

The North Halton Compass

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

"A RURAL PAPER TO CALL OUR OWN"

MAY 29, 1998

Charity gaming hits homestretch

Mohawk Raceway possible location for gaming club

BY REID KENNEDY
NORTH HALTON COMPASS

The racehorses at Mohawk Raceway may be sharing the spotlight with another crowd pleaser in the upcoming months.

The Ontario Jockey Club and the Town of Milton are hosting a Public Meeting on June 3rd between 5:00 and 9:00 p.m. at the Lions Club Hall in Milton to discuss the potential of Mohawk Raceway as a location for a new Charity Gaming Club. The proposed gaming club would include 40 gaming tables with traditional games of chance and slot machines. The facility would be housed in a self-contained area within the main grand-

stand, known as "Sports", which is currently unused. The OJC has suffered a decline of approximately 50 per cent in attendance and revenue since the early 90's when forced to compete with off-track betting and other forms of gaming.

In recent years, Mohawk Raceway has decreased its live racing from 140 to the current 100 days scheduled for the Campbellville oval in 1998. Forty fewer race days have meant a significant drop in income for many owners, trainers, and related businesses and suppliers located in the Nassagaweya area.

Everyone involved in the industry - from backstretch employees, to those who grow hay for the horses - have realized fewer opportunities to work, generate revenue, and support their services and professions.

With the provincial government's expansion of gaming at other locations, the OJC believes the downturn will only get worse for the racing industry if they fail to act. "What has led the OJC initiative to seek a Charity Gaming Club at Mohawk is basically the need to sustain the track's long-term viability," states Nick Eaves, Director of

Gaming Operations for the OJC "Live racing remains our main focus. However, charity gaming would improve our ability to compete with other operations for entertainment dollars and ensure that we can continue to operate our live racing program."

Eaves outlined the OJC's plans to improve the track this year. "With the construction of a new 7/8 mile track, we can continue to attract the best horses from across North America to race at Mohawk. We have already improved the dining area, parking and entrance areas of the facility." The OJC now offers free admission and parking for every race date, and "it's important that our facility offers a comfortable, attractive, affordable, and enjoyable environment for our patrons."

We will continue to sponsor family entertainment days, such as our recent Fireworks Night to encourage new people looking for entertainment."

With more and more charity gaming clubs springing up across the province, the OJC is concerned that such a club in proximity to Mohawk would further erode the race-track's attendance. "Our primary motivation with the proposed Charity Gaming Club at Mohawk is to provide those interested in gaming and entertainment exposure to live horse racing, adding to our existing customer base" Eaves explains. "The OJC feels Mohawk offers the most responsible location for a gaming club in the area."

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Campbellville & Area Business Partners

New association, new ideas and a positive attitude

BY DONNA DANIELLI
CAMPBELLVILLE & AREA

If you have noticed that downtown Campbellville is looking pretty good these days, there's good reason for it. The newly formed Campbellville and Area Business Partners have taken on the project of cleaning up the town. Their first project, completed over two full days of volunteer time, involved literally cleaning the streets, tilling flowerbeds and planting many colourful blooms. Future plans include the installation of portable toilets (and their maintenance), as well as park benches scattered throughout the village for weary shoppers to rest on and trash receptacles in strategic locations. Mid to late June should see the installation of colourful banners on the street lights wel-

coming one and all to Campbellville.

It's not just an association for downtown Campbellville however, but for the entire Nassagaweya area. Marilyn Goodale, of Vincent's Antiques and treasurer of the association, recently produced a brightly coloured pamphlet complete with map of many businesses and things to see both in and out of the village. Like the rest of the Executive, which includes Terry Bolger of Village Antiques as Chair, Tim Smith of Cyril Stevens Interiors and Mary Sykes of the Village Blacksmith in Moffat as secretaries, Marilyn donates her time voluntarily. The annual membership fee of \$150.00 is used towards the promotion and betterment of the area. Terry's first report

as chair commented at length on all the things Campbellville has to offer, from hiking, skiing and camping to antiques and craft shops. "We are surrounded by conservation areas, beautiful scenery, stately homes and we boast the best location in the province... less than one hour from almost every major population centre in Ontario that is situated on the busiest highway in Canada. Elora and St. Jacobs don't have this advantage yet attract thousands more visitors annually."

The new association firmly believes that creative, consistent marketing is the key to growth. Already, Campbellville boasts charming streets, talented artisans and is designated as part of the "Escarpment Country Tourist Area."

Membership to the new Campbellville & Area Business Partners is voluntary and open to all businesses in the Nassagaweya area. Its last meeting was held on May 27th at the Mohawk Inn and you can phone Terry at 905-854-0669 for more information concerning future meetings. When asked if there was anything he really wanted people to know, Terry paused for a moment and answered "The message we'd like to send is that this is a new association, with new ideas and a positive attitude. We invite all area businesses to come out and see what we're about."



