Richvale residents sue town for damage from 1974 storms



Women's liberation football

As if it isn't bad enough that the girls have invaded boys' hockey teams as players, they've now gone and taken over as coaches on their football teams. At least, that's the way Football Daze, a musical comedy by Jean and Bob Thompson, which runs from Dec. 16 to 18 at Richmond Hill High School,

would have it. The comedy tells what happens when a young woman is inadvertently hired as head football coach at a high school. Martha Dynes, on the right, plays the coach. From the left, Mark inch diameter storm sewer was in-Attley, Peter Kite and Marg Shorten.

TORONTO — It's been more than two years since four Weldrick Road families in Richmond Hill found themselves victims of severe flooding in the basements of their homes.

Although they've been spared that kind of agony since, they still get apprehensive every time it rains.

That's what Peter Falconi, 32, of 46 Weldrick Rd., told a Supreme Court of Ontario hearing before Mr. Justice Frank Weatherston in Toronto last

Falconi, his wife, Beverley, plus three other families, are suing the Town of Richmond Hill and Marshall Macklin Ltd. engineers of Toronto, for a total of \$15,300 in damages. The residents are alleging negligence in constructing and maintaining an outlet leading to a storm drain sewer from a creek running by their property.

It was also alleged that raising the street on Weldrick had caused it to act like a dam in a rainstorm.

The other families involved are Silvestro and Milea Velardo, 42 flowed into the pipe, Falconi said a cleared things in time to stop any Weldrick; Thomas and Jocelyn Holmes, 48, Weldrick; and Martin and inch grating of hollow alumu Vilma Bertulson, 44 Weldrick.

Murray Davison appears for the plaintiffs; D.H. Rogers for the town; and Donald Arthurs for Marshall

1974 storms

The case centred around the nights of March 4 and April 4, 1974, in which all four places suffered heavy flood damage, with the Falconi home being hardest hit.

The witness told the court there was 45 inches of water in his basement after the storm and it was also waist deep in his driveway.

The flood waters cut off the power that he had been at home with the and heat in his home, overturned his freezer, chesterfield, work bench and power tools and sent them floating around the room, he said.

No flood earlier Falconi said he lived in his present dwelling since Sept. 1969, and never experienced any flooding prior to March 1974, except one time when the creek went over the road during the

height of a rainstorm. However, no homes were flooded at on duty and it was out on a call. that time.

Witness said that the "drop off" from his house to the creek bed was six to

eight feet. He described the creek as a natural watercourse, which ran under the road through a culvert when it met Weldrick

The creek maintained an average Falconi said. depth of 21% feet all year round, unless there was a heavy rain, "and then it increased in size dramatically.

When that happened, it flooded over onto the road, Falconi said.

Sewer installed He said that, in the fall of 1973, a 60stalled to catch the flow from the creek. The road was also built up two-and-

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driveway for a distance of 400 feet to again plugged.

the crest of the road. When asked how the creek water A backhoe was brought in and cement structure, covered by a three-flooding in the basement.

When asked how the creek water Also testifying briefly and relating flowed into the pipe, Falconi said a similar, if not quite so damaging excement structure, covered by a three- periences, were Velardo and Holmes.

tubing, had been installed in the bank. counsel Rogers as to whether there had The grating was put on to keep been any flooding from the time of the children out. But Falconi said he second flood to the time the grate on the complained it might clog up and culvert had been changed, Falconi said prevent the water from "going there hadn't.

anyplace." He received assurances from the the grate was removed and the water town it would be alright, he said.

First flood Describing the night of the first 20. flooding, March 4, 1974, Falconi said

children; his wife was out. He said he could see the creek from his house and, at 8:30 he noticed the

creek starting to rise. He kept an eye on it until 9 p.m. when

He then called the town works department.

But an answering service informed him that there was only a standby crew

Witness said he called again at 9:30, but still was unable to get any help Continuous rain

The rain, although not heavy, was continuous, he said. By 10 p.m., there was water on the Bertulson property and it had started to reach the basement windows of his own home,

He said he then went downstairs and started moving "ever He said he then went downstairs and

started moving "everything to a higher level. Road blocked

By 10:20, there was so much water on the road he called police to block it off, so that drivers wouldn't be in danger of going off the road into the water-filled ditches, he ssaid.

