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**NEWS ITEM:
PROVINCE GIVES AND
TAKES AWAY SUBSIDIZED
DAYCARE IN HALTON.**



Day care grants crucial

A recent decision by the Ontario government to cut the level of support it gives to day care in Halton is one of the most cruel and capricious schemes ever hatched by the Queen's Park mandarins.

In November of 1981 Provincial officials promised Halton enough money to provide subsidized day care services to all 103 children who were then on a waiting list.

Assuming the money would be considered part of the base from which their 1982 budget would be calculated, Halton officials made plans to add another 85 children to the subsidized total.

Then came the surprise. The 103 granted last year were not part of the base, the 85 planned for this year were refused and the total amount of money granted by the Province wouldn't be enough to offer the service that was available in 1981.

The mind boggles at the callousness with which these lackies of the ruling provincial Conservatives play with the lives and hopes of people in Milton, Halton and other parts of Ontario.

Subsidized day care is offered by the Region to single parent families, usually headed by women, as part of a total package of services designed to help them get off welfare permanently and into productive employment.

It is one tool used to help people stand on their own again—to regain the pride and hope that are stripped from them through years at the mercy of an uncaring welfare system.

Most of the studies that have

been conducted into this area conclude that every dollar spent on subsidized day care equals as much as \$3 taken off general welfare costs.

Taken in that light, the effort by the Ministry of Community and Social Services to cut its costs by reducing the money it spends on subsidized day care is nothing short of foolish.

Clearly a larger number of dollars can be saved by helping people to break out of the cycle of welfare and state support.

Already we are seeing the phenomena of second generation welfare families. Even now children are being raised by parents who get their only support from the state. They are growing up with the idea that everything they need will be given to them by a magnanimous "Big Brother."

That idea will be the death of this democratic society as we know it and it must be stopped now.

The only sure way we can achieve that goal is by helping people to make the changes that must be made if they are to learn to support themselves.

We cannot stop people from having children.

When those children are born, it seems to be the prevailing attitude that the mother should suffer because she was foolish enough to get pregnant and to deliver live offspring.

In the end, while the woman surely suffers horribly at the hands of our social system, we as a society suffer more.

A good program faces the threat of being scuttled by the mis-guided efforts of Provincial policies and we must protest this foolhardy and self destructive action.

Legislation is needed

What the majority of Canadians don't want or need in life is increased government regulation of it.

Any free enterpriser would enthusiastically subscribe to that notion.

However, there are certain segments of society where government policy and regulation are required—of course, always on the assumption of serving the best interests of Canadians.

In light of the fact Canada's population is getting older at a rapid rate (about 35 per cent of us will be over the age of 65 by the year 2,000), the federal government and the provinces should be planning and implementing policies now that will enable their citizens—both young and old—to cope with this situation.

The problem that surfaced between Halton Region health officials and the proprietors of Cher's Rest Home in Acton dictates that a stronger commitment to this end is required on the part of both the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Health.

Group homes, rest homes and lodging houses are currently regulated by Ministry guide-

lines rather than by a regulatory Act—leaving them in a virtual bureaucratic no man's land.

Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed has called on the Ministry of Health to take rest homes under its wing in the same spirit of commitment it has taken in nursing homes.

That way, standards could be developed and applied under Ministry jurisdiction—making the homes increasingly responsible to the taxpayer and, ultimately, those they find in their care.

With the increasing role rest homes, group homes and lodging houses are going to play in our society before very long, the Ministry of Health should be drafting the appropriate legislation as soon as possible before guidelines now in effect are circumvented to the point where its too late to turn back and possible abuse of the elderly becomes widespread.

Legislation to protect those who increasingly can't protect themselves (and shouldn't have to) is the type of regulatory reform most free enterprisers would support.

After all, even free enterprisers grow older.

Viewpoint To whom it may concern

WITH LINDA KIRBY



Tragedy struck for the second time in less than three weeks at Kelso Lake.

But, this time the death involved a youngster—a 5-year old boy, one of 23 children on a bus trip to Kelso for the first time.

A lot of questions are being asked and undoubtedly someone or persons will be held responsible for this tragedy.

