

Established 1861

# The Canadian Champion

Published by Dills Printing and Publishing Company Limited

Jim Dills, Publisher, Roy Downs, Editor; Bob Burt, News Editor; Paul Belanger, Advertising Manager

Published every Wednesday at 191 Main St., Milton, Ontario. Member of the Canadian Community Newspaper Association and the Ontario Weekly Newspaper Association. Subscription rates payable in advance, \$7.50 in Canada; Carrier Delivery in Milton, 15 cents per week; \$25.00 in all countries other than Canada.

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## Something to remember

When you travel there are often those standout memories of places visited, sights seen or friendliness extended.

Often it's the expressions of friendliness or helpfulness that seem so memorable. We'll never forget on a visit to London, how genuinely helpful people were about directing or redirecting us to the right underground, double decker bus or street. They didn't wait to be asked, they volunteered.

One older gentleman, noting our obvious confusion, not only volunteered directions, but walked along with us several blocks to be sure he hadn't confused us further. We shared a cup of coffee and some congenial conversation and parted, probably never to meet again.

The sum total of the friendliness and helpfulness left a warm spot with us for the City of London.

It's for the same reason the Ontario Government is urging us to be helpful and friendly with tourists and visitors to our province, our community or our neighborhood. You don't have to be in one of the service businesses where you frequently come in contact with visitors, either.

The list of suggestions is worth sharing. You won't even have to be a visitor to appreciate the suggestions.

1. Smile. It's the quickest way in the world to make a friend. If you look angry, your visitor will feel uncomfortable—and that's the last way a visitor wants to feel.

2. Listen. Some visitors have different languages, different accents, different customs. If you listen carefully to a tourist's needs,

you'll be better able to help him.

3. Be polite. "Thank you" is probably the most important thing you can say to make a visitor feel that his visit has been appreciated. Simple courtesy will work wonders.

4. Be prompt. Most tourists only have a short time to visit with us, so naturally they don't want to spend their time waiting to be served. Do you like waiting on your vacation?

5. Be helpful. Try to know your area well so that you can help visitors find their way. Visitors often ask directions to hotels, banks, hospitals, restaurants, sightseeing attractions, liquor outlets and a host of other places.

6. Be clean. Nothing turns a tourist off like grubby people and dirty places.

7. Respect their money. A visitor's money represents his country, his work and his worth. However much or little it's worth in terms of Canadian dollars, never treat it as "funny money" and always give the best possible rate of exchange.

8. Wish every visitor a happy day. It makes a tourist feel good to think that somebody cares. And if a visitor feels good, he'll come back again and again.

There's a tendency here to think there aren't many tourists in this area, but a visit to the Chamber of Commerce information centre on Highway 25 would surprise you. And they are stopping in Milton.

Your smile or helpfulness to a visitor could be one of the best things a tourist will have to remember, and it could start with you.

## Commenting briefly

### What's ahead

Proposals for a new Canadian constitution sound very much to us like the early calls for the reform of county government. Then, after countless hours of debate, expensive studies and committee consideration, we ended up with what we now know as regional government. And it seems that it may take a further generation before there is any full acceptance or general understanding of that. If the whole country ends up in the same kind of situation, the new Canadian constitution will be something now undreamed of.

### Good luck

Congratulations to the Ontario Scholars who are announced in this week's issue. Achieving 80 per cent

or more in the student's top six Grade XIII subjects reflects diligence and scholastic achievement. These are worthwhile assets in an age when "getting by" is too often the accepted norm. All the best to those successful students in their future.

### Worth noting

Small business operators might want to make a note of a telephone number. It's a free line to Ottawa for ombudsman service to cut red tape and eliminate paperwork problems. It operates Monday through Friday 8.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. They'll accept collect calls from any business in Canada. The number is (613) 995-9197. Don't hesitate to use the number if you've got a red tape or excessive paperwork problem.

## Sugar and Spice

### Canadians are dull conversationalists

Canadians, on the whole are probably the most boring conversationalists in the entire world. I don't say that idly, merely to put backs up. I say it from agonizing personal experience.

It's not because we are a dull people, though we are. It's not because we're stupid, because we aren't. It seems to be based rather on a sort of philistinism that labels interesting conversation as a "cissy" pastime, fit only for dilettantes, idealists, Englishmen of a certain background, educated Europeans and other such intellectual trash.

Next time you're at a dinner party or any similar gathering, lend an ear. The dialogue will depress you deeply.

Perhaps the real fault lies in the fact that we are basically a nation of materialists, and that we have become more and more so, with the withering of the churches and the increasing affluence of our society.

Our topics of conversation change with decades, but remain awesomely inane in their content.

A few decades ago, men could talk for hours about cars and hockey, while women chattered incessantly about children and recipes.

Nowadays, the men talk about real estate and boats, and women go on and on about Women's Lib and the trip abroad they have just taken or just about to take. And they all say the same thing, or near enough.

