

Glancing back into 1970

# A whole year of newswy happenings

## January

**JANUARY**—January 1970 saw interesting developments take place in the community. Milton Hydro announced an increase in the cost of power to the tune of 12 per cent. The announcement was followed less than a year later with similar raise of seven per cent.

Starting the year off on a happy note, Nassagaweya Council voted themselves raises of almost 50 per cent across the board. The reeve's honorarium jumped from \$800. to \$1,500. while the deputy reeve moved from \$600. to \$1,200. and councillors received \$1,000. rather than the \$500. the year before.

### For children

Milton's first day care centre opened on Bronte St. and continued their operation during the year.

Much time in Nassagaweya Council was devoted to discussions and speculation about the planned hydro line that was to run through the north west corner of the township.

When Halton County Council met for their first meeting of the new year members voted in Allan Day of Oakville as 1970 Warden of the County. He defeated Ted Tyler of Acton. Dr. F. G. Oakes of Acton declined nomination but less than a year later announced himself as a candidate for Warden in 1971.

### Eventful trip

William Woods, his friends and family of R.R. 1 Milton will remember January 1970 as the time he left the area on a world cruise. He spent part of his trip docked at Vancouver while medical people treated members on the ship for typhoid, trying to prevent what they suspected might turn out to be a typhoid epidemic.

In one of several phases of the town's development and readying for the future development, the \$150,000. lift station near the Fulton St. sewage treatment plant reached completion.

In an effort to establish a basis for regional government clerks and treasurers in the county set up what became known as the TECO Committee and brought in guidelines on Regional Government.

### Hospital crisis

Late in January two senior nurses at Milton District Hospital were suspended, setting off a crisis that threw the hospital into a turmoil. Before the nurses were brought back a large number of staffers left the hospital and among them were the administrator and several department heads. Two complete months passed before the hospital was set back on an even keel.

Among the notable documents dealt with at Milton Council during the year was a new zoning by-law and official plan for the expanded town. After three and a half days of evidence and 24 objections were heard by the Ontario Municipal Board, the documents finally received approval.

discussing regional government and its many implications.

At that time McKeough claimed he was working towards an April 1 deadline. The matter is still the big issue in Halton County.

### Mammoth dance

Plans for a mammoth dance took shape. The dance was the first project and an extremely successful one conducted by the Milton Community Service Clubs and revenue is being directed towards Unity Park. The event marked not only the success of the project but the beginning of bigger and better things from a unified force.

Speculation about a federal jetport in Nassagaweya and Esquesing was rife during February and through 1970. Federal Minister of Transport Don Jamieson is expected to end the speculation early in the new year.

P. L. Robertson Manufacturing started work on their \$70,000. waste treatment plant in an effort to combat pollution.

### Less speed

Rud Whiting rose in the House of Commons and in one of his major speeches knocked the car manufacturing industry. He called for less speed and more safety factors to be considered on the part of the manufacturer.

A proposal by Focus Development Ltd. to build a 10 lot subdivision on Heslop Rd. turned into a controversy. In the end the Halton County Board of Education agreed not to sell the land in question to Focus but rather to develop it as a joint playground park with Milton Parks Board. The Focus land is too small for the subdivision without the additional parcel.

Milton Brick workers went on strike in February. The strike boiled and actually never has been settled. Many of the employees got work in other places and the firm is still operated with many new employees.

### Industrial plaza

Plans were made public for the town's first industrial plaza. The first phase of the plaza owned by Alliance Building corporation on Base Line Rd. is almost completed. The project is valued at \$28,000.

Work originally valued at \$223,000. on the Main St. reconstruction program got underway in February. The project became a nightmare for council, for residents and Main St. businesses as well. The project took more time and money than had been anticipated.

### Nurses threaten

The controversy at Milton District Hospital grew hotter and the nurses' associations banded together and threatened mass resignations at one point.

Meanwhile the Religious Education Committee of the Halton County Board of Education held public meetings and accepted many briefs

concerning the MacKay report of Religious Education.

## March

**MARCH**—Early March saw Mary Clark become the first woman ever to become president of the Milton Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber underwent a facelifting this year and has been operating with renewed enthusiasm.

A 419-suite apartment complex was proposed to Milton council. The plan proposed on Millside Drive was held off awaiting a report from the Conservation Authority. Approval has since been received for part of the project.

### \$100,000. parking

Milton Parking Authority received support from Milton Council as the two bodies tackled the parking problem in town. The members of the authority developed a plan to provide off-street parking on Mary St. at \$100,000.

George Kerr had his chance to take a bow when the Conservative Association arranged a dinner honoring him on his appointment as Minister of Energy and Resources.

Premier John Roberts and federal leader of the opposition Bob Stanfield attended the meeting paying a tribute to Kerr.

### Merger opposed

Regional Government took on further complications when communities in Peel County rose to object to the marriage. Mississauga remained the lone supporter of the scheme. While they were pressing for a Peel-only region, Halton officials pressed for a Halton-only region.

Finally Darcy McKeough, in a surprise announcement delayed the forced marriage. Since then boards of education, councils and individuals have submitted briefs and engaged in picking at McKeough's brains trying to anticipate his next move towards matrimony.

