

# Auction is arts council's bid for firm financial foundation

By JANE MULLER  
Staff Writer

This, like many other small communities has been labeled a "hockey town".

It is an image which won't stand in the way of the Milton Arts Council. The 30 supporters of the performing, visual, and literary arts came together last November. Almost a year later it is embarking on a fund raising venture.

An auction has been planned for Sat. Sept. 15 at the Martin House. Not only will the group need community support the day of the event, it is seeking donations of items



and services to be auctioned.

The financial goal of this first-time event is \$5,000. The group currently has little or no operating funds and has been relying on the generosity of members to publish newsletters.

With the projected funds, the council will for the first time be able to fulfil one of its mandates. It is hoped the money will bring at least two performing arts groups to town, sponsor a bus trip to Stratford Shakespearean Festival and develop membership.

"We're still trying to get things off the ground. It usually takes a few years," explained arts council member Jenny Amy. A long range goal of Milton Arts Council is

to establish a theatre here for the use of performing arts. According to Mrs. Amy these plans could be tied into the town's master plan for culture and recreation.

While she admits many consider this a "hockey town" others including group members think it is also an arts town.

"There are a number of artists living in this community," Mrs. Amy said.

Increasing the visibility of local artists and imports is one of the council's objectives. The fledgling organization has not developed a constitution and no membership fees are being charged. A successful auction will likely move the group in this direction.

The auction has been attracting support from businesses and artists. One local

woman is donating her culinary skills by offering a gourmet dinner prepared at the buyer's home. Several pieces of art have also been contributed.

Any item or service will be accepted. Contributors are asked to put a dollar value on donations. Service clubs and others arts groups are being tapped along with businesses. Donation forms are hand delivered to as many places as the membership can reach.

Milton Arts Council is relying on this event to provide one year of operating funds. As Mrs. Amy points out, it takes money to get money. A firm financial base will not only give the group credibility, it will make Ontario Arts Council and Ministry of Citizenship and Culture grants available to it.

Assistance is required by the group from a couple of dedicated volunteers who can work on programming and publicity. Mrs. Amy said one or two people who are either unemployed, retired or simply have time on their hands will make the difference.

"One problem is almost everybody is heavily committed to other things," said Mrs. Amy of the membership.

The upcoming auction will put a dollar value on local support of Milton Arts Council. And judging by the aims of this group the, auction's success will depend on residents' support of the arts in general.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the auction should call 878-0518. Contributors will be recognized in an auction catalogue. 30 180 Omagh Mill

