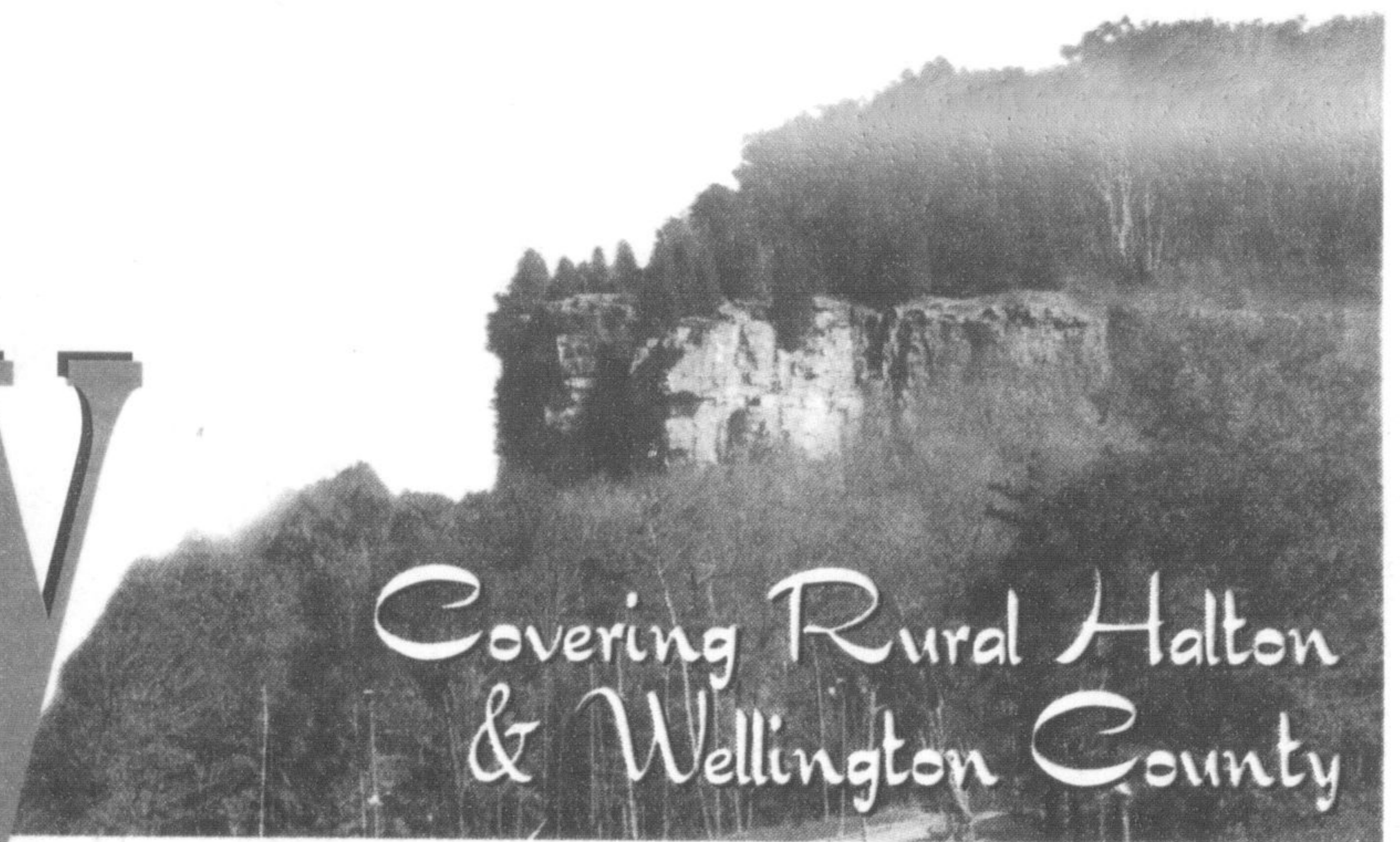


Champion Country



Covering Rural Halton & Wellington County



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Crafty fingers

Campbellville's Dicky Deumer of the Milton District Hospital auxiliary holds a few of the many knitted items — including mittens, scarves and sweaters — she crafted throughout the year at the hospital's recent Christmas fair.

Local calf takes second at Royal

By ROBIN DOWNTON-POIRIER

Special to The Champion

Tom and Judy McDonald gave their calf, Locust Grove Blackbird 6R, the "royal" treatment after it placed second in one of the Angus competitions at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair a few weeks ago.

Mr. McDonald, owner of Locust Grove Farm on Fourth Line in Milton, has entered his calves in the fair for more than 10 years and has won some awards before but says he was still excited.

"The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair is a big show in Ontario and when you win there it's an achievement," he said. "I wasn't really expecting to win but you just go out there having the calves looking their best and you do your best. There's a lot of really good competition at the Royal and you get humbled pretty fast."

Mr. McDonald said the calf placed second in the '2005 National Angus, Class 1, Female Calf born in 2005, Minimum 3 months of Age' class. Judging was based on confirmation, where the judges consider such attributes as style, structure, and walk.

