

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Dec. 30, 1954
 Among members of the cast of 60 who presented a Christmas pageant in St. Paul's United Church last week were those in the Nativity scene: They were William Mahon, John Hall, Mike Ledwith, wise men; shepherd Charlie Thomson, Denzil Lawrence, James Gilbert and Jack Thistlewaite; Mary and Joseph were May and Jim Johnson; the angel Margaret Whewell and the star Shirley Brown.

Administration of municipal affairs in Milton, through the meetings of town council, consumed an estimated 1,988 man hours on the part of the nine men and two clerks, in 1954. This is exclusive of committee meetings and time spent viewing situations on the part of municipal officials to make their own decisions.

Miltonians mailing their Merry Christmas and Happy New Year messages bought 113,000 two cent stamps to convey their wishes. About 135,000 letters were mailed at Milton post office from the first week of December until Christmas.

Signs of progress in Milton in 1954: In July, predictions were given firmer foundation that the long proposed Toronto-Windsor expressway would pass just north of Milton, providing a vital east-west link. Recreational facilities were augmented when the Rotary Club began actual construction on the wading pool in the park playground area in October. The pool was completed and is now ready for the new year. At the final meeting of the year indications were given that services would be installed in the south section of town, indicative of more development in 1955.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Dec. 25, 1924
 Report of S. S. No. 10 for the Fall Term: Sr. IV—Irma Smith, Melvin Joe, F. Robertson, Hughie Mills; Jr. IV—Ruby Flintoft, Seena MacArthur, Grace Robertson, Jack Turner; Jr. III—Reggie Winfield, Mary Mills, Stanley Joe, Austin Dunn; Sr. I—Ugo Tonelli, Ernest Tonelli; Jr. I to Sr. I—Arthur Dunn; Jr. Pr. to Sr. Pr.—Grace Flintoft, Verna Joe, Angelo Tonelli; A. Pr.—James Mountain, E. M. Rentner, Teacher.

Dec. Report of S. S. No. 6, Nassagaweya: (Marks based on daily work and examinations): IV—Leslie Sim, Cora Lush, Percy Hilson, Maria Martin, Ernest Lloyd, Jack Lloyd, Lloyd Chisholm, Maria Mahon, Pearl Harvey; Mary Wilson; Jr. IV—Laurnette, Wilson, Maria Newell, Margaret Lush, C. Robertson, Jas. Robertson, Kathleen Harvey, James Hilson; Jr. II—Edna Sherwood, Norman Hilson, Howard Lush, Dick Martin, Bella Dean; Jr. II—John McTrash, May Coppo, Frieda Maplesden; Sr. I—Mary Ferranto, Jack Wismer, Jack Robertson, Violet Remblet; Jr. I—Billy Mahon, Marshall Wilson, Edmond Newell, Grace Cordner; Sr. Primer—Mary Hamilton, Hester Sherwood, Stanley Ferrier, David Ferrier, Walter Wismer, Pearl Mays; Jr. Primer—Tony McTrash, David Wismer, Mario Zecca, Erminio Zecca, Charlene Hilson, Melvin Brown, No. enrolled 45; average attendance 36. L. M. Black, teacher.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Dec. 28, 1899
 Art Chisholm of Hamilton and Fred of Toronto, sons of Councillor Chisholm, spent Christmas under the parental roof.

ASLICK FRAUD—A well dressed young Englishman, calling himself Mr. Parker, apparently about 30 years of age, called on Wm. Wheeler, of the 1st Line, Esquimaux on Saturday evening, 16th inst., representing himself as being a man of extensive means. He had, previous to coming to the house, been making a survey of the farm, which belongs to Mr. Alton, of Nelson, and stated that he was about to purchase it, naming the purchase sum of \$12,000. Mr. Wheeler kindly took him in and gave him every attention, keeping him over Sunday. Monday, he took another walk over the farm, Mr. Wheeler and his sons being absent at the time. Before starting on his second survey he asked Mrs. Wheeler for permission to put on a pair of overshoes that lay in the room, and then, without saying "good-day", he quietly took his departure and has not since been heard from. Evidently he is a gigantic fraud, and Mr. Wheeler's kindness was totally wasted. However, he wishes to advise the public against entertaining this interesting character, whom we trust will soon find himself in the proper locality—namely, our county jail.



