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Protests from merchants scrap plans for parking

No swimming in mill pond

Swimmers who have enjoyed cooling dips in the town's centennial project mill pond for the past couple of weeks got their last swimming there on Monday.

That evening council decided to post the pond with "no swimming" signs in the interests of public safety. It has been a popular spot with youngsters since it was refilled with water last month, but councillors were afraid accidents might result and the town might be liable.

Councillor Brian Best said it was one thing to say the children couldn't swim there, but they should have an alternate place to go.

Councillor Tony Cousins replied the pool would be open by the scheduled opening date, June 24.

Milton's downtown parking situation got another thorough going-over at a special meeting of Milton Council and the town's three-man Parking Authority on Monday evening.

As a result of the meeting three things materialized:

• The complex plan for a massive merchant-financed parking area on Mary St. at the south of the business section was cancelled;

• The town, in conjunction with the Parking Authority, will investigate the purchase of two properties at opposite ends of Mary St., with a view to tearing them down to alleviate a traffic blockage situation and provide a few more parking spaces; and

• Merchants in the north Main St. area including the Centre Building, Christie and Woods, Canadian Champion, Cottage Delicatessen and Mill St. landowner E. Bailey will be asked to meet with council's streets and walks committee to see if a parking lot can be developed at the rear of their properties.

The Parking Authority, chairman Mike Ledwith admitted, came to the meeting all set to toss in the towel and hand the town's parking problems back to a committee of council. "It seems we have been on this parking authority for six years and we haven't accomplished a thing," Mr. Ledwith told council.

The Authority had broached a plan a few months ago whereby merchants along both sides of Main Street would be assessed a levy to provide a large parking area on Mary St. At the same time the council planned to buy and tear down all the buildings on the south side of Mary Street to reroute the crooked road and eliminate two bad corners.

But over one-third of the merchants had objected to their levies and they represented 46 per cent of the assessment in the area on which levies were to be placed. The Parking Authority felt this was too much dissent to attempt to go ahead with the proposal. Threats of installing parking meters on Main St., to provide

revenue to purchase off-street properties for parking lots, were voiced several times during Monday's meeting.

"Personally, the only way to put meters on the street," said Mr. Ledwith, "I don't like meters, but . . . Several councillors agreed that those who use the parking spaces should be prepared to pay for them.

An alternate plan which would provide parking at the north side of the main thoroughfare was recently suggested by Howard Griswold, owner of the Centre Building. But council felt the plan was too expensive. A third possibility was ruled out earlier — purchasing the lot owned by E. B. Clements on Mill St. which has already been cleared for parking. But since council refused to buy it, Mr. Clements has offered it for sale at \$32,000.

Mr. Ledwith reviewed that a few years ago, the Parking Authority had a proposal for a north side parking area that would have cost \$36,000, but the merchants on the north side of the street were the main objectors.

"I don't know what the answer might be. I feel we have come to the end. Maybe every merchant should provide his own parking," Mr. Ledwith suggested. "I don't think you will ever get all the merchants together on this — this is the third or fourth time we have tried, and we failed."

Mayor Childs felt meters would "drive business out of town" and they would not be feasible if there were not free off street lots for customers to park. The lack of meters, everyone agreed, as one of the town's best attractions right now.

Members diverted their attention to the Mary St. problems and all were generally agreed there was sufficient parking if the access to the parking was improved. Mr. Ledwith said a recent traffic survey showed 14,000 cars travelled Mary St. in one week.

All were in accord when it was decided to purchase or appropriate the one house and a triple garage to improve the narrow corners. Both the Council and the Parking Authority will study the purchase.

Rotarians toured town Tuesday selling salty peanuts and peanut butter. It was their annual fund-raising blitz.



THE VERY YOUNG were at the Progressive Conservative picnic and chicken barbecue on Sunday afternoon in Lowville Park, and three-year-old Gregory Inglis of Hamilton was one of them. Here he shares a piece of chicken with Ontario Premier John Robarts, guest of

honor at the event. The not-so-young were there, too. C. K. Browne of Acton celebrated his 97th birthday by receiving a plaque from the premier in recognition of his long service to the party.

(Staff Photo)

Melon contest, dressing race keep Premier busy at picnic

Progressive Conservatives from Hamilton, north Halton, Oakville and Burlington crowded into Lowville Park Sunday afternoon to munch on chicken and enjoy themselves.

