

Milton Electric Light and Power Co. adding poles and wires to the old plant

'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.

May 1895

The Milton Electric Light and Power Co. Ltd., the members of which are all Miltonians, is adding to the old plant this week a new incandescent dynamo, poles and wires.

...

Baseball appears to be beginning its old-time popularity this year. The County of Halton League has been strengthened by the accession of Georgetown. A meeting of those interested in Milton was held at the Bennett House.

A club was organized called the "Royal Oaks" for which the following officers were elected: Honorary President His Honor Judge Snider. President Wm. Panton, 1st Vice President C. Hoff, 2nd Vice President John Bennett, Secretary Treasurer R. J. Bennett, Manager Wm. Berry. Board of Directors James Bolton, Joseph Peacock, E. Winn.

...

A gun club was organized here on Tuesday evening at a meeting, which was largely attended.

Elected were Judge Snider Honorary President H. Campbell, President C. Hoff, Vice President, W.F. Inman Secretary Treasurer, W. Panton Field captain, A. Duff, J. Roedler and W.B. Clements Field and Managing committee.

The committee was instructed to get quotations of the prices of traps, to enquire about the rental of a field for practice and report.

June 1895

Serious tidings are reported from Shengtu, a town in the interior of China, and it was feared that the Methodist missionaries and their families there had been murdered.

Among the missionaries stationed at Shengtu are several Canadians among who are Dr. D.W. Stevenson, son of Mr. Stevenson of Trafalgar, owner of the Stevenson block on Main St. Milton.

The family was relieved to hear that while all the property had been destroyed all had escaped with their lives.

Milton Time Capsules



July 1895

Council, at its last meeting, passed a curfew by-law. It relates to the time at which children shall be off the streets in the evening of each day.

...

Between 400 and 500 tickets were sold on Tuesday for the union (rail) excursion to the Ocean House, Burlington Beach, in connection with the Sunday Schools of Mansewood Presbyterian Churches and the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches.

...

Milton is again becoming a resort for excursions. On Tuesday there was a large one here from one of the Methodist Sunday schools of Guelph and yesterday there was a still larger one from the same city and from a Methodist Sunday School. The excursionists appeared to enjoy themselves.

They made the pleasure grounds their headquarters and some went boating on the pond and a good many of them spent more or less time in the town. The youngsters engaged in baseball, football and other sports in the field between the pond and the old cemetery (Rotary Park?).

August 1895

The first road race of the Milton Bicycle Club was run on last Friday evening and was a success in every way. The 13 riders rode well and no accident of any kind occurred to riders.

The handicaps were a little too heavy to make a close finish but as each man's time was taken, the handicaps will be better arranged.

The distance was 8 1/4 miles and the fastest time was made by Geo. Lindsay; from the two-minute mark he rode the distance in 26 min. 20 sec. W. Bews came second, time 26.21. B. C. Brown with 10-min. start came in first with C. Fields second.

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

OPSEU strike is hurting our children, says mom of student at local school for the deaf

Dear Editor:

The current strike by OPSEU is hindering our students' right to their education.

Parents of students of the Province-run Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf have not only been faced with the task of providing for their children's needs while this strike is on but also having to use their own resources to provide in-home schooling with no support from the Ontario Ministry of Education.

Our students don't have the same services provided to students in Toronto and other school boards when recent strikes hit their schools.

Our teachers appear to have the option of posting on the Internet course studies, but, to the best of my knowledge and upon inquiries made to date, there has been no formal Web site, no system set-up and no notification to students of how to access this to enable them to continue with their studies.

Furthermore, students taking independent learning classes — although they can complete the work/course materials — have been advised that work submitted won't be processed, checked or graded until this strike is over.

Students enrolled in co-operative education have been denied access to their placements — thus jeopardizing all course credits.

It's my opinion that our children's numbers aren't considered a serious enough threat so no plan was put into place to provide services similar to that which their hearing counterparts would have been provided.

As referenced earlier, during the recent strikes in the Toronto school boards, access was immediately set up via Internet for students to continue with their course studies. But that's not so in our students' cases, in fact it's at the teacher's discretion.

As a parent of a child in her graduating year, this becomes a major concern to me. This strike, from all reports, is expected to be a long one.

Our students already do a modified course study load, often only completing the minimum required segments of a course to receive a credit.

How will they receive a credit if this strike extends any length of time?

Without course study access, how can our students keep up their work and be expected to complete

what the government has set out as the minimum requirement to obtain a credit?

It's time the public needs to understand that this strike isn't only creating a risk in our health care system and our jails, but more than 500 students throughout Ontario could lose all hope of acquiring credits in this school semester.

Students who already are finding it difficult to pass the current testing standards will only fall further and further behind, losing all hopes of ever meeting those requirements.

The education minister, the minister of health, the government negotiating team and OPSEU need to take notice and get down to settling this strike.

The government needs to put fail-safe systems in place to provide the necessary services for those being hurt by this strike — the children who are being deprived their education and those people being deprived of medical services.

Judy Hutton
Parent of student at the
Ernest C. Drury School for
the Deaf

Reader responds to Richard Vivian's column

Dear Editor:

As a member of the Milton Historical Society, I read with great interest the news article and column by Richard Vivian concerning the demolition of a Main Street building.

Suggesting the Milton Historical Society is merely a special interest group causing an uproar over the demolition doesn't represent the facts.

The society, having heard about the demise of the building at the 11th hour, was merely requesting additional time to get a second opinion from an engineer about the integrity of the facade since there was conflicting information about whether it had to come down. The news story and commentary failed to mention the apparent lack of communication and misunderstandings between the church owners, the Town and the Local Architectural

Conservation Advisory Committee.

The historical society doesn't pretend to have all the answers, but does feel a responsibility to the community to do whatever is reasonable under these circumstances. Mr. Vivian suggests the historical society's involvement would complicate the existing process and add another level of bureaucracy. That's not correct. The society will merely be a party to the existing process.

With a minimum amount of investigation, Mr. Vivian would have confirmed that the Milton Historical Society is not a special interest group but does represent the majority of Miltonians — old and new — who want to do everything within reason to maintain our lovely downtown heritage.

John McDonald
Millside Drive

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