

Grace church committee accepts tender of Coleman Planing Mill and Lumber Co. for a new stone church

'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.

January 1895

The building committee of Grace Church has accepted the tender of the Coleman Planing Mill and Lumber Co., of Burlington for the erection of the proposed new stone church on the site of the old frame one which will be moved towards the rear of the church property and utilized as a school house.

The new church will seat 300 people and will cost, exclusive of the seating, \$4,985. The architect, Mr. Gibson of Toronto will supervise the building operations, which the contractors expect to have completed by October.

March 1895

Milton Council granted the free use of a room in the Town Hall, in the rear of the reading room, to the Milton Mechanics' Institute (later Milton Library). Council also allowed free use of the reading room for two evenings a week from 7 o'clock till ten, with light and heat to be supplied as required on the condition that a competent caretaker be in charge during the evenings.

Yesterday as Joseph Johnson of Milton, was lighting the fuse attached to a blast at Halliday's hill, Trafalgar, a spark from the burning paper which he was using fell into a pail of powder which stood beside him. In the explosion that followed Mr. Johnson's clothes were nearly all blown or burned off and one of his hands was badly injured.

Messrs. Stewart & Cross, electricians of Toronto, were in Milton on Wednesday of last week estimating the value of the plant of the Milton Electric Light Co. to be taken over by the Milton Electric and Power Co.

April 1895

Henceforth the use of the Town Hall for dancing parties will cost \$15 per evening, the town council having revised the tariff last Monday evening.

Milton Time Capsules



Milton society young men complain that the rate is exorbitant and that the council discriminates unjustly against them, as it has made a practice of allowing certain societies and organizations free use of the hall for conventions and other meetings. As dancing parties do not usually break up before two or three o'clock in the morning, dancers should not object to paying a little more than others do for the use of the hall, but there is a big difference between \$15 and nothing.

All should be treated alike and whenever the hall is used, except for corporation purposes, a fair and proportionate rent should be charged.

...

Last Saturday as the workmen were moving the Grace Church a large section of the ceiling including laths and timbers fell down.

The lectern, or pulpit was beneath them and was badly damaged. There were three little girls in the building at the time but fortunately they escaped injury though they were badly frightened.

...

Through the kindness of the trustees of the Old Kirk of Scotland (then at 62 Main St. later moved to Mill St. and converted to a house), the Church of England services will be held there for the present.

May 1895

Delegates from Oakville, Acton, Campbellville and St. Ann's met in Milton and formed a county baseball league. Elected Honorary President was Col. Campbell, Milton; President W.H. Storey, Acton; Vice-President J. Kelly, Oakville; Secretary-Treasurer T.H. Blacklock, Campbellville; and Executive Committee members Messrs. McFarlane, Dalton, Mullen and Weir.

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.

OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Town council hasn't prepared properly for growth, believes frustrated reader

Dear Editor:

I'm happy to learn that our town council has finally pulled their heads out of the sand and decided perhaps they should rethink the timing of the building of the railroad underpass at Ontario and Main streets.

They now feel it should be moved ahead a few years. However, I'm appalled that by their own admission they have no plans in place and have absolutely no idea how they will proceed. This, as every other Miltonian except our council knows, should have been done years ago when traffic flow wasn't as great and especially when they had a custom by-pass in place before Loblaw's was built.

Now it'll cost us all much more not to mention the logistical nightmare in an area already dreaded and despised by all.

I offer this short history lesson to illustrate what happened to me and dozens of other taxpaying citizens at about 4 p.m. a couple of weeks ago.

I arrived at Main and Ontario streets headed south, intending to turn left. However, a train was passing through and traffic was so backed up that only northbound and southbound traffic could move — everything else including east and westbound traffic on Main, of course, was at a complete standstill.

The train went by and when the

light went to advance, I barely made my left because the light at Nipissing remained red. When I did, I had to fight to get into the right lane so I could get to Loblaw's, because of everyone else finally turning right from Ontario. Anyone continuing west would be unable to turn left and even doing so would have slowed down traffic, making already infuriated drivers' madder.

We welcome the residents in our new subdivisions, but consider yourselves lucky that a private builder is doing the job. If it were the Town of Milton you would be driving on mud paths far into next year when they (Town) eventually did a feasibility study to see if it really needed to be done yet. I also feel so sorry for you trying to simply get in and out of your area as you fight the traffic returning to the Burlington area.

Then, to make things worse, you will have to deal with the destruction of Derry and Thompson roads when the Town finally gets around to it. Milton continues to grow with absolutely no concern for our primitive infrastructure.

It's time for a whole new town council from the top all the way to the bottom. We need fresh blood — people with common sense that look ahead knowing what the future plans are and then prepare properly for them.

The Town has known for years that all this building was coming

but has done nothing to get infrastructure even remotely in place before the onslaught of our new citizens. Roads are dismal; making a left turn at most lights is so short that if a truck is there you are out of luck. As I mentioned, Derry and Thompson roads, two of our main arteries, are still basically two lanes (only a little wider) — just as they were 35 years ago when I first moved to town.

Main Street East still has no dedicated left turn lane, and the Go Station is often impossible to get out of in the evening, and we have few to no recreational places for us common folk. Several years ago the Town buckled when a petition went out against a proposed bowling alley that would have liquor as most now do.

I can guarantee you that most of those who signed the petition would have been among the first in line to join the clubs and perhaps even pop in for a quick nip or two. This was an excellent location with lots of good parking, even though it wasn't central.

