



The Canadian Champion

Established 1861



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Baseball deserves better

If politicians are supposed to reflect the will of the people they missed the boat Monday night.

Once again municipal councillors dithered over the embarrassment known as Brian Best Park. They voted to continue casting about for solutions to one of Milton's more pressing recreational problems; the lack of a lighted baseball diamond.

And casting about is just what they will do. Truthfully, candidly, town administrator Roy Main admitted Milton has little leverage in discussions to convince developers to dedicate 10 acres for a lighted diamond somewhere in town.

Mr. Main is to be applauded for saying publicly there are no such negotiations, despite indications to the contrary by leisure services director Larry Arbic. The choice of words in Mr. Arbic's report was, to say the least, unfortunate. He said "negotiations," when what is really taking place are "discussions."

The difference is important. In bureaucratese, negotiations happen when both sides have something to trade and are essentially haggling price. Discussions, at least here, mean Milton is going out, hat in hand, and hoping for the best. Because of the residential development freeze, the town has no subdivision approvals to trade for parks. And they won't for years.

In the meantime, visiting teams are treated to a poor field in an unlit park which often smells like methane gas. There are no washrooms, no changerooms, not much of anything except a mediocre diamond and a lingering odour. And this is supposed to be Milton's major baseball park.

Many of Milton's teams have been second to none. None of Milton's athletic facilities have been. Baseball people, all of whom are unpaid volunteers, know that. The message they got Monday was they'll have to live with it a while longer. But if this foot-dragging continues, we wonder how much longer they will choose to live with the current crop of politicians?

Violence hits home

Remember that statistic released almost a decade ago, indicating one in 10 men battered his spouse? Here's another statistic which strikes a blow at family violence -- 15 per cent of all murders in Canada involve husbands who have killed their wives.

There is no question victims of family violence need protection. The question is, where can it be found? Battered women and their children can stay at Halton Women's Place -- temporarily.

Many women return to their abusers, having nowhere else to go. There's no affordable housing; only a smattering of subsidized day care spaces and few jobs that pay unskilled women a decent wage. In most cases a woman's spirit is as broken as her body, making the move to start a new life difficult.

That's not to say temporary shelters don't help these families. They have proven their worth, offering counselling for the women and their kids, along with basic physical comforts. The problem faced by those who use these shelters is the lack of transition homes where they can stay for extended periods, until suitable permanent homes can be found.

At the annual meeting of Halton Women's Place last week, a call went out for a second shelter in Halton. Halton Women's Place is considered too far from Burlington and Oakville to properly service the need there. The lack of public transit between Halton's municipalities compounds the problem.

At a national forum on family violence in Ottawa yesterday, Health Minister Perrin Beatty said the issue is a high priority with the federal government. The establishment of more shelters, long-term residences and more treatment programs for offenders would convince us they're sincere.

Looking Back



Omagh Girls' Softball Team captured the Halton County rural softball crown in October, 1956. The girls defeated Glen Williams at Lowville park. Members of the team are from left (front) Frances Featherston, Mary Saliba, Dorothy Marshall, Marilyn Leslie, Doreen Ralph; (centre) Ruth Robertson, Marion Marshall, Marg Gillies, Audrey Peacock, Marion Ford; (back) coach Johnny Eves, Marilyn Eves, Joyce Robertson, Joan Peterson, manager Graham Gillies.

Pages of the Past

One Year Ago

From the June 22, 1988 issue

Two workers at Marshall Steel were injured in an industrial accident at the Milton plant. Each man had a finger severed when a stack of steel sections came crashing down on their hands. John Ledesic of Etobicoke and William Cook of Scarborough were rushed to Milton District Hospital.

Several volunteers, including town hall staff and Mayor Gord Krantz, took part in a campaign to clean up the Mill Pond. Participants spent hours removing garbage from the pond and other unwanted articles from the shore.

Halton Region took the first step toward water rationing by asking its citizens to voluntarily water their lawns on alternate days. Using Monday as day one, the region asked homeowners with odd-numbered houses to water their grass on odd days of the week and those with even numbers to do so on even days. The measure was taken to ensure Halton maintains adequate capacity in reservoirs to fight fires.

