

Responsibility changes

The division of responsibilities between the area council and the regional council, as proposed recently by the province, deserves more attention than it has received thus far from local municipal councillors.

Boundaries have caught most of the ink thus far and yet the long-range implications, and the biggest change which local ratepayers will see, is in the change of responsibilities from local to regional.

In his outline Arthur Meen described regional functions as including "broad planning strategy for the region, as reflected in an official plan" as a basic guide. In addition the regional jurisdiction would encompass certain kinds of roads and traffic control, public transit, water and sewer services, garbage disposal, police, emergency messengers, some licensing, health and welfare, county forests and capital borrowing.

Under the area council responsibilities, the province set out developing and administering official plans, handling subdivision agreements, and settling questions of zoning—all, of course, compatible with the official plan of the total region. In addition some questions of parking would be more readily settled by the local level of council, plus drainage and local roads. Parks and recreation are also seen as a local responsibility. The collection of garbage and the continuation of hydro service would remain local as would fire protection, some licensing, and possibly tax collection.

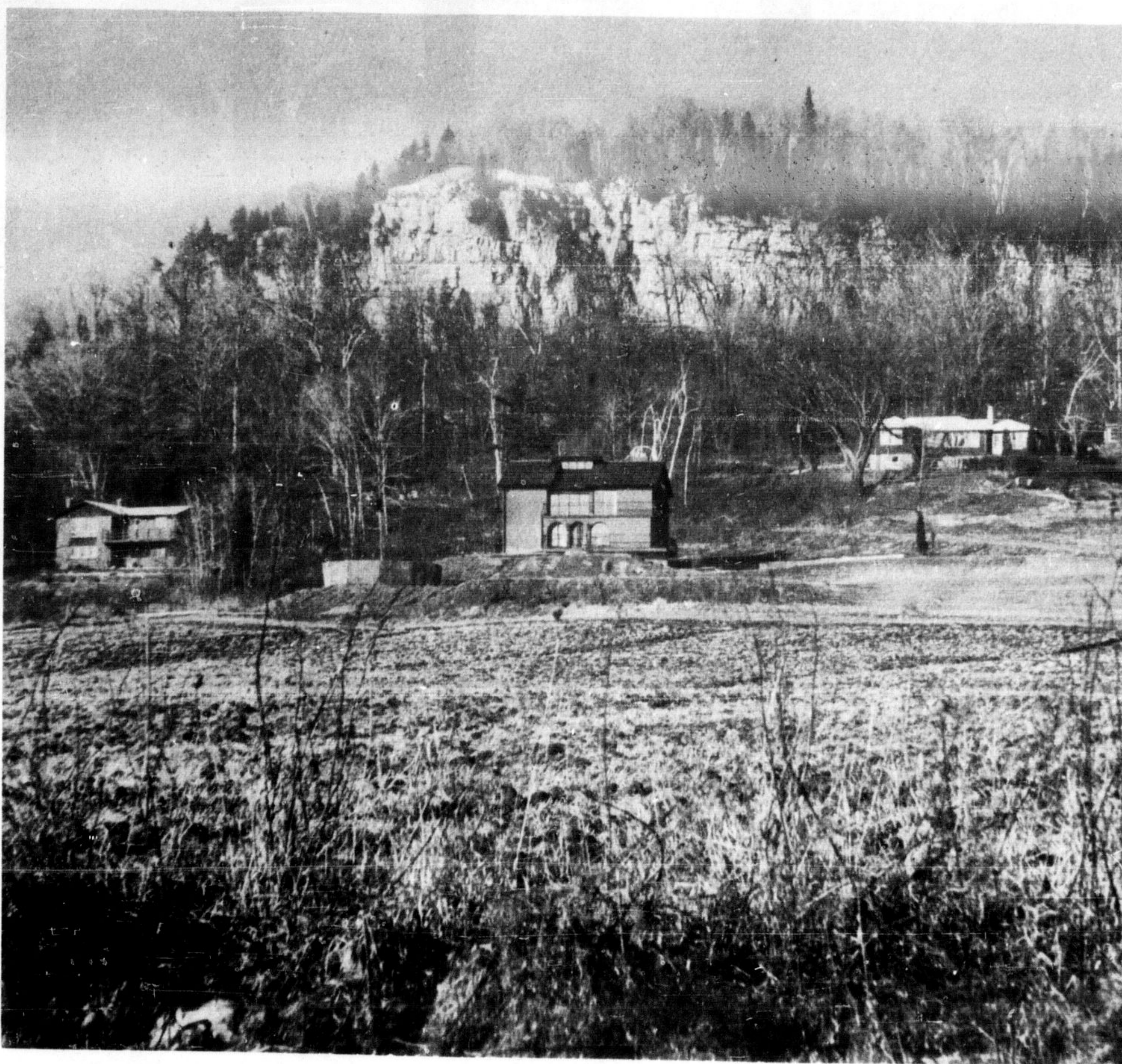
For simplicity's sake, liken the proposed regional government to the present county government. Removed from the concerns of the local municipality would be the waterworks and sewer system, approval of subdivisions, garbage disposal, police and capital borrowing.

