

# Looking back at the year's triumphs and milestones

The Canadian Champion, Saturday, January 2, 1993—10

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leisure centre. The \$2.6 million new wing will house a gym, weight room and aerobics centre. The initial swimming pool complex opened in January.

Halton regional councillor Ralph Scholtens said he expected as much as \$18 million from the Ontario government in **job creation funding** as part of a new \$1.1 billion provincial program. "I'm excited about this, just delighted," said the Burlington councillor, who chairs the regional health and social services committee.

## August

A relaxing holiday turned into a **terrifying ordeal** for a British family in early August. Jim Rose, 45, of London, England fell while climbing the cliffs at Rattlesnake Point and was seriously injured.

A weed nicknamed "the **purple plague**" was threatening Halton wetlands in early August. Purple loosestrife had by then invaded half the marshes in southern Ontario. "It's limited, what you can do about it," said Brenda Axon, a Halton Region Conservation Authority spokesperson.

Environment Minister Ruth Grier threw a roadblock in front of Canada Brick's **proposed brick plant** in the shadow of the Niagara Escarpment in mid-August. She told the company she wanted more detail regarding their overall plans for the rural Milton site. Canada Brick later backed out of the venture.

A violent thunderstorm knocked out power to some parts of Milton on Monday, Aug. 10. Most power

interruptions only lasted half an hour.

The union representing Maplehurst prison employees charged prison management had ignored allegations relating to **harassment**, staff burn-out and health and safety issues in late June. But prison superintendent Gary Commeford rejected the complaints, saying the jail is run "effectively, fairly."

Neighbours to Jim Scott's rural composting plant complained of **odours** from the facility in late August. Mr. Scott said he was putting \$500,000 into solutions to the problems.

A Mississauga man bailed out of his car just before it was struck by a GO Transit commuter train on Thursday, August 27. His car swerved sideways to avoid another vehicle stopped at the crossing, and became stuck in the tracks, Halton regional police said. Sebastian Bednarczyk, 22, jumped out just before **the train destroyed the car**.

## September

Milton hired a **new town administrator** in early September. David Hipgrave, an engineer and accountant, was scheduled to start work in October. He had been working as chief of staff to Metro Toronto chairman Alan Tonks.

Former town councillor Mary Long **pleaded guilty** to dangerous driving in a Brampton court, the Wednesday, September 2 issue of *The Champion* reported. Other charges were dropped in an apparent plea bargain. She was later sentenced to three years probation, 250 hours of community work, and pro-



The Milton Farmers Market has been serving the town fresh produce for 20 years and its birthday was marked in October when the Main Street market closed for the season.

hibited from driving for three years.

**Julian Reed** jumped back into politics in early September, announcing his candidacy for the Halton-Peel riding now held by Progressive Conservative Garth Turner. Mr. Reed formerly represented north Halton in provincial parliament (1975-85).

A **police task force** probe into Halton Region is "progressing well and progressing the way we expected" said Gordon Sutherland, an officer assigned to the effort, in early September. Project 80, a Toronto, OPP and York regional combined forces operation, is still investigating land transactions in Halton.

About 15,000 people visited the 139th annual **Milton Fall Fair**. This year's fair Ambassador was Sheri-Lynne McSpurren. It was the first year males were allowed to compete for the title.

A Milton native, Pat O'Connor, went out of his way to conduct a *Canadian Champion* interview about the fact that the 32-year-old hemophiliac had **contracted AIDS**. His wife Cathy also took part in the interview. Mr. O'Connor and his wife, afraid of being rejected by their Cornwall community, kept the secret for a year but then decided to go public as part of an AIDS awareness campaign.

Halton regional chairman Peter Pomeroy broke a 12-12 tie to **approve market value assessment (MVA)** at regional council on Wednesday, September 23. But that didn't turn out to be the last word on the subject — far from it, as a matter of fact. A sustained anti-MVA campaign was already gathering momentum in Oakville and Halton Hills.

Reliance Plastics announced it was **shutting down** production and consolidating its Milton operation in Winnipeg in late September. The move was expected to cost 100 jobs.

