

I.O.D.E. Chapter played important role in restoring Milton's pioneer cemetery

On June 6, 1971, the John Milton Chapter I.O.D.E. is celebrating its 60th anniversary. During those years from 1911 to 1971 the Chapter has had many and varying projects in this community. To refresh your minds or to enlighten the newcomers here is a history of the old cemetery and the part the John Milton Chapter played in its restoration:

In 1822 Jasper Martin took up Lot 14, Con. 2 and settled in this locality. The following year, he built a grist mill and saw mill, and a little hamlet sprang up called "Martin's Mills". These mills were a great boon to the

new settlers.

In 1837 - 1838 the population of Martin's Mills was about 100. These people, feeling their importance in the world, called a public meeting to decide upon a name for the town. The name "Milton" was suggested by George Brown, and was adopted.

First store

In 1830 a general store was opened by George Brown, and later a post office called "Milton" was established.

The United Counties of Halton and Wentworth were separated in the year 1853 and Milton was selected as the County Town, and incorporated by Act of

Parliament in 1857. In due time the court house, jail and registry office were erected on a site given by Hugh Foster.

The Town of Milton is located on Lot 13 - 14 in the second concession of Trafalgar, about seven eighths of a mile square. The first school house—a log one—was built on Lot 14 on the bank of the Sixteen Mile Creek. Mrs. Harrison (then a widow) was appointed the first teacher, a position she worthily held for several years. During this period it was her custom to spend each morning and each evening in plying the shuttle, weaving for her neighbors, who in return performed work on the farm for her and her young children.

Purchase site

Now that the town was incorporated and was chosen as the county town, the next step was to purchase a cemetery, so a parcel of land was selected from John Martin, situated on the bank of the Sixteen Mile Creek on Lot 14, 2nd Concession, of the new survey, measuring one half acre. The sale was made to Edward Martin, William Dempsey and Johnson Harrison, dated July 19, 1860. Later the deed was made out dated June 2, 1871—between Jasper Martin of the Town of Milton and the three trustees of the burial ground, Thomas Rixon of the Township of Nelson, William Dempsey and Johnson Harrison of the Township of

Nelson, William Dempsey and Johnson Harrison of the Township of Trafalgar. Twenty dollars of lawful money of Canada was paid for the lot.

In this cemetery, many of our pioneers are buried; men and women who suffered many hardships in clearing the land and settling the country and who had qualities that fitted them to assist in the moulding of the life of the new community. They showed true nobility of nature and had faith as clear as it was strong. The first burial was Thomas Harrison. Other leading citizens were John Martin, who built the first saw mill and the first grist mill; George Brown, first mayor, county treasurer, and first store keeper; Mrs. Harrison, first school teacher; Mrs. Coates, who started the first Sunday School; Dr. Cobban, first medical doctor.

Repairs needed

For many years the cemetery was neglected, scarcely anyone taking any interest in it, for many of the sons and daughters of the pioneers had left the community, so the members of the John Milton Chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the Empire decided to undertake the task of improving its present condition. A committee was appointed consisting of Mrs. E. E. Yates, Miss A. Blain and Mrs. M. E. Gowland. A committee was also appointed from the Town Council consisting of John Irving, John Macted and Ed Syer. These committees with R. E. Harrison, the only living trustee of the cemetery, went to the cemetery and looked it over thoroughly and reported to the Chapter.

After due consideration of the report the members of the Chapter, acting on the advice of those directly interested and the Town Council, decided to proceed as follows. All the brush was cut and cleared away, the ground levelled, and a suitable fence placed along the front. The next step was to get in touch with the friends and relations of those buried in the cemetery. It was

decided to send printed letters informing them of its condition and asking for donations to assist in restoring it. The response, which was so generous was greatly appreciated and with a donation from the Chapter enough funds were available to cover all expenses. A letter of thanks was sent by the treasurer, Mrs. E. E. Yates, to each one who contributed. Much credit is given to the committee for their co-operation and watchful care and assistance in the work.

Now that the cemetery is restored and in good shape, the town council promised to assume the responsibility of the perpetual care of it. The members of the Chapter trust that the old cemetery will be an attractive spot and that the friends of those lying there will be proud to visit it.

