

# Consultant's report probably surprised administrator: Krantz

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That being the case, it is Mr. Krantz's position that the municipality owes Mr. Main nothing at all in terms of a severance. "No. I think I made that very clear." However, the Mayor is but one vote on municipal council, and he acknowledged that a situation could arise in which councillors chose to negotiate some sort of financial settlement with Mr. Main.

"There's always that possibility. But certainly I don't support it."

Mr. Main was not available for comment at press time. Mr. Krantz acknowledged that Adrian Murphy, a consultant hired by Milton to look at the overall municipal structure, had probably surprised Mr. Main in saying he was a subject of controversy in the municipal government hierarchy.

It was the first time the Mayor has made direct reference to the position taken by the consultant, who has delivered most of his reports verbally, so no telltale documents would remain, and in secret meetings.

Mr. Main "may not have thought this is what ultimately would have filtered out of the consultant's report. It certainly came as a surprise, I suspect, when he learned he may be part of the problem from the consultant."

But Mr. Krantz said he personally had no problems with Mr. Main. "He was tough. I think he was firm, but fair." As far as his departure goes, "I think personalities got into it. I think that was his downfall."

When Mr. Main was made the Town's top civil servant in the early 1980s, "council wanted a strong ad-

ministrator and they got one," Mr. Krantz said.

With the departure of Mr. Main, three senior administrative officials have left the Town over the last few months, at least two under clouds of controversy. The most genteel, for want of a better word, leave-taking was that of leisure services director Larry Arbic, who, at age 62, chose early retirement when the opportunity presented itself.

But for Milton's former planning director, Bob Zsadyi, and Mr. Main, the circumstances were different. Mr. Zsadyi resigned, but with a negotiated settlement that saw him walk away with more than \$50,000.

Mr. Main tendered an offer to resign in July that was to take effect in late December, but had reportedly thought better of it and attempted to withdraw that offer. Council obviously was not receptive to such a request.

Mr. Krantz said he anticipated hiring someone to replace Mr. Main, rather than overhauling the municipal government structure to the extent such a position no longer exists. Although the trend in some places has been away from a "czar" of municipal staff, Mr. Krantz said there's a need for a senior administrator in Milton.

"I don't want somebody with an iron fist but I do want somebody with an iron fist in a velvet glove. I would not want someone who the seven other department heads are going to walk right over."

In the short term, Mr. Krantz said he will propose that town clerk Bill Roberts act as the temporary administrator while Milton recruits a replacement for Mr. Main. Councillors will discuss the issue Monday night.

## New year chimes in

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Tuesday's midnight gathering revived the annual New Year's Eve ceremony which continued from 1967 through to 1985, then was interrupted when the town office moved out of the Main Street location.

Mayor Gord Krantz hosted and emceed the brief ceremony. He said later he was really pleased with the large turnout.

Special guest bell-ringers this year were people who had been honoured as Citizens of the Year from 1985 to 1990, or their representatives. Edgar Foster from 1985, Leonard McNeil 1986, Kathy Phillips (for her mother the late Win Newell, 1987), Rose Harrison 1988, Helen Scisizzi and Joan Phillips 1989 and Ernie Taylor the 1990 Citizen, rang the bell for close to a minute each, to symbolize the six years the bell had not been rung.

Finally, the new year 1992 was rung in by Charlie Jones, a former town employee and a direct descendant of Hugh Foster. Mr. Foster was an early settler and land developer who in 1854 donated four acres of land for the jail, courthouse and Victoria Park Square. His name has been commemorated at Hugh Foster Hall.

Now 79, Mr. Jones comes from a long line of family bell-ringers, as his father Bert Jones was the official bell-ringer in the town's early days. Charlie said he remembers during his school days helping his father by ringing the bell at noon and 1 p.m. It was used to summon firefighters for fires and to warn of water shutoffs in earlier days. Mayor Krantz said "this old bell has played a very important role in Milton's history".

