

Province putting up \$30,000 for pond fix

By KAREN SMITH

The Champion

Efforts to restore the weedchoked Milton Mill Pond received a kick-start Friday when the Ontario government handed over a cheque for \$30,000.

The Ministry of Natural Resources has contributed the funds to help dredge the historic downtown waterway.

Halton North MPP Ted Chudleigh handed over the money and noted that the contribution was "a tremendous boost for the people of Milton." He called the funding "a solid start" toward drumming up enough money for the overall task.

The remainder of the \$400,000 estimated cost will reportedly be raised by local citizens, businesses and charitable foundations through the Milton Mill Pond Committee, a subcommittee of the Milton Downtown Business Improvement Area.

A breakthrough

Pond committee chair Pat Duignan said the funds represent a breakthrough for the hard-fought project being organized in "We are also considering a contest to conjunction with the Town.

"We're very grateful to get that," she gone." said. "It's very good to be recognized by a government agency."

Reviving the ecology of the sedimentfilled, 10-acre pond should attract investment and economic opportunity to the core of the growing town, Ms Duignan said.

Eurasian milfoil — an aquatic weed that chokes the water, making fishing and boating impossible while creating an unpleasant odour — has taken over the pond.

Originally six metres deep, the pond is now only two metres at its deepest point due to the sediment.

The focus of the two to three-year pro-



Pat Duignan

ject will be dredging the lake and rebuilding the fish and wildlife habitat, Ms Duignan said.

Charitable status has been secured for the project through the Town. This allows tax receipts to be issued for donations.

"Schools, community groups, sports clubs and farm associations will be invited to participate during different phases of the project," she said.

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In trust

The \$30,000 was handed over to the Town, which is keeping all donations in

Ms Duignan said the committee plans to hold an open house in late January or early February to launch the fundraising cam-

The Mill Pond was created in the 1850s to serve as the water power for Martin's Mill. In the late 1960s it was donated to the Town by Robin Hood Mills to serve as

Mitch help still wanted by multicultural group

Halton's Multicultural Council and Spanish Speaking Association are asking area residents to contribute financially to victims of Hurricane Mitch.

The hurricane recently cut a path of destruction along the coast of Honduras, Nicaragua and other Central American countries — causing close to 9,000 deaths.

The council has opened a relief fund

through Oakville's Royal Bank, located at 1005 Speers Road.

Cheques should be made payable to the Halton Multicultural Council Relief Fund.

Donations, which are tax deductible, can also be mailed to the Halton Multicultural Council, 635 Fourth Line, United 48, Oakville, Ontario, L6L 5W4.

