

The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, January 10, 1996

# Harold Bedford toasted for decades of spiritual service

## Local priest gets medal as he celebrates 90th birthday

By **STEVE LeBLANC**  
Special to *The Champion*

It was Sunday of celebration in Milton as friends, parishioners and well-wishers came out to honor one of their most beloved, longstanding spiritual leaders.

Father Harold Bedford, who has served at Holy Rosary and Our Lady of Victory churches for the past 23 years, celebrated his 90th birthday with a group of close to 100 at the Italian-Canadian Club in Milton Heights.

Known for his bombastic sermons, Father Bedford is the oldest working Jesuit priest. "He's just fantastic. He was lovingly known as 'Uncle Harold' for many years and his dedication to the community has been tremendous," said longtime Holy Rosary parishioner and volunteer Arlene McConnell.

"I'd set my alarm clock twice every Saturday night just so I wouldn't miss one of his sermons."

As with any birthday, Father Bedford received a number of gifts at the afternoon party — including the coveted diocesan medal of honor from Bishop A.F. Tonnos of the Diocese of Hamilton.

This was presented to him by Father Earl Talbot, who has known the senior priest since coming to Milton more than seven years ago. He also presented Father Bedford with a letter of recognition from Oakville-Milton Liberal MP Bonnie Brown.

"He's an excellent preacher and is very dedicated. Whatever he does, he commits himself to," said Father Talbot.

Also presenting Father Bedford with a letter of recognition from the Town of Milton

was Mayor Gord Krantz.

These gifts follow years of service to the church, not only in Milton but across Ontario and Canada as well. Before coming to town, he spent time serving as a chaplain at the old City Hall court in Toronto.

This came after 30 years as a chaplain at Stoney Mountain Penitentiary in Winnipeg, where he also worked at St. Joseph's Church. He joked that, "I spent 30 years in jail, so after that it was very nice to come to Milton."

An avocation has been working on the grounds at Our Lady of Victory, where he has been an avid gardener for several years. In fact this has been his only active service over the past year, since eye operations and health problems have kept him sidelined.

Krys Good of the Milton Horticultural Society remembers Father Bedford winning first prize in the group's annual gardening category several years back. "For such a tough, strong person to be planting pretty flowers was kind of funny and sweet."

Long-time friend Helen Crozier, an organist and choir leader at Our Lady of Victory, has been active in the church since Father Bedford arrived on the scene.

"He's been a wonderful, wonderful spiritual leader and a very loyal friend to us all. We're really going to miss him when he's gone."

"It's kind of hard to respond to this kind of reception," said Father Bedford. "There's an old Chinese proverb that says 'Blessings never come in pairs but misfortunes never come alone.' I think the blessings came in more than pairs today. These tributes are certainly an honor and I'll keep them where I