A 14-year-old Acton boy was **charged with the rape** of a 16-year-old Milton girl in late September.

Halton Centennial Manor was **renamed Allendale** in recognition of the late Stan Allen in September. Mr. Allen was a longtime administrator there.

## October

The Town **privatized its garbage collection** service with a decision in early October. It's to be a cost-cutting move, to take effect with the new year. Browning Ferris Industries landed the contract; Milton laid off one fulltime employee and let two temporary ones go with the move.

Milton "Yes" committee organizers in the **national referendum** campaign said they did their best after the proposed Charlottetown Accord was swept aside on Monday, Oct. 26. John Challinor, a Milton municipal councillor who worked for the "Yes" committee, took some cold comfort in the fact that at least in Oakville-Milton, if not nationally, the Accord was accepted by 60 per cent of voters.

As regional debate about market value assessment (MVA) gathered steam again, MVA opponents in Oakville targeted Burlington councillor Don Carter in an attempt to sway him into their camp. Mr. Carter's downtown Burlington ward would see **property taxes increase** with MVA, although in Burlington as a whole they would go down. But despite what became a bitter campaign, Mr. Carter wouldn't budge.

In late October Halton regional police announced a **weapons amnesty** to take effect in November. It was later extended through mid-December.

## November

**Roving gangs** did \$15,000 in damage during a vandalism spree

the night before, Halloween, the Wednesday, November 4 issue of *The Champion* reported.

Milton resident John Ferris, 38, was **killed in a single-car crash** on Appleby Line, the same issue reported.

Halton's landfill in southern Milton finally opened, after almost two decades of wrangling, in early November. Mayor Gord Krantz drove a garbage truck laden with waste through a banner reading "**Open for business**" to formally dedicate the new facility. It ended up costing taxpayers roughly \$150 million.

As tensions regarding market value assessment (MVA) escalated, Halton Hills regional councillor Rick Bonnette announced that the **anti-MVA faction** would attempt to have the whole matter reshaped at regional council on Wednesday, December 2. Mr. Bonnette and his backers hoped to overturn the controversial MVA decision at that time.

In early November Milton business owner and former NHL referee **Bruce Hood** announced he would take a run at the Oakville-Milton federal Liberal nomination for the 1993 election. It later became a four-way race.

Milton council announced it was aiming for a **one per cent** operating budget increase in 1993 — about \$85,000.

Halton Women's Place apologized to regional council for a contentious ad that solicited applications from various minority groups, **including lesbians**, for a child care worker's position.

A Milton man was a key player in obtaining a **prestigious business award** for his company. Michael Miller invented an environmentally friendly ink for Canadian Fine Color Co. The company received a Canada Awards for Business Excellence trophy from Michael Wilson, the federal Minister of Industry, Science and Technology.

## December

Halton regional police chief James Harding suffered a **mild heart attack**, the Wednesday, December 2 issue of *The Champion* reported. He was **expected to fully recover**.

Milton fire chief Richard Playfair announced he was **resigning** to take on a similar job at a bigger department in Stoney Creek during early December.

Market Value Assessment (MVA) was **put on hold** following a marathon Halton regional council meeting lasting almost 10 hours. The Dec. 2 meeting drew approximately 600 spectators and more than 80 people registered to speak on the matter. For the next year alternatives will be explored, but as things stand now, if nothing new proves acceptable.

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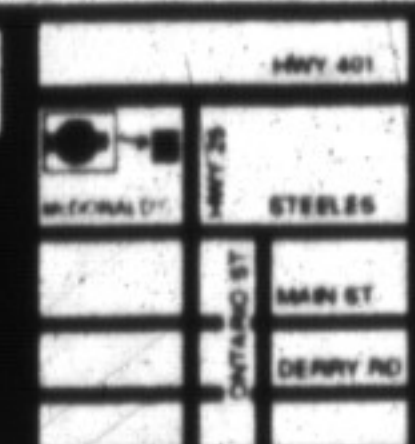
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