

Established 1861

The Canadian Champion

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Leak steals thunder

It came as somewhat of a surprise last week when the contents of a confidential report on Milton's future cultural and recreational needs appeared in a local newspaper.

The report, part of a \$38,500 consultant's study, was to have been scrutinized by a committee and likely re-submitted to the consultants. Then it would return to the committee and eventually proceed to council for approval. Those steps will still be taken and may yet substantially alter the final recommendations.

Some members of the committee charged with investigating the best options for new cultural and recreational facilities are upset at the premature disclosures. The report was to have been kept under committee members' hats.

Several members of the committee, comprised of town councillors and citizens, have been questioned about the leaked document. None have admitted to sharing the information. There is concern that the public may perceive the report's recommendations as being carved in stone.

According to information published, the consultants don't agree with an original proposal to create a "multi-use" centre. Cultural activities should be separate from sports and recreational activities, they suggest, and two facilities should be built.

The cost will be high but the results favourable. This newspaper has cautioned against a building which would be all things to all people — it just won't work.

When the advisory committee makes its recommendations to council in about a month there will be little thunder. The information leak will minimize the impact of a future announcement.

Impact and thunder are needed from a marketing standpoint. The new facilities will require public financial support, which would have been more easily generated on the tails of a big official announcement.

The information leak has cast a shadow of distrust on the advisory committee. The consultant's report was for discussion only, and only among committee members. This disregard for confidentiality has put the public trust at risk and that serves no useful purpose.

Let's open Foster Hall

When are we going to be able to use the recently named Hugh Foster Hall?

The former registry office next to town hall appears to the casual observer to be complete. This is not the case, however, and it won't be finished for at least another two weeks.

A project that has tripled in price since its inception, the renovation has been dragging on, keeping potential renters at bay. A second pane of glass for the windows has been a long time coming and delivery of electric baseboard heaters has been delayed. The lack of a window for the women's washroom has also held up the opening of the building for public use.

We couldn't help but wonder whether or not an official opening would be organized for the building. The \$640,000 renovation price doesn't sit well with many Miltonians.

Despite the widespread opinion that too much has been spent on a facility which will serve so few, Hugh Foster Hall will be the subject of a grand opening, we are now informed.

One thing the town can't be criticized for in this venture is the name given the hall. Hugh Foster was one of the original settlers in Milton and it was Mr. Foster who donated the four acres of land the former Halton County Courthouse and Jail were built upon.

The Milton Historical Society suggested the hall be named after one of Milton's founding fathers and town officials had the good sense to support the idea.

Looking Back



Artist Joseph Bodler kneels in front of his handiwork. He created this huge poster to promote a penny carnival

held at Rotary Park in July, 1961. The event was a success, attracting a crowd of 250.

Pages of the Past

One Year Ago

From the July 3 issue, 1987

• The Milton chapter of the Canadian Cancer Society has raised more than \$13,000 over its original goal, and it's looking for executive members. The goal for this year of fundraising was \$55,000, but the local chapter raised more than \$68,000 through special events and donations, both from residents and business. "We are very pleased with our progress so far," said Carol Kerr, campaign chairperson. "Our Mohawk Night was a big success and is getting popular every year."

• It took Milton firefighters more than an hour to carry an injured Etobicoke man back to the road after he fell 25 feet from the rock face of the escarpment on Tuesday evening. Jeff Fountain, 28, of Etobicoke, suffered extensive injuries to his neck and back as a result of the plunge. He was transported to Milton District Hospital then released to a Toronto area hospital. Twelve firefighters and Halton Regional Police were at the scene of the accident, close to the Kelso entrance, at 4:30 p.m. Mr. Fountain was not climbing at the time.

• The Milton Chamber of Commerce was host to Wally Gabler, ex-football star and now senior vice-president of Nesbitt-Thompson Investment Dealers. Mr. Gabler explained the market as it stands today and compared Milton with the international scene.

20 Years Ago

From the July 10, 1968 issue

• Milton Council wants to be sure the Hilton Falls conservation scheme is not delayed by action on the Scotch Block Dam, two members of the Halton Region Conservation Authority were told during a meeting of Council Monday. Authority members Brock Harris and Allen Wright appeared to ask Council to reconsider the wording of a May 6 resolution in which they concurred with Scotch Block proposal "subject to the Hilton Falls tender being let in the next four months." Mr. Wright

explained the Authority was anxious to have the Hilton Falls project proceedings on a key piece of land have now been set over to August 26, causing further delay.

• To parched beer drinkers, Milton is a virtual desert with nary an oasis in sight. And it looks like a hot, dry summer ahead. The brewery workers are on strike, all beer stores are closed, and every hotel, golf club and lounge in the district is either out or nearly out of beer. By the time you read this, Milton may even be dry.

• Can you top this? They say country folk are always good hostesses when visitors pop in unexpectedly, but a Lowville area woman rates a "hero" medal for being the "hostess with the mostest" on the weekend. In the two days, Saturday and Sunday, she had a total of 31 quests in her home. "I fed all but six of them once, and most of them twice," she boasted after the weekend deluge of friends and relatives had finally ceased. She has a family of five as well. Well, can you top it?

50 Years Ago

From the July 7 issue, 1938

• A raid was made on one of the supposed sixteen bootleg joints in town, but, it is reported, nothing was found.

• The Burlington Gazette, one of our most welcome weeklies, appeared last week with the latest in front page make-up — all news, no ads. It looks fine and improves the appearance of The Gazette.

• Canada is 71 years old and paying more in taxes than at any former period in history. But in spite of this is still a mighty good country to live in.

• Wilfred Featherstone, Sixth Line, Trafalgar met with an accident recently while hauling hay. The horses started off with the load and he ran to their heads to stop them. They knocked him down, tramped on him and three ribs were broken. He is now recovering.

• The CPR line through here was closed for almost 12 hours, when a broken arch bar caused the derailment and wrecking of 12 freight cars a half mile east of here yesterday.

Pud

