

Established 1861

The Canadian Champion

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Identifying concerns

Identifying major concerns and issues for rural residents, is one of the objectives of a University of Guelph Rural Development Outreach project. Halton is one of two pilot areas.

It is interesting to note, that after a full day session involving members from the rural community, concerns discussed under different headings, took on a similar ring.

The problems in summary are identified as "the negative impact of ex-urbanites on the rural community; poor social planning and land use planning for rural areas; high taxes with no benefits; alienation of rural people from the political and planning process and a feeling of helplessness-being unable to influence one's own future."

As we reflect on the summary we wonder if some of those same complaints could not be equally identified among those in the small communities that make up Halton. There are certainly times when the weight of government seems oppressive and untouchable, when planning doesn't seem to suit our needs and when the importance of social planning seems to be ignored in our march to "bigger and better".

The R.D.O.P. summary that converts to goals takes on a more positive note as it puts the focus on "integration of exurbanites into rural communities, the need for effective social planning and land use planning for rural areas; the reduction of taxes; development of better means of communicating with politicians and planners; and development of strategies to in-

fluence decision-making bodies."

The urbanization of rural areas forces emphasis on the need for new neighbor to meet new neighbor. There will only be understanding when there is communication. City dwellers who seek their retreat in the country should be aware there will be different smells and different problems. Social life is different and important. There still needs to be time for neighborliness even though the new country dweller seeks only isolation at the outset.

Four of the other goals or problems touch on the role of government, access to it, communication with it and its cost. The roots of government were disturbingly shaken when regional government was introduced. Voluntary boards were dismissed, cutting participation. Municipalities were merged causing alienation. Costs rose as they were bound to do under any system, but the lines of communication of citizen to councillor in those chance encounters on the street, while picking up the mail or socially, were greatly reduced.

Being on councils demanded more time and much of it has been more time away from the community, away from those chance encounters.

There is some similarity between rural and urban problems even though they are not identical. Identifying the problems is the initial stage and having done that we are encouraged that meetings in the fall are planned at which a steering committee may seek solutions.

Encouraging glimmer

The first glimmer of some downtown redevelopment went before Milton Council Monday night and it was hard to detect in council's attitude that this was indeed one of their objectives.

A proposal for an office building, which will provide employment opportunities, add pedestrian traffic to the central business area, provide increased tax revenue and be in keeping with design that will ultimately enhance the town hall and market square concept, might expect an enthusiastic welcome.

Actually the necessary approvals had been cleared but the plan for the former Milton Private Hospital property and the former Bill's Auto Body were greeted with some skepticism, some nit picking and some grudging acceptance.

Nevertheless the proposal is encouraging at an estimated million and a half dollars. It is encouraging because it shows the central business district is not being ignored by those who look in some depth at properties and opportunities.

It is encouraging because new development often stimulates others to take a fresh look at an area and activity is generated far beyond the original project.

Obviously the planning department has had influence in the best use of the land and the municipal staff has encouraged a development which might later be compatible with whatever takes place on the present post office site.

The proposal is an encouraging glimmer of interest in the central business district.

Well, I don't do much driving, riding or walking when I'm at home or at work, but perhaps it's a good idea. It costs only \$3.50 a month for a family.

Does it mean that children under five can be insured for up to 100 grand for accidental death? Does it mean that people over 90 who decide to jump in front of a bus, accidentally, can leave their heirs set for life? Somehow, I doubt it. It's far more likely that Simpsons-Sears just want to be dang sure they're paid off, if you've managed to get into them for a few hundred dollars on your charge account.

Perhaps Canadians are not so foolish in their concern about death. A pretty good English playwright, Will Shakespeare, was fascinated by the subject, and speculated upon it in Hamlet's soliloquies.

And a thousand thousand other poets and playwrights have attempted to probe into the meaning of death. A quick look at Bartlett's Familiar Quotations shows more than three solid pages of references to death.



By Bob Burt

On the News Beat

Control is the real issue

On the surface the debate about uniform water rates in Halton is really an argument that won't mean more than a few dollars one way or the other for most homeowners.

If you can believe the presentations by the professional Acton stands to lose the most if each community is left to foot its own bill for domestic water.

Of the five urban serviced areas in the region Acton is the smallest and has the smallest revenue base from which expensive improvements and expansions have to be financed.

