

1973 . . . a busy year in review

By Bob Burt
The year 1973 has been one of rapid change in and around Milton. The people, the landscape and even to a certain degree the nature of the town has been changed. Even town boundaries are significantly different now than they were a year ago.

The following paragraphs are written with a view to reliving some of the events which made news during that eventful year.

Nassagaweya Reeve Mrs. Anne MacArthur saw her

political future blossom when she was chosen Warden of Halton County and in that role led the county in its transformation from a county to a regional municipality. Later in the same year the lady politician defeated Milton Mayor Brian Best for the mayoralty in what many people described as the political upset of the year.

The area's second fire in three weeks saw Aubrey Richardson and his family of six ejected from their home on the Nassagaweya and

Esquering Town Line. A fire just before Christmas on Martin St. left five families homeless for the Christmas holidays.

Municipal representatives and hundreds of interested people heard provincial proposals for regional government in Halton at a meeting in Hamilton. That event set a series of meetings into motion and six months later a bill was passed in the legislature implementing regional government in Halton on Jan. 1, 1974.

In January Durastone joined the Milton industrial community, announcing plans to set up shop at the Alliance Industrial Mall. A month later provincial and municipal politicians gathered and took part in a sod turning for the \$13,500,000 Maplehurst Correction Centre. That complex is now under construction.

Bruce St. School's fate was decided in February after Milton Council received an engineering report that said the school could not be rebuilt for a reasonable cost. It was the second such report on the school. During the summer graduates of the school watched workmen demolish the building. The fears many had harbored for several months were transformed into reality, when they saw the century-old school crumble to ruins.

Mayor Realdtr Brian Best announced plans for Trafalgar Square. The building, now nearing completion, will house the Toronto Dominion Bank and Best Realty among other commercial and office uses.

Plans for a new high school in Milton's Dorset Park area were announced. It was first believed the school would be built for 1975 but Halton County Board of Education has considered delaying the building of the school until 1977. A decision on that count is expected shortly.

Andy Frank was honored as Milton's citizen of the year in a Chamber of Commerce-sponsored event.

Milton fire department hired a second full time man, Jim Coulson, who had been a volunteer firefighter for several years joined the department full time.

The Ontario Municipal Board approved rezoning of lands on the Bruce St. School property to facilitate the construction of a senior citizens' apartment building. The building now under construction is the second of its kind in Milton.

The ladies' auxiliary at

Milton District Hospital presented the board of directors with a cheque for \$5,000. The cheque was the third of four cheques to be donated, all for the same amount, as part of a pledge of \$20,000 the hospital auxiliary made to the hospital in 1971.

The end of March was budget time in Halton. Halton county councillors raised their salaries from \$3,000 per year to \$4,000. The same county came under attack for lavish spending on the warden's dinner in honor of Warden Jim Swanborough. After hearing a presentation from Gus Goutouski, council agreed to cut back on the budget estimate for the 1973 dinner of \$3,500 to \$1,500. The actual expenditure for that event came to \$3,900.

Halton County Board of Education agreed to wait a year to close Norval Public School after newspaper and ratepayer opposition was expressed. The decision to close was finally made at a board meeting a few weeks ago. The decision once again was protested by ratepayers. The board felt the declining enrollment justified the closing of the school.

In March Milton built a new works garage on Nipissing Rd. and the project cost \$107,300. The works crew moved out of the old works garage just in time for it to be used for expansion of the sanitary sewage plant.

In April Roy Wollaston was named successor to Don Kennedy who for 10 years worked as superintendent of Ontario School for the Deaf. A number of parties and functions were held in honor of Mr. Kennedy.

Bob Moreau resigned from town council to accept a job with the Liquor Control Board of Ontario as an inspector. His seat on council was filled by Ron Harris, former reeve and councillor.

A proposal for 254 condominium housing units in the Bronte St. area received OMB approval in April. Other than provision of services there has been no construction at that site.

