

The year began with a shotgun start

Milton proved once again in 1996 that small towns can be big on news.

The past year brought no shortage of controversy, excitement, tragedy, unusual occurrences and change for local residents. From the opening days in January to the closing moments of the holiday season, the community was chock full of activity.

Here's a brief rundown of happenings in the first part of 1996. The remaining months' events will be published in upcoming issues.

JANUARY

• Halton North MPP Ted Chudleigh stressed reports that the provincial government would renege on its promised tax cut were simply not true. "The tax cut will be instituted in the way it was laid out in the Common Sense Revolution," said Mr. Chudleigh. "On top of the tax cut there is a health tax levy, which claws back money from those making more than \$50,000 per year. The health tax levy is on page six of the Common Sense Revolution. The tax cut is on page five."

Mr. Chudleigh said press accounts had indicated the rich were getting a bigger tax break than lower income Ontarians. However, the percentages are the same, he said.

• The province's Special Investigations Unit began an in-depth probe into the accidental discharge of a policeman's gun during an arrest the previous month. The incident followed a high-speed chase in which two Hamilton youths, finally stopped with the use of spike belt, refused to get out of their vehicle. A Milton officer was attempting to break a window of the vehicle with his gun when the weapon discharged. A 15-year-old male was later treated for cuts to his arm.

• Keith Madeley, accused of shooting an elderly man to death in his outhouse, faced two additional charges in connection with the case. The 22-year-old was charged with counseling perjury and attempting to obstruct justice. The charges stemmed from incidents just prior to his preliminary hearing for first-degree murder. Halton Regional Police did not release any further details.

• It was learned that Town of Milton coffers would take a bigger hit from provincial cutbacks than was originally thought. While 20 and 24 per cent cutbacks were anticipated in August and November respectively, ratified predictions had Milton facing a 33 per cent cut in grants from the province, or about \$880,000 from grants of \$2.7 million. The original estimate was for a drop of \$540,000 in grants.

• Milton District Hospital's first baby of 1996 was born to Sharon and Jamie Arnold of Cambridge. Jacob, the couple's first child, was born January 4 at 7:15 p.m. and weighed in at 8 pounds, 1 ounce. Milton's first baby of the new year was born two days earlier at Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital to Tracy and Eric Klepsch. Heidi arrived Jan. 2 and weighed 7 lb., 13 oz.

1996

IN REVIEW

• Beloved Milton priest Father Harold Bedford celebrated his 90th birthday with 100 friends, parishioners and well-wishers at the Italian-Canadian Club in Milton Heights. Known for his bombastic sermons, Father Bedford was the oldest working Jesuit priest having served Holy Rosary and Our Lady of Victory churches for the past 23 years. While he was no longer a regular behind the pulpit, he was still associated with the churches on a part-time basis.

• Milton Mall manager Marion Shannon announced that a three-month trial smoking ban throughout the shopping centre would begin in February. Despite threat of alienating smoking customers, Ms. Shannon said she was contemplating a permanent smoking ban at the Ontario Street mall.

• Kirsten Harmark's Milton Club rink lost a heartbreaking 5-4 decision to Cannington in the finals of the Ontario Junior Women's Curling Championships in Newmarket. The local team - which comprised Kirsten, sister Andra, Catherine Kemp and Nicole Pellegrin - came up just short of defending their 1995 title as Cannington's Deanna Schell scored a final point on her last shot to win the game.

• Halton North MPP Ted Chudleigh voiced his opposition to released GTA reform proposals, which called for the pooling of business taxes among the regions and Metro Toronto to finance education as well as advocating hiking suburban commercial taxes and dropping Metro Toronto's. "Until I see some responsi-

bility taken by Metro Toronto regarding their situation then I'll be damned before I'll agree to any sharing of taxes from my area," Mr. Chudleigh said.

