

An editorial review:

B2 The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, January 31, 1968

Two groups plan youth centre

N.B. - The Front realizes there will probably be people who will get somewhat emotional over the following comments on our proposed youth centre. We regret this, but will publish any constructive criticism submitted correctly as a letter to the page.

It's quite likely the majority of The Front's readership, while aware something is being done to get a youth program or centre in Milton, are not having much luck in picking the concrete facts out of the maze of meetings, publicity, contradictory opinions and hearsay.

Completely disregarding the personal feelings or trend-of-support of individuals connected with Youth Front, we run up the Swiss Flag this week and outline a cool-keeping review of the stands taken so far.

We frantically urge you to read both sides as well as The Front's comments, and demonstrate who you support either by writing us or contacting the group which appeals to you.

The Milton Optimist Club has been giving thought to Milton's need for more youth facilities since their formation a year ago. At their Quiz Bowl in November, municipal councillors were questioned about the establishment of a centre by six high school students, but nothing concrete was decided.

In the meantime, the Optimist youth committee, chaired by Jim Elge, had been gathering information and statistics about other such centres in Canada and U.S.

About a month ago, a group of around 15 active young people in the Milton area began meeting weekly to discuss what they could do towards a coffee-house-like centre where high-school age persons could relax, read, listen to music, and play games.

When Optimists ran a questionnaire on The Front recently the group, currently called Youth Power, decided to draw up a petition in reply.

Apart from that, however, both circles forged ahead independently.

Youth Power elected its executive, adapted the constitution of similar nearby organization, and began tentatively making plans.

First official contact between the two groups was made last Tuesday evening, under an atmosphere which evolved from some suspicion to enthusiastic co-operation.

The Front wonders, however, if the apparent compatibility runs deep enough to be constructive.

The main problem seems to lie in who gets control of the centre's programming, membership regulations and hours.

Youth Power wants absolute final word left in the hands of its execs, with no intervention from others.

Mr. Elge and committee agree an executive of young people will be formed, but their decisions would be subject to approval from a board of governors appointed by the club.

If Optimist money goes toward the project, the club would also have use of the building when they require it.

Then there's the charter.

If an Optimist Youth Group is established, a provincial charter can be applied for, making the Milton branch a corporation and part of an international organization.

There are several appreciable advantages in this set-up.

Youth Power feels, however, all that adult participation in the project would deplete interest.

The Power has now gone ahead and organized its first project. And it isn't exactly small potatoes.

All of the details aren't arranged, but it features a battle of the bands and dancing.

Optimists, pursuant to an agreement Tuesday night, have been looking at suitable locations for the centre.

So both sides are working. Co-operation. Wonderful.

But --- the job is far from done.

If things continue the way they are now, one of a battery of things can happen.

Both sides may get discouraged and angry and quit.

The general young public will get so confused they'll become disgusted with the whole idea.

Some kind of power play will be made by one side or other to railroad through their Grand Plan. Like in Korea.

Milton will end up with TWO youth centres.

Or everyone can forget their pre-conceived ideas and start over.

With a snappy salute to that Scandinavian neutral banner mentioned, The Front takes a deep breath and proposes the following, for your comment: With all due respect to the

Public speaking

Close to 200 parents and friends watched as students of Milton public schools competed for laurels in public speaking Wednesday evening at Martin St. Senior Public School.

Chaired by teacher R. McCaw, the competition resulted in the following victors.

Mary Simpson of W. L. Dick Grade 6, speaking on horses; Van McPhail of Martin St. Grade 7, speaking on cigarettes; Merna Wilson of Martin St. Grade 8 speaking on L. S. D. (Merna also acquired the Judge Munro cup for best all-round).

First runner-up in grade 8 was Susan Arbie, speaking on Hefners, second runner-up was Lois Fay; with hot water as her subject.

Optimists, Youth debate centre

Milton Optimist Club president Herb Higgs hosted a meeting between Optimist directors and the executive of Youth Power at his home Tuesday evening, January 23.

The meeting was arranged to give both groups an insight into what the other was doing towards getting a youth activities program for Milton.

