

OUR READERS WRITE

(Continued from Page B1)

officers in the Dorset Park Community Association asking for a Community Hall, ice rink, indoor swimming pool and playing fields, etc. More essential to the town is an extension of postal services, an improved storm sewer system, an expansion of the library and having an established full-time fire department from the volunteer system.

When the population of Milton reaches the proportions that merit an expansion of recreational facilities, then it should be decided by the Milton Council as to where and when it will be located.

Yours truly,
C. H. Nash,
124 Baldwin Court,
Milton, Ontario.

MUST WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD OF WHOLE TOWN

Dear Sir:

It was with much embarrassment that I read the letter to the editor concerning the lack of recreational facilities in the Dorset Park Community (Jan. 10).

It would indeed be advantageous for this community to have a community centre which would serve the whole of Milton.

My concern is with the way the demands were presented, not with the principle. It is imperative that if we wish to have such facilities we work together with the rest of Milton to approach the appropriate people in the legislature to provide grants for this purpose. I am afraid that many people who have lived in Milton much longer than we, are upset by the way the letter was presented.

Having spoken to a number of people in the community, it seems to me that we wish to work together with the people of Milton who have made us feel so welcome to their town.

Sincerely,
Peter H. Stuempel,
136 Macdonald Cresc.,
Milton, Ont.

LIMIT FOREST TRAILS TO PEDESTRIANS ONLY

Gentlemen,

I read with interest of the proposed dam on the Robertson Tract of the Halton County Forest. Normally I am against dams on the principle that the least interference with nature the better. The area which would be flooded in the Robertson Tract, however, consists of bottom wetlands, of little use to man or beast. Flooding the area might well create an excellent habitat for waterfowl.

Nassagaweya Township is right in opposing hunting in the area. Today there is an enormous mushrooming interest in merely observing and photographing wildlife in its natural habitat, and such a feature could attract non-violent human participation from miles around.

There is a threat to the beautiful Halton County Forest Tracts which is much greater than that presented by the hunting fraternity. It is the uninhibited use of mechanical vehicles throughout the area. Today the snowmobile wreaks destruction in the Halton County Forest Tracts. Tomorrow it may well be the trail bike and the all-terrain vehicle. The incredible number of deer tracks throughout the Forest Tracts is indicative of the size of the herds which claim the Tracts as home.

Recently, while walking up the Sixth Line past the Britton Tract, the snowmobile noise which emanated from the Tract was absolutely deafening. The sign at the entrance which announced "No Motorized Vehicles" was smashed, and the fence adjacent to the gate was flattened as were the small trees which threatened to bar the entrance of these rapacious vehicles. One can only imagine the effect of the assault of these machines on the deer and other wildlife of the area. Surely if any sort of environmental quality is to be expected from the Halton County Forest Tracts, entrance must be limited to non-motorized visitors.

Yours very truly,

W. D. Brown,
Mississauga, Ont.

A pet owl you say? Will widen Steeles Ave.

By Bob Burt

Heather Smith isn't crazy or in need of psychiatric treatment and no-one has really suggested it - that is, not directly anyway. But raised eyebrows and long pauses after she explained that a Great Horned Owl chose her window sill as a place to put in its days left Heather with that uncomfortable feeling that she really wasn't being taken seriously.

Even close friends and relatives offered an "Oh yea" or "sure, sure," when she explained she was feeding an owl from her hand.

The initial discovery of the owl was somewhat frightening and caused Mrs. Smith to wonder if perhaps it wasn't time to have her eyes checked. The owl had the family's pup clutched in its front feet the first time Heather saw it. Fearing that the bird might harm the dog or her young son, she shooed it away, thinking that she had seen the last of it. The bird fled but re-appeared later on the kitchen window sill and peered into see what was going on.

Adopted now

After the bird had been in the area for a week it received its first dinner. That was around

Christmas and since then the bird has more or less been adopted as a family pet, unusual as that might sound.

For the lack of a better name the Smiths call the owl Hootie. While the bird eventually made friends with each of the family, it still shies away from visitors and unless Mrs. Smith is there, strangers aren't entitled to any more than a glimpse of the bird.

Judging from the diet the bird is on, it is little wonder it isn't too anxious to set up camp in new headquarters. "He likes expensive meat best and rejects bread," Heather explained, noting that most of his food comes from table scraps.

