

The Canadian Champion

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Help The Centre

In past weeks, The Champion has run stories and pictures about The Centre at 181 Main St.

The Centre is designed to offer a number of programs to young people, young families, and the public at large and present these programs in a pleasing atmosphere.

Thanks to the hard work of The Centre steering committee and the Halton Children's Aid Society, The Centre has been set up to operate without one cent being needed from the taxpayer.

Free programs and services to the community are becoming rarer by the month due to governmental grant cutbacks, so what we have in Milton is significant.

But The Centre still needs help, mainly with furnishings and equipment.

On Friday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., The Centre will be holding a flea market in the Thompson Rd. Arena with all proceeds going for the needed items.

In order for this to be a success, many items are still needed and The Centre is looking to the people of Milton—the ones it is trying to serve—to make the donations.

Any saleable item is needed and we would urge residents to take a look around the home or apartment and try to force themselves to part with any item which could be sold at the Good Friday flea market.

Donations are being accepted here at The Champion and at North End Datsun, 610 Martin St.

Help The Centre help Milton by making a donation to this most worthy cause.

Money wisely spent

Milton councillors have resisted the temptation to drop the renovation of the old court house and jail, and thus present a budget to ratepayers with a negligible increase.

Indeed the discussion on the future of the \$2.3 million project waxed hot and heavy during the budget session Saturday. The town is committed to the project. Councillor Rick Day, for instance, stated flatly "we're moving out of here and into the court house and that's all there is to it."

Not so solidly convinced were other councillors, who saw putting off the project for another year as fiscally prudent at a time when horrendous rate and levy increases are coming from Halton Region and the Board of Education.

In the end only \$712,000 was cut from the overall budget. Now that may sound like a lot of money, but it represents a small fraction of the total town budget.

With the money remaining, about \$1.5 million, it means work on the court house can go ahead much to the relief of residents, councillors, the Chamber of Commerce and the historical society.

Every possible effort will be made to retain the fixtures inside the court house and use them in the overall scheme of transforming the empty shell into a municipal centre. Despite rumors the old, solid oak courtroom benches will not be sold off for \$1 each, but will be used as a central part of the overall renovation, as will the plethora of fine wooden carvings.

The bottom line however, is praise for the council in making a decision which will mean an increase in the 1981 town operating and capital budgets.

Instead of some of the dream projects being funded such as we are witnessing at Halton Region, money in Milton is being allocated wisely and strictly.

The cost of policing

It is safe to say that no one got what they wanted when the draft Halton Regional Police Force budget was struck last week at the Regional Administration and Finance Committee.

The committee cut the budget back from an estimated 23 per cent increase to about 15 per cent but that is still too rich for a number of regional councillors.

The chief did not get the number of officers and capital construction programs he wanted.

The end result however, is the people of Halton will not get the first class police protection one would think we deserve with a \$12 million plus police budget in an area of about 250,000 population.

In fact, Chief Jim Harding produced statistics showing Halton has perhaps the lowest police-to-population ratio anywhere in the province.

The cuts demanded by the committee and the police commission mean the Halton force will be lacking in the area of drug law enforcement and will be seriously deficient in the area of fraud investigations.

In fraud, for instance, regular patrol officers are being called in to do investigations on cases where the officer should have qualifications of an accountant. When we get into the area of computer theft and computer crime Halton Police are, in fact, defenceless.

Chief Harding has pointed out Halton needs about 85 more officers if Halton were to be adequately covered like neighboring

Peel and Hamilton-Wentworth.

The culprit in this is the Ontario government's \$15 per capita grant to assist police budgeting. This has stayed unchanged since 1977 and means that while salaries and costs went up, the support grant didn't. As a result the force has slipped behind and probably can never catch up to other police forces in similar sized municipalities.

How can this be turned around?

