

# Opinion

## Relief on the way

Milton, as we know, is growing by leaps and bounds. The latest Census data shows the Town's population has grown more than 30 per cent since 2011, making it the fastest-growing community in Ontario.

Our burgeoning community is adapting as best it can to rapid growth with Town and Halton Region officials working to ensure the municipality and region can accommodate the influx.

The same can be said about our school boards officials, who put forward a comprehensive list of capital priorities to Ontario's Ministry of Education. The Province recently responded favourably to the board's requests, promising funding for the expansion of existing schools and the construction of new ones.

Relief for Milton schools bursting at the seams is on the way.

Unlike in neighbouring communities like Burlington, where the Halton District School Board is proposing closing schools due to excess pupil spaces and projected enrolment rates, boundaries are being redrawn in an attempt to address the issue of overcrowding here in Milton.

The board recently completed a comprehensive review of the Martin Street Public School boundaries with trustees voting unanimously in support of preferred recommendation 12B — an option endorsed by the Boundary Review Committee (BRC) that consisted of two parents from each affected school and members of the school board's Boundary Review Steering Committee (BRSC).

The new boundaries, effective for the 2017/2018 academic year, will see Martin Street Public School reopen this fall with JK to Grade 6 students in the English program and Grades 2 to 6 students in French immersion. Grade 7 would be added in 2018 and Grade 8 in 2019.

The school's eastern boundary for both English and French students is set at Ontario Street.

As of September, French immersion students in grades 2 to 6, who live in the Brookville and Escarpment View schools catchment areas, will now attend Martin Street School.

Throughout the lengthy review process that began in November 2016 and had the potential of impacting a total of nearly a dozen local schools, concerns were raised about the impact on students. Many Milton youth, according to parents, have moved to a new school every year as a result of boundary changes.

Finding a suitable accommodation solution that would be to everyone's liking is unrealistic and most likely impossible. In the face of this particular challenge, the BRC, BRSC and Halton District School Board of Trustees made the right call.

Upon completion, the expanded Martin Street Public School will serve triple the number of students with room for about 750 inquisitive minds and classes in both the English stream and French immersion program, effectively relieving accommodation pressures experienced at other Milton elementary schools.



### Spring forward

It's time to spring forward. At 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 12, Daylight Saving Time begins. Residents are reminded to set their clocks forward an hour before going to bed Saturday night. Milton Fire Department Acting Chief Dave Pratt urges homeowners to use the time change as an opportunity to check and — if necessary — replace the batteries in their smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. *Jayson Mills / Special to the Champion*



## No pay hike for Toronto Brick Co. employees despite going on strike

*Time Capsules are gems of information extracted from past issues of the Champion and other publications in order to provide a window into Milton's past.*

### March 1922

A number of the workmen of the Toronto Brick Co. have been on strike for some days. They want an increase in wages from 30¢ to 35¢ an hour. Later it was reported they accepted the 30¢ they had refused.

On account of the present bad state of the roads, the buses of the Mohawk Transit Co. will run on a changed route until further orders — Milton to Hamilton via Palermo, Bronte, Port Nelson, Fisher and Freeman.

D.S. Robertson and C.D. McGregor of Milton and J.B. Murray, Toronto, with a number of others from Sault Ste. Marie, left Sunday night for Houston, Texas, to inspect the oil fields of West Columbia and other districts.

At a meeting in the school house at Zimmerman the Halton Community Baseball League was formed. The following teams were represented: Tansley, Mountain Union, Palermo, Lowville, Mansewood and Zimmerman.

Nassagaweya Farm Loan Association was organized two weeks ago, the first in Halton. Esquering came next with organization last week. Association members are: President W.F. Bradley, Georgetown; Vice-President Norman Wrigglesworth, Georgetown; Director Edwin Harrop, Milton; Municipal Directors James R. Lindsay and R. McCulloch, Georgetown. Esquering council showed faith in the Association by purchasing 15 shares.

*This material is assembled on behalf of the Milton Historical Society by Jim Dills, who can be reached through the society at (905) 875-4156.*

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