

Wrongs and rights

It was one of those days. . . .

Halton Region's Chairman Alan Masson went to Toronto Wednesday to attend the unveiling of an Ontario Government report and during his absence he was criticized on three counts:

1—Oakville Councillor Gordon Brown told a Finance and Administration Committee meeting the chairman had gone to the press, behind the backs of councillors, and openly criticized councillors' attitudes for delaying progress at the region. Brown suggested a motion of censure, but it was passed up in the discussions.

2—Masson was soundly criticized by several councillors for calling a quick meeting for Friday morning in an attempt to finalize the region's long-delayed initial budget. Committee chairman Councillor Ric Morrow, Georgetown, felt the chairman should have consulted the finance committee, before calling the special meeting to deal with such a broad financial topic. Several members of the committee said it was impossible to attend Friday's meeting on such short notice. (The Friday meeting had been decided on Tuesday and mailed notices didn't arrive at councillors' homes until Wednesday.)

3—Masson's proposals for new furniture for his own office and the region's headquarters reception area were quite quickly torn apart by members of the same committee.

On the first point, someone should tell Councillor Brown that "two wrongs don't make a right." If Masson was being unethical in telling the press the councillors were a bunch of dolts, what was Brown when he reversed the tables at an open meeting attended by five

press representatives and a rate-payer?

Perhaps if the regional councillors got down to brass tacks and forgot their pettiness, the region would be a much smoother operation by now.

On the second point, everyone in Halton and especially all those in the municipal field are anxiously awaiting the region's final budget, so the local municipal budgets can be settled and proper tax bills issued. The way we see it, calling a final budget meeting before Friday was impossible and the regional chairman only exercised his right and his duty by calling the meeting at the earliest possible moment. This week, when most critics wanted the special meeting, is the only meeting-less week of the summer for regional councillors and many had booked holiday trips.

Point three, the furniture deal, appeared to be more a personal vendetta against the chairman, than sound business logic. But the point was, they rejected the furniture project in the chairman's absence, without giving him a chance to defend his proposal.

All three instances are only examples of what is happening on an almost daily basis at regional headquarters in Burlington. Unfortunately the seat of government is too remote and removed from the taxpayers in this area. It's a pity more taxpayers can't take the time to see how the elected representatives from some areas of Halton are managing (or mismanaging) their business.

Perhaps it's time the petty jealousies, the childish attitudes and the continuing conflict between councillors and staff were put aside and we all got down to the business of trying to make this regional government work. It's now, or never.

Sharing the honor

The Champion brought home some national newspaper awards again this year and that excites us for two reasons.

First of course it is a tangible recognition of the staff that attends meetings, writes stories, sells and designs advertising, develops and prints pictures, keeps track of circulation records, helps people write effective classifieds, operates computers, prepares and photographs pages, and finally prints and delivers nearly 6,000 papers each week in a variety of ways.

No awards would be possible without dedication and a team spirit that sees everyone trying just a little harder to make the end result possible.

Secondly we're excited about the awards because it mirrors the kind of community Milton is — the kind in which it is possible to produce a good community newspaper. That means co-operation, interest, acceptance and encouragement.

It means that when we don't always agree with everything, our

right to disagree is respected. It means when we need help in gathering all the news, there are those who assist in reporting to us. It means that advertisers find it a worthwhile forum in which to tell buyers about the merchandise or services they have to offer.

It means readers who register their interest and encouragement in increasing numbers by buying the weekly issues. It means carriers and store owners who deliver or sell weekly copies and postal officials who do their best to speed your copy on the way.

The Champion had to come up near the top in most of the classifications under which the section was judged to accumulate the coveted best all round award. That means a finely balanced team and a good end product.

We're proud at The Champion but we want the community to share that pride because it's a great place to be and it's an exciting community to report on. That is bound to help make any paper great. Our thanks for your help, Milton.

Commenting briefly

Deconditionalization—what on earth does it mean? Well, according to Terry Mannell of Halton Region Conservation Authority it describes money formerly allocated by the province which now goes to Regional Government. The Region now determines its distribution. Perhaps it makes sense when you think about it. We had all become conditioned to our municipalities and the Region has deconditioned us, money and all!

GO Transit service may be launched from Toronto's Malvern station to Streetsville on existing CPR lines, Ontario Transportation Minister John Rhodes announced last week. But the Ministry's announcement of plans for future ser-

vice didn't include a further extension to Milton. Guess the commuters in Milton will have to stick to their gas-guzzling, air-polluting, highway-clogging cars for a little while longer.

