

# Pages of Past author, columnist Mrs. Gwendolyn Clarke dies Friday

Mrs. Gwendolyn Clarke, author of Halton's Pages of the Past and a newspaper columnist and writer died at New Toronto on Friday afternoon, June 3. The funeral service and interment were in Milton on Monday, June 6.

Mrs. Clarke formerly resided with her family on Highway 25 just north of Milton on a farm now cut by Highway 401.

In April 1929 she initiated a weekly column *Chronicles of Ginger Farm*, that was published in *The Acton Free Press* for 28 years. The column was initiated under the pen name Judy O'Grady, but was later changed to her own name.

In 1956 Mrs. Clarke began a series of historical articles that were published in *The Canadian Champion* and *The Acton Free Press*. At the conclusion of the series they were published in a book as *Halton's Pages of the Past*.

At the time of Milton's Centennial in 1957 Mrs. Clarke was commissioned to write the available history of Milton and this material was published in the town's centennial booklet.

For many years Mrs. Clarke also reported the monthly meetings of the Halton County Council for *The Acton Free Press* and *The Canadian Champion*. She was for some time the only reporter covering the proceedings. In those earlier days her transportation from the farm to the County buildings in Milton was by bicycle.

*Chronicles of Ginger Farm*, initiated in the columns of *The Acton Free Press*, was later syndicated to *Wilson Publications* and Mrs. Clarke continued to write the column for that group after she left the farm home in 1957 to move to a new home at Erindale.

During her years in the Milton area Mrs. Clarke was active in the Women's Institute and was a frequent speaker at such groups.

In writing the foreword to *Halton's Pages of the Past*, Miss Ethel Chapman, a native of Halton wrote of Mrs. Clarke: "Knowing her integrity as a reporter meant something, too. We would be very touchy about it if anyone were to belittle 'the short and simple annals' of our pioneers, and we knew that whatever Mrs. Clarke wrote would be written with sympathy and understanding."

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## Nassagaweya seeks clean-up along garbage-scarred road

Spurred by a gabbage from councillor Anne MacArthur, Nassagaweya Township Council began a move on Monday night which is designed to clean up "that fantastic mess" on the Esquesing-Nassagaweya Town Line south of Milton Heights.

Township Road Superintendent Grant McMillan and other members of council agreed unanimously with councillor MacArthur when she suggested, "it's a fantastic mess, there are mattresses and everything else spread along the sides of the road — it's in dreadful shape."

Mr. McMillan reported, "I'm really stumped as to what to do about this, according to our books we've spent several thousand dollars cleaning this up before, and now it's worse than it ever was."

The Road Superintendent suggested, "I think 75 per cent of the garbage comes from outside the township." He said he would like to see council contact Esquesing council or empower him to do so, so that "we can get this cleaned up again." However, he warned, "it'll cost a lot of money."

"If we cleaned this up it might not be quite so inviting for dumping — people don't mind dumping garbage where there already is some, but it is different where there isn't any," Deputy-Reeve William Hoey suggested.

Councillor MacArthur indicated "most of the dumping seems to take place on Sunday and Monday mornings." She said the Ontario Provincial police should be asked to conscientiously patrol the area.

The deputy-reeve stated, "if we have the area staked out, it should help — people aren't so likely to go dumping garbage if they know the police visit the area often."

Council approved a motion instructing the Road Superintendent to contact the Esquesing

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## Approve by-law to buy library

In a special meeting of Milton Council of last week, members gave two readings to a by-law to purchase the present Milton Library building on Main St. for \$28,000.

The by-law noted the town was presently paying \$1,800 in rental annually and a further \$600 rental is derived from the apartment. The purchase is being made from R.S. Adams Stores Ltd.

The by-law has been submitted for department approval.

Two readings were also given a by-law to authorize the construction and widening of the Main-Ontario St. intersection at an estimated \$94,308.76.

It was also reported the freeze on multi-family dwellings had expired at the end of May.

—Workmen are putting the finishing touches on the new Holy Rosary Church which is scheduled to be officially opened later this month.

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## Tapes interview on Ottawa visit for CBC broadcast

Mike Wood was interviewed by CBC producer George Atkins Monday on his trip to Ottawa, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Milton.

The interview was taped at Mike's Ontario St. home and will be carried on the CBC farm broadcast this Saturday at 12:30.

Mike is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Wood, and he participated recently with students from across Canada in a visit to Ottawa which included meetings and discussions with the prime minister and other top Canadian officials.

Active in the community, Mrs. Clarke was one of the founders of the Scotch Block Women's Institute and was active in the formation of the Milton Girl Guide Group about 33 years ago.

She is survived by her husband Launcelot F. (Jack) Clarke, a daughter Dorothy (Mrs. G. Evans) Toronto and a son R. G. (Bob) Clarke of Milton.

The funeral service was conducted by the Rev. Dr. T. M. Dustan, of Grace Anglican Church, Milton. Interment was in Evergreen Cemetery.

The C.N.R. has assured Milton Council bare spots on the rail embankment around town will be seeded this fall.

In a letter to the town, following a municipal protest about the appearance of the banks, the railway explained additional fill had been necessary and this had smothered the new grass. Spraying for weeds would be completed by July and seeding of the bare spots would be undertaken in the fall.

"I fully appreciate your concern about the appearance of our embankments and will endeavour to bring our property in keeping with its surroundings", the letter concluded.

## \$59,000 taxes still outstanding

In a brief financial review to Milton Council Monday, Deputy Reeve C. Menely noted outstanding taxes totalled about \$59,000.

The current operating accounts did not have any bank loans and additional assessment had been gained from two parcels of land.

The deputy-reeve did not report on capital borrowing.

He suggested a letter, over the mayor's signature, be directed to delinquent taxpayers ranging as far back as 1962.



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## Steer killed on highway

A 600 lb. Holstein steer valued at \$125 was struck and killed by a car driven by a Montreal man June 1.

The man struck by William J. Mahon of R.R. 1, Campbellville, wandered into the east-bound lane of Highway 401 about four miles west of Highway 25. Damage to the car was estimated at \$800.

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