

Mulligan believes new views needed on hydro commission

By STEVE LeBLANC

Special to The Champion

Milton Hydro commissioners haven't taken an active enough role on utility issues, says Ward 4 hopeful Loretta Mulligan.

"The commission isn't as involved as they should be. I've gone to meetings where there's been no discussion and no questions asked," said Ms Mulligan, who is hoping to unseat longtime incumbent Jack Robertson.

According to the former Milton Hydro executive manager, the single biggest problem surrounding the commission is lack of communication.

Unadvertised meetings and a discontinued newsletter, she said, have kept the public in the dark over hydro changes and issues.

Ms Mulligan said, "I've had people ask me just what the hydro commission does, and that's a serious problem."

If elected, she would urge the commission to hold evening meetings — offering increased accessibility to the public — as well as reintroducing their regular newsletter.

She would also like to see the return of hydro safety lectures at the elementary school level, which she claims have "fallen by the wayside."

Experience with both the library board and Canadian Federation of University Women, Ms Mulligan said, have offered her insight into management and negotiating skills.

Both — she feels — will be vital when Milton eventually undertakes amalgamation plans with other Halton municipalities.

"I don't think we have much of a say as to whether or not it (amalgamation) happens but we'll need strong leadership to protect Milton's interests," she stressed.

"This town's diverse layout makes its hydro services much different from Oakville or Burlington and our needs have to be addressed."

Although part of management during last year's lockout, Ms Mulligan feels grievances could have been resolved without drastic action.

"Both sides dug in their heels during the lockout, which could have and should have ended much sooner.

"Management talks about how they saved money through lost employee wages, but that's money that wasn't going into the community and helping our economy," said Ms Mulligan.



Loretta Mulligan

Wheels on the web

Students about to go after their driver's license in Ontario now have a brand new, free tool to help prepare themselves.

The www.LearnToDrive.com web site is designed for first-time drivers, who can use it to practice the G1 test, get automobile tips and other valuable information.

The web site is sponsored by the Milton-based Wheels driver training company. Chief instructor Keith Black said, "students of all ages will benefit from this interactive approach to the practical side of driving."

Robertson says he knows business, is a team player

By STEVE LeBLANC

Special to The Champion

Jack Robertson says good, long-term planning has gotten Milton Hydro out of \$4 million in debt.

The 12-year local hydro commissioner explained that when he first started in 1985, "Milton Hydro took on a \$4 million debt to purchase Ontario Hydro's power lines in rural Milton.

"As of 1996, we've been out of the red."

