



MMFLEBD! This comment came from six-year-old Michele Bennett of Burlington who was in the middle of a children's doughnut eating contest when she was asked what she thought of the Burlington Winter Carnival. More carnival pictures inside.—(Staff Photo)

Five more quit jobs

Hospital "back to normal" as investigations continue

Five more department heads quit their jobs at Milton District Hospital during the past week, bringing to nine the number of resignations and dismissals of key personnel in the past two weeks.

But the hospital is operating efficiently and things are getting back to normal, according to J. Michael Ledwith, chairman of the hospital board. Dr. Steven Legate, presently acting as administrator of the 83-bed hospital, reported an "improved atmosphere, excellent morale and co-operation from the staff" since the most recent staff flare-up. Vacancies on the staff are being filled by other members of the departments.

Meanwhile a series of investigations into alleged "tampering" with hospital equipment and into the staff problems continue. The Ontario Hospital Services Commission and the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario are studying the staff situation while

Milton Police, the Attorney-General's Department and the Ontario Department of Labor have concluded investigations into reported "sabotage" of equipment.

Eight days of controversy struck the hospital on Tuesday, Jan. 27 when Administrator Dalton E. McQuaig fired Director of Nursing Mrs. R. J. Verrall and suspended her assistant Director of Nursing Mrs. Phyllis Walker. The same day Mr. McQuaig's secretary Mrs. Alice Berube resigned. Mr. McQuaig submitted his own resignation the following Saturday.

Over the weekend five department heads issued a plea for an investigation of several "sabotage" incidents which had been widely rumored during that week and on Tuesday, one of those department heads Joseph Kaszuba of the maintenance department resigned. The other four dietitian Mrs. Mary Corbett, medical records librarian Mrs. Susan Black, head housekeeper Mrs. Shirley Wallis and laundry manager James Schnarr followed suit Wednesday after discussing their grievances with Dr. Legate. The acting administrator said he had given the four employees an opportunity to resign but they left their posts at noon Wednesday and have not yet reported back to work, according to board chairman Ledwith.

Other employees have taken

over supervision of the maintenance, dietary, medical records, housekeeping and laundry departments and some temporary help has been brought in to assist them, Ledwith told The Champion.

The OHSC investigation continued all last week and their report is expected to be received by the board soon. Nurses involved in the situation called in the R.N.A.O. and two representatives have been keeping an eye on the situation. A letter to the board, asking for the re-instatement of nursing directors Verrall and Walker, was signed by 51 staff nurses but it has not yet been dealt with by the board. Meanwhile the status of the two women remains unchanged, said the chairman.

Mrs. Verrall was seriously injured in a car-truck collision near London on Friday and was hospitalized at London with two broken legs, a broken arm, a broken pelvis and other injuries. "We were shocked to learn of her accident," said Mr. Ledwith.

Last week Mr. Ledwith, on behalf of the board, released a statement to the press after the Department of Labor report pinned down problems with the hospital boiler as "malfunctions or oversight." His statement explained that when "certain incidents" were reported to the board, a 24 hour security protection was called for and a board investigation was launched.

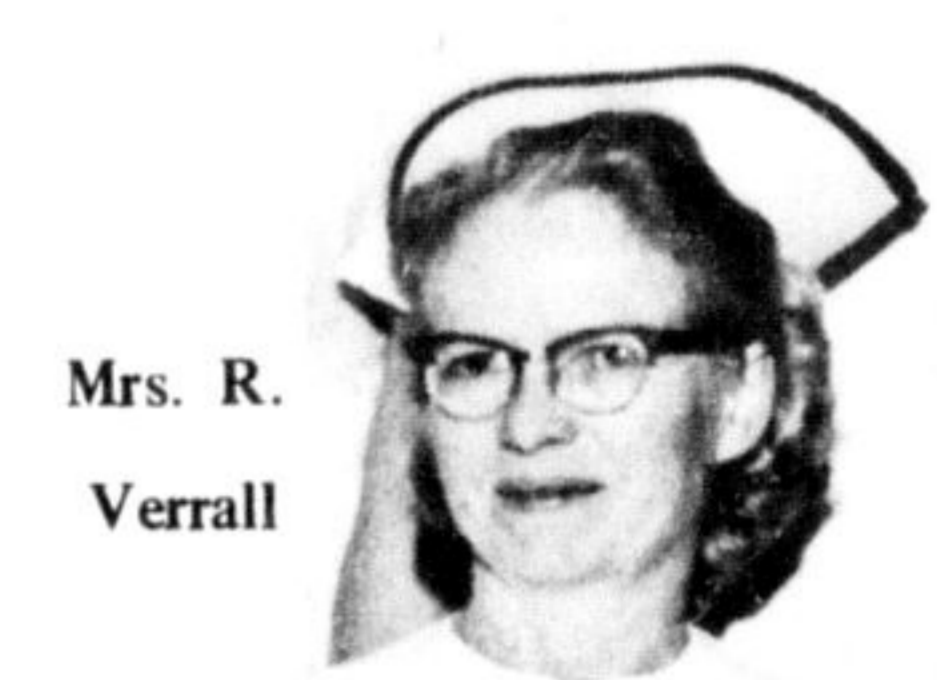
"In addition to a complete

investigation by Milton police department the hospital boilers have been thoroughly examined by an inspector of the Ontario Department of Labor.

