

Objects to "cloak of authority"

Day says commission "unfair"

Development Control regulations now being enforced by the Niagara Escarpment Commission are "unfair", Councillor Rick Day told two high ranking officials of the commission during Monday night's regular council meeting.

Even if it is legal, it's unfair. Put it on your houses and see how you feel," he said. Councillor Day objected to the commission downzoning land so that it could be acquired by the government for a reasonable price when it is ready to buy it.

Day told Cecil Louis, Development Control Manager and NEC Director Gerry Coffin that he was concerned about a person being stopped from putting a house on a lot, simply because the situation of the house might offend a Bruce Trail walker.

Now "defenders" Day said that a few years ago Bruce Trail walkers were "notorious trespassers" but now those people living on the 20th floor of a Toronto apartment building are being regarded as the "great defenders of the escarpment."

"This is a serious thing. Is there some reassurance you can give me to say this is not so unfair? Some people have planned on building homes there all their lives," Coffin said the commission was made of 17 mature people who offered local knowledge, common sense and compassion in making decisions about what can and can't be done.

"There is no freeze on development. Not all of the planners' reports are accepted," he said. "Doesn't work?" "If there's anything I know about, it's boards and commissions. If the affected party isn't there the only way an error or injustice will be drawn to the commission's attention is for someone to write a letter or put a bug in a member's ear. It just doesn't work. It's not fair," Day continued.

Just because you have a \$1,000,000 budget and the regulations are backed by the Ontario Legislature, doesn't make it fair. It might be legal but it's not fair. You are operating under the cloak of authority," Day said. Mr. Louis said councillors might find the system not as prohibitive as it seems. "If it's of any comfort, 90 per cent of the applications have been approved," he pointed out.

Want NEC boundary revised

Milton council will petition the Niagara Escarpment Commission to revise the boundaries of lands over which it now has control. Planner Bob Zsadanyi noted the boundary would be revised to exclude all of the lands in the Bronte St. — Derry Rd. area east of the Canadian National Railway right of way. Councillor Don Gordon suggested that the boundary be Tremaine Rd.

(Continued on Page 14)

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Jim Watson scorns system

Councillor installs pool without required permits

By Gerry Flaherty and Bob Burt Councillor Jim Watson, a member of both Milton and Halton Region councils, has recently installed an in-ground swimming pool at his Campbellville area home without obtaining either a Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) development permit or a valid Milton building permit, The Champion has learned.

Although he admits installing the pool while waiting for NEC approval, the councillor said he had favorable indications to the effect there would be no problems getting his pool, from the NEC planner who inspected the site. Watson said he abhors the entire NEC development system which entails a written application, inspection, staff recommendation, mailing and a lengthy waiting period before a citizen can go ahead to improve his own property.

NEC controls infringe on an individual's rights and invade his privacy, Watson added.

NEC spokesman Walter Gowing said Monday that the councillor had applied for a commission development permit on June 30, but final approval for the project had not been given pending notification of neighbors who may or may not wish to object.

Fine up to \$10,000 An aide to Mr. Gowing said persons or firms contravening the tough new NEC regulations approved by the Ontario Legislature on June 10 are liable, upon summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

However, the NEC said Monday night that no action would likely be taken against the councillor as "no major criminal offence" had been committed.

As well, under the new regulations, an NEC development permit must precede a municipal building permit being issued.

A municipal building permit for the pool was only granted last week, according to town Building Inspector Ray Weido, although the installation occurred in July.

Town has fine Mr. Weido said he understood a person could be fined up to \$300 for installing a pool without a building permit. The late permit was invalid anyway, said Mr. Gowing of the escarpment commission, because an NEC development permit had to be approved before the town's permit could be issued.

The building inspector said he issued the permit after receiving a document which he mistakenly believed said a development permit had been issued.