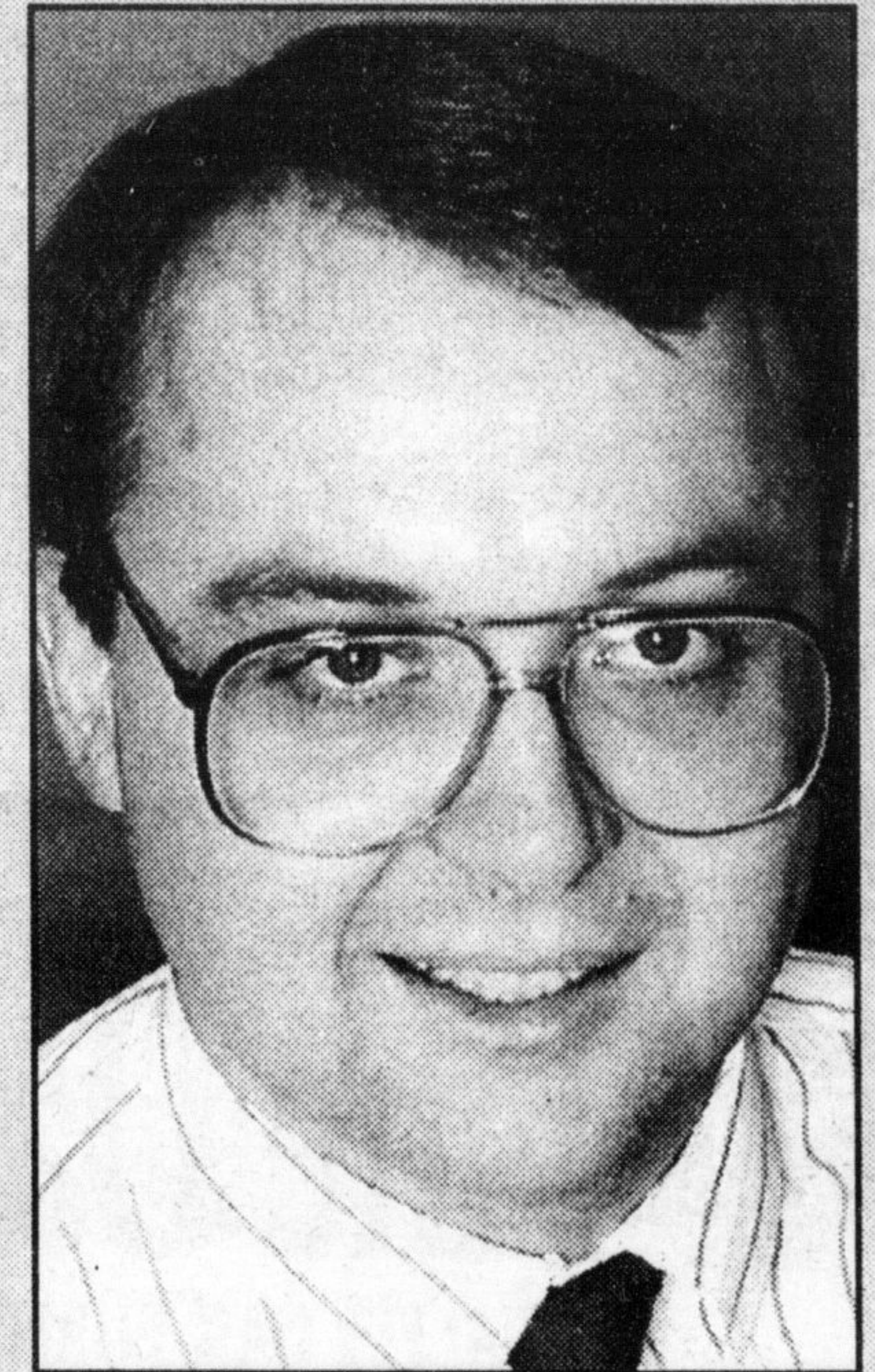
Challenging for his Ward 4 commission seat is ex-Milton Hydro employee Loretta Mulligan, who believes the commission has been lax in keeping its constituents apprised of its operations.

While admitting that their monthly meetings aren't publicized, he asserts that Milton residents are consulted on hydro-related issues.

"For example, we talked with many residents before we switched to monthly billing and most felt it was a good idea," said Mr. Robertson, a systems control operator for Mississauga Hydro.

In addition to Milton Hydro's improved balance sheet, Mr. Robertson takes credit for helping implement a \$5 million long-range maintenance overhaul — which he feels offers residents better service at a reasonable rate.

Speaking to the issue of amalgamation, the long-time incumbent said linking up with other municipalities is important — not so much with regards to lowering costs but rather giving Milton Hydro greater weight with its provincial parent commission.



Jack Robertson

"Toronto has one quarter of the hydro for all of Ontario, so if they ask for something they'll usually get it. Smaller centres don't have nearly as much pull," he said.

Mr. Robertson said last year's Milton Hydro lockout hurt the commission's credibility, adding that he will continue to work towards mending fences between management and employees.

So why should Miltonians re-elect him?

"I'm the technical expert on the commission, I know hydro and I'm a team player," he answered.

Achilles Mazda

It is worth the drive to Acton!



NEW 1998

1998 Mazda Protegé SE

PROTEGE SE. EVERYTHING'S BIG. EXCEPT THE PRICE.

