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The Canadian Champion

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Drop-in needs money

The only thing now standing in the way of Milton having its own drop-in centre on Main St. is money.

If Milton residents will think back to last spring and summer they will remember the throngs of young people languishing on Main St. with not much to do and nowhere else but the sidewalks to go.

Now that there will be a drop-in centre on Main St. in the basement of the Lido Restaurant building, there is finally a chance to draw the young people away from Main St. during the days and evenings and offer them a place where they can congenially congregate with their peers.

At this juncture, the basement has been obtained and it has the support of the Halton Children's Aid Society and therefore any administrative problems can be easily solved.

The one problem which remains is bringing the basement up to an acceptable standard. Frankly, though the space is there, the room itself is a collection of crumbling plaster, holes in the wall, a medusa-like sprawl of old wires and water pipes, and peeling paint.

A group of young people headed by Mike Winney and Randy Fretz

have come forward to do the extensive work of renovating the basement so that it meets all building codes including the fire code.

The workers are in place, but the money needed to buy materials is not.

Gus Goutouski, chairman of the ad hoc committee in charge of the drop-in centre estimates that about \$3,000 is needed and he is hoping the money will come from residents, particularly Main St. merchants who have much to gain by having the youths move away from the semi-mall.

Naturally the money can't all come from the Main St. merchants, so it is hoped Milton residents will find a way to help with cash or a cheque.

All money coming in will go to the Halton Children's Aid Society and every cent will be used to spruce up the basement so the drop-in centre can be in place when spring arrives.

All donations are being accepted by Diane Funk at Halton Real Estate in the Lido building on Main St.

There is truly a worthwhile cause which requires a little bit of money which will go a long way.

Traffic hazard exists

A Milton resident has told council a serious traffic hazard on Ontario St. at Laurier Ave. exists and should be dealt with before there is a tragedy.

The resident, living on Laurier Ave., states the illuminated pedestrian crosswalk sign at the intersection is not on long enough for a person to cross at a normal pace.

But added to this, and more serious still, is the complaint drivers are either ignoring or don't care

about pedestrians and shoot across the intersection just as the walker reaches the centre island. By the time walker has to hold up for the impetuous driver, the crosswalk sign has changed, leaving that person stranded.

Perhaps the signal should be on longer, and possibly be much brighter or larger.

With the Laurier Centre Shopping Plaza expected to open in May, it means many more people will be crossing the intersection.

Two golden chances

Milton residents will have the opportunity next month to participate in two fund raising events which can bring much personal satisfaction.

On Feb. 7 the Milton Chapter of the Big Brothers will hold its annual Bowldathon at the Milton Bowlway on Prince St. The object is to raise money by the pledge system.

Residents can form their own team or bowl singly and have a

ball-pun intended—helping to raise funds to keep the organization going with attempts to bring a male role model into the home of a fatherless boy.

February is Heart Fund Month and members of the Milton Heart Association will be going door-to-door to ask for your donation to help fund research which is looking for methods of bringing heart disease under control and find the causes and cures.

Upstanding egg, is it a record?

A recent editorial page column by Editor Roy Downs struck a responsive note at the C. Opsteen home on Five Sideroad, Milton. Murray Opsteen, age 12, has had an egg standing on end for over a year, and called The Champion to report it after reading the editor's column last week.

