## Jim's Jottings

by jim dills

- \* I've been hearing a lot about the restrictions on open-dump burning in this part of the county but one wonders if the restrictions are as stringent in the Oakville area. Returning rather late from a County Board of Education meeting last week I noted a healthy glow in the sky in the direction of the fourth line Oakville garbage dump. I decided to look it over and found the glow was coming from flames leaping a good 20 feet in the air at midnight. Perhaps the flames are preferrable to the smoke and have some kind of priority.
- \* It seems annual meetings of organizations are no different than those of municipalities. Unless there is an issue that will generate conflict or debate, just the faithful find in necessary to attend. Is this a criterion of our age when entertainment takes precedence?
- \* You wouldn't think a water main would suffer from age. Seems they do. Noticed the other day that the Toronto Commissioner of Works reported "tuberculation" has cut the capacity of old mains to 46 per cent of the designed capacity. Cleaning and relining are recommended in a \$15 million, 20 year program. Guess it's something like hardening of the arteries.
- \* If your organization is looking for an interesting program arrange with the county clerk's office for loan of the county's prize-winning film, Halton County, the Man and the Boy. It is

Is Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy

McKeough's proposal for regionalization of

government in Halton and Peel really new?

Or is it just reverting to a form of district

government that was popular in Ontario

Historical records of Halton indicate the

county was once a part of a regional

government embracing two

counties-almost two centuries ago. It was

Halton and Wentworth in those days, but it

was two-county government nevertheless.

Jacques Cartier and the discovery was

followed by 200 years of slow growth and

turmoil. Once the French had given up the

new frontier to the victorious British

forces, the settlers began flocking to the

new land. Among them were 10,000

United Empire Loyalists who moved here

from what is now U.S.A., beginning in

pieces-Upper Canada (Ontario) and Lower

Canada (Quebec). They were re-united in

1841. It was 1867 before the British North

America Act established Canada as a

Upper Canada (Mainly what is now

Southern Ontario) was divided into four

"districts" in 1778 by Lord Dorchester.

But it was Canada's first

lieutenant-governor, John Graves Simcoe,

who established the first regional

government in this area in 1792. Simcoe

called the four districts Eastern, Midland.

Home and Western-and Halton County

further divided and what is now Halton

County ended up in a merger with

Wentworth County in an area called the

Gore District. Halton at that time included

the townships of Beverley, Dumphries,

Esquesing, East and West Flamboro,

Some time after that the districts were

was part of the Home District.

In 1791 Canada was divided into two

Canada was "discovered" in 1534 by

177 years ago?

Dominion.

photographed entirely in the county and I doubt if anyone can claim they've seen all the places shown in beautiful color photography. Makes you pretty proud of Halton and now is a good time for a little pride in this old county.

- \* Did you ever notice that all news releases from unions automatically, it seems, quote the total membership in the opening paragraph to support the significance of the pronouncement. If we wrote council reports that way every article would have to go something like this, "Halton County Councillors, representing some 140,000 citizens, agreed
- \* It was an expectant crowd of municipal officials that awaited the word of the Minister of Municipal Affairs on regional government in Toronto last week. Advance copies of the Minister's speech distributed to the press, quickly found their way to officials' hand. The Minister jokingly referred to the number of press reps there as he delivered his remarks to a sea of downturned heads following his remarks on the white papers.
- \* Got that tired feeling? No wonder. Did you know that in 24 hours your heart beats 103,689 times, your blood travels 168,000,000 miles, you breathe 23,040 times, you inhale 438 cubic feet of air, you eat 31/4 pounds of food, you drink 2.9 quarts of liquid, you speak 4,800 words, you move 850 muscles and you exercise 7,000,000 brain cells.

Nassagaweya, Nelson and Trafalgar.

