

Waterworks for Milton Keyed to Town's Growth

By Roy Downs
Have you ever turned on a house tap, watched the water flow forth freely, and wondered where it all comes from?

"Nobody ever bothers to think about where the water comes from," says town works superintendent Bruce McKerr. "They expect it to be there, and it's there." He only hears from them when it doesn't come gushing out cool, clear, and with plenty of force.

Never-Failing Supply
Right at the moment, Milton is fortunate to have an excellent, never-failing supply of crystal clear water. There are never any complaints about the taste, the smell, or the color.

The only complaints are about the pressure, and it only drops from an estimated 90 pounds per square inch (p.s.i.) when a water-main break or during the summertime two hours a day lawn and garden watering period, when everyone on one side of town is using the garden hose — a full blast — at the same time.

During recent weeks this two hour watering period has been sufficient to lower the pressure to below 25 p.s.i., forcing Ontario Steel Products to shut down its water-cooled generators and part of the plant operation.

Hoses Sap Pumps
But Mr. McKerr explains that this way: less than 200 hoses running full blast can take all the water the town's two pumps can pump. When that capacity is reached the 50,000 gallon surge tank is gradually drained, then the water must be supplied from the town reservoir, which holds a million gallons.

But the line from the reservoir cannot be opened fully, or it would soon drain and leave the town without water for fire protection. So the reservoir valve remains half shut and when the hot-weather watering starts draining water from the reservoir, the pressure naturally drops.

Mr. McKerr took me on a guided tour of the town's waterworks facilities last week, to gather information for this feature planned to point out the scope of Milton's water supply and water distribution system.

Picture Three Sites
To understand, you must first picture the three main sites involved. First, there's the well site and two pumphouses, located in a valley on Walker's Line Burlington a mile and a half north of 10 Sideroad.

A mile south of there, near Rattlesnake Point, lies the surge tank, buried underground in a field beside 12 Sideroad. It lies about six miles (by road) to the Bronte-Main St. corner.

Several miles away, just north of 14 Sideroad (an extension of Milton's Given Rd.) and halfway up the side of the Niagara Escarpment, lies the town's new million gallon reservoir. It is about two miles west of Bronte St.

Pumphouses
Let's inspect the wells and pumphouses first.

No. One pump was installed and began operating in October 1953. It's been running 24 hours a day ever since. Pumping 425 gallons per minute (g.p.m.) it pipes the water from a 95 foot deep well directly below it, and sends it through a 12 inch main to the surge tank a mile away. If the surge tank is full, it sends the excess water through an ancient five inch line around the side of the escarpment to keep the reservoir filled.

Near the well site, a test pipe juts out of the ground. This pipe goes down to the same water table and is used for testing the depth of the valley's water table.

Auxiliary Motor
Run by electricity, the No. One pump also has an auxiliary gas motor in case of a power failure. However it must be started by hand, and Mr. McKerr recalls during bad storms having a man (or himself) sitting there all through the night to keep the gas motor running.

Last year the pump was shut down for a four-day maintenance repair job. It was the first time in nine years it had been shut off on purpose — it had run continuously without a break. During the four days of repairs the pump was hoisted through a pre-cut hole in the pumphouse roof, so bearings could be replaced in the underground pipe.

No. Two pumphouse contains a 500 g.p.m. pump that shoots water straight to the surge tank. It's an automatic pump that runs only when the surge tank level is low, and is cut on and off by a timer mechanism attached to the surge tank.

24 Hours a Day
The second pump was installed in 1958 when a nearby spring well was found to have surface contamination. During recent hot spells, both main pumps ran 24 hours a day without stopping, trying to keep up to the water demands.

They jacked No. Two up two feet from the floor last year, to replace the pump's concrete base. And workmen managed to keep the pump running all the time they fixed it! The auxiliary motor for this pump is automatic, and

fortunately does not require hand starting.

The third pumphouse on the site contains the now-disbanded spring well. Installed before the first war, it contained a 12 foot deep and 12 foot wide concrete tank that was filled by water coming up from the spring. Many will recall that during the war, this water supply had a 24 hour guard placed on it.

Heavy Consumption
If both pumps run 24 hours a day, their total output is over 1,300,000 gallons of water a day. (Milton's unmeasured water consumption is the highest of any town in the district, Mr. McKerr added. The pumps can supply about 217 gallons of water per day for every man, woman and child in Milton, and it seems almost impossible to believe that 6,000 residents could keep those pumps working to supply that maximum need for a 24-hour period.)

