



Champion COMMUNITY Page

Historical blacksmith shop to be resurrected

Major restoration planned for Waldie's Blacksmith Shop

By **FANNIE SUNSHINE**
The Champion

Where once stood an attractive barn-like structure, where local residents brought in their horses for new shoes, now stands a dilapidated shack.

Waldie's Blacksmith Shop closed its doors in 1969 after serving Milton for more than 100 years.

But thanks to a \$75,000 grant from the Trillium Foundation of Ontario, Waldie's Blacksmith Shop may once again serve the community.

"It's going to be a historical site," said Mandy Sedgwick, a member of the Milton Historical Society and chair of the restoration committee.

"We want to restore it as a useful blacksmith shop for schools to visit. Community groups can use the back part of the shop for meetings. There is so much history here; the shop went through four generations of the Waldie family."

In addition to the grant received, the Milton Historical Society forked over \$15,000 and is aiming to raise \$225,000 for the complete restoration of the shop, she said.

Complete restoration is expected to take between one and three years.

"The repairs needed are so major," Ms Sedgwick said. "Eight windows need to be redone, along with the walls and the foundation. We need concrete for the foundation. We're planning to have a series of fundraising programs for this spring."

Marsha Waldie, owner of the shop and great-grand daughter of the original founder, James Alfred Waldie, said she and her sister wanted to restore the shop for some time.

"We could never get anyone to take the lead on it," she said. "I wanted to do this to be able to educate people of the chronological evolution of the shop and increase the profile of the historical society."

