

Time to talk of many things . . .

It's time to talk of many things: of shoes--and ships--and sealing wax--of cabbages--and kings."--Lewis Carroll.

Remember during the Second World War when carrots were all the rage and said to be the reason why British and Canadian pilots had the amazing ability to spot and shoot down Nazi planes at night? My mother was not immune to the fad and she used to feed her brood carrots and carrot juice in more than ample quantities so our vision would have that extra oomph.

But there were other reasons as well. We grew lots of carrots in our victory garden and someone had to eat them. My father was overseas with the forces so that just left us kids. We had carrots served until I think we started to develop green tops and orange complexions. And the whole family had to help squeeze the juice out of the carrots. We were turning into genuine 24 carrot jewels.

But if my mother were alive she might be annoyed to find out the real reason RAF pilots could spot and shoot enemy planes down at night was not because of the carrots they ate but a new secret weapon--radar.

Winston Churchill, he of the "We shall fight on the landing grounds, we'll fight on the beaches . . . We shall never surrender" speech, perpetuated the carrot story in the hopes of keeping the existence of radar a secret from the enemy, encamped across the English Channel.

Probably neither Winston or my mother realized that one day medical science would find that carrots as part of one's diet are effective in preventing certain types of cancer. No matter. They're still

very much family favorites as the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food says in a recent Good Food News press release. They also dug up a lot more information about carrots and other vegetables such as onions and cabbage which interested me.

For instance, they noted the varieties of carrot eaten by the ancient Greeks and Romans were red, purple and even black. Ugh! The bright sunny orange of today's carrots didn't appear until the 17th century when it was developed in

Coles' slaw

HARTLEY COLES
Managing Editor



Holland. So you can thank your Dutch friends for the savory color of carrots today.

And how about onions? There's a European tradition that if you slice through an onion and find many thick concentric rings, there's a cold winter on the way. I'd put that one in the same category as the thick wool on a caterpillar or shadowy groundhog stories. I do know that if you partake of onions you often get the cold shoulder from others. But apparently the Egyptians, the ancient ones again, thought onions were good for their slaves and fed them plenty as they built the pyramids.

Needless to say, they probably didn't have much to say to each other. If they had only known what Dean Jonathan Swift, writing in the

18th century, advised about serving onions:

"There's in every cook's opinion, No savory dish without an onion: But lest your kissing should be spoiled

The onion must be thoroughly boiled."

And how about cabbage, often called the windmaker? The Roman statesman Cato advised those who dined a lot to eat cabbage seasoned with vinegar, before dinner, adding that "it would make you feel as if you had not eaten and you can drink as much as you like." Well that observation doesn't seem to jibe with old French folklore which believed eating cabbage made you intelligent. Again, modern science has observed that cabbage is another vegetable that prevents disease and is chock-full of vitamins.

Remember the comic strip Bringing Up Father which featured Maggie and Jiggs? Obviously New Yorkers, the couple waged an ongoing battle over his philandering and her corned beef and cabbage, a favorite amongst Americans of Irish extraction. Maggie's rolling pin was the only weapon, formidable and constantly in motion when Jiggs stayed out late with the boys for a little poker and barleycorn. Today, of course it would be expunged from the comic strips.

But even the Roman Emperor Claudius was a fan of corned beef and cabbage. He was said to have once convoked the Senate to vote on whether there was another dish that tasted better. The Senate, aware of the emperor's power and the amount of poisoning that was being

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The class was called Breaking Into Glass and many in their first attempt at making light catchers did just that. Here Bob Allen cuts the glass according to a pattern. Classes are under the auspices of the Credit Valley Artisans.

Elliott breaks code of silence on pool issue

By MARK HOLMES

Arguments over who should pay for maintenance on public swimming pools in Halton Hills has been one sided, and it's time to clear up some of the "glaring misinformation," says Councillor Norm Elliott.

But, muzzled in a narrow 6-7 vote on whether or not to discuss the issue during Monday's General Committee meeting, Elliott will have to wait until this week to try and reopen the issue for public discussion.

After being told he couldn't discuss the matter publicly, Elliott told his colleagues that "council deserves all the criticism it gets" as the Board of

Education and the Town wrangle over pool maintenance bills.

Though he has received several phone calls on the issue, and he's frustrated over the Board's "one sided utterances" appearing in the media, Elliott said he and his fellow councillors, on advice from the Town solicitor, have refrained from commenting publicly. It's common practice for council to keep any legal matter "in camera" until it's resolved.

However, in an interview from his home Thursday morning Elliott was willing to present his side of the story to contradict what he called glaring misinformation presented by the board

to local media.

