

# The Canadian Champion

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## DBIA funds are announced

Ontario Housing Minister Claude Bennett announced approval in principle last Thursday for Milton's semi-mall downtown business improvement area plan.

Under the government's Main Street Revitalization Program, the town is now eligible for a \$100,000 grant to proceed on turning Main St. from Martin to James Sts. into a closed pedestrian semi-mall.

The money comes from the program which sets aside funds for municipalities under 30,000 population which propose business improvement area plans.

The approval in principle of Milton's DBIA brings to 14 the number of grants pending for a total of \$1,937,500.

## Police consider auction sale

Typewriters, desks and old police cars will soon be on the auction block, if the Halton Region Police Commission gets its way.

The commission is looking for a method to dispose of its old cruisers.

The vehicles are now traded in for \$995 on the purchase of new cars.

The Commission has investigated similar auction procedures carried out by five other regional police forces and feels the police department could get more than \$995 per car on the auction block.

According to Roy Higgins, regional purchasing agent, the sale could be improved by making it a regional auction to include items from from all departments.

Milton Commission member Don Gordon suggested the force consider Wilson Auctioneers in Milton for the sale of the police cruisers.

## 'Citizen' tickets on sale today

The search for Milton's Citizen of the Year will be climaxed Saturday, Feb. 23 in the Lions Club Hall on Thompson Rd.

The Citizen of the Year Committee has announced a full evening has been planned which will include dining, dancing, and of course, the naming of Milton's man or woman of the year.

Tickets for the dinner and dance have already gone on sale. They are available at the Royal Bank, Toronto-Dominion Bank, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Bank of Nova Scotia, Can-Travel, Milton Chamber of Commerce information centre, Milton Tribune and The Canadian Champion.

The Chamber of Commerce reports tickets are \$15 per person. The dinner is scheduled to begin at 7:15 p.m. with dancing from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m.

The committee has announced ballots will be appearing next week in Milton's two newspapers.

Residents will be allowed to nominate their choice for citizen of the year with completed ballots being accepted at a centralized Milton location.

## 'We can't pay' . . .

# Fund decision heavy blow to town

A regional move to rationalize social service funding could have the indirect effect of bankrupting the Town of Milton.

It came at the end of a long debate which saw motions with amended, amendments to amend-

ments and no less than two challenges on rulings made by regional chairman Jack Rafis.

The issue for councillors to decide on was a five-part recommendation by the Regional Health and Social Services Committee on

apportioning the 1980 regional fund support to charitable agencies and organizations.

Before they could be reviewed, Councillor Walker Mulkevic, chairman of the committee, introduced a number of changes to his own

committee's recommendations.

The last part, which was a new recommendation and was further altered by amendments from Burlington Mayor Roly Bird, called for all agencies to apply directly to the region for

funding.

There was a portion of this recommendation which said all agencies "except housing" apply directly.

But with the housing part voted out, the trouble began.

It means that housing agencies such as senior citizens' homes can now apply directly to the region to make up 7.5 per cent of operating deficits.

Because Milton pays for 10 per cent of the deficits under such a provision, it means Milton will have to pay from town coffers for regional underwriting.

Milton Mayor Don Gordon said he expected the operating deficit at 7.5 per cent, of the senior citizens' homes "in Burlington and Oakville alone would be about \$800,000."

Nevertheless the recommendation went through, much to the concern of Milton Councilors Gordon, Goutouski and Johnson.

## Traditional ring

The New Year's Ring-In, an annual tradition in Milton, will once again be held as Milton Kinsmen gather to do the honors.

Project Chairman Paul Leader said details of the event have not been finalized.

Each year, on Dec. 31, Kinsmen and citizens converge on town hall to ring the bell in the tower, thus signifying the end of one year and the start of a new one. This time, the bells will welcome a new decade.

## Road barricade is proposed

The problem of traffic on Mary St. will be discussed between residents of that street and the town's planning department.

Milton Council asked Monday night that the meeting be held following an appearance before council of some Mary St. residents.

Spokesman Bruce Dowdell said there were four points the residents wanted to help alleviate the traffic problem.

First, Mary St. should be barricaded immediately west of Brown St. forcing westbound traffic on Mary St. to head north to Main St.

Second, truck traffic be banned on Mary St. from Bronte St. to Brown St., and signs be put up notifying trucks.

Third, signs urging motorists to watch for children playing be put up.

Fourth, police speed traps be set up to curb the problem of speeding and racing cars in that area.

Councillors said an unequivocal "no" to the first request, approved the second and third, and agreed to ask the police to consider the fourth request.

## We're equal in tax terms

By Peter Mills

Christmas came a little early for some Miltonians, but others may cast Milton Council in the role of Ebenezer Scrooge.

Council gave its approval Monday night to equalized assessment under Section 86 of the Assessment Act in possibly the most controversial act of recent years.

Approval paves the way for a radically different system of assessing property for municipal tax purposes.

The assessment, according to Milton Mayor Don Gordon, will be a percentage of the market value of the property.

That percentage will now be a constant factor throughout the municipality for the different classes of property: residential, commercial, industrial, and so on.

