

**Regional government**

**Biggest issue of '73**

Regional government will probably go down as the issue of the year for 1973. That issue has been uppermost in the minds of most municipal politicians in the county all year.

In January municipal politicians from Halton, Peel and Hamilton-Wentworth gathered in Hamilton to hear treasurer John White's parliamentary assistant Arthur Meen outline plans for the various regions.

It was then that the four-

unit Halton Region proposal was endorsed by the provincial powers. With the exception of Milton, all Halton towns and townships had favored lumping Milton in with a northern borough, leaving only three units.

Nassagaweya Reeve Anne MacArthur realized the fourth unit was a reality and fought successfully to include all of Nassagaweya with Milton in the fourth unit. She claimed that achievement as a personal victory and one for

the township.

**Into Oakville**

To the surprise of most politicians and the chagrin of Oakville representatives, the Milton boundary dipped deep into Oakville territory. That move was protested vigorously but unsuccessfully by Oakville council.

While all of the possible aspects of regional government have been discussed, reshaped and talked out, it appears the implementation will provide solid challenges at both the local level in Milton and the regional level.

Many key decisions will have to be made now that all of the reports have been received, digested, and dispensed with.

Boundaries and representation were two issues that provided a great deal of debate during the year. For the first time in the history of Halton, Oakville and Burlington will be able to control the outcome of a vote by sheer numbers.

**Certificates presented to retiring councillors**

At the conclusion of the last meeting of Milton's 1973 Council on Thursday evening, Mayor Brian Best presented certificates of appreciation to all members of the outgoing council and council presented him with one.

"The end of the road" has arrived, the mayor said referring not only to the end of Milton as it is presently constituted but also his retirement from council work. He thanked the councillors and staff for their co-operation, respect and confidence. "I think much has been achieved and to many of us, that is the only reward we have looked for," he said.

He especially praised councillors for their excellent attendance record at the meetings this past year.

**All receive one**

Mayor Best presented certificates to:

Reeve Bob McCuaig, who was reeve this year and deputy reeve in 1972 and also served on county council and the fire area committee. Reeve McCuaig said very few

councils got along as well as Milton Council has done this past few years.

Councillor Syd Childs, a councillor since 1969, member of the arena board and planning board, plus several earlier years as councillor and mayor. Councillor Childs said he has enjoyed his 20 years on council and "I'm going to miss it."

Councillor Jim Kerr, a councillor this year and also on the planning board and parks and recreation committee. He said he was looking forward to joining the expanded council next year "with mixed emotions."

Councillor Gordon Krantz, councillor since 1966 and also the town's representative to the conservation authority. Councillor Ron Harris, councillor this year with past service as reeve and deputy reeve and also with the Chamber of Commerce and hospital board.

Councillor Hazel Porter, councillor and member of the economic development commission this year. She

praised the "excellent mayor and hardworking councillors."

**Two away**

Earlier Deputy Reeve Mrs. Marjorie Powys had received her certificate. She missed Thursday's meeting as she was overseas on a Christmas holiday trip. Councillor Art Melanson was also absent Thursday and Mayor Best said his certificate would be presented later.

Bill Rowney, only spectator at the meeting, rose and thanked all members of the council and the staff for their efforts, "on behalf of the citizens of Milton."

Reeve McCuaig turned the tables on the mayor and presented him with a certificate of appreciation too. It noted his service as a councillor 1964 to 1967 and as mayor from 1968 to 1973, also service on the hydro commission and library board.

"We all appreciate the hard work you have done for us and the help and leadership you have given us over the years," McCuaig told the retiring mayor.

**Four accidents Christmas week**

Halton Region Police, Milton investigated four accidents Christmas week.

A Boxing Day crash at Main St. near James St. saw a '68 Falcon driven by Timothy Pearson, 155 Ontario St. sustain \$300 damage while a '67 Ford driven by James Finn, Rockwood received \$150 damage.

A three car chain reaction totalled \$3,550 damage late Thursday afternoon at Ste-

les and Martin.