The pumphouses are checked twice a day and their pumping meters, well depth and pressure are recorded in a log for the Ontario Water Resources Commission. During a storm or power

break, men guard the pumps to make sure the motors keep running and a water supply is assured. "I've seen us sit here all night watching those pumps during a bad storm," said the superintendent.

"This is the lifeline of the town of Milton, right here in these two buildings," he added. (You sort of hate to think what Milton would be like without water.)

Good Pressure
The pumps shoot the water at about 70 lbs. pressure to the surge tank, from which it drains along a six-mile long, 12 inch gravity main to town. As the surge tank is higher than the main town entry point, the Bronte-Main Sts. corner, the water enters town at an even higher pressure, about 90 p.s.i. The gravitational flow down Main St. will give 100 p.s.i. at the pressure testing device in the town hall.

"Milton is fortunate to have such good water pressure without extra expense," relates the superintendent. "Many other towns have to put on booster pumps to boost the water through the system."

The reservoir on 14 Sideroad holds one million gallons in reserve supply. The tank is 100 feet square and 12 feet deep and was built in 1959 to replace a former 50,000 gallon reservoir that was "an open hole in the ground." The new one is completely covered in and as safe a reserve water supply as possible.

System Fans Out
The town's watermain system begins with the 12 inch main on Bronte St. and fans out across town into eight, six, four, two and half inch mains running beneath the roads. The smallest mains are found in the older parts of town, while all new subdivisions contain six inch cast iron mains designed to last and serve the needs for many years to come. The older mains occasionally give trouble as ground acidity eats pinholes in them, or as heaving ground causes worn out mains to crack.

Just recently town workmen replaced 200 feet of the five inch main around the side of the mountain, that was so full of pinholes it looked like someone had jabbed it with an ice pick. There are portions of that line literally held together with repair clamps. But that's understandable, the line was laid in the 1800's when Milton first received water from a place called the Agnew Spring near the site of the present wells.

Grave for Committee
Older residents of Milton will recall difficulties with the town's first waterworks system. Indeed, there is a photo on record of a prank some local wags played in 1896, when the water system was apparently causing plenty of trouble.

The photo shows a group of 15 men (and one horse) grouped around a flower-decorated grave on the Main St. Beside the grave was a crude tombstone, lettered "Sacred to the Memory of the Waterworks Committee."

"At that time there was trouble with breaks in the waterworks system and one morning they found this grave on Main St. in front of what is now Park Farm Dairy," said R. M. Clements, Queen St., who owns the original picture.

Price Tag is High
Milton's present waterworks system is "hard to put a price tag on," Mr. McKerr explained. The two wells and pumping equipment would cost \$90,000 and the 12 inch watermain to town would run at least \$200,000. The reservoir, which was completed in October 1959, is worth \$70,000.

And what of the future? It looks rosy, but expensive. More water will be needed if more industries choose a Milton

