

# Youth Home promised Minister's reply to cut

By Mike Patton  
Community and Social Services Minister Keith Norton has promised to give a "detailed reply" to directors of a provincially-financed juvenile detention home in Milton who have appealed against budget cutbacks.

In a letter sent to the board of directors of the Sheridan Youth Home this week, Mr. Norton gave a "preliminary acknowledgement" of a letter sent to him Oct. 27 from Sheridan Board President William Appleton, who told the minister a negotiating impasse "is so severe that the matter requires your immediate attention and response."

In his reply, the community and social services minister made no reference to a request

from Sheridan directors for a meeting with him. The board members voted on Wednesday to again request a meeting with Mr. Norton on Dec. 3.

Ministry officials and Sheridan directors both agree that a "paper war" has begun between the two sides over the home's budget.

The privately-owned observation and detention home which opened 1½ years ago and employs 11 full-time staff has been told it must operate next year on a budget of \$279,000.

Sheridan directors are refusing the offer and intend to close the home in April when the current fiscal year ends, if they don't get about \$300,000.

On Oct. 31, the community and social services ministry stopped sending \$2,000 a month to

Sheridan and the home's board of directors is thinking about laying off staff without pay for one week at Christmas to save money.

Michael Ennis, Director of Children's services for the Ministry's Southwest Region, said Sheridan will be given a total budget of \$400,000 for this year.

"We're paying them more than we legally have to," he said.

But Mr. Appleton said the ministry is offering the \$300,000 only if Sheridan directors intend to close the home in April.

If the home is kept open, the ministry will only give \$283,000. "I'd call it blackmail," Mr. Appleton said.

A transcript of a Sept. 29 meeting between Sheridan officials and

Charles Caudle, the ministry's program supervisor of observation and detention homes in the south west region ran as follows:

"A year ago April, there was three observation and detention homes, now there are 10, soon 11, in the south west region. I was given 'X' amount of dollars to do the whole thing. If there was only five observation and detention homes for the same money, we would have a quality service," Mr. Caudle said.

"Within the next few weeks, there will be two closures (of juvenile detention homes) within the south west region — not because they're not giving a good service, we just don't have the money," he said.

The two homes Mr. Caudle referred to are ministry-run observation and detention centres in Amherstburg and Hagersville, which are slated to close in March.

Like the Sheridan home in Milton, they handle up to 10 juveniles for short periods of time until they are dealt with in the courts or returned to their families.

In another part of the Sept. 29 transcript, Sheridan executive director John Cox told Mr. Caudle "Honestly, given the program (at Sheridan) if you had the money we would get funding."

Mr. Caudle replied "No, there are other needs that are more important. Training schools have been closed too fast. There is overcrowding and insufficient staff."

