

John Ostler heads Hamilton Philharmonic Society

The new president of the Hamilton Philharmonic Society Inc. is a Milton resident. John Ostler was

named to the position in June of this year. Formerly president of Canadian Meter Company —

he retired in 1976 — and past president of the Ontario Hospital Association. Mr. Ostler joined the board of the

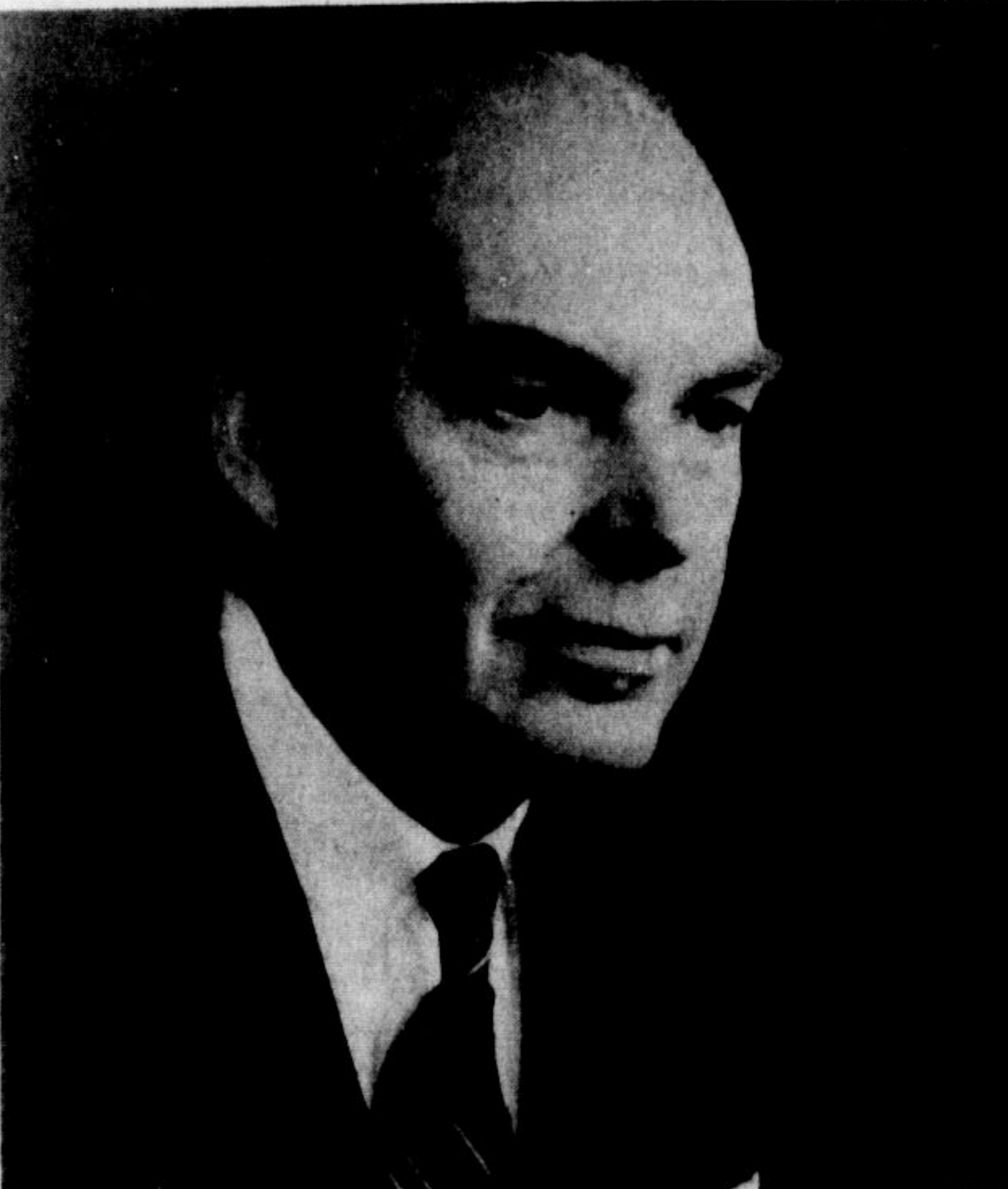
society in June of 1977. The following February he was asked to take on the office of the vice-president for finan-

cial development. Despite the late start, the fundraising campaign was successful, coming close to reaching its target.

Mr. Ostler's task for the Hamilton Philharmonic (HPO) is to reorganize administrative policies and practices of the society. The Hamilton orchestra is one of six in Canada which has a budget in excess of one million dollars. (Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Winnipeg and Edmonton are others in this league.)

The society consists of a board of 27 people, 11 of them Halton residents. The organizational arrangement provides for several vice-presidents to take charge of long range planning, academic development and other facets of HPO operations.

