

Champion Editorial Page

Cure vs. disease

The cure for the sporadic flooding on the Sixteen Mile Creek may be worse than the disease. Plans are now underway to build a cement-lined waterway that will confine the usually quiet but occasionally violent stream through the depth of the town.

The project began several years ago when the town sought a flood control program to ease the problems that develop at high water time. The Conservation Authority commissioned engineers and the current report, detailed on another page of this issue, was produced.

Another reason the report was needed was the control the Conservation Branch of the province has on development which is in what can be described as flood plain land. Current definitions include a good portion of the heart of the town. In effect then building, remodelling and reconstruction in that defined flood plain along and back from the banks of the Sixteen, is curtailed. Council was anxious to reduce the extent of that flood plain definition.

The engineering solution to the problem then, is to line the stream with cement, straighten it out and the reduced friction will speed the flow of water and accommodate the flow. An increased flow is predicted of course, as more land in the watershed is developed or paved and normal absorption is reduced.

In designing the project engineers naturally required some optimum flow that would have to be accommodated and so the levels of Hurricane Hazel were brought to mind, not the levels that were achieved here but the levels that would have resulted if the hurricane was centred over this area.

The flooding problem has been with this area for a number of years. Floods

are recorded back a couple of centuries. The situation is not improving and as development increases it will likely worsen.

Our concern is whether the cure is worse than the disease.

The report, although it is a lengthy one, is about flood control and only flood control. Although it was commissioned by the Conservation Authority there is no reference to conservation in the report. There is no reference to the effect the channelization will have on the natural habitat of birds and small animals, no reference to the aesthetics of a channel versus a stream.

The town's official plan visualized a network of walkways along the stream bank which would have provided an escape from pavement and traffic, yet close to the core of the town. It might have been a retreat to the things of nature which in future years will command increasing importance.

Certainly we had hoped that some day the banks of the stream might be stone-lined or gabion-protected to prevent erosion and to improve their appearance. We aren't blind to the fact the stream collects its share of debris and needs periodic cleaning. It is a twisting stream and it does need some straightening too, but we can't accept that such major surgery is required as to completely destroy the conservation and aesthetic values in the interest of providing for a flood that may happen only once every 150 years.

We think the cure is far too drastic, even though it may be the smooth efficient product of engineering knowhow. We suggest the use of gabions may not meet the flow criteria of the present design but they would leave the town with a much more natural stream.



AN APRILSUN tries to shine through the trees, casting silver sparkles on the water, as spring arrives in rural Halton. Signs of springtime are everywhere but the rains, winds and floods of the past week are the best reminders the season of mixed-up weather is really here. This glistening pool is beside Twiss Rd. in north Burlington. —(Photo by J. Jennings)



Sugar and Spice
by bill smiley

There is a growing philosophy among young people that goes something like this: "Work? Who needs it?"

The theory has a number of foster parents. One of them is the exceeding ease with which one can get on the welfare rolls these days. Why work when one can draw enough welfare for a pad, however humble, grub and smokes?

Then there is unemployment insurance. This is even better than welfare to fall back on, though it does require the occasional stint of that four-letter word we're talking about. Work for a few months, get yourself fired on some pretext, loll back on the mattress of un. ins. until it runs out, work again for a little while, and repeat the process. This is a way of life for some young people, and they make no bones about it.

It doesn't occur to them that it's merely a refined form of stealing, and in most cases, I don't think they'd care if it did.

As an aside, I think you'd be appalled by their attitude towards stealing. I conduct regular surveys in my classes on such subjects — what used to be known as simple honesty. In most cases, the majority believes firmly that it's bad to steal from a friend, but it's perfectly all right to steal, or "rip-off" from any large institutions: chain

stores, insurance companies, the government.

I wonder where they got that idea? It couldn't possibly be from hearing their dads talking about beating the tax collector, or their moms exaggerating an insurance claim. Could it?

Back to the subject. What else influences this comparatively new non-attitude toward work? One is purely economic. They are completely frustrated by the free enterprise system under which they have been raised. It still offers great opportunities for the few who have enterprise and luck.

Well, how many of us have both? You can have all the enterprise that's lying around, but if you haven't luck, you're a perpetual bankrupt. You can be a real lucker, but if you don't have any enterprise, all you do is win a few bucks at bingo or on the horses.

Their real beef against the system, of course, is that it does not work. It does not create enough jobs. Therefore, why get an education, why even bother looking for work, if there isn't any?

Another influence, or lack of it, is that of the church. It used to have two firm allies in the establishment and the work ethic. The church hasn't been able to cope. It is

tarnished by its association with the other two, and the young people have turned their back on it, though I don't think they have lost the faith.

They've merely lost respect for that massive body of rules and dogma and "an honest day's work for an honest day's pay", and the insistence that while life is pretty rotten, everything will be groovy in heaven. They are young, impatient, and simply will not buy that.

