



COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Box 248, 191 Main St. E.,
Milton, Ont. L9T 4N9
(905) 878-2341
1-800-668-7794

Fax: 878-4943

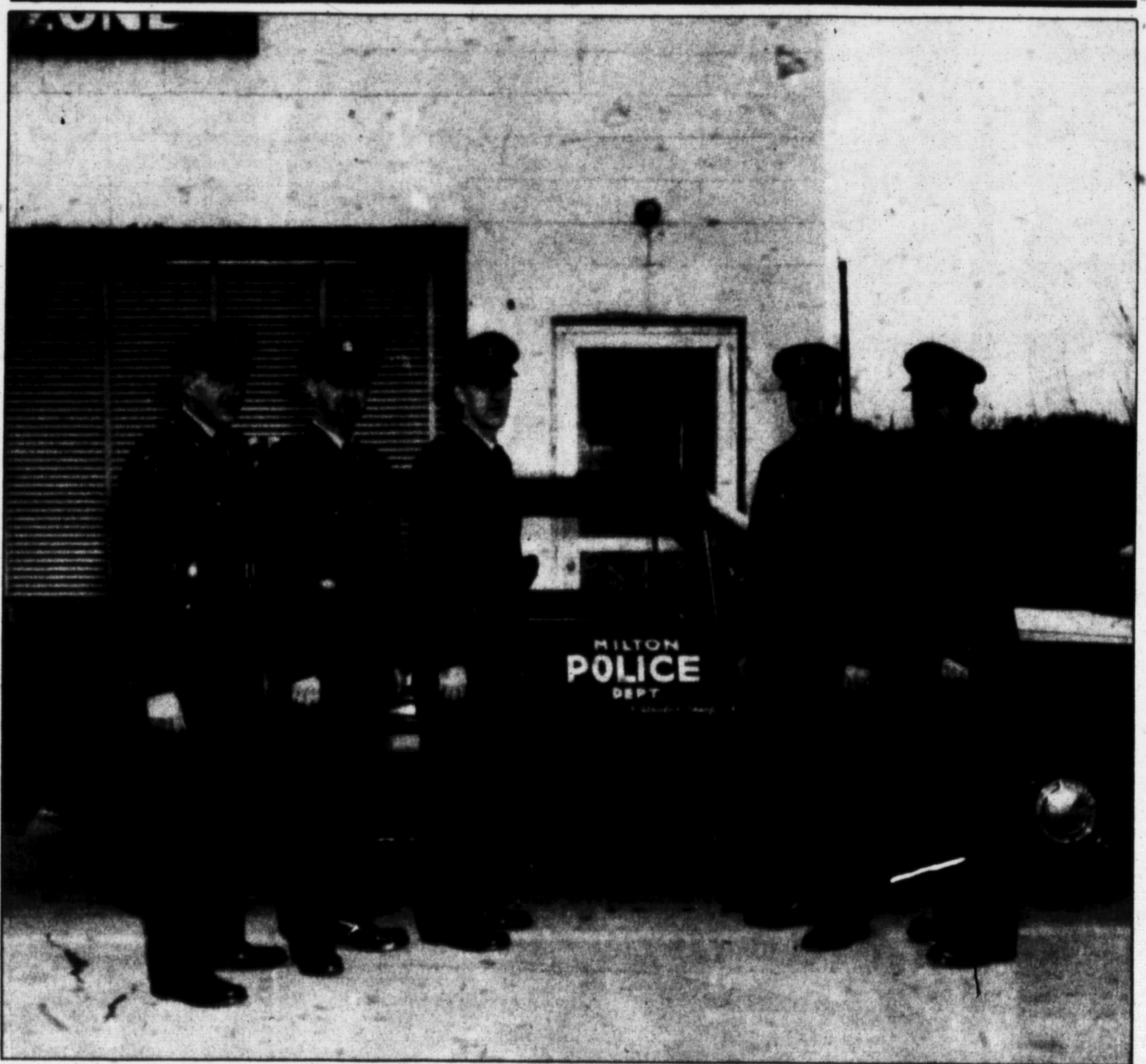
Classified Advertising: 875-3300

Ian Oliver *Publisher*
Neil Oliver *General Manager*
Rob Kelly *Editor*
Karen Huisman *Circulation Manager*
Teri Casas *Office Manager*
Mark Dills *Production Manager*
Ted Lindsay *Retail Sales Manager*

The Canadian Champion, published every Wednesday and Friday at 191 Main St. E., Milton, Ont. L9T 4N9 (Box 248), is one of The Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing Ltd. group of suburban companies which includes: Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, Aurora Banner, Barrie Advance, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, Collingwood Connection, Etobicoke Guardian/Lakeshore Advertiser, Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economic & Sun, Mississauga News, Newmarket Era, Oakville Beaver, Oshawa Today, Oshawa/Whitby This Week, Peterborough This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Today's Seniors/City Parent, and Uxbridge/Stouffville Tribune.

Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with a reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. The publisher reserves the right to categorize advertisements or decline.

Looking Back



The Milton Police Department celebrated its first anniversary on December 1, 1961. The force was made up of five officers. Posing in front of the department's cruiser are (from left to right) Constable Keith Robertson, Constable Len Pickett, Constable Joe McCann, Sergeant Bob Moreau and Chief Ray Andress.

