

 <p>QUICK DRAW Gunslingers helped riding centre - 3</p>	 <p>PROWLERS Many visitors to Mountsberg gave a hoot. - LS1</p>	 <p>Lack of snow didn't stop snow-pitchers. - 17</p>
---	--	---

The Canadian Champion

Wednesday edition A Metroland Community Newspaper serving the town of Milton

MILTON
HONDA
Never be haughty to the humble
Never be humble to the haughty
We're Fun To Deal With
310 Steeles Ave. 876-4748

VOLUME 130, NUMBER 30 MILTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 1, 1989 40 CENTS 44 PAGES

Town may impose rural lot freeze

By ROB KELLY

No new rural subdivision plans will be considered by Milton council during 1989 and probably all of 1990 if a decision reached by general committee is ratified at next week's council meeting.

Monday's tense 5-4 vote came after more than three hours of discussion and input from half a dozen delegations.

Milton planning staff will use the "moratorium," as councillor Bruce Attenborough called it, to try and blend the policies of Milton's official plan with the often different Halton regional plan. As well, according to town planning director Bob Zsadanyi, an overall position concerning growth in Milton's countryside will be hammered out.

Mr. Zsadanyi waved a red flag in front of councillors Monday, warning darkly of "greed" on the part of present and future developers. The Milton official plan is "deficient" in certain areas, he said, and needs to be amended because it is being "abused."

The audience was liberally sprinkled with people who hold various interests in rural development. Looking on were land division committee member Stella Parton, surveyors and development agents Fred Cunningham and Tom Packowski, at least two rural estate developers, a lawyer representing a developer, a professional planner and a builder of custom homes.

Some, such as Mr. Packowski, argued that the laborious approval process for rural subdivisions imposed enough of a delay without council adding to it. Mr. Packowski characterized the decision as "unfair."

Mr. Zsadanyi's position was that so much momentum has built up in the rural estate subdivision market that there will not be a noticeable slowing of such construction, due to the current backlog of applications.

Mr. Packowski argued that the interruption of processing will create more of the very backlog Mr. Zsadanyi is attempting to alleviate.

"This is a report that is long overdue," Mr. Zsadanyi began. "There has been a tremendous boom in development since 1987 and speculation in the last year-and-a-half. Greed is something that we on staff are unfortunately becoming accustomed to. In a number of cases we have been told by applicants that they don't care what the Milton official plan says."

"We are about to be inundated with (rural) estate residential plans that do not conform at all to the Milton official plan. That has got us pretty worried. We're upset. Staff have extremely grave concerns."

• see RURAL on page 3

Champion is now 40c

The Champion now costs 40 cents an issue. The price increase will affect home delivery of the Wednesday edition and purchases at stores and other dealers.

The Weekend Champion will continue to be delivered free to all households and will be sold at 40 cents an issue at stores and dealers.

The annual subscription rate to the Wednesday edition of The Canadian Champion will rise to \$20.80. The Weekend Champion costs \$75 for one year home delivery.

Annual subscriptions to The Canadian Champion Wednesday edition and The Weekend Champion cost \$85 each when mailed to other countries.

Rising distribution costs have forced the price increase.

On Town Line

Arson determined as cause of house fire

By LISA TALLYN

Arson has been cited as the cause of a fire which gutted a home at 80 Town Line on Jan. 10.

Inspector Gordon Muford of the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office confirmed last week the fire was deliberately set. He came to that conclusion after ruling out accidental causes for the blaze, and working closely with Ontario Hydro officials.

He said the fire started in the kitchen of the house owned by Randy Fretz. It then spread to the bedroom and vented out a rear window.

"There is no obvious sign that a flammable liquid was used to start the fire," said Insp. Muford. He says samples of charred debris from

the hose and area of origin of the blaze have been sent to the Centre for Forensic Science.

It may take up to two months for results of the analysis to be returned. In the meantime the investigation is in the hands of the Halton Regional Police Force.

"Arson is one of the most difficult crimes to solve. It is such a secretive crime. In my career with the Fire Marshal's Office there have been few cases where someone has actually seen an arsonist set a fire."

Detective Sgt. Keith Robertson agreed that arson is a difficult crime to solve.

He would not comment on details of the investigation.

After the fire Mr. Fretz, who was in California

when the blaze started, said he suspected the fire could be the work of an arsonist.

He said he had received a threat on New Year's Day.

That threat and others circulated through the village of Milton Heights when Mr. Fretz became involved in a heated legal battle with the Town of Milton over ownership of the property on which Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church sits. The house which burned is adjacent to the church.

