

# Claim to be issued by end of the week, says lawyer

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Strosberg. Mr. Strosberg has worked on high profile cases such as the class action lawsuit representing Walkerton residents who became sick three years ago with E. coli from contaminated water and was also lead counsel in the 1986 to 1990 Hepatitis C class action suit.

Ms Heatherington said she's eager for the lawsuit to get going.

Patricia DeBaie, mother of 19-year-old Lewanne, who became sick, echoed Ms Heatherington's sentiments.

"I was very impressed," she said of the meeting. "I found the lawyer fluent and to the point."

She said one of the questions asked at the meeting was if the fact that health officials couldn't pin-point the cause of the contamination would affect the lawsuit.

Mr. Strosberg said it wouldn't.

Ms DeBaie said he told everybody at the meeting that he wanted to speak individually with all the students about their ordeal so he can get an idea of the emotional distress they suffered.

"I thought that was a good idea," Ms DeBaie said. "Lewanne can tell him she

felt like she had the plague, and that she was treated differently."

After about a month of not working at Loblaws, Lewanne said she'll finally return to work this week. She said students at the meeting seemed enthusiastic because they want to be compensated for the wages they've lost.

"I talked with a couple of girls and they said they were happy to be there and happy this is happening," Lewanne said.

Neither plaintiff Bill O'Neill nor his daughter could be reached for comment.

Ms Strosberg said that although it's unlikely the banquet hall hasn't heard about the lawsuit, it hasn't yet been formally informed.

As to the timeline for the case, Ms Strosberg said it will officially begin when the claim is issued, which should happen by the end of the week. Beyond that, she said she doesn't know.

"It depends on what the defending council wants to do," she said.

Catherine Kerr, the lawyer representing Trillium, couldn't be reached for comment.

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at [sthiessen@canadianchampion.com](mailto:sthiessen@canadianchampion.com).


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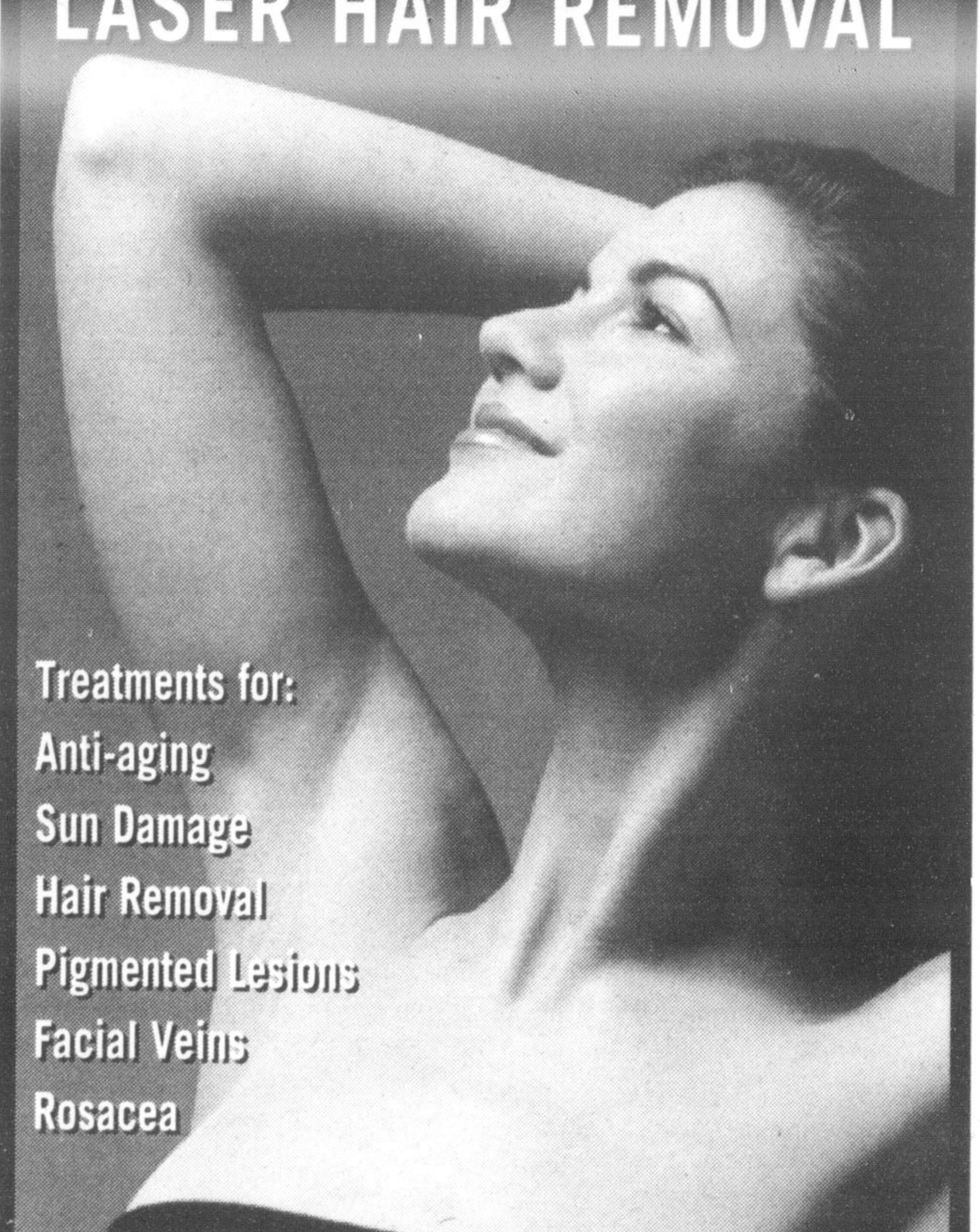
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