

# Long tradition of community service feted on weekend

• from ROTARIANS on page 4

The club's first community event, Mr. Ledwith said, was a Halloween party held in an upstairs room of Town Hall (then on Main Street). "We gave out 300 to 400 bags of candy that night. It kept the kids off the street," he said, noting the population of Milton was 2,000 at that time.

While the Milton club has existed for half a century, Rotary clubs have been going strong for 90 years, he said. The first club was formed in Chicago as a simple businessmen's networking club with each member representing a different profession or industry.

But the Chicago Rotarians' status grew when they decided to become more involved in the community by erecting washrooms in the city's downtown core.

Gradually Rotary branched out, forming chap-

ters throughout the U.S. and into Canada. Winnipeg was home to the first club outside the U.S. in the early 1900s. Today, there are one million Rotarians world-wide and the organization is represented in almost 200 countries.

Modern Rotary organizations have the same focus as a professional classification club, however, women are now included, Mr. Ledwith said. "The club would be hard-pressed without women today," he said, noting the rise of females in business.

The first woman to join the Milton club, former teacher and town councillor Blanche Hinton, became a Rotarian eight years ago.

Club membership has declined since the mid-1960s as a commuting society grew, said club past president Ries Boers. Many professional people no longer live in town.

"The people we need are young business peo-

ple and they're really busy, so it's a Catch-22 situation," he said.

Many older members have passed away and Mr. Ledwith is the only charter member still with the club.

The Milton group may be small, but the 17 current members score big points for effort, Mr. Ledwith added.

While the benefits of the organization are great for the community, Rotarians have their own personal reasons for joining.

"I enjoy the fellowship," Mr. Ledwith explained. "Some of my best friends were Rotarians. I've met some wonderful people over the years."

Mr. Boers, a member for 20 years, said he joined the club to give something back to the community. The Rotary Club supports the Easter Seal Society, he explained, which has provided

services for his handicapped daughter.

"It's (Rotary) become part of my life," Mr. Boers said. "I've chosen to take the time."

Local Rotarians meet at the Muddy Duck Banquet Hall every Monday at 6:30 p.m. The dinner meetings include a mix of business and pleasure, Mr. Ledwith said.

The membership fee is \$160 per year and Rotarians are required to attend at least 60 per cent of meetings, Mr. Boers noted.

Past and present members as well as friends of the Milton club will celebrate the 50th anniversary with a shindig at Halton Hills Place tomorrow (Saturday) night. The dinner and dance will feature a five-course meal and disc jockey. About 150 people are expected, Mr. Boers said.

Anyone interested in becoming a Rotarian can contact Mr. Boers at 878-2721 during the day or at 878-4693 in the evening.

## Homeowners are still wary

By BRAD REAUME

The Champion

Two nearby residents will join town planners in a bid to ensure changes in the plaza at Wilson Drive and Main Street are satisfactory to local home owners.

Last week in front of municipal councillors Adrian Strank and Sheena Wigglesworth both agreed to represent the neighbourhood and review site plans.

Owners of the plaza have had difficulty getting tenants and blame restrictive zoning. The plaza is zoned for light industrial uses but has been home to numerous retail businesses, including take-out restaurants. New zoning will allow such commercial uses.

Local residents have some problems with smells that these restaurants generate and are wary of potential parking, loitering and traffic problems if new retail businesses are allowed into the plaza.

"Residents are concerned about having a whole plaza full of take-out places," said Councillor Wally Hunter. "They don't want the smell or places that attract smokers."

Mayor Gord Krantz said site plan requirements will take care of many of the problems at the plaza including potential smells, because it can address placement of garbage containers.

"I would like to see square footage for restaurants limited," said Mr. Strank. "We don't want any convenience store either and we want it in writing so people can't get around it."

In the past Domino's Pizza has operated in the plaza despite industrial zoning which did not permit restaurants. At a meeting last year council heard that plaza management allowed the pizza outlet because it was deemed to be "manufacturing pizza" and thus conformed with the industrial zoning.

Ms Wigglesworth said councillors should learn from the planning mistakes of large urban centers and consider the future of the intersection in making any decisions.

"We are trying to protect our homes," said Honey Wigglesworth. "The plaza was a mistake. You admit it. We don't want vandalism, we don't want bright lights or a 24-hour operation."

Architect Susan Black, representing the plaza's owners, said they are anxious for a site plan agreement and are working to resolve outstanding issues. She suggested a compromise on the restaurant issue is possible since too many restaurants would not be beneficial to the plaza. She was unable to make a commitment on behalf of the owners.

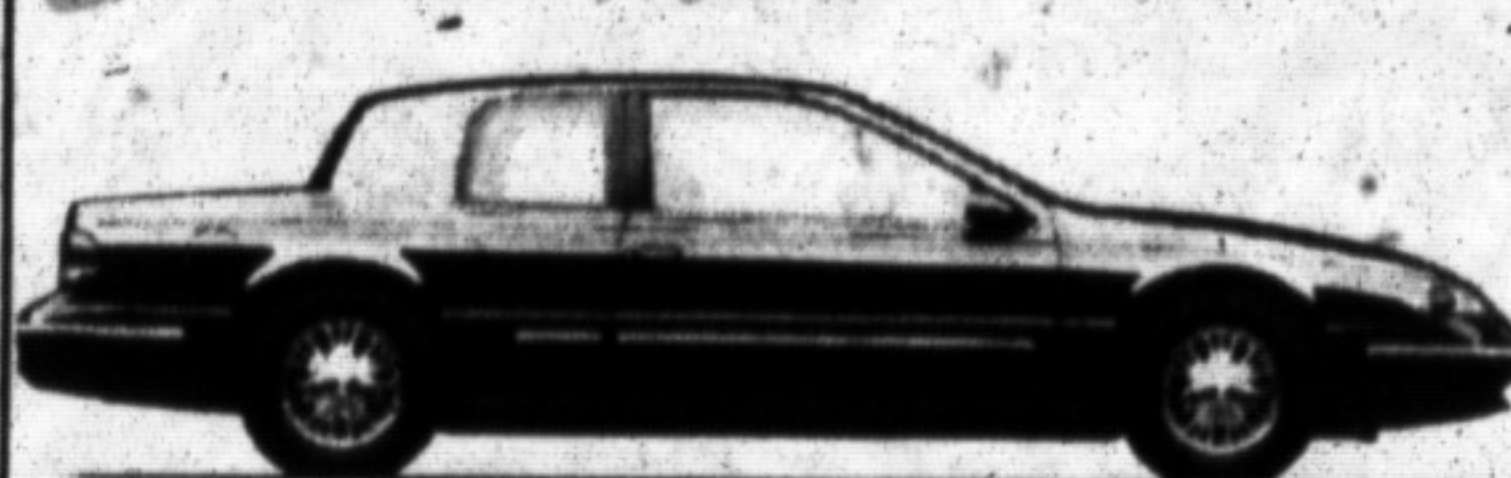
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