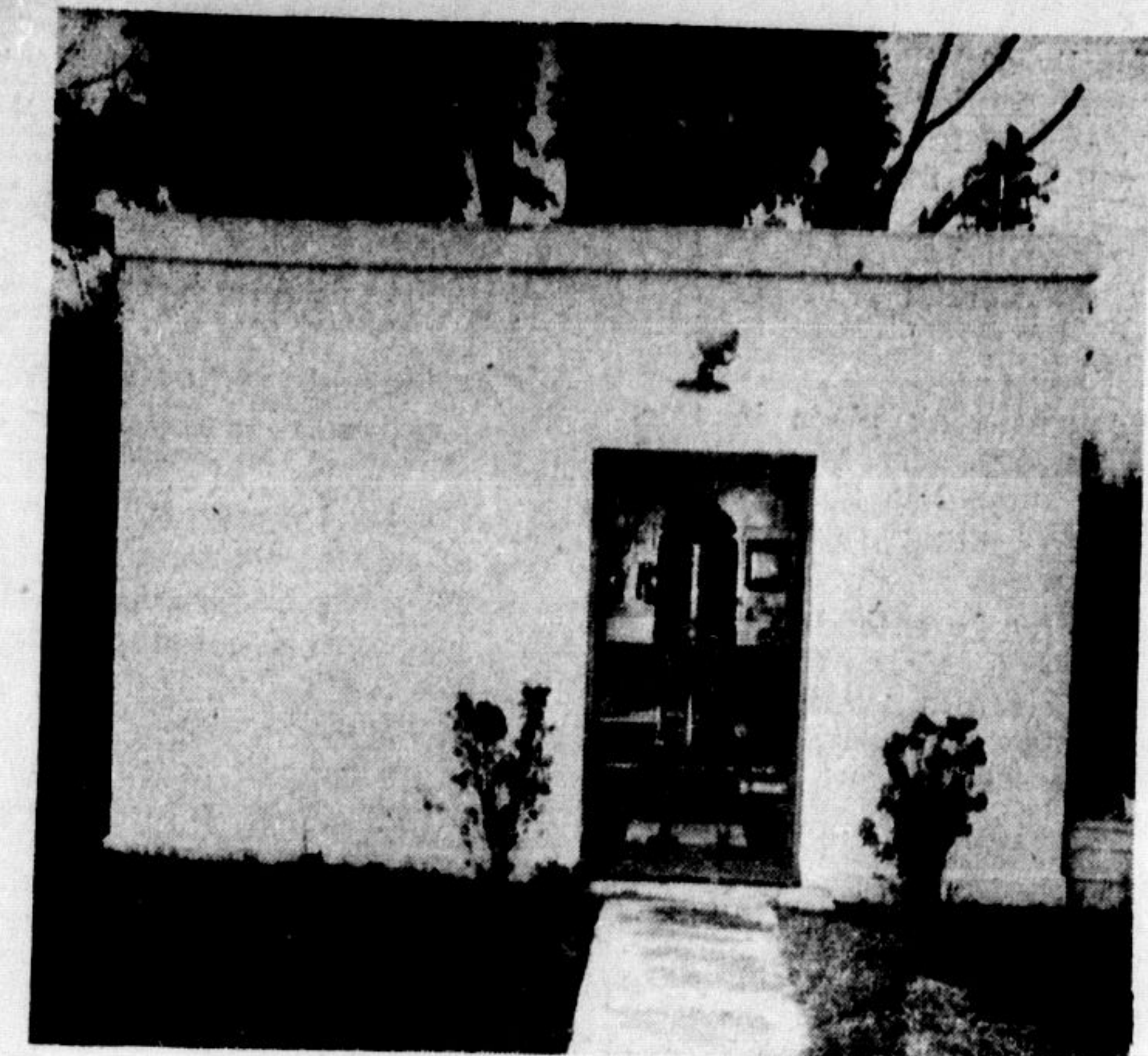
location, or if there is much more residential development. A new source was found in 1961 in a water table just south of the Kelso Dam Conservation Area near Milton Heights, and council is presently laying preliminary plans to have this water piped to town. Permission has been received from the O.W.R.C. to pump 750,000 gallons of water daily from Kelso, and experts feel there is more available if needed from the same source.

Esquering Source
And just recently, council learned that water located in Esquering Township, just north of 10

Sideroad at the Third Line C.N.R. railway line, was tested and found suitable for domestic consumption. Officials are now at work measuring the water table to determine if there is a sufficient supply available to serve the town's future needs.

So there's no shortage of water — it's a pumping problem that will cost Milton several hundred thousand dollars if future needs are to be met.

But for the present, the water supply is sufficient and the quality is excellent. They won't be digging any Main St. graves for the waterworks committee!



NUMBER TWO PUMPHOUSE at Milton's well site on Walker's Line is shown here. The two pumps can produce 1,300,000 gallons of water daily, and are kept busy during the hot summer months when water is needed for lawn and garden watering.

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Esquering Principals Staff are Allocated

Esquering Public School Board at their last week meeting announced the allocation of teachers for the coming school term. The first named in each case is the principal.

Milton Heights — Mrs. Glenna Connor, Mrs. P. English.
Glen Williams — Ralph McKeown, John Snoddy, Miss Doris Duff, Mrs. Eva Presswood, Miss Hilda Boyce.

Stewartown — Robert Gibbons, Doug Bazinet, Mrs. McKelvey, Mrs. R. McKeown, Mrs. Thelma Hearns.

