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# The Canadian Champion Weekend

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Volume 10, Number 12

FRIDAY JULY 22, 1994

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### NEWSLINES

#### Family Fun Fair at town hall on Saturday

The Milton Children and Youth Centre will celebrate the International Year of the Family with a fair at Town Hall tomorrow.

The Family Fun Fair, made up of a silent auction and activities, will run from 9 a.m. to noon.

The fair is a major fundraising event for the centre, located at 917 Nipissing Rd.

"While governments continue to assess their ability to fund community groups, fundraising events such as the Family Fun Fair are becoming more and more vital to the centre's ability to offer its needed services to Milton's children and families," said Alex St. Croix of the centre.

Dedicated to caring for children, the centre provides a variety of educational and interactive programs for children, youth and families in the Milton area.

#### Summer work a big success for students

The Canada Employment Centre for Students in Trafalgar Square on Main Street East closes today.

But students looking for summer work can still check job postings at the main centre located in the same building (the T.D. Bank plaza).

Students can also still sign up for the 'odd job squad,' a program which hires youths for small tasks, at the main centre until the end of August.

Sandra Bang, summer employment officer for the student employment centre, said the summer of 1994 was the most successful to date in terms of both job vacancies and student placements.

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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## Fish fingered

Victoria McCutcheon, 3, had her hands full counting the guppies in a bowl as part of the pet contest festivities at Milton Mall on Saturday. The contest was sponsored by Ruffins Pet Store and there were 74 guppies.

## Region, HRCA headed for court clash

By ANGELA BLACKBURN  
The Champion

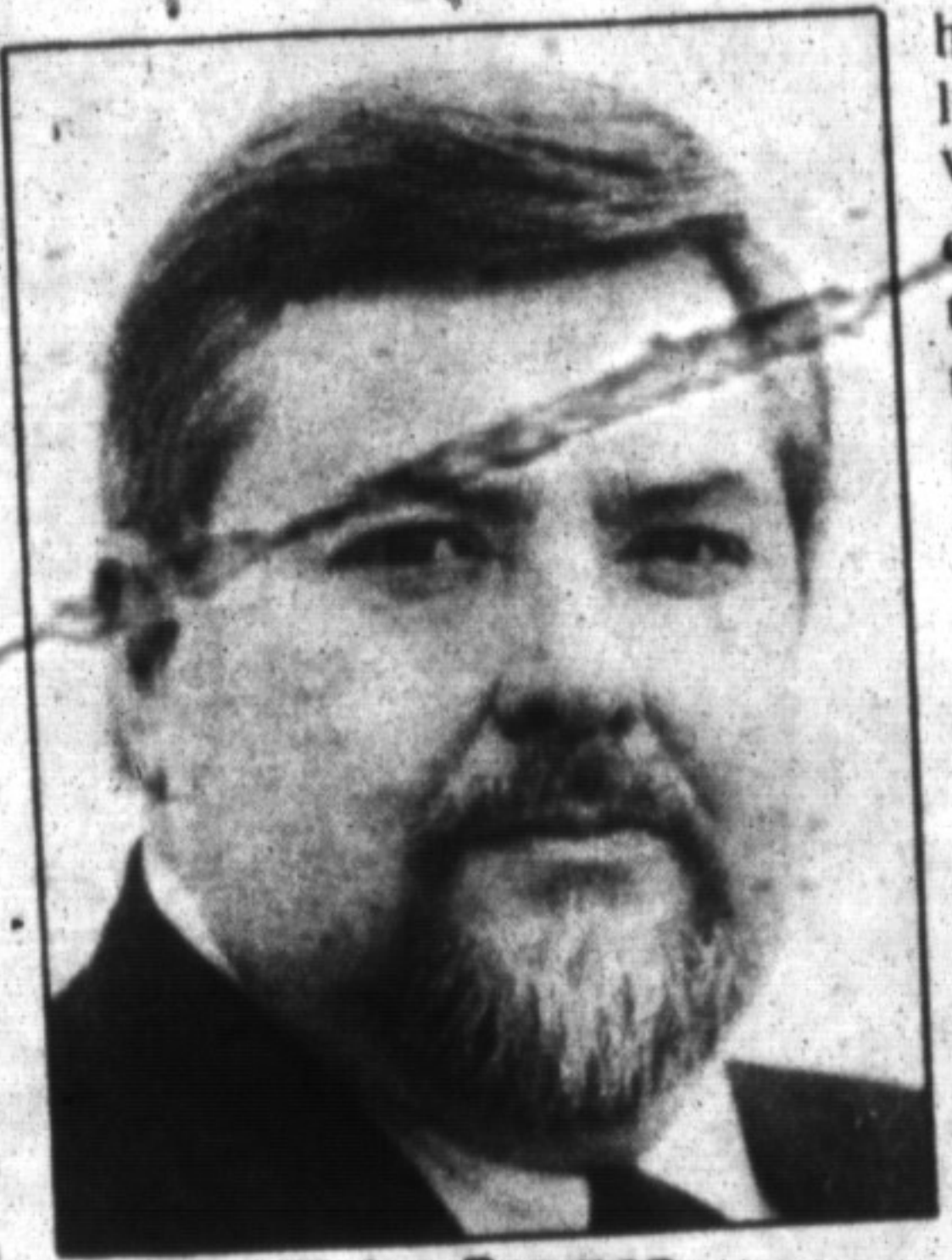
The ongoing budget authority dispute between the Halton Region Conservation Authority (HRCA) and Halton Region will likely only be settled in a courtroom.

The HRCA decided in May to go to court when the region fell short by \$70,000 on its \$1.9-million share of the HRCA's 1994 \$6.8-million budget levy. Nothing's changed.

