



## Family of six flees fire engulfs home

Damage was estimated at more than \$50,000 in an early morning fire that destroyed a home and forced a family of six out in only their clothes Wednesday morning of last week. Cause of the fire is unknown.

Aubrey Richardson and his wife Dorothy were awakened about 6:30 a.m. by their youngest son Gary, 14, when fire broke out in the basement bedroom occupied by Gary and his brother Don, at their home on the Nassagaweya-Esquesing Town Line, just north of the Campbellville Sideroad.

Intense smoke forced Mr. and Mrs. Richardson, their sons and two daughters Deborah and

Linda from the home in clothes they were able to don hastily.

**Hard to control**  
Milton Area Firefighters fought the stubborn blaze in the basement but were unable to control it. Two snowmobiles and a trailer were pulled from the garage and a house trailer was moved from the front yard but nothing was saved from the house.

Firefighters chopped through ice on a back yard swimming pool to obtain water while pumps were refilling in Milton. Water from the Richardson pool and that of a neighbor R. Kingdon provided an adequate supply.

The 12 degree temperatures made fighting the fire difficult as firefighters wore masks into the smoke-filled basement area trying to get at the source of the fire. Just as they thought they were winning the fight, the whole interior seemed to go and flames ate through the upstairs of the house and through the roof.

Firefighters battled the flames until nearly noon.

Milton Fire Chief A. E. Clement said Tuesday it would be virtually impossible to determine

the cause as the basement was filled with water by the time the fire was out, and the water has since frozen solid. He said Gary Richardson told the fire department when he woke up there were flames around the bottom of the bed in the boys' basement bedroom.

Firefighters couldn't get at the bedroom to quell the fire, because there were no windows on that side of the house. "We had to go in from the back of the house but we couldn't get in for the intense heat," the chief said. "It drove the men back every time they tried."

The fire "went right up through the middle of the house," Chief Clement said. At various times throughout the morning firefighters were showered with sparks and large balls of fire rolled at them from the basement of the home. Chief Clement said an oil line might have ruptured or the blasts could have been caused by a build-up of gases and heat.

Four of the firefighters had their faces singed by flames and one had his heavy overcoat burned when a window blew out.

**Would have won**  
"If we could have got into that bedroom we would have had the fire under control."

The Richardsons, who had lived in the home for about seven years, were able to rent a home in Milton and Wednesday night they were located in their new quarters wondering where to begin in getting re-established. They had lost everything in the fire. The building and contents were insured.



WHO, WHO? Hootie, that's who. Hootie is a great horned owl which has "adopted" the Brian Smith family at Kilbride. Story on Page B2.

### Fund closes

## Collect \$5,020 for five families

Trustees of the 95 Martin St. fund closed off the year Friday and distributed the final cheques to the five families burned out of their apartment building in the pre-Christmas fire.

Treasurer Reg DiCola reports the fund reached \$5,020 Friday. The first \$1,250 was distributed to the families before Christmas, another \$1,250 before New Year's, and the balance Friday on a per capita basis.

#### One \$500 donation

Donations were accepted at the banks, credit union and trust company and many stores in town displayed collection boxes. Trustees said one company donated \$500, the Town of Milton \$250, and most of the service clubs made sizeable donations. School students and staffs also handed in collections and a few private donations of \$100 or more were received.

They report the fund surpassed their expectations and expressed

appreciation, on behalf of the five families who were aided, to all the donors and helpers. Mr. DiCola, Bob McCuaig and Brian Best were trustees of the fund.

The Dec. 21 fire left nine adults and four children homeless and many of their possessions were lost or damaged in the fire. Firefighters battled the blaze most of the day before it was out, and there was heavy smoke and water damage. The old house, owned by Aubrey Richardson of Milton, received \$40,000 damage.

FLAMES BROKE THROUGH the roof at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Richardson and family Wednesday as Milton Area Firefighters were unable to confine the stubborn fire to its basement origin. Water pumped from swimming pools augmented the supply brought in on two trucks. In the lower photo the extent of the damage is checked by firefighters as

the fire smoulders. The home, located on the Nassagaweya-Esquesing Town Line just north of the Campbellville sideroad, was completely destroyed. Two snowmobiles and a trailer were pulled from the garage and a house trailer was removed from in front of the home. Heavy smoke drove the Richardson family from the house. (Photos by J. Dills)

## 20 per cent assessment increase helps town's economic position

Taxable assessment in Milton increased by 20.6 per cent, or about \$3,000,000 this year over last year according to recent figures. "The town has managed to retain the balance between residential, industrial and commercial assessment and the town is in a good position economically," Mayor Brian Best said.

Judging by building permits issued during 1972, the town almost tripled the amount of building construction compared to the previous year. The taxable assessment jumped from \$14.5 million in 1972 to \$17.5 million this year.

