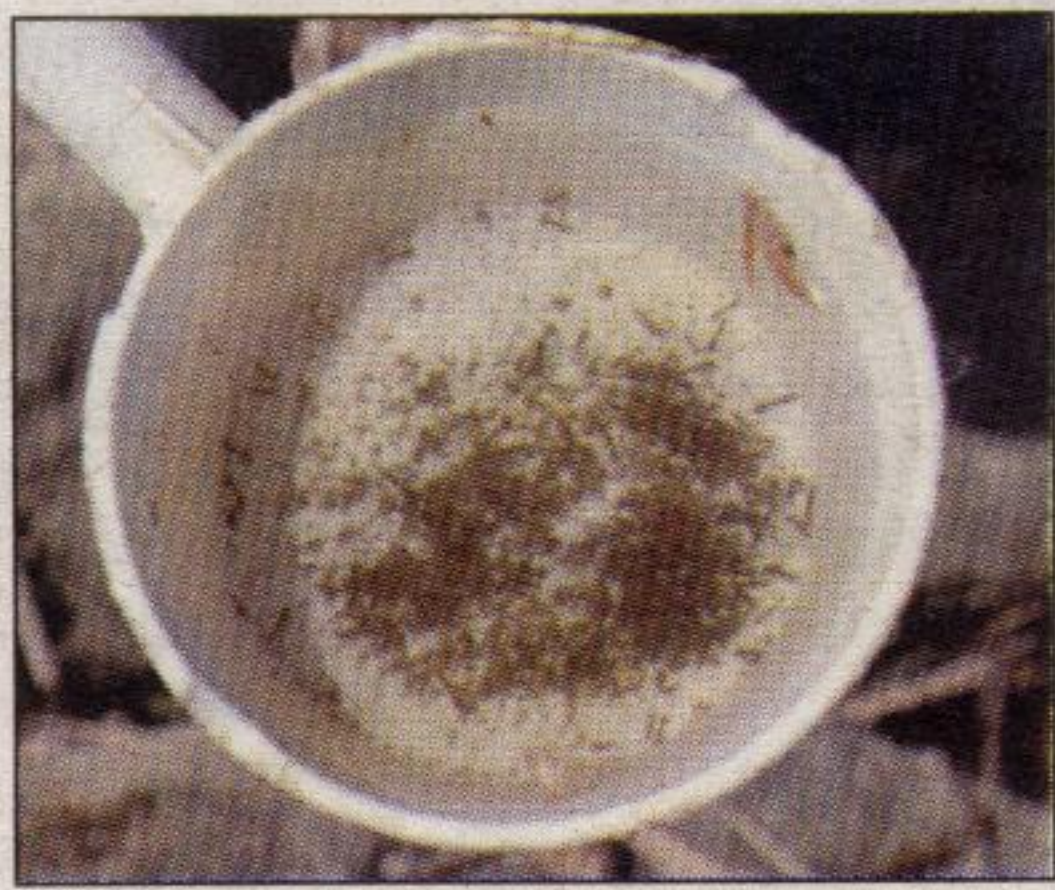


Region begins WNV control program

Halton Region Health Department's 2005 West Nile Virus control program has begun.

Dead bird surveillance started last week and to date eight dead birds (one a crow) have been reported (four in Oakville and four in Burlington) and larviciding of surface water sites throughout Halton began last week.

Halton residents are asked to report dead bird sighting to the health department by calling 1-866-4HALTON (1-866-442-5866) or TTY 905-827-9833. Dead crows and blue jays may be collected by the health department and submitted for viral testing if



A dipped sample of the settling pond at Maple Ave. and River Road shows a high concentration of larvae in the water.

suitable, however, the department is interested in sightings of all dead birds.

Residents who find a dead

bird, should contact the health department.

They should provide as much information as possible including:

- Type or description of bird
- Address or closest intersection to where the bird is located
- The length of time the dead bird has been there

If the department will not be collecting the bird for testing, staff will ask the resident to dispose of it safely.