All of them, especially the men, are absorbed by their vocations, the sadistic cruelty of the revenue department, and their latest acquisition, whether it's a power cruiser or a swimming pool in the back yard.

Get a galle of editors together and they talk shop, golf, and how much advertising



SUNNY SKIES and an afternoon stroll. You can't beat the combination, especially if you're a cow in a grassy field, eating around the perimeter in formation.

By Bill Smiley



## Canadians are dull conversationalists

lineage they carried last year. Seldom a word about a powerful editorial campaign they are going to launch to halt an evil or promote a good.

Dig up a deliberation of doctors, put a glass in each hand and listen to the drivel about the inequities of medicare, the ingratitude of patients, the penal taxes they pay, and the condominium they just bought down south. Not a Best nor a Banting in the bunch.

Lawyers are just as bad. They may be a bit more sophisticated than the doctors, but they're just as dull. Dropping hints of inside dope on politics. Obsessed by the possibility of getting a judgeship or at the very least, a Q.C. Criers of the blues about the taxes they pay.

A party of politicians is even worse. Jostling for attention, backslapping everything that is warm and breathing, needing the enemy, seeing everything in black and white. "They're black; we're white." Joe Clark likes westerns on TV. It figures. The big shoot-out, and let the bodies of bystanders fall where they may.

Behind the politicians, but not far, are the civil servants. Empire builders, defenders of the status quo. Everything in quadruplicate. Everything secret. The public is the enemy. Always go through channels. Keep your nose clean. Don't get a black mark on your record. Dull, dull.

Ah, ha! The farmers have been sitting back enjoying this. They're every bit as bad as the rest. It's the government's fault. It's the chain stores' greed. It's the fickle public. It's the weather: too wet; or, if the weather is perfect and the crops are superb, it's taking too much out of the land.

Business men are just as culpable of devastating dullness in their conversation. Too many forms to fill out. Lazy clerks. Second rate workmen. Those damn shopping plazas on the edge of town.

Manufacturers are in the same boat. Wages are too high. Can't get parts, what's the matter with those people? Too much absenteeism on Monday morning. Profit down. 03 per cent last year. Can't compete with those lousy foreigners who work for peanuts. Too much government interference.

Dentists ditto. They are just as dull as

the others, but they commit the crime of asking a particularly dull question when your mouth is so full of junk that all you can do is grunt, and then think you are interested and agreeing with their platitudes, when what you trying to say is, "Shut up, turkey."

As you know, I always save the best to the last. When it comes to dullness supremo in conversation, I have to hand it to the teachers. They go on and on and on about some kid who just won't do his homework, or some meaningless memo from the office, or some student who decided to spend a nice June day in God's great out-of-doors instead of in a dull classroom with a dull teacher.

Maybe I've been harsh in this somewhat blanket condemnation. Certainly none of my friends are full conversationalists. Maybe that's why I have so few friends.

Or perhaps my remarks are based on pure envy. I haven't got a condominium in Florida. I haven't even a row-boat, let alone a cruiser. I haven't a two-car garage, though I have two cars, eighteen years old between them.

That's it. Jealousy. I don't have a swimming pool or a little place—just 40 acres, mind you—in the country. My wife is as near to nuts as can be. One kid is a missionary in Paraguay, the other can't get a job.

That's why I can't stand around with the doctors and lawyers, etc., and commiserate with them on the fact that the price of steak is going absolutely out of reach of the ordinary professional man making only forty-five thou a year.

## Turning the Pages of the Past

From the files of The Canadian Champion

### One year ago

From the July 13, 1977 issue  
The remaining 30 plant workers at Barber-Greene Canada Ltd., once one of Milton's largest industries, have been laid off. The remaining plant workers were laid off as of June 30 and all manufacturing operations at the plant ended.

Thompson Rd. could become a four-lane highway through Milton, according to a plan currently being discussed by town officials and the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. A proposition suggested by Minister of Transportation and Communications Jim Snow would see Highway 25 diverted along Derry Rd. to Thompson Rd. and then along Steeles Ave., hooking up with Highway 25.

"It was a dramatic rescue," summed up witness Peter Phillips, a local high school teacher, as he recounted the details of an exciting rescue—by sailboat—another Milton man pulled off near Wasaga Beach recently. Twenty-two-year-old Lee Brittain of Palermo emerged as the hero of the affair. His skill in manoeuvring a new Hobycat catamaran sailboat was credited with saving the life of a woman swimmer in trouble in the lake in front of his parents' Sand and Surf Cottages at Allenwood Beach.

A growing caseload in Halton's criminal court has necessitated the addition of another full time judge and Thursday afternoon, John E. C. Robinson of Burlington was sworn in to fill the new position.

### 20 years ago

From the July 10, 1958 issue  
Whipper Billy Watson, famous wrestler and active supporter of charity work involving the retarded, crippled or disabled children, paid a visit to Milton's Sunshine School for Retarded Children before Friday night's wrestling matches at the arena. He said he was quite impressed with the school.