Hootie leaves his favorite perch in a nearby tree when he is called and usually mornings will find him sitting on the kitchen window, waiting for his adopted family to stir.

Heather's husband Brian found the owl an observant soul one morning when he was investigating the source of car trouble. Brian had lifted the hood of the car and was busy investigating when the bird landed on the raised hood and peered down at him. "It was as if the bird was offering advice," Brian

commented.

Can't explain it

Calls to Oakville Humane Society and Dr. Peck, an Oakville vet and an authority on birds has failed to offer an explanation to the bird's behavior.

"I've heard of crows, sparrows, and even starlings being tame and accepting food from people, but owls, never, Humane Society official Allan McNabb commented.

McNabb offered no explanation for what he termed "a real rarity" but suggested the bird must have been someone's pet before it situated itself at the Kilbride home on Twiss Rd.

A number of calls to various animal agencies provided information or a new home for the bird, but the Smiths apparently are willing to have the wide eyed creature stay - providing he doesn't harm anything. To date nothing has harmed him and he hasn't shown any intent to harm anything or anybody else.

He did however, raise the ire of a visitor when he swiped his cap and made off down the lane with it before releasing the cap.

WHAT IS YOUR LIFE?

In meeting the problems of life, the Christian realizes that "it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jeremiah 10:23). He therefore avails himself of the rich resources of God's word to guide his steps. He is not unduly concerned with material values since he has learned of the true riches that are eternal (Matthew 6:19, 20). He is not promised freedom from illness or tragedy but he does have the promise that "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). Regardless of what may happen or when, he is prepared. His soul is safe in God's keeping and cannot be harmed by accidents, illness, or atomic blasts. Truly, he has "the peace of God which passeth all understanding" (Philippians 4:7).

Are you a Christian? Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest". (Matt. 11:28). Indeed, Christianity offers the solutions to all the problems of life.

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"IT'S ALL GONE Hootie," Heather Smith of Twiss Rd. tells the owl that has adopted her and her family. The owl accepts food from Heather's hand and has a passion for expensive meats. (Photo by B. Burt)

"Prices are getting ridiculous," says Freddie Roman. "I went to a \$100-a-plate dinner last night and it was at my house."

—Bob Sylvester,
New York News

Every man has a secret wish: To out-smart racehorses, women and fish.

—Charlie Wadsworth,
Orlando Sentinel

At hospital

Switch to 24-hour clock

If your nurse at the hospital says "it's 2230 hours and time to take your sleeping pill," don't get alarmed.

Milton District Hospital is going to adopt the 24-hour clock system next Monday, Jan. 22 at precisely 12.01 a.m. (0001) hours.

The 24-hour clock system eliminates the use of a.m. and p.m. designations for time. Times previously expressed as a.m. will be the times from 0001 to 1200 (12 noon). Times previously known as p.m. times (noon to midnight) in the 24-hour clock system will be known as 1201 to 2400 hours.

Some examples

Examples: 1 a.m. becomes 0100, 6 a.m. becomes 0600, 11.45 a.m. becomes 1145, 1 p.m. is 1300, 3 p.m. is 1500, and 11.45 p.m. is 2345.

Eventually, all measurement in Canada will be converted to the metric system and because of the particular need for precision in caring for patients, hospitals should be among the first to consider changing, administrator Ronald Woods explained. The local hospital isn't yet

ready to change over to the metric system, as some hospitals are doing, but officials feel it will be fairly easy to switch to the 24-hour clock. (Dummy clock faces will be placed on all hospital clocks at changeover time, to help the staff to the new terminology).

Advantages of the metric system are, it has already been adopted by the chemical and scientific world, its use is international, it enables much

smaller units to be measured for greater accuracy, it minimizes the danger of errors, it is consistent with all countries using it, and in the future applications of the computer will require use of the metric system.

Hospital officials note that appointment times in the outpatient areas (such as X-ray, laboratory and physiotherapy) will continue to be scheduled according to the 12-hour clock system.

Obituary

Henry W. Stroud

Henry William Stroud, a resident of Milton for the past 28 years, died on Jan. 4, 1973 in Milton in his 95th year.

A retired section foreman on the railway, he was greatly devoted to railroading and to his family. He was born in 1879 at Orillia and lived at Burks Falls and Trout Creek before coming to Milton 28 years ago. He lived at the corner of Mary and Bronte

Sts. His wife Ruth Eva Salter predeceased him, as did a son Albert of Milton.

