



Police spent more more than \$30,000 last year draining the Kelso Lake trying to find a body a woman said was stuffed into a culvert there. The woman who started that search is now standing trial for public mischief in Toronto.

Demand for attention was body hunt origin

One woman's desire for attention cost taxpayer's about \$30,000, a Toronto county court learned during the trial of a 26-year-old Toronto woman.

Lainey Valenti made newspaper headlines two years ago, after telling Metro Toronto Police she had witnessed the murder of a man in a garage and that the body had been stuffed in a culvert in the Kelso Conservation Area.

Skindivers and police detectives worked diligently for more than a week to verify her story.

A road was built into the area, the culvert searched and an around-the-clock watch maintained on the site during the police

investigation.

Miss Valenti told police she had been with the murderer when he dropped off the body in the culvert, running underneath Hwy. 401.

However, what police discovered in the underground water way were hungry turtles and assortment of junk, but no body.

A month later Metro Toronto Police charged Miss Valenti with mischief.

Last Wednesday, she pleaded guilty to two charges and not guilty to the third mischief charge.

During the course of their investigation police discovered the victim had never existed.

The trial resumes tomorrow.

Road fee is shelved

Community agencies wanting to close a regional road for an event will continue to get that service free of charge.

Halton's planning works committee decided last week to continue offering the service free of charge by rejecting a staff recommendation to study the possibility of levying a charge.

A report from chief administrative officer Dennis Perlin said regional staff and public works crews are involved in such requests and there is a cost to the region.

The recommendation, he said, was being

made as part of an ongoing effort to identify areas where the region can save money by charging the people who make use of services.

Committee members, however, felt any financial savings from such a move would be erased by bad public relations.

"We could look real heavy in something like this if the group is a charity," said Councillor Ann Mulvale (Oakville).

"It's pretty chintzy and would amount to a lot of bad publicity," added Councillor Pat McLaughlin (Burlington).

Third in a year

Another Kelso victim

By LINDA KIRBY
Staff Writer

A five-year-old Toronto girl has become the third drowning victim at Kelso Conservation Area in less than one year.

Despite the valiant efforts of a lifeguard, Lisa Marie Lowe, of San Romanoway, North York, died within minutes of being pulled out of 2.5 feet of water last Wednesday afternoon.

The youngster was part of a group of approximately 200 children from a supervised recreation program at Lamberton Blvd. Public School.

Four adults were looking after a group of 24 children including Lisa, when the tragedy occurred.

The little girl is believed to have been underwater for no more than one minute, according to Murray Stephen, general manager of the Halton Region Conservation Authority.

It was one of the four adults who saw Lisa face down in the water and screamed for help.

Seconds later Doug Orr, head guard for the beach area, had pulled her out of the water and was applying mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Mr. Stephen said the child was located in about 2.5 feet of water, approximately 20 feet from shore.

"He (Doug Orr) started her breathing again... there was a pulse," he said.

An ambulance crew took over a few minutes later, but the child stopped breathing.

"I don't know what happened, but she didn't make it," said Mr. Stephen.

Lisa was pronounced dead on arrival at Milton District Hospital.

The beach was not unusually crowded at the time of the fatality, said Mr. Stephen.

Proper Supervision

Five lifeguards were on duty, and a sixth was added when park officials learned the large group of children had arrived for the day.

Mr. Stephen said the group did not have advance booking, which usually assists in

park staff assigning the necessary number of guards, but he said with the addition of one more guard, he felt there was proper supervision.

"There is no reason to believe we didn't have adequate supervision," he said.

Mr. Stephen said he understood the youngster was asthmatic and was not supposed to be swimming. The mother of the child could not be reached for comment.

A coroner's inquest will not be held.

A four-year-old boy, Stephen Wemyss of Toronto drowned at Kelso Lake last August. He was one of about 25 children on an excursion sponsored by the Metro Toronto Housing Authority.

During the same month, a young Toronto man died after he jumped from his canoe and began swimming back to shore, while friends returned the boat to the dock area.

Before that incident, a man died after suffering a heart attack, while out on the lake in a boat.



Private Andre Arsenault, 21, a native of Milton, holds steady the leg of an Italian boy scout as he and another member of the Canadian Armed Forces 1 Field Ambulance provide first aid during a recent scout jamboree in Edmonton.