While area residents expressed opposition to a jetport in North Halton through a survey in The Champion by a 10-1 ratio, Ormagh residents battled successfully against a planned airport of smaller magnitude in their village.

Late in March Milton Council levelled one of a series of blasts at Ture Anderson Construction Ltd. for their efforts on the Main St. reconstruction job. The job was held up by a series of delays.

Milton Skating Club held its 12th annual figure skating carnival and continued the tradition of success.

### Plan Senior apartments

Plans for a 36-unit senior citizens apartment building were dealt with and the building was erected in the ensuing months.

## April

Milton Council faced budget time and after cutting wherever possible, came up with a 1.3 mill increase. Total spending for the year including education was calculated to be \$1,549,628.25 compared to \$1,482,477.19 the year before.

Fire gutted the home of Tulio Peruscello at 39 Miles St. Milton. Milton Council refused water and sewage services to the \$2,654,000 raceway planned for Esquesing Township. Since then the promoters, Halton Raceway Ltd. haven't been heard from.

### New chairman

Reford Gardhouse was named chairman of the Milton District Hospital Board replacing Mike Ledwith in that position. Mr. Ledwith resigned after guiding the board through several months of turmoil.

While education taxes were down all over the county, Nassagaweya faced an increase. After slashing their budget everywhere a 10 mill increase remained.

Members of Halton municipal councils joined with 450 other delegates at the first municipal provincial conference in Toronto.

Parking meters became an issue and took much of the discussion time at Chamber of Commerce, Parking Authority and council meetings.

### 2,500 homes

Developers visited Milton Council with proposals for 2,500 homes for Milton. Torpor, Halton Land Group and Wimpey Homes all laid plans before council. Much of the council's time and effort since then has been directed towards reaching an agreement with the developers.

After studying the White Paper on Tax Reform Halton Federation of Agriculture declared the farmer "should fold his tent like an Arab and steal away after government taxes."

George Vaughan and Bill Tight resigned after many years of service with Milton Firefighters.

## May

The Agnew Peckham report predicted a 50 bed addition to Milton District Hospital will not be required before 1978 or 1980 but land should be bought now.

Predicting a muted growth for Milton and area the Toronto Central Region Plan became one of the most controversial of many reports issued by the provincial government. The report, not yet implemented, provides a two tiered arrangement of urban centres of various sizes.

### Approve Low Rentals

A 14 unit low rental housing development won Milton council's approval, meanwhile 800 persons signed a petition protesting the location of the senior citizen apartment.

Halton Region Conservation Authority came in for a bit of a shock when their budget was

slashed by \$800,00 from \$1,873,233 to \$1,065,000.

An addition including a gym, library and two classrooms reached completion at Holy Rosary School.

### Police week

Milton Police opened the doors to the public during the period May 10 to May 15 to celebrate Police Week.

Jean Henry Gachet and his specially trained watchdog died when they were asphyxiated in a car at Milton Brick Company.

Paul Scilizzi drowned while at Bala on a canoe trip with Milton Rovers.

Milton Councillors chose sides and battled for several meetings on the matter of whether or not to allow 50 foot lots in the new subdivisions. Several meetings and a host of debates later, it was decided to allow some 50 foot lots. A formula outlining the conditions and requirements for developers was adopted.

### Held up

The need for a survey of Main St. and the lack of maps caused further delay in the Main Street reconstruction job. The job was finally completed in the fall.

Three hundred and thirty seven walkers earned \$6,000 in a walkathon with proceeds going to the Ontario Mission for the Deaf farm on Highway 25. It was organized by the Halton and Peel Association for the Hearing Handicapped.

Plans for a motel and tavern at the old Harrop farm were presented at Milton Council. The project is still in the consideration stages.

## June

Hard times hit employees of Canadian Meter Company and 41 persons found themselves laid off. At the time management said it was a temporary arrangement but as weeks and then months passed on, many of those laid off were not called back.

Nassagaweya Council, still involved with a hydro route passing through the township, decided to meet with the Ontario Hydro Commission concerning the matter. The matter is still one of discussion at the Nassagaweya Council level.

### Delay reconstruction

A boundary dispute cost the town time and money when they had to delay work on the Main St. reconstruction program.

A survey taken by Milton District High School Students showed a preference for small

town life. It was interesting to note that in this supposedly age of leisure 60 per cent of those contacted said they have less time for leisure now than 10 years ago.

Rotating postal strikes saw Milton without mail service for one day at a time, on several occasions before the posties settled.

### Tax reform

Halton Federation of Agriculture representatives met with members of parliament George Kerr and Jim Snow and warned them there would be no taxes from farmers unless there was a firm commitment from the Ontario Government that tax reform was on the way. The Federation's chief objective was to have education taxes taken off the land and raised in another manner.

Burlington Council decided it was time they had more to say about the dollars they are spending at the county level. Members of that council met with members of Oakville Council in an attempt to increase their voting powers at the county level. Little support was received from Oakville but it is a subject we can expect to hear more about in the coming weeks.