Wentworth contained Ancaster, Barton,

Binbrook, Brantford, Glanford, Onondago,

were known to have come around 1783,

but the county was not too populous in

the days of the Gore District's "regional

government"-in fact historians say many

of the previously named townships had

been roughly surveyed and marked out on

maps but had no white inhabitants. More

settlers arrived in the period between 1810

find, but it is known that by the year

Early population figures are difficult to

When the first Halton County Council

was formed in 1853 there were no

municipalities large enough to be called

villages or towns. The county

municipalities were listed only as the four

large townships-Esquesing, Nassagaweya,

Nelson and Trafalgar. The towns of Milton

and Oakville were added in 1857, the

village of Georgetown in 1865, and the

villages of Burlington and Acton in 1874.

a merger of the entire counties of Halton

and Peel into a 900 square mile "super

metro" area, is a modern form of

regionalization. Today the province wants

a buffer strip to keep Toronto and

Hamilton from spreading toward one

another. They want a large area operating

with local municipal councils to preserve

area autonomy, and a big regional council

to oversee the works of the giant new

It's a far cry from 1792 when the whole

southern part of the province was

"regionalized" into four districts, then

subdivided into smaller districts like the

Gore, and finally boiled down to

one-county government.

Today's regional government proposal,

and 1820 to build mills and town sites.

1817, Halton contained 6,684 people.

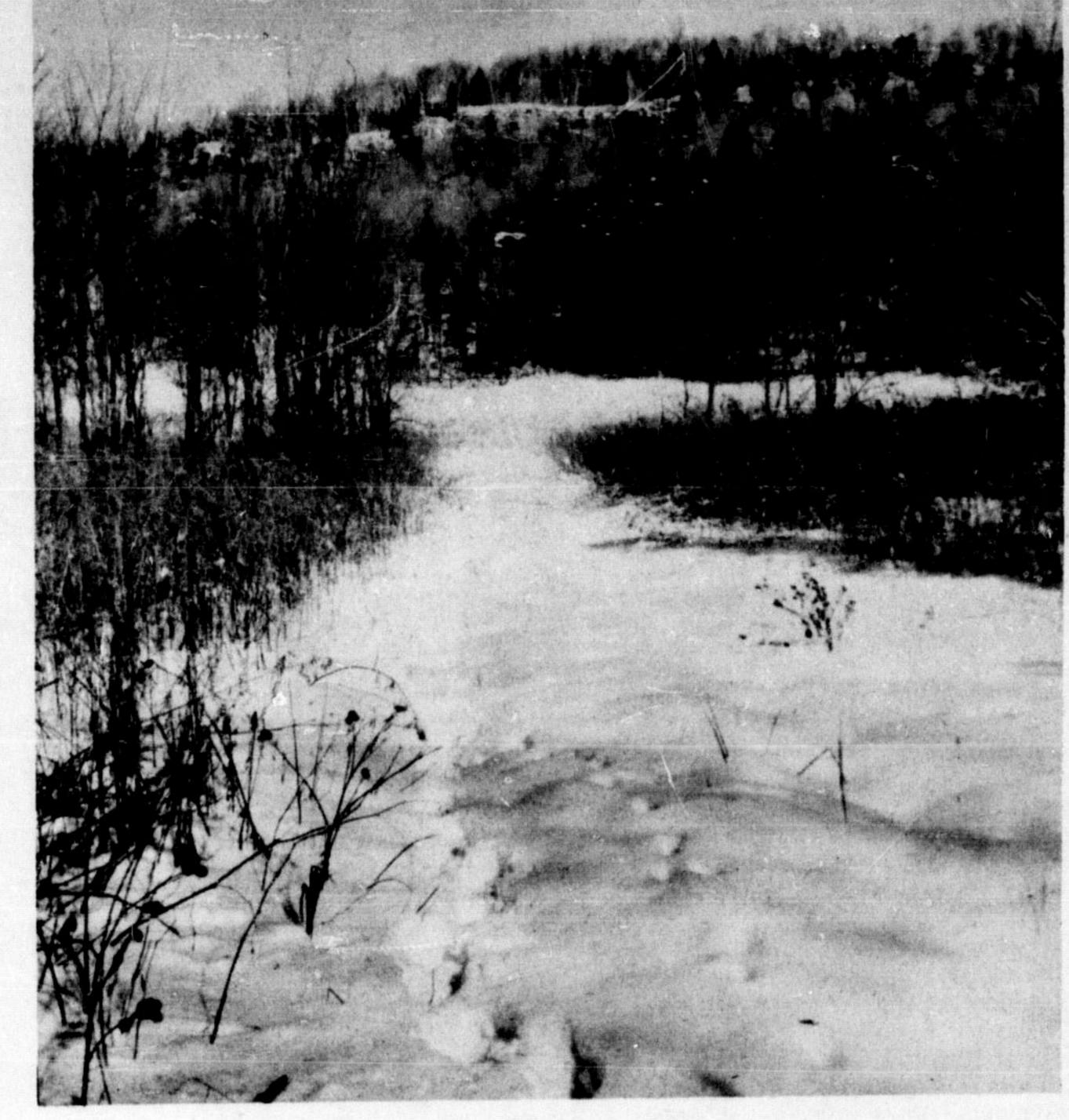
The first settlers in what is now Halton

