

**It's Your Business**

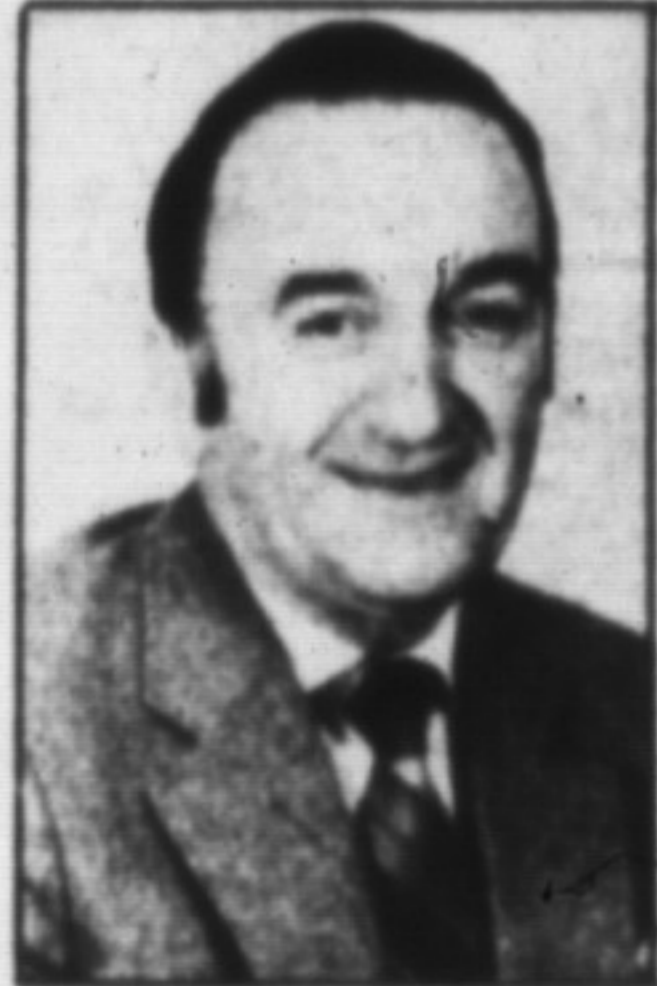
with JANE MULLER

**End of an era for Art**

It's more often the newcomers to the arena of downtown business that end up closing shop when the dream of success fizzles. That is not the case with the latest entry in the going-out-of-business category.

Bus Knight's Men's Wear has been part of Milton's downtown since 1931. By the end of June it will no longer exist. The display windows are lined with stark white paper, printed with red ink. The message on these tell-tale signs is clear — everything must go.

Art Melanson, who has owned the 202 Main St. E. building for the past three years, has worked at the store for 42 years.



Art Melanson

He bought the business in 1978 when Mr. Knight retired. The two-story, turn-of-the-century building has already been sold, with the new owners taking possession on July 1.

Home accessories and accents will take the place of men's clothing on the store's shelves when John and Linda Leaver re-open the location in the fall. They're planning some extensive renovations.

Meanwhile, Mr. Melanson is doing some housecleaning. The store will be open regular business hours during a winding-down period. One of the reasons the business will remain open until mid-June is the number of tuxedo rentals that have been booked.

"The rentals are booked six months ahead and there are about half a dozen of them," he said.

Through the store's Freeman Formal rental service, Mr. Melanson has been involved in his share of local weddings.

The town councillor will be winding down his lifestyle over the summer as well. He plans an extended vacation and hopes to visit his home town of Dominion, Nova Scotia. Mr. Melanson hasn't had a holiday since 1982.

After that he'll be looking for a job in the retail sector. Mr. Melanson says he likes Milton and enjoys his part-time political position on local council. That's something he also wants to continue doing.

His decision to sell the store was purely economic.

"In 1988 we had a tremendous year but last November and December brought me back to reality," he explained.

There's a ring of sadness in his voice as he describes, in his soft-spoken manner, the frustration of spending a day without seeing a customer. He believes the influx of younger families to town has had its effect on businesses such as his.

Art Melanson has opted to bow out gracefully.

**On the Move**

The opening of a new U-Haul dealership in town is actually an extension of an existing business.

Maurice Rousselle has added the rental dealership to his Perma-Shine business at 609 Main St. E. He'll be offering a full line of equipment for the do-it-yourself mover.

The name U-Haul is identified with rental trucks and trailers but the service offers more. Furniture pads, dollies, boxes, side-view mirrors and car-top carriers are also available to people on the move. U-Haul can even provide tape and rope.

Mr. Rousselle is now one of nearly 10,000 U-Haul dealers in North America. Will Miltonians take a shine to this new venture?

**Province pays up — growth plans proceed**

By NORMAN NELSON

The provincial government has provided the final piece of the puzzle that will allow Halton Region to initiate a costly and comprehensive look at how future growth will be managed.

Halton's population is forecast to increase to as much as 664,000 from the present 281,000 over the next two decades.

