

Wintario comes through

Surprise: new arena is all paid for now

Surprise! Milton's new arena and community sports complex is all paid for!

Wintario grants have increased on the project and are now expected to total \$629,550 — not \$299,942 as had earlier been expected, Treasurer Don Loughheed told Milton Council Monday night.

This means that only \$36,550 will be needed from the public subscription campaign, to pay off the project. The public fund goal was originally set at \$196,000

and to date has collected \$87,500 but campaign officials expect that figure to swell to around \$120,000 when all the committed funds are collected.

The arena was to have cost \$668,827 but the end cost must be listed as \$1,184,000 due to what the treasurer describes as a "book entry" on the donation of the site.

Developer Murray Goldman of Alliance Goldfin Holdings gave the town the six acre site, valued at an ap-

praised \$325,000, part of which was in lieu of a parkland dedication for a subdivision his firm plans in the Laurier Ave.-Derry Rd. area. Wintario has now said the \$325,000 gift can be accepted as a public donation, and will pay a grant based on that price.

Actual cost of the finished arena then, is \$850,000.

Council will put in \$95,550 from the proceeds of the sale of the old Brown St. arena, on which the town hopes to net

\$150,000. The federal post office department has expressed a strong interest in purchasing the site for a new post office building, but a deal has not yet been closed.

Fund-raising committee chairman Bill Rowney, who attended Monday's meeting with some fellow committee members, was asked by council for some indication of what the committee would do now — give up, or continue to try to raise the \$196,000 it had set out to raise early in the

fall.

Rowney said the committee had been told to raise the \$196,000 but it appears the objective has now been reached. The group was told any excess funds would be set aside for a future indoor swimming pool, he reminded the council.

Mayor Don Gordon's suggestion, that the committee bring in a report on what it plans to do, was accepted by the council.

During Monday's meeting,

council approved \$55,808 in "extras" that the contractor claimed were necessary, and \$64,000 for paving the parking lot, providing a new Zamboni ice scraping machine and a time clock for the new arena.

The extra costs bothered some members, especially a \$36,000 figure for additional foundations and backfilling that was done some months ago due to problems with the chosen site.

"There wasn't much choice," engineer Bill Noten-

boom of R. V. Anderson, consulting engineers, explained. When the job was tendered, the town did not know the exact location on the Laurier Ave. site and soil tests had not been taken. Soil tests proved the chosen site was unsuitable, as it was a former creek bed, and the arena was moved 30 feet away, but one side of the building needed extra backfilling and the foundation had to be deepened.

The engineer said the final cost wasn't available until now as the contractor's price was too high and the firm has been negotiating for a lower price until recently.

Other extras were extra gravel under the ice surface, some exterior lighting, colored face blocks, a drop fascia and some extensive damage by rains in the early part of the construction.

Councillor Emmerson McCready said the new figures were a "surprise" to him but "we have accomplished what we set out to do — we haven't added anything to the mill rate" to build a new arena.

Councillor Brian Penman was upset, however, at the action of the staff in not telling council the whole story earlier. He noted \$5,000 worth of minor additions to the arena had been brought before council, but the \$36,000 to repair the land was held off.

"You may have gotten away with it this time," he said, but if it ever happens again he would "vote against completion of the project."

We have no alternative but to go ahead, it has to go ahead, said Councillor Art Melanson.

Council was warned about a month ago there would be

more extras, Clerk Campbell Thompson told members. "Is there anything else coming?" Councillor Jim Kerr wanted to know. Staff assured him there shouldn't be.

Councillor Penman suggested council needs a rule of thumb for future major projects, to avoid last-minute extra costs like this. "We are our own worst enemies," he suggested.

He also felt council should have set a more realistic time frame for the arena job, as it was debated for a long time, then rushed to get it open by Christmas.

Parks and Recreation Director Larry Arbic said the Dec. 7 opening date is not possible, but ice will start going in Dec. 19 and the arena should be ready for its first patrons on boxing day, Dec.

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THOUSANDS OF MILTON area residents lined Main and Ontario Sts. to view Milton's annual Santa Claus Parade Saturday afternoon. Above, a clown takes a minute to chat with a youngster, and on the bottom right, clowns Marsha Gunn and Susan Smith take pains to make sure they have their make-up on right. On the upper right, members of the Brampton Senators Band parade past the crowd.



