

Last chance for Citizen ballot returns

The deadline for nominations for Milton's 1979 Citizen of the Year is only two days away—this Friday, Jan. 11.

Several entries have been received. Ballot forms have appeared in Milton's newspapers and individuals are urged to fill them out with the name of a nominee.

A ballot form appears again in today's issue of The Canadian Champion.

The community has the opportunity to recognize the efforts of any one individual or group anyone feels is deserving of the honor, said Maria Reis, president of Milton Chamber of Commerce which sponsors the event.

Milton's outstanding resident will be honored at a reception and dinner Saturday, Feb. 23 in the Lions Club Hall in Memorial Arena, Thompson Rd.

The evening will begin with a reception at 6.30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7.15 p.m. After dinner there will be dancing with door prizes and spot dances.

Tickets for the banquet can be purchased now at area banks.

PM Clark here Monday

Prime Minister Joe Clark will be in Halton Monday to meet the public at a luncheon to be held in the Oakville Holiday Inn.

Halton MP Otto Jelinek told a press conference Monday he had received confirmation of the Prime Minister's visit the same day.

Mr. Jelinek said the meeting is billed as a luncheon and anyone in the riding is invited to attend.

He is the first, and possibly only, federal political leader to visit Halton.



ARTIST DAVID CHARLES GRAINGER will be exhibiting a number of his watercolors at a special showing of his works this weekend at Mohawk Inn. Mr. Grainger, right, is shown with Maxine Sumner-Smith, advertising manager of the Mohawk Inn hanging some of his works.

Whales inspiration to artist at Mohawk Inn

By Jim Robinson

We are not the most intelligent beings on Earth. A culture as alien as creatures from Saturn live on our planet. They possess brains several times larger than man and they use much more of their brains to function.

These beings communicate in sound waves. One millisecond of sound can carry whole paragraphs of information as they communicate around the world.

And they have tried to communicate with man. It is a close encounter of the third kind which has been with us since almost the dawn of time; but man, primitive by comparison, has yet to recognize this superior being for what it is.

David Charles Grainger has been in contact with these beings. The Rockwood resident has been commissioned to create a book with more than 200 illustrations, and he will be doing the writing of the book based on his own close encounters and the findings of other humans.

It is not science fiction but fact and the book will deal with Whales—beings Mr. Grainger, and many noted scientists, now firmly believe tower over man his minuscule endeavors.

Mr. Grainger is only 27 years old but he has already accomplished much in his life.

Born in London, Eng. in 1953, he came to Canada with his family and in his earliest years he was fascinated with birds and animals. Encouraged by his family, David kept birds, snakes, frogs and reptiles.

As a youth his interest centered on tropical fish. After school years, he obtained a job at a Toronto importing company handling all manner of water life and was soon advising on more efficient techniques of keeping saltwater fish, invertebrates and marine reptiles in aquaria. His abilities brought him consultant work with pet stores and even the Royal Ontario Museum. He began appearing on television and radio talk shows and did a number of interviews.

He then went to work as a commercial diver in the Great Lakes, which was a way of expanding his knowledge of marine life. In 1974 he became interested in larger animals and this led to a job with the African Lion Safari in Rockton. There he started sketching animals and birds.

Encouraged by friends, he started to display his watercolors and met with immediate success. His works have been displayed side-by-side with such famed, wildlife artists as Glen Loates, J.F. Lansdowne and Roger Tory Peterson.

The quality of his sketches brought him a two-year stint at the Doon School of Fine Arts in Kitchener where he taught. With the help of Dr. John Lindner a small wildlife sanctuary was established where Mr. Grainger helped perform surgery on wounded birds and was able to refine the precision style of watercolor demanded in paintings of birds.

This led, in 1977, to a commission to both write and illustrate a hardcover book entitled Animals in Peril. Published by Pagurian Press in association with McMillan, the book was released in 1978.

His works now hang in college, corporate, public and private collections across North America. Even in his Rockwood home he is surrounded by his work and this includes yet another menagerie consisting of a dog, cat, two parrots, a fruit bat, and a number of reptiles.

This weekend he will be displaying his past works and the start of what is his greatest project to date.

Mr. Grainger has set about preparing a book on whales which will have 200 illustrations. He predicts it will take three years to complete and will show the 76 main species of whales and all sub-variants.

In preparation he has more than 20 books on whales, thousands of photos, recordings of whales and scientific papers. He firmly believes he is just stumbling into facts which have been repressed over the years.

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Dropping car sales . . .

. . . cripple plant output

Rockwell future said bleak

By Linda Kirby
1980 brings little cheer for workers at Rockwell International of Canada in Milton.

A "desperate" state of economical affairs within the North American car industry will force the local coil and leaf spring plant to lay off 125 men from the assembly line late next month or early in March.

"It doesn't look good," admitted plant manager Bruce Dolson.

Dismal car sales, down 30 per cent over last year's figures, are one of several factors to blame

for the present troubles, he said.