Here's hoping for tolerance

The decision regarding a subsidized housing complex vehemently opposed by neighbouring residents near the Milton fairgrounds has been rendered. The housing project will be built, which is not really a surprise.

The Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) has yet to issue the list of reasons which led to the conclusion that the project was worthwhile, even necessary, on that particular site. The rationale behind the decision will be released under separate cover later.

From day one Gordon Petch, the lawyer advocating construction of the site, maintained his position was all but unassailable. The residents opposing Mr. Petch, some 200 of them led by now municipal Councillor Wally Hunter, proved that posture premature, but in the end Mr. Petch and his client, Sib-Jel Investments, got what they wanted.

The philosophical orientation of the prevailing provincial government was on their side, after all, which meant the project was fast-tracked through the OMB. And there was that nagging lack of subsidized housing in Milton, as defined by provincial fiat — 25 per cent of the new housing stock must be "affordable."

Now it is to be hoped that the new homes are as unobtrusive as possible, and the neighbours who opposed their placement as tolerant as possible. The deed is done and the appeal routes are thin.

We are not enthralled with subsidized housing as the concept generally is applied today — the focus is not on home ownership, proprietorship and pride. It is on state-subsidized shelter.

That is one of the reasons so much friction is created with neighbours who do own their homes. Subsidized housing should be more oriented to eventual home ownership, and consequently making the tenant a genuine stakeholder in the enterprise.

But that does little to change the current situation. One can only hope that this development is wisely implemented and monitored, so as to at least begin to assuage the concerns so strongly voiced by its opponents, its hostile neighbours.

A sign of things to come

At this point not too much can be read into the decisions by the Town of Milton and Halton Region to defer expansion taxes (development charges) to be levied against Rockwell International for expansion of its Milton plant.

But it is perhaps a hint of things to come.

Before this decade is out it is unlikely the tax structure will be recognizable because it is unlikely government in its current fashion will be recognizable.

The Rockwell situation, in which a Canadian plant is competing against an American one for the same business, will be repeated over and over again as true free trade takes hold, and that plus the pressure of the nation's monumentally irresponsible debt, will force large-scale government reorganization and taxation reorganization. It is unlikely taxes will go down in the short term, but at least, hopefully, the unending appetites of the bloated tax-debt monster will be curbed.

This country is in for major changes, far beyond merely granting tax payment holidays to multinational corporations in return for short-term investment. But it is perhaps a small sign of things to come.

A hefty bar tab indeed

Just a short note as the peak of the festive season approaches — recent press releases directed at this newspaper from a variety of government and private organizations indicate that an impaired driving charge — not a conviction — can shake out to roughly \$10,000 in legal fees without much of a problem at all.

On top of that, of course, are the phenomenal insurance premium hikes (for five years after licence reinstatement) and a year's licence suspension for a first offence.

That's a hefty tab for an extra drink or two.

Pages of the Past

One Year Ago

From the December 15, 1993 issue

- Calls for immediate action on rural garbage collection were met with caution by town councillors. Since the imposition of a \$5 flat fee for using the Milton landfill, the idea of municipal rural garbage collection was revived. The process was to begin with a report on dumping and then continue with another survey of rural residents once they had a chance to use the container station with the new \$5 fee.

- Halton Regional Police had already laid 12 more impaired driving charges through RIDE spot checks than they did the previous December. They had also stopped 3,131 more cars than in 1992. To date, across the region during the holiday season police had charged 17 motorists with impaired driving or driving with over the legal limit of alcohol in their blood.

- Members of the Halton Regional Police Association stated that police station closures would jeopardize public safety. The Halton Regional Police Services Board had announced that, as a cost-saving measure, the hours police buildings would be open to the public would be restricted. To minimize the impact, the board indicated that Milton's station would return to the use of a telephone system installed at the entrance. The public would have direct access to a staff sergeant within the building.

20 Years Ago

From the December 18, 1974 issue

- A draft bylaw approved by town council would ban

hunting in urban Milton. The bylaw contained a provision that would prohibit the discharge of firearms in all urban areas but not rural areas. The bylaw was expected to come before council for formal approval early in the new year.

- Halton Federation of Agriculture members voted against proposed land use policies that were approved by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and promoted by the Halton land use committee. The policies would mean freezing farmland in agricultural zoning.

- A Christmas visit by Lieutenant-Governor Pauline McGibbon to the Halton Museum gave a royal send-off to the museum's annual yuletide tea. Mrs. McGibbon joined Milton Mayor Anne MacArthur, Regional Chairman Allan Mason and conservation authority chairman Brock Harris for a tour of the museum.

50 Years Ago

From the December 14, 1944 issue

- Milton ratepayers were keenly interested in the vote on a sewage disposal plant. A meeting was arranged by town council so citizens could have questions answered and find out all they desired regarding the proposed plans.

- Sunday School pupils and teachers of three churches — Grace Anglican, Knox Presbyterian and St. Paul's United — joined in attending a special picture show arranged for them as a Christmas treat at the Princess Theatre.

- The December meeting of the Omagh Women's Institute was held. Roll call was answered by a cash donation which was being sent to the Hospital for Sick Children to buy Christmas gifts for the young patients.

Pud

by Steve Nease