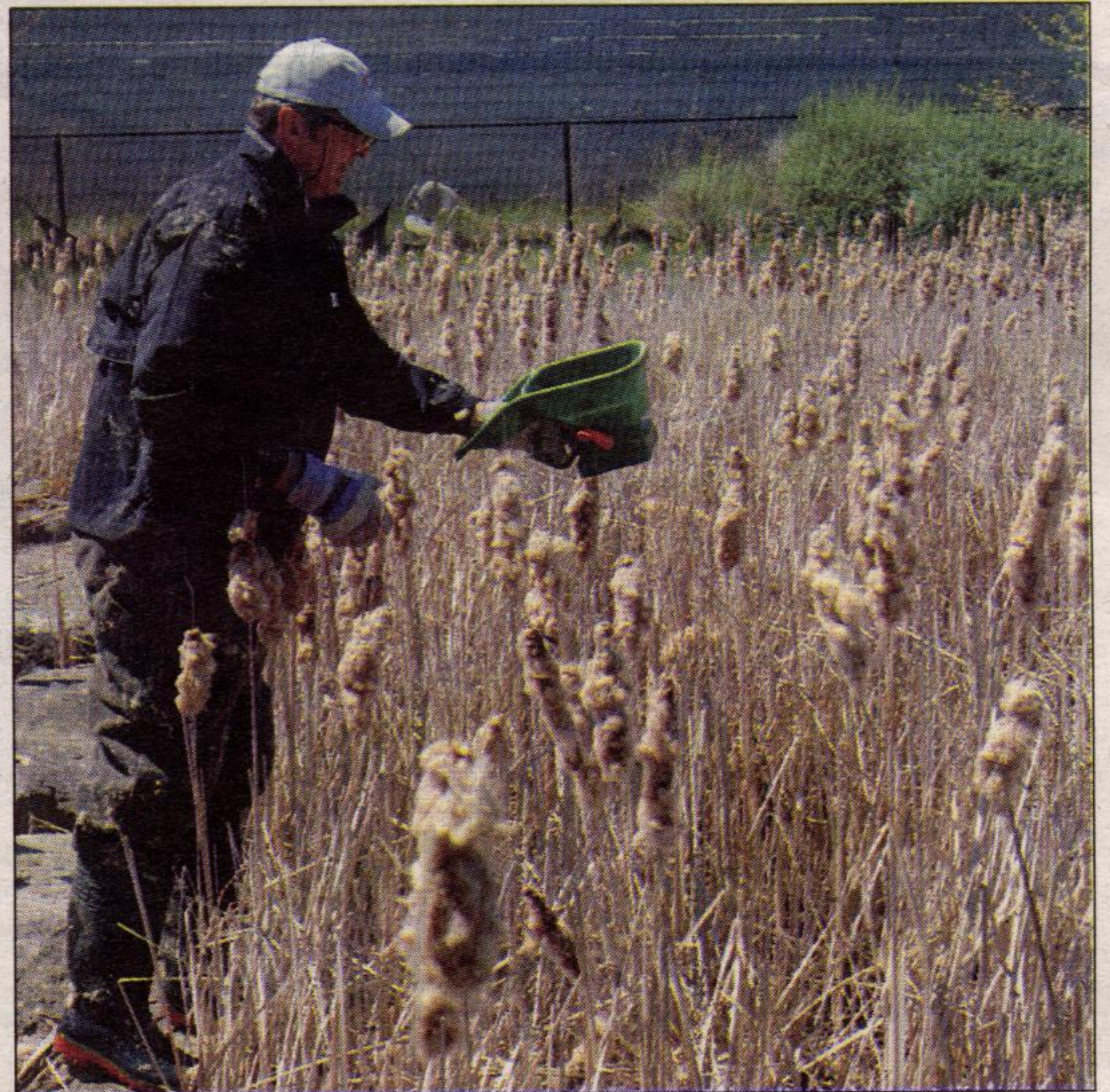
Larviciding will be done using Bti, a bacteria found naturally in soils and toxic to only mosquito and black fly larvae, which will be applied by a licensed contractor to sites where mosquito larvae are found.

Bti has been approved by Health Canada to control mosquito larvae, and Halton Region has used it effectively since 2003.

Before larvicide is applied, each standing water site is examined to determine if the problem can be corrected by other means including removing the water from the location or improving drainage to eliminate the breeding site.

Notices of larviciding locations will be placed in local newspapers and signs will be posted at the sites when larvicides are applied. Locations will also be listed on the health department's website at www.region.halton.on.ca/health.

Larviciding treatments of



John Veselisin spreads the larvicide on the pond with a broadcast style applicator, to treat the larvae in the water.

