

Historical society wants input in demolition permit process

By RICHARD VIVIAN

The Champion

In light of the dismantling of a Main Street building, the Milton Historical Society wants changes to the demolition permit process.

The group is calling on the Town to consult members before issuing demolition permits in historic areas.

"We want the Town to work with us, to respect what we do and to include us," said historical society president Mirella Marshall. "If they need help or don't know about something — maybe we don't know either — but they could ask. There are members in our group that are very knowledgeable."

The society's request came after it was learned the building purchased by Milton Bible Church at Main and Martin streets was to be torn down to the foundation — a

move the historical society says may not have been necessary.

Previous re-construction plans would have seen the front and one side of the building preserved.

But architects and engineer consultants working for the church advised the walls weren't suitable for re-use in the building.

Adding another group to the demolition permit process may slow things down a little, but Mayor Gord Krantz doesn't believe it would have a significant impact on timelines. "I don't have a problem (with circulating the historical society) as long as the process doesn't get bogged down by another layer of bureaucracy that has to be dealt with. They (historical society) carry a lot of knowledge and they're certainly dedicated to historic preservation."

Several commenting agencies are required to sign off on an application

before a demolition permit can be issued, including Conservation Halton, utility companies and the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee.

Hearing to be continued

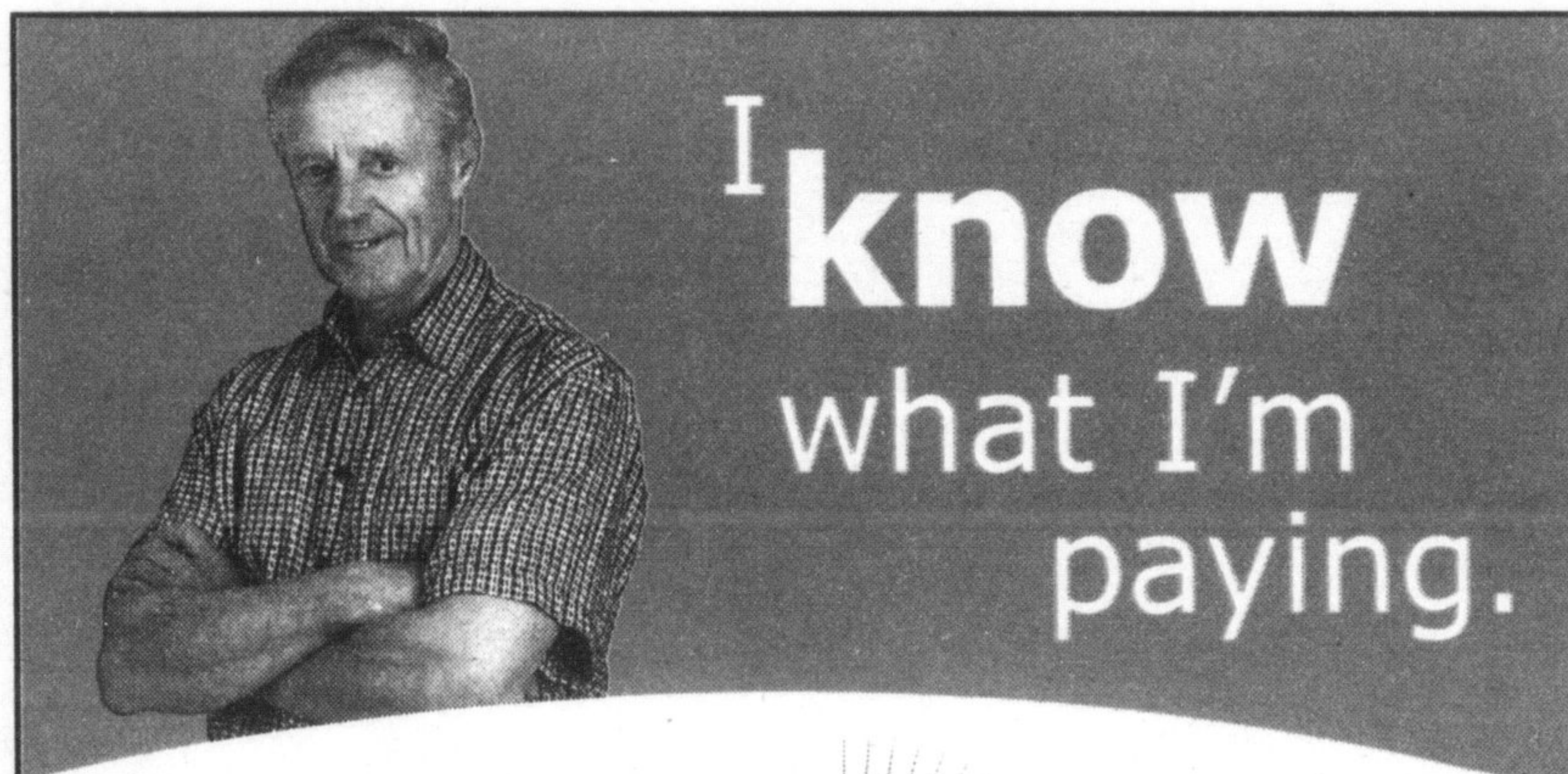
The preliminary hearing for a Fourth Line couple charged with drug offences will continue April 8.

Douglas Weil and Agnieszka Wojyanowska appeared in Ontario court in Milton for the hearing last Tuesday.

The preliminary hearing, on which

there's a publication ban, will determine if there's sufficient evidence to go to trial.

The couple is charged with producing a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking.



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Correction

The story regarding the Milton Choristers' 'Requiem for Easter' concert in Friday's edition of The Champion contained incorrect information.

The 3 p.m. concert this Sunday will take place at St. Paul's United Church, not Knox Presbyterian Church as stated.

The Champion regrets the error and any inconvenience it may have caused.

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT SERVICES UPDATE

The Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) is currently on strike. The Government of Ontario has made a reasonable and responsible offer that is fair to employees and taxpayers, including an across-the-board wage increase of 1.95 per cent in each of three years and increases to address wage disparities in key occupational groups by offering ambulance/communication dispatchers and scientists an additional increase of eight per cent and nurses an additional increase of 10 per cent.

It is not possible to predict how long this disruption of public services will continue, however, the government remains available to resume meaningful negotiations at any time.

Answers to your Questions

To further assist you we have provided answers to the most frequently asked questions we're receiving from the public about:

Government Payments?

- Ontario Disability Support Program recipients should receive their monthly cheque or direct bank deposit on time.
- Cheques will still be issued for the Guaranteed Annual Income Supplement payments to low-income seniors.
- Ontario Works (social assistance) cheques will continue to be delivered by the municipalities, which are not affected by this labour disruption.

Driver's Licences?

- If your licence expired on or after March 13, 2002, you can still drive until the end of the strike. This includes all classes of driver's licences.
- If your licence is suspended, the suspension will remain in effect until the strike ends.
- If your plate sticker expired on or after March 13, 2002, it must be renewed. This can be done at one of more than 280 private Driver and Vehicle Licence Issuing Offices throughout the province; they are listed in the blue pages of your telephone book. Payment is by cash only.

Health Cards?

- Your health number is still valid.
- You may be asked to fill out a health number release form by your doctor or hospital that they will use when filing with OHIP.

Medical Treatment for New Ontarians?

- New or returning residents can access health services, and as usual will be responsible for paying for those services. The usual three-month waiting period applies until new or returning residents are eligible for OHIP coverage.

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call toll-free 1-866-933-9233

or visit our website at www.ontarioservicesupdate.com

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