

Drowning third in Musselman's Lake history

From page 1.

cries. What happened was a tragedy."

Witnesses reported to police that about 10 minutes after a little boy, a non-swimmer, was taken to shore by teenager Taylor White, a woman screamed she couldn't see her boyfriend.

The man was accompanying the boy to the trampoline about 80 yards from the shoreline when he disappeared in 20 feet of water.

Swimming near the trampoline, Joe Dennis heard screams and dove beneath the surface.

"I saw a silhouette but I didn't have enough breath to reach him," Mr. Dennis said.

"I swam back down the second time and got hold of him and got to the surface."

Paul MacMurchy has lived beside the beach for many years and is accustomed to the noise of people enjoying the water. The moment the noise changed from squeals to cries, he noticed.

"I knew something was wrong," he said.

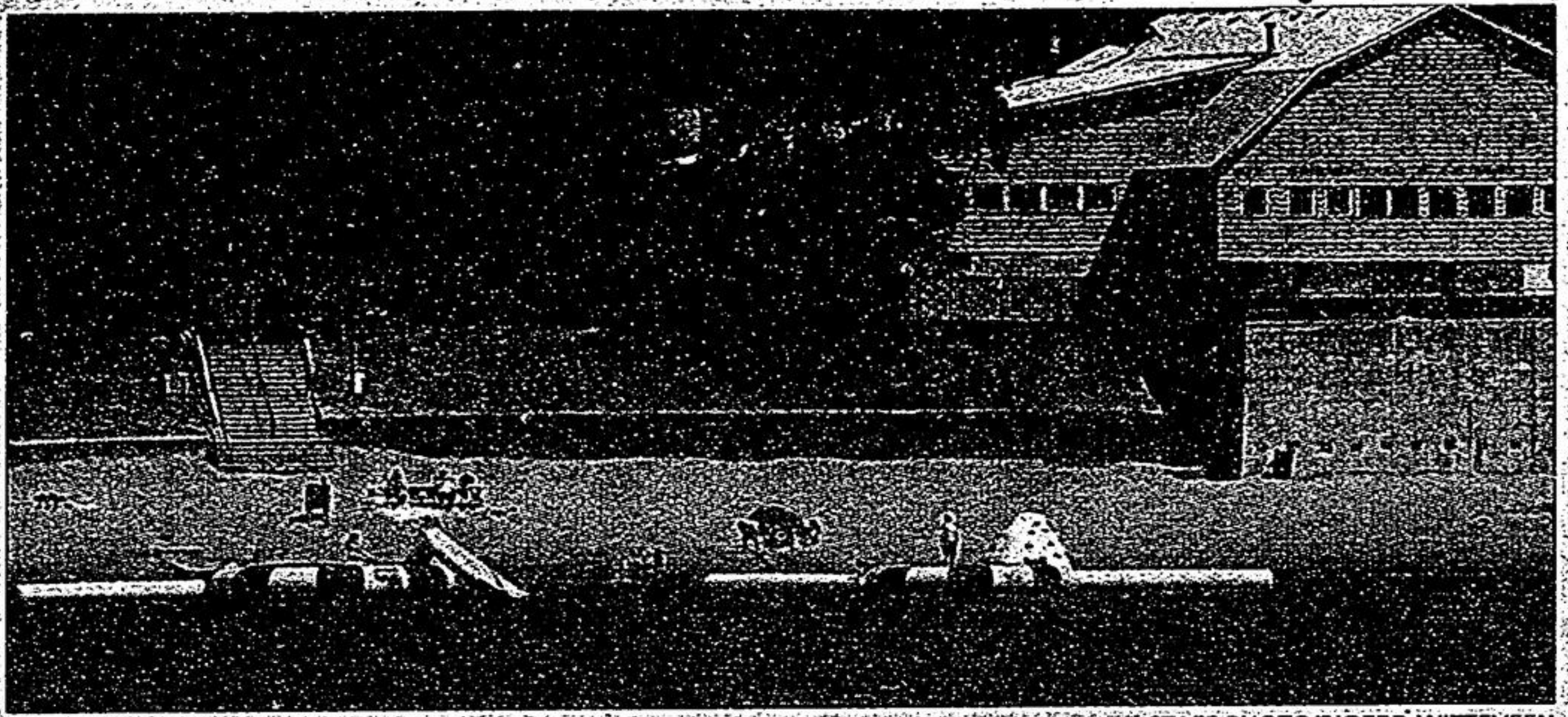
Along with family friend Aaron Morrison, Mr. MacMurchy jumped into his small boat and, within a minute, reached Mr. Dennis holding on to the unconscious man.

The pair pulled the man into the boat and headed for the trampoline, where they were met by Mr. Jenkins.

As 911 was called and swimmers were summoned out of the water, distraught onlookers watched as Mr. Jenkins, a former police officer and paramedic, administered CPR.

With the help of others, Mr. Jenkins brought the unconscious man to shore.

When EMS crews arrived, Mr. Jenkins kept working on the drowning victim, while they carried out additional treatment and loaded the



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Cedar Beach Park at Musselman's Lake, where a visitor from Israel drowned Monday.

man into the ambulance.

Alerted to the crisis, Ms Davies arrived at the beach and escorted the man's family to the hospital.

"The family was understandably devastated," Ms Davies said.

Police and Whitchurch-Stouffville firefighters continued to interview witnesses and explain to children why they couldn't in the water for a few hours.

No lifeguards are posted on Musselman's Lake.

"We used to have guards, but people would send their

kids unsupervised thinking they were safe just because a guard was on duty," Ms Davies said.

"Parents are the best lifeguards. People have to be their own built-in alarm when in deep water."

While new signs will be posted at the beach, it's likely they'll still read, "Parents are the best lifeguard" and "Walk out to safe depth and swim back."

The Davies family has run Cedar Beach since 1918.

"Millions of people have come through our gates," Ms

Davies said.

This was the second death at the private beach.

In the 1960s a man died when he dove off a tower into the lake. An autopsy showed the man died of a heart attack.

Records show two others have died on the south side of Musselman's Lake. A construction worker died while swimming from a boat six years ago and a medical student drowned in the kettle lake in the 1930s.

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