

# Milton wants township plums

Disagreeing with a recent Free Press editorial, the Milton Canadian Champion insists the Town of Milton is not pulling any tricks or insisting on special treatment in efforts to maintain its identity in a regional government scheme.

"Milton built its case for being included as a fourth borough on more substantial evidence," the Champion pontificates. "Generally it set out to prove, on grounds that could be substantiated, that it had a viable future considering economics, growth and servicing capacity. In addition, it also established a proposed borough on criteria such as telephone area, hydro services, library service, water supply and fire area.

"Milton did its homework in analyzing the potential assessment value of the area it proposes and comes up with a minimum assessment of \$33,786,653 - sufficient, it feels, to warrant a borough structure. Further details in terms of per capita debt and population was also studied.

"Growth in Milton is evident as new plans materialize almost weekly, but a system of prepayment of capital levies enables the municipality to pay for the required municipal servicing with cash rather than through long-term debentures, contributing to a sound

financial position for the municipality. Engineering and development of some major services have already been completed to permit orderly growth," the Champion editorial points out.

"Milton did do its homework and submitted a reasoned and logical set of arguments for its position. It quoted figures and facts and drew its conclusions," the Champion editor asserts, and "that option was surely open to every municipality."

What the editorial does not say, of course, is that Milton's plans for standing on its own two feet as a borough in a four unit set-up includes taking over chunks of Nassagaweya and Esquesing and parts of Burlington and Oakville in order to develop that \$33 million assessment figure.

We understand there is little objection from those people in Burlington and Oakville liable to be assimilated because they are within Milton's influence now and rather like the idea. However, we are dealing with horses of different colors when it comes to the two townships. Milton's expansionist plans include taking in the Mohawk Raceway, Kelso, the Village of Campbellville, as well as some of the choice assessment in Esquesing and Nassagaweya.

Can you imagine the feelings of

Milton councillors if Esquesing or Nassagaweya decided they would like to help themselves to assessment plums from Milton?

Milton indeed is fortunate in its location and the stability of its finances as the Champion editorial modestly asserts, but it must be recognized the town has no monopoly on parochial pride. The other four municipalities have gobs of it as well and could exercise that option as the editorial points out. The fact that they chose to co-operate rather than plump for separate treatment is indicative of a concern for a strong voice for the North in a regional government set-up which no one asked for, but is coming nevertheless, courtesy of the province.

If each municipality had gone its own way, carved away at one another's territory and set up its own paper empire it would be an open invitation to the provincial government to step in and draw its own boundaries, recognizing that the five northern municipalities would never agree.

Milton Council may insist that they have the best motives in efforts to further a four as opposed to a three-unit Halton but surely they realize their case is suspect, however logical and reasoned it may seem to them, since they rely in large part in grabbing the plums in the central county pudding.



B4 The Acton Free Press, Wednesday, November 8, 1972

## Back Issues of The Free Press

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 18, 1897

There has been considerable agitation lately on the part of owners of property adjoining the stream upon which the tanneries here are situated, with a view to the abatement of the pollution of the stream which they allege is taking place. The matter came before the Township Board of Health and through that body to the Provincial Board. At the quarterly meeting of the Provincial Board last Friday Dr. Bryce, the secretary, in his report said,

"The Township of Esquesing having tried to prevent the pollution of the Acton Creek by the Acton tanneries, the tannery companies have consented to follow the direction of the Provincial Board of Health in doing away with the nuisance." This action when carried out as intended will no doubt satisfy all parties interested.

This weather makes your thoughts turn not to that of love but warmer underwear. Fleece underwear \$1 to \$2 a suit. Good values. Heavy Ribbed U.K. all Wool, very special at \$1 a suit. R.E. Nelson tailor and furnisher, Guelph.

A diamond ring makes a nice engagement ring. We have new ones in. Savage and Co., Guelph.

All doubters and scientists are invited to the Disciples church Sunday when the pastor will preach on "The Origin of Man, or the Theory of Evolution."

In all probability the Churchill Sunday School will continue through the winter, giving us another "evergreen school."

Gooderham and Worts Toronto distillery will be closed down completely for a year because of the decreased demand for whiskey.



