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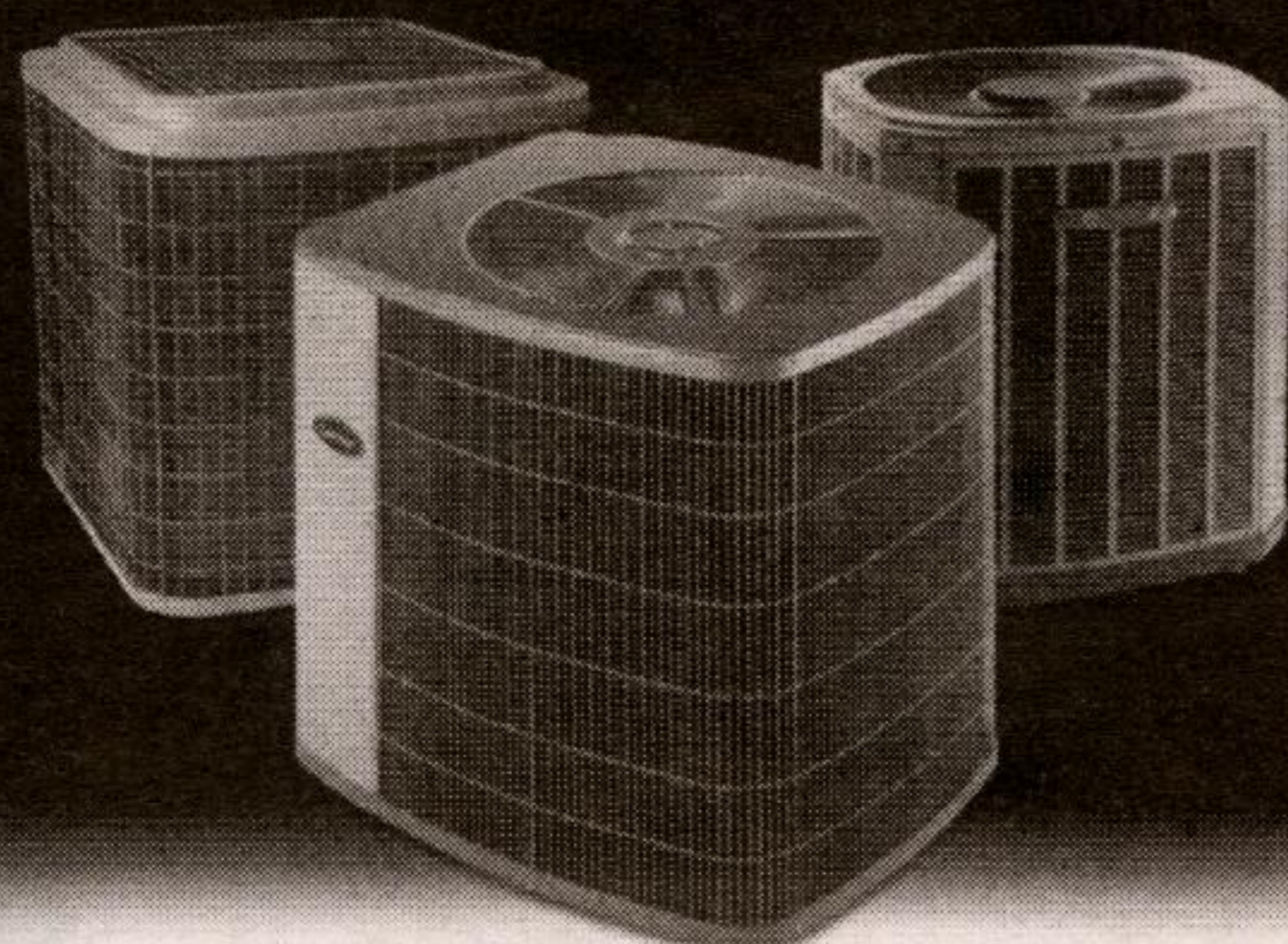
Thursday, May 13th, 2004 ~ 10 am to 8 pm
 Mainway Arena ~ Mainway Recreation Centre
 4015 Mainway (at Walkers Line) in Burlington

Halton District School Board Proceeds to support The Arts Investment Fund HALTON LEARNING FOUNDATION

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Acton beach to be closed to swimmers

The Prospect Park Boathouse Beach on Fairy Lake will be closed to swimming—permanently—and the town will also temporarily suspend boat rentals this summer.

At Monday's meeting, Halton Hills council accepted a staff report to not designate the beach as a swimming area, but discontinue the boat rental program only this summer, deferring a final solution until a meeting in June when the volunteer organization, Friends of Fairy Lake (FoFL) plans to make a formal presentation on the future of the park.

"The beach was a problem from the day it opened (around 1986)," said Acton Councillor Mike O'Leary, who proposed the deferral. "The prevailing wind comes from the northwest and so all the flotsam and jetsam and goose stuff has always piled up there. Right from the day it opened, it wasn't popular with people."

Old Beach, which will remain open, is on the other side of the lake, and is less affected by water flow.

According to a Halton Region beach sampling survey, the Boathouse Beach was closed to swimming 90 per cent of the time last summer between June 17 and August 28 due to unacceptable levels of E. coli—usually from geese. In comparison, Old Beach was closed only 53 per cent of the time.

But FoFL member Bob Jeffries, who showed pictures of the lake to council, said he was concerned by the reduction of activities in the park

and wanted council to have a fresh, positive view of the lake.

"One of our concerns is it appears not too many people know or care about Fairy Lake, and even in the town of Acton not a lot of people even know it's there," he said. "There is nothing comparable in Halton. There is the Kelso Conservation Area where you can pay to go in. This is a town-owned area and it's free to people to come and enjoy."

