

Joseph Martin was known in the west as 'Fighting Joe'

'Time Capsules' are gems of information extracted from past issues of The Canadian Champion and other publications, to provide a window into Milton's past. Explanatory comment is sometimes provided to place the situation in context.

June 1889

An American publication, The Western British-American published in Chicago and edited by a former Miltonian, refers to The Manitoba Leaders. Thomas Greenaway, formerly of Huron County, is Premier of Manitoba and the Hon. Joseph Martin, formerly of Milton, is the Attorney-General. In reference to Mr. Martin (son of Edward Martin and grandson of Jasper Martin) the writer continues:

"Possessed of an admirable physique, in the prime of life, with a trained intellect, full of resource and of so magnetic a manner that with only six years' residence in the province he has been called upon to take next to the highest public position. Mr. Martin's friends need not be prophets to predict for him the highest honors of the Dominion. We knew Mr. Martin as a bright boy of twelve or thirteen in the quiet little Canadian town of Milton in Halton County and after a lapse of a quarter of a century our first meeting was on Saturday last, when he entered our sanctum. His home is in Portage la Prairie where he is an extensive land owner and is a sort of uncrowned king. It gives us hope for the future relations of Canada and the United States when we see two such liberal leaders as Greenaway and Martin firmly established in power in the very heart of the Dominion."

(Joseph Martin went on to represent

Milton Time Capsules



Winnipeg in the House of Commons, moved to British Columbia and was elected to the provincial house serving an interim period as Premier. He moved to England and was elected to the House of Commons there before retiring and returning to British Columbia. He was regarded as the founder of the Liberal Party in the west and often referred to as "Fighting Joe" since he was not above the occasional fisticuffs if challenged.)

June 27, 1889

Milton bids fair to be even more popular than ever this season for excursions. A great deal of work having been expended on the pleasure grounds, which are now in the best of order. On Tuesday a Guelph Sunday School and a number of relatives and friends of the children came here via C.P.R. and picnicked in the grounds. They put in a very pleasant afternoon and were greatly pleased with the grounds and the arrangements connected with them.

(Our Research Committee believes the grounds were the present Livingstone Park but would welcome any confirmation of the popular picnicking area.)

This material was assembled on behalf of the Milton Historical Society by Jim Dills, chair of research, who can 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 miltone@haltonsearch.com.

OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Haight's and Bramwell's comments are both outrageous, says reader

Dear Editor:

Richard Bramwell is right. Peter Haight's comparison of Cuba and Canada is outrageous.

But Mr. Bramwell's comments are also outrageous. They're sadly misinformed and individualistic.

The most outrageous part of Mr. Haight's comparison is that he has missed the point.

Why does Cuba have a good medical and education system? And why did Canada also have one at one point in time? Because of those taxes that eat up your profit and come out of your own pocket.

Why do we pity ourselves for the reduction in our personal profit when it has gone to fund our schools, our hospitals, our roads?

And what is Mr. Haight trying to make us feel when he tells us about losing his \$20,000 painting and not being properly reimbursed?

He has mixed up a private insurance company with our public government system.

His troubles with them could be

for the simple reason that the bottom line is what rules.

Mr. Haight's letter confuses me.

What is it that he wants? A joyous bunch, as he saw in Cuba, with general equality in quality of life, or maximization of profit?

It's time for all Canadians to ask ourselves this question.

And where does Richard Bramwell obtain his information about international politics?

Prison camps in Cuba?

What is his primary source of international news?

I think it's time that we begin to critically analyze our daily news sources and remember that our media is controlled primarily by the right wing.

How often does Cuba's 98 per cent literacy rate and high life expectancy reach the headline?

Also, when Mr. Bramwell mentions lives destroyed due to radical political systems, he fails to remember that in most of the cases where lives were taken within a

socialist or communist context, it was due to the heavy hand of capitalism; more often than not U.S. capitalism, and done in the name of freedom — 30,000 people kidnapped, tortured and killed in Argentina, 200,000 in Guatemala, 5,000 in Chile.

And today, an average of one union leader is killed per week in Colombia.

In all of these cases, and many more, it was simply the desire for a more equitable society that made them the enemy, and in every case, the oppression was supported by free North American capitalism.

Both letters emit an attitude that frightens me.

Fear and hate of stifling taxation, and repeated and passionate defense of individual rights and personal profit are exactly the signs of a wounded and bleeding Canada.

Marina Biasutti
R.R. 3, Milton

Pond geese, polliwogs all alive and well

Dear Editor:

Reading The Champion of Tuesday, May 22, we were puzzled over the the letter about the geese searching for their young.

Mr. Vermaas and I enjoy a walk to the pond often and were so pleased that it looks so beautiful again, gazebo and all.

This past Sunday (May 20) we also were happy to see two adult geese and five young gosling at first on the nest site and later swimming in a neat line — one parent

up front and five youngsters followed by the other parent, stopping along the edge to feed. At one place we were not 10 feet from this beautiful family, and us without our camera!

