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Ring in new year ...and our new town



Council's inaugural planned for Monday

The 1974 council of the "new" Milton will officially take office at 8 p.m. next Monday night, Jan. 7 when an official swearing-in ceremony will be held at the town hall council chambers.

Members of the council-elect for 1974-75-76 have been meeting almost every week since they were elected on Oct. 1, laying plans for the takeover as Milton and Halton move into the regional form of government.

His Honor Judge Alan B. Sprague will conduct the swearing-in ceremony while Rev. D. Lowry of Campbellville's St. David's Presbyterian Church and Rev. Father J. J. Murphy of Milton's Holy Rosary Church will participate with prayers and blessings. A brief business period will follow the inauguration as council must approve by-laws establishing the municipality.

All residents of Milton are welcome to attend the ceremony and stay for coffee and donuts which will be served after the brief meeting.

Representatives on the new Milton council are Mayor

Anne MacArthur, North Oakville representatives Don Gordon and Rick Day, Nassagaweya and Burlington representatives Russ Kerr, Ron Harris and Gord Krantz represent ward two or the old town of Milton.

Milton Council's attempt to reduce the parking restrictions on buildings in the downtown core area failed to find enough support at the council's final meeting of the year Thursday, and the issue was tabled for the 1974 council to delve into.

Several councillors raised objections when a by-law amending the parking requirements by-law was placed on the table at Thursday's meeting and after 20 minutes of discussion, a consensus was unobtainable.

THE MIDNIGHT RINGING of Milton's town bell sounded the end of the old year and the beginning of the new as Milton's first woman mayor, Anne MacArthur tolled the new era of an expanded town. Initiated a number of years ago, the bell ringing has grown in popularity and this year a crowd estimated at 300 was on hand for the Kinsmen-sponsored event. The street was filled under a softly falling snow while two high school band members Terry Douglas and Mark Dills rolled off the strains of Auld Lang Syne. A large circle was also formed with arms linked for the familiar tune that marks new year celebrations.

(Photos by S. Dills)

Parking restrictions left to new council

So the by-law was left at the first reading stage, and shelved with a suggestion the new council study the situation and take the necessary action.

Must provide Present parking laws state the owner of a building can cover a certain percentage of the lot area and must provide a fixed number of parking spaces to correspond with the floor area—depending on the use. Most of the buildings in the downtown area are

existing as non-conforming uses but anyone demolishing a building and planning to rebuild quickly learns they don't have enough room to provide the parking the by-law calls for.

The issue came to a head after the Milton Inn Hotel was destroyed by fire in October and the owner learned it would be impossible to build a building of comparable size and still obey the parking by-law. Council realized many others are in the same situation.

The desk is described as double pedestal with two file drawers, two box drawers and a full centre drawer with a pin tray.

The desk will have a three section inlaid brambled cherrywood top section with hand rubbed cherrywood and

Go for \$553,875 "bundle" Arena \$147,625 over budget council to seek financing

A contract to proceed with a \$553,875 arena was approved by Milton Council at its last meeting of 1973 Thursday—subject to Ontario Municipal Board approval of the additional financing necessary. The arena will cost \$147,625 over the budgeted amount.

Stork is delayed?

If any Milton couples had expected to give birth to a baby on New Year's Day they'll be thinking the stork has been delayed.

As of Wednesday morning Milton District Hospital had registered no New Year's babies and none were expected in the immediate future.

Kyle David Hobson was the only baby born Christmas Day. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. David Hobson on 7808 Guelph Line. Kyle is the third baby in the Hobson family and is a brother for Michelle aged five and Michael age seven.

Garbage pickup is extra heavy

Milton town works staff had to work overtime to get all of last week's garbage picked up in town. A three day holiday coupled with the heaviest load of the year and a longer hauling distance made the task a difficult one.

According to Will Penson, assistant works superintendent, five trucks were used for the pick-up Friday and again Saturday. Two additional trucks were brought in to ease the load.

Even with the additional loading capacity, town workers had to work until 2.30

cutting corners and leaving part of the arena work unfinished or going ahead at the tendered price, council decided it was false economy to leave portions of the work to be done at a later date and, in the words of Councillor Ron Harris, went for "the bundle".

Originally the arena budget was \$406,250 but the low bid on the project came from Bathe and McLellan Construction Ltd., Oshawa, at \$474,000. Added to this are the refrigeration unit at \$45,875 and engineering fees and contingencies at \$34,000 for a total cost of \$553,875. Arena board chairman Bill Rowney told councillors there was a big increase in the price of steel this year which was blamed for part of the extra cost.

