

# Milton Tennis Club members are thinking big — you gotta like that

The June 4 Champion had an interesting letter from a couple members of the Milton Tennis Club. It seems that not only is word of the club's demise premature, but that it has aced its future.

According to the club, the new tennis facility at the community park is going to be of national class. Members are thinking big, as they put it, and I like the way they're thinking.

This is going to be some place by the looks of things. Hockey, baseball, tennis, basketball, soccer, softball — most everything is going to be represented in that one area. The nice thing is that users are having input into what they want and need. The not-so-nice thing, although inevitable, is that there are budget restrictions.

From what I can tell, the budget restrictions aren't going to restrict us from having quality facilities. That's what I'm told, although I can't say for sure. I did ask for some reports from the town, but was told they cost money, and although I'm sure they have good reason, paying for that type of thing to put in the newspaper to reveal to the public rubs me the wrong way.

I care about the actual playing facilities, but I'm selfishly more interested in the spectators' facilities.

I've already written about the hockey arenas. I don't know many people who have been to more of them in southern Ontario than I have, unless they're a scout. And to me, not having a high-seating arena, such as they do in Newmarket, Markham, and other areas away from the city, is just ridiculous. Although ours won't be low-quality facilities, they won't be superior quality, either.

Give me 15 minutes and I can tell you what's right and what's wrong about any hockey arena. It's just something I've always paid attention to because arenas fascinate me.

For baseball, some of the Intercounty League facilities are nice, at least in terms of abundant seating, as are some facilities in the Niagara area that used to house Class A baseball teams. Milton has some high-class baseball fields and just regular class seating.

Even some of the recently built-up areas, such as Aurora, Newmarket, Vaughan and Richmond Hill, have taken great pains to provide quality field facilities, but almost nothing for the viewers. Of course, if you had to have it one way or the other, that would be the way to go. Richmond Hill Greens, for example, has about a dozen high-quality baseball and softball fields, but if you don't bring your lawn chair, forget it.



## Out in left field

with MURRAY TOWNSEND

I would like to see, as Milton grows, us also grow in fan support for some of our major teams. I don't know if it will happen, though. In my experience, the further away you are from the city, the more likely a town is to support its teams. After spending a lot of time in the Eastern Conference of the Provincial Jr. A hockey loop this year, I can tell you it's a world of difference from any of the other conferences.

Places such as Cobourg, Port Hope, Bowmanville and Wellington get huge crowds compared to most other teams. The towns really care about them, although Milton is a lot better than many teams outside the Eastern Conference.

One of the difficulties we've had in terms of drawing spectators is the timing of our games because of lighting or other problems. The Merchants have their home games on Friday nights, which is good, but the new Milton Marauders football team, for example, has to play their games on a Saturday afternoon at Bishop Reding's field, which has no lights and limited seating. People tend to be busy on Saturday afternoons. And if you ever looked around an empty Milton on a long weekend you know that people also tend to go away a lot in this town.

Have them play on a Friday or other weeknight at a nice facility, and I think they could get an awful lot of fans to their games. And I'd love to see Milton's high school football teams playing at night like they do in the United States.

We can't have everything, of course, but it's still worrisome. Once these facilities are built, there's no going back. If they don't build an arena with high seating, they likely never will.

Build it and they will come. Build it better and more will come.

## Bike camp scheduled to run again in July

Local mountain bikers are once again getting in gear to honour one of their fallen peers.

Milton and area racers are preparing for Rory's Camp in memory of Rory Dick — one of three E.C. Drury High School teens killed in a car-train crash September 28, 2000.

The second annual camp is scheduled to run July 9 and 10 at Hilton Falls Conservation Area. For more information, call (519) 853-0357 or visit [www.rorycamp.8k.com](http://www.rorycamp.8k.com).