Reid went as far as to say the region is morally bound to provide water to all residents on the municipal water system at a uniform price.

But digging beneath all of the rhetoric and the long winded speeches councillors are prone to make the issue in most areas of the region isn't money at all but control of services and control of growth.

Halton Hills is the only one of the four local councils supporting uniform water rates and the abandonment of the chargeback system for water services.

There is no question that once uniform water rates come into being the decision making power for that service would shift from area councils to the region. That's where the province intended to have that power in the first instance.

Legally the region has the power to approve or refuse improved water systems, expansions to systems or even hookups to a system.

Milton Councillors have traditionally bucked any move to uniform rates. It isn't that they don't want to help Acton but they feel they won't be able to help themselves. They claim that with only three councillors representing the town, requests from Milton will receive low priority in the scheme of things. Their fears could

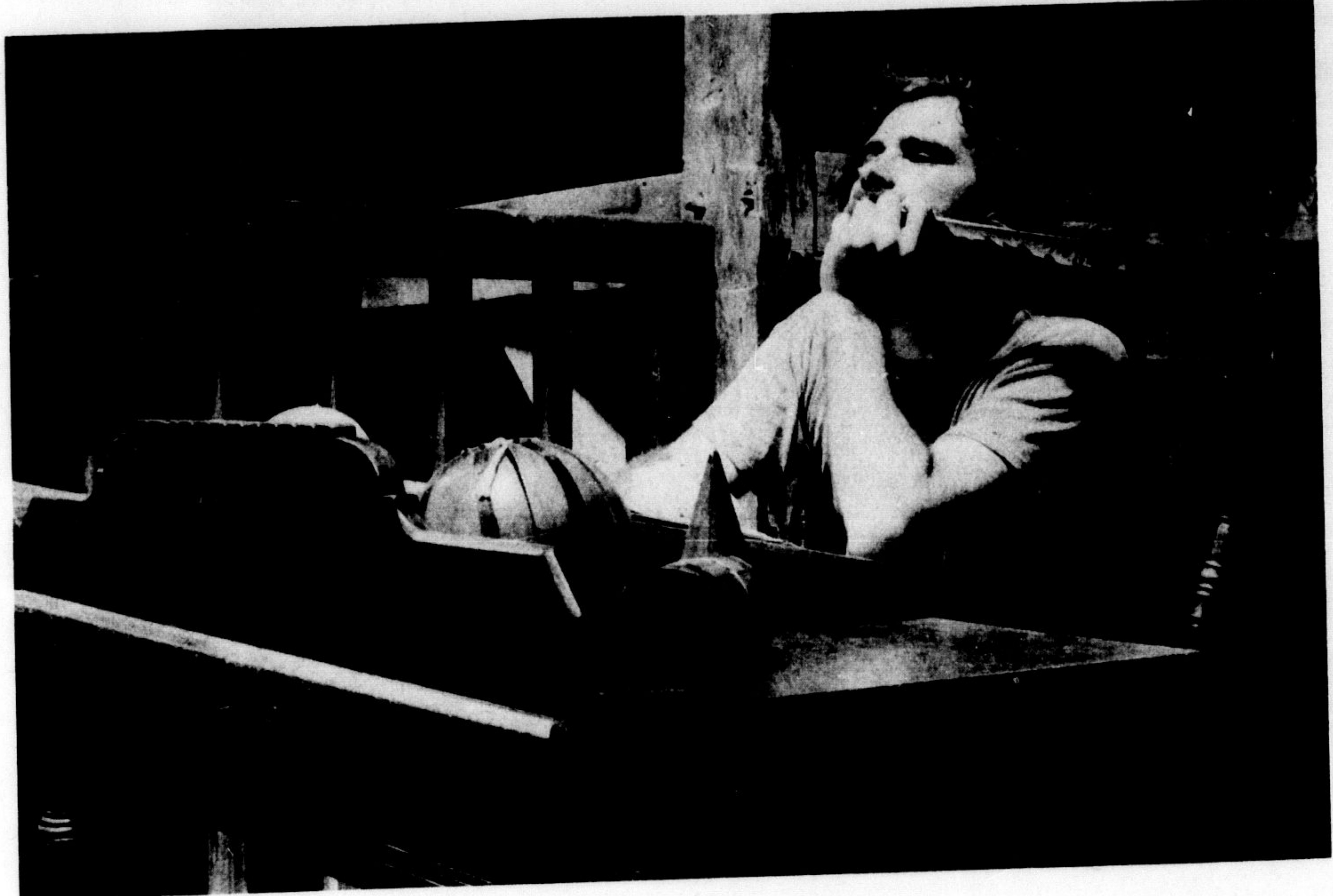
contain more than a shred of truth.

