

Established 1861

The Canadian Champion

191 Main St. East
Milton, Ontario L9T 1N7
Phone 878-2341

ROY DOWNS Editor
HERB CROWTHER Publisher
PAUL BELANGER Jr. Advertising Manager

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Published every Wednesday by Inland Publishing Co. Limited at 191 Main Street East, Milton, Ontario L9T 1N7. Telephone 878-2341.
Subscriptions: Single copies 20¢ each, \$10.00 per year in Canada, \$26.00 in all countries other than Canada.
The Canadian Champion is one of the Inland Publishing Co. Limited group of suburban newspapers which include The Acton Free Press, The Ajax/Whitby/Pickering News Advertiser, The Brantford Post, The Burlington Post, The Essex Gazette, The Georgetown Independent, Markham Economist and Sun, The Mississauga News, The Newmarket/Aurora Era, Oakville Beaver, Oshawa This Week, Oshawa This Weekend, and The Stouffville Tribune.
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Champion Editorial Page



Predict close race

It's a little early yet to be predicting the outcome of the federal election Tuesday, May 22. But at this stage of the campaign, all signs point to a close race, both locally and nationally.

The main choice will be a vote for Pierre Trudeau and the Liberals who have governed our country for the past decade, or a vote for Joe Clark and his Conservatives. The NDP offers a third alternative but the NDP has not yet proven itself strong enough to take over control in Ottawa.

Locally, voters will choose between incumbent MP Dr. Frank Philbrook of the Liberals, MP (in High Park) Otto Jelinek representing the PCs, or the new NDP candidate Doug Black.

Halton is traditionally a key riding in which no one party holds a monopoly. The party winning Halton will probably form the next government. Lone exception in the last couple of decades was in the 1972 election, when Tory Terry O'Connor won the seat although Trudeau retained power nationally by a very few seats.

Georgetown has been removed from the Halton riding. Acton, Milton and Oakville remain.

Redistribution will probably not affect the outcome of the election in this riding. Liberal strength has lain in the north traditionally.

The key to this riding is Oakville. The Grits have counted on taking enough votes in Oakville to add to their northern popularity to win the riding. If they can con-

tinue, then Dr. Philbrook will win re-election. If not, Otto Jelinek will have swept Oakville and the riding with it.

We have been given to understand by Mr. Jelinek and Al Wilson (Dr. Philbrook's campaign manager) that there is a better than 50 per cent chance that both Messrs. Trudeau and Clark will visit Halton at some point in the campaign. We don't think Ed Broadbent will be coming. His time can be more profitably spent in ridings where the NDP has a chance of winning.

The main issue in the campaign in Halton will be the economy. Milton and Oakville are becoming bedrooms for Toronto businesses. If the economy is bad, Halton voters are unhappy. Unhappy voters pay attention to the party platform that can cure the economy best.

Another main issue, we believe, is the leadership qualities of Pierre Trudeau and Joe Clark. Mr. Clark may not have the best possible image in this regard, and Mr. Trudeau may not have the best possible track record, so take your pick.

Halton's individual candidates, we believe, will be overshadowed by the foregoing. All three candidates are capable men and are a credit to the riding. The deciding factors will be the party platforms and the leaders.

We believe Halton will continue to be a mirror of the country as a whole. In our opinion, it will be an extremely close race... too close to predict a winner.

Little man gets it

It's happened again. The private citizen has again been stuck in a painful place in the name of progress.

Being hindered is Anthony Saliba.

Mr. Saliba owns a farm on the Eighth Line of Milton, just south of Britannia Rd.

Mr. Saliba grows cabbages. He may not be able to grow them this year.

The land where he grew them recently became the bottom of a lake, the result of a railroad bed.

The track services construction of an Ontario Hydro project.

Ontario Hydro in its wisdom, didn't see fit to install culverts to

drain the spring runoff. Consequently, Mr. Saliba (who did nothing to deserve anything like this) has seen his cabbage-growing patch become a lake.

