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## Centre support

A small drop of life-giving moisture has finally dribbled into the desert that is social services in Milton.

Town councillors voted Monday night to give \$1,200 to the Milton Committee for Youth to finance the next three months of a weekend drop-in program started by the group.

Diane Funk, chairman of the committee, called the general committee's decision to make the award a "minor miracle" and hoped it would mark the dawn of a new era in social services for the town.

Mrs. Funk's fervent wish should be echoed by every right thinking person in Milton, every person who shares the belief that it is far better to solve the cause of a problem than to continually treat the symptoms of a social disease.

The problems of vandalism in this town have reached a stage where no increased number of policemen, however well equipped and diligent, are going to be able to effect a cure for the pain.

Perhaps there was a time in the past when a policeman could solve problems of idle youth hanging around the streets of town by simply telling them to move on.

Those days have past. Youth now have "rights" and feel they are no longer obligated to find constructive ways to pass their time. If hockey or some other type

of game doesn't appeal they are left with the dubious blessing of television and their own dead imaginations.

These are the problems that the Committee for Youth was formed to attack. The weekend drop-in program has proven to be a particularly successful way of doing something about the problem, challenging the energy of youth and focusing activity on something other than mindless destruction.

As valuable as the program is, it is not free. The price tag runs to about \$100 a week. The salary of a first class constable, according to the most recent contract, is edging close to \$30,000 a year.

That much money could keep a drop in program operating for almost six years and accomplish a great deal more than the single policeman could, bound as he is by irrational laws and incomprehensible judicial decisions.

Later this year, the Committee for Youth will be back before Town Council, seeking money to fund the balance of their budget for 1982.

Mrs. Funk was warned by councillors that more support may not be available.

It is time for councillors to be warned that support for the truly valuable services they provide should be found and cuts made in other, less important services.

## Attend carnival

This year's Milton Winter Carnival, a particularly ambitious project, promises to be one of the best seasonal festivals Milton has experienced.

The list of events runs the length of a broadsheet page—as a matter of fact, page three of today's edition of The Canadian Champion.

From public skating to a pancake breakfast to a wood chopping contest—it's all there, waiting to be enjoyed.

But, any carnival, no matter how elaborate its make-up, requires one basic ingredient to be a success.

People.

Without your support and participation, the Milton Winter Carnival will be a flop. Every activity is geared towards families and individuals participating, enjoying themselves.

It's not going to be an expensive venture to get involved. As a matter of fact, if you want to get involved right now, just contact Bonnie Ward at 878-7211.

The committee needs people to man booths, handle demonstrations and organize the numerous people-oriented activities.

But, the committee needs other help that doesn't require as solid a commitment. Look at the logo in today's index and on the top of the carnival events listing on page three. What should that jolly little fellow on the flying saucer be named?

Should the Milton Winter Carnival be renamed? The organizing

committee wants your suggestions today. The carnival is about four weeks away, so there's still time to rename the carnival and give our new mascot a name.

What about a prince and princess for this winter carnival? The committee is looking for a girl and boy between the ages of five and seven to represent the community at the opening ceremonies and other official functions during the weekend of the carnival.

Do you know any children that should be considered? Call Bonnie and give her the names of these children.

As you can see, there is a lot you can do to get involved and share in the success of this winter tradition. Let the committee hear from you as soon as possible today. You'll both benefit from the experience.

Milton is rapidly growing community, a community with an identity, and this carnival should serve as a unique and useful way to make the newer residents in town feel a part of Milton.

Attending the carnival will be a great way to get out and meet people—neighbors, local businessmen, politicians and friends.

And, really, that's what's behind any civic function like this—getting out and meeting the people who make up the community you live in.

See you at the winter carnival on February 12, 13 and 14.

And remember, think snow!!!

### NEWS ITEM: HALTON REGIONAL STAFF ARE ACTING QUICKLY TO SOLVE DAY CARE PROBLEMS.



## Viewpoint A backyard rink

WITH MICHAEL BOYLE



You look out the window and you see coldness everywhere.

A white film seems to cover everything above ground. If you've got one of the old thermometers, it's registering below zero. That's if you can see out the window at all. You may have to chip away some of the ice which formed on the inside of the glass to see outside.

For the first time this winter, southern Ontario, and the rest of North America for that matter, is in the middle of a bitter cold snap.

Most people see the cold snap as something that must be endured. We look at the weather reports every night and watch for a low pressure system to move in here anytime and warm this place up.

It's an inconvenience, this cold weather. For the most part, it's a question of being cold until you get to your car—and then wondering if your car will start at all. You hope the claims of your anti-freeze—"good to minus 35"—are true.

It means less time spent outdoors and more time waiting for it to end. Unless you're a kid.

