

# Editor's Desk

By Roy Downs

A. L. "Gus" Goutouski, vice-president of Milton Chamber of Commerce, has been nominated for a position on the Ontario Chamber of Commerce board of directors. It would be great for Milton to be represented on the Ontario board. Good luck, Gus.

And speaking of Gus, guess whose handsome face popped out at us from the pages of last week's Globe and Mail Weekend Magazine? Yes there was Gus, in a picture of Canadian and French Second World War veterans placing wreaths in memory of fallen comrades at Beny, France.

The Globe Magazine did a feature on the beaches of Normandy 30 years after D-Day and about a group of 146 Canadian veterans who went back to visit the beaches, the battlefields and the cemeteries where thousands of fellow soldiers lie. And one of them was Gus Goutouski. The Champion had done a story on Gus' trip earlier this year but it was a pleasant surprise to see his face in the magazine's picture on the eve of Remembrance Day, 1974.

Let's bore you with repetition of a certain name, let us doff a cap to the folks at Halton Real Estate who observed their third anniversary in business with a little coffee party at the Main St. offices on Friday. Halton Real Estate is owned by—you guess it already?—one A. L. "Gus" Goutouski.

Sorry we missed the shindig, Gus. We'll put our congratulations in print this time, instead of in person.

And now before readers become disGUSTed we'll turn to other matters.

We're happy to receive letters to the editor and provide a forum for the views of others whether they contradict ours or not. Just as there are limits on our own writing, we have to ask others to respect certain rules and sometimes when we fail to publish a letter that doesn't conform to basic rules, we're accused of not wanting to publish a contrary view.

Maybe we could review the very basic rules we have to adopt in handling letters to the editor. It is mandatory that you personally sign your letter. We will publish a pen name if you indicate it is necessary, but we must first have your signature on the letter. Frankly, we're not anxious to use pen names and we encourage you to use your own name, because the letter has more impact and it indicates the strength of your convictions.

If we feel your letter contains libellous statements we may reject your letter or seek a legal opinion. We may also reject the letter if we feel it contains statements in bad taste. So far we don't recall ever invoking that rule but we must be conscious of it. It would be a judgment based on our own views unfortunately, because there is little time in publishing for extensive consultation. We must always be conscious of the fact that we are held responsible for what we publish, whether you write it or not.

Another rule that is hard to define, concerns the length of your letter. Please keep them brief. We are anxious to accommodate them all if at all possible. We like letters not to exceed 250 words but that is left loose to allow variations depending on the subject. A single sheet of white bond 8 1/2 inches by 11 inches double spaced represents about eight or nine inches of type. Probably you don't read long letters as easily as short letters and we like writers to state their case and comments crisply and briefly.

We can assure you your letter will not be rejected because your views differ from ours. If you follow the few rules, which we ourselves have to observe in writing for publication, your views will be given a forum.

Move over, Mr. Champion. Milton has a new newspaper and although there has only been one issue published to date, it's got you beat for color, imagination and humor.

"Chatterbox"—the town's newest publication—has a limited distribution and absolutely no advertising but lots of news and views and a big readership.

It wasn't printed on a big offset press by the thousands, like The Champion. It's done on a mimeograph machine and the press run isn't very big, although the paper is a whopping 28 pages, almost rivaling this publication in thickness.

The new paper is a publication printed and distributed to residents and staff at Halton Centennial Manor and the editor in charge is the Manor's popular director of recreation, Peggy Odehna. The Manor used to have a newsletter done by residents but it fell by the wayside and Mrs. Odehna decided to revive it. "It's a lot of fun and everybody appreciates it," she said.

Chatterbox mourns the passing of 108-year-old Simon Baverstock, the oldest Manitowish and suggests "The Manor will not be the same, somehow, without Simon Baverstock. He saw many events and changes in the world around him that not many of us will be privileged to see."

There's a story on a presentation for Harry Flood who returned to Bermuda, and a report on a pleasant bus trip and picnic to Lowville Park, titled "Happiness Was..."

Bingos, the Manor bowling league and a trip to the Steam-Era Reunion are also reported on. Also birthday parties, an old fashioned spelling match, a trip to the fair, fall fair prize winners from the Manor, coming church services, poems, holiday trips, reports of new grandchildren and great-grandchildren, chapel services, office happenings and staff changes, news from the kitchen staff, a welcome to new residents and a poignant story "It's tough to be old" are all included in this newsy, homey magazine. And yes, there are a couple of pages of jokes, too.

We're looking forward to future issues of Chatterbox, and we can imagine the residents and staff at the Manor are awaiting it too. It's a definite credit to Mrs. Odehna and her many helpers to have such an excellent newsletter coming out on a regular basis.

Good luck to The Champion's "competition" in the news-gathering field.

There's a rumor floating around that friends are planning to honor George Kerr, Halton West's MPP and Solicitor General of Ontario, at a big dinner in Burlington on Dec. 2.

Tickets are reportedly selling at \$50, and the guest speaker is none other than Premier Bill Davis.

Having heard Bill Davis speak, we certainly hope the dinner is worth the price of admission.



