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Airplane noise issues raised at forum

NATHAN HOWES

Travelling by plane may be convenient for those leaving the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), but not for some who reside there.

From noise levels and increased traffic to specific routes and emissions, Halton residents brought their airplane concerns and questions to Nav Canada and Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA) officials April 5 during a community open house held at the Milton Sports Centre.

This is why GTAA and NAV mitigation options, in June 2015, with GTA communities.

Feedback provided by residents helped identify opportunities for noise reduction in residential areas, leading to the inception of the Toronto Noise Mitigation Initiatives Engagement Plan.

Also called the Six Ideas, the plan underwent technical analysis to determine the impacts and benefits for municipalities and feasibility of implementing the initiative, given the demand forecast for Toronto's Pearson International Airport.

"When we look at a certain flight path, we look at how many people this is going to impact. Is there a way to impact fewer people? The things we're proposing, on balance, impact fewer people," said Jonathan Bagg, Nav Canada manager of public affairs and community relations.

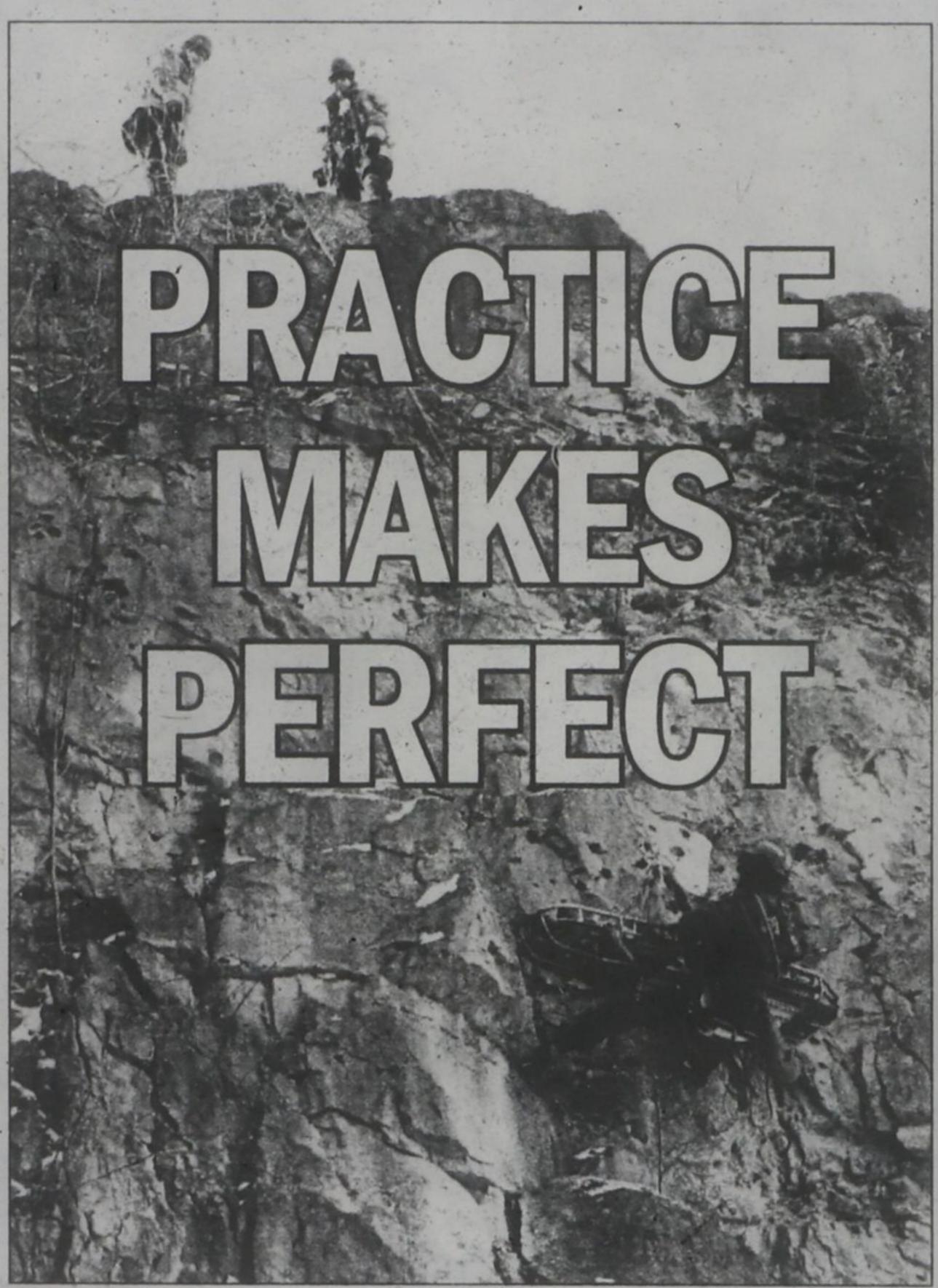
The Six Ideas include nighttime approaches, nighttime departures, increased downwind speed, continuous descent operations, summer weekend runway alternation program and preferential runway system review.

For Milton, nighttime ap-Canada began exploring noise proaches and continuous descent operations, in particular, will have benefits, Bagg explained.

> The approaches were designed to better avoid populated Milton areas, resulting in fewer aircraft at night, while continuous descent operations allow aircraft to use a much quieter profile.

> The advantage of the latter for local residents is twofold, he added, including improved flight paths to avoid the area and aircraft flying on the new approach paths will do so at

> > • See NIGHTTIME, page 38



Graham Paine/Metroland

Milton fire crews work to haul a rescue basket, guided by fellow firefighter Shane Robinson, up the escarpment face at Kelso Conservation Area April 6. The first responders were taking part in a joint research and rescue training exercise at the Conservation Halton park. For more photos, please turn to page 20.



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