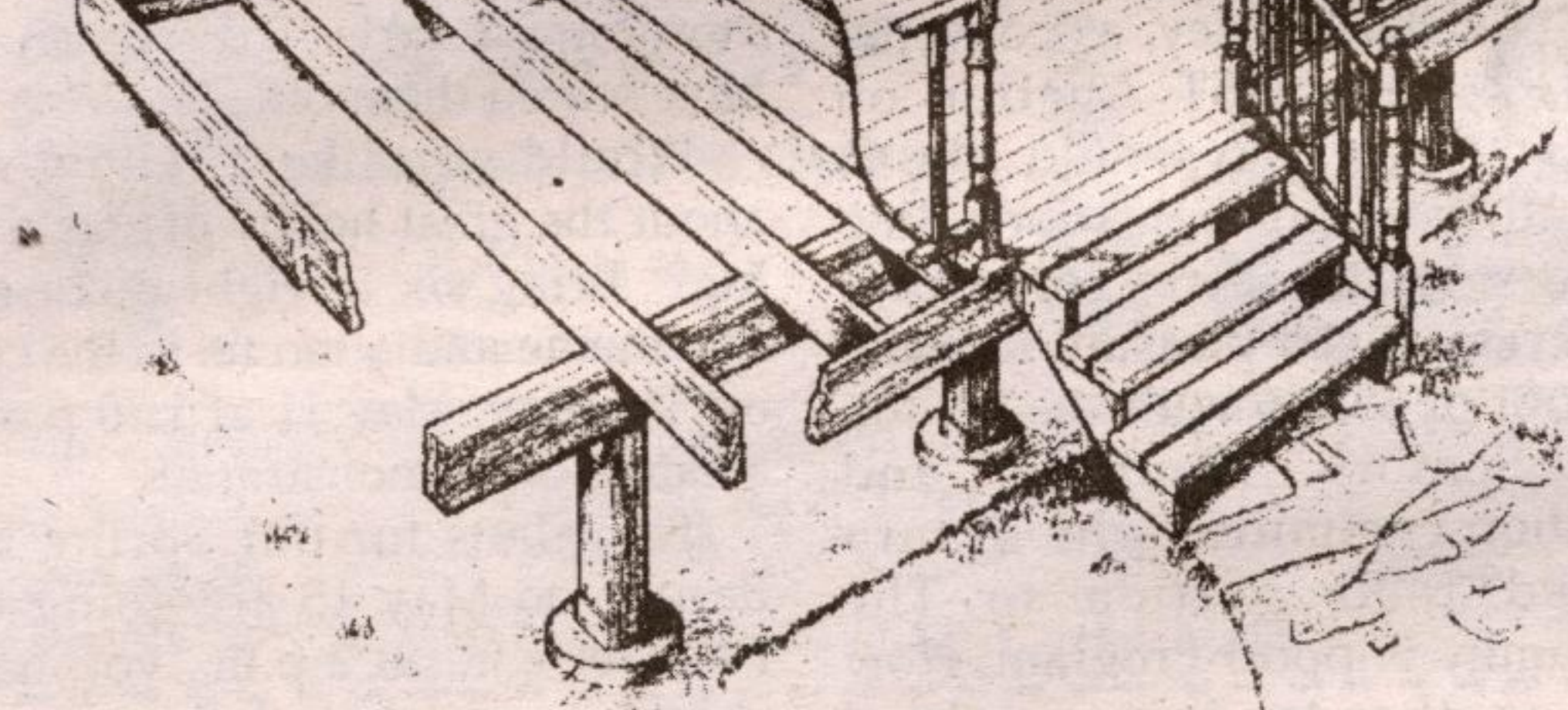
Police blotter Erin driver charged

Halton Police charged an Erin man with impaired driving and having over 80 mg of alcohol in 100 ml of blood after stopping a vehicle that had struck a curb in the Maple Ave. and Harding St. area of Georgetown early Tuesday.

Charged is Vincent Fox, 54, of First St.

Police report \$250 damage was caused to four windows at the rear of Minit-Tune & Brake Auto Centre on Guelph St. after BB pellets were shot through them late Friday or early Saturday.

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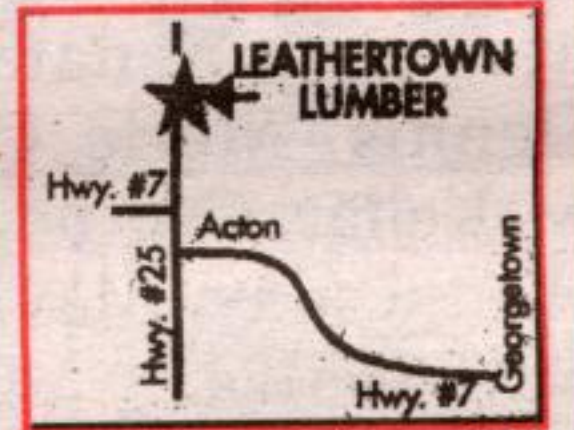
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