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JANICE SMELKO is one of many young people taking part in the annual figure skating carnival to be put on March 15. She plays the role of a witch during one of several skits. The annual carnival features participants of all ages ranging from four or five to the late teens.

Springbank gravel pit

Weary OMB hearing called after second day

After two days of weary testimony into the opening of a gravel pit near Campbellville, the Ontario Municipal Board decision is still up in the air.

Springbank Sand and Gravel Co. had applied to the Ministry of Natural Resources to open a new pit on land bordering on the old township of Nassagaweya's Second

Line south of Highway 401 just west of Campbellville. Springbank's application is being opposed by Halton Region, the Town of Milton and a collection of Campbellville ratepayers.

Campbellville residents fear the opening of the pit would mean gravel trucks continually passing through the village enroute to the ma-

ior highway. Campbellville ratepayers flooded into the Milton council chambers for the opening morning of the hearing Thursday but the standing room only crowd continually dwindled as the hearing dragged on to Friday evening.

Another date

Springbank will be forced to apply for another hearing date, but the Ontario Municipal Board is booked up for three months. Springbank legal counsel George Lane had succeeded in completing his own case before the hearing was discontinued. The board must still hear the case of Regional counsel Noel Bates, Milton counsel Terry Baines and Campbellville counsel Stan Stein as well as allow the Campbellville residents to speak.

Zoned

Springbank president Victor Trustrum told the hearing the site near Campbellville was zoned for quarrying and quarry holding on Nassagaweya's town plan when the company purchased the property from Gordon Agnew early in 1973. The Regional Town of Milton observes the Nassagaweya plan.

Tests for gravel deposits were carried on in 1972 under the supervision of Springbank vice-president in charge of operations George Vincent along with four other nearby sites. Trustrum told the board Springbank had investigated

the possibility of extracting from two other areas in Nassagaweya, another in Esquesing and one more in East Flamborough.

Other sites considered were either not zoned for extraction or had insufficient quantities of gravel.

Springbank presently operates other pits on the Walker's Line, on Mississauga Rd., in Glen Williams and in Huttonville.

Scarcity

Trustrum told the hearing Springbank sells 1,000,000 tons of gravel from these sites yearly mostly into the Toronto, Mississauga and Oakville. Trustrum added there is a scarcity of good gravel lands and that the Campbellville area property provides good access to Highway 401 and will be a major source of gravel in Halton. Springbank is applying for a Ministry of Natural Resources licence to extract 300,000 tons of gravel yearly allowing the Campbellville pit a lifetime of between 12 to 15 years.

Trustrum added the nearest residence is about 1,500 feet from the pit and said that noise should not be heard by the resident. A gravel extraction operation does not use blasting as a quarrying operation but uses a crusher, and diesel powered front end loaders and bulldozers.

Most of the area is bush, however, adds Trustrum, mentioning their will never

be more than 25 acres of land in use at one time. It will take at least a year before the pit is able to produce and will be at least three or four years before Springbank has stockpiled enough gravel to go into a steady retail business.

Trustrum continued saying the quarrying operation would require 65 to 75 trucks a day depending on orders, and in the peak months the pit will be operating five days a week from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Considered rail

The president told the

board the company had considered using the Canadian Pacific railway lines running by the property to ship their gravel but noted the construction of a siding would cost \$125,000 and Springbank may have to purchase their own hopper cars. Vice president Vincent noted freight rates were \$2.65 a ton.

"That's not economically feasible," says Trustrum. Trustrum is proposing gravel trucks using the Spring-

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Dispute over four day week

A dispute has surfaced between the United Steelworkers of America and the Milton-based P. L. Robertson Manufacturing Co. Ltd. over the company's March 3 imposition of a four-day reduced work week for all hourly-paid employees.

The USA local, which represents 320 workers, has submitted a formal grievance to the company on the matter. No meetings have been held to debate the issue.

A union source warned this week that "failing a settlement of the grievance, the union may take the issue to arbitration."

The union position is that the company, because of the contract between the two, should have laid off em-

ployees on the basis of seniority rather than ordering a general work reduction for all employees.

He charged that the company's action was unfair to employees who have served the firm for many years.

Another union source said that P. L. Robertson could be fined thousands of dollars daily by an arbitration board for its action.

A company official, yesterday, refused to discuss anything about the dispute.

The company, which manufactures screws and small bolts, has said the move was necessary because its customers in many fields have been suffering due to current economic conditions.

Milton schools

Explain course for expansion

There was little opposition expressed to Halton Board of Education's plans for providing elementary school accommodation in Milton for future needs. About 70 parents sat and listened quietly while board officials outlined the alternatives and the favored route Monday night.

While Trustee Bill Lawson did escape any direct criticism on that count, the board was chastised on a couple of counts.

V. Russell and Nancy Auger of Riverplace Cr. insisted that a safer access

must be provided before any expansion was undertaken at W. I. Dick. Both spoke of frustrated efforts in the past to make the board aware of what they felt were serious safety hazards.

Dr. R. Edwards took a verbal swipe at the board's policy of having junior and senior schools at the elementary level.

"I can't feel much enthusiasm for the system of junior and senior schools. Some teachers have 400 students and there is something lost."

"You lose certain

restraints when the brothers and sisters are at different schools and aren't there to witness each other's actions. One doesn't know what the other is doing. They aren't there to look after each other. In trying to provide facilities you are losing the idea of children knowing who they are and where they belong."

Trustee Lawson agreed the system had its drawbacks but said it is felt to be educationally beneficial. He noted the transition from elementary school to a senior public school or middle school wasn't as great as the

transition to high school. "It's a value judgement."

