

## Illegally parked cars cause plow problems

Inconsiderate and at other times illegally parked cars have made snow clearing for the Milton Public Works Department difficult.

Snow and freezing rain, which fell New Year's Day, has left its mark on the Town's roads. In numerous instances icy ruts have been formed and will remain on the streets until the next thaw.

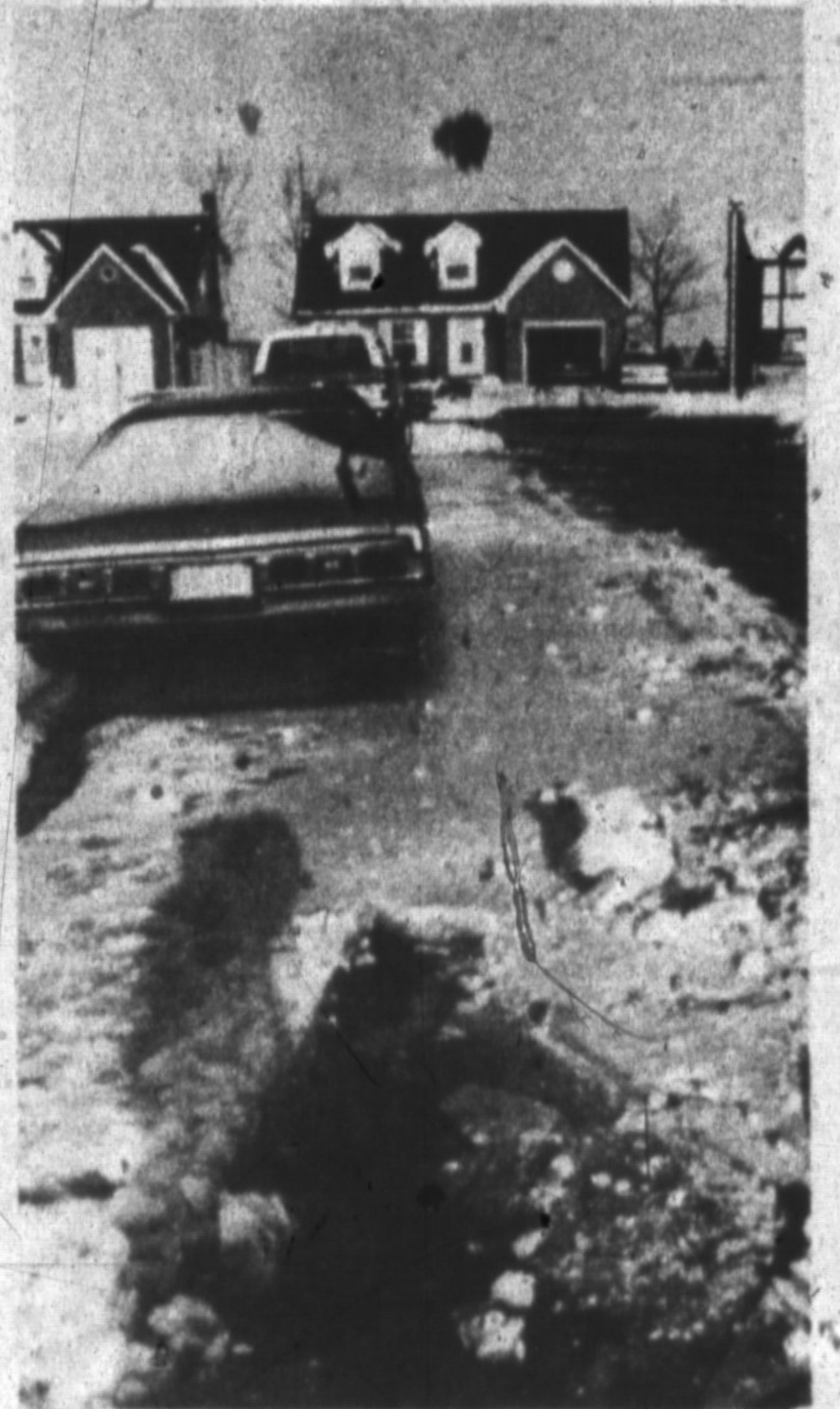
"If cars hadn't been on the streets during our snow clearing, the streets would be in much better shape," explained John Matthews, public works director. "We had to plow around the cars and when that stuff froze it's just too heavy for our machinery to move now."

