

# St. George's Anglican Church congregation decides to build a new stone church, which is expected to cost up to \$4,000

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

## September 1894

The congregation of St. George's Anglican Church, Lowville has decided to build a new stone church that will cost between \$3,000 and \$4,000. The greater portion of the money has been subscribed and it's likely that the building will be completed before the end of 1895. The church is prospering under the incumbency of Rev. Seaman.

...

Last week the new school room of Knox Church was finished and it's a beautiful building 40 by 70 feet adjoining the church, the main room being 40 by 48 feet, with an infant class room and kitchen at the rear with an entrance hall and raised platform in the front.

The main entrance is directly off the street. Knox Church's congregation of Milton is now to be congratulated on having one of the finest church properties in the province.

In 1890, they purchased from W.L.P. Eager his beautiful residence and grounds on Main Street at the sum of \$5,000. During the same year on the 18th day of September, the corner stone of the new church was laid and on the 28th of June 1891 the church was opened, the estimated cost being placed at \$13,500.

The cost of the present school room is placed at \$2,000, making the total value \$20,500 of Knox's church manse, church and school room.

## October 1894

Last Friday night at about 10:45 p.m., Harry Fallis was hurrying along James St. on his way to the G.T.R. station (Bronte St.) intending to go to Toronto by a freight train in charge of some horses. It was raining and he slipped at the corner of Mill St. and fell into a shallow ditch. When he attempted to get up he found that his right leg was disabled.

He shouted for assistance for perhaps 20 minutes before it came and during that time the poor fellow sat in the rain suffering greatly. Finally help came and he was conveyed to the office of Dr. Robertson

## Milton Time Capsules



who found that his right leg was badly fractured in two places. The doctor set the leg and Fallis was carried to the Commercial Hotel (Knight Cap) where he is doing as well as can be expected.

...

Fire was discovered at the Geo. Winn & Son's shoe factory in the packing room by Harry Hemming, hostler at the Bennett House. It was extinguished but a quantity of goods packed for shipment was damaged. George Winn, Sr. was in the factory about half an hour before the flames broke out and saw nothing. The loss is estimated at between \$2,000 and \$3,000. Operatives had a holiday yesterday but the damage will soon be repaired and the factory, which is one of Milton's leading industries, will be running as usual.

...

The Grace Church Vestry meeting was held at the rectory since Rev. P.T. Mignot was confined by a bad cold. The object was to receive the report of the finance committee in connection with the proposed new stone church. It was stated that over two thirds of necessary amount was already secured by subscription.

It was resolved to proceed with the building operations commencing during the coming winter when stone and other materials will be conveyed to the site. Appointed to the building committee were, the Rector, Judge Snider, John Hunter, S. Hannant, Wm. Panton and E.W. Boyd.

...

The Bank of Hamilton (147 Main St. E.) has begun rebuilding the bank by making it two feet wider and twelve longer, with an additional storey in height and plate glass front. Alderman Macdonald of Hamilton is supervising the work. (The present CIBC replaces this building)

*This material is assembled on behalf of the Milton Historical Society by 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

## Readers say Town Hall site much better location for the arts centre — no tracks

Dear Editor:

After reading the editor's column in the January 11 issue of The Champion and an article in the January 15 edition, I was disappointed to learn that the vote is leaning to the corner of Thompson Road and Main Street for the arts and cultural centre — one of the busiest intersections in town and right near the railroad tracks.

Who would want to be at a performance listening to a beautiful piece of music or waiting for that crucial line to be uttered only to miss it because of the clackety clack and whistle of a train or the screech of car tires?

I was also disappointed to read that the councillors felt they haven't had much feedback from their constituents on the arts and cultural centre, except from the arts community. It appears to me the councillors don't realize how big this community is growing. I haven't contacted my councillor since my feedback has been included in the Arts Milton report. If required, I will express my view twice.

I reflect back one-and-a-half years ago to the Town meeting my husband and I attended regarding the arts and cultural centre and the amount of people I saw there.

We attended Arts Milton meetings where more than 200 people turned up at a time to express their views. We've filled in forms and have had meetings with the consultants. Unfortunately, it appears that all the time we spent on this project was wasted, according to most of the councillors.

At a meeting of Arts Milton members and the consultants in

December, we were told — regarding the Thompson Road site — the arts and cultural centre would be put in the present Milton Hydro building, (guess we will always have enough power for the stage lights), fitting the theatre into the maintenance garage. The library would be squeezed on whatever piece of land was left.

If this goes ahead, I hope the Town will improve the bus service, as there will be limited parking space. A typical evening would be hockey in the arena, theatre and other activities in the arts and cultural centre and people visiting the library. Don't forget, the railroad tracks are right there so you may have to contend with waiting for the trains. Remember, there's no parking on Thompson Road. The Milton Leisure Centre is a couple of blocks up the road, but I have often seen that parking lot full. If you really feel fit, you can always park at Bishop Reding Secondary School and hike down the side of the road.

Maybe if the new homeowners across the street want to make some extra money, they will let you park in their driveways for a good fee.

Members of Arts Milton favour the present Town Hall as the arts and cultural centre for many reasons. Refurbishing the Town Hall into an arts and culture centre wouldn't lose its present character or its history — that of the courthouse and jail.

These are the things we feel would be better preserved in an arts and cultural centre. (Note the word 'cultural'.) The Town Hall facilities could be used for offices of the per-

sonnel running the arts centre and theatre, along with Arts Milton and other arts groups. There would be space for rehearsals, meeting rooms, artists painting, sculpturing and other arts and crafts with the council chambers used for small, intimate presentations such as a chamber orchestra.

Huge Foster Hall could be rented for receptions before or after a performance; artists could hang/display their finished products; and other special events, similar to what the hall is used for presently. The theatre section would be built at the back (tearing down the old police station) connecting to the main building with a walkway and leaving the park in front of the hall and the rose garden as is. Also, there's more parking in the area.

A fair amount of towns in Ontario have their arts and cultural centre in their historic Town Hall. Why? It's the focus of the town with a central location and easy access to restaurants.

There's easy access to downtown away from the railroad tracks and the location is well known. The people of Milton are offered an old hydro building and a congested area.

It's bad enough we've been waiting for the arts and cultural centre since the early '80s, but to insult us with this.

I tend to think that town council doesn't want anything to do with the arts in Milton and doesn't consider it as important to a community as the rest of Ontario does.

**Virginia Bancur  
and Tony Durrant  
Laurier Avenue**

## Senior desperate for return of lost sunglasses

Dear Editor:

I'm writing to ask you to help me. I'm a senior citizen, currently living at Allendale. On Wednesday, Jan. 23, I had lunch with a friend at Tim Hortons on Ontario Street and I inadvertently left my prescription sunglasses in the store.

I desperately need these glasses, since I have some

difficulty with my vision, which is made worse by bright light — hence the sunglasses.

If someone has picked them up accidentally, please could you return them to me at Allendale, 185 Ontario St. S. I would so appreciate it, as I need them so badly.

**Doris Brain  
Allendale resident**

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