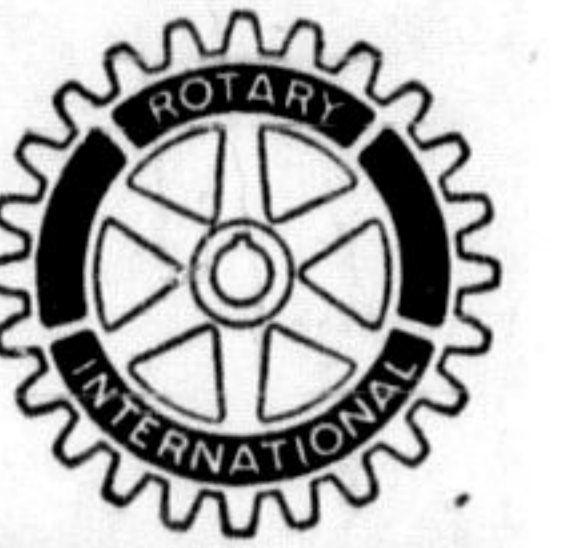


'Service Above Self'

Milton Rotary Club — 30 years of service



It is 30 years since the formation of the Rotary Club of Milton and last night (Tuesday) the club marked the early beginning with former members and Charter President Judge K. Y. Dick in attendance. The three decade span of community, vocational and international service covers a broad range of activities. The contribution financially and in hours of service of many members, is significant.



GRACIE FIELDS appeared in Milton Arena in 1956 under the sponsorship of the Rotary Club. Her appearance fulfilled an earlier plan for a local appearance by the famed-artist. The six inches thick ice had to be removed from the arena for the May appearance.

Spawned in the immediate post war years, the club has had an impact on many community events.

For many years it hosted a Hallowe'en party in the town hall, it sold peanuts with a good deal of hoopla and enthusiasm, it has sponsored the Easter Seal program for Crippled Children virtually since the club's inception. The Club has sponsored Boy Scout groups, students to Ottawa, and international exchange students.

Launched hockey

Minor hockey in Milton was instigated under the sponsorship of Rotary. For more than 12 years the club has presented an annual series of six Travel and Adventure films each winter season.

And always there have been the fund raising events to make the community service possible. Hot dogs at the fall fair, white hats sold to raise funds for park development, carnivals, the presentation of a performance by Gracie Fields, a dance to the music of Mart Kenney, a garden party in the fair grounds, car raffles, Rotarama, and a white elephant auction in the arena were among them.

The Milton Figure Skating Club had its origin with the Rotary Club and the club continued to assist with skating carnivals for many years. A choral group, the Milton Choral Society, later the Haltones, had its origin with Rotary.

There were other tangible benefits from the work of the Rotary Club. Rotary Park, a seven acre area was purchased and developed by the Club before being turned over to the town. The wading pool was a

Rotary project and the first ball diamonds were established by the club.

Many donations

Rotary assisted in the construction of the Scout Hall in the Agricultural Grounds and many other groups benefitted from donations made by the club.

But to return to the origin of the club we have to turn the clock back to 1947.

Ice was being cut on Martin's Pond, the town was instituting garbage collection, G. C. Gowland was mayor, the town was considering a sewage treatment system, the first meeting of the Board of Health to form the Halton Health Unit was held and the arena still had natural ice.

The newly organized Rotary Club of Milton came into existence January 22 at a dinner in the upstairs of the town hall, attended by about 220. The Scotch Block Women's Institute did the catering.

First executive

President of the new club was Ken Dick, with Walter Norrington as vice-president, George O'Leary as secretary, R. E. McAndless as treasurer and C. B. Knight as Sergeant at Arms.

Directors included David Davis, Charles Heffernan, and Kenneth Holdsworth. There are still three members in the club who are named on the original charter, Mike Ledwith, Gordon Gowland C. B. Knight.

Other charter members were Clarence Riddell, William Clement, Ted Wood, Dr. Fred Babcock, and F.W.B. Fitzgerald.

