

After 31 years service

HRCA chairman retires

By ALEX MATHESON
Special to The Champion

Brock Harris, one of the founders of the Halton Region Conservation Authority, is resigning after 31 years on the board — 19 as chairman.

The Walkers Line dairy farmer, along with Eric Gidgeon and Harold Speers also of Burlington approached local township governments in 1957 concerning environmental action on Twelve Mile Creek.

More specifically Mr. Harris recalls twin concerns at the time. One was that the Limestone Creek was being polluted by a gravel pit and this was in turn effecting Twelve Mile Creek.

However, he said the gravel pit heard about the campaign "and cleaned up its act".

The other factor was that a quarrying operation was threatening to break through the face of the escarpment at Mount Nemo.

These concerns led to the formation of the authority on June 12, 1958 and Mr. Harris' appointment as the Burlington representative.

In the 1960s and '70s he co-ordinated land transactions that led to the acquisition of Hilton Falls, Rattlesnake Point, and Crawford Lake.

These, as part of the Niagara Escarpment, were declared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) a world biosphere in 1990.

A contribution he especially recalls was the building of diversion channels in both Burlington and Oakville which have eliminated flooding of homes by streams.

Along with this, he is proud of the authority's tree planting record. It has planted 100,000 trees annually for the past 20 years.

He sees tree planting as an ongoing important duty. Trees are vital in retaining moisture in the land and slowing runoff, he said.

Development, with its attendant roofs and asphalt, promote rapid runoff and the water doesn't stay on



Since its creation in 1958, the Halton Region Conservation Authority board has included Brock Harris, with the exception of two years. Next month the Burlington farmer will resign from his duties which have included chairing the board for the past 19 years.

the land, he added.

In the future, he sees more efforts needed in ensuring that swamps and ponds are not drained. Swamps, he said, are a purifying system for water. "If we keep draining them we will be out of water," he said. Draining swamps, he explained, tends to lower the water table and contribute to droughts.

Mr. Harris sees the role of chairman getting heavier, probably leading to a fulltime job in the future.

Mr. Harris, who will pass his 71st birthday just before he steps down on February 20, has been active in raising money for the Crawford Lake Indian Village projects. The retiring chairman was a founding member of the Halton Region Conservation Foundation.

In 1977 and 1978 he was chairman of the association of conservation

authorities of Ontario and vice president from 1985 to 1988.

He was Burlington's representative on the board for 31 of the 33 years the board has been in existence and chairman continuously since 1972.

Election of chairman is conducted yearly by the 19 members of the board. This board determines policy for the authority.

As chairman, Mr. Harris had to attend at least one meeting a week and for his duties his honourarium at retirement was \$3,000 per year.

He has no special plans for retirement, but expects to become active in some charity work through a club.

"The rich natural resources of this area have been made greener by one man who has worked hard to build conservation into the fabric of Halton. Mr. Harris will be missed," stated an HRCA press release.

MILTON SPRINGERS GYMNASTIC CLUB

Are pleased to announce they have moved to their new location at

180 NIPISSING ROAD,
UNIT #5

878-5030

R.R.S.P. DEADLINE

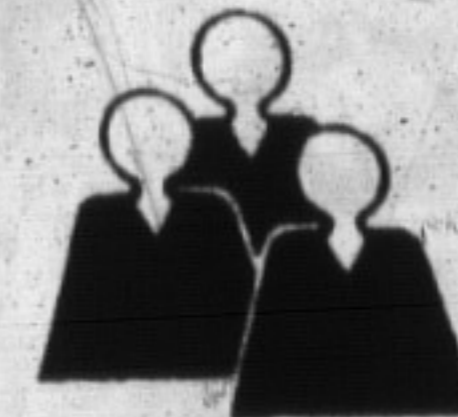
Feb. 29

1992

R.R.S.P. Advantages offered by
Bob Lee

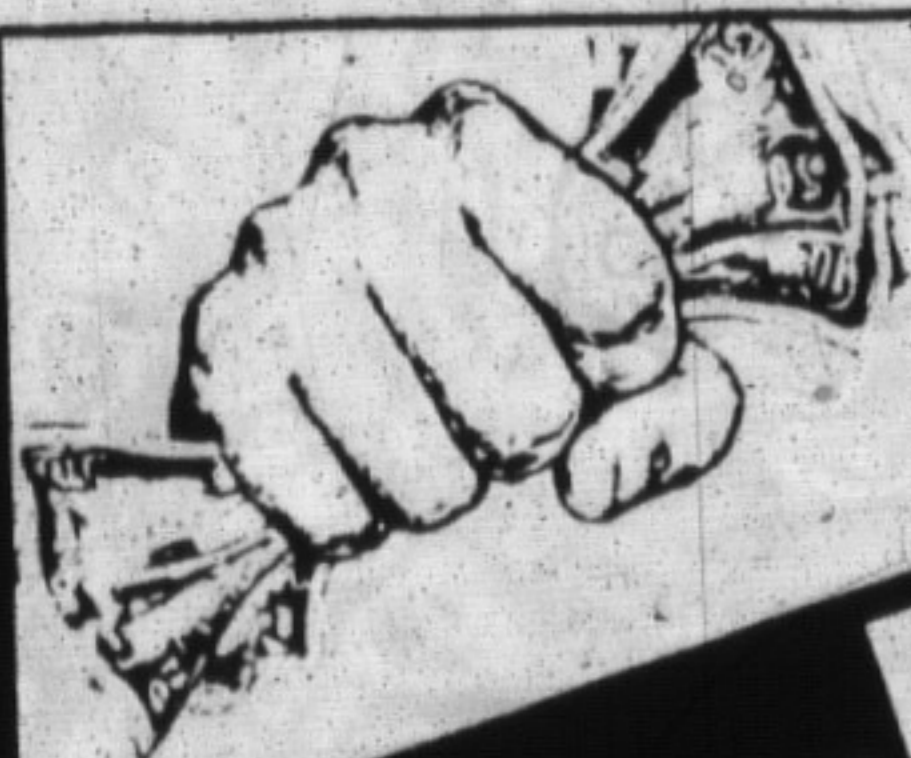
- SECURITY OF INVESTMENT
- COMPETITIVE INTEREST RATES
- PERSONALIZED ONGOING CONSULTATION

CONTACT:



Bob "Pie" Lee
Miltowne Insurance Agency Ltd.
878-5786

CALL FOR
NO OBLIGATION CONFIDENTIAL CONSULTATION



JANUARY THE ONCE A YEAR SALE WITH BIG SAVINGS FOR YOU!! PAINT 'n PAPER SALE



Flat Latex \$14.95 4 litre

Latex Semi-gloss \$24.95 4 litre

IN STOCK WALLPAPER
1/2 PRICE

NEW PAPERS
ARRIVING ALL
MONTH

The once a year sale where you can save money on the huge selection of our

UNIQUE WALLPAPER BOOKS

MANY IN STORE SPECIALS IN THE STORE ALL THIS MONTH

USE THIS COUPON
4" MULTI USE BRUSH
(Pure Bristle) REG. \$6.99
EXPIRES JAN. 15/92.

\$1.99

ONE PER CUSTOMER

PARA BERGSMAN'S PAINT & WALLPAPER PARA

Carriage Square

265 MAIN ST. E. MILTON

876-4922