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The Canadian Champion

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Viewpoints ignored

Halton's Regional Council has unwisely ignored the protests of Milton's elected officials, and continued its move to fluoridate Milton's water supply without a plebiscite.

At its last meeting, the council ordered preparation of an implementing by-law. Milton's three elected officials on the council opposed the move without a local plebiscite, but they are largely outnumbered on a 24-member council.

The irony of the situation is that, with the exception of Acton and Milton, every other municipality in Halton has a fluoridated water supply. Representatives then, from those other areas, see the reaction in Milton as a tempest in a teapot.

What they fail to understand is that Milton is also the only municipality in Halton that doesn't have chlorine in its water supply. The water, quite simply, is pure enough not to need it. That purity is a matter of local pride. The addition of anything to the water supply is not regarded lightly here.

Regional Council will have an opportunity to consider the issue again when the implementing by-law is brought forward. The by-law needs three readings and, of course, a majority vote in favor to provide for the installation. Milton representatives alone have little chance of reflecting local sensitivities on the issue. Without a recognition of those sensitivities by other regional councillors, the fluoridation issue will be forced.

One of the peculiarities of the regional setup is that while the region is responsible for the water

supply, the local municipality pays the costs. Thus it is possible for the region to force the addition of the fluoride, and bill Milton users for the full cost, even though Milton users have not had an opportunity to express an opinion. If Milton rejects the idea of paying for the cost, will the region then shut off the town's water supply?

The region apparently rejects the idea of a local plebiscite. That's unfortunate, because it would really provide the only fair method of establishing public opinion on the issue. Too much has changed from the 1971 plebiscite to apply that vote to today.

We feel the issue is really that the townspeople should have the opportunity to express an opinion. Riding roughshod over that right will set back local-regional relations for some time to come.

On the front page of this week's issue we've provided an opportunity to express an opinion. It's not as good as a plebiscite, but it is an attempt to gauge public reaction before the region next deals with the proposed by-law. We urge you to express your view now and return the "ballot" to The Champion soon for tabulation. We underline that we want the opinion of everyone, whether in favor or against. We've provided room for a signature so there will not be claims that one side or the other "inflated" the results.

This may be your only opportunity to express your opinion and we urge you to participate. Do it now. The "ballots" can be put through our letter slot 24 hours a day, or mailed.

Election time

In just over four weeks nominations for Milton Council and other councils in Halton will be underway. On Nov. 13 you'll be voting for a council to represent you for the next two years.

The time between now and then provides an opportunity for those interested in seeking office to come forward. Some already have. It also provides an opportunity for citizens to reflect on the past two years and the work of the current elected officials.

In Milton, voters will choose 10 councillors and one mayor. In Halton Hills, 13 will be elected. Milton will send its mayor and two councillors to regional council. Halton Hills sends its mayor and

four councillors to regional council.

In addition to this, voters will elect members of the Halton Board of Education and separate school supporters will be voting on representatives to the Halton Separate School Board.

If you've decided to seek election or re-election our news department is interested to hear and report on your candidacy.

This area is still not so heavily populated that people ignore elections. They're an important part of community life and we urge you to be interested in those who would represent the town.

With a few weeks left, interest will start building in an important activity. Elections are not to be taken lightly.

On the Newsbeat

Health not only issue

By Bob Burt



Remote, insensitive, bureaucratic. Those are all words that have been used to describe regional government in Halton and across the province. But seldom have the terms been more appropriate than last week. Halton Regional Council ignored pleas from the three Milton representatives and discarded the results of a previous plebiscite and agreed to fluoridate the Milton water supply.

Councillors voting in favor of fluoridating the Milton and Acton water supply cited health advantages as the reason for their voting pattern.

But what they haven't been able to get through their seemingly thick skulls is that health isn't the only issue.

Miltonians who oppose fluoride, do so because they are proud of their pure water supply and look upon it as something almost sacred. Opponents of fluoridation see it as a contaminant, an additive, in a world where there are already too many additives and contaminants.

Surely the democratic way of handling the issue is to allow the people involved and affected, to make the decision. Even if the decision is the wrong decision, surely it is the prerogative of the people to make it.

The highhanded, dictatorial style demonstrated by the regions will only breed contempt between people and the region. The issue is clearly an emotional one. It is

true that the region has responsibility for the provision of potable water in the region.

But surely, if democratic principles are worth a tinker's damn, the region has the responsibility to provide the type of water system the people want.

From time to time it does us all well to be reminded that politicians are elected to carry out the wishes and care for the needs of the people, and bureaucrats are appointed to execute programs to meet those wishes and needs.

Any illusion about the water system being one system is nothing but a bunch of crap and the smug turkeys who sit in judgement of past decisions know damn well that's the case.

