



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Brian Farrell of The Halton Outdoors Shop with some ammunition — shotgun shells and BB pellets — all of which now require photo ID and proof of age for purchase under a new provincial law that came into effect last month.

New ammunition paperwork is a 'waste of time' says Farrell

By ANGELA BLACKBURN
The Champion

A Milton fishing/hunting supply store owner doesn't mince words in his criticism of new provincial rules controlling ammunition purchases.

"It's another stupid form and a case of the government thinking they're doing a good job when they're wasting time. If they'd only do their job in the first place," says Brian Farrell, who owns The Halton Outdoors Shop on Main Street.

New provincial laws that govern ammunition sales were, at agreement of all three major political parties, rushed through Ontario's legislature before the summer break after a Toronto police officer was fatally shot.

The new rules came into effect in mid-July and require anyone buying ammunition to show photo-identification and prove they're 18 years of age.

Mr. Farrell, however, doesn't believe such a back-door approach is the answer to crime.

"The government shouldn't be legislating against honest people but should re-evaluate the justice system and start dealing out some justice," he said.

"The biggest form of gun control would be to punish

those using guns to commit crimes," he says. The store owner admits the unpopularity of his statement but says, "I bet if you brought back the death penalty for use of firearms in the commission of crime, the crime rate involving guns would drop to next to nothing. I'm pretty sure of that."

To Mr. Farrell, who says he heard about the new laws in the media but has as yet received no official notification from any authorities, it means an additional work.

"I'm basically becoming a government worker but I don't get paid and I get no Rae days," he says.

Besides grilling customers for identification, Mr. Farrell must keep a ledger registering what ammunition each customer buys and when. The ledger must be kept available for inspection by authorities.

Customers too have a "what next" attitude, said Mr. Farrell.

The business owner said the new rules add to the growing list of tasks that include paperwork for hunting and fishing licences, and GST and PST collection.

"It's another government regulation that does nothing for the general public or controlling crime, but has everything to do with making it more difficult for people selling ammunition and those buying it," he said.

Photo radar coming

Blue and yellow photo radar signs are being erected on highways by the Ministry of Transportation to let motorists know the areas where new photo radar units will begin speeding enforcement later this year.

The signs are being installed but the law isn't expected to be proclaimed until later this summer.

Motorists will be told, through the media, when enforcement is to begin. The new blue and yellow signs read "Speed Enforced by Photo Radar."

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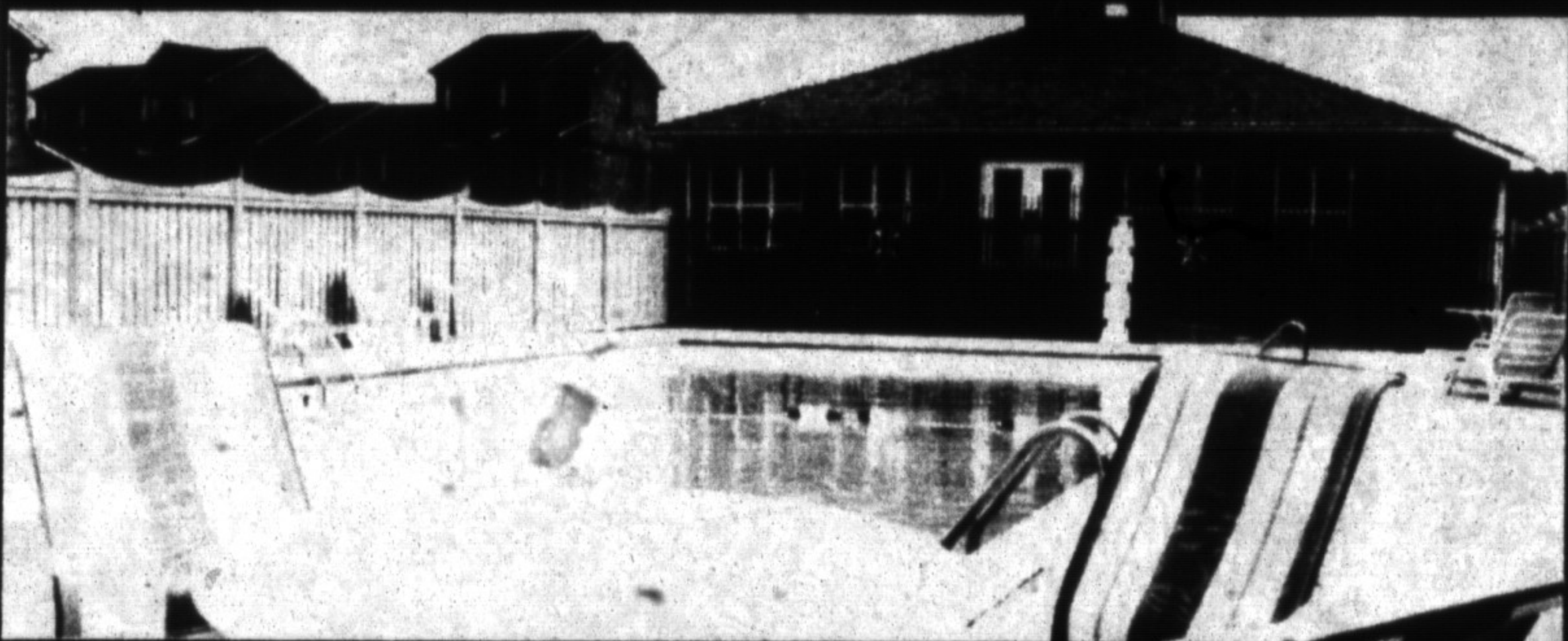
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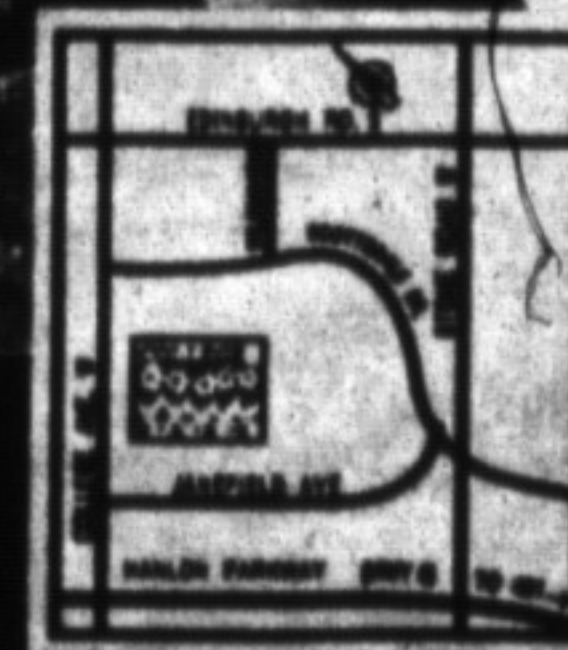
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