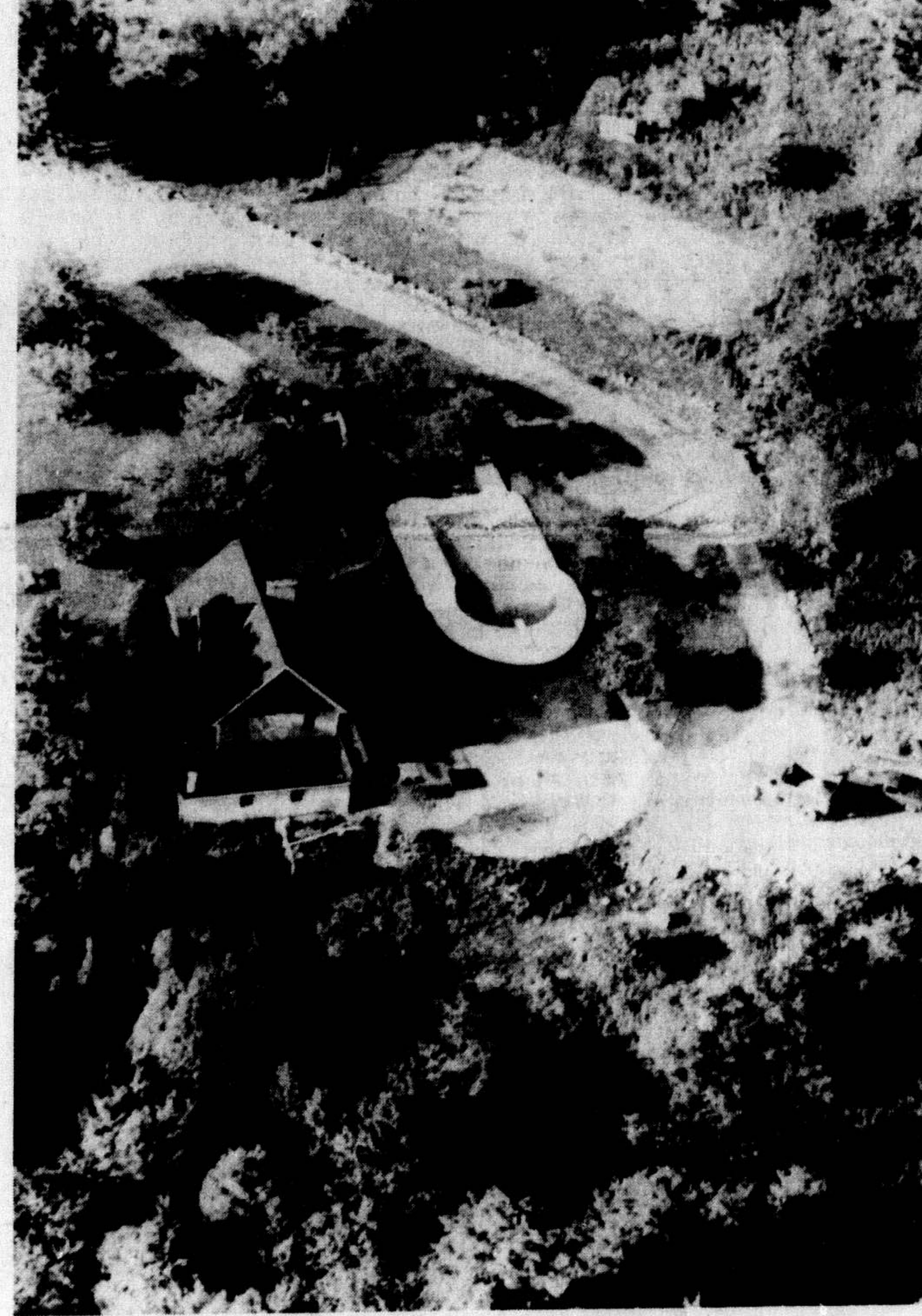
In fact, he had received a copy of the document mailed Aug. 1 to Councillor Watson's neighbors indicating that the NEC favored the pool, but advising them that they had 14 days to appeal to the Ministry of Housing.

Change forms Mr. Gowing said other building inspectors have been making Mr. Weido's mistake, and the commission Friday changed the wording on the appeal document so everyone would know that it did not constitute formal approval for a proposal.

"He shouldn't have issued the permit," said Mr. Gowing, "but everything's new and we've only been at this a month."

Mr. Weido said it was the first NEC document of its type he had handled, but readily admitted his mistake.

Councillor Watson, a Campbellville real estate salesman who lives on Steeles Ave. west of Guelph Line, said in an interview that he had received "verbal approval" for the pool from an NEC planner who visited the



A GROUND-LEVEL PHOTO of Councillor Jim Watson's new pool became impossible to shoot when a Champion photographer was refused access to the Campbellville property. This aerial photo shows the swimming pool and surrounding area from a height of 500 feet. (Champion Photo—Steve Dills)

Community centre grant no problem

The Town of Milton should have "no problem" obtaining a grant from the Ministry of Culture and Recreation to purchase the Campbellville Lions Club Hall for a community centre, The Champion was told Tuesday.

Leslie Wilson of the

Ministry's Community Centres Section in Toronto said the proposal "meets all of our requirements as far as I can see."

She said a decision on the application will be made "fairly soon", at least within two months.

Ms. Wilson said the grant would amount to "25 per cent of municipal costs" to a maximum of \$75,000.

Worth \$75,000 A Campbellville realtor says the market value of the Lions Hall today is between \$75,000 and \$90,000.

