

# Council Oil firms to tell all

At least seven major oil companies will be making presentations to Milton councillors on plans for gasoline retail outlets in the town for the foreseeable future.

This will be done in order for Milton to make final resolution of the new zoning bylaw of gasoline retail designations.

The presentation would be brought to Milton by the Ontario Petroleum Association, although no final date or time has yet been set.

According to Milton Planner Bob Zsadyani, each oil firm would set out "their individual goals for the next five or 10 years." This presentation would be without any other oil firm in the room at the same time. Each talk is to be a maximum of 15 minutes in length.

This would be followed by the association representative, Don Culbert, discussing gasoline marketing strategy over the past 15 years and he is to address self-serve versus full service gasoline stations.

The meeting, when it is held, will be secret. Mr. Zsadyani said this is being done for "obvious marketing and competitive reasons."

# Tennis group can tender

The Kinsmen Park Tennis Club will be allowed to put out tenders and have a permanent shelter built on the courts for the court monitor.

This action will be run in a similar fashion as last year when the tennis club had the courts resurfaced and paid the town back in four installments after the town covered the initial cost.

The club did have a wooden shelter for the court monitor but "vandals virtually destroyed it" according to club director Pete Fowler.

The other problem is with picnic tables on the court which the school board fears is too close to the adjacent Robert Baldwin School.

Mr. Fowler said the board of education claims "vandals use the tables for access to classrooms through windows in the portables."

He said he was hoping the town would pour in concrete to anchor the picnic tables firmly to the grounds of the tennis club.

# Road load limit

Council has approved a new bylaw which would restrict certain roads in Milton to half loads during March and April.

Half-load limiting is allowed by theario Ministry of Transportation and Communication, but Milton has never enacted a law which enforces restricted load limits.

With passage of the bill, the town will also be allowed to post signs notifying truckers of the restriction.

In Milton roads so designated would be: Woodward Ave. from Martin St. to Thompson Rd.; Wilson Ave. from Steeles Ave. to Main St.; Thompson Rd. from Steeles Ave. to Main St.; and Main St. west from Bronte Rd.

In rural Milton such roads would include Main St. to Ninth Line in former Oakville; First Line to Town Line in former Nassagaweya; and McNiven Rd. to Bell School Line in former Burlington.

# Home allowed

Milton Council has approved an amendment to the parkway belt plan so a man can build a home on Highway 25 south of Derry Rd.

Applicant George Yorke has already received Halton Regional and Land Division Committee approval for the 204 foot frontage lot which is 243 feet deep.

Council approval was given on condition adequate water and septic sewage is available, the driveway onto Highway 25 meets Ministry of Transportation and Communication approval, and the drainage meets approval of the Halton Region Conservation Authority.

# 'A good deal'

While some council members are grumbling, Milton Treasurer Don Loughheed is beaming over "a good deal" he made with Halton Region.

During recent Milton budget debates, some council members, if not all, were surprised to learn Mr. Loughheed had loaned the region \$1 million.

Although the councillors stated privately they doubted the wisdom of making loans to Halton, Mr. Loughheed in fact did the deal with an interest rate of 17.5 per cent.

# Many happy memories of Milton long ago

## Spotlight on Seniors

by Jane Muller  
When S. Robert Reid came to Milton 58 years ago he didn't intend to stay, but today the 84-year-old is glad he did.

In January Bob was declared blind and issued a white cane and he says if it weren't for his familiarity with the town, he would be lost.

The Milton he saw when he left the train at the Milton station at 7 p.m. Feb. 28, 1923 is much different from the one he knows today.

"At that time there were no paved roads and only three lights on Main St. I took a look at the town and said "what kind of a place is this?" I didn't meet a living soul all the way down Main St., then I saw a cat walking across the street from Galbraith's to Cooper's garage."

"I went to the Milton Inn to get a room for the night but I didn't intend to stay in Milton," he recalls, "not after I'd seen the town."

Once inside the doors of the Inn, he began to have a change of heart. He saw that Milton was no ghost town and there were, indeed, other residents besides the lone cat on Main St.

P.L. Robertson, one of his employees and an oil "drummer" (salesman) were in the lobby. Between them the jokes started flying Bob soon forgot his first impressions.

