



A CHEQUE FOR \$1,508.35 was presented to Milton Parks and Recreation Committee last week, earmarked for development of Milton's Unity Park triangle at the north entrance to the town. Milton Community Service Clubs gave the money and MCSC treasurer Art Melanson and chairman Dave Brush are pictured presenting the money to Parks-Recreation member

Joe McCann. MCSC had been working to raise money for development of Unity Park but has recently started campaigning for a new arena, swimming pool and community centre, so the funds gathered for Unity Park were turned over to the Parks Board. The park is pictured in the background.

(Photo by R. Downs)

## \$300,000 post office here possible - - MP

There could be a new Post Office in Milton's future... Halton MP Rud Whiting announced today that a feasibility study is being undertaken right away on the improvement of postal accommodation in Milton. "The study should be completed by the end of July and it will then be possible to proceed with providing the community with improved post office accommodation during the fiscal year 1973-74," he said.

Whiting said he has been pushing for better postal facilities in Milton for over a year now. Federal works minister Jean-Eudes Dube informed him late last week that authority has finally been given to do the feasibility study.

Asked if a new Post Office in Milton might include Canada Customs facilities, Whiting said he doubted it very much. Customs officials met with local businessmen a year ago, after requests for a local customs office, but told them the town doesn't handle enough customs shipments to make an office here worthwhile.

Milton's present Post Office building houses both the postal facilities and a Canada Manpower office. It was built in 1915-16 at a cost of approximately \$5,000. A large addition was added on the east and south sides in 1961.

This week's announcement included news of a new \$30,000 Post Office to be constructed in Hillsburgh, near Erin. Once a site has been decided upon and the property is acquired, tenders will be called and the work should be underway during the present fiscal year, Whiting reported.

## Authority, councillors will explain channel project

BULLETIN — The date of next week's meeting has been changed to Wednesday, May 31. An advertisement on Page B9 of today's Champion carries the earlier proposed date (Tuesday).

The engineer, representatives of Halton Region Conservation Authority and Milton Council will attend a public meeting on Wednesday evening of next week at the J. M. Denyes Public School, to explain the flood control project planned for the Sixteen Mile Creek through Milton.

Mrs. A. Ptolemy, chairman of a group of citizens concerned about the project, said acceptances had been received from the groups involved in the proposal for cement lining of the stream.

She emphasized the engineer who designed the project, M.A. MacKrell, would be reviewing the plan in detail and explaining the proposals for the stream. "We're not going there mad, we're just concerned and we want to obtain the fullest possible explanations before we decide whether further protest is justified," the chairman noted.

Mrs. Ptolemy reviewed there had been considerable interest and concern about the project

which will affect the stream throughout almost all its entire course through Milton. She said she hoped all those who are interested in obtaining all the information and answers to their questions on the proposal, would plan to attend.

Start this year The channelization project in phase one involves the stream north of Main St. to the CPR and to Martin St. This phase is planned for this year and council and the conservation authority have authorized land expropriations to accommodate this part of the project.

Further phases involve the stream south of Main St. to approximately Parkway Dr. for straightening, deepening and cement lining. The section of north of the CPR to Woodward St. would also be cement-lined and the Riverplace Cresc. section would be gabion-lined. A control gate is planned for the mill pond as well as lining of the stream which passes Rotary Park. A diversion is also planned from Ontario St. to carry that water down the main course of the Sixteen, through the central part of Milton.

The meeting is called for 8 p.m. May 31.

## No region until 1973

# TECO report ready on June 3 Warden predicts Halton unit

A report dealing with the future of the Halton area in a regional government setup will be made public June 3 when all the municipal councillors in the county will be invited to attend a meeting at Halton Centennial Manor in Milton to hear members of the county's Technical Coordinating Committee present their interim report. The gathering is expected to last all day.

The report deals with basically three areas, including the division of responsibility, boundaries and government structure. A subsequent report will deal with finances, current capital budgets, projected budget forecasts and mill rates, Warden

Jim Swanborough said Wednesday.