Guest of honor was Ontario Premier John Robarts, who spent his seventh birthday in a row away from his family to attend the event.

The picnic was sponsored by the Halton West Progressive Conservative Association.

A talent contest was held, and the results included first prize winners the "Mid Knight Ours", a Halton rock band,

second, Lowville folk-singer Susan Gudgion and third, folk-singer Vince Lisson of Waterdown.

Even the officials got into the talent act with a watermelon eating contest and dressing race.

Winner of the juicier event was Burlington Deputy-Reeve Frank Rodgers, while Hamilton Mountain candidate John Smith, assisted by Oakville P. C. Association president Barbara Cooper beat out the team of Jim Snow and Ada Pritchard at quick-change.

Predicts increase in '68 mill rates

While 1968 budget setting is more than 10 months away, Councillor Brian Best went on record Monday as being the first to predict an increase in Milton's 1968 mill rate.

He mentioned ratepayers could expect a tax hike in '68 during Monday's council meeting, as a series of by-laws authorizing the town to issue debentures totalling \$227,100 covering part of the cost of seven recent construction projects were approved by council.

The projects included the Main and Ontario Sts. widening, the extension to the waterworks, the sewage treat-

ment plant addition, the paving of Williams Ave., the centennial mill pond project, and the combined town hall renovations and works building project.

All the debentures will be dated June 15 and they will mature from five to 20 years in the future. Those maturing prior to 1977 bear interest at 6½ per cent, while those due in the following 10 years carry interest at 6½ per cent.

Councillor Best said the mill rate would definitely have to go up next year as first payments come due on the seven debentures. "There will be no reserve to dip into," he warned.

Mrs. Pritchard is the only woman member of the Legislature.

Master of ceremonies Gordie Tapp turned over the platform to George Kerr, M.L.A., who commented briefly on the excellent turnout and introduced Premier Robarts.

The premier noted it was four years to the day since he had last met Conservative supporters in Lowville Park. He wore a jacket of the new centennial tartan.

In answer to the well-worn question about election timing, he stated the province would be completing the business of the people before organizing one.

Mr. Robarts noted the report of the Smith Committee on taxation is the "most comprehensive" yet, and that the provincial government has long recognized the need for revision in money-raising methods.

He assured the audience the province was in "remarkably healthy shape", despite its apparent problems. More than 800 new industries have started in Ontario since 1963, and schools are going up at the rate of approximately two daily.

A plaque was presented to C. K. Browne of Acton, who, on his 97th birthday Sunday is probably the oldest Tory in the area.

Following the program the mass of people settled back to swimming, sitting in the shade, or just gaining energy for the dash back to the car through 80-degree heat.

Mrs. E. Yates officiates at date stone ceremony

The date stone in the general purpose room of the Martin St. Senior Public School was declared "well and truly laid" by Mrs. E. Yates in a brief ceremony Friday.

In setting the stone, assisted by general contractor Tat Zanatta, Mrs. Yates wished for all pupils and teachers every success in the days that come.

Supervising Principal E. W. Foster noted the date stone setting had been delayed because of unfavorable weather from last year. He told the

Set blood clinic here for June 22

Plans for the next semi-annual blood donor clinic for Milton, Thursday, June 22, were formed on Monday at a meeting of the Milton Red Cross.

Paul Kent is overall chairman of the event and will have a host of helpers assisting him with arrangements, including the entire Red Cross executive, the Legion Ladies' Auxiliary and Catholic Women's League will serve refreshments, and the Anglican Church Women who will handle the telephone campaign.

The Red Cross will encourage students aged 16 to 18 to attend the blood donor clinics, and is prepared to approach the staff and teachers at Ontario School for the Deaf as well.

Clinic hours will be 2 to 4:30 and 6:30 to 9 on the 22nd, publicity chairman O. G. McDowell reports.



AFTER MUCH DELIBERATION the judges Miss Lois Cairns, centre, would reign as Miss Milton and represent the Chamber of Commerce in the coming year. Mary Green, left, was the first runner-up and Linda Bates, right,

was second runner-up. The girls were judged on poise, personality, appearance and a host of other characteristics in the weekend contest.