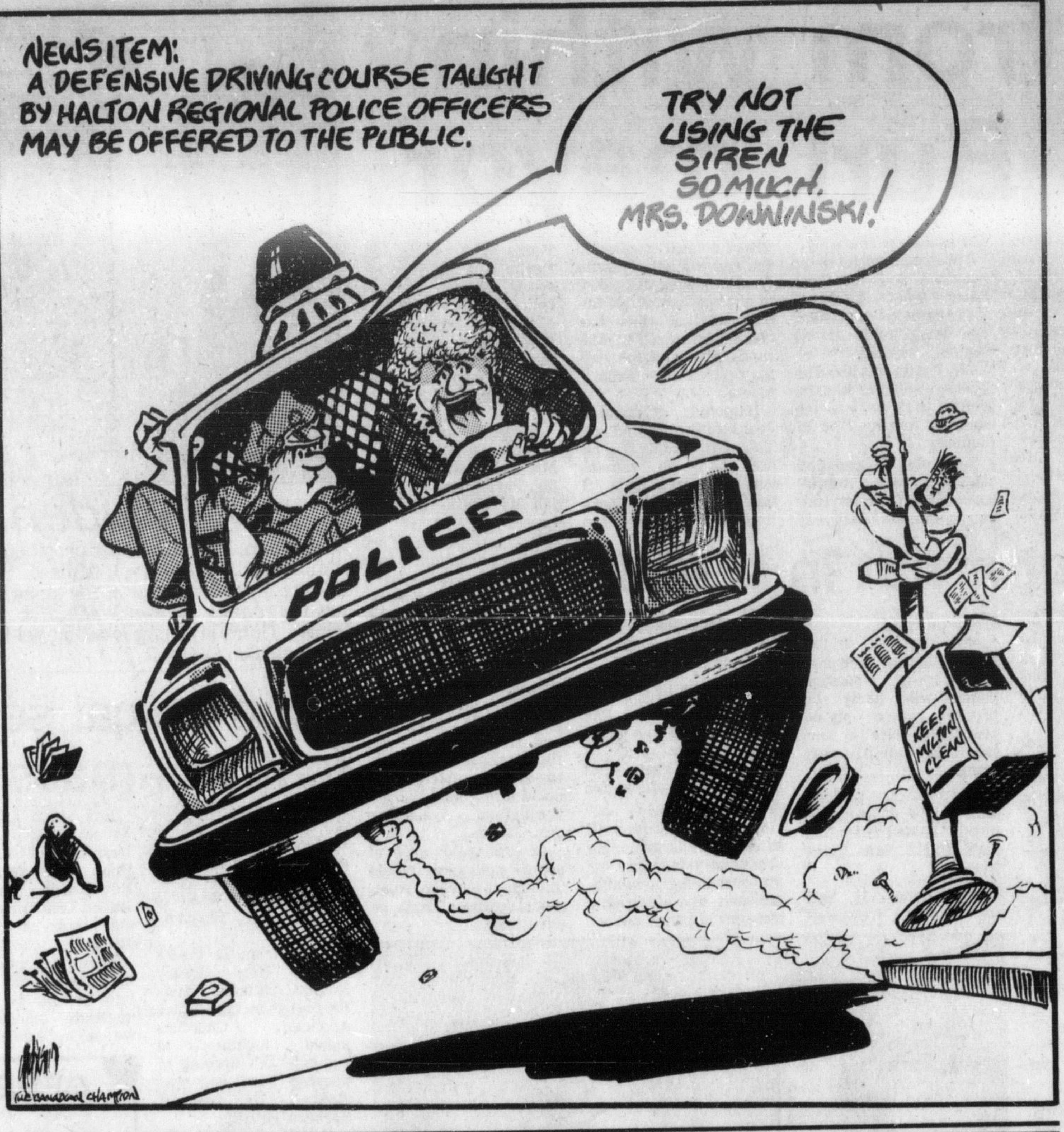
"I heard about it on TV a couple of years ago," he said. He tried the egg trick in 1979, successfully, and it stood for three months in the Opsteens' living room before falling over.

Last year on Jan. 10—the only day in the whole year when an egg is supposed to stand up on end—Murray tried it again. Only this time he was smarter, he set it up in the cold storage room in the basement where heavy traffic wouldn't jar it. As of today, the egg has been upstanding for a year and 15 days.

Is it a world record? Murray would like to think so. Matter of fact, he'd like to find out how to get it in the Guinness Book of World Records.



Egg-spert? Does Murray Opsteen hold a world record? His egg's been standing up for a full year.



Human errors and deficits

with Jim Robinson

Halton Region is an efficiency expert's playground. Abounding with "human errors" and saddled with alleged political interference in the administration, one wonders if the management study consultants, after reading the report they have prepared, shouldn't be called as witnesses if ever there is an inquiry on what's wrong with regional government.

It's the "human error" portion of what has been happening at Halton Region which is perhaps the most disturbing problem, or at least should be to rate-payers.

