

Champion, Inland bought by Metrospan

Metrospan Printing and Publishing Ltd. has acquired the shares of Inland Publishing Co. Limited, effective Feb. 27. The sale of shares, at \$13.5 million, puts Inland's 13 weekly newspapers, including The Canadian Champion, under the Metrospan banner.

Inland will continue to be operated on the present basis, as a subsidiary of Metrospan, said John Baxter, President of Metrospan. He said the company is studying methods to better serve the wide southern Ontario market now covered by the two newspaper groups.

"The combined resources of the two groups will ensure that our newspapers continue to provide timely, informative editorial and advertising news for our readers," he said.

Metrospan, owned by Torstar Corp., owned nine weekly newspapers and five consumer tabloids in the heavily populated Metro Toronto suburban area. Inland owned 13 weeklies and two of them also publish weekend editions.

Just over two years ago, Inland had purchased the

three north Halton weeklies formerly owned by Dills Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd.—The Canadian Champion, Milton; The Acton Free Press; and The Independent, Georgetown. The Champion, soon to celebrate its 120th anniversary, had been owned by the Dills family since 1943.

Other Inland papers acquired by Metrospan Friday include The Post, Burlington; Oakville Beaver; The Mississauga News; Brampton Guardian; Ajax-Whitby-Pickering News Advertiser; Etobicoke Gazette, Markham Economist and Sun, Newmarket-

Aurora Era, Oshawa This Week, and The Stouffville Tribune. The Oshawa and Burlington papers have weekend editions as well.

Champion Publisher Herb Crowther said he was assured, at a publisher's meeting Monday morning, that The Champion and all the former Inland papers would retain the "status quo" under Metrospan's ownership. There are no plans to close any of the papers.

"No staff or policy changes are planned," he said. "Each newspaper has been given complete local

editorial control of its product."

Mr. Crowther said Metrospan plans to study methods of overcoming losses in some of the newspapers, and it may mean some changes in these publications, "but not right away".

The Champion, he added, is not one of the papers showing any losses.

Inland and Metrospan have been competing head-on in three communities—Oakville, Mississauga and Etobicoke—and their coverage areas overlapped in a few more communities.

The Canadian Champion

An Inland Community Newspaper—Serving the Community for 119 Years

VOLUME 120—NUMBER 42

MILTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 1981

32 PAGES—25 CENTS

Emergency department . . .

. . . is a top priority

Two-year wait over, hospital to expand

By Jane Muller

After a two-year struggle to convince the Ministry of Health Milton had outgrown its hospital's ability to treat our population, expansion and renovation plans have been approved by the ministry.

"It's been a long struggle," said S.A. Allen, Chairman of the Hospital Board.

"The approval is the culmination of over two years of study and

work by the board of directors," Mr. Allen said.

The approval covers phase one of proposed expansions which includes emergency, laboratory, pharmacy, physiotherapy and radiology facilities.

The second phase consisting of a third floor addition with 40 inpatient beds is not dealt with in the approval and has been set aside for future consideration.

It is predicted that construction will commence in 1982, but before a single foundation can be put in place Ministry representatives and hospital staff will work with planners to design the expansion.

Milton District Hospital Administrator Brian Brady said in regard to the expansion, "We'll be looking at every possibility."

"In the past we have considered expanding emergency into the parking lot and also expanding into the back to provide a good connection with the existing out-patient facility."

Milton's rapid population growth has caused the number of emergency patients treated to double over the past 10 years.

Conditions in the emergency ward are cramped with only two treatment rooms and no waiting room or patient-doctor consultation facilities except the corridor which bounds the emergency department on one side.

With the Ministry of Health's concept to promote fewer hospital admissions, out-patient facilities must be expanded to keep step with increased numbers utilizing out-patient facilities.

The expansion, which will include additional out-patient facilities, has not been given a final price tag but according to Mr. Brady, it will probably be in the range of \$2 million.

