# Sees Halton shaking off its growing pains

By Bob Burtt

It was a little more than a year ago when Allan Masson set up shop in the county buildings on Steeles Ave. in Milton as the first regional chairman in Halton. With him he had just an acting clerk Garfield Brown and a secretary Susan Jacobs. The region now operates out of rented headquarters in Burlington and has about 900

people in its employ. In an interview recently, Chairman Masson outlined the trials and tribulations he and his 24-member council

Most of the first year was spent in developing new ment heads and taking over area level.

until Feb. 28.

MOHAWK INN

Set a Man

Apart

MAN

revamped.

The process was hampered considerably by some councillors who in an attempt to keep the regional staff in check, bucked progress and from time to time sidelined

Conflicts between local area governments and the region also highlighted the early months of Halton's regional government. Masson claims regional politicians have improved as their knowledge of what the region is all about has increased.

He suggests fences have been mended and relationships between the region and the area governments have improved as well.

CAO is big help Masson claims council's decision to go through the better part of the year without a Chief Administrative Officer also hampered pro-

Ernie Reid was hired to do that job only a few months ago and according to Masson, Reid's experience in regional

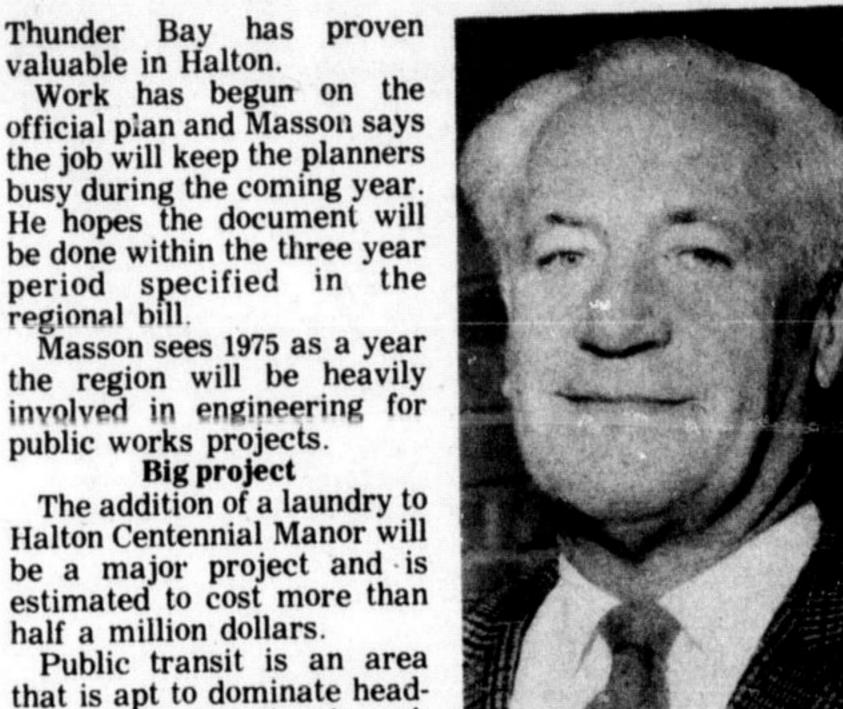
Thunder Bay has proven valuable in Halton. Work has begun on the official plan and Masson says the job will keep the planners busy during the coming year. He hopes the document will be done within the three year

regional bill. Masson sees 1975 as a year the region will be heavily involved in engineering for public works projects. Big project

The addition of a laundry to Halton Centennial Manor will be a major project and is estimated to cost more than half a million dollars.

Public transit is an area that is apt to dominate headlines intermittently through 1975. Masson sees that as a service that must be coordinated throughout the region, but not necessarily taken over by the region.

He notes that Oakville and Burlington both run bus services. Milton runs limited service and Halton Hills has no bus service. According to Masson Halton



**ALLAN MASSON** 

in having the service intro-

Masson said he was optimistic that GO train connections could be made to serve the people of Milton. He sees the need for co-operation between the various munici-

palities in the region to organize bus routes and schedules so that passengers could cross political boundaries and traverse the region without a great deal of inconvience. From a regional point of view, transportation services that now exist in the region are chaotic, he

Joint venture The chairman is optimistic that the region can be in permanent office headquarters before the current council's term of rental ends in two years' time. He noted the region was considering co-operating with other government agencies in a

### Firefighters thank helpers at dinner

Milton Firefighters' annual Christmas social night was held Friday, Dec. 20 at the fire hall with over 50 on hand for a dinner prepared and served by the brigade's social committee.

