

Decision shows sight

Milton Council has shown foresight in its decision not to pursue sale of the present fire hall at this time.

It was in 1865 that Joseph Martin gave the site for "a new Market House". That was the present town hall, which over the years has included a farmers' market, lawyers' offices, an auditorium, library and other amenities.

Purchase of the Sunoco property adjacent to the town hall has made it possible to move in the easterly direction, toward the present municipally-owned fire hall.

If the post office becomes available to the municipality we would endorse municipal ownership of that as well, so it might continue to serve in its present form, as offices either for rent or for municipal use.

Location of the farmers' market each week during the summer, in

close proximity to the town hall, would restore an old custom and provide additional interest.

The wisdom of municipal ownership in the area may not be totally visible for years, but the objective set now will certainly be welcomed in the future.

Take a mental aerial view, then, of the heart of the old town and you'll see open space and protected areas like Rotary Park, the Mill Pond and Centennial Park, and the Kernighan property which hopefully might revert to its historic designation of Livingstone Park.

The long-term effect would be to give the area those unique features which are so necessary.

By agreeing not to pursue the sale of the fire hall at this time, the town council has the opportunity to reflect on the long-term possibilities for such an attractive and traditional heart to the community.

Raise drinking age

At first glance one could be tempted to agree with Oakville Councillor Carl Eriksen's assertion that the current move to increase the age limit for drinking from 18, to 19 or 20 is much ado about nothing and that the proponents are basing their argument on a terrible situation that doesn't exist.

But there are some statistics that are hard to quarrel with. The Ontario Select Committee on Highway Safety shows the percentage of 16 to 19 year-olds involved in alcohol related collisions.

The report says 5.5 per cent of such accidents involved those young drivers in 1967 but by 1975 that percentage jumped to 37.2 per cent. The age limit was lowered in 1971 and the change in statistics in the intervening years is nothing less than shocking.

Research done by the Addiction

Research Foundation indicates about one quarter of the high school students go drinking on an average of once a week.

While Eriksen contends there is really no serious problem in the high schools, the Ontario Headmasters Council takes a dimmer view.

Two years ago, the council, which consists of Ontario high school principals, passed a resolution urging that the age limit be increased in two phases—first to 19 and then to 20. The principals should know the situation in the school, and their expression of concern shouldn't be discounted lightly.

It now seems evident that the government was wrong to lower the legal age in 1971 and is now prepared to correct the error, a step in the right direction.

Santa needs help

Arranging the arrival of Santa Claus each year isn't always easy and the committee in charge of this year's event is still in need of financial support. We hope they get it.

The parade, scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 26 at 2 p.m., has become quite an attraction in the community and no one who has seen the line of children and adults along the parade route would say it wasn't a time of excitement.

Many people spend volunteer

hours arranging the details and others contribute by preparing attractive floats. The 10 bands involved indicate something of the size of the parade planned.

If you're part of an organization, company, retail outlet or an individual you may want to arrange a donation. Contact the Recreation Department at the town hall for directions.

And let's look forward to welcoming Santa in Milton.

Commenting briefly

Welcome distraction

It is difficult to gauge the impact the barrage of bad publicity about the Mounties will have on the government. One might think that the Liberal Government as well as the Mountie image will be tarnished. But some pundits claim the government will suffer little from the opposition attacks.

have been sewers and debt charges. Sewers have yet to be reviewed and the debt charges will go up by close to 11 per cent, Mr. Farmer notes.

Revisited the Tower the other day, for an update, and I was really impressed with the progress that has been made under the direction of Dunwoody's, the trustee. Dunwoody representative Martin Clarkson and building superintendent Jack Lee took me on a tour of the Tower, to see the improvements that have been made.

