

Opinion

Here comes your chance to have your say — don't waste it

Milton residents have several major opportunities over the coming months and they should take full advantage of them.

Those opportunities come in the form of elections — at every level of government.

A provincial election is set for June 12. It will be followed by a municipal election on October 27.

And if that isn't enough, in 2015 we'll go to the ballot box again at the federal level.

Voting is a right, an opportunity and a foundation of our democratic country.

Yes, it may be tedious to sift through the campaigning process, endless photo ops, the jostling for position, polls and empty promises, but casting a ballot is a right, your right. Voting is something so many in other countries only dream about.

Look around you.

Are you happy with the landscape? Have things bothered you? Have decisions made sense? Do you feel we are moving forward positively and productively?

Whatever your answers, it's up to you to do the homework and find the person you believe would best serve your community.

With a provincial election thrust upon us — but a long time in the making — we should all participate in the process. Now's not the time to be apathetic. We're all far too quick to complain and criticize.

Our municipal governments have seen their mandates extended from the previous three, to four years of power.

We had a provincial government that somehow managed a \$1 billion-plus scandal and a change of premier without an election call.

Governments often play the blame game and voters don't understand which level of government looks after which service.

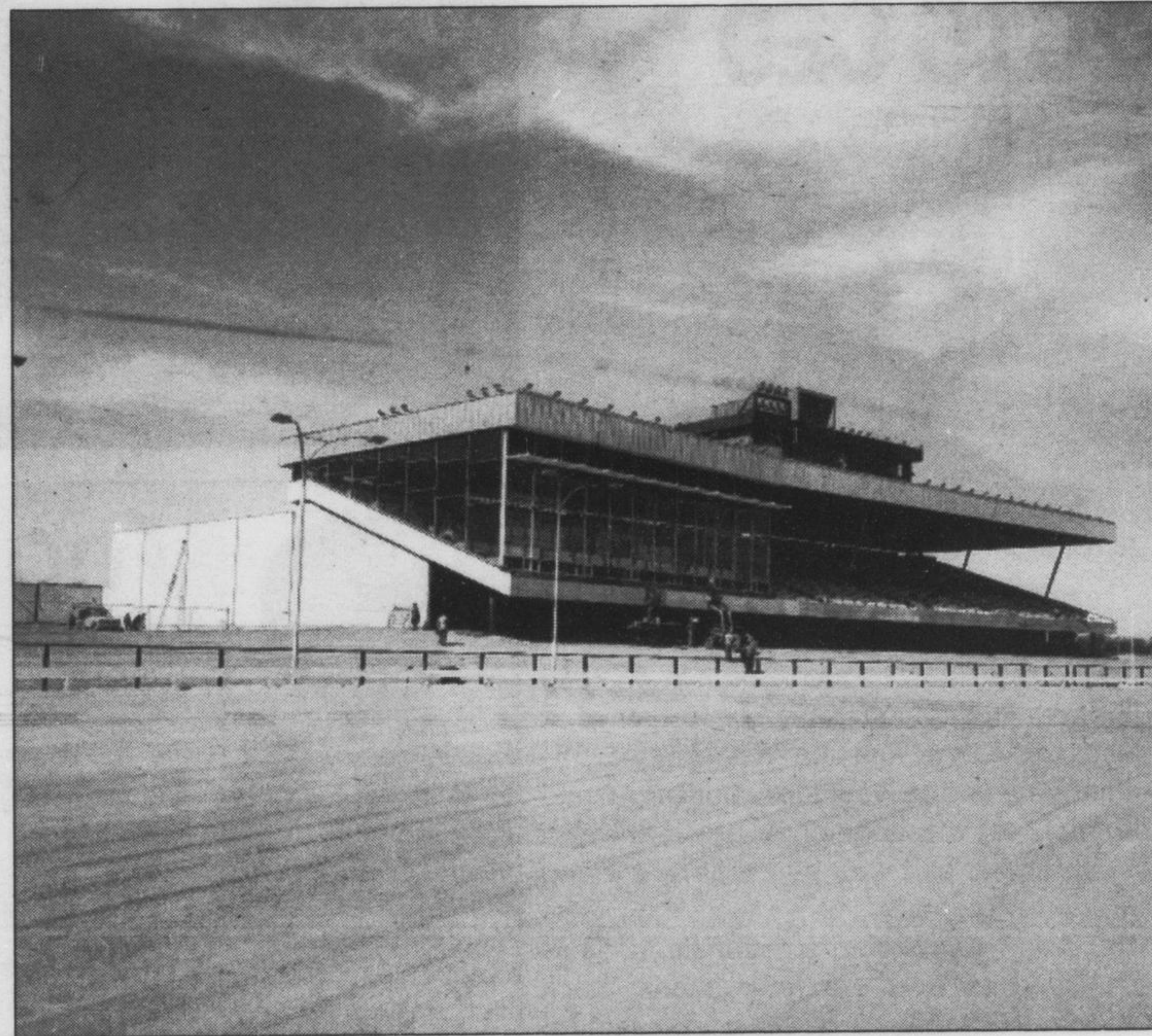
With the trio of elections in the offing, there's an opportunity to learn about the people seeking office and what each level of government is responsible for in the community, province or across Canada.

You'll be voting for those who make decisions about things that affect you.

Do you think your property taxes are too high? If you've been to a hospital, how was your stay? Are your municipal services lacking? Can you access the services you need?

Meet the candidates running for your vote. See if their promises make sense. Ask them to explain their platforms.

This is your chance to have your say. This is where you can make a difference. This is where you can vote. It's a privilege.



Rural Roots

Mohawk Racetrack opened in May, 1963 with great fanfare. Built on a 432-acre parcel of farmland, the \$3-million harness racing track featured a five-furlong track, five stables, bunkhouses, administration offices, grandstand and parking for 1,500 cars. A successful passing of a referendum to permit the sale of alcohol in 'dry Nassagaweya' was a condition of the Ontario Jockey Club choosing this site. The 51st race meet will open next Thursday.

— Submitted by Nasagieweya Historical Society

Editor's Desk

Police, public must work together to make our roads safest in world

Wouldn't it be nice if Canada's roads were the safest in the world?

According to a Halton Regional Police press release that came across my desk in early May, that's the aim of Canada Road Safety Week May 13 to 19.

The national campaign sees police services across the country, including Halton police, take to the streets in force searching for impaired drivers, people not wearing seatbelts, aggressive drivers, those ignoring posted speed limits and those driving while distracted.



Karen Miceli
Managing Editor

And I couldn't be happier about the initiative — especially when I see the alarming number of preventable deaths and injuries. In Halton, there have been 49 deaths and 107 serious injuries related to vehicle collisions over the last four years. That's 49 deaths and 107 serious injuries too many. The lifelong impact on individuals and families can't be captured in statistics.

Motorists — whether a driver or a passenger — must choose to exercise safe driving practices. Drive sober and alert. Make sure you're buckled up and children are properly secured. Don't let yourself become distracted behind the wheel and obey the speed limits and other rules of the road. Police can't keep our roads safe on their own.

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