

HRCA chair Penman likes Golden report conservation spin

21—The Canadian Champion, Friday, February 2, 1996

The five conservation authorities in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) strongly supported environmental proposals recently released as part of the Golden report on GTA reform.

"We are very encouraged that principles of conservation and planning on a watershed basis, outlined in our submission to the GTA Task Force last summer, have been embraced by the report," said Brian Penman, chair of the Halton Region Conservation Authority (HRCA). "She (Anne Golden) subscribed pretty dramatically to all our requests."

A watershed is the geographical area sustained by the water from one major source.

Mr. Penman met with representatives of the

conservation authorities from Metro, Lake Simcoe, Credit Valley and Central Lake Ontario to issue a joint submission to the GTA task force.

"The quality of life and economic vitality of a region depend strongly on its environmental health," the report says. The report recommends the conservation authorities operate under provincial and super-regional guidelines and concentrate on each individual watershed in matters of land management, flood and erosion control, planning and public education responsibilities.

In addition, the report recommends conservation authorities assume a broad range of environmental approval and permit-granting functions to

provide a local, one-stop approval process.

Mr. Penman called the report's conclusions "a significant mandate" and said the position of the task force is opposed to the provincial government's position regarding conservation authorities. Within the recently passed Savings and Restructuring Act (Bill 26) the provincial government "hammered the conservation authorities" Mr. Penman said, ascribing the difference to conflicting advice.

"Our five conservation authorities are already working together to restructure and integrate services to deliver a seamless, more cost effective program within the GTA," said Murray Stephen,

HRCA general manager. "Healthy rivers through healthy communities is an approach the GTA conservation authorities are committed to."

The task force calls for restructuring between the five authorities to help keep costs in line. The report recommends work currently done by district and regional offices of the Ministry of Environment and Energy, Ministry of Natural Resources and Ministry of Agriculture and Food, be carried out by the conservation authorities.

Mr. Penman lauded the new ways of thinking encouraged by the Golden report. He said environmental resources are part of the reason people come to the GTA to live and do business.

Top line trucks go missing

Two new trucks stolen from separate Milton sites have investigators wondering if the occurrences were related and Crime Stoppers is asking for your help to recover the equipment.

Sometime between January 13 and 15, a transport tractor unit was stolen from a yard on Nipissing Road and a dump truck was taken from a lot at Harrop and McGeachie drives.

In the case of the dump truck, a trailer had to be detached before the vehicle was driven away.

Both trucks were almost new and were worth an estimated total of \$225,000. They were described to police as:

Kenworth tractor, black, model T800B, Ontario licence plate PJ7 423; Ford 59000 dump truck, green and white, Ontario licence plate 503 4AF.

If you think you may know who took the vehicles or where they may be found, Crime Stoppers would like to hear from you.

If you have any information that leads to an arrest in this or any other case, you may be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$1,000.

You need not give your name and your information will be treated with complete anonymity. Crime Stoppers does not subscribe to call display.

Call 1-800-668-5151 or 825-TIPS (That's 825.8477).

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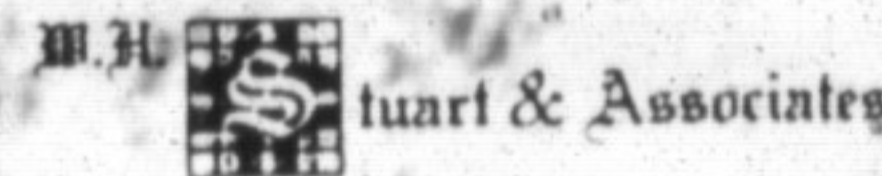
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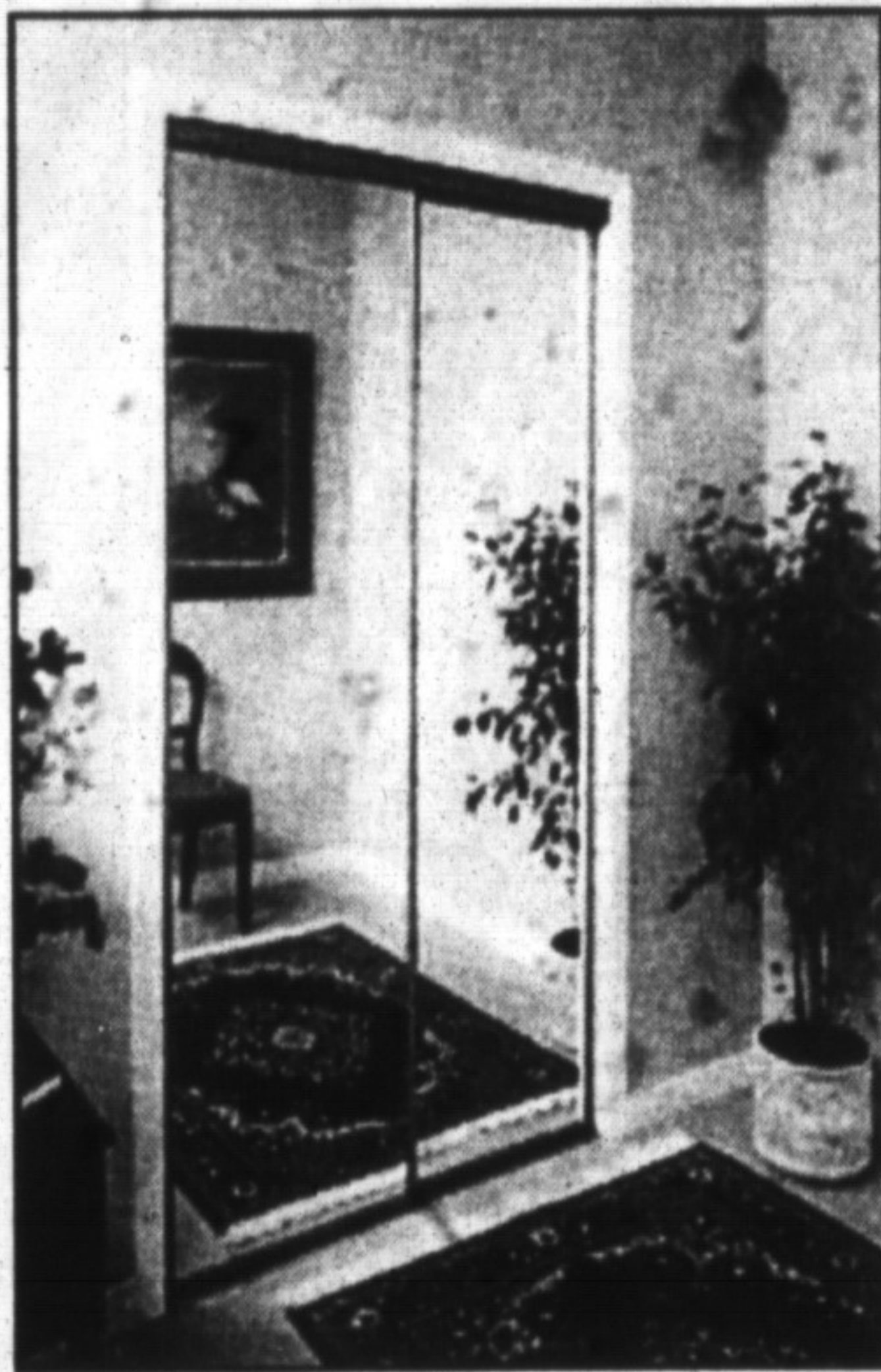
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