

Milton Then and Now

Milton Hotels and the License Act

By Mel Robinson
 In the period from 1908 to 1914 there were many items in the local newspapers about the liquor trade in this area. In those days Milton had three hotels, the McGibbon House, the Commercial Hotel, and the New Royal Hotel. Each was authorized by the County License Commissioners to sell liquor in its bar — under the provisions of the License Act.
 The editor of The Champion upheld this act with "its Indian list and other restrictions which were calculated to lessen the evils of intemperance." He was convinced that the town's three hotels were well run and that the owners tried hard to comply with the provisions of the act.
 There were many news items, however, from court cases involving violations of the act. Many were about the drinking of local men who were on the Indian list. It was illegal to sell liquor to them. There were really two of these lists. All native Indians were on the one 66 under federal legislation. The magistrate in a police court was empowered by the License Act to put the name of habitual or troublesome drunkards on the other list.
 For instance, there was a row on

Main St. one Saturday evening in the early summer of 1911. Two members of a local family got into a fight. They were jailed by Constable Chapman and charged in court. The aggressor was obviously drunk at the time so he was fined \$1 and costs. That his name was also added to the Indian list seemed quite reasonable to editor Pantone, but he felt that a \$10 fine would have been more appropriate.
 On another occasion two brothers were charged with "being under the influence" while on the prohibited list. Because they were on that list it was necessary to prove that they were not actually drunk.
 Legitimate drinking and a reasonable amount of drunkenness was tolerated. Two drunks were trying to fight on one occasion but were unable to do each other much harm. They were fined \$5 and \$3.50 costs. As a boy I can remember seeing the occasional drunk lurching home during the daylight hours after drinking too much at a bar. In general, however, local drinking was under reasonable control.
 The License Act put hotel keepers in a difficult position. They had to make sure that men on the Indian list were not served at their bar. They could not

sell liquor to them by the bottle. That type of man would try almost anything to obtain liquor.
 When one of them was charged with drinking, the constable had to try to discover the source of the liquor. The accused was always most reluctant to supply information. Two men in this situation in April 1912 had novel answers. One claimed to have obtained his in "a club in Toronto." The other said he got his from some Italian workmen of the Christie Quarries and that he did not know their names. Another man in 1908 had great difficulty in remembering faces, and had only a hazy recollection of his supplier.
 It was easy for a regular hotel customer to buy a bottle of liquor quite legally, then turn a neat profit to a man on the list. It was risky business, for whether a hotel man or not, the fines ran from \$25 up into the hundreds for suppliers.
 It was recognized that this bottle, or "growler," trade was difficult to control. As a result the Liquor License Act was amended in 1913 to stop the sale of liquor by the bottle. It could be sold only to those who needed liquor for medical reasons. It was necessary to present a prescription signed by a

medical doctor for each purchase. For many years there were jokes galore about illnesses for which a prescription for a bottle of liquor was quite necessary.
 The hotel men had government supervision, of course. Once a year they had to apply to the Liquor Commissioners of the county for a renewal of their licenses, and that group was a vigilant one. Then, too, there were government inspectors checking continually for violations of the provisions of the Act.
 In August 1910, for instance, four inspectors went to Georgetown as part of the Alton baseball team. They were able to buy enough beer to become drunk. Then they charged the owners of three hotels with serving them with more than the law allowed. Each hotel man was fined \$20 and costs for that incident.
 A hotel man in Bronte allowed a youth in his employ to help himself occasionally from a barrel of cider. An inspector managed to obtain a sample from the barrel from the youth. Apparently it was hard cider taken from a barrel that was "maturing for vinegar." The hotel owner was fined \$100 as a result of that inspection.

