

Cost of reviving Mill Pond the million dollar question

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At that time, tons of vegetation was removed, only to regrow to its previous underwater height within two weeks.

In order to get at the root of the problem, the Mill Pond sub-committee, comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Environment and Energy, Ministry of Natural Resources, and Town and Halton Conservation staff, suggests temporarily draining the pond.

Draining the pond — or drawdown — will allow technical experts to study the problem, said Ministry of Environment and Energy representative Andy Gemza.

It will also help to dry out pond sediment, cut-

ting down the problematic milfoil, he said.

"One of the reasons is to get a good look at the pond and see what it would cost to bring it back to life," said Mr. Gemza.

Trying to estimate the cost of resuscitating the pond without a drawdown is similar to asking for a home estimate without allowing contractors to look at the house, he said.

Once the pond is drained, a dry period of about two weeks is needed to help kill the milfoil. Soil dredged from the pond could be used for agricultural purposes or as a cover at the Halton landfill site.

Fixing the pond will help create a fish refuge that will allow for longer recreational fishing

seasons. It will also produce a wetlands to encourage the return of amphibians and reptiles, said Mr. Gemza.

Though it is unlikely that the milfoil will be eradicated, stones laid on the pond floor will help discourage re-growth, said Mr. Gemza.

"There will never be a 100 per cent removal of milfoil," he said. "But the milfoil won't be able to grow through the stone."

The non-native milfoil has been able to take over the pond thanks to its root system.

"About 99 per cent of the milfoil root is in two inches of sediment," said Mr. Gemza. "Most other plants have roots that go much deeper. It just suffocates everything by taking over the top

two inches of soil."

The cost of the 1999 project will likely be somewhere in the \$200,000 range.

Councillor Rick Malboeuf asked if any work is being done to raise funds privately.

Charitable organizations with an environmental focus such as The Trillium Foundation are being approached, said Mr. Gemza.

Involving the local business association is another option. Community involvement can be encouraged by placing a large thermometer beside the pond that moves according to the amount of funds raised.

"Really, it's as far as your imagination can go," he said.

Thief steals big load of steroids

A thief made off with \$23,000 worth of anabolic steroids following a break-in at Univet Pharmaceuticals on Steeles Avenue shortly before midnight Sunday.

The culprit smashed open a front door to gain access to a locked safe containing 4,000 vials of the drug, said Det. Sgt. Jackie Gordon of Halton Regional Police.

The break-in is under investigation.

Man sought

Police are looking for a man who was reportedly seen exposing himself to students in the playground at W.I. Dick School May 6.

The man was seen standing in the bike path at 10:40 a.m. when he undid his shorts, Det. Sgt. Gordon said.

Police Blotter

The suspect is described as white, 25 to 30 years of age with short brown hair and a small goatee. He was wearing shorts and a t-shirt.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police at 878-5511, ext. 2418.

Driver arrested

An 18-year-old Trafalgar Road man was charged with possession of stolen property after police stopped a dirt bike rider Sunday.