Looking ahead to 1973, Mayor Best predicted the growth and construction in the town would drop off because of delays in the creek channelization and other factors affecting development.

He noted the town has now been recognized as a good place for industry and he hoped that the industrial growth evident in the past few years would be maintained.

#### Misgivings

Noting that some of the people

in town had misgivings about development in any way, the mayor said he felt the growth would provide an opportunity for youth. He noted a lot of money had been spent and is being spent on education and he hoped this development would provide jobs

for the youth after they are educated, without them having to leave town.

Mayor Best explained he hoped more "people services" could be provided this year. A senior citizens apartment complex which is being considered by the Ontario Housing Corporation, a community centre, new library and recreation office were examples of people services the mayor hopes the town will embark upon this year.

Increased efforts to beautify the town by tree planting and other means should be con-

sidered, the mayor noted. Council is expecting a report on a road and sidewalk program soon. Mayor Best is anxious to see a program of improving streets and walks this year.

Much of the long range planning for the town has been hampered by the indecision about regional government. However many of the questions now being asked are expected to be answered at a meeting in Hamilton Jan. 23, when regionalization for the Halton, Peel and Wentworth areas will be unveiled.

**\$9,216,431**

## Building permits reflect growth

Building permits for work valued at \$9,216,431 were issued in Milton during 1972. The construction value far exceeds any year in the history of the town. It almost triples last year's record of \$3,214,806 and falls just \$461,453 short of the total value of construction undertaken in town during the decade from 1960 to 1970.

The great increase reflects rapid growth in town. The year marked the greatest residential growth in town for a number of years with 557 living units. Of those, 460 were single family units and 97 were apartment units.

Four permits were issued for industrial factories and seven more for industrial additions. One permit was issued for a commercial office while nine permits were taken out for commercial renovations and three for commercial additions.

Permits were also issued for 10 residential additions, six residential renovations, seven accessory buildings, 11 garages, one carport and four residential swimming pools.

Other permits were issued for buildings to be moved or demolished, for renovations at town hall, for a day care nursery and for work at the fair grounds.

#### Big year in 1973

The figures used are taken from building permits issued from town hall. While the permits accurately reflect the building that is allowed, it is not necessarily true that all of the building was undertaken within the calendar year.

While it is impossible to predict what the figure for 1973 might be, it is known that 1972's record will definitely be topped. A permit soon to be issued for Maplehurst Regional Detention Centre will be for work valued at \$12,000,000.

## Cruiser kick ends in charge

A young Milton man who took out a grudge against local authority by kicking the rear fender of a Milton Police cruiser soon found himself facing not one, but three charges.

A charge of public mischief was laid by Cpl. Len Pickett of Milton Police, who witnessed the kicking incident. On investigation the 20-year-old suspect was found to be carrying an illegal weapon. Further charges of possession of an offensive weapon and carrying a restricted, unregistered firearm were laid.

Damage to the cruiser was estimated at \$69.



VROOM, VROOM . . . Todd Forsythe is only two and a half years old but he already knows what he wants to be when he gets big enough to peer over the windshield. Todd wants to be a snowmobile racer just like his uncle Chris Brading of Lowville, on whose machine he's sitting. More on snowmobile racing on page 12 of today's Champion. (Photo by R. Downs)



COMBINED, THEIR AGES total 210 and both Edith Greene and Simon Baverstock enjoy good spirits. The 106-year-old Mr. Baverstock was among the guests at Mrs. Greene's 104th birthday celebration at Halton Centennial Manor Wednesday. Mrs. Judy Hunter accompanied by Mrs. George Newell sang a number of favorite songs for Mrs. Greene. Warden Mrs. A. MacArthur and Manor Board Chairman Bob McCuaig presented Mrs. Greene with a corsage and bouquet of flowers. (Photo by B. Burt)

### Chamber contest

## Residents nominate citizen of the year

Milton residents will have a say in who will be chosen as Citizen of the Year for Milton this year. The event, once sponsored by Milton Legion, has been started once again but this time under the auspices of Milton Chamber of Commerce.

A selection committee was appointed by the Chamber at a recent meeting. That committee will make the final choice but

coupons have been inserted in this issue and will be inserted in the next issue of this paper. Citizens who know someone they'd like to nominate should clip, fill out and send a coupon to The Champion office on or before Wednesday, Jan. 29.

#### Continue each year

It is hoped the event will be a continuing one, conducted each year. Eventually the judging will

be done on the activity of a person for the preceding year but for the first contest the judges will base their final choice on the individual's activities in recent years.

The judges' decision will be announced prior to the March 21 annual dinner and dance sponsored by the Chamber. That evening a suitable presentation will be made.