• Local hockey fans saw action of an international flavour when the Milton Merchants played host to the Russian Central Red Army Junior A Club at Memorial Arena. Despite a valiant effort, Milton lost 8-5. The international tilt came on the heels of an impressive run for the surging Merchants, who had climbed their way to third place in the West Conference and captured the Newmarket Showcase Tournament title just two weeks earlier.

• The Milton District Hospital Board agreed to a six-month interim deal with local obstetrician Dr. Sushil Suppal to cover his

• see YEAR IN REVIEW on page 14

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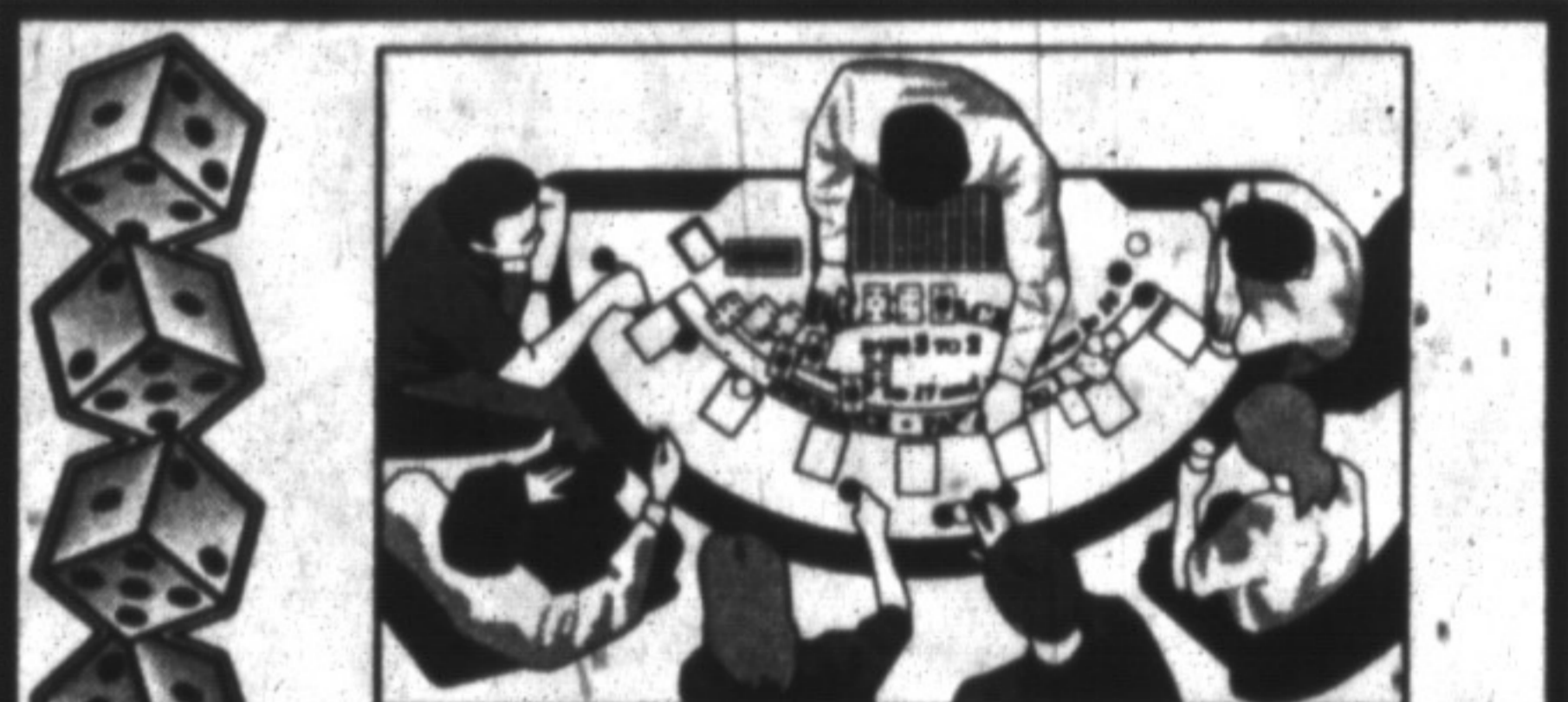
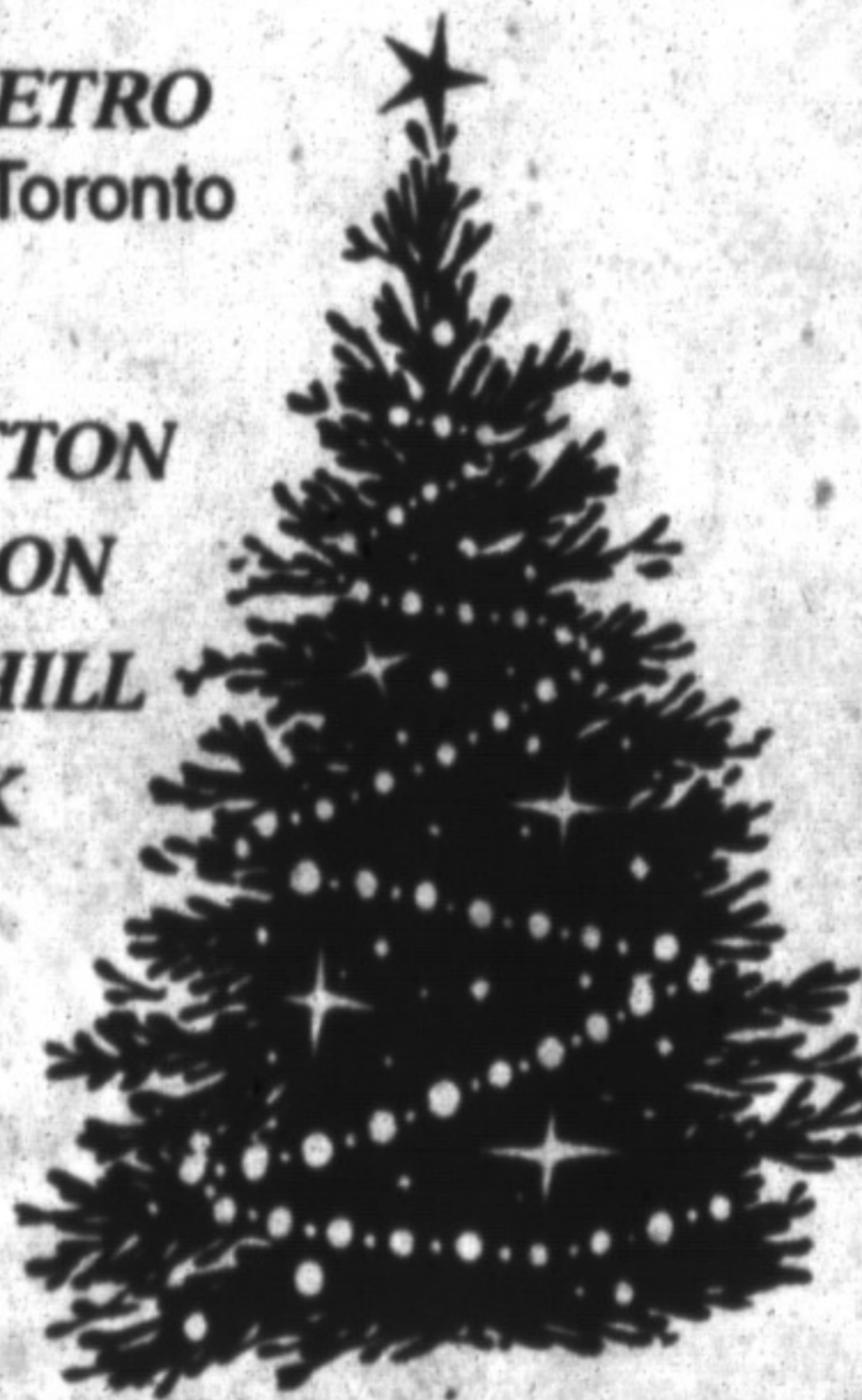
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