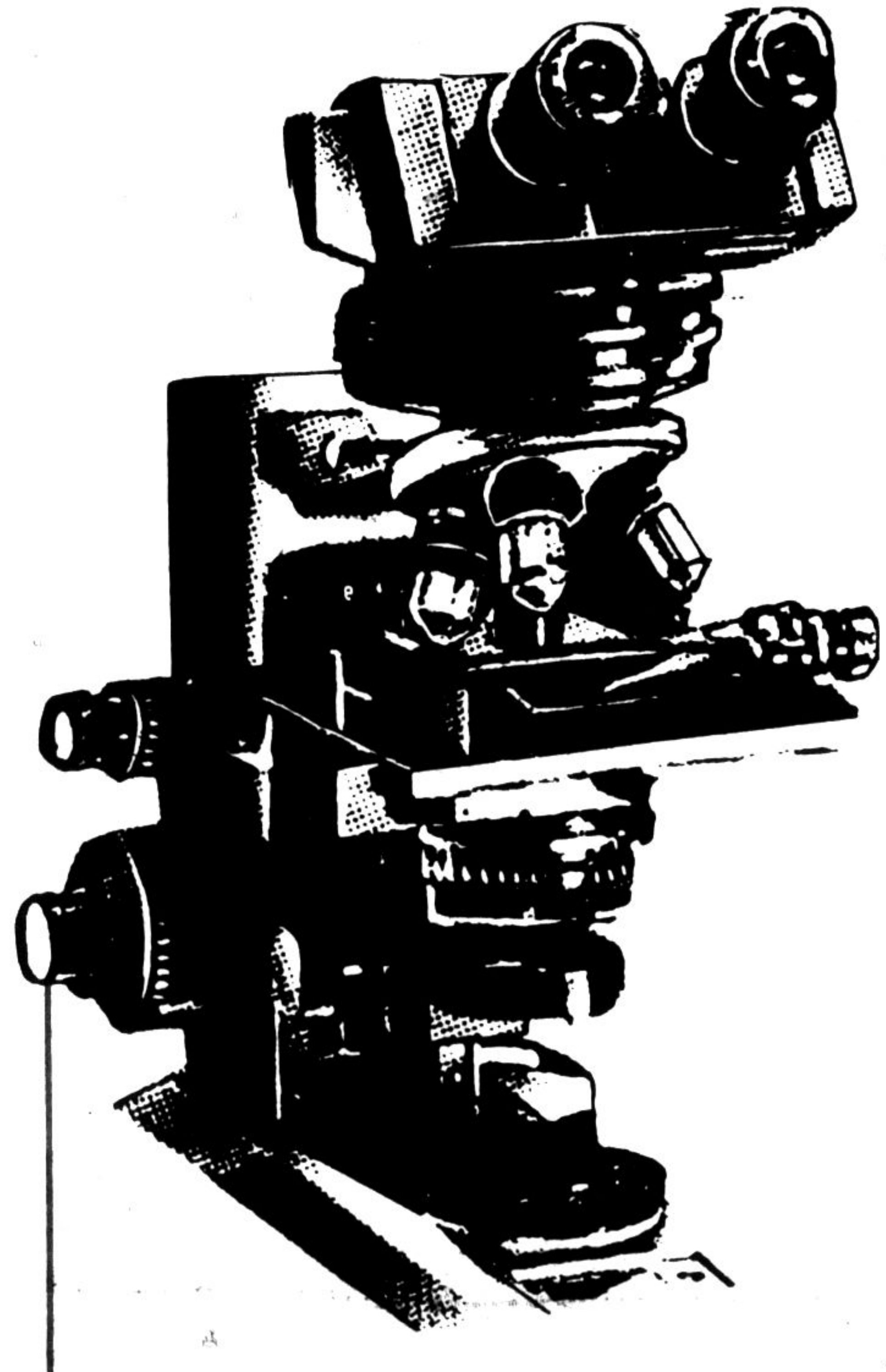
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# about town

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 1984

THIRD SECTION

**CO-OP**  
**DOG CHUNKS**  
20 Kg **\$13<sup>50</sup>**  
(pick up only)  
**878-2391**



## Vampires of medicine are little known lab link

By JANE MULLER  
Staff Writer

"I want to be a medical laboratory technologist when I grow up."

As unconventional as that statement may sound, there are 9,000 people in Ontario who made that decision. These relatively unknown members of the Health care team are celebrating August 20 to 26 as Medical Laboratory Technology week.

Katherine Carleton is one of the behind the scenes workers whom she contends are often known only as vampires and blood-suckers. The deputy chief technologist at Milton District Hospital has, along with fellow staff, been able to dispel this image in the small town facility.

The size of the local hospital makes it necessary for technologists to come face-to-face with patients. They take blood samples each morning and can be seen performing the same task in the emergency room and in the lab itself.

"You would never see the patient at a large hospital. Here you can see total patient care," she explained.

Most of a technologist's time is spent in the lab. Dubbed by the Ontario Society of Medical Technologists "your health detectives", lab staff analyse any body fluids, secretions and excretions. Although they can't make a diagnosis, they often know what it will be before the doctor who ordered the tests.

This field of medicine takes in five disciplines, covering the analysis of body fluids, isolation and identification of bacteria, study of blood cells, tissue and grouping and cross matching blood. While all of the local lab staff, including three full-time and three part-time, have specialized in one of these areas, their work is not confined to a specialty.

