

Environment

Stop Musselman lake pollution at source: Expert

High phosphorus levels emanating from old septic systems, manure must be halted before any clean-up

JOHN ANDREWS
Correspondent

There were more questions raised than answers given at a meeting last week on what to do with the clean up of Musselman Lake.

The meeting boasted an impressive number of environmental experts who each had their say in what problems are facing the lake and how to improve the water quality.

There was much discussion about the high phosphorus count in the lake and many

questions about how to reduce it by chemical or other means.

Dr. Anne Zimmerman of the University of Toronto's department of zoology said before starting band-aid solutions to reduce the phosphorus, the town should find out where it's coming from and do something to alter it.

In effect, killing the phosphorus at the source.

Mike Walters of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority said the lake's carrying capacity has been exceeded

and that many local septic systems are either old and in need of updating or in disrepair. One major source of phosphorus is manure. A concerned resident told the committee of a man who rents farmland close to the lake.

He said the man has 600 animals on the land and more manure than he knows what to do with.

He said the farmer is dumping it on the snow and this, he said, runs off with the melting snow and into the lake.

Manure running off with rain and melted snow was also noted as a problem with the Wagon Wheel Ranch which is near the lake's south shore.

Walters said his organization was aware of the problems with

manure running into lakes but said the LSRA has no authority to punish an offender.

He said the conservation authority has taken a long time to build up a rapport with farmers and by enforcing such an action by reporting the offender to the Ministry of the Environment would ruin the rapport and jeopardize any future studies on private farmland.

Dr. D.J. McQueen of York University said in a report, the best way to restore the lake is installing a comprehensive drainage system and reroute all drainage culverts in the area away from the lake.

He also said the addition of lime to the water would make the lake less alkaline and slow

down or stop the growth of the blue/green algae.

McQueen said Musselman Lake cannot support any new housing developments and the use of land and lawn fertilizer containing phosphorus must be stopped.

He added the addition of pike and largemouth bass and the removal of carp and catfish would have a dramatic effect on control of microscopic life-forms that are conducive to algae growth.

Mayor Fran Sainsbury said a study will be starting shortly and will take about a year to complete.

She also said the town has to find out who owns the lake before any actual solutions can be put forth.

Pageant dropped from Strawberry Festival

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Jeni Montgomery could be the last Miss Whitchurch-Stouffville this town will ever see.

After 17 years of producing the annual competition, organizer Bunny Burton says she and husband Bruce have finally had enough. Burton told *The Tribune* this week the contest, which runs in co-ordination with the annual Strawberry Festival, is cancelled. She said although last year's show was "phenomenal," the people just haven't been coming out the past few years and they can't "never get help" to take down and close up the stage after the show is over. "We work too damn hard and put in a lot of effort," to have no one come out and see the show, Burton said.

She added it "was a crime" that only 200 people came out last year to see "10 gorgeous girls with a lot of talent."

She also cited the sagging economy as another reason why the show wouldn't be viable this year. "Times are hard-pressed now. Last year I had to beg for money," Burton said. She added that the Strawberry Festival committee, which doesn't fund the contest, has enough problems gathering sponsors and can't afford to allocate money to the pageant. Burton said Miss Whitchurch-Stouffville sponsors, which was changed to Miss Strawberry Festival Queen last year, paid \$65 to have their name placed on a girl's banner. This year local businesses likely won't have the money.

