

# The Canadian Champion

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Thirty-Six Pages—Fifteen Cents



REGIONAL COUNCIL approved its 1974 budget at a total of \$9,466,498 on Tuesday afternoon. The council is pictured in session, with finance committee chairman Ric Morrow of Georgetown on the floor. The budget indicates residents in the

areas of Halton formerly known as Milton, north Oakville and north Burlington will see a reduction in their taxes for the region this year, while rates in the remainder of the region go up as much as nearly 13 mills.

## Say region "shafted" over start-up grants

### \$9½ million budget is finally approved

The 1974 budget totalling \$9,466,498 was begrudgingly approved by Halton Regional Council Tuesday, but council made it known it's not happy with start-up grants being handed down by Queen's Park to help ease the transition to regional government.

"We were shafted," charged Oakville Councillor MacLean Anderson after council learned, in the midst of its final budget deliberations yesterday afternoon, the province will only give Halton \$1,000,000 in start-up grants this year. That million dollars was earmarked by the government for various municipalities and projects and Halton Council only gets \$270,000 for general expenditures. That figure won't even cover the \$272,000 in start-up costs requested by Halton Regional Police, let alone dozens of other

added costs for which the region sought recompense.

**Near \$15 million**  
In the \$9½ million budget (which is actually closer to \$15 million but reduced by other revenue and grants) the net cost to the new municipality of Milton is \$631,657. Regional treasurer Don Farmer worked that out as a reduction for those who live in the area that was formerly Milton, Oakville and Burlington, but a hike for those in the two northern townships, Esquesing and Nassagaweya.

Actual residential mill rates for regional services in Milton will be, with the increase or decrease shown in brackets: former Milton 19.61 (-7.42); former Nassagaweya 12.85 (4.46); former Oakville 8.48 (-4.64); former Esquesing 10.20 (2.80); former Burlington 8.69 (-5.88).

Commercial rates are up accordingly.

In Halton Hills, rates will rise from a low of 1.37 mills in

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## Lieutenant-Governor to open new library

Ontario's new Lieutenant-Governor Pauline McGibbon will visit Milton Saturday, Nov. 2 to officially open the new Milton Public Library building on Bruce St.

Library officials, who announced the date of the official opening this week, said they believe her visit to Milton will be the first time a Lt.-Gov. has visited Milton. Time of the opening is yet to be finalized but the date is firm.

The library staff expects to move into the new library from the present Main St. quarters about Thursday, Sept. 5. The library will remain closed that weekend and should be open to the public about Sept. 9.

Librarian Shelagh Conway said the board wrote to Mrs. McGibbon several months ago, inviting her to officiate at the opening, but she was not available until November.

### \$5 million

## Addition at Mohawk track

Plans for a \$4,000,000 to \$5,000,000 addition to Mohawk Raceway at Campbellville were revealed this week as preliminary plans were filed with the Town of Milton for consideration.

The expansion includes an extension of the dining lounge, mutuels, and construction of a 1140 seat theatre equipped with closed circuit television.

An early start on construction is expected with foundation and footing plans currently being reviewed by the building department.

The extension involves two parts. An extension on the east side toward the paddock area will expand the dining lounge.

A two floor extension on the west side in an L shape will

provide for the mutuels on the ground floor and the theatre on the second floor with the large screen closed circuit television system.

Architects on the project are Page and Steele of Toronto.

Mohawk Raceway was built in 1963 at a cost of \$3,000,000 on a 400 acre site.

### Milton man

## Drowns in pond inlet

The drowning of a Milton man in the mill pond inlet in Centennial Park Sunday has been ruled as "accidental" by Milton Precinct of Halton Regional Police.

Pete (Aubrey) Gervais, 41, who was temporarily living at 270 Main St. in Milton, apparently fell into about four feet of water in the pond inlet early Sunday afternoon. He

was found lying face down in the water, fully clothed, by a man walking in the area.

Police were called and artificial respiration was administered at the site and on the way to Milton District Hospital, but he was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital. Coroner Dr. Gordon Inglis of Burlington held a post mortem Monday morning and indicated the body had probably been in the water for about 90 minutes before it was found.