And 1980 is not expected to improve.

"Sales are going to see another down year," predicted Mr. Dolson, adding he did not expect to see things pick up until late 1981.

The price of gasoline, combined with an uncertain economy have convinced many consumers to hold onto their cars, reversing the popular trend of years gone by, to trade in for a new car every two to three years, he explained.

But the biggest problem for the American car industry remains the switch from large gas guzzlers to the small compact, economical car.

The switch has cost major car manufacturers plenty of money and time and affected workers throughout the entire industry.

Rockwell's leaf spring division is in serious trouble, admitted Mr. Dolson.

Large cars are not selling, and therefore there is minimal demand

for the leaf spring. More than 300 Rockwell employees are working in that division alone, and they are the hardest hit.

The local plant, anticipating the growing demand for coil springs used in small cars, invested more than \$1 million in equipment and training of employees, a year ago.

"All our emphasis is now on the coil division," said Mr. Dolson.

Despite the current down swing in car sales,

the plant plans to invest a further half million dollars this year in the coil division.

Mr. Dolson anticipates the plant will recover the investment when car sales begin to climb again.

There were few months in the last year when Rockwell operated with a full staff of 500 men.

Last January the plant was crippled when assembly workers walked off the line in a wildcat strike during

contract negotiations.

Two months later, a strike by 200,000 American truckers led to a layoff of more than 300 workers for a week.

Forty workers remained without work until mid-summer. In July, a further 216 men were out of a job for approximately six weeks, as a result of low car sales.

Despite the obviously troubled year, Mr. Dolson feels the company escaped serious calamity

as a result of two major company decisions.

In mid-summer Rockwell International shut two American plants due to the shaky American car manufacturing industry.

As a result of the closure of the plants, the Milton plant picked up several product lines from the States.

"We would have been in desperate straits," said Mr. Dolson, "if the plant had not received the additional orders."

Industry — commerce don't see boom times

By Linda Kirby
Spokesmen for Milton industry and commerce expressed mixed economical expectations for the coming decade, in a survey conducted by The Canadian Champion.

There are few predictions of booming industrial sales, but there is also little anticipation of lay-offs and plant shut-downs.

Rockwell International of Canada is the major exception. Plummeting car sales combined with a slowing economy will force 125 men off the coil and leaf spring assembly line late next month or early March.

Escalating costs for labor, raw materials and transportation are among the serious problems faced by the majority of town industries.

The next 10 years will be difficult times, predict most managers questioned in the survey.

"It is hard to say where things are going.

"I don't know if anybody can predict the future anymore," said Bill Wilkinson, president of Wheelabrator Corporation of Canada in Milton.

"All companies must look inwardly to make sure they are economically sound," he added.

In the past year, his own company has faced a 30 per cent jump in raw material costs.

A manufacturer of cleaning materials and environmental systems for air pollution,

Wheelabrator reported a successful 1979.

The company has five other plants across the country and recorded \$25 million in sales last year. Sales were 20 per cent higher than the previous year, said Mr. Wilkinson.

The increased sales absorbed much of the added costs, he admitted.

But the Milton plant was forced to lay off eight men from a staff of 75 workers in December. He is hopeful the plant will be able to rehire the men shortly.

"Things are not too bad for the first quarter," he said, adding he is confident the Canadian economy will improve.

"I think growth will be positive, Canada has a lot of resources.

"The discovery of nat-

ural gas has led to a lot of expansion in western Canada."

"Our greatest enemy right now is inflation," he said.

Canada Valve, one of Milton's newest industrial plants is hoping for an improved market in the next few years.

"I think 1980 will be a year very similar to 1979, certainly no worse," said Don Buchanan, vice-president and manager of the plant.

The company produces municipal water hydrants and therefore depends on a stable housing industry for its business.

A sudden hike in interest rates last year did little to help business, said Mr. Buchanan.

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Snow is scarce at Glen Eden



GLEN EDEN ski school instructor Doug Lemming cuts in behind another instructor on the portion of man-made snow still open for skiing. So far this year the school has lost more than \$100,000 due to the poor weather conditions. While they hope for better weather, there is still no heavy snowfall expected in the long range forecast. For complete story see Pg. 3.

Regional review input is asked from residents

Advertisements will be placed in local newspapers asking the people of Milton for input into a series of recommendations, being developed by the town, for a review of regional government.

Milton Council decided Monday night to get citizen input for the review. The regional Administration and Finance Committee will hear the

recommendations from the four area municipalities.

