

Attack source of pollution, not symptoms: residents

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gist, believes the root of the kettle lake's problems should be solved.

"We should address the source of the problem. At best, the lung is a quick fix, Band-Aid approach and does nothing to get to the source of the problem," he said.

Musselman's Lake Councillor Mark Carroll admits he doesn't know what the solution is.

"But, we have to do something," Carroll said.

The councillor has appealed to the town for support in restoring the health of Musselman's Lake. Carroll points out the lake has been a source of pleasure for many years. Located in the middle of the village, it's the focal point of the community.

The lake might be in trouble, "but it's not dead," Gemza said.

"Musselman's Lake definitely has some issues. It's not as nice as Preston Lake (Vandorf area), but it's not as bad as Wilcox. Yet, lake restoration is needed at Musselmans."

'What's the point of testing if we're not going to do anything.'

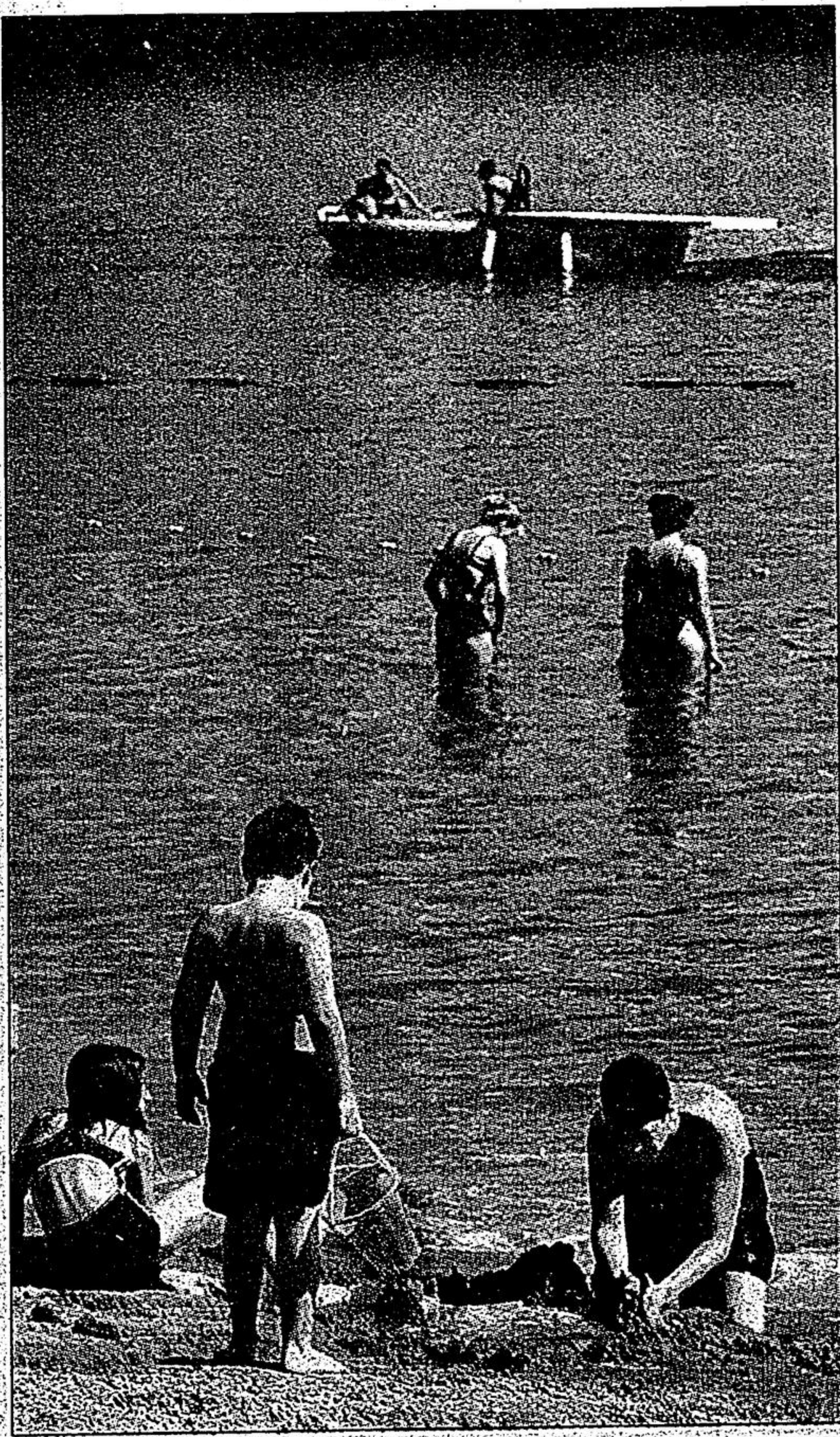
Musselman's Lake is part of the Ontario Lake Partner program. However, the program was hit so hard by government cutbacks, no attention is being given to Musselman's Lake.

