

Champion Editorial Page

Dispelling illusions

There will be no illusions on Milton Council about the financial implications of Halton's largest municipality with the smallest population, if the words of Mayor Anne MacArthur in her inaugural address are observed.

Monday night in a pleasantly formal inaugural, the mayor told ratepayers the area is the child of the province. "In its wisdom the province decided that there should be four area municipalities rather than three proposed by the County Council," the mayor noted. She called, however, for special consideration from the province if the area "is going to survive as an economic unit without bringing the ratepayers to their knees."

Reviewing the needs of the various segments of the community, the mayor emphasized all must be considered "when we look at what I fear may be an awesome budget."

The mayor defended the council action in its plans to spend \$6,000 to furnish the new mayor's office, noting it was really the office of the town of Milton. "The council decided to furnish it with

traditional furniture which will not break down with age. Actually age will enhance it if we care for it properly."

Council is no doubt fully aware of the unknown financial implications that lie ahead, and the tenor of the mayor's address spelled out some of those uncertainties in terms of provincial support and the costs of starting up an enlarged municipality that spans 135 square miles, sparsely populated in relation to the other Halton municipalities.

We wish councillors well as they agonize in the days ahead with maintaining and extending services while still stabilizing a mill rate that is within the reach of taxpayers. The past three years have seen a relatively stable mill rate in Milton and taxpayers will find it difficult to accept that regional government should impose new higher levels of taxation beyond those which must result from normally increasing costs.

If taxpayers or council have any illusions, the mayor has certainly sought to dispel them.

Commenting briefly

The temptation is always to tell it to someone rather than write it. That's why editors and reporters often get told about a person's agreement or disagreement with a public action, an editorial viewpoint, or a public attitude. It is interesting but far more effective would be a letter to the editor outlining that strongly-held view. Sometimes we're criticized because we don't suddenly take up the cudgels for a point of view that is expressed to us. Bear in mind that issues are pressing in from many sides and our space for comment is limited. A simple, brief, straightforward letter to the editor with your name signed to it can be even more effective than more comment from us.

Next time you're inclined to "sound off" to us, put it in a letter that we can print. That will get

your point of view across and you may even feel better after having written it. We urge, of course, that you state your case fairly and without malice. Freedom of speech still requires some responsibility too.

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The inaugural meeting of Milton Council Monday reflected careful arrangements and consideration for the public that attended. Those responsible for the details are to be commended. Respectable formality in keeping with the historic event it was, was suitably mixed with pleasant informality which allowed citizens and elected officials to greet each other at the conclusion. Over 100 attended and indicated their interest, which indicates something of citizen participation.



LIKE A PICTURE POSTCARD, the stream beside Rotary Park takes on a beauty all of its own as the whiteness of the banks blends with the black of the Sixteen Mile Creek's waters. The recent snow turned Milton and district into a winter wonderland. (Staff photo)



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

Last week's column mentioned that unspeakable species, the readoholic. That reminded me of a speech I made about Good Reading Habits to a group of honour students. So I dug up the speech and propose this to pass along some of the more worthwhile points in it.

It's not primarily for students, but if you're not interested, you can go and cry over your post-Christmas bills.

I became a readoholic shortly after I learned to read. My mother would moan, as she tore the flashlight out of my hot little hand about 2 a.m. "Billy Smiley, you'll be blind by the time you're fifteen if you don't stop reading in dark corners and cubby-holes."

Well I've been reading in dark corners and bright ones, on planes and trains, in the bathroom and in bed, in revolving doors and on escalators, ever since, and I'm not blind yet. I don't even wear glasses.

firm of Brook, Carruthers, Shaw.

In due course design and detail drawings were approved, tenders called and basic contract awarded to the lowest bidder, Thurlow, Saunders and Co. of Burlington.

Milton Council favored the project as it gradually unfolded toward definitive plans and supported the final financial resolution. Your Library Board trustees are confident that the 1973 Council will be able to reflect with considerable pride when the new library is opened.

As 1974 begins, a new board of trustees will be appointed. New and enlarged. Thus it will be possible to retain continuity of experiences, while adding new blood to meet the increased responsibilities.

Before 1974 is out, Milton will really have something for all its people—but old 1973 deserves a lot of credit.

Hoping that all the old faces and a host of new ones will step many times over our doorstep—our old one and our new one—in 1975.

George E. Jackson, Trustee 1972 and 1973, Public Relations.

COUNCIL COVERAGE ROLE FOR CABLE T.V.

Dear Sir:

With the advent of cable TV and the implementation of regional government, I think one of the requirements necessary before a Cable TV company received its licence should be coverage of Regional Council meetings.

