

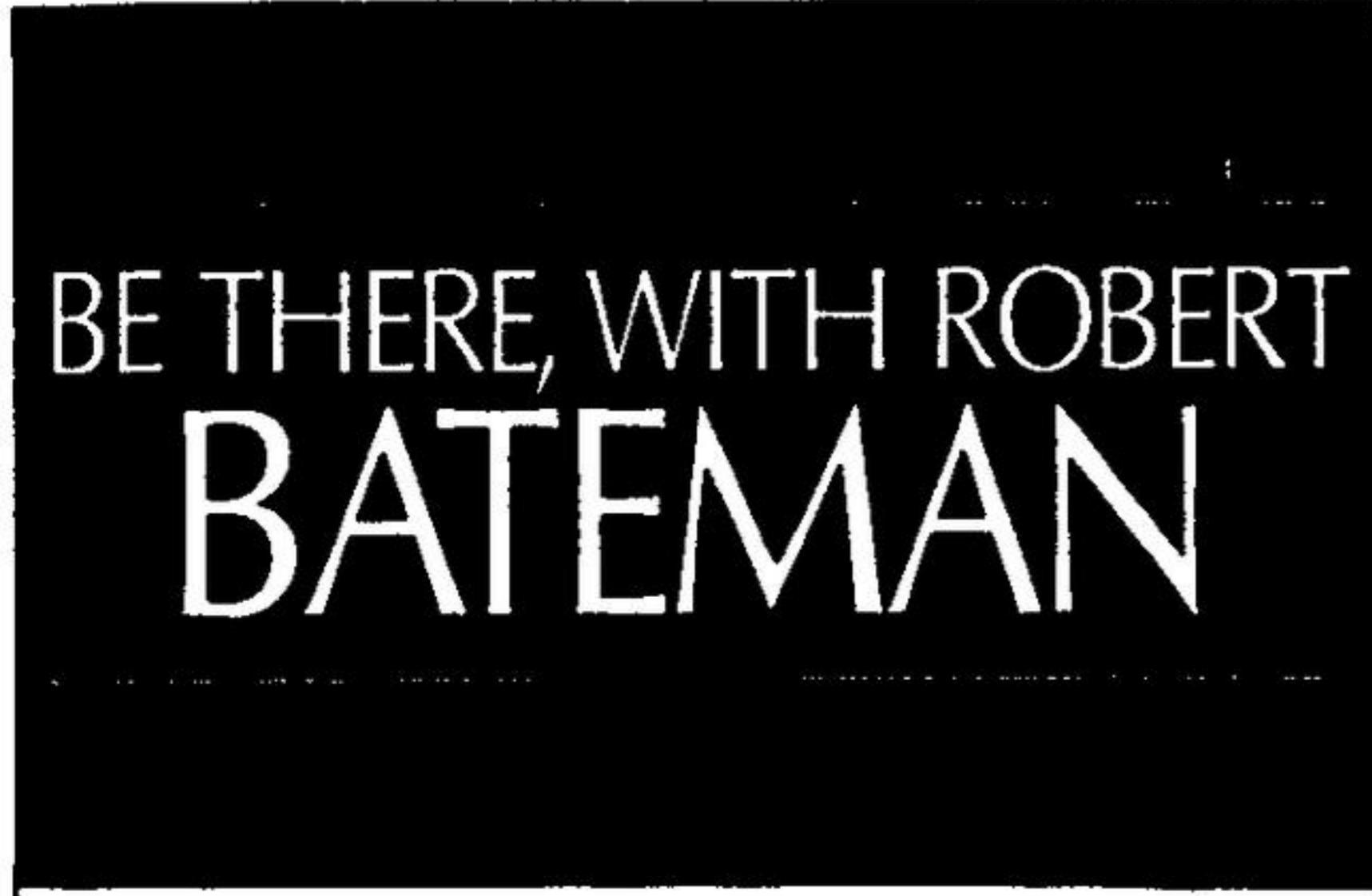
Urge crosswalk at seniors' apartments

A crosswalk is needed on Elizabeth Dr. between the Lakeview Villa seniors' apartments complex and the sidewalk across the street.

Councillor Dave Whiting noted plowing the sidewalk was discussed a few weeks ago at council. While the sidewalk isn't going to be plowed, Whiting

thinks something should be done to make it easier and safer for seniors to get over to the sidewalk. He also urged there be a "curb cut" at the cross-

walk so handicapped seniors and others who have difficulty walking can get onto the sidewalk.



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THE PLACE TO SAVE!!



The new board of directors of the Murray Memorial YMCA was elected last Wednesday night. Members present to have their photos taken were Joan Phillip, Pat Jones, Ina Boyle, Leah Dorion, Jim Cooper, Gord Chapman and Carl Rosenquist.

Knechtel says YWCA increasing in importance with rec. funds scarce

The Y is increasing in importance as funds for government run recreation programs become scarcer, Councillor Ross Knechtel says.

Knechtel was the guest speaker at last Wednesday night's Murray Memorial YMCA annual meeting.

Recalling that it was about 60 years ago that his father gave him and his brother Y memberships in Toronto, Knechtel said he has a lot of "love and respect" for the Y. Back when he joined the Y a yearly membership was just \$5 and he used to go to the Y frequently to use the gym and swim. He has fond memories of his first swim in the deep end of the pool and learned other skills there, like how to properly flick a wet towel at a friend's behind.

