

Champion Editorial Page

Shadow boxing

Last Wednesday evening members of Milton Council met for almost two hours with representatives of the Ontario Department of Municipal Affairs, in a closed session. A reporter who attempted to attend the scheduled meeting was told the meeting was closed to the press and public at the request of the DMA representatives.

Comments from councillors during a joint meeting with Milton Planning Board which was held later the same evening (which, incidentally, WAS open to the press), indicate the council was not happy with the information they received at the closed-door session.

The DMA is the provincial body through which approvals must be

sought for all zoning and development projects in the town. The DMA is also the group responsible for implementation of the important Toronto-Centred Region Design for Development which, in turn, spells out the future of the town of Milton.

It is unfortunate if important information which may significantly affect the development of Milton can only come from the DMA officials under a shroud of secrecy. We are always inclined to wonder about the strength of convictions which cannot bear the light of publicity. Is local autonomy reality or whimsy? Is planning to principle or to convenience?

Educating consumers

One of the new programs considered for implementation this year by Milton Chamber of Commerce is the introduction of a course in money and credit management for high school students. Apparently such a program has been a success in Burlington and the Chamber's retail committee is currently investigating the feasibility of introducing a similar lecture series here.

It's an idea that should certainly be carried out in town. The heat is on the young people in the marketplace. Deceptively-complex credit plans, carefully-designed but not always truthful promotional programs, and assorted goods neatly "in tune" with current fad and fashion are often tailored specifically for this vulnerable young market. The answer appears to be not necessarily more law, but more education.

Fresh out of school, they are being bilked by the availability of credit. They go out and buy clothes, record players, cars and motorcycles, magazine subscriptions that often result in commitments they cannot handle.

As an example of the kind of situations young people can fall into, the Registrar of the Ontario Consumer Protection Bureau, A. R. Walker cites a gimmick which involves a "psuedo-cheque" mailed to the home. A pull tab is located on the top right hand corner of the cheque. The number beneath can

mean a "free stereo" if it appears on the enclosed list.

But there is a catch. When presented, the cheque is presumably worth the price of the stereo—\$299.50. All you have to do is pay for 75 stereo long play records at five dollars each and sign a contract.

These records cost \$375, but they could be bought retail for about two dollars each—or \$150.

"In this case, the free stereo isn't really free", says Walker. "Free items seldom are..."

Many times circumstances are more acute than just buying a "free stereo". Sometimes young people cripple themselves financially for years by forsaking their common sense for the lure of "easy-convenient" credit terms.

So Mr. Walker is going around telling high school students to ask themselves questions about purchasing, such as:

Can I pay for it and still meet my daily living expenses?

What will happen to me when an emergency arises?

Is having something new worth the worry of paying later?

Do I really know what I am buying, and how much will I pay as a result of credit and finance charges.

Have I purchased the item from a reliable, well-established firm, company or store?

Good advice all of us could heed!

Commenting briefly

This week in your mail you'll be receiving a packet of Easter Seals from Milton Rotary Club. Don't forget to mail your cheque to the crippled children's fund, c-o Bank of Montreal. There is no better way of marking the miracle of spring than contributing to the kind of work which each year performs the equally joyful miracle of placing a formerly helpless youngster on two strong legs. Support Easter Seals, and see what your dollars can do!

The strains of that provincial department of tourism and industry song, "Is there any place you'd rather be..." keep wafting through our brain these blustery days in March. When we hear of vacationers returning home after wonderful holiday trips to sunny southern climes, yes, we think there is some place we'd rather be.

In the past week we have seen children playing on snowbanks at the side of town streets and provincial highways on at least three occasions. That's a dangerous practice and parents should be more alert. We recall one accident in Esquesing Township a few years ago where a child slid down such a snowbank into the path of an oncoming car. The child lost its life as the driver just couldn't stop in time. Parents should speak to their children and help them find a safer place to frolic in the snow than beside a busy road.

