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Hospital nurses will resign if Verrall, Walker not cleared

Uneasy times at Milton District Hospital are expected to come to a head Tuesday, March 24. Miss R. K. Lewis of the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario told The Champion this week she had a large majority of written resignations from the hospital's nurses in her custody. She said the Board would receive a registered letter yesterday (Tuesday) and had one week to meet the conditions set forth by the nurses and RNAO. The two conditions are that Mrs. R. J. Verrall, former nursing director at Milton hospital be reinstated as Director and be put on sick leave until she recovers from an automobile accident, or a justifiable reason for her dismissal be given both to her and to RNAO's satisfaction.

The second stipulation is Assistant Director of Nursing Mrs. Phyllis Walker's resignation be cancelled and that she be taken on as Assistant Director

again. Mrs. Verrall was dismissed and Mrs. Walker was suspended on Jan. 27. Mrs. Walker's suspension has since been lifted but she resigned.

The threat of the nurses' mass resignation was first known shortly after Mrs. Verrall was removed from her position. A petition bearing the names of 62 nurses was forwarded to the board asking the two head nurses be reinstated.

At the beginning of March nurses from the hospital met with Dr. W. S. Legate, acting administrator and Miss Lewis, from RNAO at the Milton Community Credit Union and at that time said they would wait for the Ontario Hospital Services Commission report before taking action.

After reading the OHSC report Thursday the Board announced they would advertise for a new

Nursing Director and Mrs. Verrall would be offered a job on the nursing staff but not as Director.

With the Board and the nurses

both solid in their own beliefs of what should be done, trouble is expected. Should the nurses and RNAO decide to go ahead with the mass resignations due notice

will be given. "There is no consideration being given to a strike. It is illegal for hospital employees to strike," Miss Lewis emphasized.

Darcy delays wedding

Regional government not possible in '71

The wedding is postponed...at least this year and possibly for the next couple of years.

That's the story from Darcy McKeough, Minister of Municipal Affairs, as of Monday. McKeough called in the mayors and reeves of Halton and Peel Counties that afternoon to tell them the expected January 1 wedding was being delayed. It

won't happen by next Jan. 1 and it may not even happen for another year or two, the delegates reported following the brief meeting.

McKeough blamed indecision among the Halton and Peel municipal politicians and the big question mark of uncertainty hanging over Burlington's future as he announced the postponement. He noted legislation would have to go before the Ontario Legislature by May 1 in order for elections to be held this fall and a regional government to be born by Jan. 1, and it was just not possible.

A decision on Burlington's future—either with Halton and Peel or with Hamilton and Wentworth—isn't possible before

May 1, McKeough said. Meanwhile the minister is still receiving briefs and submissions from local groups and governments about his plans for the Halton-Peel wedding, and applications for city status from Burlington and Mississauga and a Streetsville application for annexation are further hindering any firm decisions on this region.

One bright spot in Monday's announcement, in the eyes of local municipal leaders at least, was McKeough's admission there may still be room for a separate region of Halton and a separate region of Peel. McKeough said the towns and townships involved would have to agree among themselves.

Mrs. L. Verrall's dismissal rescinded but board seeks new nursing director

Mrs. Louise Verrall, fired by administrator Dalton McQuaig from her post as Director of Nursing at Milton District Hospital seven weeks ago, has been rehired by the hospital board.

But not as Director of Nursing. "We are advertising for a new Director of Nursing," said Hospital Board chairman J. M. Ledwith. A press release issued by the Board Friday stated "following a thorough review of the dismissal of Mrs. R. J.

Verrall, it is the Board's decision that this action be rescinded and that she be granted an extended leave of absence."

Mrs. Verrall was seriously injured and hospitalized at London in a car accident on Feb. 6. She had been dismissed on Jan. 27 by Mr. McQuaig, who resigned the following weekend in the midst of a staff upheaval that saw eight senior employees and department heads leave the hospital in a 10 day period. The incidents touched off a controversy that culminated in

investigations by the Hospital Board, Milton Police, the Ontario Department of Labor, the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, and the Ontario Hospital Services Commission.

Results of the OHSC "survey" conducted by a team of OHSC consultants were received by the local board last week and a lengthy meeting was held Thursday to review the results. Friday morning Mr. Ledwith and acting administrator Dr. W. S. Legate drove to London to inform Mrs. Verrall of the survey results and at the same time board members John W. Ostler and Reford W. Gardhouse met with hospital department heads to review the report. The press release was issued that afternoon.

