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# The Canadian Champion

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## Shaking our heads

A classic example of haggling over the cents while forgetting the dollars, was performed in Halton regional council chambers last week.

Councillors debated the merits of paying regional chairman Jack Raftis \$225 for his monthly car allowance.

Ignoring the fact Mr. Raftis had volunteered to go without the car which the region has provided and maintained for the previous two chairmen and forgetting that Mr. Raftis had declined the \$300 originally allocated for the allowance, the regional politicians debated whether the chairman should be granted the \$225 or be subject to the same mileage restraints as other regional employees.

The debate went on for some time. Councillors waxed eloquently about policy, money and the principle of the thing.

## A dangerous precedent

"Milton takes care of its own" was the comment made by Councillor Bill Johnson and sure enough, Milton taxpayers are having to pick up the bill as the result.

Mr. Johnson's comment was made at Halton Regional Council last week when the region passed a motion refusing to be responsible for the sewage backup into Martin Caputo's basement in 1975 shortly after the inception of regional government.

Mr. Caputo who lives at 385 Williams Ave. had tried to seek compensation for damages done to his home but was turned down

## A man for the job

The spunk of Bill Watson is a man after our own hearts.

Mr. Watson is the new fire chief of the new Kilbride Fire Department. Although he and most of his men are without experience, they are striving to be a good, efficient bunch of smoke eaters.

Recognizing they are going to make mistakes, they also recognize that is the way of learning.

Firefighting is a tough business. We know by watching the Milton Fire Department in action.

It has risks and there is danger.

But a good department not only puts out fires, it prevents them as well.

We have no doubt Kilbride will be as successful if Mr. Watson is any example.

A man who lost most of his fingers in an industrial accident years ago, he has not only coped but more than overcome this loss.

He is proprietor of his own business in Kilbride and the leadership and respect which he commands in the community are probably outstanding reasons why he was chosen to head the fire department.

Lack of experience in a certain field is no drawback when the man for the job has a capability which can match anything he's thrown up against.

And because of the man Mr. Watson is, he is the kind of leader other men can look up to in times of crisis and emergency, two facts

While other matters of the agenda costing thousands more were passed with the wave of a hand, the \$225 was an item which had to be discussed in detail.

How true is the expression the nickel and dime stuff is always hotly debated while the big buck issues are simply glossed over.

The fact is, politicians, like the people they represent, have very little idea of what it is like to hold thousands of dollars in their hands. They simply aren't aware.

But, when it comes to something which is costing a couple hundred bucks, everyone knows exactly what they are talking about, having held \$225 in their hands.

If the question had been giving Mr. Raftis \$225.39, every mother's son (and daughter) would want to know what the 39 cents was for.

It really makes us wonder who we have representing us at the regional level.

by the region.

He found more sympathetic listeners at Milton Council which agreed to compensate him to the tune of a \$1,000.

Remarkable that the incident occurred almost four years earlier, compensation is awarded by the town and not by the region.

One of the reasons the region vetoed the application was the precedent the matter would set if approved. Now that Milton set it, we hope Mr. Caputo's case was an isolated one. If it isn't, any Tom, Dick or Harry who feels hard done by the region may come knocking on Milton's doors, expecting a handout.

of firefighting.

We have no doubts Mr. Watson will be as fine a chief as any fire department could ask.

### IGA comes to town

This week sees the opening of a major chain store.

The Independent Grocers Association has opened its first outlet at the White Oak Plaza.

Commonly called IGA, the new operation is a reflection of the growing population that Milton boasts.

We wish the new owners all possible success in their venture.

### Growing education

Milton is becoming an educational centre. And much of it is being situated in the E. C. Drury complex.

Besides being the provincially-funded school for the deaf and other handicapped students, the facility is going to become part of the town's new high school. This will not only accommodate composite and vocational students but a small portion will be devoted to children with special learning disabilities.

Also, starting at Drury is Trillium School. Situated in Drury's former hospital, the school will instruct students with severe learning disabilities.



### Sugar and Spice

By Bill Smiley



## I was overlooked for the GG's job

I've bitten my lip until I drew blood. I've tried not to let the hurt show. But my close friends have noted something behind the too-bright smile, the overly-casual manner. So I might as well let it out. No use getting an ulcer.

