

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## Fighting Mother Nature

Mike Nikias (left) and son George tackled the big clean-up job as a team after this past week-end's wicked winter blast.

### Historian and community activist

## Charlton passes away at 84

By IRENE GENTLE

### The Champion

After a long illness, one of Milton's leading lights in history has passed away.

John (Jack) Charlton succumbed to cancer December 27 at Milton District Hospital.

He had just turned 84.

He is survived by his wife Evaline and son Theodore, as well as nieces Lourie and Leslie.

A former municipal councillor, Mr. Charlton also worked for 28 years at Milton's P.L. Robertson company.

In 1963 he began serving as assessor for Milton. Even after that duty switched to a provincial responsibility, Mr. Charlton kept at it until 1978, when he retired.

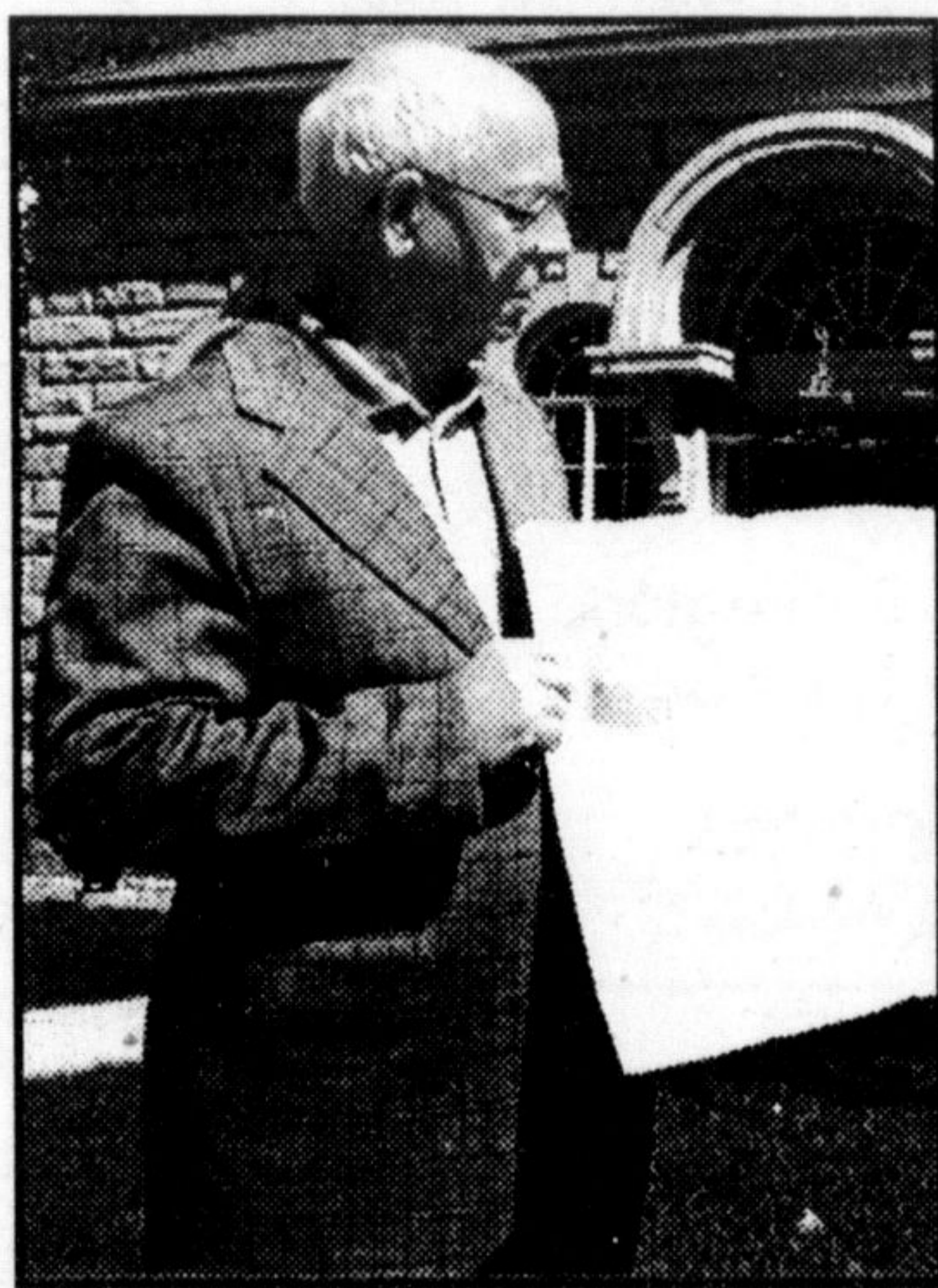
### History dear to his heart

In his later years he turned his impressive energies to a subject dear to his heart — history.

As a member of the Milton Historical Society he was instrumental in a program that provided plaques for historical properties.

He wrote the text for the now out of print book *Historic Homes in Milton*. He also devoted time to help research *Moments in History*, a book written by local historian Jim Dills.

His labour was rewarded when he received the Ontario Heritage



Jack Charlton

Foundation Community Recognition award earlier this year.

A talent for remembering details and a prodigious perseverance when it came to gathering the facts helped make Mr. Charlton a valued contributor to the Historical Society.

"His memory constantly astounded me. He was always able to remember details of properties, which is a priceless treasure," recalled Mr. Dills.

### Natural curiosity

Mr. Charlton loved history for the same reason he was a member of municipal council in the 1950s and 1960s, said Mr. Dills.

"He had a natural curiosity. I

think he was always interested in what was happening and why."

Even when his nose wasn't to the grindstone doing research or writing text for historical books, Mr. Charlton's fascination with old local stories continued.

"I knew him best in his later years," said Mr. Dills. "I'd visit him in his house. He loved to talk about history."

Alex Cooke, who also helped research *Moments in History*, had more than a love of old times in common with Mr. Charlton.

The pair were raised in the same Milton neighborhood.

"He was a heck of a nice guy, Jack," recalled Mr. Cooke. "I grew up with him."

### Good partner

That long-term friendship intensified when the pair collaborated on projects for the historical society.

"We were a good team," said Mr. Cooke.

"We started working at it about 12 years ago. We put in a lot of work."

Sister-in-law Kay Timbers saw another side of the quiet man who married her sister, Evaline.

"He was very kind and thoughtful," she said. "He was a good person."

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