Using the \$75,000 amount and Ms. Wilson's percentage figure, Milton would receive a provincial grant of \$18,750 if it purchased the hall from the Lions Club for \$75,000.

The town would then have to cover the balance of \$56,250.

Mayor Anne MacArthur told a council meeting Monday night that any funds required over and above the provincial grant would come from "capital levies from the Ward Three (Nassagaweya) area."

All is "go" for Sept. 18 election

Speculation turned to reality Monday afternoon when Ontario Premier Bill Davis said he'd lead his Tories into an election battle Thursday, Sept. 18.

In making the announcement the premier said he had felt for several weeks that it was time to go to the people but he felt an earlier writ would have caused undue inconvenience for the electorate.

He noted the Sept. 18 election would allow an early start for the next session. He said an early sitting would be important because this is a critical period in the history of the province.

Inflation issue The premier promised a no-nonsense campaign and hinted that inflation would be the key issue. He said in the absence of a federal plan to combat inflation, the job was

being left to the provinces. Davis tossed a verbal dart in the direction of the federal liberals when he suggested the Ontario electorate would ask itself whether it wants "us to govern or whether it wants kissing cousins in Ottawa to govern."

The announcement gives the three parties 37 days to do their campaigning. Davis led the Tories to victory in 1971, claiming 78 seats with the Liberals winning 20 and NDP 19.

By-elections since then cost the government four seats as the Liberals upped their representation to 23 and the NDP to 20.

Liberals lead polls Polls published early this year indicated the Ontario Liberals ahead of the Conservatives by three percent.

In the new Halton-Burling-

ton riding the Conservatives have named Gary Dawkins of Acton and Bill Johnson is the NDP candidate. The Liberals will hold their nomination meeting Aug. 21.

Norval actor Julian Reid is the only person who has committed himself to seeking the Liberal nomination.

Returning officer Roy Coulter of Milton has been named Returning Officer in Halton-Burlington. He has been working on the electoral machinery for several weeks now.

Incumbent Halton West MPP George Kerr will be seeking re-election in the Burlington riding. Jim Snow, who has held the Halton East seat for several years, has decided to run in the new Oakville riding. Both are Conservatives and both have been members of the Davis cabinet for some years.

McCague resigns Commission post

George R. McCague, chairman of the Niagara Escarpment Commission, resigned his position Tuesday morning to seek the Progressive-Conservative nomination for Dufferin-Simcoe.

He tendered his resignation to the Honorable Darcy McKeough, Ontario Treasurer and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs.

Mr. McCague, a native of Alliston, Ontario, is a former mayor of the town. He has been chairman of the NEC since its inception in September 1973 and was appointed by Premier Bill Davis. The NEC headquarters at Guelph and Mountainview Rd., Georgetown, were officially opened in December 1973.

Says NEC rules are "atrocious"

Persons living within the Niagara Escarpment area have to apply to the Niagara Escarpment Commission for permission to make what would appear to be insignificant changes to their property.

During Milton Council's meeting Monday, Councillor Jim Watson asked commission officials what was and what was not intended to be under controls and in need of a permit.

He asked for comments on 25 hypothetical situations. Cecil Louis, Manager of Development Control with the Commission said a wishing well, private ball field, a private tennis court, dog houses over 12 feet high, garden gazebos, fruit cellars, windmills, woodsheds and snowmobile sheds required permits.

If in doubt, shout He indicated that some of these items might be exempt if they were accessory buildings under 500 square feet, but warned that anyone in doubt should contact the Commission to see for sure.

Councillor Watson described the need to get permits for such things as saunas and windmills as "atrocious."

He told the commission officials he had recently applied to the commission for permission to build a swimming pool.

He said it took the commission 32 days to decide it was okay and then they circulated the notice to landowners within 400 feet of him. He said the notice was vague and without any ex-

planation.

Mistake "One neighbor read it and thought I was objecting to a pool he wanted to build. He saw my name on the form," he said.

Councillor Watson contends it should be none of the neighbors' business what a person does on his own property.

He qualified that by noting neighbors should be consulted when it comes to dog kennels, factories or other things that could upset the way of life.

Inside

Whee... this is fun! Ontario Place, on the Lake front at Toronto is a grand place to spend a day with your family this summer.

See the centre spread, Real Estate Market Place section. ALSO Sports Pages 5, 6, 7. Classifieds 8 to 13. Day in the Park B-1. Editorial page B-3.



JIM WATSON is a member of both Milton and Halton Region councils.

Charges "half-truths"

MacArthur blasts Champion story

Mayor Anne MacArthur at a council meeting Monday night criticized The Champion for "discrepancies" and "half-truths" which she said were contained in a July 30 report on council's involvement with the Campbellville Lions Club hall.

