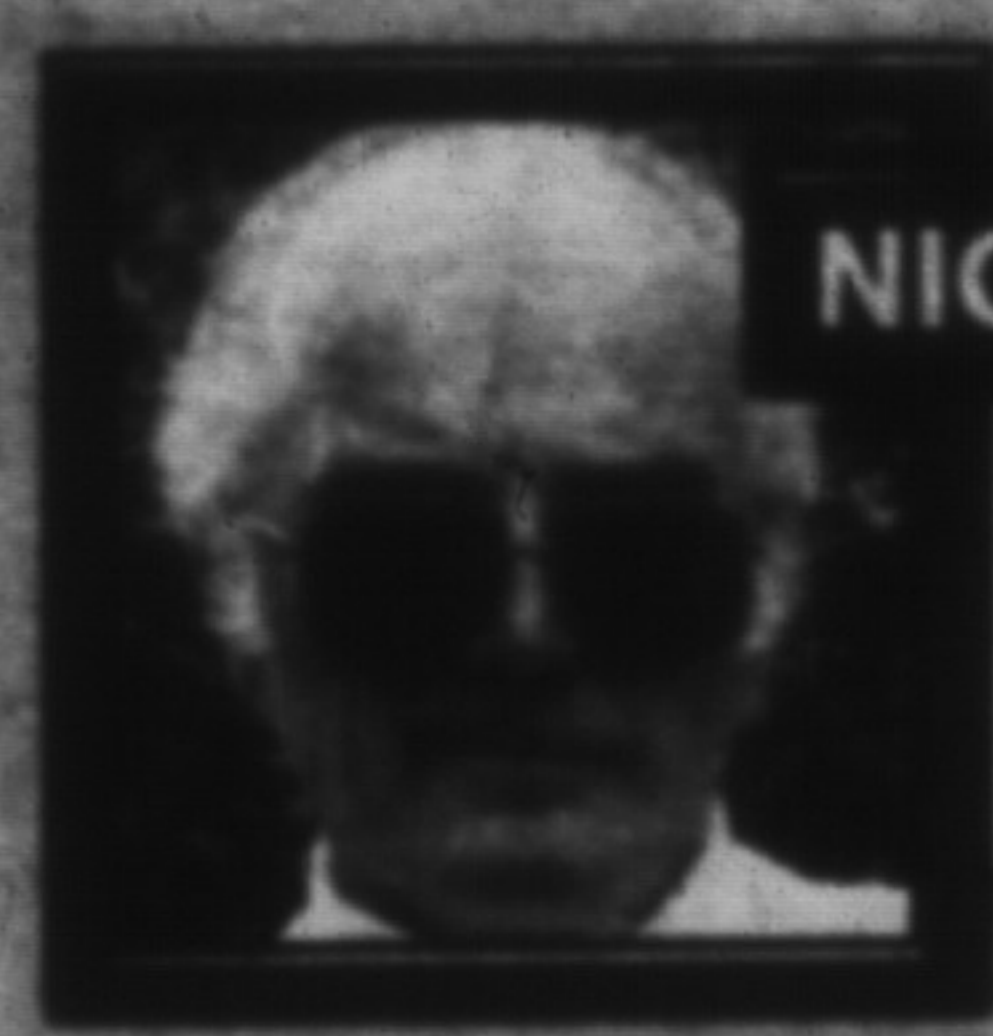


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Sitting pretty

Photo by STEVE UHANEY

Melissa, 19, is a teen camp leader at a local conservation area. She plans on going to the University of Western Ontario in the fall to study physical education. Maybe Melissa wants to crack the books in earnest, but we don't think she needs any extra physical conditioning. Where do we sign up for windsurfing lessons?

Rural resident says he's tired of being shot at

By ROB KELLY

A little noise from the neighbours is one thing. But a little gunfire is something else. Especially when it's coming in your direction.

That sums up the complaints by Art Gibson concerning his neighbour, the Guelph Rod and Gun Club.

Mr. Gibson lives on the northern fringe of Nassagaweya. The gun club, next door, is in Wellington County. That means that for Mr. Gibson, local government is in Milton while for the gun club it's in Guelph.

But that hasn't stopped him from putting his case to Milton council in the form of a letter presented Monday night. And it hasn't stopped Nassagaweya councillor Barry Lee from taking a stand.