Mr. Matthews said the town usually waits until after midnight before clearing light snowfalls. Cars are usually off the streets and the plows can move the snow back to the curb. However, on New Year's Day many cars didn't comply therefore causing the snow ruts on the streets.

The problem should be rectified in the next few weeks when the town adopts a new bylaw which will require that no cars be parked on its streets from 2-7 a.m. during the winter months. That bylaw has been approved by Milton Council and is awaiting provincial approval before becoming law.

The penalty etched in the new bylaw will allow the Town to tow cars at the owners' expense if they are parked illegally.

As things stand now, the only law applicable and helpful to the snow removers is the year-round bylaw which limits parking on any street to three hours.



Illegally parked cars have caused havoc for snow removers during the two recent winter storms. Public Works Director John Matthews has asked automobile owners to refrain from parking on streets during the night after storms.



Photo by Jon Borgstrom

## Fire Fighters Saved Lives of Two Motorists

Members of the Milton Fire Dept. were called at 8:45 p.m. Sunday to free a woman from a car in the westbound lane of Highway 401 just east of James Snow Parkway following a seven-car pile-up. Jane MacIver, 23 of Toronto, a passenger in the car, had her leg trapped under the dash. Fire fighters took 45 minutes to free her by cutting off the passenger doors and then cutting away some of the dashboard. The driver, 23-year-old Catherine Jackson, of Toronto,

was also injured when she got out of the car and was struck by another vehicle. Both women were taken to Milton District Hospital for treatment and observation. Five people were injured in this accident. OPP Milton detachment said they had seven personal-injury accidents and eight property-damage accidents on Highway 401 from 8:10 p.m. Sunday in the area between Trafalgar Rd. and Guelph Line.

## Propane cost effective police study discovers

The issue of propane versus gasoline as a fuel for police cruisers is under close scrutiny by Halton Regional Police, and at the halfway point propane has the lead.

From April 1 to Sept. 30, 1984, the study focussed on the cost benefits of each, said Tim Fredo, a research analyst with the force.

Results indicate that propane is a cheaper fuel by about two cents per kilometer of use by a police cruiser. With police cruisers generally traded at 120,000-140,000 km, this allows for a saving of about \$2,400 per car.

However, the cost to convert a car to propane is \$4,600. Applying a \$400 federal grant against the conversion cost reduces the net cost to \$4,200. At this time, the resale value of a propane-powered cruiser isn't known.

For this comparison test, the force is using six gasoline and six propane cruisers. Although it takes more fuel for distance travelled with propane, the overall cost for fuel is lower with propane. Propane sells for

22 cents/litre while gasoline ranges up to more than 50 cents/litre.

However, said Mr. Fredo, since most of the difference in cost is related to provincial taxes, the force would like to be assured that the disparity remains before converting its fleet to propane.

The difference in maintenance costs over a six-month period was negligible. The small difference favours gasoline at \$3,600 as opposed to \$5,800 for propane, he said.

Additional use of propane by the public, he added, could lead the province to raise taxes

to make up for the loss in declining gasoline revenues.

Less than 25 of the force's 100 vehicles run on propane. Force representatives will meet with the ministry of energy early in the new year to discuss the future of propane, he said.

Fredo told the meeting of Halton's commissioners of police that there has been no safety complaint from any of the officers. He added that safety of the two differently powered vehicles would be considered in the second half of the study, which is now underway.

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