

EDITORIAL

# Take me to your robot

Artificial intelligence hasn't replaced all of North America's jobs yet, but that doesn't mean businesses aren't trying to accelerate the process as the workplace undergoes a transformation as significant as the Industrial Revolution.

Last year McDonald's Canada added self-service kiosks for people hungry for its Big Macs. Tim Hortons, Burger King and Starbucks have introduced apps that allow customers to order and pay in advance on their smartphones thereby bypassing lines.

Or how about the Australian company Fastbrick Robotics that has created Hadrian X, which can lay 1,000 standard bricks in an hour. In a recent report, the World Economic Forum predicted that robotic automation will result in the net loss of more than five million jobs across 15 developed nations by 2020.

Even the simple theatre experience allows and sometimes even forces customers to buy their own tickets to see a film eliminating the need for people.

And Amazon, after purchasing Whole Foods, last year opened a check-out free grocery store in Seattle.

Businesses have always attempted to cut costs to save a buck. It seems, though, that companies are becoming more direct at reducing, even eliminating, their labour costs so they don't have to deal with human issues.

Don't be fooled by companies - think Tim Hortons - that may promote themselves as "making a true difference" for individuals and communities, boasting of helping local community initiatives. It comes with the caveat they are always searching for a way to reduce nagging labour expenses.

Raising the minimum wage is the right thing to do in a society where a large number of minimum wage earners don't earn enough to support their families and have to use the food bank to feed their children. Yet by increasing the cost of labour, companies are that much more inclined to reduce employees.

A report by the Mowat Centre found that 42 per cent Canada's labour force is at risk of being impacted by automation over the next 10 to 20 years. Another report from the Brookfield Institute for Innovation in 2016 found retail sales clerks and cashiers are among the top five jobs at risk from automation.

Raising the minimum wage in the face of companies desperate to cut costs while good public policy unfortunately will only accelerate the introduction of technology into the workforce. Governments and companies need to collaborate to develop a skilled workforce. Having a job program and a policy to implement it to meet the needs of society is the proper way for companies and government to work together for the betterment of its citizens.

## CHAMPION TRACKS



Karen Savich (left) and Joanne Strawson stand proudly atop Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa. Going away? Pack a copy of the Champion in your suitcase, snap a creative photo and email your Champion Tracks submission to [editor@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:editor@miltoncanadianchampion.com) (minimum 600KB resolution). Please include everyone's name, from left, and destination information.

## ABOUT US



The Milton Canadian Champion, published every Thursday, is a division of the Metroland Media Group Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Torstar Corporation. The Metroland family of newspapers is comprised of more than 80 community publications across Ontario.



The Milton Canadian Champion is a member of the National NewsMedia Council. Complainants are urged to bring their concerns to the attention of the newspaper and, if not satisfied, write The National NewsMedia Council, Suite 200, 890 Yonge St., Toronto, ON M4W 2H2. Phone: 416-340-1981. Web: [www.mediacouncil.ca](http://www.mediacouncil.ca)



[editor@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:editor@miltoncanadianchampion.com)  
[MiltonCanadianChampion](https://www.facebook.com/MiltonCanadianChampion)  
[@Milton\\_Champion](https://twitter.com/Milton_Champion)

## LETTERS & COMMENTARY

# New fire truck put to work at barn blaze

*Time Capsules are gems of information that provide a window into Milton's past.*



**MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
Column

October 1922

Mrs. Cunningham's barn on Pine Street took fire this forenoon. The brigade turned out quickly, but the flames had made great headway before the building was reached. It was put out by good work and a lot of water. The new fire truck helped greatly. The building was more or less damaged and so was a quantity of baled hay

stored in it and belonging to Messrs. Wilson & Willmott.

T.H. Moorehead has turned over his Milton confectionery business to his manager W. Barnard.

The Milton high school literary society has been organized with the follow-

ing officers: Principal O.M. Mackillop, honorary president; Ruth Gorham, president; Marion Chisholm, vice-president; Edith Galbraith, secretary-treasurer; Rosslyn Pearen, cartoonist; Ruby Elsley, Clifford Hill, Enid McColl, Crawford Chisholm, Edith Dick, committee. The members of the society will meet every two weeks.

Milton will have something new in the way of sport next Thursday evening, Oct. 26, at the arena: a boxing tournament and smoker under the auspices of the Milton Athletic Association.

The preliminary events will be three of boxing by local boys, who are good

ones and one wrestling bout. Next will be boxing by J. McIntosh vs. R. Montgomery, both of Galt. Montgomery is Waterloo's fly-weight champion.

Next will be another between two good lightweights, Gordon Farlow, Milton, and Tommy Doyle, St. Helen's A.C. Toronto. The final will be a hummer, Walter Newton, Toronto, Ontario's lightweight champion vs. Tommy Coyne, St. Helen's A.C. Toronto. The band will be in attendance. Reserved seats on sale.

*- 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.*

## CONTACT US

**Milton Canadian Champion**  
 2-5046 Mainway  
 Burlington, ON L7L 5Z1  
 Phone: 289-293-0615  
 Classifieds: 1-800-263-6480  
 Digital/Flyer/Retail: 289-293-0624

**Letters to the editor**  
 All letters must be fewer than 200 words and include your name and telephone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit, condense or reject letters.

**Delivery**  
 For all delivery inquiries, please e-mail [kmossman@metroland.com](mailto:kmossman@metroland.com) or call 905-631-6095.



**VP and Group Publisher**  
 Neil Oliver

**Regional General Manager**  
 Kelly Montague  
[kmontague@metroland.com](mailto:kmontague@metroland.com) | 289-293-0614

## WHO WE ARE

**Managing Editor** Catherine O'Hara  
[cohara@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:cohara@miltoncanadianchampion.com) | 289-293-0615  
**Circulation Manager** Kim Mossman  
[kmossman@metroland.com](mailto:kmossman@metroland.com) | 905-631-6095  
**Director Advertising** Daniel Baird  
[dbaird@metroland.com](mailto:dbaird@metroland.com) | 289-293-0624