

# The Canadian Champion

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## Convert county court building into provincial headquarters



OLDEST FIDDLER in the old time fiddlers contest at the Farmers' Market Saturday morning was Ike Mitchell of Guelph. He won the over-65 class in the contest.

**By Bob Burt**  
Plans are presently being drafted to convert the Halton County Court House and the former county administration offices on Steeles Ave. in Milton into a central provincial building for government agencies.

According to Halton MPP and Minister of Government Services Jim. Snow, the current building will be expanded to provide more space for existing operations and to bring in other government agencies now working from rented office space elsewhere in the region.

Soon a contract will be awarded for the construction of an enlarged parking lot and construction of the actual addition is expected to get underway some time this fall, he said.

The addition will be built on the front of the existing building and will house two additional provincial courts and administrative offices as well as judges' offices. There are two large and two smaller courtrooms in the existing building.

The basement in the addition will provide a holding area for prisoners and a security area. Until now prisoners were held at the county jail and transported there when trial came up, according to the Minister.

Probation officers, employees with the family court on Brown St., the Ministry of Agriculture and Food on Main St. and eventually some court administration offices in Georgetown will be housed in the same building.

According to Snow the

move will bring provincial agencies in the Halton region under one roof and the building will be known as the Ontario Government and Court House Building.

**Move registry office**  
The second floor of the building will be used for land registry offices, providing twice as much space for those offices and alleviating a critical space shortage for that department. It presently occupies half the lower floor. The move will also result in vast improvements for courts and registry offices, Snow said.

The old county council chambers will be transformed into a family court. Other offices formerly used by county officials will be taken over by provincial employees as they move in.

Eventually the Brown St. Jail will be closed, leaving all of the provincially occupied buildings on Brown St. vacant. The block bounded by Hugh, King, Mary and Brown Sts. is owned by Halton Region and the region leases space in the family court and jail to the province. The region has health unit headquarters in the King St. building and the Milton Precinct of Halton Region Police operates out of an old house on Hugh St. The town of Milton leases land on Mary St. from the region for a parking lot.

The century-old Brown St. Jail is due to be replaced once the second phase at Maplehurst Regional Correctional Centre is completed.

Snow said the old jail was outdated and replacement was high on the priority list (Continued on Page 3)



WHAT IS Milton parks department employee Dick Hendrick doing lifting, high above Rotary Park Sunday morning? He's dismantling a pyramid. See below.

## Georgetown Cable TV to cover Milton, Acton

Georgetown Cable TV Ltd. was given approval by the Canadian Radio-Television Commission to expand its operation into Milton and Acton.

The decision was wired to the five applicants, Monday. The other applicants seeking to establish cable TV in

Milton were David Hauraney, William C. Johnson and Harry Ridgley. In Acton John H. Goy sought the approval.

Georgetown Cable TV is the only established cable company and the only applicant intending to cover the whole Georgetown, Milton and Acton area with one

service.

A surprise to Georgetown Cable TV president Arthur Jamieson was the inclusion of Rockwood and Ballinafad in the distribution area. He said this area could not be serviced for some time, but work on servicing the urban areas of Acton and Milton could be started this year. He warned the long delayed CRTS decision could hold them up because of the underground work necessary in winter weather.

The company, which plans to change its name to Halton Hills Cable TV, will spend one and half million dollars in the next five years on new construction and equipment to cover the enlarged area.

The present tower at Norval will be torn down after a new 250-foot tower is erected at Speyside. The company already owns land for the \$86,700 tower, which it claims will improve the signal to all areas. A studio will also be built in Speyside where increased local programming, of interest to the three towns, will be staged.

A trunk cable will be run to Speyside and then split off to Milton and Acton.

The basic monthly rate will be increased from the present \$4.50 in Georgetown to \$5 for all area residents, with an optional converter system at an extra \$2.50 a month.

At the CRTS hearing in March Georgetown Cable TV emphasized the converter would be optional since a survey in Milton showed 47 percent of those canvassed would take cable TV at the basic rate but only 19 percent would hook up to cable if the converter system was mandatory.

A similar survey in Acton showed 60 per cent wanting the basic service, but only 16 percent willing to pay the extra \$2.50 for the converter system.

The basic service at present offers 12 channels, the channels could eventually increase to 26, with a converter, but for a while would give 17 or 18 channels.

The converter is a black box, placed on the television set, and operated by push-buttons. Rather than the channel selector. The company leases the converter to the customer.

Georgetown Cable TV, with 4,000 subscribers in the Georgetown, Norval and Glen (Continued on Page 14)

### Library tree

## Will it stay or go?

A tree at the north-west corner of Milton's new library building became a storm centre this week. The controversy is over whether it is dead and should be removed, or alive and saved.

A neighbor of the new library, Mrs. Edith Sharpe of 429 Pearl St. complained to councillors that the tree was dead but workmen have left it standing and surrounded it with new shrubs and trees. "It's dead, it has been dead for the past two years and it should be taken out of there," Mrs. Sharpe said.

Mayor Anne MacArthur agreed the tree looked dead to her and asked fellow councillors to take a look and report back, so a recommendation can be forwarded to the library board.