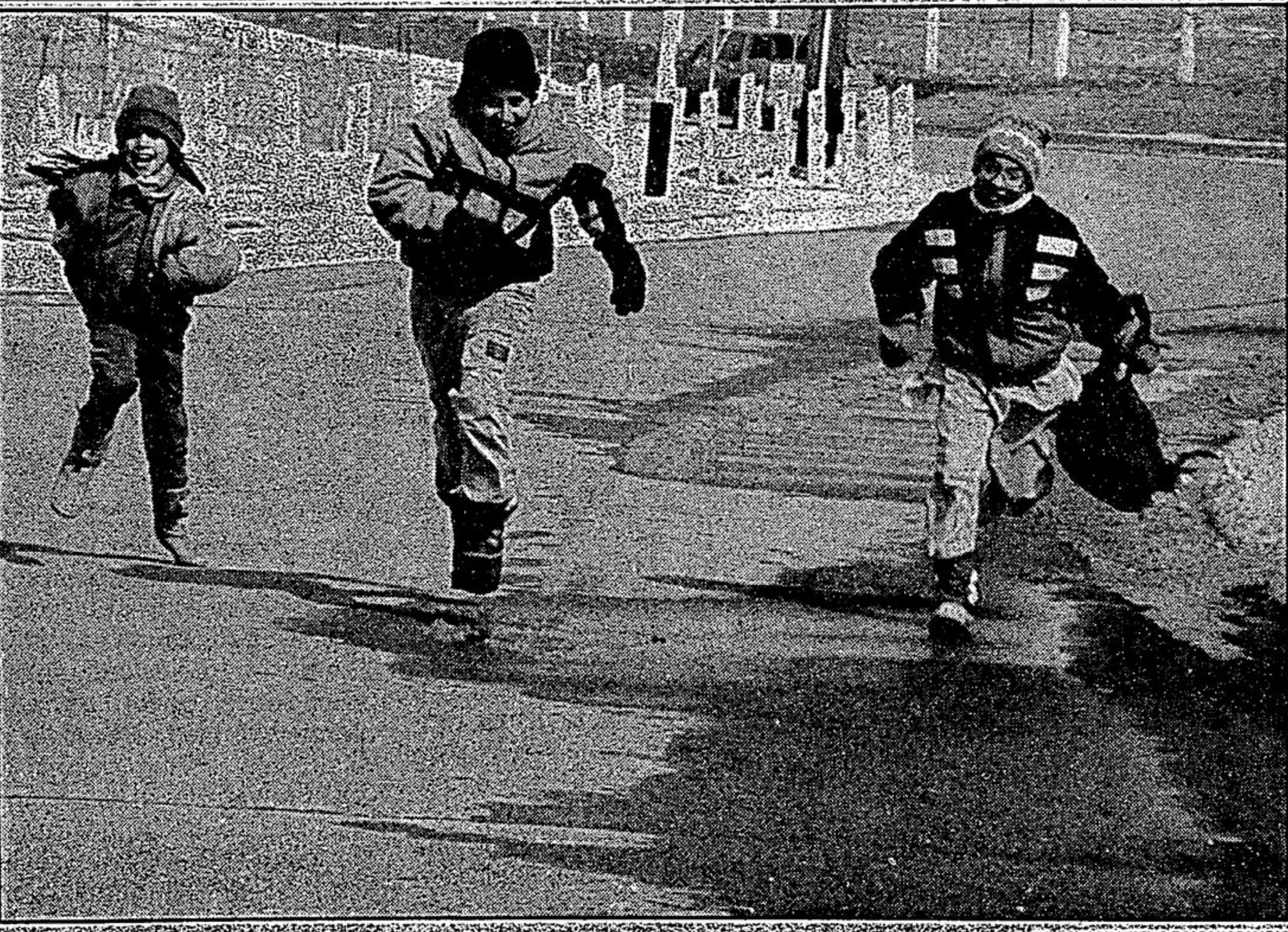
She said she is proud of how the contest ended though, with the "perfect queen." Montgomery went on to dazzle judges and win the Miss Markham Fair contest, which puts her in for contention in the Miss CNE contest. When asked if anyone would take over the production, Burton said "not if they know how much work is involved."

Bowes distressed by cuts

(From page 1)

implement (Junior Kindergarten) for the first year alone and the NDP government still says it must be in by 1994." He said the board's trustees had sent a seven page letter to the ministry Wednesday questioning grant cuts and the inequity of grant allocations to boards in high and low assessment regions. Saying that it would take an estimated 23 per cent mill rate increase to fund the programs required by the government, Bowes said it would be out of the question to approach the public for such an increase.

When local resident Robin Loveday asked just what could be done to reverse the situation, Bowes suggested contacting the education minister and one's member of parliament. The board will table its final 1992 budget on April 27.



Photo/ANNETTE BUCHKOWSKI

Race ya!

Springing into spring, from left, Ashley Richardson, 9, enjoy a race down Burkholder St. in Stouffville. Richardson, 7, Scott Vinkle, 9, and Shawn St.

Town to help fight gypsy moths

Project gypsy moth is underway and local officials will join forces with residents to

combat the leaf-eating pests.

Council agreed last week to model King Township's 1991 successful gypsy moth aerial spraying program, and will consider a financial contribution during budget deliberations this month.

Nearly 130 ratepayers in North East Stouffville have already raised about \$12,000 to spray 670 acres. They have been desperately trying to raise enough funds to hire an aerial sprayer before May when the moth hatches, matures into a caterpillar and begins to defoliate deciduous and coniferous trees.

Mayor Fran Sainsbury appointed resident Ed Lyons to contact the man responsible for setting up King's program, a retired Environment Ministry worker. Sainsbury said King organizers divided the rural township into four quadrants, including a large number of participants to keep costs low.

She added Stouffville volunteers could co-ordinate a door-to-door information and contribution system that could raise enough money to hire a aerial sprayer at a cheaper rate per

acre. "We can make it work," if the town and residents get involved, Sainsbury said.

She added that if there are enough participants, the Natural Resources Ministry could be convinced to pitch in funds to assist the residents.

However, Ward 3 councillor Nick Tatone said performing a local spraying program would not work without York Region support.

"This is not fixing the problem. Because York won't spray its forests, the gypsy moths just swing back to our trees. They'll all blow back within two weeks," Tatone said.

But council voted in favor of setting up a program that would assist the residents in raising money to perform two sprayings of *Bacillus Thurengiensis* (BT). The environmentally safe chemical kills only the caterpillar, by causing gut paralysis and eventual starvation.

Meet a Rotarian

MIKE OGDEN

Stouffville Rotary Club

Position
Past president

Length of Service
Six years

(founding member)

Family

Wife: Evelyn Mac

Jamie

Haidee

Employment - Exploration geologist

Special Interests

Licensed pilot, windsurfing, teaches weather course to Richmond Hill Power Squadron

Club Interests - Helped start international student exchange program in the club, Camp Enterprise (student business camp), Stouffville Community Awareness Bureau



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