

Soggy groundhog sees spring soon

It's going to be an early Spring in Milton district, if the prognostications of the lowly groundhog are any indication. The groundhog, which usually emerges from a winter-long hibernation in his burrow on Feb. 2, would definitely have had to predict that winter was ending and spring was close at hand if he (or she) ventured out into the dull, wet and flooding conditions that abounded in town on Friday.

The legend says if the groundhog sees his shadows he retires to sleep for a further six weeks and Spring won't come till then. If he sees no shadow, he remains above terra-firma, confident that Spring is either here or soon to come.

Mild, rain, fog overcast

There weren't any groundhog shadows Friday. A mild spell, coupled with rain, fog and overcast skies, made sure the groundhog predicted an early Spring.

Rural areas in north Halton experienced slippery roads and the icy conditions, combined with the fog, forced school bus operators to forego their rounds for the day. Schools remained open but the student populations were quite low as only those with their own transportation made it to classes.

In town, the creeks ran rampant as rain and melting snow combined to swell the waterways. Fortunately a lot of the snow had disappeared a week earlier and the flooding was not reported as serious, although creeks were dangerously high.

Safety Corner

By Roy Downs

Here are some more sections from the Highway Traffic Act for your general information. Milton Police Department's safety officer, Const. Ron Oswald, says these are some of the frequently violated parts of the Act:

The driver or operator of a motor vehicle shall not follow another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having due regard for the speed of such vehicle and the traffic on and the conditions of the highway.

—sec. 105(1) H.T.A.

+ + +

Answers to last week's Law and the Snow Vehicle quiz:

1 (c), 2 (a) 3 (c), 4 (a), 5 (c). How many did YOU score correctly?

+ + +

Safety Corner received the following note from a reader: "I feel very strongly about the safety of our aged Manor residents who are inclined to walk along the east side of Ontario St. when coming uptown, rather than cross over in front of the Manor to the sidewalk. We should consider putting a sidewalk from the Manor on the east side, running at least up to the Plaza entrance. One fellow on crutches and with only one leg was coming up the side of the road and fell when his crutch hit a stone."

Predicts busy . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

have been busy, but it'll get busier now," he said Tuesday. Full year truck licence plates also went on sale Feb. 1—quarterly truck plates won't be on sale until March 1.

Prices were increased this year and Clement figured that the increase was holding people back. Plates for a four cylinder vehicle went up \$3 to \$23; for a six cylinder up \$4.50 to \$32; for an eight cylinder up \$5 to \$40. Motorcycle plates also rose \$5 to

\$15 this year, trailer plates are up to \$5 and motorized snow vehicle plates saw the biggest increase—from \$2 per year to a current \$10 per year.

Plate buyers in Milton will receive plates with a three-letter prefix followed by three numbers. The local series started with the letters DSH and proceeds through DSJ, K, L, M, N, O, P and R.

This year's plates will be around for a while—they are multi-year plates and could last

Ottawa Report

by Terry O'Connor — Halton MP



So you took French in high school. It shouldn't be too difficult to pick it up now—with a little practice. Sez who?

Members of Parliament who wish to take it are given three hours a week of Conversation French courses, interspersed every couple of months with a "total immersion" week at St. Jean, Quebec. As I mentioned during the election campaign, I feel we should all make an effort to make bilingualism work. What better way to do this than to learn French?

My group includes three other member-students, this being about the average number assigned to each instructor.

At these sessions both in

Ottawa and Quebec, no English is permitted, nothing is written down, and there are no books and no homework. A slide presentation accompanied by sound track relates every day situations. We repeat them, act them out and occasionally try to improvise. One communicates in French or not at all.

The other day we learned how to take a subway ride all around Paris. Now if I could just get on a committee studying Canada's relationship with France . . .

A confrontation method is used whereby the student is under strain and is forced to understand and reply. Errors in pronunciation or sentence content bring a sharp rebuke from 'le Professeur' usually a whacking of a blackboard ruler on the table in front of the offender. And just like Pavlov's dogs a good effort is

rewarded with a smile and a pat on the back. As a matter of fact it sounds like high school, doesn't it—at least the way it was when I attended a few years ago.

Some members, treated like celebrities elsewhere, get indignation and quit after a few sessions. But if one sticks it out and I have so far, the method apparently works.

Robert Stanfield, who three years ago knew no French is now fluently bilingual. It is now said that he speaks French faster than he spoke English when he first came to Ottawa. Now Bob, how about a total immersion course in English?

If you have a problem, idea, comment, criticism or if you simply wish to get in touch with me please stop by or call my riding office at 326 Lakeshore Road E. Oakville - 845-0222.

NASSAGAWEYA Township Council BRIEFS

During a regular meeting Monday, Feb. 5 members of Nassagaweya Township Council:

—Advised Ken Jensen he will have to appeal the township's refusal to pay a \$950 sheep claim as the township continues to deny any liability.

