Area placed on Highway 401

For the past few years Hal-

ton Region Conservation Auth-

ority has been after the De-

partment of Highways for

signs on 401 pointing out the

routes to their Kelso park.

But the Department won't

Seek 401 signs to Kelso

## Russell M. Clements recalls town's early public schools

By Russell M. Clements What I am about to tell you here, are facts told to me by my father and things I have found out from reading the early minutes of the school board of the last century and minutes of our local town council as recorded many years ago, added to the many odd little things I can personally remember.

I feel if our community citizens who are getting up in years do not make some record of what has happened in the past in this part of our country, it may soon be too late and lost forever.

The first thing I might touch on is schools. The school that is now known as the Bruce Street School was built in 1856-57. In the school minutes of June 16, 1856, the contract was given to two men, Dodge and Hamburg to build a new school for 800 pounds (a little under \$4,000), but apparently this amount was insufficient, as that same year, I see by the school minutes, they had to raise an additional 300 pounds to complete the job. There was another item they forgot when the plans were drawn up, so there was an extra cost of six pounds to build two privies, Plans and specifications cost three pounds.

They built well in those days, as the school is still a very substantial building 110 years later. To me, it is uncertain just where the earlier school was before this time. My father mentioned that at one time, there was a log school on Bronte St. near the old cemetery, and then as most of you know, the house connected to Brown's Greenhouse on Main St. East was at one time a school. However, there was an organized school section with trustees, as I found, where in 1849 an old minute book shows my grandfather John Clements was one of the trustees.

In 1847 a Finlay McCallum was hired to teach at 125 pounds and he also had an assistant, a Miss Marion Sproat, who received 50 pounds. Mr. McCallum taught for 14 years and on retiring was presented with a silver watch and a Bible.

According to the minute books of 1854, it was resolved that the sum necessary for stove wood be raised by assessment on all the parents of ley to add a two room additchildren who go to school. In ion was accepted at \$4,179. It 1856 a motion on the books was on the north corner of the stated each pupil attending original building, and the was to pay one shilling, three pence, monthly in advance and pupils from outside the section would pay one shil-

ling, 10½ pence monthly. The first mention of a caretaker was in 1857 — for \$50 a year, he was to keep the school clean, light the fires in winter and keep the woodbox filled. By 1885-86 the town seemed to be growing and was more prosperous, as we find a headmaster at \$650, a teacher at \$400, one at \$300, one at \$225 and one at \$200. The caretaker was also getting the grand salary of \$75 for a year's work.

The school estimates for 1885 were \$1,585. In the minutes of August 24, 1886, is an item that Miss Louise Kelly and Miss Center be engaged for the remainder of the year at a salary of \$75 each, or in other words, for the fall term. Coming a little nearer to our time, in 1905 the principal was getting \$800, or an increase of \$50 over the past eight years.

school what was called "Mod-"Modelites" and came from all over the county. The prin-

### About the author

Editor's Note: As his own centennial project, Russell M. Clements of 192 Queen St., Milton, has compiled a colorful glance into Milton's earlier days. We hope readers will find his recollections interest-

Mr. Clements was born in Milton and apart from the time he spent with the 3rd Canadian Mount Rifles in South Africa and overseas with the Canadian Army Service Corp in World War One, he has spent his entire life in

He was a member of town council for five years some time ago, and a member of the fire brigade around 1905. He attended military school in Toronto and London, and for several years was captain of Champion would welcome the Milton Company of the written recollections of the Lorne Rifles Regt. He has town's early days from others been a member of the Maso- interested in having such hisnic Order for over 61 years. He tory preserved and published.

cipal took charge of these "teachers in the making" at an extra \$50 for the term, and an extra teacher was taken on

for the fall term at \$125. Going back to March 1886, I find this on the town council records: "Mover that the matter of establishing a high school in the town of Milton and to keep them from tres- (To be continued next week) thing in kindness. be left over to our next meeting." Three years later, it came up and we find this under the August 1889 minutes: "That a high school be established in the Town of Milton according to the High School Act, on condition that the establishment and equipment of such High School does not exceed \$3,000." This motion carried. However, it was rescinded the next year and it took over 30 years to really get going again.

By 1910 three new teachers were put on the staff of our public school — Miss G. Young, Miss Lawrence and Miss Bowes, at salaries from \$450 to \$550. These names are quite familiar to many in Milton today.

