

# BICYCLES

## Milton's newest revolution

Story and photo  
By Dan O'Reilly

"You meet the nicest people on a bicycle," may be the slogan of the participants in the latest revolution. The revolution, which has been in effect in Europe for years, is sweeping North America and even Milton.

The revolution is a peaceful one and its "soldiers" include anyone who wants to escape the confines of a car. The vehicle of escape is the bicycle. A bicycle, although exposed to the hazards of weather, requires no gas, and no oil, depreciates very little and except for the more expensive class type, needs no insurance.

### New world

"It's a whole new world out there," says one of the newest advocates of two wheel tripping, Inge Jensen. Inge, a 21-year-old teller with the Bank of Nova Scotia in Milton, rides her bike to work every day from her Woodward St. home.

Her mode of transportation is a standard girl's bicycle. The cyclist says she has no need of the more popular 10 speed bike, which is now the vogue with many young people.

Bicycles may be restrictive in some respects, but they can be utilized more than the general public presumes. "A couple of days ago when I was out bicycling, I met a guy who was carting a 12 pack of beer on his bike," testifies Inge.

Who needs a car? asks Inge, who used to own a 1966 Ford. She sold it recently. "During the summer, the lake at Kelso is available and that's no more than a five mile jaunt. If I have to go into Toronto, I take public transportation or hitchhike."

### Cashing in

Bicycling has become big business and several merchants in the Milton area, by keeping their ears to the ground, have cashed in on the two wheel boom.

"Ten speeds are really going," states Steve Nixon, Parts Manager with Canadian Tire Store on Main St. The store maintains both 10 speeds for the adult crowd, plus the standards and smaller high rise mustangs geared for younger riders.

Children's bikes have always been a popular item, but the back to the bike boom for adults began about the middle of last year, suggests Nixon.

"The majority of people purchasing bicycles are young people, although we have sold some bikes to middle aged people," reports Bill Burrows, part owner of Crest Hardware and Appliances.

### No maintenance

Bicycles pose very few problems for either the consumer or the store owner, as they very seldom break down, notes Burrows. However the store stocks bikes mainly for public relations. As an article of sale, they're a dead loss, exclaims the owner.

Bike sales haven't exactly been "a ball of fire" according to the proprietor of Milton Marine and Sports Ltd. The store, located on Commercial St. stocks regular children's bikes plus smaller versions of 10 speeds—geared for children.

Owner Bert Porter says the adult standard 10 speed is a hot item for merchants. "We have some on order," he notes.

"We're certainly thinking about stocking bikes," says Emmerson McCready, the new owner of the Selrite Stores on Main St. At the present time, bikes are not offered for sale by the business.

### Good for all ages

"What's better than bicycling? It's good for children, young people and adults. The sport can be and should be a family affair," states Bruce Brown, owner of Brownie's Sports on Mill St.

Brown says sales of bicycles, both 10 speeds and regular models, is heavy. The store owner appears to be in favor of bicycling, for other reasons than business. He says he goes on frequent bike excursions on his own two-wheeler.

Last year was the beginning of the return of the bicycle, states

Brown, although he feels the bicycling trend is an aspect of the anti-pollution, ecological movement which began about four years ago.

"It may have come through the same process that gave rise to the hippie. Bikes are like flared pants. A few years ago only hippies would wear them, but eventually they caught on with the general public. The same principle applies to bicycles," suggests Brown.

### Easier to pedd

The businessman says the public and some potential buyers misunderstand the term "10 speed". "Ten speeds flatten out the hills, but you only travel as fast as your legs. A 10 speed makes peddling a bicycle easier than a standard model," explains Brown.

The term "flattening out the hill" means the cyclist can gear his piece of equipment down to the lowest gear, making an uphill trip less of an ordeal. "You slow the bike to the hill," adds Brown.

Cyclists who have a penchant for 10 speeds have to be willing to pay. Most of the Milton merchants who sell bikes say they have a price range of \$60 to over \$100. Some imported models are marked at \$500.

"Planned obsolescence" does not yet appear to be one of the features of most bikes, including 10 speeds. Most merchants say bikes are built to last and require little servicing.

