

Optimists appoint building manager

By Linda Kirby
Two years ago, the Milton Optimist Club began making serious plans to get work underway for a brand new community youth centre.

A building committee was necessary and a chairman was sought for that committee. A one year member, Al Logan, volunteered his services as building chairman.

"If you can go and build a building, go to it," he was told by the then president, Bob Ives.

Since that time, he has directed most of the construction of the project and watched from the first day, when the bulldozer began clearing the soil for the foundations.

In September, his dedication to the job was rewarded by the Optimists members with his appointment as building manager.

The full time job will entail

general administration of the building, as well as seeing to the final construction details, explained Mr. Logan.

He is pleased with the job and takes great pride in the way that the club has accomplished its dream in building the centre.

It is a unique building and the only one of its kind in Milton, he notes admiringly.

The main hall seats 400 people with its most popular feature, a great stone fireplace in one corner of the room.

The idea for the fireplace came after Al Logan and another member were relaxing in the living room of his friend in front of a big cozy fire.

Plans for the building date back many years, but the actual drawings and sketches began just two years ago.

With the help of Optimist members Bill McGinnis and Ken Rigg, the trio sat down to figure out what kind of a

building would suit the purposes of the club.

"We just had a piece of paper with a sketch, and from there until the final drawings, we went through 18 sketches," recalls Mr. Logan.

"The building kept contracting and expanding as we decided to put in certain items and take out others."

When they finished, they had a building that was to include four squash courts, three separate bars, additional health club facilities, a facility for the Milton Optimist Air Cadets, space for other youth groups and a snack shop, in addition to the main Optimist hall.

Although Mr. Logan is credited with much of the success in the completion of the building, he is quick to point out that the building represents the efforts of all members.

The building committee alone includes eight members who devoted many hours to

the actual construction of the project. They include Bill McGinnis, Gord Hull, Pete Crewson, Richard Furlong, Herb Higgs, Ken Rigg, Jens Nielsen and John Trudeau.

By Mr. Logan's calculations, the club membership has saved approximately \$24,000 in volunteer labor.

He further estimates the building committee has donated a total of 15,000 hours in committee work.

Although the top part of the building is near completion, it will be a couple more months until the lower part of the structure is complete.

The unfinished state of the building has not, however, deterred interested groups from making bookings in the coming year. Mr. Logan will be responsible for taking all reservations, handling the catering for social functions and making sure there is sufficient staff and stock. He expects to hire a part-time janitor and Optimist mem-

bers will likely staff the bars, he explains.

