

Established 1861

# The Canadian Champion

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## Raftis and The Leak

At the beginning of this year, The Champion stated editorially it would stand by Halton Regional Chairman Jack Raftis as he tried to straighten out the mess at regional headquarters.

For several months one unknown Halton councillor, now dubbed "The Leak" by Mr. Raftis, has been feeding information from in-camera sessions to the Halton news media.

The most recent involves a chapter in which Mr. Raftis personally authorized a salary increase retroactive to September of last year to Acting Chief Administrative Officer Dennis Perlin. Mr. Raftis said he did try to notify the Administration and Finance Committee on at least three occasions about this, but it never appeared on the agenda.

We believe this happened and Mr. Raftis was probably right in giving extra money to Mr. Perlin for shouldering the load of being the administrative head of Halton at the same time he was trying to exercise his job as Halton solicitor.

This payment was revealed during an in-camera session of the Administration and Finance Committee where Mr. Raftis was probably castigated for not going through proper channels.

In any event, The Leak let it be known what transpired in this secret session, much to the chagrin of Mr. Raftis who promised a personal battle to find The Leak and expose that person to the world.

But instead of trying to unmask the councillor, perhaps Mr. Raftis should be asking why this person feels obligated to let the press know what is going on behind closed doors.

When one person must act contrary to a sworn obligation, it has to be for an extremely heavy burden of conscience; but not to embarrass Mr. Raftis or the rest of council.

Sooner or later The Leak will be found out or tricked into revealing himself or herself.

At that point, we believe, it would be wise not to punish, but to come to grips with this question of conscience and make it right, not just for The Leak, but for a number of councillors who are distressed publicly and privately about the Feb. 11, 1981 state of Halton regionalism.

Perhaps by restoring confidence in The Leak, it will be possible to restore confidence in all Halton Regional Councillors at a time when a need to pull together was never more needed.

## Fiscal nightmare

The distressing news has arrived.

Halton Region will hike its 1981 bill to you, the ratepayer, by 33.5 per cent in Milton; and no less than a staggering 68 per cent in Halton Hills.

The increase does not include the board of education increase, the water and sewer bill, and the increase from the Town of Milton.

Therefore, the time has FINALLY come for each and every resident to seriously question why it costs 25 to 30 per cent more each and every year to support Halton Regional Government and just what each and every ratepayer gets in return.

You do not get the cost of education. While the Halton Board of Education levy will probably go up at least 25 per cent this year, this is an extra.

You do not get the cost of water and sewers. Halton used to include this but they took it out last year. When you pay for water and sewers, a Halton responsibility, you pay it with the municipal utility bill. Another extra.

You do not get the cost of run-

ing the Town of Milton. That is also an extra levy. Milton was superb last year with a marginal increase and it is hoped this can be repeated.

So what do you get?

You get to make up for a \$700,000 Halton Regional deficit. You get to make up for a \$500,000 underestimation in the water and sewer rates. You get to pay for a 27 per cent increase in the Halton Region Police budget. You get to pay for \$5 million in support for social service programs. You get to pay for \$80,000 to hire consultants to look at what is wrong with the Halton Region administration. You get to pay for \$103,000 in underestimated Halton Region inspection costs. You get to pay for a 32.4 per cent increase in 1981 to run the "general administration" of Halton Region. You get to pay for a \$100 per week increase to one senior staff member retroactive to last September that was never officially approved by any committee.

You get the short end of the stick.

## Illegal dumping

One doesn't think of pouring a truck-load of earth into a ravine as a crime, but it is.

Constantly the Halton Regional Conservation Authority is called in to stop illegal dumping of earth and fill into floodplains and water-courses, but in many cases it is too late.

But in many more cases the length of time it takes to charge the dumper and bring the case to court takes months, even years.

The authority is now going to consider some form of prosecution for illegal dumping under changes to Ontario's Of-

fences Act. With mushrooming growth, the authority clearly sees tons of earth being used to create more yardage for homes backing onto streams and ravines.

But every time earth and fill is placed where God didn't put it, it clogs and kills myriad forms of life, and that's a crime none of us can afford to have happen.

We hope the authority is successful in stopping illegal dumping, and we encourage the authority to fight for and attain any means of legislation necessary to make illegal dumping a painful offence to the perpetrators.

## NEWS ITEM: REGIONAL CHAIRMAN JACK RAFTIS PROMISES TO UNCOVER "THE LEAK."



## Editor's notebook

She's full of what?

with ROY DOWNS

Some distressing news has just reached this desk.