Expensive sleek bikes may be fun for their riders but they also attract thieves. "When you buy a bike, especially the more costly models, maintain a written report of the color, company name and the serial number," advises Milton Police Chief Ray Andress.

Stolen bicycles are almost impossible to locate if the owner doesn't know the serial number, Andress warns. The Chief says bike thefts may become a problem for police as bikes become more popular with the Milton public.

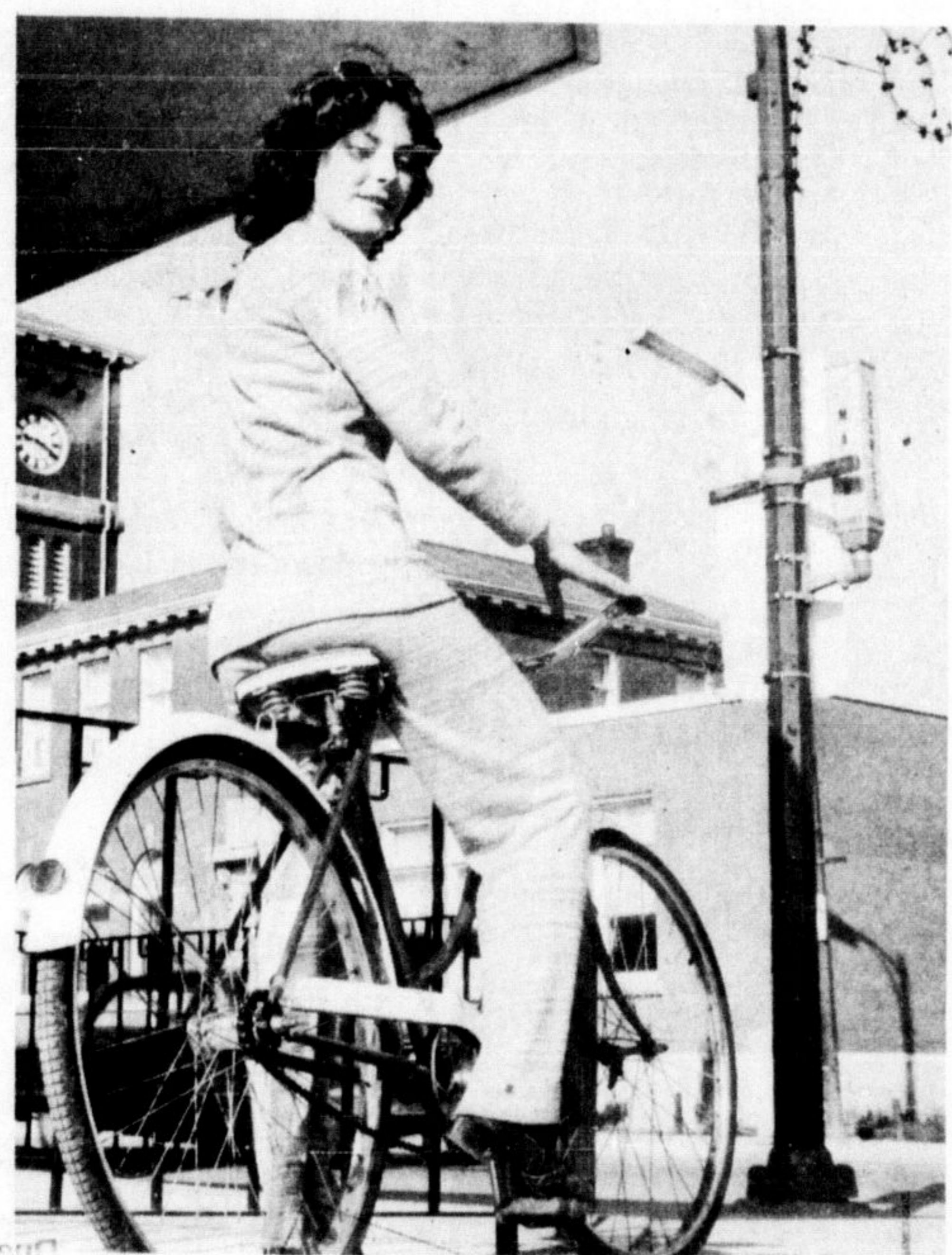
If bicycling maintains a permanent popularity, cyclists may be compelled to use public parking stands to avoid the creation of an obstacle course for pedestrians who might come across parked bikes on Main St., says Andress.

