



The Canadian Champion

Established 1861



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Let's get on with it

The single best piece of news to brighten the doldrums of winter yet received in Milton came on one small slip of paper delivered Tuesday just past noon. That small piece of paper was a cheque for \$867,000 presented by Tourism and Recreation Minister Ken Black as the province's payment toward phase one of the town's new recreational facility.

Mr. Black introduced another major component into a design which now is all but unstoppable after years of frustration. Milton will get its much-needed recreation centre, hopefully by next summer. But between the construction industry and the government, we feel certain autumn of 1991 is a more realistic completion date for the new swimming complex, rather than the currently suggested July, 1991 opening.

It's welcome news despite the fact it was a long time coming. But we still maintain the recreation centre should have taken priority over a time and money wasting project such as Hugh Foster Hall. Hugh Foster Hall, although beautiful, is a place of marginal use when compared to a recreation complex.

The rationale usually advanced in local government circles has been that Hugh Foster Hall rounds out the stately municipal reconstruction project that is the Town Hall complex. But that is a flimsy rationale, particularly in view of the fact the hall cost more than \$600,000, which would have paid for two designs for the recreation centre (the design cost \$300,000).

However, what's done is done and the important thing now is that the recreation centre be built well and on time, if at all possible. Town leisure services director Larry Arbic was right Tuesday when he said "it has been a long road." Now that the end of the road is in sight, it might be wise to impose deadlines and penalties on contractors if they don't complete the work to specifications on time.

Such an idea was proposed by councillor Bruce Attenborough at a recent council meeting. Mr. Attenborough made the suggestion in a general sense, when a road project that was delayed was under discussion.

But it could certainly work in these circumstances, too. This contract will be a plum for any design-build type outfit, at a budgeted \$5.4 million for phase one (phase two is to be worth an additional \$3 million).

Why not impose financial penalties if deadlines aren't met? It's too easy for contractors to cite weather delays and other problems, such as material shortages, when their work is late.

But it is not unheard of for those same contractors to shunt people from job site to job site in order to more or less satisfy every customer the builders won tenders with before the construction season began.

If this proves to be an unworkable idea because 1990 turns out to be a seller's market for the construction trades, or because it's just too unwieldy when it comes to quality control, so be it. But it should be explored because the people of Milton have already waited longer than they should have for this facility.

However, we do appreciate the money, Mr. Black, and we appreciate you coming out to deliver it in person. We appreciate the fact that it is either the largest or the second-largest appropriation the ministry is making across the province (nobody seemed to know for certain Tuesday).

Many people deserve thanks for helping to make this centre a reality, and council's financial planning, when this project is considered in isolation at least, deserves respectful recognition. Even if the hoped for \$1.5 million in private donations doesn't come through, it appears the project will go ahead with municipal (our) funds on schedule.

Good. Now let's get on with it.

Looking back



After a 130-year history of serving the community, The Canadian Champion has been recognized for its contribution as winner of Business of the Year award in the 1989 Milton Chamber of Commerce Community Awards program. Back in 1967 when this photo was taken, the newspaper might have been nominated for the civic improvement award having completed renovations in a Centennial year project. The office expanded to take over the building to the left in 1975 and took on its current appearance at 191 Main St.

Pages of the Past

One Year Ago

From the February 8, 1989 issue

□ Rose Harrison, former Milton councillor, was named Citizen of the Year for 1988 by the Milton Chamber of Commerce. Meanwhile, Marley Roof Tiles was named Business of the Year, Larry and Dorothy Spencer were named business persons of the year, and the local Branch 136 Royal Canadian Legion won the Organization of the Year award in the Milton Chamber of Commerce Community Awards program.

□ Shayne Fergus felt "lucky and proud" to have been chosen prince of the 1989 Milton Winter Carnival. Crystal Newton joined him with the princess title.

□ A Maplehurst Correctional Centre inmate who escaped from custody while on an escorted pass for a trip to the doctor was picked up at Speed Queen Laundry on Main Street. Police responded to the laundromat after a citizen called to complain that the man's behaviour was

suspicious. The man was charged with possession of stolen property, possession of house breaking tools and obstructing police.

20 Years Ago

From the February 11, 1970 issue

□ Five more department heads quit their jobs at Milton District Hospital during the past week, bringing the number of resignations and dismissals of key personnel to nine in two weeks. A series of investigations into alleged tampering with hospital equipment and into staff problems continued.

□ Plans of P.L. Robertson Manufacturing Company Ltd. to construct new waste treatment facilities to serve its plant in Milton were approved by the Ontario Water Resources Commission. Small hardware including screws, nuts, and bolts were manufactured at the plant.

□ A water connection to serve a property outside Milton was approved by Milton Council. The half-inch connection was granted to Laszlo Juhasz whose home on No. 10 Sideroad West of Milton was destroyed by fire Sept. 30.

□ In a Holy Rosary School public speaking contest, the winners were: John Duignan (junior), Rosanna Marcantonio (intermediate) and Jeannie Duignan (senior).

50 Years Ago

From the February 8, 1940 issue

□ A head-on collision between cars driven by Alvin Anderson of Hornby and Lloyd Fisher of Fifth Line in Esquesing took place near the railway crossing on Seventh Line at about midnight. Although the cars were badly damaged no one was injured. Both drivers said they did not see the other coming.

□ A group of 25 young people gathered from Guelph and the county of Halton and are attending a bible school at St. Paul's United Church in Milton. The purpose of the school was to train young people in a knowledge of the great values of the Christian faith and to encourage them to live and cherish the priceless heritage.

Pud

by Steve Nease