Did you know a woman's body contains a large amount of hydrogen—enough say the experts, to fill a balloon that would carry her to the summit of the nearest mountain!

Good heavens, that hydrogen is pretty dangerous stuff. That's what they used to wrap around the first atomic bombs, to make them more volatile.

They say hydrogen really heightens the destructive power of a nuclear chain reaction.

These same experts tell us that 72 per cent of a woman's body is water. Aha, we all know the formula for water is H<sub>2</sub>O, meaning two parts hydrogen to one part oxygen. My calculator translates all this to mean that a woman is made up of about 48 per cent hydrogen.

And just think, for the past 20 years I have gone to bed each night with a potential bomb—a little over 50 pounds of hydrogen—beside me!

Carrying all this a little further, if she blows up, not only do you get blown through the ceiling, you're liable to get drenched with water too.

If the Russkies let off one of those inter-continental ballistic missiles and it landed smack dab in the middle of a woman's institute meeting somewhere in rural Milton at the height of the quilt finishing season, the resulting blast (combining the effects of a nuclear warhead and a room full of hydrogen and water) would result in the devastation of four-fifths of Ontario. The remainder would be scattered in a sea of quilt blocks, pins and needles.

I haven't yet seen any fallout shelters that can protect us from THAT!

Another newsy note on the subject of women's make-up. Women who have had silicone implants to enlarge their bosoms should be wary of travelling in airplanes.

Apparently the silicone expands, at a height of 14,000 feet. (We all know most commercial airlines fly in the 30,000 foot range, while the new Concorde zooms along at a height of 60,000.)

Need we draw you a picture? Buttons pop, bosoms expand, then bang! and the resulting explosion, combined with all the hydrogen in the body... well, you can imagine the resulting flood.

All this talk of nuclear and other disasters reminds me, there's an air raid warning siren in Milton. It sits forlornly at the side of a Mary St. parking lot.

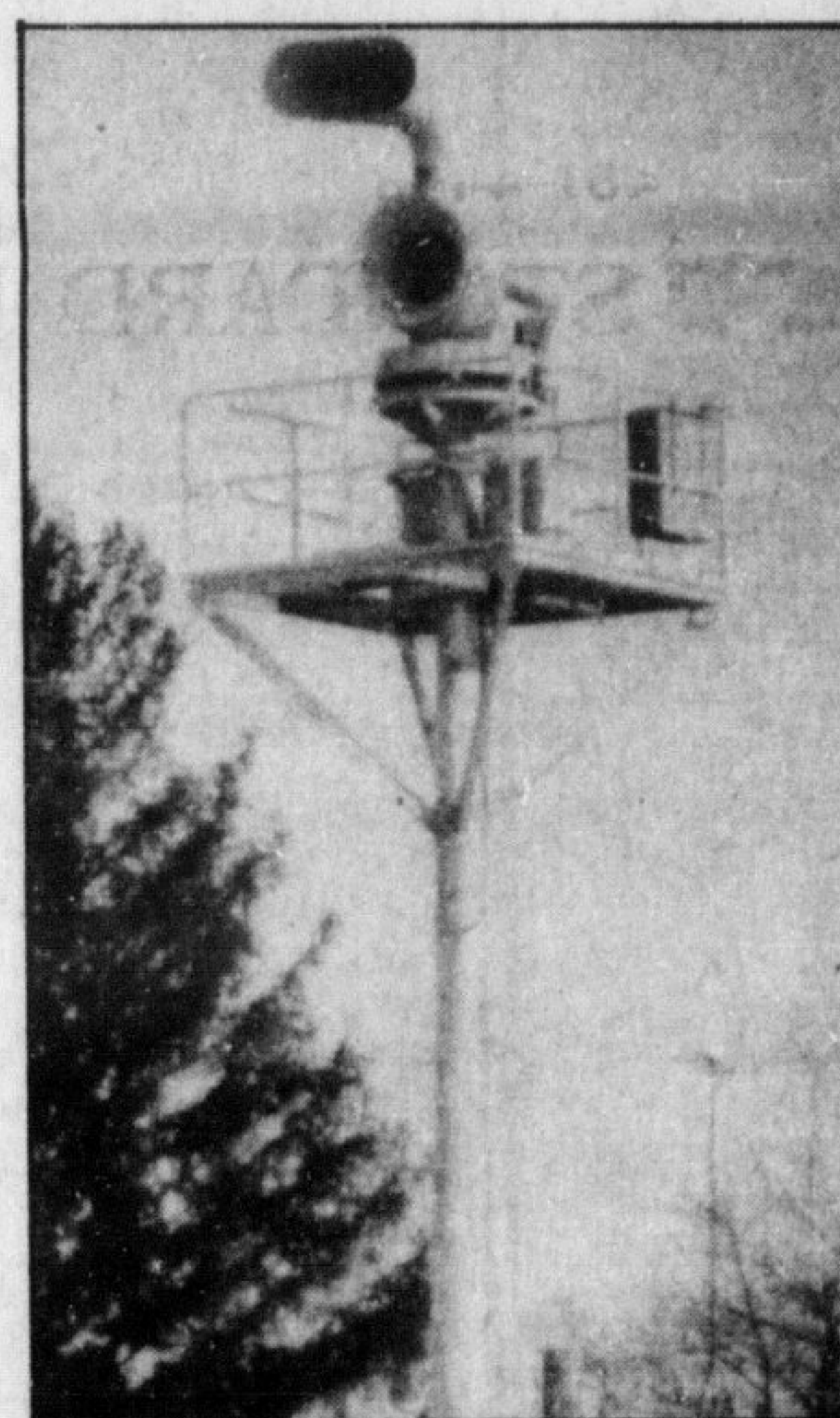
If it rang right now, would you know what it means? Where would you go, what would you do?