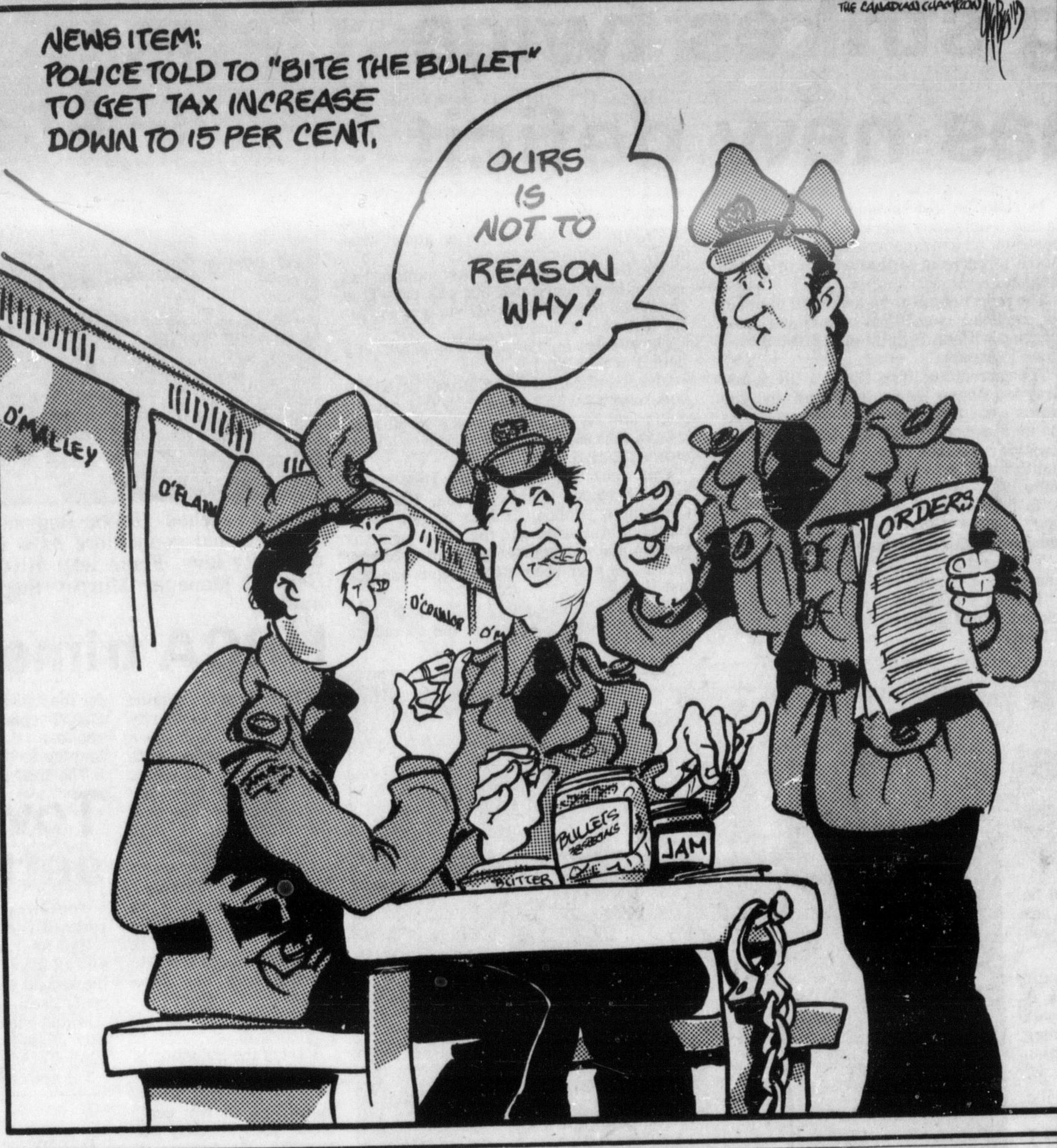
The truth is, it cannot. If Chief Harding were to get the kind of money he needs just to break even, the police budget would be more than half of the total regional operating and capital budgets. With massive increases coming from other departments in the region, something has to give.

In this case, that something is the cost to cover policing in Halton.

While all parties are agreed in principle more money must be spent, no councillor is going to risk voting for a huge increase when there are so many other brush fires inside other departments to quell.

The bottom line: Residents must be considerate of the difficulties the Halton Regional Police are going to have to operate under for the next three years, or perhaps the next decade.

If the response time is a bit slow, or the officer seems harried, just try to understand the man in blue is only trying to do his job with the limited tools available to him.



Viewpoint Confronting the Rock Lobster set

with JANE MULLER



We've been hearing about and experiencing the effects of the generation gap for a long time now, but it always applied to the distance between some parents and their children.
The distance reflected the number of years separating offspring and their parents and the different attitudes, opinions and even morals between them.
I was rather shocked, to say the least, when I discovered a gap not between generations but within a generation. Mine.
At 22, I have found myself looking at those two to five years younger and wondering if we originated on the same planet.
This statement must be qualified however, as it is too much of a generalization.
Not all of those in that age bracket fit this description, in fact it is probably a minority group responsible for my attitude of those in my generation to whom I feel alien.
It all began over a year ago when a group of us got together to pounce upon our old stomping grounds at a University of Guelph pub.
It has always been a place to dance, one which remained untouched by disco fever which combined a selection of rock music old and new to suit the taste of the clientele.