The area where the drowning took place was just east of an old concrete abutment that once dammed the pond inlet. The Sixteen Mile Creek near Bronte St. splits into two channels, one of which feeds the mill pond while the remainder of the water continues down the creek through Rotary Park, adjacent to the mill pond's south banks. The place where Gervais was found was just east of the abutment, in an area commonly known as "the whirlpool"—once a favorite spot for swimming.

Friends of Gervais said he was a strong swimmer and knew the area "like the back of his hand." It is assumed he slipped and fell from either the abutment or the pond-bank. Police indicated there were no signs of injuries.

Gervais, presently unemployed, formerly worked in Hamilton. He was originally from Milton and had returned to town a few weeks ago to visit several brothers and sisters. Police investigation showed he had gone to the post office to mail a letter shortly after noon Sunday. The drowning was discovered at 2:50 p.m. when Rasmus Jensen of Milton found him in the water.

Was at post office  
Police said a 25 cent packet of stamps was found in his pocket with one stamp missing, indicating he must have been at the post office and then walked up the south pond bank.

He is survived by his wife Jean (Brooks) of Toronto and three children Karen, Betty and Christine. Also surviving are 11 brothers and sisters Chuck, Carl, Nip, Pork Buck, Doug, Viola Robinson and Barbara Gervais, all of Milton, and Gladys Wetherall of Burlington and Ruby Christensen and Olive Kekick of Toronto. His parents predeceased him.

Funeral service will be held Wednesday at 2:30 at McKersie Funeral Home.



A WESTBOUND FREIGHT train touched off a mile long grass fire along the north side of the Canadian Pacific Railway tracks between the fourth and fifth Nassagaweya concessions late Sunday afternoon. Members of the Milton Fire Brigade responded with brooms and mounted portable Indian pumps on their backs to douse smouldering railway ties and fence posts. Grass on the CP embankment was completely scorched away but the flames were not allowed to extend to nearby farm fields.

### "Seal of approval"

## Hospital accredited - nursing studied

The accreditation status of Milton District Hospital has been renewed, following a one-day survey of the hospital by a member of the Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation. The accreditation is described as "the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval" for hospitals and it means the hospital complies with the standards laid down by the CCHA.

Although it noted and commended most areas of the local hospital, the CCHA report recommends that several areas of the nursing service

require updating to ensure nursing services were in line with modern procedures. The hospital board has reviewed the report and has decided to bring in a consulting firm to make an objective study of the nursing situation and present recommendations for solutions.

The firm which will do the study has not yet been selected, but the board promises a comprehensive and constructive review of the nursing service and a report is expected by late September.

Dr. James H. Murray of the CCHA made the one-day survey in April and concentrated on four major areas of the local hospital—administration, physical plant, medical and nursing staffs. The survey is voluntary and was requested by the hospital board.

Milton District Hospital first won "provisional" accreditation when it was surveyed by CCHA in 1967. The following year full accreditation was granted and renewals were awarded in 1971 and again this year.

"Generally speaking, the

surveyor's report was very favorable and many of the efforts and accomplishments of the past three years were noted and commended," board chairman A. H. Britton said.

**Commendations**  
The hospital was commended for:

—Activities of the chiefs of medical departments in holding meetings with nursing staff and others concerned with the operation of each service;  
—Recent actions to amend the hospital's by-laws;  
—Good communication be-

tween the medical staff, administration and the board.

—Recent development of an administrative procedures manual;

—Activities of the medical staff in reviewing professional work of the hospital in service reports, committee reports and special reviews of disease entities;

—The service of medical records, dietary and laboratory departments;

—The medical records committee, fire committee and infection control committee.

### Champion is "Champion"

## Four contest awards

The Champion is a "champion" again. This newspaper has been judged the best in its class in Canada in the 1974 better newspaper competitions sponsored by the national Canadian Community Newspapers Association.



PUBLISHER Jim Dills receives awards on behalf of The Champion from CCNA President A. Y. McLean.

The award is the highest obtainable in community journalism in Canada.

A plaque indicative of the win in the circulation class 4,000 to 9,000 was awarded during the recent first International convention of CCNA and its American counterpart the National Newspaper Association.

In addition to being judged the best all round newspaper, The Champion placed first in the editorial page competition, third for the best front page and, in an open class for news photography, placed third.

The Champion's coverage of the all night fire at the Milton Inn in October was the entry in this photography competition.

Publisher Jim Dills represented The Champion at the convention and accepted the awards on behalf of the entire staff.

