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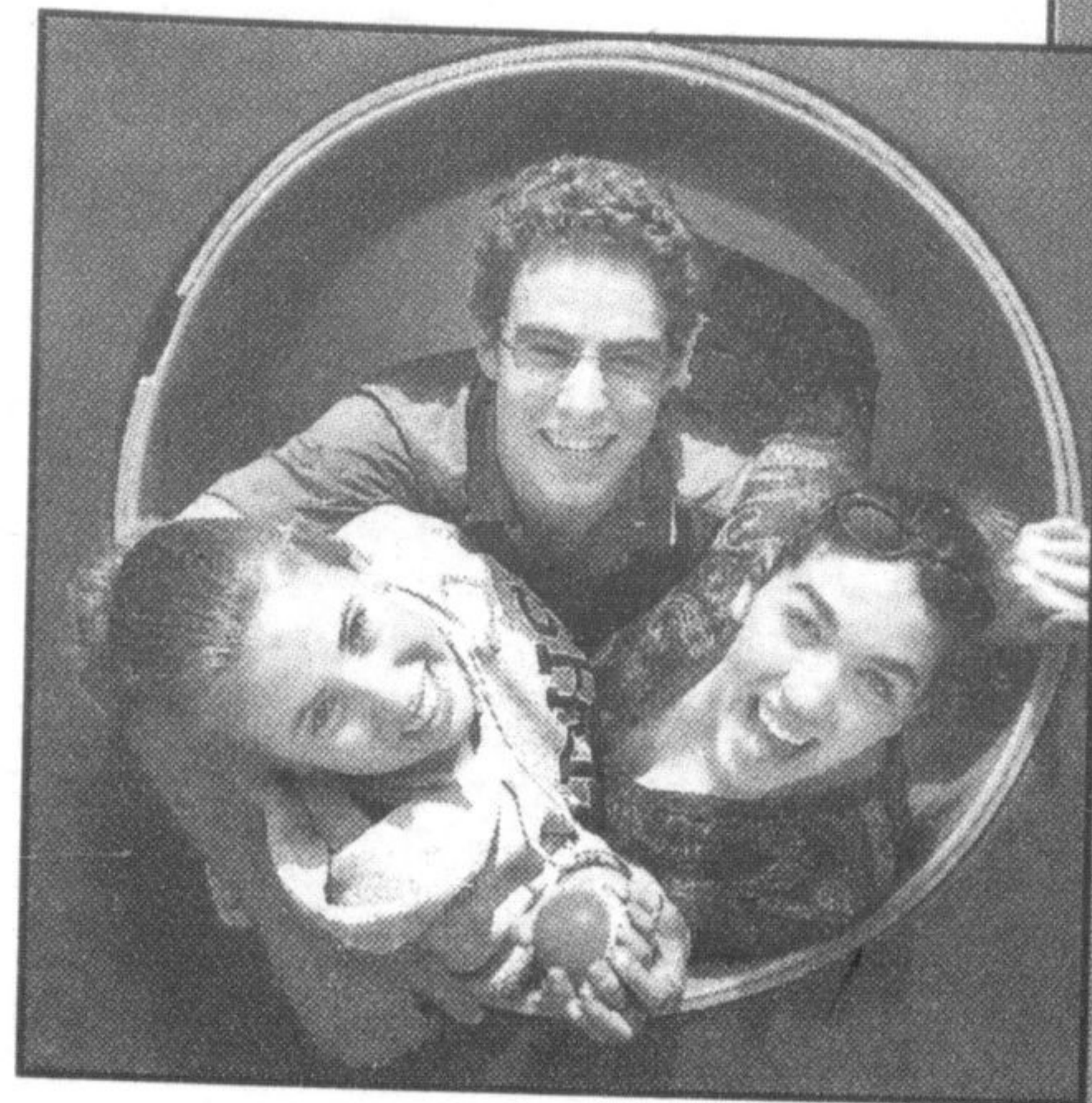
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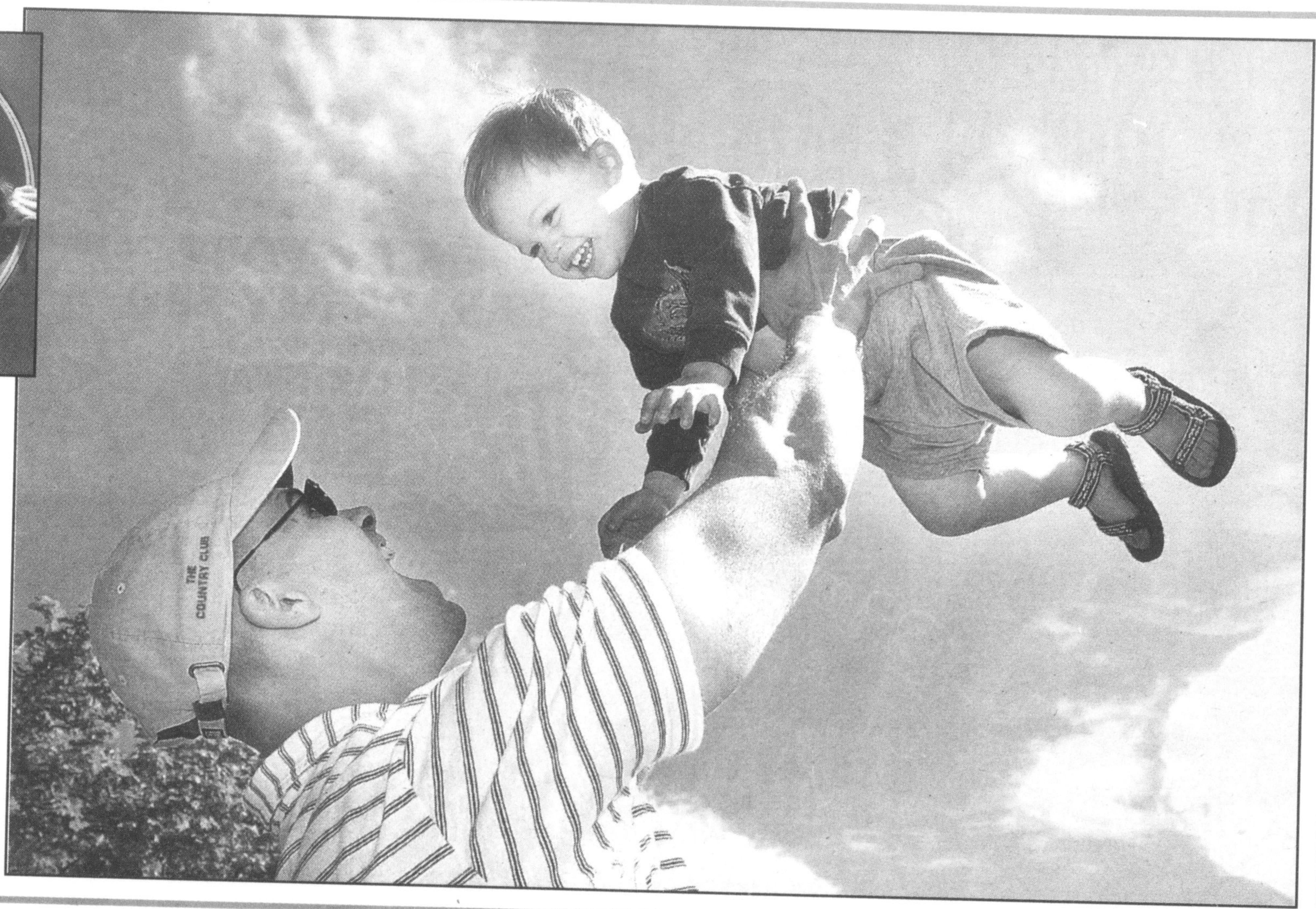
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Farewell...

