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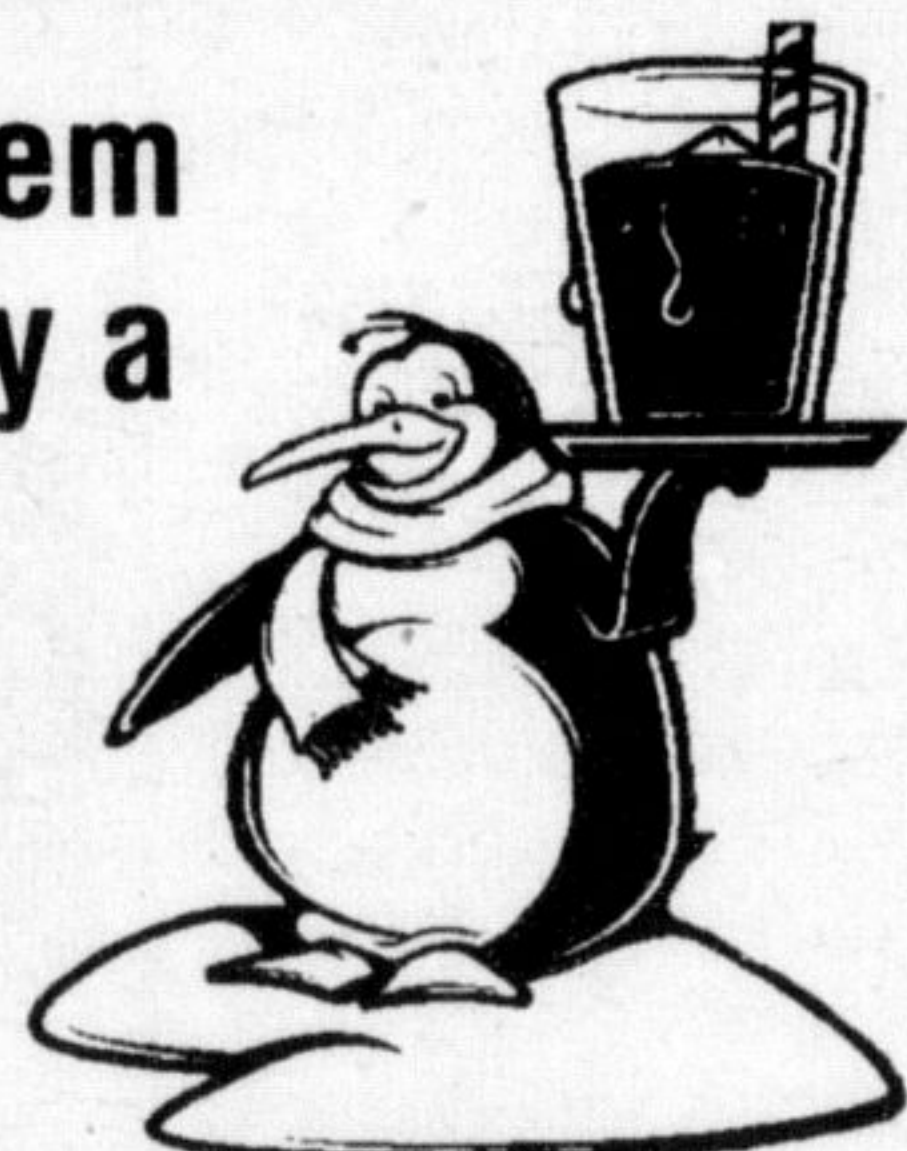


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Councillors vote to pay down debt with slot cash

By IRENE GENTLE
The Champion

When town council did the math on ways to spend slot machine revenue, more than the proceeds began adding up.

So did a succession of motions which — unable to win majority support — crumbled on the floor.

Three separate plans to spend what's estimated to be a \$6.5 million windfall in 2000 were killed in as many hours at the Monday night meeting.

As the third motion collapsed, a frustrated Councillor Rick Malboeuf snapped, "I suggest that those who keep opposing everything come up with a suggestion."

A fourth motion passed in a tight 5-4 recorded vote at 11 p.m.

Endorsed by Councillor John Challinor, that sank most of the money into debt reduction, shoring up infrastructure and financing future capital costs.

It also allocated about \$500,000 toward a community fund to provide grants for local organizations.

Exactly how that money should be used will be the subject of an upcoming public meeting.

A sticking point for some councillors was the absence of tax cuts in the approved formula.

"We're missing tax relief here in

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the whole discussion," said Councillor Wally Hunter. "If we do have money available, why aren't we looking for tax relief?"

But residents benefit more from debt reduction than nominal decreases on their tax bill, argued Mr. Challinor.

"You pool that money together and suddenly, interest free, you're building an arena," he said. "You can take interest savings and invest it somewhere else."

Paying down the debt is a boon to all taxpayers, agreed Councillor Rick Day.

"Now who won't have to pay the interest (from debt funding)," he asked. "The taxpayers."

But Mr. Malboeuf said he'd prefer to see one third of the cash put toward tax relief.

