

# Safeway — salvation, or death-knell?

By Roy Downs  
Would a Safeway food store located on Millside Dr. be the salvation—or the death-knell—of downtown Milton? That's the thorny question Milton Council will have to answer in the next few weeks as the proposal to place a 30,000 square foot retail food store on the south side of Millside Dr., opposite the new Milton Tower condominium high-rise and the Brewers Retail store, blew up into a full-blown controversy at two

council meetings this week. Last Tuesday's Planning and Development Committee of Council saw a 4-3 vote reverse a staff report that recommended against the development. Monday night's meeting featured speeches by five downtown merchants—two of them councillors—with a net result of two in favor, three against the food store's proposed location.  
More study  
And council finally turned the matter back to the com-

mittee of council for a further report that would not only study the Safeway project but would also take a good hard look at the whole future of the downtown business core.  
Councillor Emmerson McCready heads up the fight to keep Safeway off the Millside Dr. site, while Councillor Art Melanson leads the campaign to get it established there. (Both are Main St. merchants engaged in retail operations, Mr. McCready at Stedman's and Mr. Melanson at Knight's

Men's Wear.)  
Joining the fray at Monday's meeting were Harvey Melion of Milton Department Store who said he spoke on behalf of the 68-member Milton Downtown Group in urging the store be allowed to establish there, and merchant Blanche Hinton of Milton Variety Store who pleaded with council to reject the proposal.  
The fifth merchant to speak was Nip Maskell, manager of Ledwith's Super Save store

on Main St., who said only that "when the store becomes unprofitable, they (owners National Grocers) will not renew their lease."  
Change site  
Safeway originally asked for rezoning for a site on Market Dr., beside Canadian Tire Store, last summer. At that time Milton Downtown Group circulated a petition urging council to approve the proposal, and 32 of the 68 member merchants signed it. Councillors were skeptical of

the Petition, however, when its age was noted and when it was pointed out less than half the members signed in favor of the Safeway proposal.  
Another damper was thrown on the petition Monday when Councillor McCready, who said he used to belong to the Downtown Group, admitted signing it but since changing his mind about the Safeway proposal.  
Councillor Russell Powadiuk said others may have changed their stands on the

petition in the meantime, and he and other councillors urged the Downtown Group to recirculate the petition and get it updated.  
Landowner Marie M. Martin submitted the Safeway proposal to council, with her son Joseph Martin acting as her agent. The site on Millside Dr. is presently zoned for high density residential use and was originally scheduled to accommodate a 107-unit building, one of five apartment towers the Martin

family planned on its holdings, sometimes known as "Martin's Flats". A rezoning would be necessary to change the use to commercial.  
Apartments too  
Two of the apartment towers have already been constructed on the north side of Millside, backing onto the CPR line. Another is planned south and east of the Martin home at 57 Martin St., and it would abut the Safeway site which is beside the creek at the curve in Millside Dr.

Councillor McCready came prepared Monday with a long speech enumerating the reasons he felt the proposal should be rejected. He prefaced his remarks with a statement that he had "no axe to grind" against either Safeway or the Martins, and admitted another food store in Milton would be "desirable" but the location was wrong.  
In the staff report to council the planning director, clerk (Continued on page 9)



STRUNG RIGHT OUT on the floor catching 40 winks, Mike Codd was one of the Milton District High School bandmen who performed in a 24-hour fund-raising marathon of music at St. Paul's Church on the weekend. The band played from 9 a.m. Saturday to 9 a.m. Sunday, with only brief rest breaks. (More on Page 9)

\$25,000

## Morrow suggests salary for chairman

Regional Chairman Ric Morrow will recommend he receive \$25,000 a year for the job to which he plans to devote three days a week.  
His \$25,000 suggestion will be examined this week by administration committee of regional council and likely considered next month.  
"It would appear that a figure of \$25,000 would be an appropriate salary for the position of regional chairman, based on comparative studies," Morrow says.  
"I feel it would be inappropriate for the regional chairman to be paid a salary less than that paid to a regional councillor from, for instance, the City of Mississauga," his report states.  
Based on last year's pay regional councillors from Mississauga could charge to

\$21,000 a year while regional councillors from Hamilton could get \$24,000.  
Morrow is quick to point out he isn't interested in receiving anything like the over-\$30,000 stipends other regional chairmen receive. He noted if his suggestion is accepted he will receive about \$11,000 less than former chairman Allan Masson received.  
He also thinks regional councillors may wish to review their own pay.  
"The present remuneration of \$8,500 has been in effect for three years. I believe council should adopt a policy which would amend the salary to reflect existing conditions," he reports.  
Morrow suggests cost of living increases and Anti-inflation Board wage guidelines or use a percent-

