

Everyday heroes

# Mike West

BY DONNA DANIELLI  
THE COMPASS

Just when the world begins to feel like a very large, scary place to be, someone like Mike West comes along and makes it feel a little bit safer.

Mr. West is the Chairman of the Nassagaweya Community Consultation Committee and was recently awarded the "Lyn Benson Memorial Award" by the Halton Regional Police Services for his outstanding work as a volunteer. The Nassagaweya Community Consultation Committee is part of the community policing program and consists of volunteer citizens, a Ward 3 town Councillor and one or more police officers. "Rural Watch," one the programs monitored by the Committee, has been quite effective according to Mr. West.

"It has made people aware of what to be on the lookout for that could be a problem," he states.

The "Rural Watch" system is used by the police to notify the neighbourhood about break and enters, suspicious persons or vehicles in their area. At present, there are 1,200 members of "Rural Watch" on the lookout, making it harder for persons or vehicles to remain inconspicuous.

Also maintained and monitored by the Committee are such programs as Road Watch, which uses citizen reports to identify aggressive drivers, a roadside cleanup in the springtime, and their new project, a radar message board. This radar message board, funded by Halwell Mutual Insurance in Guelph and Austen and Noble Insurance in Milton, is a battery powered portable unit combining a radar gun and a large LED speed display. The board will be available free of charge to community residents concerned about speeding drivers near their homes. Any group of citizens will be able to borrow the board, clock drivers travelling at a speed of 20 km/hr over the limit and forward this information by form to the police. The police will then follow up with a letter of warning to the registered owner of the vehicle.

This is the sort of initiative in which Mr. West and his Committee take great pride. Community involvement in rural policing is a key component to success. He sums it up by saying, "If we don't contribute to our own well-being, safety and quality of life in our own community, we're not very good citizens. We can't leave everything up to the police."

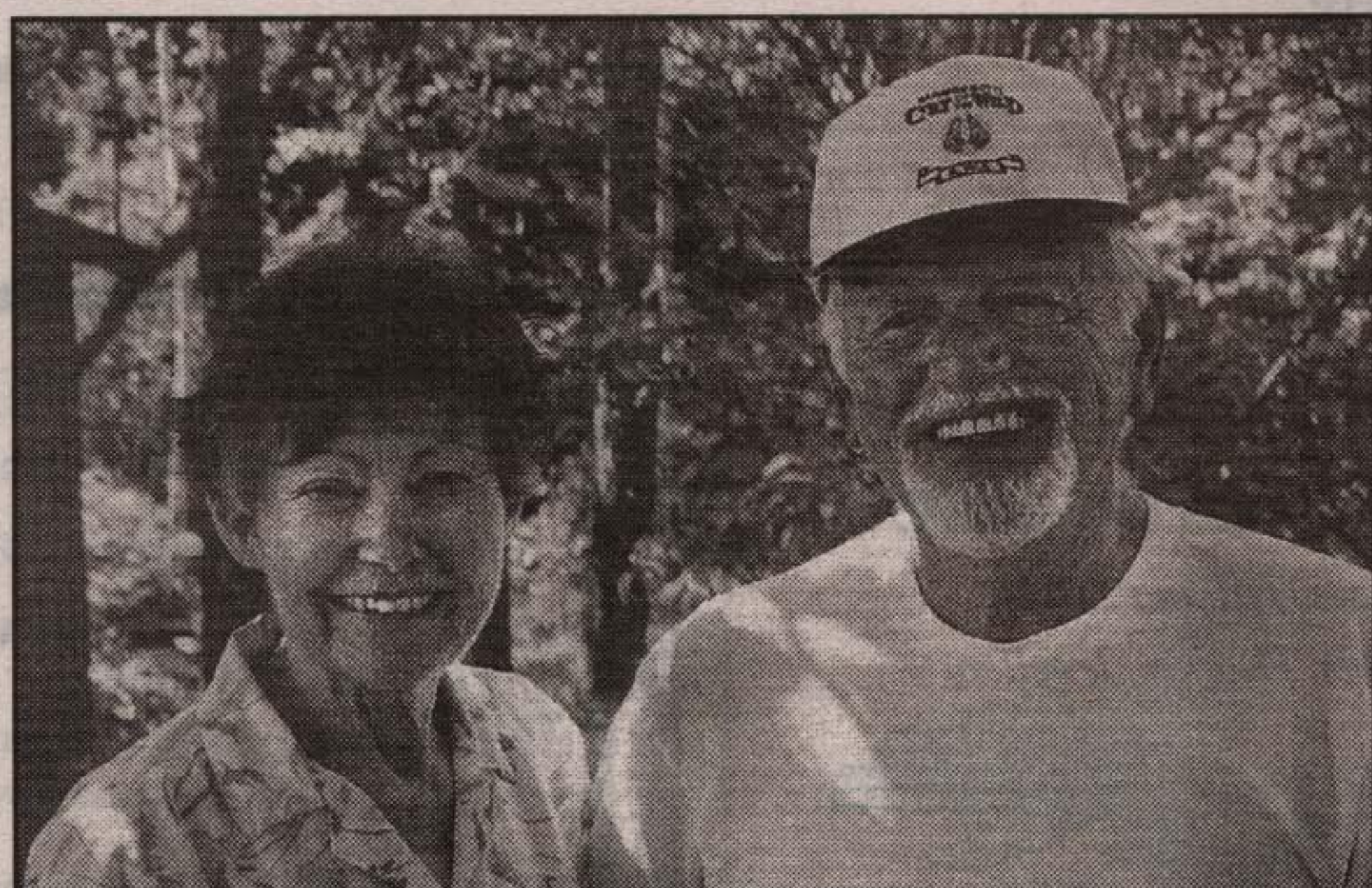
Mr. West is no stranger to both personal and property safety issues. Employed for 48 years by Chubb Security, he is experienced in protective measures, but volunteering may not have been top of his list of things to do when he moved to Milton with his wife Joyce Haynes. Rather, it was the land itself that drew him, having space to build barns and paddocks for horses, and the swampland and woods nearby to birdwatch. Conscious of the need for community involvement and rural security, he became a member of the Nassagaweya Crime Prevention Committee. When the provincial government began to urge Halton Regional Police to become more involved in community policing, The Nassagaweya Community Consultation Committee was formed and he promptly became part of that as well. Later, the two groups were merged into one, of which he has been Chairman for a few years now. He laughingly admits that every now and then maybe someone else should try the job, but so far no one will let him step down.