Don't ask me, I don't know either. Some years ago there was a lot of talk about air raid shelters and early warning systems, but it was all gobbledegook to me and if I ever knew what it was all about, I've since forgotten.

The Champion's working on a story on the air raid siren, maybe next week we can tell you what to do if it rings.

Some time ago, I asked in this column if anyone could locate Milton's last one-holer. Response was negative.

For those who are breathlessly awaiting the answer, here it is: It sits 100 yards from central Main St., up the alleyway between Audrey Meredith Dancewear Centre and the Holden, Ford and Haesler law office. It sits at the rear of the Dancewear Centre. It doesn't appear to be in use.



Our siren. What do you do if it rings?

Pooh on you, if you didn't think Milton still had any of those around!

Whoops, our slip is showing. A story in last week's paper about stores opening for business on Sunday contained one error which was picked up and reported by Mrs. Alice Pelz, RR 6 Milton.

The story referred to stores doing business on "the seventh day" (Sunday) but, as Mrs. Pelz points out, Sunday is the first day of the week on any standard calendar.

Saturday is the seventh day of the week, not Sunday as a lot of people believe. Saturday is the Sabbath of the Bible (Exodus 20:10; Hebrews 4:4) she points out. We stand corrected.

We'd had an interesting pile of correspondence lately from former Miltonians and local folks vacationing in the south.

W. Laurie writes from Saskatoon, Sask. To ask if Roy Downs is still with the paper (note he says with, not working for—could be a message there?).

Mr. Laurie wonders if the hydro question has been disposed of. Yes, it has, they're building hydro towers all around us, I guess we lost the battle there, although there is still a strong opposition to the local lines.

"The only separators here are people from other parts of Canada, mostly from Ontario," he says. He also refers to some "small-timers" there who have made a few oil bucks, "they are the ones who are doing all the bitching, a true Westerner does not act in that manner."

"As a Canadian I say that everyone that contributes to the country should be fairly compensated, regardless of the part of the country they dwell in. I also say that we must retain a strong central government," he concludes.

Hear, hear.

Allan and Fannie Clements dropped us a note from their winter home in Lakeland, Fla., to report they receive The Champion (via first class mail) about eight days after publication. "Canadian mail has been terribly slow this winter—letters we have sent to Ontario have taken as much as three weeks to arrive. What is happening to the postal system? Three years ago, our letters took less than four days!"

The weather is cooler than average but the days are bright and sunny. "So we keep active and don't have any snow or ice to slip on," they said.

Another postcard just arrived from Len and Rene Buckler who are wintering in Panama City Beach, Fla. "Just sitting on the verandah, enjoying the sun and getting a tan," they report, and the temperature was 74 degrees. Ouch!

Thanks for the cheerful notes, folks.

## More members needed

Local organizers have been recruiting members in this area for the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Grant Coulson of Milton, local organizer said there are about 16 members now, but this is far from the goal of 50 needed to form a Chapter.

Any male over the age of 18 is eligible to join this Canada-wide service organization.

Females related to an Elk in good standing may join the Order of The Royal Purple, an auxiliary of the Order of Elks.

