

# Turf Tips



## WHITE GRUB

Dead, brown patches in your lawn during spring or fall may indicate White Grub damage. These grubs are the larvae of June beetles and European chafers that lay eggs which hatch in summer. Damage is very noticeable in fall, especially when skunks, raccoons, and moles dig up the lawn to feed on the grubs. If the grubs are not controlled in autumn, they will continue feeding on the grass roots in spring.

In the dead patches, the weakly rooted sod can be pulled back to reveal the fat, white, C-shaped grubs. They have a brown head and three large pairs of legs.

White Grub damage can be stopped with a precise application of recommended insect control material. The application should be applied in late summer or early fall, when the grubs are smallest and most susceptible.

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# Final stage of pond clean-up gets green light from council

By ANGELA BLACKBURN  
The Champion

The Mill Pond may not be in as bad shape as some think, and what ails it may not do so for long.

Town council Monday sanctioned the final Mill Pond water quality report's recommendations, phase three of the Mill Pond revitalization program. "This will finalize the third phase of the project started in 1990," said leisure services director Jennifer Reynolds.

The \$600,000 project saw \$300,000 contributed through PRIDE (provincial Program for Renewal, Improvement, Development and Economic Revitalization). Phase three budget projections of \$235,200, will see \$100,000 come out of PRIDE funds.

In addition to upgrades and new construction, a weed removal program will become ongoing. The town will also look at signs for the



Jennifer Reynolds

associated parks to highlight historical and educational information to visitors.

A steering committee has guided Mill Pond renewal since 1992. Phase one centred on Centennial and Livingston Parks while phase two focused on Rotary Park. Work included installation of lighting, a sidewalk, landscaping and signage, limited parking, a trail loop around Livingston Park, stair replacement, a woodchip trail south of the pond, repaving, swings, and park furniture.

The PRIDE grant was geared to improving the pond itself and its associated inlet and outlet control structures, however a year-long study took place to identify the technical needs. That study recommendations received the green light Monday.

Some work is interrelated, some dependent on timing and further approvals. The town meets today (Friday) with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Halton Region

Conservation Authority to discuss approval schedules.

Ms Reynolds acknowledged residents' concern about the pond's appearance, what she could only describe as "scum" on its surface and an associated odor.

A biologist will monitor the weeding process and its effect on the pond's ecosystem, she said.

"The water quality is pretty fair, it may not be as bad as some suspect," said Chris Doherty of Environmental Water Resources Group, the consulting firm which prepared the report.

Mr. Doherty said the quality of water entering the pond is good, it's the pond processes that are degrading the water quality.

The pond also hosts a "significant and diverse" aquatic habitat, he said.

Mr. Doherty said the pond's inlet operating control has been maintained well by the HRCA while the outlet is rusted and needs replacement.

"Maintenance and monitoring is a must in keeping the costs down to the Mill Pond," he advised.

A good number of undesirable carp in the pond will be controlled with a barrier screen and carp removal, and the pond will be restocked with bass.

On the issue of the so-called "scum", Mr. Doherty said weed control could be a benefit but warned against going too far in an artificial direction. Other upgrades include a pedestrian bridge at the pond's outlet and another at the spillway, trees and garbage bins, pruning deadwood from willows originally planted by John Martin, and tree planting.

Pond clean-up is expected to cost approximately \$130,200 while other landscaping and improvement work is estimated at \$105,000.

## Farrell plans African safaris

• from EYE-OPENING on page 3 eventually bring a better economy, Mr. Farrell believes.

He said Nelson Mandela has the power to make change happen. "Even the white people there wish him well. If there's any man for the job, he's it. He has a lot of political clout now, worldwide."

Mr. Farrell's father went to Africa 40 years ago, and exotic tales which often spiced conversation around the family kitchen table during childhood suddenly became reality for the younger entrepreneur.

Now the businessman, who's oper-

ated his outdoors shop in Milton for eight years, is himself going to develop commerce in South Africa, offering the experience to others.

"We've got a situation whereby we can get in on the ground floor. There are people with the property and access to the game and fishing," he said of Mr. Anderson's friends and relatives.

The two travellers will begin this September, organizing fishing/hunting tours to South Africa for next spring and summer. Mr. Farrell said he expects costs to be in the \$3,000 range.

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