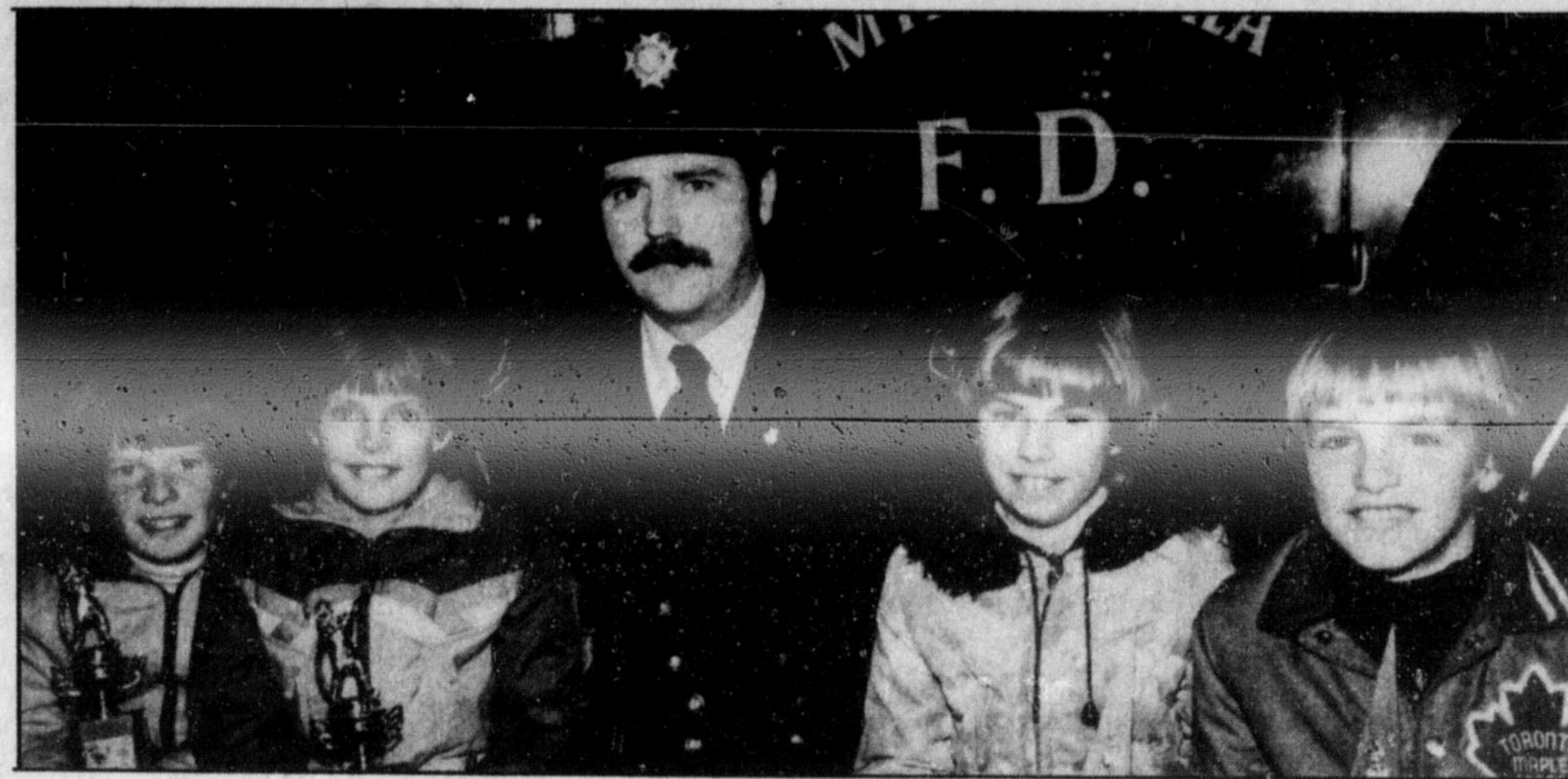
(Three ministry training schools in Lindsay, Bowmanville and Alfred have been closed in the last two years, leaving five schools still in operation in the province).

Sheridan Board Vice-President Leo McMahon then asked Mr. Caudle, "Are you saying that you intend to transfer our money to secure care (training schools)? Is this not contradicting what the ministry set out to do?"

"Do you think the politicians downtown are going to admit they made a mistake?" Mr. Caudle replied.

"I am simply saying the money is needed elsewhere," he said.

At one point during the meeting, Mr. Caudle remarked that the \$11,500 annual wage paid to trained child care workers at Sheridan was "very high".



**Fire poster winners**

Trophies went to these four youngsters for their fire prevention week safety posters. From left to right they are; Mark Griffin, 11; Kristi Love, 10; Heather Trollope, 10 and Chris Gorman, 10. Presenting the trophies was Milton firefighter Harold Penson. Mark and Kristi took first place in the boys' and girls' class respectively.

# Manor - union team to study evacuations

A joint Halton Manor management-union member team to meet on a regular basis to deal with issues has been approved by Halton Regional Council.

Council also wants the committee to be "instituted as soon as possible" so that it can work on emergency and fire drill procedures.

The idea of a team was suggested by the Health and Social Services Committee following a visit by the union business manager Vince McManus, at which time he spelled out some concerns regarding emergency practices at Halton Centennial Manor.

While it was reported that significant strides had been in the supply of more food, adequate bedding, and sanitary conditions, the problems of how to organize action in case of a fire or emergency is still being worked out.

Mr. McManus said union members could probably provide valuable input and this was accepted by committee.