The Warden attended a meeting in Toronto Monday May 15, and met with government officials. Commenting on that meeting, Swanborough said his submission was along the lines of a Halton-only unit.

Both Halton and Peel have been working towards separate regions ever since municipal affairs minister Darcy McKeough abandoned earlier plans to have the two counties merged in one region.

The Warden said he was encouraged to get an interim report into the province. He said he anticipated no implementation

of regional government elections for a regional council this year so it was not expected regionalization would take effect in 1973.

"We want to be fully aware of the financial implications before we go into a regional setup," he added.

The Warden did indicate, however, that there "is every indication that a policy decision on regional government for that area between Toronto and Hamilton would be made. We fully expect two regions and that Burlington won't go with Hamilton-Wentworth.

Outside of the council chambers speculation among county councillors would indicate the Halton region will likely

consist of five municipalities rather than seven as currently constituted. Last week one councillor predicted Esqueping and Nassagaweya Townships would be split up among Acton, Georgetown and Milton.

The TECO report slated for presentation in June has been three months in the making. TECO is made up of members from municipal and county staff. Their report was earlier slated for the fall but with encouragement from the province, the work was accelerated.

## Ride-a-cruiser plan will educate public to problems of police

Making the public more aware of police problems is the principle behind the Milton Police Department's new program allowing the public to ride with officers on patrol.

"We're hoping members of the public who go out with an officer on patrol duty will see how police are quite often caught in the middle," says Police Chief Ray Andress.

The program of permitting individuals to ride in a police cruiser has been in effect in other communities but is an innovation in Milton. Ground work and discussion on the plan has been in the works for about a year and a half, notes Andress.

Councillor Dr. I. Hunter asked Chaingate's solicitor, who was present again on Tuesday, what would happen if the town decides to abolish the project completely. Ness said his client has a contract with the municipality and intimidated Chaingate could sue for a breach of contract. "The damages would be substantial", he said.

Ratepayers are invited to another meeting of council next Tuesday when servicing and staging of the Chaingate lands will be discussed. The current draft of the agreement doesn't meet the town's requirements

Certain restrictions will be placed on the program. Females must be accompanied by a friend, and participants under 21 need their parent's or guardian's signature. People under 16 are not permitted.

Applications for the program are available at the Milton Police Office on Main St. Interested parties can ride in vehicles during most of the police shifts. "It will be a continuous program," suggests Andress.

## Wants berms, not fences in north-east subdivision

Halton Land Group, one of the three landowners in Milton's north-east quadrant, is breaking ground today (Wednesday) to install services for the first 127 of the 343 homes the firm is building south of Steeles Ave. near the Third Line.

Murray Goldman of Toronto, president of the firm, appeared before Tuesday's meeting of Milton Council prepared to formally sign the official subdivision's agreement with the town, with one exception. He asked council to forego its request for a four foot high, plastic coated chain link fence which the town wants erected to separate the reverse frontage lots along Steeles Ave. and Third Line from the roadways.

The developer told council his firm is building berms (four foot high, landscaped mounds of

earth) along the rear of each lot, for privacy and an aesthetic effect. He felt the fences would not be necessary.

Fences deteriorate quickly and the sight of half a mile of chain link fencing "will be very bad for our sales," he added. Fences will destroy part of the beauty of the mounds, Goldman said.

Councillors argued individual homeowners might erect a variety of fences which would look just as bad.

Instead of both berms and fences, Goldman recommended he be allowed to install the berms now and post a bond on promise to erect the fences at a later date if council feels they are necessary. Council agreed to allow the subdivider's agreement to be signed, incorporating both berms and fences, but agreed to review their policy on fences and

give a final decision in two weeks. Meanwhile Milton Planning Board is also to be consulted for an opinion. The board had participated in the earlier discussions.

### CLOSE MILL ST.

Mill St. in Milton is to be closed today (Wednesday) to Friday so workmen installing services for the Main St. reconstruction job can tie into mains along that street, in the area of Montgomery Lane.