The music director — the exuberant Boris Brott — is responsible for planning the musical program and conducting the orchestra while the general manager is responsible for the day-to-day administrative functions. The music director and general manager both report to the



NAMED president of the Hamilton Philharmonic Society for 1978-79 is Milton resident John Ostler. He is a former president of Ontario Canadian Meter Company and past president of the Ontario Hospital Association.

board, through the president. Separate from the board of the society is a board of governors, an advisory body made up of community-minded citizens.

A women's committee, whose aim is to assist the society, is active in fundraising.

Thirty-three resident musicians make up the core of the orchestra. They are supplemented by musicians hired according to the demands of the program being performed.

In addition to the concert series of the winter season and other performances, the Philharmonic provides an educational service to the community. Last year the HPO gave 52 in-school concerts and 10 workshops in Halton schools, including Speyside, Acton, Georgetown, Campbellville and Milton, Mr. Ostler reports.

Although he was selected to head the society because of his extensive administrative experience and skills, there's music in Mr. Ostler's background. His father was an oboist and his uncle a violinist

and concertmaster with the Hamilton orchestra of 50 years ago. Mr. Ostler plays the piano. "But only for my own amazement," he quips.

Museum artifacts at CNE

Halton Region Museum artifacts will be on display at this year's CNE as the Ex marks its 100th year.

The artifacts will be part of the display in the Better Living Building. Household items, kitchen and medicinal pieces will be included in the "truck load" of artifacts that will be depicting the changing times over the life of the Ex.

Curator Erla Brittain says representatives of the CNE toured the Halton Region Museum at Kelso in May to select the items which were required.

—New traffic lights have been installed at the corner of Highway 25 N. and Campbellville (No. Five) Sideroad.



A FULL SEASON of performances with well-known guest artists lies ahead for the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra. The HPO also provides an educational service to the community, giving

in-school concerts and workshops for students in the surrounding area, including Halton. Seen here are the brass, wind, timpani and part of the string sections.

International Artists 1978-79 HPO guests

International favorites, contralto Maureen Forrester, young violinist Eugene Fodor and baritone Robert Merrill will be among the guest artists performing with the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra during its 1978-79 season — conductor Boris Brott's 10th anniversary season with the HPO.

Three special young people's concerts will be given. These are held Saturday afternoons, also in the great hall. The 80-member Hamilton Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, conducted by its founder and music director Glenn Mallory, will give a winter and spring concert.

Subscription prices this season range from eight dollars to \$15 for the special concert; \$18 to \$36 for the mini series; \$33 to \$60 for the great concert series, with special rates for students and seniors; \$25 to \$50 for the pops series; five dollars for children and seven for adults for the young people's concerts; four dollars for the youth orchestra's two concerts.

Box office pays only part of cost

Back in 1889 you could have heard the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra (HPO) for only 25 cents. The fledgling orchestra, made up of enthusiastic amateur musicians, gave two concerts each season, with proceeds going to establish a music department at Hamilton Public Library.

Today, no symphony orchestra can half meet its costs from ticket sales alone, even if all seats were sold. A ticket to the Hamilton Philharmonic that costs you nine dollars costs the HPO \$25.71. Ticket sales contribute only

23 per cent of the more than one million dollars required to operate the orchestra. Nevertheless, the HPO is mounting a strong campaign for subscribers. The objective is to sell 90 to 95 per cent of the seats by subscription. In the past subscription sales have accounted for about 75 per cent of the house. Almost one-quarter of subscribers have been residents of Halton.

Obviously, good subscription sales assure a certain portion of revenue. But the HPO has an obligation to the musicians to develop the audience through subscriptions, points out John Ostler, president of the Hamilton Philharmonic Society. Orchestras like to play to a full house.

Government grants (Canada Council, Ontario Arts Council, Hamilton-Wentworth Region, Halton Region, City of Burlington) provide 44 per cent of the orchestra's funding, whereas in Europe, symphony orchestras are the financial responsibility of the government. Donations, corporate and private, make up 22 per cent of HPO's income; musicians' sales and educational services 11 per cent.

HRCA announces photo contest

Feeling snap happy? Enter the Halton Region Conservation Authority's conservation areas photography contest.

The conservation area's theme includes any aspect of the topic such as recreation, special programs, nature and scenery. Only photographs taken within the Halton region watershed are eligible.

There are two classes — adults, and children 12 and under. Each class has a black and white and a color print division. Entrants can submit a maximum of three prints to each division within their age group.

First prize in each category is \$25 and a 1979 season pass; second prize, \$15 and a pass; third prize, \$10 and a pass. The contest is restricted to amateur photographers. Halton Region Conservation Authority staff and their families are ineligible. All entries must be eight by 10-inch prints or larger and be matted or cardboard-mounted. Contestants are requested to enclose name, address, telephone number

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