As the deputy chief points out, in a larger hospital technologist would not likely cross over to other areas. Here versatility is necessary and the job becomes more interesting as a result.

She describes laboratory science as "very exact work". It is also potentially dangerous especially when working with diseases like hepatitis. "We know the hazards," said Ms. Carleton.

Connie Daub, who started at the local lab last week said she "washes her hands a lot". Hygienic practices make her feel safe even when working with salmonella and gonorrhoea cultures.

There is a frightening factor in her work however. Taking blood samples from a heart attack victim while emergency staff are attempting to revive him "scares" her the most.

The technologists perform about 250 tests a day in the crowded 500 square foot laboratory. A 60 channel analyzer, which does the work of a least three humans daily, is an asset to the facility. It is rare to find this machine, capable of completing sophisticated tests, in a hospital of Milton District's size.

Still some procedures are too complex and infrequent to be carried out locally. A lab in Toronto is used in such cases.

"Routine tests which could help a patient immediately are done here," Ms. Carleton explained.

Modern technology and its benefits have been felt by the deputy chief. When she began her career more than 10 years ago, she relied on a sliderule. Then came calculators and now computers.

### Changes no threat

Advancements have made results more reliable and obtaining them more time efficient. She has no fear of being replaced by these mechanical aids however.

"Somebody has to run and design the machines. We have to interpret results and trouble shoot," she said.

Keeping in step with change means constant upgrading through extension courses. For those entering the field, 11 Ontario colleges offer programs.

Medical laboratory technologists have traditionally been women. Ms. Carleton attributes the fact 75 per cent of technologists are female to the relatively low pay. The financial picture is improving as is the male representation however.

"It is an excellent career because you can advance to different degrees," suggested Ms. Carleton.

One aspect of the job which could be considered a drawback is the on-call duty. Ms. Carleton cannot remember a time when she was not called in after hours. Sometimes it can happen two or three times a night.

"People get sick 24 hours a day," she explained.

The lab work gets done in the lab despite the competition between staff and equipment for space. The expanded hospital will include a 5,000 square-foot laboratory. That's nearly ten times the size of the current location.

"We're all looking so forward to the expansion," admitted Ms. Carleton.

### Expansion coming

Some new equipment will come with the larger working area and that will mean faster turn around time on tests, according to Ms. Carleton. The laboratory will be able to handle a greater volume of tests and some new analytic procedures to increase accuracy of results.

Out patients will no longer be overcome by the mass of equipment they now see when blood samples are taken. A large reception area will be part of the basement location in the addition.

Chief technologist Geoffrey Snell has been working with architects to design the new facility.

"The chief technologist has been working so hard on pricing and investigating equipment," Ms. Carleton said.

