

Police switch makes for better coverage

A recent police zone change in Milton is resulting in more policing of downtown Milton, according to Staff Sergeant Eric Bullock of Halton Regional Police.

The change of the borders of the four police zones in urban and rural Milton took effect Jan. 1 and is expected to improve supervision of the Main St. strip.

Prior to January, four constables and a sergeant were responsible for a patrol area spanning 143 square miles of rural and urban Milton.

Two officers covered the downtown area and two others answered calls in rural districts.

Under the new system, three constables will now answer calls to the town area, with a fourth officer posted in rural zone.

"I'm guessing approximately 75 per cent of our calls are for the downtown," said S. Sgt. Bullock.

The new zones have not affected the amount of mileage, but, instead, represent a realignment of borders, he said. The change also means Halton Hills-

based officers will no longer patrol northern Nassagaweya. Milton police will now cover that area.

The former system posed frequent inconveniences for Halton Hills and Milton forces, explained S. Sgt. Bullock, owing to separate by-laws of each town.

"One of the reasons for the change was to have each division look after one town," he said.

As well, the new zones are expected to even the work load for the officers covering the urban and rural districts.

A review of statistics showed urban-based officers had high work loads while police in the countryside had lighter duties but much more area to cover, according to police superintendent Roy Taylor.

Three Milton officers will now have a slice of the town and rural district in order to improve the response time to calls.

"The main thing is preventive policing," added the police superintendent. "If the downtown officer has a little pat-

rol time as well as call time, he will be able to police more."

While Milton officers confirmed downtown Milton is receiving more policing, concern is expressed for rural coverage.

"The rural area is not suffering yet, but I'm thinking of the summer time when more people are out," said S. Sgt. Bullock.

"The whole town of Milton is a very hard place to patrol," he emphasized. "The urban area is heavily populated with so much rural area outside of it."

Milton police are responsible for the countryside communities of Campbellville, Omagh, Brookville, and Moffat, as well as strip developments along Guelph Line.

"Some farms and homes are hard to protect because they are built back from the roads," he explained.

"We won't know until next summer if the rural area is going to suffer for it," he said.

The assigned strength in Milton per shift is one sergeant and five officers.

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To detriment of students

Teachers give the axe to 12 paraprofessionals

By a 43-32 vote, teachers at Milton District High School have decided to drop 12 people from the school staff.

These people are paraprofessionals. Paid less than regular teachers, they supervise halls, library and study room, and act as an aide to some school departments.

The decision not to rehire the paraprofessionals for the 1979-80 school year was made last Monday evening by secret ballot.

"I think we're about the last school in Halton to have differentiated staff," (paraprofessionals), said school principal Ron Ziegel.

"It was just a question of time before it would have to happen. If it

hadn't been this year, it would have been next."

Each year, teachers at MDHS have the opportunity to decide whether or not to "differentiate staff".

Differentiating staff means hiring fewer teachers than a school is entitled to, and using the saved salary money to hire a greater number of paraprofessionals at a reduced individual salary.

In Milton's case, 3.7 fewer teachers were hired, saving \$81,400 (based on an average teacher's salary of \$22,000 multiplied by 3.7). The money hired 12 paraprofessionals at an average salary of \$6,783 (\$81,400 divided by 12).

The teachers' decision

means the 12 paraprofessionals will be discontinued and 3.7 teachers hired instead.

The 3.7 figure was arrived at through a technical calculation involving full-time and part-time teachers.

One paraprofessional, who asked for anonymity for fear of being fired before June, said the

students will suffer most from the decision.

"I don't think the students are getting a fair shake out of this," she said. "I think we've fulfilled an important function in the school."

"Take the study room supervisors. They have a good rapport with the students. They get to know them

and want to do their best for them. They can do the job better than a teacher to whom it's just another duty."

One of the teachers voting with the majority cited a heavy workload as one of the reasons for the teachers' decision.

"When we decided a

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Break election promise council votes increase

Despite pre-election promises against a salary increase, Milton Council Monday night voted a 10 per cent wage hike for the mayor and a seven per cent wage hike for councillors.

The increases became effective Dec. 1, 1979.

The mayor will earn \$11,000 increased from his current salary of \$10,000, and councillor's salaries are raised to \$5,000 from \$4,664.

The mileage allowance is also increased from 21 cents per mile to 22½ cents per mile (14 cents per kilometre).

The by-law authorizing the increases was passed without any discussion.

The candidates' meeting at Milton District High School Nov. 1, 1978, produced unanimity from the nine candidates running for area council seats in Wards One and Two against a salary increase for councillors in 1979 or 1980.

