

# Teacher walkout nearly empties schools

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### McGeachie is clerk

#### Hire new treasurer

D. E. Lougheed, deputy clerk at Hastings will start as treasurer for the town of Milton on Jan. 7. Mr. Lougheed was one of a number of people applying for the position.

Until now Mrs. Audrey Brush has handled the functions of the treasurer. Under the new setup Mrs. Brush will become deputy treasurer and tax collector.

Other staff appointments as offered by Milton Council-elect were as follows, Clerk Jack McGeachie, Deputy Clerk Campbell Thompson, Assistant to the Clerk Sid Savage, and Assistant to the Treasurer Vera Cocram.

#### Retain title

Bruce McKerr will retain his title as works superintendent while Wilf Penson and Grant McMillan are offered jobs as assistant town superintendents.

Mr. McMillan is currently works superintendent in Nassagaweya and Wilf Penson is currently on Milton's town work staff.

The list released shows Bob Small as director of parks and recreation, A. E. Clement as fire chief and Larry Arbie as director of facilities. Arbie is currently the arena manager. According to the (Continued on page six)



CHEERY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS glow on poles along Main St. as Miltonians start the annual Christmas count-down. Despite the energy crisis the whole town is aglow with colorful Christmas decorations, adding a cheery warmth to the frosty cold nights. Merchants report pre-Christmas business is booming now, after a slow, snow-less start earlier in December.

By Bob Burt

Close to 800 of the secondary school teachers in Halton County and a large number of elementary school teachers from the county joined ranks with teachers from all over Ontario in a demonstration and rally in Queen's Park and Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto yesterday.

All but a handful of the teachers in Halton took part in the staged walkout to protest action by the provincial government that would make it illegal for teachers to resign en masse. The government legislation was de-

signed as an emergency measure to stave off strikes in 17 Ontario communities where negotiations between teachers and their respective boards have not yet been settled.

In five communities resignations have been submitted en masse. The legislation received first reading in the legislature last Monday. Teachers are also protesting Bill 275 that would commit them to compulsory arbitration under ceiling. In other words, a ceiling would be set and the board and teachers would have to negotiate with-

in that figure.

Join rally  
Halton secondary school teachers met at the Galaxy Club in Oakville Tuesday and many of those teachers left that meeting around noon to join a province-wide rally at Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto. According to radio reports that building was crammed to capacity and teachers were still trying to get in.

The schedule called for teachers to march from there to Queen's Park where they were expected to carry out what has been considered the (Continued on page eight)

### 800 join protest

## Rally raps Tories

About 800 secondary school teachers in Halton attended a Tuesday rally at the Galaxy Club in Oakville where OSSTF executive members explained what steps had been taken by that provincial body in an effort to stall the passing of Bill 274.

That bill would make it illegal for teachers to resign en masse over contract negotiations.

During the meeting OSSTF executive members explained how teachers across the province had united and exactly what the bill meant to the teachers.

Education Minister Tom Wells came in for criticism and a number of attacks by teachers from the floor and executive members on the stage.

#### Cool, rational

Executive members repeatedly stressed the need for a cool, rational approach to the demonstration. Wallace said that he had doubts about changing the government's mind but said the teachers would prove they could organize and could unite. He noted there were more difficult days and more

difficult decisions ahead.

Teachers were urged to write MPPs and cabinet ministers. OSSTF President Keith Wallace suggested sending Tom Wells a card. "When a friend is sick you send him a get well card, and when you have a sick government you send him a get well card."

Under questioning Wallace assured teachers the legislation, if passed, would

be apt to be tested in the courts.

Representatives of the three political parties in Ontario took part in a question and answer period. Gord Hampson, executive assistant to George Kerr represented the Conservatives while Sam Wood, Executive Vice-President of the Halton-Wentworth Liberals represented that (Continued on page seven)

## Only 190 students show up for class

Only 190 students from Milton and area schools attended classes yesterday. Only the principal and one or two other teachers were at most schools as all others joined protests against the provincial government for legislation now being considered.

At J. M. Denyes 10 children attended school, at Martin St. Senior Public School 18 showed up, at W. I. Dick only three went, while 18 went to Milton

District High School.

Thirty-four Fairview students showed up for class, 24 showed up at Kilbride, 53 at Brookville and 33 at Campbellville.

Bus routes ran as usual and while the schools remained open, no attempt was made to offer program instruction. Library resource centres and recreation facilities were made available to students under limited supervision.

# Urges reduced parking requirements in town core

Parking required in the downtown Milton core area may be reduced and lot coverage increased.

Milton Council Monday called for an amending by-law to be presented Dec. 27, which would allow lot

coverage of 75 per cent and reduced parking requirements in the central core area.

The action followed a recommendation by the Milton Planning Board and earlier discussions at the

council table. The issue proved to be one of the most controversial of the year.

Advancing the resolution, councillor Ron Harris suggested the action would at least be something positive. The council doesn't have time this year to do more than this. He suggested there would be five members from the current council on next year's council and something in more detail should be worked out at that time.

