

EDITORIAL

Humboldt tragedy hits home for Canadians

Last week Canadians from coast to coast grieved for the Humboldt Broncos. The Saskatchewan junior hockey team's bus crashed April 6 with a transport truck killing 16 team members.

Prior to the horrific crash there probably weren't many people who had ever heard of the Humboldt Broncos. But the heartbreak and pain felt in Saskatchewan resonated across Canada, indeed it resonated around the world, bringing our Canadian family together to mourn for the victims.

Last Friday the first of 16 funerals was held for the team's radio announcer, Tyler Bieber. This week there were more funerals for players and coaches alike. Flags will remain at half-mast for some time as we continue to grieve for the Broncos.

It's at times like this when tragedies unite Canadians. Immediately after the crash a GoFundMe page garnered more than \$11 million for the families whose loved ones died. NHL teams donated to the fund with proceeds from their 50-50 tickets, local fundraisers were held and of course, many Halton Region residents personally donated.

On April 12 Canadians from coast to coast sported their favourite jerseys on #jerseyday to show their support for the Broncos. It's not often you see so many sports jerseys being worn during work hours, but offices across the country allowed their employees to wear them. And outside thousands and thousands of homes you might have noticed the hockey sticks left out. They were for the Bronco teammates now in heaven.

Such a simple gesture, but what an impact. One trending Instagram video showed a young boy admiring one of the sticks left outside his front door. He tested the stick, pretended to shoot an imaginary puck with it. Then he set it back gently placing a kiss on the stick.

More than 2,500 kilometres from Humboldt, Halton's municipalities and institutions paid tribute to the Broncos.

Flags at Milton Town Hall and Burlington City Hall were lowered. In Oakville, Town Hall was lit up in the team's colours - green and gold. St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church in Oakville hosted prayer services on April 15. And residents, including those in the Glen Abbey community, planned a 'light up the night' event, in honour of the bus crash victims.

Our country may be vast geographically, but we're all connected, never more so when tragedy strikes. Our prayers go out to everyone impacted by the Humboldt Broncos tragedy.

CHAMPION TRACKS



Zainab Jafri photo

The Jafri family recently visited Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida with a copy of their favourite community newspaper. Going away? Pack a copy of the Champion in your suitcase, snap a creative photo and email your Champion Tracks submission to cohara@metroland.com. Please include everyone's name (from left) and destination information.

ABOUT US

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The Canadian Champion.

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1922: Halton, Nelson and Trafalgar townships see 10-year population increase

'Esquesing and Nassagaweya show losses,' writes Dills



JIM DILLS
Column

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.

October 1922

The Farmers' Sun points to the fact that the neighbouring counties of Halton and Wentworth appear in the census returns as two exceptions to the general rule of depopulation.

tion.

Halton, Nelson and Trafalgar townships show gains but Esquesing and Nassagaweya show losses. All the towns of the county - Acton, Burlington, Georgetown, Milton and Oakville - record gains in population during the decade.

The total population of Halton County was 22,208 in 1911 and 10 years later it was 24,899, a gain of 2,691.

November 1922

Mr. and Mrs. G.E. Bousfield and Miss Atkinson got home last Thursday from a visit of 12 weeks to the Pacific coast, most of the time spent in Vancouver, where Mr. Bousfield built a house on a lot that he has owned for some time.

Money is scarce in Vancouver, he says, and there are few sales of vacant lots, except those sold for taxes. However, there is a great demand for dwellings. On the completion of his house he advertised in a city pap-

er for a tenant. He got 20 applications by evening, 24 the next day.

The executive of the Milton Curling Club met on Monday evening and arranged for the renting of the rink from its owners, the Milton Curling Club, Ltd. (Mill Street).

As there will be no revenue from skating, as there was up to last season, the prices of curling season tickets will be increased, probably to \$7 for old members and \$6 for new ones.

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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