

Jockey Club seeks tax break



An 8 lb. 5 oz. bouncing baby boy was the first born at Milton District Hospital this year. Matthew James, the first child for Ann and Jim Takacs of 550 Childs Dr. arrived at 2:41 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 2.

If the Ontario Jockey Club gets its way, the Town of Milton will find itself short about \$20,000 in taxes each year.

The OJC is taking four municipalities, including Milton, to court to have its business assessment changed to reflect the non-profit status it was granted in 1979. The OJC wants its assessment retroactive to 1979 and should it win its case in the Supreme Court of Ontario, it could cost Milton nearly \$500,000. The re-assessment involves Mohawk Raceway on Guelph Line north of Campbellville.

Of the four municipalities, Milton is affected the least. The City of Etobicoke, home to Woodbine Racetrack stands to lose more than \$500,000 per year. Fort Erie, with its thoroughbred racetrack and the City of Toronto, with Greenwood Raceway, are also affected.

The court case will come about May 9 at the Supreme Court of Ontario in Toronto. It's expected to be a tough battle. Milton Council approved a recommendation that it join the other three affected municipalities in action against the OJC.

James McQueen, town treasurer, said he had been in contact with the three other municipalities and while they all expressed concern, he said, none had launched a plan of attack.

Mr. McQueen said he would report back to council concerning the best ways to combat the re-assessment case. He suggested several alternatives although Councillor Rose Harrison urged that any plan involve the other municipalities in a united front.

A change in assessment of Mohawk Raceway would significantly affect the town's finances, said Mr. McQueen in his report.

"At this point, I don't know on what basis the Jockey Club feels the property should be exempted from assessment and resulting taxation," he said.

"However, if this were a successful appeal

at the Supreme Court level, there would be a significant impact on the Town's assessment base. For example, in 1984 alone the business taxes on this property amounted to \$83,697 with the Town's share of this amount being approximately \$20,000. The business assessment on the Mohawk racetrack is \$364,680 or one-half of one per cent of the Town's taxable assessment.

Inside Today's Champion

Steamers Dull Blades	Credit Union Report	5
Milton Steamers finally made good use of their large number of games in hand by turning back Oakville Blades 7-4 Friday at Memorial Arena. For more, turn to page B2.	Big Brothers	6
Snow Removal	AIDE Program	8
Three winter storms in the past week have left Milton's streets with icy ruts. However, Public Works Director John Matthews says a new bylaw set to come on the books in the next few weeks will help. See page 3.	Weddings	9
First Section	The Centre Programs	9
Editorials	4	
Our Readers Write	4	
New Restaurant Opens	5	
Second Section		
Sports	B1-B4	
Entertainment	B5	
Classified Ads	B6-B7	
Who Does It	B8	
Third Section		
Real Estate	RE1-RE3	
More Sports	RE3-RE7	
Inserts		
Loblaws, Simpsons, Shoppers Drug Mart		

First baby

Arriving 10 days before his expected delivery date earned Matthew James Takacs the distinction of being Milton's first-born of 1983.

The first child for Jim and Ann Takacs of 550 Childs Dr. was born at 2:41 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 2 at Milton District Hospital. He weighed 8 lbs. 5 oz. at birth. Although Jim was hoping for a girl, Ann claims she knew their baby would be a boy from the time he was conceived.

Matthew is the first grand-child for both of the couple's parents.

A rare situation at Milton District Hospital resulted in Matthew being the only baby in the nursery. He was brought into the world as his father watched on in the delivery room. The couple attended pre-natal classes together.

Cocaine buy killed man

Police are advising anyone who may have purchased cocaine in Milton around New Year's to beware of the drug.

This comes after the sudden death early on Jan. 1 of Robert Dale McMurray, 24, of Unit 36, 30 Heslop Rd.

Mr. McMurray was rushed to Milton District Hospital on New Year's morning and he died shortly after being admitted. An autopsy was held the same day and the death was attributed to an overdose.

No drink-drive charges during New Year's Eve

Despite intense spot-check activity, police report they laid no drinking and driving charges on New Year's Eve.

Halton Region Police, through the five-man traffic squad, stopped 254 vehicles on New Year's Eve but only cited drivers for Highway Traffic Act offences such as operating an unsafe vehicle.

To members of the squad, the results of New Year's Eve prove the drinking and driving message is finally getting through to Halton motorists.

"There were no impaired drivers, no ALERT tests given and no breathalyzer tests needed," said squad commander Sergeant Jim Drennan.

"I think the figures are a result of people responding to the publicity about drinking and driving and I think it's great."

Over a 10-day period one year ago (starting on Dec. 22, 1983), police stopped 1,100 vehicles, laid six alcohol-related charges and issued 150 warnings.