As the result of a Champion story, Hydro became conscious it might have an image to protect and came back to dig a ditch.

It has helped.

The lake is now a mud hole. But it doesn't really solve the problem. And Mrs. Saliba still isn't satisfied.

What happens if heavy rains come? Mr. Saliba doesn't know.

His plight is another example of a large corporation's indifference to the ordinary citizen.

Telling us something?

We got a gift from Warren Allmand the other day.

Warren Allmand is the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, and will likely be re-elected on May 22 in his Montreal riding of Notre-Dame-de-Grace.

The gift consisted of a piece of cardboard measuring 18 cm by 8 cm. On it was a table comparing the cost of gasoline on a per-litre basis to a per-gallon basis.

"Gee, thanks!" we said. It told us that a price of 21.1 cents per litre is the same as 95.9 cents per gallon. Similarly, 22

cents per litre is the same as one dollar per gallon.

It's a handy thing to know. It allows for comparative shopping and that's good.

The chart goes as low, price-wise, as 19.8 cents per litre, or 89.9 cents per gallon.

Does that mean the price of gas is anticipated to go that low?

Well, er probably not.

The same chart goes as high as 25.3 cents per litre, or \$1.15 per gallon.

We think Mr. Allmand is trying to tell us something.

Commenting briefly

Congratulations

We note Rev. Blake J. Ryan has been chosen as the recipient of the Award of Merit from the Ontario Separate School Trustees' Association.

Rev. Ryan is a former trustee of the Burlington and Halton Roman Catholic Separate School Boards. We add our congratulations.

Welcome visitors

Fourteen Inuit children were hosted by Milton students this week.

The town and its surroundings were a far cry from their homes in the Northwest Territories.

We hope they enjoyed the experience, and Milton's hospitality.

Sugar and Spice

We're one vast Apathy Club

By Bill Smiley



Does anyone in this country even care any more whether the federal election occurs in April, May or June? Does anyone even care any more whether there is a federal election, in which we might exchange a right-wing reform party for a right-wing party, either winner being at the mercy, in a vote, of a right-wing left-wing party?

Day after day of listening to the news, and watching the news, and reading the news, has created in me, at least, the greatest sense of apathy I've ever experienced in my life. And I have a hunch that millions of Canadians agree with me.

Does anyone care any more what Margaret Trudeau, a rather silly woman with verbal dysentery, among other ailments, has yet to reveal? Not me.

Does anyone care any more how many Christian Arabs in Beirut killed how many Muslim Arabs in Beirut? Not me.

Does anyone care that Prince Charles was seen jogging on a beach in Australia, that Pierre Berton has written another book, that Canadian writers and artists and theatres and publishers all claim they need more of our tax bucks to survive? Not me. Only they.

A colleague of mine describes an organization at the university he attended. It was called the Apathy Club. It put out notices like these: "The Apathy Club will not hold its usual meeting this month." Or, "True to its convictions, the Apathy Club failed to elect a new president, when no one ran for the office, and no one showed up to vote for those who did not run."

I have a feeling that Canada is turning into one vast Apathy Club. Oh, we're not

yet quite completely lifeless. You can see this by reading the Letters-to-the-Editor columns, where all the cranks, quacks and bigots are given a chance to sound off.

But when all the news is bad news—unemployment, falling dollar, violence, threat of wars—we are inclined to tune out, and to tune in to some sort of escapist entertainment.

This apathy is reflected in all sorts of phases of our society. It's considered a big deal if there is a 60 per cent turnout for an election.

Outside the larger cities, where there is constant hype from the sports writers, sports are dying out. Small towns and cities that used to pack their arenas and baseball grandstands to watch the home boys fight off those infidels from the next town, draw only handfuls of spectators these days.

