

OUR READERS WRITE:

Mourns loss of pigeons

Dear Sir:
As a result of 1865 thinking on the part of Milton's town fathers, I was horrified to learn that some 30 pigeons and sparrows have been poisoned by strychnine implanted in kernels of corn which was scattered all over the town hall roof by a firm of exterminators from Brantford, Ont. according to a recent news report.
It was also reported that municipal officials approved of the poisoning, and that a pesticide supervisor from Ontario environment ministry stated that the slaughter of these birds in the manner described was "perfectly legal". Next clown please stand up.
The apparent indiscriminate use of strychnine in an area where poisoned particles can be blown all over the place by strong winds, is highly dangerous to children and family pets in particular. This whole operation may have been "perfectly legal" but in this writer's opinion it was perfectly stupid. This opinion is borne out by the fact that the operation was called off when "things didn't work out as expected."
Dating back from about 3000 B.C., the pigeon has been valued since ancient times for its homing instinct. The species of pigeon presently occupying the roof of the 1865 town hall, is believed to be the ancestor of all the various breeds of domestic pigeons. This particular species was used

by the Romans during the conquest of Gaul, and for the information of those persons who are skeptical, any pigeon can be trained to return to its home loft.
Many's the time I carried a pair of identical birds in my haversack to a forward position during the great war, so that they could carry back news of what lay beyond the range of my commanding officer's binoculars.
Shame on you, Milton town fathers, whoever you are — your ill-advised actions are clearly mirrored on the face of Milton resident Mr. Todd Thibert, who is pictured in the Toronto Star of June 22, 1978 holding two dead birds and who is quoted as saying "I don't really think it is right to do this, for the pigeons aren't all that much trouble. Right on, Mr. Todd Thibert."
Now Mr. Editor, you may recall that I jokingly told of interviewing the senior pigeon on the 1865 town hall roof at the time when the town fathers were threatening to plaster shoo bird repellent over the roof of this ancient building. That old pigeon is gone now, having been summarily executed on the orders of the bad men of town hall. However, the remaining pigeons are still on the roof, patiently waiting until a perfectly legal change of town fathers takes place, preferably compassionate fathers.
Lewis Elliott
350 Meadowbrook Cr.



SCHOOL IS OUT! This grade one class of pupils from J.M. Denyes School displayed as much enthusiasm as anyone this week, the final week in the school year. Teacher Jan Stevens wears a smile as well. (Champion photo by Peter McCusker)

Fire warning for dry spell

Milton fire officials are requesting all residents not to burn rubbish and material in outdoor fires during the hot and dry weather.
According to officials, it is illegal to burn materials outdoors, but many residents continue to do so. The present weather conditions contribute to many fires, they stated, and open fires should be avoided.
According to the fire department, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment has set out a law which prohibits fires (excluding barbecues) outdoors.
A fire call to an illegal fire often results in a fine or penalty, said officials.

Honor B. Baillie

Halton's first Director of Public Works will be honored Sept. 13 when a memorial plaque is unveiled in his memory during the opening of a reservoir in Burlington.
Robert Baillie was the region's first Director of Public Works and was instrumental in setting up the department.
He died of a brain tumor in 1975, still a young man.

Take care of their own

Dear Sir:
Well, our humble servants are looking after their own and not only with generous indexed pensions. The press reports that former N.D.P. leader, David Lewis "has recently been given his fourth Canada Council grant in as many years to write his memoirs, and now appears to be searching for a ghost writer." This is the politician who campaigned in two elections against Corporate welfare bums, living off government handouts, now puts the touch on the federal government for a final \$40,405 grant to go along with the \$83,904 he had been awarded in three separate grants since he retired in 1974.

