

Lorne Scots cash in on long local history with \$1,000 grant

By BRAD REAUME

It was four Milton marksmen, a company of pipers, and a long distinguished history that swayed Milton council to grant the Lorne Scots Peel, Halton and Dufferin Regiment a \$1,000 grant.

The money is necessary to defer costs associated with preparations for the Sept. 14 visit of their colonel-in-chief, His Royal Highness, The Duke of Kent. The Lorne Scots will receive new Queen's Regimental Colours from the Duke.

In addition to the Royal visit 1991 is the 125th anniversary of the regiment and reunion celebrations are planned. Both of these special occasions are not covered in standard regimental expenses so the group has petitioned municipalities in Peel, Halton and Dufferin regions for funds.

The Lorne Scots submitted a \$41,000 budget for their two special events including \$27,000 for dress uniforms and instruments for their pipe and drum band.

The Lorne Scots, said representative Captain Jack Duggan,

began as the Halton unit in 1790 under the direction of Colonel George Chisolm of Oakville. Their first action was in the War of 1812 when they defended Queenston Heights and fought at Lundy's Lane. According to Captain Duggan they also were involved in the taking of Detroit.

In 1830 the unit was called to fight the Louis Riel led rebellion in the Northwest Territory, which included most of the present day prairie provinces. They served two years.

Late in the century they amalgamated with units from Peel and Dufferin counties. The resulting regiment fought in South Africa in the Boer War and as a result of their skill were taken to Europe with the first contingent of Canadians in the First World War.

They fought in most all the major battles, Ypres, the Somme, and everywhere else Canadian soldiers were engaged. At one time the regiment was the largest infantry contingent in the British Empire, according to Captain Duggan. In World War I they suf-

fered 60 per cent casualties.

Prior to World War II the regiment was renamed the Lorne Scots Peel, Halton and Dufferin. Just 19 miles outside of Paris the regiment was turned around when word came that the Germans had broken through French lines. Thus the Lorne Scots returned safely to England days before the retreat at Dunkirk.

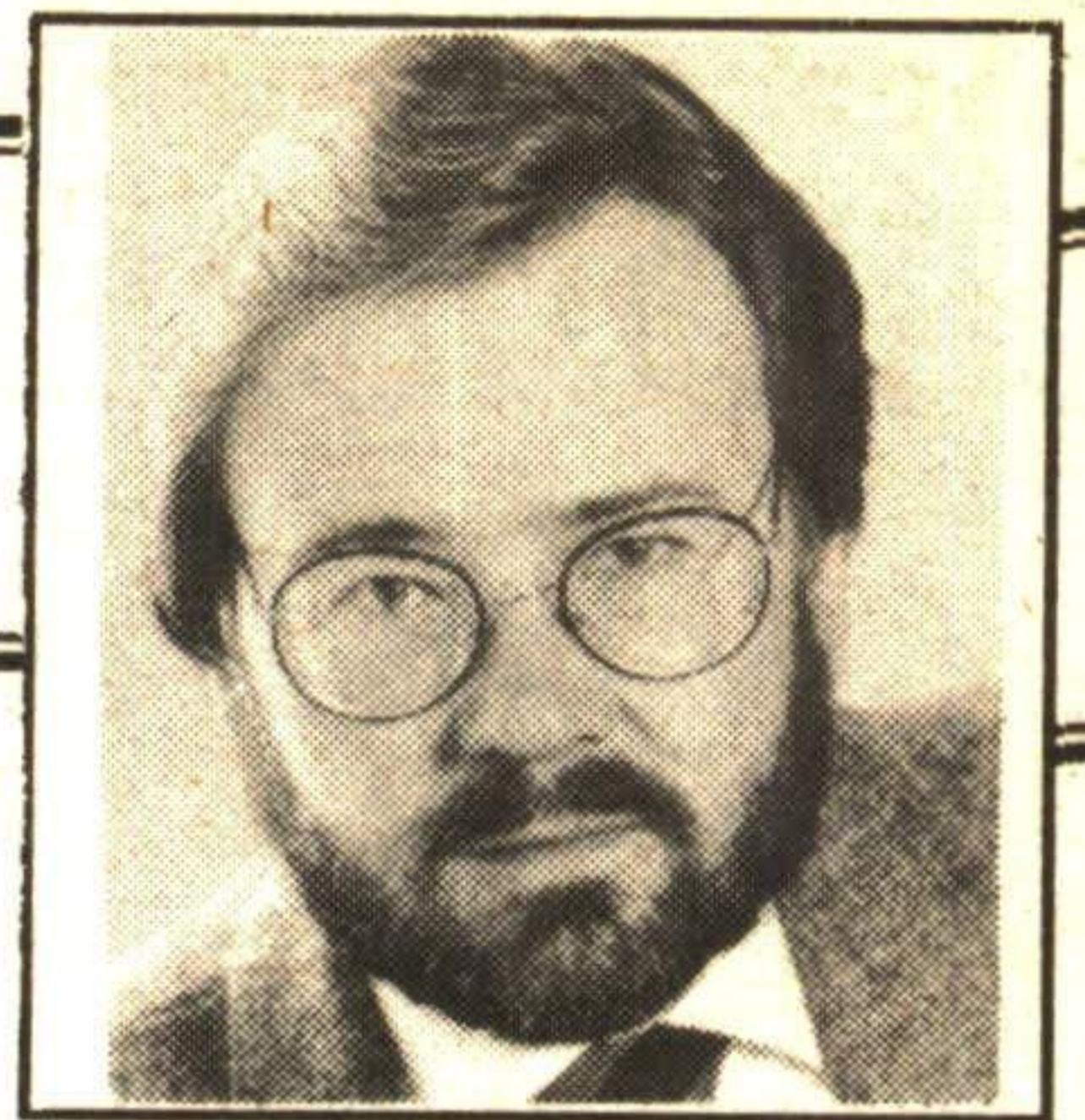
During the war they fought in every major campaign, taking part in battles in Sicily, southern France, Italy, Belgium, and Holland before crossing the Rhine into Germany. During World War II the regiment counted 56 deaths and 76 wounded. According to Captain Duggan, 11 of the Lorne Scots killed in action were from Milton.