Well, what's the cause of all this apathy, you might ask. I believe it is the result of modern communication systems, which are supposed to bring the world closer together, and are, instead, making individuals harder and more self-centred, as they find themselves drowning in a flood of world-wide miseries which they feel helpless to alleviate.

Does anyone really care about the killing of baby seals except those directly involved: the Newfie hunters trying to supplement a meagre living; the protestors who enjoy the publicity they get; and a number of old ladies of both sexes who compose ferocious letters to the editor condemning the hunt, while downing a few slices of spring lamb and mint jelly?

Not me. My sympathies are completely

on the side of the sealers. It's hard, dirty work they do, and they don't do it because they are sadists, any more than the killers in a slaughter-house enjoy knocking sweet little calves over the head, so that you can have your veal and your calf-skin gloves. When it is proved to me that the harp seal is an endangered species, I'll join the protestors. Not before.

Where were all these silly twits when it was not baby seals that were being slaughtered, but baby brothers, and uncles and cousins and fathers, during the Great Wars? I don't remember too many letters to the editors in those days. The same sort of people who write protesting letters today about the seals, are probably the spiritual descendants of those nasty old women (of both sexes) who went around pinning white feathers on guys in civilian clothes during W.W.I. And gave you surly service and short measure in W.W.II.

always accompanied by the snarl, "Don't you know there's a war on?" This to guys in uniforms.

Ah, dear, it's an age when some people seek to swell out of their little selves to engage themselves, on publicity. If it were not for the ubiquitous media, ever seeking to touch the lowest of emotions, there would be no problems about the seal hunt. The Newfies would run a few protestors off the edge of an ice flow, and that would be that.

How did I get away over here in Newfoundland, if I'm so apathetic? Well, maybe I'm not. And that's a good sign. Apathy leads to constipation. Constipation leads to hemorrhoids. And the next thing you know, my daughter will be saying to her kids, "Don't worry, boys. We never seem to have a cent. But Grandad has piles."

Turning the Pages of the Past

From the files of The Canadian Champion

One year ago

From the April 5, 1978, issue
In a move that came as no surprise, Milton Council officially rejected an application by Halton Regional Council to establish a landfill project at the corner of Tremaine and Britannia Rds., otherwise known as Site F.

A fatal accident on the Steeles Ave. hill west of Guelph Line has prompted Council to improve the road by filling in potholes and painting a centre line on the road.

An engineer with Halton Board of Education said the addition to W.I. Dick School would be ready for the start of classes in September, barring any unforeseen difficulties.

A portrait of the late Brian Best, former mayor of Milton, was officially hung in the council chambers. Mrs. Freda Best attended the ceremony and said "Brian would be honored to be so noted in the town he loved."

The committee looking into fund-raising for the Milton Sports Centre on Laurier Ave. was given a new mandate... to look into fund-raising for the proposed indoor pool. The committee was to investigate the feasibility of financing the project.

Sandy Best, former MP for Halton during the Diefenbaker government, died in Toronto of an apparent heart attack. Mr. Best died six days after the death of his father, Dr. Charles Best. Dr. Best was the co-discoverer of insulin along with Dr. Frederick Banting.

20 years ago

From the April 2, 1959 issue
Louis P. Cecile, Minister of Welfare for Ontario, has approved a 139-bed addition for Halton Manor. Dell Construction has the contract, at \$802,467.

Burlington Council wants to annex 2,000 acres from Trafalgar Township and 92 acres from the Beach Strip.

Milton is getting a liquor store, it's official now. A \$50,000 to \$60,000 building is planned on Main St.

Pete McMullen of Milton was returned as president of the Ontario Baseball Assoc. for the third year, at the annual meeting Saturday. Jim Waldie, also of Milton, was named vice-president.

Saturday Halton Junior Farmers will observe their 25th birthday. It was in 1954 the HJF was born, with Cecil Chisholm as the first president.