It becomes evident that much of the decision-making will be transferred to a senior level of government.

Milton's affected neighbors have been suggesting that given area council status, the town will "become a developers' paradise". This pinpoints their shallow thinking. Milton couldn't approve a plan of subdivision if it wanted to without regional council approval. It couldn't expand its sewage treatment facilities, develop a new water source or borrow the required funds without regional council approval. And on that 23-member regional council, Milton will have a proposed three voices.

It seems feasible that under regional government local ratepayers will find a great transfer of responsibility has taken place and area councils, like today's local municipality, may be dealing primarily in fixing a few streets, collecting the garbage, putting out fires, planning parks and recreation programs and collecting the taxes.

All the boundary debates in the world won't prepare residents for the major changes in the handling of services that are planned under regional government.



MODERN CLIFF DWELLERS include those with homes nestled beneath the brow of the Rattlesnake Point Park peak on the Niagara Escarpment, a couple of miles west of Milton. The view from the front windows of some of these homes is

almost as good as from the top of the brow of the escarpment above them—on a clear day you can see half way across Lake Ontario. (Photo by J. Jennings)

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Feb. 12, 1953.

Members of three skating clubs held their final competition of the season in Milton Arena this week. Skaters from the Granite, Oshawa and Hamilton skating clubs competed for trophies in the interclub competition, the final one of three with the Hamilton club as hosts.

R. L. Davidson of Acton has been named chairman of the Esquesing school area board this year, succeeding Hector Bird. Members of the board are Mr. Bird, John Bingham, R. J. Cunningham and William Dobbie.

Elmira Polar Kings delighted a partisan home crowd last Friday night with an 8-2 win over Milton that consolidated their hold on first place in the Big Seven. Butch Martin, the 60 minute man for the Kings was the gent who did the damage and racked up four goals.

The entire North American continent will be turned into one great telephone exchange on completion of an immense project which is now underway. Harry Smith, Bell telephone representative told the Milton High School pupils and the members of the Milton Rotary club this week.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Feb. 15, 1923.

About 6 a.m. Monday a double brick dwelling on Mill St. owned by John Hunter took fire and was gutted. The origin of the fire is unknown. It began in the kitchen of one of the tenants, E. Durno whose story is that he was awakened by cries of his two little children. There was no time to dress them and he carried them out in their night clothes.

On account of the flu epidemic the vote on the hydro electric by-law at Campbellville was carried 38-3 and The Champion is informed there wouldn't have been another vote against it if it had been a full vote.

Yesterday Ontario had the worst blizzard and snow blockade of recent years. There was a mile a minute gale, the air was full of snow and roads and railways were blocked by drifts. No trains got through on the Hamilton-Allandale division of the GTR until late this morning. A CPR train for Goderich stuck at Moffat and blocked the line. The mercury dropped to about zero last night.

Halton Conservatives met in Milton Saturday. A convention is planned for the end of March to select a candidate for the Legislature. John Irving of Milton, George Hilmer of Oakville, W. H. Morden of Trafalgar, J. A. Willoughby of Georgetown and M. C. Smith of Burlington are among those persons being considered for the post.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Feb. 13, 1873.

At a meeting of Nassagaweya Council the inspector of taverns was instructed to visit the several houses of parties applying for licences and to notify the applicants to be prepared with their bondsmen, to receive a certificate for licence at the next meeting of council on Monday.

A promenade social will be given by the members of the L.O.L. No. 165 at the Orange Hall, Hornby on Wednesday, Feb. 19. Music will be provided by an efficient string band. A complimentary supper was given to P. A. McDougald, Esq., late Warden by his friends at Oakville. John Barclay, Esq. presided and the affair was enjoyed by all.

"As I learn that Mr. Preston has declined to act as assessor of the Township and it will be necessary to make an appointment, let me suggest Thos. Hume. He is a logical choice for the job as he knows every lot in the township from one end to the other" a reader wrote to the editor.

Joseph Thomas, employed at Mr. William Moffat's lot No. 17, Con. 1, East Hurontario St., fell off a straw stack while feeding cattle and was killed.

Milton or Bomen?

So what will we call the new municipal boroughs proposed for the central and northern portions of the Halton regional government?

The unit tentatively called "Central Halton" in the government's presentation will likely end up being called Milton, because the borough is centred on Milton although it includes the whole town plus portions of Burlington, Oakville, Esquesing and Nassagaweya. But Milton Councillor Jim Kerr has an idea for a new name, in case those in the outlying areas want their municipal names recognized in the new borough.

