

**OUR READERS WRITE:**

# Fire guts house three homeless

By Olga Darcovich

Four months ago Ed and Debbie Glen moved from their apartment over a Main St. business in Milton to a house in Burlington. At last their three-year-old son Shawn had a yard in which to play.

Monday, they were back in Milton frantically searching for accommodation. They came to The Champion office to ask readers' help in finding them a place to live.

Friday afternoon — unlucky Friday the 13th — fire gutted the two-family dwelling at 1286 Walker's Line, north of Mainway, where they rent the back part, leaving them homeless.

Friday night they stayed with friends but the apartment was too crowded for them to stay any longer. The Salvation Army provided them with the next two nights accommodation in a Burlington motel.

But by Monday they were again without a place to stay and desperately wondering whether they'd have to live in their car.

They were put in contact with the department of social and family services at the region where supervisor Jane Kirkwood arranged another two nights at the motel. And they later found another house to rent starting next month.

However, the Glens are still in need of an interim solution. One of their problems in finding a place to stay until November is that they are short of funds. Their friends, although inviting them to stay, don't really have the space for a family of three, the Glens say, and their families are in Windsor and Detroit.

Both Mr. Glen, 29, and Mrs. Glen, 22, work at PCL Packing in Oakville, he as a machine operator and she as a packer. The night before the fire, they worked the night shift. Son Shawn stayed with a babysitter.

Ordinarily, when they work nights they sleep until 2:30 p.m., at which time they pick up Shawn for a few hours before returning him to the sitter.

But Shawn had broken the alarm clock and Friday, it went off an hour early, waking them at 1:30 p.m.

About two o'clock, Mr. Glen was talking on the phone in the back of the house where they live when he noticed smoke coming through the kitchen ceiling. He immedi-

ately concluded there was a fire somewhere in the house, but thought it was in the furnace area, since the furnace had been repaired only recently. Then he spotted the paint blistering on the door separating the two residences and realized the fire was in the front apartment.

The Glens had heard noises next door but paid no attention since the house was far from soundproof. Curiously though, they didn't hear any noises that sounded like fire.

When they ran outdoors they were surprised to see not only the front of the house in flames, but people watching the fire, apparently unaware there was anyone in the back part of the house.

Mrs. Glen recalls phoning the fire department at 2:10 p.m., but firemen had already been called and arrived shortly.

Mrs. Glen, who had been the first to wake up, knew the man in the front part of the house had gone out — he had dropped by the Glen's earlier to borrow a hair brush. But Mr. Glen, unaware of this, kicked in the neighbor's door. A wall of heat knocked him to the ground and prevented him from going any further. However, by breaking the door, he released the neighbor's dog who had been trapped in the burning apartment.

The Glens, who had no insurance, concentrated on saving as many of their possessions as they could. They had recently purchased a new bedroom suite and a microwave oven.

Mr. Glen remembers only feeling hysterical and panic struck. On one of his trips into the house, he found the cat, unconscious. Crawling along the floor, he was able to see light marking the door and he flung the cat out.

Just then, smoke engulfed the doorway and he was blinded. Lost in the smoke, he kept crawling until he bumped his head on a kitchen cupboard. This told him where he was and he found his way out of the house in the nick of time.

Firemen gave him oxygen at the scene and he was taken by ambulance to Burlington's Joseph Brant Hospital, where he was treated for smoke inhalation.

Released, he had no way of getting back to his home. Luckily, a doctor noticed his predicament and kindly drove him back to what

remained of the house, where Mrs. Glen was guarding the furniture.

In the meantime, two passersby gave the cat mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and saved its life. They paid the vet's bill and one is caring for the cat until the Glens find a place to live.

Although the Glens managed to rescue most of their furniture and clothing, it was damaged by smoke and water. They don't think they'll be able to wear their clothes again, but that's the least of their worries at present, Mrs. Glen says.

Friends in Milton have stored the furniture in a barn. The Glens were offered the option of going to a group home in Hamilton. But that would have meant splitting up, with Mr. Glen being housed in a hostel for men while Mrs. Glen and Shawn were accommodated in a hostel for women. They want to stay together if at all possible.

