

Champion Editorial Page

One more spring?

From the vantage point of Rattlesnake Point lookout the weary days of winter seem to be melting. The fields are shedding their snow cover, the farmlands are awaiting the warming cycle that will make them productive, and the valley with its criss-cross of roads, neatly organized fields and patches of bush is a pleasant view.

Contrast that pastoral view with the tenseness in the chambers of the Regional Council as members debate where your garbage will go in the years ahead. Perhaps the electricity in the air can best be reflected in the fact that after hours of debate and discussion backed by weeks of the same and \$250,000 in consultants' work and reports, the final vote went 11 to 10 in favor of Site F.

Suddenly, with a little imagination, the view from Rattlesnake Point lookout takes on a different perspective. The 240 acres of the regional dump site stand out as a blot on the formerly pleasant pastoral scene. We're now burying tons of garbage each week from throughout the region. The winds are distributing some of the lighter material far and wide. The scavenging birds are in clouds and the effect of the blot is spreading.

There isn't much concern now in the chambers of the Regional Council. It's a few years since the site was opened and councillors are pretty happy it wasn't located in their wards or even in their municipality. The talk of resource recovery isn't prominent in many discussions because the technology really hasn't advanced too far and the costs are prohibitive. A few more acres at Site F seems to be the easiest solution when officials are reminded the area is filling rapidly.

Perhaps before the imaginative scene above is enacted there may still be time. Certainly Regional Council approved Site F in a democratic, but very narrow, vote. But just as certainly those who opposed that decision intelligently and persistently will continue to fight it. That can mean delays of months or years while all the hearings and approvals are sought. Those months or years may yet force a more equitable solution through the utilization of smaller dump sites more strategically located throughout the region.

The multi-site approach to dumps has not been politically palatable, of course. It is accepted that no one wants a dump near them. Certainly Halton Hills didn't want a dump at Ashgrove and that was bound to influence the thinking of those councillors who unanimously favored Site F, in Milton.

Commenting briefly

We're always pleased to meet readers and we meet some in places often removed from the local scene. On the weekend we exchanged greetings with Ontario's Ombudsman Arthur Maloney when he addressed the Ontario Weekly Newspaper Association's convention. He has a farm in Milton and it was a privilege to be able to express the Association's appreciation for a thoughtful address at breakfast Friday.

If you think the farmer has a simple task, you perhaps should learn, as we did, from the Ombudsman that there are 53 statutes in the Ministry of Agriculture that relate to farm-oriented problems and countless boards, agencies and commissions that are making decisions which affect the farmer. That's why the Ombudsman has a directorate of rural agricultural and municipal services to assist the farmer in his dealings with the Ontario bureaucracy.

The delivery of the weekly issue of The Champion to those outside the Milton area is difficult to anticipate. Chatting with a reader in Toronto recently, he was reporting

Oakville and Burlington representatives were split, but opposition from those municipalities is bound to be similarly motivated. Parochial bias has to show.

Similarly Milton doesn't want the dump near its hospital, within view of Rattlesnake Point, next to homes or on good farm land. Milton was, however prepared to consider a quarried area at Milton Brick. We're not aware of any other municipality suggesting any site within their limits as an alternative.

The subject is a difficult one for regional councillors. That's one of the reasons consultants get called in and paid so well. Subconsciously the politicians hope someone else will solve the difficulty. But alas, consultants merely outline alternatives, submit their bill and leave the difficult part to the politicians again. The latest gimmick is a public participation program in which professionals take the pulse of the community and provide that kind of input. Unfortunately the community's blood pressure doesn't change, until its way of life is threatened with a cancer on the doorstep.

Many in the urban centres don't recognize the problem either. A suggestion that residents be asked to limit their disposable garbage to one bag a week drew gales of protest. Some wondered what kind of nonsense that regional councillor was proposing. But the mounting volume of garbage has a direct relationship to the acres of land required for disposal, acres of land taken out of agricultural production.

The regional dump isn't a reality yet. But it has moved from the speculative stage to the status of a confirmed location. There are more thousands of dollars to be spent on testing the site and this could yet alter its appeal, but that should hardly be counted on. There are hearings ahead, possibly appeals and more hearings, before the scavenging birds swoop in on two or three hundred acres of land-filling operations that are really the regional dump.