Fairy Lake is a 64-acre man-made lake located in Prospect Park in the heart of Acton. Activities include swimming, a wide sandy beach, wading pool, picnic areas, fishing and boating (only electric motors) and town-owned boat rentals.

Jeffries said the lack of publicity and awareness about the lake and its activities could be a reason for declining boat rentals.



MIKE O'LEARY

Staff recommended the discontinuation due to declining rentals but increased operation costs such as training and more risks such as navigating through the weeds. The town will save \$5,520 by not running the rental program this year.

But Jeffries disagreed with selling off the town-owned boats, saying once the weed problem is rectified the boats could be put back into the water.

The Eurasian water-milfoil is an invasive weed that is becoming a nuisance to swimmers and boaters and can grow in dense patches to impede boating. A town consultant advised the best solution was to mechanically harvest the weed, but that would cost about \$9,000 each time.

Weed control and Canada geese strategies have been deferred to the June meeting as well.

The report will also be circulated to the Acton Agricultural Society for comment.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

Fire experts to offer safety tips May 15

Local fire safety specialists will be providing fire safety tips for popular summer-related activities at Canadian Tire in Georgetown next Saturday (May 15).

At the spring Fire Safety Campaign, to be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the store located at 315 Guelph St., fire safety specialists will provide tips on grilling and camping, and also on equipping cottages

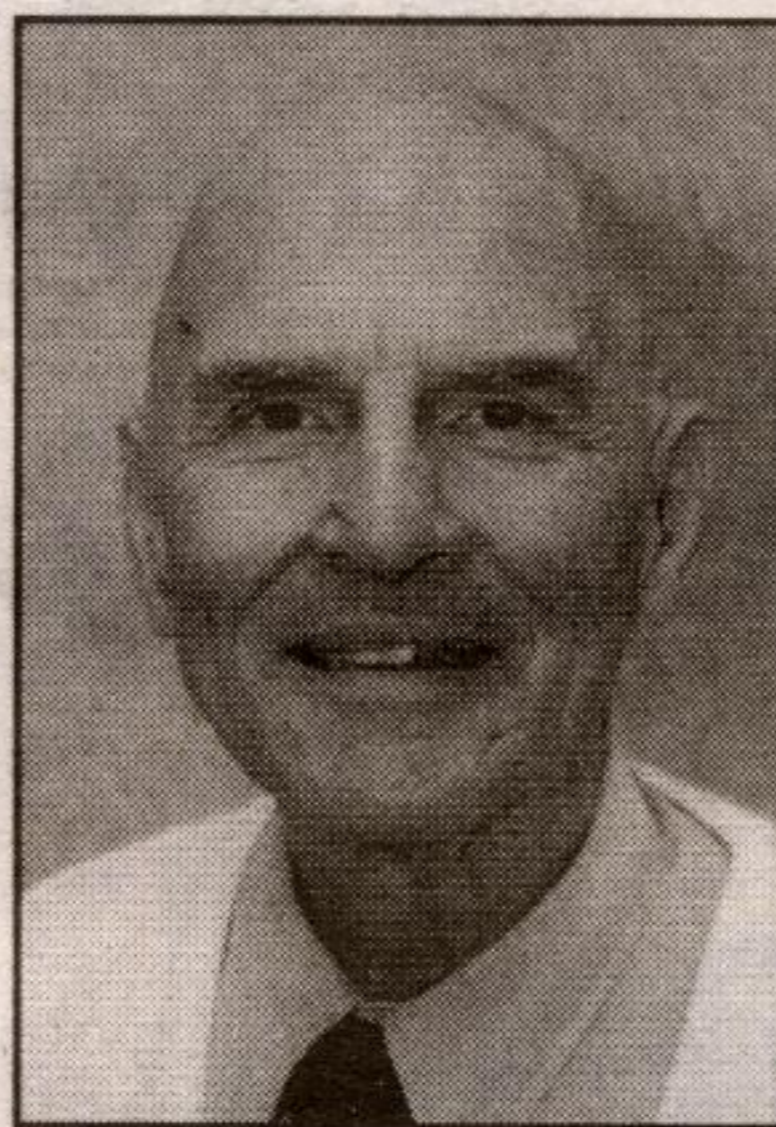
with smoke alarms and portable fire extinguishers.

The event is a joint effort between Canadian Tire, the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council and public educators of Halton Hills Fire Protection and Prevention Services.

Fire department staff, and Sparky the fire safety dog will be on hand to answer questions and educate families on fire safety.

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Tony Smyth

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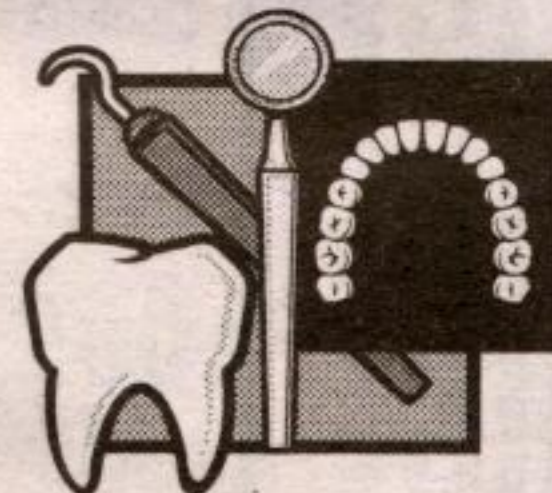
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HEALTH from INSIDE OUT
 PART 1 - Of New Summer Program
 Wednesday May 12

Time: 6:30 - 9:00 pm

Learn everything about health from the inside out. Obtain a complete guide for dealing with indigestion, excess weight, fatigue, pms, poor elimination and skin problems.

Workshop includes recipes, food plan and suggested supplements.

Presented by: Nancy Desjardins
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