50 years ago

from the April 4, 1929 issue
At Campbellville last night, a verdict of accidental death, with no blame attached, was returned by the jury at the inquest into the death of Archibald Black of Kelson, who was instantly killed by a C.P.R. eastbound freight at Christie Station on Tuesday morning of last week. Coroner, Dr. T.W. Peart of Burlington presided.

Miss H.E. Bastedo spent Easter with some friends at Kitchener.

Milton Legion, Post 136, will hold a euchre and dance in town hall tomorrow evening, for which many invitations were issued this week.

Miss Mollie McDuffie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A.D. McDuffie, who recently underwent an operation for appendicitis, is doing nicely.

Wray Bousfield wishes to announce that he has started sawing at his mill and requests all customers who have logs in his yard unmarked to notify him at once.

Mrs. Albert Anderson spent a pleasant holiday with her daughter, Miss Ethyl Anderson of Johnson City, N.Y. over Easter.

75 years ago

From the April 7, 1904 issue
The snow has all disappeared except where it is shaded or the drifts have been exceptionally deep, and the roads are drying up in many places. As there is very little frost in the ground, owing to the depth of snow from the middle of November until the end of winter, farmers are likely to be able to commence spring work very soon.

The Easter services at Grace Church were very bright and very hearty. The choir numbered over 20 voices at each service and rendered the Easter music with spirit. The Psalms were sung at the evening services.

John Fraser of Embro died last Friday after three days' illness, from blood poisoning, caused by an ulcerated tooth. He was one of the most highly esteemed young men of the district and was well known outside of it as a performer on the bagpipes. He played and sang in Milton on 30 November last at the Scottish concert in connection with Knox Church.

Guelph is flooded with bogus 25 cent pieces, Victoria issue. Bogus American quarters, issue of 1902, have appeared in Milton. Look out for them.

Offbeat

By Rod Lamb

Good for stories



Well, it's over. The OMB hearing on Site F is history. Whoever wins, if anybody really does, won't be known for a couple of months. The experience was my first dealing with the OMB.

I wasn't impressed. One lady likened the board members as Tweedledum and Tweedledee. The names are suitable.

Except for A.J.C. Chapman, who displayed a sense of humor and did mingle with the public, the impression of the OMB was a remote, uncaring government body.

Contrasted to that was the infighting and duelling going on between the legal beagles.

David Estrin for the Tremaine-Britannia Citizens' Group, Ed Sexton for the region and Fred Leitch for the town were the major actors in the drama.

At least they were human. David twice made remarks which he felt obliged to apologize for afterwards. Ed was masterly in the presentation of only the facts which benefitted his case.

Fred was cool in daring to challenge the board by taking a decision to the Supreme Court.

Behind the trio were the seconds: Bob Timberg and Steve Garrod for David; Fraser Berrill and Dennis Perlin for Ed and Larry Gangbar for Fred.

These youngsters fed the ammunition. Their exploits on and off the field of battle posed questions.

Will Dennis be upbraided by the board for his wisecracking? Will Bob break his arm? (he broke it twice during the hearing.) Will Larry deliver the baby? (A relative newlywed, his wife is having their first child.)

Against the high-priced events going on at the front of the hall, was the reserved quiet of the spectators. Most were members of the citizens' group.

Such people as Ann and David Katz, Stu McFadden and Sherry Blakelock impressed with their dedication, sense of justice and humanity.

They are good people. So, too, were the witnesses. Bessie Smith who took the place by storm; Dr. Derek Coleman who exhibited action language; and Bob Burt, the newspaperman who had recorded the story since it broke; were colorful dramatic and interesting.

Humor, anger, passion: the hearing had all the classic elements. But the ingredients which impressed were human. For they are the ones people recall in their storytelling.

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This Saturday the garbage fighters from T-B crossroads are bringing a dump dance to the Lions Hall on Thompson Rd.

Disco Dump, Get Down Garbage and Saturday Night Site F Fever will be the hits.

While Britannia Boogie fascinates, what in the world is Junk Rock? It will be amusing to find out.