Approximately 30 people attended the meeting and were invited to address council on the matter, taking part in the long and sometimes stormy and emotional debate that lasted for more than two hours and 20 minutes.

One of them, Al Pentland of Satok Cres., said the present system "is grossly unfair." He said townhouses are taxed too high, and said homes should be assessed based on their market value.

Phyllis Ferrier, speaking against Sec. 86, as it has come to be known, said there were no services when she came to town 26 years ago.

There were no arenas, no sports programs, no roads with curb and gutter and a one-room school.

She said the growth of the town and the subdivisions has created a need for bus transit, a new fire hall, larger schools, and so on.

"I object to possibly having my assessment raised for these new things. I was happy without them," said Mrs. Ferrier.

"It takes a lot of money to run a 126-year-old house."

Mr. Pentland said services in the newer areas of the town were already paid for, and Mrs. Ferrier's argument was invalid.

"The developers provided all the services such as water, sidewalks, etc., plus they paid a capital levy of \$2,000 per lot."

"We've paid our initiation fee and we believe our annual dues should be equitable."

Councillor Rose Harrison criticized the provincial government, saying "it didn't have the guts or the . . ."

"Spheres," someone said.

"Yes, that's another (Continued on Pg. 2)



DON LOUGHEED



SANTA CLAUS, that jolly old symbol of Christmas, has made a number of appearances in Milton during the pre-Christmas season and the excitement is building up as the holiday approaches. Admirers Amy Shulist, Nikki St. John and Diane

Baggetta were among those greeting the patron of Christmas at Milton Mall, where he's been "holding court" daily for his young friends. There are only 13 days until the BIG day arrives!

—Roy Downs, Milton Champion

## . . . Milton Mayor says

## Guards hope point proven

by Linda Kirby

Maplehurst Correctional Centre guards are hoping they have proven their point with a three-day illegal strike last week.

"I think we have proven our point."

"We were frustrated and wanted changes," stated Bob Ewing, chief steward of the 140-member Maplehurst local of OPSEU and representative of the Communications Committee.

"I think the membership is agreed that we didn't like breaking the law."

"But we had to make our point," he said.

Mr. Ewing is confident 3,000 jail guards across the province will win their case for a separate bargaining unit.

Maplehurst officers voted 86 per cent in favour Wednesday to accept the provincial

government's offer of binding arbitration to settle their dispute.

A professor with Osgoode Law School at the University of Toronto has been chosen to act as arbitrator by the union and the Ontario Civil Service Commission.

The dispute is expected to be settled by the first of

January, said Mr. Ewing.

Procedures have returned to normal at the medium-security institution, according to Superintendent Allan Roberts.

The centre ran "very well" despite the absence of nearly 150 correctional officers, said Mr. Roberts.

He praised inmates for being "sensible" and "responsible" for the duration of the strike.

Mr. Roberts said he plans no disciplinary action against staff members who took part in the strike, as part of the settlement agreement.

"One of the terms of settlement was that there

are to be no dismissals, no releases nor termination of any staff member," he said.

Approximately 70 management staff and employees from the head office of the ministry of correctional services manned the institution during the walkout by striking guards.

Ten per cent (the town's portion) would amount to \$80,000 and Mr. Gordon said "there is just no way Milton can afford to pay that."

## Santa's Christmas letters pour in

Letters to Santa Claus are starting to pour in to the Milton Jaycees Christmas booth, according to Jaycee past president Dave Thornton.

The booth, set up as Santa's Workshop in Milton Mall near Zellers, is accepting letters to Santa, and forwarding them to him at the North

Pole.

Milton Chamber of Commerce is also forwarding letters it receives to Santa in care of the Jaycees.

Mr. Thornton said the letters are being read by Santa and recorded, so they can be sent back to Milton and posted in the workshop.

Mr. Thornton said

people have wondered why some of their letters to Santa are posted on the walls instead of at the North Pole.

It's because children have failed to include a return address.

He said some letters contain return addresses and those are being answered.

"There's no way we

can answer them all, but we are answering some of them," he said.

The Jaycees also report the drive to get old and used toys is going very well.

"It's almost at the point now where we're wondering what we can do with them all," said Mr. Thornton. He said a

number of community organizations will receive the toys to hand out to needy families this Christmas.

The Jaycees are also running a Rent-a-Santa organization for Christmas parties, in which Santa will appear at a party and lend a little Christmas spirit to the event.



## Song sheets inside

There's a handy song sheet in today's Champion. You'll find it inside the "C" section. Additional copies are available from the advertisers.

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It's easy to place a want-ad in Champion classifieds. Just call 878-2341 and a friendly ad-taker will assist you in wording your ad. Toronto line, 821-3837 is also open to serve you now.

NEXT WEEK The Champion will publish its annual salute to Christmas, a special tabloid section carrying greetings from business concerns, and children's Christmas artwork and stories. Don't miss this special seasonal issue.

Special supplements today: Real estate, inside "A" section; also the special Milton Gift Guide issue, Zellers, K-Mart and Burlington Mall.