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Region opens doors to Sunday shopping applicants

By ROB KELLY
The Champion

Halton Region's business development director, Brent Kears, is urging area businesses looking for Sunday shopping permits to apply for them now. But he also warned Wednesday that they might be in for a fight.

Mr. Kears said a group advocating Sunday closure called the People for Sunday Association has told him they will file protests against so-

called Sunday shopping exemptions. The exemptions from Ontario's current no-Sunday commerce legislation are granted largely to tourist-oriented business. All the permits currently in force will expire by year end.

Mr. Kears wants to hurry the process along because of the potential for lengthy delays in judging applications if initial regional Sunday shopping approvals are appealed.

There are now four official exemptions in Halton. Three are located in Acton's downtown core.

They are the olde Hide House restaurant-store and two spinoffs. As well, a portion of Oakville's Bronte Harbour is open Sundays.

But those are not the only entrepreneurs interested in obtaining exemptions. Mr. Kears said "most of the downtowns" have expressed interest, as well as "some of the malls." There have been inquiries from "every municipality in Halton."

Groups such as the People for Sunday Association
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Focus on Milton at Mohawk community night

More than just trotters and pacers will be the centre of attention at Mohawk Raceway Sunday evening.

The Campbellville track is hosting the first-ever Milton Community Awareness Night.

The showcase will include exhibits by a complete cross-section of businesses and special interest groups. Local businesses have donated items to be auctioned. Proceeds will go to the fund-raising campaign for the Milton Leisure Centre.

Entertainment for the event will be provided by local group Speed Limit. Prize draws will also be held.

"We see this as an exciting new addition to the partnership enjoyed by the Milton area and the Ontario Jockey Club," said John Lawrence, general manager of the Milton Chamber of Commerce.

"We'll be among the exhibitors with our display for the Milton Visitor Association, our tourism arm," Mr. Lawrence added.

Milton mayor Gord Krantz said he supports the endeavor and will encourage municipal employees to attend.

"Mohawk Raceway and Milton have had a mutually beneficial relationship since the track's opening in April, 1963, and this certainly opens a new chapter for exciting possibilities in the 1990s."

Gates open at 6 p.m. The auction starts at 7:05. Post time is 7:30.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Richmond Chandler (right) digs in to help Mayor Gord Krantz plant some white pine seedlings as a grown-up tree watches. The mayor is an honorary supporter of the tree planting program.

Seedling sales to help Mountsberg grow

White pine seedlings have been added to the menu at McDonald's in the interest of greening Halton.

McDonald's Restaurants and the Halton Region Conservation Foundation have teamed up to help the environment through a co-operative tree planting program. The effort could result in more than 5,000 trees being planted in Halton as well as funds being raised for conservation.

Beginning May 1 to June 7, 1992, participating McDonald's Restaurants in Halton Region will be selling white pine seedlings for
see MOUNTSBERG on page 3

Police radio system needs \$6.5 million upgrade

By ROB KELLY
The Champion

An angry Halton Hills councillor Pam Johnston warned Wednesday she has had her fill of police "threats and intimidation" whenever they want money from Halton Region.

The regional administration and finance committee was considering a pitch by police for a new \$6.5 million communications system. Some councillors were nervous about the price tag. Police chief James Harding then rose to say forcefully that without a major upgrade his officers could be endangered.

"One thing that really upsets me is that whenever we're dealing with the police it's not a logical or rational approach," Ms Johnston said. Her experience was that councillors "always find the chief or some other members of the force have to use threats or intimidation" in order to "try and get us to support" their cause.

Ms Johnston said she found such tactics "increasingly disturbing," and added em-
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Police Chief James Harding

Benefit breakfast

Members of Halton Sportsman's Association will be at their clubhouse at 4:30 a.m. Saturday to prepare breakfast for the hundreds expected to attend a hospital benefit.

The annual fund-raiser for Milton District Hospital begins at 6:30 a.m. with breakfast being served until noon. The big breakfast of pancakes, bacon, eggs, sausage, toast, coffee and juice costs \$3.50 for adults and \$2.50 for children age 12 and under.

The sportman's club is located on Steeles Avenue, west of Tremaine on the north side just before Appleby Line. There will be an outdoor flea market this year as well with proceeds from table rentals going to another charity.

