

By all accounts

# It was a most eventful year

For many Miltonians, the year 1984 was everything George Orwell said it was going to be.

It was, by all accounts, an earth-shattering year for many citizens.

During the past year, we witnessed a tragic car-train crash with claimed six young lives; a police funeral which drew 1,200 officers from around this country and the U.S.; an announcement that Milton was on the short list for a location to build a toxic waste facility; a trial which saw one public figure found guilty of fraud; and more numerous incidents.

Trying to condense the events of 52 weeks into a single issue is a task no one can give clear justice. There were just too many especially note-worthy events.

On a local level, the Milton Fall Fair, Steam Era, Canada Day celebration and Santa Claus parade again came through with impressive results. They were all good signs the fabric of the community is strong despite its growing size. We all feel encouraged.

There were also much "other news". Police found two dead bodies in the countryside surrounding the town. Neither victim was from town and charges were laid in each case.

Many large fires were reported including one in this edition in which two people died.

The new town hall, costing \$3 million began construction and is nearly completed. The Brown St. site will replace the former

## 1984 in review

Main St. building. In addition, just two weeks ago, the Town announced it had a buyer for the Main St. land. The town is slated to move its departments to its new location at the beginning of April.

It was also a year of large vehicle accidents. At several times during the year, both Highway 401 and the Queen Elizabeth Way resembled junkyards.

Not all news was bad. Several fund-raising groups and organizations met or surpassed their targets. Led by the United Way, which topped its \$85,500

goal and The Christmas Bureau Fund which raised more than \$11,000, the spirit of giving by Miltonians was greatly appreciated.

However, it was a year of major news stories, the like of which we may not see (many of us hope) for many years to come.

It was the year of a tragic police slaying, a terrible crash which claimed six lives, a federal election landslide, a trial of Louis Nadalin and Terance Alty, two non-decisions on two different dumps, successful completion by the Milton District Hospital Expansion Fund, and more than enough new municipal bylaws you could shake a stick at.

Because of the newsworthiness of these eight major events, we have decided to put them back in the limelight for one last look at a most eventful year.



Bruce Doison applies the final brick to the Hospital Fund's board during the "topping off" ceremonies. About 50 people attended the ceremonies during which it was announced the campaign had exceeded its goal by 11 per cent. More than \$1.1 million was raised.

Canadian

# The Champion

A Metroland Community Newspaper — Serving Milton in its 126th year

VOLUME 124—NUMBER 32 MILTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1985

DOOR TO DOOR DISTRIBUTION

We can deliver your FLYERS SAMPLES ENVELOPES

Any day, any quantity.

As low as \$35, per thousand.

Call Alan Beech, 878-2341



# Christmas fire claims 2 lives

By CYNTHIA GAMBLE

The identity of one of two people who died in a Christmas Day fire in Halton Hills has been discovered through forensic tests.

The Centre for Forensic Science in Toronto positively identified 30-year-old William Frederick Veerman as one victim, according to Detective Constable Doug Ford of the Halton Regional Police, who is investigating the fire.

Tests on a second victim were not completed before press time, but the owner of the gutted home, Margery McKerr, believes it may be Charlie Ferrier, a life-long area resident, who has been missing since the fire.

Thirty-one Milton and 27 Acton firefighters were needed to fight the house fire on Lot Six, Concession Two, Five Sideroad, west of Hwy. 25, according to Halton Hills Fire Chief Bill Cunningham.

Just after midnight, two passers-by, Jack Biedermann of Three Sideroad, Milton Heights, and Donald Fox of Britannia Rd., Burlington, spotted the fire.

One of the men went to a neighbor to telephone the Milton Fire Department while the other man helped Mrs. McKerr, who was standing at the front door, to safety. The woman was taken to Milton Hospital by ambulance but was later released.

Milton firefighters arrived at 12.25 a.m. with six pieces of equipment—three tankers, two pumps and one rescue vehicle—to find the rear of the house engulfed in flames.

They encountered heavy smoke throughout the house and were driven back by the heat and flames, Cunningham said.

