

The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, May 31, 1989—12

New rules open door for more taxis in town

It won't be as hard to get a cab in Milton anymore if entrepreneurs seize a new business opportunity presented by the town.

Monday town council's general committee voted to boost the number of taxi licences in Milton from the current nine to 16, which means that instead of one cab for every 2,500 people there will be a car for every 2,000.

It followed an admission by cab operators that "the service right now is not as good as it should be," town treasurer Jim McQueen said. "There is a lack of service at night and on weekends."

The increased number of licences was only part of a new bylaw regulating taxi and limousine services in the town. Although the prospect of more cabs will undoubtedly be welcomed by anyone who has waited for one on a Saturday night, there was some bad news in the bylaw too. Costs will go up.

The increased fares average out to 20 per cent, with the minimum charge jumping from \$2.50 to \$3. The limousine fare has been set at \$40 per hour.

People convicted of criminal offences up to two years prior will not be granted cab licences. Also, "if I'm not satisfied with the applicant, I'll have the opportunity of refusing," Mr. McQueen said, providing council agrees.

Councillors imposed a new liability insurance standard for the cab operators. They will have to carry at least \$1 million in such insurance, up from the present \$250,000.

Currently, there are 14 applicants on a waiting list for cab licences, Mr. McQueen said. He also pointed out that the new fares are in line with other area municipalities.



Photo by JOHN WARREN

Charitable Moonwalkers

A walk to the moon Sunday was worth the effort for the 40 participants who raised more than \$3,000 for cystic fibrosis research. The annual Zellers/Kinsmen Moonwalk is a national event that aims to cover the distance from earth to the moon with the combined miles covered by the walkers. This year's local effort netted double the funds of last year's Moonwalk. Kicking off the event at the Zellers parking lot Sunday were from left, Jim Semon of Calton Cards; Mary Long, town councillor; and Doug Dryden, Zellers manager.

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