We take mild exception to the way a firm building townhouses in Milton, advertises its units in several papers. An artist's sketch depicts one townhouse ALONE, looking like it was a detached building. In truth the townhomes are rows of almost identical units, six to eight in a block. It isn't quite fair to picture them looking like individual units without neighbors, when we know the nearest neighbor is only a four inch wall away. What do you think?



SKINNYDIPPERS AT KELSO . . . that's what it looked like recently when a photographer caught these children playing in the sand near the edge of the lake. Although the beach was crowded that day, no one seemed to notice, or mind.



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

Well, I thought this column would have a fairly exotic date-line: Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Rue de Something-or-Other in Paris.

That's what I had in mind for the summer. My young brother has an apartment, with lots of sleeping space, in the Black Forest of Germany, or the Schwarzwald, as we jet-setters call it.

He offered it to us as a base for bashing around western Europe. It was ideal. About five hours from Paris, the same from Switzerland, Denmark, Belgium, Berlin. A day to Sweden. A mere bagatelle to Holland.

I had it all worked out. A one-day trip to Zurich, a two-day spree in Paris, a smash at a Munich biergarten (that's a coffin where you have to keep your socks up), with the occasional foray into Frankfurt or Hamburg.

Unfortunately, most of our forays this summer will be into Hamburg. That's all we can afford, and that only once a week.

There's an old nursery rhyme, which doesn't even rhyme. "For want of a nail, the shoe was lost; for want of a shoe, the horse was lost; for want of a horse, the battle was lost; for want of a victory, the kingdom was lost." Or something like that. I'm quoting from memory. I read it in the Book of Knowledge when I was eight. And along with all those nails and shoes, a good bit of my memory has been lost.

At any rate, you get the message. One thing leads to another. Or something.

That's why I'm not writing this column from the Eiffel Tower in Paris or Gumburg in Germany.

It all started with the Good Samaritans. You may recall that I wrote a column a few weeks ago about some former students who came around and fixed my garage door for nothing. They absolutely refused to accept a cent. It gave me quite a warm glow at the time.

That warm glow has, over the intervening weeks, turned into a blazing ulcer.

Not their fault. It's my wife's. She's been saying for about two years, "Bill, we've got to get the house painted."

I always agree. "Yep. Sweetie, next summer for sure." Now, our house is not something you paint on a holiday weekend, buy a case of beer and get some of your old buddies to come in and help.

It's a two-and-a-half storey edifice of brick. Driving past, you might say, "Hell, I'd paint that for \$85.00." There's just the trim that needs painting, you see.

But that is some trim. There are thirteen storm windows, thirteen screens, eleven-four shutters, two French doors, and at least 27 blackbirds in a fir tree. That's before you start painting the trim.

Well, in a burst of sentimentality, my old lady suggested we give "the boys" the job of painting the trim. I would have given them a case of beer and felt I was all even.

The "trim" is costing me \$500. Fair enough, in these days. I could have done it myself, but I'm not going to climb a 50-foot ladder unless there's a mighty fair damsel at the top. And all they found was a hornet's nest.

Next. The boss, who still calls me "Mr. Smiley" or "Sir", bless him, said, "Sir, you've got troubles, with that roof." My heart sank. I've been through it before.

Well, I don't have to go into detail. Any home-owner knows the rest. The roof is shot, everything is rotten, though it hasn't leaked a drop since we came here. The only thing leaking is the downstairs toilet, just after we've spent \$16 having it "fixed".

Farewell, Amsterdam. Farewell, Copenhagen. Hello roof. Hello, bank manager.

I shouldn't complain, I guess. Suppose those boys hadn't come to fix my garage door. I might have been lolling around in Copenhagen, saying "Pas de nuit, cherie," instead of answering the door ten times a day to loan the construction gang a screw-driver.

It's going to be a \$2,000 summer holiday. At home. It turns out that the garage has to be painted, too, and the back porch. Rather bitterly, I asked one of the "boys" if they shouldn't paint the woodpile, as well, to go with the decor. And with a nice twist of wit, he said, "Would you like us to paint the cat, as well?" He sleeps there. Why not? Green. Shutter green. With a high gloss.

They're drawing new lines

A major re-arrangement of boundaries for the next provincial election in Halton, could see the county divided into three ridings rather than the present two.

Boundaries proposed by the Ontario Electoral Boundaries Commission have been published in The Ontario Gazette and responses or submissions on the proposals are to be received to September 12.

The present Oakville would be one riding. A second would be Burlington made up largely of the area below the Queen Elizabeth Highway with a portion from Kerns Rd. west above 403. The third riding would be the balance of Halton which would include all of Milton, all of Halton Hills and a large section of Burlington.

and Oakville. Halton West, an L-shaped piece of geography is represented by the Hon. George Kerr, and includes Burlington, Nassagaweya and Acton crossing the top section of the former Esquimes.

