

The Canadian Champion

181 Main St. East, P.O. Box 248, Milton, Ontario L7T 4N9

HERIB CROWTHER
Publisher

LES FEERO
Circulation Manager

JOHN CHALLINOR
Editor

MIKE HALL
Advertising Manager

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT: News Editor, Steve Arnold; Sports Editor, Michael Boyle; News, Linda Kirby, Jane Muller; Photographer Tom Burley.
ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT: Repet, Glyis Wilnot-Martin, Rob Rodshaw, Margaret Jong.
NATIONAL ADVERTISING SALES REP: Dan Payne (416) 363-1061.
BUSINESS OFFICE: Office Manager, Marion Hill; Classified Advertising Manager, Ruth Baskett, Marg McNeil, Shirley Dyc; typesetting, Sheena Cameron.
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Budget necessary

Interest rates are soaring. Unemployment is touching people who once thought they were safe. Welfare costs are climbing at an unbelievable rate.

Into this scene comes Halton Board of Education with the news that it demands another \$91 a year from the average taxpayer to finance the school system.

After a perfunctory debate, the budget was passed by trustees last week with only one dissenting voice being heard.

That voice, belonging to Oakville trustee Bill Herd, wondered if the Board was taking the right step by hiking its budget 13 per cent when there were so many other economic problems being faced by homeowners throughout the region.

In some comments after the meeting, Mr. Herd wondered if the time has come when people should be looking less toward government to solve their problems, if they should lower what they expect from the organized education system.

There is no doubt that Ontario currently has one of the finest systems of education in Canada—that is fitting for the part of the country that is viewed as the industrial heartland.

For the industrial future that is Canadas, we need people who have been educated not only in job related skills, but in ways to spend leisure time and in the abilities to think and act on their own.

Providing this sort of training for children is an expensive proposition. In Halton in 1982 it will cost \$131.9 million.

Mr. Herd argued that further costs should have been made in the budget to bring it more in line with the reality being faced by taxpayers.

While it is easy to argue in favor of reducing the budget—we have to stop and wonder where that can be made.

Should special education programs be cut, so that children who are now, perhaps for the first time in their lives, starting to feel the warm glow of academic success, are plunged back into the darkness of ignorance.

Should they be sent back to the days when most of what they were taught was nothing more than a light seen dimly through the fog?

Should special programs for the mentally retarded be cut and the Provincial government urged to reopen the institutions from which they were released scant years ago?

Should the programs that teach English to immigrant children be cut—leaving them to lag behind others of their age, dealing on their own with the frustration that comes from feeling different and ignored?

Where are these areas of "fat" which trustees say can be cut away to make the budget more palatable for the taxpayers who will be asked later this year to express their confidence in these very same trustees?

Yes, a \$91 tax hike is too great in these times—but, without placing your children at a disadvantage later in their lives there appears to be little else that can be done.

School closure prudent

Emotions always run high when any board of education is faced with the unpopular decision of having to close a community public school.

The situation and, ultimately, the unfortunate decision Halton Board of Education was faced with last week with respect to Campbellville Public School (S.S. 10) is no different than what has faced boards in Peel and Metropolitan Toronto in recent years.

Declining enrolment, a recent trend in the older, more established sections of southern Ontario communities, is the real villain in this caper—if there is to be any villain at all.

Campbellville Public School is slated to close in June 1983 unless its current population of about 46 pupils increases to an enrolment somewhere near its capacity of 96.

Another factor in its probable demise is the 57-year-old school needs about \$30,000 in repairs to provide adequate shelter for its students.

But, this should not spell the end of its active role in the community.

Besides the school's obvious historical significance to the area, it was, is and should continue to be the active centre of community events in Campbellville.

Spending \$30,000 to repair it would be far cheaper than having to tear it down and replace it with a new centre. Campbellville's potential for growth is another reason why the school should pro-

bably be "moth-balled" in this fashion for future use.

