

Fluoride study

Before the issue becomes involved in prolonged public debate with the usual excessive heat and little light, Milton Council should take a second look at its off-hand decision last week to file Halton County Health Unit's suggestion that fluoridation of Milton's water supply be studied.

Fluoridation programs are usually accompanied by a great deal of misinformation. The pro-fluoride faction in Milton has already been heard from — letters urging council to reconsider its decision have already started to pour in to The Champion and we suspect there will be many more letters, pro and con, before the issue is resolved.

Before the campaigns start flying off in all directions, councillors would be wise to look into fluoride and come up with all the facts on how much it costs and who will be affected by fluoridation of the town's virtually "pure" and presently untreated water supplies.

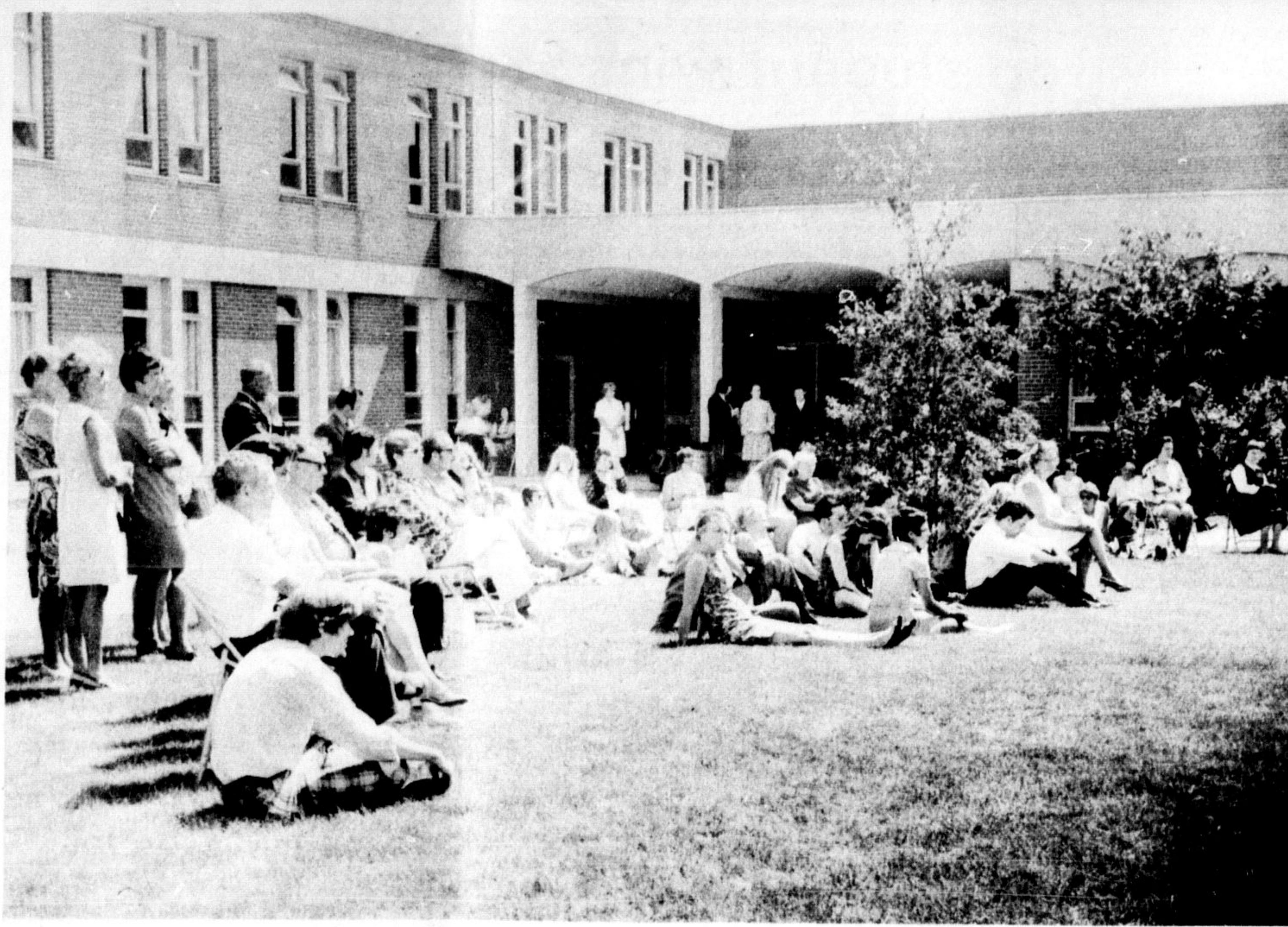
Milton Councillors have had some unhappy experiences with "experts" in a variety of fields in the past and they have acquired a habit of looking down their collective noses whenever an "expert" attempts to convince them on some topic of concern. Thus when the Halton County Health Unit's Medical Officer of Health and Dental Director made the fluoride feasibility study suggestion in a letter read to last week's council meeting, it was quickly

filed away and no action was taken.

