

# Manor vacancy rate declining

By STEVE ARNOLD  
Champion News Editor

Vacancy rates at Halton Centennial Manor are starting to decline in response to a number of steps taken by Regional officials.

Dennis Perlin, Halton's chief administrative officer, issued a press release recently to note that combined vacancy rates at the home for the aged have dipped to 3.7 per cent from the 31 per cent high recorded in 1981.

Concern about vacancies at the Manor has been a focus of attention since it was revealed a higher than expected number of empty beds in the residential section was the cause of a \$218,000 budget deficit.

In a press conference following last week's Regional council meeting, Mr. Perlin said the actions taken by staff will not affect the 1981 deficit in Manor operations, but future problems should be avoided.

"Obviously," he added, "we are going to be budgeting more carefully where vacancy rates are concerned in the future."

Problems at the Manor were caused by a higher than expected vacancy rate in the residential care

section and a much higher demand for space in the extended care section.

As a response to that program, Regional officials launched an advertising program in November to attract residents and are finalizing plans with the Halton Children's Aid Society to open a day care centre in a vacant portion of the residential section.

Mr. Perlin said the newest budget for the Manor predicts a 20 per cent vacancy rate in the residential section "but obviously we can't be too optimistic."

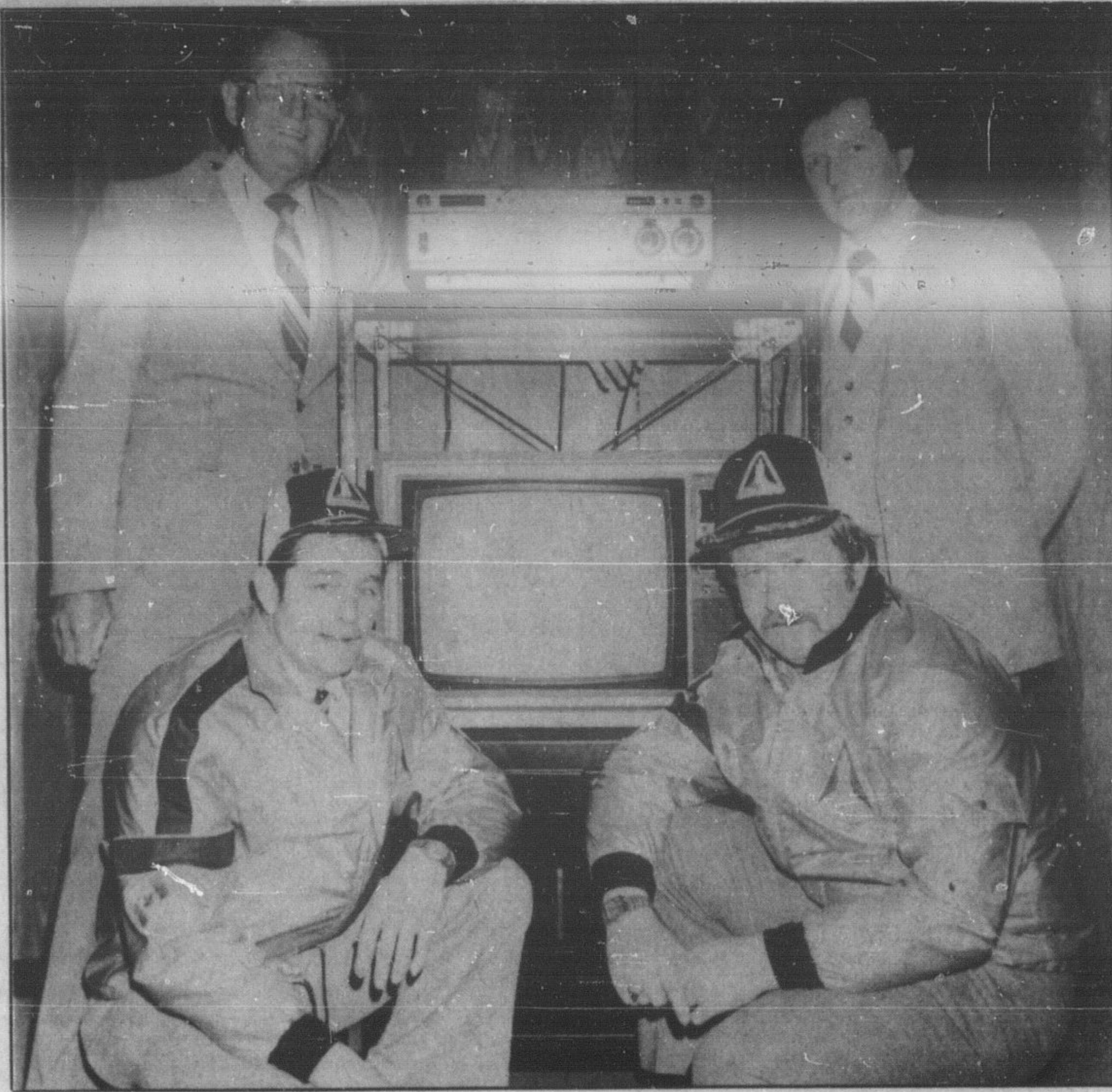
"We're assuming that we'll have some deaths there or that we'll go through a spell when we can't get people for that section," he said.