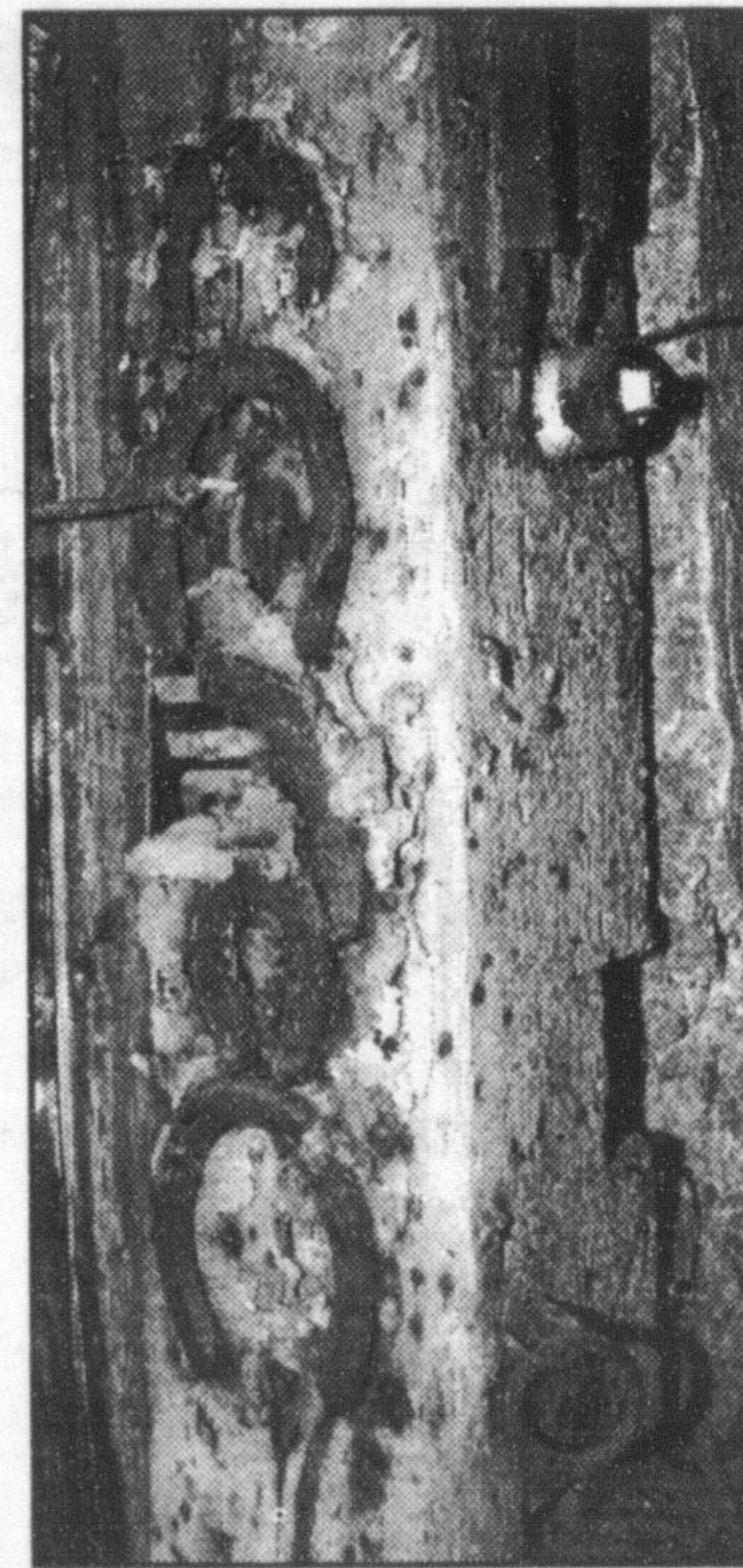
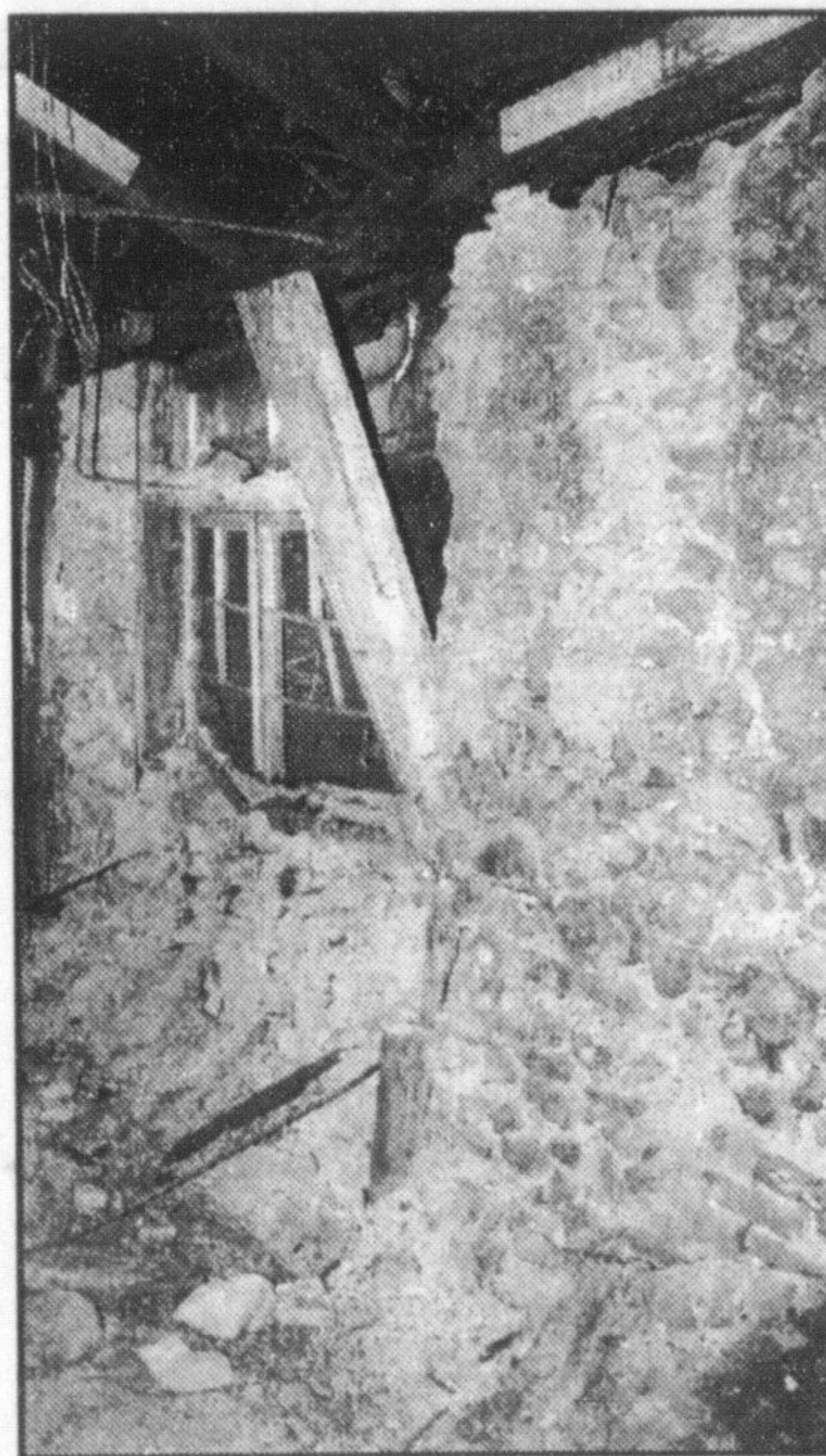
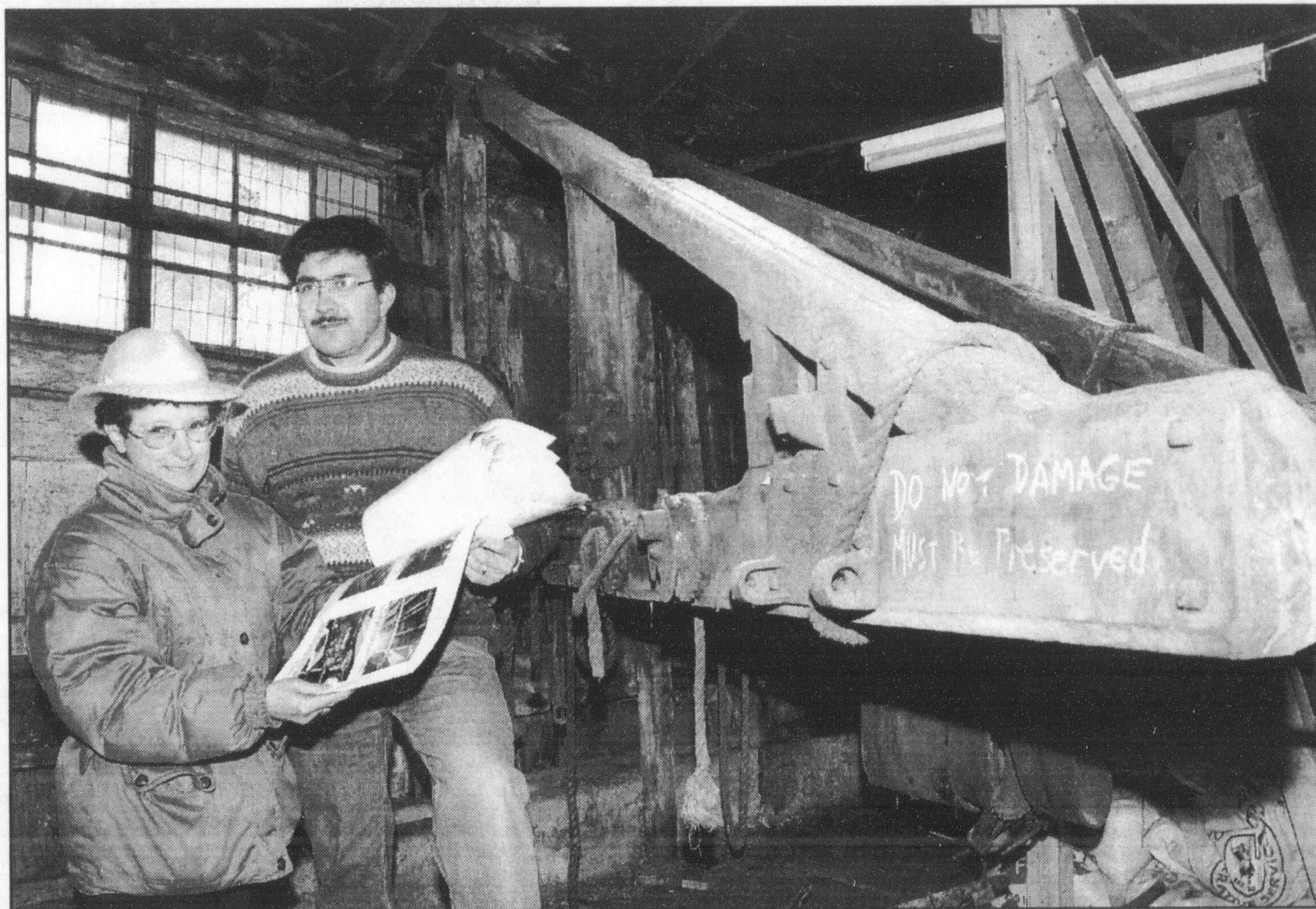
Tom Murison, a historical technician who was hired to research the shop, said he believes it to be the oldest structure in Milton.

