

Bennett tells Goutouski

Land sale inquiry scrubbed

By STEVE ARNOLD
Champion News Editor

A provincial inquiry into a land sale in downtown Milton will not be held, Ontario municipal affairs minister Claude Bennett has decided.

Mr. Bennett announced that decision in a recent letter to former Town councillor Gus Goutouski, who started a petition for an inquiry into Town council's purchase of a block of land next to Town Hall.

Mr. Goutouski alleged that when council purchased the former town hospital on Martin St. and the former site of Bill's Auto Body on Main St., taxpayers paid \$45,000 more than the property was worth because of delays by council and Town staff.

He alleged the Town paid \$265,000 for the property a matter of hours after the original owners sold it to a Toronto developer for \$220,000.

The family of the late Bill Phillips, who operated a body shop on the town's main street for several years, had been willing to sell to the Town for years but had never received a firm offer on the property.

In referring to a report prepared by field officers for the Ministry, Mr. Bennett wrote "the report acknowledges your allegation that the municipality could have obtained a better deal by acting sooner. This is possibly a valid comment. However, there is

no evidence that the delay was occasioned by improper motives. Also, it must be recognized that sometimes the municipal process and practice does not always lend itself to those situations requiring expeditious action."

"As no evidence of impropriety or culpability was found, I have decided that a Commission of Inquiry would be of no benefit to the ratepayers," the minister added.

In an interview, Mr. Goutouski said he was disappointed, but not surprised by the Minister's decision, adding the approach being taken by his staff could be seen in the investigation they conducted.

He said the first statement made by Ministry staff who interviewed him was to ask if he knew "that an inquiry would cost somewhere between \$100,000 and \$250,000."

"They also made me aware there are 360 municipalities in Ontario and there is a certain amount of incompetence with some of those staffs," he said.

Mr. Goutouski also noted that from the wording of Mr. Bennett's letter, "he was concerned with possible lawbreaking and it's obvious that isn't involved here."

Although he could appeal the decision of the Minister of Municipal Affairs to the full provincial cabinet, Mr. Goutouski said he had decided against tak-

ing any further action. "I'm not going to waste my time by taking this to the cabinet. As of today the issue is officially dead," he said.

The parcels of land involved in this sale were the last pieces required by the Town in its efforts to assemble a package to be sold to a developer as part of a major downtown redevelopment scheme.

