

Our Readers Write

Remembrance forgotten

The following is a letter sent to Milton Legion Branch president Max Black, a copy of which has been filed with The Champion for publication.

Dear Mr. Black:
Each year there is much said about the young people not understanding the meaning of Remembrance Day, and of course this year in the Milton High School it was dramatically brought to everyone's attention.

However there is never much, if anything, said about the veterans themselves and their feelings on the subject. There are many veterans in the work field who still carry both physical and mental scars from World War 2.

It is bad enough that these men and women who fought for their country do not get a day off work to "remember", but this year in one instance that I am aware of they were not even allowed the

two minute silence period which is annually set aside for this purpose.

I am attaching a clipping from the Sheridan Sun which is the newspaper for the Sheridan Colleges.

As you will see they feel "It is hard to bring the whole school to a complete halt". My husband works at the Heavy Equipment Campus of Sheridan College here in Milton, and he bears witness to the fact that he, a veteran of the Canadian Forces, was not allowed this two minute period to honor and remember his fallen comrades.

I am sure there are many more veterans in the same position.

I personally feel it is appalling that any part of our education system should feel this way about our Remembrance Day services.

Elizabeth Brown
433 Ontario St. N.

Talk About Teens

Sandy Cooper takes the high road to series of Scottish dance successes

By Jane Muller
It took years of practice, hundreds of competitions and a desire to be the best in the world.

While most teenagers engage in the "Hustle," the "Rock Lobster" and other popular dance steps, 14-year-old Sandy Couper prefers the fling, sword and Sean Truibhas.

She was an active child full of excess energy, according to her mother, so at age 5 her energies were channeled to constructive use, Highland Dancing.

Over the years it proved to be a good choice. She has the

trophies and medals to prove it.

A member of the Western Ontario Highland Dancers Milton District, she covered the dance circuit in Scotland this summer during an eight-week tour with her mother. Her goal was to qualify in the Cowal Games, the world championship of Highland Dance, and she did.

"I always wanted to go there to dance," admits the young lady clad in a red velvet jacket and traditional kilt.

She returned to the stone farm house on the outskirts of Milton with 27 awards and a new knowledge of competi-

tions. The world championships were tiring, to say the least.

In a field of 72 competitors, she and a dozen other dancers made the finals but not before performing four separate dances.

The finals were held the same day and each of the four dances were repeated for the judges.

Her years of training paid off. She was awarded a second, fourth and sixth prize, but missed the first place mark she wished to secure.

She intimates she was not as well prepared for world class competition as she had thought.

Sandy now has a year to get into shape for what she hopes will be a return trip to Scotland next summer.

Endurance is a major factor in winning. With dance after dance and butterflies in her stomach, her performances were not as good as she thought they could have been.

What does a dancer do to increase stamina? She hops, of course.

When no one is around Sandy puts a disc on the record player and with bagpipe music whining out a beat, she hops about her business. She prefers hopping to skipping rope because it doesn't take much space.

You won't see Sandy getting into shape as thousands of others do by donning track suits and sneakers for a jog in the countryside. Jogging is the worst thing a Highland Dancer can do.

Dancing makes use of different muscles than are developed through jogging and the result is painful, according to Sandy—so she hops.

The same holds true with dancing as with so

many things, practise makes perfect. Besides a half hour private lesson and a one hour dance class Wednesday nights in Toronto, she devotes a couple of hours to practise each night after dinner.

A mirrored wall in the basement recreation room is dedicated to a display of her many trophies.

Other remnants of her dancing achievements totalling more than 200 medals and pins have been carefully saved, but they are too numerous to display.

By the time Sandy is 18 she hopes to teach Highland Dance, but before this she will make at least one more attempt at the world championships.

Now she can only practise and wait out the school year until next summer.

Sandy is a Grade 10 student at Lester B. Pearson High School in Burlington.

