

"Sacrilege" to destroy it

Wants Bruce St. School preserved

(Editor's Note: T. A. "Tommy" Hutchinson, QC, a retired Milton lawyer, is one of the many citizens who feels the old Bruce St. School should be preserved as a local historic building—whether or not it can be remodelled and used for any other purpose. Mr. Hutchinson was a trustee at the school in the early 1920's and his wife, the former Mary Goodchild, taught for several years at the school. In the following contributed article, he tells why he feels the century-old school should be preserved for posterity.)

THE PAST
AND THE FUTURE
By T. A. Hutchinson, QC

There are a few people in our world who do not seem to be happy, unless they are pulling things up or tearing them down. There are others, of course, who seem to be content in seeing things fall down through disrepair or decay. These two groups are not interested in preserving the link, which connects the past with the present. Achievements of the past have little or no interest to them. The word "posterity" is not in their vocabulary.

We should be pleased that there are some who are interested in the past. They know the foundation stones of the past have some importance. They derive considerable satisfaction in thinking about those stones, in the present time and they get much pride in preserving them for future generations.

It is regretful that some of our town councils and citizens have, in the name of progress, eliminated many things in Milton which had a tie with the past, historically, culturally and architectural-

ally. Our young citizens of today have to look at photographs to see what our enjoyable town looked like 50 years ago. May I mention a few things which have disappeared.

1. The renovated building, occupied until recently by our esteemed Mayor Brian Best has disappeared to provide a site for a large building. The building, for a number of years, served as a bicycle shop for Olie Pettigrew.

2. The frame building at the corner of Charles and Mary Sts. has been demolished. For a long time it was owned by Al Chambers, who served as mayor of the town.

3. The old frame grandstand in the Agricultural Grounds, which was usually filled to capacity at ball games, has been replaced by a \$50,000 structure which is occupied by very few, except on Fair Day.

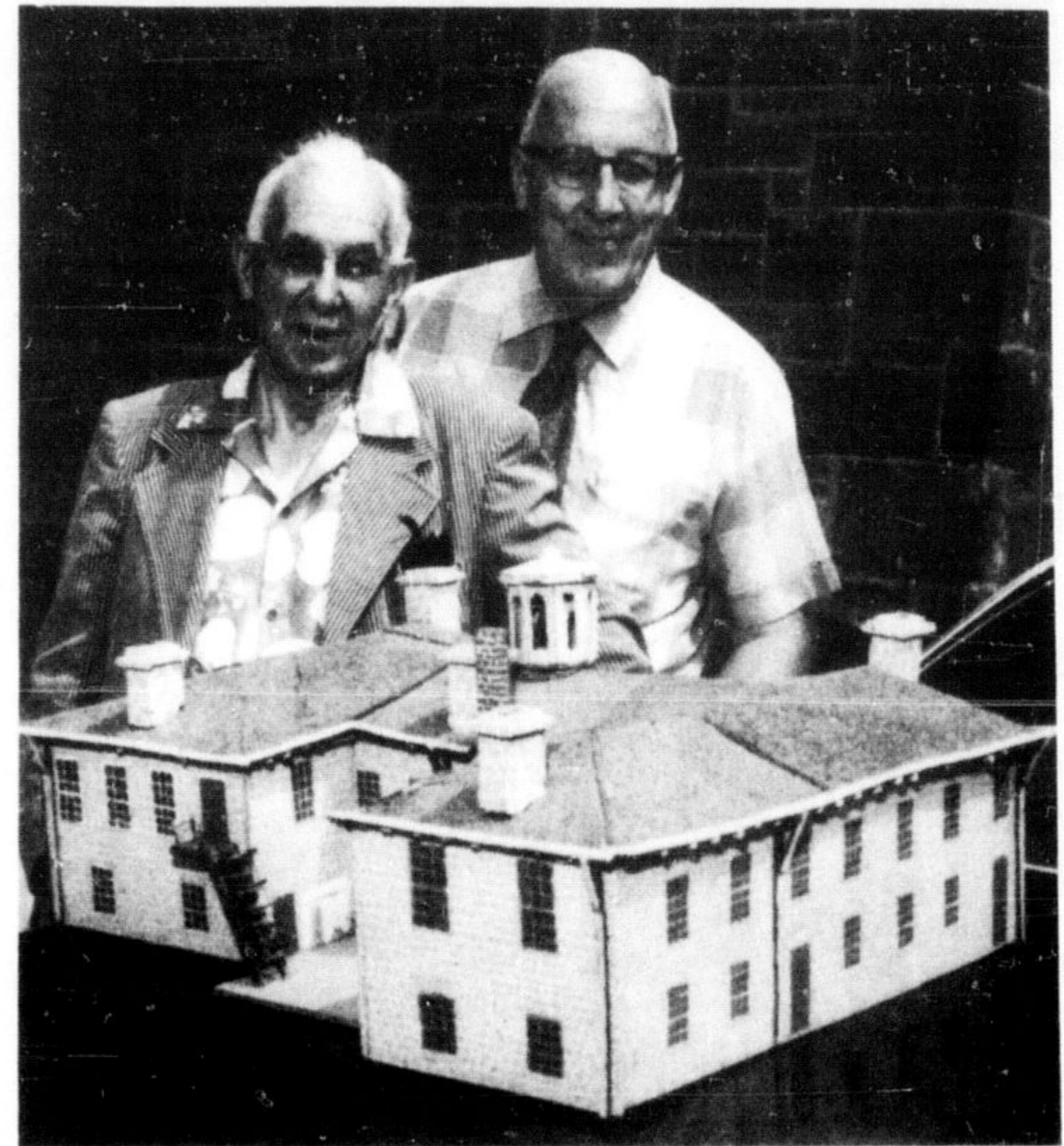
4. The beautiful home of the late Dr. M. E. Gowland, at the corner of Charles and Main Sts. was torn down to provide sites for some stores and the Halton and Peel Trust Company. Along with the building, a large flowering tree disappeared from the spacious lawn. Thus, Milton lost an historic home and a thing of beauty.

