

Halton "renaissance"



PART OF THE CROWD at Thursday's Renaissance rally in Milton, which drew 600.

At Renaissance rally

Panel critical of education

A panel of educators participated in Halton Renaissance Committee's public meeting in Milton Thursday. They included steering committee vice-chairman Mrs. Betty Hansford of Oakville, Dr. David Dooley, a literature professor at St. Michael's College, elementary school principal Ken Shoemith of Hamilton, and recently retired Hamilton secondary school principal Ronald Damude of Burlington.

Mrs. Hansford felt parents should help their children remain in school and help them obtain employment. She decried seeing sloppy, pale and unkempt teenagers "hanging around".

Prof. Dooley suggested there is considerable concern about education and it is a parent's right to express that concern. He felt most students are clever, well prepared, dedicated and studious.

Let young decide
The current doctrine appears to be "whatever a young person decides is right, is it." He said he was worried about the increase in venereal disease and felt the commandment "thou shalt not commit adultery" should be enforced.

Highlight of the panel was Mr. Damude who, in a humorous vein, criticized the entire educational system, point by point. These included:

The Department of Education: It has abdicated its responsibility for evaluation of student progress.

Boards of Education: Usually insulated from some of the problems in school by a well organized and highly paid group of administrators.

Need competition

Students: They should learn to fit into society and contribute to its improvement. They need competition, or they are not prepared to face reality. Life should include love, happiness, satisfaction and success, or it could be dull. But sacrifice, failure and tragedy should also be included.

Teachers: They should be able to "turn the student on" and their moral character should be of high calibre. The teachers' federation should discipline its own members, but it doesn't. Teachers

should TEACH.

Taxpayers: They should call the shot. They should also be able to face their trustees without having administrators present.

Administrators: Most are excellent, there are a few exceptions. "I'm beginning to get the impression that there may be exceptions in Halton."

He also felt there should be more compulsory subjects; that it takes DRILL to learn; and that a thorough knowledge of the English language is our most important tool. English, he said, includes listening.

Please pay taxes

Milton's Mayor Anne MacArthur brought greetings on behalf of the town and the Region of Halton. A former teacher, she wished the group well in its efforts and assured them the teachers at Milton District High School are dedicated. Often teachers are disappointed in the lack of parental queries, she noted. She hoped the organization would be successful and hoped for "students emerging from the schools with healthy minds, healthy bodies and healthy attitudes."

"I hope you will pay your school taxes," she added. "I still have to pay the school board whether you pay me or not."

Douglas Wood, a Halton board of education trustee, was also a platform guest and said he was pleased to see the interest shown by the group. The board is always seeking public input and "we look forward to your positive input," he said.