Surviving are three sons Harold of Burks Falls, John of Brooklin and Kenneth of Tilden Lake.

Funeral service was held Jan. 6 with Rev. R. W. Foster of Grace Anglican Church officiating. Interment was in Evergreen Cemetery.

J. R. Currie O.D.

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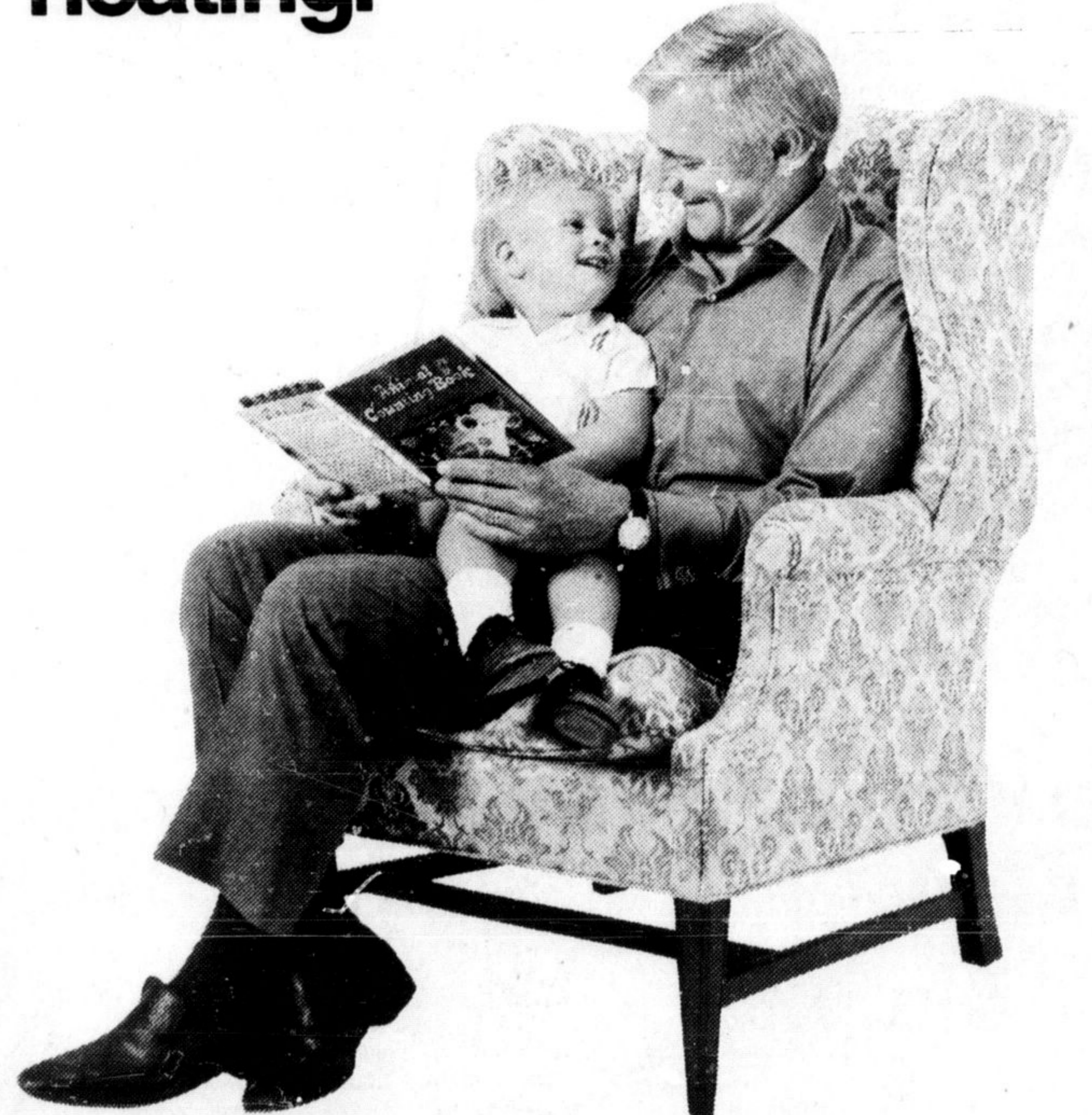
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