Municipal affairs Minister John Sweeney announced at a press conference at Halton Region headquarters Monday that the province had agreed to split the cost of the \$3 million study.

He also agreed in principle with Halton's proposal that the province should provide long

term financial commitments for growth related infrastructure costs.

Halton's municipal governments and two school boards have forecast that the infrastructure requirements needed to support new growth — such as road improvements, GO Transit extension and schools — will cost \$2.67 billion.

Halton wants the province to chip in 46 per cent of this cost.

Among other things, the study will decide the feasibility of the so called 'big pipe' solution for Milton.

That plan would see the water-starved municipality, currently serviced by well water, serviced

by a pipe from Lake Ontario, allowing the population to grow by 40,000.

Two Milton politicians attending the press conference — Mayor Gord Krantz and councillor Mary Long — both said they were given assurances that while this massive three-year study is being carried out some growth will be able to take place in Milton through expansion of the present well-based system.

Halton's proposal, said Mr. Sweeney, "has set the model. Rather shamelessly we will be using your model across the GTA (Greater Toronto Area) and in other places throughout the province, such as Ottawa, London and Sudbury."

**Highway, bridges get province's approval**

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"In the meantime, design is already underway on bridges at Walker's Line, Appleby Line, Bronte Creek, the CN Rail Line, Tremaine Road and Highway 25."

These two projects are budgeted for \$350 million.

Last month Halton regional council passed a resolution urging the province to commit to the 'missing link.'

Halton Region Chairman Peter Pomeroy said the economic impact of the new Highway 403 section through Halton "is virtually immeasurable."

Halton North MPP Walt Elliott pointed out that the new portion of Highway 403 would benefit Milton

by adding a second traffic flow into Toronto, in addition to Highway 401, thus taking pressure from the rural roads increasingly used by commuters.

In order to handle growth clogging Ontario's transportation system, treasurer Robert Nixon, in his 1989 budget, set aside a special \$2 billion fund to be spent over five years.

The Greater Toronto Area (GTA) received \$1.2 billion of this and Halton's share of it was about \$130 million.

It's this pool of money that the province has dipped into to finance the speeding up of the projects — a total of about \$43 million for Hwy. 401 and \$50 million for the first phase of Hwy. 403.

This reserve is also where the province is getting \$31 million to help fund five municipal road projects currently underway in Halton, including the widening of Highway 25 from Derry Road to Steeles Avenue.

Total transportation spending by the province this year is budgeted at \$2.5 billion.

**Speaker will urge girls to say 'no'**

Hang on to your Hormones will be the topic discussed by Beverly Hadland at the Catholic Women's League's annual communion breakfast Sunday.

Ms Hadland of Straight Talk Youth Counselling of Ontario will speak to parents and teens about moral pressures facing young people, at the Muddy Duck Restaurant.

She has spoken to community groups across Canada and has appeared on many radio and TV shows.

The breakfast, an ideal mother-daughter event, will begin at 11:30 a.m.

Tickets are available through Catholic Women's League members or by calling 876-1257.

**COMING SOON!**

\* Wellness Fair  
May 12

\* Police Week  
May 14-19

\* Seniors Week  
June 11-16

\* Dad's Are Cute Too  
Baby Picture Contest  
June 16

\* Milton Mall Food Drive  
July

\* Bingo Savings  
August



Closer to home

**It's All Happening Closer To Home**

The past four months have been exciting at Milton Mall. These are just a few of the fun filled events that have occurred "Closer To Home" since January.



Milton Mall's "Kid's Week" brought in such favorites as Uncle Bobby who performed magic tricks for the youngsters much to their delight.



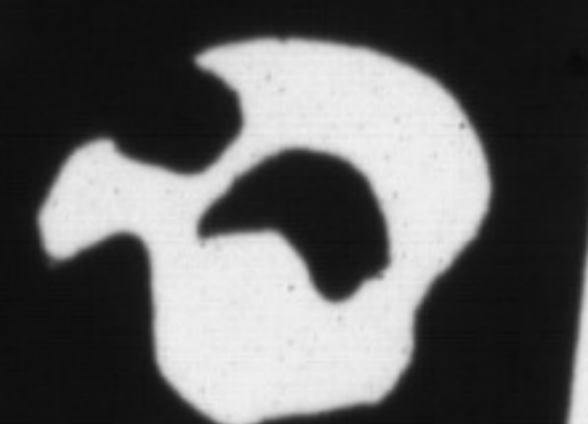
Milton Mall's Grand Slam Event brings in Blue Jay Star, B.J. Birdy April 19th.



The Sunburst Steelband filled Milton Mall with Calypso tunes during the Mall's "July in January" Sidewalk Sale.

**Giveaway**

The PHANTOM of the OPERA



This Valentines Day, Mr. Liddis of Milton listened to the "Music of the Night" when he won 2 tickets to see the smash musical hit "Phantom of the Opera". That's not all, he went in style in a white limousine from White Cloud Limousine Service.

**FLASHBACK '90**