

Issues that made news in 1972

Bruce St. School

An end, and a beginning

The year 1972 provided both an end and a beginning for Milton's Bruce St. School. It was the end of the building as a school and its beginning as a community complex.

Decreasing enrolment and the dilapidated state of the building were factors attributed to the end of the 118 year tenure for the education centre.

The announcement by Halton County Board of Education came in March. But the demise of a

building and institution that had served a multiplicity of generations couldn't simply be closed and forgotten.

June 29 a grand reunion of former students and teachers was held at the school. Even then not much more than a few whispers had been heard about possible preservation of the school.

It wasn't until then Burlington Trustee Vern Connell took charge and spearheaded a campaign to save the school from destruction.

Support from many quarters was forthcoming readily. Milton Council, County Council, MPPs Jim Snow and George Kerr all joined the campaign.

Would sell

The Board agreed to sell the school at a nominal fee and the land at appraised value if a responsible community minded body was interested.

Because Halton Region Conservation Authority was in the midst of looking for a new office site, they were approached as

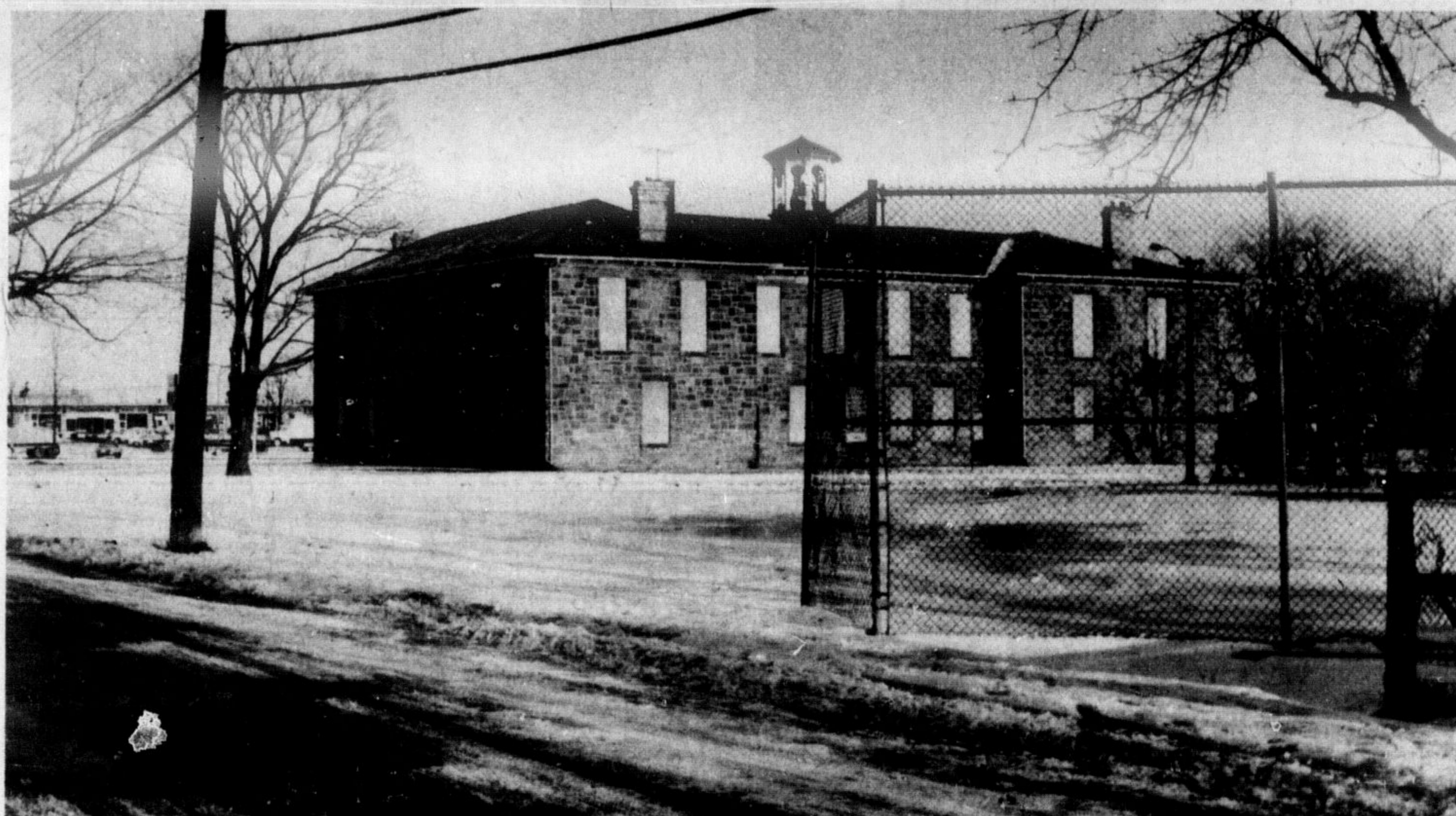
chief tenants or purchasers of the property. They publicly expressed disenchantment with both ideas.

