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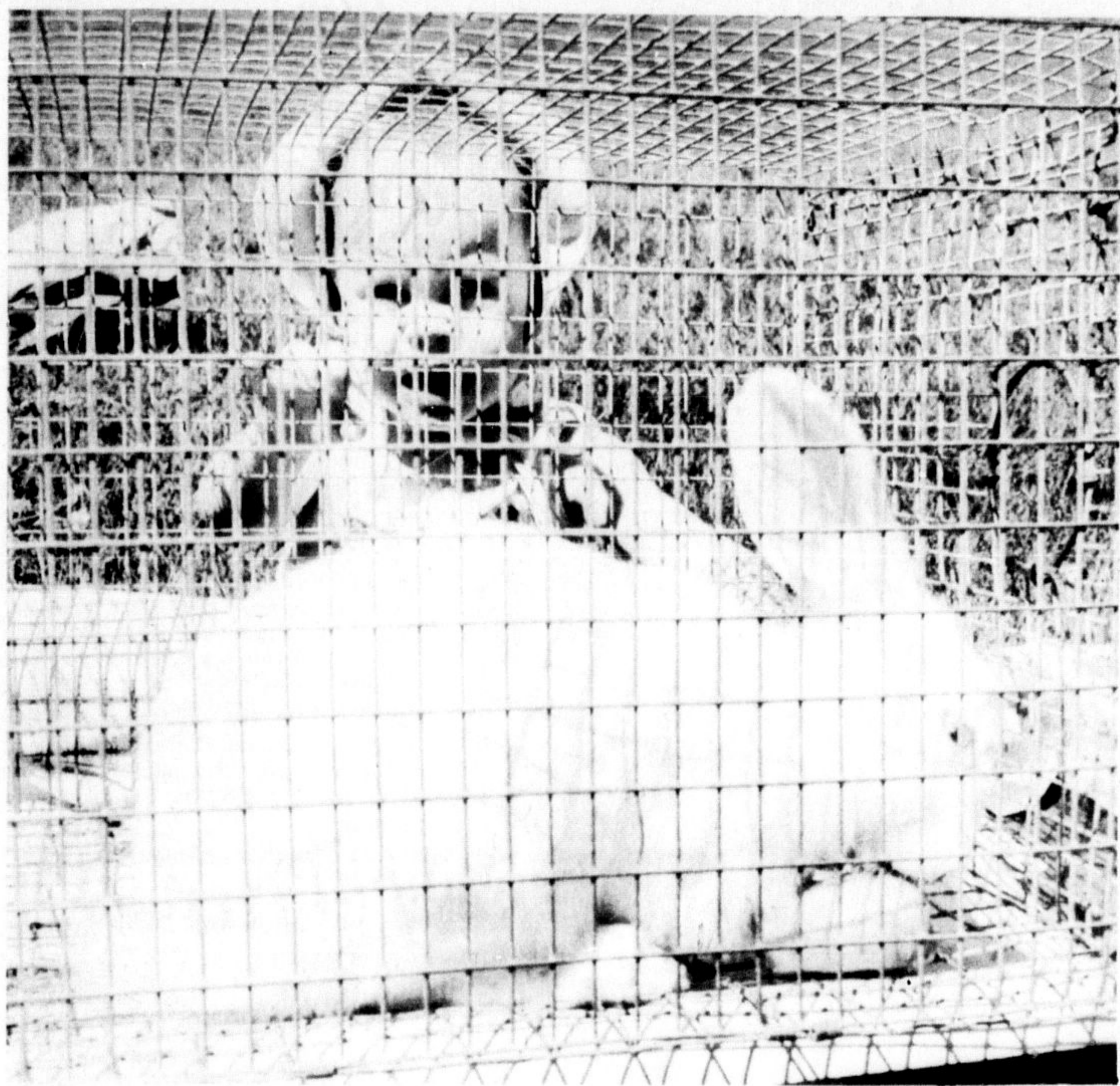
VOL. 112 — No. 11

Serving the Community for 111 years.

MILTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 1971

Second Class Mail Registration Number -0913

Twenty Pages—Fifteen Cents



Wing closure only temporary hospital just not busy enough

A decline in patients and a slowdown in surgery bookings has prompted Milton District Hospital officials to temporarily close the 18-bed surgical wing of the hospital. But hospital spokesmen report it's only a seasonal slowdown and the beds in the ground floor surgical wing should be "back in business" by the end of next week. The operating room is still operating, when needed.

Mac Elliot, who is acting administrator in the absence of holidaying administrator Ronald Woods, said the surgical wing was closed "in the interests of economy" on Monday of this

week. There were only three surgical recovery patients in the wing, two of whom were scheduled to be released soon, and there were relatively few bookings for the surgical operating room.

Rather than keep the 18-bed ward operating with a full staff, the three patients were transferred to the second floor of the hospital. There were no layoffs of staff, he said—full time staffers were assigned to duties in other departments and the part time staff just wasn't being called in as often as they had been. Many of the staff are away on holidays

right now anyway, he noted.