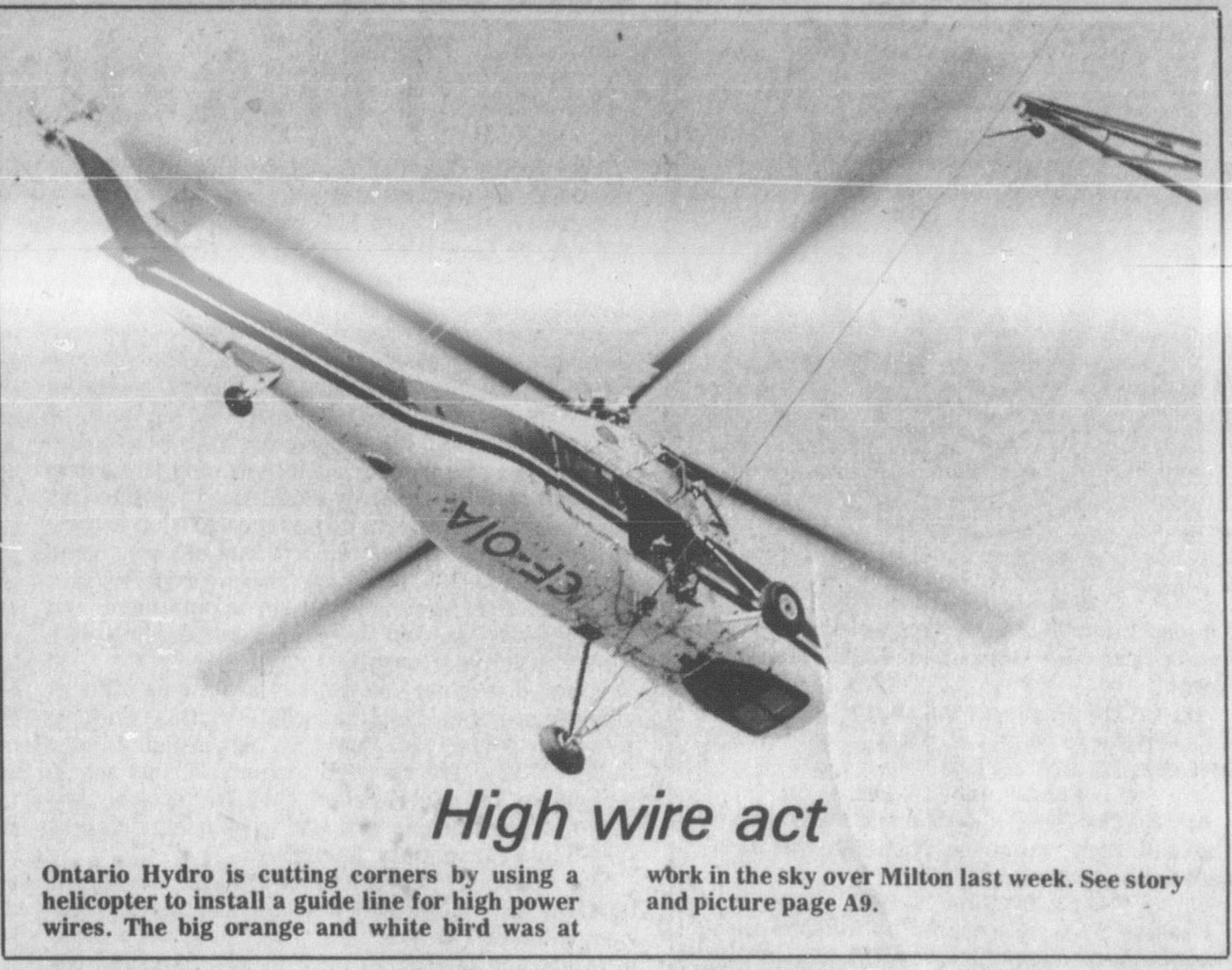
Mr. Goutouski added that even though the full inquiry was rejected, there were still some positive gains from the venture.

"I think it made Town staff and council aware that there are people around who will take the time to look into issues of public concern like this and that they'll have to be more alert in the future," he said.

"I think it was something that was worth pursuing because these are questions that have to be checked up on," he added.

"I feel it was a victory because it zeroed in on the issue that \$45,000 had been wasted and the people became aware of the waste that was going on," he said.

Mr. Goutouski also repeated the feeling that a full management study of senior staff at Town Hall should be carried out—a position not shared by Mayor Gord Krantz.



High wire act

Ontario Hydro is cutting corners by using a helicopter to install a guide line for high power wires. The big orange and white bird was at work in the sky over Milton last week. See story and picture page A9.

The Canadian Champion

A Metroland Community Newspaper — Serving Milton in its 125th year

VOLUME 122—NUMBER 2

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30 PAGES—30 CENTS

Manor union bust fails

An effort to oust the union representing employees at Halton Centennial Manor has apparently failed.

A hearing before the Ontario Labor Relations Board (OLRB) was held last week into an application filed by the former chief steward of the Canadian Union of Operating Engineers and General Workers asking the board to decertify the union as the official bargaining agent for the employees.

After filing the application however, Maggie Kerrigan failed to attend the board hearing into her allegations. She has also resigned her position at the Regionally operated home for the aged and moved away from Milton.

Bob Sleva, business representative for Local 101, which includes the Manor workers, said he expected the application would be dismissed because Mrs. Kerrigan didn't attend the hearing.