Milton fire department called for assistance from Halton Hills at 12.44 a.m. and Acton firefighters responded with a tanker truck and a rescue vehicle. A pumper followed later.

The firefighters were hampered by the cold and strong winds, Cunningham said, adding that "when you have to fight from the outside, you don't win too much."

Four firefighters scrambled to safety when an exterior wall collapsed, but 26-year-old Acton firefighter Jack Vos was covered in debris to his neck. He was pulled from the rubble and taken to Milton hospital with a compound fracture of one leg, facial injuries and black eye, Cunningham said.

Doctors operated on his leg at 11.30 a.m. and Cunningham, who saw him later, said his spirits were good. Vos is a 14-month veteran of the Halton Hills Fire Department and lives at RR 2 Acton with his wife and children, including a baby born a week before the fire.

A Milton firefighter, Al Wilke, received an eye injury but returned to the fire, Cunningham said.

The chief said firefighters were rotated in three shifts to spell exhausted and cold members. The blaze was brought under control at approximately 4 a.m. and was out by 8 a.m. The firefighters continued to pour water on it until the last crew left at 2.30 p.m.

The fire is being investigated by the Ontario Fire Marshal's office, the Halton Hills Fire Department and Regional Police, Cunningham said he does not know the specific cause of the blaze but has established that it started in the rear of the home.

The investigation and removal of the two bodies were hampered by unsafe conditions caused by the total destruction of the home. Heavy equipment had to be brought in to raze parts of the two-storey building.

Coroner Dr. L.A. Hunter, who was called to the scene, ordered the bodies to be sent to the Centre for Forensic Science in Toronto. Any information or indication of their identities was withheld until the completion of tests such as dental chart comparison, Cunningham said.

Dental chart x-rays were used to identify victim William Veerman, Detective Constable Ford said. He was a resident of the home for about five years and was a truck driver for a Mississauga firm, Ford said. Veerman is the son of Jacob and Willy Veerman of RR 2 Acton, and brother of Keith, Hubert, Christine, Joanne and Henrietta. A memorial service was held at the Shoemaker Funeral Home Saturday.

Damage to the home was roughly estimated at \$90,000 by Cunningham, although the damage total for its contents has not yet been made.

The last Christmas Day fire in Halton Hills was the total destruction of a home in Glen Williams about four years ago, Cunningham said.

## Fund organized for fire victim

A fund has been started for Marjorie McKerr who was burned out of her home at Christmas.

Miss McKerr was forced to leave her blazing home wearing nothing but a nightgown and slippers.

Taken to Milton District Hospital for treatment, she was released Thursday and is now staying with friends.

Susan Brethet, of The Canadian Champion, is the fund co-ordinator and she inherited the job when friends and neighbours of Miss McKerr began phoning Mrs. Brethet.

"We're trying to do what we can to get her back on her feet," said Mrs. Brethet. "She's got no clothes, no home, no nothing."

Donations can be made by calling Mrs. Brethet at The Champion, 878-2341; or by dropping off a donation here at our offices at 191 Main St. Mailed donations can be sent to The Champion, Box 248, L9T 4N9.

## HRCA move reconsidered

On New Year's Eve it has been the tradition to climb into the bell tower to ring out the old and ring in the new.

This year Mayor Gord Krantz had been hoping he would be ringing in the bell at the town hall post office square for the last time; but there was a grinch which stole the fun and the grinch is called the Halton Region Conservation Authority.

Until last week it was the Mayor's understanding, plus that of most people in Milton, that the HRCA would move into the town hall building on Main St. when the town moves to the new courthouse and jail at Victoria Park.

In fact, a major land redevelopment of the post office had been reached with a Toronto developer on the condition a long-term tenant would be in the town hall building.

But that fell through last week as the authority voted not to make the move to the Main St. town hall but to reconsider it. According to Keith Bird, a regional councillor and HRCA board member, several factors caused the authority to reconsider the move.

Mayor Krantz said he was more than a little taken back by the reversal of the previous understanding with the HRCA.

But he said there is some hope a new tenant for the building can be found and he hinted that another group is interested in taking over the old town hall on Main St.

