

Essays on "My Hometown Paper"

My Hometown Paper—what it means to me—is the title for one of the 1972 newspaper competitions sponsored by Dominion Textiles and the Canadian Community Newspapers Association. Recently The Champion invited readers to submit an essay on what their hometown paper means to them, and the following entries were received.

Both entries will be submitted to the nationwide contest.

OUR HOMETOWN PAPER— A VERY REVEALING SCORE

As one of the lads that had a war as an excuse to leave school and home, the hometown paper had a very special importance. When parcels came from home, they were wrapped in the hometown weekly, inside the sewn cloth cover. The paper was nearly as thrilling as the letter from home, just after the cigarettes and food. We always passed them around, knowing others would be as interested as us. Some of the boys never received mail from home and the papers filled a real need and held a very special place for them.

When it came time to find a home, an ad in the hometown paper located the house we are living in. Answering an appeal in our weekly for help to fix the arena roof that had been damaged by fire, led to many friends and 15 years of community service.

More recently when we decided to look for a cottage on a northern lake, we subscribed to the local paper of the chosen area. From it we were able to learn about land values, what the attitude to development was, who provided what service, and quite a bit of general information that makes doing business so much easier.

The quality of life in the community was shown by the interests of the people who made the news, each added their own note to the symphony and as recorded in their hometown paper, it made a very revealing score.

—George Purdy,
34 Mill St., Milton.

WHAT MY HOMETOWN PAPER MEANS TO ME

Thursday is a very special day at our house, because that is the day our local weekly, The Canadian Champion comes to us by mail. Ever since I could read I have watched for the mailman to get the paper first.

We subscribe to a daily paper, many magazines, and a western paper but none is so welcome as The Champion. Why is this paper so eagerly waited for? Because it is my hometown paper and the news is all about folks I know in my hometown, Milton.

My hometown paper, at least the editors and staff, have a heart of gold, because they have a firm policy of never ever printing a news scoop that would embarrass or humiliate anyone. I am proud they take this stand, as people who are in trouble usually have been hurt enough without having it hashed over in the local paper. So I never look for gossip, scandal or court case reports.

The Champion has pages of interest for all its readers, a youth section, sports reports and pictures, a splendid business guide, and a farmers' page for the rural readers.

Being a housewife and responsible for buying for the home and family, it is natural that I will hunt out the ads of local merchants and see where my money may be spent to the best advantage. It doesn't matter whether it is for food, clothing, beauty preparations, a prescription, furniture or a new car, the local merchants sell their goods and services in well told advertisements, and if a new place of business opens the readers are soon aware of the services, prices and location.

The birth column is one of the first places I read, to see how many of my friends or acquaintances have new little bundles of joy in their homes. Next is the sad column where I read the death notices; most

times it is someone I know, maybe went to school with. I look for the local paper to keep me informed and whether it's in joy or sorrow, then I can send a friendly greeting card.

I read letters of thanks from folks who have been helped in many ways, after being in hospital, a bereavement or disaster, or it could be a happy occasion such as a birthday or anniversary.

My hometown paper has a special section for church activities, to advise of time of service, the minister and, of course, a welcome invitation to attend. This means much to me but surely it must be wonderful to strangers in our midst.

My hometown paper has local correspondents for the surrounding areas. These are homey bits of news; reports on church meetings, 4-H Clubs, Women's Institutes, interesting items of local euhres, birthday parties; these we never find in a larger paper. I can always find an inspiration to help me in my work or pleasure. It might be a verse, a motto, or a helpful hint.

Our local paper has a wide circulation. It goes to Vancouver, Florida, all parts of Canada, overseas and even to Australia. My friends tell me how they look for the Milton paper and are so happy to hear of home news. I send a subscription to my daughter and family and I know if I don't get a letter written to them, she'll get the news in The Champion about the people she likes to hear about.

My hometown paper means so many things to me, in many different ways, it is hard to put them all on paper. It is like an old friend who brings me all the news. I can read it at my leisure and keep clippings if I so desire. If it doesn't arrive on schedule, I feel my day is spoiled.

