

· EDITORIAL ·

Standing together in the face of a trade tidal wave

There's nothing like a mountain of adversity to get people pulling together.

That's a key learning we should take from last week's meetings between federal Finance Minister Bill Morneau and his provincial counterparts and from hearings held by the special House of Commons committee on international trade.

At the hearings, a parade of expert witnesses from across the spectrum spoke to express solidarity with the government's strategy on dealing with Donald Trump's trade tantrums. They made for some strange bedfellows. Ken Neumann, Canadian director of the United Steelworkers Union said: "We support the countermeasures announced by the federal government and believe they must be comprehensive and immediate."

Jerry Dias, president of the country's largest private-sector union, Unifor, agreed, saying: "U.S. trade attacks on Canada are a clear and present threat to our national economy, period."

Joseph Galimberti of the Canadian Steel Producers Association said: "Our member companies strongly support the government of Canada's announced intention to impose tariffs on imports of steel, aluminum and other products."

At the finance minister's meeting there was consensus on the federal trade strategy and constructive exchanges on the best way to mitigate the harm caused.

It's rare, and gratifying, to see this kind of unanimity. It needs to last when the waters get even rougher, which Trump promises they will.

In his latest slam against Canada's supply management system, Trump threatened: "If you want to do that, we're going to put a little tariff on your cars." If he makes good on that threat, and there's no reason to think he won't, we haven't begun to see the harm caused by America's militant protectionism.

Flavio Volpe, of the Automotive Parts Manufacturers Association, put it this way: "A 25 per cent tariff on cars and parts would cause what we like to call 'Car-mageddon.' The industry operates on single-digit margins and it would grind to an immediate halt with a 25 per cent increase in price. A \$32,000 car - that's an average price here - would immediately be un-saleable at \$40,000."

The federal and provincial governments need to act quickly now to announce specific measures to backstop sectors that are or will be hurt by the trade war.

The feds need to take a lead role in getting provinces to the table to reduce interprovincial trade barriers, which could mitigate the harm to a point.

There must be a renewed effort to update NAFTA.

Canadians and their governments at all levels need to continue to stand together. We didn't start this trade war. But Trump has left us no choice but to fight it, and the best way to do that is together.

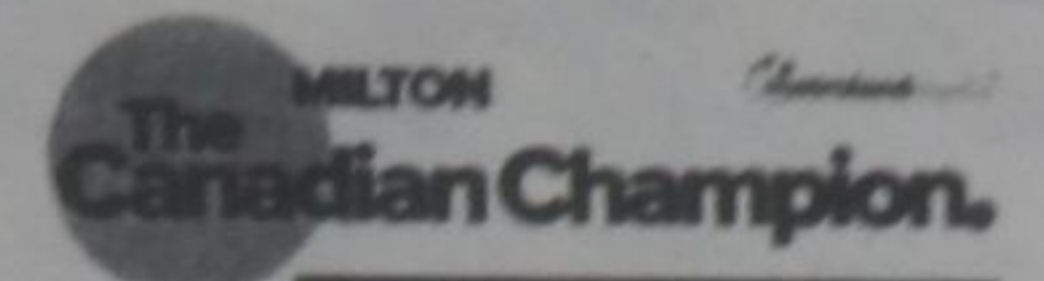
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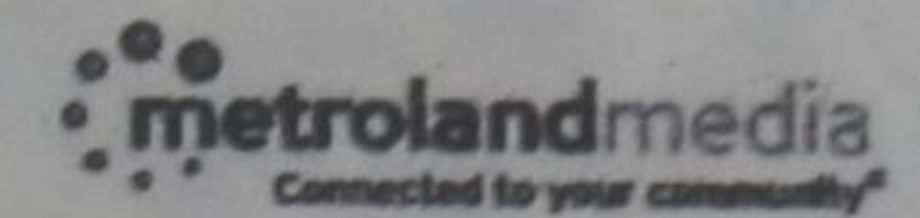
Melanie McGregor photo

Eight-year-old Evan McGregor visits Bourbon Street in New Orleans. Going away? Pack a copy of your 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.

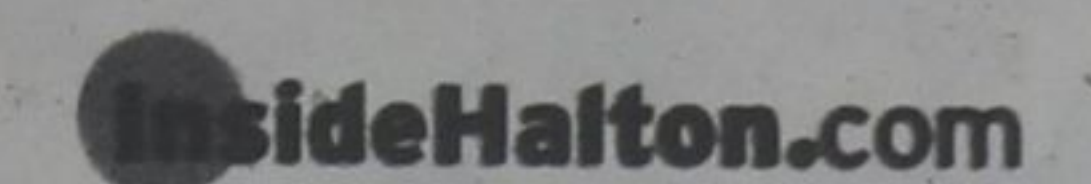
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County gets new provincial constable

Wm. Reipert will be kept busy with enforcement of Motor Vehicle Act, writes Dills

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.

December 1922

Arthur Wm. Reipert, a provincial constable, arrived here on Monday. He was sent by the government to look after law enforcement throughout the county and to have his headquarters in Milton. There is work for him here, particularly in the enforcement of



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the Motor Vehicles Act.

The hockey committee of the Milton Athletic Association has been meeting weekly for some time. P.L. Robertson is chair and has kept things moving. Art Carey, of Toronto, an experienced coach, has been engaged for the season to handle both the intermediate and junior teams. He ar-

rived here last Monday and will at once have the boys in training. All being residents he will be able to handle them to the best advantage and will no doubt develop new players so that those of the intermediates of last year whose services are lost will not be missed. Carey has a reputation in Toronto as a successful manager. He handled the St. Helen's intermediates last season and CPR teams earlier. He has the gift of making himself popular with his players though he is a strict disciplinarian and keeps every man up to the mark. Oakville has entered intermediate and junior teams and has engaged Joe Marriott of Toronto as coach.

Supt. W.H. Stewart, of

the Gordon Home, presented a comprehensive and most interesting report on the work of the year lately completed at the annual meeting of the Children's Aid Society. During the year 26 children were placed in good homes. There were 48 applications for children.

There were 91 investigations, involving 181 children, one girl was committed to the Ontario Institute for the Feeble-Minded, one to the Industrial Refuge, Toronto, and one boy to the Victoria Industrial School. There were eight adoptions in Halton and Peel during the year.

- 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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