The name of the new tenant is expected to be announced at the next Milton town council meeting. Halton Region, and specifically the health department, has expressed an interest in the building.

## Search for owner

Milton OPP want information about a 1974 blue Mercury involved in a four-car accident on Dec. 1.

The 1974 blue Mercury was driven from the Tac Man Car Club on Eighth Line in Halton Hills westbound on Highway 7 towards Acton.

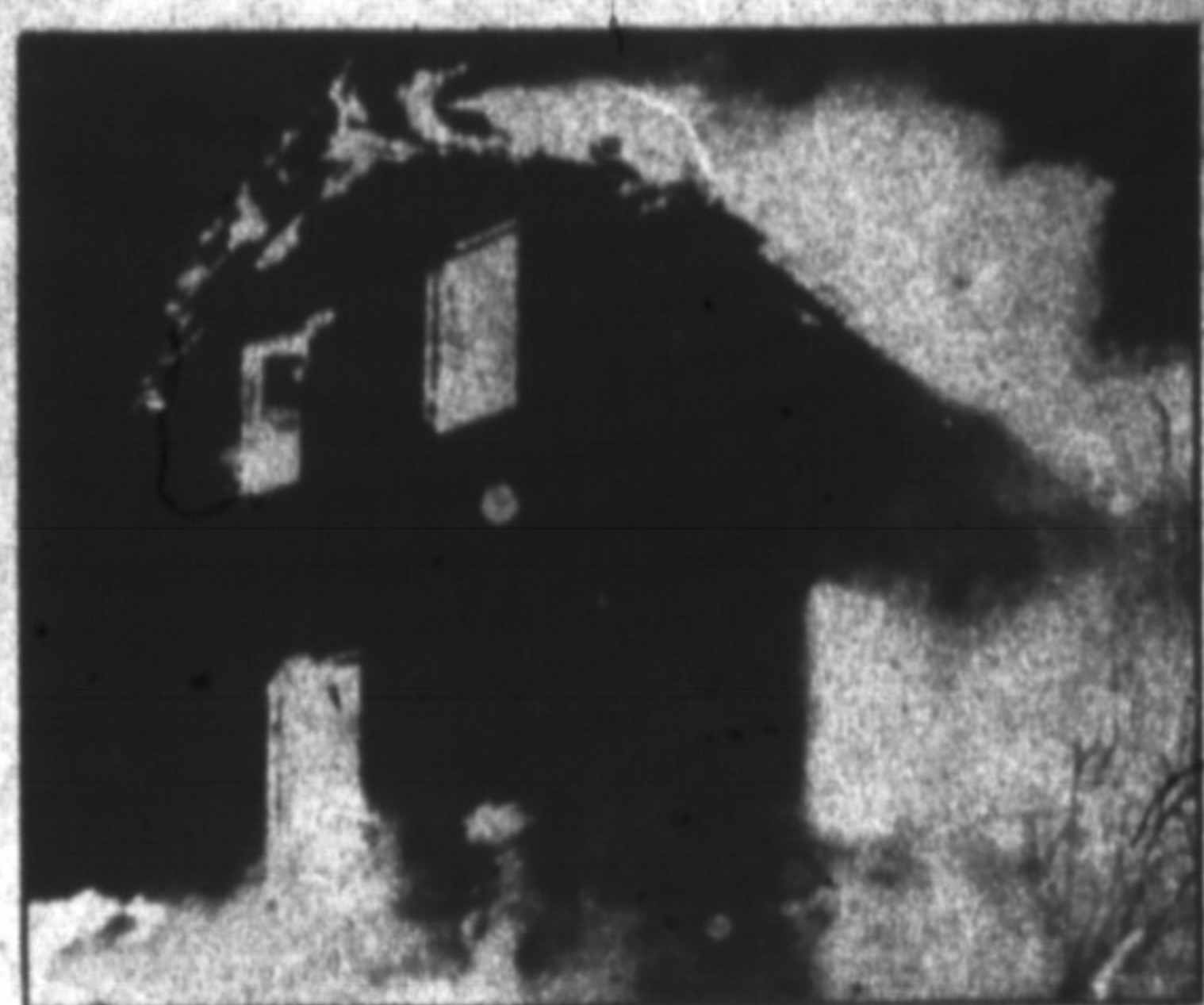
At approximately 12.05 a.m., the blue Mercury was involved in a collision with three other vehicles, which resulted in injuries and hospitalization to the occupants of one of the vehicles involved.