Let us see our elected representatives in action! Let us see who stands up for what, and why. Such coverage could only lead to better government.

William A. Johnson

market. I understand he got \$19 for her. Or, in readoholic terms, about twenty-two paperbacks.

Oh, I put the fear into those honour students. But then I tried to soften the blow. Told them of some of the great discoveries for which readoholism had been responsible.

Newton, reading under an apple tree. The old story is that he was sleeping, but the truth is that he had just picked up a copy of the recently published "Fanny Hill" and was definitely reading. Apple fell, hit him on the head, and we had the Law of Gravity, without which we'd be in very grave shape.

And there was the Greek, Archimedes. He climbed into the bath one day for a quiet read. Immediately he opened his book, he knew something was wrong. He leaped out of the tub, crying, "Paprika!" Somebody had put paprika instead of bath salts in his water. And thus was discovered Archimedes Principle, a very important law in the study of physics.

I don't know much about the Principle, but I think it's something like, "Half a bath is better than none."

This anecdote brought me toward my peroration. It reminded me that I knew of another Good Reading Habit. This made two. A Good Reading Habit is to read in the bath-tub.

Someone once said that the ideal learning situation was a boy sitting on one end of a log, and Mark Van Doren, the great U.S. educator, sitting on the other.

My notion of the ideal learning situation would be a classroom with thirty-five bath-tubs instead of desks. And up at the front, a super-tub, preferably in pink mother-of-pearl, for Mr. Smiley.

It might be a little expensive, but think of the special effects we could get when teaching The Spanish Armada in history, or Old Man and the Sea, in English.

Perhaps I should add that we'd be wearing swim-suits.

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Pages of the Past

From Champion Files

20 years ago

Taken from the Issue of The Champion, January 7, 1954

A plan which has been in contemplation for some years has now become effective and G. A. Dills, who has been the sole owner of The Acton Free Press and The Canadian Champion, has taken into partnership his two sons, David R. and James A. For business purposes, the firm will be known as Dills Printing and Publishing Co. Limited, instead of G. A. Dills, Publisher. The incorporation will in reality have little change in the policy of the papers or printing business since all three have been associated for several years in the Acton and Milton offices. Present plans will however, allow for a division of responsibilities. David R. Dills will continue in complete charge of production of newspapers and commercial printing. James A. Dills will have editorship of the publications. G. A. Dills will continue as senior member of the Company and will continue active association with both The Free Press and The Champion.

A diesel tractor provincial police found abandoned in Onondaga township has been claimed by a Milton man. One of his hired hands had used it to drive the 45 miles to Brant county to see a girl friend, and then left it.

Milton's 1954 council was sworn in at the inaugural meeting on Tuesday evening of this week as Clerk Adam Sproat administered the oath. Mayor Heslop presided as Reeve. C. Martin, Deputy Reeve S. Childs, Councillors C. Johnson, C. W. Wilson, R. C. Cunningham, Robert Reid, E. R. Pearen and J. Charlton took their places at the council table.

The Rolmac Construction Company of Hamilton, was awarded the general contract for the new Lowville graded school, to be erected by the School Board of Area No. 1, Nelson Township, at a price of \$119,975.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Champion, January 3, 1924

The Bank of Hamilton opened its Milton Branch in 1877 and closed it last Monday evening. The merging of the Bank of Commerce and the Bank of Hamilton went into effect on Tuesday and yesterday the Milton office opened as that of the Bank of Commerce. However, the new name was the only noticeable change as Manager Stuart and his old staff are still in charge, much to the satisfaction of the people in the town.

The annual meeting of the Halton Farmers' Club was well attended on Saturday afternoon, when all business and reports were very expeditiously disposed of by President G. E. Gastele. The officers elected for 1924 were: President, E. Harrop, Vice-President, J. Willmott; Shipper, J. H. Wilson; Sec. Treas., P. D. Hartley. Programs of interest, comprising debates, lectures, etc. will be given in the club room at some of the regular meetings, held every Saturday at 2 p.m.

The jail population was reduced to four for the first day of the year, two of the inmates doing time for drunkenness and one for vagrancy. The jail has not been empty since October 1916.

Mrs. Preston had a large Wyandotte rooster and a fat pullet stolen from her chicken house on Sunday night. Oliver Pearson's was robbed on Christmas Eve.