The latest involves a \$290,000 "clerical error" in which Halton Regional Police officers were given 27 pay cheques in a 52-week, 26-pay (a pay cheque every two weeks) period. Basically there was a misunderstanding about the extra week before the new year and pay cheques went out that shouldn't have. It being Christmas time, the officers, like everyone else, have bills to pay and presents to buy, so they cashed the cheques.

Now we understand Halton Region wants the Police Association to somehow assume the responsibility and get the officers to give back the money in one way or

another. Regardless of how it was done, the money represents a "deficit" at a time when the Region can ill afford more.

The classic "human error" was the \$700,000 deficit in August of last year but there have been others, which did not receive a lot of ink in light of the major deficit.

Three weeks ago, councillors found out they had low-balled inspection fees of development projects. Charging three per cent instead of four per cent, resulted in the Region being short \$103,000. It is still a "deficit."

The garbage disposal firm ceased to exist in July of last year but the Region didn't find out officially (that is, bring it to the attention of councillors) until four weeks ago. When the garbage firm terminated, it did so owing Halton Region \$5,534 in uncollected fees for dumping waste in landfill sites. Halton could sue for the entire amount but might not get a cent. Therefore it took 50 cents on the dollar owing. Although a paltry \$2,734, it is still a "deficit" and these little errors add up when it comes time to set the mill rate.

We have been told Halton Region neglected to hold Courts of Review on local improvement grants over a three-year

period. It was called a nasty little job that no one wanted to do, so it wasn't done. That is an inexcusable "human error" which shouldn't have been tolerated.

Other incidents could be mentioned such as a Public Works account which wasn't watched and ended up costing \$148,000, but the point being made here is that a report by the management consulting firm Hickling and Johnson has been released, and the list of changes is extensive and hard-hitting.

To their credit, Halton regional councillors have adopted most of the changes in systems with particular regard to the management of the treasury which was the subject of one complete book by the consulting firm.

While most people tend to take the "human errors" and "deficits" with a grain of salt, they fly to arms when the regional levy is brought down and grumble about the increase.

Hopefully, the Hickling and Johnson report will be the end of the problems inside Halton Region, but the 1981 budget, which will have to absorb 1980 "human errors" and "deficit" is still to come.

We will be watching that budget-setting procedure with much interest.

Simple kits transformed in sleek racing KubKars

By Michael Boyle
About a month ago, most cubs in the Milton Boy Scout packs spent \$1.35 each to purchase a Kubkar Kit. The kit was standard and contained assembly instructions only.

On Saturday those plain, meagre kars were transformed into fleet, colorful, decorative vehicles for the seventh annual Milton Kubkar Rally at St. Paul's United Church.

The cubs—164 in all from the eight Milton Packs—raced their kars down a track, egged on by a majority of their parents, in times hovering around four seconds.

The rally began in town in 1975 with 22 kars. Under the direction of Aurele Lanois and Gilles Laframboise, the number of entrants has increased seven-fold.

"It's a way to get the parents involved with their sons," explains Laframboise. "The parents are encouraged to help their sons design their kars."

Parents have become so involved with the kars, some in attendance suggested jokingly, a rally for the parents should be held. About 90 per cent of the parents watched their sons in

action Saturday. It's apparent many hours were spent on designing and decorating the kars. They must pass weight standards of five ounces maximum and the wheels must be the same but for the most part, the kars can be

decorated and refined at will.

The rally is divided into two parts, speed and design.

In the speed division, 10-year-old Russ Saunders, of the Fifth Milton pack, emerged with the

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Top Kub: Seven wins in a row left no doubt Russ Saunders (left) has the fastest KubKar at the seventh annual Milton KubKar rally Saturday at St. Paul's United Church. Saunders broke the Milton record in the process and will test his kar at the district championships in two months. Getting set at the start of a race are (from left to right) Saunders, Ian Bennett, Aaron MacFarland and Andrew Kocher. All are from Fifth Milton pack.

Turning the Pages of the Past

One year ago

From the Jan. 30, 1980 issue
A three-day controlled season on deer is planned for Halton in November. Halton Regional Planning Committee last week approved the hunt, designed to curb a rapidly-rising deer population.

