

Between the Willows

By Don Byers



UNBEAUTIFUL JOE, PART TWO

Those of you who caught Part One of the saga of "Joe", the reluctant Pinto, will recall we left him snug and warm in his box-stall-emerging into the wintry weather only to whinny for Room Service every time any of us stepped out of the back door of the house.

As we rejoin our story, as they say on the soap operas, early spring has arrived. Except in the woods, the snow has all but disappeared. But the grass is yet to green. The ground is wet and soft. And the surface of Walker's Line is sopping, between flowing ditches, either side.

The Galashan boys, Bob and Tim, next door, had acquired a horse during the winter. A nice, quiet, obedient horse.

One sunny day they invited son Rick to go riding. In response, he saddled up "Joe" who had had all those long, winter nights to invent new ways to frustrate the whole idea of being ridden—including how to make it almost impossible to tighten the cinch strap to ensure the saddle wouldn't slide off the moment you mounted.

Rick persevered and was soon off to join his friends, leading "Joe" down the driveway.

At Walker's Line he mounted the Pinto and proceeded, at a slow pace, on the very edge of the road, towards Galashan's. It wasn't long before he realized that "Joe" had out-smarted him, after all. The cinch was loose. Immediately he "parked" the Pinto in the entrance of the nearest driveway.

Before he could dismount, a car slushed by. Whereupon "Joe" tore off in his version of the Charge of the Light Brigade. Taken by surprise, Rick dropped the reins and made a desperate lunge at the animal's flying mane. Without warning, "Joe" stopped so suddenly you would have thought he had air brakes. Rick kept on going, over-the-top, to land with a soggy "kersplunch" in the ditch.

To his credit, "Joe" did return to the scene of the crime—there to stand surveying with curiosity his cursing companion who, by this time, was standing, soaked, and knee-deep in water.

More determined than ever, Rick tightened the cinch using the "knee-jab" technique. (Explanation: You take firm hold of the cinch strap and, at the right moment, jab your knee into the horse's fat belly. As he exhales like a surfacing whale, you pull like hell and secure the buckle.)

Reunited, rider and horse continued on their way.

Then the slushing sound of another car approaching from behind them.

Rick reined back until the bit was almost in the Pinto's throat. But to no avail. "Joe" was off and running.

This time he executed a 90 degree turn at the end of our own driveway. Not Rick. He was in the ditch again. He never returned to the saddle.

As spring wore on, "Joe" created one crisis after another.

Such as the night my wife and I were returning home rather late, after a pleasant visit with friends in Oakville, to hear the telephone ringing the moment we got in the house.

Who calls anybody at 3 a.m.?

It was the voice of a neighbor, obviously suppressing a big bunch of anger.

"Could you please come and get your horse? He's grazing on our front terrace."

He was. And everywhere he had plunked down one of those huge hooves he had left a six-inch hole in the soft, green turf.

Sons Rick and Dave spent most of the next day filling the craters with topsoil from the woods.

Seems to me "Joe" spent more time out of his own pasture than he spent in it, "Greener fields" and all that.

Summer was a daymare. I've known Beagle hounds who wandered less than he did. By the end of August I was becoming a prime candidate for a mental institution.

When fall arrived we knew there was only one decision to make.

"Joe" must go!

In the end we gave him away on the promise he would have a good home. And out there, somewhere, the unpredictable Pinto is probably driving some other family around the bend.

I wish I could say: "Nice to have known you, Joe."

But I can't.

Calling all Boys' Brigade members—you can sign up now to attend the Brigade's centennial celebrations in 1983.

Robert Carr, of the BB Centennial Committee, is anxious to contact all former officers, leaders, boys and friends of the Brigade. Write him at 6 Angus Dr., Willowdale, M2J 2X1



TENNIS CHAMPS: Three members of Milton Tennis Club received trophies following the club's annual meeting at the Canadian Legion Hall Saturday evening. Holding two trophies at left is Jeff Smith, honored for his outstanding performance on the courts in both the men's singles and men's doubles divisions. Centre is Joanne Garside, champion in the women's singles division, and at right is Don Hunt, awarded a trophy for his wins in the men's singles category.

Don Lambert

(Continued from page One) Irreplaceable. Industrial, commercial and residential growth will gravitate naturally to our area. Therefore it only remains that our official plan accommodate and control this natural growth in the manner Miltonians desire," he said.

High-rise limit
He favors limited high density and high rise buildings and suggested height limitations on high-rises so the profile of the town is not "spoiled by blotches of high-rise structures."

Plenty of open space and an identifiable, pleasant downtown shopping area are also important, he said, and favors a Norwich Plan or Streetsville-type renovation project for the downtown core.

Mr. Lambert also opposes the twinning of Memorial Arena and feels an arena should be a downtown facility.

Council should act as "a management team, hired by the ratepayers to manage the town the way the residents want the town to be run," he feels. "Too often, this is not the case."

He added his main hobby since moving to Milton from Toronto six years ago has been "keeping a close watch on development and growth patterns and personally

The average Ontario family spends less than one cent for the amount of electricity it uses in making coffee and toast any morning.

promoting the pleasant 'small town' living environment that most of us enjoy in Milton."

A neglected heating system can let you down when it is most needed. Have yours checked, before winter sets in.

Gordon objects

Planners okay Syers rezoning

In spite of objections by Councillor Don Gordon, Milton's Planning and Development Committee recommended that a zoning exemption be granted to Ken Syer for his retail-wholesale carpet outlet on Steeles Ave. The recommendation was made during the meeting Tuesday night.

A technical report prepared by Milton Planning Director Bob Zsadyani recommended the exemption be granted providing the applicant is willing to meet a number of conditions.

The conditions include modification of the site plan, dedication of 1,880 square feet of land to the Halton Region Conservation Authority for channelization of the Branch WD of the 16 Mile Creek and the final condition will see the applicant remove the old Milton Park Dairy Building within a specified time period.

14,755 Square feet
The planner explained that Mr. Syer intends to expand his present facility of 4,750 square feet to a total gross floor area of 14,755.

The expansion is planned to take place in two phases. The old dairy building will be used temporarily for storage and

sale of remnants. The Committee suggested that building be taken down within the next two years but agreed an extension should be looked favorably upon if in two years there was some valid reason for the building not being demolished.

Mr. Zsadyani told the committee that the change from industrial to commercial could be justified in view of the fact that there are few if any industrial proposals that could make use of the property.

Councillor Gordon's objections to the re-zoning were based on his objection to building in the flood plain and a feeling that the expansion on Steeles Ave. could provide stiff competition for a carpeting outlet downtown. He said he didn't think it would be fair to rezone the property there and put the downtown firm out of business.

He complained about the provision of a 24 foot road serving both the carpet outlet and the proposed German Canadian Club. If they are both full people will be trapped in there," he said.

threat of a flood would be alleviated.
Councillor Rick Day saw it as an opportunity to clean up a "dumpy area". He said getting the easements for channelization could expedite that work.
Councillor Art Melanson

noted a rezoning across the road had gone through quickly and he suggested the argument to keep industrial land was not a valid one.
"We lost the battle to keep industrial land there a while ago," Councillor Day commented.

DROUGHT STORY
Religious Television Associates, the co-operative production unit of the Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and United Churches, has completed a 28-minute film telling the story

of the Sahel tragedy (South Sahara drought) and the rehabilitation program undertaken by the African people with support from the World Council of Churches. The film titled "We were the ones who decided" is available through denominational outlets.

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