We're still hopeful that reason may prevail and smaller locations may be considered in light of heavy opposition to the choice of Site F, and the narrowness of the Regional Council vote.

It's not a time for being complacent though. There is currently a relentless march toward the entrenchment of Site F as the regional dump.

Indeed there may be only one more spring when we can look out from Rattlesnake Point to see the fields shedding winter without a large blot on the farmland.

how the delivery had improved. But back on my desk was a handful of complaints about lengthy delays in getting the paper to the Burlington area. We're sorry about those delays and we really don't know what to do. Our local office is loyal in checking the complaints but it seems difficult to guarantee consistency. We keep hoping.

It's budget time for municipalities and boards of education and some of the statistics sound a little frightening. The Board of Education is working on a budget up more than 12 per cent from last year although there's a decline in pupils anticipated.

It's interesting to see that the escalation in the cost of the new Halton Regional Headquarters has already set in. What was always to have been a \$2,000,000 building has now been increased by \$220,000 so the Health Unit can be included. All the pressure on the Halton Region Conservation Authority to move its headquarters into the building can now be seen to have a motive too—another opportunity to increase the cost of the original building. All these figures are just estimates at this time too.



WINTER HANGS ON and a fresh layer of snow descended Monday to remind us it won't officially end until March 21.



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

There's something wrong with the economic set-up of our society. This conclusion was the one I came to after checking over my T4 form the other day. I turned white and then red when I saw what everybody is clipping out of my pay cheque.

The first, and worst deduction is for income tax. The feds got me for more in taxes than my hard-working father ever made in the two best years of his life put together.

Then I started wondering what I get from Ottawa for my thumping contribution. I wasn't exactly impressed when I totted it up. I don't get welfare or unemployment insurance or the old age pension or the baby bonus.

I get the Trans Canada highway, which I use every 12 years, if I can find a spot in the never-ending line of American hauling trailers or campers. I get the CBC, which is one of the country's great losers, financially and culturally. I get the Mounties. Who needs them? I get protection from our gallant armed forces, who could probably wrestle Iceland to a draw, although I wouldn't bet on it. I get the privilege of contributing to those handsome pensions of MPs and civil servants, with their cosy, built-in escalation. I have the privilege of kicking in so that Otto Lang can fly around like Henry Kissinger.

I help pick up the tab for those federal-provincial meetings, at the last of which so

many of the provincial premiers were hard into the sauce that it wound up in a verbal donnybrook.

I also receive the privilege of helping to pay for Skyshop bribes in Quebec, and nuclear bribes in Argentina and lord knows where else.

I have the additional pleasure of helping to pay for a wildly proliferating civil service that offers me such essentials as Manpowers, ads telling me not to smoke or drink too much, and vast quantities of propaganda churned out by the hacks of Bytown on the Rideau.

I am permitted to help pay for the annual deficits of the Post Office, the CNR, the CBC, and practically any other "business" run by the feds. In addition, they'll let me kick in to help pay out native Canadians millions of dollars for a lot of moose pasture and tundra that wasn't worth a plugged nickel until someone decided to run a pipeline through it.

As I said, somebody has got things backward. The government offers me all sorts of things I don't want or need, and fails to offer me any of the things I do need.

And that's only the beginning. Insurance companies are taking me to the cleaners: fire, life, term, health, automobile. And the only way I can get even is to set fire to the house, smash up the car, contract a disabling disease, or die. It doesn't seem fair.

OUR READERS WRITE:

MORE LETTERS ON PAGE B11

Notes other needs

The following letter to the Mayor and Councillors was filed with this newspaper for publication.

The Mayor and Councillors, Town Hall, Milton, Ont.

Dear Councillors,

Now that the decision has been made to negotiate for a 15 acre site adjacent to the Milton District High School for another new arena, I would like to express some concern on behalf of the non-skating residents of Milton.

More people today are realizing that physical activity and good health are related. However, in winter, many of our residents must travel out of town to play tennis, squash, jog and swim. We have a YW-YMCA struggling to hold classes in Yoga, keep fit, dance and crafts in drafty church halls and other unsuitable locations. Our Milton High School swim team finds it difficult to compete with other Halton schools because practise time at the E. C. Drury pool is limited. Young adults and senior citizens have no suitable meeting place for social activities.

