

**Freeze on hiring**

# Tough line on staff requests

Councillor Gord Krantz made it clear he'll be taking a tough line on the town budget during a meeting of Council Wednesday night.

"I missed the first budget meeting but I might as well tell you right now, that zero is the number of new staff that I'm in favor of hiring.

"I don't want to hire anyone unless department heads say it is absolutely and positively necessary. I'll be asking the department heads if they can or cannot operate and if they say no, I'll be looking for a

new department head. That's the way it is," he said.

Mayor Don Gordon said he had been about to apologize for the mood that he and Councillors Jim Kerr and Jim Watson were in, after "sniping all day down at the region".

"But after hearing Councillor Krantz, I don't think I have to. He would fit in just fine down there, because that is just the way they are going at it," Mr. Gordon said.

Councillor Rick Day said he, too, would be taking a

hard line on the budget and he felt priority should be given to roads over soft services.

He told councillors that council had not done a good enough job of keeping department heads down. He said that while department heads had an allegiance to the whole town, their first priority was their own department and they tend to get tied up in it.

He said it was up to councillors who are responsible for the entire operation to keep the lid on various departments.

**Offer to buy parking**

# Town wants Victoria Park

Victoria Park and the parking lot at the corner of Hugh and Mary Sts. in Milton—both currently owned by the Region of Halton—should rightly belong to the town of Milton and Milton Councillors agreed Monday evening they should attempt to purchase both parcels, provided they are available for a "nominal" sum.

Council had before it a by-law covering the town's lease of the parking lot when discussions began on the two regional land holdings in the

core of the town. Councillor Brad Clements felt the town should have "first right of refusal" if the parking lot was ever offered for sale, and fellow councillors agreed to include that in the draft by-law. "We should offer the region \$1 for it—it is rightly ours anyway," said Councillor Emmerson McCready.

The land was vacant about seven years ago and Milton Council asked the Region to let Milton lease the land. The town developed the parking

lot on the site and it is currently the site of the weekly Saturday morning farmers' market in addition to serving as a parking lot on the weekdays.

A nearby resident has asked to have the parking lot landscaped but Legislative Assistant Jack McGeachie pointed out the landscaping would eat up some valuable parking spaces in the lot.

Discussions swung around to the Victoria Park, facing the old court house on Brown St. and councillors agreed it should be owned by the town too. They noted there is an agreement with the Canadian Legion, dating back to 1921, allowing the Legion to use the corner where the war memorial stands.

Only objection came from Councillor Jim Watson, who felt the town has too much parkland now. There are over 300 acres of parks in Milton, he said, and buying more would "put us further into debt."

In the end, council asked the staff to begin negotiations with the region on purchasing both parcels—the park and the parking lot—provided the price is right.

**Day says**

# Region displays should be canned

Councillor Rick Day took great exception to Regional planning displays being stationed in the lobby at Milton Town Hall during a meeting Wednesday night.

He said residents would look unfavorably upon the displays and would blame area politicians for them. "Get them out of here," he shouted.

He was prepared to make a motion to that effect, but meeting chairman Jim Kerr said the motion was out of order because the meeting was called only to discuss the budget.

"Fine, I'll put the motion Monday night," he said.

Mayor Don Gordon put Mr. Day on notice when he said he would take the councillor to task publicly. "People want to see those displays. They want to know about the future

of Halton and about the industrial amendment."

The large green displays are designed as part of the regional planning department's public participation program, in connection with the official plan preparation. Public meetings will be held throughout the region in the near future.

**Council Briefs**

# Pothole complaints

During a meeting Monday evening, Milton Council:

—Welcomed leaders and boys from the 1st Campbellville Cub Pack, who sat in on the first part of the meeting.

—Asked the personnel committee to review a 1974 decision to pay department heads \$25 for meetings held on weekends, if they could not be scheduled at any other time. Councillor Jim Watson said they are salaried people and should not be paid extra.

—Agreed to proclaim Daylight Saving Time from 2 a.m. Sunday, April 24 to 2 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 30.

—Decided to ask regional council to allow residents to dump up to 500 pounds of refuse in regional dumps. The current limit is 300 pounds.

—Heard a complaint about sludge dumping on Trafalgar Rd. but also learned the

problem had been cleared up in the meantime.

—Decided to notify Milton Mall the town has received numerous complaints about dangerous potholes. Councillor Rose Harrison said the town should fix the potholes and charge the owner, but Councillor Jim Watson objected to town staff doing any work on private property.