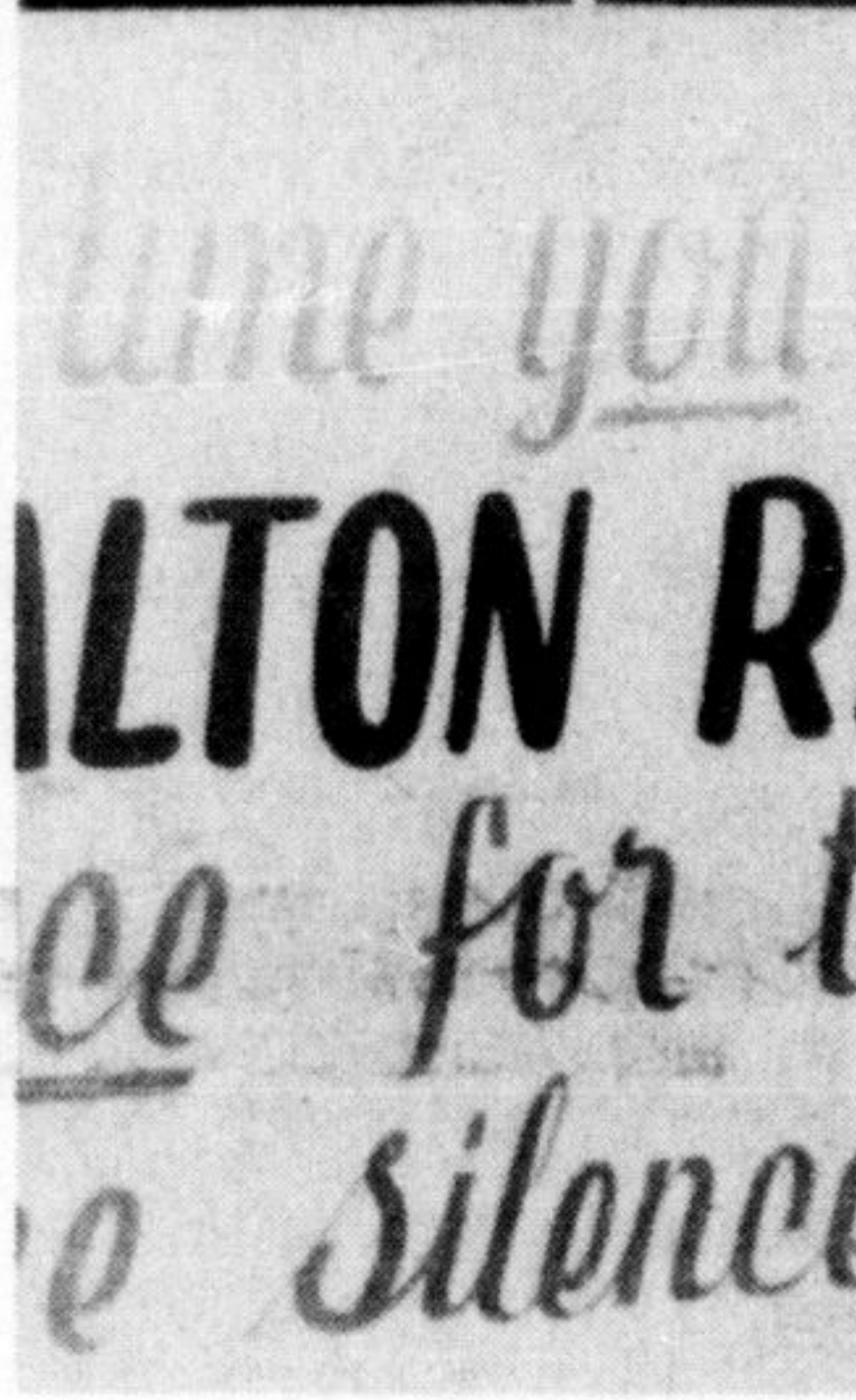
Written greetings and regrets were sent by MPPs Jim Snow and George Kerr, Burlington Mayor George Harrington and regional councillors David Coons of Burlington, Marjorie Powys of Milton and Terry Mannell of Oakville.

"Alcoholic free-for-all"
Regional councillor Jim Watson of Milton, a former teacher, said the Renaissance movement was "certainly long overdue." He castigated the educational system for its "insulation" and suggested when Mr. Campbell tried to protest a moral issue he couldn't reach anyone and "the parents and teachers can't reach anybody either."

Watson called north education area superintendent Don Gentleman to the microphone and asked him if he was aware one school in his area had an "alcoholic free-for-all" involving some students recently. Gentleman replied "I don't know what you are referring to" but offered to talk it over with him after the meeting. Gentleman said the guest speaker Larry Henderson was really off base in indicating the primary task

force is a subversive movement to handle students.

(After the meeting Watson and Gentleman argued at length over the councillor's allegations.)



LARRY HENDERSON was the keynote speaker at the Halton Renaissance Committee's rally in Milton Thursday.

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concluded it was a social revolution designed to build "a society totally different from the one we now have." Henderson was challenged by several members of the audience. Several asked for specifics to prove some of his criticisms and generalizations.

Grade 13 student George Hood, Milton, argued against Henderson's sweeping damnation of education and said he hasn't yet seen the prejudices of any teacher showing through. His school has biology books in health class, not pornographic books and pictures of volcanoes in the library, not Marx. Henderson agreed every ill he had mentioned was not present in every school in the land.

