

Mohawk's on the grow

\$5.5 million expansion includes 2 super-screens

Mohawk Raceway's \$5,500,000 expansion program, announced three weeks ago and detailed by the Ontario Jockey Club's board of directors at a special meeting last week, represents "a new dimension in harness racing in North America" according to Col. Charles Baker, chairman of the board.

"There is no question, the expansion is absolutely necessary," Baker told a press conference Tuesday. "Mohawk Raceway has exceeded our greatest expectations."

Termed it "a unique and exciting concept" Baker and OJC's executive vice-president Jack Kenney outlined how the north-east corner of the present grandstand will be expanded to accommodate two large new indoor rooms—one a 500 seat lounge, the other a 330-seat dining room—each to be provided with a giant 9 by 12 foot closed circuit television screen for race viewing.

The addition will also provide an additional 1,000 grandstand seats. Also in-

cluded are new lounge areas, several new food and drink concessions and the doubling of existing pari-mutuel wagering facilities.

Mohawk opened in 1963 and the average attendance that first year was 1,769 patrons per day. In 1974 that had grown to 5,290, Kenney said. The present grandstand seats 2,200 and the dining room has tables for 500. The dining room is "booked solid, every night," Kenney said.

With last year's average attendance running around 5,300 the track still boasts a record in 1970 when 11,740 fans attended the World Driving Championships. Another indicator of Mohawk's growth is the increase in purses paid to horse owners—from \$541,000 in 1963 to \$1,600,000 in 1974.

Extra nights The Campbellville track is so popular, OJC took 15 racing days off Garden City at St. Catharines and tagged them onto the Mohawk 1976 race meet dates. The local track opened its current fall meet Oct. 12th and races continue five nights a week (Wednesday and Thursday

are dark) until Dec. 16.

Baker called harness racing Canada's "fastest growing sport" and Kenney calls Mohawk the OJC's fastest growing facility. No expansions are planned at the other OJC tracks in Toronto (Greenwood) or St. Catharines (Garden City).

Expansion will begin this year and the new facilities should be ready for the fall 1976 race meet. Kenney described the addition as 116 feet long, 50 feet deep and two storeys in height. Directors expect construction work to continue during the race meet next spring.

Asked if the indoor super-screens would be used for off-track betting, Kenney admitted "it has an application, when off-track betting is introduced in Ontario." He said the screens are suitable for many other events too—for instance, conventions and sales meetings.

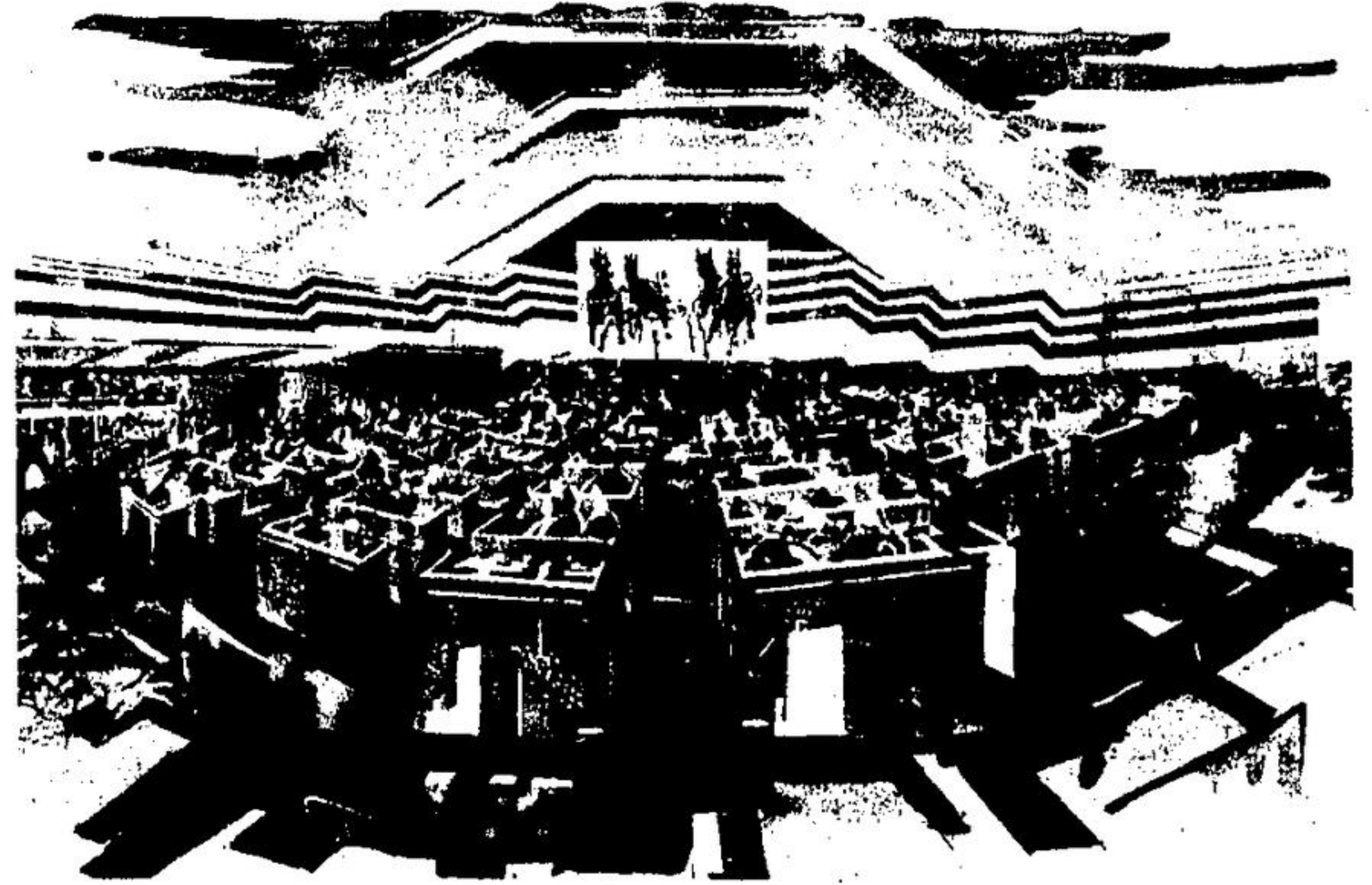
Planned a while ago He denied the expansion had anything to do with the early success of the new Plumbro Downs Raceway which opened earlier this

