

# MILTON

# The Canadian Champion.

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## COMMUNITY MOURNS LOCAL HISTORIAN

**JIM DILLS REMEMBERED  
AS JOURNALIST,  
HISTORIAN, AUTHOR,  
VOLUNTEER AND MORE**

DAVID LEA  
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He was devoted to the preservation of Milton's history and in that pursuit helped contribute to it.

Friends and family are mourning the loss of Jim Dills, who passed away peacefully at his Milton home on Friday (July 19).

The 88-year-old is being remembered as a local historian, author, newspaper publisher, journalist and volunteer.

Many remember him for his work in preventing the Halton Region-owned county courthouse buildings, now the Milton Town Hall, from being demolished in the late '70s.

Dills and others came together to form the Milton Historical Society in 1976 of which Dills served as its first president.

The group lobbied for the preservation of the courthouse buildings and ultimately succeeded.

The Town of Milton purchased the buildings for \$1 and spent \$3 million to fix them up in the '80s, said Dills in a 2007 interview with the Milton Canadian Champion.

"I think he saw the historical value. It represents a certain kind of architecture. There were only a few buildings like that in Ontario ... It had been part of Milton probably since its founding," said Dills' son Mark.

"He just felt it was important. It was a landmark site in Milton, and he didn't want to see it demolished and replaced."

Mark described his father as someone who was always there for him and who supported and challenged Mark and his siblings.

Mark's wife Sharon said Dills was a kind and generous man.

"His family was everything to him," she said.

Sharon also described Dills as humble, noting he did the things he did not for recognition, but because he believed the community benefited from the preservation of its history.

Dills also worked with the Milton Historical Society to raise money to keep the Waldie Blacksmith Shop going.

The shop is one of the oldest

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Graham Paine/Torstar file photo  
Local historian Jim Dills sorts through some vintage photo's upstairs in the Milton Historical Society's archives in this 2007 photo. Dills died Friday at the age of 88.

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