

# No evidence of E. coli in Musselman's Lake

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check valves installed on properties where wells are not capped.

"At this point, I don't know if we can walk on to private property to carry out inspections," Emmerson said. "We're going to find out what we can and what we cannot do. But I do urge that all wells be capped."

When the communal water system came into play, some residents opted to keep their wells working to water their lawns cost free, Emmerson said.

After the crisis in Walkerton, with 11 deaths possibly linked to E. coli and about 1,000 people falling ill, water testing for Musselman's Lake and Ballantrae will be beefed up.

"We'll increase the water testing," Emmerson said.

"Last year, about 4,000 test samples were done in York. There was no evidence of E. coli. But, I agree, cross connecting spells trouble."

Whitchurch-Stouffville Council is expected to discuss the water situation in Ballantrae and Musselman's Lake on Tuesday.

"The wells should be capped," said Councillor Judy Scala. "It's appropriate, considering what happened in Walkerton. We can never be too careful."

According to Councillor Sue

Sherban, there has never been a scare or a problem in Musselman's Lake.

"I was born and raised there. Some are exploiting the situation because of Walkerton. Property owners, not the municipality, should cap the wells," she said.

Winters wants the town to force residents of Musselman's Lake and Ballantrae to get rid of their private wells as a preventive health measure. Linking their private wells to the communal water system as a way to lowering their water bill is a "very, very dangerous thing to do," he said.

Winters advises residents to stop drinking the tap water until every well in the area is out of commission.

However, Zyhar cautioned that switching to bottled water may not be necessary. "There has never been any concern about the water serving Musselman's Lake and Ballantrae."

The water of Musselman's Lake is tested on a "continuous" basis. There's never been any evidence of E. coli," said chief administrative officer Nick Kristoffy.

Winters said in mid-October he notified Emmerson, Councillor Mark Carroll and town staff that, while carrying out a plumbing job for the town, he came across properties where the town's water supply was connected to private wells.

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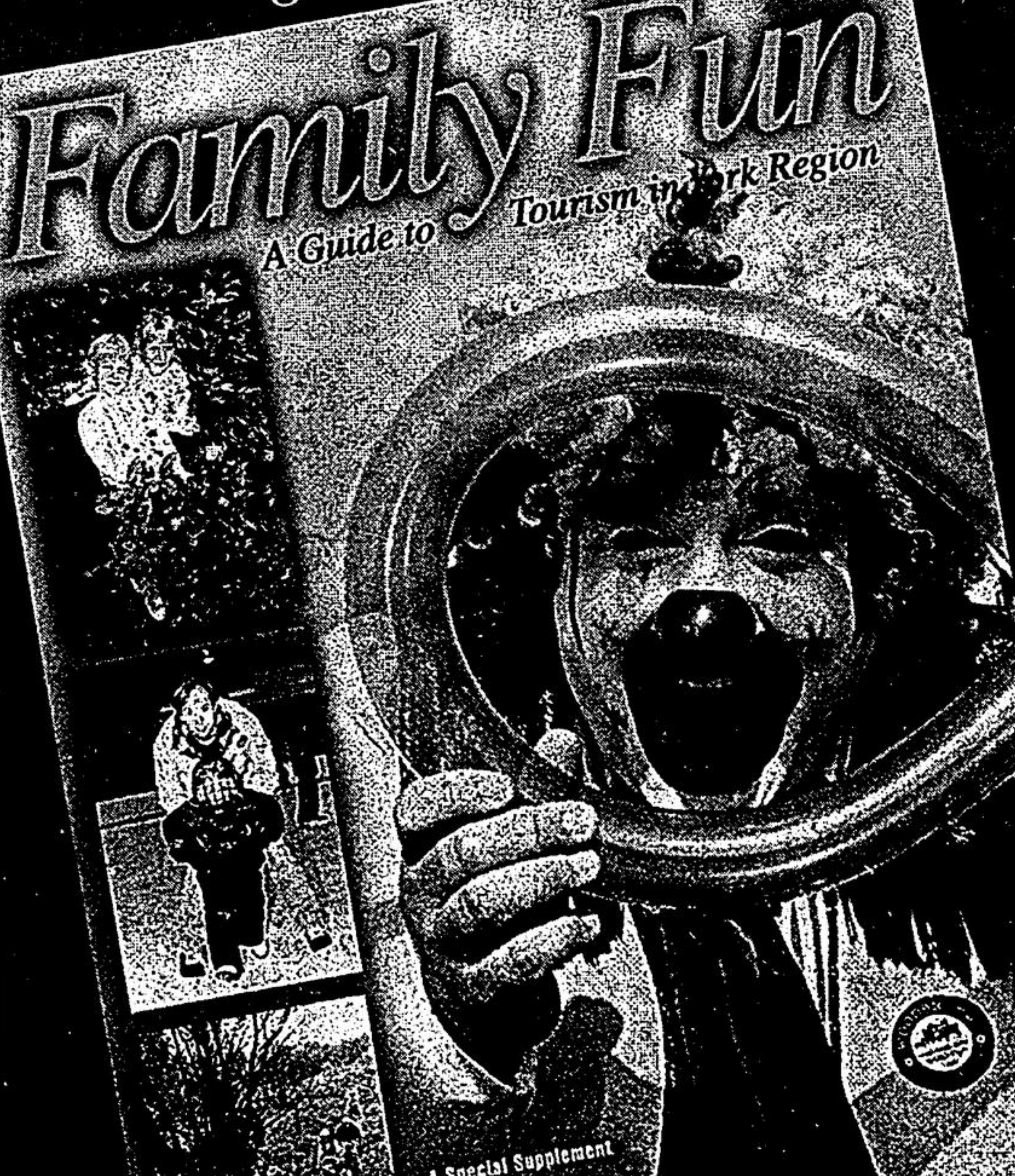
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