Failing that, Halton Board of Education should sell the building to the Town of Milton for \$1 and dispose of the property around it at market value. The Town should purchase the property to complement the baseball park and recreational area beside it.

The school could be used, if it already isn't, for meetings by such organizations as the Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, 4-H clubs, service clubs, women's clubs and other community groups.

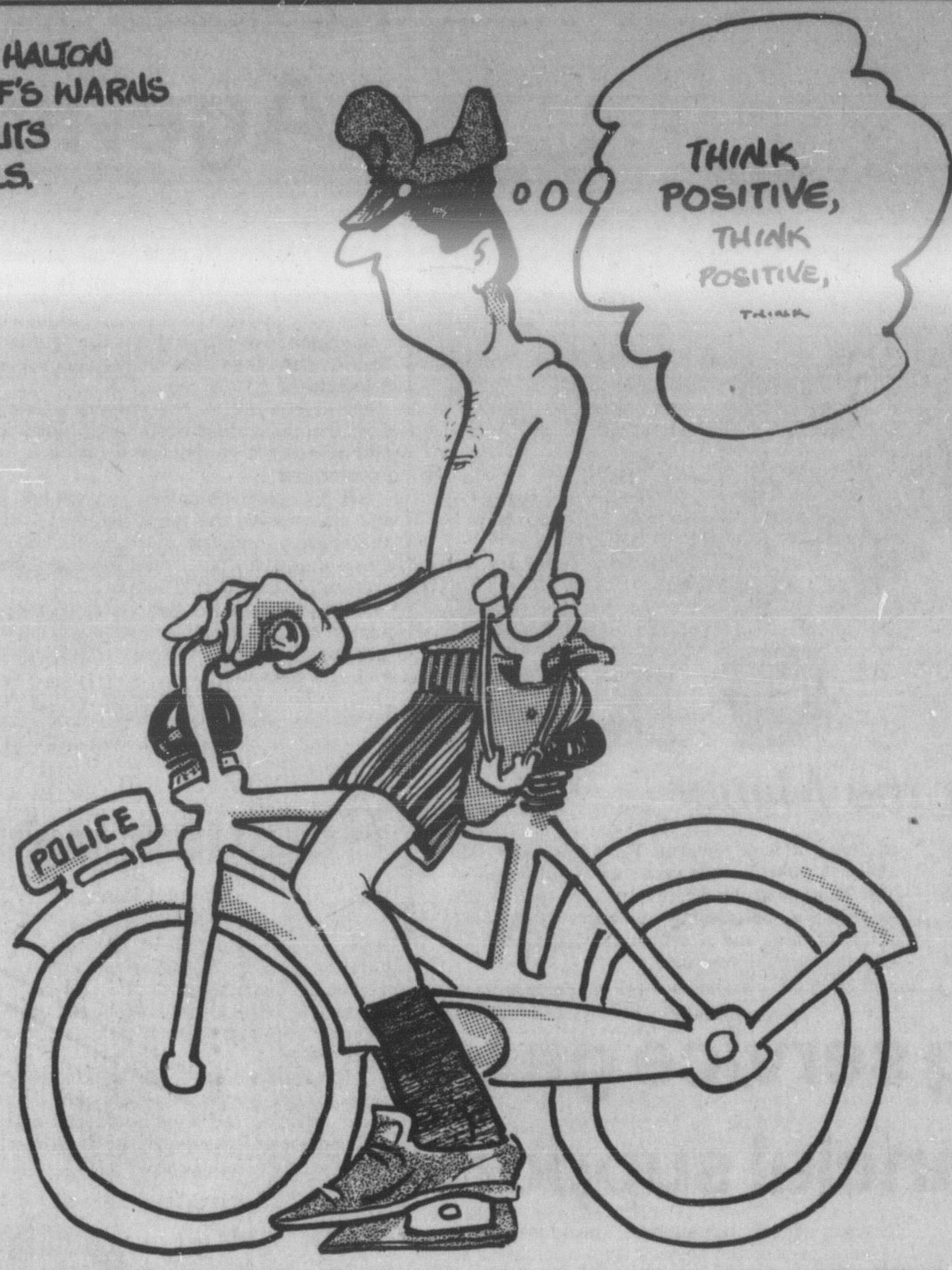
It's size might be more suitable for Campbellville's library needs. The building could possibly be also turned into a museum for that area or for Halton Board of Education as an example of the region's educational roots.

