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12 Designer leashes and playthings — nothing's too good for our furry companions.

ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR

EVENT: Classical guitarist Aaron Bock performs
WHEN: Sunday 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Christ Church Anglican, Stouffville



28 At 12, Colin Rees is an accomplished magician and he's great at keeping his secrets.

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Wells of 'red-lettered' properties to be probed

Checks in store for misuse of well water

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
 Staff Writer

Preventive measures to guard against water-borne diseases are being put in place in Musselman's Lake and Ballantrae, eight months after a potential problem was suspected.

Concerns that contamination could find its way into the municipal water system through illegal cross-connections with private wells triggered action from the town Tuesday.

Water testing is to be beefed up in both hamlets, while inspections will be done on properties suspected of cross-connecting, Mayor Wayne Emmerson announced Tuesday.

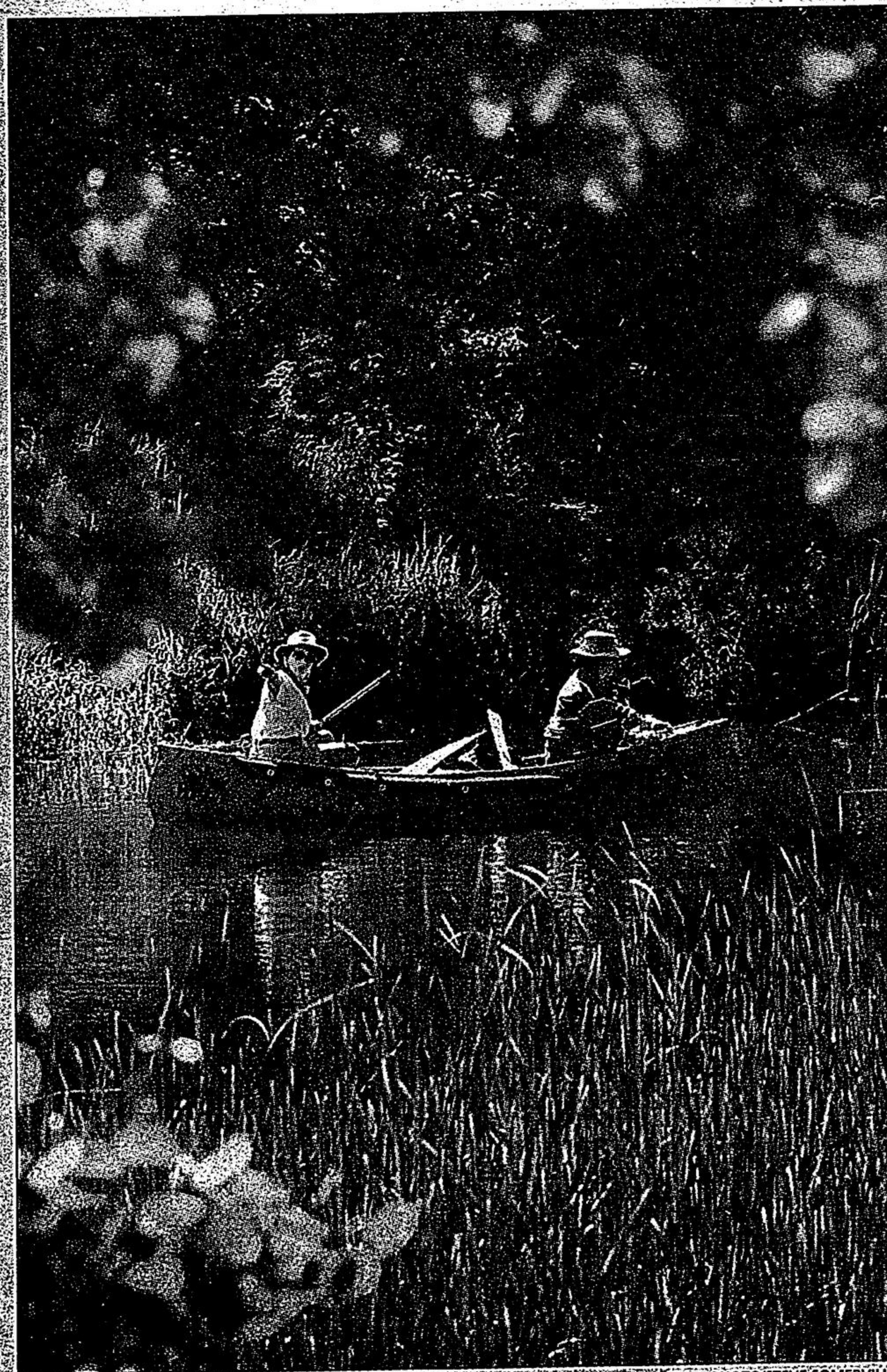
While there's "absolutely no evidence of water contamination," including the deadly E. coli virus, there is a potential for trouble, Emmerson said.

"This is what we're going to check," he said. "I am asking for co-operation from the residents."

Action was taken after local plumber Tom Winters warned there's a potential for a serious health threat linked to the \$8-million communal water system, which serves 700 homes.

If a connection is made between a private well and the municipal system, backwash could contaminate the entire system, placing Musselman's Lake

Skimming the surface



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Mary-Francis Juk and Ruth Boynton search the depths of Lehman's Pond for trash during last Saturday's clean-up, initiated by the Rotary Club of Stouffville. They reported finding items such as paper, plywood, bottles, cans and a shoe.

Eight nabbed in ecstasy lab bust

Farmhouse serves as drug manufacturing plant

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
 Staff Writer

An abandoned Markham farmhouse was once the location for a large-scale drug lab which produced thousands of ecstasy and GHB (date rape) pills for sale on the streets of Toronto.

Armed with search warrants, Toronto Police, along with officers from the York and Peel forces, descended on several GTA locations last Thursday, including a rented farmhouse at 19th and Warden avenues.

Eight people, including one man from Newmarket and another from Markham, are charged with various drug-related offences including conspiracy to manufacture and trafficking a controlled substance. An arrest warrant issued for a Markham woman will bring the total number of arrests to nine.

While the Markham lab had been dismantled in March, police tracked the equipment to a Toronto storage warehouse and confiscated it.

"We seized enough chemicals to produce 200,000 tablets," Toronto Det. Randy Smith said. "The pill press in particular was very significant. People tend to think the majority of these drugs, if not all, are imported from Denmark or Amsterdam. What we've been saying, now what we've shown, is the manufacturing is taking place right here."

Canada must seem like a haven to organized crime members involved in the drug trade, he said. Unlike the U.S., it's not illegal to

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