year less than 25 miles southwest of Mohawk. Mohawk's expansion has been in the planning stage for three to four years, he explained.

If off-track betting was to be legalized in Ontario, patrons from this area could relax in comfort at Mohawk and watch races from Greenwood or Garden City tracks (or OJC's Woodbine and Fort Erie) being piped in to the super-screens.

Bill Gavin, director of special events for the Jockey Club, said the screens' uses are virtually unlimited. He hoped to see the rooms used off season for conventions, closed circuit boxing telecasts or any other events where a visual presentation is necessary.

Mohawk sits on 450 acres of spruce and cedar forest on Guelph Line just north of Highway 401. The stable area houses more than 800 trotters and pacers. Many local residents enjoy part time employment at the track and its location has prompted many horse owners to move into this area.



MOHAWK'S \$5.5 MILLION EXPANSION includes 1,000 new grandstand seats, more wagering and food-drink facilities, and two new rooms equipped with nine by 12 foot viewing

screens for watching the races via closed circuit. The room pictured here is the lounge, seating 500. A new 330-seat dining room with super-screen is also planned.

Coat of arms influenced by work of T. Thomson

What possible connection could there be between well known artist Tom Thomson, the Halton Hills coat of arms and pine trees? You guessed it—the pine tree.



is a durable tree of soft wood and very flexible.

There's a pine tree in the Halton Hills coat of arms and it is no coincidence it might resemble something Tom Thomson would have done. Dorothy Stone, the local artist who designed the coat of arms studied under four members of the Group of Seven, of which Tom Thomson was a member. She admits her work has been influenced by his paintings.

Studying under V.W. Beatty, one of the original members of the Group of Seven, Miss Stone said he told her not to draw another pine until she had studied them more. After taking his advice she agreed there were many things of which she was not aware.

For instance, Miss Stone says a pine tree always bends in the direction of the prevailing wind.

The pine is an emblem of longevity, Miss Stone says. It

Did you know also that amber is the fossilized sap of the pine tree and it takes 1,000 years of buried pressure to turn the sap into amber.

The pine tree is also a source of Vitamin C as early settlers of North America suffering from scurvy discovered. The Indians taught them to make tea from the needles and bark and as a result saved their lives.

As a result of her studies Miss Stone learned to see pine trees as Tom Thomson saw them and when Halton Hills commissioned her to form a coat of arms for the new town she included a tall pine tree with five branches of green.

outlined in white to represent Esquering as the oldest municipality in the new town. It does look much like one Thomson might have painted.

The subject came up after Miss Stone had seen the centre spread in the Real Estate Marketplace in this paper, October 29, which dealt with Tom Thomson, the painter and legend, and the McMichael collection of works of art by the Group of Seven at Kleinburg.

Miss Stone said she had donated a sketch to the McMichael collection about 1970 that is appraised now at approximately \$1,000. Miss Stone admitted she had never heard of Tom Thomson until she was about 19 and saw pictures of his on the walls of a cabin and she got interested.

The 8" x 10" sketch signed by Mr. Beatty has a small tribute on the back in his handwriting. He gave it to Miss Stone when he learned of her interest in the Thomson legend.

So Tom Thomson's influence is now felt even in the Halton Hills coat of arms.

Halton sets up Health Council

T.F. Baines, a past chairman of Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital Board has been appointed to the eight member steering committee that will set up the Halton District Health Council. The steering committee chairman John P.M. Porter president of Sheridan College, was appointed by the Minister of Health.

Mr. Baines said the Health Council will coordinate the planning and development of local health services and act as a liaison and coordinating group with the Ministry of Health. He explained that requests for additional or changed health services, or expansions to hospitals would first come to the council before going to the Ministry

of Health. Mr. Baines said he hopes the new council could cut away some of the duplication in the health service field and non-professionals.

The steering committee members are T.F. Baines, Georgetown, Mayor George Harrington, Burlington, George Heym, President of Halton Children's Aid, Dr.

Ian McIntyre, Burlington, John Ostler, Milton, Lillian Parsons administrator of Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital, and Audrey Ryckman, Burlington.

Tuberculosis is still with us, 408 Canadians died of the disease in 1973 warns The Halton Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Association.

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