(Staff Photo)

Name Lois Cairns winner "Miss Milton" contest

"Mirror, mirror, on the wall, who's the fairest of them all?" This was the dilemma three judges faced Saturday as they decided who would reign as Miss Milton and represent the Chamber of Commerce for the coming year.

Lois Cairns, a 17-year-old brown haired beauty, was eventually chosen and will wear the Miss Milton sash for one year. Lois, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Archie Cairns, 340 Main St., is a grade 12 student at Milton District High School and hopes to teach elementary school.

The girls seeking honor as Miss Milton were Jo-Anne Hayes, 18, of R.R. 2, Camp-

bellville; Susan Copley, 16, of 330 Meadowbrook Drive; Lois Cairns, 17, 340 Main St.; Mary Green, 17, of Palermo; Linda Bates, 18, 202 Bell St.; Donna Knowles, 211 Ontario St.; Faye Mathies, 18, of R.R. 2, Campbellville, and Bonnie McDougall, 18, of 80 Bruce St.

Judges Brian Best, Syd Childs and Gordon Krantz, all town council members, narrowed the choice down on Friday evening to three lovely girls for Saturday's final judging. The finalists were Lois Cairns, Mary Green and Linda Bates.

In Friday's judging the girls gave impromptu speeches.

Miss Milton has received many prizes. A bond for \$100, a gold watch and a skirt and sweater outfit were among the prizes donated.

Mary Green was the first runner-up and Linda Bates was second. The runners-up received cash prizes and all entrants received commemorative pins.

The entertainment was rounded out with performances by students from the Renzetti accordion school, and taped music. Tiny Hopkins was master of ceremonies.

The pancake festival held in conjunction with the contest was a success and many people took the opportunity to enjoy a good pancake feed and watch the contest at the same time.

The Chamber of Commerce was pleased with the co-operation of the Milton merchants with their assistance and donations. Although some parts of the program did not go off as scheduled many people did enjoy the event, said chairman Richard Copley.

Phoney \$20 found here

Milton Police report a bogus \$20 bill was discovered in Milton over the weekend.

The bill, which was passed at Ledwith's food store Saturday, turned up in their deposit at the Bank of Montreal and was forwarded to police Monday morning.

Police Chief Ray Dresser reports the bill is darker than bonafide bills, has no plachettes (small green dots running through the paper), bears a darker, coarser portrait and back-scene, and has poor shadowing and a thick signature. Numbers to watch include serial S/E ("S" over "E") 368743; front plate number 19 and back plate number 16.

Merchants are asked to contact police immediately upon receipt of a counterfeit bill.

\$1,000 landscaping for pond property

A \$1,000 program of landscaping the property at the Martin St. end of the Mill Pond Centennial project will be underway soon, following council's acceptance of Rainbow Landscaping's estimates on Monday.

Project manager Ross Pearson said just the one local firm was interested in doing the work. Their estimate was \$975, which included over \$700 for sodding the property and the remainder for planting trees and preparing flowerbeds. If council desires, the same firm will supply about \$35 worth of annual flowers for the flowerbeds.

Meanwhile the cairn is progressing and a flagpole has been ordered. Workmen are starting to tear down an old house on the property. The official opening of the project is scheduled for Sunday, June 25.

Bush fire spreads, damages house roof

A bush fire spread to a house and partly damaged the roof on the home of Ken Jensen's Nassagaweya farm on Thursday afternoon of last week. Prompt action by residents and Milton Fire Brigade saved the house but Fire Chief A. E. Clement said "if they had not seen the roof burning when they did, it could have been a goner."

The bush fire is believed to have started by careless smoking. Some workmen were clearing out the bush prior to the time when the fire broke out. Firemen had to leave the bush fire to divert their attention to the house, then return to check the bush fire.

The men said the bush is quite dry at this time of year and warn campers and hikers to be especially careful.

The week's only other fire was a clothes dryer fire at the Esquing home of F. C. Frenett on May 31.



SETTING THE DATE STONE was completed at the Martin St. Senior Public School general purpose room on Friday by Mrs. E. E. Yates, who, with her husband, had maintained the office books of Milton Schools for more than

30 years. Shown at the brief ceremony are Board secretary and Supervising Principal E. E. Foster, Board chairman Ron Harris, Mrs. Yates and Board Building chairman Alex Cooke. (Staff Photo)