Three full-time staff members of the Metro Toronto Housing Authority accompanied the group and one volunteer parent.

According to a spokesperson for the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the group would have brought its "own lifeguards, but we were told Kelso had sufficient."

It was further pointed out that it seemed strange the youngster had drowned in almost full view of a lifeguard station.

The inference is that perhaps not enough attention was paid by the lifeguards to the Toronto visitors.

Unfortunately, too many people including some parents who bring their children to Kelso Lake for the day, view lifeguards as a glamorized babysitter.

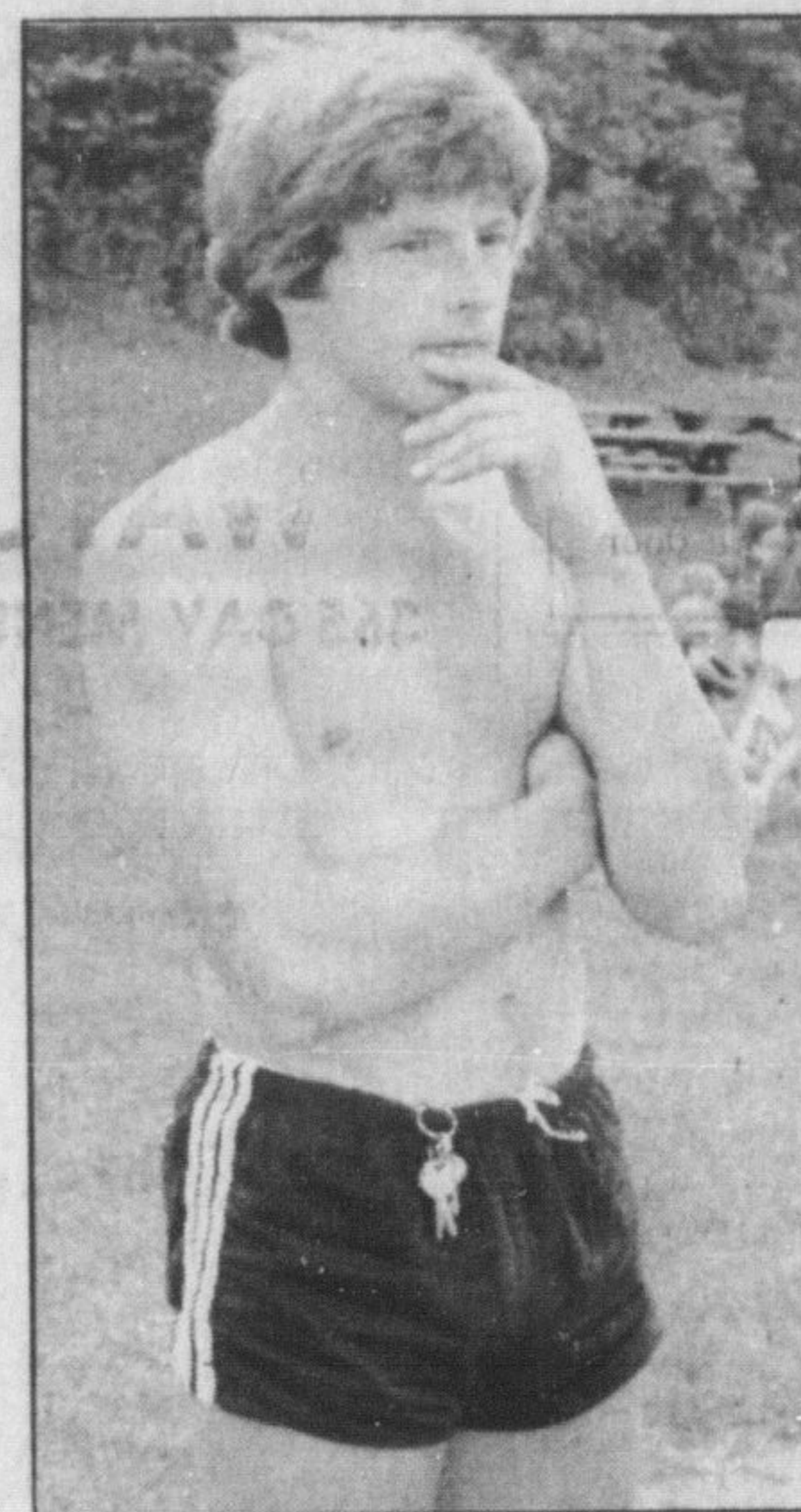
"Please mind the one in the navy suit while I run up to the snack shop," is the familiar request made of lifeguards.