Under the leadership of Mayor Brian Best, Milton Council and Ontario Housing Corporation submitted conditional offers to purchase on the property and building. The offers were acceptable to the board but the offer hasn't yet been finalized.

Tentative plans

Tentative plans are to erect a senior citizen apartment project on the property fronting on Ontario St., a library on one parcel of land and to refurbish the building to accommodate a senior citizen drop-in centre, office accommodation for Milton Parks and Recreation, and a community meeting room.

While the sale still isn't final the prospects are bright for those who were interested in the preservation of the school. It appears the historic building has been saved from demolition and will have a new lease on life.



PLANNED LIBRARY SITE is seen in the foreground at the corner of Bruce St. and Pearl. The "commons" was part of the playground of the Bruce St. School which the town is planning to purchase. Council has also considered a by-law to close the section of Bruce St. between Pearl and Prince to permit pedestrian access between the future library and the facilities of the Bruce St. school. Senior Citizen housing units are proposed for the portion of the school site fronting on Ontario St. —Photo by J. Jennings

Not settled yet

Region talks go on

While there were issues where citizens will more readily feel the impact, there were probably no issues in the past year that demanded as much time and attention as that of regional government.

Under the leadership of Warden Jim Swanborough, Halton County Council plunged into an in-depth study of regional government and that topic became the subject at meetings of the county body and every municipal government in the county frequently during the year.

A massive series of meetings (in public sometimes, behind closed doors) others took place. The early part of the year saw a lot of discussions centred around efforts to bring about a Halton only region as opposed to a merger with Halton and Peel.

Speculation

While no definite word on the status of that aspiration has been received to date, speculation as a Halton-only region in one form or another will receive provincial approval.

A Queen's Park decision on that count has been the subject of many delays. Just recently Charles McNaughton, who heads

the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs, said an announcement planned for mid-December had been delayed due to a heavy cabinet workload.

According to McNaughton the government intends to make a statement with reference to regional government in that area between Hamilton and Toronto shortly after Christmas.

Controversy

If regional government is to be inaugurated prior to 1974 it is likely that legislation will have to be passed in the spring session of the legislature to make provision

YEAR-END REVIEW STORIES BY BOB BURTT

for elections in the fall, prior to the formation of a regional government.

The most controversial aspect of the issue is future boundaries under a regional setup, both of an internal and external nature.

During the early days of the TECO report, (Halton Technical Co-ordinating Committee) there was talk of a five town region, talk of two areas within a Halton

region, a northern and southern region and talks of a variety of other ways to form new boundaries.

The meetings involving councillors from all of the municipalities were held. At the first meeting the suggested boundaries would have split the county into four areas or blocks. Basically those boundaries would have included Oakville and Burlington with some alterations to present boundaries and two blocks, one of which would take most of Esquimes, Acton and Georgetown, and another lumping almost all of Nassagaweya and Milton into one area.

The meeting was held in June. A second meeting of a similar nature was held in September and a three-borough region was proposed and met with approval from all areas except Milton. That proposal would have lumped Milton into a North Halton municipality and left Oakville and Burlington much the same as was recommended in the first report.

Milton under the leadership of Mayor Brian Best is still fighting its case for a fourth region of which Milton would be the centre.

More on growth Improve "people" services

Growth and expansion in town are reflected in many ways. While growth of the industrial, residential and commercial sections of the town has been the most striking during 1972, other factors representing growth can't go without recognition.

Staff at town hall has increased by the addition of three people in key positions. A deputy clerk, assistant building inspector and recreation director add to the services provided for residents.

