



# Jim's Jottings

by jim dills

\* The southern boundary of Milton is known as Derry Rd. W. Of course it's also known as 10 Sideroad but the Derry Rd. designation ties in with the continuation of the road to the east. The problem, however, lies in calling the road Derry Rd. West. Milton streets number from Bronte St. and from Main St. Streets to the east of Bronte St. should correctly carry the East designation. That makes the road in front of Milton District Hospital, for instance, Derry Road West, East. Sounds a little confusing and it may get more that way as building develops on that stretch of road. Presumably the original West in the Derry Road designation refers to Toronto's Yonge St. or something, but by the time it gets over here, the meaning is just confusing. Can't you imagine giving directions to the hospital on Derry Road West, East?

\* Finally some progress may be made on the construction of Senior Citizens' apartments. Certainly the town council didn't waste any time. The report on or so later the council had approved the project. The need was first seen by the Rotary Club and members put considerable work on the project. When government financing for the total project came along Rotarians dropped the project, assuming some immediate action would follow. Council has been pressing for the OHC report and now the first hurdle has been overcome. Mind you OHC is not misleading in its promise for an early start on the project. The representative gave "indications" that everything possible would be done to proceed quickly, while noting the basic

target on projects is to have them completed two years from the first contact with the municipality. Milton isn't delaying the action anyway.

\* Guarantees, the symbol of our generation, are now being attached to everything, and the result may in the end be less security rather than more. We have guaranteed wages, we're talking about guaranteed incomes, already there are supplementary unemployment benefits to guarantee income during layoffs common in some industries. Strangely enough there is nowhere a guaranteed profit to those who invest for their retirement years rather than depending on the guaranteed old age assistance. It seems to me there is something amiss when all the energy of our age is directed toward guaranteeing our ultimate security. In the field of drugs there are pills to guarantee, in effect, tranquility, or new pep, or the loss of a headache. Do I misread the signs or does it all add up to peace at any price?

\* Municipalities are in much the same position as the farmer but the parallel hasn't been drawn very clearly. Recently farmers voted on whether to accept a General Farm Organization since the farm voice is apparently too splintered. Perhaps it's time for municipalities to consider a General Municipal Organization. Then the presently splintered voice of the variety of organizations might be more meaningful and contribute to effective communication with senior governments. The number of voices now is best reflected in the variety of conventions elected officials are invited to attend.



# Down[s] in this Corner

with roy downs

I've been to see the "dry" Niagara and I must say, it's quite a site. The waterless American Falls are really something to behold, and being dry, they seem to make the Canadian Horseshoe falls look even much bigger and more impressive.

Visited the falls a couple of weekends ago, and on our way we stopped at the Welland Canal to watch the huge lake ships go through the locks. We've seen them before but each visit seems to show us something new about the intricate system of locks. This time a 730 foot laker loaded with coal was coming down the canal and everyone in our party, from youngsters to grandparents, stood enthralled for an hour watching the ship enter the lock, sink to the lower level, then sail away. If you're Niagara-bound, don't miss seeing the canal in operation.

We drove over and under the Welland Skyway bridge and the news that the government was going to have to rip down and replace a section of the fairly new, multi-million dollar skyway brought a lot of disgruntled comments from those riding in the car that day. The little man just can't understand big government these days, especially when they build bridges like that one—knowing full well that within a couple of years it is going to have to be destroyed and rebuilt to accommodate a change in the canal program.

During our Niagara visit we also enjoyed a picnic at the park at Queenston Heights. Our girls and two little nieces visiting from Toronto were anxious to climb up Brock's Monument for a look at the surrounding countryside, and I was doing my best to sprain an ankle or something, just to get out of the long climb.

My wife has such a fear of heights she

can't go halfway up a six foot stepladder without feeling dizzy, but she bravely volunteered to take the girls up. When we got to the monument it was closed for the night and the wife seemed quite relieved at this news.

So where are we going to put the trucks that want to drive through Milton on Highway 25? The downtown people don't want them downtown, and the Ontario St. people don't want them on their street either. Council has been waging a long battle with the Department of Highways over the idea of rerouting through traffic along Base Line and Ontario St., and it appears a complete new detour across to the Third Line might be the only feasible answer.

But sooner or later Milton's homes will be stretching eastward to the Third Line, and you can guess what the homebuyers will say then. Fourth Line, anyone?