MSRP \$14,545

Frt., Taxes, PDI Extra

OR

LEASE \$226⁰⁰

Based on 48 months, \$1000 down + taxes + administration costs

MAZDA Personal LEASE

The Place for Unbeatable Prices and Service

357 QUEEN STREET EAST, ACTON

(519) 853-0200 (905) 453-8965



RE-ELECT

Jack Robertson
WARD 4

Keep Hydro Rates Low

MILTON CINEMAS

121 CHISHOLM RD.

(W. of Hwy. 25 • S. of 401)

24 HOUR INFORMATION LINE 876-3333

STARSHIP TROOPERS

Friday & Saturday nightly at 7:00 & 9:15
Sunday - Thursday nightly at 7:00 pm only
Sunday Matinee at 2 pm

R

BEAN

Friday & Saturday nightly at 7:00 & 9:15 pm
Sunday - Thursday nightly at 7:00 pm only
Sunday Matinee at 2 pm

PG

I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER

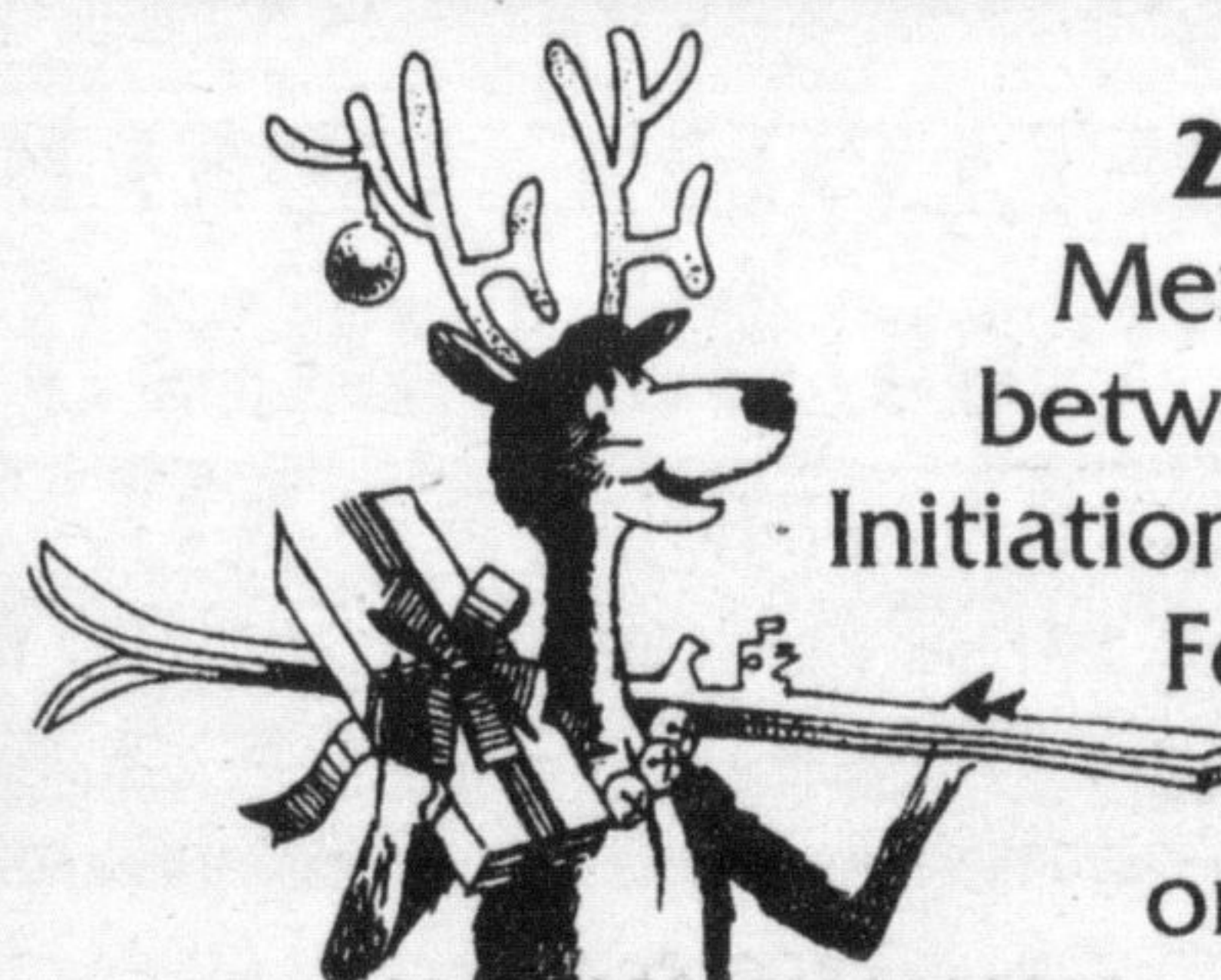
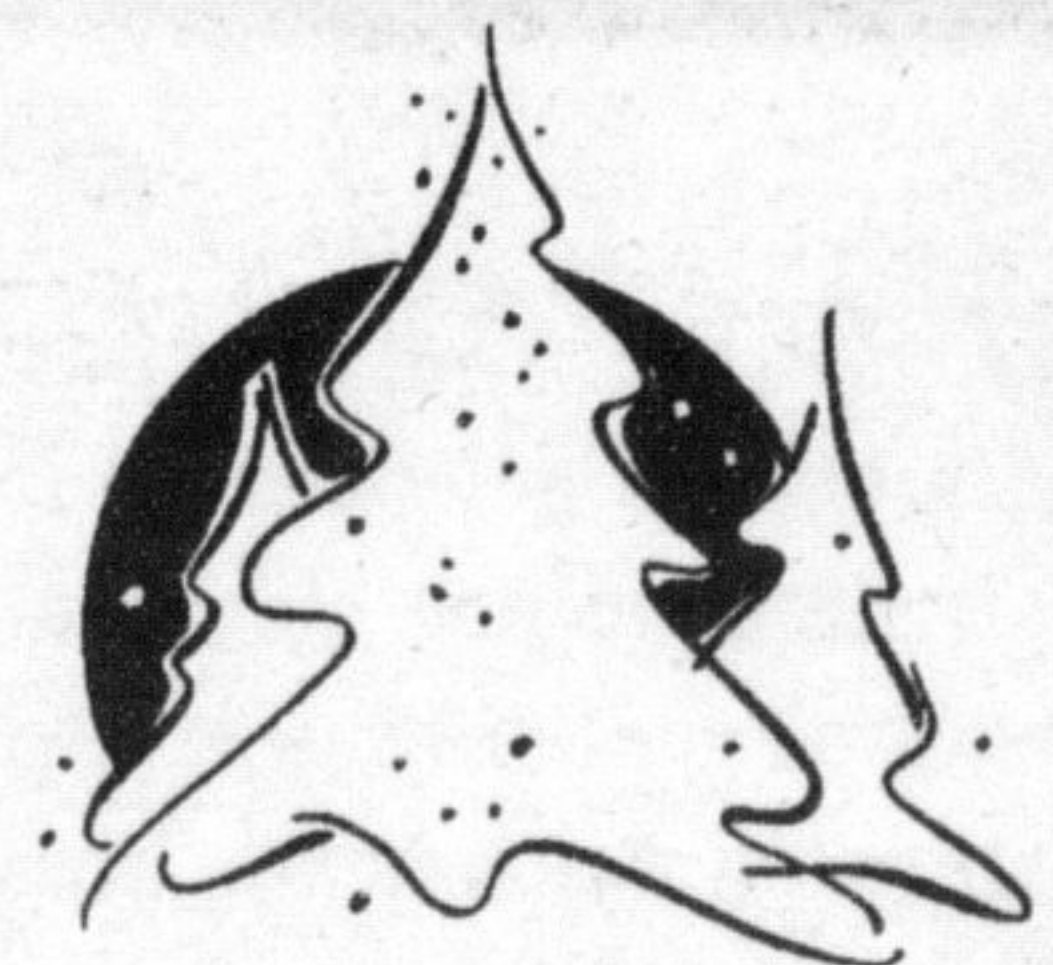
Friday & Saturday nightly at 7:00 & 9:15 pm
Sunday - Thursday nightly at 7:00 pm only
Sunday Matinee at 2 pm

AA

REMEMBER \$4.25 TUESDAYS

ALL MATINEE SEATS \$4.25

BEAVER VALLEY SKI CLUB
MARKDALE, ONTARIO
1998
NEW MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



20 Remaining Family Memberships available at between \$5,500 and \$6,500
Initiation (reduced from \$24,000).

For more information

519 924 3595

or 519 924 3956 Fax.