Philosobits

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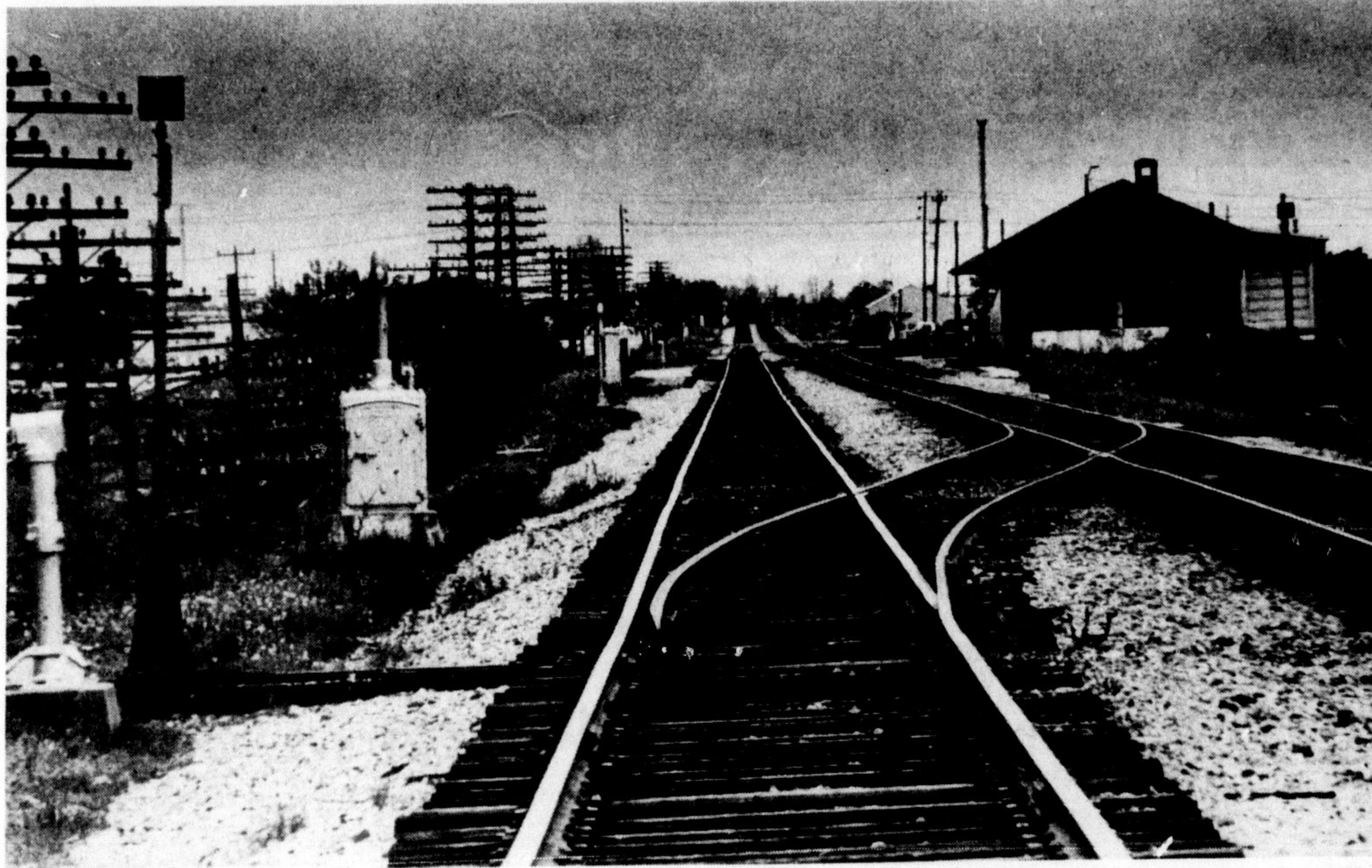
By Edith Sharpe

Budget on course

According to all of the early indications, Halton Region's budget for 1978 could come close to the goal of a 5.4 per cent increase. Treasurer Don Farmer notes that the only areas not held to that so far

Friendship is related to love, and if love is the bread of life, then friendship is in the same package.

To say "the life you save may be your own" seems like we couldn't care less about anybody else's life.



CALLING US TO FOLLOW are the train tracks which subdivide the cities, towns and country. Stretching forever into the void of the horizon, the venturesome catalyst of travel can take us from coast to coast, through mountains and around great lakes. There is no wonder why songs, ballads and stories about the silver rail are abundant in our society.



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

This has been the age of young. Rock music, drugs, dropouts, dirty denim, unisex, swinging singles, discos, and now punk rock. You name it and we've been assaulted by it.

It all began with the Beatles. I reckon, this adulation of youth. And now it's The Fonz, a portrayal of a young hood, that gets the headlines.

To be over 40, in the last couple of decades, has been just this side of being dead, as the media, the entertainment world, and business, salivated over youth.

Well, it's kind of nice to see that a lot of the old timers are still in there pitching, despite the deluge of juvenilia.

It was a bit of a jolt to hear of the sudden death of Bing Crosby recently, at age 74. But the Old Crooner was still giving some class to the shoddy world of show biz right up to the end.

Octogenarian John Diefenbaker has published another book of his memoirs. Haven't read it yet, but it's said to be as delightfully malicious and wrong-headed as the first volumes.

Morley Callaghan, well into his 70s, recently published a new novel, to critical acclaim. Callaghan, one of our finest writers, isn't getting older, he's getting better. Ignored or sneered at for years by fellow Canadians, he just kept hacking away at his vocation of being a first-class writer.

Just finished a novel, The Intruders, by Hugh Garner, and although parts of it are bad, when the dialogue becomes polemical, he still has that sure touch of realism, an ear for the talk of ordinary people, and the ability to tell a good story. Garner is no chicken either. Must be in his 60s, about half way.