How about an elevated highway up the east side of town, similar to the wall the CNR built for its railway by-pass along the west side. Then Milton could claim its fame from the fact it is the only walled city in Ontario... perhaps in Canada. Some fame!

The Champion's "Safety Corner" has been inactive in recent months, and there's a good reason. People stopped complaining about dangerous corners, hidden intersections and other problems in and around Milton. The staff has been keeping its eyes open for local hazards but hasn't turned any up in recent weeks.

Got any ideas? We'd be glad to hear from ratepayers with problems concerning safety. We could fill the column with hints on safety from the Milton Police, O.P.P., Ontario Safety League or Hamilton Automobile Club safety division, but that's not the point of the column. "Safety Corner" wants to deal with LOCAL problems.

Recent issues of The Champion have had some excellent letters to the editor. They are not usually professionally written but they are genuine and that's all that counts when the reader takes pen in hand to offer praise or criticism on local issues.

But in a town of nearly 7,000 residents, surely there is more that people could write about in a letter to the editor. The Champion should be running a page of local letters each week, but the average is about one and a half per issue to date in 1969.

What is wrong? Is everything right in Milton? Does no-one do anything worth a few words of praise? Do you believe all the statements the politicians make? Does anyone care about the implications of Milton's new official plan? Did nobody care enough about the late Lorne Skuce to write a few lines and echo The Champion's praise for a man who served education for half a century? Where were the letters from the hundreds of people who were shocked when two young men lost their lives in a Dominion Day accident? What's so scary about writing a letter to be published in a newspaper?

Letters to the editor may be published with a pen-name, but The Champion must know the writer's identity. Come on Milton, where are those letters?



THE YOUNGER SET is having a cool summer, spending most of their afternoons at the community swimming pool in Rotary Park. The pool has been extremely busy since it opened in mid-June and on Saturday welcomed the 5,000th visitor of the season. Lessons keep the staff busy each morning, with open swimming periods each afternoon and evening.—(Staff Photo)

# Champion Editorial Page

## Serving the south too...

Antagonists in South Halton would have us believe they are kicking in the biggest portion of the funds and receiving the smallest share of the benefits from the programs of the Halton Region Conservation Authority. Their cry is that all their money is being spent on programs to help the North Halton area.

Last week an editorial writer from the south continued the growing smear campaign in an editorial that contained more half-truths and lies than facts. "The south part of Halton is where the people are, and it is the main source of income for county conservationists. Yet when it comes to recreation and conservation areas South Halton stands neglected," was the claim.

It's not so. The Halton Region Conservation Authority has spent more money in Oakville and Burlington to date than it has in the other seven municipalities with membership in the authority. The Authority has planned or is working on close to two dozen more projects for the Oakville-Burlington area.

Naturally all the projects involving recreation areas and flood control project can't be completed in one year. Priorities have determined which came first, and it is true the Authority has completed several of its parksites and flood plans in the Milton, Nassagaweya, Esquesing and East Flamborough areas. But they were needed first. The south has not been neglected—its needs are just now coming to the top of the priority list.

For those who base their smear campaigns on emotionalism instead of facts, we'd like to outline a few of the facts. These facts, incidentally, can be obtained by anyone in a 10 minute conversation with H.R.C.A. resources manager Dave Murray at the local office. The facts are:

A—Although projects like Kelso, Hilton Falls and Scotch Black dams are located in the north part of the H.R.C.A. watershed, they do serve nearly all the people of the Halton Region. While recreation areas like Kelso and Rattlesnake Point Park report a very small attendance from the municipality in which they are located (Nassagaweya Township and north Burlington), surveys of visitors have shown the bulk of the swimmers and picnickers have come from the built-up areas like Burlington and Oakville. While such dams do protect the headwaters of the streams, they also effectively control the downstream flow of the creeks, preventing floods and ensuring a steady summer flow.

B—Last week the Morrison-Wedgewood Creek diversion channel was opened at Oakville, a \$2,500,000 project that helps protect the core area of Oakville south of the Queen Elizabeth Highway from flooding such as that experienced in Hurricane Hazel. Those who claim the south is "neglected" may be shocked to learn the one project, the diversion channel, cost approximately \$300,000 more than all the rest of the H.R.C.A. projects completed to date—and that total group of projects included others in Oakville which are of direct benefit to that town.