The water was now pouring in 90 per cent of the basement windows, witness said, and was up to about one-and-ahalf feet in his basement.

The fire department had arrived by then and Falconi called the town once more, without success. The water had now reached the 45-

inch mark at the first landing, he said, and the furnace had gone out.

at 1 a.m., the water was waist deep in the driveway and he and his wife, who had come home earlier, had to vacate the house with their children and stay with neighbors.

Hopelessly plugged

Falconi said the town eventually had to use a backhoe to clear the debris "That requires salesmars ip. This from around the grate, which was

They couldn't open it, so had to smash

They couldn't open it, so had to smash it and the water then receded.

Witness said the works department later pumped out his basement, except for six inches of water, which they were unable to get at with their equipment. The following day the town sent over

a crew of eight to help clean up the

everything - freezer goods, glass, The occasion is the Lions annual chain saws, preserves - all were Christmas party for the youngsters. All carted away to the dump by the town," children in the area are welcome and Falconi said.

He said they disinfected "the whole will be served. place," and also cleaned the freezer, which had been on its back with the door open.

saturated.

Photographs showing some of the by all. damage done to both the homes and the grate in the culvert, were shown on the second day of the hearing.

Falconi said he wrote the Mayor, William Lazenby, a registered letter, saying he suffered damages and was going to claim for such.

Second flood

On the second occurrence April 4 of 1974, Falconi spread the alarm among his neighbors when he came home from bowling about 12:30.

He found the water coming over the road and lapping the boundaries of his property. He then called Mayor Lazenby, who

"had been sympathetic before and thought he should see it at first hand," Falconi said.

road builder.

civic corner

RICHMOND HILL - Wednesday Dec. 15 - 7 p.m. -Committee Room "B" bylaw, procedures, fire and personnel committee meeting Monday Dec. 27, and Tuesday Dec. 28, the municipal offices will be closed.

a-half-feet higher than his own witness said, and the grate was once

accommodate the underground pipe. A shovel being used by Toporwoski to
His garage floor was now lower than help clear the debris, was sucked into the sewer.

Others testify

inch grating of hollow aluminum In answer to a question from town

When asked why, he said: "Because flowed freely."

The case has been adjourned to Dec.

he went out and saw the water was over the grate, he said.

oak ridges lake wilcox

Correspondent Millie Stewart 773-4424

OAK RIDGES - There are only nine or ten days left until Christmas and the merry-making time will be in full swing. All of us like to have a good time with our friends, but there are a few things to remember at this time of the year. If you are drinking, take a cab. You are precious to your loved ones, so be careful.

Christmas trees are beautiful and we all have one. If you have a lovely outdoorsy smelling one (a real one) please be careful. Don't put it near the heat registers and don't let it dry out. Lights are fine on a tree, but if you find them getting warm, turn them off. Every year we hear about a family who has lost their home and all in it from a fire caused by the Christmas tree.

In all things, at this holiday season, be extra careful. Drive with caution, ski-doo carefully, be wary of icy roads and sidewalks and you and your family will be here to enjoy the holidays.

When the works department arrived Violinist performs

Well-known violinist Maurice Solway will show a film called 'The Violin' in which he himself is a star, on Dec. 18 at 1 p.m. at Charles Connor Memorial Library. After the film, Solway will perform several renditions on the violin ranging from fun to classic. His music appeals to music lovers of all ages. This program is free, but all tickets must be reserved in advance at the library or by calling 773-5533. *

On Dec. 17 there will be a Crafty Christmas Crafts program at the library from 4 to 6 p.m. This program is for 7 to 12 years olds, and they must register in advance.

Santa is coming

It is not too late to greet Santa and whisper those secret wishes in his ear. Santa will be here on Dec. 18 at 10 a.m. "Murky water had penetrated in the Lions Den at Bond Lake Arena. their parents too. Hot dogs and drinks

St. John's Anglican

This Saturday at 10 a.m. the people of Insulation in the freezer was St. John's will gather to decorate the church. This is an annual event enjoyed

> The church will be decorated, the manager scene will be set up, and the ('hristmas tree will be decorated. All parishioners are welcome to come and bring their families.

> These preparations are the start of the Christmas season in the church and are quickly followed by the family service on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. At this time, the tree and the manger scene will be blessed. A special highlight of this service will be a Christmas story entitled Archie the Inquisitive Angel.

