

Milton is smoked in weed challenge

By KAREN SMITH
The Champion

Milton finished dead last among Halton municipalities in a recent smoke-free challenge launched by the Lung Association.

Halton Hills, which had the highest percentage of participation per population in the Weedless Wednesday event, won the challenge among Halton's four municipalities.

"The numbers were not what we expected in Milton," said Ellen Brighton of the Lung Association's Halton branch.

More than 100 Halton Hills residents — both smokers and non-smokers — phoned a hotline number reporting that they weren't lighting up on January 17.

The Lung Association didn't release the final figures of the phone-in registry for the other three municipalities.

However, Bishop Reding students came through in the secondary school category of the challenge with 288 students signing up to say they weren't smoking.

But Milton District and E.C. Drury high schools lagged far behind, likely due to the fact that Weedless Wednesday

fell in the middle of the public school board's exam week, Ms Brighton said.

Across the region, St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School in Oakville won the category with 970 students and staff participating.

In the hospital challenge, Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital came out on top with 206 staff, physicians and volunteers declaring they were smoke-free.

Milton District Hospital fared well, however, with 62 people participating.

"They don't have a big staff at all so that was a really good effort," Ms Brighton said.

Halton Region puts its budget on hold

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guideline of \$38.35 million for 1996.

Chief Campbell said if the budget increase was not passed he would recommend the matter be taken up by the Ontario Civilian Commission on Police Services (OCCOPS).

Citing collective agreements with staff and the need for OCCOPS approval for any police layoffs, Chief Campbell said he had few options for instituting cutbacks.

He said a constable earns \$51,000 per year and costs the department about \$70,000 per year in wages, benefits and the cost of outfitting for duty. The police budget is 82 per cent salaries and benefits, he noted. The Halton Regional Police Service employs 545 total staff, including 297 constables and 145 civilians. Chief Campbell said the force is currently operating 20 constables short of full strength. Ten jobs for officers would be filled if the additional funding was granted.

Despite a detectable thaw among councillors regarding the police budget, Burlington Mayor Walter Mulkeewich was convinced police will not get the full amount they request when the issue is again dealt with in late March.

"All we can do is raise taxes, cut services or institute user fees," said Mayor Mulkeewich. "Police will cut services like the rest of regional departments. However, in the end we are talking about the fabric of our community."

Milton Councillor Colin Best insisted the police use the time made available by the deferral to look for further efficiencies in their operation. Several small money-saving ideas were touched upon by council, such as assigning auxiliary officers to the safety village and drug education programs.

Jazz tribute at Stage West

The touring Broadway musical *Five Guys Named Moe* opened in Mississauga Feb. 1.

The Clarke Peters tribute to 1940s' jazz great Louis Jordan will be featured at Stage West dinner theatre, 5400 Dixie Rd, until April 14.

Jordan, an alto saxophonist who died in 1975 at the age of 66, was a pivotal figure in the development of rhythm and blues. He holds the all-time record for top 10 rhythm and blues hits (55) and number one hits (18).

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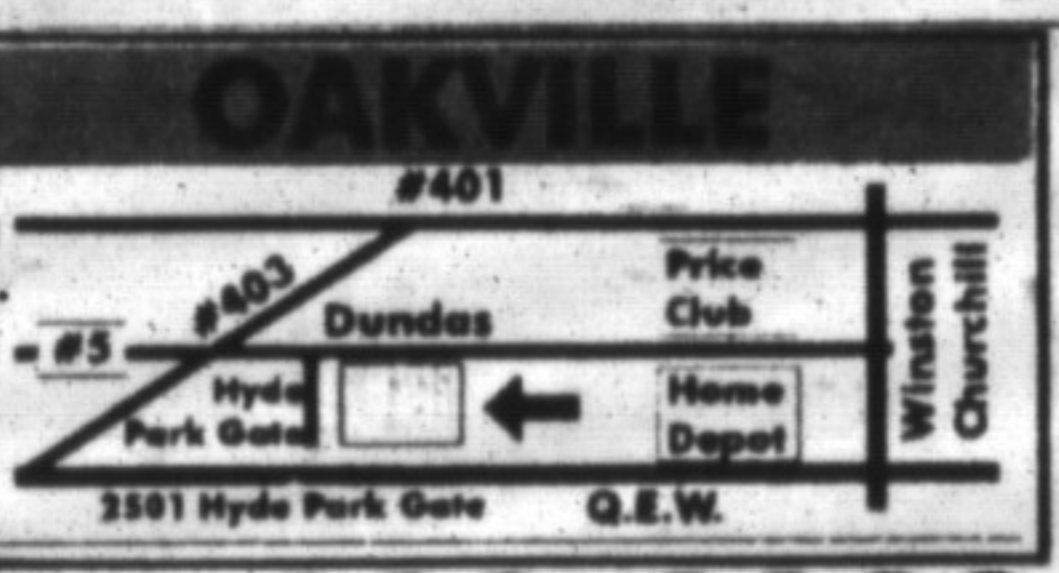
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On behalf of Milton Town Council and the entire Milton Community I would like to thank you and The Canadian Champion for your support and assistance given to the welcoming home event for Astronaut Major Chris Hadfield.

Your contribution in co-sponsoring the Hadfield insert in the December 15th paper helped make Major Hadfield's welcome home on December 17, 1995 a historic and memorable day for Major Hadfield and the entire Community.

We very much appreciate your assistance in this community endeavor.

Sincerely yours,

Gord Krantz

G.A. Krantz
Mayor

The Canadian Champion