

Congregation of St. George Church decides to build new stone church to cost \$2,500

'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.

August 1895

The congregation of St. George's Church, Lowville has decided to build a new stone church to cost about \$2,500. They have \$1,700 in their building fund now.

September 1895

On Thursday evening the workmen employed in building the new Grace Church were given a complimentary supper at the Commercial Hotel.

About 30 persons, including some of the prominent members of the church, partook of it and Rev. P.T. Mignot was chairman.

A very pleasant evening was spent. Landlord Dean, as usual, provided an excellent bill of fare.

October 1895

Jailer Vanallen has made out his annual report for the jail year which ended on Monday.

The total number of committals was 312 — 311 males and one female. Twenty-one prisoners were committed for the second and twelve for the third time. Nationalities were as follows: 105 Canadians, 84 English, 76 Irish, 23 Scotch, 19 Americans and five from other countries. Married people totalled 28 and unmarried 283.

No debtors were imprisoned during the year. The daily cost per prisoner for rations was 4 6/10 cents, probably as usual, the lowest in the province, which speaks well for Mr. Vanallen's good management.

...

Certain young men from the township of Nelson have been in the habit, for some time past, of coming to Milton at night and speeding their horses on the streets.

A week ago last Saturday night two of them came here with their horses and trotted a series of races on Main Street. Chief Constable Bradley, who had had difficulty in previous cases of the same kind to get evidence enough for a conviction was more successful in this instance and found several witnesses who were ready to identify one of the young men and an information was laid.

The youth appeared before Mayor McCollom last week, was convicted for

Milton Time Capsules



furious driving and fined \$1 and costs, total \$8.35.

Since the information was laid against the one offender, the constable has found out who the other is and has laid information against him and expects to parade him before the mayor shortly.

...

Rev. P.T. Mignot laid the last stone of the new Grace Church last Saturday, one on the top of the tower. It is the intention to open the church on Nov. 12th.

...

The Moffatt football team played an association match here on Saturday with a newly organized Milton team. The locals won by one goal to nothing after 56 minutes of very exciting play.

November 1895

Mr. Lye, of Toronto, presided at the new organ during the opening of Grace Church. The offering during the day amounted to over \$125.

"The church is a very handsome stone structure and will be a lasting witness to the skill and ability of Mr. Charles J. Gibson, the architect of Toronto. The work has been admirably done by the Coleman Planing and Lumber Co. of Burlington (Ltd.)"

...

Yesterday afternoon a fire started between the ceiling of Miss Kelly's department in the (Bruce St.) public school and the floor of Miss Coulson's room. It was caused by an insufficiently protected stovepipe.

The fire alarm was sounded and the brigade turned out but the flames were quenched with water from buckets. As the floor and ceiling were damaged the children in the two departments were sent home.

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

Father Mark Curtis shares inspiring tale with Champion readers on eve of Easter

Dear Editor:

Over the past six months our lives have been inundated with news stories pertaining to the events of September 11, the war on terrorism and more recently, the violence in the Middle East.

Daily newscasts and newspaper headlines updating us on the human side of misery and pain can leave one to feel overwhelmed, helpless and without hope.

Yet there's another story which is to unfold in the hearts of most Christians. It's one which will receive little press coverage, yet it won for us our salvation and will certainly provide us hope and light amidst the darkness of evil and despair.

It's the story of Holy Week and Easter. The story of Christ's passion death and resurrection. It's a story which I'm privileged and honoured to relive in my ministry with terminally-ill children and their families.

There are many children who, in their painful journey home to God, have made real for me the meaning of faith, life and especially the

message of Holy Week and Easter for today. One child in particular, was a boy named Stephen. He and his classmates were invited by their Sunday school teacher to fill clear plastic eggs with symbols of Easter.

Weeks later on Easter morning each child was invited to show the congregation their symbol. Some eggs contained flowers, symbolizing new life. Others contained chocolate and goodies reflecting the festive spirit of Easter. Finally, Stephen approached the podium and with an empty egg in hand, he shouted with confidence, "Easter, it's empty."

Feeling somewhat embarrassed for the child, the teacher politely took Stephen aside and instructed him as to the shortcomings of his empty egg. But he persisted.

Both teacher and congregation only perceived a problem, yet on a deeper level Stephen's response was key to the good news of Easter — the tomb was empty. Some weeks later Steven died, and at his funeral his classmates placed their plastic eggs upon his little casket,

open and empty. Stephen shows us the meaning of Easter today. Unless our hearts and lives become empty from all that is dark, cold and dreary, Christ's presence and power can't rise within to spark new life.

Easter is the promise that Christ can turn our tombs into wombs of new birth. There's no tomb (heart) too dark, cold or old that the Lord can't brighten and burn within.

So the choice is ours, we can allow the darkness of our negative attitudes, hurtful past, prejudices or unforgiveness to remain in our hearts or we can embrace the message of Easter, and keep our hearts always empty and open, ready to always welcome the warmth and light of God's love in and through the gift of each other.

Otherwise, the news of the world will continue to fill our lives with doom and gloom and leave little room to welcome the joy of Easter.

May the joy of Easter remain in your hearts now and always.

