

Esquering man tries to track down horse thief

While research continues on Milton's history through the pages of *The Canadian Champion* and other publications, time capsules — those hidden gems of information — emerge. Simply and in a few words they open windows on times past and provide some insight into the lives lived by earlier generations. They reflect dramatic life-style differences, changes in entertainment events, and availability of services like transportation and communication. They form fascinating snapshots of Milton's past. And they're shared here in 'Milton Time Capsules' as part of the Milton Historical Society's effort to broaden awareness and appreciation of the community's past.

January 10, 1889

A valuable horse, harness, buggy and robe belonging to Stephen Elliott of Esquering were stolen from the driving shed of the Commercial Hotel. Enquiries were sent in all directions.

Two weeks ago W.R. Glasby, proprietor of the livery stables here, got information from a friend near Lynden. Mr. Glasby and Thomas Elliott went to Lynden and found the thief had been there for four or five days but left. They traced him 40 miles to Eastwood, thence to Beachville where he had apparently been lost and thence to the residence of his cousin, 12 miles beyond Woodstock where he had traded off the buggy, harness and robe for another buggy, \$5 and a watch.

Glasby and Elliott seized the rig and followed the thief whom they traced to Lambeth village, seven miles west of London, where he had put up at a hotel and tried to beat its proprietor by skipping out without paying his bill. He had lost his

Milton Time Capsules



way, however, traveled all night and turned up in the morning at the hotel.

As he was caught he paid his bill and getting a halter he had left behind in his buggy he took the road again. The Milton men traced him to Glencoe, thence to Bothwell, thence to Dresden where he has a half-brother and then back to Wardsville where he had traded the stolen horse for another and \$45 in cash. He left the new horse at Bothwell and announced the intention of starting for Milton but a friend of his who suspected him of having stolen the Elliott horse dropped a hint about Kingston which led him to give up the idea and take the horse to his half-brother's place, leave it there and make off.

Messrs Elliott and Glasby took the traded horse and Nesbitt's buggy, brought them to Wardsville and exchanged the horse for the stolen one. Thence they went to Nesbitt's and exchanged buggies, after doing which they returned home.

The thief, so far, has not been caught, but it is hoped that he will be run down before long. Messrs Elliott and Glasby had a long chase and their success in keeping on the trail of the thief and finally recovering the stolen property is creditable to their good judgment.

This material is assembled, on behalf of Milton Historical Society, by Jim Dills, chair of research, who may be reached by email at jdills@idirect.com.

Letters welcome

The Canadian Champion welcomes letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit, revise, and reject letters.

Letters must be signed and the address and the telephone number of the writer included.

Mail letters to: The Canadian Champion, Box 248, Milton, Ont., L9T 4N9, or leave them at our office, 191 Main St. E., fax to 878-4943 or e-mail to miltoned@haltontsearch.com.

OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Mary Street residents upset Canadian flag and Union Jack removed for film-makers

Dear Editor:

As a resident of Mary Street since 1978, I find it impossible to ignore the use of our Town Hall and adjacent areas for the filming of American movies that either can't or won't be shown in Canada.

Unfortunately, with the decline of the Canadian dollar, Canada, in this case Milton, has become the place to make films as they can be made so much more cheaply here. I know these films do make use of Canadian actors (on a small scale relatively speaking) and supposedly they do bring much revenue to the town — so I was told by someone directing traffic when I questioned why for the convenience of a movie shoot do I have to take the long way around to get to my house, sometimes even when on foot.

But what benefits do these companies in fact bring to Milton? Did a local caterer get the contract for this shoot?

More importantly, why do the

Canadian flag and the Union Jack flying over a Canadian war memorial have to be items that can be conveniently replaced by the flags of a foreign nation to satisfy the needs of an American movie?

Work around it boys! In this day and age, with the film techniques available, we have to resort to this?

Can you imagine a Canadian going to a small town somewhere in the U.S. and lowering the American flag to replace it with the Canadian flag or the Union Jack? Try that sometime. I dare you!

Were the veterans from the local legion consulted about this use of the war memorial? I know my father-in-law, a veteran of some of the fiercest naval warfare in the north Atlantic, would be upset if he were still alive.

I find it particularly distasteful that Canadians, honoured by this memorial, were often "cannon fodder" to soften up the enemy so that U.S. troops could then move in and reap the glory. Don't believe that?

Better read up on your history. Bet they wouldn't like the flag of a foreign country flying over such a hallowed monument.

And yes, we do attend the Remembrance Day services at the cenotaph, just in case some think this is an immediate cause celebre and any other time I could care less. Let's remember what the memorial represents and not use it as a convenience that can be dismantled at the whim of film scouts looking for locales to enhance foreign film-making. The legion has a program in place to teach youngsters about the importance of these symbols to our nation. They ask for one hour a year, then these symbols don't count after that?

C'mon filmmakers, with the resources you have, work around it. Don't trivialize these symbols of a nation and entire generations for the sake of Hollywood's almighty buck.

Doug and Karen Card
Mary Street

Campbellville corner looks like total dump, says local dweller

(The following letter was addressed to government officials and the Niagara Escarpment Commission, and a copy was filed with The Champion.)

Dear Editor:

Dictionary definition of eye-sore — something offensive to look at.

Dictionary definition of offensive — causing displeasure, anger or resentment; giving a disagreeable sensation, repugnant, disgusting.

Local definition — the entire southeast corner of Guelph Line and No. 5 Sideroad, encompassing the firehall, the Nassagaweya Tennis Club and the "dump."

The residents of Campbellville disassociate themselves from this blight on the landscape because it's north

of Hwy. 401, and "out of sight, out of mind." Why is this garbage magnet situated here, and for whose benefit? We live within a minute from this site and we willingly take our refuse to the Hwy. 25 landfill site and pay a modest \$5. Why are we providing some people the option to freely deposit their unwanted trash in our backyard? It looks like a sight from a third world country. Who would think they could abandon a mattress there?

How about directing funds from the nearby Mohawk slots to beautify the area?

As the area grows in population use (and abuse) of this site will increase rapidly. Fix it now before it becomes a major problem.

Jack Murphy
Wheelihan Way

Reader doesn't understand what concerns woman

Dear Editor:

I would like to ask Janet Whitehead to clarify her concerns in her May 22 letter to the editor, 'Will all the expense to restore the Mill Pond be a waste or will it be a garbage dump again?'

I'm not sure what the problem is.

Is it that people are actually using the garbage cans placed at the pond? Is it that Town staff don't work 24 hours a day, seven days a week to empty the cans, or is it that a hungry turtle is doing exactly what nature dictated it to do, survive?

May I suggest watching the Lion King to comprehend the "circle of life."

Kim laframboise
Pitfield Road

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