Wants proof

A parent of three children in Oakville, Edward Berry asked for proof of pornography in school libraries. Henderson replied he had seen some books in his son's school library and suggested perhaps the parents should be the judge of what a child reads.

Henderson got into a brief verbal exchange when Mr. Russell, the high school principal he mentioned in his talk, rose to refute having called Henderson a Hitler. Henderson said it was not the principal but others who had used that term. Mr. Russell asked him to name half a dozen schools with smoking lounges but Henderson was stumped. "A person's opinion is not necessarily right, because he has a right to say them," charged Russell. "I challenge many of the things you have said here tonight."

Another student from Milton, Anna Willats wondered what was wrong if students attempted to bring change into the world. Henderson agreed he'd like to see a better world but "I don't want to turn it over to you and your teacher to do it."

Student Richard Case, also of Milton, claimed Henderson exaggerated most of the points he made. Students don't just want to know about "that big, beautiful world out there," they want to know the other side too, the student told him.

Where were they

Milton resident George Jackson wondered where all the people who are so concerned with education were, when the Home and School movement needed them. He wondered if the emotional aspects of the Renaissance campaign had brought them out. Renaissance president Ken Campbell said he was contacted by many people who claimed they were "frustrated" at attempts to get anywhere through the Home and School organization.

Allan Anderson, Oakville,

objected strongly to "the wholesale castigation of the school system, the snide attacks on administration" and charges there was "something under the bed." His own four children read anything they want and haven't suffered, he said. "there is bigotry here tonight," he added.

Another man questioned "the triteness" of Larry Henderson's mind.

Milton teacher James Robertson said he was recently involved in three parents' nights at the school and just 21 people turned out. "I look forward to seeing more of you," he said with a grin.

Mother of two young children, Margo Kirkpatrick complained her children only receive 181 days of schooling, thanks to holidays and professional development days. When she went to school it was 202 days and in 13 years of schooling, that's a difference of one full school year, she suggested.

Another lady said she would like to know how to get rid of the pop machine in her child's public school, E.A. Orr in Oakville.

A Home and School representative from Burlington said Home and School welcomed more parental input and the school administration welcomed feedback too.

Mrs. Joy Wooland of Barrie suggested parents are "unjustly set against" and haven't had a chance to speak out until now. "I want the students to realize the parents are just concerned for them"

Campbell said he had found "openness" by educators if most cases and he really had no problems with teachers or principals. But he charged "intimidation" by administrators and said when he went to talk with Halton's Director of Education he was met by a committee of three.



THE RENAISSANCE RALLY packed about 600 people into Milton District High School auditorium Thursday evening as the Renaissance movement picked up speed and supporters. More area rallies are planned in Acton, Burlington, Georgetown, Milton and Oakville later this month. (Photos by D. Pink)

The visit by homosexuals to the school class was "merely a symptom of a much deeper disease" in the schools. "That's our system right now and we don't like it," he concluded.

He said the Renaissance committee would be meeting frequently and preparing proposals for the Halton Board of Education, with assistance from consultants. Last to speak was Mr. Craig, principal of M.M. Robinson High School who

said he was not happy with the "ill-founded assertions" that have been made and refuted Campbell's charges of bullying tactics. He said he was pleased to see so much interest in education, however.

Let's talk car loans.

And how we can get you rolling.

