

Milton Then and Now

Deal brings PLR to town

By Mel Robinson

In The Champion of April 9, 1908 there were two items about a new industry which was expected to come to Milton. There was an editorial in which it was announced that a big manufacturing company had agreed to locate here. It intended to establish large and up-to-date machine shops which would attract skilled workers to the town. It was the first of the companies sought for the town by that vigorous promoter, T. C. Livingston, who had moved to the town just a short time before. The editorial gave great credit to him and to the council for attracting this promising industry.

The other item was a report of the meeting at which the council, in committee as a whole, had considered the terms of an agreement with the officials of the company. This agreement was signed and sealed at this important meeting. The company was expected to become one of the foremost manufacturing plants in Ontario.

The members of the company who had come to work out the agreement remained to negotiate the purchase of a site for the new plant, which would have to be at least three acres in extent. In the next issue of The Champion the new firm was identified as the P. L. Robertson Manufacturing Co. Ltd.

The company agreed to locate here permanently and to open one wing for operations immediately. It would use the Canadian patents for the Robertson wood screw and the companion screw driver.

Milton was to become well known as the place of manufacture of the socket head screw and driver. Some of the machinery had already been shipped from the "old country".

One of the attractions offered by the company officials was that its machine shops would offer repair services to other firms in the area. This promise was made good, especially in the early years of operations. The company advertised regularly in The Champion that its business included machine repair services and electroplating (nickel, silver) and copper oxidizing.

In consideration of the undertakings of the company, the council agreed to submit for the approval of the voters a by-law to grant an interest-free loan for \$10,000 to the company.

It granted a 10-year exemption from municipal taxes—other than taxes for schools, which the town did not have power to waive.

The town agreed to provide up to 4,000 gallons of water per day, with a maximum charge of eight cents per 1,000 gal.

It agreed to use its influence in obtaining a satisfactory disposal of the firm's sewerage.

It also agreed to provide and maintain a roadway to the company's premises.

The growth of the company's operations was to come in phases. In the first place a machine shop was required and at the same time the first machines for the manufacture of screws were to be installed. Eventually the company was to go into the

manufacture of nails and tacks. Tied in with this project was the plan to set up a factory building for the drawing of wire for use in the manufacture of screws, bolts, tacks and nails. In addition it was hoped to sell drawn wire for the general market.

The whole concept of the operation was a mature one. Years before, P. L. Robertson had become impressed by the need for a better screw than the commonly used slot-head one. He had taken up the concept of a screw with a square socket in its head to accommodate a square-tipped screw driver. After obtaining patent rights for the idea, it was years before his ideas could be developed into a commercially attractive proposition.

The site acquired was the one still occupied by the firm—a wedge-shaped area north of the Grand Trunk railway line, facing Bronte St. between the railway line and the old cemetery. The first building erected was the machine shop which was put up alongside the old cemetery.

In the succeeding years more buildings were built and the machinery for use in them was acquired in an orderly and rapid program. The need for money to meet the payroll of the young company, and also to meet the need for funds for new buildings and machinery was intense. The achievement of P. L. Robertson in setting this complicated venture on the road to success was truly a great one. Its importance to the people of the town in good times and bad can scarcely be overestimated.

No permission

Using Elmer's name

The Canada Safety Council has learned that an unknown individual or group of individuals is using the name "Elmer The Safety Elephant" to solicit donations from businessmen and women for an alleged children's safety publication.

The Canada Safety Council does not sponsor such a publication, and as a matter of policy, does not accept advertising in any of the Council's publications.

Right to the name and

character of "Elmer" is held by the Canada Safety Council, and no permission has been given for use of Elmer's name in this fashion.

The Council depends greatly upon the generosity of corporate and other donors for the continuance and development of safety programs, and is concerned that well-intended donations be diverted by an apparently fraudulent scheme, instead of being sent directly to Council offices in Ottawa.

Plan skit on foods

by Donna Stewart
The fourth meeting of the Hornby North Seniors 4-H Homemaking Club was held at Reids'. The 4-H pledge was led by Debbie Routledge, followed by Marcia McPherson reading her minutes from the last meeting.

Cathy Routledge and Annette Reid prepared creamy ham and mushroom supper, Donna Stewart and Betty Marchmont prepared metric tea biscuits, Marcia McPherson and Debbie Rout-

ledge prepared cheese and bacon swirls.

