Pond opened for another year of curling as players hit ice for opening match

Milton Time Capsules

'Time Capsules' are gems of information extracted from past issues of The Canadian Champion and other publications to provide a window into Milton's past. Explanatory comment is sometimes provided to place the situation in context.

December 1892

Milton curlers played their annual match, President vs. Vice President, on the pond on Monday. Players included Jas. Rixon, M.E. Mitchell, J.T. Hannant, D. McGibbon, Rev. R. Haddow, J.A. Frazer, S. Hannant, W. Panton, J. Little, R. Dewar, D. W. Campbell, John Head, R.S. Porter, J.H. McCollom Jarvis Dewar, Duncan Dewar. Mr. John Bradley has leased the curling rink and is busy preparing it with ice for the season.

January 1893

The annual poultry show was a huge success with the best birds ever exhibited in Milton. The show on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday was held in the roller rink, a building particularly well adapted for the purpose, being large and well lit.

The society had our enterprising electric light man — Sid Young — light the building with electricity which enriched the appearance of the birds and made it pleasant for visitors. About 600 birds were on display. (The roller rink was on the site of the present McKersie-Kocher Funeral Home on Main St.)

• • •

There is fine skating at the rink now and the members of the curling club turn out in good numbers every afternoon for practice. Curling and skating tickets are cheap this season and can be had from leasee John Bradley.

• • •

J.E. Berryman, a Hamilton man who manages an employment agency, is arranging for the importation of 2,400 English girls for domestic servants. He says he will have no difficulty in getting places for them.

It is to be hoped that they will be superior to the average of those brought to Canada by Dr. Barnardo, Miss Rye and other alleged philanthropists.

• • •

The officers and men of No. 7 Co. 20th Batt. Lorne Rifles, are jubilant, the county council having passed a resolution on Tuesday to the effect that the proceeds of the sale of the old armoury will be applied to putting up an armoury in the drill shed purchased for the company some time ago by the government.

Thanks go to the able advocacy of Lieut.-Col. Kerns, it was made clear to the council that no injustice would be done to the other companies in the regiment by passing the resolution and it met with little opposition. (The old armoury, owned by the county was located on Queen St. The drill shed purchased by the government was the earlier Knox Church on Martin St. now returned to use as a church.)

• • •

The Methodist church caught fire from the furnace on Sunday afternoon and was in great danger for a few minutes, but prompt action and about twenty pails of water fortunately saved it.

• • •

On Tuesday the county council adopted a report recommending that a telephone instrument be placed in the court house for the use of county officials.

February 1893

Since M.E. Mitchell has assumed the proprietorship of the Wallace House it has been completely refitted. Convenient ladies parlors have been set apart and handsomely furnished. It is also heated with hot air, making it one of the most home-like and comfortable hostelries in Ontario. (More recently known as the Milton Inn the building was destroyed by fire in 1973.)

February 1893

A big load. On Wednesday of last week the team of Jonathan Featherstone drew 156 feet of limestone weighing 8 tons and 68 pounds from Milton to his farm in Trafalgar.

This material is assembled on behalf of the Milton Historical Society by Jim Dills, chair of research, who can be reached by e-mail at jdills@idirect.com.

Our Readers Write

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Reader questions if Ontario's education system is doing enough for all students

(The following letter was addressed to Ontario Minister of Education and Training Janet Ecker and a copy was filed with The Champion.)

Dear Editor:

The academics and politicians have sealed the fate of thousands of Ontario's youths. The ripple of education reform will become a tidal wave of unemployment and low-paying jobs.

Of course, we as a society should always strive for high standards regardless of our abilities. The Grade 10 Literacy Test and Grade 9 Mathematics Test will raise the bar and improve the quality of university applicants and graduates.

What has been forgotten is the fact that only 30 per cent of secondary students move to post-secondary education while 70 per cent go directly into the work force. The Ministry of Education and the boards of education are doing a reasonably good job for that 30 per cent, but what about the majority that goes straight into the work force?

For them, the door has been closed. For whatever reason, learning disabilities that cause a student to fail the standardized test will result in him or her being denied an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (O.S.S.D.). The student might be intelligent and have good verbal communication skills and comprehension, be artistic or brilliant with his or her hands and possess a strong work ethic, but, "Sorry — you have trouble with the written word and you cannot graduate."

Therefore, this student is defeated at grade 10, halfway through high school.

That apprenticeship, that job in manufacturing, construction or service is now out of reach because it requires an O.S.S.D.

Now they're stuck with few choices: become a drop-out or swallow the horrible taste of being unsuccessful (what an ego booster at the vulnerable age of 15) and wallow through the remaining two-and-a-half years of high school and receive a Certificate of Completion.

With that certificate that student can now apply for all those great minimum wage jobs that don't require an O.S.S.D., or seek financial help from social assistance or, worse yet, resort to crime.

In our politically-correct society, how can we allow this discrimination to exist? By all means use standardized tests to improve education but don't use them as an insurmountable obstacle.

With every criticism should also come solutions. Every student who meets the criteria of the curriculum receives an O.S.S.D. and those also successful with the standardized test get a coloured sticker on it stating literacy.

We need an improvement in technical education, like electronics, hospitality, automotive, etc., and a curriculum that supports students to the work force. We must teach students, not subjects. Which is more important 20 year from now, to remember the date General Brock died, or a person who is gainfully employed at a job they enjoy? You decide!

Brian Smith
R.R. 2 Acton

Halton Multicultural Council president responds to the recent attack on Islamic Mosque in Burlington

Dear Editor:

The Halton Multicultural Council was shocked and grieved to hear of the recent attack on the Islamic Mosque in Burlington.

An attack on a place of worship is a most tragic demonstration of intolerance and violence perpetrated by ignorance and prejudice, regardless of which faith is singled out.

Such an action must strike at the heart of all those who hold to a belief in God and in the message of peace voiced in all the diverse sacred scriptures.

It's a violation of our dearly held principle of freedom of religion in Canada.

Halton is home to a multicultural population and it's unconscionable that anyone should think to lift a hand in violent retaliation toward an entire faith community because of the terrorist actions of a few who claim to be adherents of that faith.

The Halton Multicultural Council strongly holds to the principles of unity, diversity, respect and equality for all.

The council will continue its ongoing efforts to work with the Halton Regional Police and the diverse faith communities in the region to ensure that the well-being and rights of every resident is upheld, and that programs to educate, enlighten and promote understanding and harmony are further promoted and continue to be offered.

Laila Eiriksson, president
Halton Multicultural Council

Have an opinion? Fax your letters to the editor to 878-4943.

Investors Group

Financial Planning Career Opportunity

Opportunities are available in our Milton and Mississauga offices for Financial Planning Consultants

- Must have CSC or Mutual Fund license.
- Comprehensive Training and Development Program commencing January 2002.
- Complete benefits package.

Please send your resume to
Val Woolnough, Associate Regional Director or Chuck Ealey, Regional Director @
1 City Centre Drive, Suite 1020, Mississauga, Ontario L5B 1M2
telephone (905) 306-0031 ext. 211 or fax (905) 306-0039 or email valerie.woolnough@investorsgroup.com