Burlington alderman Vern Connell has already indicated he's not happy with the proposed boundaries for Burlington and has obtained the support of the city council in asking for two MPPs for Burlington.

Under the Connell plan Burlington would be divided into two ridings east and west of the Guelph Line. Oakville would be a riding and Milton and Halton Hills would be the fourth riding.

Mr. Connell emphasizes Burlington East would have at present rates 45,000 people compared to 55,000 in Burlington West. Because of more rapid growth in Burlington East the difference would gradually disappear. Both constituencies would meet minimum population requirement of 47,000 set out by the chief election officer.

Halton the largest
The Halton riding, as drafted by the Boundaries Commission and including Milton, Halton Hills and the section of Burlington would have a population of 60,770. The proposed Oakville riding has a population of 58,836.

The Halton riding is the largest in physical size of the three proposed by the Boundaries Commission in the region.

It is the first time since 1966 that the boundaries have been changed and if the proposals as drafted are accepted, the provincial legislature will have 123 seats instead of the present 117.

George Kerr and Jim Snow are not generally happy with the boundary proposals and Kerr is particularly unhappy to see Burlington divided.

Jim Snow will have to decide whether to run in Halton or in Oakville if the proposed boundaries are accepted. He lives in the proposed Halton and close observers see him choosing to seek re-election in the Halton riding if he contests the possible 1975 election.

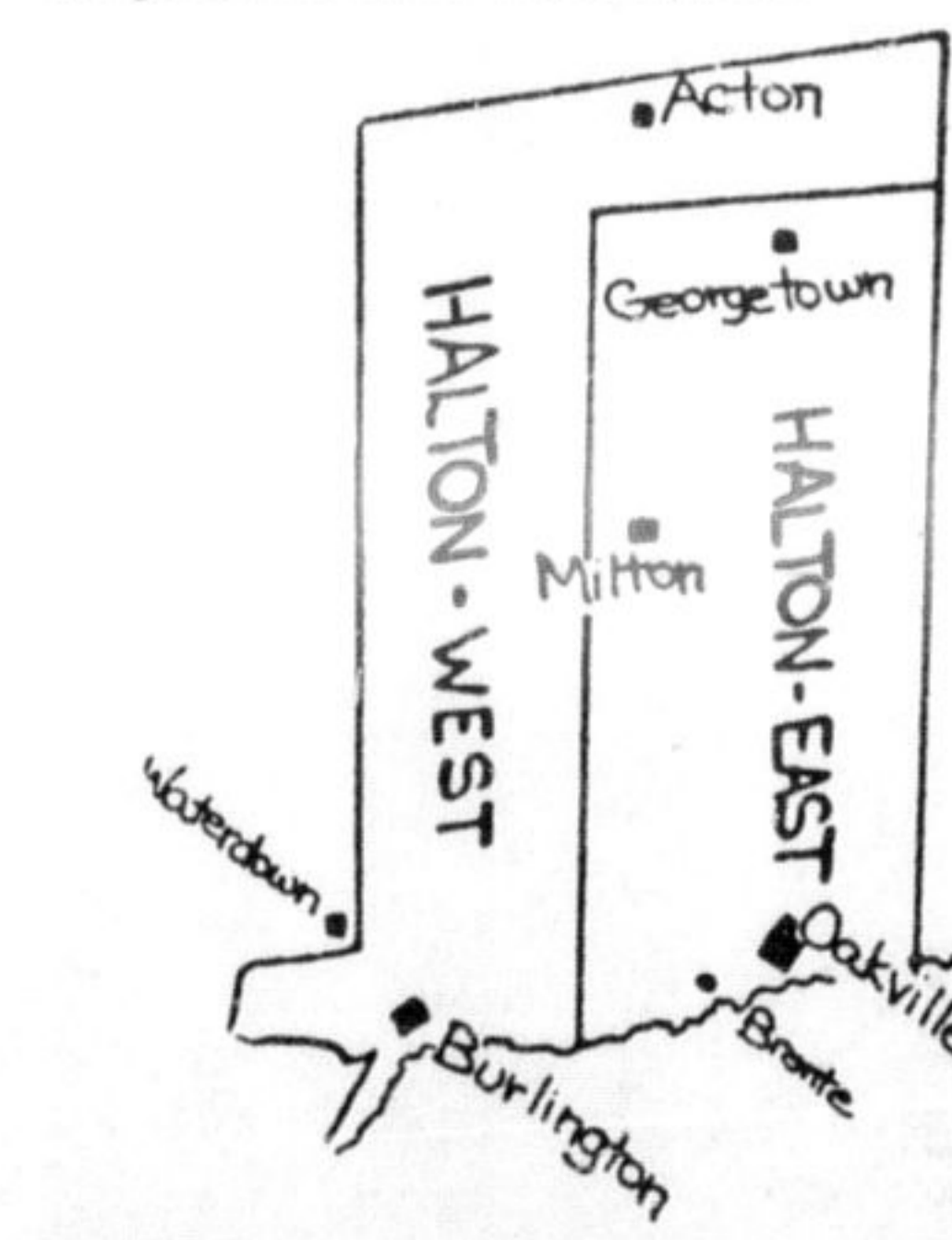
Outline principles
Broad principles which the Boundaries Commission had in mind when it began drafting the new electoral districts are cited in the proposals.