While the size of the residential section of the Manor has been cut, Mr. Perlin said it is not possible right now to increase the size of the extended care section.

He explained approval from the Ministry of Health is needed for that move and that changes to the actual building would also be needed.

"It could cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to make that sort of change," he said.

The Region is planning a major study of the role that it has to play in providing care for senior citizens, as well as a study of the future of the Manor.



Milton District Hospital is the proud new owner of a video tape recorder and color television set. The system will be used for educational purposes for both hospital staff and patients. The gift was the project of the Milton Old Stars Hockey Team. Club members Joe Auger, bottom left and Grant Turner, bottom right, presented the equipment to Milton Dr. Ron McKay (a former plant doctor with Rockwell International) and Brian Brady, Milton District Hospital.

# Old Stars give MDH equipment

A special gift was recently presented to Milton District Hospital administrator Brian Brady by members of the Milton Old Stars Hockey Team. The local club raised approximately \$2,000 to purchase a video tape recorder and color television set for educational use in the hospital.

In addition to being helpful to staff, the video machine and television will also be useful for showing special programs to patients. For example, the equipment would be helpful to those who have suffered a serious ailment such as a heart attack and require special information on post hospital care.

The Milton Old Stars Hockey Team is a group of about 16 local businessmen and former hockey players.

In addition to having a lot of fun, the club raises money for local charities.

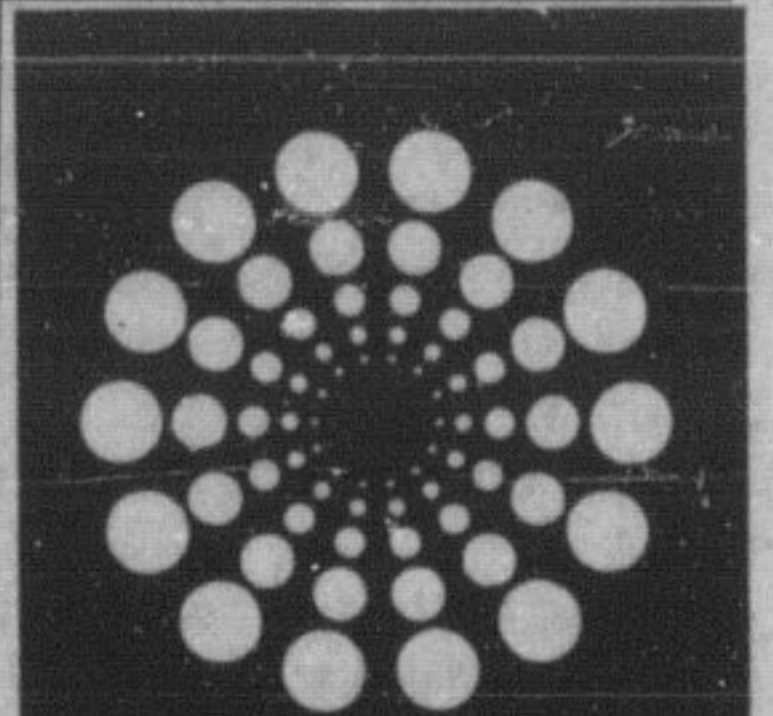
Stan Edgar, president of the club, said the membership knew the hospital had need for the video equipment and decided to purchase the set.