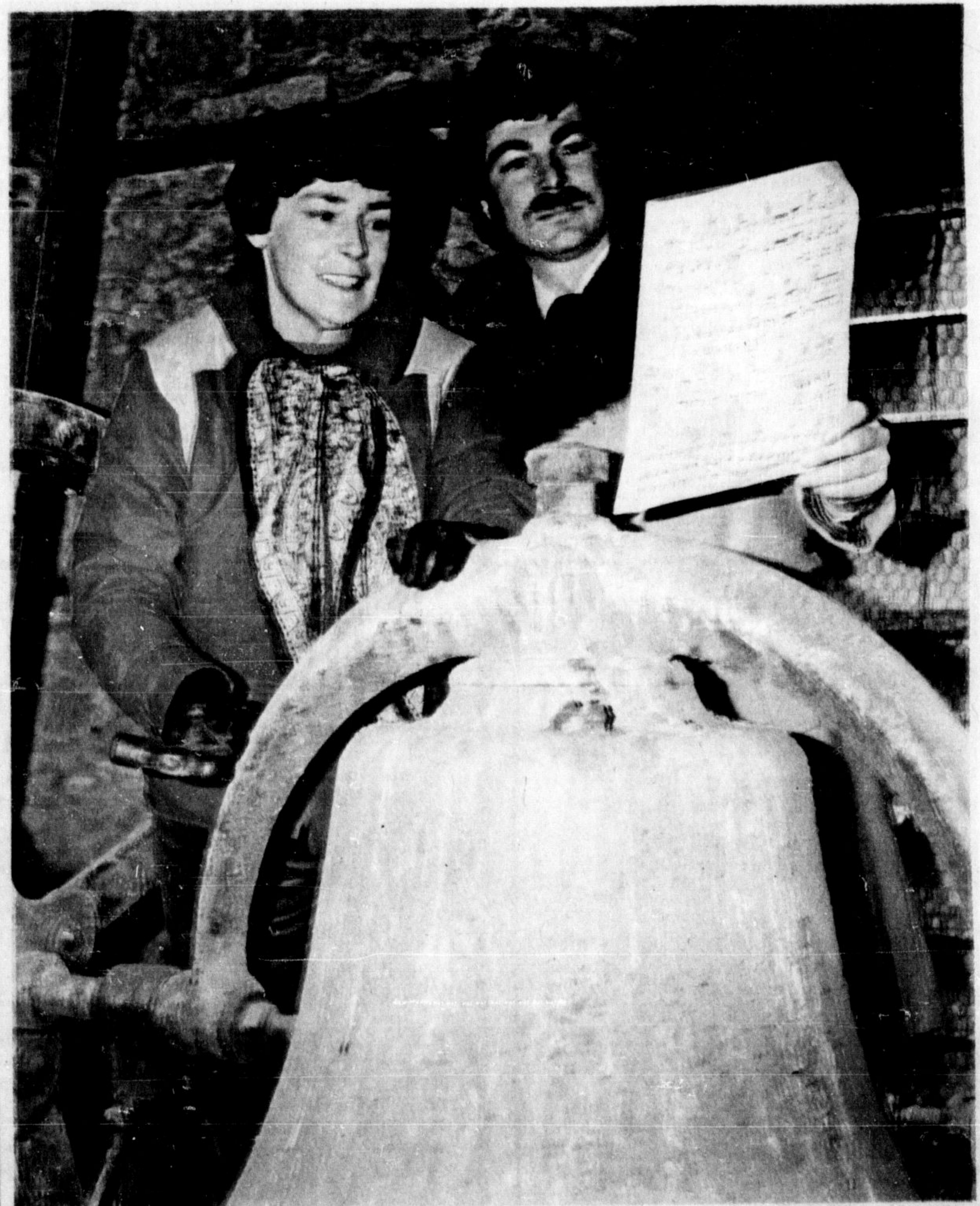
Once those recommendations are approved by regional council, said Milton Mayor Don Gordon, they will be sent to the Ontario Cabinet for study.

Mr. Gordon said the chances of the reforms being accepted are good, provided they are serious and not frivolous.

Councillors said they hoped for some serious input from the people.

Councillor Bill Johnson said he imagined a lot of the responses would be to dismantle it entirely, but he said he hoped people would treat it with more seriousness.

He said other towns in other regions had tried to secede from their regional government, but with a uniformly bad success rate.



Peter Mills, Milton Champion

TUNING THE BELL for the New Year's Ring-In is Milton Librarian Shelagh Conway. Lorne Greenwood, president of Milton Kinsmen club holds the sheet music

to make sure the bell is in proper pitch. The bell was rung, despite its coating of pigeon residue, at midnight Dec. 31 by Mrs. Conway, ringing in the new year.

Inside Today

POLITICS is back in the news again as Halton candidates head for the wire on Feb. 18. Otto Jelinek appears to be unopposed for the PC nomination, Pg. 8; Bill Perras carries the flag for Halton Liberals, Pg. 8; and Doug Black is back as NDP standard-bearer, Pg. 9.

George Swann, Milton's Citizen of the Year, is the subject of Focus Pg. 2

Not much skiing these days, but skaters are out in force, See 3.

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Music festival is in peril 6.

Milton has the highest population growth forecast 12.

Sports news, columns B1 to B4.

Glance backward at 1979, continues B5.