West's work with the Committee varies. Recently he helped resolve a situation in which a beaver's dam on one property had caused flooding and damaged someone else's land. The question was how to dismantle the dam without the beavers re-constructing. A quick search of the Internet gave Mr. West the answer. Beavers don't like the sound of running water and that's why they dam up all they can. A pipe put through the dam under the level of the water allowed it to flow through and prevented flooding, while not alarming the beavers.

Another recent issue for the Committee was speed limits on rural roads. While some areas have been designated as "Community Safety Zones" and carry substantially increased fines, the effects of lowering speed limits on others has been studied. As an example, the lowering of Guelph Line's speed limit from 80 km/hr to 60 km/hr has forced more traffic onto other roads, such as Twiss Road. The concern relates to the new volume of traffic, speed, use by large trucks, dust and quality of service. Mr. West and the Committee will take part in meetings with Public Works, the Halton Regional Police and concerned citizens.

For a community policing program to be successful, it must rely heavily on volunteers, willing to dedicate time and energy to keeping their community a safe place. Volunteers like Mike West make it easier for the rest of us to feel just a little bit safer each day.

For more information about volunteering or on any of the Nassagaweya Community Consultation Committee projects, you can phone Mike West at 519-853-2755 or Ward 3 Councillor Cindy Lunau at 519-853-3772.



Joyce Haynes and Mike West

PHOTO BY DONNA DANIELLI



## The Town of Milton Council Recap

by  
Councillor Cindy Pearson Lunau

### MILTON DISTRICT HOSPITAL FOUNDATION BARBECUE

M D H welcomes Roger Sharman to a one-year appointment as CEO of Milton Healthcare Services while John Oliver is on a one-year secondment as Assistant Deputy Minister, Restructuring Projects at the Ministry of Health. The Hospital Foundation is busy planning their annual Blazing Saddles fundraising event August 13th at Pineland Farm in Hornby. Donations for their Auction BBQ would be most appreciated, and set aside the date for blazin' good time pardner! Call the Foundation Office at (905) 878-2383.

**MAYOR'S ROAST:** Mayor Krantz was a good sport as he endured some good-natured teasing in support of Milton Millennium Community Residences. The choral (!) group Men II Boys, including Nassagaweya Gentlemen Ron Break and Ron McKerron and almost Nassagaweya Don Clements and Bill Smelser were in particularly fine form. The evening's entertainment also featured Nassagaweya's own (and world-famous) Peter Appleyard.