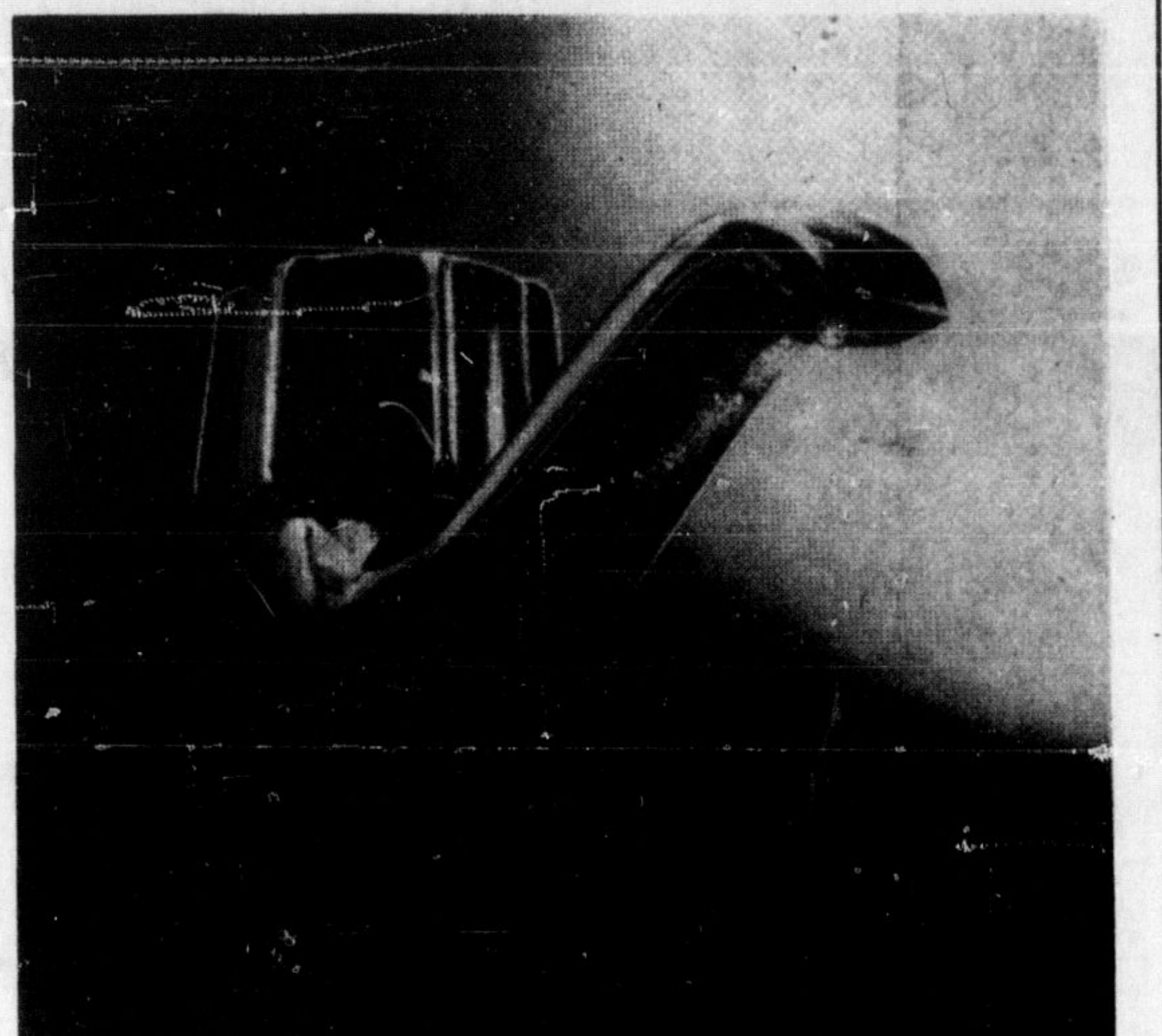
Halton board sets example

No bar bills will be run up in Halton schools.
 Halton school board trustees stuck to a no liquor in schools policy in a recent meeting.
 The re-affirmation of policy was prompted by a motion from Burlington trustee N. Cooper, seconded by Halton Hills trustee Betty Fisher, to allow community groups, who regularly use the schools, to sell alcoholic beverages provided no student activities were going on at the same time.
 Cooper and Fisher were the trustees who voted for the change in policy.
 Most of the trustees who spoke on the liquor question said they were concerned about the example the Halton School Board would be setting to its students.
 Milton trustee Ivan Armstrong was opposed, he said, because of the responsibility the board would be placing on principals who would have to decide on the merits of applicants to use his school.
 Director of Education Em Lavender assured trustees he would keep the student interest first and the community's second if there was a conflict in the scheduling of a school's use.
 Concern was expressed