A '70 Ford driven by Kenneth Lem, Cambridge received \$1,500 damage as did a '73 Toyota driven by Charles Garbutt, Grand Valley.

A '66 Dodge driven by Carman Placido, 104 Heslop Rd. was unable to stop when the other cars collided, and received \$300 damage. The cars struck a signal light causing \$150 damage.

Ivan Sheppard, 84 Fulton

St., received minor injuries Friday morning when his '69 Fargo truck collided with a '63 Buick driven by Gord Petrie, Oakville on Bronte St. near Victoria St. Damage was \$600 and \$700 respectively.

A Sunday morning accident on Fulton near Pine St. saw a '67 Plymouth driven by Robert Cook, 119 Ashbrook Ct. collide with a '71 Ford station wagon driven by Fred Verstraete, 320 Pine St. Damage was \$150 and \$200 respectively.

**Building negotiations appear deadlocked**

Negotiations for the sale of the county owned court house and administration building in Milton to the province appear to be deadlocked.

Halton Regional Council rejected an offer from the province for the building and 10 acres of land at \$1.65 million. At the last meeting, regional council agreed to sell the building, but for \$235,000 more than the province's last offer.

MPP for Halton East and Minister of Government Services Jim Snow said the committee of regional councillors he and his cohorts had dealt with felt the province's offer was a fair one, but council rejected the offer.

Snow said the price the region asked was in excess of any of the appraisals made on the building and noted it wasn't a supportable price. He said the price the council was asking was above what the province could offer.

Snow noted the court house was built as a court house and the province has a lease in perpetuity. If that lease was broken it would have to be by mutual agreement.

Snow said the province would be happy to continue leasing space or to buy the building at the appraised value.

Asked if the province had considered moving out of the building and leaving it for the region to house its staff, Snow expressed concern.

"I'm concerned about the high cost of replacing the facility for provincial offices and courts and renovating the existing building so it could be used for regional offices," he said.

**New site best**

The cost of renovating the building is thought to be between \$500,000 and \$600,000. Snow said he felt the region would be better off to take the provincial offer and purchase new quarters better suited to its needs.

The sale of the building is an issue that has been kicked around by both regional and county council for some time now. Council is split on the sale of the building. Some councillors see the sale as paving the way for a move to the south of the county for regional headquarters.

Meanwhile maintenance men at the current county building are busy making makeshift office arrangements to accommodate regional staffers already hired. The regional council has authorized chairman Allan Masson to seek a site for temporary headquarters.

**Volume up 30,000**

**Lots of greetings but no delays here**

Although the Milton post office sorted an increase of 30,000 pieces of outgoing mail over last year Les Bell, acting postmaster, reported a steadier flow of mail than in past years, making the job easier for sorters and handlers.

There were 757,000 letters and parcels processed. The peak days for outgoing mail were Dec. 12, 13, 14 and 15 with an average of 31,500 pieces handled each day.

Peak time for incoming mail was Dec. 18, 19 and 20, an average total of 37,000 pieces handled each day.

**No delays**

By six o'clock Christmas Eve the post office clerks had finished all the holiday mail. "This was my first experience here and I didn't know what to expect," said Mr. Bell. "However there were no delays, the mail kept moving, and so far there have been no complaints in spite of the bad weather."

Mr. Bell had expected to hire an additional 26 people to sort mail during the rush periods but found he only needed an additional 10 to complete the job. The extra staff began work on Dec. 10 and worked rush periods until the sorting was completed on

Dec. 22. The sorting of local mail continued through Dec. 24. There was a full delivery on Saturday, Dec. 22 with the final mail delivered Dec. 24.

**No calls**

Milton Fire Brigade was able to relax over Christmas week. There were no fire calls.

**Two crashes not impaired**

Halton Region Police in Milton laid no charges of impaired driving over the New Year holiday.

Police report only two accidents in town, both minor, New Year's Day. Both were attributed to icy roads.

