

## Firm seeks share of business council looks into insurance

Insurance policy commissions occupied a good half hour of Milton Councillors' time on Monday evening, after a new real estate and insurance firm in town asked for a share of the town's insurance. Lewin Sales of Bob Cross Real Estate and Insurance made the request, and it sparked a lengthy discussion. No decision was reached but the council's administration committee was asked to look into it.

Several years ago the council, which had policies with three local insurance firms, decided to consolidate their insurance and have one firm handle it all. An agreement was made whereby the insuring firm's local agent would receive the bulk of the commission and the other two firms would be given a share of the commission for surrendering their policies. It was pointed out this is a standard procedure with many municipalities.

### Legal opinion

Some councillors felt the new Cross firm should be added to the list and share in the commissions, but some of them wanted a legal opinion or more study before directing the present insuring agent to share

commissions with the new firm. Councillor Dr. Ivan Hunter felt the town should tender all its insurance but both Mayor Brian Best and Deputy Reeve Bob McCuaig, who are insurance agents, explained this would be quite costly. It would mean the town would have to hire a consultant to prepare the tender forms and any money saved by calling tenders would be offset by the additional costs involved, they said.

Councillors Gord Krantz and Mrs. M. Powys agreed with Dr. Hunter that all local insurance agents should share the commissions. But it was pointed out there are licensed agents living in Milton who do not sell insurance here, and they might also want a share of the commissions. Councillor Syd Childs argued the agents presently sharing commissions all had business with the town when the present system was started, so the Cross firm wasn't entitled to any share.

When the discussion failed to find an easy answer, Mayor Best asked the administration committee to study the situation and come up with a solution.



A BURLINGTON GIRL and an Australian Goodrow, Australian visitor Keith Stewart and Rotarian Burke McNeill chat following the meeting. (Photo by B. Burt)

## Gives club verbal, visual recap of "down under"

Gwen Goodrow of Burlington took members of Milton Rotary Club on a visual and verbal trip through Australia at the club's meeting last Tuesday.

Gwen is a Rotary Exchange Student and recently spent a year in Australia. She and a native of Australia, Keith Stewart were guest speakers at the meeting in Milton Tuesday. Gwen showed colored slides as well as delivering her speech.

The people of Australia are more relaxed and live at a slower pace than what is customary in North America, except for those who live in the big cities, Gwen reported.

During her year as an Aussie, Gwen was treated to the hospitality in a number of homes. Rugby, cricket, tennis and surfing top the list of sports played in Australia while steel works and coal mining are among the leading industries.

### School is different

During her year there Gwen studied in grade 13. Commenting on the educational system there, she said schools were more conservative and uniforms were worn. The uniforms were a welcome innovation and relieved pressure of competition that Gwen says exists in Canadian schools to see who is the best dressed.

"Most industries in Australia close for a three week summer vacation period following Christmas," Gwen noted. While Canadians experience zero and

sub zero weather, Australians swelter in weather that reaches 120 degrees in the inland areas.

One of the highlights of Gwen's stay in Australia was her work as a volunteer at a crippled children's hospital. She showed slides she had taken in various parts of the country.

This year one student from this area of the province will have the opportunity of being a Rotary Exchange student in Mexico. The student will be a girl age 17 or 18. Those students selected usually are good students and chosen to represent Rotary in another country. The candidate will pay her own air fare but most of the expenses are covered through the program.

### Can apply

Anyone in the Milton area interested in taking the trip or wanting to recommend someone for it should contact Bob McCuaig, Burke McNeill or any member of the local Rotary Club. A selection will be made in September.

At the meeting last week Keith Stewart of Australia who is visiting Canada spoke about Rotaract, an organization for young adult male and females in the community. Rotaract is basically a junior Rotary club.

Keith outlined the work and enjoyment he and others found in Rotaract. Members range in age from 18 to 28 years. Milton Rotarians found Keith's information interesting as they

do not have a Rotaract organization in Milton.

## Complaints pour in over weeds

Complaints about weeds growing on vacant lots in town have been pouring in, especially since Goldenrod came into bloom, and Milton Council decided Monday to have a talk with the town's weed inspector. Milton shares a weed inspector with the County of Halton and Town of Acton. Mayor Brian Best told council some people had trouble getting in touch with the man and he knew of one complaint that was given the inspector over a week ago but no action has been taken. The mayor was asked to contact the inspector.