5. The old tower of the Town Hall has gone. The large bell in the tower was rung at 7, 12 noon and 6. When the noon bell rang, it was a signal for some merchants to close shop and partake of lunch. George Hemstreet, the Town Clerk who lived to pass a full century, usually pulled the bell rope at noon. The bell was

also rung to inform citizens of a fire and to summon the volunteer firemen. The Friday evening ringing reminded the firemen of fire practice.

6. The trees which grew on the north-west side of Main St. are only a memory. A large, spread-

ing tree grew beside the front door of the town hall, another shaded the front window of the store of Montgomery Lane, occupied by the late Wib. Crozier. The third attractive tree extended its branches in front of the Bank of Commerce. So, through



A SCALE MODEL OF THE Bruce St. School has been constructed by retired Milton lawyer T. A. "Tommy" Hutchinson. A former trustee of the school, he's one of the proponents of keeping the old school standing as a link to Milton's storied past. Tommy is pictured with his model and former principal Edgar Foster, Milton's "Mr. Education." (Photo by R. Downs)

swinging axe and chain-saw, the present generation in Milton has been deprived of the shade and beauty of those trees.

7. The beautiful flower bed at the west side of the Post Office, which received the loving care and attention of Bill Randall for a number of years, succumbed with the widening of Martin St. to enable large trucks, with 16 wheels, to turn the corner.

8. The block-long line of high pine trees, which grew on the south-east side of Main St. disappeared to make way for the Imperial Oil gas station.

Links with past
In view of all this tearing down and digging up, I think I have the right to ask this question: What are we preserving in Milton, to link the past with the present?

The fate of our old stone public school buildings hangs in the balance. Money seems to motivate the discussion. If the old school was in the United States, or in many other countries, it would be preserved, regardless of cost. If a visitor comes to Milton, what can we show him or her, which has historic value? A short time ago, some modernists tried to terminate the life of the old cable cars in San Francisco, but the cars are still running, regardless of financial loss.

In my travels, I have seen many buildings which have been preserved for associated history, cultural knowledge and for the enjoyment of people. England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, European countries, Mexico and the United States take pride in what they can show visitors and retain for the enjoyment of their respective people. To mention only two examples, I refer you to two small buildings in the United States:

1. The smallest post office building, located midway between Miami and Fort Meyers on the Tamiami Trail.

2. The oldest wooden schoolhouse, at St. Augustine, Florida, which was built during the first Spanish occupation, long before the Revolutionary War.

Many uses
I am not alone in my intensive interest for the preservation of our old school. My wife taught in it and I served on the school board 50 years ago. The building personifies history. It can be repaired. It still has usefulness. One can suggest many uses; a library, an auditorium or working accommodation for senior

citizens, a gymnasium or sports room to keep our boys off the streets, or offices for some of our municipal bodies which are now working in restrictive quarters.

The cost? Let us forget about that objection. Recently in Toronto, a group of lawyers created a fund to move an old frame building to a site among skyscrapers, on University Ave. I say, with all sincerity, I believe the demolition of our old public school will be an act of sacrilege.

Affection
I believe I am reiterating the feelings of Edgar Foster, who served as school principal for a number of years, and also the feelings of a large number of teachers and many pupils. Among the names of those who attended or graduated, we find many who have distinguished themselves in professions, and in the political, business, educational and cultural life of our country. The large, overflowing crowd which attended the official closing ceremony, on a rainy night, is an indication of the affection and attachment held by many to the old, stone school.