A midtown scene in Milton features the winter season in all its contrasts, seen along the banks of the Sixteen Mile Creek as it winds its way to the lake past the impediments and the snow decked banks. A back-to-nature setting hardly expected a short step from the hustle of the season nor far from its banks.



Sugar and Spice
 by bill smiley

And the same to you! I probably should have sent off a Merry Christmas column to all my readers about the first of November, to make sure it was received by December 25th.

I know this won't be. But it's not your faithful chronicler's fault, nor the fault of violence, rape, murder, and muggings. They probably use a shovel. Shovel it into a corner until some day, between coffee breaks, they are so bored that they resort to sorting and sending the weekly paper.

People in that august institution must be afraid of getting their hands soiled by handling the average weekly newspaper, full of violence, rape, murder, and muggings. They probably use a shovel. Shovel it into a corner until some day, between coffee breaks, they are so bored that they resort to sorting and sending the weekly paper.

When I was in the business, we used to mail the paper on Thursday, and people in Ohio or Texas would receive it on Monday. Nowadays, I count on my weekly paper being a week late in arriving. Time after time, I've been tempted to take up my typewriter and dash off an encouraging note to a weekly editor who has written a particularly pungent editorial, only to pause in the certainty that by the time I'd received his paper, and the time he'd received my letter, the hot issue he'd attacked or defended would be three weeks old, and as cold as corpse.

Well, we mustn't be mean at Christmas, must we? Although I don't see why not. The same miserable sods are going to be around on Boxing Day, and the same inefficient, insolent institutions will be back in business on Jan. 1.

Since it's too late to wish everyone a Merry, I'll put everything in the past tense.

I hope you got exactly what you wanted for Christmas, whether it was a baby or a kazoo or a sober husband.

I hope you got Joy. And if you didn't, I hope you were happy with Myrtle or Hazel or Pearl or Genevieve.

If you wanted a pair of those foam-rubber kneepads for scrubbing, I hope you got them. And if you wanted a mink wrap, I hope you didn't.

I hope you were not pregnant if you didn't want to be, and were if you wanted to be.

I hope you didn't bust your bum on those new down-hill skis, or bust your heart on those new cross-country skis, both of which you are too young or too old to be doing anything with except feeding the living-room fire.

If you are old and lonely, I hope you received a warm telephone call - about 15 minutes worth, and not collect - from someone who is young and loves you. And if you are young and lonely, I hope you got a long telephone call, collect, from someone who is old and loves you.

If you are a farmer, I hope you slept on Christmas Eve with visions of sugarplums and reindeer fast in your head. Jeez, a guy can't make any money on beef these days. Might as well get into reindeer.

If you are a schoolteacher, I hope you remembered at Christmas that you too were once a fat and ugly duckling, riddled with pimples, shy to the point of fainting if asked a question, lazy as a cut cat, sort of dirty, really, and yet a striving, yearning, beseeching human being.

If you were a mother at Christmas—well, all I can say is that I hope you believe in a life after death.

And if you were a father, well, all I can say is that I hope you, too believe in a world in the hereafter. Preferably segregated.

If you are a business tycoon, a union leader, or anyone in the upper echelons of education, I hope your ulcer ruined your Christmas dinner.

