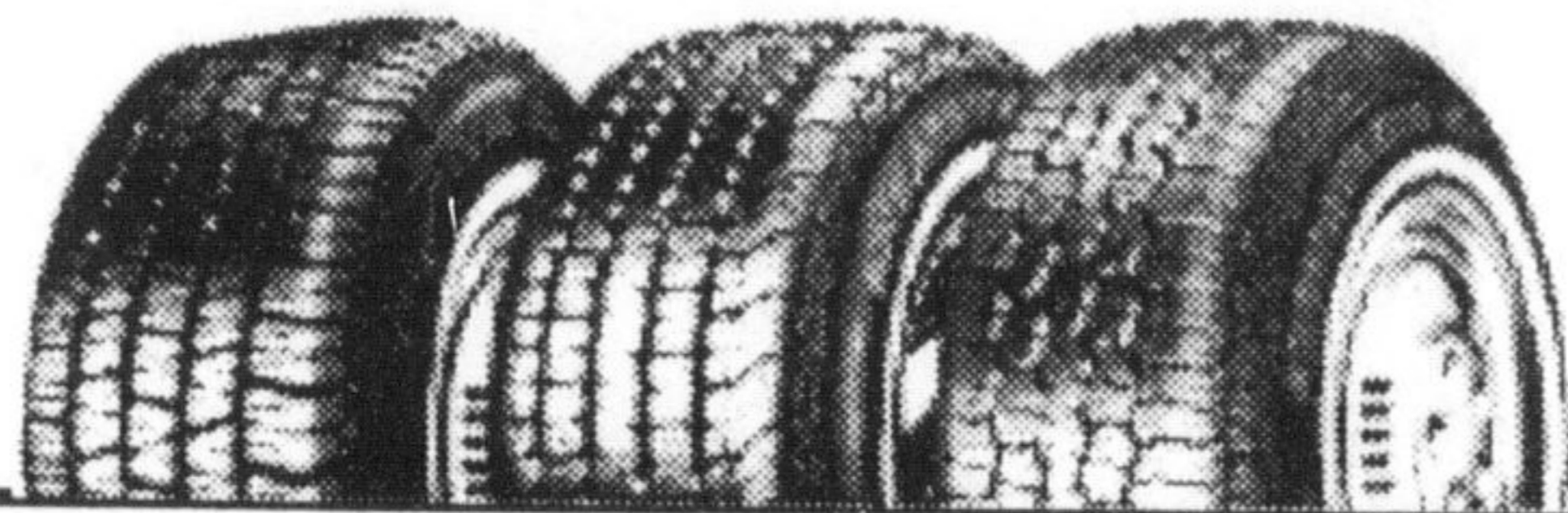


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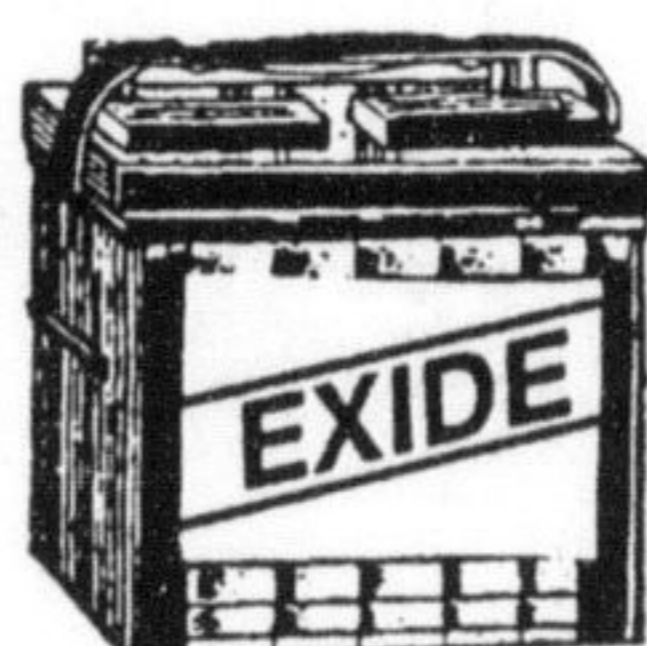
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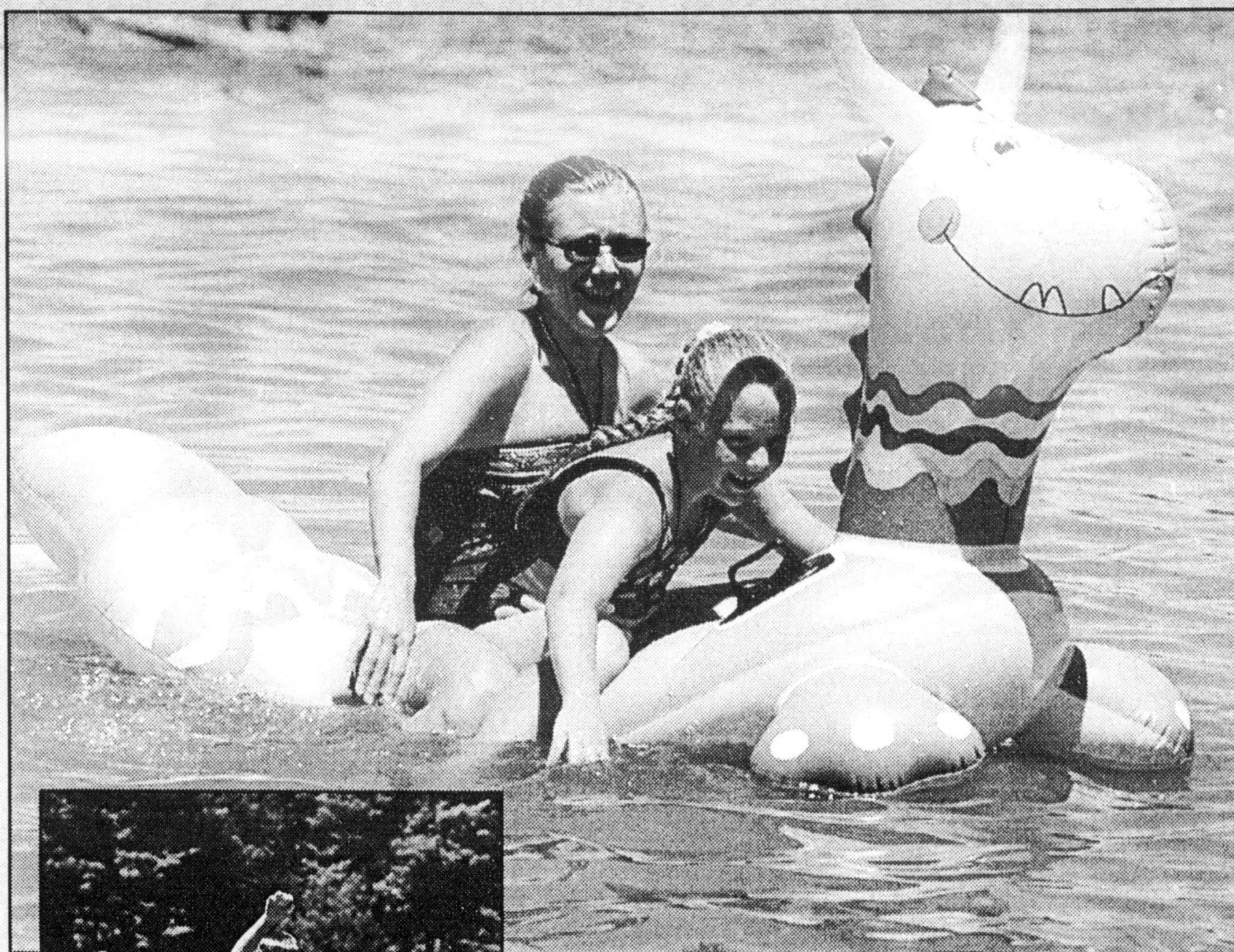
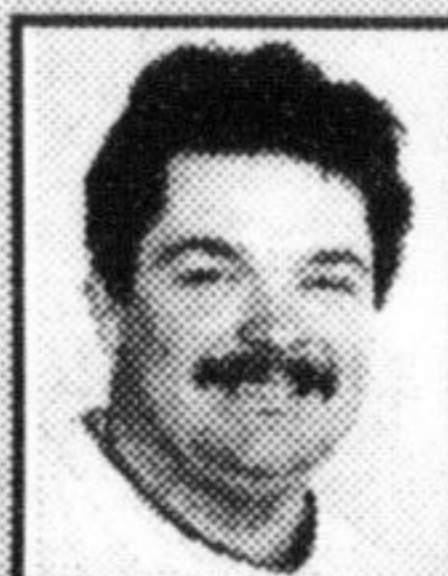
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High dive , dog paddle

Families found a great way to beat the heat last weekend at Kelso Conservation Area. Elizabeth Sobczyk (above) helps paddle her eight-year-old daughter Patricia on a raft in the shallow area while seven-year-old Scott Marsh (left) goes airborne courtesy of father Rob.

Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Local phone calls to Toronto may be available in new year

By BRAD REAUME
 The Champion

Miltonians may soon be able to telephone Toronto without incurring long distance charges.

Town council agreed to support a move by Bell Canada to extend the local calling area for an additional \$2.15 a month on the basic service rate.

If the proposal is approved by the Canadian Radio, Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) then Milton residents in exchanges 878, 876, 875, 693 and 691 will be able to call exchanges in Malton, Streetsville and Toronto.