It doesn't matter that the lifeguard is responsible for watching several hundred other children in the water (half of which are also wearing blue bathing suits).

The lifeguard is there to save lives, to come to the rescue of an injured person or assist in an accident.

He or she is not there to watch an individual child or keep an eye on a specific group.

No less than 300 kids will easily be in the water on a normal warm, weekday,



DOUG McCANN

and that figure triples on the weekend.

Two dozen lifeguards could not keep an eye on every single bather.

It is time some parents assumed just a little more responsibility for their charges, instead of pointing the finger at someone else.

A day at the beach is hardly an outing for the parent.

It means a constant watch of a child, and that is nobody else's job, but the

parent's or designated guardian.

It seems ironic that in this most recent drowning, only one volunteer parent had accompanied the children to the lake.

Was there not one other mother or father who could have gone along, or insisted on helping keep an eye on 23 children?

It also seems sad, that out of a visiting crowd of 300 people (mostly adults) only 100 came forward to form a human chain to find that little boy.

Others didn't take the alarm seriously. Some just sat back and watched.

It is estimated that if a child or adult is found within four minutes of disappearing in the water, he or she has a strong chance of recovering without brain damage.

Minutes are valuable and in this case, it was 20 minutes before Stephen Wemyss was found.

He was found in only three feet of water, not far from shore and within the area he had been playing.

Unfortunately, it took several sweeps of the area before he was found.

Perhaps a dozen more volunteers would have saved precious time. He might have been found still breathing and he might have been found before it was impossible to revive him.

But, he was blue when he was pulled out of the water. There was no pulse and efforts to start him breathing him again failed.

So, who do you blame?

There were certainly a few people who could have probably prevented this tragic ending.

It must be said, however, that the lifeguards did everything humanly possible to save the tot.

Pages of the past

One Year Ago

From the August 19, 1981 issue
Halton Regional Police will this week drain a Campbellville farmer's pond in an effort to locate an alleged murder victim. Sgt. Richard Kivell of Halton Regional Police detachment in Georgetown said two Halton officers and two OPP spent two days dragging a pond last month in an attempt to find the body of a man who is believed to have been dumped there.

The only real surprise at the non-nude, Miss Nude Canada 1981 Pageant held at the Milton Heights Camp Ground was the lack of anger on behalf of the 200 or so spectators when they were told the 12 contestants would not be parading in "the buff" as advertised. Despite paying \$15 each to see the much-moved show, and in spite of long delays in the action which stretched the pageant out until after 7 p.m., the crowd enthusiastically responded with rounds of applause following an explanation of events by Miss Nude Canada 1980, Hally O, whose last name was not given.

20 Years Ago

From the August 23, 1962 issue
Stanley Hall, Halton's Member of Provincial Parliament for 19 years died in Milton District Hospital on Tuesday morning.

Funeral services will be held in St. Paul's United Church, Milton on Friday at 2 p.m. Participating as honorary pallbearers will be government members, members of Halton county council, Judge George E. Elliott, former sheriff William Robinson and president of the Halton County Progressive Conservation Association Peter Tulley.

The Canadian Champion has once again been chosen Canada's best all-round weekly newspaper in the 2,000 to 3,000 circulation class.

Staffs of the Halton County Health Unit and Milton District Hospital have been asked to take smallpox vaccinations this week, following the news that an American woman and her son, believed to be visiting in Oakville, travelled in the train on which smallpox victim James Orr travelled to Toronto last week.

Dr. Archie F. Bull, Halton's Medical officer of health, said the woman had been told to have herself and her son vaccinated by a local physician. Staffs at all four hospitals in Halton, were asked to take the vaccine and the health unit staff received theirs Monday.