"The reported incidents were found to have occurred over a period of several months. The evidence indicates that they were due to ordinary mechanical malfunction or oversight.

"The board wishes to emphasize that these were isolated occurrences and at no time posed any threat to the care and safety of the patients or danger to hospital equipment.

"The Board regrets there has been a breakdown in relations between certain hospital



Mrs. R. Verrall

Mrs. R. Verrall hurt in crash

Mrs. R. J. Verrall of Milton, fired two weeks ago as director of nursing at Milton District Hospital, was seriously injured Friday afternoon in a car-truck accident three miles south of London's city limits.

According to the London detachment of the OPP, Mrs. Verrall's car was in collision with a milk transport truck driven by Clair Richmond of Tillsonburg.

The driver of the truck complained of a sore side after the mishap.

Mrs. Verrall is listed in satisfactory condition at Victoria General Hospital in London. She suffered two broken legs, a broken pelvis, broken arm and jaw, facial and internal injuries.

Charges are pending against the truck driver who is employed by Uplands Transport Ltd.

Const. G. D. Berdan of the London OPP detachment is investigating.

Clubs get together

Dance proceeds for park

A co-ordinated effort of the town's service clubs and other organizations is being planned to hold a mammoth dance with proceeds going to the development of a new community park in the north end of town.

Dick Copely, spokesman for the Rotary Club, originator of the idea, said the response from other organizations at an exploratory meeting last week was enthusiastic.

The Rotary Club has hired the Carlton Showband for June 6. The aid of organizations and individuals is being enlisted. Mr. Copely said he hoped the project would be a community affair.

Mayor Brian Best congratulated the organizations represented for pulling together and working towards a common goal.

Mr. Copely said the objective would be to have as much of the work on the park done this year as possible. The land is town owned and designated for park use, and is situated north of the O.P.P. station, west of Highway 25.

The park is contemplated as basically a picnic area and the plan is to furnish it with tables, washrooms and picnic facilities.

The park would be below road level and accessible by Base Line Road. The location would lend itself to people passing through town as well as Miltonians.

"We are welcoming ideas and suggestions from all corners right now," Mr. Copely said. The first meeting was of an exploratory nature and the next one Feb. 17 will be to get down to "brass tacks," according to Mr. Copely.

He indicated serious consideration would be given to greater ventures such as a community centre if this project was successful.

LOTTERY?

A municipal lottery for Milton? It's always possible, members of council agreed Monday as they were brought up to date on the activities of a committee recently formed by representatives of the town's service clubs and charitable organizations.

Mayor Brian Best told council the clubs were getting together to sponsor a June dance, with proceeds earmarked for development of the triangle park at the town's northern entrance. The group hopes to work together on other major projects for the town. Councillor Art Melanson was appointed to

attend the next meeting as a council representative.

Councillor Charles Johnson was only joking when he wondered if the clubs could get together on a local lottery like the one presently helping Montrealers pay their city taxes. But the Mayor thought it was a good idea — "this might be the foundation for such a thing," he answered.

The Mayor said the group might also promote a united appeal fund-raising campaign for Milton with one blitz serving all local groups. This idea has been hinted before but never materialized.

McKeough meets Nassagaweya

Final decision by June 30 on regional government

A Halton-Peel form of regional government is almost inevitable and Darcy McKeough, Ontario's minister of municipal affairs, says he will have to make a final decision by April 1.

Mr. McKeough made this comment after a two-hour closed-door session with members of Nassagaweya Council Friday afternoon at Brookville. The meeting was held at the minister's request to enable him to hear from municipal governments in the area on their stands on regional government.

The minister said his discussion with the council was a great help to him in making the final decision and he claimed some of the things he learned from the council could be included in the municipal government legislation.

He conceded there will have to be a two-tier form of government, similar to that in effect in Ottawa-Carleton, although he anticipates some trouble from Oakville council which is still calling for a one-tier form of government.

"I feel a lot better after today," he said, emerging from the session with the council. "I think the problems we've encountered before were not due to any misunderstanding but rather to a lack of communication."

Asked if some of the problems he has encountered before could have been alleviated by talking to the people concerned, the minister replied he wasn't sure, but it had been physically impossible for him to have had meetings with everyone

concerned over the regional take over before this date.

Mr. McKeough explained briefs are still coming in from different sources and he has 17 meetings to attend similar to the one with Nassagaweya Council before any firm decision is made. He stressed that it will have to be made soon to allow the bill to be given three readings in the house and gain royal assent before the provincial legislature adjourns on June 30.

Before the meeting, Nassagaweya Reeve Mrs. Anne MacArthur seemed anxious about the encounter but she appeared to be relieved after the meeting, as did other council members.

Also on hand for the meeting was George Kerr, Minister of Energy and Resources and Halton West's MPP. He left early, and on his way out told waiting members of the press that Nassagaweya Township probably will retain its own individuality, a factor which was a stumbling block between the municipal affairs department and Mrs. MacArthur.

