

Legion's 60th brings together more than 400 vets

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he beginning of the Century," he said in closing.

Among those who returned to Milton for the evening were former Canadian Women's Army Corps member Helen Varley and brothers Sidney and Kenneth Dick.

Mrs. Varley first moved to the area when she was 16 and moved and returned twice before retiring with her husband to Warton in 1981. She joined the war movement in 1943 and became a canteen worker for the Salvation Army. She served fighting men in England, Belgium, Holland and Germany and returned to Canada in 1946 and said she was "glad to do it."

"I feel fantastic about this evening and it's really great to come back to Milton. I seem to know most of the faces but can't put all the names to them."

Sidney Dick, a 76 year-old retired mechanical engineer, joined the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve when the Second World War broke out and served in the North Atlantic as well as in a convoy mine-sweeping the English Channel for 2 1/2 years.

"I was fighting for democracy and trying to help save the world," he said simply. "But it's really good to be back in Milton tonight."

Kenneth Dick, older by three years and a retired District Court Judge, began his war effort by joining the Lorne Scots in 1941. He later transferred to the tank

division of the 27th Army Regiment and landed on Normandy on D-Day.

When asked how he felt about being a part of such a historic event, Mr. Dick said "I was glad I was there. I'm really not a fighting man but I held up my end there and am just glad to be back".

Jack Charlton, who organized

the event with Legion members such as Stewart Wolf, Dick Clement and Erica Duncan said Saturday's event was the first time since WWII was over that this number of Milton veterans have been together.

"We've been pulling this together since February and chased many of the veterans down

by looking through past editions of *The Canadian Champion* and church honour rolls and just by word of mouth," Mr. Charlton said.

"It was a struggle and a bit worrisome at times but we are most happy with the turnout and how everyone seems to be enjoying themselves."



Brothers Kenneth Dick (left) and Sydney Dick (right) were among the war veterans at a dinner Saturday night to celebrate the local legion's 60th anniversary. Fellow veteran Helen Varley served in the Canadian Women's Army Corps

Urban land is slated for homes

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proposed subdivision but did say it is a 100 acre parcel of land. Most of his speech covered past accomplishments of his companies, saying he puts his name behind his "Heron Homes" developments.

His company boasts building "Scarborough's largest planned community of single-family homes" as well as a development in Pickering.

Mr. Heron noted that parks and playgrounds as well as recreational facilities were in place before the first home was built at these locations.

More details were offered on the High Point project. Aesthetics were rated high in priority, with 12 per cent of each property being devoted to landscaping. A watercourse park will create a natural looking environment visible from the 401, Mr. Heron explained.

A second development to be on stream next spring is located on an eight-acre property at the northeast corner of Main Street and Martin Street. Trillium Square will be built in three phases by Rolmac Realty Inc.

The first phase will see the construction of a 55,000 square foot commercial building, followed in the second phase by two 40,000 square foot office complexes. The final phase will be the building of a 120-suite hotel with banquet facilities.

The ground has already been broken for the first phase and phase two will commence construction in the spring of 1990.

OPP charge seven drivers

During the past week members of the Milton OPP charged one person with a drinking and driving offence.

They also issued four 12-hour suspensions. Two people were charged with liquor violations. They conducted RIDE programs throughout the area stopping 415 vehicles but not laying any charges.



Hugh Heron

Community service remains but role has changed

By SUE BOCK-KAZIMER
Special to The Champion

Milton's Royal Canadian Legion, Private Joe Waters, Branch 136 has come a long way from 1929 when a group of WWI veterans were granted their charter.

Back then, a small group of men met in a room above Clements Hardware Store on Main Street (now known as Delacourts Gift Shop). Today, they have the distinction of being named Milton's Service Club of the Year for 1988.

Legion member Jack Charlton said the group's first club room was later situated above John MacKenzie's Drug Store (more recently Betty's Bakery) and in 1936 they relocated to the "old shoe factory" on Main Street (now the Lido Restaurant).

As it is today, Bingo was a major source of raising funds but in those days prizes were much needed items such as lamps, food hampers and household goods and staples.

"Our branch managed to function very successfully even through the years of the Great Depression and a great deal of their effort was directed to helping war widows and their children and other veterans and their families in need of assistance. It was financed through the Poppy Funds," Mr. Charlton said.

On December 13, 1938, members agreed to purchase the present property for the grand total of \$2,500. On April 19, 1939, the executive of the day held their first meeting in their new facility.

Mr. Charlton said that on May 27, 1940, just a few months following the outbreak of WWII, the local branch petitioned the federal government to "recruit ex-service men and women, willing and anxious to assist in the fight for freedom, to serve in the home defence if needed and that there be no age limit for the cause".

During the war years, the club rooms were used by the Red Cross, IODE and other organizations working for the war effort.

After the end of the war, interest in the legion increased and membership grew with returning Canadian veterans and commonwealth veterans immigrating to Milton.

"Our building has been progressively enlarged and renovated to meet our needs thanks to a great deal of personal physical effort by many members," Mr. Charlton said. "The most recent renovations were completed this past year and further changes are being considered."

Today, the main floor is utilized as a Senior Citizen's Recreation Centre following extensive upgrading made possible with a grant from the town, he added.

"In the tradition and in accordance with the objectives of the Royal Canadian Legion, our branch has for 60 years, continued to be a strong and influential organization in the service to its members and all veterans as well as in the best interests of our country and the community in which we live," Mr. Charlton said.

Rural speeders are getting cops' message

The Halton Regional Police crackdown on speeding is reaping rewards according to Milton Inspector Ean Algar.

People in the rural areas are slowing down according to police. The Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) has handed out 678 speeding tickets in rural areas in the past two weeks. The program has six more weeks to run. It was put into place because of the large number of accidents occurring this year on the rural roads.

In addition to speeding, officers have given tickets to 45 people for not wearing seatbelts. They have also confiscated 35 radar detectors with the use of the new radar detector detectors which the OPP have been using for several months. In the first week of September Milton OPP confiscated 21 radar detectors. Halton Police are testing the effectiveness of the devices.

Inspector Algar has been particularly surprised by the large number of the illegal radar detectors the force has found. A fine of \$68 goes with confiscation of the device. Police also warn that insurance rates can increase dramatically if the insurance company finds out about the radar detector ticket.

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