—Asked the staff to investigate reports the Ontario Government has purchased three farms in the Trafalgar Rd., Derry Rd. and Lower Baseline areas. Councillor Rick Day said he would like to know why the government wanted the farms, through what agency they were purchased and how much was paid.

—Held a brief court of review to refund \$5,045 in 1976 taxes and write off \$940 in uncollectables. Most of the rebates were for barns burned, homes demolished or

businesses which had ceased to operate.

—Approved a new by-law governing taxi owners and drivers and changing the maximum licence ownership for one firm from three to six.

—Received a fire department report listing two urban and five rural fire calls in March. Fire Chief Clement noted 97 man-hours were spent in training during the month and Assistant Deputy Chief Jim Coulson had attended a one-day seminar in Guelph on the construction of fire-rated ceilings and roofs.

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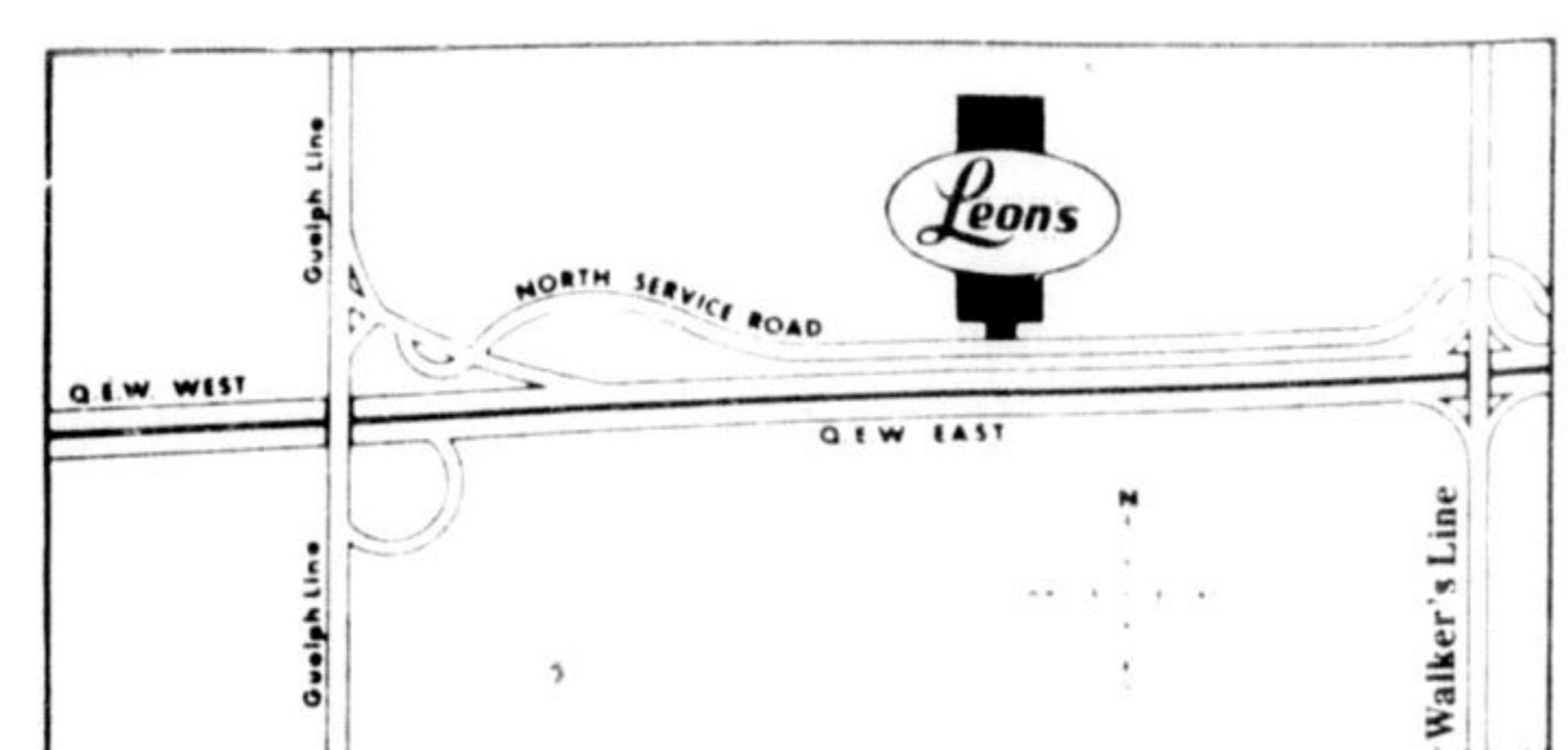


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