Mr. Lee said he was "alarmed" at the intensity of the shooting noise and that he witnessed dents in Mr. Gibson's metal garage roof "that appeared to be the result of recent ricochet" of bullets.

"There is no doubt in my mind that we have a serious problem to deal with here," councillor Lee said.

In a letter to Halton regional police commission chairman James Watson, Mr. Gibson wrote that "a couple of years ago we actually had a bullet enter the house through an upstairs window and lodge itself in the bathroom door."

Although the club has since made range alterations, bullets still ricochet off the garage roof, Mr. Gibson says.

see GUN on page 10

Lac Minerals slammed for no-show

By ROB KELLY

Milton councillors angrily denounced Lac Minerals Monday night and spurned the company's request for approval to open a new quarry atop the Niagara escarpment. But Lac Minerals representatives were not present to hear their motives and actions criticized.

In an unexpected turn of events, Lac lawyer Ben Jettan sent a letter by facsimile machine Monday charging town councillors and staff with bias in the affair, and cancelling a planned appearance.

The company hopes to convert 140 acres of land, part of 390 owned by Lac on the escarpment heights, into a quarry. Lac already mines land immediately adjacent to the subject property, with an active quarry which is being rapidly depleted still working at capacity.

However, escarpment residents in the immediate vicinity, roughly bounded by Steeles Avenue, Bell School Line and Appleby Line, have banded together in a ratepayers

group called KEEP (Keep the Escarpment Environment Protected) to block Lac's plans.

Monday approximately 25 KEEP supporters showed up anticipating a battle, only to be as surprised as councillors when shown Lac's letter.



Brian Penman

Council passed three recommendations in opposition to the Lac plans and then rebuked the mining company for refusing to appear.

Councillors voted to oppose the Lac quarrying plan, called for a full-scale environmental hearing on the proposal and, in what is seen as a stinging slap, added an amendment directing town staff to forward the new resolutions to all government agencies pondering the Lac proposal.

There are many such agencies, and more are expected to become involved as the already complex process widens in scope. Municipal council, Halton regional council, the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the Ontario Municipal Board are already participating. The prospect also looms of a court challenge or,

possibly, some sort of decision eventually from the provincial Cabinet.

Last month Lac Minerals filed an application for a judicial review, which, the company apparently

hopes, could move the debate over the quarry proposal out of the political arena and into the legal one. Such an application in essence is a trial.

see LAC on page 3

Pinned by a forklift, man dies in accident

Kenneth Brooks, 45, of Acton died in an industrial accident in Milton last week.

Mr. Brooks, an employee of Halton Lift Truck, was on a service call at SKD Company in Milton when the forklift he was servicing fell and pinned him beneath it.

The accident occurred at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 9. According to police, workers at the plant noticed Mr. Brooks was pinned and attempted a rescue before calling for help.

Mr. Brooks was pronounced dead at the scene. Milton coroner Dr. Ivan Hunter said results of the autopsy, which was done at Milton District Hospital, show crushing injuries.

"The whole plant is shook up about it," said Linda Berry of SKD. "Nothing like this has ever happened here. This is the first and hopefully last time."

SKD does automotive metal stamping and employs about 100 people. Ms. Berry said the plant has no unusual incidence of accidents.

The company refused to comment further pending an inquest which has been called by the Ontario Ministry of Labour. The date for that inquest has not yet been set.

No winner in fire chief derby

The Town of Milton chose not to choose a new fire chief.

The decision was made in a closed-door session of Monday's council meeting. "We are looking for a candidate with some well-developed administrative skills," said Roy Main, town administrator. "Council agreed not to engage any of the current applicants for the position."

Acting Fire Chief Harold Penson, who has been a full-time firefighter for 12 years, was on the short list of candidates. He was disappointed with the decision. "There's not much I can do," he said. "I'm not too happy about it."

Mr. Main said council has directed him to take other measures in the search for a fire chief. He would not elaborate on what those measures would be, saying he was not in a position to disclose that information. "I'm after the best individual possible."

Mr. Main is expected to get back to council by Aug. 28 with the results of his initiatives.

INSIDE: POLICE 5, DATELINE LS5, REAL ESTATE RE1-RE16,