Alfonso Restivo not only won the \$500 first prize at the Holy Rosary garden party draw Saturday, but he also sold himself the winning ticket, to claim an additional \$50. Construction in Milton during the first six months of this year fell just short of half a million dollars, which is double the construction undertaken in the first six months of last year. At present 28 homes are under construction in the Fallingbrooke area.

A Civil Defence Organization for Halton is being formed. Headquarters is at 225 Main St. E. in Milton and co-ordinator is C.E.R. Smith, Brigadier.

Council this week authorized the paving of Mill St., from Martin to Bronte St., at an estimated cost of \$7,000.

A firm called Ashbrook Estates applied to council this week for permission to develop a 14-lot subdivision on the Whewell property.

Descendants of Thomas Brownridge, who emigrated from Yorkshire in 1819, gathered Saturday at Brampton fair grounds. In the 139 years born in Canada or U.S.A.

New clerk for Nassagaweya Township is Don H. McMillan. He succeeds his father Linus W. McMillan who served many years.

### 75 years ago

From the July 9, 1903 issue  
Rev. E. F. Hockley, of St. George's Church, Lowville, has been appointed rector of Elora and Alma churches. He is an able preacher and has been a faithful worker during his incumbency at Lowville. While his removal is greatly regretted by his Halton friends, they are pleased to know that he has been appointed to so important a rectory.

On Monday morning a train arrived at Toronto from Montreal bearing 100 immigrants and there were 200 farmers or their deputies waiting for them. All the immigrants were soon engaged, going with the highest bidders, and contracts went as high as \$22 per month.

Bob Burdette, the humorist, has turned preacher.

The open air horse show in connection with the Toronto Home Comers' Festival was held on Saturday.

William Clements came to town from his Clarkson farm on Tuesday. He reports an enormous yield of strawberries on the lake shore. The railway station at Clarkson has been crowded daily with teams delivering berries, and he has seen as many as 70 crates in a load, each crate containing 54 boxes.

The Milton Methodist Sunday School held their picnic at the park here on Tuesday afternoon. There was a large turnout of teachers and scholars. Games were participated in by the young folk, after which tea was served. A very enjoyable afternoon was spent.

## Newsbeat

### A common sense proposal

By Bob Burt



It doesn't happen often, but sanity prevailed for a short stint during the Wednesday afternoon silly session at Region Headquarters.

It wasn't really shocking to hear Burlington Mayor Mary Munro set out a cool, rational approach to dealing with the pesky landfill problem that has hounded council for so long now.

Mrs. Munro has taken a level headed but firm position on the matter since the beginning, so the idea of her presenting a reasonable solution shouldn't be cause for bewilderment.

What I did find a little stunning was the fact that council supported her. Not only did they support her, but the vote was unanimous. Now that is something that doesn't happen every day.

The Munro proposal would seek extra capacity for landfill through investigations of expanding current site. Opening a dry waste site at Milton Brick yard, burning some refuse, and taking a serious look at the NATCO site in Burlington.

Oakville Councillor Gord Reade hit the nail on the head when he said the proposal was like a breath of fresh air.

Even the Milton councillors, who have been forced to turn cynical and extremely

sensitive about anything to do with landfill, were prepared to go with the recommendation.

That's not to say there weren't those councillors who were afraid of the motion. The suspicion and tension that surrounds the landfill question is so great that councillors are super cautious and play every move close to the vest.

The recommendation isn't the work of a genius, but rather a carefully thought out plan that could take the pressure off a desperate situation.

In terms of hurting or promoting the chance of a landfill site in Milton at Tremaine and Britannia Rd., it is just about as long as it is broad.

Should the proposal serve as a time buying device, and that is really what it is designed to do, it could give the region time to abandon Site F for once and for all and seek alternatives on a long range basis.

Conversely, it could provide the region with the time it needs to get before the various hearing boards and appeal bodies with the Site F application.

As of now, the Site F application is very much on the minds of the regional bureaucrats most closely connected with the problem.

Should time be found through the Munro proposal for the proper hearings to go ahead, at least Site F will be subjected to the due process and be judged on its own merit instead of a poor answer to a crisis situation.

With any kind of luck at all, the region will bring resource recovery back to the front burner and establish a serious stance on that part of the problem.

Oakville Councillor Ron Planche wasn't too far off the money when he paid reference to the need for resource recovery if the Munro proposal was going to be effective.

Planche's biggest problem isn't the lack of big ideas, but rather—no one will listen. Like Councillors Laurie Mannell and Jim Watson, Planche has taken a radical line for so long and presented council with so much gobbledygook, that the instant he speaks the rest of the councillors hit their "off" switch.

Between Mannell and Planche, the two take more verbal abuse from fellow councillors than anyone would ever guess. It is nothing for half a dozen councillors to shout "shut up and sit down" when either is trying to make a point.