

# Decision day Monday

Questions and full slates are the features of elections in Milton and Nassagaweya with some acclamations in Oakville, Burlington and Esquesing. If interest runs as high among the electors as it seems to among candidates, there will be a good voting turnout on Monday, Dec. 4.

As well as the election of candidates in all offices, Milton property owners will be voting on a subsidized bus service for the community. The question on the ballot will be "Are you in favor of the Town of Milton entering into an agreement to pay \$19,760 minimum annual subsidy for the provision of a local public bus service." The text of the full agreement has also been printed in current issues of The Champion so every owner can be fully familiar with the proposal.

Essentially the agreement calls for Milton Bus Lines to operate a 20 passenger bus, over established routes, and have a second bus in reserve. The

service would span 10 hours a day Monday to Saturday inclusive covering about 130 miles daily. Fares would be 25c for adults, 15c for students and senior citizens and 10c for children 12 and under.

The subsidy is based on 50 cents a mile for the service and on the basis of 130 miles daily, the equivalent of 39,520 miles is arrived at and the subsidy projected at \$19,760. As new routes are extended the 50c a mile subsidy is extended.

The question facing ratepayers is whether the growth of the town over new areas and beyond earlier boundaries, is now advanced enough to consider a permanently established bus service which could meet the needs of the total community. Milton Bus Lines has operated a service for some time now and many have found it fills an important need. The question is whether there are enough and whether they, as owners of property, are willing

to add to the tax rate the necessary subsidy for the service to continue.

In Nassagaweya, voters will be asked if they are in favor of the township permitting horse racing after 1.30 in the afternoon on Sundays.

The Jockey Club suggests the move is necessary to its continuing operation while some ratepayers wonder why their Sunday in the rural setting they chose should be interrupted with busy roads and traffic airming at the Sunday races. Township residents have already rejected the move once and it will be up to them whether they still hold those same views.

Elections in Milton, Esquesing and Nassagaweya for the top positions will leave each municipality without one of its senior officials. In Nassagaweya and Esquesing the deputy reeve is challenging the reeve and in Milton the reeve is challenging the Mayor. Some experience is thus to be lost and electors must choose the individual most capable of providing the necessary leadership to fill the senior positions.

Municipal government is in a state of flux with all officials expecting announcement on a regional government structure almost daily. This will be part of the frustration and part of the challenge which all municipal leaders will face. It will require clear thinkers in every position in every council to grapple with the uncertainties, yet press on with competence in providing people-oriented government, and the foundations for whatever new government form is imposed.

Voting day in Halton is Dec. 4 with polls open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. As a citizen, you have a responsibility to state your choice by casting your ballot.

## A neat package

Commendation is due the Council for the vision, initiative and planning which has resulted in the purchase by the town and the Ontario Housing Corporation of the Bruce St. School property.

It is the first stage in what will take time to adequately implement, but it was the necessary step in preserving the school, meeting the need for additional senior citizen housing in an excellent location and providing for a site for a new library. Wrapping up those three projects in one plan is impressive.

The detailed planning must now follow on the use of the school building and the new library. Both projects will undoubtedly occupy the time of the new council to be elected on Monday.

This is a further indication that the council elected Monday will be far from a "caretaker" council which will merely look after things until the local government is restructured. There are a number of things to be done and planned, thus the election of the most capable individuals is essential. There should be no voter shrugging off the importance of Monday's voting.

## Deprived of vote

Current legislation depriving tenants of a vote in money matters during municipal elections should be amended. The legislation effectively discriminates against apartment dwellers.

In the case of the bus subsidy for Milton that will be voted on this year, many of the people who are directly involved have no voice. This is wrong.

In the case of senior citizens many have paid taxes for years and made a significant contribution to the town. Now because of reduced incomes or lack of better accommodation they have moved into apartments. In some cases older folk have decided they don't need a home of their own and their needs are better met in an apartment. These people are among those who could benefit from a bus service. But they have no voice.

Young couples who are faced with monthly rental fees, often far in excess

of what many homeowners pay on mortgages, also have no voice. In many instances these people could make use of this service.

The myth that apartment dwellers and tenants do not contribute to municipal coffers must surely be dispelled. It is hard to conceive of a situation where part of the tenant's rental fee doesn't end up financing town projects.

It is difficult to understand why legislators could refuse tenants the right to vote on a money matter when one considers that the same legislators allow tenants to sit on council with no restrictions on their voting power.

The legislation is brought down by the province. It is too late to change anything for the bus subsidy homeowners will vote on Dec. 4 but steps should be taken for future votes in this and every Ontario community.