20 Years Ago

From the June 25, 1969 issue

Submissions from seven developers and landowners

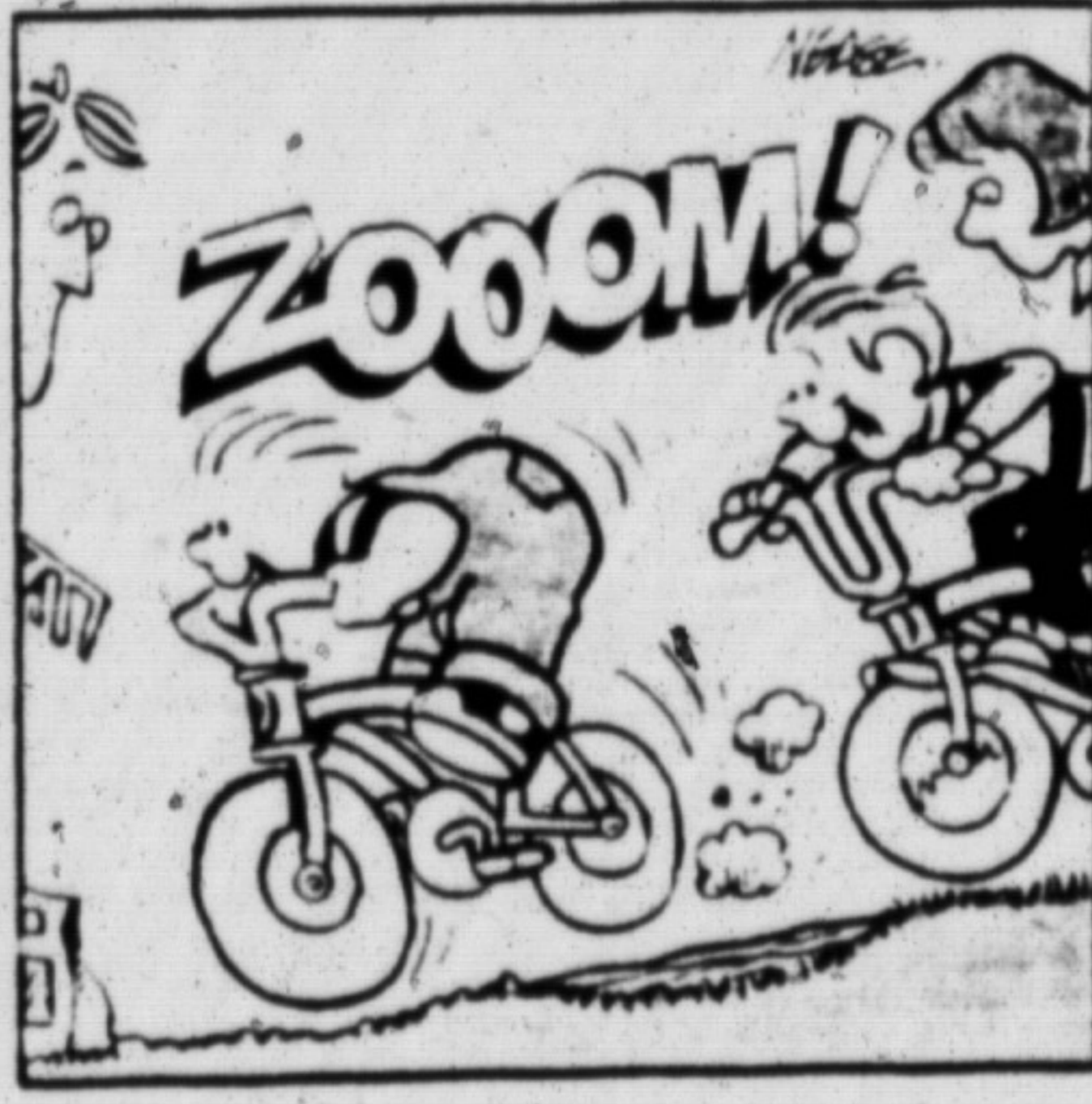
were heard by the Milton Planning Board as changes in the proposed official plan were sought. The board, after consultation with the planner, agreed to some modifications, denied some submissions and confirmed sections of the official plan. A meeting of council and the board to review the final proposals was set to enable the planners to make necessary alterations prior to final submission to council in July. A change from low density residential to medium density was approved by the board for land on the west side of Bronte St. from Main St. to Derry Rd.

Canada's birthday was not overlooked in Milton. Fireworks and a brief lowering of the flag ceremony, coupled with a water pageant by the Milton Rovers were scheduled for the town's Centennial Park.

A testimonial dinner at Knox Church hall saw teachers of Milton public schools pay tribute to a man who for 36 years has served as principal and supervising principal of the town's elementary schools. Edgar W. Foster was transferring to Oakwood Public School in Oakville as principal in the fall.

L. L. Skuce, active in education in Halton County from 1938 until his retirement, died suddenly at his Sundridge cottage. Well known throughout the country, Mr. Skuce worked in Milton as inspector of public schools from 1938 until 1958 when he was appointed superintendent of Trafalgar Township public schools.

Pud



By Steve Nease

50 Years Ago

From the June 22, 1939 issue

The regular meeting of the John Milton Chapter of the I.O.D.E. was held at the home of Mrs. Humphrey Browne on Martin St.

Big Sports Day and Garden Party was planned to be held at the Agricultural Park in Milton on July 1. The event was organized by the Milton Baseball Club.

At her parents' home in Milton on June 10, Jean Campbell Robertson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. J. Robertson became the bride of Elmer Franklin Chisholm, son of Mr. Leonard W. Chisholm and the late Mrs. Chisholm.

Milton L.O.L. No. 2385 paraded to Grace Anglican Church June 25 headed by the Georgetown Band.

Mrs. F. C. Willmott of Trafalgar Township celebrated her 81st birthday.