"We have not closed the operating room and recovery room," Mr. Elliot emphasized. "We just couldn't see staffing the whole department for three patients," especially when there were plenty of empty beds on the second floor medical wing.

Mr. Elliot said the hospital's occupancy level usually dips during July and August when the town's doctors take their holidays. Dr. W. S. Legate, the head surgeon at the hospital who does "most" of the operations, has been on holidays and won't resume practice until next week.

The paediatrics department remains open and any children requiring surgery will go there for recovery, he said. Adult patients will spend their recovery period on the second floor until the surgical department reopens. While the bedrooms are

empty, the staff is taking advantage of the opportunity to do some redecorating there.

"As soon as we get enough patients upstairs, or enough surgical bookings, we will reopen the department", said the acting administrator.

254 condominiums, 10 homes approved for Bronte St. area

Chaingate Developments Ltd. won Milton Council's blessing this week to go ahead with a 254-unit condominium development and 10 single family homes on Bronte St. in the area of Heslop Rd. and Anne Blvd.

The units will be the first row housing units to be built in Milton and George Ness, representing the firm, told council his clients want to start construction "as quickly as possible."

Site of the project covers three undeveloped blocks of land in what was once the Fallingbrook subdivision. The three blocks were not developed when the large subdivision on Milton's south side was developed in the mid-1950's.

Stage development
Chaingate plans 99 units on lands abutting Bronte St. north of Heslop Rd. Another 40 would go on lands just south of Heslop and the remaining 115 condominium units and the 10 houses on lands

south of Anne Blvd. Development will take place in stages, Mr. Ness assured council, although their Monday approval of an agreement with the developer and a rezoning by-law cover the entire project.

One parcel north of Anne Blvd. is not included in the plans. Owners have proposals for a

high-rise apartment tower and stores on that parcel.

Discussions on the Chaingate proposals have occupied council and planning board time during the past two years. Chaingate was asked to contribute a share of the costs of storm sewers across the property and is paying

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STRAY YOUNGSTER and a caged rabbit got together at Rotary Park on Friday. The young lady wandered aimlessly looking for a friend and stumbled upon Peter Rabbit, a pet of one of the day camp youngsters. The pair got together and enjoyed each other's company. The youngster cooed while the rabbit chewed on a stalk of celery.—(Staff Photo)

Locate day care centre near Denyes school land

Milton Day Care Centre, a privately-owned venture offering day nursery care for preschoolers in Milton, will be located in a new building to be erected at the north-west corner of Commercial St. and Heslop Rd. according to discussions around the Milton Council table on Monday.

The lot, owned by Focus Developments, is on the perimeter of the J. M. Denyes School site. Focus will erect a two-storey home-style building suitable for a day care centre operation and give a long-term lease to Mr. and Mrs. K. Sonne, operators of the day care centre.

Peter K. McWilliams representing Focus Developments and Mr. and Mrs. Sonne appeared at council to present their proposal and immediately received the council's verbal blessing. A site plan agreement will be filed soon and a rezoning of the land from its present "D" (development) holding zone to R7

(residential) will be sought.

Neighbors object

The day care centre has been a controversial topic for the past few weeks. The Sonnes tried to establish one in a house in Kingsleigh Ct. but council received an 84-name petition opposing the site — signed by practically everyone living in Kingsleigh Ct. Earlier located on Ontario St., the centre brought complaints from neighbors about noise, traffic, and commercial utilization of a residential zone.

Last week council had agreed to go to the board of education to see if the board would lease a site at the Denyes school, but the offer from the private developer, Focus, came along in the meantime.

Focus had earlier tried to develop 10 building lots along the Heslop Rd. side of the Denyes school but did not have enough land. Council blocked the development as it preferred the land to remain as a children's

play area. A swap of land involving that and other properties in town was considered, but never finalized, after council offered to turn the Focus land into a public park adjoining the school yard.

Use as residence
Mr. McWilliams told council he would build a two-storey home with the first floor rented to the Sonnes and the second floor available to any tenant or a staff member of the day care centre. Then if the centre ever closed or moved, he would be able to continue to use the building as a residence.

"I think it would be an ideal place," Mrs. Sonne told the council.

Deputy Reeve Percy Barr, who lives across the road half a block from the site, said he had no objections but predicted there would be complaints from the neighbors of the Heslop Rd. lot too.

Hockey player Gerry Nash killed in one-car crash

A former Milton Merchants hockey team forward was killed early Saturday morning in a one-car accident near Ballinacra. His car went out of control on the Erin-Esqueving Town Line, careened off a hydro pole and crashed into a tree. Gerald Kenneth (Gerry) Nash, 19, of R.R. 5 Georgetown was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident.

Police and ambulance drivers had difficulty removing Nash's body from the crumpled wreckage. The car was totally damaged.

Awaits report
Milton coroner Dr. Ivan Hunter has not yet ruled on the need of an inquest, pending completion of the police report.