Bill Smiley

Today I was discussing newspaper columnists with some of my senior students. It was a perfectly legitimate exercise in the teaching of English, but the devils know that if they can get me off track, bragging or reminiscing, I might get carried away and forget to give them their homework assignment.

Therefore, someone craftily introduced the subject of this column. Sly questions, leading me further and further away from the original point. It worked. Most people are never happier than when they're talking about themselves or their work. I took the bait.

"I suppose you write four or five ahead", suggested one lad.

A lot of people have this loony idea. I tersely told the truth: that I write it right on the deadline, even though I have a whole week to work on it. I'm usually galloping to the post office to catch the last possible mail. There are 168 hours in a week, and I use the last two of them.

(I can hear some editors and readers sniffing and muttering "They read like it, too.")

But I've discovered that it is psychologically impossible for me to turn out a column unless the guillotine is hanging over

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 18, 1922

Acton citizens fittingly celebrated the fifth anniversary of the soldiers' memorial in St. Alban's Church. At the church many were turned away for lack of room.

At a recent session of the Municipal Council a letter was received from the Soldiers Memorial Committee with a cheque for \$223.15. The letter explained everything had been paid for and the balance of \$223.15 unexpended of the memorial fund, was handed over to council on the understanding that it is to be invested by council and the principal not touched but the interest derived from this sum to go toward the yearly upkeep of the memorial. The letter was signed on behalf of the committee by Mrs. R. M. McDonald, Mrs. Geo. Havill and A.O.T. Beardmore. Council accepted the cheque on the conditions outlined.

One of the brightest little lads of the community George Thomas Wallace died of diphtheria. He was eight years old and the only son of Robert and Matilda Wallace. He leaves a sister Pearl.

Miss Mary Claridge and Miss Betty Lowrie were delegated from Bannockburn to the Women's Institute convention in Toronto on Tuesday.

Misses E.E. Knapp, E. James, Annie McDonald, Marguerite Synon, Muriel Fleury and Bessie Gardiner attended a concert by Paderewski in Toronto Friday evening.

The morning mails appear to be fated to run into railway accidents lately. The mail was an hour late on Saturday morning, an hour late on Monday morning and three hours late two weeks ago. All three delays were due to smash-ups between Brampton and West Toronto.

me. I've tried it in the summer holidays, but have given up. On each occasion I'd sit there, looking and feeling stupid, tear out of the typewriter sheet after sheet, crumple it, and try again. Nothing doing.

I am constantly telling budding writers to establish a regular work pattern. Afraid it's a case of "do as I say" rather than "do as I do."

Oh, they get a lot of good advice. Constantly I extol the work habits of people like Leacock and Hemingway, who got up early and worked steadily for so many hours. Then one of my little inner voices snaps, "Why don't you do it yourself?" My other little inner voice snaps right back, "Hell, I'm not a writer, I'm a columnist." I Saved again.

When youthful writers ask me what to write about, I tell them to write about what they know and do and feel. This time, I follow my own advice. If I didn't, I wouldn't have enough material to keep me going for a month.

"Yah, but what kinda stuff?", they retort in their impeccable teenage English.

This is a variant on the adult query I've heard so often, "Where days get all them ideas for your little articles?"

Well, folks, I wish a butler would appear once a week with a little silver salver bearing a piece of paper, and announce, "Your idea for this week, sir." But he doesn't, and I probably wouldn't know what to do with it if he did. Besides, I don't have a butler, dammit!

However, I do have a wife. Occasionally, in despair, I'll say, "What in the world am I going to write about this week?"

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 20, 1952

School pupils were all sent home, industries closed down, stores shut and Monday washing impossible when the strangest power failure on record halted electric power in Acton and the district for about four hours on Monday. Peculiar atmospheric conditions were blamed.

The Acton Y's Men's club successfully defended the Bean Bridge trophy against the Owen Sound Y's Men's club for a second time in Acton Friday. Acton now moves into the next round with Guelph. Acton Team: J. Creighton, D. Bean, A. Braida, F. C. Wood, C. Cook, H. Arbie and J. Greer.

A new oil furnace has been installed in the Osprey Presbyterian church which adds great comfort and convenience.