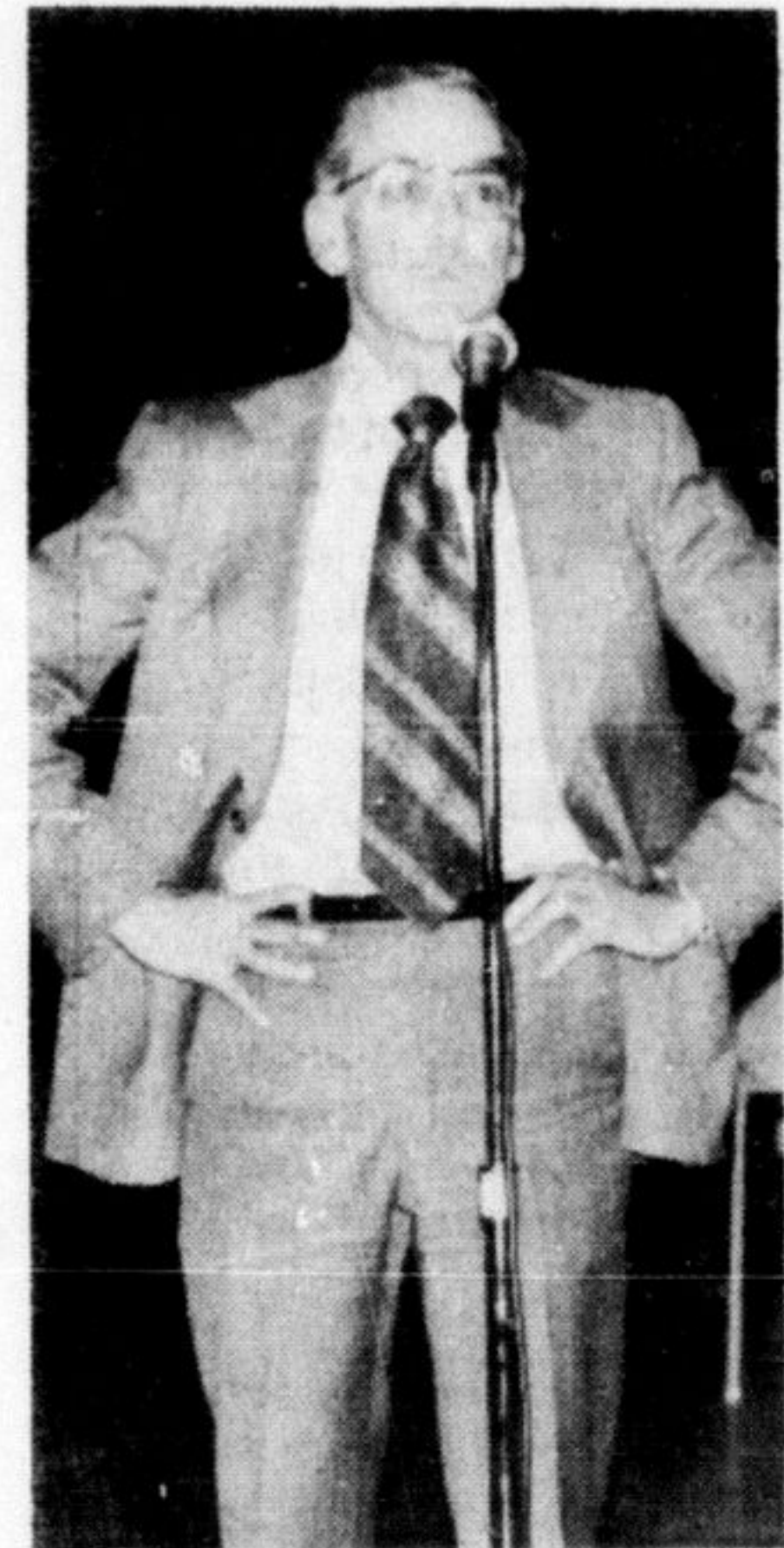
If you're thinking of trading your car, we should talk. We've been involved in financing cars for a long time. And we've worked with probably every dealer in town. So we can put together a loan that'll suit you without getting you in over your head.

We can even talk about one type of loan that gives you the full price of your car. Even if you're not a customer. We do that because we know helping you do something is the best way to make you one. Come on in. And let's talk cars.

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MILTON

Let's talk.



DON GENTLEMAN, left, area superintendent for Halton Board of Education was questioned by Milton Councillor Jim Watson (right) during Thursday's Renaissance rally.

ANNUAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday April 17, 1974
Place: Percy Merry School
263 Britannia Road East
Time: 8 p.m.