Kids love cold. They get to bundle up against the weather. Especially if you're a boy kid, cold weather is one of the best things winter brings. In fact, you may even secretly hope against the wishes of your parents and want it to stay.

When I was a kid, the first snap of cold

weather meant my family would start preparing the rink in the backyard. My father would gather his two sons and two daughters out into the backyard. He'd get them to trample down the snow with their feet. That night, he'd hook up the water hose to the laundry room faucet and spray the entire yard with water until a good level of ice formed.

We'd then hope the cold weather continued so as not to undo our hard day's work.

Within a few days, and after several "waterings" the water would have turned into a rink ready for the future Gordie Howes to begin practising.

The rink was the focal point for the entire neighborhood. Indoor rinks weren't in such number as they are today and the older kids wouldn't take too kindly to pre-teenagers taking up their ice time on the public school rink.

So, we used to have our own league in the backyard. It was much smaller than the regulation ice surfaces and the two pine trees at the far end inside the rink itself didn't make it look like Maple Leaf Gardens, even though it did give it some character.

The rink was a great way for a youngster, to get to know other kids in the neighborhood. They'd come from blocks away because it was the only rink in the area. Kids who had ignored you during the summer suddenly became your great

buddies during the winter.

Most of our free time was spent on the rink. Even if no one else showed up, you could pretend to deke Tim Horton out of his tree (literally) by skating around the pines.

It was all made possible by cold weather and just a little snow to prepare the base. We prayed for it from before Christmas.

If the rink wasn't enough, a few trips to a local golf course, complete with some of the biggest hills my young mind had ever comprehended, provided kids with the opportunity for tobogganing.

We'd bundle with sweaters, long johns, heavy coats and scarves waiting to go down the hill. Our initial coldness, picked up standing atop the hill, was suddenly transformed into a warmth obtained through the first descent down the slope.

Hot chocolate awaited us back in the car. It soothed to satisfy our coldness while our toes and fingertips quickly felt like they were being stabbed with little pins and needles.

The look on my father's face, of a father watching his children being happy, was something I hadn't come to appreciate until much later. Although he was probably the coldest of the lot, he was much happier than us. A father's pride in his family was being fulfilled. Even if his car didn't start.

## Follow-up Bullet proof vests

WITH STEVE ARNOLD



Public opinion rises and falls with the passage of time. That's one of the first lessons any politician must learn.

It is a fluid commodity that can be shaped and directed by anyone who knows how.

On the issue of bullet proof vests for Halton's policemen, very little has been heard in the last year on the quotation that once claimed so much public attention and support.

One year ago, The Canadian Champion ran a story under the headline "Officers voting in favor of bullet proof vests."

The topic then was a survey being carried out by police chief James Harding, which showed 75 per cent of the 195 officers he surveyed favored wearing bullet proof vests as part of their uniform.

At a Police commission meeting the week before the story appeared, Harding said he personally didn't favor the vests as an item of clothing, but he wanted to do what was best for the man on the street.

He added that, if the majority of the policemen on the force wanted the equipment, he would try to get it for them, but if the vote was split, he would get enough to meet the needs of those wanting the extra protection.

"I think the law is too great to be enforced at the point of a .38. The law should be enforced with the badge, but in order to use this method, everything has

to be working correctly. Society can only work correctly if the courts, the crown attorney and correctional institutes all work toward one common goal or purpose—a system where a badge is a sign of authority, not a gun," he said.

Today, 12 months later, the Halton force is still waiting for the delivery of 300 bullet proof vests ordered in the wake of the killing of an Ontario Provincial Police constable in Delhi and the murder of one and wounding of another in Huntsville.

"Nothing has changed as far as the official view goes," said Constable Dave Richards, chief of the police planning bureau.

Const. Richards noted that at the height of the controversy last year the police commission decided to purchase bullet proof vests for all the officers wanting one and the Ontario government later offered to split the cost with local commissions.

Delivery of the vests to Halton's finest is expected within the next month or so, Constable Richards said, adding "we are still waiting very patiently for them."

For the 300 vests being purchased for the Halton department, he said, the bill comes for \$40,000 for local taxpayers. The province has paid the balance, but the purchase is still a bargain.

Constable Richards noted that because of the large size of the order placed by the provincial government, the cost per vest

comes to about \$245, where it would be up to \$300 if the Halton force was purchasing on its own.

Constable Richards said the effectiveness of the vests as protection "really depends on what they come at you with," but noted that support for the idea doesn't seem to have waned among policemen.

"I'm sure that they'll be worn," he said, adding that some officers have purchased their own vests while they have been waiting for the departmental order to arrive.

"It's a sad fact that there are people running around who are pulling the guns out of policemen's holsters and killing them," he said.

"It's the guys out there on the streets who have to face that kind of music and the chief still wants to do what is best for them."