"What's the point of testing if we're not going to do anything about the problems. We were promised help. We didn't get it," Lafleur said.

Gemza said his hands are tied. "I don't have the time. I don't have the staffing."

Despite government cutbacks, The Ministry of the Environment stresses the importance of maintaining healthy lakes. The first line of attack on blue algae is to correct the cause of the problem, rather than the symptoms. Most effective is the reduction of algae-promoting phosphorus, advises the ministry.

And, bringing septic systems up to standard is important. Other methods could range from pumping fertilizer (nitrates) out of the lake, pulling out the leaves, using equipment to create a bubbling



STAFF PHOTOS/JOERD WITTEVEEN

Eugenie, 11, Marc-Antoine, 7, and Alain Phillippe Goupille, 13, make castles on the shore of Musselman's Lake, which some residents say needs to be cleaned up.

effect, using propellers on the water and stocking the lake with large fish.

Toninger wants residents to ban together and implement a septic system strategy where residents could get their septic tanks pumped out en masse at a reduced rate.

"The No. 1 problem is caused from the faulty septic systems," Toninger said.

As well, there's a lack of "healthy

shore line vegetation", no buffering on the road side which lets road salt and lawn fertilizers and pesticides flow into the lake and road culverts that don't suit the lake, Toninger said.

Storm management and proper erosion control are also needed to achieve a healthy lake.

And, some residents believe motor boats are adding to the lake's environmental problems, Toninger said.

Schools targeted by vandals

BY LISA QUEEN
Staff Writer

The vandals picked their target in broad daylight, spurred on by some axe to grind or looking for a way to shake summer boredom.

They hit the portables at Cardinal Carter Catholic High School in Aurora at about 11 a.m. on July 11, smashing the door handles.

Once inside, they trashed the structures.

To the tune of \$10,000.

With superintendent of plant and planning Brice Eldridge estimating his board's schools sustain about \$30,000 to \$40,000 damage a year thanks to vandalism, this single assault accounted for a quarter to a third of that total.

Just two hours after the Cardinal Carter incident, another pack of vandals struck.

This time it was at Oak Ridges Public School in Richmond Hill.

They broke windows, smashed toilet tanks and sprayed fire extinguishers.

Damage is estimated at \$5,000.

About \$15,000 damage in a two-hour span is a heavy hit for York's public and separate school boards.

Of course, not all vandalism to schools is as serious.

NIGHT-TIME SPREE

Three days before vandals damaged Cardinal Carter and Oak Ridges schools, York Regional Police believe kids or teens caused almost \$300 damage to Denne Public School in Newmarket.

The night-time spree, just before 11 p.m., resulted in numerous smashed windows.

A week ago, someone tried to set fire to a door at Maple Leaf Public School in Newmarket at about 4 p.m., causing about \$500 damage.

And some time between 3:30 p.m. last Thursday and 7 a.m. Monday, someone got inside a portable at Roselawn Public School in Richmond Hill and sprayed the fire extinguisher.

There is no estimate of damage.

Stouffville District Secondary School was vandalized with graffiti last month in a misguided tribute to Chris Pagani who drowned in Lake Scugog.

There were no charges laid in the incident after the school's principal decided arrest wouldn't be appropriate under the circumstances.

REGIONAL News Digest



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Bandwidth 2000
Friday, Aug. 11
The Aurora Legion
Call 773-7024

Bandwidth director James Haliburton and Mr. Wang bass player Jonathan McCallum promote the battle of the bands contest, with proceeds supporting Operation Catch-up, offering programs for youth.

Bogus inspector alert

Police say they are interested in hearing more about someone who pretended to be a building inspector in Markham this week.

And the Town of Markham is warning anyone who gets an inspection request to check the inspector's identity.

A resident was called Wednesday by a man who said he was a Markham building inspector and seemed to threaten legal action if he was denied entry to the home.

"These requests can and should be confirmed," John Wright, Markham's director of building standards, stated in a press release.

"We urge residents to ask for identification and a contact phone number to confirm the inspection."

In this case, the town said the resident phoned a number the bogus inspector gave and found it was fake. No other suspicious incidents have been reported since.

Wright said real building inspectors carry a telephone number residents can call for confirmation (479-7780).

They also will identify themselves by name, carry official identification and wear clothes with the town's logo visible on them.

Anyone who receives a suspicious request is asked to contact the town or the York Regional Police at 881-1221.

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