Peter McDuffe Skate Sharpening

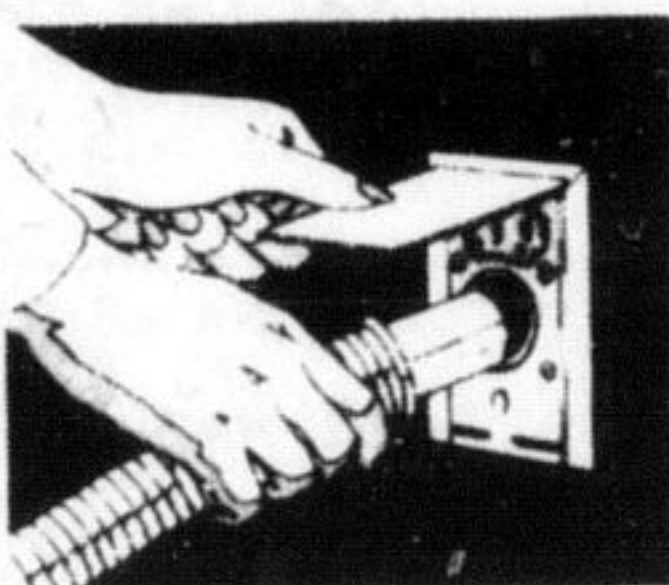
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ROB MCKENZIE
CUNA CREDIT
UNION DIRECTOR

President Bill Davidson is pleased to announce the appointment of Rob McKenzie to the Board of Directors, Cuna of Ontario Credit Union Limited.

Mr. McKenzie is Executive Director of Community Resource Services of Halton, with offices in Burlington, Milton and Oakville.

A 12-year resident of Burlington, Mr. McKenzie is providing vigorous representation to the people of Halton, through service on the boards of a number of economic, educational and public affairs societies and committees in the community.

He is also well known for his work with the John Howard Society and as former administrator of Credit Counselling Services with the Family Service Agency in Hamilton.

"For a people-oriented organization such as ours," said Davidson, "this community-minded individual will be an invaluable addition to our directorate."

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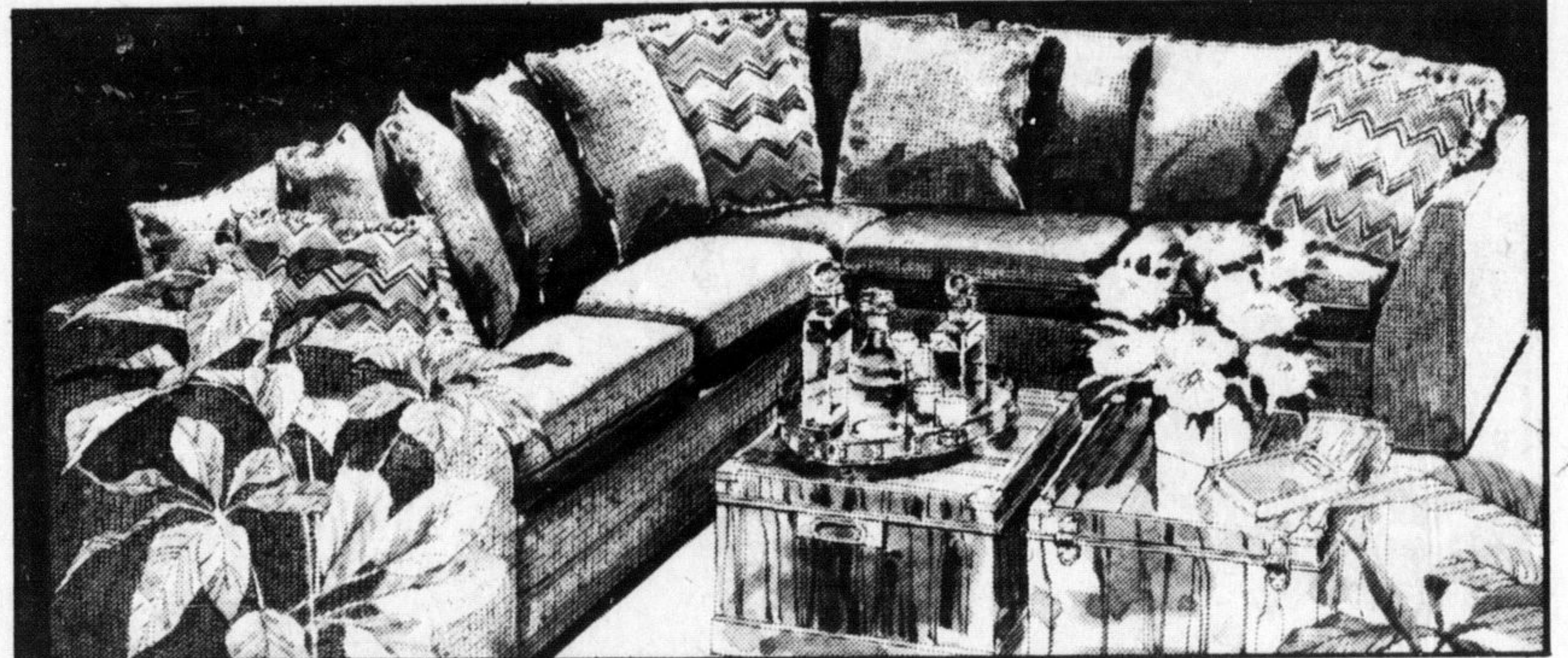
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