Anyone who can help the Glens with accommodation, preferably in a house, is asked to contact The Champion.

The fire is under investigation by Burlington Fire Department. Mrs. Glen thinks an electric heater which had been left on in the front apartment of the house may have been responsible.

The home is owned by Terry Douglas, formerly of Milton. He occupied the front part of the home but was away at work when the fire broke out.

The illness you'll never see coming. Get in shape — and don't give the enemy a big target.

Screen shot PARTICIPATION Fitness is fun. Try some.

Sell and Save Tell and Know in The Champion Dial 878-2341

## Not 'personal' attacks

Dear Mr. Editor: In your editorial of Oct. 4, captioned "Opening Shots", you accuse me of making personal attacks on the present mayor. Either your choice of words is at fault or you deliberately wish to discredit me by the very type of personal attack you supposedly abhor.

I have never attacked Mr. Gordon in the manner you suggest. As a person, he is a fine citizen, and to my knowledge a fine family man and respected member of his church. People such as Mr. Gordon are an asset to any community and I state that sincerely and unequivocally. It is his ability as mayor of Milton I am attacking and for that I make no apology.

I hope during the campaign that your reporting and editorial comment will make that distinction. If he had performed well there would be no need to challenge him. That is why Ed Broadbent and Joe Clark are attacking leadership at the federal level, Mr. Smith and Mr. Cassidy at the Provincial level. Are they all wrong and would the Editor of the Champion chastise them? As long as I can justify by example that my criticisms are honest, which I can do, then that is what leadership is all about.

I quote from your editorial "although she has promised to reveal some 'policies' in good time." May I refer you to my memo to the press, of which you have a copy. If you had interpreted my memo correctly there are some very clear policies indicated:

1. Slow down residential growth; in the case of new residential growth, there should be a moratorium placed on it for at least one year to allow newcomers to be assimilated into our community and prevent a further strain on our services.
2. Our whole emphasis must be on the industrial development to the north of 401. The mayor voted to put industry to the east

of Dorset Park. This must not happen. 3. I would work to preserve the existing Town Hall and the Post Office in order to preserve the historical character of our downtown, so that it would remain the focal point for the spirit of our community. 4. Rural roads program, despite expenditures, has been in neutral for two years. There was to have been a continuing resurfacing program. This hasn't happened. I shall see that it does. 5. I will provide leadership and a strong voice at the region against one-tier government so that Milton can retain its autonomy; and its democratic rights protected. Mr. Editor, you have an obligation to the people of Milton to present facts in an unbiased and fair fashion. I charge you do this in the oncoming election. I expect nothing more and I ask for nothing less.

Yours truly, Anne J. MacArthur Box 71, Milton.

## Opening "shots"

Opening shots were fired in the majority campaign for Milton on Monday when Mrs. Anne MacArthur let it be known publicly she would be contesting the position. Incumbent Mayor Don Gordon had earlier announced he would seek re-election. From Mrs. MacArthur's opening shots it is evident that she won't be hostile about attacking Mayor Gordon, although she has promised to reveal some "policies" in good time. It will be an interesting campaign because Don Gordon tends to establish his objectives and set out to accomplish them without getting into personal attacks. Time is growing short for other candidates to announce plans to seek elected positions. "read there" "being some" "ful"

The offending editorial

## Second time in race for Johnson

A 39-year-old financial analyst with the Ford Motor Company will seek election to the Halton Board of Education. Neil Johnson of Britannia Rd. West informed The Champion Tuesday he is seeking the position of Trustee in Wards One and Three.

He said "Events of the last two years convinced me that Milton's rural wards need a trustee that can aggressively represent the views of fellow parents and has the ability to identify areas of financial waste."

"Since 1972 education has increased greatly its share of our property tax dollar and yet the Halton Board of Education spent almost \$1 million on an administration building expansion which did not improve the education of our children one little bit."

Johnson is president of the Halton Council of Home and School Associations and past president of the Percy W. Merry Home and School Association.