Whittle it down When the tenders were opened three weeks ago the council had asked the arena board to see where corners could be cut, in an attempt to whittle the price down closer to the budget amount. Appearing at Thursday's meeting, chairman Rowney showed how the refrigeration, the completion of a community meeting hall, a second floor seating area and

Several councillors opposed cutting out portions of the contract because it was all work that had to be done eventually and they feared it would cost more at a later date. "It's going to cost a fortune, cutting out \$50,000 will cost us \$100,000 later," said Councillor Jim Kerr.

Mayor Brian Best said he thought the town might have some leeway to ask for additional capital funds, if the 1974 capital budget forecast

was checked closely. He said the town did not spend all the funds allocated for some projects this year.

Larger area He also wondered if the OMB would look favorably on granting the additional

financing, over and above the earlier capital forecast, because the town as of Jan. 1 was a larger area serving a larger population. The town had \$275,000 in its capital forecast and expected

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No change in postal addresses

Although the boundaries of Milton and Halton were changed this week when regional government came into force on Jan. 1, there should be no changes in mail service, according to local postal officials.

People now served by the post offices or rural routes at Hornby, Oakville, Burlington, Palermo, Kildee, Campbellville, Moffat, Rockwood and Acton—some of whom are now residents of the "new" town of Milton—will still get their mail addressed to them at their present addresses.

Les Bell, acting postmaster at Milton Post Office, said postal boundaries don't change like municipal boundaries do. Continue to use your present address, and add "Town of Milton" if you want to, he said. He also recommends adding your postal code number on all correspondence and urging those who write you to use it too. No immediate changes are forecast in the postal code system.



MILTON'S POPULATION took a big jump on Jan. 1 when all of Nassagaweya Township plus portions of Esquesing, Oakville and Burlington were incorporated with the town of Milton to form the new Milton borough of Halton's regional government. The population of the old Milton was around 7,200 but as of the first of the year the town has 17,900 inhabitants.

Order hotel demolition

Milton Council has ordered clean-up work to begin at the site of the Milton Inn Hotel, with costs to be charged to the owner.

At their final meeting of 1973, held Thursday, members of council said the owner appeared to be ignoring their earlier requests to get the gutted shell of the hotel taken down, as no demolition has been started and no permit has been issued. Council by resolution decided that if demolition had not been started by yesterday (Wednesday) the town would engage MacNamara Wrecking to do the work and the cost would be added to the taxes on the property.

The Main St. hotel burned on Oct. 12, but its shell remains.

Councillor Jim Kerr also complained about a barn on Prince St. which was partly destroyed by fire a couple of years ago. It should also be demolished, he said.

Approve \$5,500 expense for office for new mayor

Milton Council-elect has approved an expenditure of \$5,500 for renovations and furnishings in the new mayor's office. The decision was made at a Saturday morning meeting of the council which will be sworn to office on Monday, Jan. 7.

Mayor Anne MacArthur will occupy office space formerly used for the building department to the west of the front entrance of town hall. Council agreed to cover existing panels on two walls with some form of vinyl or wallpaper covering. That expenditure along with an estimated \$96 to improve lighting in the office will be over and above the estimated \$5,500.

List prices A quotation from Cooper's included provisions for a desk at \$1,395, a three drawer credenza at \$990, an armchair at \$395 and a second armchair with a cherrywood frame and fully upholstered in gold velvet to cost \$536.

The quotation also made provision for a two seater couch with cherrywood frame, fully upholstered in brown velvet for \$510 and matching easy chair at \$325.80.

Two lamp tables at a total of \$297 and a coffee table at \$162 are included in the list of furnishings to be provided. Carpeting valued at \$393.04 will cover the existing tile floor. Drapes for three windows will cost \$216.12.

A committee considering the renovations had suggested panelling be removed from the wall and more appropriate wall covering put there in its place.

The desk is described as double pedestal with two file drawers, two box drawers and a full centre drawer with a pin tray.

The desk will have a three section inlaid brambled cherrywood top section with hand rubbed cherrywood and

lacquer finish. Other furnishings will match and blend in with the desk.

While one room has traditionally been labelled as a mayor's office there has been no actual provision for a mayor's office in the past. Former mayors have operated on a part time basis.

Mayor-elect MacArthur has gone on record as being available at her town hall office four days a week after Jan. 1.

Discussing the expenditure, councillor Don Gordon said the expense would be minimal if it is considered to suffice for 10 or 20 years.



DISCUSSING THE FILING system in the new Halton Region Police Milton Headquarters at 48 Hugh St. are new Halton Chief Ken Skerrett and former chief Ray Address. Skerrett has taken the position of regional chief as of Jan. 1. Address will be serving as a staff inspector in Georgetown. (Photo by D. Pin)