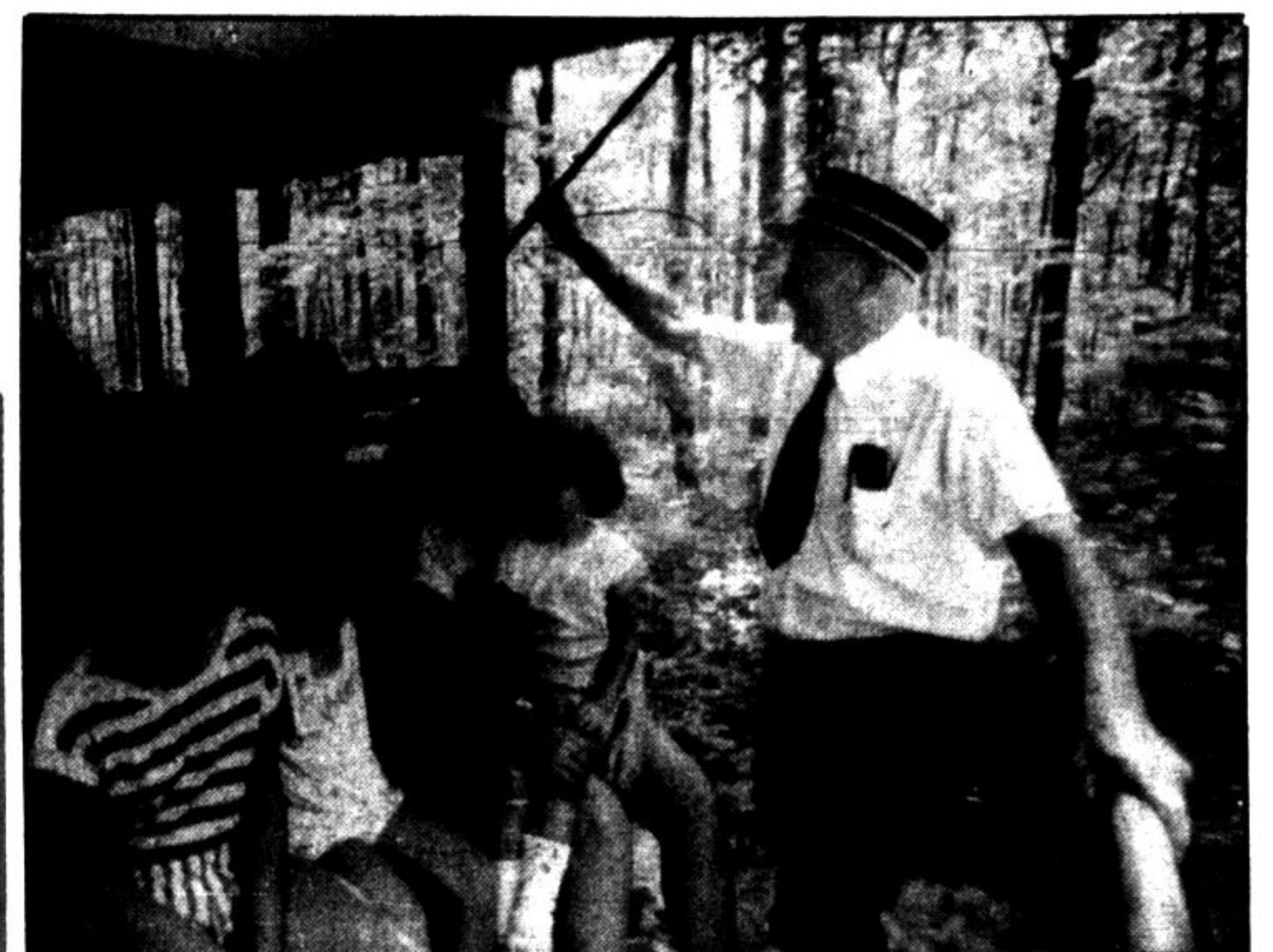
The results of his efforts will be open to the public once the new laboratory is established. The public eye has been exposed to the existing laboratory. Students are generally the most frequent visitors.

"We like talking about our profession," explained the deputy chief.

A woman who feels a positive attitude toward one's profession is important, she has influenced her younger sister and a babysitter who are both medical laboratory technologists.

It appears those in the career are responsible for generating interest in the field. Miss Daub for example was tuned in by her sister-in-law.

Although public tours will be held off until the move, those interested can pick up literature concerning the profession at the hospital.



There was plenty of room on this semi-retired electric railway car to accommodate this group of 43 pre-schoolers. The three to five-year-olds from Milton Parks and Recreation Department summer pre-school program were at the Electric Railway Museum recently. The day trip was organized to fit the week's theme of transportation. Bill Petrie (right) is a volunteer conductor. (Photo by Jon Borgstrom)

## Tracks provide trip back in time

A form of rail transportation popular in the 1920s is alive and moving at the Electric Railway Museum.

Through the dedication of volunteers, 14 antique rail vehicles and streetcars have been restored and set back in motion. A mile of track tracing the former Weston-Woodbridge Line through scenic woodland provides rides into the past.

