



The Canadian Champion

Milton's Business of the Year for 1989

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It's about time

One of the very few good things to come out of the freeze on urban residential development in Milton is a new-found sense of focus on rural growth issues.

That focus was apparent at municipal council in Brookville Monday night as politicians, planners and just plain people deliberated and debated over land use and population growth in the rural community.

For a long time there has been substantial friction between the land use policies of the Town of Milton and Halton Region. Now the two municipal government groups appear to be moving toward a consensus. Pressing issues which have divided them in the past included what realistically constitutes farm land, and who should be entitled to cut up their lots and sell portions of them.

Milton appears to have given ground on the agricultural issue. In the past the Town favoured a two-tier system that applied one set of rules for valuable agricultural land and a second, less stringent set for other rural properties.

The argument for the two-tier system was that many tracts of rural land have never been farms and could not be, particularly in rocky Nassagaweya — so why inflict unrealistic planning protection policies on such property?

While Milton councillors often called for formal adoption of the two-tier system at Halton Region in the past, particularly when some sort of regional land use decision over-ruled a previous Milton stance, Monday night Milton planning director Bob Zsadyani called such a system "not really workable."

Although Milton may have surrendered some sway on the farmland question, the right to decide who can cut up and sell pieces of their property (so-called land severances) remains squarely in the Town's hands, under the new guidelines. A tenure clause is invoked, stating no one who has not owned a property for seven years can obtain a severance.

This effectively rules out many forms of speculation and points toward responsible land use and future planning.

The given in this undertaking, obviously, is that Halton Region will go along with the initiatives Milton adopted Monday night. That seems to be a safe bet because the two groups have apparently been working closely on these reforms.

Another praiseworthy highlight of the new rural planning process is the decision to fill up three quarters of all existing rural subdivisions prior to approving any new ones.

Also on a positive note, much stronger underground water protection policies will be implemented.

We hope Halton Region and the Town of Milton are as close philosophically on these matters as it seemed in discussions Monday night. If that is the case the often sloppy and acrimonious issue of rural land use may soon be much clearer for both landowners and politicians — and it's about time.

Thanks

This newspaper would like to thank all those who participated in our recent charity golf tournament on behalf of Milton District Hospital. The response was excellent, in keeping with the community spirit people in Milton can bring to bear for a good cause.

We also offer our heartfelt thanks to the various firms and interests which donated tournament prizes and sponsorships for the event. It would not have happened without their generosity.

Pud



by Steve Nease

Looking back



Mrs. W. Koslowski and daughters Lisa and Susan enjoyed the rides on the ferris wheel during their visit to the Milton Fall Fair in 1970. The ride proved to be one of the most exciting events for the girls.

Pages of the Past

One Year Ago

From the September 20, 1989 issue

Halton's sole agency for sexual assault victims moved up in the world with the opening of its first office. The Halton Rape Crisis Centre, formerly known as Sexual Assault Services of Halton (SASH), opened its doors in Oakville. The organization, which provides non-judgemental support for sexual assault victims, planned to use the new office for administrative purposes.

An ammonia gas leak at the Co-Op Store on the corner of Bronte and Main streets forced the Milton Fire Department to evacuate a half dozen homes and businesses in the area. No injuries or illness were reported in the 8:40 p.m. mishap. The leak was caused when a valve was turned on inside the building after hours. People returned to their homes after about an hour.

One-third of the money raised at the Milton Terry Fox Run was earned by one man alone. From pledges, Milton's Sam Perry, 49, raised more than \$2,311 of the \$6,623 total. About 150 participants of all ages, shapes

and sizes walked, jogged or cycled the 10-kilometre course around E.C. Drury High School.

20 Years Ago

From the September 23, 1970 issue

A number of indications pointed to a freeze on further development in Milton, members of Milton Council were warned as they engaged in yet another round of haggling with Toronto developers who wanted to build homes on 1,281 lots in the town's north-east corner. Chastizing council for lengthy delays which held up their subdivision proposals during the past year, representatives of Halton Land Group and Wimpey Homes (Canada) Ltd. urged council to work with them in moving through miles of red tape.

A dog and a cat from a home west of Milton were placed under quarantine by their owners after a fox suspected of bearing rabies was killed nearby. Mrs. Barrie Hall of 5153 Ten Sideroad, near the escarpment in north Burlington, said a sick looking fox wandered into their yard and was spotted near the verandah. It had porcupine quills in its mouth and was moving very slow.

A number of cases of influenza were reported in Milton and although one doctor referred to the wave of illnesses as an epidemic, Halton County Health Unit officials didn't think it was that serious. The illness brought aches and pains, stomach upsets and high temperatures for a three or four day period.

50 Years Ago

From the September 19, 1940 issue

Mrs. Sarah Lewington, one of Milton's oldest residents, celebrated her 80th birthday with family and relatives.

The directors of the Halton County Agricultural Society are just about ready for the annual fall fair Sept. 27 and 28. All events will run on daylight savings time.

Good harvest weather continued to be elusive. Much of the grain crop in the north end of the county was still in the fields and farmers were handicapped by the showers that came too frequently.