#### The Canadian Champion

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# Little people win

The news this week that Bronte Meadows and other related environs of Milton will finally get door-to-door mail delivery was a long time in coming.

It will certainly be greeted with a sigh of relief by those residents in town who have been without the service for as long as a year-although they have been paying for it.

The unfortunate aspect of the announcement, made by Halton MP Otto Jelinek earlier this week, is the speculation as to how it came about.

Milton Post Master Cal Hart says the decision to provide the necessary manpower for service in Milton was made possible through a minor juggle of manpower within Canada Post Corporation.

He claims two large petitions taken into the House of Commons by Mr. Jelinek and meetings with Post Master General Andre Ouellet were coincidental to the decision by the Post Office to extend its service into Bronte Meadows.

Meanwhile, Mr. Jelinek says nothing was done until he contacted Canada Post president Michael Warren through Mr. Ouellet. He goes even further to suggest that door-to-door delivery in Canada is determined by the party affiliation of the local MP.

While it is unlikely, in light of what is happening to outspoken civil servants in Ottawa, that Mr. Hart is going to credit Mr. Jelinek with getting the service in Milton because he is a Conservative member of the House of Commons, it is just as unlikely that only Liberal ridings in Canada are

getting new door-to-door mail delivery.

The growth areas of Canada—southern Ontario and Alberta—are represented by Conservatives and are expanding so rapidly the government can't afford to play partisan politics through the Post Office.

If anything, the Post Office and the federal government would be and should be providing better than equal treatment for these areas in an effort to influence the public as to their effectiveness as government entities.

While we tend to believe Milton was becoming a priority on Canada Post's list of areas to consider door-to-door delivery, we also believe public pressure by the residents, the mail carriers and Mr. Jelinek were responsible for shooting Milton up the list.

Lobbying or getting oneself in the position of being the squeaky wheel has always had much influence with government in Canada.

In fact, as we have suggested before, Canadians should get into the habit of petitioning or writing to their MP, MPP or councillor when they believe government is not representing their best interests.

Dropping a line to us doesn't hurt either. It all creates publicity—negative publicity for politicians and bureaucrats—and it forces them to react quickly to the problem.

That's exactly what the residents of Bronte Meadows did and it represents democracy in

It also proves once again that we, who think of ourselves as the little people, do have a say.

# Surviving the system

Unlike our cousins to the south, Canada has been rather gentle in the means it has chosen to destroy its native population.

While the Americans relied on the might of their armed forces to murder the Indians in the process of herding them onto reservations, to die quietly away from the public eye, Canada's approach was the make and break treaties, relying constantly on the Indian spirit of fair play to lead them to their deaths.

This trend is continuing even today as we take children from the admittedly unhealthy environment of the reserves and try to fit them into the maze of whiteoriented children's services operated by the Provincial government.

Children who survive this process are called apples—they are red on the outside, but have become white on the inside. They can't live comfortably in either

society. Sheila Bell, whose story is told elsewhere in this issue, is a typical example of what can happen when bureaucrats attempt to force children into a system for which they are culturally and socially unsuited.

It has only been since Sheila came under the influence of a Milton area group home operator, who has served as her foster father for the last two years, that she has started to show signs of adjustment, both to her own identity and to her position in a white dominated society.

Other children have not been as fortunate in their development, as the statistics of suicides and wasted lives in prison will attest.

Perhaps the program that David Stanley operates at his D and G Care Ltd. group home provides an answer to the hopeless plight of these children.

His approach is to introduce the children to their native heritage—to the skills by which their grandparents survived.

The results of this program are clear enough. When a child learns that he has an identity and a past of which he can be proud, his own sense of self worth is increased and this will lead him away from the drugs, alcohol and other forms of abuse that people heap upon themselves.

Apparently Provincial officials have dropped their efforts to close D and G and are preparing an agreement that will allow the facility to focus more on providing care to native children.

