

Looking back at the news of 1972

The year 1972 is almost over. What highlights of the year can you quickly call to mind? Perhaps this review of the stories that made news in 1972 will refresh your memory.

By Bob Burt and Dan O'Reilly

Annexation became a popular topic early in the year. At one January meeting of council applications to be annexed were made for 3,300 acres of land south, east and west of the current boundaries. The decision was eventually delayed until a regional government announcement is made.

On Jan. 22, 18-year-old Frank Binder suffered minor burns and a garage with all its contents was destroyed. The incident occurred on Five Sideroad Esquesing.

Nurses protest
Protest against heavy workloads for nurses and short-staffing and underservicing in the health needs in North Halton were sparked by an article appearing in this paper and The Acton Free Press. Acton Deputy Reeve Pat McKenzie fought the issue and eventually was able to have the full complement of nurses filled in the county to provide North Halton with better service.

Jan. 29 a raging fire at the farm of Julius Geist in Esquesing levelled a huge barn and killed 22,000 chickens owned by John Wiley of Main St., Milton.

Jim McKay was elected fair board president with Gerald Carton vice-president, Alfred Ford past president, Jack McPhail second vice-president and Mrs. G. E. Readhead secretary-treasurer.

In February the town responded to its second annual Snow Festival with all kinds of fun and frolic in the outdoors. The festival featured a parade, fireworks, tree burning ceremony, husky dog races, mud show and a wide variety of activities.

Star is found
Star, a prized Siberian Husky was found after two weeks on the road and was returned to Peter and Steven French at their Esquesing home. The dog was discovered in Scarborough 15 pounds lighter than when he lost his way after his master had taken him to a dog show a mile and a half away from where he was found.

Late in February fire of unknown origin destroyed the Master Feeds Mill at Stewarttown. Firemen fought to control the fire from 3 a.m. to 10.30, some seven hours.

A crippling storm left north Burlington without power for several days while hydro workers from several communities scurried about trying to restore comfortable conditions again. Several people suffered severe losses during the storm. Henry Gorter the Kilbride florist was among those suffering losses.

Second time
Ron Harris was elected president of Milton Chamber of Commerce. It was the second time for Mr. Harris to hold that post.

Milton District Hospital popped into the news once again when Mrs. L. Verrall, former nursing director at the hospital, charged the board with wrongful dismissal. She had been dismissed by the board during a scandal at the hospital two years earlier.

Terry O'Connor got off to an early start in the election campaign when he was nominated by 500 fellow Tories in Oakville. A vigorous campaign led him to victory at the polls in October, defeating Liberal incumbent Rud Whiting and NDP challenger Carolyn Holstein.

An estimated 88,000,000 gallons of water poured out of the Scotch Block Dam in Esquesing. A malfunction in the rubber "fabridam" caused the overflow and the Third and Fourth Lines were flooded and remained under water for the better part of the morning.

After solid planning and a lot of hard work Milton Optimists were robbed of \$1,222, the proceeds from an auction they held in June.

Construction work on Milton's Main St. got underway in May and the \$310,000 job was completed with considerably less turmoil than the Main St. reconstruction program undertaken two years earlier.

Wheelchair athlete
Bill Brouse, a Kilbride resident, won several medals in the Canadian Wheelchair Competition in Alberta. The 19-year-old was injured in a car accident but his love of sports overcame the physical difficulty and led him to competition in his wheelchair.

In July Nassagaweya Township learned it had won a partial victory in its fight to get a better break from what was felt to be unfair school taxes. They won a rebate of \$49,499 after fighting a long battle. The refund was made up by other municipalities in the county.

Near the end of August local NDPs received a bit of setback when candidate Stephen Alcock withdrew from the election. He was replaced by Carolyn Holstein who ran an able campaign and added interest to the race.

Big shock
Town politicians were shocked to learn the Ministry of Natural Resources had implemented flood plain restrictions on all of the watershed including Milton. The controversial topic was discussed by provincial officials and town representatives only a few days earlier and no hint of the strong measures was given.

Mr. and Mrs. Don McColeman were put through a trying five hours on a cool August night while OPP and civilian searchers prowled bushland in Esquesing. Three year old Tara and her puppy were found later, sleeping in a shed on a farm about a mile from the family's Five Sideroad home.

Bob Stanfield was greeted by young and old when he stopped at Halton Manor and Milton Youth Council's Coffee House in August. Stanfield's visits were never able to be recorded as exciting ventures but a fair number were on hand to greet the Tory leader.

Highlight of the end of the summer season was the Steam-Era reunion. Over 25,000 people visited the 12th annual version of the popular event. Unlike other years, when weather threatened to interrupt or cut the program short, fine weather prevailed.

Deputy Clerk
Campbell Thomson was named Milton's deputy clerk, a newly created post. Thomson had been administration-treasurer of Nassagaweya Township.

Nobody was surprised when incumbent Halton MP Rud Whiting was nominated to lead the Liberals in the federal election. However, many were surprised when he was defeated by Tory Terry O'Connor in the October election.