By this time, the attendance seemed to outgrow the school, so in 1913 tenders were called and the tender of John Bradstone work was so neatly done that you would think it was all the original work.

In 1918 the school was closed for some time on account of the flu epidemic.

In my time at this school, there were seven rooms in use, and each one had a very large box - stove and a generous wood box, also a galvanized pail for drinking water and a tin cup. There was no running water and no lights in the building, but we had a good well pump at the rear, also a very crude outbuilding about 50 or 60 feet behind the pump.

The caretaker rang the 8.30 bell, then the principal took over for 9, 10.30, 10.45, 12 noon, then again at 1.30, 2.30, 2.45 and 4 o'clock. I understand that this centennial year, the bell has been tingling again at

On the floor of the junior rooms, just in front of the teacher's platform, was a three-quarter inch metal strip In the fall term in those tacked in two rows to the days, we had in our Milton floor, with numbers spaced from one to 12. When your el School classes". The young class was called up to the people attending were called front, you took your right place, probably depending on how bright you were, and this

joined the lawn bowling club

When he was overseas was the only time he has missed the Toronto Exhibition since 1897, and that was the year of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee parade in London. He recalls moving pictures of the parade were shown in Toronto, but it was very crude by today's standards. Since retiring as Postmaster of Milton Post Office in 1953, travelling has been Mr. Clements' hobby; he has visited Europe and has twice driven across Canada from the Atlantic to the Pac-

1924 and has been an enth-

usiast of that sport ever since.

His articles will be published in a four-part series. The

is where the expression "head of the class" or "foot of the class" likely originated.

The school yard had a four or five foot picket fence in front with two cow - proof gates. These seemed to be necessary, as at that time many people kept their own cows

passing too much, practically every residence in town had a picket fence with two gates.

Since confederation in 1867, we have naturally come a long way in education. At that time we had one public school with three or four teachers and a budget of under \$1,500. Today in our five public schools, we have at last count 59 teachers and a budget of \$442,398. Add to this the 37 teachers in the high school with a budget between \$400,000 and \$500,000. These amounts, however, are substantially reduced by government subsidies.

Just one more thought before I leave the subject of schools. On October 12, 1892, we celebrated the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' landing in America in 1492. It was quite a day for the school children as we all marched from the school to the auditorium of the town

Mr. J. S. Deacon, the school inspector at the time, in his address on this historical event, mentioned how this was a very important day in our lives and asked how many children would be here to cellebrate the next anniversary. Naturally, all the junior children put up their hands. However, time has taken its toll and it is doubtful if any will turn up in the year 1992 for the 500th anniversary of Columbus Day.

### **EBENEZER**

### 55th wedding anniversary for Mr., Mrs. Roy Carter

Rev. Russel Finley's sermon was based on the 12th chapter of Paul's letter to the Romans. These brand new Christians needed advice. Religion is like the two sides of a coin — one is belief, the other is behaviour. Too often religion emphasizes the negative. Mark Twain said he didn't worry about the Bible he didn't understand; it was the parts which he did understand that gave him the most trouble.

To dedicate or give ourselves to God unselfishly is a transforming experience. God does not desire a demonstration such as making a human torch of oneself to show one's objection to something. We should give our bodies as living sacrifice.

Years ago, Joseph Scriven came out from Ireland and worked as a private tutor to a wealthy family near Port Hope. He saved his money and sent for his bride. However, the ship on which she was coming went down with all on board. In his sorrow and grief, Joseph Scriven wrote a letter to comfort his bride's momother. In it he enclosed a simple verse which he had composed. Over the years, this verse has been a favorite of countless people "What a friend we have in Jesus."