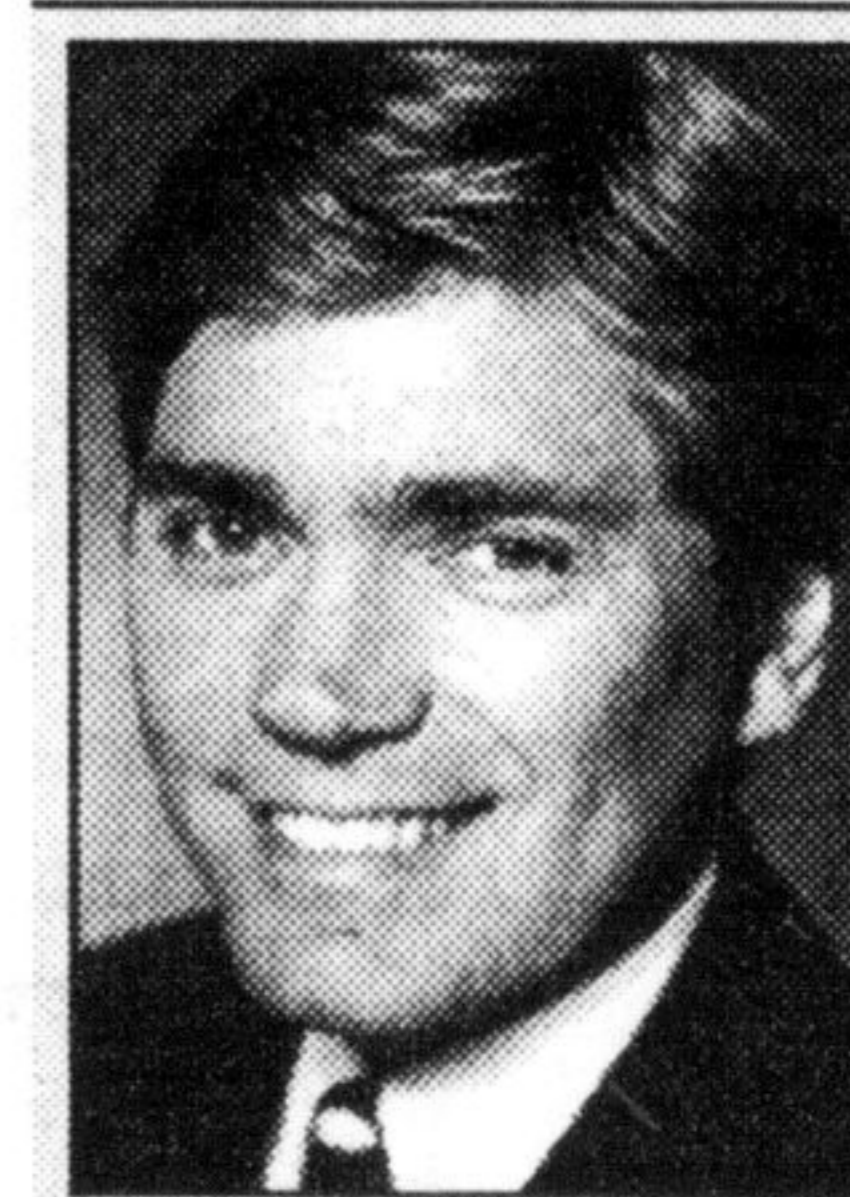
According to Bell representative Gord Jackson, Milton residents now have access to about 200,000 local lines in Burlington, Oakville, Campbellville, Acton and Georgetown. Any new local exchanges would be in addition to Milton's current local calling area, he said. The areas which would be added have about 1.9 million telephone lines.

Mr. Jackson said under the plan areas such as Brampton and Port Credit, the southern section of Mississauga, will not be in the local calling area. He said the cost of basic service is tied to the number of telephone lines which are accessible as local calls.

"Cross-subsidization of phone rates is no longer an issue," Mr. Jackson said. "Pricing is now based on what it actually costs to service an area."

Council heard that Bell could add in the additional areas but it would drive up the cost of basic service while calling patterns suggest only a few people in Milton frequently call those numbers.

The proposed extension of the local calling area would be a two-way arrangement with those new numbers also being able to call Milton without long



"It has been costing the business community thousands of dollars and will be much appreciated."

JOHN CHALLINOR

distance charges applying.

Mayor Gord Krantz said the proposal is 'good news' for the community, especially for those businesses which have been trying to get local calling to Toronto for some time. Mr. Jackson said recently business rates would not rise again because of the additional service. Mayor Krantz told council that the ability to make local calls to Toronto is an issue for business, enough that several have decided not to locate in Milton because of it.

"This problem has been costing us economic development," said Councillor John Challinor. "It has been costing the business community thousands of dollars and will be much appreciated."

He added that more jobs would come to Milton with the change, as well as additional tax dollars.

The decision on the change is expected from the CRTC in early December. Bell Canada is proposing a two-year implementation schedule of the plan if it is approved, Mr. Jackson said.

Mr. Jackson said it is important for the Town to be behind the idea when the issue comes before the CRTC. Mayor Krantz said Town of Milton officials would endeavor to enlist community support.

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