Elliott suggested that the Board is only posturing in its threats to take the pool issue to arbitration or judicial hearings. There has been so much talk of legal review that the public, Town officials and Elliott himself were led to believe the issue was going through the court system when in fact it isn't.

And, if the board isn't going to take the matter to court, council will make its side of the story public, Elliott said.

"It (the contract between the Board and Halton Hills) is a good one," Elliott contends.

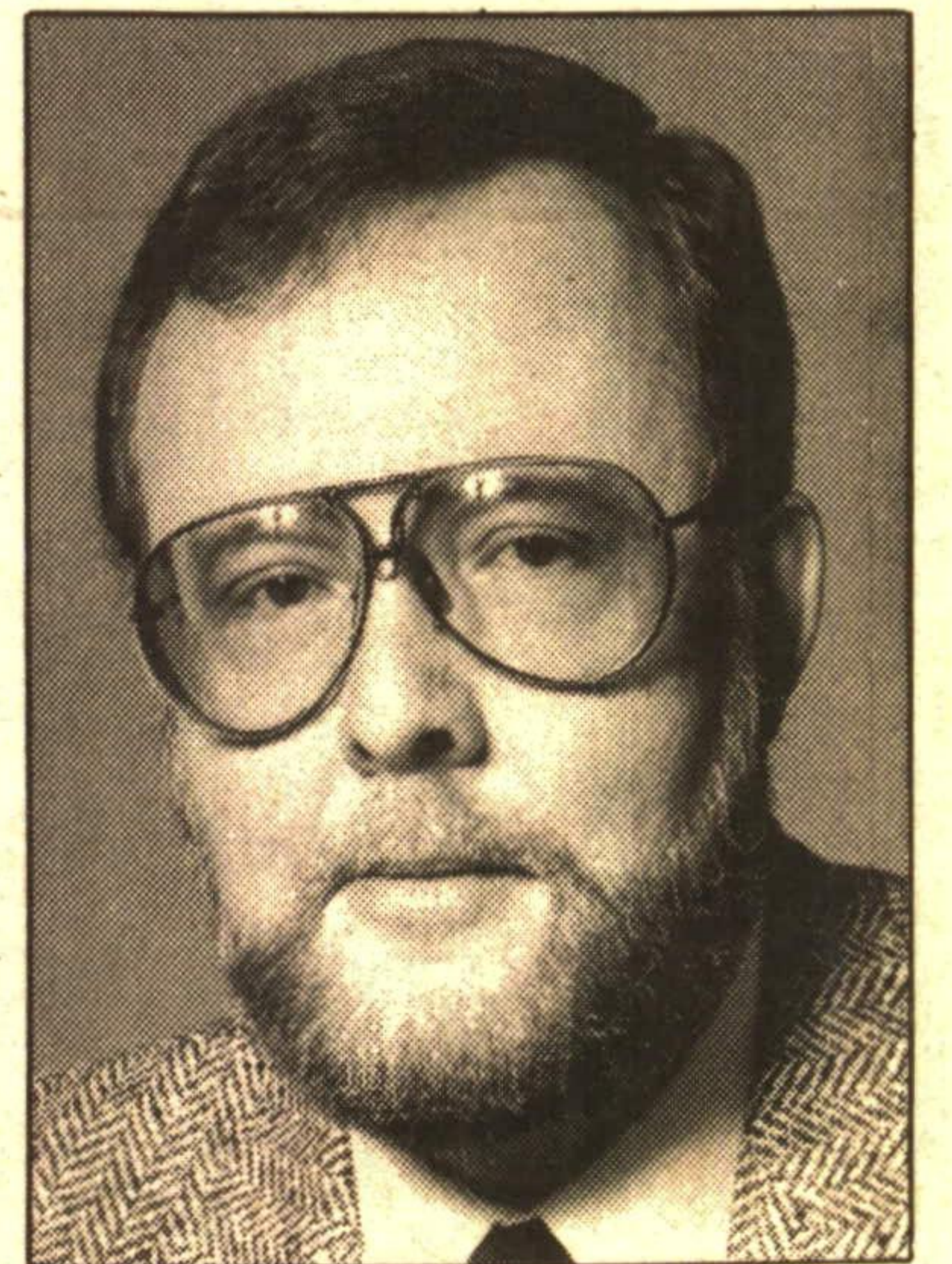
Noting that he sat on the committee that negotiated the pool contract bet-

ween the Town and the Board, Elliott said the Board is basing its arguments for maintenance cost sharing on one line from the document signed back in 1974.

That line says the contract for the Acton facility will last for "the life of the pool." The Board claims that when filtration systems had to be replaced in both the Acton and Georgetown pools, that constituted the end of the facilities' lives.

Elliott said he finds it startling that the Board would use that argument.