PHOTO BY RON KINDT

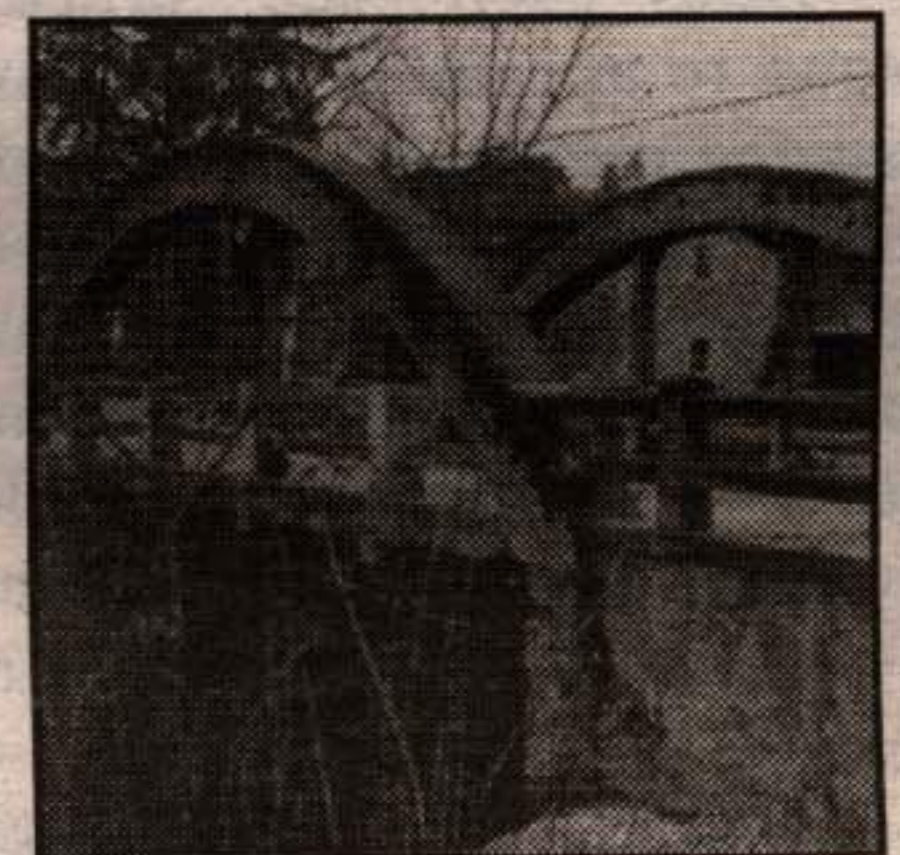
ARBOUR DAYS IN C-VILLE - Marilyn Goodale, Tim Smith and Terry Bolger, members of the new executive of the Campbellville and Area Business Partners, lead the charge to cleanup the village.

Inside This Month's Compass

Still Standing -

The tenders may be in and demolition scheduled but the Battle of the Eden Mills Bowstring Bridge will continue in Divisional Court in early June.

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Everyday Hero -

Esquesing's Spencer Wilson and Lieutenant - Governor Hilary Weston share tips on well witching at last year's groundwater festival in Peel.

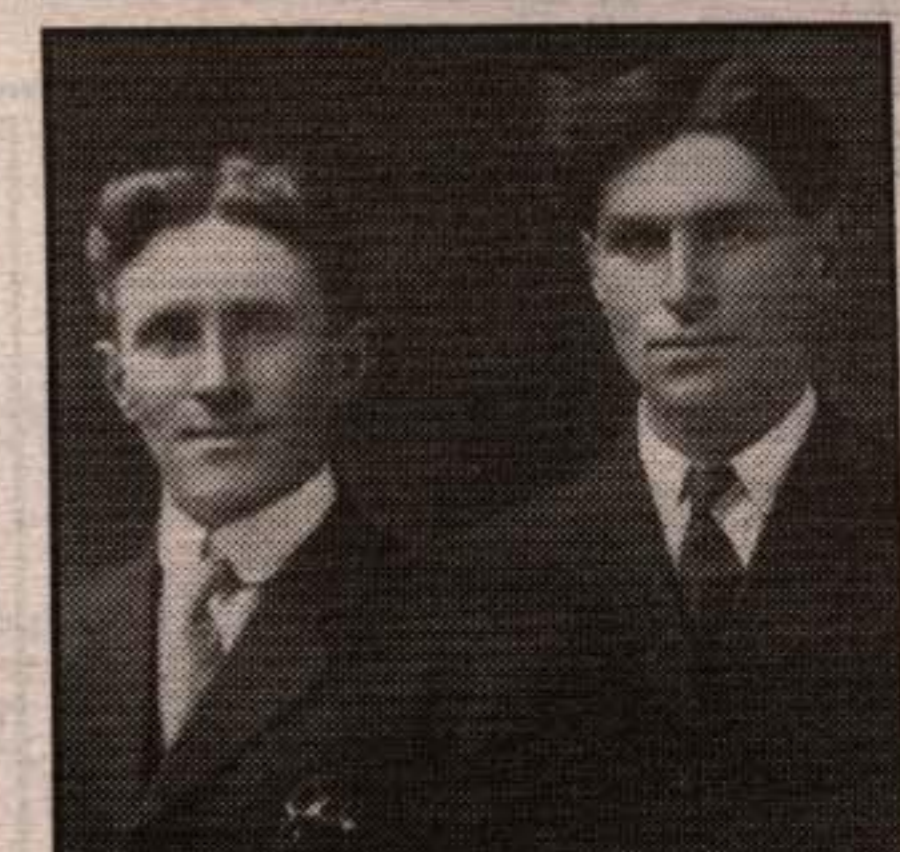
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Shoebox Memories -

William and James Gilbertson turned their hands to many occupations including threshing and lumber milling in the Eden Mills area in the 1920's.

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Want Better TV? -

Bill and Val Manes of Acton Home Hardware see the future in a dish with Express Vu's digital TV.

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