I felt slighted to the point of humiliation when Ed Schreyer was named Governor-General instead of me.

I wasn't too disappointed when Trudeau passed me over for the Senate. I wasn't old enough, decrepit enough, or liberal enough.

But I didn't think his petty vindictiveness would go so far as to overlook me for the G.G.'s job. Just because I've written a few columns suggesting that Pierre Elliott is something less than the Second Coming.

There were only the two of us in the running, obviously, but I can't figure out why the Prime Minister turned his back on me. Perhaps to garner a few hundred votes in the west, which is probably all he'll get, come June.

I have nothing whatever against Ed Schreyer as a person. I don't believe in mudslinging, even when it comes to a sinecure. But let's look at the record, and you may begin to understand my bewilderment at Trudeau's mistake of the century.

Ed Schreyer is a politician. Governors-General should not be ex-politicians. I am not now, never have been, and never will be, a politician. Score one for me.

Ed Schreyer is too young. Governors-General should be fairly ancient, and look wise even if they aren't. I am in my prime, and by the end of my term would be approaching the drooping earnestness that my speechwriters would prepare for me. And for the second part of the above qualification, I am perfect for the part. I

can look as wise as an owl about things in general, while having the intelligence of a rabbit about same. Score two.

Ed Schreyer is a family man. So am I. But I'll bet my kids were a lot more rotten than his are, and I coped with them. And how many grandchildren does Mr. Schreyer have? I wonder if Trudeau gave any thought to the millions of grandparents in this country, when he made his abominable choice?

Is Ed Schreyer a war veteran? Well, I am. There goes the whole Legion vote, Trudeau, which you might have got if you'd had your head screwed on right.

It is now 4-0 for me. Do you begin to understand my astonishment when the no doubt worthy, but undistinguished Mr. S. was chosen over me.

Ed Schreyer was a failure. He couldn't hang onto his premier's job. I have never failed at anything. I gained my pilot's wings in W.W. 2, took an honors degree in the toughest course in University, was a successful, if poor, weekly editor, have risen to the astronomic height of department head in a high school, and have been honoured as Outstanding Columnist in Canada. 5-0.

Ed Schreyer is singleminded in politics. An Endeepee-er. I have voted for all three major parties, some of them several times. Though not a politician, I have been closely involved in politics. I have been publicity man for a liberal, an NDP hopeful, and a Tory. The Liberal won twice. Both the other guys lost. It's obvious Trudeau didn't check my dossier.

Much attention has been given to the fact that Mr. Schreyer has an ethnic German-Austrian ancestry. So what? I am not from one of the so-called founding races either. Scottish, Irish, and a little splash of Danish when some sailors were wrecked in the

Hebrides a couple of centuries ago. That sure ain't British nor French.

Speaking of French, does Mr. Schreyer have any bonds with Quebec? Well, I have. Both my parents were born and grew up there. My mother spoke fluent French. And I spent the first two years of my life in Shawville, Pontiac County, Quebec. Never mind that there was not a Jew, a Chinaman, nor a Frenchman in the village. It was still in Quebec.

Perhaps you think that, as a former politician, Mr. Schreyer knows more about patronage than I do. Nonsense. When I was the linen-man on the dear old Hamonic on the Great Lakes, before she was burned at the dock at Sarnia, I knew the ropes. Give the Chinese couple a couple extra bath towels a week, and you ate better than the passengers.

I don't want to go on and on like this, pointing out Mr. Trudeau's folly and Mr. Schreyer's shortcomings. But it is a fact that I am better known in Canada, except among media and politicians, than he. Ask anyone in Kamloops or Moosomin or Sutton or Bridgewater. They've never heard of him.

Just a few loose ends. Does Mr. Schreyer have a son who is devoting his life to the spiritual welfare of the Third World, and speaks five languages? Or a daughter who can wheedle thousands out of her father without even asking? Or two grandchildren who can reduce a fine old house into an ancient ruin in two weeks? Let him

answer that.

He has a good-looking wife who cooks exotic European dishes. I have a beautiful wife whose grilled pork chops with canned mushroom soup spread on top make you weep with gastronomic delight.

Score? About 14-0. It a sorry day for Trudeau when he mistook gold lettering for solid gold.