Tuscarora and Saltfleet Townships.

corner

Down[s] in this

with roy downs



toward the escarpment from Walker's Line. by Merle Gunby)

RATTLESNAKE POINT lies off in the One thing about the mountain-it's a scenic distance as human tracks break a trail spot in both winter and summer.-(Photo

## Champion

Editorial Page

# A blueprint unveiled...

No longer is regional government some vague term subject to varied interpretations in the Halton-Peel area. Minister of Municipal Affairs Darcy McKeough drew a clear picture of his department's interpretation of the subject when he addressed his "tentative proposal for regional government" to municipal officials last week.

The proposal is far-reaching and will be the subject of discussion over the next 12 months but it is the most intelligent proposal to come from all that have been developed at great cost-including the Plunkett Report and the MTARTS report.

There are criticisms of the proposal, of course. Perhaps our vision is not sufficiently elevated but we would have preferred to see Peel and Halton units left separate even though boundaries within the units were altered. The Minister explains his proposal for merging the two counties as necessary to avoid domination of a whole region by one municipality as might take place in Peel by Mississauga with its 135,000 population.

Representation by population has been inscribed as one of the sacred precepts on which the new regional government is to be based. The logic of this is overwhelming but the practicality of it is discouraging to rural areas like Nassagaweya.

Reeve Bill Hoey and Deputy-Reeve Anne MacArthur put their opinions quite forcefully to the Minister, in no uncertain terms too.

But the Nassagaweya's case. Under the Minister's proposal they are to come into a unit with Milton, with the exception of the top one-third that is to be cut off and thrown to Wellington County. Now the Milton area that would include Nassagaweya is the smallest of those proposed for the region and it would have one representative to the Regional Council.

Acton and Georgetown have been thrown together in a northern area with northerm Esquesing for one Regional voice. So that while Nassagaweya and Acton share a common representative on the County Board of Education, Nassagaweya is to be tossed into the Milton area for regional government.

If you add to this the varying areas it is connected with in terms of federal and provincial representation it becomes obvious that the township has been sliced and scattered. These are the points that will be among those worrying the township council and citizens of Nassagaweya. All of them are a direct result of the basic precept that representation must be by population. Area is not a contributing factor even though a farmer may own 100 acres and his urban counterpart owns one fifth of an acre, each is to have equal voice.

It seems obvious to us that the province, since it could not touch the present Burlington while it is under another local government review, was forced to draw some

unrealistic lines. For instance in looking at the Milton area proposed it would put southern Esquesing and northern Oakville into a horizontal unit with Milton that is interrupted at the Burlington border. There it jogs around north Burlington to go up and take in all of Nassagaweya to just south of a line paralleling the southern limits of Acton.

When the Burlington area is officially included in the Halton-Peel unit it would be much more logical to have a horizontal Milton area that includes north Burlington as it does north Oakville, and south Nassagaweya as it does south Esquesing. That way at least the remaining north of Nassagaweya (all of it) could be related to the Acton-Georgetown area.

It is encouraging to find that the province proposes a two-tier form of government. While the Minister dwelt mainly on the senior or regional level he left the design of the local level quite open. Presumably it would require election of officials on a ward basis that would insure representation for all areas. The council elected, it was proposed, would then choose its representative to the regional council. Direct election of representatives to the regional council has been proposed but it would seem more practical to designate the position, i.e. the mayor as the representative. That way the voters would know who they were choosing for the senior level and likely the mayor or senior position would be voted on over the entire area anyway.

