

Main St. merchants say new spirit came from meeting

The largest assembly of Main St. merchants ever brought together under one roof heard Milton clerk-co-ordinator, Roy Main say there are some exciting developments coming downtown in the very near future.

An estimated 82 merchants were in the Charles Hotel last Wednesday evening to discuss reasons why business is slow in the downtown core, and what can be done to bring that business back downtown.

Mr. Main, at the urging of mayor Gord Krantz, revealed that a developer has a plan for the 2.5 acres beside the current town hall. On that land which runs eastward from the town hall, Mr. Main spoke of a commercial, residential, retail "component" which is in negotiation at this very moment.

He termed the development "exciting" and hinted the details only have to be worked out before something new is added downtown.

The meeting was called by the Downtown Business Improvement Area and the group's chairman, Barney Henderson, said

it was the largest DBIA meeting he had ever attended.

Speaking on the pluses of downtown were: the owners of Quality Greens; Mike Hall, advertising manager of The Canadian Champion; Sandy Martin DBIA promotions manager; and outgoing treasurer, Don Lougheed, who has been intimately involved with the downtown revitalization since it was started some four years ago.

There were a number of accomplishments besides writing the information from Mr. Main on the town lands.

The DBIA has asked for implementation of the Turners-Lyon report on the farmer's market and move it to Main St. starting this year. The market is moving from the parking lot off Mary St. to make room for the re-construction of the old courthouse and jail into the new Milton municipal centre.

Making the initial call was Mike Boughton, of Mike's Barbershop. He said he wanted the farmer's market on Main St. and he said the DBIA should push for it.

The merchants did not waste time with a

committee, but at the urging of Mayor Krantz, a show of hands was held on the feelings of the merchants and it was nearly unanimous that the Chamber of Commerce be asked to help the DBIA move the market to Main St.

The meeting was also told the Salvation Army hopes to open a retail store very soon someplace on Main St.

Sandy Martin said Milton's DBIA committee is adopting "Welcome To Jasper Martin's Town" as a theme which is hoped will catch on in a very big way.

She introduced a series of promotions which will run right through until August and which the DBIA will use to stimulate business. Among the plans the DBIA hopes to promote is a Heritage Recipe Competition in May; a Jasper Martin Sidewalk Sale in June; fashion shows and a street closing in July; and a chili cookout in August.

John Dorris, owner of the Milton Art Gallery has confirmed he will offer Canada Savings bond in an Easter Art competition which will be held in April.

Everyone who attended the meeting last Wednesday told The Champion they were impressed by the new feeling that seems to have sprung up among the merchants.

Many said they would be attending regular Tuesday meeting of the DBIA for the very first time and intended to keep on coming.

Party plans flop

Halton's regional story is nothing to get happy about and we shouldn't spend good money celebrating its 10 years of existence, says Burlington mayor Roly Bird.

He told regional council the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Regional Municipality of Halton was nothing to throw a party about because "nobody wanted it in the first place."

Councillors not only turned down a regional celebration but also rejected combining it with Ontario's bicentennial celebration for one big party.

It had been suggested that \$20,000 (\$10,000 recoverable from the province) be spent on the Bicentennial-decade bash and that it be staged under the direction of a four-member

regional committee which would have included Brad Clements from Milton.

When the party and committee came to a vote, it was rejected.

Inglis at post

Dr. J. G. Inglis has agreed to be Halton's acting Medical Officer of Health.

Dr. Inglis, of Burlington, will fill the vacancy left by former Halton MOH, Dr. Peter Cole, who now is the MOH for Peel Region.

Dr. Inglis was the acting MOH when Dr. Jack Chamberlain retired from the post several years ago.

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