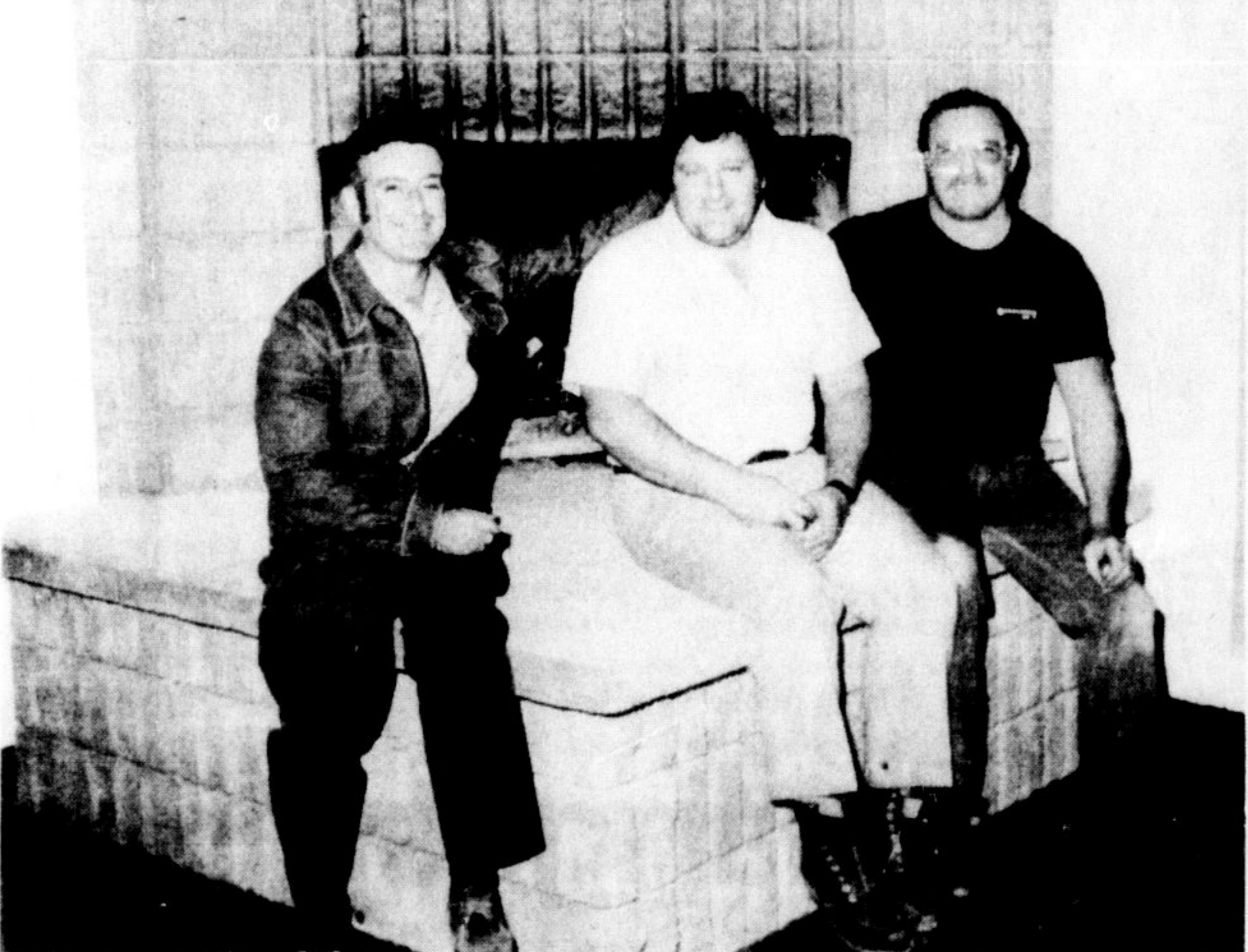
His responsibilities also include administering the health club which is expected to draw a membership of 200 people.

Mr. Logan is well acquainted with the running of a community centre.

Prior to his arrival in Canada in 1975 with his wife Eileen, the couple owned a hotel catering business in his home town of Manchester, England.

He also worked in a finance company for a period of four years and with his move to Canada, took on a position with the Halton Credit Union. He also worked with the Oakville Auto Employees Credit Union.

Despite the size and amount of facilities, Al Logan has further ideas for the centre. He does not see it finished yet, but looks forward to the installation of a swimming pool some time in the future.



TIME OUT for a break as Milton Optimist Club members Bill McGinnis (left), Al Logan and Bruce Fendley enjoy the warmth of the fireplace in their new hall. Al Logan has been appointed building manager and will be at the new centre full time to handle final construction details and administration of the facilities.

Optimist hall ready by Dec. 7

The Optimist Youth Centre, scheduled to open earlier this month to the public, will be ready for social functions by Dec. 7, according to its building manager, Al Logan.

The Optimist Club plans to hold a supper meeting in the new facility on Thursday, Dec. 7. Two days later, Milton District Hospital will hold its annual Christmas party.

As the newly appointed building manager, Mr. Logan is kept busy with both the final construction of the youth complex and bookings for the finished hall.

The Club plans to hold its own Christmas dance in the new building as well as a New Year's dance and dinner.

Guide news

The theme of the Brownie and Guide hike on Nov. 5th was nature preparing for winter. It was a beautiful day with a very large turnout of both children and adults. The hike was along the Bruce Trail at St. Helena Road.

On Saturday, Nov. 11th, all units of Brownies and Guides participated in the Remembrance Day Parade.

As with so many local groups, Brownies and Guides had a Charlie Brown float in the Santa Claus Parade. Most of the girls walked behind the float dressed as Snoopies, Linuses or Christmas presents.



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