The club raised the money at a hockey game held in Milton last month.

More than 800 people turned out to watch the local players battle it out with the CFTO Bassett Hounds.

The team was started last May, the brainchild of Joe Auger, manager of Milton Welding and Bruce Dolson, plant manager of Rockwell in Milton.

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# Residents up in arms about campground expansion

A proposal to expand the Milton Heights Campground has drawn howls of protest from local residents.

Neighbors of the campground turned out in force last week to watch Milton councillors pass a motion allowing their staff to attend appeal hearings against the Niagara Escarpment Commission ruling allowing the expansion.

In a report to councillors, planning director Bob Zsadyani said several concerns have been raised about the operation of the facility, including the suspicion that there are up to 21 people living there permanently.

Both the Milton official plan and zoning bylaw and the agreements under which the campground was established prohibit year round residency.

Other concerns have been raised about the ability of the land to support the water and sewage requirements of the 59 units proposed for the expansion.

Robert Burgess, a spokesman for the 30 neighbors who attended the council meeting, said the Town should be actively opposing an expansion of the campground "until this man gets his house in order."

The campground, councillors were told, is in the

area covered by the Niagara Escarpment Commission development legislation, which supercedes all other legislation.

The only way the Town could have any control over the development, Mr. Zsadyani said, is through conditions attached to the NEC approval.

Coun. Jim Watson said the agreement under which the campground was established required each trailer to vacate the area for at least two months of every year and those months could not be July or August.

That was meant to ensure that no children requiring school services would be living there.

Although there have been reports of a number of residents living year round at the campground, Mr. Zsadyani warned that these have not been substantiated.

"One of my least fears about this is getting the permanent residents eliminated," Mayor Gord Krantz said. "We will deal with them regardless."

Councillors agreed to have a further staff report on the situation before the appeal hearing is held on the residents complaints, although council will not appeal the approval of the expansion because it has a clause requiring a development agreement with the Town.

"That clause gives us a pittance of control and we have to slam that for all it is worth," Mr. Zsadyani said.

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## High speed chase

A high speed police chase through the town of Milton late Monday night resulted in minor injuries to a driver and his passenger after the car they were riding in plunged over an embankment on Walkers' Line near Britannia Rd.

In a press release Tuesday morning, Halton Regional Police said the chase included speeds in excess of 100 kilometres an hour and spanned a total distance of 26 kilometres.

Police said the chase began on Fourth Line in Milton at approximately 11:30 p.m. when Constable Art Goddard recognized a vehicle reported stolen earlier that day in Brampton.

He took up pursuit of the car, a 1980 Cadillac El Dorado and was joined by a second cruiser driven by Constable Doug Booth.

Police did not release details of the route covered in the chase.

The pursuit ended when the car and three passengers went over an embankment on Walkers' Line.

Police said the driver, Robert Blaine 22, of Richmond Hill and one passenger, Richard Smith, 23, also of Richmond Hill, sustained minor injuries.

A third occupant, 23-year-old Gary Lansing of Richmond Hill, escaped injury.

Damage to the Cadillac was estimated at \$5,000.

All three men have been charged with possession of a stolen vehicle.

The driver of the car, Robert Blaine, has also been charged with criminal negligence, impaired driving, and failing to stop when directed to do so by a police officer.

Both Mr. Blaine and Mr. Smith have been held in custody until they will appear today in Milton provincial court for a bail hearing.



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