The town budget was finalized in April and brought good news for all. With the help of provincial grants, town taxes on residential properties dropped an average of 23%. Legislation for Parkway Belts in Ontario and the Niagara Escarpment controls were announced in June at Queen's Park. Both pieces of legislation have severe implications for landowners in this area.

Keith Wallace, an Oakville

high school teacher, was elected to head the Halton Division of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, successor to Tom Ramautarsingh.

After years of debate, reports and anticipation the legislation was introduced and passed implementing regional government in Halton. The bill was passed during a session in the legislature that went until 3 a.m. The bill was one of those passed just prior to the summer recess. It was the subject of heavy criticism from opposition members in the legislature.

Anne MacArthur concluded her career as a school teacher when she retired from Milton District High School. She went on from that to become mayor of the new municipality of Milton.

A number of meetings were convened in this and other communities in Ontario that could be affected by the 500KV hydro line. That issue is one of the most controversial that has yet to be dealt with.

Construction of a \$1,140,000 warehouse and distribution centre for Consumer Glass was announced in July. That plant is built now and stands along the south side of Highway 401 at Highway 25.

In August Bruce St. School's walls came tumbling down with forceful blows from bulldozers and demolition crews. Many people some former students watched and mourned the demolition.

Weeks of speculation ended when Chariman Allan Masson was appointed as the provincial government's choice to guide Halton into regional government.

John Mark, who for 41 years operated a restaurant on Milton's Main St., retired and left town to live in Toronto.

In spite of intolerable heat a total of 22,000 people visited the annual Steam-Era reunion in Milton in September.

By mid-September elections for municipal councils in Halton were a subject of much discussion. The Oct. 1 election saw Milton residents name the 11 councillors who will guide them into regional government.

Anne MacArthur of Nassagaweya and Jim Swanborough of Burlington were named as Halton's representatives on the Niagara Escarpment Commission. The commission, made up mostly of municipal politicians or former municipal politicians, will bring a report on the escarpment and

recommend an official plan which would determine uses that should be allowed and other pertinent information.

Oct. 17, Milton firefighters were preparing for open house and fire safety films when they were called to a fire at Milton Inn. The fire which gutted and destroyed the historic building broke out around 6 p.m. and wasn't finally put out until mid-morning Oct. 18. An estimated \$250,000 damage was done.

Near the end of October workers at Polysar walked off the job protesting low morale and differing pay rates. They returned to work after a week of picketing.

Over 600 people witnessed Halton's regional council being sworn in at a special ceremony in October at Burlington. The ceremony marked the beginning of a new era in municipal government. Since that time regional council and committees of the regional council have met on a regular basis. On Jan. 1 the new council takes effect and the Halton county council goes out of existence.

During the first regular meeting of regional council, members voted themselves a salary of \$8,500 and by doing so sparked a protest from ratepayers in the region.

Halton Liberals sent delegates to the Ontario Liberal

leadership convention in Toronto. Robert Nixon was re-elected in a four way race. Federal Liberal member Norm Kabik gave him the closest race for his money but couldn't muster enough support to win. One of the odd results of the convention was the resignation of Ontario Liberal Association president Joe Cronin. Cronin made an error in timing on key speeches and as a result resigned from his office.

At their last meeting in October, Milton Council approved a housing plan for 5,566 residents. The proposal made by Victoria Wood will be developed north of Derry Rd. and east of Highway 25 to Thompson St.

Tenders for the town's new arena were called early in November and were recently received. The tenders came in well over the \$400,000 estimate.

Milton Council set salaries of \$4,000 for councillors and

\$10,000 for the mayor, for 1974.

Parents in the Dorset Park area protested the plan to make the new school in that area open concept. As a result of that protest, provision for demountable walls has been made in the budget for the construction of that school. Construction of the school is well underway.

A chemicals fire leveled Beacon Chemicals plant on Margart St. Nov. 27. The fire damage was estimated to be in excess of \$100,000.