The Mercury did not stop, left the scene and continued northbound on Halton Road 3 with extensive damage to the rear. The vehicle was found abandoned on the Canadian Pacific railway tracks in Hillsburgh.

The OPP in Milton request anyone with information regarding this blue Mercury at the Tac Man Car Club, or observed driving along Highway 7 or Hillsburgh, to contact Milton OPP at 878-2307.

## House razed

Two people died when a fire on Five Sideroad razed a house. A firefighter was injured attending the blaze which occurred Christmas morning. For more pictures, turn to page B4 in the second section.



## To end search

# Mediation proposed for dump

Halton region may resort to mediation to speed the process in selecting its next regional dump site.

Regional council will ask the province's environmental assessment board to appoint a factfinder to see if mediation, once the preferred site has been named, is worthwhile.

Resident groups throughout Halton have made it very clear they will fight vigorously against a proposal which could put a garbage dump in near their neighborhoods.

Oakville residents have already expressed outrage that three sites around the Burnhamthorpe and Trafalgar Roads area are even being considered as potential dump sites by the region.

The region's consultants, Walker, Wright and Young Associates, have been studying six possible sites in Halton for the next garbage dump. There are three in Oakville, two in Milton and one in Burlington.

A decision on the preferred site is expected to be announced in mid-January.

The region already faced a series of challenges, including court proceedings in the past few years, from Milton residents who in 1981 successfully stopped the region from putting a landfill site in their community.

The province consequently has forced the region to go through the current lengthy environmental process in its search for the site. This includes the original Milton site near Tremaine and Britannia.

But the region is quickly running out of place to bury its garbage, as the current site in Burlington is expected to reach capacity in three years' time.

Mediation is a new experiment by the

province to speed up and solve some of the problems in getting a dump site accepted in a community.

Barry Smith, chairman of the Environmental Assessment Board, which will eventually decide if Halton's new site is acceptable, appeared before council Wednesday to explain the benefits of mediation.

The mediation, he said, really means negotiation between the opposing sides, with the help of a neutral third party.

"The success of any negotiation is compromise," he told councillors. "If there is no giving on the part of one party, then the board will forget mediation and go directly to the hearing process."

Mediation would be voluntary on the part of both sides, he said.

But on questioning from Burlington councillor Joan Little, Mr. Smith admitted the mediation is not binding and "there is nothing to stop them (residents) from launching an appeal."

And to Burlington councillor Steve Toth, Mr. Smith also admitted that "yes, people can play games" with this process.

Although council decided to seek a factfinder to examine if mediation is worthwhile, Mrs. Little was skeptical.

"It sounds like it'll be as lengthy as anything else," she said. "The way the province has set this up, it doesn't exactly put me to bed easily at night."

Mr. Toth said, "This won't help. People will have all kinds of reasons to drag it out."

But the rest of the councillors believed there was nothing to be lost by exploring the possibility of mediation.

### Inside today's Champion

<b>Beaver tourney</b>	
A total of 37 teams from Southern Ontario and northern U.S. competed in the Beaver tournament last week at both Milton arenas. For a fundown of the results, turn to page B1 and the sports section.	
<b>First section</b>	
The year in review . . . . . 2, 3, 5, 9	
Columns, Editorials . . . . . 1	
Rates go up . . . . . 11	
Supermarket agrees . . . . . 12	
<b>Second Section</b>	
Sports . . . . . B1-B3	
Fire pictures . . . . . B4	
Cadets tops . . . . . B5	
Classified . . . . . B6-B7	
Who Does It . . . . . B8	
Dateline . . . . . B8	
Real Estate . . . . . REG-REN	
<b>Inserts</b>	
Shoppers Drug Mart, Simpsons	