### Right to road

The motoring public will have to reshape its attitude in regards to the operators of two wheeled vehicles, states the chief. "Motorists will be required to give them courtesy of a public road." Andress also feels an increased bicycling population will tend to increase traffic problems.

There may be some disadvantages to bicycling, such as the danger of theft or lack of protection against the weather. But according to the cycling bank teller, Inge Jensen, the benefits far outweigh the problems. Even the onslaught of ice and snow doesn't bother her.

"Come winter I may put snow tires on my bike and keep riding all winter," she jokes.



THE JUNCTION of Main and Commercial Sts. takes on the appearance of a European site, when avid cyclist Inge Jensen comes into view. Bicycling, a long time adult sport in Europe, is now becoming popular with adults in North America. Inge, a teller with the Bank of Nova Scotia, rides her bike to work every day.

## Nassagaweya WMS

### Plan luncheon and bake sale

The Nassagaweya Presbyterian W.M.S. and Ladies' Aid held their monthly meeting on Thursday, May 4, at the home of Mrs. John Roberts. There was a good attendance of members and some guests. Some time was spent in finalizing plans for the luncheon and bake sale being held at the church on Thursday, May 11.

Mrs. D. Henderson was the program convener and her subject was "Christ, the Centre."

### Removing stones

An article written by Rev. Jones, a former minister, entitled Removing Stones, told of the man, who seeing a large stone presumably used for blocking a car on a hill, removed it to prevent a possible accident. In every day life the stones of selfishness, anger, lying, cheating, and unkindness should be removed for more harmonious living.

## Work on founders' cairn

If there is enough money available in the Nassagaweya budget then Gus Goutouski's plan for a cairn to commemorate the founding fathers of Nassagaweya may be an accomplished fact.

Goutouski appeared before Nassagaweya Council in the fall with the outline of the project. He proposed the creation of a cairn, to be built with stones collected from the farms of Nassagaweya. Council passed the ball back to Goutouski and asked him to handle the operation.

### Needs \$500

At a Monday night meeting of Council, Goutouski reappeared before Council and told members he was ready to go ahead with the project if they were willing to set aside \$500 for expenses. He said he hadn't become too involved with the project during the

winter, because of the fear the new airport would be created in the township.

In addition to the Nassagaweya rocks, stones from all over the world will be used for the cairn. Goutouski said, "I have stones from all over the world. I doubt very much if there's land in the universe that we haven't collected rocks from," he claimed.

The speaker said he had the support of numerous people in the township who were willing to help with the project.

The proposed cairn would bear the essay of one student from either the Campbellville or Brookville Public Schools. The essay would be limited to 50 words and would be based on such items as "what Nassagaweya means to me" or general history topics, said the speaker.

He stated that a local man, John Pries would be willing to build the cairn and that it could be ready for July 1. Goutouski also advocated having an all-out celebration day, including a ball game and the distribution of prizes at the July 1 event.

Council came out in support of the program, although a few problems were noted. Councillor Jim Watson questioned the

feasibility of collecting stones from all the properties in Nassagaweya. He expressed concern over the essay project. "How do you judge the work of a grade two pupil against the essay of a grade eight student?" he queried.

"We have a panel of judges lined up and that will be their responsibility," said Goutouski.

Answer soon

However, both the speaker and

members of council seemed to be of the view that potential problems could be worked out. Goutouski's idea will be dealt with during a budget committee meeting and he should know council's decision soon.

All members of council, except for Arthur Gibson who was not present, said they would support the program if funds are available.