# Excerpts from the Halton Journal

The Halton Journal was Milton's first newspaper, founded in 1854. The following article reporting on a municipal election in Milton for the year 1860 may provide some insight into voting methods and opinions in the events over 100 years ago. It seemed particularly timely as the town prepares for another election 112 years later.

From the Halton Journal, January 4, 1860.

The contest is over. Municipal servants have again been chosen to manage local interests.

For the South Ward of this town the Councillors are John Turner, George Dempsey and Dr. Freeman. There being no more nominations there was of course no contest.

In the East Ward the Candidates were Socrates Center, Samuel Morse, W. D. Lyon, George Smith and Henry Winter, the latter of whom retired soon after the opening of the poll, leaving the contest between the other four. It soon became evident that Messrs. Morse and Smith had a majority of the votes in the ward and all interest was centred between Mr. Center and Mr. Lyon.

During the afternoon of Monday, the numbers for each were equal, and the returning officer closed the poll for the day at four o'clock, leaving 18 against 18.

During the night both parties made considerable exertions, votes having been sent for all the way from near Dundas and from Oakville! On the second day very few votes were recorded; indeed there were but

few votes to record. Mr. Lyon got one vote and the other candidate three votes. Mr. Center giving a plumper for himself! The poll was kept open till two o'clock when Samuel Morse, George Smith and Socrates Center were declared duly elected Councillors for the East Ward of the Town of Milton for the year 1860.

In the North Ward the nominations were John White, Dr. Hume, John Thompson and G. T. Bastedo. Mr. White was nominated in his absence. Up to the very day of election he did not intend to come forward again as a candidate, and it was only at the urgent solicitation of many friends that he allowed himself to be put in nomination. But the factionists were fully organized and prepared for action. They determined to take advantage of Mr. White's apathy and accomplish a party triumph. The design was detected but it was detected too late to be remedied. By a system of bribery and corruption, Mr. Bastedo kept up a respectable contest and at the close of the first day Mr. White was four ahead. But during the night every effort was put forth to get a doubtful victory. Mr. Bastedo's own team was sent to Churchville for a vote! The inactivity of Mr. White's friends and the unscrupulousness of Mr. Bastedo's supporters resulted as everybody might have expected.

At four o'clock on the second day Mr. Bastedo was declared elected by a majority of one, though probably a scrutiny might give a different result. It must be kept in mind that Mr. White is a non-resident: and

## Commenting briefly

An extremely light turnout in Acton last week saw just less than 17 per cent of the eligible voters mark ballots in a liquor plebiscite. The Acton Free Press says it would be unfortunate indeed if that apathy extends to the vote for council seats on Dec. 4. The liquor vote, by the way, was 450-74 in favor of liquor in dining rooms and 423-105 in favor of sale of liquor under a lounge licence. Both Acton hotels plan to apply for licences soon.

An editorial page feature in The Champion a couple of weeks ago, about the man who invented the white line of the highways, was enjoyed by Mrs. John Ostler of Milton. The article was about Frank C. Biggs, Ontario Minister of Highways 1919-23, who was Mrs. Ostler's father.

Meet-the-candidate meetings in Esquesing and North Burlington tonight (Nov. 29) are a great idea to help inform voters about the local candidates. Unfortunately you'll have to attend to derive any benefits prior to election day next Monday — both meetings are scheduled too late for local weekly newspapers to cover them prior to voting day. The Burlington meeting is at 8 p.m. at Fairview School, the Esquesing meeting at 8 p.m. at Stewarttown Hall.

Does anyone know the reason for the "AE" designation of the old Hornby School, which is currently in use as ARC Industries workshop for retarded adults? A graduate of that school recently wrote the Ontario Archives to see if they could tell him why that school got letter designations while other district schools were known by numbers. The Archives researchers replied that early annual reports circa

this in connection with the want of any organization, succeeded in defeating him. It was not Mr. Bastedo. He himself was elected by his own vote. The other two Councillors are John Thompson and Dr. Hume.

Mr. White's defeat must be attributed entirely to his inattention, and want of preparation. Though every government official in the ward voted against him, there was more than a majority in his favor had the matter been properly attended to.



FROZEN DINNERS are in store for these horses and many others, as winter's icy chill descends upon them. These horses find the snow a hindrance

while the people at Glen Eden Ski Club in the background look forward to many more inches of the white stuff. (Photo by J. Jennings)

## 20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Nov. 27, 1952.

Keen interest was manifest in municipal affairs at the nomination meeting in Milton on Friday evening. There was a fair attendance considering the weather prevailing. Reports of those who served were concise and very satisfactory. Of the 17 nominated for council, 14 will seek the six seats on council.

