

# Councillors agree to start cleaning up pond

By **BRAD REAUME**  
*The Champion*

Blunt words backed by the applause of 35 supporters seemed to jar members of the community services committee into action on the Mill Pond Monday night.

The committee decided to immediately undertake a deep cut of most of the vegetation choking the pond. In addition water will be diverted into the pond from 16 Mile Creek and a Mill Pond sub-committee will begin planning for a dredging operation as a long-term solution.

John Duignan, a member of the Downtown Business Improvement Area (BIA) pond committee, was unhappy when a municipal staff recommendation called for only a shallow cut of the vegetation about 60 cm. below the water's surface. He told the committee of council that he understood a deep cut had been agreed to and would go forward.

Doug Thompson, Milton's coordinator of parks and facilities development, explained that the thrust of his report was purely a staff recommendation and was not intended to represent the sub-committee.

Mr. Duignan said members of his committee felt they had made a substantial concession by allowing a part of the pond to remain uncut. They made the change in deference to Halton Region Conservation Authority biologist David Featherstone, who is concerned that without the vegetation there could be a problem with algae.

Mr. Featherstone defended his call for a shallow cut, saying a cautious approach was warranted. He conceded that there are so many variables it would be difficult to predict the risk of algae, admitting it might not happen at all.

Mr. Duignan called the HRCA's position on the infestation and harvesting "inadequate and erroneous" given the situation at the pond.

He called the current state of the pond and the policies which brought it to that "an unmitigated disaster." He added that old ideas, methods and assumptions



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PAT DUGNAN

must be suspect if they have failed to produce a clean pond.

"Past efforts and individuals have failed in this quest," he said. "It is time to admit this and move on. Those that will not do this must, and should, stand aside."

Councillors saw two videos. One showed the pond as is, choked with weeds and dangerously close to being converted into a marsh. The other showed a Canada Day bathtub race from nearly 20 years ago, with people swimming and splashing in the pond.

Mr. Duignan spoke very little during the two silent videos, allowing the picture to carry his message.

"If a picture is worth a thousand words then those pictures spoke volumes," Mill Pond sub-committee chair Pat Duignan told councillors.

She said the Eurasian water milfoil, a weed which is choking the pond, is capable of growing one centimeter per day and can develop to a total length of three meters. She said the vegetation stopped paddle boats from being used on the pond and makes fishing impossible.

"(The milfoil) is an extremely rapidly growing pestilence, a nightmare come to life," she said. "Only equally aggressive control methods will work. It grows so fast a surface cut is useless."