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## Constable Cadet guest

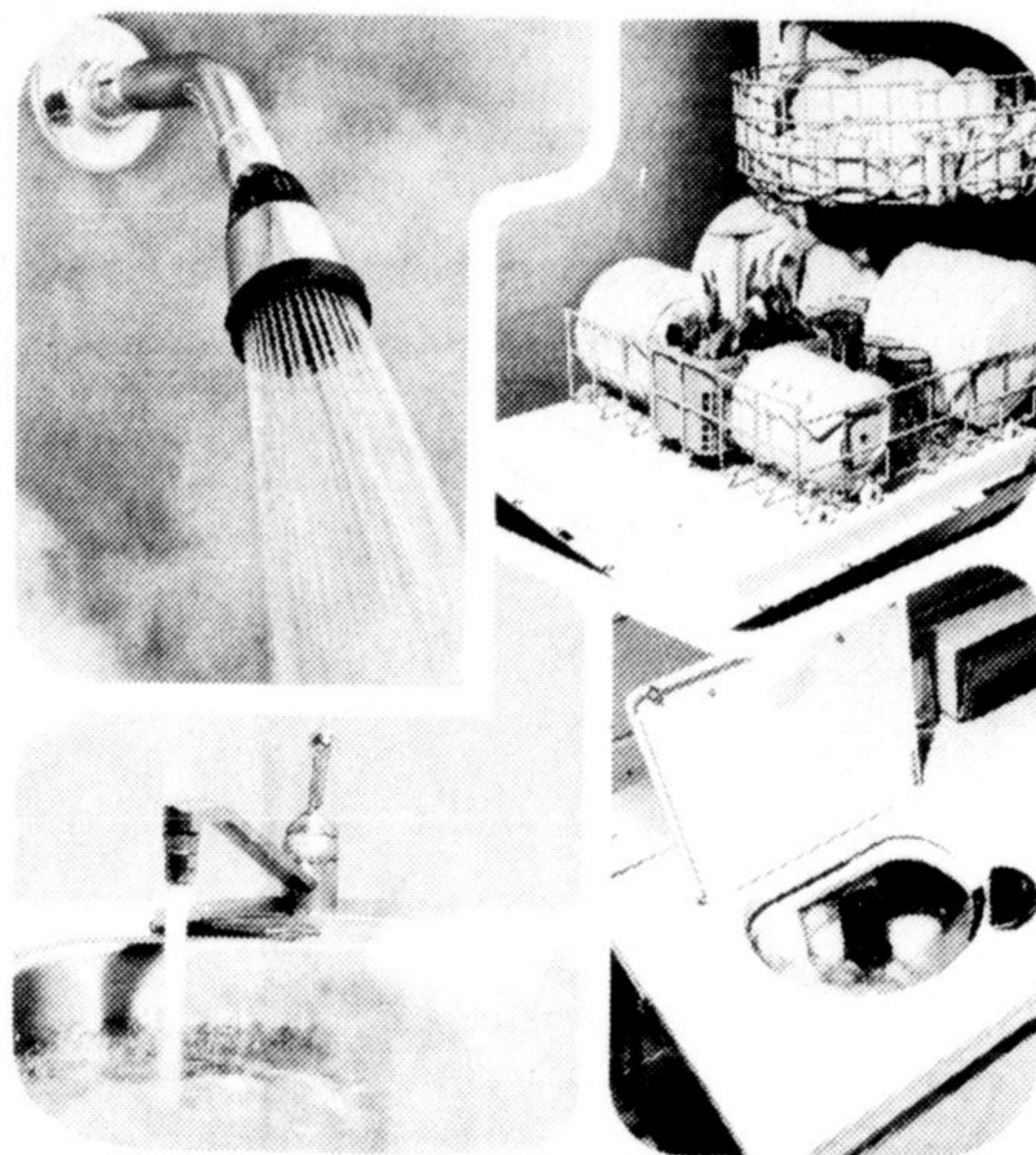
Cadets in Milton's No. 820 Air Cadet Squadron members enjoyed a film and discussion with Const. Jim Redpath of Milton OPP at their weekly training session Friday. The boys found the constable's visit relaxing - after instructor Harvey Brush had put them through an hour's strenuous drill.

Optimist Club members who founded the Air Cadets squadron report they are pleased with the high weekly attendance. Qualified instructors are working with the group and the teenagers who have joined are interested in the work.

They meet every Friday, 7 to 9 p.m. at the Ontario School for the Deaf sports building.

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