Scott Young, another cracking good writer, has abandoned a daily column of trivia, with which even he was becoming bored, and has gone back to writing what he does best—honest sports stories. He's over 60.

Pierre Trudeau is not yet an ancient combatant, but he had his 58th recently, and is certainly no pushover for the young blood-thirsty wolves in the political pack, as anyone who watched the opening of Parliament could see.

And how about the Queen. She is no teenager, and she's beginning to show it, but when it comes to poise and grace and charm, very few of the young chicks can hold a candle to her.

One of my colleagues, a former officer in the German Army, is into his 60s, but could out-ski, out-swim, and out-walk most of the staff members 30 years younger.

I have another friend, about 70, who could out-think, out-drink, and out-swear 98 per cent of men in their 20s.

My father-in-law was a little disappointed to learn this year that a by-law had been passed stating that retirement was compulsory at 65, and he'd lose one of his jobs.

He's 85 and is quite bewildered when he hears talk of young fellas in their early 60s who can hardly wait to retire.

Played golf with an old, gray-haired geezer a few weeks ago. He is retired, but only because of a heavy heart attack. He plays 18 holes a day and then knocks back a few whiskies before dinner. His score was 88, mine was 108. He swims all summer and bowls twice a week in the winter, as well as working like a navy around his home.

I don't really know what I'm getting at here. Maybe I'm just sick of the youth-

worship cult to which we've all been exposed (including the young) for far too long.

Maybe I'm tired of living on a continent and in a culture in which the very people who were the salt of this country's earth are shuffled off, without honor and without shame, into places that are called things like Sunset Rest, Final Heaven—everything but Last Chance Saloon.

Maybe I'm fed up with the interminable excuses, sloppy service and half-assed work we received from so many young people whose grandparents and parents gave full measure, and believed in such hoary adages as "A job worth doing is worth doing well."

I sometimes wonder why we are so eager, in this country, to slough off the wealth of experience and wisdom our elders have to offer in our society.

Why aren't the older tradesmen used as teachers, at a decent remuneration, to pass on their skills to the half-baked young tradesmen we so often encounter when we want a job done?

There is a crying need for more day-care centres in this country. Why aren't they filled with volunteer grannies, who could love and pet and teach the children, as only they do so well?

Nope. It's easier to sweep them under the carpet; into lonely rooming houses, nursing homes, senior citizens apartments, or, in extreme cases, the Senate.

We don't want to see wrinkles and white hair and trembling hands or mouths. We want everything to be the way it is on TV.

Well, don't try to shuffle this ole boy off, when the time comes. I intend to go right on being arbitrary and obnoxious.

Unless I'm offered a seat in the Senate.



Across the Editor's Desk

By Roy Downs

Sign in a washroom at Milton Town Hall: "Our waterworks work just as good as yours, so please flush after using." (The grammar is theirs, not mine).

And above it is a heart fund sticker which says: "Put your heart into it."

A month ago I wrote a news story on Milton Tower, which has been taken over by a trustee charged with finishing and selling the town's first condominium high-rise after the original builder-owner had difficulty selling the units and was nearly forced into bankruptcy.

Revisited the Tower the other day, for an update, and I was really impressed with the progress that has been made under the direction of Dunwoody's, the trustee. Dunwoody representative Martin Clarkson and building superintendent Jack Lee took me on a tour of the Tower, to see the improvements that have been made.

The parking lot at the rear is nearly finished and most of it is in use now. Landscaping has been completed and there's even a children's play area set up at the rear.

Carpeting has been completed in all the "common" areas and the carpets and appliances will be installed in individual suites as they are sold. Mr. Clarkson explained buyers have a choice of standard carpet or upgrading it to their liking, so it would be foolish to lay carpets until the units are sold.

In the first floor area, great improvements have been made. A laundry room is complete and furnished with two coin-operated washers and two dryers, with more to come as the building fills up. Each unit has

a laundry room in the suite but a coin-op laundry was also felt necessary.

Men's and women's sauna rooms are finished and the saunas should be finished this week. The billiard room is ready and a table has been ordered. A recreation or party room is finished with a sink, stove, refrigerator and counter top soon to be installed. An L-shaped gymnasium or health centre is ready and exercise equipment will be added soon.

Kitchen cupboards and stove hoods have been installed in all the units and the lot has been fenced where it borders the railway tracks and the creek.

Both elevators are working and all alarms in the building have been tested satisfactorily, they report. The building and fire departments have carried out their inspections and except for a few minor deficiencies, Milton Tower is virtually complete. CMHC has also done its final inspection.

The condominium corporation has been officially registered as No. 57 and an association will soon be formed to manage the building.

To date 28 of the 76 units have been sold and the realtor in charge of sales reports they are going well. Oddly enough, the top four floors are selling fastest, although AHOP grants are available for families buying on the first to ninth floors. Enquiries are mainly from the Milton, Burlington and Hamilton areas, although some have come from as far away as Kingston and Ottawa. Even the penthouse suites, which sell for \$4,000 more than those on the 10th to 12th levels, are selling well, they said.

