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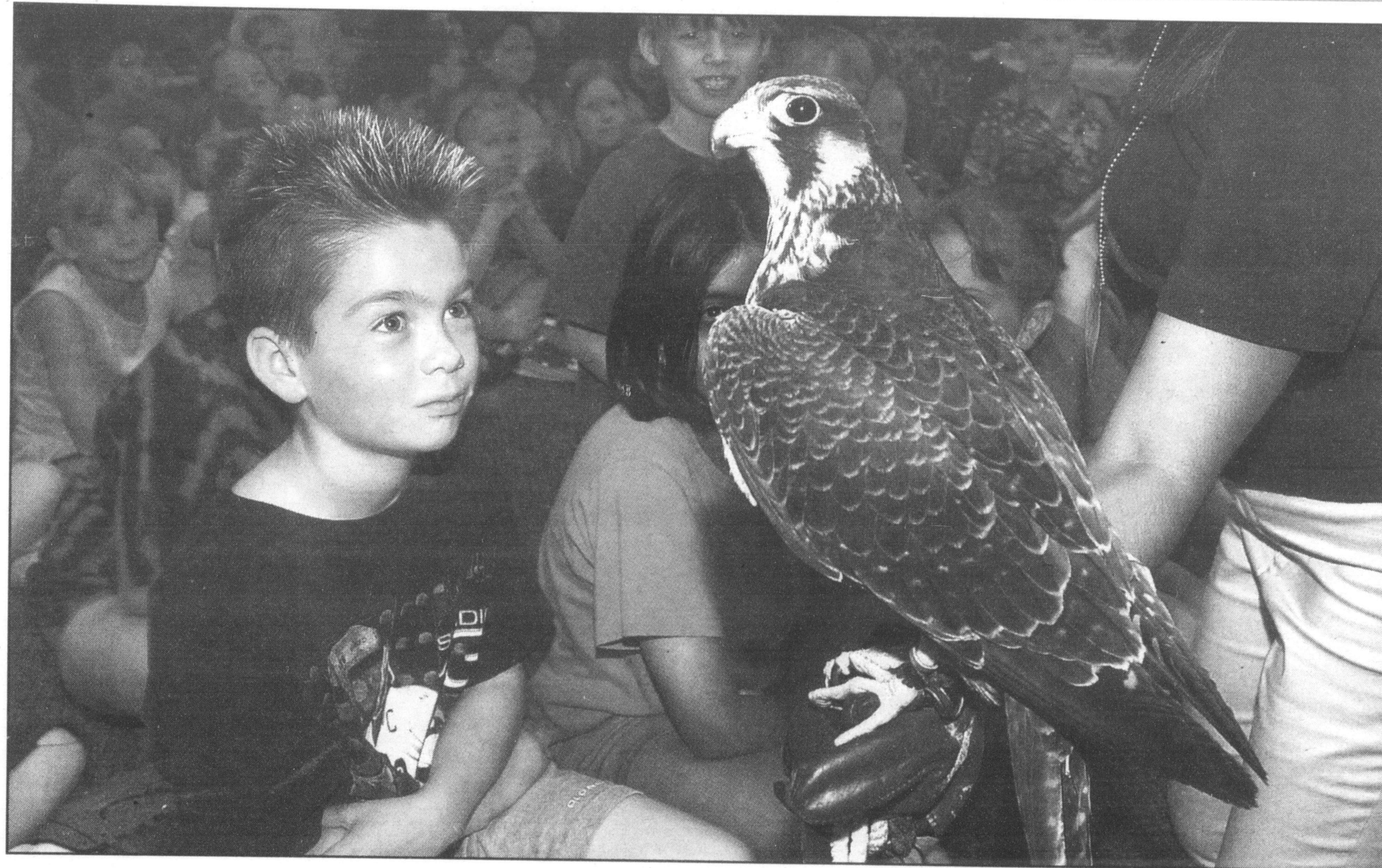
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Bird's eye view

Jonathan Pearson of Martin Street School gets a close-up look at Falon, an 11-month-old Peregrine falcon held by Maya Basdeo of the Canadian Peregrine Foundation. The foundation visited grade 2 and 3 students at the school Monday.

Photo by
GRAHAM PAINE

At last

Water should be free of manganese now that filtration station operating

By JASON MISNER
The Champion

A much-anticipated filtration system is up and running in northwest Milton and should provide the consistently clear drinking water residents have been longing for.

Effective Monday, Halton began operating the new \$4.5 million filtration station at the Kelso well pumping station. The system is designed to remove the high levels of manganese that has periodically turned Milton's drinking water into an unappealing brown colour.

While safe to drink, residents haven't cared much for it and have been demanding the water be cleaned for some time.

In total about 10,000 households are serviced by the Kelso well.

"It's not pretty, that's for sure," Halton's Planning and Public Works Commissioner Patrick Murphy said of the discoloured water. "We don't like to get customer complaints, but no doubt we got some over the years."

The Region receives about 100 complaints of brown water annually, he said.

Prior to the new filtration system, the Region had been swabbing the many kilometres of well water pipes that connect to Kelso to remove the

manganese. But that was only a temporary measure as the manganese would re-collect soon after the swabbing was done, Mr. Murphy said.

Over the next few weeks, residents still may be greeted by some brown water as remaining traces of manganese works its way through the system, Mr. Murphy said.

One more swabbing of the pipes will be done next month to ensure they're as clean as possible.

"After that people should see a difference" in the colour of the water, Mr. Murphy said.

The pipes will be swabbed again 10 years from now as a form of upkeep, he added.

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INSIDE

Comment	6-7
A&E	16-19
Dateline	21-24
Sports	26-28
Classified ...	32-35

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