# Our Readers Write

## Parade pictures poor

Dear Sir,  
Where was your enthusiastic, supportive photography of a community event which means so much to the children of Milton?

Naturally I refer to the Santa Claus Parade which, due to the hard work of the organizers, was able to take place.

I do know, that regards my own family, we were all very disappointed after looking through your newspaper last Wednesday, because we had expected to see some photographs of the floats entered by the people of Milton.

Your newspaper did give considerable coverage on the problems that beset the organizers, which is most commendable and made the public aware of these.

However, there was a distinct lack of

photographs in the newspaper and despite discussing this by telephone with the editor, I still feel that the photographic coverage was extremely poor and that the excuses given were weak.

J.M. Ovenden,  
496 Woodward Ave.

Dear Sir,  
Your photographic coverage of Milton's Santa Claus Parade was most disappointing.

Many community groups had obviously spent a great deal of time and effort on their entries, however your newspaper did not see fit to include these.

Please take note for next year—should we be fortunate enough to have a parade.

Penny Saddington  
819 Childs Dr.

## Improving Main St.

Dear Sir,  
As a person who works in a retail store in Milton, I have had the opportunity to get an earful of gripes and beefs about the current construction on Main St. I feel the time has come for someone to speak in favor of what is being done to our downtown section.

First, the biggest complaint seems to be the hassle of manoeuvring around the construction. Let me point out that although I consider Milton a good town to live in, the downtown core left a lot to be desired. This work can only help to improve the business section. I am sure that other towns (such as Oakville's business section) didn't spring up overnight. These changes are necessary, not only to draw the shoppers, but to entice new businesses to open up in Milton's downtown.

Now I ask, how are these changes supposed to be achieved without a little bit of inconvenience on our part? After all, it is only temporary. I'll be the first to admit that it's a pain in the neck to drive and park downtown, but it is by no means going to last forever.

What did all these people say when

Main St. was widened eight years ago? It was just as much aggravation (if not more!) trying to manoeuvre downtown then, but the end result was a vast improvement.

Secondly—parking. I am sick of hearing of how difficult it is to park on Main St. now, of course. It is, while areas are blocked off by workers. But when it is done, we will lose only six parking places! Is that so bad? There are all sorts of places to park just off Main St.—all of them very clearly marked. How many times can one go to the Mall and park right by the store they want to go in?

In closing, I would like to say that I applaud the DBIA and all those responsible for the redesign of Main St. They are making the right move and I hope the rest of Milton's residents support them in their endeavors.

Remember, they are doing it to make it more appealing to the shoppers—not just so they can stare at it out the windows.

Yours sincerely,  
David Charlton,  
Woodward Ave., Milton

## Market was success

To the people of Milton:  
On behalf of the Milton Chamber of Commerce and the Farmers Market vendors, we would like to express our thanks for your support of the Milton Farmers Market during the 1980 season.

Thanks to this support, the market

enjoyed its most successful year since its inception.

We look forward to your continued support in 1981.

Yours truly,  
Michael Beaver,  
Chairman of Farmers Market,  
Milton Chamber of Commerce.

## Hornby euchre winners

By Mrs. Cecil Patterson  
The weekly euchre was held at Hornby Centre on Saturday evening, November 22 with 10 tables in play.

Winners were Mrs. Dorothy Dunn, Mrs. J.C. Cunningham, Ethel Martin, Walter Barnard, Harvey Dunn, Christina Robertson.

## Parents without Partners reports organization growing

The efforts of Parents without Partners organizers Bev MacNeil and Anne Steadman have paid off with good response from the community.

Mrs. MacNeil, pro tem PWP president said the group now has 13 members and she expects this number to rise to 20 by the end of November.

The PWP organization is open to anyone who is a parent and is divorced, widowed or never married and custody of the children is not mandatory.

PWP allows members to share the special problems of raising children alone. Through the Milton chapter programs will be arranged to include both adults and children in recreational and educational veins.

The next general meeting will be at Holy Rosary Church Hall, 139 Martin St. at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 26.

J.M. Denyes School News  
The whole Denyes school will be going to see Pinocchio at the Alexander Theatre in Toronto, on Thursday Dec. 4.

The cost is being covered partly by the Denyes Communication

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