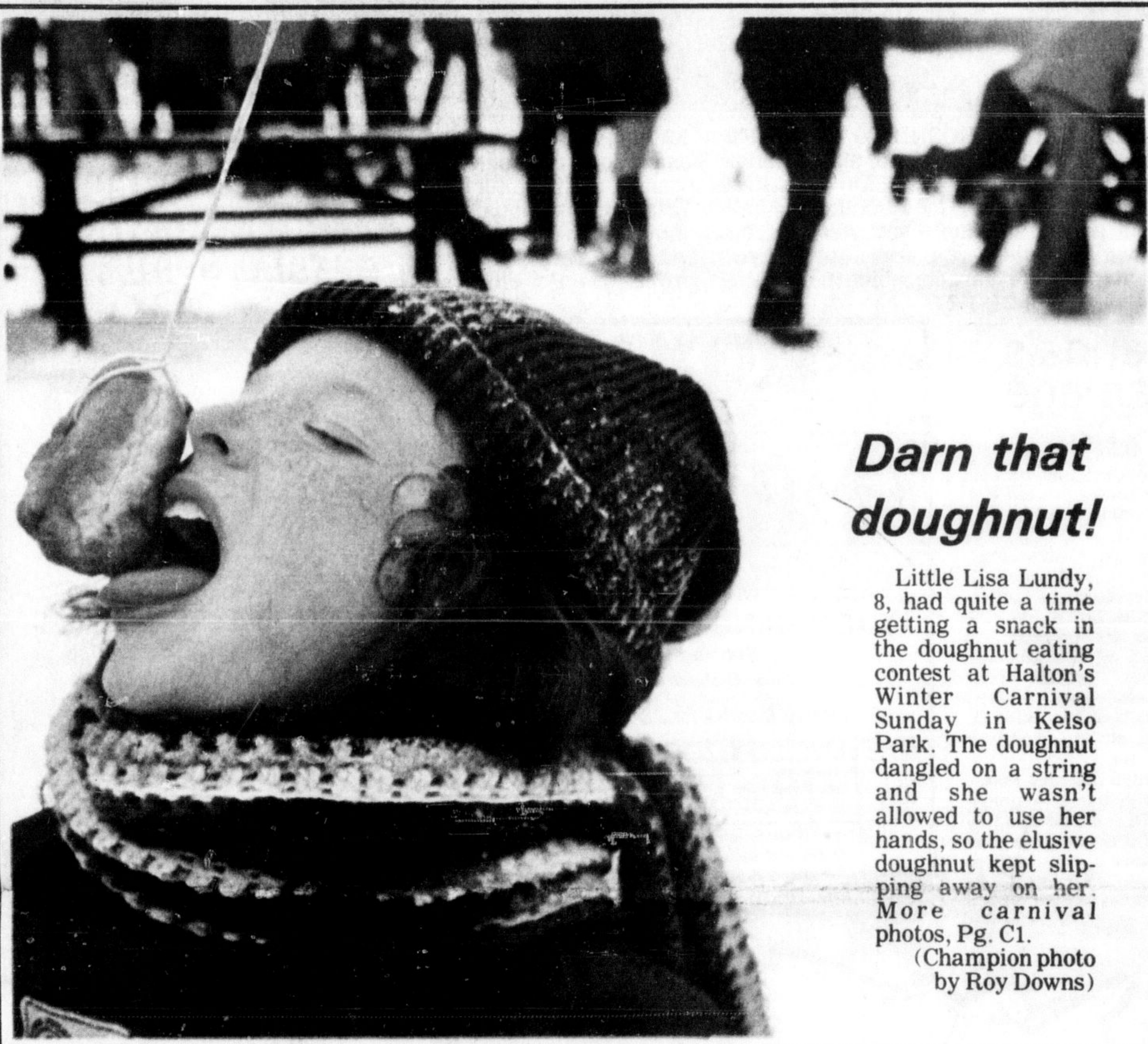
Candidates Rick Day,

Brian Penman, Gord Krantz, Rose Harrison, Blanche Hinton, Terry Gibbons, Howard Carney, Dave deSylva and Don McColeman each expressed opposition to a salary increase until council's work could be measured and judged.

The first six were elected to council. Mr. Day was absent from Monday's meeting due to

illness. Ward Three candidates Brad Clements and Don McMillan were acclaimed to council and did not respond to the issue at the meeting.

The subject of salary was not raised when regional candidates Gus Goutouski, Bill Johnson, Jim Watson and Jim Kerr addressed the meeting.



Darn that doughnut!

Little Lisa Lundy, 8, had quite a time getting a snack in the doughnut eating contest at Halton's Winter Carnival Sunday in Kelso Park. The doughnut dangled on a string and she wasn't allowed to use her hands, so the elusive doughnut kept slipping away on her. More carnival photos, Pg. C1. (Champion photo by Roy Downs)

'Plump' robin heralds spring

Although the groundhog is reputed to have seen his shadow Feb. 2, signifying six more weeks of winter, a north Burlington woman saw the first robin of the year Sunday. Mrs. Eric McArthur, a resident of Twiss Rd. just south of Derry Rd., saw the bird in her weeping willow. She said she was sweeping her front steps when she looked up and noticed the robin in the tree.

