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The Canadian Champion

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 Phone 878-2341
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 HERB CROWTHER Publisher
 MIKE HALL Advertising Manager

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NEWS ITEM: LACK OF WINTER SNOW IN HALTON FOR WINTER RECREATION FUN



Save the bell

Miltonians may remember the war we waged against pigeons.

The population of these birds was reduced but it seems they have taken revenge.

The bell in the town hall tower is a favourite resting place for the birds and it is now "painted" in an off-white colour which is really revolting to look at.

Every New Year's Eve Milton Kinsmen have a tradition of ringing-in the new year by going up into the tower and ringing the bell. While it's a nice idea, more than one Kinsman reeled when the bell was approached.

Not to mention the adverse structural affect the paint job may have on the metal, the historic value of Milton's town

hall bell should not be lost.

Therefore, we suggest the Downtown Business Improvement Area Committee should look at the bell as a centrepiece of the semi-mall concept for Main St.

Perhaps it could be put on display in the centre of a pedestrian walkway, surrounded by a rock garden. If we really wanted to utilize the bell as a tourist attraction, it could be set up with the clapper attached and rung by visitors "for good luck."

Whatever the decision, the town hall bell is going to ruin in the tower and it should be saved and put to good use.

We hope someone will come up with a bright idea and suggest it to council soon.

Recovery House

Somewhere tonight a man or a woman lets a bottle of alcohol slip from the grasp and it smashes on a concrete sidewalk or a floor.

The alcoholic has drunk him or herself into another stupor. Whether it is to escape the years and years of failure and degradation or whether it is truly an illness of addiction, has yet to be agreed upon by researchers.

Most of these people will never escape the bondage of Alcohol. It is better to be numb and senseless than to face the world.

But there are some, just a handful really, who realize the road to a tacky death is a liquid one. Out of pure survival, they try to pull themselves up and they must reach out for help.

In our area, Halton Recovery House is trying to do that; but the problem, as always is the amount of money. It continues to operate purely through private donations.

It really isn't much. Just a

house with a bunch of broken down men inside. But in reality, it is one of the very few avenues out of alcohol addiction in the Halton area.

On Monday the Oakville Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion presented Recovery House with a cheque for \$2,000 in order to help get the inhabitants through the winter.

It will never be enough, however to last through the year. The group needs more financial help.

The only way they can get it is through Milton residents seeing their way clear in this financially troubled time to make a donation, large or small.

But if there are people out there who can spare some money we would urge you to help Halton Recovery House.

They don't look like much and they don't ask for much, but they certainly are doing much to help the alcoholic rejoin the society of man.



Pierre is back

Viewpoint

with MICHAEL BOYLE

On February 18 Pierre Elliott Trudeau will once again ascend to the throne on Parliament Hill.

Columnists from coast to coast will immediately lambaste Canadians for being "too soft."

Joe Clark who will hold the dubious honor of being the youngest ex-prime minister in Canada's history, will accuse the federal Liberal party of opportunism.

The Grit victory will cause businessmen to cry foul, trade unionists to cry fair and Rene Levesque just to cry.

It will be a victory for the populace which will see true democracy in action. Despite arguments to the contrary, the Progressive Conservatives have no one to blame but themselves.

After 16 years of Liberal rule and 10 of Trudeau, the PCs put together a strong concentrated campaign in the last federal election.

They also managed to scrape in on the coat-tails of the new brand of con-

servatism which swept the world and replaced several long-standing leaders in major countries.

But it was that conservatism which spelled their defeat.

Canadians like to have what they already have. I guess it's fairly logical. They don't like change and are among the slowest people in the world to accept change.

The change in governments was simply a small group of people in key ridings fearing Trudeau was changing their lives for the worst.

They wanted a return of the old way of lower interest rates, a higher Canadian dollar and most importantly, a return to the standard of living Canadians enjoyed in the early 1970s.

Unfortunately for Joe Clark he failed to realize this.

The PC victory was not massive. In fact, the Liberals gathered four per cent more votes across the country. The PCs also did

not manage a majority in the House of Commons.

Clark blew it. If he wanted to maintain power, he should have made small changes over time, culminating in a major change of direction.

Although many will argue the fall of the government was a carefully orchestrated plan by the Liberals, any party which follows that pattern has always met with bitter defeat at the next election (witness 1958.)

If we can believe the latest Gallup Poll, the Liberals are far ahead and might even manage a majority if the election was held to-day.