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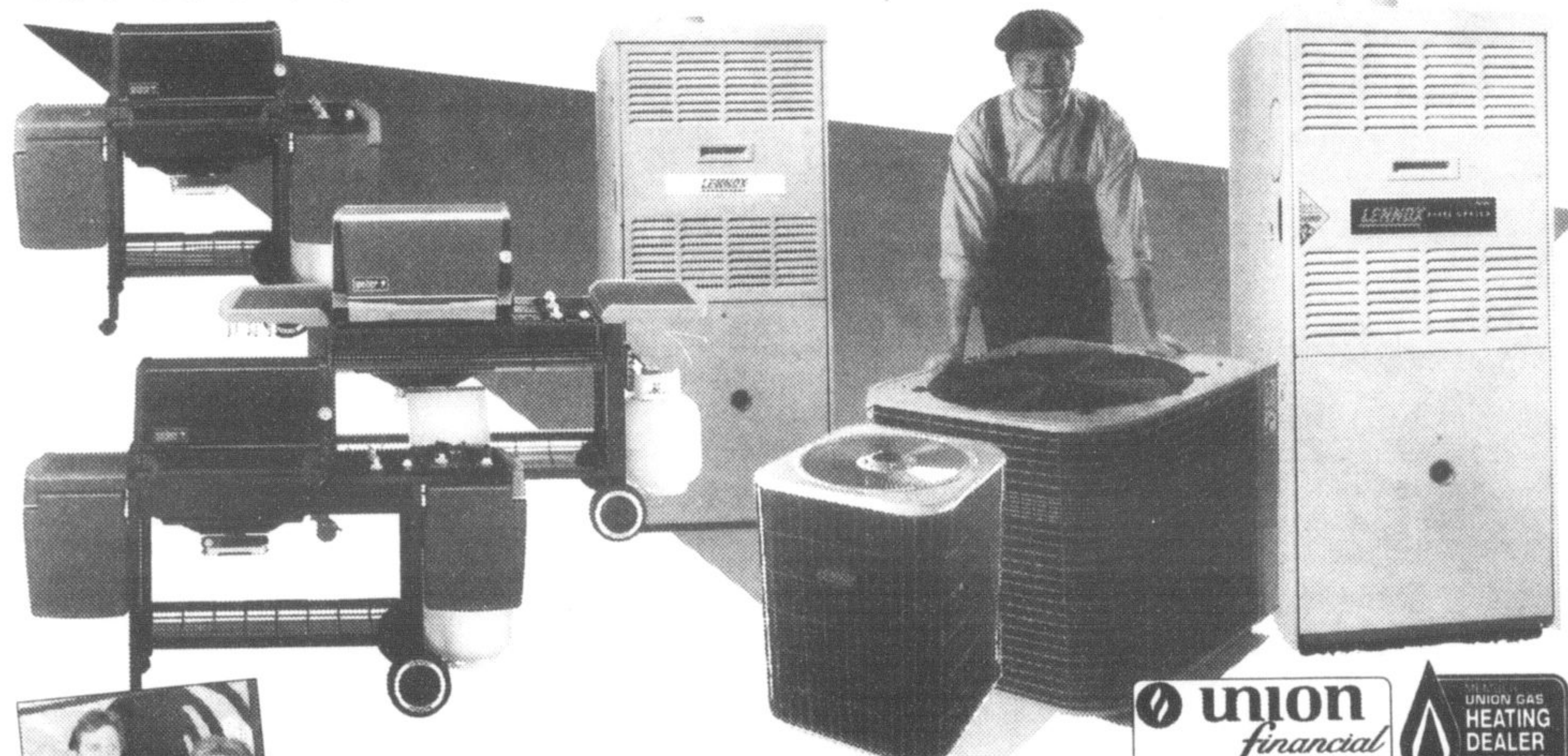
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## MILTON INTERCHURCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE

STANDING AS OF 12-JUNE-02

|    | TEAMS          | G  | W  | L | T | PTS |
|----|----------------|----|----|---|---|-----|
| 1  | MILTON BIBLE   | 12 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 20  |
| 2  | HOLY ROSARY    | 10 | 8  | 2 | 0 | 16  |
| 3  | SOUTH SIDE '2' | 9  | 6  | 3 | 0 | 12  |
| 4  | ST. GEORGES    | 11 | 6  | 5 | 0 | 12  |
| 5  | SOUTH SIDE '1' | 8  | 5  | 3 | 0 | 10  |
| 6  | NEW LIFE 'A'   | 10 | 5  | 5 | 0 | 10  |
| 7  | ST. PAULS      | 11 | 5  | 6 | 0 | 10  |
| 8  | BOSTON         | 11 | 5  | 6 | 0 | 10  |
| 9  | NEW LIFE "B"   | 9  | 4  | 4 | 1 | 9   |
| 10 | NEW LIFE DEAF  | 9  | 3  | 6 | 0 | 6   |
| 11 | KNOX           | 11 | 2  | 8 | 1 | 5   |
| 12 | GRACE          | 9  | 0  | 9 | 0 | 0   |

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