But before the letter found its way to the files, three members of council voiced anti-fluoride opinions. Councillor Charles Johnson's comment, "The Almighty has seen fit to bless this town with pure water. . . I think we should show our appreciation for the good water, by leaving it alone," went unchallenged and the anti-fluoride camp drew support from Councillor Art Melanson and Mayor Brian Best.

We don't have all the facts on fluoride in front of us. So we're not prepared to make a decision on whether fluoride is warranted or not. Council doesn't have all the facts either, but the least they can do is look into the subject before it is dropped completely. Experts claim young children are the only ones which benefit from a fluoride program — maybe the council will find it's less expensive to treat their teeth with fluoride than to add the chemical to everyone's drinking water.

Our one reservation concerns chlorine, which is added to many municipal drinking water supplies. It gives the water a chemical taste and odor. Fortunately Milton has not yet found it necessary to add chlorine to its spring water supplies. Will the addition of fluoride automatically mean the addition of chlorine too? It's something the council should look into and find out.



THE ORFORD STRING QUARTET performed at the opening of the Kelso Music Centre at OSD Sunday afternoon. Prior to the concert inside an official opening was held outside. Organizers explained how the event happened to come about. The three week summer camp is instructing 32 young musicians in string chamber music. —(Staff Photo)

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Second Section

Commenting briefly

Newspapermen are good listeners. For that reason, we get complaints from readers who don't care to take their beefs to the proper authorities. But perhaps if we publish the complaints some action will be taken. Here's this week's crop of reader comments:

One reader complains there are too many children riding bikes without lights after dark around town. It's a dangerous practice and parents must take responsibility for keeping cyclists home when darkness falls. We don't want a traffic tragedy to ruin our summer, do we?

Other readers call to our attention the difficulty in making left hand turns onto Main St. from the busy Charles, Commercial and Court St. intersections. Council is considering a one-way street plan in these areas but it hasn't been finalized just yet. And some day in the distant future, Mary St. may run straight through from Bronte to Ontario Sts. In the meantime, you're better off to avoid approaching Main St. from the south via the above three streets. Visibility is a problem at Court St. with the erection of a new store at the front of the Cairns property, and traffic is pretty heavy around the Charles and Commercial entrances to the main drag.

Someone was protesting about cars parked on both sides of Bell St. near Main St. The road is narrow there and with cars parked on both sides of Bell St. there is hardly enough room for two cars to pass. Perhaps parking should be banned on one side or the other.

Earlier this year Halton County Council moved into a new "joint

committee" system which sees three of the major sub-committees of the council meeting together once a month. The tri-committee group includes all 14 members of the council. Recently some councillors have indicated they are unhappy with the joint committee system. Some say they are "skimming over" the issues and not enough time is allowed to properly discuss the subjects that come before them. One critic summed it up when he said the joint committee meetings allow "more people to learn more about nothing."

We'll be glad when Air Canada adopts the "see Canada first" approach to its air rates. While the airlines are pushing for a \$200 return fare to London, England, the rate to Vancouver is \$266. At the same time the air mileage is worth noting. Toronto to London return is 7,220 miles while Toronto to Vancouver return is 4,326 miles. The pressure to go abroad, rather than travel within Canada, is surprising coming from a company charged with serving the people.

Miltonians may have little contact with the Kelso Music Centre that is harmoniously underway in the Ontario School for the Deaf facilities here. The 32 students who are attending from various parts of Canada are dedicated musicians who are on their way up in music circles and they don't pull themselves away from practise sessions very often. Sunday was a brief exception when the centre was officially opened and the teaching ensemble, the Orford String Quartette presented a concert. There may be more concerts before the end of the three week session and we hope lovers of chamber music won't miss them. These young people have impressive talent and dedication.

OUR READERS WRITE:

SUPPORT FROM DOCTOR

It appears that town council is partly informed about fluoridation and partly not informed. Councillor Johnson is right as usual when he says this is mostly for the benefit of children. I don't really believe that he feels children should be deprived of this protection.

Mayor Best is perfectly correct in suggesting sugar restriction. My only plea is that one step at a time is progress. Changing voters' eating habits is tougher than informing council on a dental matter.