The Commission undertook to leave as many districts as possible untouched, even if this meant that in some cases an electoral district might be perhaps larger or smaller than others of a similar nature.

The factor of rapid growth was also considered as well as the effect in vacation areas of summer population.

Members of the boundaries commission are Justice Campbell Grant as chairman, Roderick Lewis, chief election officer and Professor T. Robert Sansom, Associate Professor of Political Science of the University of Western Ontario.

Submissions on the proposals should be directed to the Secretary, Brian S. McCoo at 70 Lombard St., Toronto, Ont.



PRESENT provincial ridings in Halton.

Was just two
Currently Halton, for provincial elections, has been divided with Halton East and Halton West on a vertical pattern. Halton East, which is represented by the Hon. Jim Snow, includes Georgetown, Milton



PROPOSED three provincial ridings for Halton.

Pages of the Past

From Champion Files

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, August 5, 1954.

Tremont will be Milton's dial exchange when dial service is introduced here next summer, the Bell Telephone manager for this area announced this week. The new numbers will each consist of two letters and five digits—the numbering system which is gradually becoming the standard throughout the United States and Canada.

The four day convention of the Ontario Firemen's Association opened Friday of last week in Milton and wound up on Monday, following a series of business sessions, parades, a memorial parade, picnic, demonstration of the Halton Mutual Aid and sports events. Attended by 76 delegates from the area, a total of 184 firemen registered, including 74 life members.

Plagued with speeders on the mainly travelled township roads, Nelson township has authorized Chief Constable Harvey Hunt to purchase a suitable electrical timing device to be used for checking fast drivers.

Fallen trees, broken limbs, and seriously disrupted services were left in the wake of a gale that lashed through Milton on Saturday of last week. Streets were blocked by fallen trees and branches, telephone and hydro poles were toppled and wires left in a tangled mess following the 45 minute gale that brought driving sheets of rain, preventing motorists from continuing.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, July 31, 1924.

Last Thursday afternoon Thos. Cox's saw mill, First Line, Esquimes, was struck by lightning, took fire and was consumed. But neighbors who assembled did good work and saved all the lumber, for which Mr. Cox wishes to thank them. He says \$3,000 would not replace the mill, and he is not sure that he will rebuild.

Apiarists report that their bees have not been able to work during the wet and cool weather, of which we have had so much. They anticipate a light honey crop and possibly having to feed sugar to their bees next winter.

Charlie Chin, of the Home Lunch restaurant, will leave next week for a visit to his old home in Canton, China, leaving his business in charge of a friend.

At Oakville, last Saturday, Police Magistrate Shields adjourned the hearing of the case arising from the seizure of the \$12,000 cargo of Canadian whiskey, landed from a motor boat on a farm between Burlington and Bronte. It will come off tomorrow. Sir William Hearst will represent the Attorney General's department.

Milton Golf and Country Club propose holding a local tournament on Friday afternoon. It is hoped that all the members will be present, as the grounds are now in splendid condition.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, August 3, 1899.

A farmer on the fourth line reports that last Sunday morning, as the family were sitting down to breakfast, their attention was called to a man passing with a team and hay-rack. An hour or so afterwards he returned with a load of hay and turned at Bannockburn school toward Acton. There can be no excuse for this Sabbath desecration, and the law-abiding observers of the fourth commandment in this vicinity do not relish such a spectacle on the Lord's Day, and will not permit it without protest.

Those who are interested in the carrying out of the proposal to engage a teacher to instruct pupils in high school subjects in the Milton public school will be glad to know that the board is moving in on the matter. All depends on whether a sufficient number of pupils can be secured at \$10 a year for those who have passed the high school entrance exams and \$5 a year for those who have not, but who want to take up the classics. Those who intend to enter pupils should call on Secretary J. M. Bastedo and sign his guarantee sheet. Mr. Bastedo will be happy to give further particulars.

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