The Solandt Commission held a public meeting in Milton and heard local opposition to the proposed hydro line that would run through the Milton area. The hydro line is still a hot topic and one that will be dealt with again in 1974.

During a December meeting Nassagaweya Council heard a proposal for a \$20,000,000 park complex in

the southern portion of the township near Kelo. The park would be a historic theme park and would be expected to draw from 9,000 to 16,000 people to the park daily.

Just prior to Christmas break Halton and Ontario school teachers walked out of the schools protesting legislation that prevents teachers from having the right to strike or to use mass resignations during negotiations. That issue is a complex one and will be one both the teachers and the provincial government will try to come to grips with.

Milton town council and planning board expressed concern about the future of Main St. and the downtown commercial core. As a result of that concern the town hopes to remove some of its parking regulations and make business ventures a more promising proposal.



Safety Corner

ON FREEWAYS, snow plows may travel in tandem with as many as four plows following each other, spaced about 50 feet apart. Do not try to pass between them. There isn't enough room to do so safely, and the ridge of wet snow can throw your vehicle out of control.

In spite of all precautionary measures designed to prevent snow plow collisions, these vehicles are vulnerable to a great many accidents with cars every winter season.

"Visibility is the real problem", explains Murray Sinclair, Maintenance Operation Engineer in the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, "even though plows are all equipped with flashing blue lights, indicator lights, a reflective checkerboard mounted on the back and reflective stripes on the bumper. We simply have to rely on motorists to exercise caution, especially during a snow storm or windy, drifting snow conditions, which is when our men are out there trying to clear the roads for them."

An examination of past accident experience reveals that nearly half of all collisions between cars and snow plows involve a vehicle attempting to overtake the snow plow from behind.

So you think you're a good driver? Most of us believe we are! We are also quick to agree that there should be stricter enforcement of traffic laws and regulations by the police. We are in favor of compulsory driver education and most of us would recommend tougher driver licensing examinations. That's because we know we are good drivers—it is just that we see so many others who are lacking.

The Ontario Safety League recently received the results of a survey conducted by Young Drivers of Canada. Research teams in Scarborough and Sault Ste. Marie found that the majority of drivers questioned agreed with the above recommendations. At the same time, the teams observed the driving habits of close to 10,000 drivers and came up with some interesting statistics.

In Scarborough, 73 per cent of the drivers observed did not enter the correct traffic lane when completing a LEFT HAND turn, while 50 per cent failed to enter the correct lane when making a RIGHT HAND turn. Also 42 per cent of all drivers failed to come to a full stop at a red light before turning right; 35 per cent failed to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks at traffic light intersections; 33 per cent failed to signal their intentions to turn; another 32 per cent (39 per cent in Sault Ste. Marie), did not stop behind the pedestrian crosswalk for a red traffic light.

Six common driving situations. We could put ourselves on the back at the thought that 61 per cent of the drivers observed passed with flying colors. But what about those 3,643 who committed the observed violations? Before pointing a finger, suggests the Ontario Safety League, why not examine our own driving habits?

