

Milton Then and Now

Early problems in library

By Mel Robinson
When Milton opened its present Public Library building in 1974, some people in town recalled hearing from their parents about a struggle which went on in the earlier years of this century. In the local news on April 23, 1908 there was a comment that "two years ago the Carnegie Foundation authorized a grant to this town for the construction of a new library building."
No action had been taken by the Council. In 1908 a citizens' group had been organized to promote the idea of using the basement of a new library building for activities of a branch of the Y.M.C.A. A Milton Boys' Athletic Club had been organized and was supported by Miss Ruddy and several other prominent citizens. A meeting was called in the hall of the Royal Templars, but nothing came of it.
The Canadian Champion supported the idea, both by commenting on the local situation and in drawing attention to progress in other communities as they took advantage of the generous offer of Andrew Carnegie through the Foundation he created. In May 1908, for instance, the citizens of Dundas had already subscribed \$560 of the \$1,000 needed for the purchase of a site for a library and the Carnegie Foundation had approved a grant of \$10,000 for the erection of a building.
The question was asked, "What is Milton doing about the grant of at least \$5,000 that it could obtain?"
In 1910 it was noted that George-

town's library board had applied for a Carnegie grant, and Milton's inactivity was the subject of further comment. About that time the Milton board asked the council for a grant of \$100 to assist in its operation. As the request was ignored the members of the board raised the membership fee from 50 cents to \$1 with the provision that the increase would be cancelled if the town should later make the requested grant.
At a meeting of the Board of Trade in December 1910 a resolution was passed asking for a plebiscite on the question of establishing a Carnegie library. On January 5, 1911 the vote was taken. The results were — For 94; Against 71.
In March 1912 the Markdale Standard announced that the community there was to receive a Carnegie grant. In quoting this, The Champion recalled the plebiscite early in 1911 in Milton, and noted that "no action has been taken by the Council, and there will be none unless the citizens bestir themselves."
From that time there was occasional mention in The Champion about the possibility of a building for a library and Y.M.C.A., but the issue was a dead one. The library continued in a large room on the main floor of the Town Hall just to the left of the main entrance. The board continued with its daily problems of providing books and reading room facilities.
Back in February 1909 there was a complaint that Milton's unemployed were monopolizing the use of the daily papers in the reading room, and were

carrying on loud discussions there. Small boys were invading the reading room and creating a disturbance. The librarian was Miss McKenzie, sister of Mrs. Panton, I believe. She was a kind, sweet faced little person who could not be expected to cope well with such problems.
Prominent citizens were active on the library board. In 1913 the President was Mrs. Victor Chisholm, Secretary Mrs. Martin, Treasurer J. W. Bews. Directors included W. B. Clements, William Panton, A. Drysdale, and E. Syer.
I do not know how the cost of operations was met in full. I can remember however, that many of its books in the late teens and early twenties had a label indicating some form of support from the Mechanics' Institute. The town may have provided some financial support, and probably provided the library's room rent free.
Certainly the board members organized fund raising activities to

help. For instance, in 1910 Miss Sinclair of the Entertainment Committee organized a presentation of the cantata "Saul" which was presented upstairs in the Town Hall's assembly room.
In 1913 a provincial inspector recommended a certain cataloguing of the books. The members of the board organized a sale of clothing and other useful articles to raise the money for this work. Afternoon tea was offered for 10 cents on both days of a very successful sale. Early in April the cataloguing was completed by Miss Spearman.
Money had been raised in 1908 and 1909 by sponsoring several motion picture programs by the Carey Brothers in the Town Hall. In 1910 the motion pictures of another group was sponsored. In 1911 this type of entertainment was transferred to Victoria Park under the auspices of the Milton Band. Other types of fund raising were undertaken by the supporters of the library.
It's good to say, "I've climbed the ladder of success as long as it wasn't someone else who built the ladder."
+ + +
None of us are perfect, even though there are some who think they are!

Philosobits

By Edith Sharpe
Many of us forget to live today because we're looking to tomorrow or looking back at yesterday. Remember, today will never be yours, ever again. Make it count, don't waste a minute of it.

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Rotary marks 31 years of crippled children aid

Doctors, dentists, lawyers, real estate officers and local industry were among many to receive thanks Friday evening from the Milton Rotary Club at the annual Easter Seal dinner.
1979 marks the 31st year the local organization has pledged its support for the Ontario Society for Crippled Children, Chuck Beaton, Rotary president told the gathering of approximately 300 people.
"I want to thank all of these people for their tremendous support," he said.
During the past three years, the Milton Rotary Club has raised over \$18,000 to help Milton and area crippled children, according to Mr. Beaton. The financial support included \$4,000 for wheelchairs and similar equip-

ment for Milton children; \$2,400 towards the Credit Valley Treatment Centre for Handicapped Children and \$12,000 towards the Ontario Society for Crippled Children.
"Thanks to interested people, many handicapped children are receiving benefits and treatment," he said. The annual dinner event was held in honor of Milton's 1979 "Timmy," 13-year-old Bruce Riddell, Campbellville.