Over 350 delegates attended the 18th annual conference of the Ontario Association for the Mentally Retarded, May 12 to 15 in Thunder Bay. Attending from North Halton Association Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Nye of Milton.

Hosts for the conference were the Lakehead Association for the Mentally Retarded. For three days delegates from 117 local associations throughout Ontario discussed the many problems still facing the three per cent of our population who are mentally retarded. Special guests and speakers included Fred Krause, Deputy Director of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation in Washington, D.C. and Dr. Don Zarfas, Director, Mental Retardation Services Branch, Ontario Department of Health. It is Dr. Zarfas' office which is responsible for the operation of the Ontario Hospital Schools for the Retarded.

Krause, the keynote speaker, opened the conference Thursday by noting that "now, after so long a time of being thought helpless, hopeless human accidents we know that the retarded can be helped, can become in many cases, contributing citizens."

Among the issues discussed at the Conference were improved workshops and residences for adult retarded, better services for the whole family and recreation programs for all age retarded people. As outgoing Ontario president Doris Nobes de Burgh of London stated "we realize that our services need to be enlarged and improved, and this is the responsibility of the local and regional groups working in co-operation with the provincial body."

At the Association's annual meeting a new board of directors was elected. The new provincial president is Angus Robertson of Willowdale.

Milton seniors' orchestra entertains Brampton club

On Thursday, May 6, 37 members of the Milton Senior Citizens Club boarded a bus at St. Paul's Church and journeyed to Brampton. It was a beautiful day. The warm sun was shining nicely which caused everyone to feel that last winter was gone. The bus driver was in his shirt sleeves. This atmosphere prompted everyone to become engaged in such enthusiastic chatter that it was difficult to hear the person sitting next to you.

The Brampton Club choir entertained with three selections which were appreciated by all. Their voices indicated they had practiced diligently for the occasion. This was followed by a talk and films shown by a member of the Brampton Police Department then the Brampton president, Mrs. Irene Gould, who welcomed the Milton Club, turned the program over to Russell Clements, president of the Milton Club.

Musical program

He in turn thanked the Brampton Club for their invitation, then called on T. A. Hutchinson, Q.C. who acted as M.C. He told a few stories that were well received by the audience, then introduced the Milton orchestra which played for about 30 minutes. Many of the

audience were dancing throughout the program. At the conclusion of the entertainment a delicious lunch of sandwiches, cake, cookies and coffee was served by the Brampton Club. It was a delightful afternoon.

"About 250 members of the Brampton Club greeted us in their beautiful Community Centre Building, where the senior citizens are assigned exclusive facilities two days a week. It is hoped that Milton in the not too distant future will copy their example," said Tom Bradley.

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PEEKING INTO MILTON'S PAST—It was in 1914 that Mr. and Mrs. Harry Clement had this family portrait taken. In the back row are Harry, Boyne and Ethel (Mrs. Gifford). Second row, Vera (Roffey), Ellen (Hannant) and Mrs. Clement. Front row, Albert (Babe) Kenneth (Dick). —(Photo courtesy Boyne Clement)

Sheridan students study Oak parkland

Six Sheridan College students will do an exhaustive survey of Oakville's existing greenbelt areas and parkland this summer, to help the community plan the best use of its natural resources now and in the future.

Under the sponsorship of Ford of Canada, the six community planning students plan to work on the research project for 15 weeks.

The student work over the summer will be done mainly at Sheridan's Oakville campus and out in the community with the co-operation of support groups such as the Conservation Authority, Oakville Planning Board, and Oakville Parks and Recreation. It's being supervised by Norm Sibbick, community planning coordinator at Sheridan, Doug Rigg, head of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Oakville, and Peter Anslay of Ford.

The study was sparked in part by the Whiteoaks Ratepayers Group who, with David Boggs, organized a tour of creek areas with community leaders.

Rev. Warren is chairman

Rev. Bernard A. Warren of Milton will be the conference chairman of the Greater Toronto Charismatic Teaching Conference to be held May 24 to May 29 at Metropolitan United Church at Queen and Church Streets.

The event is an all-denominational event where Catholic and Protestant speakers will take part in the program.

—Milton OPP laid 67 charges for traffic violations last week, and issued 48 warnings.

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