Constable Tom Sinkovich, president of the Halton Police Association, said the official position of the group is to wait and assess the vests in the light of the provincial Occupational Health and Safety Act.

"I would have to side with the chief on this, but that's a personal opinion," he added.

"I feel the choice of whether or not to use one should be up to the individual officer, but then it's very hard to legislate something, even if it is necessary," he added.

### Pages of the Past

#### One year ago

From the January 14, 1981 issue  
A tragic accident has claimed the life of a 28-year-old Milton woman. Maryanne Coulombe, expecting her first child in April, was returning home from a prenatal class when she was killed in a two-car accident on Derry Rd. near Trafalgar Rd. Tuesday afternoon Jan. 6.

Miltonians did a "super" job for Terry Fox Cancer Research "Marathon of Hope" Fund, campaign manager John Stewart reported this week. He said the fund has closed, at a whopping \$25,391.

An effort on behalf of the young people on Main St. to help start a drop-in centre for downtown Milton is being gratefully accepted by the organizers of the project. Former Councillor Gus Goutouski told the Champion that one young man with extensive contacts with young people has come forward to state that he and his volunteers are ready to help in any way to get the centre in the basement of the Lido Restaurant building ready.

In the name of community service and physical fitness, Milton Kinsmen are planning to construct a "participark" on the grounds of St. Peter's and Robert Baldwin Schools.

Halton will request the co-operation of the four member municipalities in starting what may be Canada's first regional source separation program.

#### 20 years ago

20 Years Ago  
From the Jan. 18, 1962 issue  
Paul F. Syme 45, a Cooksville resident who has worked in Milton for the past three years, was instantly killed in a single car accident in Oakville Tuesday evening. His wife Susanne, also aged 45, in Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital with a fractured pelvis. Mr. Syme came to Milton to work at Cooke's Furniture. When it closed he handled deliveries and sales for Doreen's Dry Cleaners and more recently has been managing the sporting goods section of Milton Sports and Cycle.

The by-law legalizing Sunday sports in Milton was given final approval at Monday's town council meeting. Specified games or sports allowed in the by-law include baseball, softball, football, soccer, cricket, field lacrosse, box lacrosse, indoor bowling, lawn bowling, curling, angling, miniature golf, golf, archery, basketball, hockey, tennis, badminton, field and track competition and swimming.

Billiards, pool and snooker were suggested by the solicitor, however council struck them from the bylaw.

The hockey situation in Milton is a-buzzing with activity this week, and is steadily building to a climax. A "Boost the Merchants" group has been formed in an effort to get the Milton Merchants Hockey Club, representing the town in OHA Intermediate "A" hockey, into high gear for the remainder of the season.

#### 50 years ago

From the January 14, 1932 issue  
On account of the mild weather, the caretakers have been unable to make ice in the Arena and curling rink.

A ladies' dressing room has been fitted up in the room next to the council chamber, to be used when dances are held in the town hall. It is a good idea, as it was badly needed.

Somebody smashed open the box maintained by the Harmony Health League, affiliated with the Burlington V.O.N., and stole \$1.70. The bank was sent around in a basket from house to house, and the funds used for relief of needy cases.

Gordon McPeeters, blamed for a raid on the farm of Mrs. Mary Price two months ago, when 33 chickens were stolen, was arrested in Toronto last Thursday at the request of Constable Patterson, Trafalgar township, and was remanded for a week on a chicken stealing charge when he appeared in Oakville police court. Bail of \$500 was not furnished.

Excitement prevailed on the farm of Balke Springer, in Nelson township, on Sunday, when one of his horses fell into a well. After some hard work by neighbours, the animal was extricated, little worse for its experience.

Hockey fans here are despairing of seeing any games this winter, as about ten days have elapsed since the date of the first O.H.A. game of the local players was scheduled. On account of mild weather, little ice has formed in the arena.

#### 75 years ago

75 Years Ago  
From the Jan. 17, 1907 issue  
W. G. Armstrong, butcher, left Milton about three weeks ago, and nothing was heard of him since. His wife is said to have followed him out.

County Attorney Dick has been ill for some days with la grippe, and much to his own disappointment and to that of the Milton Curling Club he was unable to play in the Ontario Tankard Competition at Toronto yesterday.

Chief Constable Bradley left town on Friday morning. He said he was going on duty connected with his appointment in the license department of Ontario, but did not say where his duty would take him.

The ladies of Milton and vicinity are cordially invited to attend the Women's Institute meeting next Wednesday. A full and excellent program has been prepared of music and addresses.

Harry Mercer, formerly of this town, visited friends here over Sunday. He has accepted a position with the Toronto Niagara Power Co. as mounted patrol inspector on their new line from the Falls and Toronto.

Masters John and Joe Crowe spent the holidays with Milton friends. They returned to Toronto last week. They say they like life in the old town the best.