It seems unfair that Council should decide to use designated parkland for only one section of our community. I am sure there would be no problem in raising public donations for a complete year round recreational centre from those of us who would not support another arena. It would

provide a great project for our service clubs.

I will forward a copy of this letter to the Editor, Canadian Champion. If other forgotten members of our community agree with this sentiment, then I ask them to cut this letter out of the paper, add their name and address and forward it to The Mayor, Town Hall, Milton.

Yours truly,
Joan Heard, (Mrs. R. W.)



Through the looking glass
New houses were climbing steadily when this picture was taken in January 1955. The scene is Bell St. just south of Robert. The area was part of the Fallingbrooke Subdivision that included a major part of the southern section of the town. It was one of three major extensions to the town built during the mid-50s. The others were the Mountainview area and Kingsleigh Court.

Pages of the Past

From Champion Files

One year ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, March 10, 1976
One of the worst traffic accidents in North Halton's history occurred when a stolen car driven by an 18-year-old Acton youth went out of control at high speed and crashed into a car with six youths on Hwy. 25 near Acton. All seven people were under the age of 22, and all died instantly. Milton OPP officers involved in the high-speed chase reported the car was travelling in excess of 100 miles per hour, although later reports lowered this figure. The tragic accident prompted an investigation into high-speed chases and officers were advised to use utmost discretion in similar situations.

Milton Council approved plans to buy and renovate an unused gas station on Guelph Line north of Campbellville. The purchase and renovations, to cost \$183,000 would include a fire hall, recreation centre with tennis courts and two gas pumps to be rented out.

Hydro costs to homeowners in Milton went up 11.9 per cent.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, March 7, 1957
Milton ratepayers have organized two groups of residents to deal with roads, garbage disposal, mail, hydro, sidewalk, driveway and other problems. Al LeBuffe heads the Fallingbrooke Ratepayers Association and committee members are George Gibson, Phil Garber, Tom Taylor and Syd Lamb. Residents from Kingsleigh Ct. area have also organized a group which includes Base Line residents. Its Officers are Art Broadhurst, Mrs. Dorothy Brown, Art Williamson, Brian Best and Bill Riddell.

Milton Pontiac Chiefs will enter the Senior B group semi-finals against Meaford Knights Friday, minus the services of two defencemen. Ted Hughes received a match penalty for injuring a Georgetown fan with his stick Friday night when the Chiefs closed out their season with a convincing 6-2 win over the Raiders. The penalty carries a two game suspension. Foozie Scattalone is sitting out a three game suspension.

The population of Halton County has increased by over 50 per cent since 1951. The county total is 68,297 while it was 44,003 in 1951.

A prevalence of mumps is noted by the Halton Health Unit, there were 28 cases registered in February. There were 17 cases of chicken pox, 9 measles, 4 scarlet fever, 3 whooping cough and 2 German measles.

75 years ago

Taken from the files of The Canadian Champion, March 6, 1902
A big leak was discovered in the water main at the corner of Main and Martin streets on Thursday. It had been there for some time and was responsible for the lowness of the water in the reservoir, which was supposed to have been caused by last fall's drought. The springs supply plenty of water at all times to keep the reservoir full if there are no leaks.

Tramps have been numerous lately in the north end of the country. On the 21st inst. one was arrested near Limehouse and sent down for 30 days. Last Thursday another was found in John Lindsay's house near Limehouse. He resisted arrest and Georgetown magistrates gave him six months.

Brampton, with a population about double that of Acton, pays three times as much for municipal salaries as our council does. Their municipal officers for 1902 have been appointed as follows: T. J. Blain, clerk \$250; J. J. Manning, treasurer, \$200; A. N. Broddy, collector of taxes and water rates, \$225; Thos. Moore, roadmaster, \$400; Jesse Perry, town assessor, \$100; W. J. Beatty, constable, \$31 per month; S. Rayson, caretaker, \$25; Wm. Hunter, cemetery sexton, \$80; total, \$1,850. Acton's officials for doing similar service receiving \$620, as follows: R. D. Graham, assessor, collector, roadmaster, caretaker of all municipal and school property, etc. \$50; T. T. Moore, clerk and treasurer, \$150; J. Lawson, constable, \$20.

Oliver Pettigrew, of Boyne, has a sow which gave birth to 20 little pigs about a week ago. Two died, but the rest are all right.

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