It didn't take long for us to feel uncomfortable.
The decor had not changed much, the beer tasted the same—even though the price had gone up—but it was the people. Sure, we noticed some patrons in strange clothing, haircuts and sporting unusual jewellery but none of this would prepare us for the sight we witnessed.
A song came on by a new wave or punk rock group, (it's hard for me to distinguish between the two) which stimulated those on the dance floor in such a way as to make those not participating look on in amazement and disbelief.
The entire dance floor was covered with sneaked feet bouncing up and down to the music's frenzied beat. Just bouncing with the so-called music of the Rock Lobster.
At the moment an observer feels there is no way, not enough human energy in anyone to continue the bouncing as the singer orders them down, down and down they wilt to the floor, proceed to flop about like lobsters out of water until a second command is given.
The second is not so much a command as a musical signal. The wilted dancers are whisked to their feet as the beat picks up to its original fervor and the bouncing begins again.

This en masse dancing was more like a theatre production compared to the familiar moves to the music my peers used to engage in.
Along with this dancing—which by the way is aptly named the pogo, as dancers look like they're using an invisible pogo stick—comes a new disease.
Those who perform the dance in their costumes revived from the 1950s and beyond are destroying the tiny blood vessels around their eyes.
The result is a new medical phenomenon with symptoms similar to pink eye. The medical profession in step with the times has called this new ailment "punk eye."
A group of young people performing what looks like a religious ritual of undiscovered origin must be witnessed in action to receive the full impact of the cause of punk eye.
I can remember complaints about the go-go dancing of the 60s, the disco of the 70s and everything in between from the older generation. But at least these variations left the youth unharmed.
So if your son or daughter come home with red puffy eyes, before you accuse them of being intoxicated ask if they were doing the pogo. If so, you'll have to let them off the hook.

Guest column

The way we really are

By Mike Hobson
Enough already!
I've had it up to here with everybody continuously criticizing Canada and the people who make this country great.
I just can't understand it. Of course we have our problems, what country doesn't? But it seems everyone likes to poke fun at certain Canadians.
Take, for example, everybody's laughing stock (I mean scapegoat)—Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau.
Not a day goes by without someone having a laugh at old Pierre's expense.
Really! I'd much rather observe one of PET's constitutional conflicts on TV than labor through an entire Margaret Trudeau flick. Wouldn't you?
Or how about the fact that he has been named one of the snappiest dressers this side of Don Cherry, when he's not wearing
Philosobits
By Edith Sharpe
Thank you for being a friend to me when I needed you. Thank you for being so good to me, and giving my hopes your concern. You gave me confidence when I felt lost and alone. You're such a fine friend to have in this troubled world. You sympathize when I am depressed, you call to chat knowing I may be feeling down. I call you just to tell you how much you mean to me, my friend. You sure are good to me. I love you.
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When you're in debt, someone owns a part of you.
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Happiness is getting letters in the mail box, instead of bills.

running shoes.
It puzzles me how a man can work so hard for 12 years and come under nothing but criticism. Because of Trudeau's work, Canada is one of the most respected nations in the entire world.
Sure we have problems, and some have even gone so far as to label Canada a circus. Well why not, with Rene Levesque, Peter Lougheed and Joe Clark, how could it not be?
Being Canadian is something special to me, amongst the likes of Ken Taylor, Steve Podborski and Howie Meeker. It just gives me a tremendous feeling.
But if there was one person who did more for Canada than anyone, it was Terry Fox.
This curly haired, 22-year-old, one-legged cancer victim whose Marathon of Hope cross-country trek that raised \$20 million for cancer research, captured every Canadian's heart.
We were hopeful, if not doubtful, at the beginning of his run, but we struggled every mile with him.
We were proud of every dollar he raised. We were stricken with grief when he collapsed, unable to continue, in Thunder Bay, and were soaking in our tears when his doctors revealed that only a miracle would save him.
Lord, if I may have one prayer, let it be that the life of Terry Fox, Canadian hero, continue—for here is a man who made everyone from St. John's to Vancouver, come together for a worthwhile cause and be proud of their Canadian heritage.
It was in search of what people thought of being a Canadian, that I decided to play interviewer.
I was standing on the corner one day waiting for a bus, when I decided to ask the people around me just what they think of Canada.

I spotted a very refined looking gentleman of about 50 years sitting on the bench reading a newspaper. I casually strolled over and parked myself on the other side of the seat. I pleasantly said "Hello" and asked him his opinion of Canada.
He looked over at me and softly said, "Three million miles of wasteland," and then returned to his reading.
I inquired about his reasons for such a statement and he replied, "The north is covered in snow and the few people that live here live in the south."
We continued to talk for a few minutes, and I found out that he was from New York, originally, and just moved up here a couple of years ago. No wonder he thought nobody lived here, being from the congestion of the Big Apple.
I thanked the gent, got up, and walked over to where a young lady of about 25 was standing and asked her the same question.
She turned towards me and without hesitation said, "Living in freedom. Living in the most beautiful country in the world, and as far as I'm concerned, the land of opportunity."
She took the words right out of my mouth, and no matter how many times they change the wording of the National Anthem, I will always sing it with pride.
"O Canada, Glorious and Free".
Uh, did they change the next line?
No, okay.
"True Patriot Love, in all they sons command."
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(Editor's Note: Mike Hobson is a Gr. 13 student at Milton District High School. He wrote the column as a class assignment and teacher Tom LaFrance submitted it to The Champion for publication, as an example of the work the students are doing.)