Don Gentleman, assistant superintendent from the north education centre reviewed the seven different proposals the board was considering and outlined the pros and cons of each.

The proposal Mr. Lawson will present to the board when it meets Thursday will contain recommendations that would see W. I. Dick upgraded with the addition of a Library Resource Centre and a Gymnasium.

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Region building in Milton mixed

Milton's chances of having regional headquarters situated within town boundaries were all but eliminated when regional council turfed out a recommendation by Chairman Allan Masson several months ago. Mr. Masson had recommended the council take an option on the Willmott property at the southwest corner of Highway 25 and Derry Rd.

That action was taken several months ago but became public for the first time dur-

ing a press conference Chairman Masson held Thursday morning.

"We could have had an option on the Willmott property. I presented it to council and they threw it out. Now they wished they hadn't," Masson said.

Several thwarted The region is currently gathering information on two or three sites in the region (all south of Highway 5). The

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Rumor unfounded

OPP search a roving lion

Rumors of an escaped lion on the loose have not been substantiated by any findings or searches by the Milton detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police. Officers combed an area around the Fifth Line and 20 Sideroad Monday, following a call received at 7.30 a.m.

A spokesman for the OPP said there have been no reports of a lion missing from zoos or game farms. No further details were revealed to the press.

An OPP helicopter, six

officers and a Department of Lands and Forest snow machine made the search.

The Halton Hills Animal Control investigated a call yesterday where a resident on Lower Base Line said a week before he had lost four sheep. Three were found but the other must have been carried away according to the investigator. The investigator said they found footprints similar to those of a dog but spanning four inches. They could have been those of a St. Bernard or a Newfoundland dog.

Dr. Frank Philbrook

MP seeks better riding communications

By Gerry Flaherty and Bob Burt

Dr. Frank Philbrook has been a Member of Parliament for several months now and according to communications advisor Virginia Kennedy many residents in the riding still don't know who their MP is.

The fact that Philbrook has to work from Ottawa representing the riding's interest almost by remote control has become of concern to party workers who feel he should be communicating more with people in the riding.

Earlier this week Dr. Philbrook, accompanied by Mrs. Kennedy, visited Halton newspapers answering questions and trying to get feedback on matters of interest to people in the riding.

It hasn't taken the rookie MP long to become well aware of the crushing pressures on his time. Even as he sat with Champion reporters he became uneasy with the realization that only a few hours later he had to be in Ottawa for a vote.

Help region

The MP explained he had recently been briefed on the Halton Regional Council's desire to renegotiate a loan agreement with Central Mortgage and Housing. As it happened the region has been approved by CMHC for the loan and for the forgiveness portion but will be required to pay interest at a rate applicable several months ago.

Seeking the best of both worlds the region wants the loan as it is but wants to renegotiate the interest rate to take advantage of the lower rates applicable today.

"I will work on that when I get back to

Ottawa. I've been briefed on the problem by Al Masson and will see Barney Danson, Minister of Urban Affairs. I understand the situation and now the thing is to see if anything can be done about it."

Questioned on the likelihood of a new federal budget being introduced Dr. Philbrook explained the Minister of Finance was being pressured by opposition to bring in a new budget.

"A lot of that depends on what the United States does to stimulate the economy and discourage inflation. We're watching the scene closely."

He was asked whether or not he actively



We want to communicate



I'm busy being an MP



I'm even more concerned

supports provincial Liberal candidates in the coming election. "I'm so busy being an MP there's not much time left over to become involved provincially."

Run own campaign

"The provincial people tend to run their own campaign. There is some sensitivity about interference at the federal level. If I'm invited I'll try to help."

"There are plans for me tour Halton March 21 with Bob Nixon and attend a dance in Norval. It's no secret we're all Liberals and have the same principles."

He commented on the dredging scandal that has seen Federal Labor Minister John Munro sidelined and Provincial Solicitor General George Kerr resign his cabinet.

"A person shouldn't be prosecuted until he has been found guilty. It's hard on a minister and disruptive of work especially the labor minister who is trying to get at a very difficult problem—management, labor relations."

"It's an unpleasant thing isn't it. Yes, it has a psychological effect on caucus and on parliament. There is no proof of any wrong doing on the part of any politician and there is an investigation going on."

"It causes problems in many ways."

Dr. Philbrook reiterated Warren Altemand's earlier statements to the effect the investigation won't be completed until RCMP says it is and they have to have the time needed to do the job.

Capital punishment

Dr. Philbrook was asked about the controversy surrounding capital punishment ever since policeman-murderer Rene Vaillancourt was convicted and sentenced

to the death penalty.

The law says the penalty for murdering a policeman or jail guard on duty is death unless the Cabinet finds grounds for clemency.

Capital punishment advocates, fearing that the Trudeau Cabinet will grant clemency, have mounted telephone and write-in campaigns to Members of Parliament across the country and abolitionists have jumped into the fray too.

Dr. Philbrook said, first of all, that he believes an MP should vote according to the dictates of a majority of his constituents, rather than simply based on his own beliefs or conscience.

"I prefer to represent my constituents and vote the way the riding wants me to vote," he said.

However, many MPs in such cases choose to vote according to the dictates of conscience and take their chances in the next election.

The Halton MP said he has been receiving "more correspondence" than usual on capital punishment in the last few months and indicates that the majority want the House of Commons "to take a very serious look again at the merits of capital punishment."

But he cautioned that sometimes its the activists who take time to write, but later in face-to-face meetings with persons around Halton he finds that the mail and phone calls are not representative of the feelings of the majority.

He hopes improved communication will help him to better understand the thoughts

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