Between eighty and ninety brethren of St. Clair Lodge No. 135 Milton, and Campbell Lodge, No. 603 Campbellville, with several visitors, attended the meeting at the Masonic Hall held last Thursday when W. Bro. A. S. Willmott installed the officers for 1924, making the ceremony most impressive. Singing by a Masonic choir added greatly to the effect. The following past masters assisted: R. W. Bro. Jno. M. McKenzie, W. Bros. W. Panton, G. E. Sitzer, Dr. R. K. Anderson, S. R. Bews, Judge J. W. Elliot, A. A. Armstrong, Rev. Canon Naflet, C. H. Stuart, W. L. Elliot, G. H. Robinson, M. S. Sproat and W. J. McClenahan.

100 years ago

Taken from the Issue of The Champion, January 1, 1874

Municipal election nominations were held on Monday last and are as follows: Nassagaweya: One reeve and four councillors to choose. For reeve John Ramsey and Archibald Campbell were nominated. Candidates for council Messrs. George Easterbrook, James Menzies, John Kean, Duncan Gillies and George Norrish. Town of Milton: W. D. Lyon re-elected reeve by acclamation. Dr. Robertson and Dr. Freeman nominated for the Mayoralty. Councillors nominated as follows: East Ward: Joseph Brothers, S. Center, J. Lindsay, S. Hannant, M. Conway, and John S. Hatton. North Ward: C. Niehaus, S. F. Taylor and Joseph Martin elected. South Ward: D. De-war, H. Watson, and Dr. Biggar elected.

In accordance with the time-honored custom among printers of taking a little relaxation at this festive season, we will issue no paper next week. This will give our readers an opportunity to realize how utterly void of pleasure the world is to those who do not take The Champion, and will enable the printers to finish up the accumulated areas of job work. We must express our earnest thanks to our patrons for the many favors conferred upon us during the past year, and respectfully solicit a continuance of their patronage. We cordially wish every reader of The Champion a Happy New Year.

The pupils of the fourth division, Milton Public School, presented their teacher, Miss Mackenzie, on her retiring from the school, with a portfolio, as an expression of their good will.

OUR READERS WRITE:

PLOWMEN, SANDMEN EARN WILLIE'S THANKS

Dear Sir:

Every spring it is my good intention to write a letter thanking those guys who are anonymous, those guys I only know to wave to through a frosty windshield, those guys who sand and plow our country roads throughout the long winter. They are always ready with a chain to put you back on the road again. Somehow in the spring I get involved with countless jobs and never get that letter of thanks off, so I am doing it now.

Thanks fellas, I for one appreciate your efforts.

W. A. Johnson, R.R. 2, Rockwood.

ORCHESTRA'S PERFORMANCE THRILLS VETERANS

Dear Sir:

On Dec. 7 our Milton Senior Citizens Orchestra was invited to entertain the veterans at Sunnybrook Hospital and the cost of our bus fare was underwritten by the Milton Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. I am sending on to you copy of the letter of thanks received by our orchestra for the performance we put on.

Yours truly, Thomas Bradley

Dear Mr. Bradley:

Thank you and your band for accepting our invitation to come and perform for our veterans. The day was more successful than I ever could hope for. You really seemed to get through to those men with songs and music which they knew so well and which brought back so many memories, both happy and sad.

As I looked around that room, I saw men—whom I have not seen smile in weeks—smiling and clapping their hands, while still others fought back the tears as your songs brought back the memories of those days long ago.

I must confess that there were some patients who initially could not be persuaded to attend your performance but who, after a few of your lively musical pieces were propelling themselves with tremendous speed, in their wheelchairs towards the sunroom and the music—and as you yourself saw, the hall was packed with wheelchairs.

Numerous times during the following day, they have expressed how much they had enjoyed your music and songs and hoped that perhaps you would come and play for them again.

Once again I would like to thank you and your group for giving of yourselves so unselfishly to bring a little happiness into the lives of others. God bless you all.

Sincerely, Mila Peters, Head Nurse E3N, Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto.

LIBRARY TRUSTEE REVIEWS SUCCESSFUL YEAR

The Editor:

From the trustees (1973) of the Milton Public Library to all residents of the newly expanded Town of Milton—a Happy and Progressive New Year 1974!

As the year begins, it is appropriate to pay some homage to 1973. From the germ of efforts to bring our town out of the "Mechanics Institute" location in the frequently flooded basement of the Town Hall, to the present "store-front" stop-gap library accommodation, 1973 saw a rejuvenated determination to strive for truly proper facilities and role for the Milton Public Library.

Your library trustees, with a great deal of care and determination, assembling comparative facts and statistical comparisons, visiting some dozens of Ontario libraries alone—Took appropriate action to engage authoritative architectural advice.

From some seven attractive presentations the trustees chose to appoint the