These are a few reasons why The Canadian Champion means so much to me; it gives me much pleasure and it costs so little.

—Mrs. Ella Patterson,
R.R. 4, Milton.

Better lighting . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

be retired, the lamps will be used in other parts of town. All of the wiring will be underground and the lamps replaced with a more modern system, similar to what now exists on Martin St.

While Milton Hydro will do some of the work on the project, most will be done by outside contractors. Mrs. Hadley said he'll recommend that no Christmas lighting be drawn across the street, as has been the practice in the past. The cement standards will have plugs in them and if the town and Chamber of Commerce wish, they can decorate the actual poles rather than stringing lights across the road. Apparently the wires cause considerable stress on the

Wants . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

would give everyone a more fair chance. Right now, when other election act reforms are being considered by the provincial government, was the best time to implement his suggested change, he added.

Waiting for call—copies of his resolution will be forwarded to Halton MPP Jim Snow and George Kerr and to Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough. A copy was also to be sent to Arthur Meighen, but Councillor Smillie wasn't sure it would do much good—"I phoned him Friday and I'm still waiting for a reply," he said.

Councillors took note of the fact that sweeping changes are being considered in the election act, and decided to have a special meeting later this week to delve into the proposed changes. Clerk McGeachie offered to give them a thorough run-down on the changes.

Addisons visit

Former Milton councillor Gerry Addison, wife Mary and daughter Vicki stopped briefly in Milton last week on their way to the Restaurant Show in Toronto. The Addisons left Milton in 1967 for Ipperwash and a resort operation there. Since then they've added a drive-in in Forest. They asked us to pass on their greetings, being unable to make the rounds of friends on their brief stop.

standards over the years and tend to draw the poles towards each other. The hydro portion of the project is estimated at \$25,000.

Updated

Bell Canada updated equipment along the Main St. last summer in anticipation of the road being reconstructed this year. Their facilities are expected to be ample for several years to come.

Only minor relocation of utilities is contemplated during the program. Some improvements will be made in the existing traffic signals.

A second signal head will be installed for southbound traffic on Martin St. Pedestrian crosswalks will be painted marked on Main St. at both the east and west west approaches to the intersection and pedestrian signal heads are recommended for the easterly cross walk.

Main St. sidewalks are in need of reconstruction owing to the age and the number of cuts that have been made in the sidewalk for utility trenches.

'72 SWEEP program

The Halton Region Conservation Authority will be making a clean "Sweep" of its area holdings during the summer.

Under this year's SWEEP program—Students Working in an Environmental Enhancement Program—10 more students may be hired than last year's total. About 53 young people worked for the authority last year.

Projects under the SWEEP program are only in the planning stage, according to Authority officials. General Manager Murray Stephen and Authority department heads are in the midst of preparing a brief for submission to the provincial government.

Last year student employees cleaned streams, did surveys and conducted overall clean-up programs for the authority.

Seek photos, anecdotes for Bruce St. history

Between now and the school's closing on June 30, The Champion would like to publish "Peeking into Milton's Past" photos highlighting the history of Milton's 115-year-old Bruce St. Public School.

Anyone with old class group photos or pictures of early activities at the school, is asked to loan them to The Champion for rephotographing.

At the same time, anecdotes about the school will be published. Readers with a story

to tell about their days at Bruce St. should send a note to the editor.

In 1837, many postmasters and mail couriers in Lower Canada were in sympathy with the colonial rebels. Some were dismissed on these grounds.

Lord Durham, prior to the famous report on the state of affairs in Canada, recommended that the Post Office should be administered from one centre.

SMV SIGNS

We'll soon be taking our farm equipment out on the highways again, between farms.

Remember this is a new, annual hazard to the motorist, who hasn't seen much slow moving machinery on the road all winter. Take a look at those S.M.V. signs.

Could be they're dirty or have lost their brilliant orange color. If so, clean them up and replace them if necessary. Don't cause an accident.



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