

Will Milton be Halton's affordable housing centre?

By NORMAN NELSON

Town councillor Brian Penman is worried that Milton may become the "affordable housing capital of Halton."

He charged that Burlington and Oakville have experienced substantial growth and allotted only a small portion to affordable housing.

He fears Milton, slated for Halton's next major expansion, may be targeted to pick up the slack.

His fears stem from a move by Halton Region to re-form the Halton housing advisory committee.

That committee will draft a housing policy statement for the Region of Halton and the individual municipalities of Milton and Halton Hills. Burlington and Oakville have both already formed their own such policy committees.

The regional committee is meeting this week and Mr. Penman said Milton should have representation there to "haul in the reins and get control."

Monday night town council agreed and decided it would consider drawing up its own housing statement.

Regional planning commissioner Rash Mohammed doesn't believe such a move is necessary but said "it's alright with me."

Councillor Penman suggested that Milton's concerns may not be addressed by having the Region draft

Milton's housing statement. He pointed out that in the Burlington and Oakville drafts, those municipalities will certainly be looking out for themselves.

Mr. Mohammed, however, saw things in a less sinister light.

He contended that both Oakville and Burlington are doing their own studies simply because they had started them before the new provincial guidelines were announced. They are also actively attempting to implement the provincial plan for 25 per cent affordable housing in all new residential developments, he added.

Milton and Halton Hills, he said, in order to avoid duplication and to save time and money, agreed to write their housing statements jointly with the Region.

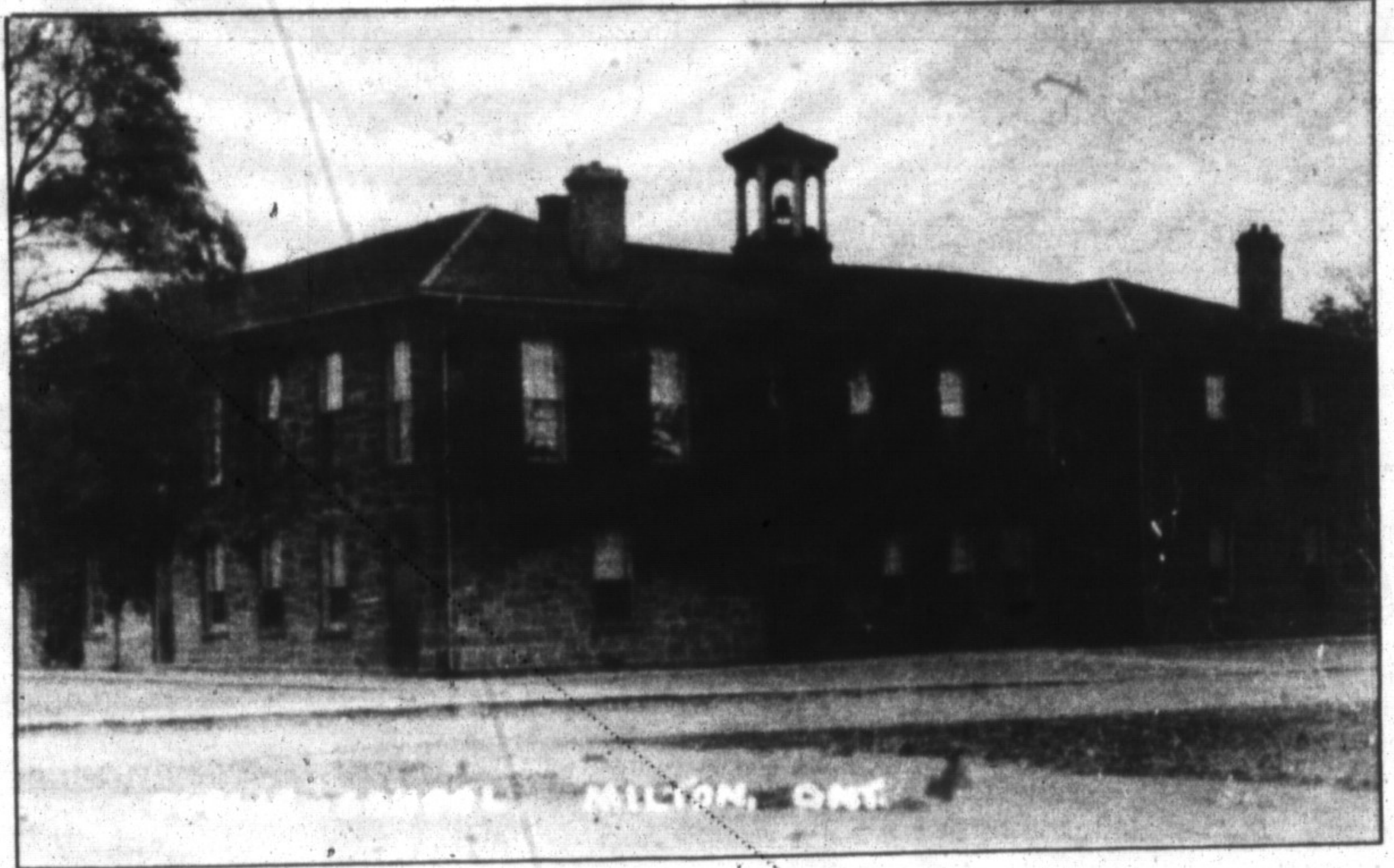
Mr. Mohammed conceded the exact portion of affordable housing each Halton municipality will contain has yet to be determined. But he stressed that each centre will ultimately determine the amount for itself.

The possibility of Milton being saddled with Halton's affordable housing, Mr. Penman contended, is just the latest case in which Town concerns have been usurped by the Region, and he listed two other examples.

First, the Region has made available a portion of its soon-to-be-opened landfill in Milton to other Toronto area municipalities.

Second, the "big pipe" study originally initiated to plan growth in Milton has been diluted to look at growth throughout Halton.

Mr. Penman warned that "the kind of community we want may be lost."



If this photograph brings back memories of school days gone by, you are a likely candidate for the Bruce Street School reunion. The event is slated for Saturday, Aug. 25 at John Tonelli Sports Centre. Tickets must be booked by Monday.

Tickets still available

Bruce Street alumni gathers Aug. 25

The school itself is long gone but there are hundreds of former students of Bruce Street School.

It's those students that Larry Coulson is looking for. He's one of the organizers of the Bruce Street School reunion on Saturday, Aug. 25.

More than 100 tickets have been

sold but he'd like to see as many as 400 Bruce Street alumni at the day-long event.

An afternoon of reminiscing will start at 1 p.m. at John Tonelli Sports Centre.

That will be followed by a dinner and dance. Gerry Arpa and the Flashbacks will be supplying the live musical entertainment.

The deadline to purchase tickets for the dinner and dance is Monday, Aug. 20.

Tickets for the dance only can be purchased at the door for \$20 each.

Dinner/dance tickets cost \$40 a couple. Tickets are available at Bruce Hood's Milton Travel, 16 Martin St. and at Northend Nissan, 610 Martin St.

A grammar school, Bruce Street served the town from 1857 to 1972. It was located on the site of Milton Public Library and when the stone building was slated for demolition, attempts were made to save it from the wrecker's ball.

It was determined however that the building was not worth saving as much of the stone work was rubble.

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