

# The Canadian Ch...

SERVING MILTON, ONTARIO

Ont. Community Newspaper  
Box 451  
OAKVILLE, ON  
L6J 5A8

A Metroland Community Newspaper

Vol. 138 No. 2

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 1996

36 Pages

75¢ (GST included)

## Maplehurst will be one of new provincial super jails

By BRAD REAUME  
The Champion

Milton's Maplehurst Correctional Complex will likely double in size as part of a restructuring plan announced last week.

Maplehurst will be one of five provincial super jails in a consolidation expected to result in the loss of 1,300 jobs and a saving of \$75 million per year in operating costs. With as many as 1,000 additional beds it could well become the largest correctional facility in Canada, according to acting superintendent Michael Stephenson.

However Milton Mayor Gord Krantz questioned how the municipality will be able to provide water services for the new beds given that development in Milton has been stalled for years due to a lack of sewage capacity.

"We have a serious servicing dilemma here," said Mr. Krantz. "If there are problems building a few single family homes, what impact will an additional, say 800 inmates have?"

Still, Mr. Krantz said he supported the expansion because of the potential for additional jobs in the community and because the institution "has been a good community citizen."

Mr. Stephenson said correctional officers have mixed emotions about the changes, explaining they are concerned "about peers in other institutions but also (they) see there will be more opportunities locally." He said there was a "sombre" reaction to the news mixed with a little disbelief.

"There will be no moving of inmates from other institutions until new construction is completed," he said. And, "We will maintain the same level of security as we do now."

Despite the size of the new institution it will be important to maintain the human touch with inmates, said Mr. Stephenson.

According to Ross Virgo, a spokesperson for the Ministry of the Solicitor General, which runs prisons, uniformed guards have expressed some worry about

the changes. He added the union bumping process is quite complex and will be addressed if layoffs become necessary.

"We are a long ways from any such provisions coming into force," Mr. Virgo said. "We must give notice six months before termination but we are a minimum of two years away from any closure."

He added there will be retirements in the hundreds and many guards who see that they might get affected by layoffs will begin to look for other work, making it difficult to predict the actual number of displaced employees.

The guards are members of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU). Union representatives are unavailable because they are on strike against union management, in the wake of discontent about potential layoffs of OPSEU staff by management within the union itself.

According to Ontario Solicitor General Bob Runciman, changes to Ontario's prison system are designed to reduce operating costs and increase efficiency.

• see KRANTZ on page 8



Gord Krantz

## Army is on manoeuvres

Miltonians shouldn't be concerned if they see armed soldiers in full combat uniforms running around Kelso and Rattlesnake Point Saturday.

Members of the Canadian Armed Forces' Royal Regiment of Canada will undergo training at the local conservation areas Saturday as well as Saturday, Oct. 19.

The trainees will carry rifles, but no ammunition, said Staff Sgt. Jackie Gordon of Halton Regional Police.

"We want the public to be aware they will be in the area on those dates," she said.



Historical interpreter Christine Smith shows what the Ontario Agricultural Museum is all about as she demonstrates how the rural attraction Saturday.

Museum group is pleased with turnout at fundraiser

### NEWSLINES

#### BILL'S AUTO BODY SHOP



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#### Jury is cooling heels

The jury in the Fred Sheppard murder trial was excused yesterday and told to come back today as legal issues continue to be sorted out.

Judge Robert Zelinski told jurors to neither discuss the case outside the courtroom nor read any media reports about the trial, before excusing them until 2 p.m. today.

The first witness has yet to be called in the case, which is expected to last four weeks.

Keith Madeley, 22, stands trial for first degree murder in connection with the shooting death of 77-year-old Fred Sheppard of Milton.

His body was found by family members March 7, 1995 in the out-house behind his Steeles Avenue home.

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## HOT FASHION TIPS for FALL

### Merchants' Fashion Shows

September 21

11:00 • Suzy Shier

12:00 • Cleo / Ricki's & Bootlegger

1:00 • Peggy's of Milton

## MILTON MALL

OPEN DAILY: MON.-FRI 9:30-9:00  
SAT. 9:30-6:00 SUN. 12:00-5:00

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