50 Years Ago

From the August 18, 1932 issue
Only about two-thirds of the dog owners in town have taken out licenses this year and chief Constable McMullen is now waging war against delinquents. The assessment roll shows that there are in the neighborhood of 100 dogs in Milton. Chief McMullen, during the last few months, has been very lenient in dealing with the delinquents, but this week he intends to prosecute all dog owners who have not taken out a licence for their pets.

On Aug. 10th, a Holstein cow, belonging to George E. Brownridge, Omagh, gave birth to a calf with two perfectly formed heads on the one neck, but with only three ears, one on the outside on each head and the third one in the centre of the two heads. The freak died.

The ladies of the United Church at Ballinacree, having decided to have their church rededicated, have engaged A.A. Armstrong, of Milton, to do their work for them. He is now on the job and expects to be done in a few days, to be ready for their reopening services, which will be held in the near future.

In the sudden death of Miss M. Farrington, the Principal of Acton Continual School, the local educational institution and the community has sustained a severe loss. Miss Farrington's ability, tact and experience made her a teacher honored by the pupils.

75 Years Ago

From the August 22, 1907 issue
On Friday night 40 chickens were stolen from the farm of James Rusk, Nelson, near Bell's school. Several other Nelson farmers have had their hen houses raided lately. The thief or thieves have not been caught, but it is supposed that they don't live far from the scene of their operations.

The many friends of Messrs. Chas. Tuck and Son grocers, will be sorry to learn that, on account of the poor health of the junior member of the firm, they have sold out. The purchaser is T. McPherson, of Welland. The Telegraph of that town speaks very highly of Mr. McPherson.

Knox Church will be re-open on Sunday, Sept. 2nd when the work of painting, etc., will have been completed. Mrs. Manley-Pickard, of Toronto, will sing a solo at both the morning and the evening service.

On Tuesday W.N. Scott threshed 380 bushels of wheat off 10 acres. Thirty-eight bushels to the acre is a heavy crop.

Don't forget the sale of household furniture of Edward Wright, corner of Queen and Thomas Streets, on Saturday, Aug. 24th at 1:30 p.m. sharp including some pure black Spanish fowl.

People in our past

A continuing series during Milton's 125th anniversary

Former Citizen Of The Year George Swann

George Swann's contribution to Milton travels with him wherever he goes and can be seen under his fingernails and on the roof of his car.

