

Milton's first sign of spring

A look through the hospital auxiliary's Maytime Ball scrapbook



1973

Milton District Hospital auxiliary members working and in attendance at the 1973 edition of the Maytime Ball included, from l. to r. Joan Heard, Elsie Joyce, Ruth Wilson and Vera Delacourt.

Robins, new born lambs and Milton District Hospital Auxiliary's Springtime Ball—three signs of spring to Miltonians.

Wildlife aside, the Springtime Ball has been a popular rite at this time of year since 1966, attracting between 300 and 400 people annually.

Known for many years as the Maytime Ball, it was and still is, despite the town's rapid growth, the social event of the year.

This year's edition, to be held at the Meadowvale Delta Inn in Mississauga, will take place Saturday April 10, 1982. The auxiliary hopes to attract 300 people. About 50 per cent of the \$40 (per couple) tickets have been sold to date.

For ticket information, contact Donna Worth at 878-6848. Proceeds from the dinner and dance, which begins with cocktails at 7 p.m., will go towards the purchase of medical equipment for the hospital.

There will be a draw for \$1,000 at the Ball. Tickets for the draw are \$1 each and are available at numerous retail stores in Milton.

The organizing of such an event appears to be an easy task when you have a population to draw on of 25,000. It isn't easy today, but think of how it must have been in the mid 60s when the town was less than half the size it is now.

Shelagh Conway, chief librarian at Milton Public Library and one of the chief organizers of the first Maytime Ball, admits it was tough selling the idea and equally tough getting it off the ground.

But, the triumvirate of Fran Ostler, Freda Strain and Mrs. Conway, backed by a very supportive Dalton McQuaig (the hospital administrator at the time) persevered and attracted 400 people to the first ball.

Held at the 707 Galaxy Club that year and for many years after, the Ball was the highlight of the year and an integral part of the auxiliary's fundraising efforts.

"We started the Maytime Ball because we needed to make money for the hospital," Mrs. Conway says. "There were no other really big dances at that time in Milton and the reaction was very good."

Formal wear, including tuxedos for the men and long gowns for their wives or girlfriends, were the order of the day. While few tuxedos are worn anymore, three-piece suits are the norm for men and most women still choose to wear long dresses.



1968

Placing table ornaments at the 1968 Maytime Ball were auxiliary members Joan Heard, left, Jessie Anderson, centre, and Vi Gawronski, right.



1971

Bill Rowney, kneeling, was not only surrounded by a bevy of women, but by the mystical Joe the fisherman at the 1971 edition of the Maytime Ball. Whatever happened to old Joe?



1981

Last year's edition of the Maytime Ball, now called the Springtime Ball, saw auxiliary members Sheena Drennan, Joan Griffiths and Cinda Richardson making sure everybody had a good time.



1975

Dolores Melanson, wife of Knight's Mens Wear proprietor Art Melanson, was coaxed up behind the rostrum of the Big Five Band at the 1975 edition of the Maytime Ball.



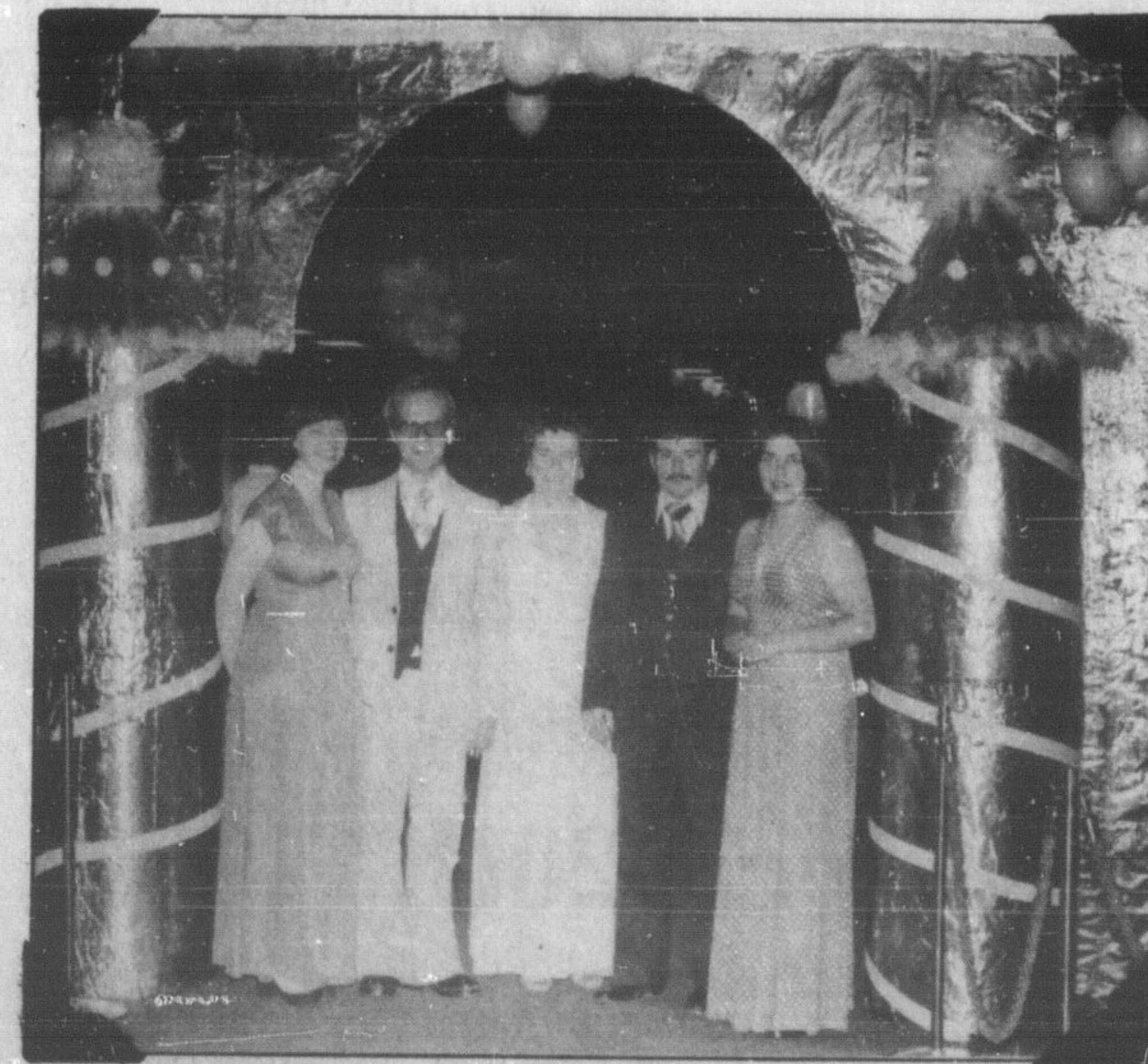
1974

The wheel was busy at the 1974 Maytime Ball. Surrounding the wheel of fortune, from l. to r., were Peter and Debbie McQuaig, Jim Anderson, Carol Chudleigh, Rob Coulter and Ade Multari.



1966

Milton District Hospital's first Maytime Ball was held in 1966 and Vi Gawronski, left, and Mrs. E. Alton, right, were there to assist in that first endeavor as members of the auxiliary. That first dance attracted 400 people to the 707 Galaxy Club in Oakville.



1977

Disneyland was the theme for the 1977 edition of the Maytime Ball. Heading off into the Enchanted Forest were, from l. to r., Andrea and Mike Aikenhead, Barb Aikenhead and Peter and Debbie McQuaig.