

**Jockey Club says**

# Mohawk's future depends on Sunday racing vote

"The future of Mohawk Raceway could well depend upon the decision which is made by the voters concerning Sunday racing," officials of the Ontario Jockey Club told Nassagaweya Township's voters in a letter mailed out this week.



J. MOONEY

Township council was asked by Jockey Club president John J. Mooney to put the question of Sunday night racing on a plebiscite in the Dec. 4 election, and council agreed. An earlier vote on Sunday racing, held in 1968, resulted in rejection of Sunday races. A total of 496 voted against, 229 in favor.

Opened in 1963, Mohawk Raceway is located on Guelph Line just north of Campbellville. It is one of three tracks OJC operates in the "Golden Horseshoe Circuit" — the others are Garden City Raceway at St. Catharines and Greenwood Raceway in Toronto.

**Expand stands?**

Mr. Mooney's letter intimated that future expansion of the Campbellville raceway facilities hinges on a successful vote in favor of Sunday racing. "In order to expand and progress, the racing industry must operate on those days when the maximum number of people are available to attend," the letter pointed out. Statistics show Saturday, Sunday and holidays are the most popular days for racing meets. "We believe the continued growth of Mohawk Raceway is vitally important to the

township," the letter continues.

Mr. Mooney told this newspaper there are plans to increase the seating capacity at Mohawk by doubling the size of the spectators' grandstand seating area. Mohawk was designed to handle a crowd of 8,000 fans but a record attendance a couple of years ago reached the 11,000 mark. Grandstand expansion, however, depends on the introduction of Sunday racing at the rural track.

The president also said the raceway could end up with more racing dates each year, if Sunday racing is allowed. At present OJC runs a spring and fall meet at the

track, ranging in length from 24 to 42 nights each. If Sunday racing is approved by the township voters, the club plans to either add a summer meeting or expand the duration of the spring and fall meets.

**Mostly evenings**

Mohawk officials stress their plan for Sunday racing should not interfere with normal Sunday activities. The 7.45 p.m. starting time does not interfere with other recreational activities through the day, or with religious services notes their letter to the voters. Only the occasional special meeting would be held in the afternoon — most races would go at 7.45 p.m. Mooney explained.

For the past three years Sunday night racing has been allowed at Garden City and it is the most popular evening of the five nightly programs conducted each week. Should Sunday racing be allowed at Mohawk, a similar schedule to that at St. Catharines would be introduced — that is racing on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday evenings. The raceway would be closed Wednesday and Thursdays, he said.

At Campbellville, races would likely be held about 13 Sundays a year.

Sunday programs have not only proven successful at OJC tracks, but has also been popular at Windsor, Frontenac, Orangeville and Rideau Carleton.

**Same income**

Horse owners would not suffer a loss of income if Sundays replace Wednesday and Thursday racing, Mooney explained. If the races are cut to five nights a week from six, a 10th race will be added to each night's program — resulting in a total of 50 races per week compared to 54 now. Purses would also be increased accordingly.

Similarly the staff of 425 to 450, many of whom are recruited locally, would end up with about the same take-home pay each week despite the loss of one night's racing.

The Jockey Club's letter to township ratepayers points out the Raceway, besides being the township's largest employer and taxpayer, is also eager to be of service to its community.

Mohawk Raceway has cooperated with local government on environmental problems, in community celebrations such as centennial year and with local service clubs.

Officials have been working with various levels of government in an attempt to alleviate the traffic congestion that sometimes occurs on the Guelph Line for 15 minutes to half an hour at the end of each night's racing. "We are trying to provide an exit from the Second Line (at the west end of the raceway) directly onto Highway 401 for raceway traffic heading west on the 401," Mooney told this newspaper. "This would help cut down on the traffic going through Campbellville."

**All leave at once**

Traffic at the raceway is one concern of local citizens. Although the cars and buses heading to the track spread their arrivals over a two hour time period each night, it appears everybody stays to the end of the last race and then all head for home at the same time. The peak is usually around 11 to 11.30 p.m.

"We're trying to see what can be done," the OJC president said. There are some problems with the highways department.

A fact sheet attached to the Jockey Club's appeal for a "yes" vote on Sunday racing indicates the raceway is located on 400 acres of land, and is the largest taxpayer in the township. Realty and business taxes amounting to \$103,916 (or 18 per cent of the township's total tax levy of \$568,496) were paid to Nassagaweya in 1972. The track's assessment is \$1,300,000, the township's highest. The next largest is a quarry assessed at \$109,350. Without Mohawk's tax revenue, taxes to other property owners would increase by an average of \$70 per taxable property per year.

Since opening, Mohawk has averaged 68 days of racing a year.

Harness racing at Mohawk generated \$1,017,457 in revenue for 1971 through the special tax on pari-mutuel wagering. Mohawk also pays corporation, sales and hospital taxes, the fact sheet concluded.



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK awards were presented at Holy Rosary School last week when Milton Fire Chief A. E. Clement visited the school to distribute prizes. He is pictured with Cindy Roche, 7, of Mrs. Graham's grade two class which won the plaque for best parent attendance at the recent fire hall open house; and grade five poster contest winners Karen

Devlin and Michael Trischler. Karen and Michael not only topped the school's poster-drawers, Karen's poster won the top girl's prize and Michael's won an honorable mention award for boys in the county-wide contest sponsored by Halton Fire Prevention Bureau.