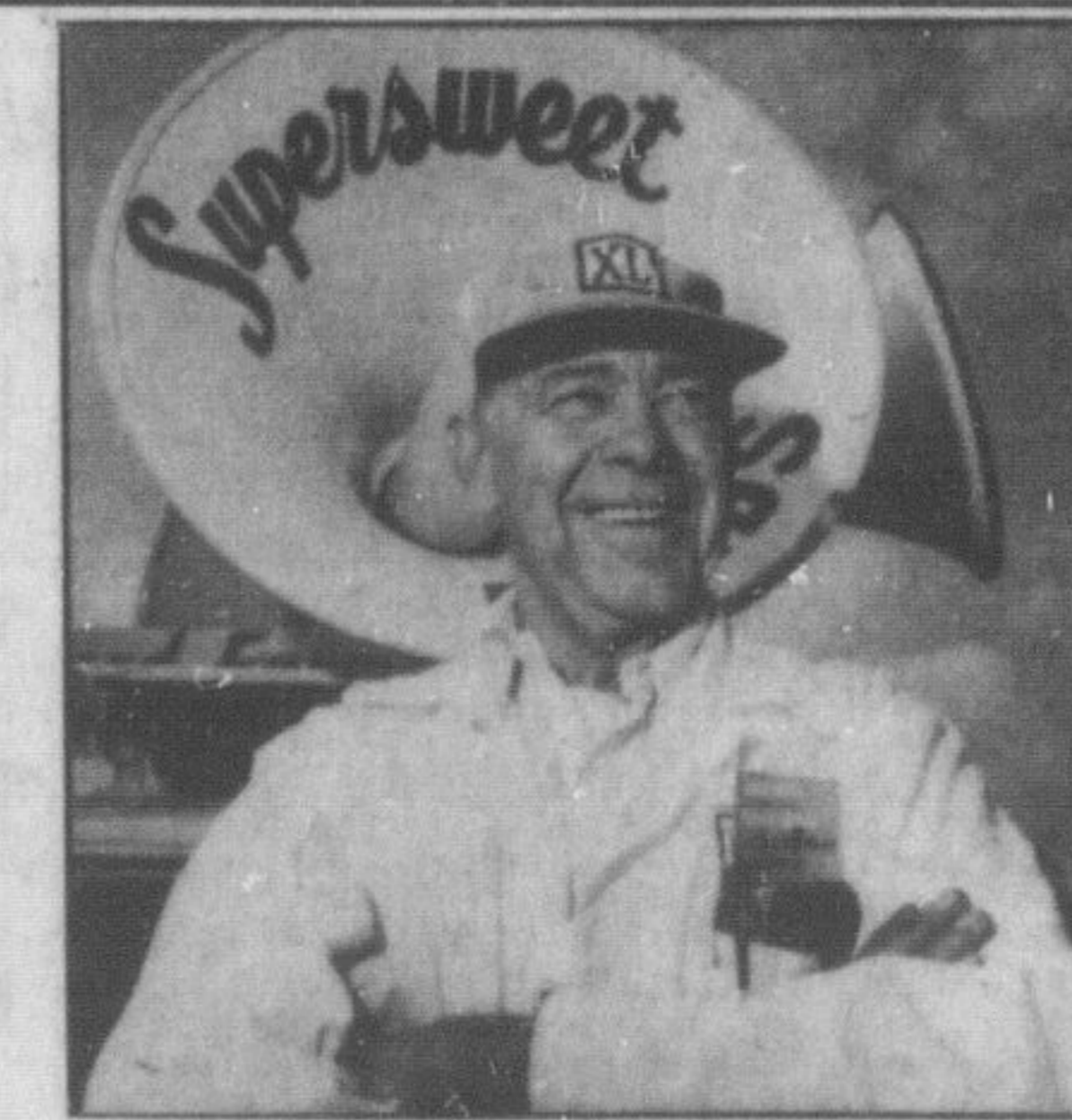
His fingernails, a caked-in-paint climax to very long fingers, have been the shades of the spectrum ever since Mr. Swann can remember.

Admittedly "handy with a brush," Mr. Swann became a "charity painter" many years ago when friends and colleagues wanted their names painted on the side of their trucks. He painted the signs on the panels of the trucks where he was employed and stumbled into the job as Milton's only sign painter for many years when the town's longtime painter died.

Painting signs on trucks eventually spread to painting signs on virtually anything for anyone—90 per cent of them, however, charity causes.

Every service club, town event and agricultural organization has or has had a Swann original advertising their upcoming event.

The roof of his car—all his cars since the early 60s—is adorned with three large sound system horns, advertising supersweet feeds.



GEORGE SWANN

1960 until his retirement in 1973, purchased a 12-volt sound system for Mr. Swann's use in the early 60s to help publicize local events.

Mr. Swann became involved with the sound system through a fellow employee at the mill who he helped provide sound requirements for the Milton District Hospital garden party on the lawn of Dr. Martin's home.

When his colleague wanted to sell the system, he approached Mr. Swann. Supersweet purchased the system for Mr. Swann's use and he has used it to publicize every event that has taken

place in Milton since.

He even used it once to search for a lost dog in Mississauga.

His sign painting and car have come in handy during his long associations with such organizations as the 4-H, Halton Plowing Match, International Plowing Match, Milton Fall Fair and Steam-Era.

For his many years of service to all sectors of the community, Mr. Swann was named Milton's Citizen of The Year in 1978.

Born in Stoke City, Staffordshire, England, Mr. Swann emigrated to Canada on his own in 1926 at the age of 17. Both his parents died before he left. A sister has since died but he has two brothers remaining in "the old country."

Admitting he "wouldn't know anybody, anyway," he has not returned to his native land.

He came directly to Milton from England and began working on various farms in the area. He married his wife Blanche in 1935 and in 1937 joined Milton Flour Mills, where he worked until his retirement.

He cut ice off the Mill Pond during the winter.

Mr. Swann and his wife have two daughters, Helen, of Oakville, and Rosemary, of Burlington.