Another warning to parents: the spring flooding season is almost here. Fast-flowing streams and ditches carry an almost magical attraction for small youngsters. Keep your children

away from such danger spots and plan to oversee their outdoor activities a little more closely during the spring run-off weather.

Robert Nixon came up with the quote of the week at a reception prior to the Halton East Liberal Nomination meeting last Tuesday. Chatting with former Halton MP Harry Harley, Nixon noted Harley was his idea of a success. He got in and out of politics with his skin.

Glad to see the new senior citizen apartment building on Ontario St. is filling up and the tenants are happy with their new homes. The Ontario Housing Corporation project, built at the suggestion of Milton Council, serves a two-fold purpose. It gives our elder citizens a place to spend their twilight years in company with others of the same age and at reasonable, geared-to-in-come rentals; it also releases other local housing for newcomers or young marrieds who have trouble scraping up a down payment for a new home of their own.

The good wishes of the community go to two Rotarians who were seriously injured Friday night in erecting decorations for the Milton Figure Skating Carnival. Bert Porter and John Conway were decorating the lights when the scaffolding they were working on tumbled to the ice. Both have been hospitalized. It is most unfortunate when community service results in such misfortune. We certainly wish them a speedy recovery.



THE NEW "ONTARIO PLACE" complex of islands, lagoons, canals, parks, beaches and buildings of daring innovative structure, an entertainment and exhibition showplace being built by the government of Ontario, will officially open on Victoria Day weekend with a three-day opening from May 22

to 24. The project, located on the shores of Lake Ontario opposite the CNE grounds, will remain open daily, seven days a week from 10 a.m. until midnight. It cost \$19,000,000 but is expected to be self-supporting.



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

March is a time for madness in this country. I have lain on the grass with a girl in March, studying for exams, and I have waded through snow up to the belly-button, in the same month. This is enough to make Canadians a bit more psychotic than other nations.

March is as unpredictable as a pregnant female, as precocious as an eccentric old man. "Mad as a March hare" is no flight of the imagination. You don't have to be a hare to be mad in March.

All you have to do is look at the body of your car, at what the salt and sand have done to it, and you get mad.

All you have to be is a mother with soaking, muddy small children tromping in and out, and you get mad.

All you have to do is total your fuel bill, and you know you are out of your mind to live in such a climate.

All it takes is a note from a friend in the south, who asks how high the snowbanks still are, and says he expects to come home about the first of May.

All you need to do is think of next month, and realize that the average Canadian gives up a third of his income in taxes, and you can go right around the bend.

Our nerves are stretched to the snapping point by the rigors of the last four months, and it doesn't take much to break us. Even a little thing like forgetting to get your car license plates before the deadline, or forgetting to pay your hydro bill in time for the discount, can make the most stable of us crack and go roaring after the nearest person with the nearest blunt instrument.

I haven't quite blown a gasket yet, but I can feel the pressure building up. My wife has been off her oats since Christmas. Having two kids in University is like walking around with two large leeches clinging to you. Half a dozen people want me to speak to a similar number of completely dissimilar groups all over the geography.

I have a hundred letters to write. My boss is bugging me for a detailed plan for a new workshop for my department, and I couldn't design the interior of an outhouse. I'm in charge of two public speaking contests and two essay contests, both with looming deadlines.

The cat did it again on the floor last night and is going to the glue factory if it happens once more. The C.N.R. has phoned five times to tell me I owe them \$1.09, which was their mistake in the first place. The guy who shovels my drive with his plow has put his rates up to 50 per cent.

I have 60 essays, 75 tests, and 130 exam papers to mark. I have stubbed the second-littlest toe on my right foot and the nail is dangling by a painful bit of gristle or something.

I missed two crucial shots and lost out on the big prize in the last curling bonspiel. The lock on the bathroom door has been gone since Christmas and people keep getting locked in, instead of locked out.