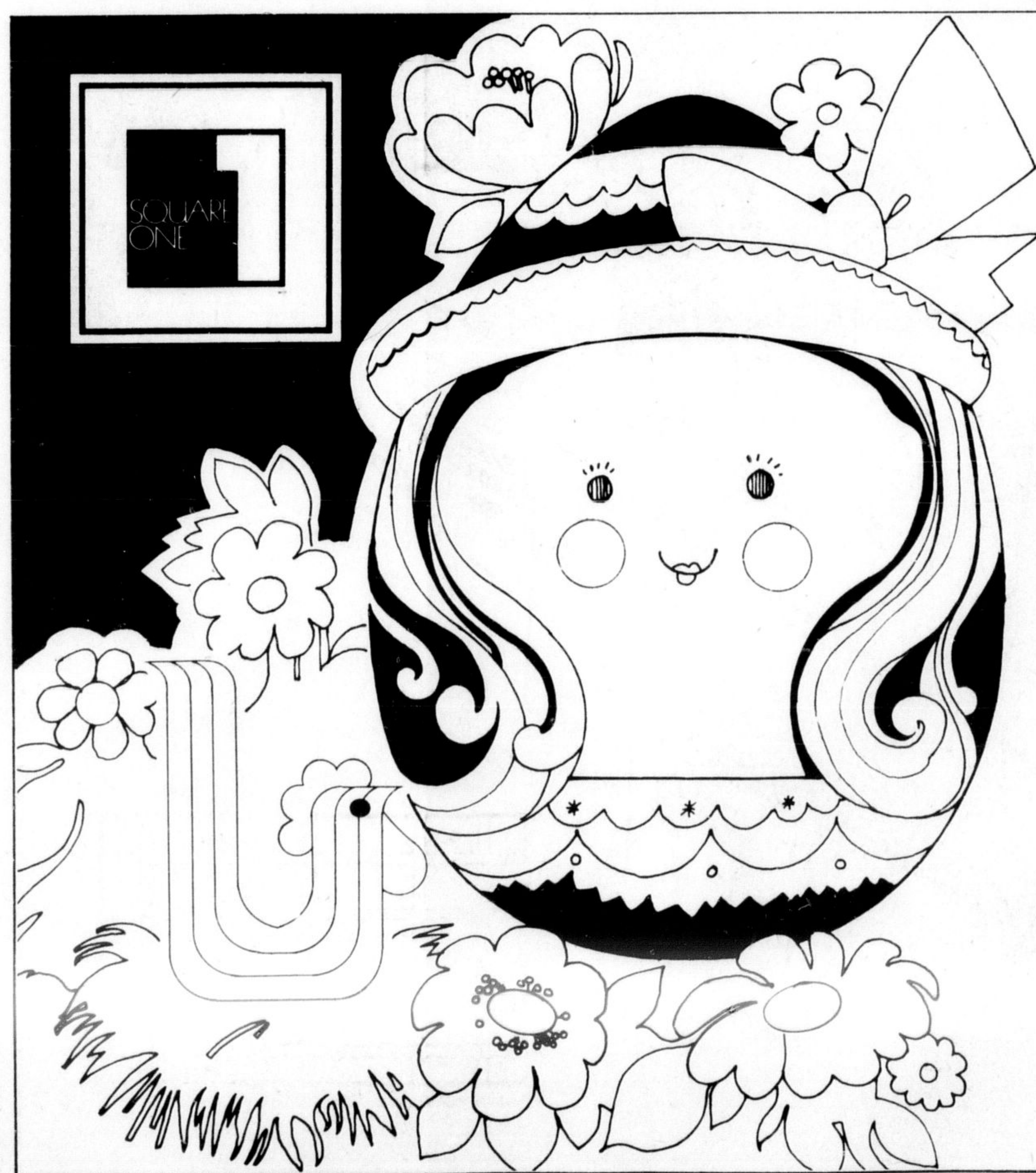
GUEST SPEAKER:
FLORA MACDONALD, M.P.
Kingston & The Islands

PURPOSE:

1. Receive financial reports
2. Auditors report
3. Ratification of proposed changes to our Constitution, which briefly are:
 - a) Annual election of delegates and alternates for federal and provincial conferences
 - b) The formation of a standing Committee of Finance
 - c) The election of area presidents by their area members
 - d) The annual meeting to be held in March or April
4. Election of officers for 1974-1975
5. Election of delegates and alternates

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

HALTON & HALTON EAST
Progressive Conservative Association



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