Coffee house

The formation of the Milton Youth Council and the coffee house which serves as its

headquarters provides another service to youth and a recreational outlet the town hasn't had in the past. While the group is still struggling to make ends meet on the financial ledger, it has held a number of social events and performed a number of tasks in the past and it is their hope to provide a service for the community and primarily for the youth of the community.

The farmers' market, an experimental project operated under the sponsorship of Milton Chamber of Commerce and organized by the "Mayor of the Market" Andy Frank, went well.

The market has to rate as one of the most interesting and successful projects sanctioned by the Chamber of Commerce. People came from far and near to avail themselves of the fresh fruit and vegetables vendors offered for sale.

Although the aim of the market was simply to provide a service, a small profit was made and the Chamber has authorized a similar venture in 1973.



As people from all walks of life celebrate the New Year's happenings in our community... we extend gratitude to all our patrons.

Milton Chamber of Commerce

Growth in Milton

Growing pains are felt

The past year has brought more growth to Milton than any other year in the history of the town. Residential, industrial and commercial expansion has occurred at a rate greater than what the town has ever known in the past.

While the growth was something many of the town and area residents had wished for in recent years, the growth brought with it a few problems which most had managed to overlook in the past.

Because of the growing pains inflicted on the town and townspeople, 1972 became a year where the municipal scene was a controversial one and ratepayer protests became a frequent occurrence.

Channelization of the 16 Mile Creek has to rate as one of the most controversial topics to hit town in years. The subject is still far from being completed and the controversy is still intense.

Protests

Although the project was first proposed in 1969, the protests didn't really become evident until this year. Two groups were formed, one that opposed

channelization anywhere where it wasn't absolutely necessary, and a second faction which became known as the WD Branch Ratepayers Association. The latter is still active. They are against any more water being put into the west branch of the creek. They fear increased flooding in their homes in the Mountainview, Riverplace Cr. area.

The first phase of the channelization project is 18 months behind schedule because of delays in land acquisition.

A proposal for 254 condominium units and 10 single family dwellings with a small commercial area on Bronte St. brought cries of protest from ratepayers in the Fallingbrook area of town. Their objections resulted in a series of meetings and formation of another ratepayers' association. Final approval of that project is still pending certain information being presented to the town by Chaingate, developers of the tract.

The need for the series of meetings and the drawn out proceedings leading to an OMB hearing (that was cancelled

before it really got underway and then recalled again later) substantially delayed that development.

Loop road

A proposal by Abbeywood Developers to build a loop road linking Highside Dr. and Ridge Rd., instead of putting an exit onto Ontario St., met with a great hue and cry from some homeowners in the area who felt they would be subjected to more traffic by having the loop than the exit.

A number of meetings were held at the planning board and council level before it was finally decided by the developer to drop the loop idea and go ahead with the access road to Ontario St.

Expansion of Alliance Industrial Plaza on Steeles Ave., completion of Polymer and Barber-Greene and Fifth Wheel Stop as well as Krohnert Manufacturing and Milton Upholstering were among the changes in the growing industrial community in Milton.

An expansion of several stores and a bank at Milton Plaza highlighted the commercial growth in the town.



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North Halton happy Airport not here

Months of speculation drew to a close March 2 when Darcy McKeough, Treasurer of Ontario announced the new international airport would be built east of Metro at Pickering.

On and off for months prior to the announcement, speculation ran rampant as new rumors circulated almost daily about a chosen site in north Halton.

Before the decision was even announced, the general opinion of most north Halton residents was that the federal government could keep their airport or build it anywhere but here.

Lobby groups

Naturally enough the announcement triggered the formation of lobby groups in the Pickering area, who have fought the airport since the day it was announced.

They have fought on the basis of need and the effects it would have on the people in the area as well. The airport was the topic of discussion during the recent

federal election and several spokesmen feel the need for the second airport hasn't yet been proven.

The Milton-Georgetown-Guelph triangle was one of the last three areas to be considered. The Barrie area was also

considered.

Since McKeough's announcement in March the protest has changed from a fight to see where it will go, to a fight on the part of the Pickering people to discredit the argument for the need.

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

May your horizon be bright with opportunity and achievement, and may our valued, cordial relations long continue.

Your Welcome Wagon Hostess Mrs. Bev Gibson

An inspiration... for the future

We look ahead to all the days of the New Year... new days, ready for us to use as we will. And we pray that all may find the inspiration to use each day to the fullest... building a better life, an ever greater country, a world at peace.

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