Photos by Ted Brown

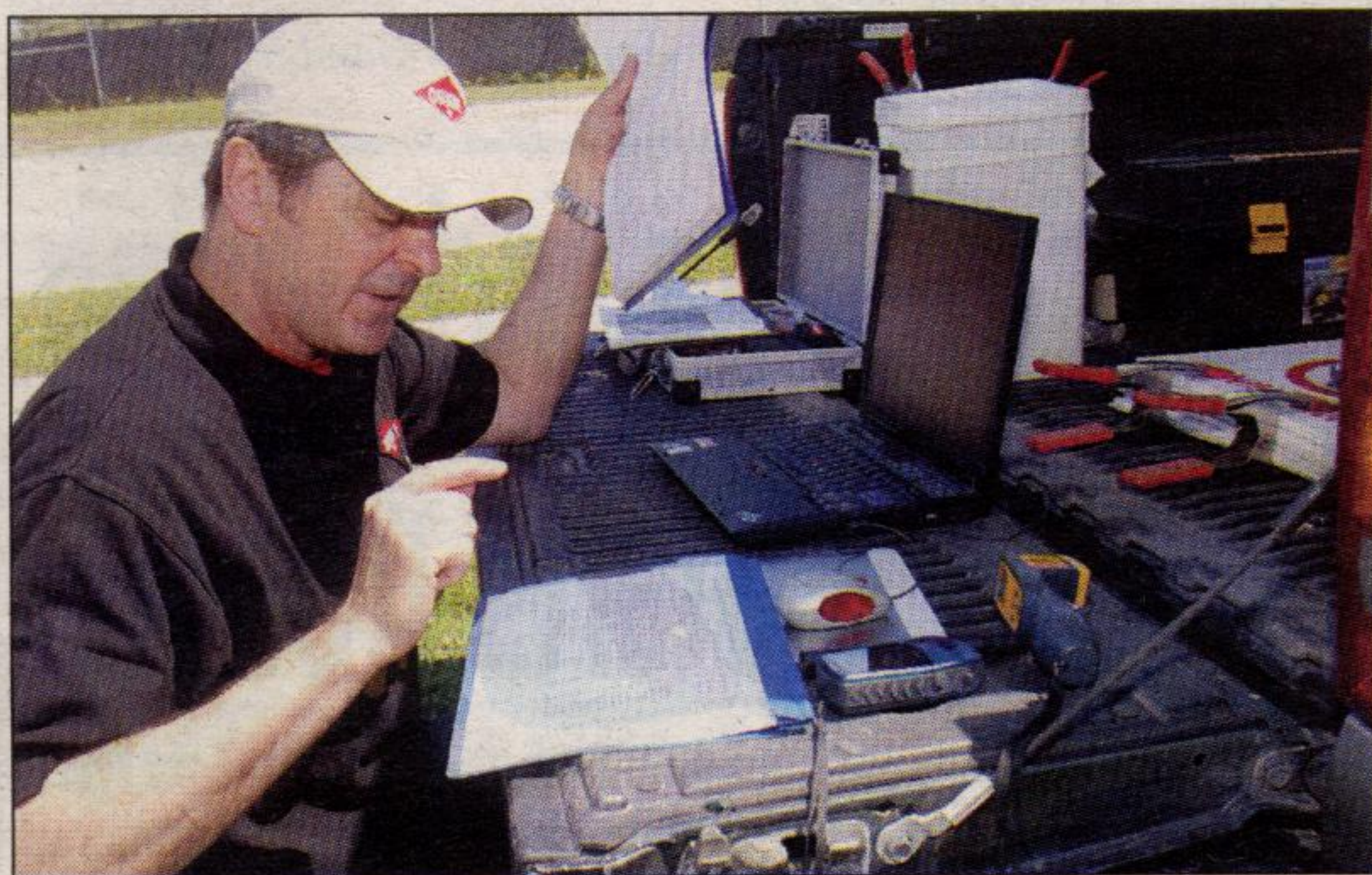
public catch basins begin when mosquito larvae are found in catch basins within the region.

"West Nile Virus activity in the bird and mosquito population has been detected in the last four years in Halton. Sixty Halton residents were diagnosed in 2002 with West Nile Virus disease. No cases in Halton residents were diagnosed in the last two years," said Dr. Bob Nosal, Halton's Medical Officer of Health. "Halton will

continue with its comprehensive West Nile Virus control program in 2005."

For more information about WNV, mosquito control, personal protection from mosquito bites, ways to reduce standing water, or information on the region's surveillance activities, visit the health department's website at www.region.halton.on.ca/health, or call Halton Region Health Department at 1-866-442-5866.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer



In his mobile office set up on his truck's tailgate, John Veselisin of PCO Services in Stoney Creek uses a Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) system on his laptop computer to map the location of each pond in the region treated by his crew.



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