"Since Dec. 1 of this year the traffic unit laid only three alcohol-related charges and Sgt. Drennan attributes this to the high profile of the new traffic unit."

"Our goal is to deter drivers from drinking. If we can carry that through the whole year, we are laughing and that's what we are going to do."

You can help

If you've been looking for a New Year's resolution that is easy to keep, you might consider becoming a Halton Manor volunteer.

The Manor currently is in urgent need of volunteers to help with the craft room, clerical duties, mom and tot visiting, adjacent aides, and the friendly visiting program.

Volunteer co-ordinator, Lorena Smith, said that "if transportation is your problem, we now offer volunteers rides to and from our home."

Anyone wishing to more about the volunteer program can call Mrs. Smith at 878-4141.

Said to be largest...

Council gets first glimpse of CP Rail yard

Canadian Pacific Railways plans to go ahead with a massive freight yard in Milton and the railway is ready to show those plans to council on Monday evening.

When a spokesman appears before council, he is expected to explain a railway program to be constructed a multi-million dollar maintenance yard on land between Trafalgar Rd. and Eighth Line covering an

estimated 80 hectares (about 200 acres) the railway recently purchased.

A spokesman for the railway, Mississauga planner John Rogers, told The Champion a scale model of the planned maintenance facility is completed and will be shown to council when the CPR delegation comes before council.

Initial discussions were held with

Mayor Gord Krantz several months ago, but since that time there has been little information sent to town hall concerning the particulars of the proposed facility.

Meanwhile, several Milton councillors are disgruntled that CPR has been going ahead with their plans without involving the town to see if these plans are workable, and particularly if the planned facility will be

allowed under provisions of the town's official plan.

Meanwhile CPR is still in the process of trying to complete land purchases although spokesmen for the railway said it has already purchased enough land to house the project.

Strong protest from the project's nearby residents is also expected when council considers the matter.

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Ambulance On The Scene

Milton ambulance attendant Dave Woodcock and his team were on the scene quickly Thursday when they were called to St. Peter's School to help Jodie Rideout who suffered a concussion to her back after a toboggan accident at Kinsmen Park. She was later treated and released.

Homeless, she hopes for help

By JANE MULLER
 Champion Reporter

She refuses to sell the property she has called home for the past 60 years despite the fact her house was destroyed by fire Christmas Day.

At the age of 70, Marjorie McKerr wants to rebuild her home and her life. The sole survivor of an early morning fire, Miss McKerr, discovered her insurance policy had not been updated to cover current construction costs. A lack of funds has not dampened her hope for a return to life on the property on Five Sideroad, west of Hwy. 25.

A fund has been established to aid the woman who has lived in Milton most of her life. Her immediate need for clothing and shelter have been satisfied, now the long-term necessities must be provided.

When the solid oak door slammed behind her the morning of the fire, it closed a chapter of the spinster's life. Behind it were two boarders, Charlie Ferrier, and William Frederick Veerman and all of her belongings.

She wore no more than a nightgown as she watched the flames engulf the house. Two of her four dogs were never found, a third was destroyed and the fourth is staying with friends in Toronto until Marjorie can again provide a home for her again.

The dog, named Miq, was brought to the home of Bill and Joan Fretz, where Marjorie is staying, for a visit. It was several days after the fire and the reunion brought the first flow of tears her hosts had seen. The house rule which keeps dogs off furniture was waived for the special visitor who was obviously excited about seeing his mistress again, according to Mrs. Fretz.

Marjorie has been a friend of the Fretz family for many years, having frequently babysat their daughter, now 24. The residents of Milton Heights were angered by suggestions that their friend should move to an apartment or Walton Centennial Manor, a home for the aged.

"I won't live in an apartment," said Marjorie who laughed at the suggestion.

She has little to smile about these days. The two men who died were not only tenants but friends. One man had lived in the house 18 years. Family heirlooms including many pieces of furniture which belonged to her mother are among the rubble.

Known for her green thumb, Marjorie now has one plant, given to her by Mrs. Fretz. The giver of the gift admitted it pales in the memory of the beautiful greenery which was



MARJORIE MCKERR

Tenders for wing are let

Permission has been received for the plans of the Milton District Hospital emergency wing to go to tender.

Hospital administrator Brian Brady told The Champion on Friday he had been told officially that morning by the Ministry of Health to start advertising the project in trade publications.

In addition to major publications, Mr. Brady said the tender call will be advertised in The Champion.

"We would like as many Milton people as possible to have a chance to bid on portions of the work which will be needed to build the new wing," he said.

Tenders will be opened Feb. 7 at 3 p.m.

See A11, page A2