Maureen McCristall was the first winner of a gold star under the new award system at the Y.M.C.A.

Two full programs on Thursday and Friday with displays, presentations, addresses and a play comprised the commencement exercises of the high school. A dance concluded the program. Receiving diplomas were Denise Coles, Yvonne Brunelle, Jack Davidson, Don Dawkins, Jane Elliott, Chris Lamb, Dorothy Warne, Elaine Hufnagel, Pat Terry, Marjorie Warne, Joyce Lambert and Betty Price. Yvonne Brunelle gave the valedictory and received her medal from Fred Gordon. In the play High School Daze were Bill Skilling, Ena Jennings, Isabelle Ritchie, Joy Botell, Ken Mann, Diane Dawkins and Joe Jany. Miss M. Snyder directed the play. Stage manager was Rod Force and the prompters Chris Lamb and Joyce Lambert.

She'll say, "Write about spring" or something about as helpful. I respond, "O.K." and write a column about spring. Nothing to it.

Just before the election, something came up that might have been material for a column. An old friend phoned. My wife answered. She called, "Paul wants to know if the Liberals can put a sign on our lawn", frowning and shaking her head at me.

Airily I said, "Sure, I don't care.", though I hadn't decided which way I was going to vote. Hand over the mousetrap, she hissed at me, "No, I don't want a sign on our lawn."

Even more airily, I said, "Yes, be can. Tell him. For once in your life, woman, do what you're told." She did.

But her wrath mounted steadily. Five minutes later she was on the blower to N.D.P. headquarters, telling them they could put a sign on our lawn.

I didn't give a fiddle. A lawn is only a lawn, and a sign is only a sign. But, though I was polite, I was a little cheesed when two N.D.P. characters showed up at the door, ostensibly to thank us. Not only did they try to sell me on socialism, or at least what passes for it in this country, but they drank all my beer and ate all my cheese. Their idea of socialism, I guess.

Next morning, I was a bit startled to walk out to see four signs on the lawn, two Liberal, two N.D.P. Right there and then, I almost decided to vote the straight Tory ticket.

There were the usual needles from neighbours and colleagues. "A house divided" (Continued on Page B4)



(Photo by J. Jennings)

## "Lest We Forget"

### Mini-Comment . . .

A few years ago a liquor question on the ballots would have raised a stir in Acton. There's to be a vote in Acton November 20 and so far there has been general apathy. Groups who would have opposed the introduction of liquor into Acton have not opposed the vote and as far as the Free Press is aware there is little discussion. Perhaps reactions will be on the ballots.

The Chilliwack (B.C.) Progress commends NDP leader David Lewis for his strong defence of bilingualism in Canada. The paper says Western Canadians who display an anti-French bias are as big a threat to Canadian unity as Quebec separatists. "What is most important is that a Canadian who becomes proficient in two languages is better equipped to broaden his intellectual horizons. He'll be a more understanding person, because he will be a better informed one," the paper asserts and concludes that if Canada is ever to achieve a measure of national unity and purpose it will be accomplished because Canadians seek to understand, not because they nurse a bias against a large group of their fellow citizens.

A recent article in the Globe and Mail about the end of the Robarts era in Ontario politics contends the appointment of George Kerr to the post of Provincial Secretary for Justice can be seen as another stage in his progressive removal from the forefront of the Government since Mr. Davis became leader. "At the beginning of last year Mr. Kerr was Minister of Environment, a sensitive and visible



## Coles' Slaw

When the Emperor Nero blamed the Christians for burning Rome, there is a legend that St. Peter was asked by several of the members of the new faith to leave the city until the persecutions were over.

Peter agreed. He started out on foot for distant places on the Via Appia. Not far from the Porta Appia (Appia door) Peter met another traveller going towards the city. He looked familiar, the face, figure and bearing resembling Christ, whom Peter had seen crucified and risen again.

Peter, visibly upset, stammered: "Domine, quo vadis?" (Master where goest Thou?)

The figure replied: "I'm going to Rome to be crucified again."