Town of Milton had decided to step between about 20 members of the Lions Club and the club's creditors, and would buy the Lions Hall and turn it into a community centre.

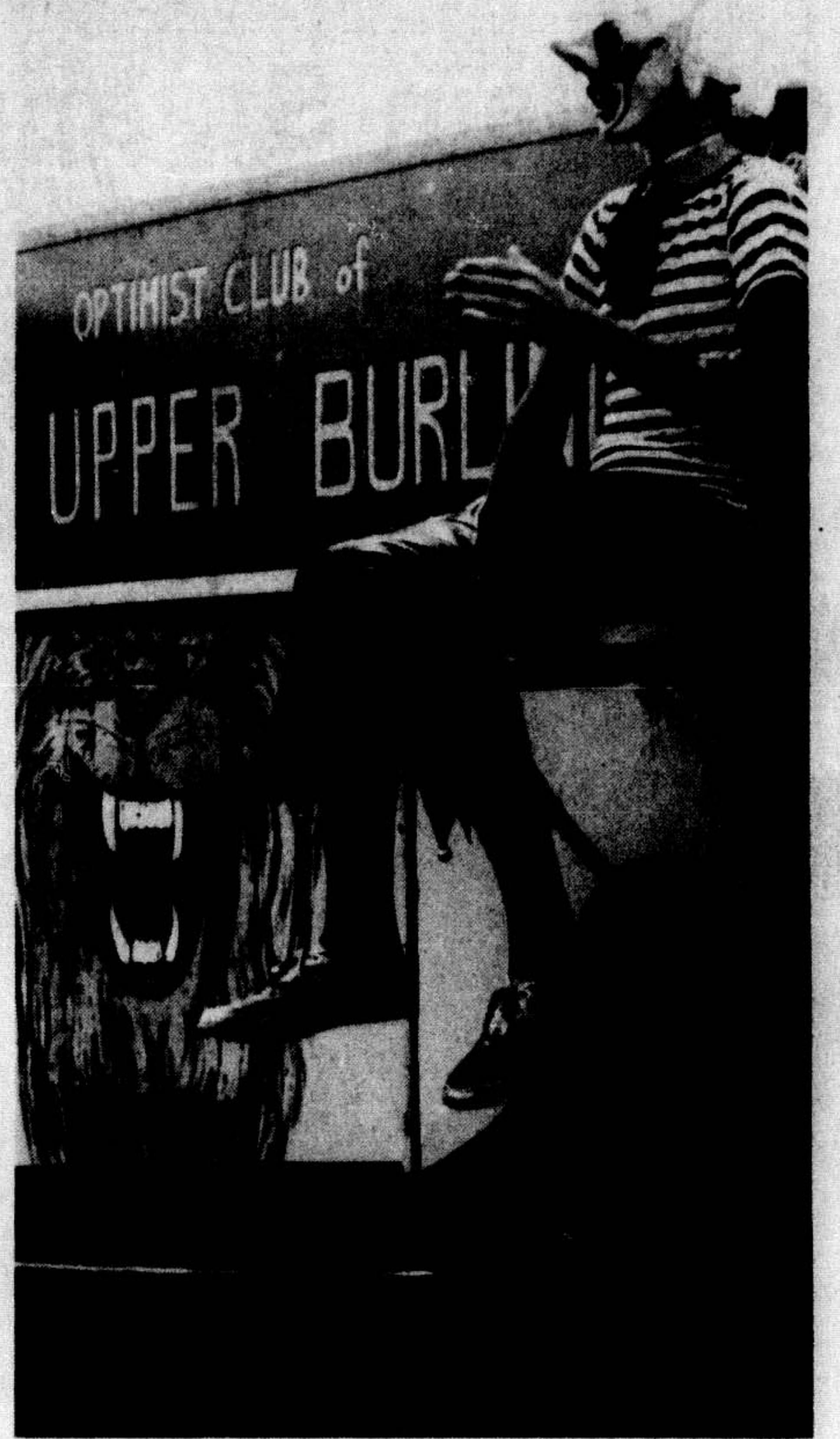
The report said as much as

\$50,000 in town money might be involved, with a provincial grant of about \$25,000 expected to complete the deal to purchase the two-year-old building valued at \$75,000 today.

Mayor MacArthur took exception to the use of the word "secret" to describe in

(See Editorial on Page B-3)

(Continued on Page 15)



THE OPTI CLOWN had a bad day Saturday. One lucky shot deposited him in the cold, cold water of the Upper Burlington Optimist Club's dunking machine at Day in the Park at Kilbride. Hundreds of people from North Burlington, Milton and urban Burlington all showed up to take part in the festivities. The clown was Tim Brown.