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Deer Park will honor bookings

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Some brides-to-be are frantic this week after learning of the Deer Park Inn's financial distress and are worried their bookings for receptions will be cancelled.

But an official from the Deer Park Inn claims all bookings will be secure and will go on as planned, adding arrangements are being made to contact all affected parties.

Bob Woods, 42, new owner at the Deer Park Inn, confirms the Inn is closed, but will open again soon.

"This weekend might be too soon but tentatively for next weekend," he said.

However, Unionville resident Mary Robinson, who has one of the first spring season weddings booked for May 26, has paid the Deer Park Inn about \$200 for her wedding and is uncertain about her plans.

"They didn't even have the courtesy to call and tell me," Ms. Robinson says, adding she would not even have known about the problem had one of her friends not told her about the Tribune March 21 edition story.

"I have my reception tentatively booked somewhere else, but I don't know what to do," she says.

Ms. Robinson says she has also had invitations printed at a cost of about \$150 stating her festivities will be held at the Deer Park Inn.

Several other women have contacted the Tribune office, worried they will also be out substantial deposits already paid to the 10th Line club.

One woman, who has a booking this September, says she paid \$500 to the Deer Park Inn management last year, but was told her autumn booking would be honored by the new management.

"They told my fiance that the Deer Park Inn was now under new management and the place would be back on track in the next few weeks," says Karen Vinke.

Nancy Rankin has cancelled her booking for June, because "I just couldn't hold my breath on this one."

"I am luckier than some because I managed to cancel my invitations just in time and I found another place in Aurora," says Ms. Rankin.

"We left numerous messages (with the Deer Park owners) but no one has called me yet."

And a disc jockey, used by the establishment for most of its book-

ings, says he is not worried about losing business because most of his clients have called him to entertain at new locations.

Meanwhile, Ontario Labor Board Investigator Wally Sinjakewitsch says an investigation into the Inn's status "has progressed."

Mr. Sinjakewitsch was assigned the case following complaints from former employee Bob Fleming, who claimed the Inn's former owners reneged on pay.

He was to meet with Mr. Woods Monday to determine the financial status of the establishment.

Mr. Woods says there are some minor changes being made to the Inn, both administratively and structurally, and adds arrangements are being made for employees who have not been paid.

He also says wedding bookings will be honored but if there are cancellations the parties will "get their money back."

Mr. Woods says the name of the establishment will be changed to Stouffville Deer Park Inn to "identify the Town more."

Lake pollution pinpointed by local officials

Pollution-causing agents in Musselman Lake will be public information this week, a result of a tri-party investigation late last year, Council heard last Tuesday.

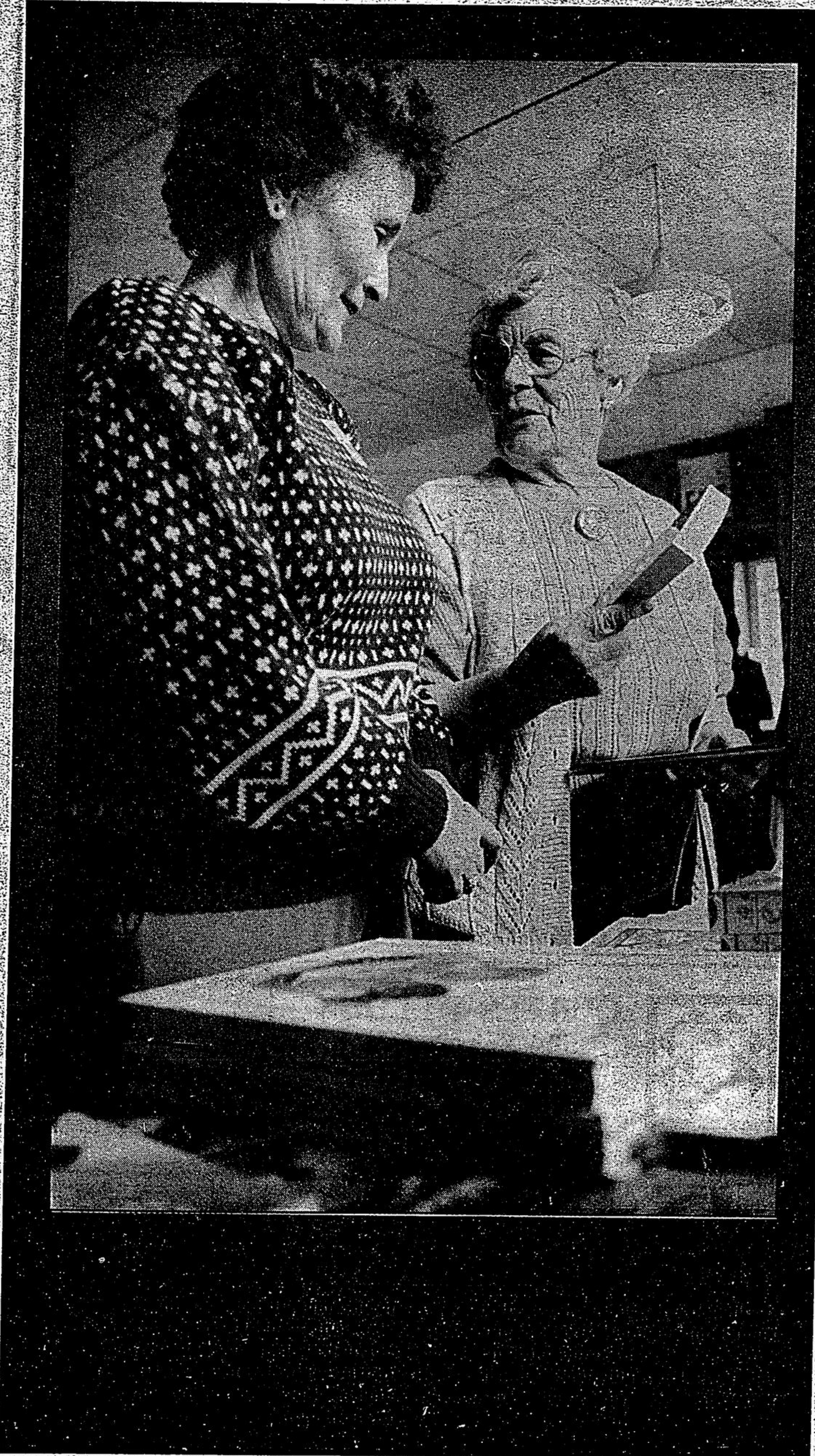
Town Director of Planning Michael Saunders said the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSCRA) confirmed the final version of the combined LSCRA/Ministry of Environment and York Region health department will be released and sent to the Town and Giffels, the Town's engineering consultants.

The report will outline the reasons for the deterioration of surface water in the lake.

Ward 2 Councillor Ron Robb, representing Musselman Lake residents, said there was an unusually big algae bloom last fall, causing "decay" and said "we want to know why it's blooming to the extent it is."

"(Musselman Lake) is one of 30 endangered lakes in Ontario," Mayor Fran Sainsbury said.

Council will see the final report this week that will outline chemical levels within the lake.



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