In a nutshell, a Liberal victory wouldn't be the worst thing that ever happened to Canadian politics. The Clark government failed to realize the simplest of Canadian values.

Maybe this ought to send them back to class for another 16 years.

Sugar and Spice

with BILL SMILEY

Some bad news



I will not think about the election. I will not write a word about the election. I will put the election right out of my mind. I am not about to let an election spoil my new year.

There. How do you feel about another election? Probably much as I do. Another sixty million dollars out of our pockets to pay for the thing, and when it's all over, we'll have another bunch of liars, or the same ones, back in the House. It makes one puke.

Silly sods. Our glorious leaders. The arrogance of those in, and the lust for power of those out, is no new thing in our Canadian political history, but nowhere has it been better focussed upon than in the past few weeks.

Clark's Tories, who favorite epithet for the past decade has been "arrogance," walked into the House of Commons, after six months of non-government, stinking of the stuff.

As though a divine light had suddenly fallen upon the party, they immediately broke most of their election promises, and superciliously informed the nation, and parliament, that it was going to have to bite the bullet; more inflation, more unemployment, more taxes. A little power is a dangerous thing.

Like a toothless lion, the Liberals, leaderless, in disarray, and informed only last May that nobody wanted them to govern the country, or at least that a great many didn't, cuffed the new boys with its clawless, but powerful, paws.

Like jackals, the NDP with nothing to lose, ran yelping in to tear off some choice

bits of meat from under the nose of the toothless lion.

Like looters in a riot, the people who sell gas and cigarettes, and everything else that would raise taxes, joyfully hoisted their rates, before the budget had passed, adding the tax and a little more, to make it come out in round figures, a favorite game for years.

Like so many hyenas, the stock markets of the country, rejoicing in a swing to the right, sang hosannahs while stock prices soared. And went to the waiting wall when they collapsed, after the so-called "government" fell.

If you feel like me, you'll be muttering, "A curse on all their houses."

So, exhausted politicians will stagger back into the harness of the campaign trail, mouthing the same old cliches, trying to stir something in the dull, sullen pond of the Canadian voter, who has never been more disillusioned.

The media, which feeds on disaster as cancer feeds on cells, will have a field day.

And you and I, Jack, when the smoke has cleared, will pick up the tab, as usual.

Every vindictive bone, and he had a lot of them, in John Diefenbaker's buried body must be chuckling, as he watches Joe Clark make an ass of himself.

Even the dust of Mackenzie King must be stirring a bit as he overviews his beloved Liberal party putting sticks between the spokes of the government's wheels, a tactic at which he was a master.

Directions needed

If a fire broke out in your home right now, would you know the fire department's number, and could you accurately describe the exact location?

Everyone thinks "it can't happen to me" but it can happen, when you least expect it. Fire officials suggest everyone in the family must be briefed on calling the fire department and giving specific directions.

Case in point: A couple of weeks ago five fire trucks from the Milton and Acton brigades spent over an hour roaming the rural roads of Nassagaweya, looking for a fire that had been reported by a teenager. The fire was eventually found, across the town bound-

dary in rural Erin Township. The call should never have gone to either Milton or Acton brigade.

The teenager said her family had recently moved there from Toronto. Her parents were not home at the time. She insisted the home was in Nassagaweya.

Fortunately, damage was minimal, and the fire was contained in the walls of the home. But it could have been more serious and many precious minutes were lost, trying to find the house.

It's a good idea to find (and post) the fire department and police numbers. And make sure everyone can direct emergency crews to the right address. It could be a matter of life and death.

Commenting briefly

It's foolish

Despite a large sign warning the ice was not yet safe, several people were seen skating on the mill pond in Centennial Park, Martin St., Sunday afternoon. Some people just don't believe in signs.

Wasted effort

Two Acton men learned recently that it doesn't pay — it costs money — to lay frivolous charges of assault against Halton's police officers. The pair, both of whom were earlier convicted on charges of assaulting police, charged two Halton officers with assault

following an incident last June in Acton. Both men failed to appear when the charges were to be heard before a judge, so the judge dropped the charges and assessed each man \$606 in court costs, with an alternative of two months imprisonment.

No giant leap

Moon visitor Neil Armstrong made it safely to the moon and back, but got hurt at home! The astronaut had his left ring finger reimplanted after it was ripped off in an accident — his wedding band caught on a barn door as he jumped off a truck. That was hardly a giant leap for mankind.