All of the work was completed by the original subcontractors engaged to work on

the building, with the exception of one local contractor who was just too busy, they reported.

It's good to see the building virtually finished and sales progressing, despite the stigma attached to it and the fact it's the worst time of year to sell such a project. Spokesmen for Dunwoody's and Polzer Realty are optimistic that Milton Tower can be completely sold and occupied by next spring.

A little town is where you don't have to guess who your enemies are. Your friends will tell you.

A little town is where few people can get away with lying about the year they were born. Too many other people can remember.

A little town is where people with various ailments can air them properly to sympathetic ears.

A little town is where, when you get the wrong number, you can talk for 15 minutes anyhow.

A little town is where the ration of good people to bad people is something like 100 to one. That's nice to remember.

A little town is where it is hard for anybody to walk to work for exercise, because it takes too long to stop and explain to people in cars who stop, honk and offer a ride.

A little town is where city folks say there is nothing to do, but those who live there don't have enough nights in the week to make all the meetings and social functions.

A little town is where everyone becomes a "neighbor" in a time of need.

Pages of the Past From Champion Files One year ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, Nov. 24, 1976

Construction of two huge hydro transformer stations is underway in Milton at an estimated cost of \$6,000,000. The stations are planned to play an integral role in the 500 kV network running from Nanticoke to Pickering.

A resounding 81 per cent of those who expressed their views on a Champion ballot want Milton to be a two-arena town. The majority also want the Brown St. Fred Armstrong Arena fixed at a minimum cost.

Reed Lumber has signed an offer to purchase a 13-acre parcel of land from Rockwell International of Canada, at an undisclosed price. The Champion learned this week. John Depoce, a spokesman for the firm, said the sale is scheduled to close January 6.

Ontario Hydro hearings of necessity began Monday at the Legion Hall in Acton and are expected to continue until today, Wednesday. The hearings will decide on the right of Ontario Hydro to expropriate property for a high voltage corridor in this area. The line would cross Highway 7 between the Fourth and Fifth Lines.

Halton exhibitors put up a good showing at the Royal Winter Fair in the Poultry, Pigeon and Waterfowl section. Eleven entrants from Milton, Georgetown and Acton and area walked home with many major prizes.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Nov. 14, 1957

Over \$1,200 in cash and merchandise was given out Saturday to 50 competitors in the annual Halton Plowing Match, held on the Norval farm of Mac Alexander. A turkey banquet was served in the Hornby Orange Hall afterward, with 200 attending.

Population of Trafalgar Township has jumped from 14,000 to 18,000 in a year, assessment commissioner E. M. Dunham reports.

Defence Minister of Canada, General George R. Pearkes told a crowd of over 200 at the Halton Progressive Conservatives' annual meeting Friday that the two Malton plants, Avro and Orenda, would remain busy for some time to come following the country's decision to continue development of fighter aircraft. MP Sandy Best and MPP Stan Hall attended the meeting and gave reports on their work in the two houses of parliament.

The recent fire inspections carried out in Milton and Nelson Township by fire inspectors from area insurance companies turned up nearly 100 hazards in the 120 places of business inspected. All those with serious hazards will be reinspected in two months.

A total of 222 have registered for 14 night school classes this winter, and about 30 latecomers are expected to register in the coming week. A total of 23 have signed up for English for New Canadians, to be taught by Mrs. Anne MacArthur of Milton.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Nov. 13, 1902

On Monday noon a Nelson farmer was seen passing Duff's barber shop with his pants on fire. T. J. Bradley followed him into Hume Bros. feed store and notified him of the fact, and the fire was quenched without the assistance of the brigade. A lighted pipe in the man's pocket caused the conflagration.

Several Guelph merchants were victimized by a slick stranger during the busy hours of Saturday night. The culprit, who is described as a short, stout man, of about 35, with dark hair and moustache, wearing a dark grey overcoat and a soft black felt hat, bought small articles at each of the stores, presenting cheques purporting to have been signed by James Coldie & Co., and Reid & Ross, getting the difference in change.

Among the merchants known to have been fleeced are: D. R. Rowen, William McLaren & Co., R. Neil, W. C. Goetz, J. & A. McHardy, Tyson Bros., Scroggie Bros., Harding Bros., Sauer Bros.

Miss Charlotte E. Wiggins of Toronto, lecturer and organizer will address a public temperance meeting in the Town Hall, Milton, on Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock. Her subject will be "The Home Ballot." Miss Wiggins was well and favorably received some time ago by a Milton audience, when she addressed them on the subject of "Franchise for Women". Refreshments will be served in the afternoon. Miss Wiggins is a bright, earnest and witty speaker.

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