It is always instructive to know how the Trudeau gang is spending our tax dollars to build our nation.
Edward Murphy's best seller, "A Legacy of Spending," should be read by every Canadian citizen. He documents the millions of dollars spent by the federal government in handouts. Reg Davis of the Sydney Review has this comment on Mr. Murphy's book, "I have just read a Legacy of Spending with mixed emotions of shock, disgust, horror and disbelief."
Yours truly
B. Dingman
R.R. 1, Lansdowne

Not all negative

Dear Roy:
It has become increasingly fashionable to criticise our educational system and sometimes with just cause. However, I was pleased to note in this week's Champion a letter commending one of our high school teachers. Indeed there are a number of teachers at Milton District High School who, I feel, had a positive influence on my own children.

This morning I was privileged to take part in a memorial service for one of the teachers at Martin Middle School. The demeanor of the entire student body at that time was surely a reflection of a system that is by no means mainly negative.
Yours respectfully,
Joyce Hayward,
265 Ridge Dr., Milton.

'Ridiculous statement'

Dear Sir:
What a ridiculous statement made by Bob Burt concerning Anne MacArthur. Surely he is short of copy and is looking for a controversial subject. Milton Council has chosen Mrs. MacArthur to fill the vacant post after much discussion and soul

searching. Surely we can accept their decision on this matter.
Don Gordon would be the last person to object to Mrs. MacArthur to fill this vacancy and will value her judgement on matters rural as well as urban.
Kathleen Campbell,
Nassagaweya
attest to the results of its work in the lives of boys and young men.
In our current social situation, it is encouraging for organizations such as Christian Service Brigade to have the support of the local press which so often prints only the negative activities of youth.
Yours truly,
Grant W. Russell,
Assistant Professor,
University of Waterloo.

Supported by press

Dear Editor:
I wish to express my appreciation for the excellent coverage which you provided of the Ontario Camporee of Christian Service Brigade at Kelso. The Camporee, which ran from Friday to Monday, May 26 to 28, was a great success. It precedes our regular camping program at Camp Kakeka in Haliburton, which runs throughout the summer.
As an active supporter of Christian Service Brigade and its ministry, I can

Council flip flops on fire car

In spite of strong objections from Councillor Jim Watson, Milton Council Monday reversed a decision made a week earlier and agreed to supply fire chief-designate Jim Coulson with a car for fire department business.
Earlier, council had decided to install a radio and emergency equipment in Coulson's personal car.
Coulson told council it

wasn't possible to equip a family car with siren, emergency lights, extinguishers, first aid equipment, air pack and personal protective gear.
He told council that the vehicle would stay in town when he left and would provide communication for the senior officer left in charge. Otherwise the car would remain at his home and he could maintain contact with

firefighters at a fire, even if he decided not to respond to the call himself.
He said it was important to have the car at home so he could respond directly to a call and he noted most of the calls came in off hours.
He said the few minutes saved in the case of a kitchen fire or a heart attack could be a few critical minutes.
At the beginning of the dis-

ussion the chairman for the evening, Councillor Brian Penman, said he hoped sanity would prevail during the debate and noted it had not during the last debate on the topic.
Councillor Jim Watson said, "Mr. Chairman I don't share your view. We have to think of all our departments."
(Continued on page 14)

Hwy. 403 extension added as future option

An extension of Hwy. 403 to traverse Halton just north of Hwy. 5 has been added as a future alternative option in revised transportation policies of the draft regional official plan. The change was made in response to public feedback about the plan.
Nevertheless, the policy will continue to emphasize the full development of the Queen Elizabeth Way and of Hwy. 5 prior to extending Hwy. 403 through Halton. However, the plan provides for making Ford Drive a freeway link between the QEW and a section of the 403 expected to be constructed from the Halton — Peel boundary to join Hwy. 401 farther east.
Planning staff say it will be less costly to widen the QEW to eight lanes, with a 10-lane section between Dorval Way and the link, than to build a Hwy. 403 connection across the region. (Hwy. 403 from Hamilton currently stops at the Niagara turn-off of the QEW.) The province already owns land to widen the QEW and interchanges now under construction are being built to accommodate a widening. According to 1976 estimates, it would cost \$90 million to extend the 403 across the region as opposed to \$71 million to widen the QEW.
Classification of roads by function makes the transportation section easier to read. Roads are classified as those connecting regions, those connecting municipalities, and those connecting communities.
Minor modifications were also made at last week's

regional planning committee meeting to the sections on open space and environmentally sensitive areas.