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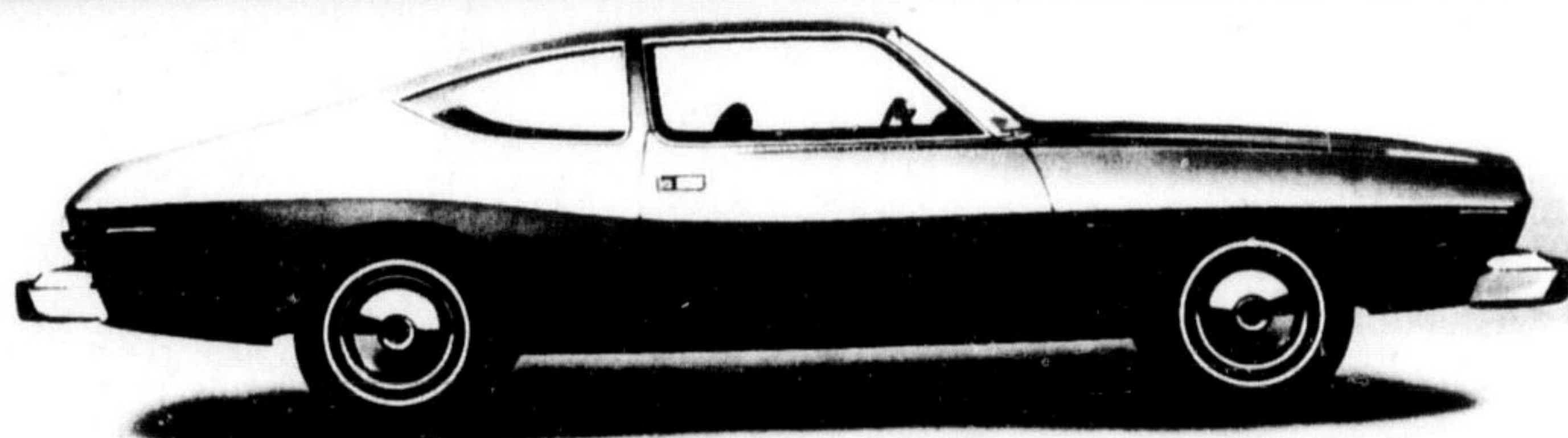
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SEVENTH-IN A SERIES A Mark of Progress in Milton



Walls of the new public school being built in Dorset Park outline the shape of the building to be in use by September 1974. The new public school will serve residents of the area. Provision is being included for walls although the school is considered an open concept unit. It will be the fourth public school in the original Milton.

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AIRPORT INQUIRY COMMISSION COMMISSION D'ENQUÊTE SUR L'AÉROPORT

TAKE NOTICE that by Order in Council P.C. 1973-3026 dated 5th October, 1973, the Government of Canada established the Airport Inquiry Commission to inquire into and report upon the air transportation needs of the central Ontario market.

The Commission has opened its office at Suite 5401, 54th Floor of the Toronto Dominion Bank Tower, Toronto-Dominion Centre, in the City of Toronto. The manner in which the Commission will conduct this Inquiry may be briefly stated as follows:

1. The Government of Canada will file a summary of all relevant factors, with supporting documents, which the Government considered in reaching its decisions that the transportation needs of the central Ontario market require that there be established another International Airport in addition to the existing Toronto International Airport, Milton, and that the location of the new International Airport be at a site near Pickering, Ontario.
2. The Government of Canada documents so filed will be available for inspection by any member of the public at the office of the Commission.
3. All persons, including witnesses for the Government of Canada, who wish to appear before the Commission at any Public Hearing will be required to file at the Commission's office a full written statement of the evidence which they propose to adduce before the Com-

mission. Personnel will be available at the Commission's office to guide members of the public who wish assistance with the preparation of the written statement of their proposed evidence.

4. All written statements of evidence will be available for inspection at the Commission's office by any member of the public in advance of any Public Hearing at which such evidence will be introduced before the Commission.

5. The Commission has established a Practice and Procedure for the orderly conduct of the Inquiry. Copies are available at the Commission's office free of charge or will be mailed to any interested person upon request.

This Practice and Procedure has been framed with a view that all persons will have the opportunity before any Public Hearing to know the nature of the evidence that will be submitted to the Commission at each Public Hearing.

6. There will be a public Organizational Meeting before the Public Hearings commence relating to the manner of conducting such Public Hearings. Notice of the time and place of the Organizational Meeting will be given by notice published in newspapers serving the central Ontario market.

7. Public Hearings will take place from time to time and the date and place of each Hearing will be given to the public in advance by notices published in newspapers serving the central Ontario market.

All inquiries and communications with the Commission or Commissioners should be addressed to the Registrar-Administrator at the Commission's office.

Chairman: The Honourable Mr. Justice Hugh F. Gibson
General Counsel: Ralph S. McCreath, Q.C.
Registrar-Administrator: J. W. N. Delorme, Esq.

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