

Milton Then and Now

School supplies

By Mel Robinson

I used to enjoy the first day of school each year. The summer vacation days with their heat and humidity were drifting into the past. The annual trip to the Ex. was over. There was the new teacher, a reunion with classmates of the previous school year, and a start on courses at a new level. School opened, of course, on the day after Labor Day.

That school day was a short one. We went to our new classrooms and soon felt at home there. We were free to take the seat of our choice, near friends—mostly talkative. Later we would be moved to other locations to promote classroom efficiency and to give a little more peace of mind to the teacher.

There was the usual work of registration by the teacher, and we copied from the blackboard the list of books and supplies we would need. At the same time we were adjusting once more to some of the sounds and smells of school life. There were the sounds of short, whispered conversations in the room, and the voice of teachers drifted in from other rooms nearby. The smell of the freshly oiled floors was something to get used to—after a summer spent mostly in the fresh air. Apparently the oil was used to control the dust, but it was usually applied too liberally. Each September you had to learn once more how to walk on it safely.

Sometime after mid-morning the school was dismissed. The balance of the day was ours to enjoy, and to acquire our books and supplies. While these could be obtained in several of the local stores, the main source of supply was J. M. Mackenzie's drug store. His advertisement at the end of August in 1915 reflects many of the differences between school life as it was up to the Thirties and as it is now.

In the first place, the basic thinking about school supplies was entirely different. In those days school boards simply did not think at all about the supplies that were used in schoolrooms. Parents had to supply their children with textbooks, workbooks, pencils—even examination paper—foolscap size, 8½ x 14, ruled on one side, with margins.

Some of the items in Mackenzie's ad were: Exercise books 2 to 5c. Lead pencils 5c. Examination pads 5 to 10c. Slates 5 to 25c. Scribblers 1 to 10c. Pencil boxes 5 to 25c. Rubbers 5c. Rulers 5c. and Water color paints 25 to 50c.

There were no convenient ball point pens in those days. In classrooms beyond the primary grades, a round hole in the upper right hand corner of each desk top accommodated a metal holder with a flap. A

small glass ink well was set in this and the flap was opened and closed as the need for ink occurred. Mackenzie's did a big business in penholders, pen nibs, and bottles of ink. Waterman's blue-black could be bought for 5c a bottle. It could also be used by older students whose parents could afford a fountain pen for them. Blotters could be bought, but most were obtained free—handed out by advertisers.

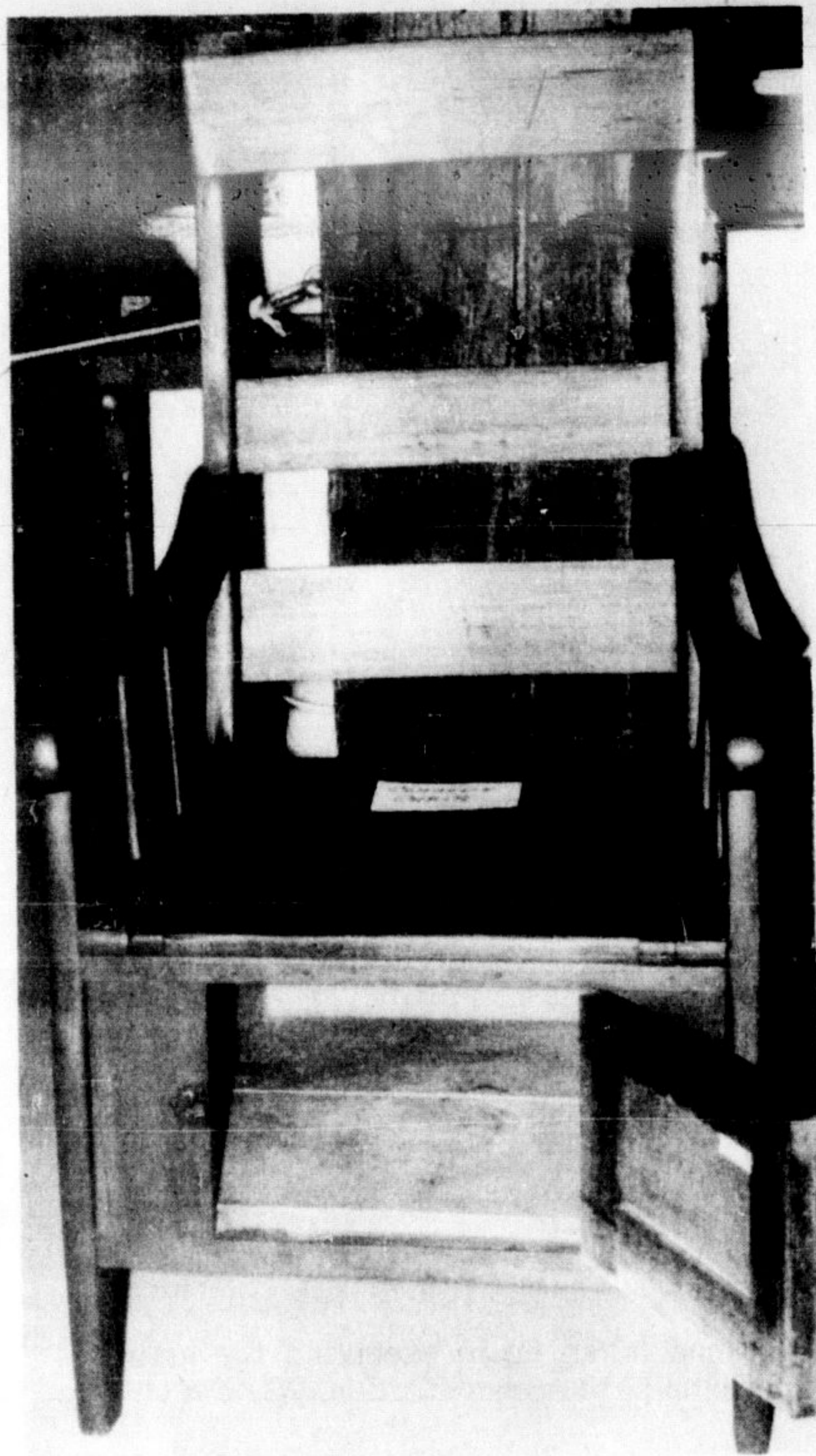
After recess each Friday afternoon was the special time each week for art work. What an ordeal that must have been for most teachers! It also created special supply problems. You had to have an eight-color box of crayons and an authorized art book (large or small size). Older pupils had to have a paint brush and a four-color box of water color paints.