Members discuss the party that will be held. They will work on the skit "We're here, we're hungry" at this meeting.

The meeting was finished by sampling the prepared food along with coffee, tea and milk.

—Milton Optimist Club plans to hold its first meeting in the new Youth Centre at Brian Best Park this week.

Between the Willows

Rats! November already?

By Don Byers

Those of you who find yourselves "Between the Willows" on a regular basis already know how I feel about this nothing month.

A year ago, I went on and on: about bare, leafless trees, bereft of their brilliant colors of October; the dull, brown fields, and the grey, scowling skies.

This time, I want to think positively. After all, like it or not, November is upon us. And there is nothing anyone can do but grin and bear it—our spirits lifted with thoughts of March, down the long and dreary road ahead, and what sardonic, sadistic, soul-searing slaps this rotten month delivers to Canadians, still ravaged and rocked after surviving your average winter.

One thing to be said about November is, at least, we've had a fairly pleasant summer and fall in which to build up our strength.

Surely, there must be more. Keep digging, Don.



With Nancy Gordon

Dear God:

I remember, years ago the miracle You performed which enabled my sister Evelyn to live a full, useful life. As I recall, at the age of twelve Evelyn with our five brothers and sisters were swimming at the private beach at our parent's cottage.

Evelyn complained to mother of her left leg feeling extremely. She was told to sit on the beach and rest for awhile. However, she became increasingly worse. A day later Evelyn was completely paralyzed in both legs. Upon the doctor's consultation it was found to be Infantile Paralysis, which results in being a paralytic for life.

Being only twelve years old she felt very depressed and victimized. Having healthy brothers and sisters, Evelyn questioned: "Why me?"—as she was totally bedridden. Five years passed with no improvement.

Mother, upon hearing of a Redemptorist priest coming to our parish for a one week mission, in desperation, requested a visit to our home for a prayer to comfort us. This Redemptorist priest visited our home and prayed with Evelyn.

A few days later, while working downstairs Mother heard a noise from the floor above. She then went to the bottom of the stairs, not knowing what the noise could have been. There at the top of the stairs, on her own two feet, stood Evelyn with only the stair railing for support. Praise God!

To make a long and happy story short, Evelyn was never physically strong but was able to hold an office job, met Jim and they shared a long, fulfilled married life until Evelyn reached her seventieth year. Which was a gift You granted. The medical profession said they did not understand it as she should have been bedridden for life. Such recovery as hers had never been recorded before.

We hear daily of the special work You do. Thank You God. Evelyn was my dear and loved sister.

Albert Yeats
Ashburn, Ontario

This letter is shared with you for there are so many who don't know that God's help and love is an everyday experience. Please share with us and others what God has done for you.
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Ah, November can't be a dead loss if you are celebrating a birthday or wedding anniversary. Then, again...

I always awake on the first day of the 11th month wondering where the trick-or-treat freaks threw my mail box, the night or two before. Maybe we'll get lucky this year and it will be right there, just across Walker's Line from our driveway. I don't know how many more trips, through the air, and over the fence and into the field below, the battered old thing can take.

November, November, November, creeps in this petty pace from day to day.

(ED'S NOTE: Come on, Don, what happened to your "positive thinking?") So it slipped a little. Let's have another go.

The dying days of November (well chosen words, if I may say so) bring us to a Canadian phenomenon known as "Grey Cup Week", or, the nutsy, national drunkeroo.

For years I really turned on to this great East-West get-together—especially the breathless thrills of The Big Game. But, anymore, the silly festivities before the teams face each other on the frozen field, hold about as much real excitement as the match itself. Boring.

And, having said all that, guess who will be glued to the tube from the opening kick-off? I'll probably be watching the Grey Cup Parade, too. Perhaps it has something to do with "November Numbness", which, by that time, will have completely engulfed me.

Of course, the fireplaces are fun at this time of year, their dancing flames fighting off the gloom. And the long evenings are conducive to catching up on your reading... especially those beautiful travel brochures, seducing us hard rocks of the North with fantastic color photos of sparkling, white beaches, azure waters, waving palm trees, and string bikinis... all drenched in golden sunshine.

Well, I've made it through more than 50 Novembers, so far. What's one more?

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