The annual party is for firefighters and others who have helped them through the

Fire Chief A. E. Clement was master of ceremonies for a brief program following the

to the firefighters and season's greetings on behalf of the town council. Former chief Bill Randell, Dr. C. A. Martin, Sgt. Al Grainger of spoke briefly. New firefighters The three newest members

ed-Bill Russell, Pat Ryan and Allan Wilkie.

Guests this year included Charlie Johnson, George Swann, Ed Ramsbottom, Bill Duignan, Bert Jones, Delmar Coulson, Russ Robertson, Fred Timbers, Roy Downs and Percy Barr plus eight former members of the fire department. A dozen chickens were given away in

Bill Van Rooyen headed the social committee which arranged the roast beef dinner. Helpers were John Johnstone, Doug Gervais, Don

dinner. Councillor Brad Clements extended best wishes Milton OPP and Deputy Fire George Bundy also

of the brigade were introduc-

### Marshall, George Prior, Harpresent the highlight public old Coulson, Ivan Clarridge lecture at 2 p.m. Sunday and Harold Penson.

Grace Anglican

Keith McCann, newly

appointed district supervisor

for Jehovah's Witnesses in

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CAMPBELLVILLE BRANCH The Lions Club Community Centre

will be closed December 31st, 1974

### look to future The theme of the two day assembly is "What Sort of overseer of the Milton Persons Ought You to Be?"

Area Witnesses

congregation, has announced today a two day, semi-annual gathering Jehovah's Witnesses in the Malton, Brampton, Georgetown, Burlington and Port Credit areas. It is anticipated that approximately 1,500 persons will attend from a total of 11 congregations.

The assembly will be held newly dedicated Assembly Hall built by Jehovah's Witnesses, located one mile west of Mississauga Rd., on Highway 7 near Norval, Dec. 28 and 29.

For the future continued inflation destroy your security? How will you pay rent or buy food? Will food supplies run out? Will dangers to your health or safety grow? Can the nations outbreak of terrifying wars?" asked Mr. Sheppard. "The Bible has much to say about the future-not mere human plained. That is why we are looking foward to the public talk scheduled for Sunday afternoon, on the subject

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Holds?"

"What the Near Future

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Masson sees the possibility of a District Health Council being introduced in Halton during 1975. The chairman said there had been some suggestion that the province would have liked to have done that during 1974.

"At that time I said we had our plates full. We're blessed with good health service in the region. We have four good hospitals and four good hospital boards. We shouldn't disturb that," he said.

The function of a district health council is to supervise the health services. Halton **Human Services Council will** do that job as part of its role, once it is set up and oper-

During 1975 Masson sees expansion of pollution control plants as a priority item that must be dealt with before the region can expand its housing stock to any degree. Pollution control plants in all four area municipalities are at or over capacity now, he noted.