**Await report**  
But Librarian Shelagh Conway said the landscaper has been asked to judge whether the tree is dead or not and give the library board a report. As of this week the landscaper hadn't filed a report with the architect or the

board.  
Mrs. Conway said the tree shows signs of new life on the lower branches and she hoped it could be saved. The board had tried to preserve all the trees on the former Bruce St. School site as members felt they would enhance the appearance of the new library.

## Condominiums, duplex approved

Milton Council this week approved a site plan showing 10 condominium units and one duplex for the Prezel development on Bronte St. at John St.

Prezel had earlier asked for approval for a plan with 13 units rather than 11. He reduced the density to provide a back yard behind every house and to provide more landscaped area.

Council insisted the large stone house that stands there now should be used for nothing more than a duplex.

For John Prezel the decision culminates a number of visits and several years of negotiations and planning for the project.

Milton Mayor Anne MacArthur asked that a sandbox and some play area be set aside as well.



LIBRARY TREE: DEAD OR ALIVE?

## Must have shinned Two flags stolen

Someone celebrated Civic Holiday weekend by stealing two flags from the flagpole in Centennial Park on Martin St.

The Canadian flag and a flag promoting the International Flowering Match in Halton were removed from the pole, along with the rope. "They must have had to shinnie up the pole to get them, there is only six feet of rope on the flags," said Parks-Recreation Director Bob Small.

## Say better housekeeping key to Plaza expansion

A guarantee of improved housekeeping and cleaner, neater appearance will be the key to a proposed expansion for Milton Plaza. Council made it very clear during a meeting Monday night to plaza owner John Tamai and his solicitor Tom Holden that council was not happy with the past record at the plaza.

Councillor Don Gordon was the most outspoken. "Your track record stinks. The plaza is not an asset to the community. Maybe the new one will be. I don't want to compound the problem by permitting a bigger plaza and a bigger problem," Gordon said.

He warned owner Tamai that if he did expand and did not undertake better housekeeping procedures, "the first guy with 30 or 40 acres who wants to build a plaza will

get my vote, just to put you out of business."

**Could be first class**  
"You have an excellent opportunity to develop a first class plaza," Gordon said.

Tamai and Holden both promised better housekeeping and indicated they would agree to enter into an agreement with the town to ensure good housekeeping procedures.

The site plan presented shows plans for a Loblaw store three times the size of the existing store and a Zellers store as well. The new plaza would have about 40 stores compared to about 15 now and they would all be under one roof. The plans show the development becoming an enclosed mall. Other concerns expressed included teen-

agers squealing tires on the parking lots after hours and the poor entrances and exits to the present shopping centre.

**Had complaints**  
The chief concern however is the housekeeping problem that has haunted the plaza for several years and has brought many complaints in the past few years.

Holden acknowledged the problem had existed in the past but told council it would be rectified in the new plaza and a whole new concept with the mall featuring planting and seeding areas, buffers and cleanup and control measures.

Council asked for more information concerning the internal workings of the plaza and deferred the approval of the plan to a future meeting.

## Official Doc wins by 1,844

Halton voters showed substantial interest in the July election, the final official figures show. The exact turnout was 83.6 per cent of the eligible voters, meaning that 56,719 people went to the polls.

Halton's new Liberal M.P. Dr. Frank Philbrook received 25,281 votes; incumbent P.C. Terry O'Connor got 23,417; and NDP Archie Brown got 7,380. There were 144 rejected ballots.

## Council to meet by-law objectors

Milton Council will attempt to convene a meeting with a number of residents of Nassagaweya area who are objecting to passing of two by-laws. The objectors will be invited to a meeting Sept. 4 to discuss the problems.

One of the two by-laws being amended would prohibit any future commercial recreation uses, tourist trailer parks and campsites and driving tracks or ranges for motorized vehicles. The by-law would re-enact the setback provisions for obnoxious uses as well.

According to an explanatory note for the by-law the amendment would serve as a planning tool that would protect existing uses with the zone provision while not prohibiting all open air recreational uses within the rural "A" zone.

**Illegally built**  
The second by-law was designed to remedy problems of interpretation for the Nassagaweya Zoning By-law. Because of the problems of interpretation arising from the old by-law about 500 homes are deemed to be

illegally built. While some members of council argue that the homes were built on legally separated lots, some members of staff and legal opinions indicate that the homes were built on lots that were not legal because of a technicality in the zoning-by-law.

Under the old by-law rezonings on separated lots in some areas are necessary before building permits can be issued. This was not

followed from 1967 to 1974. As a result those lots are deemed to be illegal but the by-law amendment being proposed is designed and hoped to correct any errors of the past and prevent future errors, council says.

**Not related**  
Council members feel that while the objections are valid objections, they do not relate to the by-law amendments in question.

(Continued on Page 14)

## Fire fund set for McKenzie family

A special fund has been set up for the family of George McKenzie who lost their new home in a fire Monday, August 5.

Nassagaweya Area Ratepayers Association, under the chairmanship of Walter Tkachenko, are hoping to collect enough money from the Milton area to help the family replace their personal possessions.

No estimates of the damage to the McKenzie home have yet been made but the construction of the two-storey house had already cost more than \$80,000. The family have been building the house for four years and just moved in a week before the fire.

Donations should be made payable to: The George McKenzie Fund, c/o N.A.R.A. Box 12, Campbellville.