

To lift our spirits

We haven't given up hope yet about having snow for the winter carnival scheduled for this week but with the sun shining brightly and the sky a clear blue, we're wavering.

Really no matter though. The whole theme of Winterfest is surely involvement and while some events will have to have snow, there are others that can proceed as scheduled and a good time will be in the offing for those who take part.

We've always liked the idea of Winterfest. At this time of the year we're usually snowed under and our spirits are beginning to show those mid-winter doldrums. Winterfest is a pleasant diversion. Those who enjoy it the most participate.

It will be quite unique if there isn't snow, of course, because initially weather records were reviewed to find a suitable date and

the time chosen came out pretty well.

Family skating on the mill pond was already popular on Sunday and that can proceed probably better without snow. The broomball tournament, relay races, films, tug of war, magic show, hockey games and dances will all be able to proceed even if snow doesn't put in a guest appearance in time.

Certainly the snow sculpting competitions, the snowball throwing event and the snowmobile races are particularly snow-oriented and some program changes may be required there.

But aside from the snow problems, let's all get out and get involved in the winter event. Winterfest is for everyone and it is a good chance for the community to get to know itself.

Be part of the Winterfest fun this weekend.



FANTASYLAND is created for the traveller as the Esquesing roadside is lined with white trees, heavily laden with new-fallen snow.

New spark of life

For the past 20 years, experts and laymen have been predicting the demise of Milton's downtown core area. At last it appears someone is going to do something about it.

Local business people have now indicated their solid concern for the heart of the town, by forming a new organization to turn what appeared to be a downtown death-rattle into a shout of victory. The Milton Downtown Business Association has been formed, its first officers have been named, and a fund-raising campaign has been launched to provide funds to carry the group through its first year of operation.

The Association has set its sights on retaining the viability of our downtown core, by an extensive campaign to clean it up, promote it and help firms work cooperatively to lure more shoppers to the area. Its members have already been warned the cost will be high—but it will cost less in the long run to bolster the downtown's sagging facade today than face a future without a downtown core to act as the heart of the town's commercial structure.

Milton's downtown stores have been threatened for many years by the large malls in the Guelph, Burlington, Oakville, Brampton, Mississauga and Toronto areas. In

recent years more local development has entered the picture—first Milton Plaza, now the proposed expansion to Milton Plaza, and currently a new group of stores is under construction at the Steeles-Ontario intersection. Although such fringe commercial areas do attract dollars that might otherwise be spent downtown, they also help keep shopping dollars right here in Milton.

The rapid influx of so many former city dwellers to Milton's newer subdivisions has obviously not been a big windfall for local business firms. We wouldn't dare brand Milton as a dormitory town but it is true that many of the newer residents still aren't completely attuned to the community. Surveys show many of them work, shop and look for entertainment in the lights of the cities. These residents must be "woo'd" into spending their money in their home community.

Rejuvenating, beautifying and improving the present downtown shopping core is one good step in that direction. The concentrated promotion of this core as a viable shopping area is a necessary second step.

We wish the new Downtown Business Association "clear sailing" in its quest to put a new spark of life in the old town core. The effort is none too soon.

Commenting briefly

Continued

Our editor's face was slightly redder than the colored ink in the front page headline last Wednesday when the paper hit the streets, minus three important little lines which informed readers that front page stories were CONTINUED on inside pages. The main story on the hospital budget, the schedule for the Winterfest and the Citizen of the Year stories were all carried over to other pages but the editor forgot to ensure the lines were inserted, telling readers where to find the rest of the story. Congratulations to all readers clever enough to recognize the mistake and go looking for the balance of the three articles. And our sympathy to those who are still scratching their heads over those funny "endings".

Just can't win

Last week we commented briefly about the difficulty in obtaining GO Train schedules without calling a Toronto (long distance) number. In the meantime employee problems have caused a showdown on the Oakville-Toronto branch of the GO line and it wouldn't matter if the folks in Toronto did give you the proper schedule—the trains weren't running on that schedule anyway. Some days you just can't seem to win.

No more, please

Although Milton Boy Scouts were forced to halt their monthly waste paper collections last fall, some people still persist in taking old newspapers and cardboard to the Scout Hall at the Fair Grounds and dumping it on the doorstep. Scouts this week appealed to citizens to please stop bringing paper to the Scout Hall—they have no way of disposing of it.