Passenger vehicles include a car built in 1893. What used to carry passengers for the Toronto Civic Railway now carries museum visitors and the passions of those who support the facility located in north Milton.

Most of its 50 vehicles have been donated by members of the Ontario Electric Railway Historical Association. They are also responsible for the relocated Rockwood railway station at the site. The station, built in 1920 was moved to the museum in 1971, one year before it opened to the public.

Located on Guelph Line, nine miles north of HWY. 401, the museum's railway line runs along what used to be the right of way for the Toronto Suburban Railway. The line was incorporated in 1894 and dismantled in 1931. The tracks provided electrically powered transportation from Toronto to Guelph in its brief history.

What began with a handful of enthusiasts and a small piece of land has grown to more than 200 members and 32 acres. Membership has been growing since the association was formed in 1954 and draws not only from Ontario but Europe and the United States.

This fall an international gathering of members of the Association of Railway Museums will meet at the Halton Country Radial Railway Museum. Curator Joan Johns calls the location of the event a "feather in the cap" of the local facility.

Sat. Sept. 22 will be the third time the convention will be held in Canada. Generally it is shifted from east to west each year in the U.S.

The convention will not deprive the public of visiting the site. The museum is open weekends beginning with Victoria Day holiday to the end of October.

This summer it has remained open through the week. The extended hours have meant the volunteers who man and work at the museum haven't had to turn visitors away as they have in the past.

Sundays continue to be the busiest with anywhere from 350 to 400 people. June and September bring groups of students to the museum.

The curator is the only full-time staff and has been in that position since the museum opened in June, 1972. Her husband is currently president of the Ontario association. Bob Johns joined the group in 1955.

Their daughter Kathy has practically grown up at the museum where she has donated much of her time. This summer she is being paid for conducting tours, however.

She and volunteers like Rockwood resident Bill Petrie drive the restored cars. Donated labour is the means of returning the vehicles to their original states. Car No. 327, a workhorse for the Toronto Civic Railway now gleams as it did when it left Preston Car and Coach in the late 1800s.

Utilizing volunteer labour makes the job of restoring cars a long one. Some cars have taken up to 12 years to complete. The result of painstaking care for detail is evident in No. 327 from its wicker seats to shining woodwork and pot-belly stove.

The "spitting and smoking prohibited" sign offers this advice in original lettering. Located above wood-framed windows, authentic advertisements offer casual reading to passengers. Prices they promote aid along with the clatter of the old car in taking passengers on a trip back in time.

While the efforts of volunteers are obvious, the job ahead of them is equally evident. The restoration centre and car house contain many examples of electric railway vehicles ranging in age from 30 to 60 years. More than 30 await facilities.

"I don't think we'll ever be done," explained Kathy of the membership.

A move by the Toronto Transit Commission to dispose of car No. 55 (circa 1915) 30 years ago is credited with the start of the association. Founders purchased three acres of the existing site to house the first of the collection. Since that time flat-bed trucks have been carrying retired vehicles to a home where they won't simply sit and rust.

Special events are planned at the museum several times during the season. This weekend is dedicated to the Toronto Suburban Railway. Visitors are asked to bring memorabilia and their memories of the turn of the century service to the museum Aug. 18 and 19. Such information is scarce, according to Mrs. Johns.

"The T.S.R. was popular in Halton but when it ended in 1931—it ended," explained the curator.

When leaves change to their fall colours the museum offers additional rides into its piece of woodland. The fall "extravaganza" attracts as many as 900 visitors. This year it is scheduled for Sun. Sept. 30.



This bacteria culture will be tested with a number of antibiotics to determine the best method of treatment.



Despite developments in the field, medical laboratory technologists will always rely on microscopes. Here, Katherine Carleton views a slide of blood cells. Blood tests are the most popular at Milton District Hospital's lab.

Photos by  
Jon Borgstrom