It wasn't long until the club was in gear and organizing events. The first event appears to be on July 3, 1947 when the club sponsored a monster garden party in front of the Agricultural Society grandstand. This was followed by a dance at the town hall.

Weather, an omen?

The event was staged under what was

termed ideal weather—which, perhaps, was an omen of the many successful projects which were to span the next 30 years.

Meeting the needs of children at Hallowe'en, the club organized a Hallowe'en party at the town hall preceded by an art contest (using Bon Ami) on the store windows. At the party there were treats and entertainment, a magician, a movie and lucky draws. Similar parties continued over the years.

The town's population was 2,118.

In 1948 the club was holding its first dance at the Brant Inn in Burlington and Ron Harris organized a special bus. There were 360 bags of treats handed out at the Hallowe'en party in the town hall. A bingo was staged a few days later and the club was also sponsoring the drive for The United Emergency Fund for Britain.

In 1950 there was a campaign to help Manitoba residents who had lost so much in the flood. There was an Ice Review in the arena and there was a dance to Mart Kenney planned. Work for the Crippled Children was continuing. The club was also involved in the sponsorship of a Teen Town to provide something for the young people.

Varied speakers

The weekly meetings were dotted with speakers from the community and from further afield. District Governors made annual visits to the club, exhorting members to greater efforts or assisting with problems.

The weekly meetings were also an opportunity for the club to host various groups. As far back as 1951 the club was hosting the high school graduation class. Later a rural-urban night was frequently organized to indicate the club's support for the Dairy Herd Improvement Program or a 4-H club.

As community topics developed there were often speakers to explain them. Concern with dumping was evident in 1952 and the club had a speaker on sanitary landfill.

Ken Elsley was the club's first student to participate in Adventure in Citizenship. The program brought students from across Canada to Ottawa for several days to see government in action, and to meet the prime minister, governor general and other officials.

Parties continue

Along the way the club was involved with other projects, including entering a float in the Santa Claus parade, or operating the annual Hallowe'en party.

In 1954 a group from Georgetown attended a club meeting because of their interest in establishing a club there.

Rotary Park development was an on-going and time-consuming part of club operations. Purchase of the land was one thing but the ongoing attempts to obtain a master plan, level the land and arrange for development continued as major club efforts.