At a recent competition at Milton District High School, she earned five first prizes and top place in her age group for the

highest accumulated points in a field of 176 dancers.

Such competitions go on about once a month throughout the year and allow Sandy a chance to test herself against others of similar calibre.

A more confident and conditioned dancer will

go back to Scotland next year.

With determination and commitment behind her, Sandy is sure to leave her mark on the international Highland Dance scene.

Good luck next year Sandy, you've got what it takes to be a winner.

Reader agrees

Dear Sir:
A follow-up to Mrs. Charles' letter to the editor last week entitled "Favoritism Showing."

I, as well, was startled when I saw your headlines. My first reaction in seeing this form of sensationalism, was that I must be reading a rival newspaper, but to my displeasure it was indeed "The Canadian Champion," a credible paper that strongly influenced my move to Milton a few years ago. Your article was instrumental in

changing the mayor of our town. If a change was imminent, would fair play have had little bearing on the outcome?

During the next two years, I along with many other Miltonians will have to keep a close eye not only on council but the direction that your paper is taking.

On the positive side, your article demonstrates the impact of the written word. Let the reader beware.

Bob Farrell,
114 Ashbrook Cr.,
Milton



Time and effort reflected. The numerous trophies and awards displayed at Sandy Couper's home were earned through her dedication to Highland Dancing. An eight week tour of Scotland this summer yielded 27 more awards to add to her vast collection.

That we live in peace

Dear Sir:
Today is Remembrance Day and also the day after we, as citizens, have given a mandate for the next two years ahead to those who will govern in positions "of authority" over us. For those of us who truly love our beloved Dominion of Canada, how wisely it was said some years ago by an unknown sage: "The highway to tomorrow leads through the pathway of our heritage of yesterday."

In truth, we are the inheritors of a goodly and Godly heritage. It will be the responsibility of those elected to office to diligently pursue the fulfillment of their campaign promises. Coincidentally, it was noted one of the candidates proclaimed he was "The Best Man Today for a Better Tomorrow."

It will be our responsibility to pray for the healing of our land and also that they will have the wisdom of God in their deliberations and decisions that we may live religious and reverent lives in peace and quiet.

On this Remembrance Day 1980, to all Canadians of whatever denominational or religious persuasion who have faith in God, the Creator, may I bring to remembrance for their prayerful consideration and application, two very appropriate passages for the future of our country, our governments and ourselves?

"Then if my people who bear my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my presence and turn from their wicked ways, I myself will hear from heaven and forgive their sins and restore their land."
—(II Chron. 7:14 TJB.)

"My advice is that, first of all, there should be prayers offered for everyone—petitions, intercessions and thanksgiving—and especially for kings and others in authority, so that we may be able to live religious and reverent lives in peace and quiet."
—(I Tim. 2:1, 3 TJB.)

Sincerely, for the restoring and peace of our land.

Margaret G. Allsop,
(Mrs. James Allsop)
Campbellville.

Good job

Editor's note: This letter arrived at The Champion office Saturday, after the Santa Claus parade.

Dear Parade Committee:
Thank you for the parade. You did a good job. It must have been a lot of work.

We hope we can have another one next year.

Signed, Jason, Nicole, Carrie, Darren, Tracy, Julie, Teresa, Matthew, Michelle and Laurie.

Kelso adds rink

Skating enthusiasts can look forward to a new outdoor rink this winter.

Initial approval has been given by the Halton Region Conservation Authority for skating on usable areas of Kelso reservoir and also for a supervised toboggan hill.

The idea was brought forward by Bill Warwick, director of conservation services in a move to provide a greater winter program at Kelso.

Mr. Warwick noted there is a problem of overcrowding for skaters

at both Mill Pond and Bronte Creek Provincial Park and that Kelso would offer a good alternative.

Final approval of the idea is expected tomorrow evening at a meeting of the entire conservation authority.