Presently the regiment is engaged in ceremonial duties and supports a pipe and drum band which has won a number of awards. At the regiment's 100th anniversary, 1,100 members or former members joined the celebrations. Today but 129 remain.

OTTAWA REPORT

By GARTH TURNER

MP for Halton-Peel



Residents chip in to reduce the debt

There are a lot of people in this area who think taxes are too high. There have recently been angry meetings in Burlington and Caledon, for example, as people came together to grouse about how much governments are demanding these days.

In each case, I have tried to talk to the organizers, and thank them for what they're doing. We need a tax revolt in this country to wake more people up. And I have nothing but admiration for those willing to take the time to try and influence the system, and work for lower taxes.

Governments at all levels need to be more aware that while there are four or five sets of taxes, there is only one set of taxpayer pockets. Most of the tax protests have been directed at local government simply because it's easier to take on the school board or municipal council than it is to affect Queen's Park or Ottawa.

But often the problem isn't a local one. Often property taxes are high to carry out some program which the province has decided we should have-like pre-kindergarten classes. There just isn't enough co-ordination and co-operation in this country. For example, did you know that the province of Ontario is suing the Government of Canada over the GST and using our tax dollars to finance that useless court challenge?

Last week, in Ottawa, I tried to draw attention to some of these things by holding a conference on spending, debt and taxes. The goal was to raise awareness that we have a huge debt, and that leads directly to huge interest payments and huge taxes to finance those payments.

The audience was very mixed-grassroots tax leaders, big business leaders, economists, students and politicians, including Micheal Wilson. I got the Canadian Chamber of Commerce to fly in its Debt Clock from Vancouver, and it ticked away all day-recording \$22 million in new debt as the conference took place.

Dave Page was there to present a cheque to Wilson on behalf of the Halton Hills and Burlington Chambers of Commerce. I gave a cheque to Wilson from the Bolton

Lions Club. And the people in the room passed a pot and contributed \$300 in small bills and loonies to help reduce the country's debt.

It was a fascinating day. And a controversial one. Some of the media people there were more interested in a 12 year old kid who raised \$168 at a garage sale (also for the deficit) than they were in the bigger themes. I guess I should have anticipated that one, but it took me completely by surprise.

In any case, it was worth all the work. In my mind there is nothing that threatens the wealth of middle class people more than excessive taxation. And if we didn't have that national debt, our taxes could be almost 40 per cent lower than they are today.

Of course, if that's ever to happen, we have to expect less government, lower spending, fewer services. More CBC cuts, less universality of social programs, special interest groups cut off, more civil servants axed.

The critics of the Conservatives will not like this. You'll hear them telling you that it really doesn't matter if Canada continues to run annual deficits. They'll make the argument that this is the same as having a mortgage on your house.

Sure, having a national debt is like having a mortgage. But when you also run a deficit every year, that's the same as increasing the mortgage. And right now, Canada is increasing its mortgage by \$58,000 a minute!

That's money which will have to be paid back. Running a deficit means deferring today's taxes into the future-and we've been doing that for twenty years.

My fundamental reason for wanting to be an MP was to change that, so some day we'd be able to see lower taxes and an end to the pillage of middle class wealth. The conference I had in Ottawa was a part of that. So is my support for the groups of taxpayers who are now saying they pay too much and who are looking for ways to achieve less government and a lower tax bill.

If you feel the same way, let us know.

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