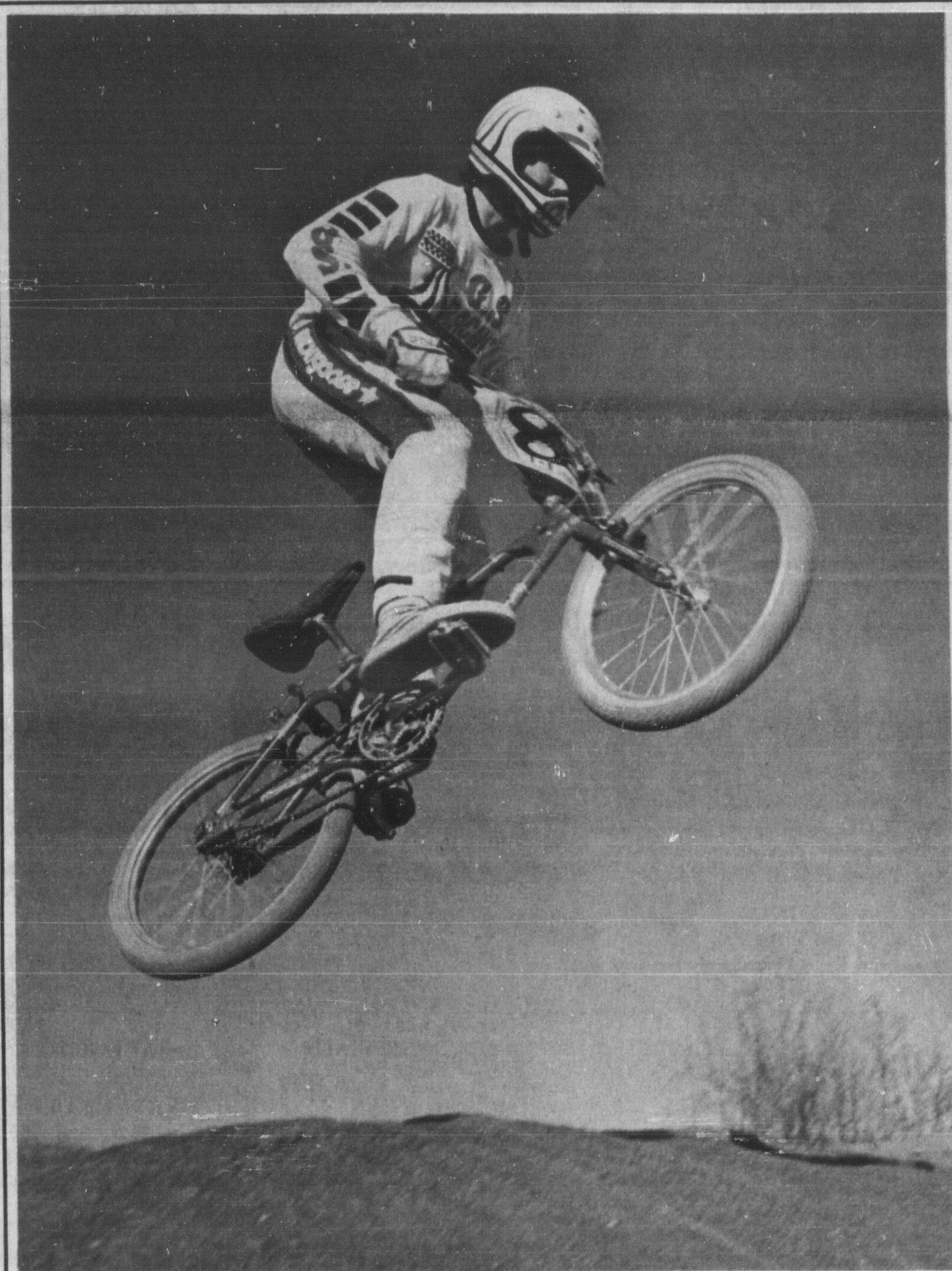
He had no idea why the application was filed.