Acton Councillor Pat McKenzie says he wants Acton to have the benefit of fluoride in the water supply and doesn't want the people there to suffer because of some quaint notion Miltonians might have.

That raises an interesting point. Statistics on the benefits of fluoride have been available since McKenzie was keenee high to a grasshopper.

If he feels this is the way to go and has the support of his people why, oh why has he allowed them to suffer all of these years? Has the councillor been negligent?

Just to change the subject a wee bit,

Georgetown councillor Roy Booth was visibly upset during the same meeting, because regional bureaucrats had refused permission to a Georgetown club's request to close a road.

"When will the region ever pay attention to the desires of the local people?" he asked as he scolded the region for its "highhanded and dictatorial attitude."

That's Roy fella, You tell 'em.

Now there's a fellow who will understand Milton's problem with fluoride, I thought. But only hours late, in the same meeting and the same chamber the recorded vote was called.

Would you believe the defender of all things great and wonderful, including local autonomy, voted to overrule three Milton councillors and the expressed desire of the town's folk. Mr. Booth in recognition of your good fight for all things great and wonderful, I nominate you hypocrite of the year.

Because it believes people should have the right to cast a ballot and indicate the way they feel, the paper has provided a coupon on the front page. While this is no substitute for a plebiscite, it will offer people a forum to express their support for, or opposition to, fluoridation.



SHADED RAIL FENCE alongside Appleby Line on Rattlesnake Point Road looks out over a fantastic view of the southern part of Milton. The winding, scenic road up the side of the mountain is a favorite with summer travellers.

Sugar and Spice

What to worry about in Europe

By Bill Smiley



There are only two really important words when you take your trip to Europe. One is "toilet" and the other is "money." Each is a constant source of anxiety, frustration and consternation.

In general, the ladies worried about the toilets, and the men about the money.

As our vivacious guide, Annette, informed us, you don't ask on the continent where the bathroom is, or you're apt to get a response something like, "Watsa matta you lady? You canna taka bath in a restaurant?" No, you blunty blurt "Toilet?" It's the same in every language, so you can't go astray.

There was only one thing wrong with our bus. It had comfortable seats, air-conditioning, a superb driver. But no "bathroom" at the rear. So you sailed off at 7 a.m., full of morning coffee, and shaky in the knowledge that you might be on that bus for two or three hours before a halt and the magic words TOILETS leaped into view.

It wasn't bad for the men, but there was always a lineup for the ladies', the door often guarded by a fierce old harridan who demanded 100 lira or a franc piece before they were even admitted to the inner sanctum.

From what I heard and saw, the facilities ranged from spanking clean with hot water and lots of towels, down through pretty sleazy, with tissue the texture of wallpaper, to the very pits, which were just that, holes in the ground, from which the ladies emerged looking a bit stunned, rolling back down the legs of their pant suits.

In a little more than 3,000 miles, only two emergency stops were made. One was for Larry, 8, who had drunk three cans of pop

at the last stop, and had the distinction of having a tinkle right beside the auto-route in France.

The second was when Graham, a young Australian, (pronounced Grime in that language) was hit by a sudden attack of bad tummy and spent half an hour emitting at both ends in a filthy roadside toilet. Nobody minded either stop.

Enough about toilets, surely. Now, about money. First of all, take more than you need. You'll need it. By the time I got back to London, on a weekend, banks closed, I was so broke I had to borrow five pounds from the hall porter at our hotel.

Before you begin your trip, obtain from your travel agent or airline a little chart, or table, showing the approximate value of your own dollar in European currencies. It won't help much, but it will be something to cling to in the maelstrom of five or six different currencies changing value from day to day.

For example, I changed some dollars for lira three times in one day, in Italy. First time, I got 850 lira for a dollar, second time 830, third time 800.

Get rid of your loose change before you cross a border, even if you have to buy some candy and pass it around the bus. Each country will change paper money but is not interested in coins. You would wind up with a suitcase full of utterly useless francs, lira, marks, schilling, etc. I have enough to start a coin collection.

Millions of tourists are honey to flies for the international pickpockets who infest the large cities. Our guide, la belle Annette, warned us so thoroughly, especially as we headed toward Rome, that we were a sight to behold after two days there.

The women were all humpbacked from clutching their purses to their bosoms with both hands. The men looked like a group of spastics, trying to keep their hands firmly in all their four to eight pockets at the same time.

Just the other day, our Rome guide informed us, a gentleman had had his wallet, containing \$450 Australian, lifted right in St. Peter's, the largest church in the world. We had a nice few moments of vicarious excitement when Glynis, from Australia, discovered her watch, worth \$450, and a gift from her husband, was missing from her wrist. She said she'd felt a very soft, slight movement, looked down, and the watch was gone. She was distraught. So were we all. Twenty minutes later, she found it in her bag, the turkey. It had slipped off her wrist and fallen into her purse.