After reading the letter in the May 22 Champion I needed to see for myself. Today, May 23, I went for a look by the pond and there they were, two adult geese and young ones on the nest — a very welcome sight for me.

At one other visit to the pond I

heard the song of many frogs all around the edges and today if you stand at the water's edge near the gazebo you will see hundreds or more tadpoles or polliwogs, as we called them when we were kids.

The pond, the geese and the polliwogs are alive and well in Milton and we enjoy it very much.

Many thanks to all concerned for giving the Mill pond area a second chance.

Linda Vermaas
Kingsleigh Court

Developer won't be welcomed with open arms: citizen

Dear Editor:

Re: Vandals destroy H.D. Investments sign

Such a to-do over a sign.

Did you really think because you won the battle, that you would be

welcomed into town with open arms?

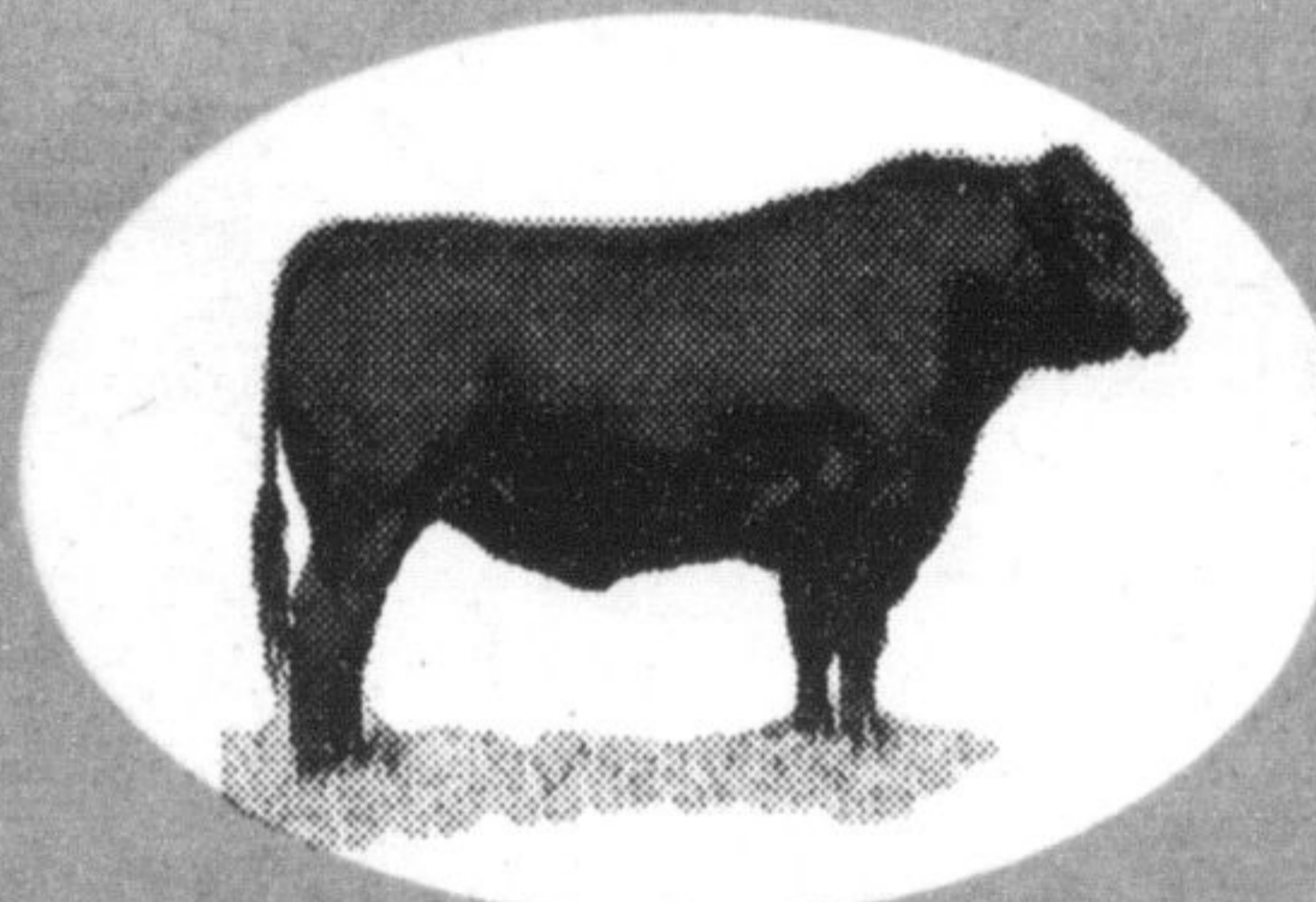
You live quite comfortably north of Milton in your "wooded parkland setting."

Perhaps your rage at losing your

sign gives you a bit of an idea of how we all feel about you destroying our "wooded parkland setting." Do you call yourselves vandals?

G. Taylor
Harrison Road

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