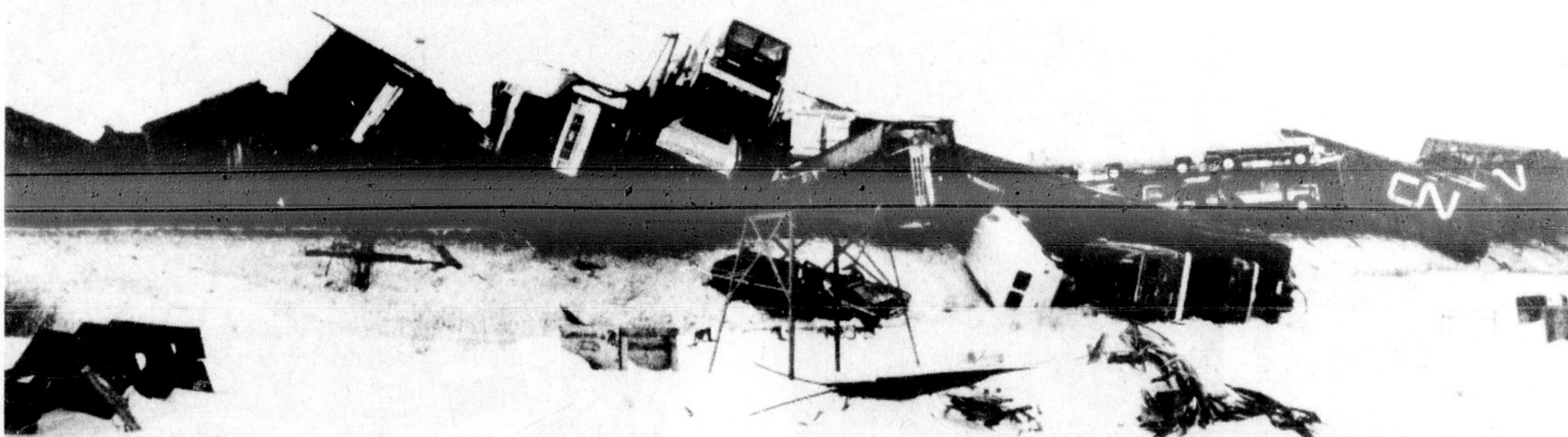
age increase of regional department heads pay hikes as a yardstick.  
In addition, Morrow thinks council should consider giving regional committee chairmen a bonus of \$1,500 to \$2,000 a year.  
When the question came to a vote Councillors Brian Penman, Don Gordon, Jim Watson and Art Melanson supported the development. Russ Powadiuk, Emmerson McCready and Rose Harrison

## Report rabies

Rabid foxes have caused two cases of rabid dogs in Campbellville and three people have had to be treated for the disease.  
A dog belonging to Sonya Marie Agnew of Campbellville was bitten on the porch of her home three days before Christmas and had to be destroyed, according to police.  
Another dog in the Campbellville area was bitten but

the case was not reported and three people were given rabies shots as a precaution. Contrary to popular belief, a person does not have to be bitten by a rabid animal in order to contract the disease.  
Any open cut or scratch in contact with the fluids of a rabid animal, for instance the saliva of a family dog, could cause rabies.  
(Continued on page 9)

A SPECTACULAR WRECK resulted Wednesday afternoon when 37 cars of an 87-car freight train derailed near Walker's Line on the Milton-Burlington CN line. Investigation continues but officials indicate a seized wheel may have caused the derailment. Damage is estimated at well over a million



dollars. The derailed cars carried new GM cars, trucks and vans as well as pine lumber, sulphur and scrap metal, and a few were empty. The accident also knocked out local power lines and a neighborhood of homes plus three industrial plants temporarily lost power. (See story Page 3)

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## Planner opposes store location

Construction of a major food store on Millside Dr. would all but kill chances of redevelopment in the central business district of Milton, according to town planner Bob Zsadanyi.  
He told council last week that assemblies are being put together right now with a view to redevelopment in that block of land bounded by Main, Martin, Mill and James Sts. He said a commercial, residential and office complex is being considered.  
He isn't at liberty to say just who is providing the financial backing, however Mr. Zsadanyi did tell this newspaper that a European financed firm is interested and he is advised there is a Canadian group interested in the redevelopment scheme as well.