NEWSLINES

Little growth

Milton has grown by an average of about seven people per year since 1986, according to the 1991 Census report released by Statistics Canada.

The town's population increased by 38 over the last five years — from 32,037 to 32,075, indicates the report.

While Milton's 0.1 per cent population growth is the lowest in Halton, Oakville leads the way with a 31.6 per cent increase in residents from 87,107 to 114,670.

Burlington follows with an 11.1 per cent population growth from 116,675 to 129,575 since 1985.

Halton Hills has 1,246 more residents than it did five years ago. The town's population rose by 3.5 per cent — from 35,570 to 36,816.

INSIDE

MILTON MERCHANTS

It's over

Milton Merchants' splendid season came to an end Wednesday when Kitchener won 10-2 to take the Ontario Jr. B championships series 4-1.

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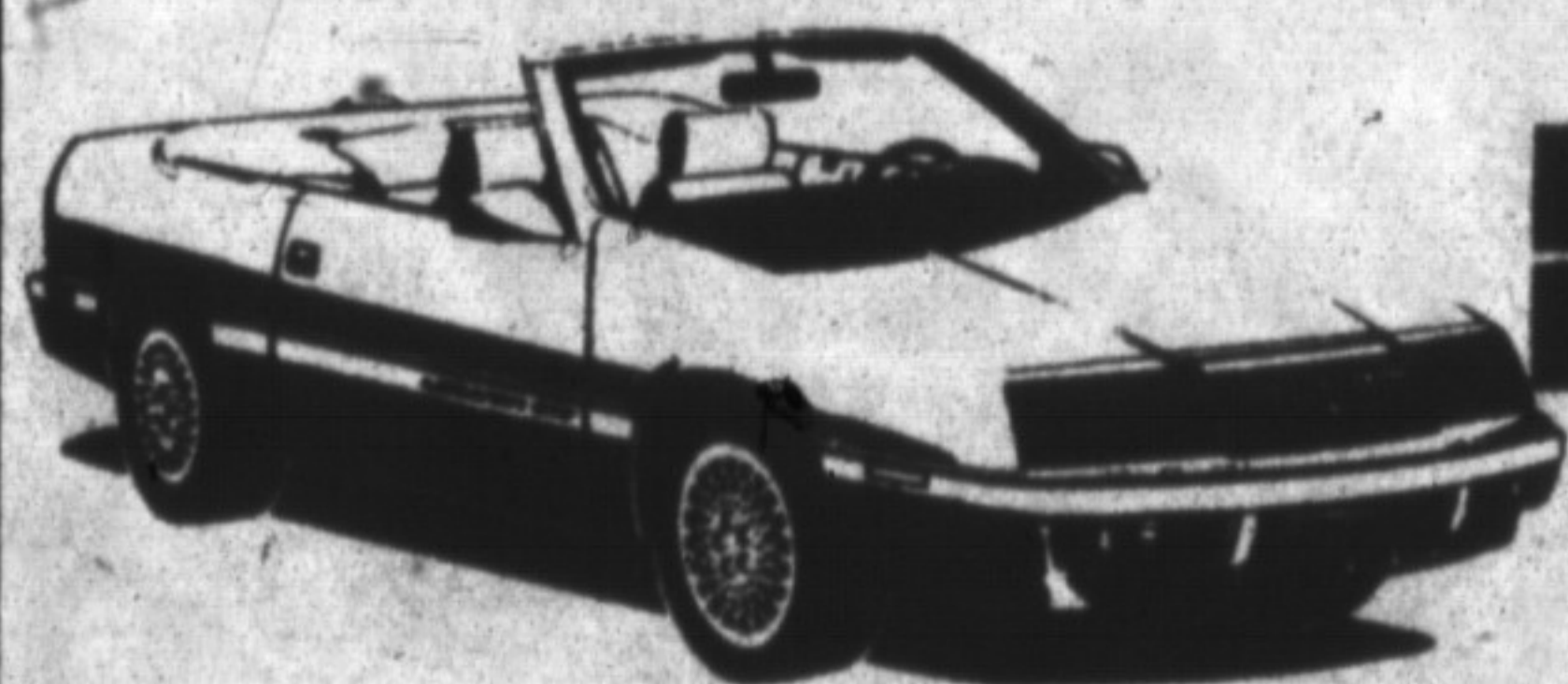
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