"We don't know why Maggie would have done this because we really can't ask her," he said. "We can't get involved in that sort of thing because we don't want the board to think that we are trying to interfere in any way."

"We simply know that Maggie put in the application and then resigned as chief steward and as an employee," he said.

Recently, Regional personnel director Dennis Camm told members of the health and social services committee that an application to remove the union had been filed, but that the Region would not be taking an active part in the hearing.

"There have been a couple of resignations recently that have improved the atmosphere," he added.



Up in the air

An attempt by local BMX bike track promoter Mike Hession to build a track at Halton Hills Place for a series of 17 races this season was thwarted by the Town of Milton Friday before it got off the ground. Mr. Hession has been told he can apply to Milton Agricultural Society if he wants to organize races. For story, see page A11. (Photo courtesy The Burlington Post)

Timberlea kids study at Drury

By STEVE ARNOLD
Champion News Editor

Children from Milton's Timberlea development will not be bused to an out of town school while theirs is being built.

Several weeks of study by a special committee appointed by the Halton Board of Education has resulted in an agreement to have children from the area placed in temporary facilities at the E.C. Drury school for the deaf.

In a letter to parents distributed through Sam Sherratt Public School last week, principal John Lenz said the temporary facilities would hold five classes of children who will eventually be housed at the Coxe Blvd. school to be constructed later this year.

Both local councillors and trustees have been pressing the Ministry of Education for the last year to release enough money to construct another school in the south-east area of the town to relieve crowded conditions caused by new development.

Bill Lawson, Halton Board of Education trustee for the area, said he hoped the new school could be opened before Christmas this year. Tenders for the construction contract close June 3.

Mr. Lawson explained that several options for the new students had been considered until their own school could be opened, including busing them to another facility and adding more portable classrooms to the eight already being used at Sherratt.

"We considered busing the students because we wanted to free up more portables for other areas in the system, but when we got right down to the needs we felt that the system priorities were not greater than the needs here," Mr. Lawson said in an interview.

Mr. Lenz said parents in the community had been very supportive during the study of alternatives, but the greatest concern they raised was about the need for busing students to other areas.

"They knew that busing was one of the options we were looking at but we didn't commit ourselves to it until we had examined all of the alternatives," he said.

Mr. Lenz, in his letter to parents, explained that students would be accommodated in a vacant junior residence of the school for the deaf. Five classrooms, as well as an office for the principal, supply room and staff room are

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Anna Gullis has become the flower lady of the former Brookville General Store and her assorted plants have attracted many buyers to the Guelph line location, like Jim Wright appearing in the photo. Bert and Norma Walton are the store's new owners and plan to follow up on the selling of plants from the porch with full-scale operations in July.

Kraker Barrel

Pulled out of ashes

By JANE MULLER
Champion Reporter

A great deal of imagination is needed to conceive the former Brookville General Store, gutted by fire more than a year ago, as its new owners do.