"I couldn't believe it," she said. But there was no mistaking the bright, red breast. "He was quite plump." She said she again saw the bird Monday morning and reported the sighting to The Champion. Mrs. McArthur, who has bird feeders on her property, said she put out extra feed after seeing the robin. "I like to see them around," she said of the birds.

Temporary solution costs \$150,000

A \$150,000 plan to temporarily relieve the overcrowding of departments at Milton town hall is being formulated in conjunction with a proposed renovation of the old fire hall.

Presented at a meeting of the town building and property committee, the proposal calls for the renovation of the top floor of the old fire hall to

accommodate one or more town departments.

Larry Arbic, Milton director of parks and recreation, said the proposed move is only a temporary measure, until town hall can be expanded.

"The original plan was to have the parks department and the building department move to the fire hall."

He said the purpose of the move is to relieve overcrowding in town hall.

The public works and building departments share the downstairs with the parks department.

Mr. Arbic said the basement can be damp at times.

He suggested acquiring a dehumidifier.

"What we presented to the committee Tuesday was a plan where the parks department would move to the fire hall, public works would move to where we are now, and building department would stay where it is."

Other features of the plan include a complete facelift, inside and outside the fire hall.

Mr. Arbic said the interior would be renovated to section off one bay of the fire hall, and a pumper put in.

He said this would offer some fire protection south of the railway tracks until the proposed substation at Derry Rd. and Thompson Rd. is built.

The upstairs would be renovated to accommodate offices.

Externally, the building would be refinished

and the parking lot between town hall and the fire hall would be paved and landscaped.

The remainder of the downstairs of the fire hall would be made available to a community group for them to adapt to their needs. A proposal has already been made to the town by Milton Springers gymnastics club.

Total cost of the renovations said Mr.

Arbic, is close to \$150,000.

The committee felt the renovations were too expensive and requested Mr. Arbic furnish them with itemized costs to see where expenses could be cut.

At the same time, the committee requested council to authorize a study of town hall to see if all space in the building was being used to its best advantage.



BRRRR! IT'S COLD. That's the expression these six Miltonians wear on their faces as they huddle close to the fire at Kelso Conservation Area during Halton's winter carnival Sunday. Sub-zero

temperatures, a chilly wind and overcast skies cut crowds to a minimum. Warming themselves are Mark Langridge (left), Greg Finn, Steve McGroty, Cathy McLeod and Kathy Varley.

Youths want drop-in centre

A planned drop-in centre could result in a lowered crime rate, according to one local teen.

Fifteen-year-old John Bennett of Milton was one of several teens in attendance at the Milton Committee for Youth meeting Thursday evening at Town Hall.

"There are about 250 kids in town with nothing to do," said the General Brock High School teen following the meeting.

According to John, few of his classmates have homework and find there is nothing to occupy their time in the evenings.

Tracey Ferguson, 14, of Milton admitted teens like to gather at Milton Mall for the sake of getting out of the house to be

with other teens. "There is nobody there to spend money," she said.

The next 10 days will be anything but dull for Tracy, John and 13-year-old Trena Lirette of Milton. The three are active members of the brand new organization and will be the chief advertisers for a planned teen dance on Saturday, Mar. 3.

They are also putting their heads together to come up with some ideas for the future town drop-in centre.

During a discussion of the centre, John suggested to committee members a pool table and pin-ball machine would be popular

drawing items for local youth.

Money is the prime factor that could hold back such entertainment ideas, but John later admitted he is prepared to donate his own stereo system for use in the centre.

Weight-lifting is becoming a popular

pastime for many teens, he said, adding weights would be a valuable item for the centre.

"We could probably also rent movies from the library," he said he does not go to Romy Cinema on Main St. anymore, "because it is too expensive."

Plaza sale proceeds

Tenders were being opened this week on the sale of the White Oak Plaza in Milton, despite efforts by Spen-Mar Holdings Ltd. to retain ownership.

Ian Blain of the law firm representing the Bank of Montreal, holders of the mortgage on the Bronte St. plaza, said an attempt by Spen-Mar to pay a defaulted mortgage payment has fallen through.

Last week Bruno Minicucci, a partner in Spen-Mar, told The Champion his company had made arrangements to discharge the mortgage by Friday, Feb. 16. There was \$1.3 million owing on the mortgage.

Mr. Blain said Monday the bank hasn't received payment.

Neither Mr. Minicucci nor Spencer Black, another of Spen-Mar's major partners, were available for comment.

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