C—The Authority has done erosion control and established a picnic area and trails at the Sixteen Valley Park which lies just south of Omagh. Here's another project in Oakville which the editorial writers always seem to forget.

D—The Authority has acquired the Forester Flats in Oakville, and is planning improvements.

E—Channel improvements are being considered in the Bronte Harbor area, which is in Oakville.

F—Another project in Oakville concerns channel improvements along Randall St.

G—Several acres of Department of Highways lands have been acquired in the village of Bronte, for future improvements.

H—The Authority has acquired a piece of land on the Burlington-Oakville town line north of the Queen Elizabeth Highway for stream improvements.

I—An engineering study is underway concerning acquisition of flood plain lands along the Twelve Mile Creek in Oakville.

J—A flood plain project is planned between the Oakville Harbor and the Queen Elizabeth Highway along the Sixteen.

K—Authority members are presently considering acquisition of 100 acres on the Twelve Mile Creek north of the Queen Elizabeth Highway.

L—Two dams were planned on the Fourteen Mile Creek in Oakville, north of the Queen Elizabeth, but the Town of Oakville this year deferred the projects for lack of funds.

M—Studies of the complete channel on the Fourteen between the Queen Elizabeth and Lake Ontario have just been completed.

N—H.R.C.A. has recently turned over a 70 acre piece of land it owns south of Highway 5 on the Sixteen,

(Continued on Page B7)



# Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

TAKE TIME TO GIVE THANKS There's quite a backlash these days from the middle-class against practically everything: welfare, subsidies, inflation, taxes, and anything else that hurts where it hits.

The squawkers, and I join them once in a while, feel that there is a conspiracy among the government, the poor, the farmers, the skilled tradesmen, and almost everyone except the middle-class to grind the latter exceedingly small.

I'm about as middle-class as they come. Middle age, middle income, mortgage, kids to educate. And like all the other middles, I pay far too much in taxes.

But once in a while, I take stock and, despite the grinding, find plenty to be thankful for.

This week, I met a lady who is living on welfare. Her husband, from whom she is separated, contributes nothing. She has six kids to feed and clothe. There is no car, no treats, no frills, no little extras. Every month she is almost frantic with worry trying to make ends meet, just before her cheque arrives.

If the older children can't get summer jobs, they can't go back to high school, because they won't have any clothes. One boy has been reprimanded by his principal for wearing jeans to school. They're the only pants he has, and they're clean.

The total income of this family is less than many middle-class people pay in income tax. The lady is not well. Even if she could go to work, it would mean deductions from her welfare cheque. She's struggling desperately, but cheerfully, to keep her family together and give them an education. And she's doing it, but walking the thin edge of real poverty.

Why shouldn't the wheat farmer be subsidized? Many of our fatter industries are, through tariffs and special tax deals. The farmer works harder and longer for less money than anybody in the country.

Why shouldn't a skilled worker make

ten thousand a year? He's going to pay plenty of it in taxes. How can the government control inflation when the people demand more and more and more, while at the same time everybody is trying to get his snout into the trough.

Why shouldn't Indians get help so that they can lift themselves out of the degradation and squalor that has been forced on them? Frustrated by poverty and lack of education, they either cling to the communal life of the reserve, or venture into the world, get a punch of discrimination right on the nose, and escape to drink. (Lots of them do on the reserve, too, but what else is there to do? Weave baskets?)

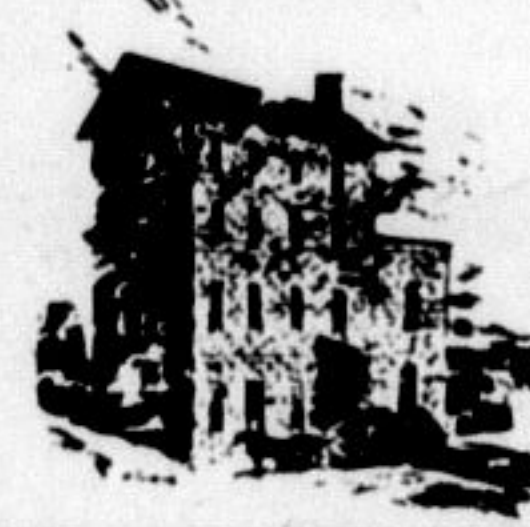
There's another group that I feel for, a large one. These are the elderly and the disabled. Sure, they get a pension. Try living on it, you middle-class cry-babies.