"If your car's transmission breaks it's not the end of your car's life. You get the transmission fixed and the



NORM ELLIOTT

car's good for another 10 years," Elliott said.

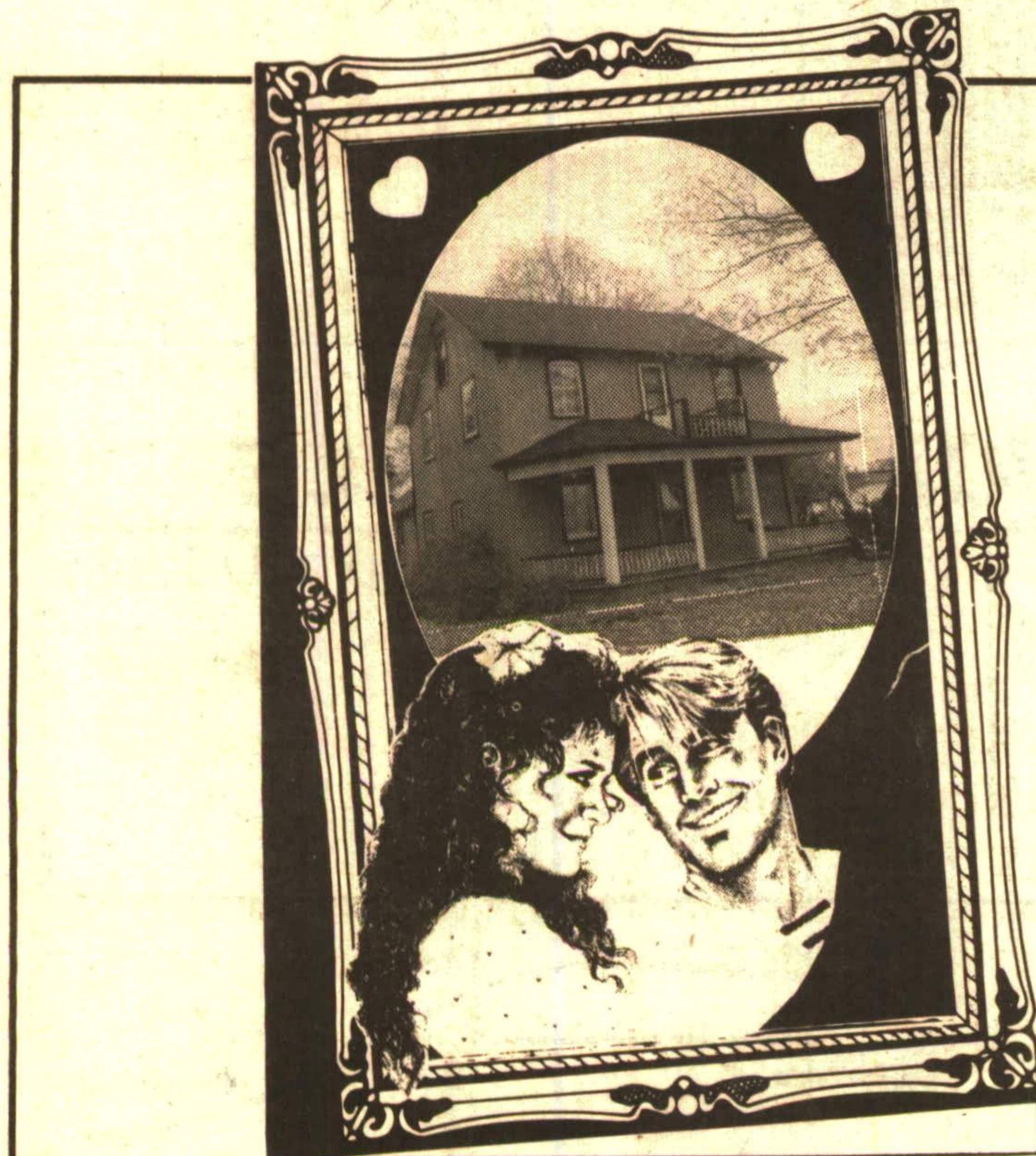
The cost and nature of last year's pool repair came nowhere near to what could be considered the end of the life of the pool, Elliott concluded.

The councillor also pointed out that the Acton pool construction cost upward of \$268,000, and the Georgetown pool around \$600,000. In 1973 dollars it would cost over \$2 million to build the same facilities today, Elliott said.

Elliott also pointed out that the cost of the Georgetown pool was debentured until 1995, indicating that the life of that pool isn't expected to end until at least the middle of the next decade.

The pools were sold to the Board for \$1 on the condition the Board wouldn't be involved in construction, but would take over maintenance, according to Elliott.

"That contract was negotiated in 1973, and at that time it was felt to be a good contract. It's equitable," he added.



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