Fluoridation has been recognized for many years as a worthwhile public health measure. It does not change the taste of water. It does not cause hernias. It does not stain dentures. It just helps prevent cavities. The county's health experts

endorse it. The town's dental and medical societies endorse it. Even Gordon Sinclair endorses it if it is dissolved first in Crest toothpaste and then in water.

Let's have fluoridation in Milton.

R. Edwards, M.D.
181 Main St., Milton.

NOT ALL FORTUNATE

The Editor:

I feel compelled to write this letter in support of Drs. Green and Chamberlain's suggestion that Milton's water supply be fluoridated. How can our council be so backward as to file such a letter! How can our councillors make such foolish, irresponsible decisions.
(Continued on Page B4)



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

By doing a little mathematics, I've come to the conclusion that I must be related to half the population of Canada.

I've just received a small booklet compiled by my uncle, Ivan C. Thomson of Ottawa. It sets forth the genealogy of my maternal ancestors in Canada.

Some people find their ancestors a huge bore. Others are afraid of skeletons in the closet. I find ancestors fascinating, as I try to picture them, think of the incredibly difficult lives they led, and wonder what characteristics I and my children have received from them.

My uncle's booklet is no high-colored romance. It deals in facts: births, deaths, names, property titles. But among the pages is the occasional laconic comment which makes me wish I could leap back into the 19th century and explore further.

My maternal great-grandparents were certainly not of the aristocracy. He was a ship's carpenter, and that's one reason he, Walter Thomson and she, Margaret Farrell, his new bride, set out from Donegal, Ireland, for St. John, New Brunswick, where there was a ship-building industry. He was 20, she 19. It was 1834.

Within a few years, with three children,

they moved to Upper Canada, because Walter had heard of work to be obtained in the building of slides on the Upper Ottawa River.

These slides were built for the lumbering business which was skimming the cream from the stands of wonderful pine in the area. The purpose of the slides was to allow the cribs and rafts of square timber to bypass rapids. The timber was floated down the river, eventually to reach Quebec. Some of the great rafts were half a mile long.

In 1847, great-grandfather Thomson was appointed Slide Master of Grand Calumet Island in the Ottawa River. He held the position for more than 30 years, to be succeeded by his son William, my grandfather, who was to reign until the last raft of square timber came down the river in 1910.

That's the background. My mother's family attended a one-room school, boarded the teacher for \$45 a year. My uncle Ivan had a good job. He went to the school early in fall and winter, and lit the fire. He got \$3 a year. My grandfather got \$1 a day for his government position as Slide Master. Pay ceased when the navigation season ended, so the Master had to farm as well. There were ten in the family, and from what I've heard, they had a happy life on the island.



Down[s] in this Corner

with roy downs

A figure on Milton's Main St. for 82 years, the old drinking fountain that sits in front of Milton's Town Hall may soon be moved to a new location. Reeve Ron Harris told council last week he has some ideas for improving the appearance of the little parkette at the south-east corner of the Town Hall property and his plans include moving the drinking fountain to Centennial Park near the mill pond.

There are some, of course, who will oppose the move simply because the fountain is an institution on the Main St. Others, myself included, will favor the change. Certainly the fountain will get more use at the mill pond. And I think it detracts from the pleasant design of the Jim Costigan Memorial Fountain which sits beside it.

Just for the fun of it, I looked up the history of the old fountain in the files of The Champion.

It was presented to the town on May 28, 1889 by the Royal Templars of Temperance, a group which in those days was fighting to reduce the consumption of alcoholic beverages within the confines of Milton. They felt provision of a drinking fountain in the centre of town might dissuade some of the boozers to fill up on water and forget their thirst for a more potent brew.

The fountain has a spigot for humans to use, plus a trough which has been visited and lingered over by many a horse throughout Milton's history. Today, however, there are very few horses around to use it. But the humans visit there often to enjoy a slurp of cool, clear Milton water.

Whether or not the public fountain ever helped the temperance group in their battle

against the demon rum, remains to be seen. But it's safe to say the fountain was very popular, and a welcome gift.

First located on Main St. right in front of the town hall building, it was close enough to the road that a horse could stop for a refreshing drink without leaving the roadway. Newcomers to Milton may wonder why a horse trough was located 10 feet from the roadway—well it remained at the roadside until May of 1956 when it was moved to its present location to make room for a road widening project.

The Champion of 1889 tells how a great number of Templars from all parts of the county assembled in Milton on a warm Tuesday in May to witness the formal presentation of the fountain to Mayor Samuel Dice. The paper says:

"The fountain is handsomely modelled, has a drinking cup and trough, and will serve to quench the thirst of man and beast and at the same time advertise the fine, cold water supplied by the Milton waterworks, inferior to none similarly supplied anywhere on the continent. Wherever such water can be obtained there is no excuse for the use of intoxicants as beverages, and the Templars, in providing it, free to all those who wish to drink it, have done work for the promotion of temperance about which there can be no two opinions."