Some of the ladies were so nervous they took the unprecedented step of pinning their credit cards inside their bras. I

played it safe. I never gave my wife more than a coin for the john, and I kept my cash in one pocket, my travelers' cheques in another, and my credit card in a third, so that I wouldn't be made bankrupt by one swell foop.

It was a bad year to visit Europe, with inflation rampant there (cuppa coffee or Coke well over \$1.00), the Canadian dollar diddling around 88 cents, and the American dollar sliding. Hotels run around \$48 to \$60 a night, and that's not the Savoy or the Ritz.

But wothell, Archie, it's only the price of a new car, and a small one, at that. Take your trip and drive the old heap for another couple of years. You can't sit around in an old car 20 years from now, and exchange things like: "Remember the pinchy-pinchy party in Rome, where the waiter, straight-faced, pinched each lady's bum as he served her soup or pasta?"

Turning the Pages of the Past

From the files of The Canadian Champion

One year ago

From Sept. 14, 1977 issue

Parents living in the Miltown Estates development to the south and east of Milton Mall are angry because their children are having to walk as far as 1.4 miles to attend J.M. Denyes School. When school started last week, bus service for all the students in that area was provided. But when an overcrowding situation was reported by the bus line to the school board, a decision was made to provide bussing for kindergarten and grade one students only.

The Tremaine-Britannia Citizens' Group suffered a setback in the fight against the Site F landfill site Wednesday when Halton Regional Council reversed a decision it made three months ago to have the environmental impact of the dump studied under the Environmental Assessment Act said Arnie Sweig, assistant to David Estrin, the group's lawyer.

Milton's oldest traditional event, the Fall Fair will celebrate its 125th birthday in two weeks and will officially become a Class A fair running three days — the first time it has done so in its history, according to Halton Agricultural Society President Lloyd Stokes.

Metric conversion has hit Milton. Last week the public works department began the busy task of switching over about 175 outdated miles per hour signs in Milton to the newer kilometre per hour signs.

Organizers are hoping to launch a new service club, Kiwanis International, in Milton by Oct. 1.

20 years ago

From the Sept. 11, 1958 issue

Raymond C. Bryant of Burlington was named chairman at the inaugural meeting of the 12 Mile Creek Conservation Authority Friday. The meeting ordered an investigation of the water in the creek, to find the cause of pollution. Members also expressed concern about gravel pits and stone quarries in the area causing a problem, once abandoned.

A grand total of 1,108 students returned to classes in Milton schools last week. Sunshine School has enrolled eight.

Editor-in-Chief of The Champion, G.A. Dills was named an Honorary Life Member of the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association at the convention in Toronto.

Last year he was named Weekly Newspaper man of the Year.

Trafalgar Council has hired a Toronto public relations firm — at a cost of \$11,260 over 16 months — to give the township some favorable publicity and help industrial commissioner George Finley to attract some industries.

Don Taylor of Burlington and Bert Speck of Hornby have been chosen to represent Halton in the junior section at the International Flowing Match this year.

Ross Pearen, former councillor and Mayor of Milton, has been appointed Promotions Manager for Milton Chamber of Commerce. He recently organized the town's successful centennial celebration.

The two Lorne Scots Regiment bands will participate in the annual massed militia bands concert at the Exhibition Grounds in Toronto this Sunday night.

William Methven of Mountainview Dr. was killed Saturday night when his car crashed into a CPR train at Meadowvale.

75 years ago

From the Sept. 10, 1903 issue

The plum crop is so large throughout Ontario that city markets are glutted and growers have lost money, prices being so low to cover costs of picking, baskets, express charges and commission. A great deal of fruit is being left to rot on the trees and it is reported that in some places plum trees are being grubbed up.

Sarah Johnson, a widow aged 93, sent to jail as a pauper from Acton four years ago, and kept there ever since, died on Saturday.

A number of Miltonians went to Toronto on Labor Day to attend the Coldstream Guards band concert at Massey Hall.

Miss Anderson returned to town last week to resume charge of Hollinrake and Son's millinery department.

Edward McCann begs to announce that when the new elevator at the G.T.R. station has been completed, which will be within a few days, he will be prepared to buy any quantity of grain or hay at the elevator.

Walking is banned on the east side of Main St. these days, particularly after rain. Much of the wooden sidewalk has been torn up and the contractors are laying the foundation for the new pavement. Its base is discarded and broken bricks from the terra cotta works, which will, if anything, be better than broken stone.