• see Harold on page 5

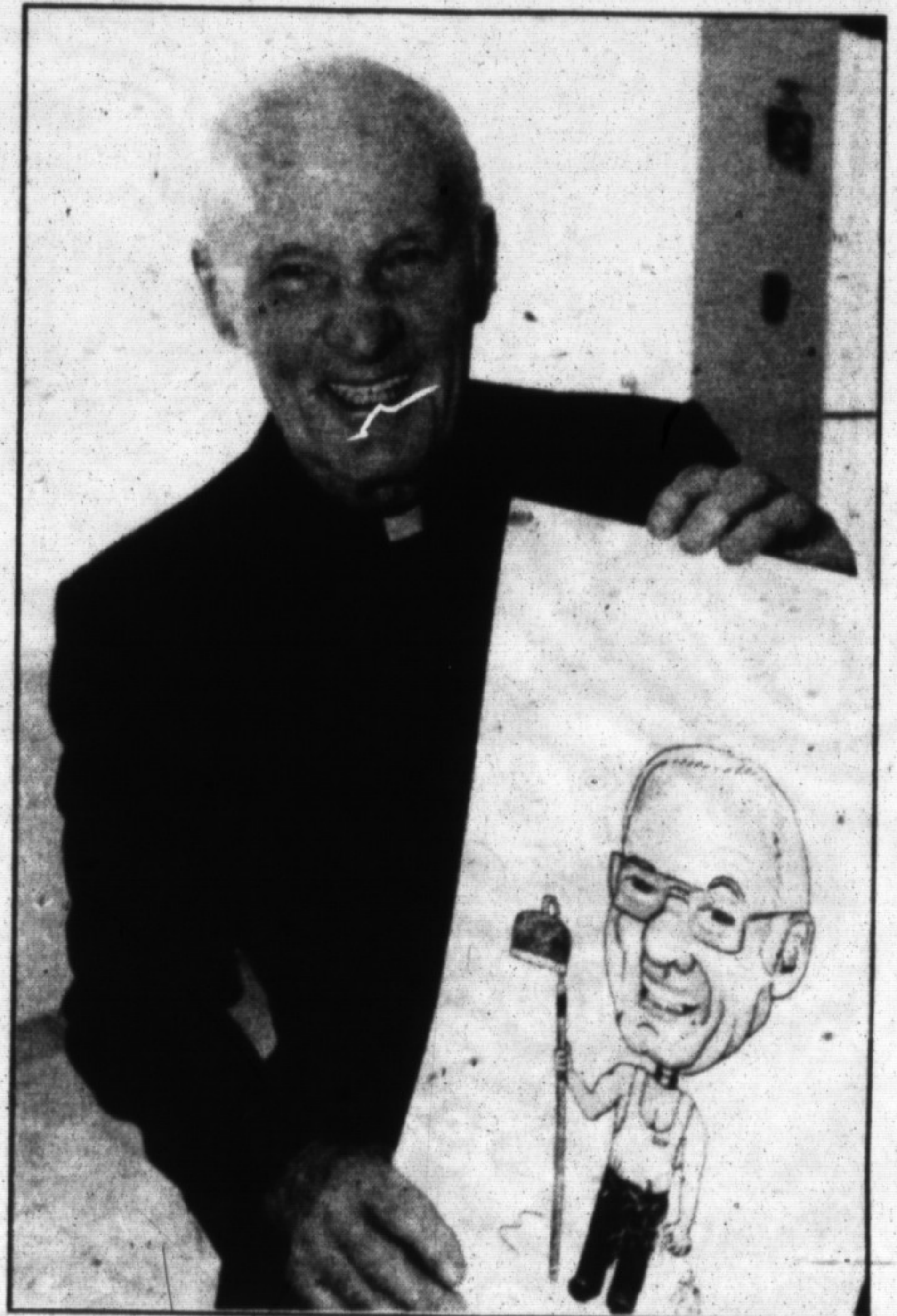


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Milton priest Father Harold Bedford celebrated his 90th birthday Sunday at the Italian-Canadian Club in Milton Heights. About 100 people showed up for the party. He was showered with gifts by the many people he has touched during more than 20 years of service in town.

Quick Lube Service  
-featuring  
Quaker State Oil &  
Fram  
Oil Filters



**ALL THE BEST  
IN '96**

START THE YEAR OFF RIGHT  
With a complete Lube, Oil & Filter

**\$19<sup>95</sup>** Lube, Oil & Filter  
includes A Fram Oil  
Filter and 4 litres of  
Quaker State Oil.  
Most Cars.

**Brian's**  
Auto Repairs & Tire Centre  
For all Your Auto Needs!



390 Ontario St. N. Unit #1, Milton  
HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 7-6, Sat. 8-12 except long weekends **875-1522**



# THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MILTON

878-7211

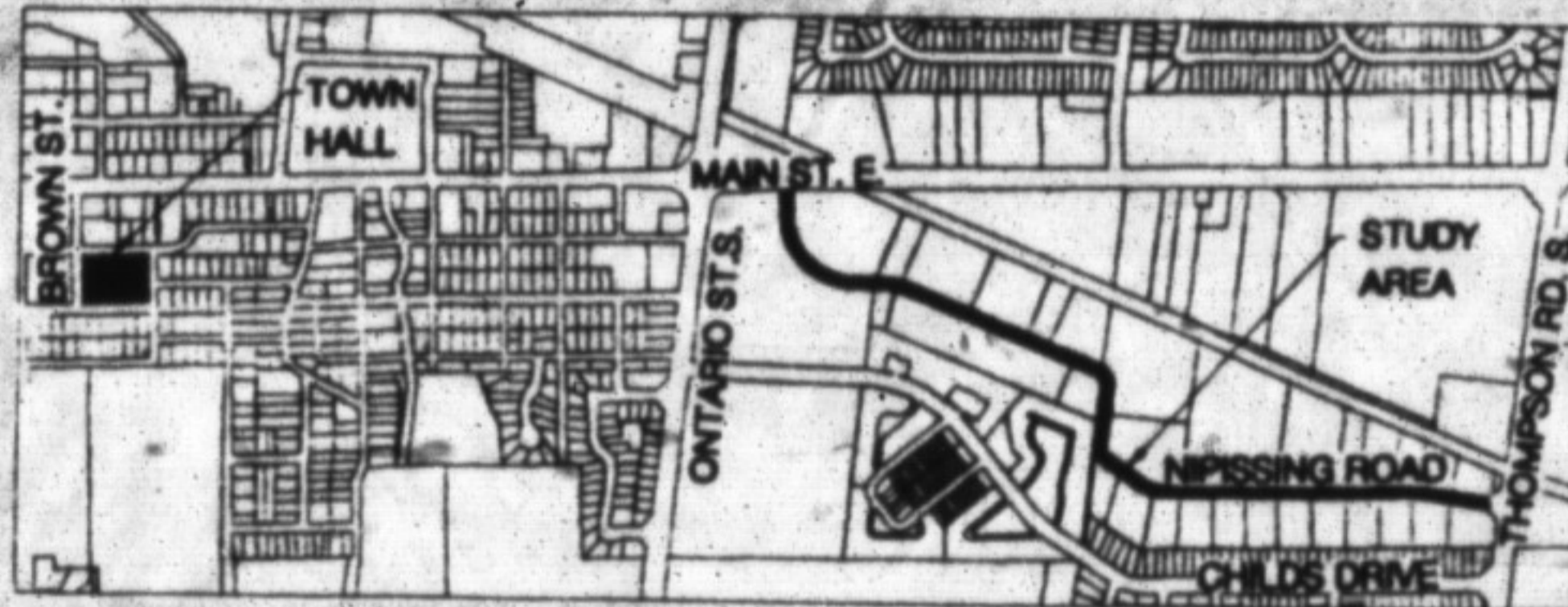


## Nipissing Road Traffic Study Public Meeting

The TOWN OF MILTON is undertaking a study of traffic conditions along Nipissing Road. The study is examining the need for changes to Nipissing Road to accommodate future traffic related to the planned expansion of the Milton Mall and redevelopment of lands along Nipissing Road east of the Mall.

A PUBLIC MEETING will be held as follows:

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, January 31, 1996  
Town Hall Foyer  
Victoria Park Square, Milton  
Open House format -  
drop by anytime during the times  
shown above.



The PUBLIC MEETING is an opportunity for members of the public to provide input on the study findings to date. This is the first of two public meetings.

**All members of the public are encouraged to attend.**

At the public meeting, you will be asked to review and comment on:

- the traffic volumes and problems that show that changes to Nipissing Road need to be studied
- the alternatives that have been developed to date to address the traffic problems, including potentially closing Nipissing Road at Main Street, and
- the factors that will be used to evaluate the alternatives to select a preferred alternative to alleviate traffic problems on Nipissing Road.

The study is being undertaken in accordance with the Class Environmental Assessment Municipal Road Projects.

For further information, please contact:

Mr. E. Iovjo  
Director of Planning and Zoning  
Town of Milton  
Victoria Park Square  
P.O. Box 1005  
Milton, ON L9T 4B6  
Tel: (905) 878-7211 Fax (905) 878-6995

Norma Moores  
Project Manager  
IMC Consulting Group Inc.  
152 Main Street  
Cambridge, ON  
N1R 6R1  
Tel: (519) 622-0681 Fax: (519) 622-2411

## DEPARTMENT OF LEISURE SERVICES

# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ARENA BOARD ADVERTISING

Proposals are being accepted for the supply and installation of Arena Board Advertising at Milton Memorial Arena and John Tonelli Sports Centre.

Specifications are available at the Leisure Services Department, Town Hall Milton, Victoria Park Square, Milton, Ontario.

Deadline for submissions is  
January 22, 1996.

Jennifer Reynolds,  
Director of Leisure Services  
The Corporation of the Town of Milton  
Victoria Park Square  
P.O. Box 1005  
Milton, Ontario  
L9T 4B6