An address read to Mayor Dice and councillors by Henry Gray of the Templars includes the following:

"During the last 18 months faith in the total abstinence from intoxicating liquors as the greatest commercial, intellectual and moral renovator of society has made

As a child, I saw the old homestead high on a hill overlooking the mighty Ottawa, and was thrilled.

But as I said, while the facts in the book are interesting, it's the little asides that inflame the curiosity.

The original family of Walter Thomson was eight children. They produced, among them, exactly 60 more Thomsons. Today, eight might produce 16.

Anna married James Paul. They had four children. "She also raised Johnny Robertson." Now there's a story in itself. Who was Johnnie? Why did she raise him? What became of him?

John (Mountain Jack) was a timber cruiser and a real bruiser in the lumberjack clashes of the times. "He had a terrible temper and was known up and down the Ottawa River as a scrapper." He died at 91, a pretty ripe age for a brawler who also sired 15 children in two marriages.

Catherine "married George Kemp who was very fond of liquor." No other comment, except naming their children, with the last thus: "Jason was drowned at Temiskaming."

Another son, Walter, had nine children. My grandfather William had ten. A son James had eleven. The youngest daughter, Jane, must have realized that even such a good thing as Thomsons could go too far, produced only two.

Anyone who can multiply can see why I have so many relations. The original two had grown to 60 in two generations. Heaven knows how many the 60 produced.

But I'd really like to go back and talk to some of the old-timers. They were virile people in more ways than one.



TOWN HALL FOUNTAIN

very rapid progress—over 150 have signed the pledge. Therefore, to indicate our appreciation of the growth of public opinion in favor of the principles we advocate, for the encouragement we have received to press forward in our noble work, we thereby, through you and the councillors here assembled, present this town a water fountain (clear, cold water being our emblem).

"We believe that many who gaze on this fountain and drink health from its clear flowing water may be led to prefer water to all other beverages, and that those who have not yet been led to participate in the use of intoxicating liquors may be thus reminded of the path of duty and never depart therefrom.

"We fondly cherish the hope that as a result of the public use of this fountain, sobriety and happiness will increase in our town."

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Second class mail Registration Number 0913

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Thursday, July 14, 1921.

The mercury has been in the 90's every day during the last week, as it was in the preceding week. The official figure at Toronto yesterday was 95 degrees. Thunderstorms in many localities are predicted for today by the weatherman and lower temperatures seem possible.

Hiram Tuck, secretary of the Milton arena, says estimates for the steel arches have been completed and those for the woodwork are nearly ready. Building will soon begin on the McGibbon lots bought some time ago.

The pass list of the normal schools came out this morning. Among those who have been granted interim second class certificates are the following Milton candidates: George Anderson, Myrtle Boyd, Flora M. Denyes, Marion L. Elliott, Madge Galbraith, Muriel T. Irwin, Janet I. Marshall, Florence L. Turner, Marshall T. White and Florence Walker. Miss Edythe E. Dewar was awarded an interim kindergarten certificate and Grace A. Sanderson a limited third class certificate.

At the Orange celebration at Georgetown on Tuesday, two men, a boxer and a wrestler, had a tent. The one offered \$5 to anyone who could stay with him in the ring for four rounds, while the other offered \$5 to anyone who could throw him, catch as catch can. They got quite a crowd and got along nicely until Gordon Farlow and George Buck of Milton challenged the two and emerged victorious.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Thursday, July 13, 1871.

The committee on streets and sidewalks has been making some improvements, but a great deal yet requires to be done.

An exciting horse race took place in the village of Nelson on Saturday, between Pembroke's "Harkaway" and Charles Jarvis' "Grey Eagle" for a purse of \$50, half mile heats, two in three. "Grey Eagle" was victorious, winning two straight heats.

A span of horses belonging to Joseph Anderson of Nassagaweya, ran away last Thursday in Milton, and caused considerable excitement. Mr. Anderson held on bravely until the horses, in turning the corner of Clarkson's Hotel, threw the wagon over into a vacant cellar, and disengaging themselves rushed madly down Commercial St. Mr. Anderson, to the surprise of everyone, escaped unhurt, but one of the horses was very badly cut.

Nine cars, carrying Norwegian emigrants, ran off the track near Georgetown Station, G.T.R., last Thursday. They had just taken wood at the Station, and had only passed the switch towards Acton when they ran off. Not having built up any speed, they saved the cars from rolling down the embankment. No one was injured.