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# The Canadian Champion

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## Praise trustees

Congratulations to the Halton Board of Education for its courageous stand in proposing no pay increase for the trustees to be elected in November.

At their last meeting trustees were told that a special committee has recommended that the annual pay for members of the Board be limited to \$7,200 a year, the same as it has been since 1977.

John Bradley, the trustee who has the unenviable job of negotiating with the teacher federations, said the recommendation would certainly help his task by setting an example of restraint for the teachers.

Aside from the obvious doubts about such an action in the face of an election, it is good that public bodies are starting to realize wage and price

control programs will only be effective if they have the support of the population and that the population can be led by example.

A position on the Board of Education, or Town council, is still only a part time commitment, not a full time occupation.

It was not all that long ago that people occupied such positions for free because they were proud to be providing a service to the community.

Those days have vanished in a surge of rising prices and selfishness, but at least elected officials have recognized that they must set the tone if they expect their employees to also make sacrifices for the economic health of the country as a whole.

## Restraint needed

Ontario expects every person to do his duty, according to the signal run up last week by Premier Bill Davis.

In this case, "duty" applies specifically to civil servants at the provincial and local levels and many others who will be legislated into smaller pay increases for the next year.

Generally, opinion polls conducted across the country have turned up a surprising level of support for the restraint packages, although it bears repeating that so far the limits have only been directly applied to civil servants, not the population as a whole.

The government programs are aimed at slowing the spiral of inflation which they feel is having such a detrimental effect on Canada's economy, especially on its position in the world trade markets that are so vital.

In its most basic form, inflation is simply the situation where too much money chases too few goods and services, so the simple answer is to either decrease the amount of money available to people, or increase the goods and services on which they can spend their money.

The usual answer of government, of course, has been to control the supply of available money through its control of taxes and the central bank.

In Canada, however, inflation has literally run away from attempts to control it.

Prices climb steadily, forcing workers to seek higher and higher wages to maintain their standard of living, forcing employers to raise the price of their goods to meet their ever increasing wage bills.

In this atmosphere, inflation is almost as much a problem of psychology as it is of economics. Workers expect that the cost of the staples of living will rise constantly, therefore they must take a hard line in seeking wage increases.

Somewhere, somehow, action has to be taken to break that spiral and in its desperation government turns to wage controls.

These restraints might be good, but only if the program

maintains the support of the population.

By itself, a program of wage restraint does not cause or aggravate the problem of unemployment—but price controls do.

When prices alone are controlled, employers find themselves facing rising costs of production, of which labor is one of the largest, with no ways of balancing off that cost.

The result is that action must be taken to control the variable costs that the employer can affect, and the cost of labor is certainly the first to which the knife will be applied.

The inflation being experienced in Canada, however, has been coupled with high unemployment, partly the result of government action and partly as the result of advanced inflation, employers can no longer increase their prices to meet rising costs, so they go out of business, casting their workers into the street.

There is a significant school of thought that argues solving the problem of unemployment is a more pressing issue, and must be done by increasing the money available to people to spend on items that will stimulate demand and therefore production and employment.

Inflation is not an especially important problem to a man who must face the prospect of supporting his family without a steady source of income.

Canada has reached the point where too many people are facing that choice and action must be taken soon to get people back to work, which will in turn increase government revenue through taxes and cut expenses as fewer and fewer people require welfare support.

Both of these arguments have the ring of truth to them. Inflation is surely a problem of major importance, but so is unemployment. The latter, in human terms is the more important but it is not answered by the government's current programs.

Wage and price controls may slow the spiral of inflation but they are unlikely to do anything for the problem that is most pressing today.



## Editor's Note:

WITH JOHN CHALLINOR

## Milton Fall Fair



At face value, one would think the organizers of the Milton Fall Fair would have cancelled any attempt to hold the town's oldest continuing event after the recent deluge of such inhospitable weather.

But, year after year, rain storm after rain storm, the world's largest unofficial mud wrestling tournament continues.

Without having consulted a friend at Environment Canada, I'm willing to bet my new rubber boots that rain has been the norm since Milton Fall Fair evolved at Milton Fairgrounds.

Last weekend, for those of you out there who are not familiar with this ongoing agricultural odyssey, was typical.

The fair, fairly commercialized by its midway, the Hell Drivers, the OPP Golden Helmets and a demolition derby, would have been further enhanced commercially if the folks from Tide had set up shop—cameras, et al—in preparation for their next commercial.