Political rallies were big news in September in Halton and the nation. The biggest local event

was a campaign kick-off rally in Oakville by federal Conservative leader Robert Stanfield. A crowd of about 5,000 people attended the event.

Nineteenth century nostalgia took a hold on Milton, when the Milton Fair Board acknowledged the arrival of autumn with its annual fall fair. It was the 119th version of the fair and as always, it was a success.

Manhunt here
Suspense gripped this area in early October when a police manhunt was carried out on Milton's western fringes for the alleged killer of a Burlington woman and her 10-month-old son. The area of land bordered by 10 Sideroad, Bell School Line, Tremaine Rd. and 14 Sideroad in North Burlington was cordoned off by Burlington Police and OPP, after a resident of 10 Sideroad, George Newell heard an intruder in his house. Police conducted a thorough search of the area. The man was not discovered in the area, but was later arrested near Orillia.

At about the same time the body of a woman in her late 20's or early 30's was found by two hunters near Georgetown. A study of the body by the Forensic Sciences Centre in Toronto showed she had died from a gunshot wound to the head. Police have not yet discovered her identity.

"Trudeaumania isn't dead" read The Champion's lead story of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's visit to Oakville during September. A mob of about 3,000

people jammed Hopedale Mall to hear and shake hands with the PM. However if Trudeaumania wasn't killed, it was greatly diminished in the federal election a month later when the Liberal government was almost defeated.

Dull meeting
A somewhat dull meet-the-candidates meeting was held in Milton near the latter part of the month. Federal candidates Carolyn Holstein of the NDP, Liberal Rud Whiting and PC Terry O'Connor spoke briefly and answered written questions.

A thief or thieves broke into the Milton Drug Mart in Milton Plaza and stole about \$400 worth of drugs. According to the police the stolen drugs were of the "hard" type such as codeine and methedrine.

The Champion asked its readers, via a questionnaire coupon, whether they favored a three or four borough regional government setup. Most of the replies seemed to indicate a four borough division (as advocated by Milton Council) was more desirable.

O'Connor, Kemping
Possibly the biggest news story of the year was the federal election, held near the end of October. The election in Halton was almost strictly a Tory affair. Conservative candidate Terry O'Connor defeated the popular incumbent Liberal Rud Whiting in Halton riding and Carolyn Holstein of the NDP, in Halton-Wentworth PC candidate Bill Kemping handily defeated

Liberal standard-bearer Norm McGuinness and NDP hopeful Dickson Bailey.

A strike by 300 production workers at the P. L. Robertson Co. lasted a week. The men returned to their jobs after ratifying a new two-year contract with an average 65 cents an hour wage increase.

Over 300 people gathered near the cenotaph at Victoria Park on a cool, drizzly Nov. 11 Remembrance Day to honor the Canadian soldiers and fighting men who fought in three wars.

Political hopefuls in all seven Halton municipalities made their intentions known by the middle of November. With the exception of the separate school representative for Milton, there were challengers for every political post. All the council seats on Nassagaweya and Esquesing Townships were also up for grabs.

Agreement
Milton Police Association and Milton Council arrived at a salary agreement for 1973. However, neither the Police Association nor Council divulged the terms of the contract.

A feeling of "let's not change horses in the mid-stream" of regional government" was evident when voters in three North Halton municipalities returned incumbent heads of

government in the Dec. 4 election. Milton Mayor Brian Best and Reeves Anne MacArthur of Nassagaweya and Tom Hill of Esquesing were returned to their posts. Esquesing's Hill almost lost the election to former Deputy Reeve Russell Miller, but heavy support from Hill's own village of Glen Williams rescued him. Miller wasn't the only deputy reeve who failed in his bid to capture the Reeve's position. In Nassagaweya Don McMillan was easily defeated by Reeve Mrs. A. MacArthur.

As a sidelight to the election, Milton voted in favor of a regular subsidized bus service. By about a 100 vote margin, voters agreed to subsidize the Milton Bus Lines, operated by David and Irene Lewis. The couple, who had asked for the referendum, said they could not operate the service without a subsidy; and would have to cease operations if they did not receive financial assistance.

Sunday racing
Another referendum won a "yes" from voters. Ratepayers in Nassagaweya voted in favor of Sunday night racing at Mohawk Raceway in Campbellville. The Ontario Jockey Club had petitioned Nassagaweya Council for the referendum.

A large and unusual auction took place in December. The auction, which ran for a total of 22

hours on two days, disposed of 1,300 items from the estate of the late Wilfred Crozier. Proceeds of the sale were reported to be over \$50,000, and slated to aid charity.

Milton's Main St. was decorated with new Christmas lights. A malfunction in the pump which takes water from the

Dorset Park subdivision to the Ontario St. Creek failed and caused flooding and damage to 14 homes.

Santa Claus traded in his sleigh for a parachute when he visited 100 children at Roma Italo-Canadian Club. The respected old man from the North Pole parachuted into the park.

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