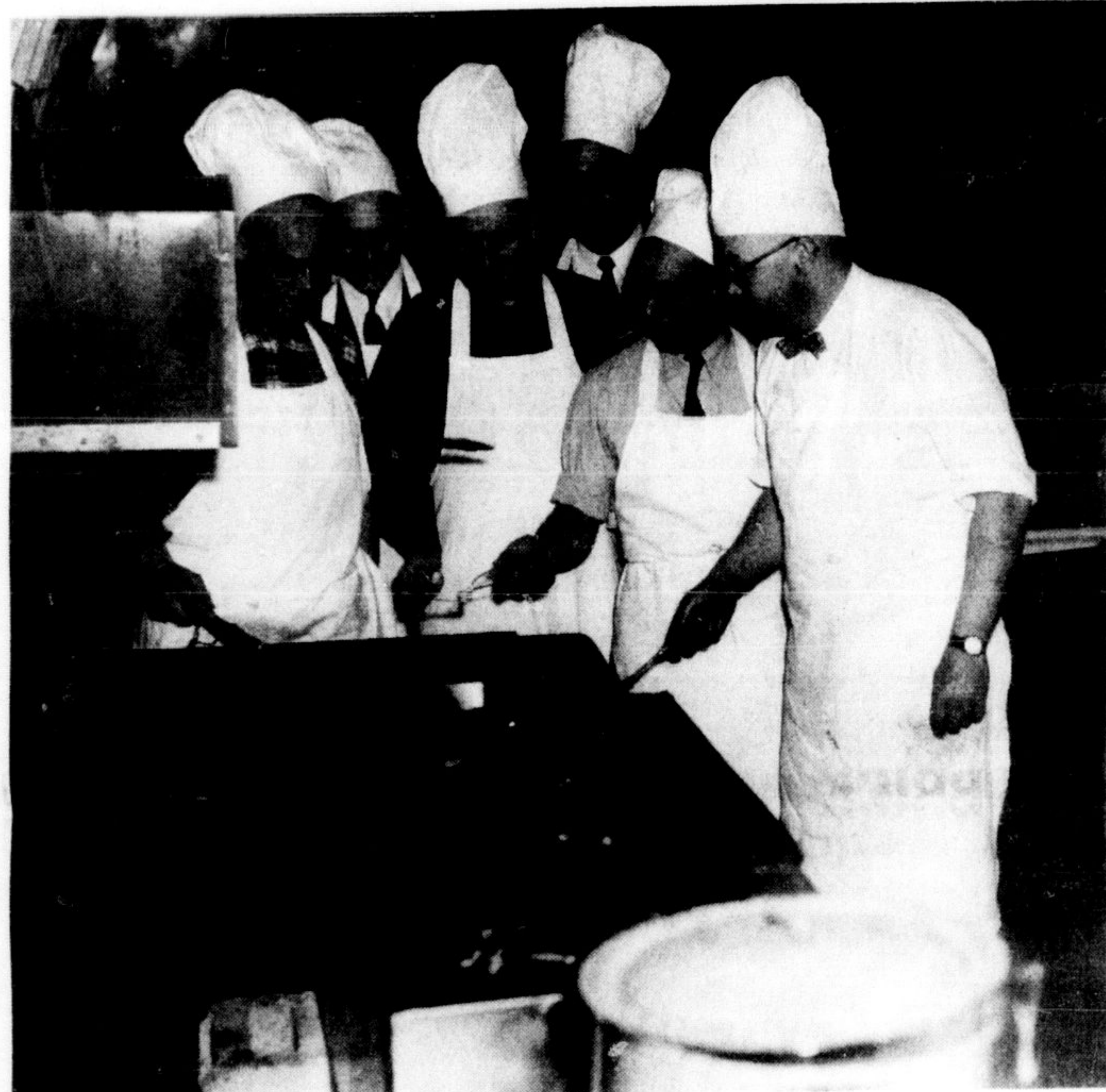
All the club's efforts in that development were not successful. The installation of a fine drinking fountain, adjacent to the wading pool was soon damaged by vandals. Later a substantial cement block building

(Continued on page B9)



DANCES have been regular club social events. In 1955 the club held a dance in the town hall to mark an anniversary of Rotary International. The president of the Burlington Club Al Wheland is

shown cutting the cake. With him are Bob and Ida Reed, Bill Duckering chairman of the dance, Mrs. Wheland and club president Mike Ledwith.



A PANCAKE SUPPER was just one of the club's fund-raising projects. Rotarians Norm Guild,

Cec Dobie, Charlie Anderson, Jim Costigan, Gord McIntosh and Mike Ledwith practice flipping in 1959.

Presidents in 30 years

ROTARY CLUB OF MILTON PRESIDENTS, 1947-1977

- Kenneth Dick 1947-48; Walter Norrington 1948; Gordon Gowland 1948-50; Fred Babcock 1950-51; Dave Davis 1951-52; Bob Reed 1952-54; Mike Ledwith 1954-55. Gord McIntosh 1955-56.
- Jim Dills 1956-57; Norm Guild 1957-58; John Ostler 1958-59; Harold Kelson 1959-60; Howard B. Griswold 1960-61; J. Allen Francis 1961-1962; Robert F. McCuaig 1962-63; Glyn Roberts 1963-64.
- Cari Hiltz, 1964-65; Chuck Copeland 1965-66; John Brown 1966-67; Dalton E. McQuaig 1967-68; Norman S. Pearce, 1968-69; Ed Gawronski 1969-70; David Thompson 1970-71.
- Jim Seager 1971; John Conway 1971-72; Robert F. McCuaig, 1972-73; Richard A. Copley 1973-74; Burke McNeill 1974-75; A. L. Gus Goutouski, 1975-76; Lachie McKersie 1976-77.