—Received another complaint from Councillor Cal McIntyre on the condition of 25 Sideroad, which Halton County roads department maintains. Clerk Earl Cuddie was asked to ask the county to do some more work on the road, especially in the first concession.

—Heard complaints from a neighbor about large groups of people with old fashioned muskets and guns who congregate on weekends at a 25 Sideroad home.

—Agreed to meet with Georgetown, Acton and Esquesing Councils to discuss regional government and possibly submit a joint brief on matters of mutual concern. Council also arranged to attend a joint meeting of north

Halton municipalities with Arthur Meen, assistant to Ontario treasurer John White, on Feb. 13 in Milton.

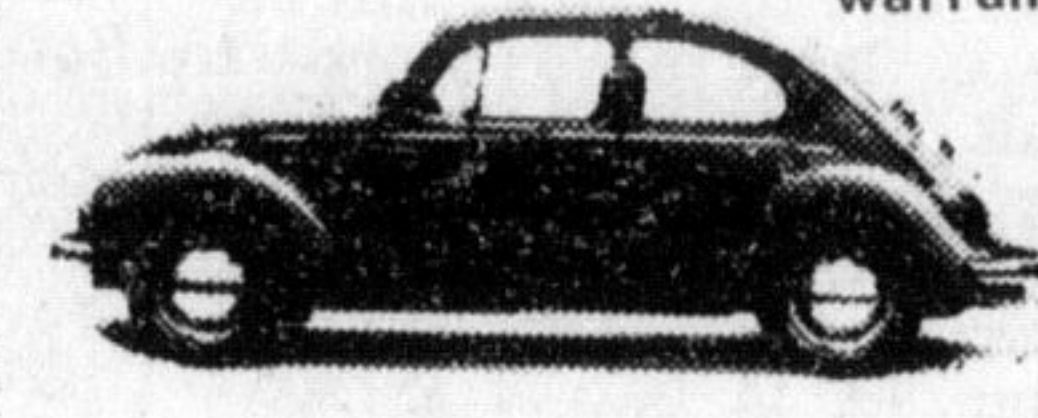
—Agreed to extend the hours of the sanitary landfill site is open, at a cost of an extra \$40 per month. The new hours would be 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday.

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Committee will study housing

A seven member committee was established by Milton Council to prepare a submission to the Advisory Task Force on Housing Policy.

The task force is to examine the current housing situation in Ontario and recommend on the role of the Ontario government and other governments, business and citizens in meeting housing needs.

The task force has invited submissions and Councillor Art Melanson spoke in favor of Milton making its views known. He recounted problems in establishing low rental housing and HOME programs in Milton.

Councillor Melanson was named to head the committee and Councillor Jim Kerr also agreed to serve. In addition citizens who members thought would be interested were also suggested; Tom Bradley, Rev. Rod Lewis, Mrs. V. Russell, D. H. Lambert and Planning Board secretary Ross Pearen.

Deadline for the submission is Feb. 28.

up to five years. Future renewals will be a sticker attached to the lower right-hand corner of the plate.

Many people are paying an extra \$25 and writing to the Transport Department to get special letters on their 1973 plates. A slogan "Ontario—Keep it Beautiful" is on the plates this year as a continuing reminder of the need for public co-operation in controlling litter and protecting the environment.



SPONSORED BY THE CANADIAN CHAMPION IN CONJUNCTION WITH MILTON SNOW FESTIVAL '73

THREE MAIN PRIZES PLUS Silver Dollars to Runners-up

Anyone may enter within the boundaries of Milton. Groups, families, individuals. Just pile up the snow and sculpt your favorite cartoon character, real life hero, animal, or fairy tale figure. Use your imagination and develop a whole theme if you wish.

First, Second and Third Prizes: TROPHIES

Plus: A shiny new silver dollar will be given to the best 25 runners-up.



Entry must be received at The Champion office by 5 p.m., Friday, Feb. 9, 1973.

Sculpture should be a minimum of 4' in any one dimension and clearly visible from the street.

Judging will be on the basis of impact from the street, imagination, originality, proportion, detail and appropriateness to the theme of Snow Festival.

Coloring of the snow or colored lighting are permissible but not necessary.

Subject matter is not limited. It may include fiction, real or cartoon characters, fairy tale folk or animals.

Entries will be judged Saturday, Feb. 10 and winners announced in The Champion Feb. 14. Prizes will be awarded during Snow Festival Weekend.

Sculptures may be started immediately.

Entries must be registered with The Champion to insure judging.

You must enter in person at The Champion and you must be wearing a snowman tag at time of entry.

A banner will be supplied when entry is made. This must be fastened to the sculpture.

ENTRY FORM

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY OR GROUP _____

FIGURE DEPICTED _____

(Entry form must be left at the Champion office, 191 Main St. Milton by 5 p.m. Friday February 9, 1973 for sculpture to be judged.)

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