Police pulled over the 1996 Yamaha dirt bike at

• see SEDATIVE on page 12

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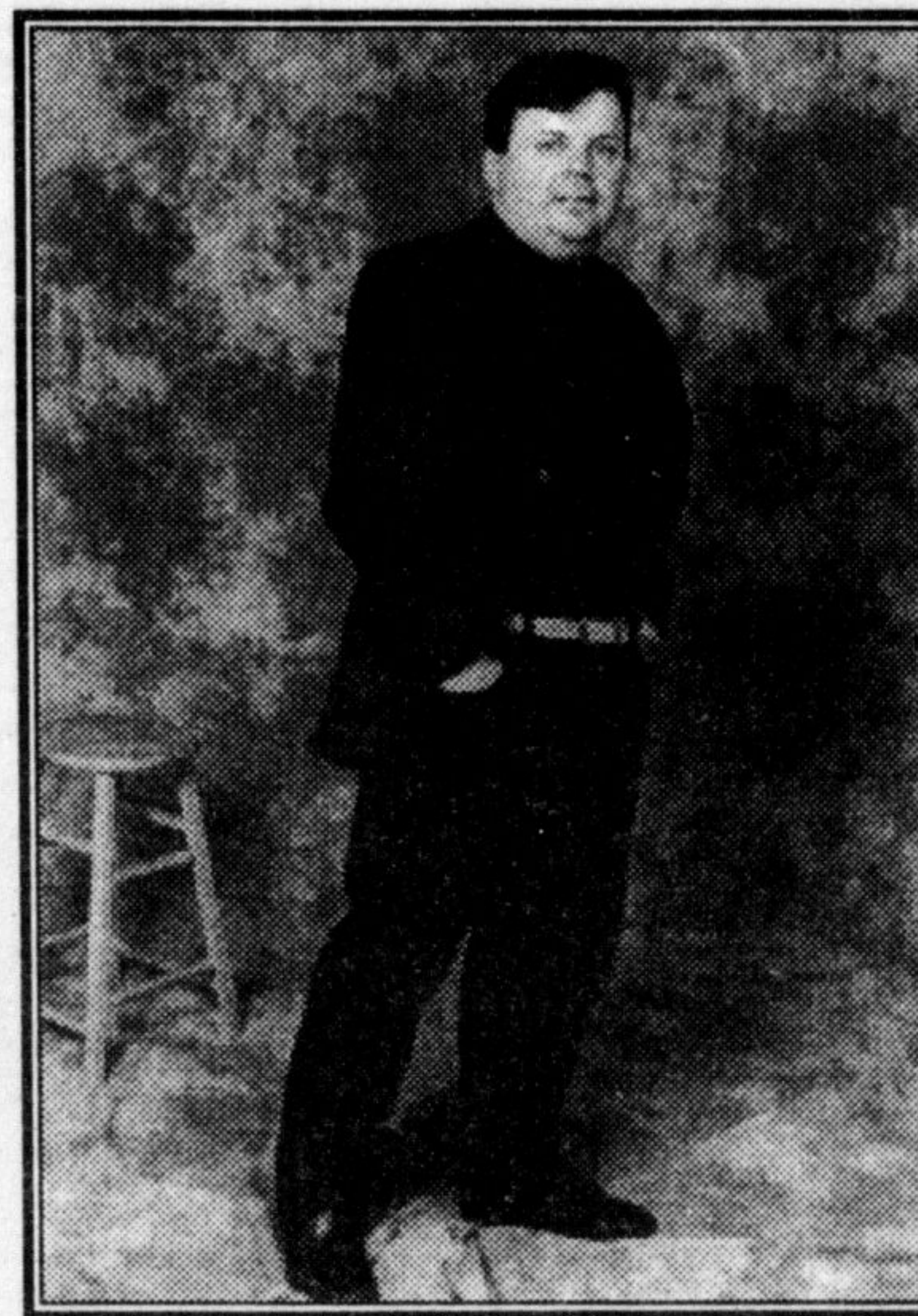
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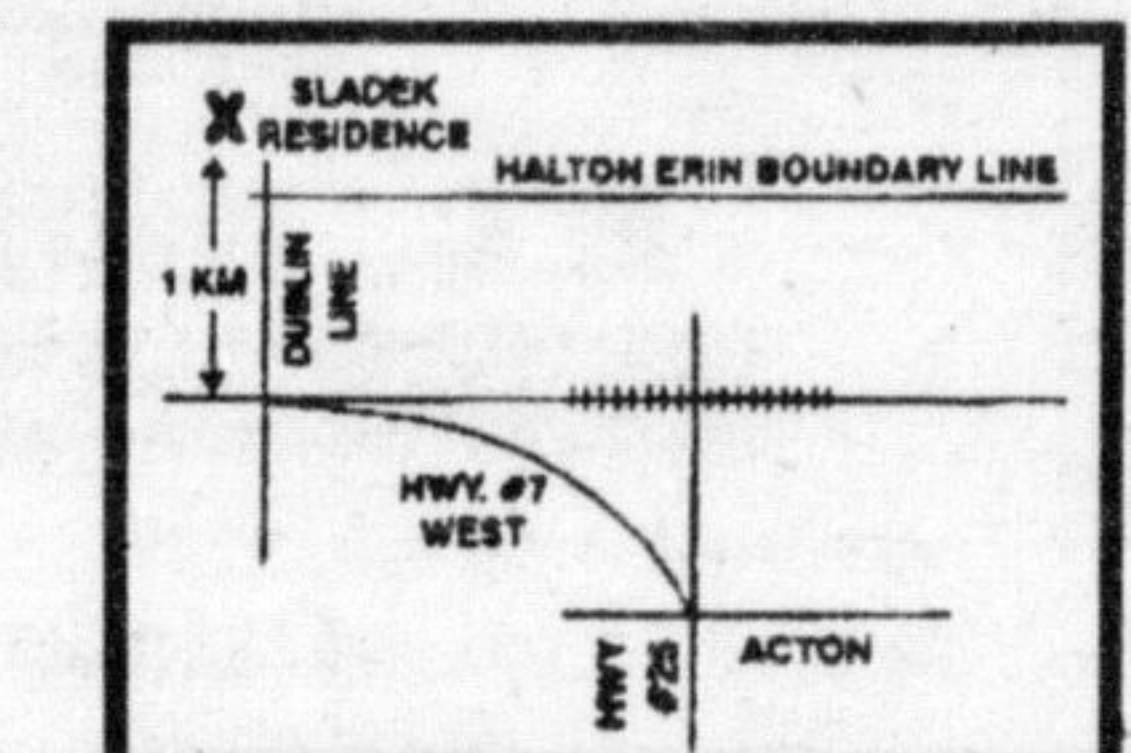