Turning the Pages of the Past

One year ago

From the April 18, 1980
A 22-year-old rock climber who accidentally slashed his own lifeline, narrowly missed death Sunday afternoon in a fall from the Kelso bluffs.
A strike between Halton Region and its 120-member outside workers may be over by this afternoon.
The discovery of some bones buried in a storm drain, first suspected to be those of a human, caused a flurry of excitement Sunday afternoon for Valleyview Cres. residents and police. The bones were later found to be those of a dog.
There will be no "visual pollution" on Kelso hills and, to that end, Halton Region Conservation Authority spent little time considering an application by Snoad Inc. to place advertisements on the back of chair-lift seats at Glen Eden.
A Milton teenager who wants the town to build a roller skating rink has been told there isn't money in the town budget for a capital program of such magnitude.
In what is becoming somewhat of a tradition, Krantz Fuel Firefighters rolled to their third consecutive championship in the Milton Industrial Hockey League with a 5-1 victory over The Racer's Edge Sunday evening before a packed house at Memorial Arena.

20 years ago

From the April 13, 1961 issue
Halton's eight municipalities have to raise \$936,554 for county purposes this year. County council's 1961 budget was set with total expenditures of \$1,168,336.
County Council has approved spending \$24,000 to equip all the Halton fire departments with two-way radios, Warden Alex Phillips told about 50 Halton firefighters at the Halton Mutual Aid Fire Services banquet last week. During the banquet four awards were presented for the County Fire Prevention Bureau and the Milton, Oakville and Acton brigades from last year's national fire prevention contest.
George Readhead and Lloyd Chisholm of Milton have been appointed to the Committee on Canadian Livestock Records, Ottawa. Joe Willmott of Milton is a continuing member.
In two months this past winter, 27 deer died in collisions with vehicles on Halton roads. The deer are also damaging crops. Farmers are pressing county council to have an open hunt this fall. If neighboring counties will join in, it may be possible.
Intermediate baseball teams from Milton, Acton, Oakville, Dundas, Georgetown, Bronte and Campbellville will vie for honors in the Halton intermediate league this summer.
Trafalgar Township's last one-room school at the Boyne may close its doors this year. The 13 grade one to four students, under the supervision of Miss Laura Black, would have to be transferred to Percy Merry School at Drumkin.

50 years ago

From the April 16, 1931 issue
Every city and town within a radius of 35 miles from here has adopted Daylight Saving Time. This makes it bad for Milton, and it will now be up to our citizens to petition the town council if they want Fast Time.
Farmers and gardeners are busy on the land now, and the women are busy house-cleaning.
Tulips are two or three inches above the ground in various gardens in town and rhubarb in sheltered southern exposures is unfolding its tender leaves.
Maple syrup has been plentiful this year locally, and of excellent quality. It is one of the farmers' few commodities of which the price has not dropped.
Some thoughtless people will persist in cutting across lawns and boulevards in order to save a few steps. At this particular time of year the ground is soft and people should "keep off the grass."
Several young men opened the swimming season here on Monday afternoon last by enjoying a swim in Martin's pond. This is the earliest opening of the swimming season here for some years.
The Game Warden wishes to warn all concerned that fishing on streams, where there are speckled trout, before the first day of May is unlawful and anyone so doing will be prosecuted without further notice.

75 years ago

From the April 19, 1906 issue
Rev. Canon Mackenzie entered his 90th year yesterday and Robert Darrah will enter his 82nd tomorrow. Canon Mackenzie has requested The Champion to explain that his sight has become so impaired that he is unable to read any part of the services in church, and that his friends need not be surprised if he should pass them on the street without recognizing them or greeting them as formerly.
The Milton Rifle Association has been disbanded by the militia authorities, too many of its members having failed to put in their practice last year. They object to walking four miles for each practice, two to the range and two back.
While pruning an apple tree on Monday, on his fruit farm at Burlington, Harry Row-some fell to the ground, striking one of his elbows and shattering the bones very badly.
News came to Milton last Monday of the death of one of the McMurchy twin brothers, of Acton, who attended the Model School here during its last term. The brothers made many friends during their stay here in Milton.
The Nassagaweya local option by-law will go into effect on May 1st. The only hotel is that at Campbellville, a village in which a good deal of business is done and in which accommodation for travellers is very necessary. Landlord Black, of the hotel, says that he has no intention of conducting a "temperance" hotel, and that when his licence expires he will shut up his house and stables.