### Our Readers Write

Dear Editor:  
As a Milton Heights property owner I feel Milton council is just wasting money replacing the bridge or buying any property in Milton Heights.

The heavy truck problem in the area has been stopped since they can't use the bridge.

Speeding in the area of the bridge is no problem since only one car can go over at a time.

The Halton Region Conservation Authority should be forced to have a traffic officer at the Heights' corner during peak times when cars are coming to and from Glen Eden and Kelso.

There should be no parking at any time on the shoulders of the Town Line.

The money saved by not changing the intersection or bridge could reduce area property taxes fifty per cent for at least twenty years. This might help the inconvenience caused to residents by heavy traffic which has been forced on them.

Sincerely,  
Ron Newell

## Turning the Pages of the Past

From the files of The Canadian Champion

### 20 years ago

From the Feb. 12, 1959 issue

Dick Syson of 237 Sydney St., Milton helped pilot an Italian Fiat which placed second in the 160-car Canadian Winter Rally, a 1,500-mile trek over Northern Ontario roads last week.

Halton's "Mr. Agriculture," the man who served as agricultural representative here for the past 24 years, was honored on his Friday retirement when hundreds filled the Nelson High School auditorium for a presentation ceremony. James Earl Whitelock was praised for his contributions to the county's agricultural progress. Dr. C. D. Graham, deputy minister of agriculture for Ontario, called him "a man of vision and a man of achievement."

A \$381,386 tender was accepted by the north Halton high school board Monday, for Milton's new high school. It was lowest of 10 bids. Work will start in April and the school is to be ready by November, on a 10-acre site recently annexed to Milton at the south end of Williams Ave.

Bruce McKerr, the town foreman, reports the town has used four times as much sand on streets and walks as it used last year—about 1,000 tons in all. The crews have also spread 50 to 60 tons of salt.

Purchase of Lowville Park from the Halton Federation of Agriculture, for \$20,000, was approved by Burlington Council on Monday.

Gordie Howe and "Red" Kelly were guests at Milton's minor hockey night Friday. Hockey sticks photographed by

the two Detroit Red Wings officials were won by Ron Naylor and Jim Ervin, who sold the most tickets to the event. The duo signed many autographs for youngsters.

The editorial board of Halton Junior Farmers is currently completing details for a booklet marking the 25th anniversary of the group. Editor is Wilma Wilson, with Jean Peterson her assistant.

### 75 years ago

About 11 p.m. on Monday, one of the chimneys of the McCartney House took fire and the soot was some time in burning out. The fire alarm was sounded about 20 minutes and though no great damage was done, there was quite a scare among Miltonians.

The cold snap which set in on Sunday was perhaps the most severe of this winter which has been the coldest in 63 years. Local thermometers recorded as low as 20 degrees below zero. The high winds which prevailed not only made the cold chiller but drifted snow over the railways and roads.

W. J. Armstrong spent Sunday in Milton with his family and returned to Toronto Junction on Monday. He attends the Royal Templars in Toronto this week.

The announcement of the death of Mr. Walter J. Harper, Grand Trunk agent at Milton, cast a gloom over the whole community. Mr. Harper had been ill for about three weeks. Much anxiety was felt concerning his condition before his death. Although he had appeared to have taken a change for the better, his death took everyone by surprise.

## Offbeat

By Rod Lamb



### Comrade-Teach us

The Canadian style of hockey went down to defeat in the NHL-Russian series this past week.

Like the old Crusader Cavalry charge which packed all its momentum in the initial thrust, the NHL allstars won the first of the three-game series 4-2 before running out of steam.

The Russians came from behind to win 5-4 in the second game and then annihilated the hapless Canucks 6-0 in the third contest.

There is no question Canadian hockey as we know it, is inferior to the Russians. The NHL packed the best talent it could and came up short-handed.

Considering the struggle was the best between two countries, the games were interesting and to a point, exciting. However, the effectiveness of the Soviet skating and their ability to learn from previous defeats in Canada, combined to rout our mercenaries.

Regardless who wins this year's Stanley Cup, it's going to be a sideshow compared to the European World Cup.

We have been surpassed in hockey and the series proves it.

The joke was on me when I attempted to move into my new digs at the Nobile