And he was disappointed that money wasn't specifically aimed at any charity bingos negatively impacted by the one-armed bandits.

Mr. Hunter tried to bring tax relief into the equation with a separate motion. It put 10 per cent of the slots money toward tax cuts and 8 per cent into community funding.

That was rejected by council.

After a motion to defer the item

was also shot down, the table seemed unsure how to end the standoff.

The Town has earned \$4.5 million since 750 slot machines set up shop at Mohawk Raceway last August. Of that, \$2.5 million was collected in 1999.

Based on the estimated 2000 windfall, the endorsed plan would put \$3 million toward the elimination of Milton's \$25 million debt.

That would eventually lead to interest savings of \$12.5 million.

Another \$1.4 million was allocated to accelerate infrastructure building and maintenance.

Almost \$700,000 was invested in town facilities and programs, while \$750,000 was slated for a reserve to help pay for future capital expenses.

Another \$200,000 would go toward policing costs.

Since slots revenue will fluctuate annually, the total dollar amounts in each category would change proportionately.

Also, council would have the opportunity to review the allocations each year.

That motion won the support of Mr. Challinor, Mr. Day, Cindy Lunau, Brian Penman and Mayor Gord Krantz.

Opposing the motion were Mr. Malboeuf, Mr. Furik, Mr. Hunter and Art Melanson.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Database Clerk

The Community Services Department requires a database clerk at the Seniors' Activity Centre to build a comprehensive membership database for a period of seven weeks. The clerk will also assist with reception duties at the Centre.

Duties & Responsibilities

- Prepare a test base and manipulate data to ensure types of reports needed can be generated efficiently
- Complete data entry for approximately 650 members
- Prepare reports as requested
- Design information and signage to assist our volunteer reception team
- Assist with reception duties at the Centre

Qualifications

- Computer experience in Microsoft office environment
- Working familiarity with Microsoft EXCEL
- Effective communication skills and interest in working with seniors will be beneficial

Eligibility

Candidates must be between the ages of 15-24

Salary \$8 per hour

Qualified applicants are invited to submit a resume to:
The Town of Milton
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Milton, ON
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Attention: Gloria Day, Coordinator, Human Resources

Deadline for applications: Friday, June 23, 2000

CORRECTION NOTICE

WE WISH TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FOLLOWING IN OUR CURRENT 'LOVE YOU DAD' FLYER.

PAGE 8 - ITEM #4, 14.4V CORDLESS CIRCULAR SAW, 54-8321-0

COPY READS: 2 BATTERIES INCLUDED
SHOULD READ: 1 BATTERY INCLUDED

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cnote D324 - All Zones

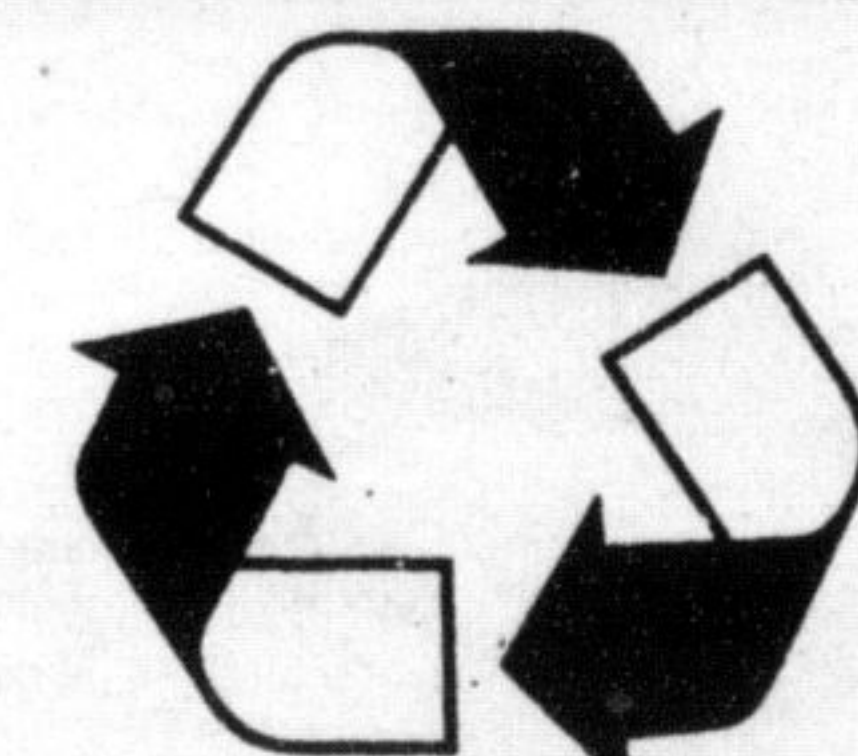
Clippers Corner Says Thank You!!

I would like to thank everyone who made the Grand Opening of Clippers Corner such an overwhelming success.

Thank you to all my regular & new customers and to Mayor Krantz for taking time out of his busy schedule to cut the ribbon. Thanks also to my close friends & family who helped add the finishing touches to the shop in time for the big day.

Ann Sandles, owner.

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