But it isn't just Milton councillors that are against the proposal. For five years now Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett has insisted the current system charges the people who use the service and he insists nothing could be fairer.

It is difficult for anyone to argue against the logic from an administrative standpoint about having one system and one common rate for domestic users. Industrial and commercial users have a different rate and rural homeowners are not affected at all.

When regional council is legally responsible for water services and regional staffers provide it there is some sense

Champion Editorial Page



CONTEMPLATING AN ERA PAST visitors to the Halton Regional Museum at Kelso find interesting artifacts of a lifestyle in the not distant past. A desk, artists basic forms of ball, cone and cylinder and quills are displayed in the upper floor of the main building.

(Champion photo by Peter McCusker)

By Bill Smiley

We're preoccupied with death

Canadians have a great pre occupation with death. It is common knowledge that we carry more life insurance than any other nation in the world, on a per capita basis. I wonder why.

It must be a great country in which to be selling life insurance. Even Simpsons-Sears, Limited, is getting into the business. Only in Canada would a big department store be selling insurance. Pity.

But it's a fact. In my wife's last computerized, machine-signed letter from that august organization, one L. Visosky, General Credit Manager talks earnestly about an accidental death policy, exclusively for Simpsons-Sears account customers. It pays up to \$100,000 in benefits and "protects you while you're driving, riding, or walking—even when you're at home or at work—everywhere in the world! No medical exam! No age limit!"

Thus we learn that Death among other things, such as the end of Life, "borders upon our birth, breaks every bond, is only a horizon, is the fatal asterisk, is like a friend unseen, is the end of a journey, is but the long, cool night a debt, a trumped ace, a boatman, a road we all must go." And so on. They all sound like cliches, don't they?

Brother Death becomes more familiar as you grow older. Children are completely unaware of him, young people are barely so. It's a rather distasteful thing that happens to other people, mostly old ones.

When I was a young fighter pilot, I was very close to death, fairly often. But I didn't even feel his cold breath, nor smell his slightly mouldy scent. A few times I was almost literally scared to death, but not of death.

When you begin seeing school friends in the obituary columns, when a brother dies, when a colleague dies, all of them in their prime, you begin to feel and smell the Old Boy. It's not particularly frightening, merely a bit disconcerting.

In your heart, you are 12 years old, with a little sophistication plastered on the outside. In your head, you're a couple of years away from retirement, a decade or so away from senility, certainly on nodding terms with Brother Death.

Holy Smokes! I hope this is not too lugubrious a column for a family journal. It was that thing from Simpsons-Sears that got me going. And then my wife suggested I make a list of my insurance policies and the junk in my safe deposit box, and leave it all in the hands of my brother-in-law, the lawyer, before we embarked on our trip. What a gloom-box way of commencing a summer holiday.

I told her I would, but never got around to it. If we're hijacked or go down in the Atlantic or die of sea-sickness on our voyage down the Rhine, let somebody else sort out the mess I've left behind. I've been sorting out their messes long enough.

Let's see, now. There are two insurance policies in the bottom drawer of the dresser, beneath my thermal underwear. There's another with the county school board. There's a stock certificate somewhere in my desk drawer, worth \$94.00. There's a house paid for, and two cars in the driveway, worth \$250 each, on a good day.

Canada popular

Attending a seminar recently with American counterparts we found again how popular Canada is with those who know it. One publisher told of regular summer holidays on one of our lakes that spanned a couple of decades. Another was planning a promotional flight for a group from Texas to Toronto so they might see some of the modern merchandising and store developments there. All were interested and concerned about the effects of "the Quebec situation."

(Continued on page 5)

Sugar and Spice



moustache drawn in.

Any left-handed golfer with arthritis may have my clubs and cart, which are so old and shabby they almost qualify as antiques. There's a pretty good fishing rod down in the basement, with the Christmas decorations. A few patches and there's a dandy pair of hip waders to go with it. They're in the trunk of the old Dodge along with a case of beer that froze last winter.

