

A sporting chance

To the Editor:

This weekend I had the pleasure of being the meet director at an Ontario Gymnastics Federation competition. My work was made light by the enjoyment in watching and appreciating the skills and artistry of some 80 young ladies. It also filled me with pride to see two gymnasts from Milton almost walk away with top honors. Paula Geniole took the all round silver medal, whilst Tammy French won the bronze medal in the Argo "B" competition. Each girl experienced a momentary lack of judgement and attention in a different single event. But for those individual lapses, either Paula or Tammy may well have achieved the top honor and brought home to Milton a gold medal. As it is, both girls will, on May 12th, compete in the Ontario Provincial Championships.

Three weeks ago my daughter Suzanne Wood also qualified for the provincial championships as a Tyro B gymnast. However, both Tammy and Suzanne who were stalwarts of the Milton Springers club, now compete for Oakville Antioinettes. Why the switch in allegiance? Simply, to take advantage of, better facilities, better equipment and more hours in the gym. The driving motivation vs. competitive ambition we, parents are only too willing to sacrifice our own leisure time to drive the kids to and from Oakville three to five times a week.

Tammy French is considered to have the potential to reach the level of national competition. If she has it, the excellent gym facilities and coaching in Oakville will endeavor to see that she reaches her potential. With the Milton Springers, Paula Geniole works under the excellent guidance of Head Coach Janet Campbell. Paula also is beginning to show that she has the basic talent and inner drive to become a top flight gymnast. But despite first class coaching, will she be able to reach her potential without the availability of adequate gym time. At the moment the Springers are able to use their own equipment in the excellent E. C. Drury gymnasium but are squeezed tightly for time and, therefore, revenue-earning ability. A gymnast, just like an ice skater must work long and constant hours in the gym to perfect her techniques. Three hours, three times a week sharing apparatus and facilities with 30 other hopefuls is inadequate. Will Paula therefore, be denied her potential in Milton?

Before Paula there was Nancie McWhirter who left Milton to become a national competitor. Sara Aggis joined Cambridge and now competes as a National level 1. Working in the gym along with Paula are younger carbon copies, to commence on a national training program which demands a dedication of regular gym time.

What is to be done for these athletes and those that could follow over the next few years if the Milton Springers program continues to develop?

Towards the end of last year the club executive had sufficient foresight to bring before the Town Council a request for a suitable facility. The club's request was simply for space, its members being prepared to convert and decorate at its own expense. The most likely space available was considered the Old Fire Hall on Main Street. The Fire Hall as a potential gym is by no means ideal, but with some hard work, a good deal of inspiration and its availability seven days a week, the modified facility would suffice as an interim period of say three years. With a facility available to the club on a full time basis, the current recreation program, which is the basis for the competitive team, would be considerably enhanced. The recreation program is directed by Head Coach Janet Campbell, is the basis from which the club draws its future competitive members. Without the availability of a more permanent gym, the recreation program boasting 540 registrations annually, now with a waiting list, will be considerably curtailed as Board of Education facilities become less available and at a threatened premium cost. The recreation program incidentally is run

on behalf of the town parks and recreation department and has grown three-fold since the Springers professional coaching involvement.

Unfortunately, although the Town Council listened with a sympathetic ear to the plea of its young gymnasts and promised to study their needs, the study has produced no progressive results to date. Time of course, does not stand still for the athlete. But it seems the only available municipal building in town that could house a gym is also of interest for the summer flea market, additional town hall offices, and maybe even our senior citizens. Surely with a glut of office space that we have in town, on and around Main Street, it cannot be necessary to convert the Fire Hall for administrative purposes. Milton isn't too big and any of its town departments could be conveniently located within walking distance of downtown. And surely council will not seriously consider a suggested expenditure out of taxes of \$150,000 to convert the upper level of the Fire Hall to offices. If this kind of money is available why not put it into some of the vacant commercial properties around town and relieve the property taxes.

But in the meantime, what about Paula Geniole and her eager young colleagues. Are they going to be given a sporting chance here in Milton. Must they also look elsewhere or merely lower their sights to more modest ambitions. I hope not! For them, a good gymnasium, not half a facility, is now essential! Although mine is an independent opinion, I am of course, a biased parent, but at some competitive meet in the near future, how I would like to see a Milton gymnast mount that winners podium.

Lester Wood,
548 Woodward Ave.,
Milton.
cc Mayor Don Gordon.

OUR READERS WRITE:

A garbage solution

Dear Sir:

Today we hear much about P.C.B.'s and other hazardous liquid wastes and the problem of transporting such wastes for safe disposal. The public is reluctant to accept present methods of incineration of hazardous wastes, including P.C.B.'s. Their concern is justified because of the high temperatures that have to be sustained to effectively dispose of toxic substances. The fact is, liquid wastes, including oil containing P.C.B.'s can be safely disposed in a mobile unit, thus eliminating the necessity and risk of transporting hazardous liquid wastes to a disposal centre. The method is the Plasma Arc Gun, a technique that has been proven in six years of operation at a plant in North Carolina. Its Canadian subsidiary is in Mount Royal, Quebec. The Plasma Arc Gun is similar to an arc welder. An arc is formed, approximately one metre long, this arc is contained within a vortex of helium, argon and oxygen, giving it a swirling or corkscrew motion. The temperature sustained, 100,000 F. is the hottest known to man.