Thousands see Santa

Parade participants shivered

Everyone likes a parade and the thousands of youngsters (and some not so young) who lined the streets Saturday for Milton's Santa Claus parade were far from disappointed.

The parade, featuring more than 60 entries and 10 bands, thrilled youngsters who had turned out on the coldest day of the year.

Majorettes shivered in the cold and some instruments became unmanageable in the cold but the parade went as scheduled and the bands played on.

Crowd estimates are dif-

ficult to determine because the crowd was spread over the entire length of the parade route from E. C. Drury School all the way along Ontario St. and Main St.

Parade committee chairman Karen Uhryn said the parade is certainly being considered a success. "It went over really well."

Miss Uhryn noted the committee experimented with new traffic patterns at the start of the parade and felt that had improved things.

Committee member Bonnie Hill said the parade culminated four and a half

months of work and endless hours of effort not only on behalf of the committee but on behalf of people entering floats and taking part in many other ways. She pointed out that concern about financing was overcome and the parade was put on within the \$4,300 budget.

The annual prizes for the best floats went to the Bank of Nova Scotia entry for the best theme, the Boy Scouts for the runner-up to the best theme and the A. E. LePage entry was the best creative non-theme float.

The "globe" in the Bank of

Nova Scotia float was made for the bank by Cliffe Bill and Jim Baynton and consisted of a wooden and mesh frame covered with 2,000 Kleenex flowers which were made by the Bank of Nova Scotia staff.

It represented the different nationalities of the bank staff and the banners read "Merry Christmas" in their native tongue.

Riding on the float were Olive Bergin, Deirdre Bergin,

Kelly Bergin, Margaret Stewart, Diana Fityk, Carolyn Spurgeon, Margot Ortenburg, Evelyn Irving, Doreen Bill.

The float was driven by John Spurgeon and Fred Mural accompanied by Fred's sons.

The A. E. LePage float followed the theme Mother Christmas and featured several children in native costumes.

Theme floats were judged on their overall appearance, originality and theme portrayal and non-theme entries were awarded points for overall appearance and originality.

Judges were Mrs. Freda Best, John O'Brien, Deputy Superintendent at Maplehurst and 1976 Committee Chairman Les Wood

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Almost drowned

Tiny boy still fights for life

Although two-year-old Matthew is listed in critical condition and unconscious at Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto, his parents Robert and Morna Martin of Milton are still hopeful that he will recover from a near drowning at the family home on Trafalgar Rd.

"We are still hoping for the best," said Mr. Martin, adding, "the signs are better than they could have been."

"Unless something should go wrong, he will live. Our only problem is determining to what extent there is brain damage," he said.

Tests carried out in the last day indicate there is the possibility of brain damage due to deprivation of oxygen to the brain, according to Mr. Martin.

"There was a minor setback, when the doctors put a Richard screw into his skull to monitor pressure in the brain. There was indication of a small rise in pressure."

Both parents have been in constant attendance at the hospital, said Mr. Martin, but he will not resume his work with the law firm of Martin and Hillyar in Burlington.

"My wife has been pretty strong throughout the whole ordeal and we have our moments of feeling very optimistic," he said.

Mrs. Martin had loaded her three children, Matthew, Amanda and Jay in the family station wagon, when Matthew sitting in the front seat put the vehicle into reverse, causing the car to

careen backwards down the driveway, through a rail fence, landing sideways partially submerged in a pond.

Four-year-old Amanda and nine-month-old Jay were safely rescued by their mother, but Mrs. Martin was unable to find Matthew who had been thrown from the car when the vehicle hit the pond.

Halton Regional Police arrived within minutes of the call from Mrs. Martin and waded waist-deep to search for the boy, but two passing motorists, Jack Knoop and Andy Anderson from Beachville, are credited with saving the boy's life.

Mr. Knoop and Mr. Anderson were travelling in their tow-truck, when they saw police cars racing to the Martin residence. The two men

followed the cruisers and used their truck to hook up the car. Matthew then surfaced from his position—lodged between the top of the car tire and fender, according to Sergeant Bill Patterson of Halton Regional Police.

"He must have lodged in an air pocket between the fender and top of the tire," he said, adding it was the only way the boy could have survived an estimated 12 to 15 minutes in the water.

Matthew was then transported by ambulance to Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital where he was stabilized before going to Sick Children's Hospital.