In later life, Ross noted, he also played a lot of handball at the Y and learned to be a coach and umpire for various sports. Youths and adults were taught "it's better to learn how to steal second base than a car" at the Y.



Ina Boyle presented a gift to Councillor Ross Knechtel for giving an interesting talk at the Murray Memorial YMCA annual meeting last Wednesday night.

Knechtel, who noted he wasn't preaching the official Town line, if there is one, but just stating his own opinion, said the Y's role in the community is growing in importance.

He acknowledged that provision of leisure time activities is just part of what the Y does, but is the area that as a municipal politician he is most interested in.

Over the years there has been a lot of changes in community recreation facilities, school gyms are better equipped and there are pools now. The Y has been forced over the years to look at the municipality and school board almost as "competition." The Town and school board have had an advantage over the Y too, lots of tax dollars.

But, that's coming to an end. Municipalities and school boards aren't able to increase recreation spending anymore, Knechtel noted. Last year the Town spent \$1.1 million on recreation, including the libraries and cultural facilities and programs. Just to maintain the level of service in 1983 council would have to boost recreation spending by the rate of inflation, but that won't be possible. Slowly the amount of "real dollars" spent on recreation, as well as other municipal projects and programs, must decrease.

Cuts in spending aren't happening just in Halton Hills, but everywhere, Knechtel observed. With 70 per cent of the tax dollars brought in by Halton Hills transferred to the school board and region, the Town has no choice but to hold the line on spending. In addition the region and school board are having to make spending cuts because provincial grants are declining. By cutting services Halton Hills has been able to continually keep its part of the tax increase below the rate of inflation.

Taxpayers want more services, but with "real dollars" decreasing "something has to give" the Town's new budget committee chief declared. The Town simply can't do all the things in the area of recreation that people want.

If the Y views the Town as "competition" now it won't much longer. In the years ahead there will be "more room" for volunteer recreation organizations to operate.

"The Town needs the Y more now than ever before."

And finances are the reason. If a person makes a donation to the Y they can deduct this from their income tax, but if people depend on government to provide all their recreation needs they receive no tax deduction, just more taxes.

"We need the Y and must support the Y," Knechtel pointed to the role of volunteer recreation programs envisioned in the Master Parks plan, a document Halton Hills had to hire a consultant to draw up or face losing all provincial recreation grants. The Master Parks plan describes the recreation department as just one supplier of leisure activities in Halton Hills.

With demands for leisure time activities increasing the recreation department must be a partner with the Y, libraries, churches, board of education, service clubs, etc.

The best investment for recreation is in volunteer groups like the Y. In the years ahead there will be more demand for individual activities and less for group activities and large facilities. There will also be more demand for arts and cultural activities and programs for women, than in the past.

More co-operation and efficiency will be needed in recreation than has been evidenced in the past, Knechtel said.

"We need the Y more now and in the future than we have in the past and I hope the Acton Y is here for a long time to come."

Y has successful year

Efforts to expand the number of programs at the Acton Y last year were successful.

That was just part of the good news people heard at last Wednesday night's Murray Memorial YMCA annual meeting.

Registration for programs exceeded expectations and the Y took in \$8,067.90 in registration fees while paying out \$4,178 for instructors' wages. The remainder of the money covered overhead.

Among the program success stories in 1982 were kiddies' corner, judo, ladies keep fit, CPR, karate, Saturday morning gymnastics, babysitters' training, and ladies' dance. Ballet has been cancelled and learn to dance, dog training, kindercooking, parent and tot, and pint size pottery were offered, but cancelled because of lack of enrolment. A few seniors took advantage of the drop-in offered two days a week at the Y.

Last year a new furnace was installed for

the Y and extensive gym renovations took place. This year the Y is contemplating sprucing up the exterior of the building.

Y memberships were up slightly last year and should increase this year since Y membership will become a requirement of program registration. Members will receive a 10 per cent discount on courses and programs.

Last year the Y raised \$1,474.46 through rentals, bookings, donations, program fees and memberships while spending \$1,279.61. The Y was left with a surplus of \$194.85 to start 1983.

The following people were elected to the board for 1983: Ina Boyle, Dave Dix, Lynne Robertson, Gord Chapman, Pat Jones, Carl Rosenquist, Jim Cooper, Joan Phillips and Leah Darian. Ken Grubbe, Maureen Smith, Doug Leys and Scott Pringle retired from the board.

Whiting asks Why does board have \$4 million to invest?

Why does Halton Board of Education have a spare \$4 million it could invest in Crown Trust?

Councillor Dave Whiting raised some questions Monday night at Halton Hills council about the board's investment in the beleaguered financial institution, one of three seized by the provincial government recently in connection with the Cadillac-Fairview apartment deal.

He wants to know where the board found a \$4 million surplus it could invest. Whiting had contacted Treasurer Ray King earlier on Monday to have the matter investigated.

King was in attendance at Monday's meeting, but had discussed Whiting's

concern with clerk-administrator Ken Richardson. While the treasurer hasn't found out any answers to the Acton councillor's questions, he did suggest to Richardson that out of a budget for 1982 of \$130 million it didn't seem "out of line" for the school board to have \$4 million to invest. For instance the invested money could be the monthly payroll. The board invests its funds until it is needed in a variety of financial institutions.

In an interview afterwards Whiting said he will ask King to check out the matter further with the board.

He explained he feels in light of the

(Continued on Page 7)