334 pints

Last week 344 donors attended the Red Cross blood donor clinic at the Legion. Congratulations to all who supported the clinic and especially to the Milton and District Kinsmen Club which boosted attendance by issuing a challenge to other organizations in town. While 344 donors is not quite a local record it's the second largest clinic in Milton's history, 158 pints short of the 492-donor clinic held in January 1972.

Philosobits

by Edith Sharpe

If someone really loves and cares for you, they will be with you. Love finds a way.

The best thing to spend on children is time.

We must never deny rights to others, they too have their own life to live.



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

With beef the price it is, most of us don't see much of it on the table these days. However, there's one type of beef that is as cheap as ever. If you can't afford the real thing, have a good beef about something that annoys you. It's not as tasty as the genuine article, but it's good for your blood pressure, even though there isn't much protein in it.

I haven't had a good beef about anything for a while, so here goes.

First of all, supermarkets. Many of them are becoming more impersonal, more inefficient, and more sleazy, from day to day. The change has been most noticeable in the past couple of years.

Until then, there was a crackling efficiency in most of the big chain stores. The manager and staff would bust their necks to help you find what you wanted. The girls on the cash registers nearly always had a smile and a greeting. Packaging boys bagged your groceries and would carry them to your car, if you wished. As a result, the stores were pleasant places to shop.

What a change! The only time you see the manager is on a television ad. Try to find a clerk, during busy hours, to tell you where the unsalted peanuts or the salted crackers are, and you might as well be in the Sahara, with an empty water canteen, looking for a nice, fresh spring.

The girls on cash don't smile enough, and are obviously overworked. The packaging boys seem to be an extinct species, and when there is one around, he's just going for his coffee break. And he wouldn't think of carrying out your parcels.

It must be that management is deliberately cutting back on staff and service. Why? To increase profits?

Yesterday, I went into a supermarket to pick up a few groceries. About \$10 worth, or one bag. I did my shopping in five minutes, and spent 20 minutes waiting in line to pay for it. Of six checkout counters, two were open. One girl was frantically punching buttons and bagging groceries. No packaging boys in sight. The other counter open was the Express counter (8 items or less).

And there's another thing that makes my hair stand on end and my temples throb with outrage. The Express counter.

The very name is a laugh. They should be re-named the Snail counter. They are supposed to be for the people who pick up a can of beans, a loaf of bread and some Bologna. They are supposed to zip you through smartly. They don't.

I stood in line for about eight minutes, wondering what the holdup was, as there were only two or three ahead of me. When it was close enough to see, I realized what was going on. Two places ahead of me was an old gal with a nearly full shopping cart, about 30 bucks worth of grub. I started to burn. Eight items is supposed to be the limit in that line-up.

When she finally got finished, and muddled around having a cheque endorsed, another woman took her place, and started unloading her cart. After she had placed eight items on the counter, I began counting. Aloud, in a clear, penetrating voice. Do you know how many items that old biddie had? Thirty-six!

I remarked, loud and clear, to the cashier: "I thought this was the Express counter, eight items or fewer." She had the grace to blush. I half expected the old bat to turn and pulverize me with a salami, but she kept eyes front and her ears were red.

I have a feeling there is room right now for some old-fashioned neighborhood groceries, where you get personal service

and your purchases are delivered, if you want to phone in an order. The big supermarket must be hell for little old ladies with arthritis who have to walk blocks with a couple of heavy bags of grub. Speaking of which, why do the baggers at supermarkets always put all the canned goods in one bag, and the kleenex, toilet paper and rice in the other, so that the customer goes out the door with a list like the Titanic going down?

Another sore point with me—and it's sore where it really hurts, in the hip pocket—is the ripoff at big, city hotels.

It was necessary that I spend a few days in one recently, and the prices nearly drove me into bankruptcy, a home for paupers, and insanity.

Single room, \$31.00 a day plus \$2.50 tax. Parking, \$2.50. That's thirty-six simoleons before you lay your head on a pillow. I was slightly stunned, to say the least, but my fault, I hadn't checked the rates.

"Oh well", I thought. "It's only once in a blue moon, and I'll enjoy the luxury and the terrific service." It is to luxury.

Luxury? It was a hotel room, like 50,000 others. Except that this one was so draughty you had to turn the thermostat up to 80 to keep from shivering.

Service? Oh, the service was great. Especially room service. Tired and frazzled, I decided I didn't want to seek out a dining room and eat alone. Thought I'd stay in my room, have a sandwich, read the paper, watch the news on TV.