This is a welcome move. Surely the money that will be spent on this group home, and possibly others like it, will be a much better investment now than what we are spending to keep these children secreted in foster homes when they are young and prisons when they are older.

An investment that aims at ensuring a person has a productive and happy future must be better than simply ensuring he doesn't kill anyone else in his headlong drive to self-destruction.



#### Wiewpoint

WITH JANE MULLER

My mother. my sister . . . my friend . . .



There were more than a few eyebrows raised in reaction to my destination for a recent week-long vacation.

While most choose warmer climates like Florida or the Bahamas, I was packing my winter woolies and heading for Edmonton. It sounds like a suitable vacation spot for an Eskimo to start the spring thaw, but my aim was not to escape the weather but to visit my long lost sister who has been living in Alberta for nearly 10 years.

During that time she has managed to accumulate a Masters degree, teaching certificate, a husband and two children. One thing she will always remain is my older sister, a full nine-and-a-half years Linda has always been a beacon to me,

not that I've followed in her footsteps. It's more like her educational and professional accomplishments have given me added drive and confidence in doing what I want to do.

Even as I enter her familiar home at the south of the city our differing personalities begin to be exposed, at least to me.

Dust, for example, never lives a long life on her various cabinets and tables while leisurely accumulations are a frequent occurrence at my humble home.

When I opened the closet to hang my coat I noticed the other lifeless garments it contained evenly spaced apart, no hangers had sprung to the floor and the

shoes and boots, lined like soldiers, on the floor reflected the general order of her

The order doesn't interfere with the comfort of her tastefully decorated house and, even with the presence of my fouryear-old nephew Jonathan and his twoyear-old sister Alyssa, I was prepared for a relaxing vacation. I know from past visits that my sister treates me royally and this was to be no

exception. A three-day shopping spree spanning three large malls, a live theatre performance and an extravagant dinner out were the highlights of the five days in Edmonton. But, it was the nearly continuous jaw-wagging which made the trip worthwhile. Two sisters who lived a fair portion of

their lives together each fending off verbal attacks from their perspective older brothers have a lot of things to discuss and, for us, it amounted to at least a year's worth of catching up.

There are certain things one can discuss with an older sister which nor mally would lay unverbalized at the back of one's mind. Depsite our more obvious differences in lifestyles and standards there is so much we have shared that when the surface is scraped away we bare numerous similarities.

The experience of speaking with someone who can ride beside you on your train of thought or simply stand at the station and observe, is refreshing. Even without any direction from the fellow passenger or bystander, discussions and personal examination come naturally.

It all stems from an exceptional trust have for Linda, which has its roots in my early years. She was like my second mom, and a friend in a way only a sister could be.

All her time and caring spent on me as grew up never really hit me until my latest visit. Her chubby little daughter, with fire in her blue eyes, is called Janie about half the time, Linda admits, especially when she is misbehaving.

I can only hope my visit gave Linda as big a boost as it did me.

As she left me at the airport she merely said, "thanks Janie"—and we parted. probably could have floated home as my head shot for the clouds with my thoughts of how special my sister is and how much she has influenced and humored me.

As the plane touched down on the runway I felt more than the ususal anticipation, touched with some anxiety. After waiting half-an-hour for luggage (which didn't appear), the reason for my anxiety was obvious.

While I walked to the boarding gate in Edmonton beaming from ear to ear my luggage was somehow overlooked when the plane was loaded and had to make the trip back the next day.