Needless to say, there are numerous ways of disposing of the school once it has been closed. And, unfortunately, the closing of Campbellville Public School is a reality residents there will have to face.

We suggest the Halton board hold a public forum at the school as soon as possible to canvas thoughts from residents in the area about what they would like to see done with Campbellville Public School.

Disposing of the school and the property will be much easier when the board realizes its value to the public as a community centre, rather than that of an educational institution.

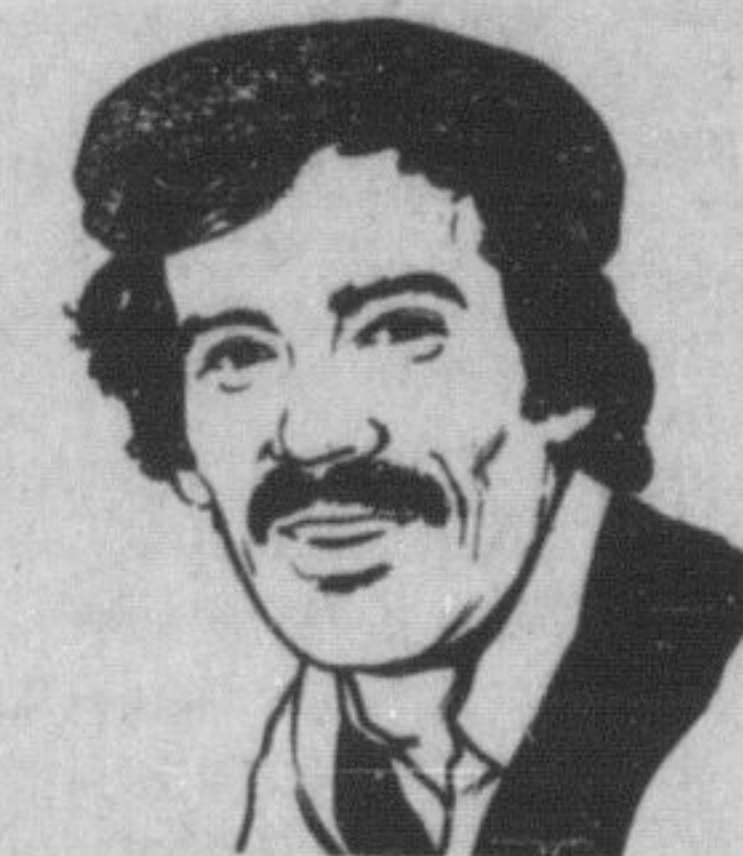
NEWS ITEM: HALTON POLICE CHIEF'S WARNS BUDGET CUTS CREATE ILLS.



Viewpoint

Setting the pace

WITH MICHAEL BOYLE



One hundred lengths. If someone had told me ahead of time I'd swim 100 lengths of E.C. Drury's pool without stopping I would have told them about some nice ocean-front property I had in Saskatoon.

However, encouraged to enter the Milton Aquatic Club's swim-a-thon by MAC director Carol Murray, I eagerly raised my hopes for 20 lengths if for no other reason than not to be embarrassed by these children half my size.

My last experience with pools was 10 years ago when I used to build them. When we completed the pool, we each needed to "test out the structural strength" of the diving board to see if the concrete would crack.

But I haven't swam in a pool since then. Summers at a cottage with a shallow lake has been my water abode. That and beside an ice cube alongside some scotch.

My years of Red Cross swimming programs have long since passed. A golf

stroke has long replaced a side stroke as my principle form of recreation.

But, apparently, like riding a bicycle, you never forget how to swim.