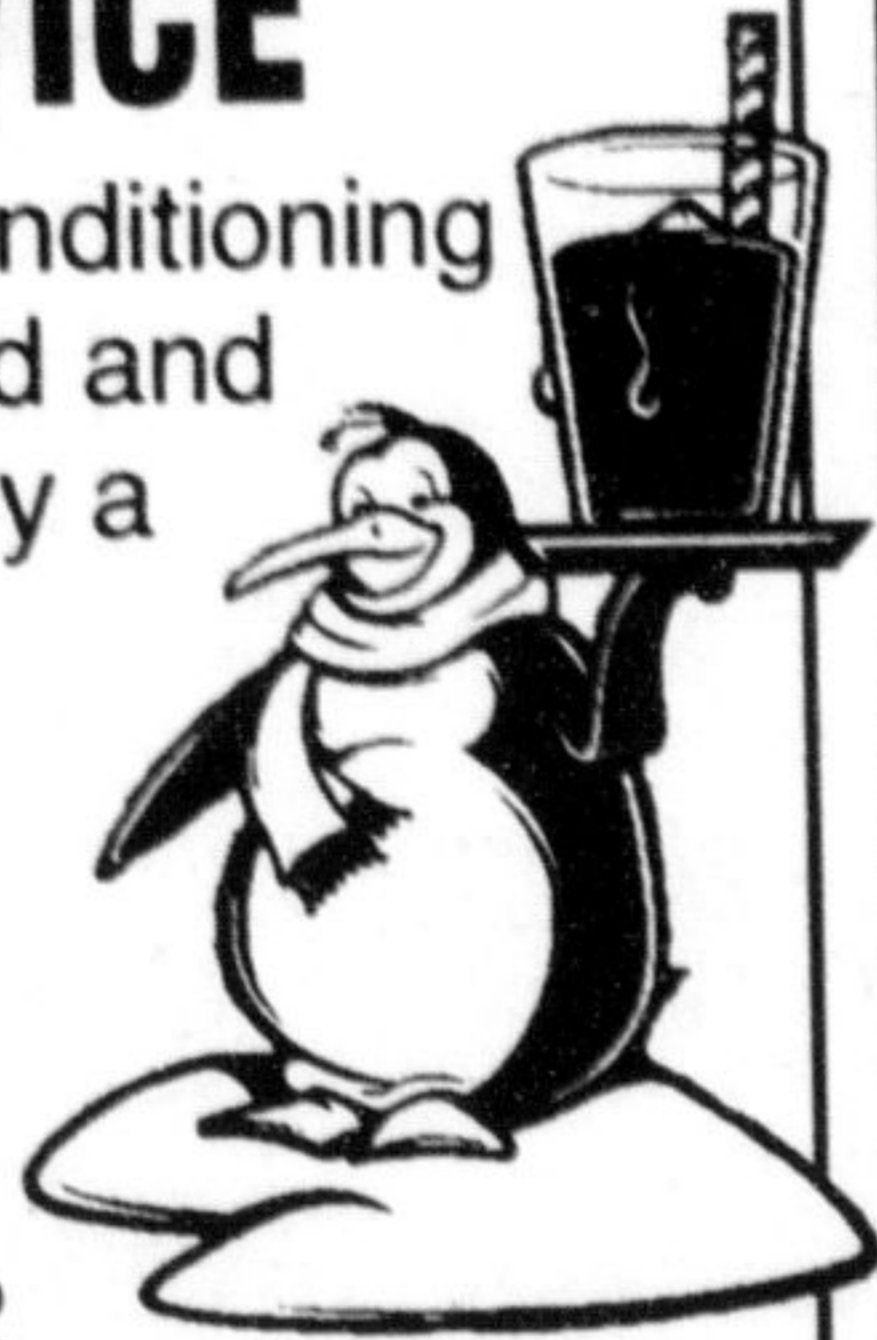
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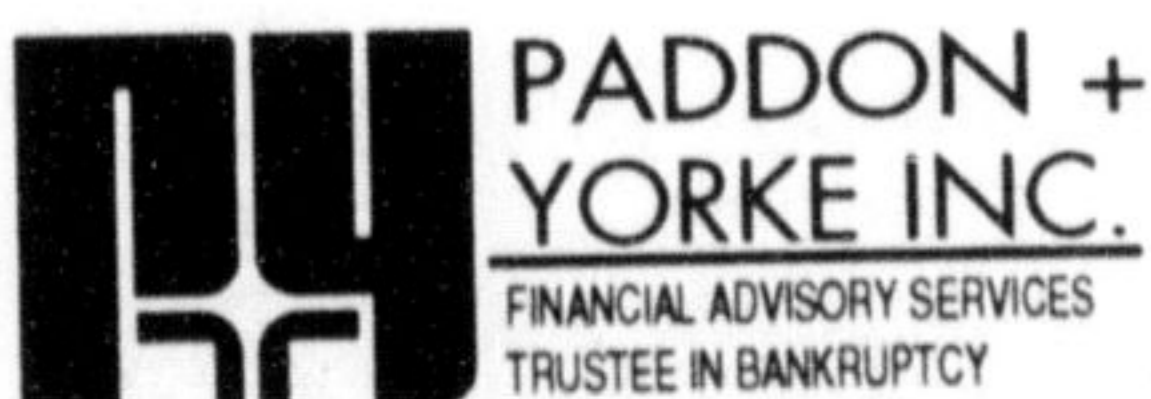
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Notice is hereby given pursuant to Sections 297 and 300 of The Municipal Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter M.45 as amended, that the Council for the Regional Municipality of Halton proposes at its meeting on Wednesday, September 16, 1998 at 9:30 a.m. to pass a by-law for the road improvements and intersection reconstruction at Guelph Line (Regional Road 1), north of No. 15 Side Road Town of Milton.

Plans showing the proposed work may be inspected at the Planning & Public Works Department, Halton Regional Centre, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville.

On Wednesday, September 9, 1998, at 9:30 a.m. in the Halton Regional Centre, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, Ontario, Council through its Planning and Public Works Committee will hear, in person, or by his/her Counsel, any person who claims that his/her lands will be prejudicially affected by the said by-law and who applies to the Regional Clerk no later than Friday, August 14, 1998 to be heard.

For further information, please contact Mr. J. Choi, P. Eng., Manager of Design Services at extension 7610.

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