

The Canadian Champion

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Preparation pays

Jose Burguete of the Halton Multicultural Council should not be faulted for his motivations but he could indeed, as he more or less admitted Monday night, be faulted for his preparation.

Mr. Burguete came to Milton's town council meeting looking for \$5,000 so his group could gain a bigger foothold in the community. But he was disappointingly unarmed with data which may have swayed enough votes to his side to get the money. Instead he lost a 5-4 squeaker.

Mr. Burguete's presentation regarding the multicultural council's future in Milton was long on goodwill and short on specifics. As well, he was unable to amply demonstrate to councillors just what services his people already provide here. He had few bargaining chips beyond noble intent.

It was a shame, in view of the professed intentions of Mr. Burguete's members. The Halton Multicultural Society as he outlined it is not a haven for those who would cloister among their own kind and siphon off government money in support of that.

Instead the organization, which started in Oakville and recently expanded to include all Halton, fosters understanding while promoting successful integration of immigrants into the varied Canadian mosaic.

Ward 1 councillor Rick Day was forthright and indeed eloquent in expressing the fears and reservations many bring to the table when the subject under discussion is multiculturalism.

Basically, Mr. Day asked if the multicultural council was at its core an organization with a mandate to create new Canadians or create more barriers between supposed new Canadians and those who preceded them.

Mr. Burguete seized the opportunity to stress that the former is his group's preoccupation and the latter the challenge that it faces.

In the end Mr. Day supported granting Mr. Burguete the funding.

But the wheels fell off when Mr. Burguete couldn't name any area groups that the multicultural council currently works with or cite any other sort of information that would give the council's activities a local complexion. Such statistics are apparently available, he said, but he didn't know them.

Councillors appeared somewhat sympathetic to Mr. Burguete's request, once it became clear that his group's primary goals are to help immigrants embrace their new society and ease that society's quails about embracing them.

However, it's hard to criticize Milton council's wait-and-see attitude regarding Mr. Burguete's group. There are a good many non-profit organizations competing for municipal dollars, and most of them can point quickly to tangible benefits for some segment of Milton taxpayers through their efforts.

We have little doubt that someday, probably soon, the Town will help fund the Halton Multicultural Council. It won't happen, though, until that group takes the first step by creating a larger presence in Milton, and then proving that such a presence has been felt in terms of community betterment.

Looking back



Miss Mohawk Raceway, a 25-year-old secretary, overlooks the \$3 million Campbellville race track on opening day April 25, 1963. A plasterer finishes up his work on the grandstand. There were close to 100 betting windows at the track.

Pages of the Past

One Year Ago

From the February 20, 1991 issue

□ The John D'Amico Skate-a-thon for Timmy and Tammy raised more than \$25,000 for the Easter Seals Society. The event, held at Maplehurst Correctional Centre, saw about 300 skaters circle the outdoor rink. The guest list included former NHL coach Don Cherry, sports broadcaster Don McLean, and of course, John D'Amico and Graham Cranston — the Milton Rotary Club's Timmy for 1991.

□ A Milton resident pled guilty to abducting his five-year old son in Milton Provincial court. What was thought to be a regular weekend visit between father and son, turned into a nightmare for the youngster's mother. A man appeared at her door with a letter advising her to obey specific instructions or she would never see her son again. The boy's disappearance sparked an intensive investigation by Halton Regional Police and an outpouring of community support. Later that year, the child was found in Hawaii with his father.

20 Years Ago

From the February 23, 1972 issue

□ Passenger car licence plates for 1972 were slow

selling, according to the Milton distributor — Clement's Paint and Wallpaper, located on Main Street. One week before the new plates deadline, sales had only reached 3,200, with another 4,300 still in stock. Long line ups were expected.

□ It was announced that home care services would be extended to all of Halton County within six months through a new concept devised by The Ontario Department of Health. Burlington was the only section of the county with a home care program.

□ Racing fans from this district would soon be off to the races at Flamboro Downs, a new track planned for a 160-acre site on Hwy 5 between Clappison's and Peter's Corners in West Flamboro Township. The raceway boasted a half-mile track, a totally enclosed air conditioned grandstand with a dining room and lounge facilities capable of accommodating 3,000 patrons. All undertakings were to be financed by horseowners and local businessmen.

