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15 Strap on a pair of snowshoes and get physically fit in the great outdoors.

ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR

EVENT: Celebrate Youth Art
WHEN: Friday, 3 to 7 p.m.
WHERE: Varley Art Gallery. Call (905) 764-9722



3 Peace Meal allows religious groups to question other faiths over friendly dinner.

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TWO POLICE FORCES INTERVIEWING SAME SUSPECT

Murder linked to friend's death

BY RICK VANDERLINDE
 Staff Writer

Police were questioning a man last night in connection with the stabbing death of 33-year-old Colleen Richardson-Luciano of Vaughan and the suspicious death of her friend James Cooper, 38, of Peterborough.

York Regional Police homicide detectives and OPP homicide

investigators have linked the deaths and were interviewing the same suspect in Goderich.

"We are both interested in the same person," Det. Sgt. Denis Mulholland told reporters yesterday.

"But I don't believe it's fair to reveal who that person is without charges being laid."

Luciano's body was discovered

in a dumpster behind a North York business Saturday at about 8 p.m.

Cooper's body, meanwhile, was found in the passenger side of a vehicle parked in the village of Edmondville in southwestern Ontario Sunday morning.

Mulholland said police have spoken with Luciano's husband, but he would not reveal if he was the same person investigators were

questioning in Goderich.

"No one has been charged by us," Mulholland stressed.

He said the couple was not estranged at the time of the woman's death.

Luciano left two children, a 6-year-old girl and a 14-year-old boy, both of whom are being cared for

See BODY, page 5

Ban berries that carry parasite: public health

Heading off another outbreak

BY JENNIFER BROWN
 Staff Writer

A nasty parasite that caused severe stomach cramps and diarrhea in 100 York Region residents last summer is prompting local health officials to call for a ban on Guatemalan blackberries during the spring and summer.

Last year, public health staff spent more than 750 hours trying to determine the cause of the outbreak and speaking to those affected by the parasite.

The investigation cost York Region public health more than \$16,700 in staff time, a considerable amount since food-borne illnesses are considered preventable.

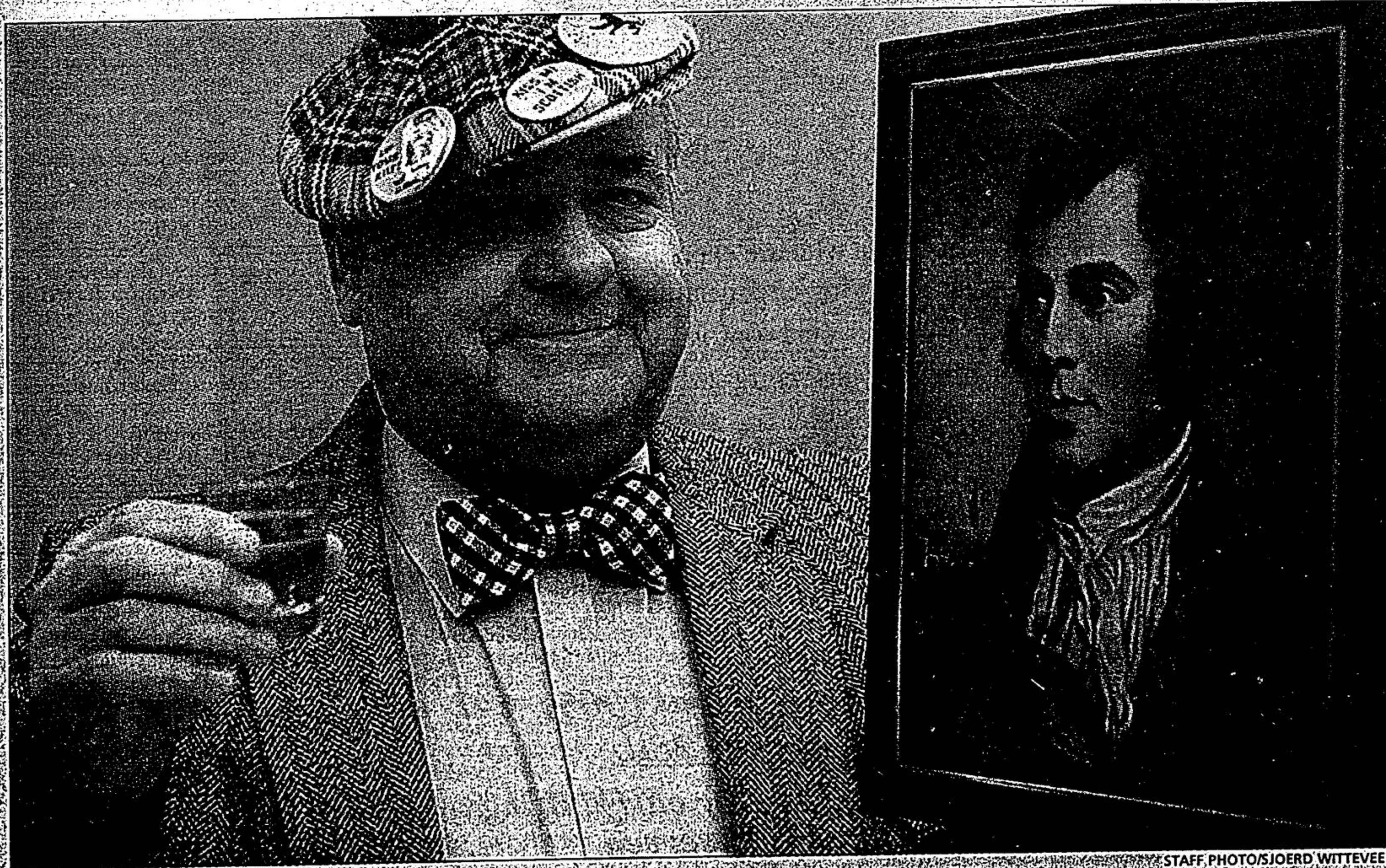
But at the local level, officials say their hands are tied when it comes to controlling the import of potentially harmful fruits and vegetables, even though the job of determining the source of the outbreak falls to them.

"At this level in York Region there is very little we can do. We can only make recommendations and whether or not they are adopted has to occur at the provincial or federal level," said Dr. Troy Herrick, associate medical officer of health.

"I would imagine it is quite frustrating for the individuals at our level but all we can do is make recommendations."

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency already bans

See CONTAMINATION, page 2.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

A SALUTE TO ROBBIE BURNS

J.T. Walters makes a toast to Robbie Burns. The York Region resident has been toasting the Irish poet at official functions for 40 years, and will be in Unionville Thursday evening. See page 12 for more.

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