One-and-a-half lengths of the front crawl with my heartbeat twice normal (cigarettes have taken their toll), I soon realized if I was to accomplish two lengths I was going to resort to rest strokes or walk it in along the bottom.

At about this time, I began being thankful for those Red Cross Swimming teachers who said the most important swimming strokes are rest strokes.

Theoretically, if your body floats whether you're moving or not, you should be able to swim for a long time just by using rest strokes.

Well, I amazed myself with each passing length even though my offers to the counter of \$10 for doubling my total was rejected numerous times.

After a while, it became a matter of aiming for lengths of 10 and reaching it. It sort of reminds you of the old saying

that bigger goals come in the successful completion of smaller goals.

Anyhow, the biggest problem, outside of figuring out that I'd never swam this far in my life and should go down for the count, was the boredom.

Swimming is fun on a beach with a few extra curricular activities to keep the mind and eyes active. By looking at Drury's roof (a fine roof I might add) for an hour-and-a-half isn't exactly a great way to keep the mind active.

Encouraged by my buddy Mike Hobson, that helped to overcome the boredom. But, I mean, how many times can you recite the Gettysburg Address without starting to feel like a beard is growing rapidly.

I swear they were making the pool longer. The distance seemed greater. But somehow, I managed to swim 100 lengths and surprise myself.

The biggest regret I have is that I held all my sponsors to a maximum of 20 lengths.



Cathy Sweet

Follow-up

WITH LINDA KIRBY

What ever happened to the young teenager who made headlines just one year ago and was the star of more than a few television newscasts?

We are referring, of course, to Cathy Sweet of Milton Heights—the famous (or rather, infamous) 15-year-old who "mysteriously" disappeared in the tiny Mexican village of San Miguel during a family vacation in February of 1980.

It was feared at one point by RCMP officials investigating the case (along

with Canadian diplomatic officials, FBI and Mexican authorities) that the only daughter of Frances and Conrad Sweet had been kidnapped for the purpose of white slavery, or worse yet, had been killed.

Not a letter nor a phone call was received by her distraught parents, who maintained the belief that their daughter would be found alive.

Although Cathy had twice left her family (during their Mexican holiday) to pursue romantic interests with the natives, her mother refused to believe that her young daughter had, on the third occasion, left of her own free will.

Cathy rose to stardom when she suddenly appeared in response to a newspaper ad in a Mexican daily newspaper just over a year ago.

Television reports flew to that country to interview her and provide her with a homecoming wardrobe and escorted her home to one set of very relieved and overjoyed parents.

Hordes (and nothing less) of reporters were on hand as the official receiving line at Toronto International Airport—caught up in the excitement of recording Cathy's return to Canada, after an absence of nearly one year.

It appears Cathy was never kidnapped nor held under any duress.

She was it turns out, a common runaway.

Police admittedly are breathing a sigh of relief—she has now turned 16 and is no longer a concern.

Her parents shun any questions concerning what has happened over the past year.

Friends and associates seem to have a difficult time keeping up with the young woman's wanderings.

She was to continue school through a correspondence course, but gave up on that. For a few months she attended Milton District High School, but has since dropped out.

She moved out of her parent's home within a short time of arriving back in Milton and found local friends to stay with.

That didn't work out as well as planned and she is now supposedly living with a friend in Georgetown. She occasionally communicates with her family, but only occasionally.

Her parents would like to see a quiet end to the "Cathy Sweet Story." And rightly so.

They have lived under the glare of publicity long enough. They have been through hell and back and now are trying very hard to put their lives back together.

If there is a bright spot in the whole story of this troubled teenager, it is that perhaps other teens may consider what they are doing when they decide to set off.

Perhaps they will think twice about "disappearing."

All it takes is a postcard or a telephone call.



CATHY SWEET

Pages of the Past

One Year Ago

From the March 25, 1981 issue
Fifteen-year-old Cathy Erica Sweet has come home to her family in Milton. The attractive brunette teenager, who disappeared during a family vacation in San Miguel, Mexico, 13 months ago, arrived at Toronto International Airport Thursday evening. Her reappearance put to rest fears that she was dead or the victim of white slavery.