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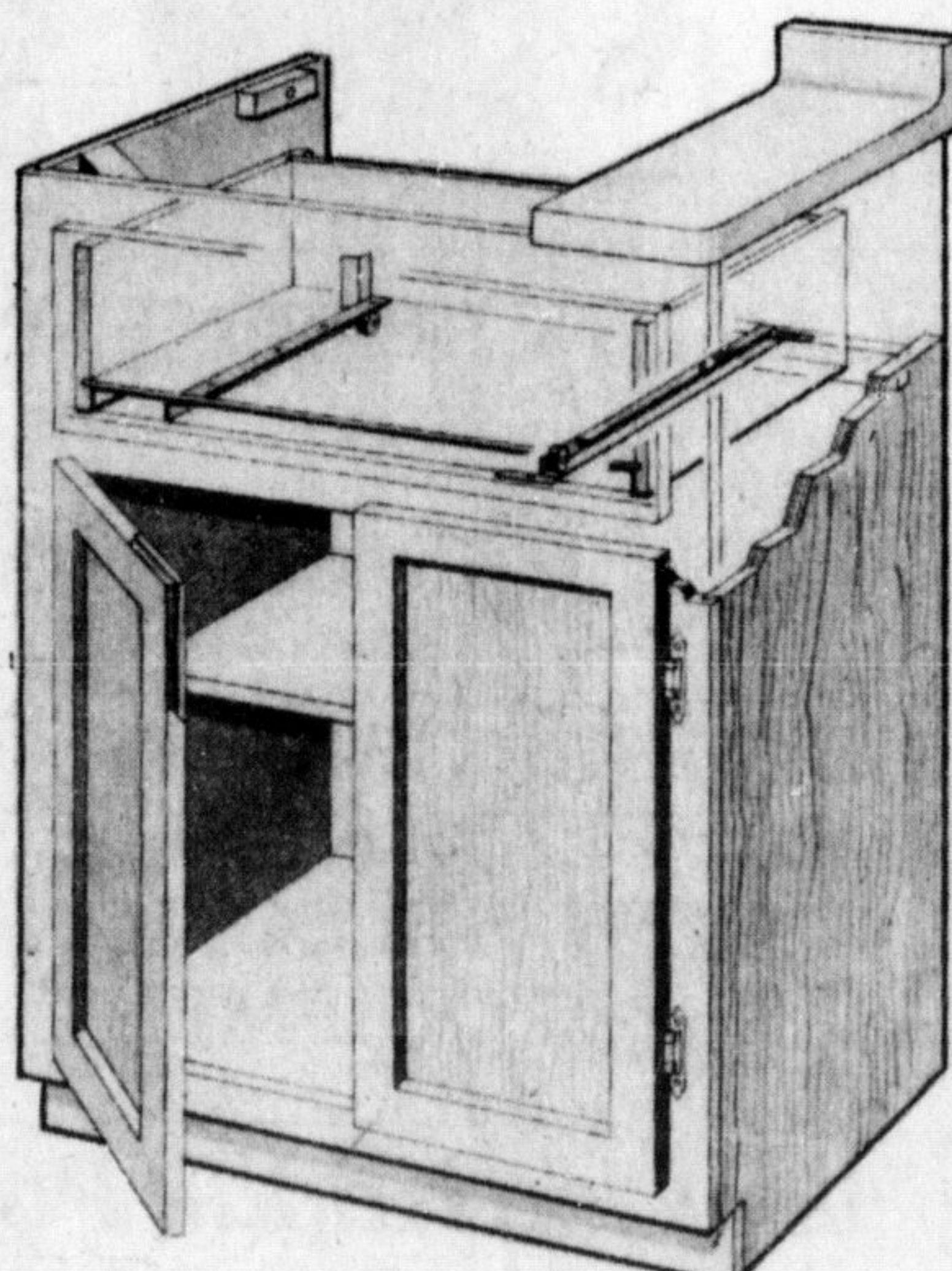
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