An outstanding, hard-working young hockey player, he played for the Merchants for two seasons. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Nash.



TOSSING ANOTHER STONE into Sixteen Mile Creek, Kevin Nye and Wayne Allison are not polluting the creek but rather helping it with its flow. Step-stone dams are being built by SWEEP workers to increase the oxygenation of the water in the creek. See Page 12.—(Staff Photo)

Reeve Harris acting mayor

Reeve Ron Harris has been named "acting mayor" of Milton, during the absence of Mayor Brian Best who is on holidays. He chaired Monday's meeting of the council.

Chamber hopes to revive Santa Claus parade here

Christmas may be five months away, but Milton Chamber of Commerce is already starting to make plans for the event.

Possibility of staging a Santa Claus parade in Milton this December will be investigated by a committee of four Chamber directors, named at the July

executive meeting. President Reg DiCola, retail co-chairman Nick Chuchmach and Bill Gallinger, and director Mrs. Yvonne Christie were asked to see if a parade was feasible and if so, head up the planning efforts.

Last year the Chamber attempted to revive the annual

Santa parades that for 20 years were highlights of Milton's Christmas season. But a lack of enthusiasm was displayed among Chamber members and this apathy, combined with reports it could cost \$2,500 to stage a successful parade, made the

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Mystery fire, death puzzle for police

North Halton OPP are continuing their investigation into a mystery fire and death on the former R. M. Steele farm on Highway 25 about three miles south of Acton. Police suspect arson and have not ruled out the possibility of foul play in the death of an Acton area man.

Acton firefighters recovered the body of Joseph Roger Lapointe, 31, from the front bedroom of the burning Spanish-style bungalow, early Saturday morning, shortly after receiving a fire call about 5 a.m.

A barn and small shed were leveled in the blaze, but only parts of the interior of the house were charred. This, together with the fact trees on the land between

the barn and house were scarcely singed, suggest the two fires may have started separately.

Inspector MacCloud of the Criminal Investigation Branch, Toronto, arrived in Milton

Monday morning to aid in the investigation. Investigating officers from North Halton OPP are Corporal Jack Frosch and Constable James Hodson. Police are now awaiting lab reports from the Forensic Science Centre in Toronto.

The house and property were under police guard all weekend.

At the request of the OPP, an investigator was sent to the scene of the fire by the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office in Toronto. Contacted by this paper, investigator Terry Murray said he had visited the scene of the fire, but would give no further details, other than that the case is under investigation by the OPP.

The fire was reported to Acton firefighters by Floyd Foster, a neighbor who was aroused from bed, when two passing motorists pulled into his driveway honking the horn. Mr. Foster lives just south of the scene on the other side of the highway.

"At first I thought it was my sister on her way to work, but when I went to the window and saw the sky all lit up I knew it was a bad fire," he said.

Bill Tatton and Roy Rognvaldson, both of whom live close to the scene of the fire, are also reported to have notified firefighters, as soon as they saw the blaze.

Foster said he then rushed up to the house and went to the window of the front bedroom where he knew Lapointe usually slept.

Window open
"The window was open, but I couldn't see anything for the smoke," he said "I yelled for him, Roger, Roger, but got no

answer."

When they arrived, firefighters concentrated on saving the house, which was burning from the interior. The barn and shed were already burning out of control. They checked the bedroom, but saw nothing because of the dense smoke.

Hampering them in their efforts to extinguish the fire in the house were live hydro wires, believed to be felled and bared by

the flames. Sparks from the wires flashed intermittently, as firefighters continued to work.

Deputy-chief Bern Van Fleet then ordered a second truck to the scene. The two trucks replenished their water supplies from a creek at the rear of the Rognvaldson property across the highway.

Foster said a green pickup truck had been pushed from the driveway to the ditch, alongside the highway, by the passing

motorists, who feared it might catch on fire. The cap of the truck's gas tank was missing.

Returns to room

Foster said he returned to the window and this time saw Lapointe's body on the floor. He then motioned firefighters and police to the window. Firefighters entered the smoke-filled bedroom and brought the body out through the front window. According to Acton firefighters, there was very little evidence of fire

damage in the bedroom. Eyewitnesses reported seeing signs of head injuries on the man's body. Firefighters reported there was blood on the floor of the bedroom. The body was fully clothed.

Deputy-chief Van Fleet said he found no evidence of burned livestock in the ruins of the barn, when he checked Sunday. OPP also said they knew of no stock being destroyed in the fire.

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FOLLOWING the arrival of officers from the OPP identification branch in Burlington, two officers were stationed in front of the house to prevent entry of unauthorized persons.—(Staff Photo)



FLAMES THAT DESTROYED a barn and small shed on the former Steele property, Highway 25 three miles south of Acton early Saturday morning could be seen easily from town. Acton firefighters concentrated on saving the house on the property. There they found the body of Joseph Roger Lapointe, 31, in a front bedroom.—(Staff Photo)