Information meetings are being held Thursday evenings at 7.30 p.m. at Lou's Place on Steeles Ave. For further details contact Mr. Coulson at 878-3012, Bruno Casarin 878-9214 or Glenn Moggy 335-2882.



Have you heard? The Elks Lodge has come to town.

## Turning the Pages of the Past

### One year ago

From the Feb. 13, 1980 issue  
Halton MP Otto Jelinek is one of the five outstanding Young Canadians who will receive this year's Vanier Awards. Each year, Jaycees across Canada nominate Canadians between the ages of 18 and 39 who "inspire others to continue in their challenge in life." Mr. Jelinek was nominated by the Oakville chapter.

It was called a "controlled harvest" and "a slaughter", but the Halton three-day deer hunt will go ahead as planned Nov. 3, 4, 5. The Regional Planning Committee had asked council to approve the controlled hunt after complaints that the deer population had been rising by 35 per cent per year since 1967 with a resulting drastic increase in the damage to crops being suffered by Halton farmers.

They may not be as fast as they once were, but players like Norin Ullman and Andy Bathgate proved Friday night they're still a pair of slick hockey players. A capacity crowd filled Memorial Arena as the annual visit of the NHL Oldtimers resulted in an 8-7 win over Milton Aeros.

A 24-year-old Maplehurst inmate serving a two-year sentence for robbery, remains at large following his escape from a work gang in Acton Monday morning. Albert Thorne of Hamilton was one of eight inmates working on a Natural Resources tract on 20 Sideroad.

### 20 years ago

From the Feb. 9, 1961 issue  
G. F. Harshman stepped out of the president's chair and H. Craig Reid was named to take his place at the annual meeting of Upper Burlington Citizens' Forum.

The birds are hungry, toss out your bread scraps for them to eat.

For the first time in Milton a referees' association has been formed to supply a top line of officials to the many leagues operating in Milton. Bruce Hoog, local OHA referee, was named president of the group. Larry Arbic is secretary, George Fletcher vice-president and Glen Dance treasurer.

Earl Black, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, has compiled a list of local business and industry. It includes 19 industrial firms and 114 businesses.

Milton's drive for a new retarded children's school went over the \$10,000 mark this week and it looks pretty definite that construction could start later this year. Campaigns will soon be underway in Acton and Georgetown.

In his annual report to Milton Library Board, librarian Ralph Blight said membership is 1,265 and circulation totalled 31,360 books last year. There are 8,700 books available for circulation.

A new corps of Imperial Frontiersmen is being formed in Halton. J. D. Kidd of Rockwood is in charge.

### 50 years ago

From the Feb. 13, 1931 issue  
The annual bonspiel of the Georgetown Curling Club was held on Monday. The winning rink was Milton comprising of Cantelon, Davidson, Lecocq and Robertson (Skip).

E. Syer has sold the stock of the Selrite Store here to Stedman Brock, of Toronto, who will continue the business under the same name.

The Choral Society held their concert on Thursday, Feb. 5. The concert was well attended.

Grants to the high schools of Halton by the County Council were \$5,000 each to Oakville and Burlington, \$4,000 to Milton.

Milton won the local OHA junior group when they defeated Georgetown 3 to 2. The Milton team: Goal, Bundy; defence, Toletzka and Ford, centre, Brush; wings, Thompson and Clement; subs, Pryde, Lewis and Transome.

All fans wishing to see the hockey match at the Ravings rink, Toronto, on Monday night between the Mimico and Milton teams, are requested to secure their tickets for the bus from Fred Mills at the Walker Store. Return fare is \$1.25.

### 75 years ago

From the Feb. 15, 1906 issue  
W. C. Matheson, C.E., has been in town since Saturday, spending a short vacation at the home of his mother. He has been employed for some time on surveys of the line of the James Bay division of the Canadian Northern Railway in the wilds of Parry Sound District.

Reports are continually coming to Milton of the illegal shooting of partridges and hares. One man is said to have killed four partridges in one day and another to have been seen with two hares slung over his shoulder, but unfortunately no names of lawbreakers or witnesses have been given.

Jailer Vanallen has not had to take in many tramps this winter, but he had a rush on Tuesday night when he had to provide accommodation for six. They all left next morning.

The rooms being fitted up in the town hall for the Milton Men's Club will be ready this week. The reading room has been refloored, papered and painted and the recreation room supplied with games.

Though the weather was unfavorable, there was a very large turnout on Tuesday evening to the annual tea-meeting at Boston Church in Guelph. There were several loads of Miltonians, who were greatly pleased with the hospitality with which they were greeted.