So, all in all, if you hear a small "POP" one of these days, it won't be the wax in your ears cracking. It'll be little, insignificant me.

There. I know there's nothing more boring that other people's troubles. But I've got about half of them off my chest. And you may feel better to know that someone in the world has as many troubles as you.

And of course there are some things on the black ink side of the ledger, too. There's the "winter break" as they now call what used to be the Easter holidays. A whole week in which to do nothing but mark exam papers.

There's the prospect, in about six weeks, of getting the leeches off my back (and into the unemployment lines).

And there's the sheer pleasure of not getting up in the dark every workday. The sun shines, waterily and occasionally. There's a glimmer of hope that that peculiarly Canadian monster — winter —, having vented his orgy of rage, is beginning to die of sheer emotional exhaustion.

Unless the old brute throws one more senile but devastating blow at us.

Pages of the Past

From Champion Files

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Canadian Champion, Thursday, March 15, 1951.

Word was received from Ottawa on March 6 that Private Keith Robertson of R.R. 1 Campbellville has been wounded in Korea on Feb. 24. His injuries were defined as head and shoulder wounds and the army authorities stated he was in hospital in Tokyo.

Altogether 30 cases of measles were reported last week in Halton. Georgetown had 14 cases, more than any other area.

A 10th municipality will likely be added to Halton County by mid-summer after all avenues of procedure had been completed by council it was agreed. The clerk William Deans was instructed to have a special census taken on residents of Bronte within certain boundaries to ascertain there are the proper number of persons in the area to constitute an incorporated village.

In a sparkling display of hockey the Milton Co-ops shellacked their traditional rivals the Georgetown Raiders 10-4 to take a 2-0 lead in the best of five playoffs. Fox scored three while Raine had two and singles went to Binsell, Marzo, Grenke, Bayliss and Heipel.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Thursday, March 17, 1921.

Children and others old enough to know better are making a nuisance of themselves, loafing around the C.P.R. waiting rooms on Sunday. Instructions have been received that this must be stopped and those concerned are asked to keep away. Parents are requested to assist in this. Delinquents will be prosecuted.

Last Thursday James Wilson was cutting down trees in the bush on the Carr Farm, when one limb fell, slightly fracturing his skull. He is recovering.

The two teachers who have resigned from the staff of the public school have had no difficulty whatsoever in getting engagements elsewhere. Miss Little is at Port Arthur and Miss Northwood at Milton Heights.

On Tuesday evening a meeting was held in the town hall for the purpose of organizing a tennis club in town. Considering the inclement weather, there was quite a good turnout. Immediate arrangements are being made to secure a suitable site for accommodating three large courts. Officers elected were: president T. A. Hutchinson, secretary C. Toll, treasurer R. Peacock, and committees Misses E. Ptolemy and B. Tuck.

Dr. H. A. McClean went to Toronto last week to open an office at the corner of Bloor and Dundas Sts.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Thursday, March 23, 1871.

We are pleased to observe that our fellow townsman J. B. Willmott Esq., after attending a course of lectures at the Philadelphia Dental College, has passed a very satisfactory examination, and received a degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery. As a mark of their appreciation of his abilities, the graduating class, by unanimous vote, chose him to deliver the valedictory address at the commencement. Mr. Willmott has returned to our town, and his friends will be able to avail themselves of his professional services for a few weeks previous to his moving to Toronto. He may be consulted at the office of Dr. Street.

The social given by the young people last week in connection with the Wesleyan Church was again a great success. The proceeds, about \$10, were presented to Rev. Taylor, the junior minister, with a very kind address, to which he made a suitable reply.

Rev. G. MacDonnell will preach in the Methodist New Connexion Church next Sabbath evening.

The congregation of St. Andrew's are reminded to meet for Divine Service, in the Canada Presbyterian Church, Milton next Sabbath.

The examination of the Bronte School will be held on Thursday, April 13.

