

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, January 29, 1953.

Milton Fire Brigade saved nearby buildings as they fought for nearly an hour to control the blaze in a three storey chicken house on the farm of D. E. Sargent, R.R. 1 Milton, about one mile south of the town limits on Highway 25 Monday about 5 p.m. Damage to the three-year-old building was estimated at \$5,000.

Roy Currie was elected president of Halton Agricultural Society on Friday at the 101st annual meeting in the Court House, Milton. Reports were presented to the meeting showing a successful year. M. J. Carton, veteran director, in tendering his resignation, presented a complete review of the early history of the society. Appreciation of the Halton Society for Mr. Carton's long and outstanding service was expressed by Dr. C. H. Heslop and President J. E. Ellenton.

With 1,700 fans looking on Oakville Klippers were odds-on favorites to take last Saturday's game on their own ice, especially in view of the thumping they handed to the Co-ops in their last meeting. But they didn't reckon on an improved Milton club. In spite of everything they could throw at the Co-ops (including temper tantrums) the Klippers absorbed the 4-1 loss — and stock in the Co-ops' playoff hopes rose considerably.

Bus Knight was commended for his effective work in charge of the minor hockey leagues and the fine program of hockey he had arranged for last week at the regular meeting of Milton Rotary Club.



A DECENT MEAL is a little harder to come by these days, at least for the farm animals who have to dig through the snow to reach the grass. They don't seem to be losing weight because of it, though. (Photo by J. Jennings)

## Impossible dream?

Milton is going to have to prove to the county politicians now that it should be an area council with responsibilities in central Halton as suggested by the province.

What a hopeless task, or is it the impossible dream? It was unable to prove its case before last week's regional government proposals were released by the province and the fact the province saw the town's logic came as quite a blow to the neighboring politicians.

When the special county committee on regional government met, following the submission of the regional plan last week, it called on Milton to substantiate its reasons for not wanting to be lumped in with Acton, Georgetown, Nassagaweya and Esquesing. It was called on to say, in effect, why it should have responsibility in areas of north Oakville and north Burlington. Now it has to prove all this to representatives of all those municipalities who have already far from open minds when any of their territory is involved.

Nassagaweya and Esquesing have both based all their arguments on not wanting their present territories severed in any way. They are prepared to move as a total but not be divided. The Oakville representative on the committee was bowled over by the loss of northern territory to Milton, which reduced Oakville in area, to one of the smallest units. The counter argument immediately became "how will Milton service all that land?". It didn't seem to occur to him that Oakville and Burlington services in the north would not be difficult to match or indeed that so many of them now come from Milton.

It is argued that all Milton has to do is cast its lot with north Halton. If it needs to expand beyond its boundaries, all this could be taken care of by the proposed regional council. How beautiful it all sounds. But we remember that's how the argument went when Oakville and Trafalgar achieved their amalgamation and Milton opposed it. At that time Milton

was assured its growth would not be impeded. A normal annexation was all that would be required.

As it turned out Milton had to fight with its wits and its dollars to gain any land for reasonable growth. The town was opposed every step of the tortuous way by neighbors like Esquesing and Oakville who are again suggesting Milton should do all the proving.

Presumably it would be as logical for the committee at its next meeting to ask Burlington why it should be included in Halton when Hamilton wants it so badly.

If the county politicians can accept the province's reasoning for including Burlington it seems strange they can't also accept the province's decision to allow a Central Halton area government based around Milton.

At its first meeting the county committee was able to agree on a 4-1 vote that it was opposed to a fourth borough or area council centred around Milton. That seemed to be the easy decision and more difficult ones like how representatives were to be elected got left for later meetings.

We had really expected more from the county committee. The province left several open questions for decisions at the local level and we would have thought that was a logical place for discussion to begin. Chairman Les Preston of Burlington, however, allowed discussion of the most parochial nature to come first. We suspect that action may negate the effectiveness of all the deliberations yet to come.

Perhaps at the next meeting too, the other municipalities should be called on to substantiate why a three area council system is preferable to the four proposed by Milton and supported by the province.

We doubt Milton will be able to prove to its neighbors that it should be a central Halton area. Each of them has something to lose. The province will, of course make the final decision and we hope its thinking has already been spelled out very clearly and impartially.

## Well represented

Halton has been given a practical blueprint for regional government.

It reflects the expressed desires of the politicians at the county level on most points.

The major objective, to retain Halton as a single regional government, has been achieved and no doubt this was accomplished through the effective representation of Jim Snow and George Kerr.

They may be criticized outside

Halton, but citizens of Halton have every reason to be satisfied they effectively represented them at the provincial level.

Jim Snow has been a close observer of the local scene and is quite familiar with the desires of Halton residents to remain as a county rather than being merged with Peel or dismembered and scattered.

Our thanks for this kind of effective representation, and a job well done.

## Worthy representation

The termination of Dr. Carl Martin's service as representative of the Halton Region Conservation Authority should not go unnoticed.