NEIL JOHNSON

He is a public representative on the Remedial Assistance Committee of the Halton Board of Education. A director of the Oakville Aquatic Club he is a coach of the Hornby peewee girls' softball team and co-ordinator of the Hornby Minor Softball Association. A graduate of the Univer-

sity of Toronto, Johnson is married and father of four daughters, three attending Percy W. Merry Public School and one at Montclair Senior Public School. He is a resident of Ward One. This is the second time he has run for the position. He lost to Ivan Armstrong in the 1976 election.

Holidays by Wardair

### Lowest airfares to LOS ANGELES

non-stop via Wardair DC-10

ADULT FARE FROM **\$219** AND INTRODUCING CHILD'S FARE **\$199**

Save up to \$52 per couple over scheduled airfares to Los Angeles! Low Cost car rental Budget or Avis

Accommodation - Ramada Inns throughout California and Arizona PLUS hotels in Las Vegas One Phone call arranges everything

For More Information Call 853-1553

**TED TYLER TRAVEL SERVICE - ACTON**

## Outside judge needed

To the Editor: We read with interest, that Chief Skerrett and the Police Commission have received confirmation from His Honour Judge A. B. Sprague, that he will deal with the allegations and charges to be laid against the two police officers in the "Sweat Box" matter.

We would like to point out to the public, the following: 1. Judge A.B. Sprague was at one time a Member of the Police Commission in Halton.

2. In the event that a civil action is brought against either of the officers by the parties involved, that action would be brought out of the Jurisdiction of the County Court of the Judicial District of Halton. Judge A.B. Sprague is the Senior Judge of

the County Court of the Judicial District of Halton, and his Court would be adjudicating upon an issue of which he has full knowledge and facts.

3. In all probability these officers have previously, and will in the future, appear before the County Court Bench on criminal matters in Halton. Under the circumstances, and so that there is no question that the matter was dealt with fairly, I would suggest to Chief Skerrett, the Police Commission, and His Honour Judge A.B. Sprague, that the charges at hand be heard by a Judge from outside the jurisdiction of the Regional Municipality of Halton.

S. Sim, Milton B. Graham, Burlington.

## Milton Music

IS EXPANDING AGAIN "FOR THE TALENTS BORN WITHIN US" TO BRING YOU MILTON'S OWN HAMMOND ORGAN DEALER. COME IN AND SEE THE LATEST DESIGNS FOR 1979.

WE ALSO FEATURE PRIVATE LESSONS Guitar, Bass, Piano, Drums, 5 String Banjo and Organ

223 Main St. Milton (next to the stop lights) Phone 878-1620

Tuesday 10-6 • Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 10-9 • Saturday 10-6 Closed Mondays

# Sale!

10<sup>99</sup> Sq. Yd.: Compare at \$14.95 Sq. Yd.

## Amanda 100% Polyester

Excels in colour fastness, extra resistance to piling resiliency, abrasion resistance, pile density, very suitable for most traffic areas. 12' width with Jute Backing

Beautiful Colour Selection Smoke Blue, Tropic Spice, Maple Sugar, Rice Paper, Briar Gold and Chinese Red. "Choose from six full rolls"

DuPont TEFLON Protected For Easy Care, Resists Dirt and Soiling

"Satisfaction Guaranteed"

### Syer's flooring

HIGHEST QUALITY • LOWEST PRICES

Thurs. and 878-4178 and 457-7767 BRAMPTON

310 STEELES AVE., MILTON also KENNEDY RD. S., BRAMPTON

## MERV'S ELECTRONICS

### Wants to Save You Money!

Clip the coupon at the bottom of this page or bring in this ad and we will give you \$2.50 off the price of a service call on your television.

Fully Qualified & Professional

Repairs On —T.V.'s —Stereo's —Converters —Other home entertainment units

All our work is guaranteed for: .30 days on labour .90 days on parts

Sales of converters and quality used T.V.'s

Clip This Coupon Today!

You don't have to miss those new fall programs, hockey games or football games. Make sure your T.V. is in good working order. This coupon entitles you to:

# \$250 OFF

the price of a service call

Expiry Date October 31, 1978 Limit One Per Customer

**465 Main St. E. Milton 878-7776**

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:00-5:30 Saturday 8:00-5:00