

## Have a heart



With Valentine's Day approaching thought turn toward sweethearts, but it's also time to think about the Heart and Stroke Foundation's annual campaign. February is heart month. — 8

## Celebration



Nellie McKinnon had a Celebration 88 of her own over the weekend. The Milton resident celebrated her 88th birthday with family and friends over the weekend. — 14

## Sports



Jean Osborne didn't have to make headlines to earn a spot on a men's hockey team. The Milton woman plays in goal for a local industrial league. Her husband is on the team too. — 17

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## Rotary Club housing project moves ahead

By ROB KELLY

The Milton Rotary Club's proposed non-profit housing development took a solid step forward last week, and club organizers are buoyantly optimistic that they will go to tender on schedule for the complex in August.

A joint federal-provincial announcement means that the \$2 million 26-unit project moves on to the next stage — detailed design. Following that the club seeks private source financing for the units, with the mortgage guaranteed through the federal Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

While the approval represents progress on the plan, the thorny question of how much the club will pay for the land on which to build has yet to be resolved.

It is rare that the provincial government owns the land being suggested for a geared-to-income housing site, but such is the case in Milton. The Ontario Housing Corporation, an arm of the Ministry of Housing, has owned the plot for 10 years.

Club organizers and provincial Ministry of Housing representatives have yet to agree on a price for the two acres on Bronte St. which will be the complex site. A two-year-old club appraisal pegs the land value at approximately \$210,000. The Ministry has an appraisal, less than six months old, which values it at \$315,000.

Monday morning Ministry officials met with club representatives in Milton to discuss recent developments. Club spokesman Larry Spencer was reluctant to deal in specifics, but he characterized it as "a very good meeting. They were quite co-operative."

The gap between the two estimated land values "was not discussed at any depth," Mr. Spencer said. "We feel quite confident it will get resolved amicably."

Mr. Spencer was not willing to stake the club to a price range for the land. "But we estimate a price that will allow the project to go ahead without difficulty. I'm not worried about the land problem at all."

Ray Olsen, the project architect and a member of the Milton Rotary Club, said "I'm sure we'll be able to conclude something satisfactory soon."

Mr. Olsen said the government announcement represented "a gate that we have come through, and we all feel pleased that we are through it."

Mr. Spencer estimated a resolution to the land question "somewhere in the next few months." He added, "I don't want to be in the position of stirring up dissension or over-emphasizing the situation. I think it's already been over-emphasized."

Mr. Olsen said that in guidelines prepared by the club originally, the tender call was slated for this August. Despite receiving the recent Ministry approval a month later than expected, "we will still try and make the deadline."

Under program guidelines, the federal government pays 60 per cent of a tenant's rent subsidy and the provincial government pays 40 per cent. The housing is oriented to low-income families, senior citizens and those with various handicaps who are capable of living independently.



Photo by JON BORGSTROM

### Fosters at namesake's 5th

E.W. Foster School is five years old, and the school's namesake Edgar Foster and his wife (pictured sitting) were at the school

Monday for a birthday party. Helping to celebrate and bearing a cake are from left; Greg Moore, 6 and Robbie Inch, 6.

## Jim Watson new police commission chairman

By ROB KELLY

Former Milton town councillor Jim Watson became the new chairman of the Halton regional police force commission Thursday. His first order of business was to call for a Crimestopper's program in Halton.

"We all know the success of Crimestoppers," Mr. Watson said. "I hope that when budget

time comes around we can see fit to initiate Crimestoppers in this area."

Crimestoppers is a program which has swept North America and is moving world-wide. Police forces pay citizens for information leading to the arrest and conviction of

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## Manor contract ratification expected

By LISA TALLYN

Members of the union bargaining team in the eight-month labour dispute at Halton Centennial Manor have recommended that the membership ratify the latest contract offer from management tabled Thursday.

A memorandum of settlement was signed by both bargaining teams on Thursday afternoon after a marathon bargaining session which began Wednesday morning.

Both teams now have to seek approval on the deal. The 220 members of local 261 of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union will put the

contract to a vote on Tuesday. Upon ratification by union membership, the Manor management team has to get a stamp of approval from the Region, scheduled for February 17.

The contract will not be put into effect until both parties have ratified said Greg Hughes, Halton's commissioner of Human Resources.

Manor employees involved in the dispute work in the nursing department as health care aides and ward attendants, and in the kitchen, housekeeping, laundry and maintenance departments.

They have been without a contract since May 29. Talks broke off bet-

ween the two bargaining teams in November. Last week's discussions were the first since then.

Mary Edwards, local president and a member of the union bargaining team, would not release any details of the contract, but said that the union made some gains in this latest offer.

Workers at the local home for the aged have remained on the job as their work is deemed an essential service, denying them the right to strike.

"Morale has certainly been on the decline. I think we would all like to see a settlement reached so we can

get back on an even keel," the local union president explained.

Mrs. Edwards said that the major issues in the dispute are the wording of the management rights clause, and worker demands for a union shop.

She would not comment on the duration of the contract. The original offer was a three-year package, that provided a three per cent increase in each year. The union had asked for a wage increase of nine per cent.

Currently Manor employees are earning an average hourly wage of \$9.50.



JIM WATSON