Inadequacy of the auditorium at Milton High School was again evident on Thursday and Friday evenings when the place was packed for the High School commencement. Students and staff presented a fine program. There were senior choral groups under the direction of E. W. West, dances for all grades directed by Miss A. Taylor and tumbling by the senior boys. The school orchestra under Mr. West also contributed numbers on the program. Presentations of awards, diplomas, etc. is also a highlight of school commencements and these showed that Milton High continues to stand high in its achievements. Principal J. E. Marcellus and Board Chairman John Bell made the presentations on Thursday evening. Principal Marcellus and Board member N. L. Pickett made the presentations on Friday.

Nassagaweya voters will have an election on Monday to elect four councillors and two public school trustees as a result of the nomination meeting in Brookville on Monday afternoon, described as quiet and fairly well attended.

## 50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Thursday Nov. 30, 1922.

Halton deer hunters did not do quite so well as at first reported. Some of them failed to get their deer each. One party of six got only two deer. The exceptionally dry weather was the explanation given.

The retail merchants of the cities are organizing to oppose the two-cent stamp tax on receipts on amounts of \$10 and over which will come into effect on Jan. 1. They say it will not only be a nuisance but a serious handicap to business. This will be the case in the smaller places as well as in the cities.

William Martin, who spent the summer at Hillsdale and Penetanguishene, arrived in town on Monday evening to visit his cousin, C.W. Martin. He says his eldest brother, Jasper, who had a stroke about two months ago, is in Toronto and quite helpless.

Robert Jackson, who farms near Napanee, called on a few old Milton friends on Saturday morning. He left Milton for his present home about 30 years ago.

The regular meeting of Knox Church Young People's Society will be held in the school-room on Tuesday evening, Dec. 6. A good program is promised. Everybody invited. Silver Collection.

Premier Drury will visit Georgetown next Thursday. Mayor Dale will give him the official welcome, and at 8 p.m. he will speak in the town hall.

## 100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Thursday, Nov. 28, 1872.

The evacuation by the British marines of San Juan Island, according to a Washington despatch, took place last Friday when the joint military occupancy established in the spring of 1860, terminated.

The Governor General's Foot Guards is the latest swell novelty in military circles. They are to be equipped similarly to Grenadier Guards.

The County Council will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 10.

The township Council of Nassagaweya will be held at the court house on Tuesday, Dec. 10.

The ice on the pond is now in capital condition, and skaters and curlers are taking advantage of the weather to have a good time. The famous bachelors' rink, although losing one of its best players, is still confident of retaining the laurels won last season.

A shocking occurrence happened on Wednesday evening at Orillia when a little boy, who had disobeyed his mother's command to come down the stairs, by some means set fire to the bedroom where he hid himself. In the course of a few minutes the house, with its contents, was entirely consumed, and the child perished in the flames.

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rush to the fire hall, and get the equipment to the scene. In all the rushing there are chances of accidents. They are prepared for that risk if the emergency is genuine but when they arrive to find no such property exists or no fire has been reported from that property, they naturally get angry. The public can help, of course, because when someone turns in a false alarm he often gets his satisfaction from telling someone else about it. A report of such information to the police will usually provide quick action.

Elections are quite different now to those of 1860, but the provision of transportation to the polls is a feature which has continued. In an article from the Halton Journal of 1860, a team of horses was sent to near Dundas to bring back a voter for one of the seats on Milton Council. We doubt the current candidates would consider such an extensive trip necessary. And we doubt many voters would be hauled that far by horse for the privilege of casting a vote.

In spite of the fact that two young people are running for municipal office and in spite of the fact that 18-year-olds can vote for the first time, the interest in Milton's municipal election generated among the community's youth isn't too great. That is the conclusion one might draw, considering the poor turnout at a meet-the-candidate meeting held at the Youth Council's Coffee House Sunday. The candidates outnumbered the audience.

Perhaps it stimulates business and starts people thinking about shopping, but if we could nominate anyone for our hate parade it would be those radio stations and others who play Christmas carols weeks before Christmas.

They destroy much of the beauty of the Christmas season by endless repetition of carols. By the time Christmas has arrived everyone is sick of hearing them blaring from loudspeakers and radios. Scant attention is paid to their message, or their music.

How much better it would be if the carols and music of Christmas were limited to the few days before and the few days after when people can enjoy them.