ROTARY PARK was turned over to the town in 1966 after formation of a town parks board. Rotarian Bob Reed, president Chuck

Copeland and Rotarian Bob McCuaig are shown with Mayor Syd Childs at the event.



EASTER SEALS have been an involvement of the Rotary Club for nearly 30 years. Stuffing the envelopes and seals was often a

function at a club meeting. The work is now done by students at Sunshine School.

Mike Ledwith served as District Governor

The Rotary Club of Milton was honored in 1964 when one of its past presidents, J. Michael Ledwith was elected District Governor.

As District Governor Mike Ledwith visited clubs in District 709 which included parts of Ontario and New York state.

Subsequently the Milton Club hosted the District Conference in April 1965 at the Sheraton-Connaught Hotel in Hamilton.

Three days, 1,000 there. Conference chairman was Glyn Roberts and vice-chairman Howard Griswold. Other Milton Rotarians served on the many committees involved in staging the event.

The 3-day conference was attended by more than 1,000 and Mike was accorded a standing ovation at the Governor's Ball for his work on behalf of the district.

K. Y. Dick, in making a presentation to Mike and Vere reviewed that Mike had driven about 18,000 miles, made 56 official club visits and 75 additional special events visits to clubs in the district.

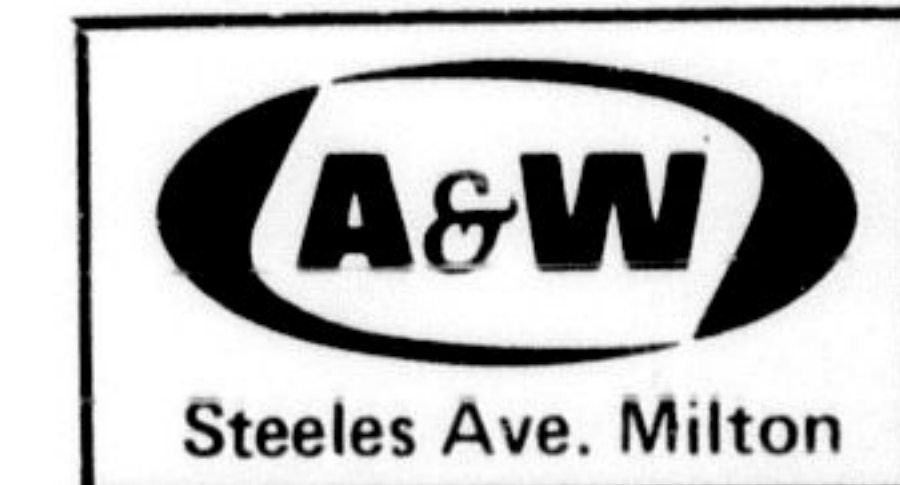
Milton Members
Those attending from the Milton Club at some or all of the conference functions were Mr. and Mrs. C. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Black, Dr. and Mrs. John Brown, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Clements, Mr. and Mrs. C. Copeland, Mr. and Mrs. D. Conley, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Davis, Mr. and Mrs. K. Y. Dick, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Dills, C. Dobie, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Elsley, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Gowland, Mr. and Mrs. H. Griswold, Dr. and Mrs. C. W. Hiltz, Harold Hurren, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Keene, Mr. and Mrs. Don Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. Bus Knight, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Ledwith, Ed Litt, Don MacEachern, Mr. and Mrs. Bob McCuaig, Lachie McKersie, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Murphy, Len McNeil, Pete McMullen, Dalit McQuaig, Mr. and Mrs. Bud Nichols, Mr. and Mrs. John Ostler, Ray Olan, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Porter, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Reed, Mr. and Mrs. Glyn Roberts, Hans Stephan, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Servos, Toni Seto, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Thompson, and Mr. and Mrs. Bo Wheeler.