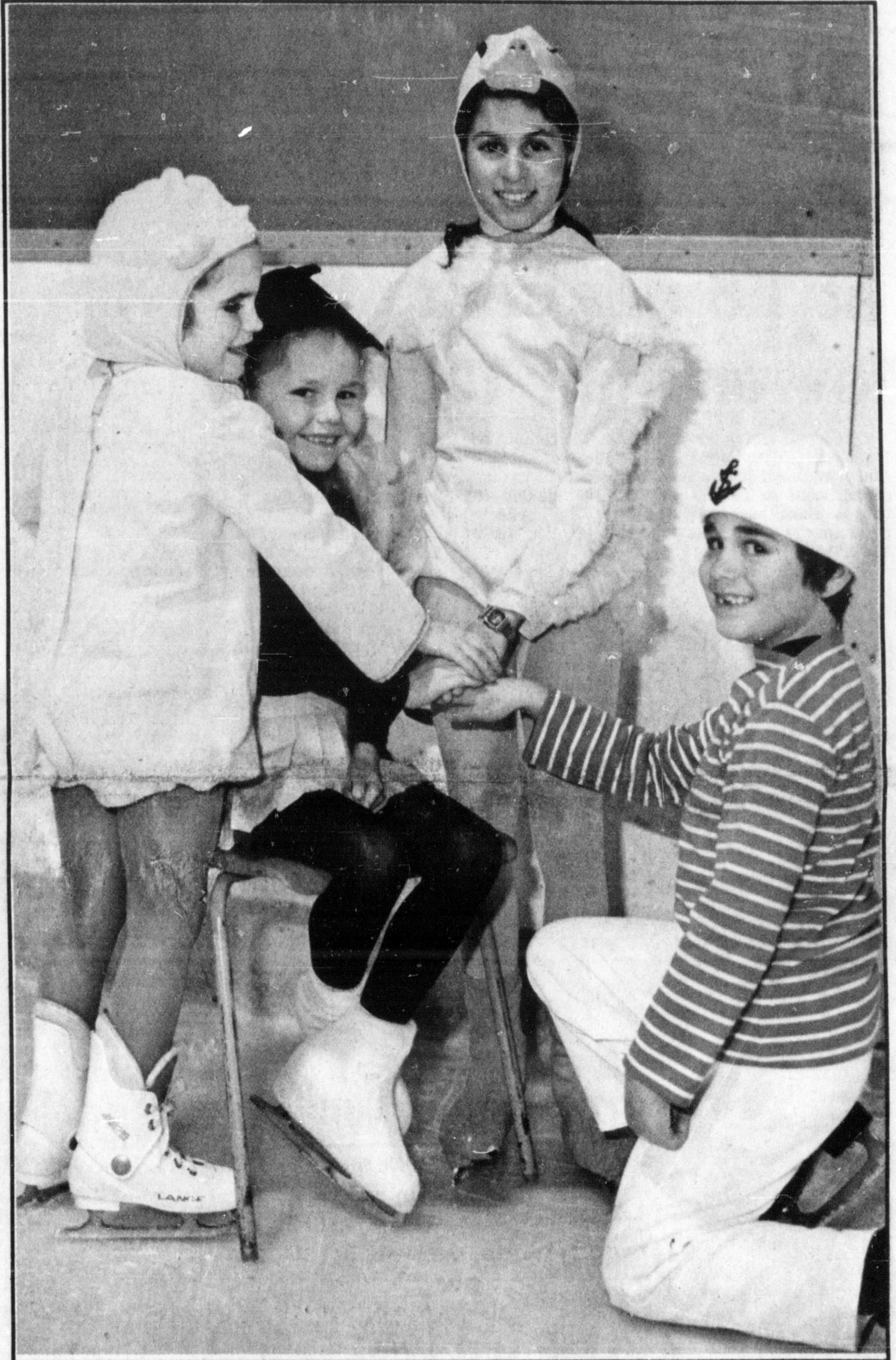
Of the final price, the hospital with regional government assistance will front one-third of the cost while the province will cover the remainder with a one-third grant and a one-third loan.

In November 1980, the Milton District Hospital Foundation was announced and it will provide some funding for the expansion.

Foundation chairman John Ostler said major fund raising events will not likely start until the fall, to avoid interference with the regular activities planned by the Milton District Hospital Auxiliary.

Foundation memberships sell for \$1, but Mr. Ostler stresses this is the minimum fee and further donations are greatly appreciated. Mr. Ostler said the foundation board of directors plans to discuss the possibility of life insurance plans naming the foundation as beneficiary if the policy holder desires.

The next step in the expansion plan again lies with the Ministry of Health. Shirley Brett, the ministry's project officer, must now establish a timetable for the planning stages and according to Mr. Allen, this will be the next move.



Rhythm on ice

The theme is "We've Got Rhythm" and the costumes and sets are bright and colorful as Milton Figure Skating Club prepares to present its annual figure skating carnival at Laurier Arena this weekend. Among the stars are Shannon Brown, Michelle Fraser, Danielle Guzman and Eddie Williams. The show runs Friday and Saturday nights and there's also a Saturday matinee.