Turning the Pages of the Past

One year ago

From the Jan. 10, 1979 issue
 The Ontario Municipal Board opened its hearing into Site F, and Halton Region's intention to establish a sanitary landfill there. The town of Milton, along with the Tremaine-Britannia Citizens' Group, opposed the landfill. The landfill was proposed to be located on the northwest corner of Tremaine and Britannia Rds., surrounding the home of Bessie Smith, a 94-year-old resident of the area.

George Swann was named the 1978 Citizen of the Year for his community involvement. Milton Chamber of Commerce President Maria Reis said it was a difficult decision because there were many worthy candidates nominated.

The Herigate Inn opened its doors in Milton at the corner of Highways 401 and 25. The colonial-style building cost \$800,000 and is part of a proposed major development project there.

Lorne Greenwood was appointed to Milton Library Board.

Broken windows and vandalism was reported at Robert Baldwin School. As well, several fire extinguishers were taken, but they were recovered.

A cold snap hit Milton. Residents were forced to bundle up.

20 years ago

From the Jan. 14, 1960 issue
 A. Roy Coulter was elected chairman of Burlington Board of Education Monday.

New manager of Milton Arena is Bill Smith, formerly of Guelph. Manager Bruce M. Hood has resigned.

Paul Jolliffe has been named director of the Halton Children's Aid Society, effective March 1, and G. Frank Thompson of Milton will be executive assistant to the director. Mr. Thompson has been director of the Society since 1929.

Milton Council has approved a \$1,500 annual subsidy to the Alexander Ambulance Service of Oakville, to operate ambulance service for Milton.

A third ice storm in as many weeks hit Milton and area Tuesday, depositing half an inch of ice on everything.

Plans for the expansion of Ledwith's food market on its Main St. site, a \$100,000 project, were announced this week by J. M. Ledwith. Buildings housing Gerry's Pure Food Bakery and Milton Shoe Repair will be demolished to make way for a tripling of the store area. The original building is believed to be about 100 years old and is constructed with square nails and hewn timbers.

50 years ago

From the Jan. 9, 1930 issue
 The January thaw came, all right. The mild weather has been bad for the arena and hockey. The mild weather has settled the snow and improved motoring.

William (Kid) Carson, former pugilist, lost a fight in the Oakville police court on Monday last, when he appeared before police magistrate McIlveen, charged with driving an automobile under the influence of liquor at Palermo on Saturday evening. He was found guilty and sentenced to 30 days in jail and his liquor permit was cancelled.

Parents are invited to visit the public school any time, but if they will come on a Wednesday, they will have an opportunity of seeing music taught in the school.

The officers and members of Post 136, Canadian Legion, wish to thank those who sent donations to the Christmas tree held in the town hall.

Mrs. Gorham is visiting her daughter, Miss Ruth Gorham, in Philadelphia.

Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Maude had all their family home for Christmas, from Mimico, Toronto, and Detroit.

Clarence Wilkinson, of Toronto, visited his parents here recently.

75 years ago

From the Jan. 5, 1905 issue
 Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Reid, of Shelburne, spent the holidays with relatives in town. Miss Lillian McInnes, of Stratford is spending the holidays with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. D. Dewar.

Mr. Andrew, an auctioneer would intimate to the general public that on and after this date his address, both post-office and telephone, will be Milton. He reports a most successful fall season, the sales being well attended and prices in every case being most satisfactory and when we take into consideration the most extraordinary number of sales held by him, this is certainly very gratifying.

Mr. James Bicknell, K.C., stated yesterday that the law firm of Laidlaw, Kappelle and Bicknell was about to be dissolved and that the formal announcement would be made in a day or so. It is understood that Wm. Laidlaw, K.C., the senior partner of the firm, will hereafter be connected with the Mackenzie-Mann enterprises. He is at present in Mexico associated with E. H. Keating, as the report goes on, who was sent there a fortnight ago to superintend certain enterprises in which the controllers of the Toronto Railway Co. are interested.

A dog has been found. Owner can have same on proving ownership and paying for this local. Apply to The Champion office.

Philosobits

By Edith Sharpe

Out of every bad situation can come some good. + + +

Treat others as you like to be treated. + + +

I need solitude like I need rest and food. + + +

Even if the "meek" do inherit the earth, there will always be someone around to contest their right to it.