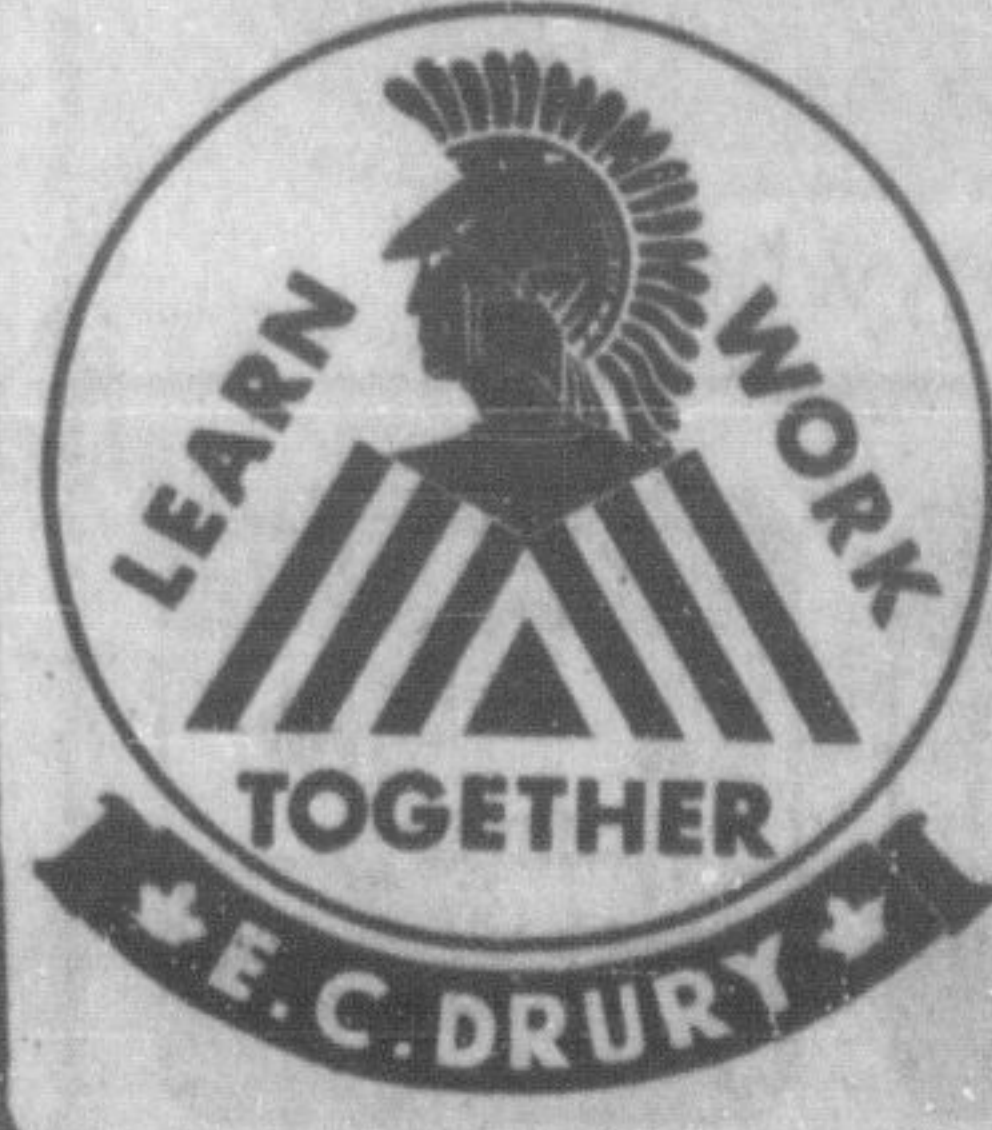
The charred interior and lingering odors of burned wood which now characterize the Guelph Line building will be a thing of the past by July, according to Bert Walton of

Campbellville who purchased the white frame store a month ago.

The blackened remnants of the general store's inventory have been cleared away along with the shattered glass which littered the property. Flowers are visible once again, now that neglected grass has been groomed and ideas for the future of the store are also blossoming.

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Inside today's Champion



Open House

E.C. Drury High School had its Open House last Wednesday. For pictures, see page C2.

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Special supplements: K-Mart and Shopper's Drug Mart.

Our tourney attracts golfers

With the prize of a car for a hole in one, interest in The Canadian Champion's Charity Golf tournament is increasing.

The car, courtesy of Gallinger Motors, will be won by any golfer who successfully holes out the 17th hole.

Application forms are available at either The Canadian Champion, 191 Main St., Milton, or at Indian Wells at 5377 Walker's Line.

The day begins with a shotgun start at noon Friday, July 23. Before and after the game, special contests will be held with prizes from local merchants awarded.

The cost for the day is \$35 with all proceeds going to the Milton District Hospital Expansion Fund.