The Champion has been a consistent winner in Canadian and Ontario competitions over the years. In the past 25 years the paper has won about 50 awards.

The Acton Free Press, represented by publisher David Dills, received the second place award in the best all round category and third in the front page competition for community newspapers in the 2,500 to 4,000 circulation category.

Other Halton winners in the tabloid newspaper class were the Burlington Post first and Oakville Beaver second in the best all round tabloid competition for papers with over 9,000 circulation.

## Polysar lays off 155 employees

One hundred and fifty-five employees of the Building Systems Division of Polysar Ltd. in Milton were laid off their jobs last Wednesday. With the exception of nine salaried employees, all were employed on the second shift which went into operation last February.

According to Mike Hicks, director of operations at the Milton plant, the layoff is a result of the "soft housing market." However, a press release from the company assures site construction and sales activities of town home projects at Waterloo, Kitchener, London and Guelph will continue.

**Cut back**  
Production manager Gord Crooks says they were producing 12 modules a day but are now cutting back to eight. "The layoff will continue for an indefinite period of time," he says. "We don't foresee taking the shift back in the immediate future."  
The company manufactures and markets a unique system of home building

through the use of steel-reinforced, factory-produced concrete modules which it pioneered in Canada. The first company-owned development, Village on the Green, was started in Waterloo in the early months of this year.

The 'Village on the Green' project was completely developed by Polysar.

### Firemen to convention on weekend

Milton Firefighters are preparing to head out en masse this weekend for the Ontario Firefighters convention in Beaverton. Firefighter Gord Krantz of Milton is the group's president this year and a large Milton delegation is expected for the business and educational sessions, parades and competitions.

The convention lasts Friday to Monday and features a pyjama parade, a church parade and a dress parade including equipment, in addition to waterball fights and ladder competitions. Several Milton firefighters plan to go for the weekend and camp near the convention site.

Fire Chief A. E. Clement said arrangements have been made to ensure that enough firefighters will remain at home to cover emergencies.

### Downtown planning report

## Co-ordinated approach needed

By Pat Ford

Lack of co-ordinated land use is a major problem in Milton, Caroline Floroff thinks, and she finds local merchants don't seem to realize or be interested in how much it hurts them now and is going to hurt even more in the future.

Caroline is an urban planning student working for the town on a plan to revitalize downtown Milton. With one month left in her job, she has made the necessary space and traffic studies and is now writing her report. It will be part of a more comprehensive plan submitted for consideration early in 1975.

Inefficient use of land is one of the major issues Caroline has identified. The scattered commercial developments in the Bronte and Main Sts. area is one example. "There are a number of small car-oriented stores there which should be consolidated at the four

corners and not disrupt the residential area around it," she said.

Similarly, the spread of car-oriented businesses on Main St. East have to be limited to a prescribed area, Caroline thinks. She recommends expansion should not go any farther south than Pearl St., avoiding a string of commercial developments south along Ontario St. She noted there are a number of tenant-occupied properties on Pearl St., which may mean they are being held for speculation.

Consolidation of downtown commercial concerns is important to merchants in face of the future development of the plaza into a sizeable enclosed mall. As well, three small neighborhood plazas will be built as residential areas expand. Downtown merchants will thus have to offer all the conveniences such as parking and co-ordinated store hours

if they hope to stay in business.

"The merchants don't seem worried, but they should be," Caroline noted and suggested the formation of a merchants' association to consider the problems. The owners of

## Heavy truck traffic noted by surveyor

Small changes often result in large improvements, and eliminating heavy truck traffic from downtown Milton could have some beneficial effects.

During a peak period traffic study made last week, urban planning student Caroline Floroff counted three or four large trucks turning at the Main and Martin St. stop light every 15 minutes. This

downtown businesses should form a cohesive body and work out such details as appropriate provisions for public and private parking. "They need to cater to where the dollar is coming from," she said.

means potentially there are 12 or more large highway transport trucks, gravel trucks and cement mixers going through downtown Milton in late afternoon traffic every hour. And that doesn't even begin to estimate how many pass through during regular operating hours.

Heavy truck traffic through

the centre of town seems unnecessary now that Ontario St. and Steeles Ave. have been improved and designated as truck routes.

"Heavy truck traffic isn't conducive to shopping, especially with children on the streets," Caroline points out. "Perhaps measures should be taken to enforce the provisions we already have."