Theatre proves popular

Milton's new triple-screen movie theatre, Premier Milton, opened its doors this week and was an instant success. Crowds flocked to an opening party Thursday, first-night shows Friday, and an open house Saturday. Among the visitors were Joanne and Margaret Owens, Kim Murphy and Corrina O'Neil, who munched their popcorn around the zebra on the front lawn. See photo-story, Pg. C1.

HETA wants gains on wage disparity

Halton Elementary Teachers Association (HETA) is playing its first card in the game of catch up salaries.

Halton's contract with its elementary teachers trails, in terms of salary, all but one of the neighboring boards, according to figures released by HETA President Gerry Dunn.

HETA members are well down the list—career teachers rank 31st in the province—though Halton is one of the richest places in the country, according to Dunn.

In compiling the stats, Dunn used information from the provincial Education Relations Commission.

About 12 per cent of HETA's 1,275 members are what Dunn refers to as career teachers: those in the

highest wage and experience category.

The career teacher group, as an example, indicates how the rest of HETA trails in salary with neighboring boards. Career teachers trail Niagara South by \$610, the least difference and Wentworth by \$1,772.

Wellington is the only neighboring board which trails Halton on wages and that is by about \$100, according to Dunn.

"What we'll try to prove is that Halton is a reasonably wealthy area. Burlington and Oakville have the highest per capita income in Canada. We think teachers in Halton should be as well off as other wealthy areas," said the HETA president.

In terms of benefits, HETA members "are certainly not better off" than other areas, Dunn said. He went on to indicate there is not much dissatisfaction with the benefits.

"Our focus this year is catching up and keeping up," said Dunn.

Halton Board of Education, HETA and District 9 of the Ontario Secondary School Teacher's Federation (OSSTF) and trustees have been exploring alternate ways of coming to wage agreements.

The board is waiting for a report from the Improved Negotiations Committee. That group is finishing off its work. Some of its recommendations may find their way into talks between the board and teachers before the report is presented to the full board.

Halton Board of Education and teachers have used an adversarial method of negotiating. OSSTF and the board almost found themselves with a strike last year.

The committee has searched for a number of other ways of negotiating. One such method is single team bargaining.

Of the boards compared by Dunn with Halton, the highest paid—Wentworth and Simcoe—use single team bargaining.

Decision today Baines appeal

By Linda Kirby

Progressive Conservative candidate Fran Baines' right to represent the PCs in the March 19 provincial election battle won't be decided until around noon today (Wednesday).

Supreme Court Judge R. E. Holland reserved a decision following a two-hour hearing at Osgoode Hall in Toronto late Tuesday afternoon, on Campbellville businesswoman Oriana Currie's writ against Halton-Burlington PCs. She charged the February nomination convention was unfair to herself and many paid-up party members who were not allowed to vote.

The decision partly rests on whether or not Baines' opponent, Brian Penman of Milton, still wants to stand as the PC candidate in the March 19 election, said the judge. He asked lawyers representing Mrs. Baines and Mrs. Currie to discuss it with Mr. Penman

(Continued on Pg. 8)

Inside today

Fear of the police

In Vietnam, police are the spectre of terror. For Vietnamese immigrants, the sight of a Canadian Police officer causes fear, but a new Halton Region Police program is hoping to quell those concerns. Story and picture Pg. 5.

New Chamber drive

Bill Mercer, newly elected president of the Milton Chamber of Commerce, feels he has something positive to offer Chamber members. Story and picture Pg. 9.

| | |
|--------------------------------------------|------------|
| SECTION ONE | |
| HRCA looking at a smaller budget | 2 |
| In the Courts | 3 |
| Editorials, Columns | 4 |
| Milton Council Briefs | 7 |
| Halton Region Roundup | 8 |
| Provincial Election '81 coverage | 10 |
| SECTION TWO | |
| Sports News and Views | B1 to B5 |
| Classified advertising | B8 to B10 |
| Home of the Week, Real Estate | B10 to B12 |
| SECTION THREE | |
| Premier Theatres in Perspective | C1 |
| Recipe, Farm News | C2 |
| Entertainment | C3 |
| Milton Then and Now, Willows | C4 |
| Hi School, Omagh, Drumquin | C6 |

Special supplements: IDA Drugs, K-Mart, Woolco, Home Hardware.



Block Parents wants help in re-organizing. See Pg. 2.