Happiest of these are the born bums, who've always lived in a shack, never paid taxes, insurance, and seldom rent. They're in clover, proportionately. But they're poor.

Perhaps the saddest portion of the group is the elderly couples who worked hard, never asked anyone for anything and saved for their old age. They may have a small pension from the job, or even some savings bonds.

And now, ready to spend a few golden years, their pensions and bonds are halved in value, their living costs tripled. They can't pay the taxes and have to sell the home they've sweated for and move into a couple of rooms. The reward for 30-40 years of honest toil. It's enough to make one join the hippies.

It's a great country. But next time you start whining because you can't quite afford a second car, think of the farmer whose wheat can't be sold, the plumber who cleans your stinking drains, the Indian who fought in the war and can't get a job, the doughy woman battling for her family, or the little old lady sitting alone in a furnished room, living on bread and tea until her cheque comes.



# Pages of the Past

from champion files

## 20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, July 14, 1949.

Over 200 skaters are enrolled in the figure skating course at Milton Arena, sponsored by the Granite Club of Toronto. Skaters come from all parts of Canada and the U.S. Artificial ice was installed in the arena last year and the classes are proving a great boon to the town from the standpoint of advertisement and increased business. The children attending are staying in private homes. It just goes to prove what a great advantage an up-to-date skating rink is to a town.

Halton's bird population was increased last week by 250. In 18 crates, 250 10-week-old English ring-necked pheasants arrived by train for distribution in Esquesing, Trafalgar and Nelson townships. Until they are able to feed themselves the young pheasants will be kept in outdoor pens in the Bronte district. Warden Dudley Hitchcox will have all the birds tagged before the hunting season opens in October.

## 50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, July 17, 1919.

Next Sunday five stained glass windows, forming a combined memorial to the eight members of the congregation who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War, will be unveiled in the morning service at the Methodist Church.

A few days ago a dog bit Mr. and Mrs. B. Graham's little daughter, aged seven, on Main Street near Buck and Morley's Store. Her clothing kept the teeth from penetrating, but her flesh was bruised. She did not know whose dog bit her, but her parents and those of other children object to vicious dogs running at large, particularly on these the dog days.

The Oakville Star says the Toronto-Hamilton Highway Commission has applied to have Oakville Bridge, now under repairs, made a county bridge, the county council having refused to pay for work on its approaches on a fifty-fifty basis. The council did not object to paying for work on the bridge itself, but claimed that Oakville should pay for any work done on the roadway, which is one of Oakville's Streets. The county clerk has been notified by Mr. Gooderham, Chairman of the Highway Commission that application will be made to the Board for permission to erect a new bridge and allocate the cost. The notice says nothing about a county bridge.