"The shop was opened in 1867," he said.

"Some of the nails in the planks of wood are from 1821. An original safety horse stock was also kept. The horses belly would be strapped and the hoof would fit into the stirrups and the horse would get new shoes."

Ms Sedgwick said a lot of the tools kept over the years would normally be found in a museum setting.

"It's important to preserve Milton's heritage," she said.



Building owner Marsha Waldie (above left) and Tom Murison (above right) go over restoration plans for Waldie's Blacksmith Shop. Currently the walls are crumbling (far left). At left, the old wooden supports are still adorned with horse shoes. At right, Ms Waldie and Mandy Sedgwick of the Milton Historical Society show some artifacts from the shop.

Photos by
GRAHAM PAINE



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COGECO 14 Programming Schedule – March 6th - March 12th, 2001

Tuesday, March 6th

9am, 10am, 11am, Noon Plugged In!
Encore
5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm Plugged In!
Seniors
Showcase
6:30pm Optimist TV
Bingo
8:00pm Halton Hills
Council,
Feb. 26th

Wednesday, March 7th

9am, 10am, 11am, Noon Plugged In!
Encore
5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm Plugged In!
Cable in the
Classroom
6:30pm Swap Talk
8:00pm Georgetown
Hockey
Heritage
Awards

Thursday, March 8th

9am, 10am, 11am, Noon Plugged In!
Encore
5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm Plugged In!
The Issue Is...
6:30pm Money Week
7:00pm Osler Helath
Connection
8:00pm Halton Region
Council,
Feb 28th

Sunday, March 11th

9am, 10am, 11am, Noon Plugged In!
Encore
5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm Plugged In!
Week in Review
6:30pm The Issue Is...
7:00pm Seniors
Showcase
Osler Helath
Connection

Monday, March 12th

9am, 10am, 11am, Noon Plugged In!
Encore
5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm Plugged In!
Living on the
Edge
6:30pm Money Week
7:00pm The Issue Is...
8:00pm Sports Zone
Live

Feature this week: "Georgetown Hockey Heritage Awards" - Wednesday, 8pm