50 Years Ago

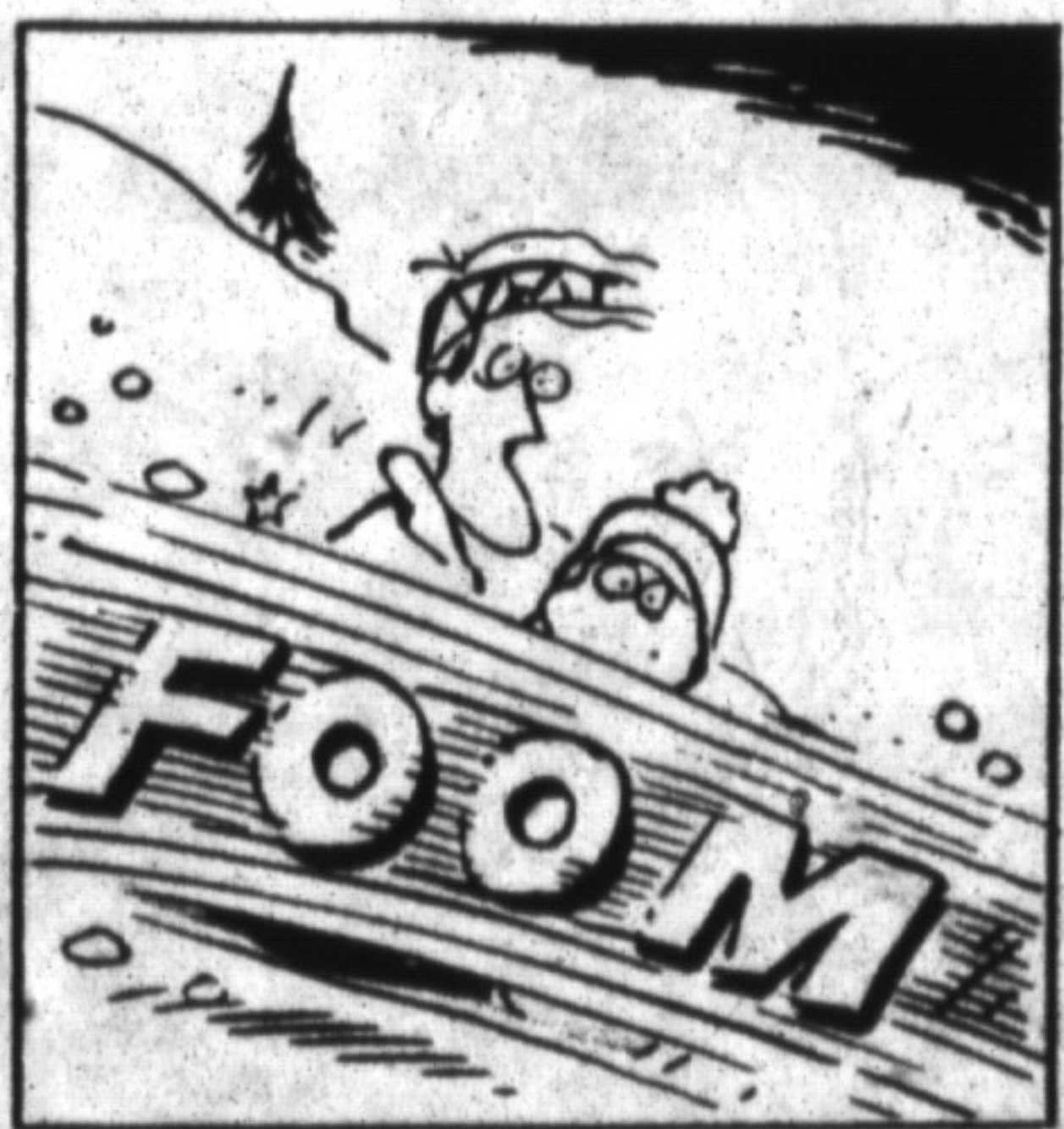
From the February 19, 1942 issue

□ The regular monthly meeting of Omagh Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. H. Cavell on February 3, 1942. The vice-present, Mrs. Wilbert Ford occupied the chair. Two quilts and two pairs of socks were brought in as Red Cross work. Mrs. Gazely was appointed the representative on the Red Cross Executive Board. April 14, 1942 was set aside as the Summary Day, where all-day sessions were to be held in the Farmer's Building, Milton.

□ The Halton County quota for Canada's second Victory Loan Campaign, which began to prosper on Monday Feb. 16, 1942 was set at \$1,550,000. This quota was just \$500,000 more than the first War Loan when Halton subscribed \$1,980,750, and had the honour of being the second highest in the province. Milton's quota was \$200,000. The campaign and canvass committee requested the full support of the citizens of this district, in their effort to again boost the loan over the top.

□ Eighty-two dollars and seven cents (\$82.07) was the amount made at the Valentine tea and baking sale. The successful sale was held on a Saturday afternoon in the Red Cross rooms.

Pud



by Steve Nease