(Photo by R. Downs)

**Lowville**

## Supper highlights community activity

By Mrs. R.E. Sovereign

St. George's Anglican Church held this annual fowl supper this past weekend. The ladies worked hard preparing food and washing dishes for three settings of a delicious supper which many people from this community enjoyed.

The Lowville-Zimmerman U.C.W. General meeting was held last week with special guest speaker Mrs. William Mahon of Campbellville who was introduced by Mrs. G. Campbell. Her topic was "Heritage" from an Ontario Congress in Toronto of different Canadian Cultures with a purpose to exchange ideas of how to have a United Canada on beliefs and attitudes in a young country of mixed races.

Individual races spoke in their native language which was translated into English or French.

**Discrimination**

Suggestions were made to rid text books, newspapers and magazines of discrimination, to introduce special learning facilities for new Canadians, many cultures wanted official recognition of their languages, not just French and English.

Mrs. Mahon felt as a W.A.S.P. (White Anglo-Saxon Protestant) as she was labelled at this congress, it is her duty to inform people of what she had learned from this eye opening congress and she is glad to speak to any group who is interested.

She feels we all should read our newspapers and be informed and if we have worthwhile suggestions or opinions, to be sure to write our parliament. From this spring congress she

has noticed government legislation taking place on these issues. Mrs. Fran McCormack thanked Mrs. Mahon for her very enlightening talk.

The business for the evening was conducted by president Mrs. Fran McCormack and recorded by secretary Mrs. Glenna Colling. Mrs. Olive Colling led the group in the worship service on friendship.

**Humerous Skit**

Mrs. Bernice Whiteley and Mrs. Louise Gunby entertained the ladies with a humorous skit with a message on visiting the sick. Mrs. Alma Colling was the accompanist for the ladies trio of Mrs. Marj Hall, Mrs. Marion Gates and Mrs. Nancy Ramshaw. Mrs. Marj Hall presented the new slate of officers for the coming year. President Mrs. B. Millar, past president, Mrs. McCormack, Vice President Mrs. T. Ramshaw, Unit Heads afternoon Mrs. G. Foote, evening Mrs. H. Hall, Secretary Mrs. L. Brown, treasurer Mrs. O. Peer, manse Mrs. N. Langton, Community and Friendship and visiting Mrs. F. Colling, Christian Education and Literature Mrs. George Colling, stewardship and recruiting Mrs. George McCormack, program Mrs. R. Sovereign, supply Mrs. K. Smith, flowers for church Mrs. T. Ramshaw, pianist Mrs. H. Hall, nursery Mrs. N. Gunn and Mrs. G. Richardson, cards and flowers Mrs. N. Gunn and cradle roll, Mr. E. Dukeshire. The nominating committee included Mrs. B. Gunby Mr. R. Coulter, Mrs. Murray Colling, Mrs. F. Coulson, official Board Representatives Mrs. B. Millar, Mr. T. Ramshaw, Mrs. N. Langton is the auditor. The community sends get well greetings to Mrs. Eleanor Coulter.

## Euchre party

Lillian Readhead, Anna Thompson, Florence Currie, Guy Bussell, Mary Brownridge and Morley Watson were among the winners at the St. George's Church euchre recently.

Mrs. N. Mount hosted the November meeting of the ACW. Mrs. J. Stokes read the scripture and Mrs. H. King gave the thought for the day.

Some discussion took place regarding the Turkey Supper. A donation was received from Mrs. B. Howard towards hangings for the altar, cards were sent to members in hospital. It was decided to hold the December meeting in the form of a pot luck dinner in the Church Hall. Ten dollars will be sent to the prayer partner "Eleanor Kaye". Mrs. Twiss, the president closed the meeting and lunch was served. Mrs. Rummery acted as courtesy convener.

**Give him a break**

Give the other driver a break... even if he is wrong. Two wrongs never make a right. They often make an accident, says the Ontario Safety League.

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An open letter to the citizens of Milton from Colin Smillie, candidate for Reeve.

Now, more than at any other time in Milton's history, we need strong, effective representation at the county level.

I have served Milton for 10 years on boards, commissions and on council. I completed a three year extension course in municipal government from Queen's University, so that I could better understand local affairs. And I am prepared to devote the necessary time for the many hours of meetings, day or night, that the position of Reeve entails.

I have always spoken my mind without fear or favour on any issue which affected the interests of the people of Milton. I am committed to establishing a four unit system in Halton thereby preserving Milton's proper status. As Reeve, I will make sure that Milton's rights are protected and advanced with a firm, decisive voice. I think I have proven that I am not afraid to speak out where your interests are concerned.

Milton is in need of increased community facilities. Two years ago I proposed to council a plan for a community centre complex which would include a library, a meeting place for senior citizens, and any other facilities which would benefit the whole community regardless of age. I received very little support for this idea at the time. As Reeve, I feel that I would be in a more effective position to present this plan, and to enlist the financial aid from the provincial and federal governments.

If you vote for me for Reeve, I promise this - to listen to you and to act as you have a right to expect.

*Colin Smillie*  
 Colin Smillie A.M.C.T.

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OF MILTON

TOWN OF MILTON  
 STREET MAP  
 SCALE  
 JUNE 1974