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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Hello dolly

Eight-year-old Deidre Scholtz and father Clem show off some of the fundraising Deidre Dolls on sale during Saturday's Community Christmas Bazaar at Milton Mall. See another photo of the event on page 5.

Mohawk slots appeal on from tax watchdogs

By IRENE GENTLE
The Champion

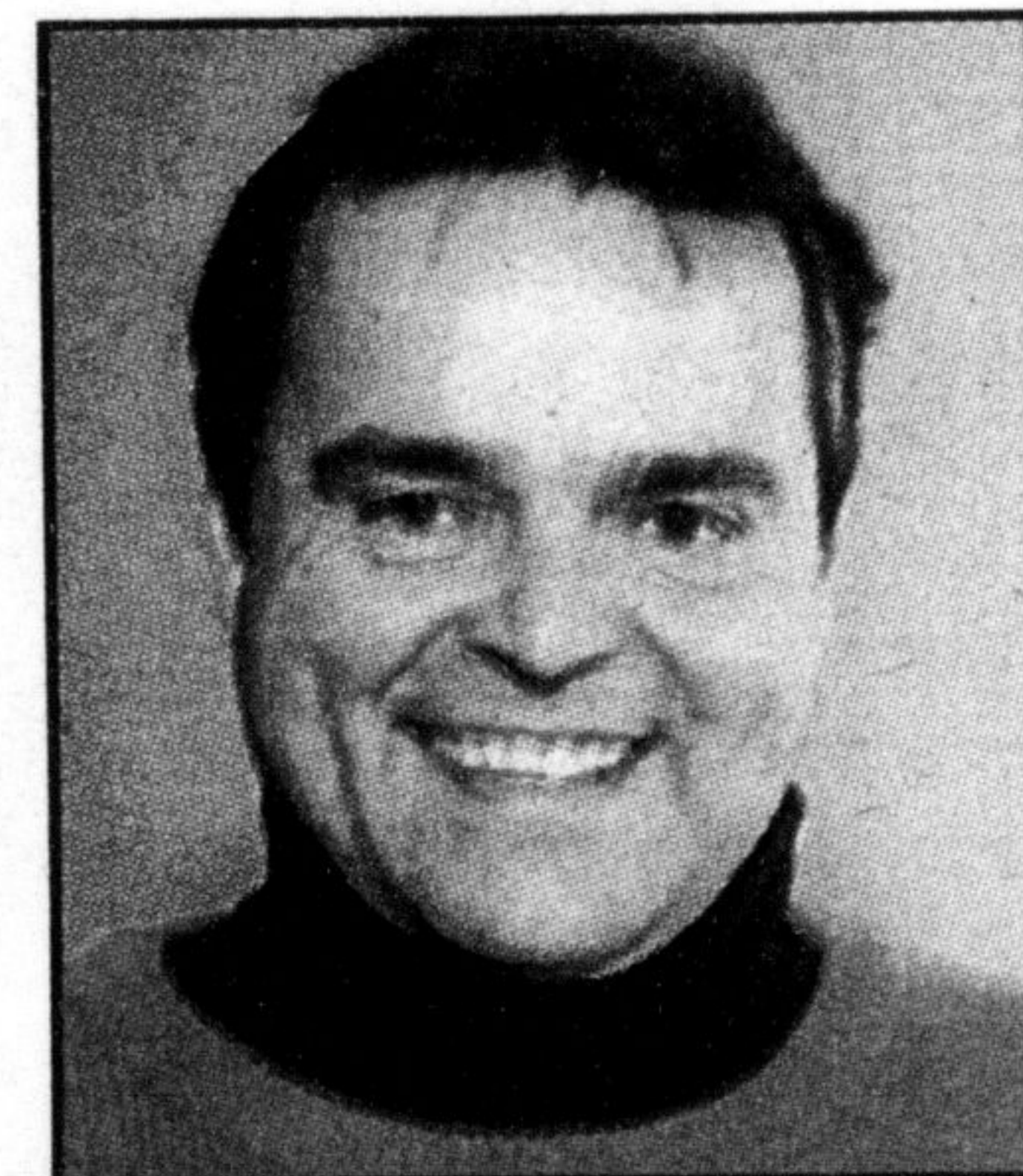
The Ontario Jockey Club should pony up on profits.

That's the message the Milton Ratepayers Association is hoping to send by appealing a recent decision to allow up to 1,200 slot machines at Mohawk Raceway.

With slots, Mohawk would be a 24-hour a day, 365 day a year operation.

Currently it runs 100 nights a year.

Adding the slots will make the raceway a casino in everything but name, without protecting the community from added costs such as policing and road maintenance, said the ratepayers' spokesperson Pat Kelly.



Pat Kelly

"This is a casino they're building but we lose all our benefits," he said. "Our bottom line is we believe every other community has incurred added costs from slots."

If the raceway were to be slotted as a casino, it would be forced to slide a portion of its profits over to the Town of Milton as part of a provincial deal sweetener.

Instead, the added slots have been allowed as a minor land use change for the raceway, meaning there are no provisions in place for Milton.

"I don't see any reason that the Milton taxpayer should have to pay the costs of the OJC," said Mr. Kelly.

The ratepayers' group has taken its case to the Ontario Municipal Board.

"All we're looking for is the OMB to agree that this is a major land use change," said Mr. Kelly.

If it does, it could overturn the decision to allow the slots made by the Committee of Adjustment. That committee is an unelected citizens group formed to judge minor bylaw

variances.

"We consider this 365 days a year a major land use change," said Mr. Kelly. "We say this is a major change in venue."

It isn't that his association is against gambling, said Mr. Kelly. They just want a piece of the pie.

However, Monday Milton Mayor Gord Krantz said that he is part of a concerted lobbying effort aimed at gleaning a financial rake for Milton, and other centres that are backing gambling.

Mr. Krantz said 18 municipalities in Ontario are in the same boat, and have met with provincial officials at the ministerial level to press their case.

Mr. Krantz indicated he was optimistic about getting Milton a share of gambling revenues, and that he expected the question to be settled in relatively short order.

"As long as the OJC pay their share, we'll go away," Mr. Kelly said.

Though the appeal has been launched, it could be months before a hearing is scheduled.

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Reding student vents frustrations for peers

By CLAUDIA D'SOUZA
Special to The Champion

A representative for Halton's five Catholic high schools has urged the school board and its teachers to get back to the bargaining table — now.

In the past 10 weeks, escalating teacher's work to rule sanctions have left students with no extra-curricular activities and lost instructional time. At the root of the dispute is a Bill 160 requirement that teachers' workloads be increased. The board has interpreted this to mean seven of eight periods must be taught.

Last week, Bishop Reding school council chair Paul McDougall, representing board-wide secondary school council

chairs, delivered his message in a room packed with parents, teachers and students.

"When you get to the end of the rope, turn around, there's a whole length in front of you," he said. "Our purpose is not to take one side over the other, but rather to advise the board and its teachers of our concerns and recommendations."

The student proposed re-starting negotiations to end the "intolerable" situation and re-examining difficulties from a fresh perspective. He advocated the creation of a "creative log jam breaker," a panel with new and equal representation from the Halton Catholic District School Board, the Ontario English Catholic Teachers'

• see PUSH on page 13

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