## Bronte protest may hurt rural north

# Ward One eyes rep-by-pop demand

Protests from Southwest Oakville (Bronte area) ratepayers that the voting power on Oakville Council is out of balance, may have far-reaching effects on the current status of council representation in the north ward of the town—the lands south and east of Milton.

Ward One Councillors Donald Gordon and Richard Day aren't too worried at this point about losing one or both of their seats on the 11-man council, but the current protest could have some bearing on the future political strength of Ward One.

### Seek "rep-by-pop"

Bronte area residents, who live in Oakville's Ward Two, are upset because the rural north of the town was exempted from taxation to subsidize the town bus

service, Councillor Day told The Champion. As a result they got up a petition bearing 214 names, asking town council to look into redistribution of voting strengths in the town and try to obtain "representation by population" throughout Oakville.

Rep-by-pop could mean one of two things, Day and Gordon said. It could wipe out all representation from the rural northern ward, or convert the 11-man council to a council of 27.

"We are concerned. This could be the biggest challenge the rural area of Oakville has ever faced," Councillor Day told The Champion. But for now, all the rural representatives can do is wait and see what shapes up. Oakville Council last week received the petition and agreed to name a committee of

councillors to look into the rep-by-pop issue. The committee has not yet been named.

### 2,493 voters

They said Ward One certainly has a voting advantage if only the population of Oakville's four wards is taken into consideration. Each ward has two council representatives and the mayor, reeve and deputy reeve are elected at large. Ward One has 2,493 eligible voters or 8.58 per cent of the voters in Oakville; Ward Two 9,374 voters or 32.27 per cent; Ward Three 9,588 or 33 per cent; and Ward Four 7,591 or 26.13 per cent, according to 1970 figures.

But the vast acreage of the northern rural ward—about 110 square miles of land north of Upper Middle Road—certainly needs two councillors to serve it.

Gordon pointed out. "It's a pretty big area to cover for even two men."

If representation at the council table was based on assessment, you would end up with a different picture, they pointed out. Ward Four (southeast area) has the Ford plant while Ward Two (Bronte area) has two refineries and several large industries.

### Development soon

The northern councillors also point out large housing developments are scheduled for the lower portion of their ward—the Home Smith and River Oaks developments will be like satellite cities.

Apportionment of voting rights was established by the Ontario Municipal Board back in 1962 when Oakville and the former Township of Trafalgar merged.

"Mr. Kennedy (OMB chairman) put safeguards in the system so the rural area would not be overpowered at the council level," claims Gordon. Only a ruling of the OMB can change the voting system as it now stands. "Nine to two are still pretty good odds," he noted.

Day accuses the Bronte ratepayers of "gerrymandering—trying to re-arrange the political units to better their own area." He added, "I think it is all much ado about nothing."

### Need 27

Day said if Oakville went for true representation by population, the council would have to have 27 councillors and it would be too unwieldy, as well as too expensive at the current \$4,000 per annum salary paid to

ward councillors. "You would end up with an impossible situation."

The rural ward would need two councillors to serve the wide-spread area it covers. If the other wards were given representation based on population, as it is related to Ward One, Ward Four would have to have six councillors and Wards Two and Three would need eight apiece. Add to this the three top officials who are elected at large (but always come from the built-up area of southern Oakville) and you would end up with an unwieldy, 27-member council, he said.

Oakville's population is 60,000 this year and there are 60,000 acres in the whole town. Of those, 50,000 are in Ward One.



MILTON'S POST OFFICE, which has occupied a place of prominence on the corner of Main and Martin Sts. since 1916, may not be there much longer. Halton MP Rud Whiting announced this week a feasibility study is being undertaken right away, on

improvement of postal accommodation in Milton and there is a chance a new \$300,000 Post Office may be built next year. The future of the present building depends on the study, which is to be completed by the end of July.

(Photo by J. Jennings)