**Father Mark Curtis
Milton**

Reader looking for some answers from Town on a number of municipal maintenance issues

Dear Editor:

I agree with previous correspondent Andrew Willoughby about certain problems in Milton.

As well, I would like answers to the following questions.

First, how do senior citizens get help clearing the snow from their sidewalks and driveways at a reasonable cost? When I telephoned Town Hall about snow removal, I got a voice-mail message to leave my phone number, but I never received a call back.

I tried to get help from the snow removal program at Maplehurst, only to discover that the program had been discontinued. Why?

And why have I had to put up with the front of my lot being designated as snow storage for the past 21 years?

This means that after a heavy snowfall there's a pile of snow in front of my house which can be six feet high — the entire width of my lot.

Why doesn't the Town purchase some windrow ploughs which follow the regular ploughs and clear the

front of driveways?

After this year's mild winter, there should be some surplus snow removal funds that could be used for this purpose.

Second, if the pavement on your street is in need of repair, why does it take so long for the repairs to be made?

How about letting the taxpayer know what causes the delays and what's being done to find solutions? Timely communication would help alleviate misunderstandings and calm frustration.

And lastly, why has it taken so long for the Town to build a centre for the arts? It's past time for our municipal government to appreciate the diversity of this grown town.

Not all the citizens of Milton are sports mad. Many of us enjoy music, dance and theatre.

Is anyone listening?

**Elizabeth Hemmings
Milton**

ZOOM ZOOM

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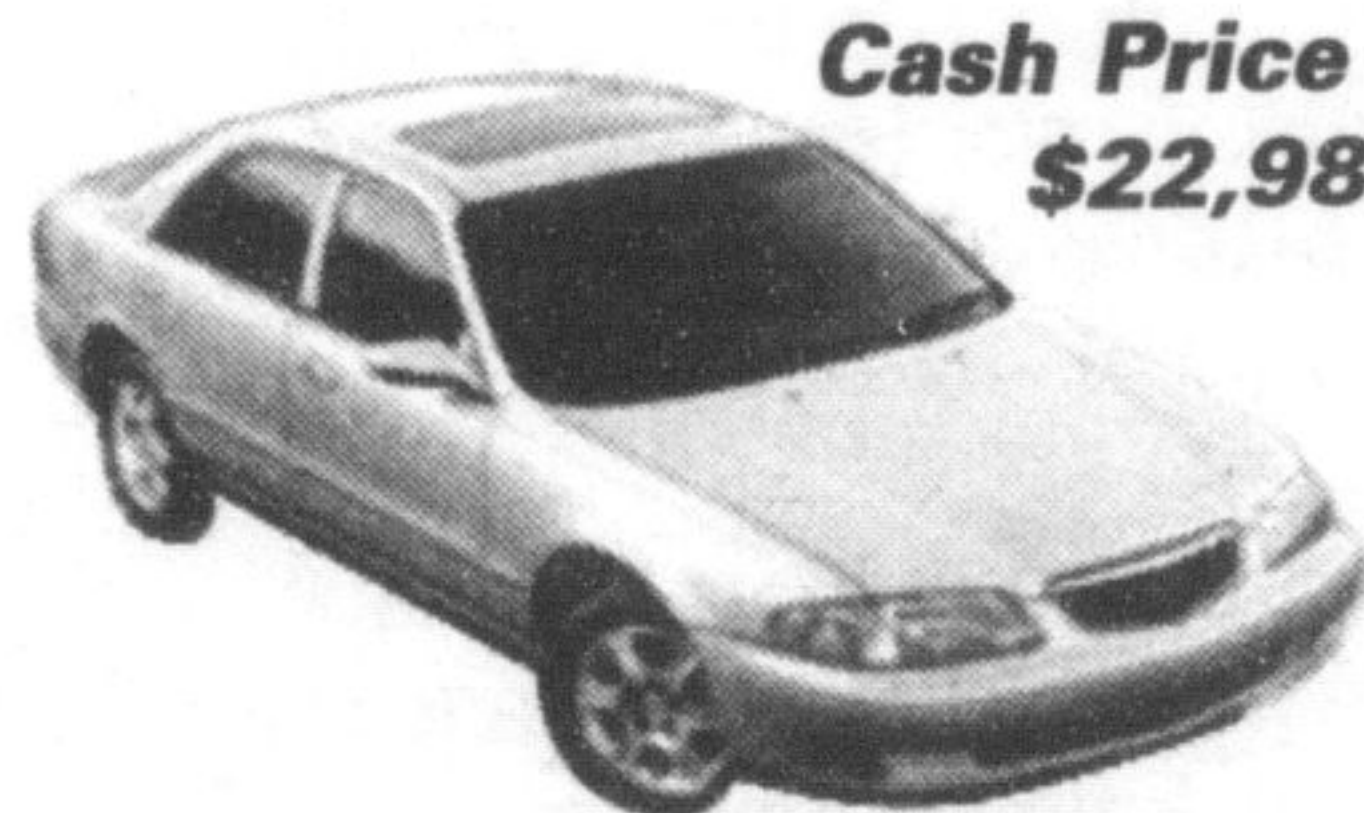


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