Religion is front page news today. The first step is unselfish giving of oneself. Second, let your mind be renewed. Do every day the natural, easy

### Hi school highlights . . .

(Continued from Page B1)

and effort everyone is putting forth. The deadline for the 'Astra' cover design entries was to be Friday, November 3 but editor Julia Haddon feels the entry date should be extended due to the fact she wasn't exactly being overrun by contributions. This is quite disappointing. I'm sure all the students want the

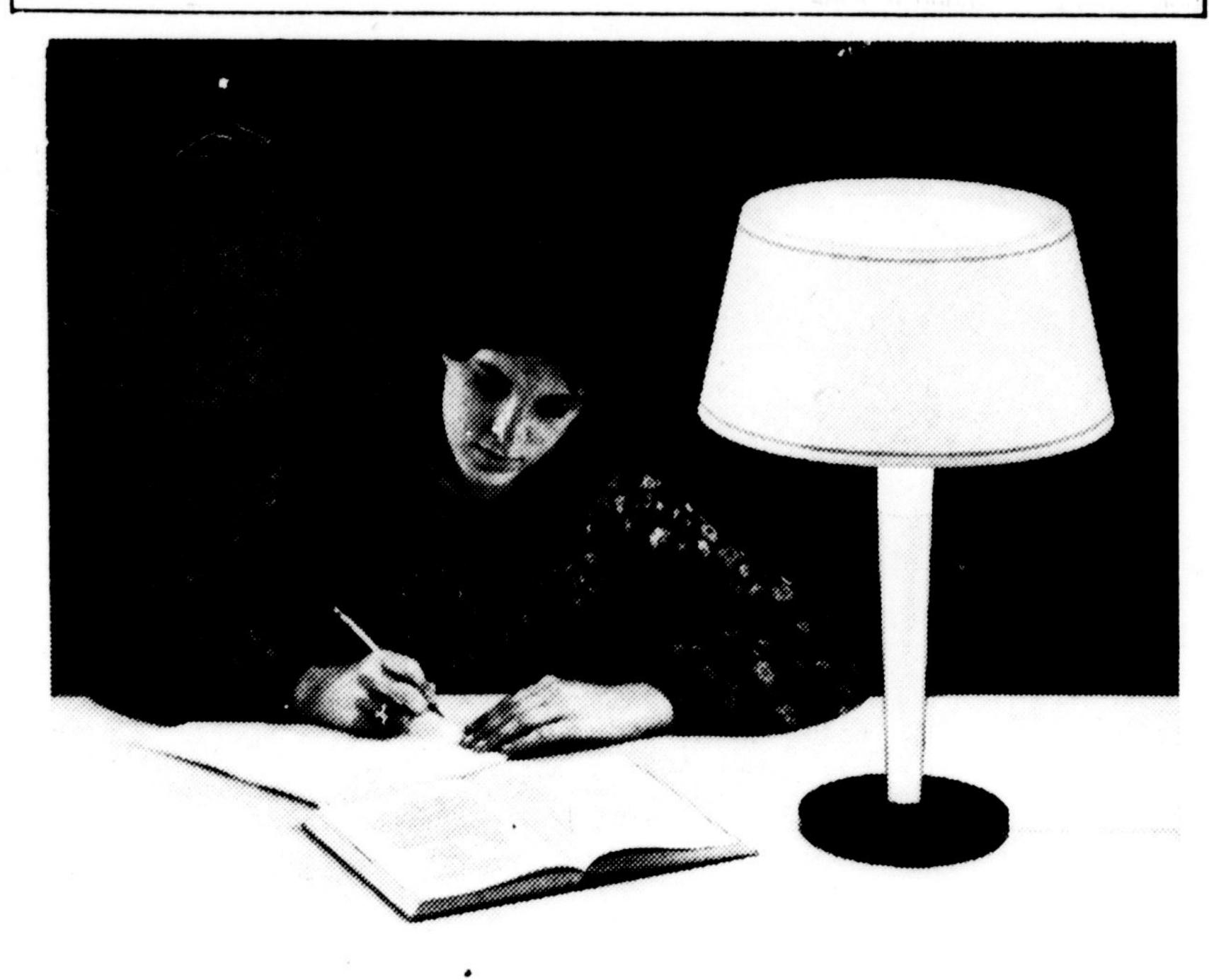
best year book possible for the 1967-68 school year. Why don't they do something to help make it so? I know of many talented students who should be stepping into the light and entering a design. How about it, gang?

Well, the student body has finally got its project for 1967-68. In fact, they've decided on two things; bleachers for the

football field and an emblem of some type for the gym floor.

The biggest event to take place during the course of the week was the annual commencement. Friday, at 8 p.m. students who attended M.D.H.S. last year and graduated, returned to receive their diplomas. Grade 12 diplomas were also issued to those students who made the grade and are presently enrolled in grade 13. There was also the presentation of major and minor awards to students who excelled in certain fields.