If you are an old maid, and have been lurking these many years in the fold of your

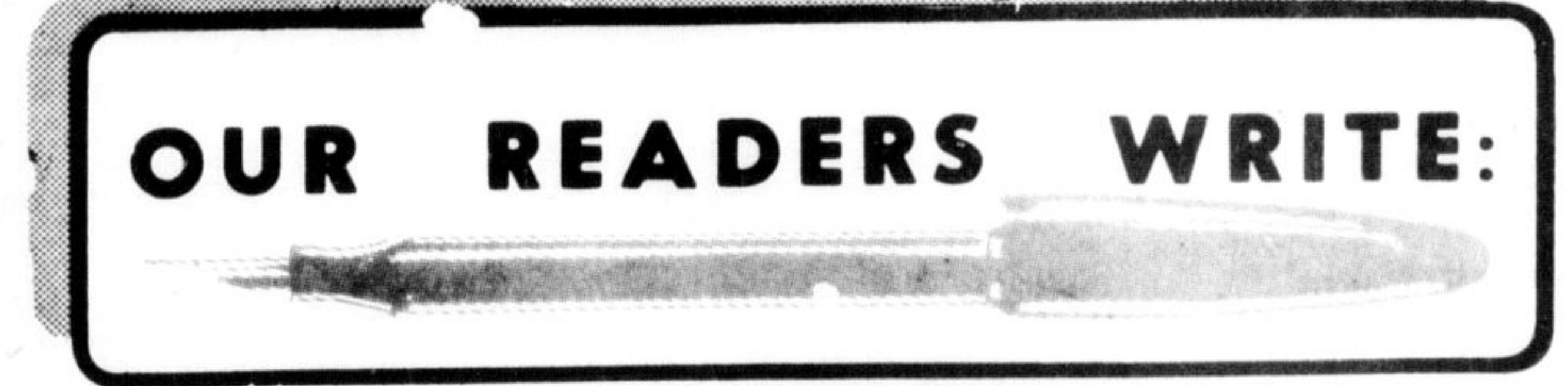
Whatever happened at Christmas, hang in there. We need you. We hevers of wood and drawers of water, as Canadians are known, have to stick together and keep on hewing drawers.

Every time there comes a crack about hevers and drawers, I burst into a hue and cry. Bursting into a hue is fairly simple. I can turn purple on very little provocation, as my family will tell.

Almost anybody can hew or hue. But the drawers are the problem. Nobody wears drawers any more. How can you cry them when there ain't none. This is a problem that Canadians are going to have to give a good deal of thought to in the coming year.

Well, those are my season's greetings to Awl and Sundry (my legal representatives), as well as to all you faithful readers.

And lang may your lum reek, on New Year's Eve.



GROUP STRESSES VALUE OF HUMAN LIFE

Dear Sir:
 We, in HALTON PRO-LIFE, are concerned about the total concept of life and how we, in the society of man, value that life. Many are searching for the cures of overwhelming social ills. We cannot solve any of our problems if we are unkind, uncaring and unfeeling toward each other and those with whom we disagree. No one ever said that it would be easy, but if we, who stand in defense of "life" and the "value of life", do not respect every life—then we are standing on a foundation which will not support our position.

This is the season of love. The season in which we all stop to take a deep breath and share our blessings with those we love and those in need. May we express the hope that in the New Year each of us will recognize ourself to the value of human life. Life is no idle gift.

HALTON PRO-LIFE, "citizens concerned for life," wish you and your readers a joyous, happy and safe holiday season.

Yours for LIFE,
 Mrs. Lynda Ciancone,
 1st Vice-President,
 HALTON PRO-LIFE,
 364 Aurora Cres., Burlington.

SPRING CLEANING MUST START AT QUEEN'S PARK

Dear Sir,
 Environment Minister William Newman's refusal to ban non-returnables in Ontario tells us, the taxpayers, just how far democracy is allowed to go in Ontario. Newman accepted recommendations of the Solid Waste Task Force—dubbed the Solid Waste Task Force because it was overloaded by those people representing vested interests. Many municipalities have asked, nay demanded, a ban on non-returnables. Garbage disposal costs the taxpayers of Ontario \$100,000,000 per year. Non-returnables make up a large percentage of our garbage, and they also contribute to the volume of our landfill sites, plus they eat up valuable resources, energy, etc.

I am convinced that losing a few by-elections hasn't taught Mr. Davis and his cohorts a lesson. Our spring cleaning must start at Queen's Park.