For most students it was a part of the school week to look forward to with pleasure. The usual rules of classroom discipline were somewhat relaxed. If you did not take your artistic aims too seriously you could have a certain amount of fun in the period.

First there was the pencil outline to be drawn—with too much attention to unnecessary detail and not enough on general effect. Then the four-color paint box was opened. The lid served as mixing trays. Yellow and blue, for instance, produced a sickly green. If you did not mix enough, you could not match that color with your next mixture. You used your brush to cover your sheet with a wet wash, then applied your colors. The paper immediately heaved unevenly to give your work the appearance of a relief map with a sickly mess of colors that ran together. Artistically it was a traumatic experience. In the field of creative art I have lived ever since with a serious inferiority complex—as have most of my classmates.

There was some value in the fact that pupils and parents shared the responsibility for school supplies used. It fostered a sense of personal property in a social background. Most pupils knew that their parents could not afford wastefulness with school supplies. There were pencil boxes for the care of their writing instruments, and there were school bags to carry books, papers, and maybe a treat to school. Children learned to care for the books and supplies entrusted to them, and they learned to respect the property rights of their schoolmates.

Sometimes wonder if the endless flow of handouts from the front of modern day classrooms tends to erode the respect of our young for public and private property.



At Halton Museum

Attractive commode

This sturdy maple commode chair was certainly not something to be scorned. Not only was it eminently practical, it was also an especially attractive piece of furniture. With the front closed to conceal the pot, and the seat folded down as shown here, this chair became one of the finest pieces of furniture in the house. It's one of thousands of antiques from Halton's Past, on exhibit at Halton Regional Museum at Kelso.

The Amazing '78 rabbit



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The Junior Jersey Show of the C.N.E., held the next day, was judged by Ken Ella, Hornby. Frank Robinson of Georgetown placed fourth with his calf, Spruce Avenue Sleeper Maid, and his senior yearling, Spruce Avenue Master's Lou also placed fourth.

—Wise buyers shop Champion classifieds.

Rock Ella Jersey Farm is Premier Breeder

Halton Jerseys were well represented at this year's celebration of the Centennial of the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto, with four Halton herds in attendance.

One of the highlights of the Aug. 31 show was the winning of the "Premier Breeder" award by Rock Ella Jersey Farm Ltd., Hornby. Rock Ella also was the runner-up for Premier Exhibitor which was won by Brian Sayles, Paris.

First class of the day for Judge Chuck Luchsinger of Silver Springs Farm, Syracuse, New York was the bull calves. Halton placings in the class were third, Avonlea Canadian Club, shown by Featherstone Bros., Oakville; fifth, Rock Ella Right-On, exhibited by Rock Ella Jerseys; seventh, Rich Valley Distinction Opa, owned by Chris and Valerie Richardson, Milton.