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Between the Willows

Made it, again!

By Don Byers
As I write this, it is the last day of winter. Officially.
For the most part, the side-hill is free of snow. But behind the house, and in the woods, there is lots of the white stuff around.
Today, the sun is shining, the springs are bursting their banks, and, having a March Break from teaching, I have a severe case of spring fever.
Sure, I know, every pessimist (Their numbers are growing. Have you noticed?) keeps telling me we have one more disastrous winter storm, just waiting to dump on us.
I don't believe it.
Over the weekend just past, I was sitting on the steps of the back deck, taking a break from the forever chores, when a bee landed on one of my sneakers. A good sign.
So was the young cardinal that, in the last couple of days, seemed to be possessed with flying through out dining room window. Daimen, David's cat, at the same time, was trying to go through the pane, from the inside.
My friendly editor often asks, "How come all these weird things happen to you?"
Lucky, I guess.
On the other hand, I think we all have similar experiences.

A number of times, I have talked to readers who have said: "Do you know, in column such-and-such, you reminded me of something that happened to me."
As a writer, there are few greater rewards.
And I thank you.
+ + +
Pressing right along: I gave my students at Conestoga a broadcast-writing assignment on Monday of this week.
"Write a two-minute editorial on the following subject: Margaret Trudeau's book 'Beyond Reason' will be released this month. It describes, intimately, her life with our Prime Minister. We are facing a federal election. What affect will Maggie's book have on the outcome?"
At first, they all were somewhat staggered with the in-class assignment. But once they got to their typewriters, the results were caustic, clever and, in some cases, hilarious.
As an instructor, I continue to be impressed with the latent talent of these young people.
All I do is to find the ways to turn on the taps. When it happens, we all benefit.
And, with kids like those, with whom I'm involved, I feel good about Canada's future.

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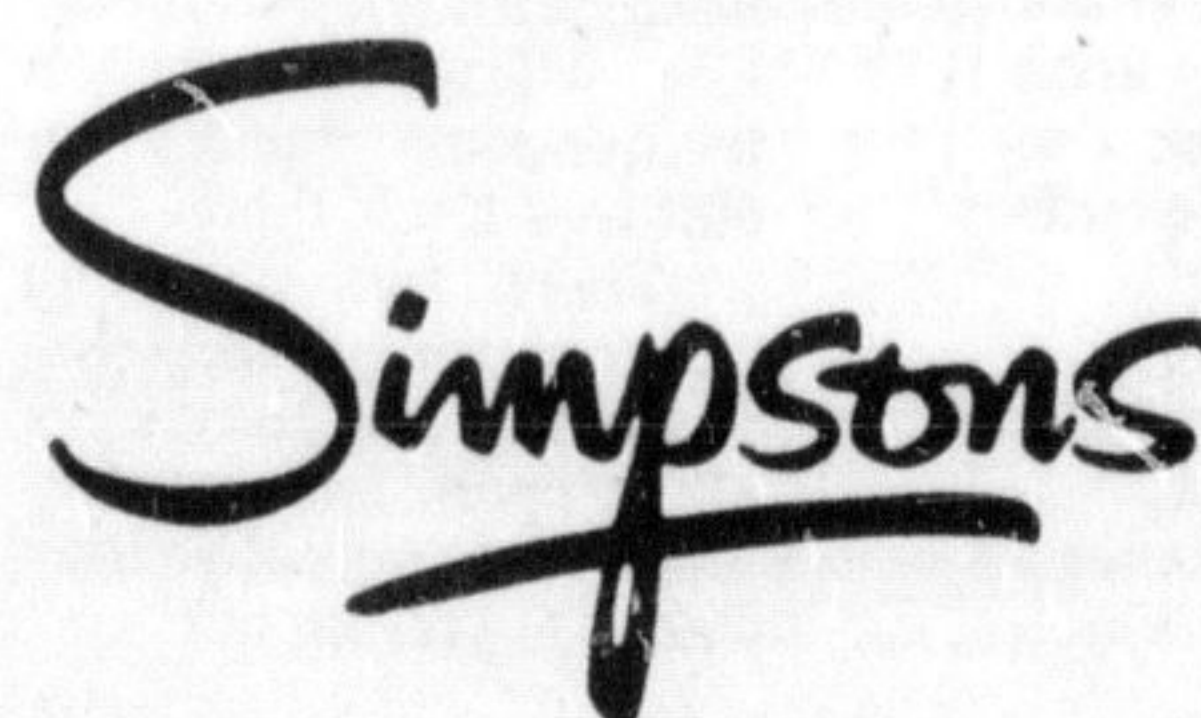
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in and treat yourself to a hair conditioning treatment, a perm, a color touch-up or perhaps a totally new style. And, it's guaranteed to pick up your spirits. Call for an appointment. Then, let our qualified technicians pamper you. Use your Simpsons Action Card — it's so handy for so many of the nice things in life. Like the Elizabeth Arden Salon.

This is just one of the "extras"... there's much more in store for you at Simpsons! Watch for future columns in this newspaper... they'll help you discover Simpsons!



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