A NEW BUS SHELTER will help keep waiting passengers warm this winter. It was erected at the Martin St. bus stop (near the Post Office) late last week. The shelter is courtesy of the Milton and District Kinsmen Club. The Kin also put a park bench seat inside the shelter, for the convenience of passengers waiting for the town bus.

## Tackle controversial interim plan policies

Members of Halton Region's Planning Committee tackled the controversial interim planning policies during a special committee meeting last week. The policies will serve as the basis for an official plan until the regional official plan is complete in about two years from now.

The meeting is one of several that will be held to review policies that have been suggested by staff. Earlier each section of the report was dealt with individually and the original reports have been modified to reflect views of the committee members.

North growth Planning Director Ed Cumming noted the staff have attempted to make the policies less rigid and more flexible. Northern representatives argue that growth in the north shouldn't be restricted to the urban centres that already exist.

Milton Mayor Anne MacArthur said a consortium of developers was planning a major industrial development north of Highway 401 in Milton. She said she did not want to wait two years for this development to take place.

Committee chairman Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett noted the proposed regulations wouldn't rule out industrial development north of Highway 401 but could delay it because negotiations would be necessary to have that area included in the area of development.

Urging flexibility Both Mayor MacArthur and Milton Councillor Jim Watson agreed with what was being proposed but suggested that every attempt should be made to provide flexibility. The mayor said too often proposals were presented as being flexible but when it came time to exercise the flexibility, a planner pulls out

a policy book and says, "look here, it's in black and white and what you want to do is not in the book."

One of the major controversial items continues to be whether or not the farmer should have the right to sever off parcels of his land.

The committee has indicated a will to protect prime farm land. The proposal would limit separations in class one and two soils to the farmers who had been on the farm for 15 years or more and who wish to retire. An applicant applying for a separation would have to convince the land division committee of the length of ownership and a number of other factors.

That policy has come under attack from both Jim Watson and Anne MacArthur of Milton and Pat McKenzie from Halton Hills. Each of the three contends the farmer should be allowed to sever a lot and sell it to whomever he wishes. McKenzie argues that by being able to sell some of the land the man becomes a better farmer because he has cash with which he can finance new machinery.

Committee chairman Barratt claimed the farmer shouldn't be put in a position

where he had to sell land to finance his operation. He claimed other incentives should be provided so this would not happen.

City buyers One of the arguments often raised about selling lots to urban dwellers is that the urban dwellers are no sooner in the country than they are requesting services they were accustomed to—and eventually complain about rural odors.

Discussion on the interim policies will continue at the committee's meeting this week and eventually the policies will be the subject of a special council meeting.

## Milton Council briefs

During a meeting of Milton Council's Community Service Committee Monday night the Committee:

—Approved terms of reference for recreation advisory committees.

—Recommended a grant of \$100 be provided for the Western Ontario Highland Dancing Association (Milton District).

—Approved plans for a Winter carnival in February. The event is expected to be run on an operating budget of \$8,000 but revenue is expected to offset costs. Last year's event came within \$50 of the break-even point.

—Granted a request to send Karen Uhryn, Program Supervisor, to the annual training Institute at the Geneva Park Conference Centre near Orillia Nov. 13, 14, and 15.

—Assured P. A. Tench that

the town would maintain a road allowance adjacent to his property as a public road. Tench had been concerned about the possible closure of that road.

—Authorized staff to request warrants be checked at the corner of Chiscolm Dr. and Highway 25 to see if there is enough traffic to justify putting stop lights in at that intersection. Previously the town had asked that flashing lights be installed there. Works Superintendent Bruce McKerr noted with Consumers Glas and Maplehurst both in operation in that area it will create a demand for lights.

—Recommended steps be taken to reduce the speed limits within designated school areas to 25 miles an hour.

—Recommended R. V. Anderson Engineering consultants be appointed to do soil tests at Brian Best Park.

## Ask help to catch construction thieves

Milton OPP are investigating a rash of thefts from construction sites and new homes under construction in the area north of Campbellville. In the past six weeks about \$6,000 to \$7,000 worth of tools and building supplies have been stolen.

A load of lumber disappeared from one site, so

police feel the thieves are organized and well equipped. Const. Larry Scott, Community Relations Officer at Milton OPP, said anyone seeing anything unusual should alert the police immediately.

"We have extra patrols in the area, but we're depending on some co-operation from the citizens too," he said.

# WIN CASH

SAVE YOUR COMMUNITY HORSESHOE

## Committee named for aquatic program

Terms of reference and the committee structure for an aquatic committee was approved by the Community Service Committee of Milton Council Monday night.

The committee will study the needs and type of aquatic facilities required in the town. The committee will also look at cost, financing, and possible locations for such a facility.

Former Parks and Recreation Committee Chairman Jim Dills has been named

chairman of the committee. Other committee members include Norm Pearce, David Thompson representing Rotary Club, Hazel Porter, Ken Moore, Dennis Rowley representing the Lions Club, Peter Steymel of the Kinsmen, Don Morley of the Optimists, Rose Harrison and town staff members Larry Arbie and Bob Small.

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