He thinks "Bomen" would be fitting, as it combines the first letter of each municipality's name — Burlington, Oakville, Milton, Esquesing and Nassagaweya. Next to Milton, that's the best name we've heard yet.

It would certainly be unwieldy if we combined the first phrase of each municipal name into one. You'd end up with names like Miloaokburlesquenass or Miltensnasoaokbur or something equally ridiculous.

How about "Centre City" to indicate

the new borough's key location in the centre of the burgeoning Halton region? Or we could off the hat to bilingualism and maintain an historic Esquesing name by calling it Quatre Bras which translates into "four arms" and certainly fits a large town reaching out in four directions into rural lands.

Up in the northern Halton borough, not many names have been suggested. Acton Mayor Les Duby thinks North Halton would be a suitable home for the borough encompassing Acton, Georgetown, Esquesing and Nassagaweya. If that's not popular he suggests Mt. Egan.

The Mt. stands for Mount in recognition of the fact the area will be several hundred feet above the level of the southern municipalities, and thanks to the presence of the Niagara Escarpment which is commonly called "the mountain". Egan, of course, compounds the first letter of the four municipalities.

Some wag suggested Escarpmento would be nice.

What's your suggestion?



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

As many a sage has remarked, man is a curious animal. He is the only species that will kill others of his own type in either hot or cold blood. And he is the only animal, including the much-maligned hog, that will eat anything and drink practically anything.

Carnivores eat meat. Herbivores eat herbs. A few species like to vary the diet with some nice, ripe carrion. But man will eat anything that grows, walks, swims or flies, including himself, if he's hungry enough.

Thus we have a proliferation of such delicacies as seal flippers, cod's tongue, canned snake, fried grasshoppers, frogs' legs, bees and ants in chocolate. What other species could stomach birds' nest soup or year-old eggs? Not to mention haggis.

Prince Hamlet said: "What a piece of work is man! how infinite in faculties! in form and moving how express and admirable! in action how like an angel, in apprehension how like a god! the beauty of the world! the paragon of animals!"

What a piece of work indeed! Man will eat anything from guts to nuts.

For many, there's nothing tastier than fried liver, baked stuffed heart, kidney pie and — almost unbelievable — tripe, that exotic dish made from the lining of a cow's stomach. It's not hard to figure out where the expression "That's a lot of tripe" came from.

Those are just a few categories in the guts department. At the other end of the scale, among the nuts, are such things as hickory, hazel, chest, wal, pea and sweetbreads.

No self-respecting goat would eat and drink some of the things the "paragon of animals" stuffs into his quivering, reluctant stomach. Dill pickles, kippered herring, cold tongue, hot curry. Never mind the juice of fermented grapes, and cheese crawling with maggots. No wonder we smell peculiar to other animals. Ever noticed how dogs and cats sniff us and walk away with a disgusted look?

How cavalierly we treat those long-suffering stomachs, of which we are issued only one for the duration.

Breakfast. What a way to start a day! A glass of icy orange juice, followed by scalding coffee. Then some cereal, the rougher the better. Then a few slices off a pig's bum, accompanied by a couple of hens' children. Toss in a couple of vitamin pills, with dear-only-knows what poisons in them, and we're ready to face the world. No wonder the world looks pretty grim.

When I was in prison camp, there were rats about. The Germans kept quite a few cats around to control the rat population. One day the camp commander, who had a sense of humor, posted a notice in each barracks: "Anybody caught eating long-tailed rabbits will be severely punished." Yep. The boys were eating the cats.

OUR READERS WRITE:

POWER FOR REGION GUARANTEES ONE TIER

Dear Mr. Editor:

I have just read with interest in this week's "Champion", your editorial on the new regional government proposals. Surely to be concerned at this time with the location of area municipality boundaries is to miss the most significant aspect of the new plan. I refer to the massive concentration of power at the regional level.

Implementation of the proposal in its present form would see the region in control of all vital municipal services with the exception of garbage collection. This, together with complete regional dominance in the fields of planning and finance, sound the death knell of the area municipality as a viable unit in the local government system.

What we actually see in the new proposal is in fact a device to secure the gradual, but certain, transfer of power from our present area municipalities to a future single tier municipal government. Why the concern over area municipality boundaries?

Yours sincerely,
H. H. Cripps,
R.R. 1, Milton.

PUT ALL RECREATION FACILITIES UNDER ONE BOARD

Dear Editor:

I see by your last issue that once again our two local boards, Parks-Recreation and Arena Board seem to be miles apart.