Dr. Martin has represented the town on the Authority since its inception in 1956 and his vision can be seen in projects like the Kelso Dam around which has been developed the Kelso Conservation Area. He played a part too in getting the Hilton Falls dam under construction.

Both of these dams have significant implications for Milton, governing as

they do, the stream flow through the town.

Dr. Martin has been an ardent worker for and supporter of conservation during his time as Milton's representative. Inevitably he failed to please everyone all the time but this is a failing that all who do anything have difficulty in overcoming.

We commend him for his service to conservation and his representation of the town's interests. It is one more area of the community on which his personal contribution of time and talent has had a significant impact.

## Commenting briefly

Miltonians don't know how lucky they are to be able to drink clear, pure water straight from the groundwater supplies on the escarpment west of town. A visitor from West Germany, Mayor Dr. Gerhard Eickmeier of Wilhelmshaven, visited town one day last week and was amazed to learn Milton's water is not purified, chlorinated or otherwise doctored up to make it fit for human consumption. In Germany, he says, all water supplies are treated and recycled five times and the government is presently studying the desalination (de-salting) of sea water in hopes of increasing the nation's water supplies.

We have to agree with Halton Agricultural Society president Jim McKay that Milton Fair must change its format to keep abreast with the times and continue to lure good crowds. For over a century the fall fair has been a rural-oriented attraction and a great showcase of agriculture in the county. But the agri-business in Halton is rapidly diminishing and the fair should start catering more to the urban dweller—still retaining its basic roots in agriculture but broadening its scope to include more events of greater interest to city and town dwellers. Fairs must change and grow, or be doomed to extinction.

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Second Section



## Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

Recent new stories about fuel shortages in New York city and a number of north-eastern states must have been a real shock, not only to many Americans, but to every thinking Canadian. I know it shook me, when I considered the implications.

It was the first strong warning of what's to come — a world-wide shortage of fuel and energy. And that's a frightening prospect.

Experts have been issuing warnings for years, but these usually consist of an article in the Saturday supplement, easily forgotten or ignored.

I'm no expert, but any school child knows that there is only so much oil and gas in the earth, that there is only so much water-power to be harnessed, and when that's gone, it's gone. For good.

Already parts of the U.S., especially the heavily industrialized and populated east, are on the verge of a crisis in the fields of energy and water.

What happens in the States will inevitably happen in Canada, though it may take a little longer, because of our much smaller population and much greater reserves.

But unless science can come up with some new, cheap means of producing energy and fresh water, things are going to be pretty shaky by the turn of the century.

Perhaps, as always, it's the only way man can learn anything — by having it shoved down his throat.

Perhaps we won't stop wasting energy resources until we're reduced to the point where we're cooking dinner over a fire of buffalo chips, as the pioneers did. Except that there won't be any buffalo to provide the chips.

Wouldn't you think that Canada, having witnessed at first hand the ravages the Americans have made on their own resources, would have learned a lesson?

Wouldn't you think that we'd be hoarding carefully, with an eye to 500 years from now, our dwindling resources? Wouldn't you think that our so-called leaders could see more than 25 years ahead? Many of them seem to be thinking no farther ahead than the next election.

One of these fine years, unless we begin to conserve and preserve, there'll be an Old Mother Hubbard story that will wreak untold misery on millions of humans.

But that's an old tale, of course, in this country. Through a combination of human greed, short-sighted leadership and plain stupidity, Canadians have been content to continue their century-old role as hewers of wood and drawers of water, and to sell anything they could to foreign investors: British, American and European.

There's a great lot of red-hot nationalism in our country these days. But 95 per cent of it is words, words, words.

The people who make the real decisions are not the writers, painters, students, but the cold-eyed, grey-haired men who sit in the board-rooms, and would sell their grandmothers into slavery if the interest rates were right.

They're the babies who have looted our forests and mines and are currently

pawning our energy resources. And they're the birds, with some notable exceptions, who take off for the Bahamas or Switzerland when the taxes get rough and they've made their pile.

To most of them, the unemployed are an unfortunate statistic, the poor a necessary nuisance. They know where every nickel of government handouts is. They know every tax dodge. They are the real and only second-class citizens of this country.

Holy smokes! I'm beginning to sound like a communist agitator. I'm not. I just get sick at heart when I see what's happening to the country I love.

Talk about being sold down the river! We're being sold down all our rivers and all our pipelines as well.

Canada might be compared to youth. Youth can, and does, burn up energy without a thought for the morrow. He can dance and drink all night, stand all day in the rain, hitch-hiking, sleep on the floor, ski all day on

weekends and sleep all day in school.

But imperceptibly, and then suddenly, the youth is middle-aged. The luxuriant hair falls out, the belly thickens, the pace slows, and the joints begin to ache. The energy has been burned up, much of it uselessly, and the cupboard grows progressively bare.

Is that what we're doing today in our comparatively youthful country? Are we going to wake up with no hair, arthritis, and a pot belly with nothing to put in it?