William A. Johnson,
 Chairman G.U.A.R.D.
 (Group United Against Rural Dumping)
 R.R. 2, Rockwood.

Your letters to the editor are welcome on topics of current interest. Please be brief and be sure to sign your name.

Peering into a new year

Pundits, columnists, business leaders and even editorial writers polish up their crystal balls at this time of year and attempt to penetrate the new year now on the horizon.

Qualifications for the swami role are not significant. If you're on top of the news and have an eye to the predictions of others, you're bound to hit on some success. Naturally when you look back in the months to come you'll dwell on your successful glimpses, rather than the ones you missed on.

With that apologetic introduction, we blew the dust from our very own crystal ball and peered into the hazy images of things yet to be.

Yes, there is to be more house construction in Milton and many will continue to wonder where all the new residents will ever come from to fill the accommodation. A dip in mortgage rates early next year will produce another crop of buyers and the town's population will continue to increase as more and more learn of its convenient location to city facilities and outdoor recreational opportunities provided amid the "small town" environment.

In the second year of regional government, watch for the politicians to start talking about a single tier of government, as opposed to the present area and regional levels. The first year has indicated that councillors are having difficulty being the parochial area politician while also thinking about the needs in the light of the total region. Heady debate on the issue will likely emerge.

Regional police will take over the total Milton area. They currently don't cover Nassagaweya, which remains under the coverage of the OPP. The regional force will move into the two former townships and Acton to complete the transition from the former individual forces in each municipality that was the case before regional government. The transition will be completed in the first six months of the new year.

The location of headquarters for the Halton Region will continue to be a controversial subject, although most of the northern representatives seem to have acknowledged that centrality of location isn't as important as proximity to the powerful southern voting bloc. If you drew lines horizontally and vertically through Halton you'd end up with Milton as

the most central location. Early politicians learned that lesson over 100 years ago but apparently it isn't a valid argument today—if you listen to the heady talk about the weight of voters in the south.

Development of present parks in Milton will get a boost next year. Blocks of land already in municipal ownership for development will see the first work on some of them this year. There will probably be some small extensions to park land, which would be wisdom if we think of ages yet to come and the value of those open spaces.

There will be a move at the regional level of government to increase the allowances paid to elected representatives. It won't come until the furor over attempts in Ottawa to enact a raise have had time to die down, but many of the same arguments will be trotted out as inflation and costs continue to rise for the politicians as well as the citizens.

The gnashing of teeth will continue but the plans for new hydro lines in the area will advance and as the time between finalization of the route and the actual time of construction gets longer, the public concern will diminish until the construction crews arrive on the sites. Those affected will naturally maintain their continuing concern.

The problem of how to preserve good agricultural land without restricting the rights of those who own it and want to sell it, will be a continuing nettle for governments and land owners. Organizations seeking some concensus to present to government will understand the impossibility of concensus amid owners with varying situations and expectations.

There will be similar problems as the municipality seeks methods to encourage strengthening in the downtown core area. Individual property owners and merchants will continue to face the obstacle of unanimity in what should or should not be done. Planners will be struggling to encourage the survival of the downtown core area and keep it a valid shopping area, but with so many individuals involved it will be difficult.

In the meantime the first stages of the construction for the expansion of Milton Plaza will be advancing before too far into the new year and new commercial operations will be established there by this time next year. The impact on the community will be beneficial in the long term and more shopping "at home" will be developed.

Now it's your turn. Make your own list of events and activities you see on the horizon. Let your imagination soar and you might be surprised how close you come.

But do look ahead...with optimism. A whole new year stretches ahead and every day is a new opportunity. Make the best of it as an individual and as a citizen of Milton. Don't hesitate to offer your suggestions for your town, but be constructive. Don't get caught up in the negatives that so often dot discussions...and do have a happy new year.



FROZEN SURFACE of the Sixteen Mile Creek at Campbellville is thin and the rays of the warm afternoon sun bounce off the water as it

shoots over the tiny falls. It's winter again with all its bare reality.