There certainly would have been plenty of possibilities to work with.

All of which reminds me of my first visit to Milton Fall Fair—a visit I'm sure many of you can relate to with a sense of humor—now that the sun is shining.

Sue, a first cousin from Toronto who had not experienced a real fall fair in all her seven years on this old dirt ball, came to Milton one September

Saturday in the early 60s to attend such event with her country cousins.

As we are the same age, Sue and I went to the fair with her brother and my brothers—parents a reasonable distance in tow.

Suitably attired in big rubber boots and yellow raincoats, we paid our 25 cents admission and entered what was to be my sea of heartbreak.

Sue and her brother seemed quite interested as my brothers and I showed them through the halls, told them what this and that animal was and impressed them with the projects we had entered in various fair contests.

Despite the weather, all was going quite well in this little bit of rural public relations until I met up with a neighbor of mine, who shall remain nameless at this time.

As we were walking through the midway, he challenged me to jump over a puddle. He made it extremely difficult to say no when he was successful in his bid before the watchful eye of my cousins.

I stepped back to get a good head of steam going and ran towards the puddle. I executed a fairly reasonable ascent, but my rubber boots remained at my point of departure, stuck in the mud.

My momentum carried up skyward, and figuring I had covered the distance, prepared for my re-entry into the earth's atmosphere.

Unfortunately, one of my feet became stuck in the back of my raincoat—I also

miscalculated my trajectory.

I made a perfect three point landing into about two feet of water, thoroughly soaking myself and three other people who had stopped momentarily to witness my feat.

My neighbor was nowhere to be seen, but my parents sure were.

Sue, not at all amused by all this, coyly asked my mother how far it was to walk from the fairgrounds to our house.

I didn't have to walk, but there was some heavy negotiating about riding in the trunk between Sue and my brothers.

Looking at some of the little fellows on Saturday morning, I certainly sympathized with their dilemma and that of their parents.

I should add that while researching and writing were my strong points in school and in fair contests, cooking was not.

My mother, an excellent cook, goaded me into making bran muffins to enter into the fair when I was in Grade 1.

I'll say nothing more about them other than the fact all of the other entrants had sizeable chews taken out of theirs, except me.

In retrospect, I figure I must have miscalculated on the baking soda.

My brothers are good bakers and cooks. I'm not and I suspect seeing those lonely unchewed bran muffins sitting on display probably discouraged me from further baking forays.

It probably also saved somebody's life.

## People in our past

A continuing series during Milton's 125th anniversary

### 1976 Citizen Of The Year Rev. Rod Lewis

Rod Lewis likes to help others—it's his nature as well as his job. It was his father's job, too.

A Presbyterian minister like his father, Rev. Lewis enjoyed much support and respect while balancing his Omagh-Boston charge between 1970 and 1978 and his community endeavors. For that, he was named Milton's Citizen Of The Year in 1976.

Born in Wales in 1944, Rev. Lewis grew up in many countries while his father travelled at the beck and call of the Presbytery. His father, a resident of Milton, made stops with his family in Scotland, New Brunswick, Bermuda and Toronto before settling here, where he has now chosen to retire.

Rev. Lewis was educated at the University of Toronto and Knox College. Married in 1968, he came to Milton before he was ordained—an unusual practice.

Until he was ordained in 1971, he wasn't permitted to preside over such events as weddings.

His job, that of the ministry in the community, brought him into Milton and created avenues for his involvement.

He began by dealing with alcoholism and regularly attending weekly Alcoholics Anonymous meetings to find out how to deal with the problem.

This awareness of the problem prompted him to become involved with the establishment of Halton Recovery



REV. ROD LEWIS

House in 1975, a home for alcoholics to rehabilitate themselves.

His involvement with that got him working in other areas and meeting other people who shared his enthusiasm for working to make the community a better place to live.

He served as the chaplain of the old Milton jail and also became involved with a religious program at E.C. Drury school.

He was a charter member of the reconstituted Kinsmen Club of Milton, where he was a member for four years, and also chaired the Santa Claus Parade committee for three years.

Rev. Lewis also became involved with St. John Ambulance and its efforts to upgrade its facilities.

Asked what Milton means to him, Rev. Lewis said the town is special to him because "it was the first community where I lived by my own choosing."

Rev. Lewis added the town is the place for a lot of firsts for him, including his first job, his first place of residence, the place where his children were born, etc.

"Milton will always be a special place for us," Rev. Lewis said. "Despite the fact we've been gone since 1978, our feelings for Milton haven't changed. I enjoy going back."