And while this is taking place before our eyes, the politicians chatter like parrots, jockeying for position, their eyes fixed irremovably on the past.

I've no solution. The only thing I might suggest, in view of the energy crisis, is that all the politicians in North America be laid end to end. They'd make an admirable pipeline, of just the right girth. And they'd produce enough natural gas in one session to stave off the crisis for years.

## OUR READERS WRITE

SPORTS FACILITIES  
The Editor,

Sir:  
Recent letters to this paper indicate an interest in some areas regarding present sports facilities in town and vague hints that the demand for such has increased considerably. Criticism of the mayor and town officials showing lack of concern, does nothing to prove that there is a justifiable need for extra development. So why not place first things in order of merit and proceed from there.

It would be wise to view the problem in perspective, attempt to consider with other sporting officials in town and arrange with them to have the essentials framed in a formal request to the town for consideration.

There are many dedicated adults here, who understand the issues that confront one in the operation of indoor and outdoor sports—personnel for leadership, costs of construction and maintenance and not least the support of the public. These are only a few of the factors which develop in this field and indeed there are many others.

Admittedly, we have a limited interest in most sports and do not cater as we should for sports in general. The hockey mind dominates, with baseball and softball running well behind and most other events are taken care of during school hours. This is all to the good but evidently, does not encourage the spending of public funds on commodities that receive so little attention.

There is a minor soccer association in this area, with up to a hundred boys registered and they have difficulty finding sufficient men to assist in their winter and summer program. Luckily they rely on the education department for facilities. There must be others interested in track and field, who find themselves in much the same position.

In the matter of requests for playing fields which will furnish this town with adequate facilities for outdoor sports, supervised and otherwise, I feel that this should be on the planning board as soon as possible. With

government grants etc., the citizens of Milton should not be too heavily burdened, but as to another or second ice arena, well it is another kettle of fish.

Talking of fish, the cost of living is presently a source of mild comedy if you stand around the meat counter in any food store. The comments vary, but the actions are repetitious—the poor souls are fumbling in their purses, searching for the down payment on next week's roast and silently hoping it will have left-overs, until the next payment is due.

Tough as it is, I'm in favor of a motion to proceed for suitable sporting facilities in a manner acceptable to all good sports, especially to those who have the last word as elected officials.

Yours sincerely,

Jas. O.C. Harkin,  
199 Elmwood Cres.,  
Milton, Ont.

"COMMENTING BRIEFLY"  
AND "OBSERVATIONS"

Dear Sir:  
It is quite amusing that Milton's newspaper, the Champion, refers to Oakville's D.J.R. as the Daily "Jumbled" Record in its "Commenting Briefly" section; while the Daily Journal Record refers to the Champion as the Canadian "Chumpion" in its "Observations" section. It shows good-natured competition... right?

"Commenting Briefly" on the Champion, it can be commended on its very objective and concise reporting and editorial style. However, perhaps it is too objective. Scarcely reflected in its pages are the feelings of many Miltonians about preserving the quality of life and character of our community through very discriminate developments that are very properly suited to our area. A mood that is very strongly against Milton's Council and

(Continued on Page B3)

## 50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, February 1, 1923.

The Bruce Peninsula News published at Lion's Head has ceased publication. An increase of two cents per quire in the cost of newsprint for this year was the last straw according to the editor. This is the fourth paper in Ontario that has ceased publication this year.

Two Milton war veterans are at Brant Hospital for operations required on old wounds. William Randall went about a week ago for the removal of shrapnel from one of his hips. William Durnan Jr. went last Sunday for the amputation of a toe.

Georgetown is proud with reason of its new arena, which is nearing completion. The ice surface is 175 feet by 75 feet, is well lighted and will hold about 1,500 people.

According to the crop bulletin of the Ontario Department of Agriculture 9,480 acres were devoted to fall wheat in the county of Halton last year.

The touring Scotch curlers played at Galt on Monday against local rinks and others invited from elsewhere. Milton sent one rink, skipped by Reeve Blain which distinguished itself by winning from the crack Lanarkshire rink which has lost only five out of 28 games played in Canada.

## 100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, January 30, 1873.

On Monday a match was played at Acton between the Milton and Guelph Curling Clubs for the medal offered by the Canadian Branch of the Caledonia Club. The ice was in fine condition and Milton won the contest by 10 shots.

W. D. Lyon, Reeve of Milton, has been chosen as warden for 1873. It marks the first time the honor has been conferred on a representative from Milton. Mr. Lyon will bring to the execution of his office a sound judgment and great practical experience and we have no doubt that when his term of office expires that the verdict of the county will be that he has faithfully and efficiently discharged the duties of this honorable station.

It was reported in Montreal and Ottawa that Sir George Cartier was dead, but we happen to know and are happy to learn that the report has no foundation. Though not an ardent admirer of the administration of which the "plucky baronet" is a great power, we believe Canada could ill afford to lose so gifted a son.

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