The two men will be considered for civilian merit citations, said Sergeant Patterson.

ICG argues

Kitchener hydro route cheaper

The Interested Citizens' Group (ICG) will try convincing the province to hold up expropriations for a major power corridor through Halton Hills by arguing in favor of Ontario Hydro's first choice route—via Kitchener.

According to ICG spokesman John Minns, a four month review of the information Ontario Hydro has about Kitchener will show that the public utility wanted to take power from the Bruce nuclear generating station, on Lake Huron, through Kitchener.

Minns contended in an interview Monday the route via Kitchener is shorter, cheaper and safer than taking electricity across the province through Halton Hills.

The then energy minister Darcy McKeough killed the Kitchener alternate, Minns said, for political reasons.

If the ICG gets its proposal, "We'll get stop work orders on Taylor's (energy minister James Taylor) decision on the expropriations," Minns said.

Taylor last week gave Ontario Hydro a green light to start expropriations for the southern section of the 109-mile long route. A court of appeal decision is being awaited concerning expropriations along the northern wing—from Bruce to Colbeck, near Orangeville.

Citizens objections to the expropriation orders in the middle section of the line have yet to be heard by the courts, Minns said.

Ultimately the ICG will take the issue to the Supreme Court of Canada, Minns said.

Hydro's proposals to get power from the Bruce station date back some five years. Delays in construction is

costing the province millions of dollars, Ontario Hydro says.

We're not totally insensitive to the power needs of the province, Minns contends.

In a nutshell the ICG's proposal is to have a four month long independent review of the information Hydro has in its files and computers on Kitchener, Minns said.

Whatever the results of the review are, we will accept them, Minns said.

The four-month review comes as a toned down demand from the ICG. For as long as Hydro has wanted to build the line, the ICG has called for an independent study of the north-south route—like the one Dr. O. Solandt carried out on the Nanticoke to Pickering line.

The main alternate route proposed by the ICG would take power from the nuclear station to Essa, near Lake Simcoe, to tie in with an existing 500 kV line. "We feel that hammering at the Bruce-Essa alternate is not getting anyone anywhere," Minns said.

A separate independent study would take time, and

time is growing short, he said. Four years ago a study could have been done, he continued.

The ICG has tried meeting Premier William Davis, but has been told by the premier's office that he is too busy. However Taylor will meet them, after Christmas, Minns said.

Minns said the meetings should take place now, and with the premier. He's the only one with the power to make the decision he said. A decision is hoped for this week.

"If there's a compromise where Davis can save face, then that's what we want," Minns said.

In a parallel development the ICG has an experienced systems planner—Ken Slater of Slater Energy Consultants Toronto—going through reams of computer printouts given to the ICG by Hydro in August at the close of the expropriation hearings in Acton.

Slater's report, due December 15, will go to the ICG and Ontario Hydro. Minns said Slater was hired by an arrangement between the ministry of energy, which is paying Slater, and the ICG.

Horses attract big spenders

By Linda Kirby

For people outside of the equestrian world, \$25,000 or \$30,000 for a horse appears an astronomical figure, but for those familiar with fine horseflesh, such prices are considered a sound value.

Such was the case at the recent auction of hunters and jumpers at Sam-Son Farms in Hornby, attended by an estimated 1,500 people from Canada and the United States. It was a buyer's market according to Sam-Son Farm officials and included 54 horses on the auction block, with sales totalling \$108,000.

A top price of \$31,000 was paid for Sir Certain, an eight-year-old chestnut gelding. A successful junior and intermediate jumper in Canada and the United States, the horse was bought by Carl Kneé, coach of the Canadian Equestrian Team.

Tower Bridge, a five-year-old stallion, consigned by Sam-Son Farms went for \$25,000, the second top bid of the evening.

A sale of approximately the same number of horses last August and in November of last year produced \$148,000 in sales.

The auction is part of a move to reduce the hunter and jumper stock at the farm for expansion of thoroughbred breeding, according to Jim Day, manager of the farm and considered one of Canada's top equestrians.

Noted for his successes in the jumping ring, Mr. Day is now busy training thoroughbreds for the race track. There is a better future in thoroughbred breeding, said Mr. Day, adding Earnest Samuel, owner of Sam-Son Farms was interested in the racing end of the business.

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