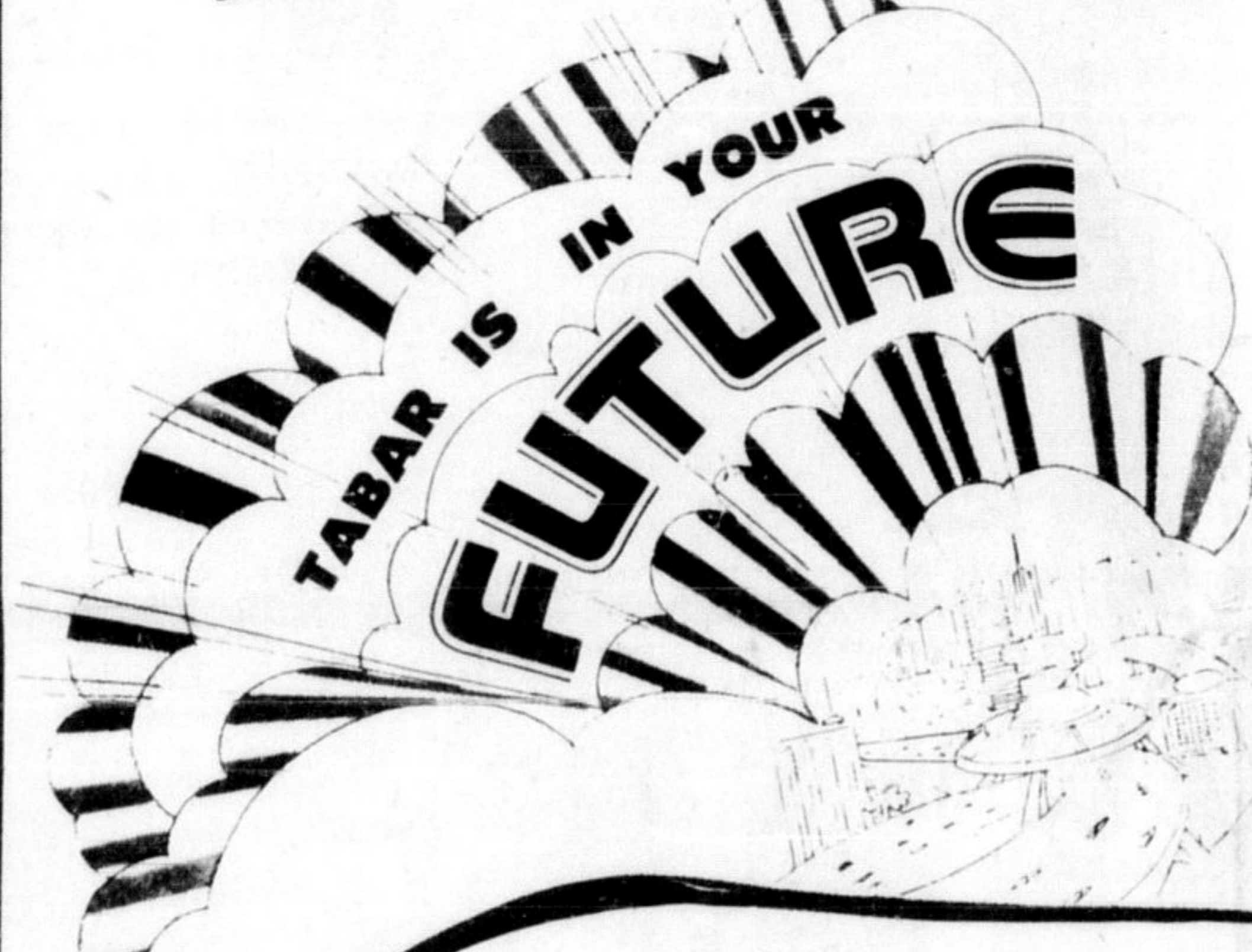
**Quiet week**

Ontario Provincial Police detachment in Milton report no major accidents or general occurrences in the north of Halton region over the Christmas week.

