

Join the club

Bob Vinton (left) the owner of Milton's Baker's Dozen Donuts hosted a customer appreciation day Friday. His customers brought his store recognition for having the most Coffee Club members of the 91 Ontario stores. He gave out 5,350 of the cards last year. Club members get two free coffees after 11 coffee purchases. Mr. Baker, the company's mascot and Ilias Kotsovolos, manager of store operations, were on hand Friday when donuts were sold for 13 cents each. In the province, there are 104,400 club card holders.

Photo by Jane Muller



IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

with JANE MULLER



In honour of Brian Best

A British tradition of naming pubs after individuals of historic significance is being carried on at the Brian Best Arms.

It's housed within the Optimist Centre, at 311 Commercial St. The new name accompanies a new manager and new design. Frank Wilson took over operation of the entire building last July through his company, Xebec Management.

The squash courts, banquet hall, restaurant and office space rental duties were formerly handled by Optimist Club members.

"They asked me to take it over," says Mr. Wilson, who calls himself a "non-active" member of the local service club.

The retired vice-chairman of Komori said one of the first things he changed was the food. Chef Vlad Sladek, whose background includes stints at Ontario Place and Sky-Dome, has introduced dishes like Chicken Breast Cordon Bleu with Cognac Butter, Salmon Steak with Dill and Mustard Sauce and Beef Tenderloin Medallions in Burgundy Sauce to the list of daily specials.

Mr. Wilson says prices remain "reasonable" despite some gourmet additions to the menu.

No British-style pub could be without some back 'ome beer on tap. At Brian Best Arms they'll be drawing Guinness, Harp Lager, Smithwicks and Tartan. Four domestic brands will also be on tap — ch?

The decision to adapt the British pub atmosphere was partly based on the popularity of such bars and also on the fact "we knew a change was necessary".

Mr. Wilson admits many people aren't aware the Optimist Centre's restaurant/bar is open to the public. He's hoping the new design, along with food prepared by a qualified chef, will bring the establishment into the public eye and onto their list of places to go.

"I believe we serve the best food in Milton," he contends.

The pub's namesake is the park across the street. Having Brian Best Park as a neighbour was a factor in the name choice, but Mr. Wilson says it was also based on the late Milton Mayor's achievements while in office and the fact he died early in life at age 49, three years after a near-fatal traffic accident.

Mr. Best, a native of England, was Mayor from 1968 to 1973, a time when regional government was being created. He and the council of the day fought to keep Milton out of Halton Hills, a municipality created by combining Acton and Georgetown.

"He helped to keep Milton's identity," said Mr. Wilson.

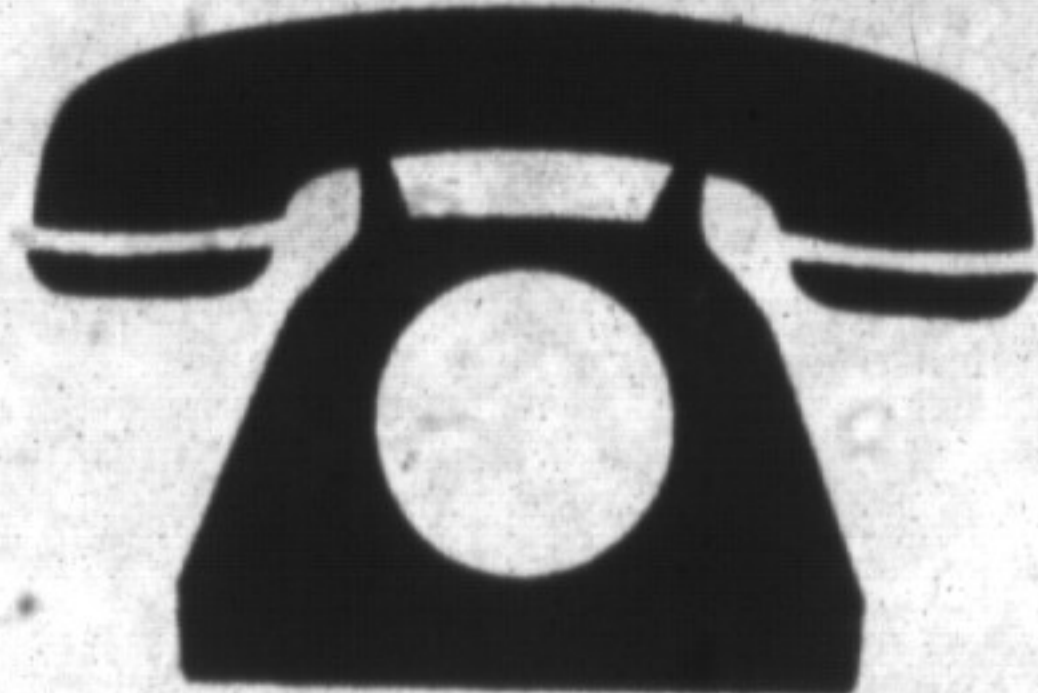
There will be an official opening at the pub Friday, Apr. 10. The late Mr. Best's family will donate a large portrait of the man at that time.

New scoop

After a winter on ice, Baskin Robbins — 31 Ice Cream is back in business with a new owner manning the ice cream scoop. The franchise, as of 21 days ago, is owned by Rafiq Charaniya of Toronto. He plans to move to Milton, a town he says has lots of happy residents, judging by the smiling faces he sees at his Main Street shop.

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