First, they say we haven't the proper facilities for a local minor lacrosse program—e.g., inadequate screening for the boards and lights in Milton Arena. But in Acton they have a flourishing league although they have no screening over the floor lights, just side screening. At Oakville Arena, where they play junior lacrosse, they have almost identical conditions as we have here in Milton, with a minimum of problems.

Regarding ice time prices for recreational purposes, why should one group show a revenue and another an expenditure? Why should a family suffer by paying for these high arena rentals—it sounds like empire-building to me.

Surely Milton Council can break up this deadlock by putting all town-owned facilities under one board, preferably parks and recreation. This would put an end to what seems to be a multiplicity of administration.

Then every person and every organized

The French have horsemeat butcher shops. Some Asians consider there's nothing sweeter than boiled, baked or fried dog. Some Arabian tribes cook a whole sheep, and the most succulent part of the meal is sucking out the eyes. An Eastern version of oysters on the half-shell.

Of course, Canadians would never touch such things. We confine ourselves to such treats as shepherd's pie, consisting of ground-up, used up shepherds, toe nails and all. At least they seem like toe nails when you crunch down on one.

This may all seem irrelevant to the great issues of the day, and it is. But it's a lot deeper than it seems at first glance.

I began thinking of man as guts when somebody told me a chap had spent 32 days or something in a cabin up north and had survived by eating mice. It was an intriguing thought.

Can't you see him sitting there, drooling, as he turned a mouse on a spit? Can you understand him deciding to have a cold lunch of haunch of mouse, with a salad of pine needles and cedar buds, served on birch bark?

Can you see him munching a mouse drumstick for a bed-time snack?

Or worrying, like any perplexed housewife, about whether to have a rump roast of mouse, or a standing rib roast, or hot sliced mouse tongue?

And deciding the hell with it, he was going to splurge tonight and have filet of mouse! It boggles the mind.

group, both now and in the future, could benefit from a well developed, strong, all-encompassing yet low cost recreational program. Let's get going, Milton.

I would be interested in reading the arena board's comments in The Champion.

"Tired of the old run-around."

SIDEWALKS NEEDED MORE THAN AIR CONDITIONING

Mr. Downs,

The following paragraph was published in the February 7 issue under the heading of Milton Council Briefs:

"—Agreed to consider installation of air conditioning in the council chambers and the committee room before the summer. Mayor B. Best suggested it was essential if summer meetings were to continue to be effective. "With the hours we spend here, it is mandatory", Deputy Reeve Mrs. M. Powys agreed."

I would just like to point out the fact, that there is a large number of our TAXPAYERS whose place of business is not air conditioned, and their work is just as effective. If it were not effective, they would be fired from their job. Very simple, isn't it?

As a TAXPAYER I feel there are more important items on the agenda. Let us just deal with one of these important items for now, SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION. The routes our children take to school in most cases, lack SIDEWALKS. The fact of our

(Continued on Page B10)

Commenting briefly

Can anyone tell us where Walter H. Lindsay once had a store in Milton, handling groceries and dress goods? The Champion has an old line drawing of the store but can't match it up with any of the present buildings in the downtown core.

Organizers have gone to a lot of work preparing for this weekend's third annual Snow Festival winter carnival. It's set up so that most of the events will continue, snow or no snow, but of course it will be perfect if there's a good layer of snow on the ground. The program is all arranged, now all that's needed is public participation. Your snowman tag is your admission so be sure your whole family is wearing a snowman when you head for the weekend events at the fair grounds.

Speaking about the Niagara Escarpment at a meeting in North Burlington one night last week, Halton West MPP George Kerr told why the province had to take over the job of preserving the 465-mile long escarpment. "The escarpment cuts through many jurisdictions, including nine counties, eight conservation authorities, 31 planning boards and 63 local municipalities. Because of this jurisdictional jungle, it became apparent that an overall provincial plan would be required," he said. We guess so—it's hard enough to get a couple of municipalities to agree on

anything, let alone that many separate entities!

Halton MP Terry O'Connor must be on the horns of a dilemma these days, over the capital punishment controversy. O'Connor, an admitted abolitionist, represents a riding he claims is largely in favor of retaining the death penalty. In a speech in the House of Commons Jan. 31 he urged a five-year extension of the ban on the death penalty. It raises the question, should an MP voice his own personal views in the House, or those of his constituents?

The traditional first sod was turned Friday for the province's new \$13,500,000 Maplehurst Correctional Centre in the north end of Milton. The facility provides new minimum security facilities for inmates presently in the Mimico training centre and Guelph reformatory, but it should be remembered it will NOT replace the outdated county jail in Milton. That's phase two of the plans, and not slated for construction at the Maplehurst site until 1975. While we are pleased the province is adding another large institution here, we are disappointed the priority list has not shown replacement of the Milton jail is as necessary as it appears.

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