"The examining team found that patient care within the hospital has been well maintained throughout this period. The Board of Directors concur with the compliments paid by the report to the hospital staff who have expanded considerable effort to maintain this level of care. In the opinion of the examining team, the significance of the incidents reported were exaggerated and that the actions taken by the

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Seek public funds to keep band going

Halton County Council will be asked to assist in saving the Lorne Scots pipe and drum band. The band is one of many across the country which the defence department is eliminating as part of an

"Lost respect"

Const. Crooks resigns

"I feel I have lost the respect of the citizens of Milton, which makes it difficult to carry out my duties," Constable Gordon Crooks told Milton Council Monday as he submitted his resignation from the Milton Police Department, effective April 11.

The constable suggested "the recent publicity" (concerning charges laid against him by Chief Ray Andress, the hearing of the charges, his resulting appeal and a re-hearing of the case by town council last week) had contributed to the loss of respect he mentioned.

"After deliberation and one the advice of my doctor I feel this action is in the best interests of all," he concluded. Police committee chairman councillor Gord Krantz told council the police chief was agreeable to the April 11 termination date, and council accepted the resignation.

Const. Crooks has been chairman of the police department's association since it

was formed over a year ago. He was originally charged with 22 offences concerning his investigations, found guilty on the first two counts, and was sentenced to forego his annual two weeks' leave with pay. Council upheld the chief's decision at a special hearing last week.



PROMOTER GRANT DAVIDSON (arrow) sits amid the crowd at Sunday's Omagh airport protest meeting. During the two and a half hour session about 75 area ratepayers planned their strategy for

Omagh residents protest airport in rural village

Omagh residents don't want any airports in their back yards, and they're prepared to stand up and fight to retain their privacy and the quiet, rural charm of their north Oakville village.

That's the message emanating from a special meeting of Ward One Oakville Ratepayers, held

Sunday evening at Boyne Centre. About 75 area landowners gathered to prepare a massive protest against a proposal by Grant Davidson of Willowdale for a privately-financed airstrip at Omagh. Their protests will be heard Thursday (tomorrow) night at the same hall, when Oakville Planning Board holds a public hearing at 8 p.m. on the application to rezone the land for airport use.

Ward One Councillor Donald Gordon summed up the feeling of most at the meeting when he said, "if this airport went in, I would not want to live at Omagh. They say houses won't depreciate but I'd be moving out. I wouldn't want to live beside an airport—that's one of the reasons I came out to live in the country."

Throughout the two and a half hour meeting his sentiments

were echoed by housewives, farmers and rural landowners and before the discussion was over, some of the ratepayers

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Board budget final Thursday

The educational mill rate will be set by members of the Halton County Board of Education Thursday as they consider the Board's 1970 budget in its final consolidated form.

The meeting set for the Board's Oakville headquarters will learn the effect of the board's spending on the mill rate of the local municipalities.

The Board has been holding meetings on various sections of the budget and Thursday the consolidated budget will be presented for discussion.

Dundas man Ronald Woods named hospital administrator

Ron Woods, an enthusiastic and well qualified man took over the helm of Milton District Hospital this week as administrator. While Mr. Woods comes to the hospital in the aftermath of the organization's worst period of controversy, he won't have long to get adjusted before he'll have to face more problems.

Mr. Woods replaces Dalton McQuaig who recently resigned in the midst of staff turmoil at the hospital. Mr. Woods no sooner accepted the job than a mass resignation of nurses was threatened within the next week if their demands for re-instatement of Mrs. R. J. Verrall as Director of Nursing were not met.

In spite of the trouble just recently Mr. Woods maintains Milton Hospital is a "fine hospital." "When I go down the halls and through the hospital I'm looking for things and the whole hospital staff, not just the

nurses, is doing a fine job," he said. He added he would not have accepted the job if he felt the hospital was not being well run.

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RONALD WOODS

The people say . . .

Jetport opposition voiced in survey

Residents of Milton, Hornby, Campbellville and surrounding areas have flooded The Champion with "no" answers to the jetport questionnaire published in last week's paper.

A few "yes" answers have been received but the ratio of public opinion is currently running about 10-1 against the proposal for a super jumbo jet airport in Halton County. Persistent rumors suggest a jetport covering 50,000 acres of land in Esqueving Township just north-east of Milton.