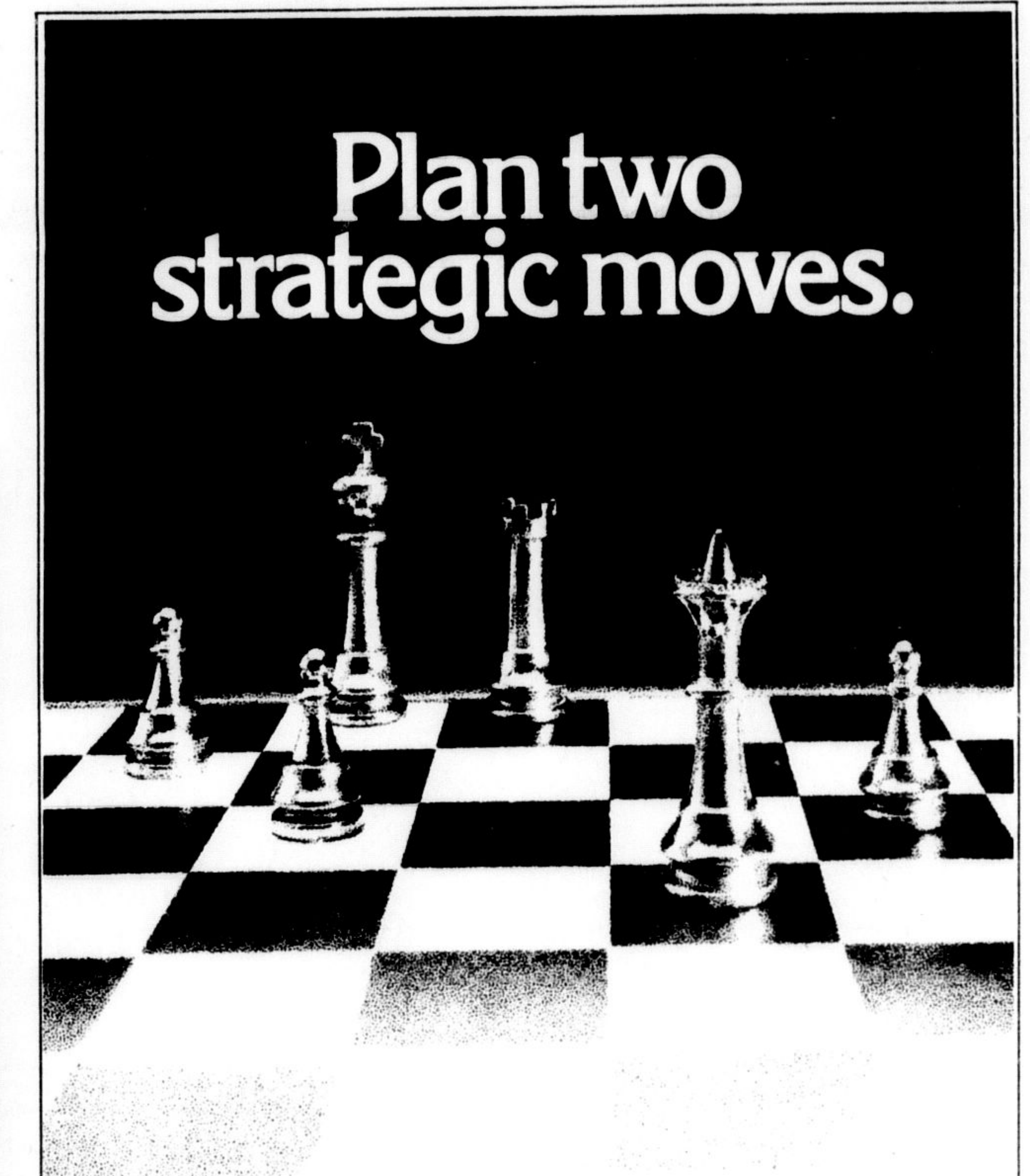
THE WADING POOL was the first major facility in Rotary Park. A crew built the \$1,800 pool in 1954

before there was any public swimming or wading facilities in the community.

Support the research and education programs of your Ontario Heart Foundation, through a generous gift to the Heart Fund Campaign.



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