

Commercial Street grist mill destroyed by evening blaze despite quick response from hook and ladder company

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

August 2, 1888

At a meeting of the members of Grace Church, held on Monday evening it was decided to pull the roof off the present parsonage (61 Thomas) and build on the remainder to the height of a two-story building.

By January of 1889 members "taking into account the additional expense incident to the recent change in the size of the parsonage surprised Mrs. Mackenzie in a quiet way by presenting her with a purse of \$50 to purchase carpeting."

In February it was reported the social and house warming at the new rectory of Grace Church was largely attended, was a great success and the receipts of more than \$40 would be applied on the debt on the building. Contractor John Hunter was commended for his construction work.

January 1889

The annual report to the Education Department for the Milton Public School recorded 420 pupils registered. Two of the pupils were over 21.

Those pupils who attended less than 50 days numbered 51. The Inspector made 31 visits and trustees 59. In its teaching aids the school listed 40 maps, 19 blackboards and one globe, one ball frame, one numeral frame, one music chart and one writing chart.

Scripture readings or the Bible was being used in each department once a day with the commandments recited once a week. The school day was opened and closed with prayer.

The Milton Public School was located where the Milton Library now stands. In later years it was known as the Bruce St. School and it was built originally in 1857 with additions in 1873. It was closed in 1972.

January 24, 1889

Mr. S. Bradley is now engaged in cutting ice on the pond and storing it for next summer's use. He has posted up notices warning skaters and others that if they go on the pond they must do so at their own risk.

Milton Time Capsules



February 28, 1889

Saturday night flames were seen issuing from the steam grist mill on Commercial Street owned by John Shaw of Toronto and leased by C.K. Stewart.

Boys of the Hook and Ladder Company were on the spot in short order but not before the flames had gained such headway that it was impossible to save the mill. All that could be done was prevent the fire extending to the many frame buildings close by.

Two streams of water, one from Commercial and the other from Pearl were played on the area.

Chas. Jones, Captain of Hose Reel Co. No. 2 had his face badly scorched while holding the nozzle on the Pearl St. side of the building.

The roof of the old foundry on Commercial Street, opposite the mill, caught fire repeatedly and so did Messrs. Ramshaw and Weir's blacksmith shop while Mr. White's stable and a small building about 10 feet from the mill, occupied by James Ryan of the C.P.R. were prevented from taking fire by repeatedly being soaked with water.

In about half an hour after it took fire the roof of the mill fell in, the fierceness of the heat began to abate and the great danger of the spreading fire was over.

The loss upon the mill, which was recently fitted with new machinery of the latest kind, and otherwise improved, is estimated at \$7000.

Immediate steps should be taken to provide rubber coats and boots for the use of the branchmen, several of whom for want of the coats, had their clothing soaked with water and then frozen upon them.

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

OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Hornby clean-up organizers say thank you to community for making event a success

Dear Editor:

Hornby's first annual clean-up June 16 was a resounding success. Although the rains early in the day may have dampened the spirit of some, the sun did shine and the clean-up continued as planned. After the two-hour clean-up, a superb HARP-sponsored barbecue, consisting of jumbo hot dogs and bear paw hamburgers with juice and pop, was the ending to our successful first annual clean-up day.

More than 30 volunteers pitched in and collected well over 30 bags of garbage from roadsides and creeks in the Hornby area. In addition to the bagged garbage, we picked up more than 600 pounds of other garbage such as mufflers, signs and stands, plywood, car and truck parts, and even a container of Viagra with one tablet still inside. A total estimated 2,000 pounds of garbage was collected in the clean-up.

The Hornby Association of Rate Payers (HARP) would like to sincerely thank the Town of Halton Hills for the use of the Hornby Ball Park for the staging area

and barbecue, and for the donation of the garbage bags and the use of the safety vests.

In addition, HARP would like to thank Superior Gloves in Acton for the donation of the wonderful gloves used in the clean-up, and the Hornby Glen Golf Course for all the assistance with our wrap-up barbecue.

Special thanks go out to Councillor Rick Bonnette for his assistance in planning the event as well as all the hard work on June 16. Planning assistance and the provision of equipment from Mayor Kathy Gastle and Councillor Brian Lewis is also greatly appreciated, as is the support from the Milton Champion.

Last but not least, thanks to all the families and area residents that came out to make a difference in the appearance of our community. The definition of "community" is people like you. Work on the second annual clean-up is already underway for Earth Day 2002.

**Erik Kowal, HARP president
and Barbara Dixon, HARP secretary**

Reader approves of Ontario's Education Rebate

Dear Editor:

The Education Rebate is just that, a rebate! It's the returning of money to its original and rightful owner.

To oppose the rebate is dangerously similar to siding with a train robber in the old American west. At first, on every train he robs, he systematically goes down the aisle removing everyone's cash and valuables. Over the years, he spends the money on a variety of pet interests.

Some of it even goes to fund a local schoolhouse, and a church. Of course, the beneficiaries suspected his wealth was out of proportion to the small farm he worked, but since he was seen as helpful to the community they shut it out of their minds.

Then, getting older and slower, he decided he could still avoid the sheriff if he skipped robbing every fifth person on each train. Now, imagine that the other passengers begin to complain, insisting to him that his behavior wasn't fair. You might expect them to demand that he stop robbing them all together. Not so, with the outspoken passengers of the train called "Ontario." They insist that the robber return to robbing everyone again. That, they say, would be fair! They no

longer care who the robber is, or that they're robbed, so long as they are all robbed fairly. Deep down they all hoped that some of the stolen wealth would fund them or their pet projects. Deep down they were robbers just like him, but too cowardly to do it themselves.

Speaking to those who read this paper, I hope the ideas expressed by *The Champion* and many of your neighbours, come to respect and defend your right, your inalienable right, to your own property. Don't accept the bankrupt arguments of those who would sacrifice your money, your effort, and your things, to the thoughtless unselfish greed that lies beneath their trumpeted causes. Whenever there's someone advocating unselfish service to others, there's always someone there to greedily collect — from you! The rebate is an opportunity for you to recover your money — should you wish to use a private school. If you do decide to use a private school why should you continue to support the vultures who think they have a right to spend your money on their idea of a school?

**Richard Bramwell
RR3 Milton**

Thanks to all those who supported Junior Achievement

Dear Editor:

Junior Achievement of Halton has had another successful year. We delivered three programs: Business Basics, the Economics of Staying in School and the Company Program and reached more than 1,200 students in Halton. Students from 9 to 18 years of age benefited from our programs. Our organization is driven by its volunteers and we would like to thank each and every one of them.

In Milton we had the following dedicated individuals facilitate our programs:

Bob Elliot, John Hopper, Anne Kozlowski, Nancy Martinello, Alana Morrow, Chris Polkamp, Tara Preston, Deb Rennie, Christine Sarte, Deb Stewart, Dan Suess, George Tataki, Leslie Waychison and Ed Wrobel.

**Sharon Kelly, program manager
Junior Achievement of Halton**

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