Milton Community Service Clubs launched their mammoth dance and realized a profit of approximately \$2,500 on the event.

Approximately 700 people attended the annual museum festival at Kelso.

### Appoint MOH

Dr. J. Chamberlain of Georgetown was appointed Medical Officer of Health for Halton County. He reported Dr. Ivan Hunter of Milton who had

held the reigns on a temporary basis.

Halton Region Conservation Authority held their annual conservation week and made a grand success of it. Trout derbies, water contests and an outdoor church service and folk

festival highlighted the week's fun.

The strike at Milton Brick went into its 20th week without any settlement.

Milton District High School had

(Continued on Page B4)



**A wish for a very Happy Year**

Here's hoping the New Year will bring a wealth of good fortune to friends old and new. Thanks for your many kindnesses.

June Draperies

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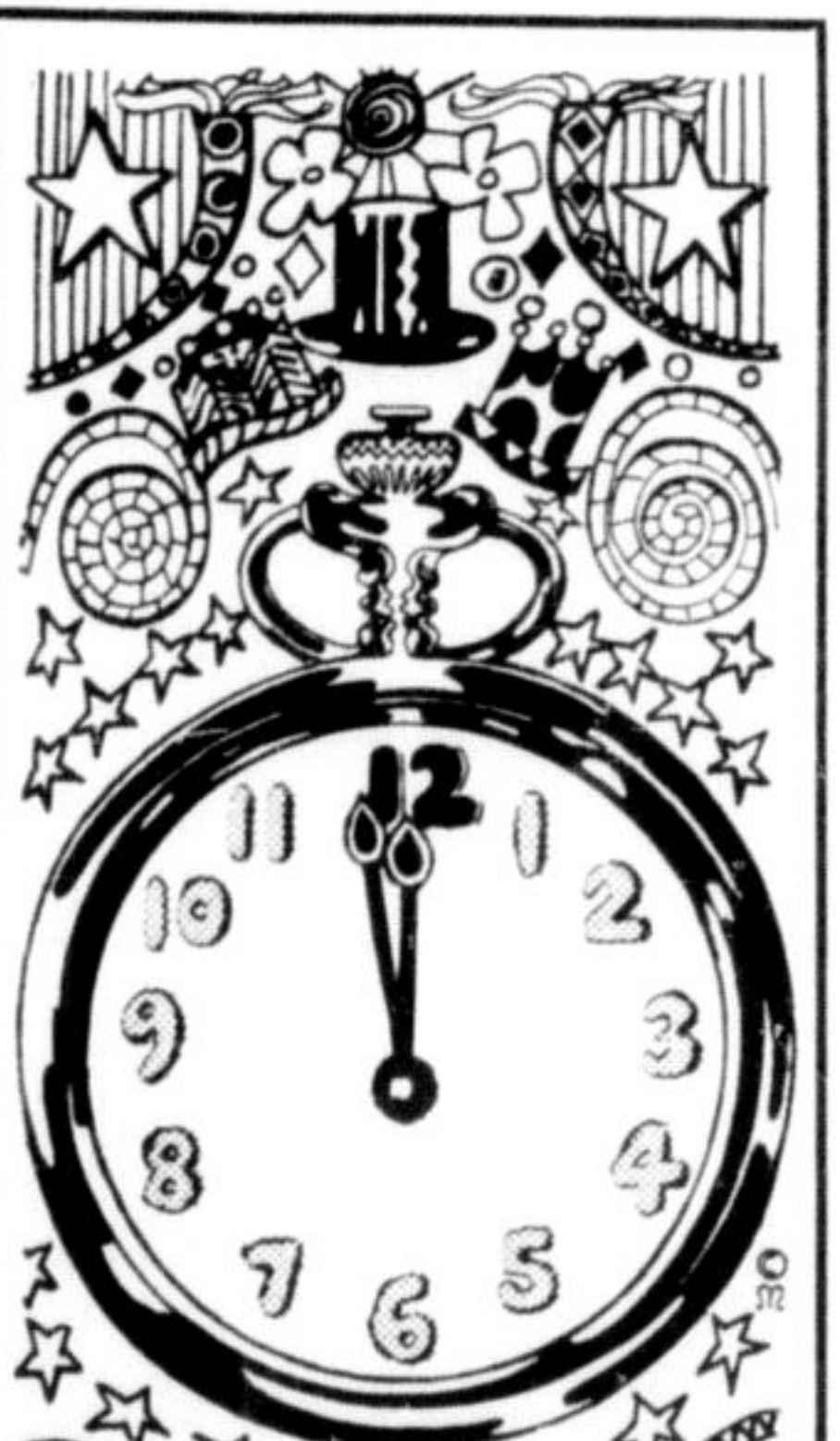
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## February

**FEBRUARY**—Darcy McKeough could well have qualified as the busiest man in the provincial cabinet during the month of February. The minister of municipal affairs met with many municipal officials here.



**HAPPY New Year**

Time's come to express good wishes and our sincere appreciation.

**MILTON FABRIC CENTRE**

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# HAPPY NEW YEAR

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