Let us preserve the building, not for ourselves only, but for those who will survive us.

Restrict cutting of trees

Halton County Council has passed an updated by-law covering the cutting of trees in the county. The by-law forbids the cutting of trees unless they reach measurements that are specified in the by-law.

The by-law makes provision for a fine of \$500 or three months in jail for every person convicted of contravening the by-law.

Three by-law officers will be appointed to enforce the

provisions of the by-law and be paid on an hourly basis and called to work as required.

Generally the restrictions in the by-law govern the destruction of trees by cutting, burning or other means.

Never make the mistake of thinking that you have to use dollar signs in order to spell success.

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BRUCE McKERR,
Works Superintendent

Ottawa Report

by Terry O'Connor — Halton MP



Disperse festival funds

Milton Community Service Clubs held their final meeting Thursday night at the town hall. Members met to disperse funds and agreed to \$100 donations to St. John Ambulance, Milton Optimist Air Cadets and Milton Youth Centre after all expenses had been met.

A small profit was realized from the Snow Festival held last February. MCSC is now officially disbanded.

The snow festival will continue this year. Milton Recreation Committee under the direction of director Bob Small will sponsor the event.

Local pilot wins race

Milton pilot Helen Barter, one of only three women pilots among 31 entered, won the second annual Guelph Air Rally recently. She and her co-pilot Simone Breukel of Scarborough had a 99.189 efficiency score in the 246-mile race, flying a Cessna 172. They won \$250.

Tom and Barbara Brotherton of Limehouse came second with a 99.0965 score and a London couple came third with 99.

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Most Wednesday evenings in June, there can be heard on Parliament Hill, strange guttural yells, grunts, groans and the occasional cheer. No, the Members of Parliament have not resorted to physical methods of persuading each other of their points of view. The scene is the front lawns of the Parliament buildings, and the occasions are the annual softball games between the Members and the Commons Protective Staff and the Press Gallery.

Overweight and out-of-shape bodies are forced to dive headlong for a line-drive or made to lumber down to second base. Points of order or privilege are raised only when a batter "knows" that third strike was a ball and the umpire "knows"

base-coach. Highlights of the games included the efforts of Warren Allmand, who, when not playing a tight second-base and wielding a heavy bat, is Canada's Solicitor General in charge of the penitentiary system. After stealing third base, an act quite unbecoming of the country's chief law enforcement official, he was immediately ordered to return it.

John Reynolds, a Tory member from B.C., hit the longest home run since the Great Pipe Line debate—right into the tulip bed to the West of the Peace Tower.

Our star
The people of Canada will be proud to know that their elected representatives can do more than vast talk. We shipped the Commons Protective Staff 21-3, and cleaned up the Press Gallery 19-9. And the people of Halton will be proud to know that their (honorable?) Member starred in these victories as second-string right-fielder and first-string third-

umpire is someone of the imposing size and authority of Linc Alexander from Hamilton, the protester from Hamilton, the protester is wasting his time.

Party differences are set aside and national unity prevails. A Quebec Nationalist can hit a home run as well as a B.C. socialist as well as a Newfoundland Tory. Or as poorly.

Despite the distinct lack of athletic conditioning and skill, injuries are generally limited to aching muscles and shin splints. However, one ambitious press gallery right-fielder did skin his knee chasing a foul ball into the Eternal Flame fountain at the foot of the main walk.

As the cliché goes, an enjoyable time was had by all. Bring on the Expos.

If you have a problem, idea, comment or criticism, or if you simply wish to get in touch with me, please stop by or call my riding office at 326 Lakeshore East, Oakville, 844-0222.

"Some information" given on tire fires

To date no-one has claimed a \$100 reward posted by Milton Fire Area Committee two weeks ago, but "some information" has been gathered in the case of the Kilbride bridge tire fires.

Fire Chief A. E. Clement said some citizens have passed on some "helpful" information to him concerning the rash of fires on the Kilbride bridge, and the information has been passed onto the Burlington Police Department which polices that area of North Burlington. To date no arrests have been made.

Nine fires
The fire area committee, which

governs the Milton fire department on behalf of the town and four surrounding municipalities, offered the reward after the ninth fire in the past seven months. Vandals have hauled old tires to the bridge and set them afire many times over the past few years.

Meanwhile, the Halton County roads department has been asked to inspect the bridge for damages to the structure.

SAFE SOLVENT
Consumers' Association of Canada reminds consumers that water is not only the most useful solvent for removing non-greasy stains on textile articles but it is also the only one that is neither flammable nor poisonous.

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