Shortly after the fire, family members said they were nervous that whoever set the fire may try something else. They were also frustrated with the investigation by Milton Fire Department and Halton Regional Police.

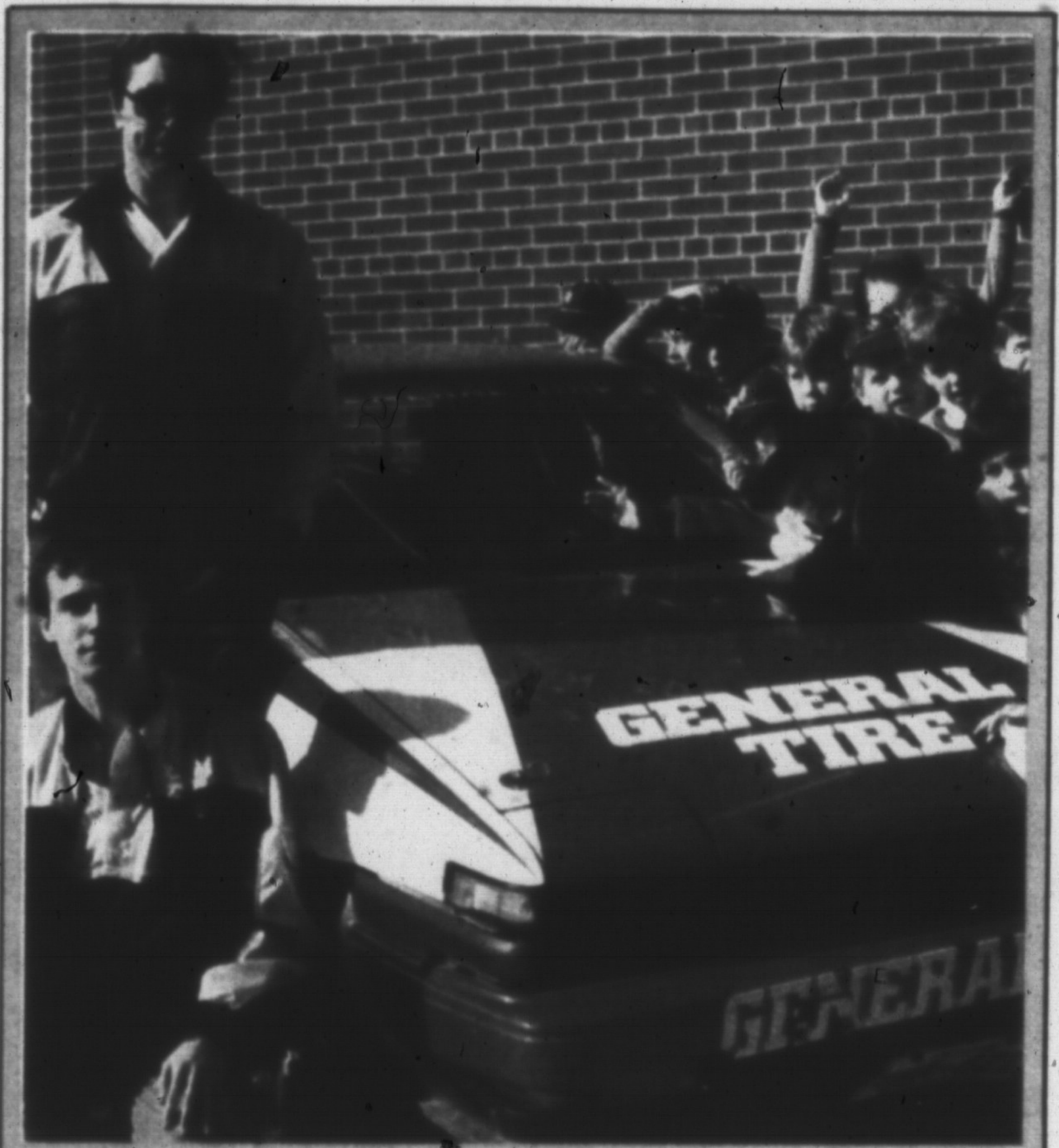


Photo by JOHN WARREN

Rally graduates?

When these Cubs get older they may graduate to rally cars like this one owned by the racing team of Ross Wood of Milton and Andy Browning of Acton. The rally car was a big attraction to the boys participating in the weekend's Kub Kar Rally at St. Paul's United Church. The 15th annual rally was the biggest yet. For details see page 10.