I'm sure the rest of Milton looks forward to all the rebuttals this letter is sure to receive explaining why things are not being prepared for; why I'm wrong in this analysis? Why we the taxpayers' must continue to put up with these eroding conditions we continue to pay for.

Andrew Willoughby
Tremaine Road

Family responds to story about 'Mexican Joe'

Dear Editor:

This is for all the people who were hurt by the article regarding Salvador Castaneda (Mexican Joe).

Joe was never alone in this town. He had a daughter, grandchildren, nieces and many, many friends. I don't know for sure, but he may even have had more than the one child. That's why when I look at Joe's and my beautiful daughter and read that he had no family or friends here, it hurt.

Joe was able to share his life with a few people who didn't know all of him (like his co-worker who took him home). They should be glad that they were able to

see the good side of Joe. For those of us who knew him for the last 25 to 30 years, he will always remain a character.

Credit is due to his sympathetic co-workers and to anyone who took time out of their day to say hello or give him a smile. Remember, good works are their own reward.

Lastly, as I look down Main Street and see the many people who were his friends, we hope they know that they did make a difference in his life.

Consuelo and Linda
The family of Jose Salvador Castaneda

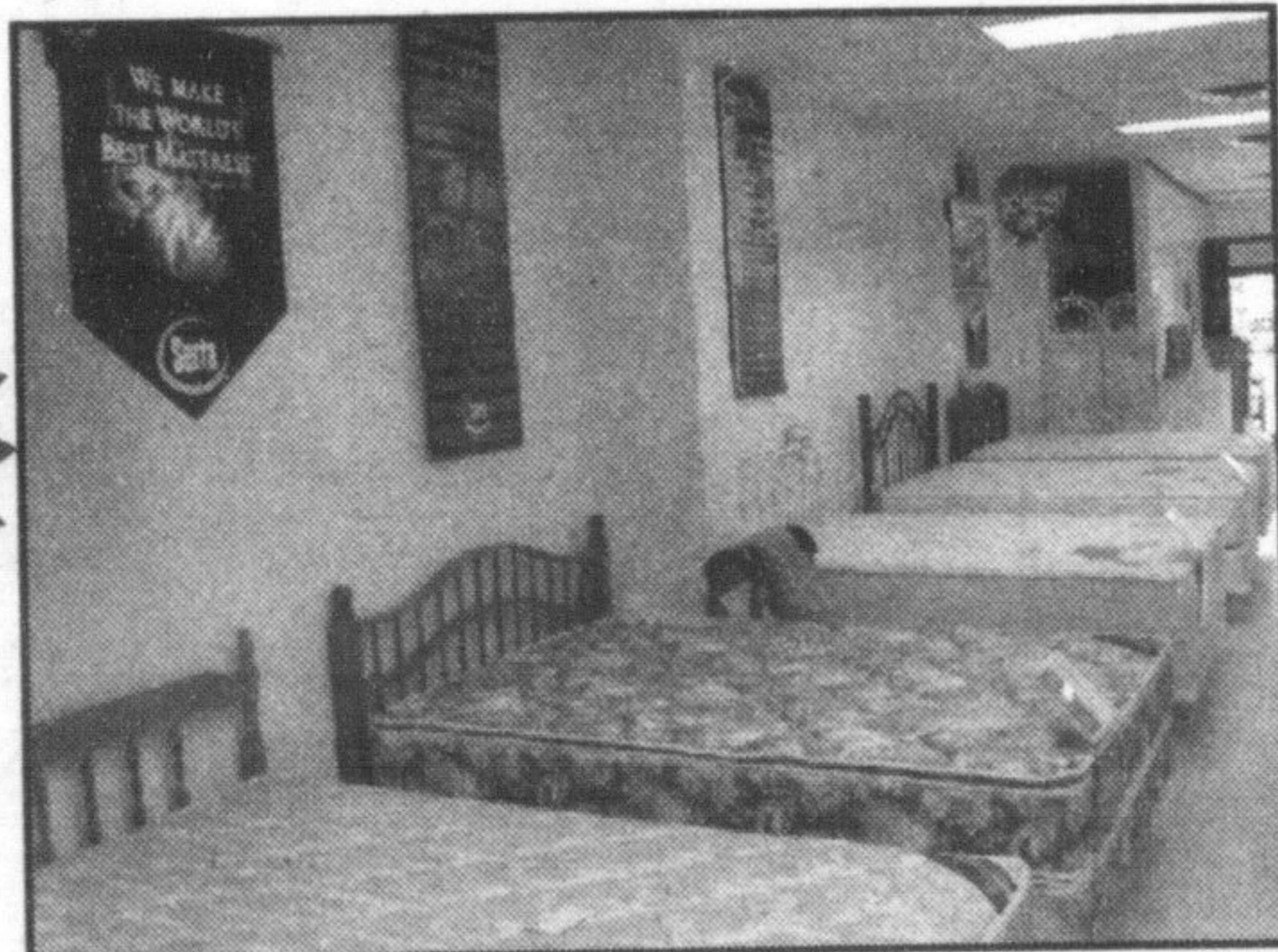
FABIAN FURNITURE

48 Year Family Tradition

Quality Home Furnishings

Free
Local
Delivery!

Over 6000
Square Feet of
Full line
Furnishings



Hours

Mon.	Closed
Tues. & Wed.	10-6
Thurs.	10-6
Fri.	10-9
Sat.	10-5:30
Sun.	12-4

17 Commercial St., Milton, ON (just behind KFC)

(905) 878-2901