Youth Power president Paul Foster outlined his group's intentions, which include the establishment of a coffee-house where young people can enter at almost any reasonable hour and either take part in whatever organized activities are happening, or relax in any way they wish -- with reading, records, conversation or coffee.

Since neither group has been

able to come up with a building they're sure of, ideas were exchanged on possible locations.

The Optimists are currently examining two possibilities.

Youth Power plans to take part in community work, including charity drives, canvassing and others.

Optimist youth committee chairman Jim Elge described the function of an Optimist Youth Group, which, while controlled by youths, does have direction and guidance from the parent organization.

The importance of having the proposed program accepted by the citizenry was emphasized strongly, and the youth group recognized this, but noted a set-up which gave the appearance of considerable regimentation would probably experience difficulties in acquiring members in this area.

Youth Power vice-president Jane DenBoer also suggested Milton youth would be less enthusiastic about a pre-founded syndicated group than about one started and kept going in town.

The youths are, however, appreciative of any assistance other groups are willing to give.

Mr. Higgs said he recognized any program designated to benefit the youth of Milton would have to have support from the teens themselves.

At the conclusion of the discussion the Optimists promised to examine several buildings suitable to the purpose, and both sides expressed a willingness to co-operate with the other.



APPROACHING THEATRICAL dates find members of Milton District High School Drama Club hard at practice. In an uncostumed scene from 'Still Stands the House', Dave Regis watches from left as Beth Wardle gives Marg Mackay a hard right. Gord Timbers is on the starboard side. (Staff Photo)

good intentions of our local Optimist Club, we feel there is considerable logic in the idea that 'over-organization,' as it has been called, will result in subconscious negative feelings from the age-group the centre would be designed to attract.

However, even within the small segment of the club Youth Power met Tuesday evening, there are men who obviously could advise, guide and sponsor without even unknowingly being restrictive. — It's a cold fact young people



PUBLIC SPEAKING competition at Martin St. Senior School on Wednesday evening resulted in Grade 8 student Merna Wilson capturing the Judge W. Munro trophy. Here she receives it from last year's winner Rachael Andreko as Milton Hydro manager Oz. Hadley and competition chairman principal R. McCaw look on. (Staff Photo)

At M.M. Robinson

O.S.A.T. tests written public speaking coming

by Marsha Zuest

The next dance at M. M. Robinson will be held Friday, February 19. The Library Club sponsors this dance and the "Royal Bank" will be entertaining. We are hoping this dance will be as much of a success as past dances this year have been.

Thursday, the Grade 13 students wrote the O.S.A.T. test. This test was written by all the Grade 13's in the province and is partly a basis for university entrance.

In the near future a public speaking contest will be held at the school. This will be the first year for a competition of this type. Contestants will speak on a topic of their own choice for five minutes.

Congratulations are extended to both the junior and senior

The Grade 12 Business and Commerce students recently journeyed to the International Harvester plant. They were taken through the offices of the plant and observed the system of data processing. This trip was all a part of the business subjects taken by these students.

Our school hockey team won over Nelson High School by a score of 5-2 in a recent game.

girls' volleyball teams. They both were victorious over Oakville-Trafalgar High School in a recent double header game.

What's Doing This Weekend?

Friday, February 2	Saturday, February 3
in OAKVILLE	in MILTON
At the Pine Room in the Arena - Corner of Kerr and Rebecca Streets.	At the Agricultural Hall in Milton Fair Grounds, on Robert Street.
3-Band Contest	"LORNE ADAMS and the Soul Gents"

Club Malibu

won't attend something that does not meet their approval, and the executive would be more in the know of what's popular than older people would.

Optimist 'control' would assure the suspicious public everything was up tight, and bring a different viewpoint into the plans.

Optimist fund-raising campaigns have had public exposure, and might fare a little better than Power's.

On top of all this, we shouldn't forget the Optimist Club has spent a lot of its time and effort in obtaining information and arranging for action on the centre. They can't just be proceeded-without.

The other side of the coin has a lot of shine to it, too.

Youth Power isn't merely an organization trying to start something for Generation '68. It IS Generation '68.

They, too, have poured hours and dollars into the project.

Without organization within

(Continued on Page B3)

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