## Bahamas Scout revisits host family in Milton

One of the Boy Scouts from Nassau, Bahamas who was among the 2,600 Scouts "washed out" at the famous Kelo Jamboree in 1968 returned to Milton one day last week to renew his friendship with the George Smillie family, 270 Ontario St. N. And two others from the Bahamas are planning to come back to Milton this Christmas to spend a "white Christmas" with the same family.

Four Bahamas Scouts had been billeted at the Smillie home in August of 1968 when the big jamboree at Kelo got flooded out by a hurricane. The townspeople rallied to their aid and in a few short hours all the drenched Scouts were being put up in local homes for the night. The Smillies ended up with four "boarders" for a week as the Bahamians had to wait for a plane to take them home—so they had plenty of time to make friends.

### Brings his troop

The boys have kept up correspondence with "Ma" and "Dad" Smillie during the past four years. One of them, Ephrium Jones of Nassau, is now a Scout leader and he brought his troop of 24 Scouts to Toronto for a Canadian holiday. They were based in Toronto but travelled around the province and visited the Lion Safari near Rockton, Ontario Place, the CNE and

Ontario Science Centre during their holiday.

One day Mr. Jones and his 24 boys descended on the Smillie home here and he and the Smillies had a grand day reminiscing about the well known wash-out. He brought Mrs. Smillie a beautiful straw purse and other presents.

This Christmas two of the other boys are planning to come and spend Christmas at the Smillie home. They're looking forward to seeing snow for the first time and

also planning to take in some Husky dog races with the Smillies.

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## Dance, beer garden planned to mark Main St. completion

No objections were voiced by Milton Council this week when Reeve Ron Harris presented a proposal for a street dance and beer garden to celebrate the completion of the Main St. reconstruction program in the downtown area.

Harris, who is president of the Milton Chamber of Commerce, said the merchants were considering a street dance for some Friday evening in early September. He visualized two orchestras at opposite ends of the Martin-James Sts. block, one dispensing music for the younger set

and one supplying music for "us old folks." The beer garden would likely be set up in the centre of the street.

### May be mall

The Chamber is also considering the possibility of closing that block of the newly paved Main St. in the afternoon of the same day, for a downtown shopping mall.

Councillors voiced no objections but pointed out the street is now controlled by the County of Halton and their permission would also have to be obtained to close the road to traffic.

## Teachers oppose early return

District 9 executive of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation has gone on record as opposing any policy requiring teachers to return to school before the legal date of opening.

In a strongly worded statement to the press, the OSSTF said it took a poll of the membership concerning a recommendation to this effect from a Halton County Board committee and found:

(1) 97 per cent of the teachers are opposed to any policy requiring teachers to return one week prior to the legal opening day of school, which is the day after Labor Day.

(2) 90 per cent of the teachers are opposed to any policy requiring teachers to return one day prior to the legal opening day of school.

"Our teachers in Halton who want to meet, do so voluntarily," the OSSTF release said. "If a particular staff decides through a vote that it is their desire to come one week or one day before the legal opening of school, we feel it is their right, but the decision should not come 'from above.' The decision must be solely made by the teachers."

The teachers contend they are professionals and are busy taking courses and other relevant work through the summer to prepare themselves for another year of teaching.

District 9 president Tom Ramautarsingh told this newspaper the recommendation which teachers opposed from the

Board of Education Priorities and Expenditure Committee stated that "all schools should hold pre-opening day staff meetings late in August or early in September and all teachers should be expected to attend." "The recommendation is listed under the urgent and important section to be acted upon immediately, but the Board has not dealt with the matter yet.

## Asks jail to explain its function

Milton Council wants an explanation of the functions of the new Maplehurst Regional Detention Centre which is proposed to be built at the north end of Milton in the near future.

At a meeting Monday Councillor Dr. Ivan Hunter said he would like someone to spell out the activities of the inmates, as they would affect the town. Mayor Brian Best said the Deputy Minister had visited Milton Council one evening a couple of years ago and explained the department's policy has changed since then and it might be a good idea to have councillors brought up to date. Council decided to write a letter and ask for an explanation.

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