The questionnaire appears again for a final time on this week's editorial page and anyone supporting or opposing a Halton jetport is urged to fill it in and return it to The Champion. Here are some random

samples of the comments that accompanied the questionnaires turned in to date:

"We moved here from Etobicoke where every jet went right over our house. When outside in the summer you couldn't carry on a conversation with the noise."

"How would you like to give up your lifetime work as a result of expropriation, or live close by this gigantic monster?"

"What good is progress if it kills healthy living?"

"We have enough broken windows from the quarries blasting stone."

"It will spoil the natural beauty. We want to live, not get zapped out by plane or jet fumes."

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economy drive within the armed forces.

About eight members of the 30-member pipe band come from Milton and the band has been a regular participant in local functions and throughout Halton and Peel counties.

Lt. Col. E. F. Lince, the Lorne Scots regiment's commanding officer, said band members are willing to carry on without defence department support, providing they can get help from public sources.

At a meeting of Peel County Council last month regiment representatives asked for a \$4,500 grant. A similar request will be made to Halton County Council next week.

Inside today

A former chairman of Milton District Hospital Board questions the uproar of events at the hospital over the past few weeks, in a letter to the editor, Page 3.

Sports news, 4, 5. Classifieds, 8, 9, 10, 11. Skating carnival, B1, B8. Editorials, columns, B1.

Youth page, high school news and exchange visit, B3.

Women's news, B4. District news, B6. Farm news, B9.

Youth On Stage, B10.

Dr. S. M. Green explains Halton Health Unit's dental health program, B11.

Little encouragement offered by council raceway promoters seek water, sewers

Promoters of the Esqueving raceway project didn't get much encouragement other than a promise of a possible meeting next week, when they asked Milton Council Monday to provide sewer and water service to the project.

Three of the eight councillors present stated flatly they weren't interested in selling any services outside the town of Milton. H. H. Solway and four others representing Algrove Consultants and Halton Raceway indicated to council

they were prepared to buy services at practically any cost, in order to get the project underway.

Their proposal calls for spending \$2,654,000 to build the Indy-type racing oval on Esqueving lands north of Highway 401 between the Third and Fourth Line. Esqueving Council has not given permission for the track—the township has a holding by-law which limits the 240 acres of land to its present agricultural use—but it was intimated that if Milton will

agree to service the site, the township may give approval.

No specific figures were quoted at Monday's meeting but both parties agreed that if a meeting can be arranged for next week, they might sit down and get into what chairman Reeve Ron Harris called the "nitty-gritty" of the proposal. Meanwhile the promoters are to come up with a set of figures on costs, in consultation with the town's engineering consultants.

Mr. Solway suggested the lands would likely be part of

Milton under a regional government area and servicing the area now would help speed up development in that direction. Reeve replied he had heard from Darcy McKeough earlier that day, that regional government was being stalled off until at least 1972 or 1973.

Councillor Gordon Krantz expressed concern the town would need extra police to handle raceway traffic, but Mr. Solway replied the track was in the area covered by the OPP so it would be their responsibility.

The track will also engage extra traffic police on the "three days a year" when big Indy-type meets are held there. For normal meets there would never be more than 15,000 people at the track, or "never more than an average day at Fort Erie race track."

He also promised town residents would hear no noise from the raceway. Questioned about raceway traffic hitting Highway 401 when harness racing fans are heading to Mohawk Raceway at Campbellville, he said it would be no problem as car races are held in the daytime and harness racing at night.

Mr. Solway promised "a fairly substantial contribution" toward the town's services. H. McGrath, president of Halton Raceway, said he also manages about 1,000 acres of undeveloped lands in and around Milton. The raceway won't burden the schools and other town services like new homes or apartments would. "It's an absolute buckshee dollars and cents proposal. We have already offered Esqueving \$100,000 for road improvements, and no other industry would do that," he added.

A meeting was tentatively scheduled for Monday evening.



SNOW QUEEN Sandra McLaughlin sits in her sleigh while her "Huskies" were Lana Ellison, Kathleen Blacklock, Kelly Cann and Patti Hood. This group helped portray the winter segment of the seasonal revue in the weekend skating carnival, sponsored by Milton Figure Skating Club. More carnival coverage on Pages B1 and B8.