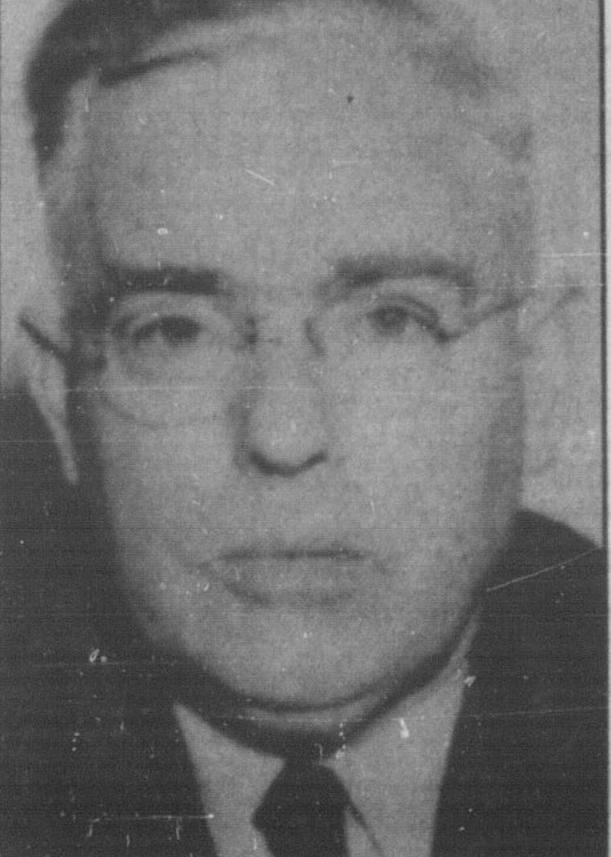
By the time is was delivered to my door Sunday, two days after my return, the wintery weather we suffered through in Edmonton had arrived in Ontario.

# People im our past

A continuing series during Milton's 125th anniversary

# Politician and businessman Frank Thompson

The land is in Frank Thompson's blood. Mr. Thompson, mayor of Milton during the 40s as well as a Town councillor, farmed on property near Hornby for 10



FRANK THOMPSON

years after World War I-following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather. Fact is Mr. Thompson was born in Hornby and his family have been there ever since his grandfather first turned soil in the area before Confederation.

He attended public school in Hornby and secondary school in Streetsville before serving three years in the RAF during World War I.

In 1929, with 10 years of working the land behind him, Mr. Thompson joined the Children's Aid Society in Halton as its actually a one-man show for quite some time, he admits, and was radically changed by the time he retired some 32 years later.

Now 85 and residing at Halton Centennial Manor, Mr. Thompson looks back on his political career and his life in Milton-a town he never left-with much satisfaction.

He admits his interest in Milton and his desire to contribute to the community by helping it in some way got him into politics.

Although very busy with the CAS, Mr. Thompson managed to get involved with the Masonic Lodge, becoming Master of the lodge and a life member along the

Being confined to a wheelchair now

restricts his making regular lodge meetings or walking along Main St., but Mr. Thompson is still very much a booster of the town and believes Milton is still a good place to live. "At one time I knew practically every-

body in town," Mr. Thompson says. "Now, I don't know anybody-it's so

Mr. Thompson and his wife, Kathleen, have two children, Griffin and Helen. The Milton Historical Society recently honored the Town of Milton, celebrating its 125th anniversary this year, by presenting the community with four plaques containing the pictures of Milton's past mayors.

Mr. Thompson, , Dr. Carl Martin, Mike Ledwith, Anne McArthur, Don Gordon and current mayor Gord Krantz, Milton's past mayors who are still lving, were also honored by the

People In Our Past is a regular twicemonthly feature in The Canadian Champion during 1982-the 125th anniversary of the Town of Milton. If you know of individuals who are still living and were instrumental in shaping Milton as the community it now is, please contact us by telephoning Champion Editor John Challinor at 878-2341.

the Past

#### One Year Ago

From the April 15, 1981 issue Halton Region has piled up more than \$1.1 million in deficit in the sewer and operating budgets over the past four years. Preliminary 1980 audit figures show a \$451,238 shortfall in property tax services (all operations funded by tax dollars or the operating budget) and \$723,533 deficit in the sewer account. which is financed by charges to sewer

users. Milton Fire Department officials hope this week to determine the cause behind a fire in a workshop at the Frankel Steel Co. plant on Highway 25 Saturday after-

The Region must realize that it is not able to provide complete policing under the current budgetary restrictions according to Chief Jim Harding. Chief Harding made his remarks after the Regional administration and finance committee had cut back the 1981 operating budget to 15.72 per cent more than 1980 and also made cuts in the capital construction budget.