Staff against  
In his report to council, Mr. Zsadanyi said, "The town staff have reviewed this application on many occasions prior to the preparation of this report and are not in favor of, nor could they support this application."  
Zsadanyi said a major commercial development on Millside Dr. would represent misuse of municipal services and a poor land use in relationship with existing apartment developments, "especially the new condominium building."  
He said the site wasn't suitable for a major food store because of the poor access for what would be a major traffic generator. The last item on his list of shortfalls in the proposal was the great loss in tax revenue which would otherwise be generated by a residential development on the property.

Speaking on behalf of the applicant, Joe Martin told Tuesday's Planning-Development Committee meeting that when the matter came up in September only the Fire Department had objected and he noted that plans now call for the provision of a new fire hall. He surmised the fire department objection would be withdrawn.  
When the question came to a vote Councillors Brian Penman, Don Gordon, Jim Watson and Art Melanson supported the development. Russ Powadiuk, Emmerson McCready and Rose Harrison

opposed the motion.  
Councillors Jim Kerr and Gord Krantz were absent from the Tuesday meeting and Councillor Rick Day declared a conflict on the vote. Day said he acted as lawyer for a man who had offered to purchase the property and might still be interested in it for a residential use.

## Inmate is AWOL

Police are looking for Clarence James Abel of Toronto after the man did not return to Maplehurst Correctional Centre when his temporary absence pass expired.

Halton Regional Police said Abel, 39, did not return to Maplehurst after the weekend and is listed now as unlawfully at large. He was serving a sentence for break and entry and forgery.

Police said the man is originally from the east coast, and may be trying to return there.

A lot of the opposition to the rezoning and official plan change seemed to centre around the idea that the land should be held and used for high-rise apartments, as was

originally planned. The advantage would be that several hundred people would be living within walking distance of the central business core. A 107-unit building was

planned.  
That has always been considered an integral part of the overall redevelopment plan for downtown Milton.

On the other hand, councillors arguing in favor of the location of Safeway there felt it, in itself, would be a boost to Main St. and the central business district by drawing more traffic to the downtown core.



SOMEWHERE IN THAT CROWD of students is a teacher being pulled along in a toboggan. This toboggan chariot relay race held on Wednesday during Martin St. School's week-long Winter

Carnival was won by Red house which is in second place behind Black house. The final results will not be known until next week when the final totals of the skate-a-thon are tallied.

## Bomb threat

Halton Regional Police were called to Milton District High School early last week when an unidentified caller phoned in a bomb threat.

No bomb was found, and a police spokesman said the

call was a hoax. It is the second bomb threat for the local police since school began in September. Earlier in the year, Fairview School received an anonymous call, which also turned out to be a hoax.

## Change in tune?

## Raftis predicts 3 or 4 smaller landfill sites

By Bob Burt  
According to Halton Region Public Works Chairman Jack Raftis, there will not be a landfill site located at Site F. Raftis made that prediction during a break in a council-staff seminar held last week.  
He suggested that when all of the debate is finally over, council will opt for three or four small dumping sites and a resource recovery plant.  
As chairman of public works, it has been Raftis who has steered much of the site selection program through council. He has been an ardent supporter of Site F, at Tremaine and Britannia Rds

in Milton.  
Asked why he was now suggesting that a dump will not be situated there, Mr. Raftis said "Council has been asking for alternatives."  
Cost jumps  
He estimated the cost of a resource recovery plant to be in the neighborhood of \$7 to \$8 million and noted the cost of treating garbage would jump from \$3 or \$4 per ton to \$10 or \$12.  
The latest in a series of consultants' reports will go before council or committee in the immediate future.  
It will be regional council that makes the ultimate decision.

The report designates lands lying north of Britannia Rd., south of the gas line, bounded on the east by Tremaine Rd. and on the west of the Bell School Line.  
The report recommends proceeding with stage three. That phase will enable consultants to make a final recommendation concerning the technical suitability of the site and what type of leachate collection system would be required.  
Some constraints  
While the report confirms earlier indications by the consultants that there are no major constraints to landfill, it suggests minor constraints do exist.  
"These are bedrocks constraints associated with the area where rock is less than 25 feet from the surface, and surface drainage constraints associated with the perennial streams. If these areas are avoided, minimal problems with landfilling could be expected," said the report.  
The area now designated as the favored site is slightly west of the previously preferred spot and partially within the planning area of

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## C'ville protest

Concerned citizens in the Campbellville area will meet tonight (Wednesday) at Campbellville Lions Hall to discuss the proposed closure of Campbellville School.  
The school closure will be recommended to the board during a board meeting in February. The staff claims the school will have to close due to declining enrolment, but villagers are attempting to show the enrolment will climb and the school should remain open.