**ROAD CLOSURE:** The Guelph Line will be closed at the railway tracks in Campbellville for two days, June 28 & 29, to accommodate work on the tracks. Signs for detours will be posted.

**MILLENNIUM CELEBRATIONS!** If your organization is considering a New Year's Eve party, you have until July 5th for first chance at reserving Town Facilities, including the Campbellville Lions Hall and the Nassagaweya Hall. Booking preference will be given to groups planning events open to the public. As of July 5th, reservations will be taken on a first come basis. Call Town Hall at (905) 878-7211.

The Millennium 2000 committee has developed a special logo, which is available to Town organizations planning events. A reminder that Grants are available for community groups and individuals planning Millennium projects. For information contact the Town at (905) 878-7211.

**HYDRO:** The business of delivering power is changing under Bill 35 - The Energy Competition Act - as the Province de-regulates the hydro industry! A Transition Steering Team is examining the issues and Council must decide whether the Town will sell or retain the business aspects of Hydro. The Team will present a report to Council in September for a decision in November 1999.

**ROAD SAFETY WEEK** was a great success! What a Week! Thanks to the work of Jan Mowbray and the Nassagaweya Community Consultation Committee. Accidents were down from last year and attention was called for the need for safe driving practices by everyone, from parents of tots in car seats to big-rig truck drivers.

**PHILIPPINE DIGNITARIES:** June 28 to July 7th, Milton welcomes a delegation from Sta. Maria under the FCM Municipal Partnership Program. Nassagaweya tours include Campbellville businesses, Crawford Lake, and lunch at White Rock Ostrich Farm.

**HUSP:** The Official Plan amendment for the Halton Urban Services Plan passed at Regional Council. Development Charges are now being considered at both Milton and Regional Councils.

**GUELPH LINE:** The Region will reconstruct the Guelph Line between 10 and 15 Sideroads next summer. The \$3 million project will include improved site lines (modifying some of the hills), greater width, wider shoulders, and better pavement structure. Drive-over curbs will minimize the need for 'ditching' and save many of the mature trees. Trees that must be removed for the project will be replaced. Left turn lanes will be added at the intersection at 15 Sideroad. Construction will be phased over the years 2000 and 2001. If you missed the Public Information Centres, you may still provide comments by calling (905) 825-6030, ext. 7610.

**HOME BUSINESSES:** The Niagara Escarpment Commission is reviewing its policies on Home Businesses, and consequently approached Milton Council for its comments. Council generally supported the Commissions recommendations. If you wish more information, or wish your views to be noted, contact the NEC or Milton's Planning Department. As Councillors, we also welcome your comments.

**TAXES:** You probably noticed a decrease in this year's taxes. How about that! Property taxes in Milton decreased by 3.4% overall, which includes a 3.2% decrease in the Region's taxes. This represents a no change in the combined Town and Region share, an increase in Police Services, and a decrease in Education. The Rural Residential Tax Rate without Waste Management is 1.226454% or \$2,268.89 on a property assessed at \$185,000. This is \$242.33 less than a similar urban property and \$85 less than last year. Rural Commercial & Rural Industrial rates are also down, at a rate of 3.248341% and 5.249774%. Your tax bill is apportioned at 24% to the Town, 32% to the Region, 11% to Police Services, and 33% to Education. Due dates are June 30 and September 30 1999. Some properties will be subject to adjustment with pending Provincial legislation on phase in/clawback recalculations (largely favourable). Taxes total \$45,637,720, including \$8,672,949 as Milton's portion. If you have any questions on your taxes, call Corporate Services at Town Hall, (905) 878-7211 or (for 519 exchanges) 1-800-418-5494. Questions on your assessment should be directed to the Regional Assessment Office: 1-800-387-5909.

**WEB SITE:** www.town.milton.on.ca.

#### Your representatives:

Your questions, comments, concerns are important. Please call us. **Lieven Gevaert (519) 856-4529; Barry Lee (519) 824-0679 or (519) 853-5790; Cindy Lunau (519) 853-3772.** The '853' exchange is not long distance.

### BEAT THE HEAT AT SPLASHZONE!

The Town of Milton, Department of Leisure Services will be opening SplashZone early this year, due to unseasonably warm weather. SplashZone is located in Rotary Park, on Garden Lane, north off of Mill St., just west of Martin St.