> SKATING AT CAMISLE

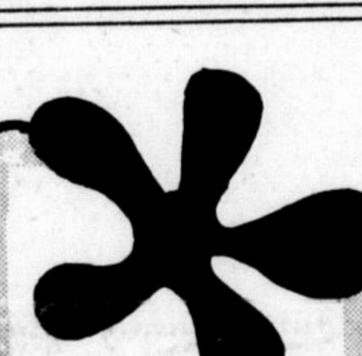
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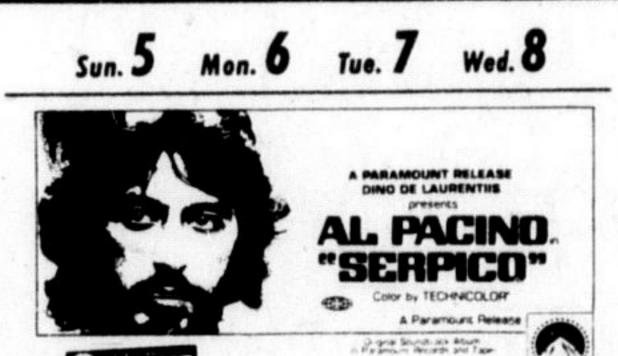
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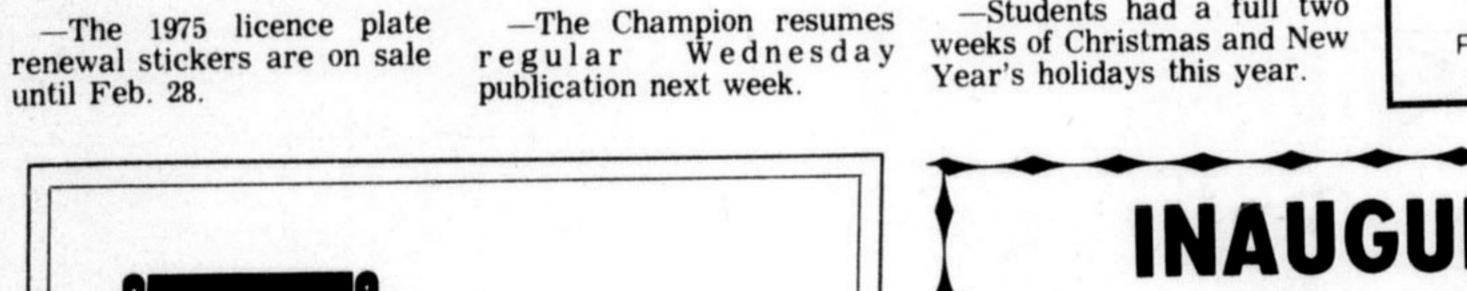
encountered during the first year of operation.

departments that had never functioned on a regional scale before, hiring new departfunctions that had been formerly handled at the local

In turmoil For onlookers, the region was the scene of turmoil during the early months as

Hills council isn't interested government in Sudbury and new departments were being

CHOIR LEADER Gary Carter reviews a piece of music with pianish Chris Penrice and soloist Ginny Penrice before the Christmas service at Emmanuel Baptist Church.



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> What's doing in the Central Halton Area!

HOCKEY TOURNAMENT There's still time to sit in on some of the action at Milton Minor Hockey Association's week-long Beaver Tournament, being staged Dec. 26 to Saturday, Jan. 4,

are participating, with 80 games scheduled.

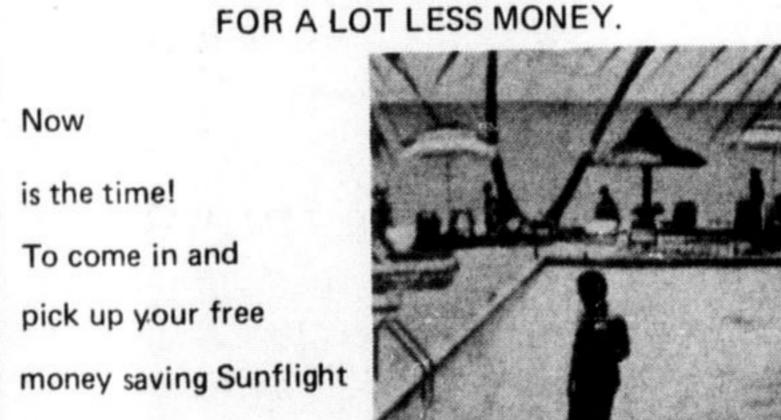
at the Armstrong Arena, Brown St. About 1,000 boys

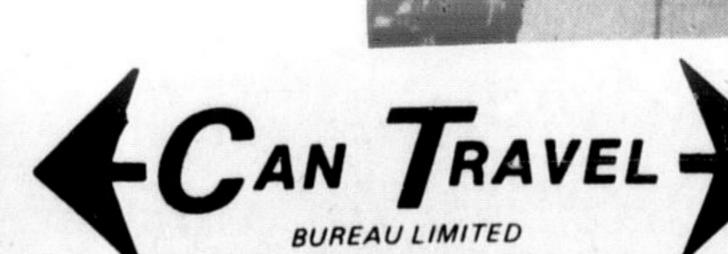
ARENA OPENING Milton Memorial Arena on Thompson Rd. will be officially opened to public use this weekend, with festivities Jan. 4, 5 and 6. The Finnish hockey team will be playing a Milton midget team on Monday and special ceremonies are planned.

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