Mr. McDonald has been breeding purebred Angus calves since 1992, but, he said, many other farmers have been breeding them for much longer than him.

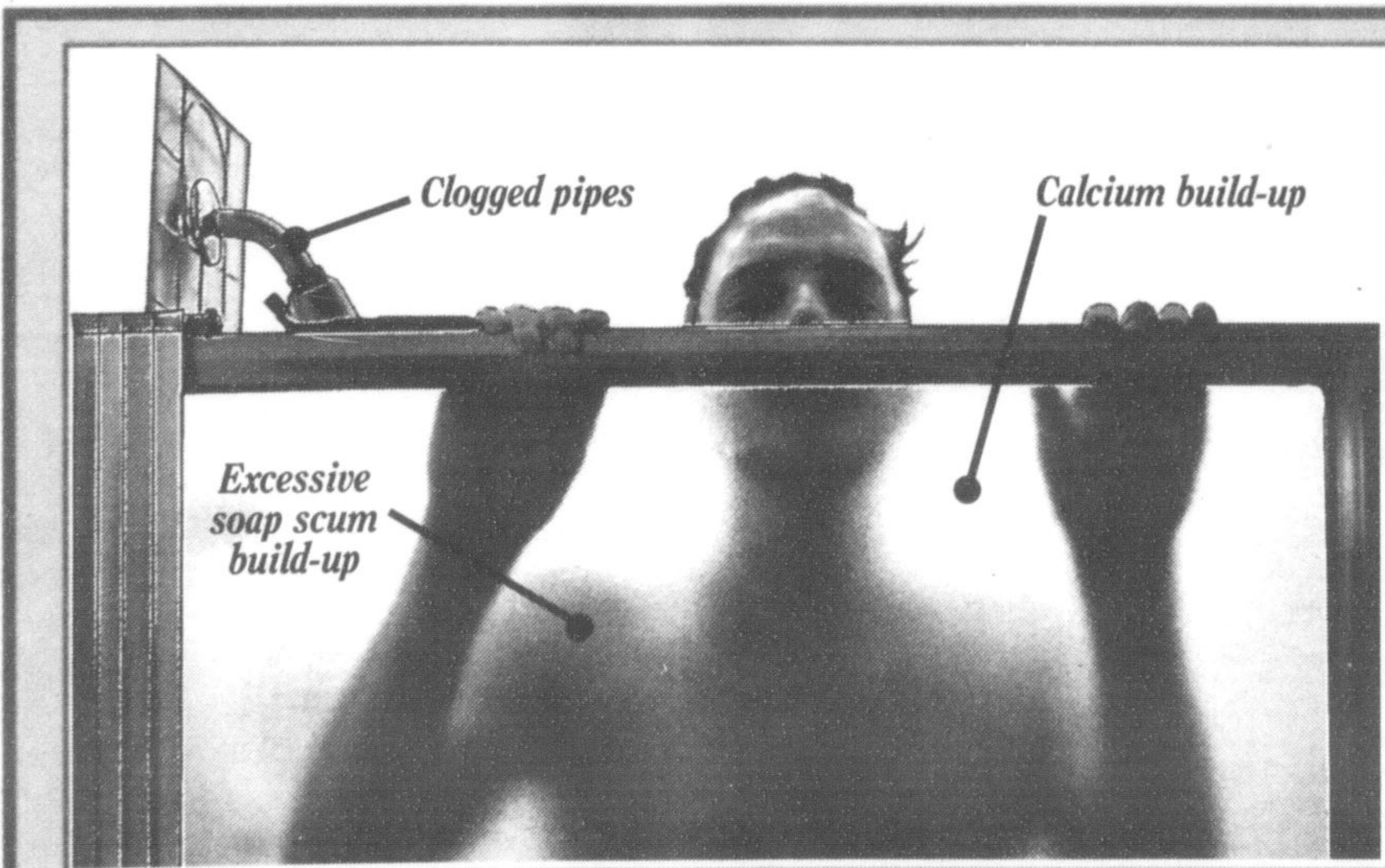
"Some people have been breeding the purebreds for over 50 years and I'm considered a junior compared to them," he laughed.

Locust Grove Blackbird 6R was sold by Mr. McDonald just after the Royal Winter Fair.

"She was sold to a farm in Alberta just after the show. I spoke with the people who purchased her and she is to be a 4H project next year. I hope she does well for them," said Mr. McDonald.

Another heifer that Mr. McDonald is part owner of with a 4H member won 'Supreme Champion of the Scotiabank National Junior Beef Heifer Show' at the Royal this year as well.

"We showed the same heifer last year only she was considered a calf then (and won) and this year, she was a yearling. We are quite proud of all of our entries," he said.



Need a water softener?

It's in the details!

Tired of bad service, high bills and equipment breakdowns on your water softener? Switch to Culligan. Tap into over 65 years of clean water expertise and engineering — just say...

"Hey Culligan Man!"

Culligan

623 Main St. E., Milton
(905) 878-2474