Stationary plants can dispose of municipal and residential refuse, sewage sludge, auto tires, all types of wood waste, plastics, waste oils, lubricants, odorous gases, and organic wastes. A portable unit can be adapted to a tractor-trailer and driven to sites or plants to dispose of hazardous wastes. There is a by-product of Methane, and an inert granular material which can be used for road building, or as a building material.

Such units are energy intensive, but isn't Ontario Hydro telling us we have too much hydro on tap? Shouldn't we weigh the pros and cons? Effective safe disposal of wastes, including hazardous materials, against the environmental hazards of landfilling, disposal sites, transportation of hazardous wastes, spillage of liquid waste. The costs are not exorbitant, about \$850,000 for a mobile liquid waste unit, and about three and a half million dollars for a 100-ton-per-day garbage, energy-producing unit.

William A. Johnson
R.R. 2, Rockwood

Board declares dividends

An article on Milton Co-op appearing in last week's Champion may have created the impression profits from the store are divided among members of Milton Co-op.

Dave Morgan, a store supervisor, said the profits (or losses) in a year from the Milton store are pooled with those of other co-ops. The Board of Directors of the company then examine the profits and declare any dividends.

The Board of Directors are voted into office by co-op members.

Angry over bus service

Transportation is an important factor in any place. The bus lines of Milton are a great help to the citizens, but we feel there are a great many changes to be made.

When travelling on the bus you must stand up to make it known you want to get off. It is dangerous to stand up in a moving vehicle, so we feel there should be a bell cord running along the side of the bus.

On the bus you are unable to obtain change or refunds, because of the simple excuse that the drivers cannot take the money out of the slots. An easy solution would be that the drivers buy coin belts.

Sometime last year a law was passed that there was to be no smoking on public transits. One driver disobeys the "no smoking" signs that are around the bus. Please stop, we dislike the smell.

When running a bus, punctuality is very important. The bus is not usually on time. It is either early or late. We are also aware that on one occasion the driver asked the passengers if anyone wanted off on Mill Street. No one wanted to, so the driver, being off schedule, skipped it. What about the people waiting to get on at those stops?

In short we are actually very angered at the way the bus is being run. The students who ride the bus to and from school spend 50 cents a day, \$2.50 a week. This totals \$10 a month, not including Saturday rides.

We feel that if the bus lines don't improve they will lose a lot of riders.

Sincerely,
Irate Students,
Jane MacLeod,
876 Cabot Trail, Milton;
Kathy Foley,
763 McKenzie Dr., Milton.

Name, please

The Champion received another unsigned letter to the editor this week. The writer made some good points about the fire department's need for more equipment and manpower. But unsigned letters cannot be published.

In some cases a non-de-plume can be used, but the letter must still be signed with the writer's name. And there must be special circumstances involved to allow a letter to appear without a name.

If "Concerned Citizen" will contact the editor, we can discuss the letter.

Ashamed to sign?

Dear K.P.B.:

Sorry you were ashamed to sign your letter. I never read mail that has no name on it. So, needless to say, your letter was not read, just thrown into my garbage pail.

If you care to write again—signing your name, not initials—then I will read what you have to say. I find people who are ashamed to put their name on anything they write, are ashamed of what they are writing.

Yours truly,
Edith Wilma Sharpe,
429 Pearl St., Milton.

COMING SOON
10th Anniversary Celebrations and you're invited
watch the Champion for dates and details, prizes, savings—refreshments

NORTH END DATSUN

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2nd Annual \$20.00 Dinner and \$1,500.00 Draw
Thursday, April 26, 1979
6 p.m.
Optimist Centre, 311 Commercial Street

Tickets are available from:
1. Trident's Executive and some players
2. Mitch's Variety
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MILTON LIONS
BINGO
EVERY WEDNESDAY
7:30 p.m. Lions Hall

TENNIS MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION for the KINSMEN PARK TENNIS CLUB
Location: Milton Mall (Ontario St.)
Dates: Friday, April 6 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, April 7 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Fees: Family: \$20/season
Senior: \$10/season (18 and over)
Junior: \$ 5/season (17 and under)
Registration for membership will be honored on a first come, first served basis.

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Fri. Apr. 6 - 8:30 p.m.
Tues. Apr. 10 - 8:30 p.m.
SUPPORT THE RAIDERS at the Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena
Adults \$2.25 • Students \$1.25 • Children 75¢ • Family \$5.50

JF's cut \$40.50 off this superb 2 Pce. blazer suit with contrasting pant!
\$99 2 Pce. reg. 129.50
contrasting pant \$20 reg. 29.95

The benefits of buying this wardrobe maker are multiple. For starters there's the fabric, a superior textured polyester yarn with its excellent handle and shape retention characteristics. Then there's the Canadian make and fit which must be seen to be appreciated. But it's the 2 button jacket with its lower blazer-style patch pockets and decorator buttons that gives it such versatility. For worn with the contrasting pant, the whole look changes easily from business to casual! The 2-pce. suit is in plain Beige, Grey, Blue and others. In most popular sizes and fittings.

The contrasting pant in a fine mini-check pattern expressly color co-ordinated to match the color selection in the suit.

JACK FRASER
MILTON MALL MASTERCHARGE & CHARGEX ACCEPTED

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