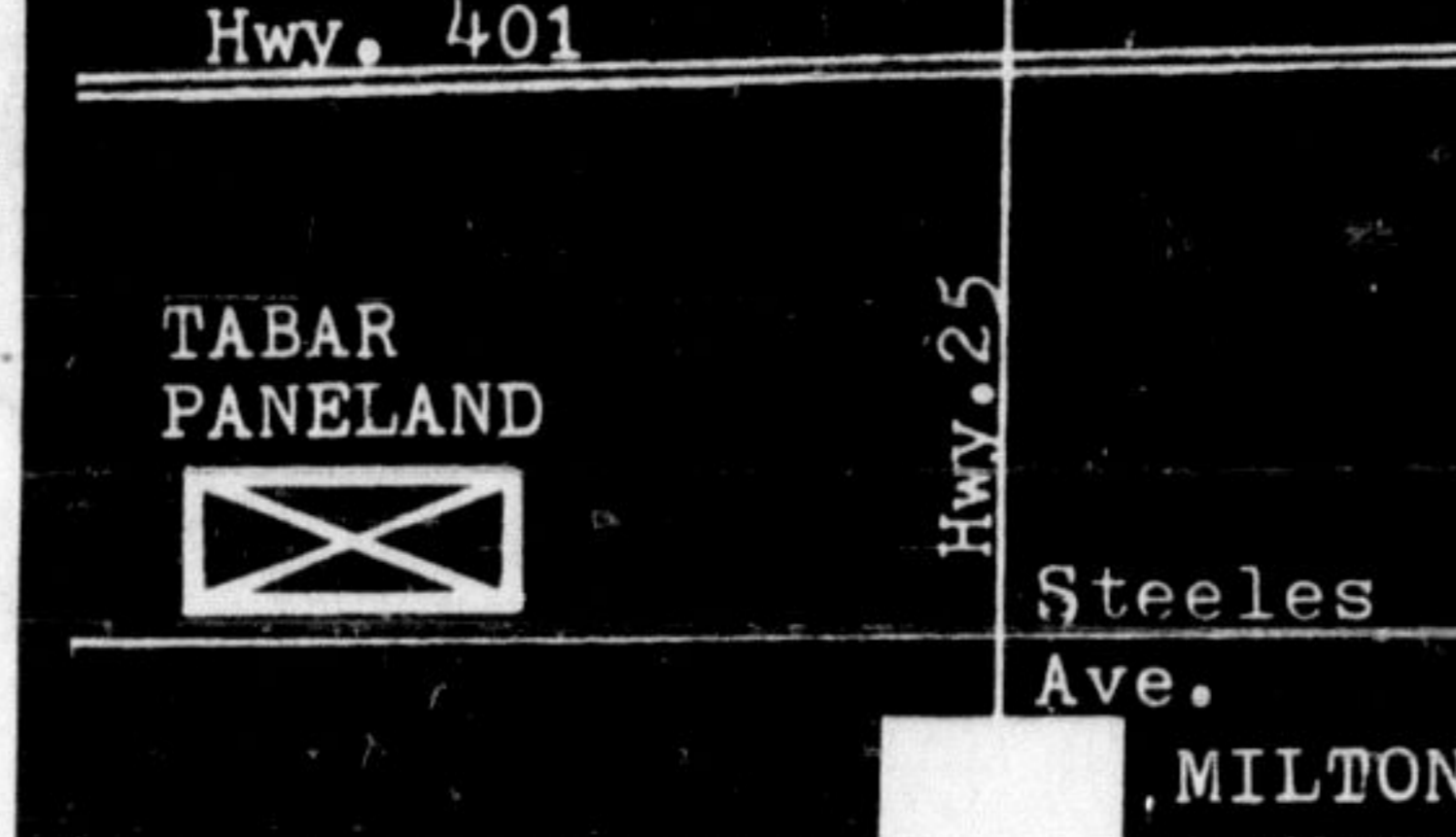
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