by a southern trustee about the number of requests for the use of schools, north of Highway 401. Halton Hills Ward 2 and 3 trustee Barry Shepherd said he was aware of the Georgetown Little Theatre expressing a desire to serve wine and cheese at its functions. "They go to a Catholic church hall," he said.
 "Apart from not wanting to see the Catholic Church done out of the

revenue," Milton Separate School trustee John Bradley said he would vote against the bid to amend the policy.
 "The young people will be looking for Friday night specials," said Bradley. Then he added he understood they do alright by bringing liquor on their own.
 Education director Lavender said there was a scheduling between two community groups for the use of a school, but by

and large there are no problems between outside groups events and student events.
 The question came before the board because of a request by a Burlington group to have liquor for an event at the Pearson high school. An agreement exists between the board and Burlington concerning the use of the building, and that agreement is not clear, according to Lavender.



Return Bob Merry head

By Henry J. Stanley
 Halton Federation of Agriculture elected their officers following their dinner meeting at the Boston Presbyterian Church.
 Bob Merry, Milton, continues as the President with Ed Segsworth, Milton, First Vice-President and Murray Harris, Milton, Second Vice-President, and Judy Sherwood, Milton remaining on as Secretary-Treasurer.
 Other members of the executive committee are Gerhard Treiranus, Georgetown and Harold Middlebrook, Milton.
 Chairmen, selected to the main committees of the Federation of Agriculture, are as follows: Education, Dr. Richard Kunicca, Georgetown, Land Use, Ed Segsworth; Property, Harold Middlebrook, Insurance, Bruce McClure, Georgetown; and Rep. to the Halton Farm Safety Council, Ken McNabb, Georgetown.
 Delby Bucknow, a Director of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, stated the Halton Federation of Agriculture deals with the politics of agriculture.



ANXIOUSLY AWAITING their new hockey sweaters from the Milton Lions Club, skating school members Ryan Colby and David Duffy watch others get their pictures taken.

Between the Willows

Losing credibility

By Don Byers
 It seemed, when we left home, to be your average, cold, January morning. Driving conservatively, it was a snap to reach the E.C. Drury School, and let Rhea off.
 But when I got onto Hwy. 401, it was an entirely different story.
 Glare ice.
 Cars were flying off in all directions into the snow-filled median... one directly in front of me.
 Having already had a very tricky experience out there, I drove 30 mph and hugged the inside lane.
 I arrived at Conestoga College, leaving the "white-outs" and ice behind me.
 In the haste of leaving the car (I was 30 minutes late for my class), and considering my parking slot was about one-half a mile from Portable 16, I left my headlights on.
 While teaching, this thought haunted me: Were my lights on or not?
 After class, as I approached my car, I sighed relief. The lights were off.
 But my joy was short-lived. When I slipped in behind the wheel, there was the headlight toggle pulled right out. And the battery was dead.
 A student, driving a Mini Austin,

tried to help. But we couldn't successfully connect my jump-wires to his battery.
 Back to the main building, seeking help. I'm really up tight, because I am due at Seneca King Campus (100 miles away) at 1.30. It is now 12.15.
 Through the Manager of Maintenance, I reached the Head of Student Services. This remarkably kind man put on his winter gear, and directed me to his car.
 We drove over to the parking lot, where the Cutlass sat white and cold. We had to push the damn thing out in order for my friend to position his car to jump my battery. Within a couple of minutes, the Cutlass roared into life.
 Back on the 401, I headed east. Most of the ice, over which I had driven in the morning, had disappeared. But what about my battery?
 Stopping at a Service Centre, I discovered I needed a battery charge. No way to reach Seneca in time. So I phoned in my class assignment.
 Some time later, I returned home, and hiked up the frozen driveway.
 I'm always telling people to make sure to turn off their headlights when they park their cars.
 I think I've lost some credibility.



A HAPPY YOUNGSTER was Billy Mele, 5 who recently received his new hockey sweater from the Milton Lions Club from Carol Brooks. The club donates sweaters to each member of the MMHA skating club annually.



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