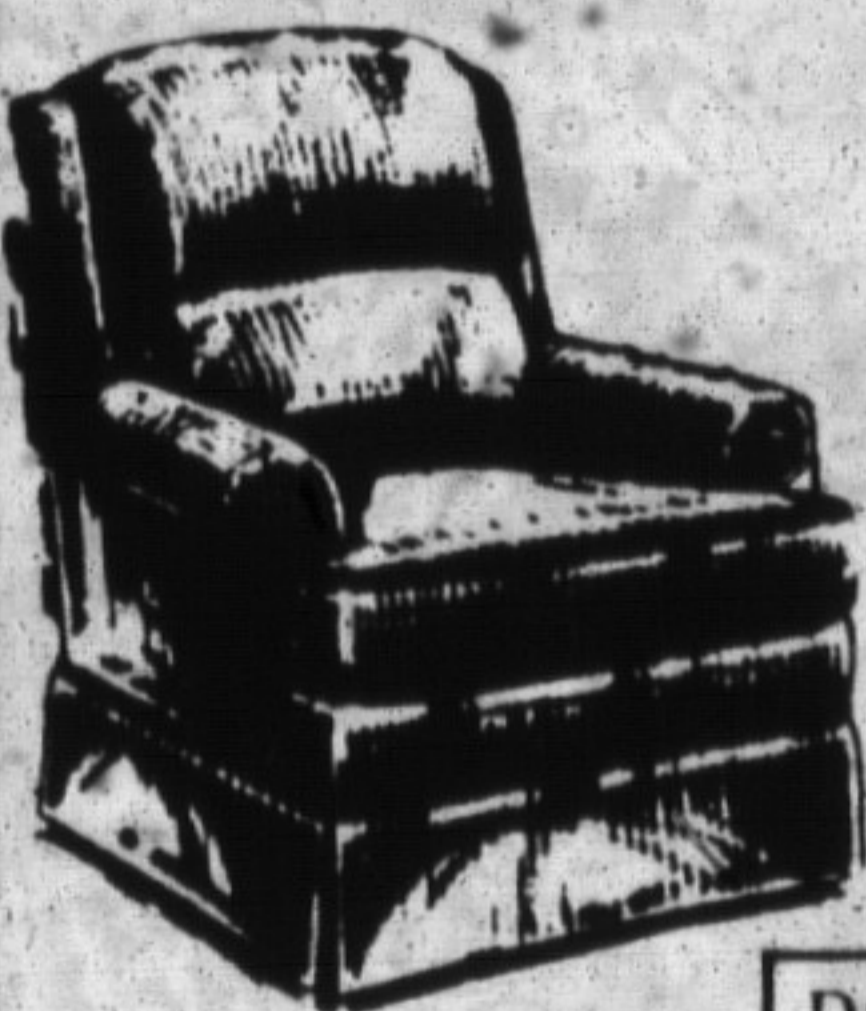
Milton Kinsmen, who for many years sponsored the annual bell-ringing ceremony, were on hand again to serve refreshments in Foster Hall. Among the 700 who turned out for the ceremony were its originator Jim Dills, and town councillor Brad Clements who donated the stonework salvaged from the old Bruce St. School and two historical downtown buildings for the new cairn on which the three-foot high, 400 pound bell now rests.

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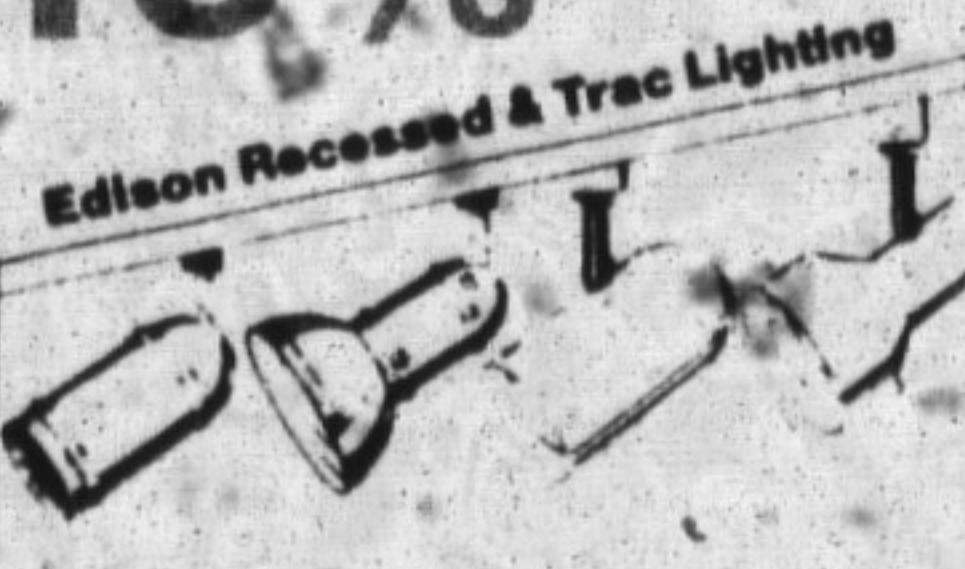
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