

Milton is a hotbed of automobile racing

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The CNE track is unusual in that it is in the centre of a large city. Most track facilities are in rural areas where land is cheaper and less threatened by development.

"If racing at the CNE keeps going we could see a 100 per cent increase in the number of active drivers in the club," Hasselfeldt says. Currently there are about 50 hobby car mem-

bers of which 40 are active driving members.

According to Hasselfeldt the big money sponsors realize that racing is good advertising for the dollar spent. He figures that the club is in no danger of having the sponsors try to start their own hobby car class because the club is strong and reputable.

They wouldn't be able to better

themselves," he says. "Our reputation is outstanding, and the club is very strong and tight with so many family relationships involved. Why would they want to buck the system?"

Hasselfeldt says that the CNE is a tough track. "There's no banking, it's flat and tight. Not everyone can go out there." He shakes his head when admitting that it's the only track that

he hasn't won a feature race on this season. "I'm going to do my best in the few remaining races, though."

According to Hasselfeldt there are 30 race cars running in Milton and at least 10 in the town itself. He counts seven hobby cars which race out of Milton and says that this has been a dominant racing town since the mid-1950s.

In keeping with his racing roots, Hasselfeldt says he was "dragged down to the CNE" in the early 1960s when his brother Gord raced, his crew is a family affair. His son Paul, 10, is crew chief while daughters Tracy, 13 and Lisa also help out. Rodney and Danny Fraser, of King City also help on the crew.

There is hope that the renewed interest shown in racing by the CNE and some of the sponsors will help push all classes of the sport, according to Hasselfeldt. There are rumours around the tracks of deals with The Sports Network, Roger's Cable and The Nashville Network which would bring the sport into millions of homes and help increase interest.

As for Hasselfeldt he has his eyes firmly planted on this year's goals. Point championships are still within his grasp, and that elusive win at the CNE remains. After that, there's next year and the promise of more racing challenges.

A sign on the wall above his desk says, "We interrupt this marriage to bring you racing season." With the involvement of family, friends and his business, there is no interruption at all — the marriage is to racing.



John Hasselfeldt, with the checkered flag and his number 66 on the infield at the CNE track, Hasselfeldt won a preliminary hobby class race earlier in the season but has had trouble capturing the feature at that track despite success elsewhere.

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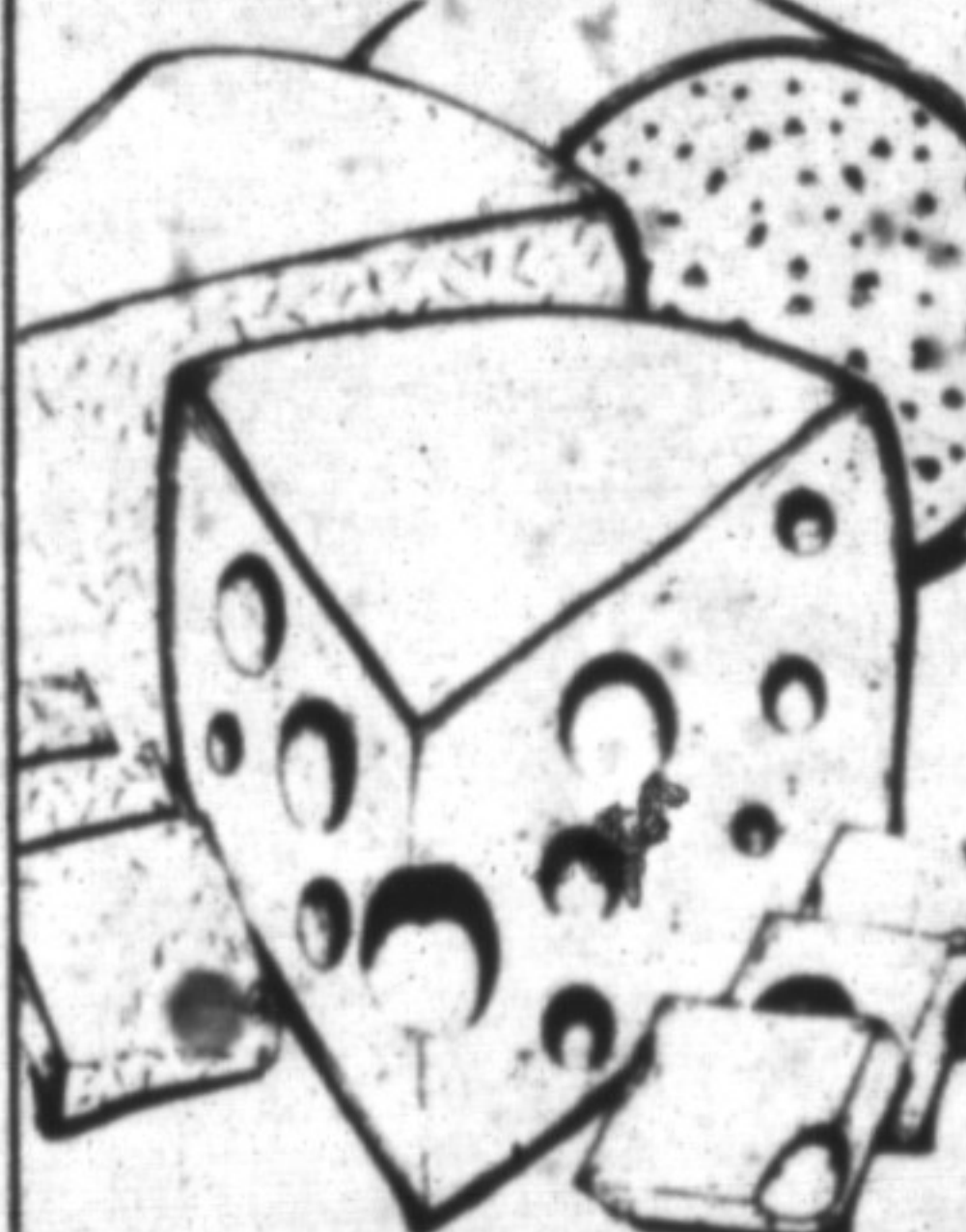
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