Valedictorian was Laurie Sinclair who graduated from Grade 13 with first class honors. Following the formalities of the evening refreshments were served and a dance took place. It was a time when teachers, students and parents could be proud of a job well done.



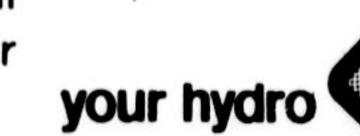
## better light, better sight, better marks

## with the "College" Study Lamp

The "College" Study Lamp has been designed and engineered to provide exactly the right amount of light for comfortable studying. It is the only study lamp ever approved by the Illuminating Engineering Society, the world authority for lighting standards.

The "College" Study Lamp completely eliminates glare and shadow and helps prevent eye strain and fatigue. It means better light, for better sight. It could very well mean better marks. Get one for the student in your home. Look for the lamp with the "College" tag. your hydro





### MILTON HYDRO ELECTRIC COMMISSION

"COLLEGE" STUDY LAMPS ARE AVAILABLE AT:

MILTON HARDWARE

HARRIS STATIONERY & OFFICE SUPPLIES

best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Roy Carter, Arkell, on celebrating their 55th wedding anniv-

annual Remembrance Day service will be held at Haltonville monument at 2.30. Afterwards at 2.45, a service will be held at Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church with the Acton Choraliers in attendance.

and opportunity for anyone desirous of joining the church will be held Dec. 17.

Drive safely.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Keith Anderson on the birth of their daughter, Cindy

Also congratulations and

Next Sunday afternoon, the

The next Communion service

common sense, equals safety.

The Department once advised it won't put up signs for a park until the annual attendance reached 100,000. The Authority wrote again recently, pointing out the attendance has reached the magic figure. But the Department wrote back and said it was reconsidering its signing regulations, and the new rules would probably limit signs to parks with

continues.

125,000 visitors. The Authority put the letter Caution plus courtesy, plus on file, and in the meantime decided to ask Halton's two M.P.P.'s Jim Snow and George

The fight to get directional Kerr to see what they can do signs for Kelso Conservation about the situation.

## Helping H.O.P.E.

Georgetown Lions Club will be holding a drive in Georgetown to collect aluminum lawn chairs to be repaired and rewebbed at the HOPE Adult Workshop in Hornby. Pick-ups are scheduled for Nov. 11.

Milton Pharmacy 246 MAIN ST. PRESCRIPTIONS Picked Up & Delivered

FREE DELIVERY



#### Notice to Electors of the Town of Milton

# NOMINATIONS

MAYOR, REEVE, DEPUTY REEVE, SIX COUNCILLORS, SIX PUBLIC SCHOOL TRUSTEES, TWO HYDRO ELECTRIC COMMISSIONERS

For the Municipality of the Town of Milton

#### FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM

will be held in the

General Purpose Room of the

Martin Street Senior Public School MARTIN STREET, MILTON

ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1967

From 7.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m., E.S.T.

The Voting Will Take Place on

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1967

at the Following Places:

General Purpose Room, NORTH WARD:

Martin Street Senior School

**EAST WARD:** 

Union Hall, Pine Street

SOUTH WARD:

Agricultural Hall, Fair Grounds

At the same time, the opinion of the electors upon the following question will be obtained:

"Are you in favor of the Province taking over 100% of the

cost of education in Ontario?"

Electors of Milton are hereby required to take notice:

- The above is a correct statement of the question to be submitted.
- 2. Monday, the 27th day of November, 1967, at the hour of eight o'clock in the afternoon, in the office of the Clerk, Town Hall, Milton, is appointed as the time for the appointment of persons to attend at the polling places and at the final summing up of the votes by the Clerk.

Polls Open at 9.00 a.m. and Close at 7.00 p.m., E.S.T.

Milton, November 1, 1967

AUDREY B. BRUSH, Deputy-Clerk of the Town of Milton.

ADMISSION — \$6.00 COUPLE

## Remembrance BANQUET AND DANCE

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

BRANCH 136, MILTON

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11 Commencing 7 p.m.

MUSIC BY

LEGION HALL - MILTON

GEORGE ROWE'S ORCHESTRA FROM GEORGETOWN

227 Main E.

878-2353

182 Main E. 878-6962