As you may have expected, or hoped, or given up on, I am trying to make a point. I'm not against the attitude. If I didn't like work, I'd quit tomorrow. But there is nothing enabling in work itself. It's an utter drag, unless you like what you are doing.

The other morning, I was driving one of my students to school. He's a big, husky lad who has shovelled out my drive at times of stress. Asked him what he was going to do when he finished school.

"Well, I'm going to work for a year, then maybe go to college."

Asked him whether he couldn't get a student loan. "I don't want one. I don't wanna owe anybody anything."

He continued, "My parents would give me the money to go to university, but I won't take it. They've worked hard all their lives for it. Why not let them enjoy what's left?"

At this point, I ran off the road, and killed two girls from middle-class parents, who were confident that, despite the fact that they have no brains, their parents would send them to college and that they would there find a husband, and one boy who had told me he was going to extort every penny he could from the government in loans and grants, and never pay them back.

enthusiastic young Irishman in Fraser Valley now has a family crest with a Latin motto and two Scottish thistles on it!"

The foregoing only exemplifies the old Irish saying, about there being only two kinds of people in this world — those who are Irish, and those who wish they were. Friend Brian has slipped from the first category, to the second.

LOST ART: Modern trends in ladies' wear are phasing out another highly skilled type of worker and creating unemployment in one field. I'm referring to hot pants and the demise of the amusement park air blowing machine operator.

Here was a skilled operator, whose job required a keen eye and a unique sense of timing. When a pretty lady wearing a dress or skirt walked past a certain point in the amusement park's fun house, his job was to release a stream of air through vents in the floor. The result was always a scream, a flurry of hands, a waft of flying skirts, a red face or two and a chorus of laughs from the onlookers.

The air machine operator laughed loudest of all, especially if he scored a perfect hit.

But hot pants, miniskirts and associated modern female trappings have made his job obsolete. He's walking the bread line and it's a sad note of progress that current styles have rendered him obsolete.

Did you hear about the fellow in Detroit who gave up his job on the assembly line and plans to spend the rest of his life bleeding — at a pay of \$12,000 a year? Apparently he's got something rare called anti-Lewis type B in his blood and it fetches \$1,500 a quart. He can do without his regular income if he gives just eight donations a year.

Saluting our Chamber

It doesn't take a special week to let you know there's an active Chamber of Commerce at work in Milton. No, there is evidence the Chamber is a vital force in the community all year long, and it shouldn't take a special "Chamber of Commerce Week" to emphasize it. But it's not a bad idea to focus a spotlight on the Chamber and its work once in a while.

Milton's Chamber of Commerce has been a hard-working force in this community for over a decade. It started out strong in the early 1960's, grew stagnant toward the end of the decade, then came back to life again in 1970 with a new executive and a stronger push for participation.

The Chamber has been going uphill ever since and we hope the current wave of enthusiasm lasts forever. A busy Chamber of Commerce is one of a community's greatest assets but, as the slogan for Chamber week reminds us, "It takes two—your Chamber and

you." Involvement by its members is a necessity if the Chamber is to survive.

Locally, revival of the Santa Claus parade last December is probably the biggest feather in the Chamber's cap. But there have been many other areas where the Chamber's organization, assistance and sponsorship have been felt too. Its constant promotion of Milton, its co-operation with the municipal government, its self-education campaigns, its campaign to better the stores and services offered to residents, its participation in the Community Service Clubs group and the Snow Festivals... these and many other contributions to community life would be lost without an active Chamber.

This week, April 16 to 22, is Chamber of Commerce Week. We're happy to salute Milton's Chamber of Commerce as an integral part of community living. Best wishes in the future.

Commenting briefly

We always thought the Royal Botanical Gardens was in Halton—at least that's what officials would have you believe when it comes time to seek a grant from Halton County Council and Burlington Council. They always emphasize that a portion of the RBG lies within the boundaries of Burlington. But a press release came to our desk the other day which reminds us it's still a Hamilton project. The title of the press release was, "Hamilton's Royal Botanical Gardens have something for everyone" and the opening paragraph started, "In Hamilton...".

council holds a meeting. The council has a procedural by-law which limits meetings to an 11 p.m. curfew and rules that no new business can be introduced after 10.30 p.m. without council first passing a motion to suspend the procedural by-law. The earliest closing we can recall in 1972 was a meeting that wrapped up at 11.20 p.m. We asked Mayor Brian Best about this and he admits council hasn't been following its own rules, but the business HAS to be done and long meetings (or more meetings) is the only way to get it done, he says.

What does The Champion mean to you? You can win a \$300 cash prize by answering this question, if your entry is chosen the best in a cross-Canada contest the Canadian Community Newspapers Association is running. Details will be found in a story elsewhere in today's Champion.

Recent revelations indicate just how close this area was to having the new international airport. Speculation wasn't all just guessing. But what emerges more dramatically is that it is still the politicians that make the decision over the designs of all the planners. The technicians said the airport should go in this area but the politicians saw the report of the Toronto Centred Region going down the drain if the airport wasn't sited east of Toronto. So east of Toronto it goes.