Thirty to forty Rockwell International employees are expected to be laid off this Friday in the first of a series which could see as many as 150 of the 480 work force at the Milton plant let go indefinitely.

OPP Constable Duncan McAleese was a good cop, and someone the kids on the street and in the local pool hall enjoyed talking with, according to fellow officers. Last Wednesday night, the former Milton and Acton policeman was gunned down in front of a submarine shop in Delhi, near Tillsonburg.

Halton Regional Police are investigating a break and enter at Johnson Bros. garage at 295 Main St. Tuesday, Jan. 23. A set of car keys was stolen from the premises after the thieves forced their way into the rear garage by means of a crow bar.

A proposed by-law amendment which would have forced Milton dog owners to clean up after their pets was turned down Monday night by Milton council.

20 years ago

From the Jan. 26, 1961 issue
Fire at Hays Sales Arena on Hwy. 5 caused a \$250,000 loss as the large sales barn, arena, and bunkhouse were destroyed Saturday. Also lost were 52 head of prize Holstein cattle, all sold and slated for shipment to Mexico and Cuba, valued at over \$30,000.

Milton Rotary Club has collected \$5,293 for the new school for retarded children at Hornby. Several other Milton groups have supported the school.

Halton Magistrate K. M. Langdon's threat last week, that he wouldn't hold any more court cases in Milton until better facilities are provided, came true this week. He moved the Milton court hearing to Georgetown and police, accused and witnesses had to be transferred to the Georgetown chambers.

Eight people fled their home on Second Line Nassagaweya Saturday when fire destroyed a two-storey farmhouse. The Salewski family was burned out. King Calcium of Campbellville loaned the fire department a 1,000 gallon truck to transport water to the blaze.

The annual meeting of St. Paul's United Church approved a \$150,000 Christian Education Centre on a site just west of the church, replacing the present church house.

There is a movement afoot for ambulance service in Milton after two boys, hurt while tobogganing at Rattlesnake Point, lay in the snow for an hour and 20 minutes awaiting an ambulance from Waterdown. Dutch Elm Disease is taking its toll of the tall, stately elms in Halton.

50 years ago

From the Jan. 29, 1931 issue
Motorists driving without the 1931 license markers will be prosecuted after next Saturday. Better get busy.

The ice harvest on Martin's pond here is in full swing, and is giving employment to several men. The ice is of good quality and is 15 inches thick.

Thieves broke into Col. Ballantine's summer cottage on the Acton sideroad, on the mountain recently. Articles stolen include, among other things, two folding mattresses, brown tapestry, one three-foot mattress, blankets, green, brown and grey, a leather brief case, sheets and bedding.

Governor McCallum and Turnkey Mayes of the county jail here have been provided with smart looking uniforms.

The governor's is navy blue and the turnkey's is grey. This is the first time in the history of the jail here that the governor and the turnkey have worn uniforms.

The officials of every jail in Ontario, except Milton, have been wearing uniforms for many years, so the officials of the county jail here are now up-to-date. They look fine too.

A Fancy Dress Carnival and skating party will be held in the arena on Tuesday evening Feb. 3. For particulars see posters.

We hope that after next Monday's municipal election in Milton the citizens will be able to settle down to business.

75 years ago

From the Feb. 1, 1906 issue
One of Milton's needs is an evening reading room.

That in connection with the public library has been open in the day time only. The directors are now making other arrangements and hope to have the reading room open every evening except Sunday, the new order to commence Monday evening.

A lynx has haunted the woods near Lowville lately and has startled people at night with its peculiar cry, which is something like that of a child.

It was treed one day near St. George's Church and a couple of men were trying to bring it down by stoning it, when a young man, said to be from Milton came along with a shotgun. He let fly at it, but had a bad case of buck age and missed it. The lynx then became frightened too, jumped from the tree and made for the bush where it still is.

John Sloan died on Thursday at his home in Toronto, aged 44 years.

The cause of his death was heart disease, from which he had been suffering for more than a year.

He was the second son of Wm. Sloan, Sr. of Milton.

The Halton Cream and Butter Co. is the style of a new firm which will commence business next Monday on Commercial St. in the building occupied a few years ago by the Milton Creamery Co.