Milton Mayor Don Gordon and committee chairman Pat McLaughlin were the only members of the committee to

show up for the meeting. The planning committee has been holding weekly meetings, instead of the usual bi-

monthly, to speed up review of public response to the draft official regional plan for Halton.

CLOSING FOREVER

RICHARDSON'S FURNITURE CLOSING ITS DOORS FOREVER MON. JULY 3

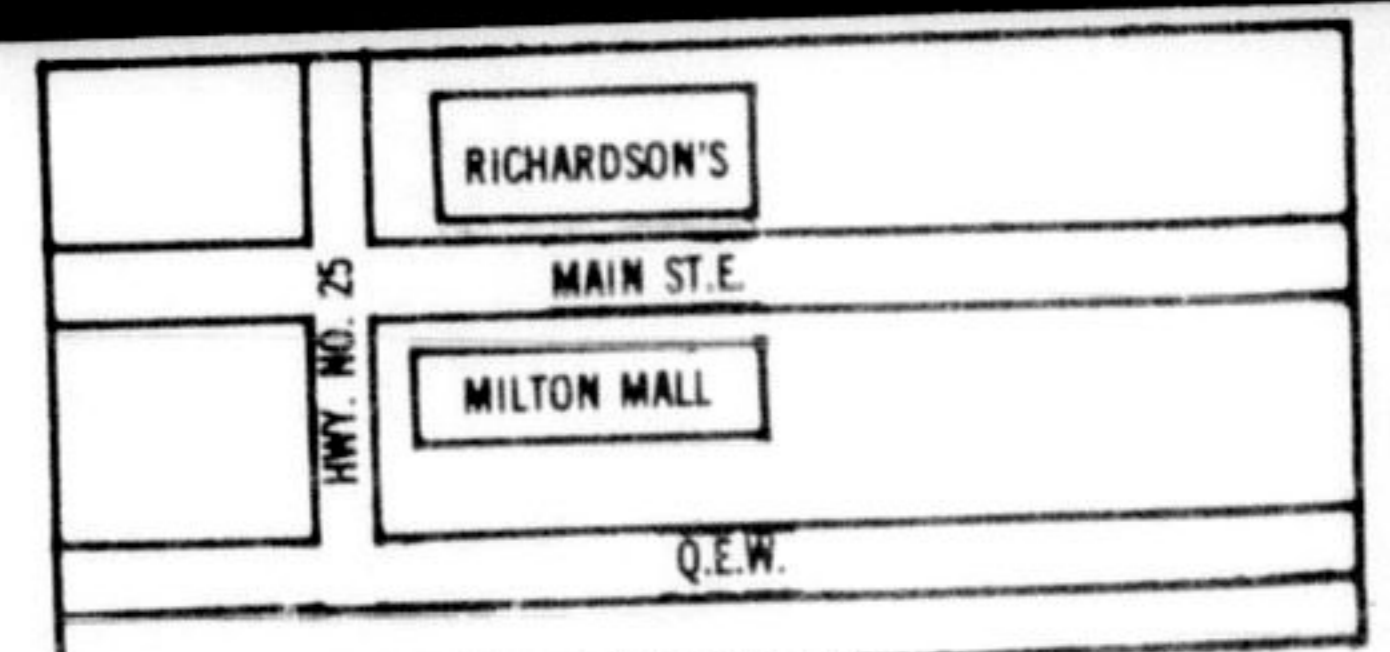
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10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

FRIDAY JUNE 30
10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

MONDAY JULY 3
10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

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- All Items Subject To Prior Sale
- All Items Must Be Taken Within 7 Days
- Delivery No Charge
- All Sales Final
- Mastercharge
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