Milton Council is breaking one of its own laws, practically every time the



Down[s] in this Corner
with roy downs

This is a story that just has to be told.

It concerns a red-haired, hot-tempered, fun-loving Irishman named Brian McCristall who used to work at The Champion before greener fields in Canada's golden west beckoned him from our midst. Those who remember Brian's four years as a reporter and sports writer here at The Champion will know what I'm talking about when I say Brian was Irish, through and through.

His father came to Canada from County Tyrone on the Emerald Isle and the whole family has upheld the traditions of that background over these years.

The one big day of the year to Brian anyway, was St. Patrick's Day in March. Brian would mail greeting cards to all his friends, show up for work wearing the loudest green clothes imaginable, and sing Irish ballads all the day long. We hear that one year he even tried to dye his flaming red hair a Paddy-green color. One of his unfulfilled aims in life was to participate in the St. Patrick's day parade events in Ireland. And he often kidded yours truly because I was only half Irish — the other half is Scottish.

For the past four years Brian has been working with the Hacker Brothers'

newspapers in beautiful BC's interior and he is presently editor of the Chilliwack weekly, The Progress. Recently Brian himself, in true newspaper tradition, uncovered the evidence that turned family traditions right upside down.

Cec Hacker, publisher of the Chilliwack Progress, relates the incident in his column, The Moving Finger:

"True to tradition there was one sad Irish boy in the valley Friday. He was Chilliwack Progress editor Brian McCristall, whose father came from County Tyrone and succeeded in convincing Brian that heaven could be little, if any better, than the green hills of that famed spot.

"Recently, Brian chanced a genealogical exhibit at a Vancouver home show. The exhibitor would trace a family name back to its probable source, and then could produce a family crest for a modest fee.

"Brian challenged him to tackle the McCristall monicker, and was promptly told it meant "son of Cristall".

"Then to his horror he learned that a few centuries ago the Cristall family fled from Scotland, to avoid religious persecution, and settled in County Tyrone.

Pages of the Past
From Champion Files

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, April 17, 1952.

Dr. C. A. Martin of the North Halton District High School Board was present at council meeting on Thursday evening. The board requested council's approval to proceed with a building program which calls for the erection of schools at Georgetown and Acton and a gymnasium at Milton. The school board has gone into the matter very thoroughly and can't see any other solution. The total building program would cost approximately \$920,000, of which the Department will pay nearly 75 per cent of the approved cost. It will mean that the Milton share of the three building projects would be \$4,750 per year over 20 years.

The local branch of the Red Cross report that additional contributions since the blitz have raised the total to \$1,415. The response from individuals was very generous, as were donations from sympathetic organizations.

Milton Council met in special session to consider tenders for the straightening of the creek at Robert, Bell and King Sts., in a hope of avoiding flood conditions.

The annual meeting of the Drumquin W.I. was held at the home of Mrs. Clifton with a good number attending. Mrs. Lorne Chamberlain was elected president.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Thursday, April 20, 1922.

On Monday Fred Babcock was cranking his car, there was a backfire and his right forearm was broken.

Fall wheat is reported to look well in Halton and elsewhere. A bumper crop is expected in Peel County.

The merchants of the town are getting together again this year, trying to arrange the Wednesday half holiday for the summer months.

R. J. Armstrong is out again after his serious illness, but is not well enough to go on duty in his shop.

Detroit City Council has approved an application for \$2,500 to install radio equipment for the police department.

Woodstock Board of Health promoted a rat-killing campaign which has pretty well cleared the city of the destructive and disease spreading rodents, and has set a good example to other cities and towns. Milton has its full share of rats, something for the Board of Health to consider.

At a meeting of the Navy League of Canada in St. Catharines, a resolution condemning the circulation of Hearst publications in the Dominion was unanimously carried.

T. F. McHugh, of Hornby, is at home for a short vacation. He has been in Erin Township since last September. He is going back to Erin tomorrow (Friday).

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Thursday, April 18, 1872

The Esquering Township Clerk by some means overlooked us last week and did not send us the minutes of the Council meeting.

The many friends of Rev. Donald Stewart, late of Milton, will be pleased to learn that he has again been made the recipient of a handsome present by his congregation in Lancaster.

Monday was observed here as a holiday, in accordance with the Governor's proclamation setting it apart for Thanksgiving for the Prince's recovery.

The Geneva Board of Arbitrators reassembled for the consideration of the Treaty of Washington. The British counter case was presented, but nothing of special interest was done.

Lieutenant-Governor Archibald's resignation has been accepted, and Judge Johnson, of Manitoba, has been appointed his successor.

Last Saturday, the dry kiln of J. & G. Hunt, Glen Williams was destroyed by fire, together with a lot of bobbins and rake teeth, which were in the kiln drying at the time.

The County Spring Exhibition will be held in Milton on Tuesday, April 30.

The general conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church will convene in Brooklyon on the first of May.

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