Councillors held a rare Saturday meeting to try to pare the 1981 Milton budget down by \$1.5 million. Starting at 9 a.m. the work went on until about 1 p.m. when councillors were able to slice about \$1.2 million.

### 20 Years Ago

From the April 19, 1962 issue Halton's election machinery began

churning Tuesday, immediately following Prime Minister John Diefenbaker's announcement in the house that a Federal election would be held June 18. All three local parties say they are preparing for battle and gearing an all out campaign to have their man elected to the seat reserved for the Halton candid-

The Conservative party presently holds the power in Halton and since June 1957, C.A. "Sandy" Best has been the county representative in Ottawa. Halton Liberals have a new candidate in this election, and their slogan might well be "A doctor in the house." Dr. Harry C. Harley, a medical practitioner in an Oakville partnership, will carry the Liberal

The New Democratic Party in Halton is backing Carl P. Rouleau of Oakville, who teaches high school in Streetsville. Mr. Rouleau is also a new candidate, representing a new party.

A deficit of \$7,545.96 was incurred in the operation of Milton during 1961, according to an auditor's report released at Milton Council this week. This deficit included a deficit from the previous year of \$8,040.36.

Construction of St. Paul's United Church Christian Education Centre was cleared this week with the signing of a \$140,360 contract with Welcon Limited by the Trustees of the church.

## 50 Years Ago

From the April 14, 1932 issue

About 11.30 a.m. Sunday, fire, believed to have been caused by an electric motor in the cellar which operated the electric refrigerator, destroyed the general store and residence of N. Koella, at Lowville. Only \$300 worth of stock from the store and a few pieces of furniture from the house were saved. The Milton fire brigade answered a telephone call, but when the firemen arrived the flames were beyond control. Mr. and Mrs. Koella were attending service in the church nearby when the fire broke out.

Service was dismissed and the members of the congregation helped to fight the flames. A large sum of money, all in bills, the proceeds of Saturday's business, which was in one of the drawers of a dresser in their bedroom, was lost in the blaze. Loss is estimated at \$25,000 with insurance at \$16,800. On May 29th last, Mr. Koella's barn was destroyed by fire and a few days ago his truck and a load of eggs were destroyed in an accid-

A large barn with its contents, which included 3,000 bushels of grain, a herd of cattle and several horses, was completely destroyed early Friday morning on the Ninth Line, Esquesing, when the building was struck by lightning. So rapid did the flames spread that the owner, Frank Asbeck, was unable to save anything, and the total loss is estimated at \$12,000.

# 75 Years ago

From the April 18, 1907 issue Mr. Brandon, who was delivering coal yesterday afternoon, left his team for a few minutes. They became frightened and started up Victoria Street, striking a post near Judge Gorham's. They broke the front axle of the wagon, turning the corner of James Street and were making fairly for a plate glass window in the sitting room of the Hotel McGibbon, when Geo. Patterson rushed out, and catching the off horse by one rein, succeeded in bringing them to a halt.

The attendance at the assembly at the town hall on Friday evening was about 100. Georgetown, Acton, Oakville and other parts of the country were represented, and so were Toronto, Hamilton, Elora and other outside points. The general verdict was that the Lomas orchestra of Hamilton, was the best ever engaged for a Milton assembly.

A. McGibbon, of Appleby, ex-Warden of Halton, will leave on Tuesday to spend the summer on his ranch in Saskatchewan.

Chas. W. and Wm. J. Smith, Wm. Galloway and Wm. Elliott left for the west on Tuesday. Mr. Galloway goes to Saskatoon and his three companions to Edmonton.