"It's just enough. It's our right to levy and that challenge, I think, will be dealt with in the courts. There's no doubt about it," said HRCA chair and Milton town councillor Brian Penman Wednesday.

The HRCA's budget is funded by Ministry of Natural Resource grants, municipal levies, and user fee generated revenue.

A similar 1991 dispute was settled



Brian Penman

at the eleventh hour when the region paid up, said HRCA general manager Murray Stephen.

However, "as far as I know, it's proceeding to the courts. It's in the

hands of our legal counsel. The legislation is abundantly clear to us. We're not going to go through this exercise every year. If it takes a court to inform the regional municipality that legislation is legislation, then I guess that's the way it will have to be," said Mr. Stephen.

If Halton Region doesn't pay its share, other municipalities could challenge their payment, he said.

"The irony of this is that our 1994 levy had a zero per cent increase over 1993. What the region wanted was a 3.5 per cent reduction," he said, noting it was the equivalent of the province's Social Contract and Expenditure Control Plan.

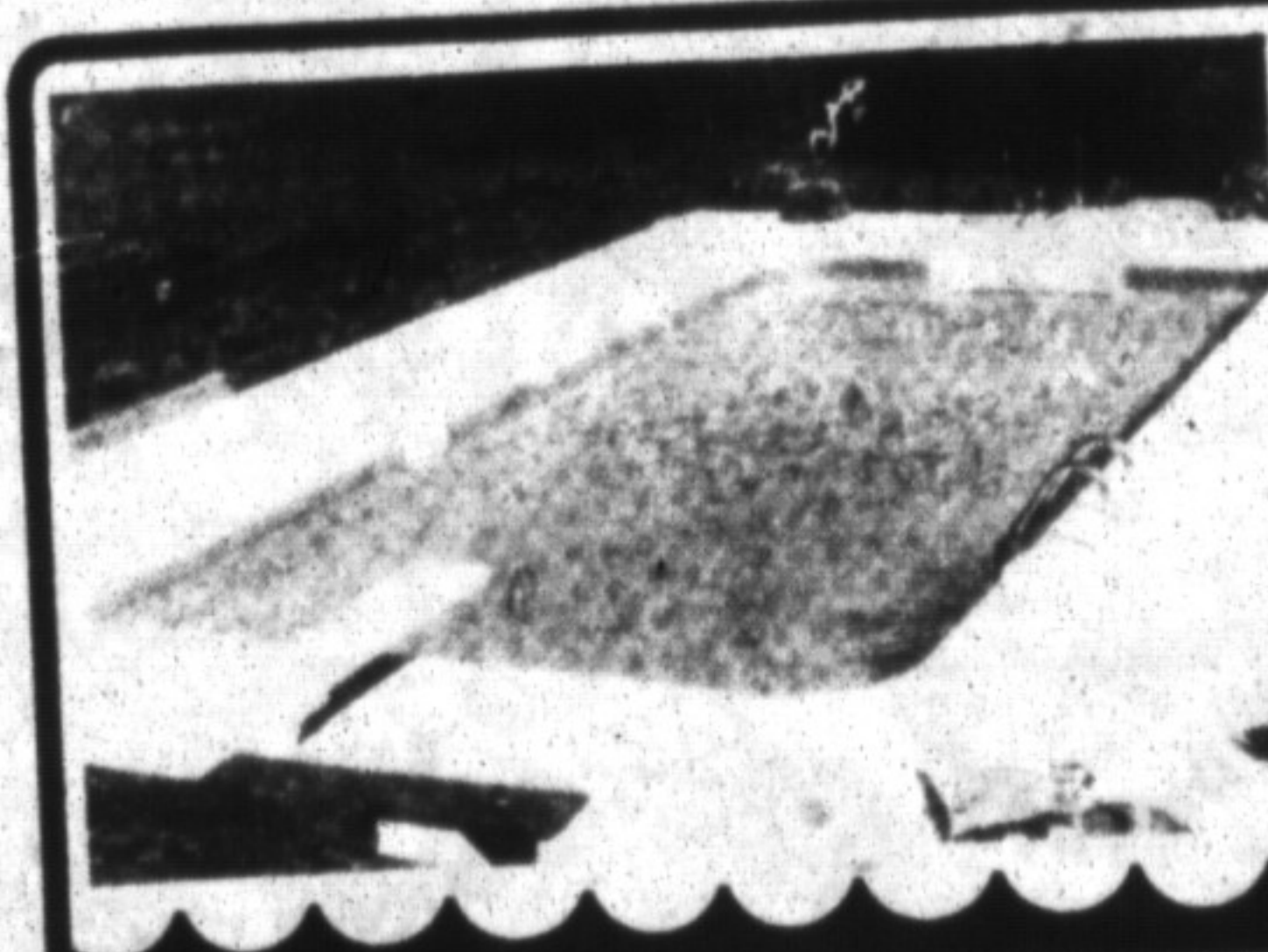
"When the region says 'no', it's legally wrong," said Mr. Penman, adding, "the region refuses to acknowledge its moral and legal responsibility to appropriately fund the conservation authority."

The HRCA chair looked to what he sees as regional surpluses, reserves and savings which, he said, "it's prepared to put into what I think are meaningless consultative studies." He described the regional funding shortfall thusly; "I hate to say it, but it's coffee money at the region."

"The region wants to lump us in with all its other boards and agencies. A levy is a levy. We are a provincially-constituted body so when we strike a budget, the region has no legal position to refuse to pay the levy," stressed Mr. Penman.

Two-thirds of the region's taxes fund regional agencies. Halton finance director Joe Rinaldo said the region needs cooperation from its boards and agencies. "If we don't have their cooperation, it leaves us with a limited amount of flexibility," he warned.

• see HRCA on page 4



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