Looking at the representation proposed for the regional council we find in Halton Oakville with three votes, Burlington with four, Milton with one and Acton-Georgetown with one. Seven in the south and two in the north. In Peel, Mississauga would have seven and Chinguacousy including Brampton and Bramalea would have four. Albion, Caledon, Bolton, Orangeville and parts of Amaranth and Mono, Erin and Erin Township would have one.

Simply stated, if north-south considerations have any weight, there would be seven representatives above Steele's Avenue and 14 below it. Or put another way, Halton would have nine representatives and Peel 12.

The three member committees from Peel and Halton, that the Minister has requested for negotiations and discussions, will carry with them serious responsibility in devising the wisest and most practical system within the guidelines set down by the Minister. Representation by population is a precept the Minister has held to be mandatory and the rural municipalities will find this the most serious handicap to their cases for expanded representation

In subsequent editorials we will attempt to deal with functions of the levels of government and administration.

# Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley



Canadians, unlike Scandinavians, don't commit suicide during the long, cold, dark winter months. At least not more than the usual number.

Instead, they just half-kill themselves by attending a winter carnival. This makes them feel so rotten for the following week that they're so glad to be alive again that they wouldn't even contemplate suicide.

I've seen people age 50 years during a winter carnival.

Don't talk to me about the October beer-fest in Munich, or the carnival of the bulls in Pamplona, or the Mardi Gras in New Orleans. Those things go on for a week, or a month, and there's a lot of indiscriminating kissing, and dancing in the streets, and drinking.

We Canadians, hardy lot that we are, compress the whole Bacchanalian orgy into a weekend: the winter carnival.

Every self-respecting Canadian town has a winter carnival of some sort, and if the government had any brains, it would declare a national festival for about the first week in February.

It would be a great pressure-reliever. No work, all play. We'd get rid of our winter frustrations, our hatred of cold and snow. We might look and feel like skeletons when it was over, but we'd be purged of our hang-ups.

Personally, I'd be willing to kiss practically anybody, and dance in the streets should it be 12 below, and drink almost anything except anti-freeze, if I had a week's carnival to look forward to, and back on.

It would break the bony, rigid back of winter. We'd just be climbing back into our ruts about Valentine's Day, and there would be spring, right around the corner.

Two years ago, as a centennial project, our school had a Frosty Frolic. It was beautiful. There was no organization at all, which is the secret of a good time. One bright, white February day, we marched down to the park, teachers and students in step for once, behind an impromptu band, and had a heck of a time. Ski-doo races, tug-o-wars, and teachers being overpowered

by mobs of kids and having their faces well washed in snow. For at least a month after that, we didn't hate each other.

I went in the snow-shoe race and finished 21st. Went in a tug-o-war and was dragged 40 yards through the snow by exuberant, yelping students.

Three years ago, son Hugh, laden with school work and music, and not doing too well in either, begged to be allowed to go to the Quebec winter carnival. He was only

After the usual soul-searching, hedging, and predictions of disaster, we let him go. He was entranced. All those Quebecois dancing in the streets, being merry, loving one another. He came home, went to work, pulled up his marks by 12 per cent and passed his performer's music exam.

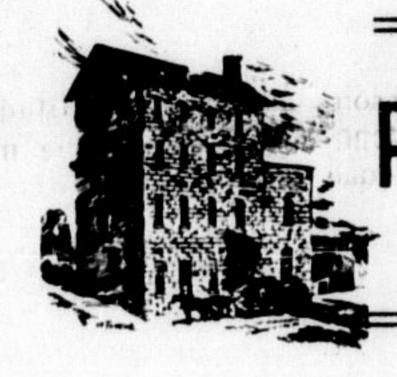
Now Kim has been invited to a winter carnival, at a university, by the jail-bird I mentioned recently. Should she go?

She's 18, or near enough. In another country, she'd be married, with at least one kid. In Canada, she's just a baby, with years of education ahead of her before she could even think of marriage, let alone

It will all sort out, but I think the winter carnival is a great institution. When it's all over, there are husbands looking for wives and vice versa. There are people who have gone through the ice in a Ski-doo and saved their lives only by a hasty application of toddy to the tummy.