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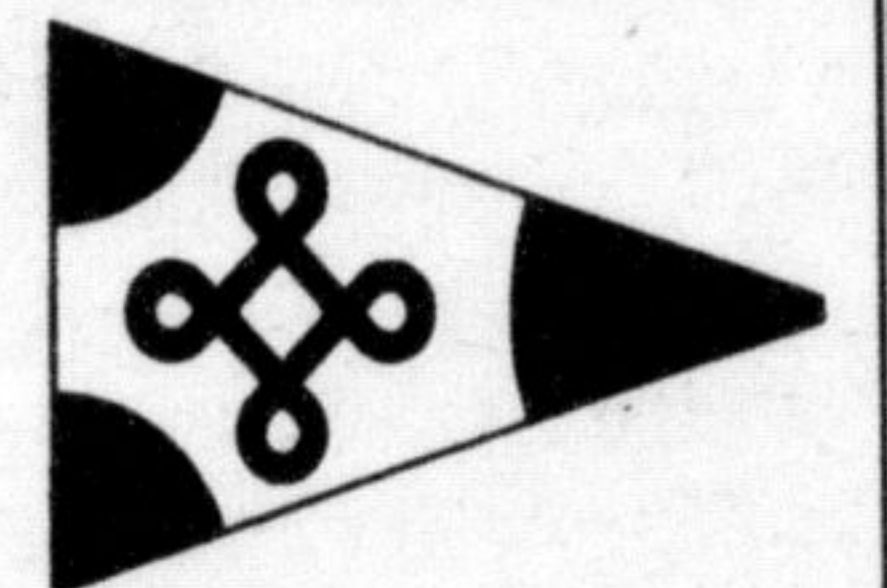
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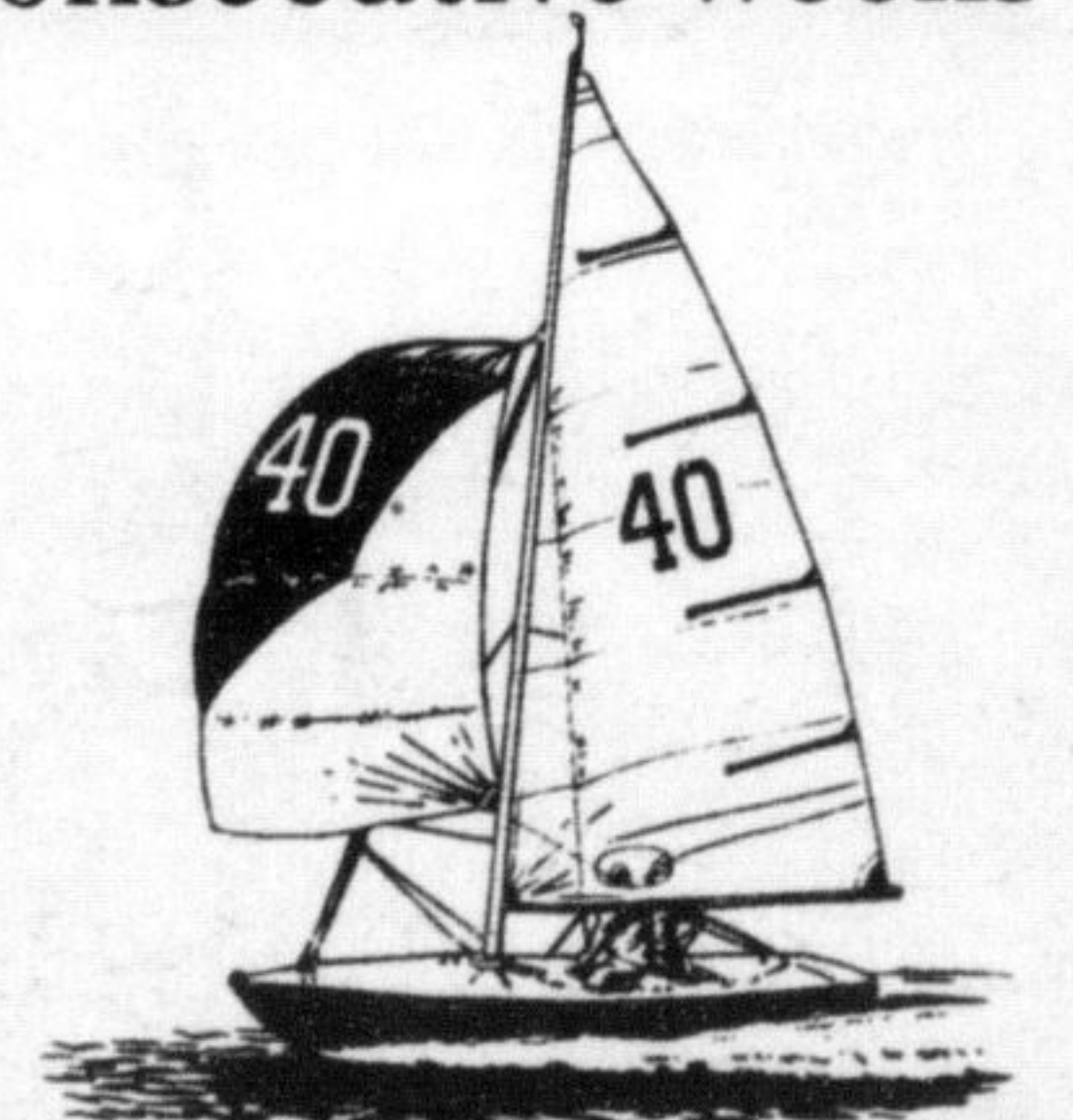
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