There, I think that pretty well clears the decks. If Brother Death gets over-friendly, my daughter won't need a job for the next three years. It'll take her that long to sort out the estate. Bum Voyage.

Turning the Pages of the Past

From the files of The Canadian Champion

One year ago

From the Aug. 3, 1977 issue

Mayor of Milton from 1968 to 1973 and a resident of Milton for 22 years, Brian Best died Monday morning at Milton District Hospital. The funeral service was being held this morning at 11 a.m. at Grace Anglican Church, followed by cremation. Mr. Best was involved in a tragic two-car accident on Britannia Rd. in Milton Sept. 9, 1974 and suffered brain damage.

A fire and subsequent explosion inside a storage shed at Hand Chemical, a plastic kitchenware and fireworks display producer on Nipissing Rd., provided Milton and area residents with one of the most spectacular fires most had ever witnessed. The fire broke out in a 60-foot-long storage shed behind the main Hand Chemical plant about 3:45 p.m. and it exploded about 10 minutes afterwards.

Glen Eden Ski School must expand now, or turn skiers away next winter, was the main message delivered at a Ministry of Housing appeal hearing on Thursday.

Milton firefighters returned home Monday with a pile of awards and prizes from the annual convention of the Ontario Firefighters Association held in Teeswater on the holiday weekend. The local brigade won two prizes for appearance in the Holiday Monday parade at Teeswater—first prize for the best marching unit of under 20 men and the Women's Auxiliary won first for the best auxiliary on parade.

As of press time, only one merchant has objected to the passing of a by-law to designate Milton's downtown core as a business improvement area, that being Dick Copely, owner of Milton Fabric Centre.

20 years ago

From the July 31, 1958 issue

Town assessor Frank McNiven reported this week the town's population has grown to about 4,750 people and may reach 4,800 by the end of the year. The population has increased 150 since the last count in September of 1957.

Raising a new barn at Arawana Farms owned by J. L. Chisholm on Campbellville Sideroad was quite a chore for about 16 men who volunteered their time to assist their neighbor with the big project. Cooking enough food to feed the mob was another big chore, capably handled by the ladies, Mrs. Jim Robertson, Mrs. David Henderson and Mrs. Beth Jones. The framer was David Henderson of Moffat, the last of the barn framers in this district. He's been framing for over 40 years. The new High-

way 401 passes the Chisholm farm and because the old barn was too close, it was torn down and the lumber is being used in the new building.

One local farmer reports a good wheat yield—an average 48 to 50 bushels per acre. Swimming in the creek flowing through Halton Community Centre Park at Lowville was banned this week by the health unit. "It was not suited for swimming," said Medical Officer of Health Dr. Archie F. Bull.

Police warn elderly residents to beware of salesmen at their door, after a man attempted to swindle a local woman this week. He did some roofing work at her home, then showed up, at the bank to cash checks signed by her for as much as \$2,500.

Halton hog producers voted 77 per cent in favor Friday of establishing a province-wide co-operative hog marketing program. There were 296 votes cast in Halton.

A new association, Halton County Clerks and Treasurers Association, has been formed here with the county clerk Garfield Brown as president.

75 years ago

From the July 30, 1903 issue

Willie Newhouse Devereaux, the little 10-year-old son of W. G. Devereaux, of Lot 18, con. 6, Esquesing, was killed almost instantly by a rack-lifter on Tuesday evening about 5 o'clock. A load of wheat was being elevated on the rack-lifter. Willie was in the mow standing by the ratchet wheel. It is thought the little fellow, observing the "dog" was out of place, went to put it right, when a part of the wheel gave way and he was struck on the head.

A large number of neighbors attended the barn-raising on T. W. Crozier's farm, near Boyne. The barn, when completed will add greatly to the appearance of the place.

W. Panton, of the Champion and Chilver Bastedo left this morning for 10 days of camping and bass fishing at Round Lake, near Havelock.

On Thursday afternoon smoke was seen working through the siding of R. B. Anderson's livery stable on Main St. The alarm was sounded and the fire brigade turned out promptly, but before they were ready to commence operations J. B. Lawrence had put out the fire with a few buckets of water.

A grand garden party will be held at the residence of Robert Simpson, Esq., Kilbride, on the evening of Tuesday, Aug. 4, for the benefit of Kilbride Methodist Church.