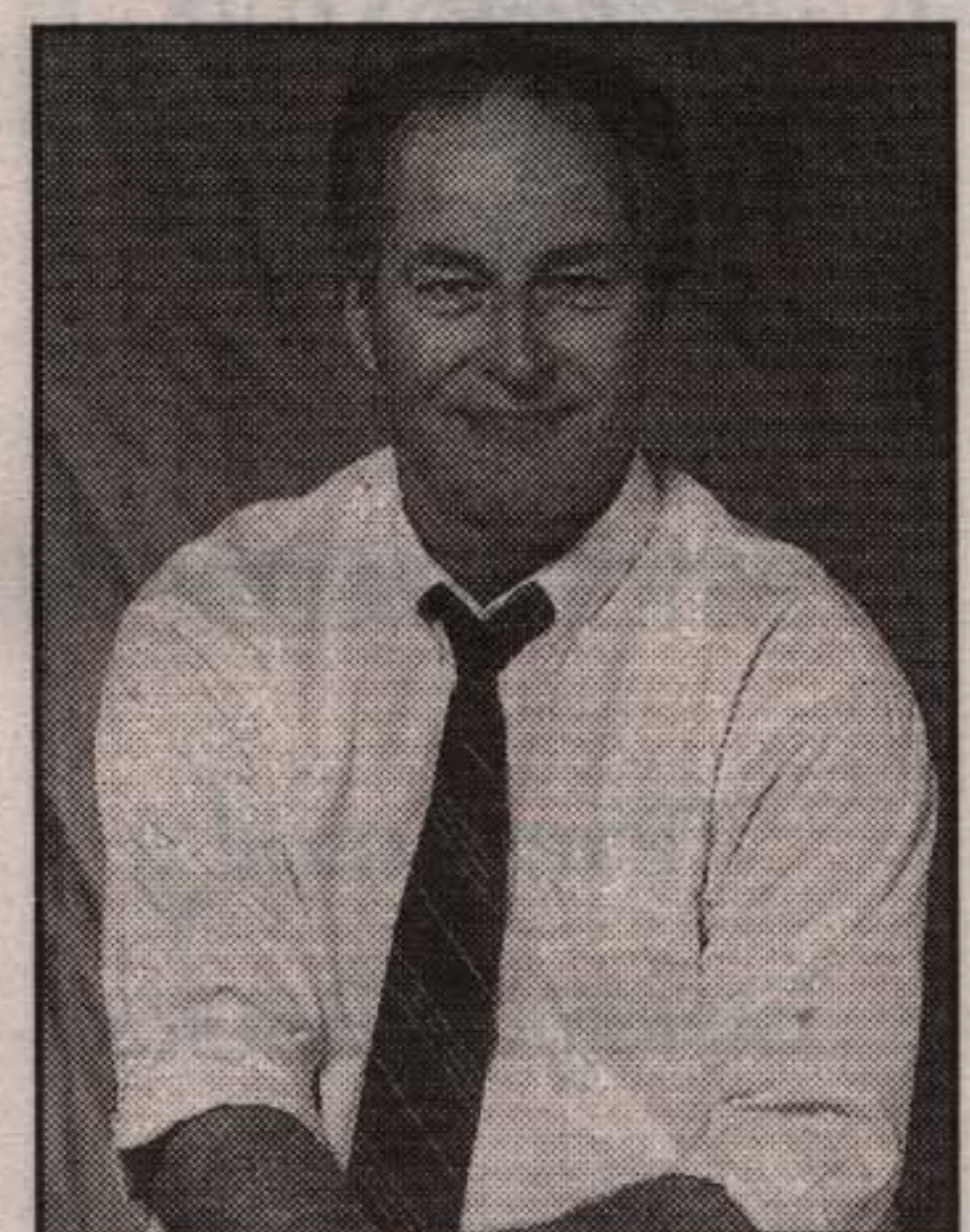
The hours of operation will be as follows:  
Wednesday, June 23 to Sunday, September 5, 1999:  
10:30 am-5:30 pm.

Admission is \$1.00 per person. SplashZone provides a variety of water activities for the young and young at heart, and is supervised by a qualified lifeguard when open to the public.

The Rotary Park Outdoor Pool will open for the Canada Day celebrations on Thursday, July 1, 1999 and closes Sunday August 29, 1999.

For more information on these and other leisure opportunities in the Town of Milton, contact the Department of Leisure Services at (905) 878-7946 or 878-7211.

Thank you  
Halton  
for your  
support



*Ted Chudleigh*

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