Bob's mission in Milton was to open a Dominion Store. Before preparations were completed he and some helpers went door to door through the town promoting the store.

"I found the people in Milton were the friendliest I'd ever met," he said.

The opening was a success and this success continued. Bob says he always took the time to greet his customers, not only the adults but children as well.

"I had a cookie or a candy for the young ones and they remembered that," Bob said.

The youngsters would grow into the customers of the future.

Bob was a trouble shooter in the grocery business and his job took him to many cities and towns where Dominion's business was sagging, including Montreal. He would go into a store, discover and solve problems and move onto the next.

"I left Milton to open a store in Mimico," Bob recalls.

Thomas McJannett, the father of the woman Bob would eventually marry, took over the Main St. store and expanded it to include a grocery store where the Flora Shoppe is now.

Bob was a transient and found moving from one place to the next, as his job demanded, had become aggravating. It was time to settle down.

Marjorie McJannett became his wife in July of 1924. Her father had become ill and Bob came back to Milton to look after the store until a replacement was found.

His nomadic life behind him, Bob took a job at Gowland's Hardware for three or four years, then went to work for one of the first people he met in town, Mr. Robertson who manufactured screws on Bronte St.

In 1954, Bob began a career in politics as a member of Milton



S. ROBERT REID

Council. He had a strong interest in the water commission which he headed. He also served on the fire, police and parks and recreation committees.

He found his years as a councillor extremely gratifying. He recalls a phone call from Miss Mills. Her home on the corner of Bronte and Elizabeth St. was about to be overcome by creek water, which had swelled over its banks.

"She was frantic. I got a rake and cleared away the debris and the water receded," Bob remembers.

"It was very gratifying to the residents on that street, that someone would do something for them."

"After a period of years I lost an election by a small margin and I didn't intend to go back, because my wife said that she never saw me."

He is the seventh son of a seventh son, born in Angus Ontario and raised in Barrie. In a family of 11 children, he was closest to his sister Isobell, one year his sen-

ior.

"We went to school together and I'd do my homework with her," Bob said.

With her help, he was able to excelerate to her grade level. He cherishes his memories of this special sister, named after his mother. Her photograph in shades of yellow and brown hangs in his apartment as a memorial. Isobell was taken by the flu when she was 22.

"Girls were a lot more respected then. Girls were girls. They didn't paint their faces or use powder and lipstick."

Bob took on some big responsibilities early in life. When he was 12 years old his father died and being the only son at home, he had to help with family finances and get a job.

Then the world went to war and Bob joined the army.

"All my chums had gone and I wasn't staying behind," Bob said.

Just as his training was completed and arrangements finalized for overseas billeting, word came that the war was over. At the time of the Second World War, Bob was too old to take part. Bob is a legion member.

Bob now lives in a one-bedroom apartment in Harmony Court Senior Citizen Building where he moved 10 years ago when the building first opened. He lives alone. Marjorie died in 1967 following a series of heart attacks.

He visited her every day at Milton District Hospital, taking his meals with her. When he was told that the woman he loved had passed on, he was shocked. He needed to see her one last time and convinced his doctor to oblige his request.

He saw Marjorie, remembers the trace of a content smile on her face and the gentle kiss he gave her when he said

goodbye. The years have not shaded his love for her.

"Over the years I've been here in Milton I tried to be a friendly person, doing things for people. These things are now coming back to me," Bob said.

He and his wife had no children of their own but Bob has many relatives, spread throughout North America. He boasts receiving more than 40 birthday cards on the occasion of his 84th in January.

"I get along better with young people. Different ones meet me on the street to ask if I'm going to the next dance."

Bob loves to dance. He and Marjorie used to entertain in the basement of the house which he built, many a late night, dancing to the tunes of the time.

He says young people give him the initiative to live. They talk about interesting things they do and don't bother to put other people down, according to Bob.

"I hate hearing people put each other down. If you can't say anything good about someone, don't say it."

When Bob's eyesight failed he had to sell his car and give up driving, something he had done since 1916.

"Now I do everything by feeling with my fingers. I have to listen for cars coming. If I were to leave Milton, I would be lost."

Bob will tell you he gets on alright but this is evident by his good nature and his continued independence. He recently approached Milton Transit Committee for a bus pass and was granted one.

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