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Mill Pond rejuvenation project nears completion

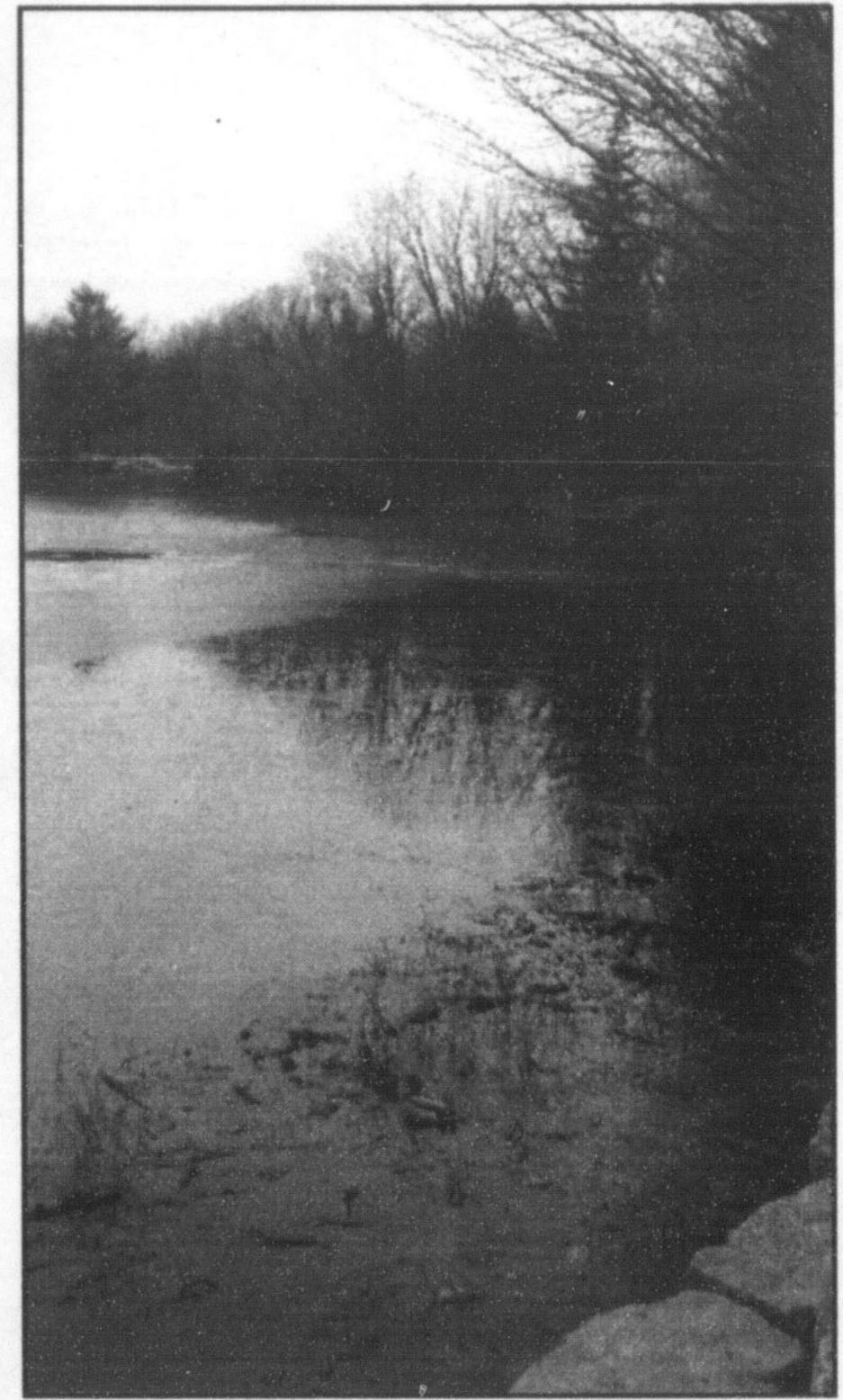


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

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Excavation of the Mill Pond is now complete. The pond has also been refilled.

By FANNIE SUNSHINE

The Champion

Restoration of the Mill Pond was completed earlier this week, but some work at the site is still underway.

"We're putting in a gazebo at the end of the month and we're doing some shoreline restoration," said Jennifer Reynolds, director of community services of the Town. "We're restocking the pond with fish species. A dock is being rebuilt and should be ready in about six weeks."

The pond will "officially" open July 1 with a ceremony for the naming of the gazebo, she said.

"The feature of the pond is significant for downtown. I'm hoping over time (the pond will serve as a) natural experience for the community."

The pond was drained during the winter of 2000 and excavated this past fall.

The problems began when an overgrowth of milfoil invaded the pond in the past few years, Ms Reynolds said.

The milfoil choked out native plant species such as bulrushes and lily pads in the pond.

That in turn contributed to a decrease in the fish, amphibian and reptile populations.

An attempt to rid the pond of milfoil last summer didn't go far enough, resulting in an almost immediate regrowth of the plant.

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

The cost of the re-development of the pond was \$650,000.

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