Rev. Lewis is currently the minister of Hopedale Presbyterian Church in Oakville.

He and his wife Olive have three boys—Reese, 11, Derek, 7, and Brett, 5.

## Pages of the past

### One Year Ago

From the September 30, 1981 issue  
 Heavier than normal rainfall has created a \$280,000 deficit in Halton Region's sewer system. Members of the planning and public works and administration and finance committees were told last week that the new deficit will require heavy cuts from the budget for that department and the quality of service offered in the system will suffer because of the cuts.

Hopes and plans for a Milton Fall Fair that would break all the records drowned in a sea of mud last weekend. Unseasonably wet weather for most of September left the fairgrounds a muddy wasteland for most of the three day program, forcing the cancellation of many events.

Regular customers of Dot Turner's Acorn Tea Room waiting since July 21 for renovations to be completed, will be rewarded for their patience Thursday. The grand re-opening comes three weeks after Labour Day weekend when it was hoped construction would be completed.

### 20 Years Ago

From the October 4, 1962 issue  
 A study of the inter-relationship of Burlington, Milton and Oakville should be made by the planning consultants of those three municipalities, Mayor Anderson told the Champion today.

Milton Council was advised Monday that the Ontario Department of Highways would petition it for return of sufficient land in Triangle Park on which to locate a new Ontario Provincial Police detachment headquarters.

Plans for the new C.N.R. Toronto Terminal Project include a rail line cutting across the north point of the property. The town agreed to sell the half acre to the C.N.R. for \$810.

The artistic fence and archway from a unique "grotto" on Nassagaweya's First Line is being moved this week to the Halton County Museum at the Kelso Conservation Area.

The fence and gate were a spare time hobby of the late Frank May, who died six years ago at the age of 78. Despite the fact he worked as a blacksmith and carpenter, cut timber all winter, and raised a family of 18 children, he still had spare time when he liked to wander around the countryside, collecting large stumps which he used to erect over 100 feet of four foot high fence.

### 50 Years Ago

From the September 29, 1932 issue  
 Isaac McCready, of Esquimes Township, who recently fell 24 feet out of a rack-lifter and landed on his head and right shoulder, which were badly injured as a result of the accident, is, we are pleased to say, able to be around again.

The annual tournament for the Gowland trophy was played on Monday night and was won by Kenneth Wilson and C. Earl, skip, with two wins and a plus of 19. A.L. MacNabb and J.F. Robinson, skip, and J.W. Blain and G.H. Dawson, skip, went to Mimico last Thursday night and succeeded in bringing back the Sheffield trophy.

Don and Jack Kerns, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Laverne Kerns, on the Toronto-Hamilton highway, west of Burlington have a kitten called Tommy. But, unlike other little kittens, Tommy has two extra toes on each front paw. The kitten is not in the least clumsy in spite of the extra toes.

Both plants of the Milton Brick Works commenced operating full time on Monday last, providing employment for 85 men. Only a few essential employees have been on duty lately. The plants will turn out face and wire-cut brick at the rate of 80,000 per day. Orders have been received from Toronto, Sarnia, Timmins and Ottawa and the plant is expected to remain open for an indefinite run, which is the best news we've heard for some time. Let the good work continue for many years to come.

### 75 Years Ago

From the October 3, 1907 Issue  
 V.H. Calhoun, promoter, constructor and operator of independent telephone systems, is in town again with Mrs. Calhoun and three children, having made arrangements to stay here for some time. He is again canvassing for the proposed independent system, of which Milton will be the centre, and he has secured a large number of signatures in town and within the limits of the system.

James Dow died suddenly on Thursday night. He went home after preparing for next morning's batch of bread at Messrs. P. M. McKay's Son's bakery and appeared as well as usual, but shortly after his arrival, he was stricken down by paralysis and died within a short time.

The annual exhibition of the Nassagaweya Agricultural Society will be held at Campbellville on Tuesday, Oct. 8th. Fine lithographed posters have been distributed and there is a splendid prize list with large additions to the lists of former years, and there will be more attractions than formerly.

The harvest thanksgiving services at Christ Church, Omagh, were held last Sunday when Rev. Matthew Wilson, M.A., of Acton, officiated. Mr. Wilson's addresses, both morning and evening were much appreciated by the congregations. Owing to the rain and bad roads, which prevented many from coming out, the service next Sunday morning will be a continuance of the thanksgiving.