Robertson spends \$70,000 on waste treatment works

Plans of P. L. Robertson Manufacturing Company Limited to construct new waste treatment facilities to serve plant in Milton have been approved by the Ontario Water Resources Commission. Small hardware including screws, nuts, and bolts is manufactured at the plant.

Under the plans the company is replacing its presently inadequate cyanide treatment system with a new expanded system to permit treatment by alkaline chlorination of all cyanide bearing wastes. This will ensure total removal of cyanide from the plant effluent.

Additionally, new facilities are being installed to permit the addition of coagulants to the existing clarifier. This will improve settling efficiencies and thereby reduce the suspended solids concentration in the clarifier overflow. Two new

holding tanks will store the clarifier effluent in the event of any treatment plant upsets.

Construction has been progressing on the above works and installation is expected to be completed during the next few weeks, at an estimated cost of \$70,000.

Ontario-wide competition

The Champion's classifieds, photos and all-round appearance have once again placed this newspaper in the winners' circle following an Ontario-wide weekly newspaper competition.

Milton's own weekly captured a first prize in Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association's 1969

better newspapers competition for its classified advertising excellence; a second place win in the "general excellence" judging for newspapers with between 2,500 and 5,000 circulation; and a third prize award for its use of pictures.

Awards will be presented at the 20th annual convention of the OWNA in Toronto later this week. Publisher Jim Dills and Editor Roy Downs will be representing the newspaper and accepting the awards on behalf of the staff.

For many years The Champion has been a consistent winner in newspaper competitions and last summer topped a "triple crown" award in a Canada-wide competition with first prizes for best all-round paper, best front page and best editorial page in its circulation class.

This year's Ontario contest saw a record number of entries, competition organizers report. The Champion topped the Preston Times and Aurora Banner in the classified advertising section; came second to the Renfrew Advance and edged out third-place Prescott

Journal in the general excellence class; and came third to the Renfrew paper and Arnprior Chronicle in the photography section.

Two awards were won by The Champion's sister publication, The Acton Free Press. The Acton paper won first for general excellence in the under 2,500 circulation section and first for front page in competition against all other competing weeklies in the province. Only other Halton

newspaper to gain an award this year was The Burlington Post which came third in the class for tabloid size papers with over 5,000 circulation, and third in the front page class.

Other papers across Ontario earned awards in editorial page, best single editorial, best personal column, sports section, conservation editorial, spot news picture, picture story, graphic design and greatest improvement contests.

Speculation is that such an interchange would allow traffic to enter the nearby Kelso Conservation Area and Glen Eden Ski Club without having to travel the backroads after leaving Highway 401 at Highway 25. The Provincial Government has future plans for an agricultural museum on property facing the Town Line north of Milton Heights—on land it purchased from Kelso's owners Halton Conservation Authority.

Postpone council's McKeough meeting

Last minute changes in the schedule of Minister of Municipal Affairs Darcy McKeough has forced the postponement of his proposed meeting with Milton council today, (Wednesday) which was to have been held at 3.30 p.m. in the Minister's Toronto office.

A spokesman in Mr. McKeough's office said the minister found out about the change in his schedule Tuesday morning and has been unable to work in a new meeting date as of press time. A planned meeting with Georgetown Council Wednesday night was also postponed.

McKeough visited Nassagaweya Council on Friday. Monday afternoon, he met with Esqueving council in their chambers from 3.30 p.m. until 5.45 p.m. and was to have gone on from there to meet with Port Credit's municipal officials.

The minister's meeting with

Acton council on Feb. 16 is still scheduled to be held.

McKeough meet "good" - Hill

Esqueving deputy-reeve Tom Hill described Monday afternoon's meeting of Esqueving Council and Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough as a "very good meeting."

The deputy-reeve would not elaborate on the events of the 90 minute private meeting, but did say "We know a lot more now, than we did before".

Halton East MPP Jim Snow also attended the meeting.



EXPLAINING HER POSITION on regional government, Nassagaweya Reeve Mrs. Anne MacArthur points out the area of her township to Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough, left. The reeve's hope is to keep her township intact when regional government come to the area. Also attending the special meeting

with the minister in Nassagaweya Council chambers Friday afternoon was Minister of Energy and Resources George Kerr, right, who is also Halton West MPP, and deputy-reeve Gordon Agnew.—(Staff Photo)

Town will demand \$9,360 capital levy on senior citizens' apartment project

Milton Council will collect a \$260 per suite capital levy on the proposed 36-suite senior citizens' apartment project to be built in town, members agreed Monday.

The town had been asked if it would forego the usual levy charged all home and apartment builders, but members were convinced the levy, if not

collected, would only add profit for the developer and the saving would not be passed on to the tenants. They opted for collecting the \$9,360.

Rentals will be geared to the income of tenants and could be as low as \$39 a month. The town had trouble finding a site for the project and the Ontario Housing Corporation called a

meeting last week of local builders to encourage someone to come up with a site and plans for a building. That meeting turned up three prospective bidders.

Council will collect full taxes on the project but the town is responsible for up to 7% per cent of any annual operating losses, members were informed.