Third place in the Senior Heifer Class went to Chris and Valerie Richardson's entry of Rich Valley ASM Selina. The class of junior yearlings was won by Rock

Ella Beauty's Amelia shown by Rock Ella Jerseys, with the third place awarded to Rich Valley April Beulah owned by Chris and Valerie Richardson.

The Reserve Junior Champion was second prize senior yearling, Rock Ella Beauty Gem, entry of Rock Ella. Placing fourth was a Rock Ella entry, Rock Ella Distinction Samares.

Moving on to the mature classes, Rock Ella Jerseys had the first prize two year old, Rock Ella Beauty's Goldy, fourth prize three year old, Rock Ella Beauty's Silhouette, and the first prize four-year-old with HVF K Pallady. "Pallady" was declared the Best Udder Champion of the Jersey show. Mrs. Eleanor Robinson, Georgetown exhibited the second prize four-year-old, Elemar Edna M Fashion. The blue ribbon for second prize in the Breeder's Herd went to Rock Ella Jersey Farm.

An added feature to this year's show was the State Herd. Halton Jerseys teamed to be part of the Central Ontario Herd to place second.



The Corporation of the Town of Milton

TAX NOTICE

Ratepayers of the Town of Milton are reminded that

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SEPT. 18, 1978

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17 WILSON DRIVE, MILTON
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338 KERR STREET, OAKVILLE
844-0866

Between the Willows

The friendly folk of Van

By Don Byers

I mentioned last week how friendly we found the people of Vancouver.

We moved about the city a great deal — by foot, by bus, and occasionally by cab.

Wherever we went we were treated royally, despite the fact that I have always been under the mistaken impression that to admit you were from Ontario was a "no-no" out there.

Au contraire!

Waiters and waitresses, sales clerks and cabbies were without exception courteous and helpful. As were Rick's apartment superintendent and his wife.

To give you a better idea of what I'm talking about I'd like to describe two of several incidents.

One hot afternoon Rhea and I were sitting on the front seat of a bus. Directly beside us sat a very young mother, holding her badly disabled little baby in her arms. She was drably dressed in clean, faded jeans and flowered blouse. At her feet was a small, collapsible wheelchair.

Suddenly, as we rolled along, the baby cried out, then vomited. Within seconds a very well-dressed, middle-aged woman appeared from the back of the bus. Opening her purse she reached in and took out a packaged "wet-towel" and gave it to the frantic, young mother.

"Is he alright?" asked the lady.

"Yes, thank you, I think so."

"Why don't you get off the bus and take a cab? I'll be happy to pay the fare."

"Thank you very much. We'll be OK."

"You're sure, dear?"

"Yes, thank you."

The lady then returned to her seat and shortly thereafter we reached our destination and disembarked.

On the lighter side, there was the day when Rick got lucky and managed to score two packs of American beer at the liquor store.

Crossing a busy intersection on the way home, the bottom of one case became unstuck, dropping two of the rare bottles to the pavement.

Onlookers, shocked at the sight in this beer-strike-bound city, commented with sympathy upon Rick's misfortune.

From nowhere appeared a white-haired lady clasping a large, empty, plastic shopping bag which she held out to him.

"Oh, you poor dear. Put your bottles in here. They'll be safe."

He thanked her and promptly filled the bag.

Ah, yes, the friendly folk of Van.

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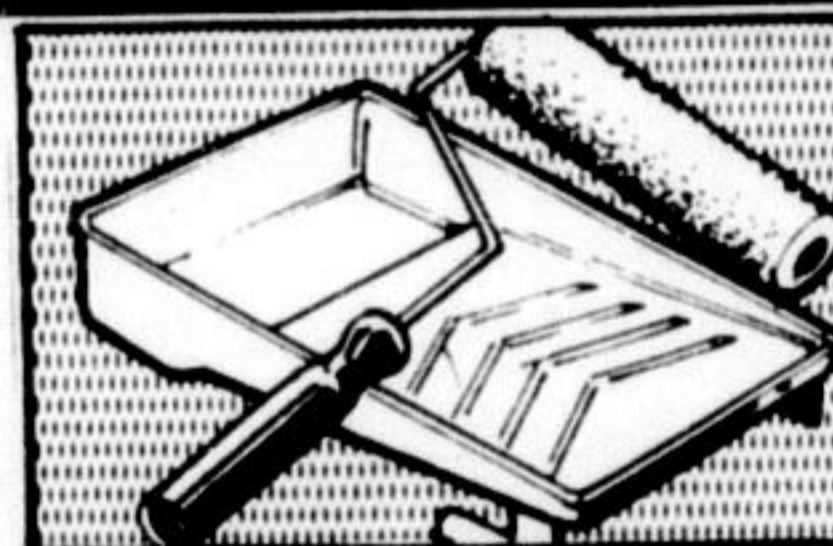
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