Councillor Jim Kerr was opposed to rescinding the present restriction until a complete course of action was developed. He suggested further study might indicate

the current situation is warranted.

The issue had been raised at council in an earlier meeting when it was suggested if any store had burned on the main street it couldn't be rebuilt because it would be impossible to meet the parking requirements. The situation came to light following the Milton Inn fire and the requirements for parking to allow rebuilding.

Without restriction

Councillor H. Porter cautioned that by removing the parking restriction and allowing 75 per cent coverage, a merchant could build to Mary St. and from Main St. without restriction. Mayor Brian Best won-

dered if council wanted to restrict the reconstruction to 10 foot setbacks on Mary and Main but Councillor Kerr objected to that, noting that a 10 foot jog could develop in the street front.

Councillors were critical of the merchants for not cleaning up Mary St. exposure of buildings and developing new entrances, but it was noted merchants don't necessarily own the

buildings and sometimes landlords are unwilling to make the changes.

Councillor Gordon Krantz suggested what council was really talking about was a redevelopment proposal for

the street.

Concern for the viability of the street was expressed by Mayor Best who noted there were eight stores empty or going out of business.

Councillor Kerr suggested

a meeting with the merchants to get an understanding of what they will do and what might be possible.

"You're talking about six months of dialogue," Mayor Best suggested.

## Paper next Thursday deadlines announced

Next week's Champion will be published at noon on Thursday, Dec. 27 instead of the usual Wednesday publication, owing to the Christmas and Boxing Day holidays. The first issue in the new year will also be published on a Thursday, Jan. 3.

The Champion office will remain closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day, Dec. 25 and 26 and will also be closed on Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

Advertising and news deadlines for next week's issue are as follows: Display advertising and New Year's greetings ads, 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20; Classified advertising, 12 noon Friday, Dec. 21; News, noon Monday, Dec. 24.

All news and advertising for the Jan. 3 issue should be submitted to the office by noon Friday, Dec. 28.

# Arena bid \$150,000 over budget

The low bid on the proposed new arena was \$150,000 above

the estimates for the project, Milton Arena Board Chairman William Rowney reported to Milton Council in their Monday meeting.

Council agreed with the chairman to deal with the project at a year-end meeting scheduled for Dec. 27 with the board working in the meantime to consider cuts in the project.

The chairman told council the board had provided for

some alternate prices in the bidding but even deleting these had not helped in meeting the significant cost reductions required to come within the \$406,000 budget.

\$474,000 plus  
Low bid on the project was \$474,000 for the building plus \$46,000 for the refrigeration. Engineers' fees were calculated at six and a half per cent of the total project. Mayor Brian Best noted he

had been discussing the project with the board chairman and even deletions of such things as the seating left the project over budget.

Funds for the project could not be obtained from the capital levies since they were committed, but it might be possible to review the capital budget since the town had not been required to debenture for the new sewage treatment (Continued on page six)

### Not needed until 1977

# May delay high school

Whether the proposed second Milton high school will go ahead in 1975 or be delayed until 1977 will be decided by members of Halton Board of Education at the Dec. 27 meeting.

Although accommodation is scarce throughout the county, the growth pattern in Milton indicates the new high school at Third Line and Main St. won't be needed until 1977, assistant Director of Education Em Lavender told the board Thursday.

The present Milton District High School has a rated capacity of 1,220 students and present enrolment of 1,051. Growth in the past three years has been 70, 40 and 58 students respectively, he said, and "at that rate there is sufficient accommodation

in Milton until 1977." "We will need it then, but we don't need it in 1975," he added.

Serves east end  
The second high school will be designed to serve new subdivisions along the east side of the town and some students from other areas of the town.

At one point the board proposed a special vocational wing at the new school, to accommodate students from the north of the county who spend long hours each day on buses travelling to technical schools along the lakeshore. The Ministry of Education turned down the special wing but Lavender feels the board should pursue the need for special vocational places in Milton with the Ministry.

"Some of the distances covered by these pupils is unreasonable", Lavender said. This year 330 special vocational pupils are being transported to Brock and Wolfe Schools and projections show that figure growing to 417 by 1978.

Robinson relief  
The board was also asked to relieve pressure on M. M. Robinson High School in Burlington, by diverting some students living north of Highway 5 to schools in Milton. About 65 students live in this area now and many of them live closer to Milton than they do to the Burlington school, Lavender said.

The present MDHS serves the town and students from Esquesing and Nassagaweya north of the town.



SUSAN FORNIER was intent upon telling Santa Claus what she'd like to see under the tree Christmas morning at the P.L. Robertson Christmas party in the high school cafeteria Sunday. On Santa's other knee Marvin Fleury shows a touch of sadness because the party was almost over. (Photo by D. Pink)



CRACKLING LOGS in the huge stone fireplace at the Halton County Museum last week added to the festive atmosphere as hundreds of visitors relived Christmases past. Here Pat Van Sickle adjusts the kettles of water brought to a boil with the intense heat. Tea and cakes were served by Friends of the Museum amidst the red and green of holly, poinsettia and mistletoe. (Photo by Joyce Beaton)