We are pleased to learn that G. A. Stark of Esquesing passed a highly creditable primary examination at McGill College in Montreal last week.

OUR READERS WRITE:

LOCAL I.O.D.E. WILL CELEBRATE 60TH BIRTHDAY

Dear Sir:

On Feb. 13 the I.O.D.E. (Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire) celebrated its 71st birthday. The I.O.D.E., a National, Canadian women's organization, is one with a distinguished and continuing record of service to help mankind.

In educational services over \$320,000 was expended. One thousand, four hundred and eighty-one schools are receiving assistance across Canada. Of the Canadian schools adopted under the National Adoption Plan,

146 are located in Newfoundland, Labrador and the Northwest Territories. Many Chapters are interested in children of Indian and Eskimo heritage. Chapters provide reference books, visual aid equipment, tape recorders, books for children, second language records, band instruments, treats and gifts for Christmas. In the West Indies and Honduras, 28 schools have been adopted and are provided with books, magazines and educational equipment.

Under the Commonwealth Relations program, four students are receiving training in Medical Colleges in India and another is completing his Medical degree in

Lagos, Nigeria. Approximately \$38,000 was awarded from I.O.D.E. First and Second War Memorial Funds to provide post-graduate scholarships of \$3,000 each for study in Canada and \$5,000 each for overseas study. In the field of services, over half a million dollars annually is spent in Canada and abroad.

The Order provided funds for the earthquake suffering in Peru; cash and clothing for the Pakistan relief of orphaned children; hospitals and institutions receive many gifts. Knitted goods, bedding and clothing are shipped to the needy in many

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Down[s] in this Corner

with roy downs

Do you have a "special place" where souvenirs, nicknacks and assorted memorabilia get put away? I have a box in my bureau drawer at home where I've stored many an important thing away. Once every few years I open it up, go through it and recall with fond memories all the recollections and the happy memories its contents stir up.

Len Buckler, who recently retired from a garage and corner store business at Drumquinn and moved to an apartment in town, came in the other day to show me his "special place" and let me share the secrets of the black metal box where he has been "filing" special things for many years.

A Moose Lodge convention pin from 1932;

a little tin matchbox he carried in his pocket for over 30 years; a civil defence pin and certificate dating back to 1943; a newspaper clipping from 1944 showing a relative, a Canadian airman, being decorated with a DFC by the king; a snapshot of a truck he once tipped over on a snowy road; a copy of his birth certificate from County Leicester, England; funeral cards for two members of his family; and driver's licences dating from 1925 to 1963... they were all there, tucked away in that little black box.

"Junk" to some, but a box full of happy memories for a man like Len Buckler.

The most interesting item in the box was a newspaper clipping from a Hamilton

paper which told how Len and four other employees of a city delivery company became owners of the business after the owner died. A. E. Pecover, owner of the Electric Delivery Company on Walnut St. in Hamilton and a trucking and transport operator in that city for 47 years, left his business, trucks and property to his five employees in his will.

None of the employees ever suspected they were named beneficiaries in Mr. Pecover's will, Len explains. They all said he was "a good man to work for" although a trifle eccentric. Mr. Pecover obviously had a high regard for his employees, and he rewarded their faithful service by leaving them his business.

One man had been with the firm 21 years. Len and three others had each worked there over 10 years. The junior member on the staff had just eight months of service when the owner died. They all shared equally in his will. Mr. Pecover was confident his company's success was largely due to the personal interest his employees took in their work. The five men continued to operate the delivery business for many years after that, before it was finally sold.

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Published by DILLS PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO. LTD.

191 Main Street East Phone 878 2241 Milton, Ontario

1970 PRIZE WINNER CANADIAN WEEKLY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION RETIRED NEWSPAPER COMPETITION

James A. Dills, Publisher
Roy E. Downs, Editor
Victor T. LeGault, 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; \$9.00 in all countries other than Canada.

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