## 100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Milton, July 16, 1869.

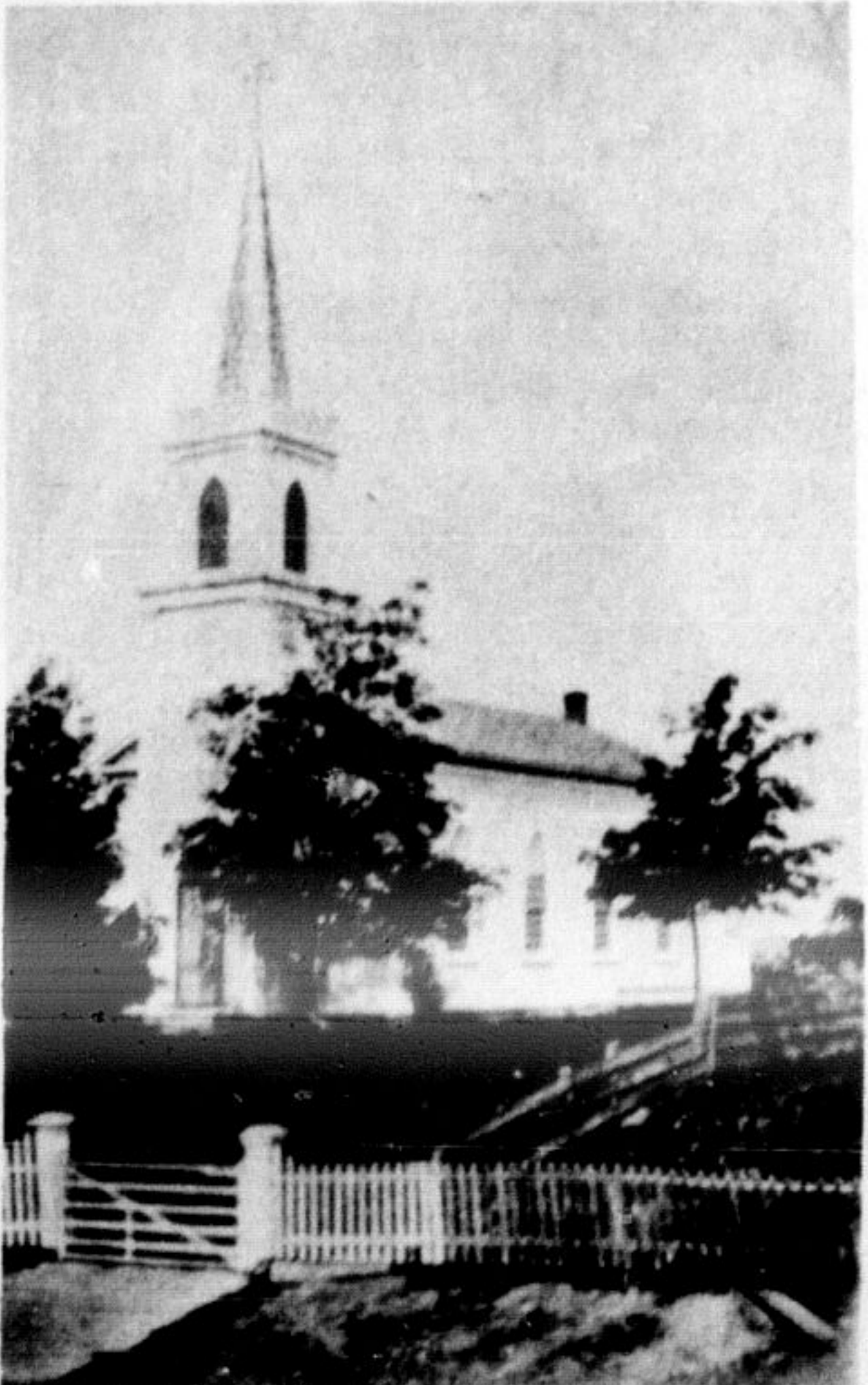
The moral to be learned by the people of Milton from the two narrow escapes from fire last week, is that a fire company should be at once organized and drilled in the working of the fire engine, hooks and ladders, etc. Very little expense would put the engine and apparatus in complete repair, and the authorities should see that it is done without delay. If the fire in either of the cases had gained much headway the consequences would have been most calamitous, and we cannot always hope to be so fortunate.

A gentleman from the country called at our sanctum yesterday and left us a big order. He stated that his wife had a Roman Catholic Bible in French, but that as he could not read that language, he wished us to translate it into English and print him a copy. We intimated that we were not so much in the Bible business as we used to be.

Following after the Yankee Government, the Dominion Government have commenced to invest in real estate. Their first venture was in CHANTRY ISLAND. As they made a poor bargain of it, probably they SHAN'T TRY any more islands.

Reward of \$120 will be paid to anyone who will give such information as will lead to the conviction of the person or persons who on Wednesday, the 7th day of July inst., placed a parcel of phosphorus amongst the wood under our stores. It is evident that such phosphorus was put there with a malicious intent. P. M. McKay, W. F. Willcox.

# PEEKING INTO MILTON'S PAST



GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH was originally this building. When the new stone church was built on its present site, the old church was turned into a Parish Hall.

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION  
Published by DILLS PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO. LTD.  
191 Main Street East Phone 878-2341  
Milton, Ontario

James A. Dills, Publisher  
Roy E. Downs, Editor  
Marvin Grove, Advertising Manager

Published every Wednesday at 191 Main St., Milton, Ontario. Member of the Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association and the Ontario Weekly Newspaper Association. Subscription rates payable in advance, \$6.00 in Canada; Carrier Delivery in Milton, 15 cents per week; \$9.00 in all countries other than Canada.

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