

## Rural couple celebrate their golden wedding anniversary

'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.

March 21, 1889

Thomas M. and Mary Taylor marked their golden wedding anniversary. Mr. Taylor was born in Yorkshire Feb. 21, 1820 and came to Canada in 1832.

He went back to England in 1833 and finally came to Canada in 1834, settling in Nassagaweya. He has lived in the township ever since his last visit to Guelph in the fall of 1834. His wife came to Nassagaweya in 1830 and has lived in that township ever since. She is 70 years of age.

May 9, 1889

At the recent Whiskey Trials of Robert Bennett of Georgetown the hotel-keeper testified he "violated the law as little as possible" and complained the witness against him was a bad character.

June 6, 1889

On Wednesday a team belonging to Peter Sayers drew an immense load of lumber from his mill in Nassagaweya to Georgetown. It consisted of 4,000 feet of lumber, green, cut the day before, and weighing 4 tons, 1150 pounds.

November 14, 1889

The Milton Methodist Church marked its anniversary with a thanksgiving supper. The roller rink (on the site of McKersie-Kocher Funeral Home) was fixed up for the occasion and seven tables across the rink were elaborately loaded with turkeys and good things provided by the ladies. They were rewarded for their trouble by seeing all the seats at the tables filled. After tea, an adjournment was made to the church (the chapel which preceded the present sanctuary) where speeches were delivered. Rev. Clark read a report showing that a subscription list had been signed raising sufficient funds to wipe out all the debt of the church. Proceeds for the evening totaled \$85.

November 28, 1889

Knox Church marked the first anniversary of the induction of the Rev. R. Haddow with a special service at the church (Martin St.) and a tea meeting at the town hall. The church has made great progress during the first year of Mr.

## Milton Time Capsules



Haddow's pastorate and the congregation has become so large and is in so prosperous a condition generally that the erection of a new church is contemplated.

In September 1890 the foundation stones of the new Knox Church (on Main St.) were laid. A "grand collation" was served up at the roller skating rink with the ladies of the congregation supplying the table with all the delicacies of the season.

February 6, 1890

The Masonic Ball at the town hall under the auspices of St. Clair Lodge and St. Clair Chapter was a grand success. The ladies were beautifully dressed, the hall was tastefully decorated. The music by Marciano's Quadrille Band of Toronto was of the best. Dancing kept up until 3:30 a.m.

Mr. Charles Knees, proprietor of the Dominion Cordovan Tannery (on Mill St.) returned home from Europe last week and he and Mrs. Knees were at the ball. Mr. Knees has bought the residence and grounds (Holy Rosary grounds) formerly occupied by the late John Dewar, Clerk of the Peace. Mr. and Mrs. Knees will retain their Toronto residence.

July 17, 1890

Orangemen of Halton celebrated the 200th anniversary of the battle of the Boyne here on Saturday. The town presented a gay appearance. Handsome evergreen arches decorated with flags and mottoes were erected across Main Street opposite the Wallace House, Bennett House and the Commercial Hotel.

Flags were up on a number of buildings and there was a great display by merchants and others of orange, red, white and blue bunting.

About 1,600 Orangemen took part in the procession. It is computed that altogether the town had 8,000 visitors. Milton, Oakville, Georgetown and Streetsville brass and reed bands and the large fife and drum band.

*This material is assembled on behalf of the Milton Historical Society by founder and longtime member Jim Dills, chair of research, who can be reached by e-mail at [jdills@idirect.com](mailto:jdills@idirect.com).*



## OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

### BR School Council concerned that special needs students not getting proper support

(The following letter was addressed to Janet Ecker, minister of education and training and a copy was filed with *The Champion*.)

Dear Editor:

The Bishop Reding School Council is concerned that more than 10 per cent of our student population, those students with special needs, aren't getting the services they're entitled to under the laws of this province.

This year, special education funding available to our board wasn't enough to deliver services to these students even when the Halton Catholic District School Board allocated additional funds. Children identified as being "at risk" weren't approved for psycho-educational assessments due to excessive demands on Intensive Support Amount (ISA) funding. Educational assistants who work with special needs students were not replaced when absent due to funding issues. These children are our most vulnerable students and require these supports in order to achieve their maximum potential. Many of these students have special learning needs that, when supported, will enable them to have success in high school. A high school diploma will afford them the opportunity to further their education and become productive members of society. Without support, many of these students will become frustrated by failure and never complete their education.

The requirements for ISA funding has become more restrictive and will no longer fund some students who were supported in the past. The already inadequate Special Education Per Pupil Amount (SEPPA) funding, which is based on a school board's total enrolment, will now be further stretched to support these students. The SEPPA formula for funding is flawed, as it doesn't take into consideration the real number of students identified with special needs who require support.

Along with the reduction in funding, we see an increase in the administrative requirements. There's little enough money to support these students; we

don't want these resources spent on paperwork.

Our school council is also concerned about the implementation of standardized grade 10 literacy testing with regard to students with special needs. Students who have been identified with learning disabilities haven't been adequately accommodated in the delivery of the 'written' part of this testing. These students were provided audiotapes for the 'reading' parts and most were successful. However, all of these students failed the 'written' section. These students are entitled to support for writing difficulties every day in their regular classrooms and will also be accommodated in college and university. Why then do they not have this support for the grade 10 literacy test? When we think that students may be denied graduation, regardless of their school performance, based on one assessment that didn't consider their learning needs in the first place, we are very alarmed.

The secondary school system in Ontario is designed for students who are able to have success with academic learning in a four-year program. Students who have academic needs require viable options that will allow them to be valued contributors to our society. These aren't in place. In conclusion, we ask that this government give thoughtful consideration to developing plans and policies in the following areas:

- Increase the levels of funding for all special needs students and support services
- Minimize the special needs dollars that are used for administration and maximize the dollars used for service delivery
- Include additional accommodation for learning disabilities in the grade 10 literacy test, i.e. clarification of test questions, support to organize thoughts and ideas prior to writing.
- Develop programs and policies that will enhance opportunities for students who have academic needs, i.e. training programs, vocational programs, school-to-work transition programs.

*Bishop Reding School Council*

### Reader seeking protection for undeveloped local lands

Dear Editor:

I'm writing this letter in hope of gaining support for protection of 'undeveloped' lands in the Golden Horseshoe area, particularly in rural Milton.

Lately, radio stations and newspapers give reports of 'poor air quality' in our area, on an almost daily basis. Automotive traffic is continually increasing; this is the biggest contributor to our 'bad air'.

Farmers, perhaps after years of toiling, may find it hard to resist 'selling out' to a developer who's able to get the land re-zoned for development. This means more and more cars and poorer air quality. I'm sure that many people would favour a subsidy to farms to

make it more attractive to keep the land zoned agricultural.

I dread the thought of our town becoming part of a corridor of development like Mississauga/Oakville/Burlington, as opposed to the community with the 'buffer zone' of rural lands around it that Milton has been to date. With regard to the C.N. intermodal facility, I feel that the town's residents would be best served by having our politicians decide against the proposed location to the south of town on the present agricultural lands.

*Rob Cheskey  
Heslop Road*

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