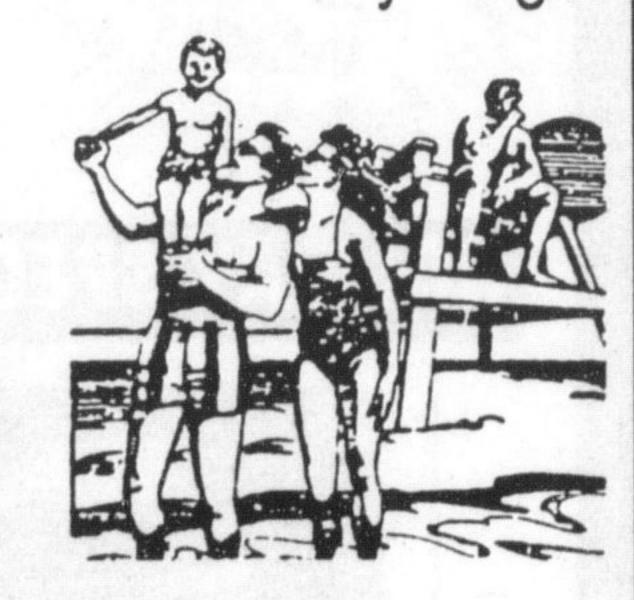
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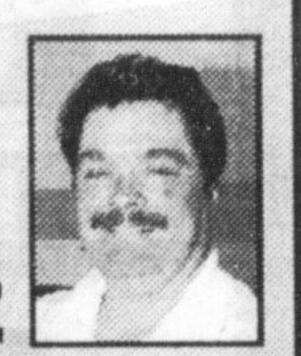


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## Inmates end hunger strike after missing many meals

By FANNIE SUNSHINE

The Champion

A four-day hunger strike by Maplehurst inmates protesting what they called mistreatment by correctional officers ended Wednesday.

"A number of inmates refused to eat Friday and it continued throughout the weekend," said Julia Noonan, a spokesperson with the Ministry of Correctional Services. "(Monday) they accepted their dinner and (Tuesday) 24 inmates refused breakfast and eight refused lunch."

She confirmed yesterday (Thursday) all inmates ate their dinner Tuesday and ate full meals Wednesday, ending the strike.

Ms Noonan said the cause of the protest began when inmates voiced complaints about the facility.

"There's no smoking (in or outside any part of the facility) and the

"A number of inmates refused to eat Friday and it continued throughout the weekend."

JULIA NOONAN

..........

inmates wanted to smoke," she said, using one of several complaints as an example.

Other complaints included unlocked mailboxes and a lack of privacy when showering.

"This happens from time to time," Ms Noonan said, referring to hunger strikes at correctional facilities. "It's a form of protest inmates use."

At dinner time last Friday, 142 inmates refused to eat. Almost every protester held out over the weekend, drinking only water,

juice and coffee.

But by Monday the inmates' resolve began to wilt. By lunch time, 118 were refusing food and by dinner only 30 were still holding out. "Whenever there's a hunger strike we take it seriously because it could have long-term health repercussions on the inmates," Ms Noonan said. "We continue to offer meals to the inmates and bring it to them. We always hope for a quick solution."

But Robert Fidler, a Maplehurst inmate and unofficial spokesman for inmates at the complex, told The Spectator the problem arose last week when an inmate requested kosher food and was turned down in a "harsh" way. He added correctional officers use excessive force, beating the inmates and calling them names. "The ministry takes any allegations seriously by the correctional workers or the inmates," Ms Noonan said. "It's looked into and treated seriously."

## Regional chair joins roundtable

In an effort to boost trade between area municipalities and the northern United States, Halton Regional Chair Joyce Savoline is joining the roundtable.

The recently-established Niagara Bi-National Region Economic Roundtable will see municipal leaders from both sides of the boarder meet with heads of

business to discuss trade issues. The goal of roundtable discussions are to identify the issues and pursue solutions to strengthen the economy of the entire binational area.

The Niagara bi-national region is the third largest consumer marketplace in North America.

MILTON

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MILTON ON-LINE http://www.town.milton.on.ca

Milton Community Fund

Town of Milton Council recently approved the distribution of \$269,972 in grants to 28 organizations and two individuals for the first funding period of the Milton Community Fund. The purpose of this funding program is to provide financial support for activities that enhance the quality of life within Milton, or enhance the image of the Town. Council is pleased to support Heather Dans, Marianne Bodrug and the following organizations whose proposals varied from equipment needs, volunteer training, cultural performances to facility renovations.

- 7th Milton Scouts
- Brookville Minor Baseball Association
- Conservation Halton Foundation
- Fine Arts Society of Milton
- Halton 4-H Association
- Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club
- LaLeche League Milton
- Milton Choristers
- Milton District Hospital Fondation
- Milton Jaycees
- Milton Lions Club
- Milton Skating Club
- Milton Tsuruoka Karate
- Milton Youth Soccer Club
- Birch Hills District Girl Guides of Canada

- Campbellville Minor Baseball
- Country Heritage Park
- Friends of Chaudiere
- Halton Agricultural Society
- John Milton Chapter IODE
- MDHS Community Council
- Milton Community Resource Centre
- Milton Historical Society
- Milton Lawn Bowling Club
- Milton Marlin Swim Team
- Milton Springers Gymnastic Club
- Milton Youth Chorus
- Track 2000 BMX Club Inc.



Thank you,
Holy Rosary
Parish Family!

Thank you Milton!
"Thanks for the
memories"

We thank God for you.

We love you.

Father Mike Father Earl

"Peace be with you."

For more information about the fund, and this round of approved grants, please visit our website at www.town.milton.on.ca or contact Joy Anderson, Coordinator, Community Development at 905-702-3143.

The next funding deadline is October 1st.