

Optimist graffiti celebration revives memories of 50's



Story and photos
By Linda Kirby

Anyone visiting Milton during the weekend, especially Laurier Ave. arena on Saturday night, would figure they had suddenly stepped back 20 years.

Over 1,000 people actually did revive some of the best memories of the 50's as Milton residents and visitors gathered for the highlight of the Milton Optimist Club graffiti weekend; one of the biggest, loudest and most colorful dances Milton has ever staged.

Black leather, slick greased hair, bobby socks and saddle shoes were the order of the evening as nearly 1,500 stomped and danced to the tunes pounded out by the two Hollywood bands; "Flash Cadillac and the Continental Kids", and "Little Caesar and the Consuls."

One thousand tickets were sold out one month ago for the dance event, and there were still those persistent enough to find a way into the affair.

According to Optimist official Bill Manuel, the club is confident it could have sold well over 2,000 tickets, if a hall large enough to hold everyone could have been found.

"I think everybody had a great time," he said, and added the dance event is likely to be in the books for

the same time again next year.

The only problems with the evening came in finding a spot to dance and sufficient liquid refreshment to keep up the dance pace.

By 11 p.m. all reserves of alcohol were gone, with the exception of a few cases of beer.

Despite the large crowds, Halton Regional Police reported few incidents from the evening.

The only tense moment of the evening came when the two winning tickets were drawn for a 1956 Chevrolet (valued at \$8,000) and a 1950's style jukebox.

Nearly 9,000 tickets were sold on the car, with 1,500 tickets sold for the jukebox, but neither prize went to a Milton person.

Glenn Harwood, from Scarborough, was declared winner of the car by Milton Mayor Don Gordon, and an Acton couple, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Landerkin from 196 Churchill Rd. are the new owners of the jukebox.

It is the second year the Optimist Club has sponsored the car draw, and also the second time a Scarborough man has won the major prize.

Car enthusiasts also enjoyed their heyday this weekend, as nearly 150 cars, all makes and models, made their way into the Milton fair grounds for the Rod Show and Flea Market.

Rolls-Royces mixed with Corvettes and well preserved farm trucks, as proud owners entered their cars in 18 different classes.

There were prizes for the best antique, for the best truck, the best commercial vehicle and the best restored car. In addition a trophy was awarded to the car that travelled from the furthest distance and one class was

even named "Ladies' Choice."

There was no official panel of judges for the two-day event; instead visitors to the fairgrounds were provided with a ballot form to select their own personal choice.

Five trophies went to one Milton man, owner of a 1977 "Custom" Chevrolet pick-up truck. Pat Sheridan was awarded the Best Truck 1963 to 1978; Best Paint; Best Commercial 1948 and up; Ladies' Choice and Best

Overall Vehicle.

A stately 1930 Rolls-Royce, owned by Milton resident Gord McIntosh, received the prize for Best Antique.

The car show was the first of its kind for the Milton Optimist Club, but is likely to be continued next year, said Mr. Manuel.

A disappointing feature of the car event was the lack of more flea market vendors, he said. Only 34 vendors, including those selling cars, turned out despite predictions

of 70 vendors.

Mr. Manuel attributed the small number to the fact several other car shows and graffiti weekends were being held at the same time.

Optimist officials calculated over 1,000 came out to view the cars on Saturday and Sunday.

No figures have yet been released to indicate the amount of funds collected for the new Optimist Youth Community Centre.



A BIG HIT with the crowd were the two Hollywood bands, "Flash Cadillac and the Continental Kids" and "Little Caesar and the Consuls." Floor space was dear, as each tune pounded out by the two bands drew an enthusiastic and devoted crowd to the dance floor.

Milton cop shop repair delayed for bids

Repairs to the Milton office of the Halton Regional Police will be delayed because the police commission is not satisfied with the single tender for the job.

Tendering for the job was handled through the regional buying office and the single quote, from Stephen Baugh Construction, was all that came up, police administrator Ray Munro told the commission, Thursday, at

Oakville.

"To put it crudely—balls," replied Oakville mayor Harry Barrett. He managed to have the matter held over. If someone is not doing the job for us, said Barrett, then we should do it.

Munro recommended Stephen Baugh Construction get the job for \$1,550.

Munro told the commission there was no money to do the work, and so he recommended a transfer of funds.

The Milton repairs were the second item to come to the commission with a single quote.

Barrett refused to believe there was but one price for drapes at the Oakville division. He got that matter held over, too.

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MEMORIES and lots of them were revived at the Optimist Club Graffiti dance Saturday night, as nearly 1,500 gathered to relive the excitement of the 50's. Greased hair for the boys and bobby socks for the girls were the order of the evening, as were the "twist" and the favorite tunes of that era.



AN ACTON COUPLE were the proud winners of a 1950's style jukebox Saturday evening, when the Milton Optimist Club held their graffiti dance and draw. Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Landerkin of 196 Churchill Rd. purchased their one winning ticket earlier Saturday at the gate of the Milton club's Rod Show and Flea Market at Milton fair grounds. Presenting the prize is Bill Manuel of the Milton Optimists.

Kiwanis gets boost

Milton Kiwanis Club is \$430 richer, thanks to the generosity of the Chicken Villa. Each year the store contributes a sum to one local service club and this year the money goes to the Kiwanis club.

Club member Ken Newell says the funds aren't earmarked yet, but a number of projects are being considered. "We are working with the town to come up with the best place to put the money. There is lots of demand. It is just a matter of trying to find the best place for it."

The \$430 goes into the general fund and along with other club funds, will be invested into the community.

MILTON Progressive Conservative Association

General Meeting

for the election of officers for the coming year. To be held
Wednesday, August 30
8:30 p.m.
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