NHL'er Rob Zamuner plays with his son Soren, 2, out front of Percy Merry School during the school's reunion open house Saturday. Mr. Zamuner, who attended the school from 1976 to 1981, plays for the Boston Bruins. Inset, Katie Warner, James Northwood, and Caroline Lucas, all 16, who graduated in 1998, remember fun times in the playground. The school closed for good yesterday. See story on page 12.

Photos by GRAHAM PAINE



Quarry expansion gets go-ahead

By JASON MISNER

The Champion

Halton politicians officially approved Dufferin Aggregate's controversial proposal to expand its quarry in north Halton despite a last-ditch effort from some residents who strongly oppose the move.

On Wednesday night, council overwhelmingly approved 20-1 Dufferin's proposal to add two quarries, totalling 82 hectares, to its current 486-hectare site.

It will provide for the total extraction of 62 million tonnes of stone, starting in 2007. It would take the quarry's lifespan from its current eight years to between 18 and 20 years.

There are still a number of other approvals that Dufferin must receive before a single mineral can be extracted from the two quarries.

"(The Region) is a key approval and we're pleased there was a strong vote endorsing it," said Sarah Lowe, Dufferin's resource and property manager, after the late meeting.

But a half-dozen concerned residents and environmentalists pleaded with council one last time to reject the proposal.

Jason Thorne, executive director of Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment (CONE), said approving Dufferin's expansion will further fragment the much-valued escarpment lands.

"Development pressures on the escarpment have been relentless," he said. "Thirty years of successful escarpment protection demand on a definitive no (to the proposal)."

Halton Hills resident Marion McMeeken told council she's worried about truck traffic and its potential impact on well water.

"Are all of the trucks and equipment being used in the quarry leak proof?" she asked.

Specifically, there are a host of components to the approval set out by the Region that address two contentious issues – water management and protection of environmentally-sensitive lands.

The approval calls for Conservation Halton (CH) to be the water manager, which would monitor an intricate recharge system created by Dufferin to fill the two quarries with water once they've been exhausted of aggregate.

Once those quarries have been filled with water – a process expected to take years – they will be turned over to the public for recreational uses.

In addition to the water management plan, Dufferin will have to agree to the Adaptive Environmental Management and Protection Plan (AMP). It's a detailed plan of requirements, checks and balances that would monitor the quality of the groundwater and its impact on wetlands that surround the Dufferin site.

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INSERTS

• Friday, June 27 •

- A&P • Shoppers Drug Mart • Zellers
- Cristello's Village Market • Food Basics
- Canadian Tire • Fortinos • Home Depot
- Acton Garden Market
- Sobey's • Future Shop • Sears

*Selected areas only

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