At 12:15 there will be a pot luck luncheon followed by the parish Christmas party complete with carol singing and a special talent show.

St. Paul's United

He said Lazenby got out of bed and Sunday, Dec. 19 will be a busy day at came down to view the scene with town St. Paul's. At the 10:30 a.m. service, engineer Bernie Toporowski and the there will be special Christmas music.

In the evening there will be a special The water had started into his house, family Christmas celebration starting at 7 p.m. and everyone is welcome. It will be an informal evening during which the Christmas decorations will be made and the tree decorated. There will be punch, mulled cider and Christmas cookies and other goodies. If you plan to attend, please bring old ('hristmas cards, string, red markers, odds and ends of wool, pencils scizzors and rulers.

Retired executives enjoy helping small businesses By Larry Johnston Some men who have been managing

THORNHILL - Ron C. Poulter is not lying down.

working on one of his other hobbies, he may be driving off to Guelph to advise someone on how to run their business. Poulter is a vice-president of Associated Senior Executives of

difference. organization are over 65 years of age and retired.

The group includes executives who have held top management positions in accounting, engineering, insurance, marketing, publishing, purchasing and plant production.

Edited magazine

Poulter himself once edited the magazine of the Association of Professional Engineers and before that, edited a business publication on electronics.

He is a former president of Radio College of Canada and RC publications and a holder of the Sons of Martha Medal, awarded by the Association of Professional Engineers for outstanding service to the profession.

He lives in the house he built on Thornebank Road, 25 years ago. Founded in 1963

Associated Senior Executives was founded by two engineers in 1963. Brigadier Colin Campbell, an "eminent mining engineer" and Wilson

Abernathy realised when men get to retirement age, "many are lost." They discovered many people in small businesses, or people who would like to start businesses, have no one to

talk to about their ideas. So ASE was formed with two purposes in mind, to help small businesses and to give its members a chance to have some fun in retirement.

Twice a week, ASE representatives meet with clients in their Bay Street office. If a trip to a plant is required, usually two men go and make a report and the

client pays the mileage. If a second visit to the office is required, a \$25 fee is paid. The retired executives restrict their activities to about an 80-mile radius of

Toronto, "none of us wants to work very hard at this kind of thing.' Their activities also get them out of their wives' hair.

factories for years, when they retire, can't resist trying to manage the house. the kind of person to take retirement Their wives have their own ways of doing things and don't listen the way an When he is not in the garden or underling would. "It can be a real

problem," says Poulter. ASE once wrote a report for the Ontario government on how homes for the aged should be run. There have been requests for that report well

Canada Ltd., a consulting team with a beyond the boundaries of the province. In another case, they did a study for a All members of this non-profit Japanese importer on a trade show in Canada that the importer could not get

to himself. Became profitable Another company which ASE advice

turned around from a loss to a sub-

stantial profit position, keeps sending a

are ever needed again.

"We can be blunt," says Poulter, "we are not getting paid so we have nothing the cartage business because he had a

know they are going to be dealing with a sales problem, they always have an

companies with sales of \$1 million or so, they also have many smaller clients,

Two or three widows came in for What is the market?"

retainer in case the senior executives money so he decided he would go into business for himself.

small truck.

to lose. The advice is not foolproof, but the executives "Are very careful". If they

expert in sales in on the meeting, says Poulter. While the executives deal with

that are remembered.

investment advice.

He was a printer but wanted to go into

guy didn't have the personality to sell! "hopelessly plugged up." anything. We told him. "He had no knowledge of the trucking it and the water receded.

business. If anything, he should have

gone into the printing business." What kinds of questions are asked of someone who wants to start a business? "What experience do you have?" and in some cases it is the smaller ones Poulter fires away. "Do you have a budget? What equipment do you need?

One factor the retired executives house. There was one man who was con- always look for is drive and envinced his boss was taking all the thusiasm. "It is very important."



Many lost in retirement

Many men don't know what to do with themselves when they retire and this is particularly true of executives who have been active all their lives. Ron Poulter of Thornhill does not have this problem. As

a vice-president of Senior Executives of Canada Ltd. he helps small businesses iron out their problems, just for the fun of it and the satisfaction of having helped someone.