The winter carnival has something for everybody. For the kids, there is the excitement and the color and the chance of being run over by a snowmobile. For the swinging set, there are wild rides through the woods, and the parties, and the breaking of bones on the ski hill. For the middle-aged, there is curling and companionship and remembering the good old days before those noisy darned snowmobiles were invented.

Long live the winter carnival. But let's spread it out a little. Forty-eight hours of kissing and dancing and drinking brings even a sturdy Canadian to his knees. See you at the carnival.



# Pages of the Past

from champion files

## 20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, January 27, 1949.

Again winter or spring storms caused most people inconvenience during the last weekend, while others enjoyed a forced holiday from their work. By midnight Sunday, the roads and sidewalks were a sheet of ice, formed by the light rains. By morning, road conditions were so serious, buses leaving for the city cancelled their trip. Both the Oakville and workers' bus to Georgetown failed to operate. However, buses to Toronto and Hamilton left at noon while the Oakville bus continued its afternoon service. The school buses did not operate Monday. Many other workers driving to work in the neighboring towns and villages started but returned to their homes as they found driving conditions the worst of the winter. Traffic was reduced to a minimum, trucks failing to begin operations until sanding operations were completed on the highways. Cars drove at reduced speed on the streets in town and

no serious accidents were reported. The Hon. Dana Porter and Mrs. Porter were guests of the Board and teachers of Nelson Township at their annual banquet held at Glenwood School last Tuesday night. Mr. Porter, introduced by public school inspector L. L. Skuce, spoke of the increase in the importance of education in recent years. He cited, as examples, the tremendous increase in the proportion of educational costs borne by the provincial government, the appointment of a royal commission on education and proposed

Miltonians report seeing robins last Sunday. On Monday Rex Hume picked a dandelion blossom on Victoria Ave. The exceptionally mild weather of this month has helped to relieve the coal situation, by reducing consumption. It suits everyone except the curlers who have had hardly any sport. The preliminary competition for the Ontario Tankard, fixed for Tuesday, was postponed.

to one month each in any case, dating from their arrest on December 20. They settled and were released, having put in the month in jail. Their outfit was confiscated.

## 100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Milton, January 28, 1869.

There will be a lecture tomorrow evening in the Town Hall, Milton, by Mrs. E. H. Stowe, M.D., of Toronto under the patronage of the Directors of the Mechanics' Institute. Subject-"Woman". We quote the following from an exchange: 'Last evening the public had an opportunity of listening to an eloquent address on this subject by Dr. E. H. Stowe, formerly a resident here, now a medical practioner at Toronto. The lecturer dealt some heavy blows against the slavery of fashion, and argued strongly the importance of thorough education for the female sex. Mrs. Stowe is perfectly self-possessed in front of her audience, and speaks in a very distinct manner and with an agreeable voice. She presented many laudable thoughts, yet her conclusions were evidently not accepted en masse by the audience. This lady is worthy of respect, and those who know her wish her well. Owing to her determination to maintain an independent position, she has persevered amidst many discouragements, until she has succeeded in obtaining a diploma as a physician, and is now striving in her legitimate sphere to pay attention to the cure of diseases, especially the diseases of women and children.

### PEEKING INTO MILTON'S PAST



MILTON BRASS AND REED BAND was Jack Conway, Charles Johnson, John Bews, Second row, Bill Armstrong, Red Lindsay, and Steve Conway.

pictured back in the 1800's in this photo Fred Cudmore, Alex Armstrong, and loaned by Charles Jones. In front are Bill Charles Jones. Back row, Bob Harrison, Dewar, Dick Gollins and Lon Jones. Jim Mann, Tom McDowell, Ed Hodgson changes in school curriculum.

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, January 23, 1919.

On Tuesday morning Louis and Sault A-, the two Italians committed for trial by Police Magistrate Barr, of Burlington, on the charge of operating an illicit still on their farm at Appleby, were arraigned before Judge Elliot. They pleaded guilty. They were fined \$500 for both and ordered to pay \$164 to the Revenue Department, double the distillery license fee, and all the costs of the prosecution, a total of about \$800-with six months in jail as the alternative. They were sentenced

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