The vision vanished. Legend says that Peter, shaken, suppressed his fears, turned around and went back to Rome. It is recorded by history he was crucified upside down on the Vatican Hill, one of Rome's seven hills.

post. At the time of the last Cabinet shuffle he virtually disappeared with his appointment to the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. . . . And now as the co-ordinator of the Government's justice policy, he can be expected to sink even further into the background as the other policy ministers have done." Could be, but Mr. Davis will be an unpopular man in Halton West if he mutes the Kerr influence.

Money does make a difference. If you have two jobs and you're rich you have diversified interests. If you have two jobs and you're poor, you're moon-lighting.

Probably the biggest surprise of the federal election here was that two-thirds of PC Terry O'Connor's 2,300-vote victory margin came from former Liberal strongholds in North Halton. Liberal party workers felt the North end of the riding would give Rud Whiting the edge. They anticipated the close vote in Oakville.

In the riding of Halton-Wentworth there is no doubt Bill Kempling's campaign received a lift from the Liberal shuffle, climaxed at the Party's nomination meeting which replaced John Morrison with Norm McGuinness. Voters could sense all was not well among the Grits.

Residents who live near Fairy Lake in Acton are becoming accustomed to the arrival and departure of wildfowl on the way south in the wee morning

Now, over the Circus Neronianus which stood on the spot where Peter was crucified and buried, stands the magnificent basilica of St. Peter's, the dome by Michaelangelo setting it off and providing a landmark that people the world over identify as the headquarters of Catholicism.

The four of us, travellers who thought we had seen many marvellous sights since we had travelled through Rolla and, Germany and Austria, were impressed both by the magnificence of the church and its surroundings but also by the number and variety of tourists who visited at the same time as we did. The whole world seemed to be represented as it was on a smaller scale when we visited Westminster Abbey in England.

Through the years I have read about the beauty and splendor of the monuments of Rome long before I had the opportunity to see them. But to see the altars by Bernini, the statues and fountain by Michaelangelo with these two orbs was an experience I cherish.

Another highlight in the visit to St. Peter's was a visit to the crypt where recent excavations have uncovered St. Peter's grave, over which the Emperor Constantine built the first basilica. The ancient tombstone is on view in the crypt, the Latin Petrus barely visible, while nearby are buried many of the 261 popes who have reigned since St. Peter.

In Rome, ancient monuments are so

hours. Sometimes the birds stage noisy reunions with the ducks, geese and swans who make Fairy Lake their home.

Thinking for running for town or township council, or perhaps the Board of Education? To be officially nominated a candidate for council or school board must fill out an official nomination paper bearing the name and addresses of 10 nominators. Nominations are spread over a five day period starting Thursday, November 9 and ending at 5 p.m. Monday, November 13. If you qualify why not give it a try?

The United Kingdom tops the report's list of 10 leading foreign countries in terms of visitors to Canada in 1970 with a total of 157,736. The others are: West Germany, 41,261; France, 36,915; The Netherlands, 27,996; Japan, 22,011; Italy, 18,577; Australia, 17,001; Jamaica, 11,417; Mexico, 10,682; and India, 9,428.

The University of Guelph, one of two universities in Canada operating on the three semester system, is disappointed there is not more interest in the program. The university's annual report notes that the Senate has established a steering committee to study the effects of the three semester system as operated at the university, in the hope that statements about the pros and cons will be based on facts rather than emotion. It does seem other institutions of higher learning are not really interested in saving the public money if they do not thoroughly study the three semester system.

THE ACTON FREE PRESS  
PHONE 853-2010  
Business and Editorial Office



Founded in 1897 and published every Wednesday at 39 Willow St., Acton, Ontario. Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation, the C.M.A. and O.N.W.A. Advertising rates on request. Subscriptions payable in advance. \$4.00 in Canada, \$5.00 in all countries other than Canada. Single copies 15 cents. Second class, post registration. Number 0515. Advertising is accepted on the condition that in the event of typographical error, that portion of the advertising space or copy by the erroneous item, together with reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. In the event of a typographical error and goods or services at a wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is hereby offered to sell, and may be withdrawn at any time.

Printed and Published by D. R. Dims, Publisher, Don Ryder, Editor, Hartley Coles, Adv. Manager. Copyright 1972

(Continued on Page Five)