Pineview — A. C. Dickson, Jim McFaul, Mrs. Ethel Riddell, Mrs. Griffin, Mrs. Kay Lawson, Miss Shirley Green.

Norval — J. Reed, Miss Gwen Robertson, Mrs. W. Cascadden.

Limehouse — Eric Balkind, Dennis Betts, Miss Carol Hopkin-

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Mrs. C. A. Grant Engaged School Board Secretary

Mrs. C. A. Grant of Stewarttown was engaged as Secretary-Treasurer of the Esquering School Board at its regular meeting last week.

Mrs. Grant started her duties on August 15 taking over from Walter Biehn of Georgetown who has resigned. Applicants for the position of caretaker at the new Pineview School were interviewed. No decision on the appointment was reached. The board agreed the position would be full time and the applicant selected would supervise the part-time caretakers in the six other Esquering Schools, and be in charge of all plants and supplies. Three applicants were interviewed by the board.

Paving Tenders
Tenders by Economy Paving Company of Hamilton were accepted for paving at the Limehouse and Milton Heights schools. A grading and graveling tender of H. Trowbridge for work at Milton Heights school was also accepted. Tender price was \$675. Cost of paving was \$1,944.42 at Limehouse and \$758.34 at Milton Heights.

A white acoustic plaster ceiling will be sprayed on two classrooms at Milton Heights by Bob Watkins at a cost of \$200. Painting of the ceiling would have cost \$375.

Pineview Drapes
Tenders for drapes for the new Pineview School were opened; no decision will be made pending further investigating by the property committee.

A proposal for furniture for the school by E. S. A. was accepted. Cost of supplying teachers' desks and chairs, furniture for the principal's office and furniture for the teachers' room is \$1,160.

Furniture for the principal's office will be of a walnut finish.

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"Depends what you remember most I reckon. If you think of winter as sleighrides and skating parties... I'd say they were good."

"But if you remember hauling logs and chopping kindling like the menfolk did, or trying to light the stove when it was below zero outside and certainly cold inside... then they weren't so special."

"There were no oil furnaces then, or Co-operatives to deliver fuel oil all winter long. In those days you had to keep yourself warm."

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Georgetown District High School EVENING CLASSES

Georgetown District High School offers the following evening classes for the school year 1963-64:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| VOCATIONAL CLASSES (20 Wks.) | RECREATIONAL COURSES (12 Weeks) |
| 1. Auto Mechanics I (Tues.) | 16. Dressmaking (Wed.) |
| 2. Auto Mechanics II (Thurs.) | 17. Home Sewing (Tues.) |
| 3. Electricity I (Tues.) | 18. Millinery (Tues.) |
| 4. Applied Electronics I (Tues.) | 19. Hostess (Thurs.) |
| 5. Woodworking I (Tues.) | 20. Oil Painting I (Tues.) |
| 6. Mechanical Drafting I (Tues.) | 21. Oil Painting II (Wed.) |
| 7. Mechanical Drafting II (Thurs.) | 22. Physical Fitness (Women) (Wednesday) |
| 8. Bookkeeping-Begin. (Tues.) | 23. Conversational French (Wednesday) |
| 9. Bookkeeping - Senior (Tues.) | 24. Basic English (Tues.) |
| 10. Machine Shop Practice I (Tues.) | 25. Jewellery (Tuesday) |
| 11. Machine Shop Practice II (Thurs.) | |
| 12. Shorthand I (Tues.) | |
| 13. Typing I (Tues.) | |
| 14. Typing II (Thurs.) | |
| 15. Business Machines (Thurs.) | |

The Vocational Courses are all credit courses for the Ontario Secondary School Graduation Diploma.

Fees for courses 1 to 15 \$10.00. Courses 16 to 25, \$6.00. Payable on registration. Registration Night ALL CLASSES Wednesday, October 2 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the School Office.

Courses 1 to 15 start Tuesday, Oct. 8. Courses 16 to 25 start Tuesday, Oct. 22. First term for Courses 1 to 15 will end the week of December 10. First term for Courses 16 to 25 will end the week of December 3. All second term classes will resume the week of Tuesday, January 7.

No class will be given unless there is a reasonable number of registrations. Requests in sufficient number for any class not included above, including regular academic subjects will be given consideration. Make your requests directly to the School Office 877-6966.

D. LATIMER
Chairman of the Board

A. M. BAXTER
Night School Principal.

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