Our readers write

Try these by-laws on hunter problem

Attention Editor:

I would like to make a few recommendations concerning the new hunting by-laws. They are as follows:

- 1) HUNTERS: a) they should turn in their firearms, and receive slingshots from the Department of Defence. b) the name of the present "hunting licence" should be replaced, and called "slaughter licence". c) hunters must tear down, before entering private property, every No Trespassing sign. d) all hunters must carry a pair of wire cutters, so they can enter a farmer's field.
- 2) FARMERS: a) farmers should by law, feed all stray dogs and the farmers' expense should have no tax deduction in order to protect their livestock. b) to keep these "beautiful deer" out of the farmer's corn field, he can receive a hundred scarecrows per hundred acres, supplied by the Department of Public Works.
- 3) THE FRIENDS OF ANIMALS: a) a thousand bales of hay should be laid out for the deer in the winter time, this should be supplied by their own organization. b) ten tons of grain should be supplied by the same organization in order to feed the birds.
- 4) FRIENDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT: a) in order to have peace and quiet on Sunday, all outdoor men and women are requested to walk in their sock feet one half

hour before sunrise and one half hour after sunset.

b) in order to protect the Bruce Trail, a law enforcement officer should be placed every hundred yards along the whole length of the trail.

5) OVER POPULATION OF THE DEER: a) in order to control deer population every doe should be required to obtain the pill not later than October 1st, supplied by the district hospital. b) RABBITS: a) to protect young trees and shrubs, rabbits should have their teeth filed off by the local dentist.

7) FOXES: a) in order to prevent the spread of rabies disease, foxes should be requested by law, to obtain vaccination once a year by a local veterinarian.

8) WEASELS: a) to protect the chicken farmer from these animals, weasels should have a blood transfusion once a month at the Milton Hospital. b) MILTON COUNCIL MEMBERS: a) to protect these members of the human race, each councilman or woman, may obtain a bullet-proof vest and a steel helmet at the time of the hunting season from the local armory. b) after three months of debate regarding the hunting regulations, council members should be supplied with a soft chair. c) after four months of debate, members should be paid time and a half, for their valuable time.

Sure, it's a luxury hotel. But who wants to swim in January? Who needs a massage at \$7.00 a rattle? Who needs a haircut at \$3.50 or a shoeshine at half a buck? Who needs to pay over 40 cents for a cup of coffee?

Surely there is a place in Canadian society for homey, comfortable hotels, like those in England, where you might pay \$30.00 a day for two, with a huge, hot and hearty breakfast thrown in.

Being skinned alive is an uncomfortable way to go.

Henry Huettner,
R.R. 1, Milton

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, February 5, 1925.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE: At last week's meeting of the county council R. R. Fleming, Agricultural Representative, presented the eleventh annual report of the Halton branch of the Department of Agriculture. It gave full particulars of the work of last year and was most interesting and instructive, showing wonderful progress, 1924 having been more successful in every way than any preceding year. Greatly increased interest was taken in the school fairs, with more and better exhibits, particularly in live stock. That at Burlington was one of the largest ever held in the province. It was attended by 9,000 adults and 3,000 children.

Three home garden contests were held, one each at Oakville, Burlington and Nassagaweya. The young people grew splendid vegetables, much better than those generally produced in farmers' gardens, which are too apt to be neglected. It is expected that this will lead farmers to pay more attention to and improve their vegetable gardens.

Four poultry breeding stations were established, with the object of improving the stock kept on the farms. Courses in agriculture and home economics were held, with excellent results. Girls got great benefit from cooking and sewing demonstrations.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, February 1, 1900.

PALERMO: Our town seems to be growing, for we have had our post office enlarged by about 20 boxes. Last Wednesday the District Division of the Sons of Temperance met in this village. It made quite a stir in town.

TANSLEY: Those who attended the evening sessions of the District Division, held in Palermo last week, report an evening's sport of the kind that is not soon forgotten.

APPLEBY: Some of the farmers in this vicinity claim that a wildcat has been located here.

LOCAL NEWS: County treasurer James Menzies continues to make satisfactory progress towards recovery and is able to sign the county cheques.

W.F.W. Fisher, of Burlington, Alex. Waldie of Acton, and Henry Robinson, Trafalgar, have been re-appointed License Commissioners for Halton.

Mayor Deacon reports that negotiations for the location here of the proposed new industry are progressing favorably. The proprietor of the industry (Syer Carpet Manufacturing Co.) will visit our town with his family next Saturday. Prospects that they will come to stay later on seem bright.

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