The official March 19 election results show incumbent Julian Reed with a narrow 518 vote margin over Progressive Conservative candidate Fran Baines.

Milton Aeros' roller-coaster season came to an abrupt end when Dunnville Mudeca's regained its form from last year and dumped Aeros in four consecutive games after Milton had won the opening two contests.

Credit plagued northern Halton residents face the loss of credit counselling service because of Regional council's refusal to provide financial assistance to a social service agency. Last week the councillors approved a committee recommendation to deny a \$2,500 grant to the Halton Consumer Credit Counselling Service.

Halton's four social planning councils have been told to try and amalgamate and come to Halton Region next year for funding as a united group.

20 Years Ago

From the Mar. 29, 1962 issue
Representatives of the C.N.R. agreed to study further the possibility of taking the new Toronto Terminal route under Highway 25 north of Milton rather than over it, following a meeting of Milton councillors Monday night.

Councillors expressed their concern of the appearance of the new line that will be elevated along the present west boundary of the town to Base Line and angling across Highway 25 to go under Highway 401 at the present opening.

Despite rumors to the contrary, there has been no sudden major outbreak of hepatitis in the Milton area. Dr. A. F. Bull, Halton's medical officer of health, told the Champion yesterday that, although two new cases of the liver disease have been reported in the past week, there is certainly no need for alarm.

A crowd of 465 Toronto residents visiting Milton Saturday afternoon a special Canadian National Railways family day excursion, received a rousing, noisy welcome from the town people here.

Halton Centennial Manor Board is considering purchasing land for a second county home for the aged. At a recent meeting, the secretary-treasurer asked the board if there should be an allowance in the 1962 budget for the purchase of land for an additional home for the aged.

50 Years Ago

From the March 24, 1932 issue
The influenza epidemic is taking many from their daily occupations these days. M. E. Nixon of Milton, has purchased the Acton Creamery, in Acton, from the owners, the Halton Cream and Butter Company.

A man in Oakville, vexed by his neighbour's loud speaker late at night bought himself a saxophone. Now all is quiet at night along that front.

The chaps who use gasoline and liquor are going to contribute very liberally to the balancing of the Ontario budget.

The days of spring housecleaning are almost here. Windows must be cleaned, hardwood floors must be gone over. Many housewives employ extra help. Give an unemployed man or woman a job.

While hauling wood on his farm, J. M. Near had quite an experience when the team broke through the ice the were plunged into the water. Unhitching them from the loaded wagon and getting them from the icy water proved to be quite a task.

The amateur sports promoters, the theatre owners and those who conduct moderate price amusements are all protesting to Premier Henry against the increase in amusement tax.

75 Years ago

From the March 28, 1907 issue
The Town Hall was so crowded on Thursday evening, when the Carey Bros gave their entertainment under the auspices of the band, that a great many people had to stand. Everybody was delighted. The pictures were perhaps the finest ever seen in Milton, and the singing correspondingly good.

All farmers and others interested in the starting of a canning factory in Milton are requested to attend a meeting in the Town Hall on Saturday April 6th at 3 p.m.

Members of the Milton Gun Club will have a clay-pigeon shoot at the show ground tomorrow afternoon. There will be plenty of pigeons for sale.

T.C. Livingstone was in Milton yesterday, calling on old friends for the first time for some years. He is an ex-Esqueving man. He returned lately from a trip to Vancouver.

On Tuesday, William Young of Oakville fell from a high trestle over the Boyne River, four miles from the town of Parry Sound.

Postmaster Stewart is out again after being laid up for some days with an attack of grippe.

Miss Evelyn Morse has returned to her home in Sarnia after spending a week with Miss Elma McKay.

A "Cow Testing Association" will be formed on Saturday, March 30 at 3 p.m. in the Reading Room in Milton. All who wish to join the association or are interested are requested to be present.