

Halton Agricultural Society directors make arrangements for new facilities after having lost group's building to a fire

'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.

July 1896

The directors of the Halton Agricultural Society, having lost their building by fire, hope to complete arrangements for the removal of the skating and curling rink to the society's grounds where it is the intention to use it as an agricultural hall for exhibitions and flood it in the winter for skating and curling. The shareholders that own the building have consented to the proposed arrangement, tenders for its removal are being advertised and if satisfactory the contract will be closed without delay. The rink is much larger than the old hall and if put in the place of the latter will be a great improvement on it. (The arrangement was not carried out and the directors built a new building in the agricultural grounds.)

...

From *The Globe*. The largest farmers' excursion that has gone through to the northwest this year left yesterday by special train over the C.P.R. shortly after the departure of the North Bay express. There were 12 cars in all containing settlers and their effects. The intending settlers are all Ontario farmers. While most of the party proposes taking up land in the province of Manitoba others are going farther west. Some, however, who were part of the excursion are merely going out to view the country and will return to report, their tickets being good for 60 days.

...

About 500 people went to Burlington yesterday on the union excursion of the Methodist, Anglican and Presbyterian Sunday schools. The great majority were children, the number of adult tickets sold being 149. Some got off at the Brant House but the larger number went on to the beach, and many went thence by steamer to Hamilton. Notwithstanding a lively shower in the afternoon, all enjoyed themselves greatly and the excursion was a gratifying success.

August 1896

Charles Brown, of Drumquin, has shipped a ton of honey to Scotland. His

Milton Time Capsules



150 colonies of bees have been doing well this season. Last year they could not gather enough honey to live on through the winter and Mr. Brown had to give them nine barrels of sugar to keep them from starving.

Other apiarists who fed no sugar lost their bees.

August 1896

Mr. Martin has leased the Halton Flour Mills to Mr. McCargar, of Zimmerman, who will take possession forthwith and commence overhauling the machinery, putting it all in first class order. Mr. Martin is busy repairing the works outside of the mill.

...

G.E. Saunders of Agerton has had a great yield of honey this season, about 9,000 pounds of very high quality.

...

The store in the Dewar Block, (currently the Clements Block at Main and Martin) recently occupied by Mrs. Kelly, is being fitted up for a post office and will be a great improvement on the present one, which is altogether too small for the requirements of the town. Postmaster Hannant and the public generally are to be congratulated on the coming removal.

...

The stone dam, for overflow of the creek at the head of the millpond, is completed ready to raise the water for the mill purposes.

September 1896

At Tuesday's meeting of the county council a report was adopted which recommended that the Milton Electric Light and Power Co. be asked for an estimate of the expense of lighting the county buildings (present Milton Town Hall) by electricity.

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

Murray Townsend's column about smoking bylaw not at all amusing, says local councillor

Dear Editor:

I suppose it would be inappropriate for me not to respond to Murray Townsend's column on the smoking bylaw.

Mr. Townsend made the remark that I consider anybody who didn't agree with me an idiot. There's nothing further from the truth.

I have a lot of respect for those who took the time to come before council and express their position.

I consider them friends with a difference of opinion.

Considering the allegations, insinuations and misrepresentations that were directed at me that evening by some of those who came before council, I thought I handled myself quite well.

Mr. Townsend questions the statistics and reports that were brought before council. Every study, report and survey presented to council that evening came from legitimate and irrefutable sources, which he could have easily verified, had he bothered to check.

In his column, Mr. Townsend states that Councillor Ron Furik

was the only councillor who questioned the numbers.

Maybe that was because Mr. Furik — who happens to be the only smoker on council — didn't like what the numbers were saying. Not one other member of council questioned the survey numbers. Are we all stupid and only Mr. Furik is the enlightened one?

Mr. Townsend says we should wait until all the surrounding municipalities have passed no-smoking bylaws.

If everybody followed that logic, nothing would get done. The region of Waterloo to the west is 100 per cent smoke-free, Oakville will be the same as Milton as of May 31, and Mississauga restaurants are 100 per cent smoke-free while its bars must build designated smoking rooms — an option our bar owners rejected.

Meanwhile, Ottawa, Cornwall and London — to name a few others — have passed tougher no-smoking bylaws.

We're not alone.

As for Mr. Townsend wearing

extra tight underwear — if he wishes to wear them that's his choice. The size of his underwear doesn't affect my health or cause me any discomfort.

As for his eating fatty foods, go right ahead. What he does to his own body is none of my business, but when the actions of an individual or group affects the health or quality of life of others then legislative action is necessary.

As for the last half of his article, I can't understand how Mr. Townsend can make light of this issue. Cancer is a painful and terrible way to die, affecting not only the victims but their families as well.

About 45,000 people a year die from tobacco-related diseases — more than 1,000 of those are non-smokers who were afflicted with cancer due to second-hand smoke. I wonder how amusing their families would find Mr. Townsend's column.

Rick Malboeuf
Town and regional
Councillor

What's being done to make Milton safe? asks reader

Dear Editor:

Nobody can deny that Milton is expanding. And with a growing population comes an increase of city attitude, city people and unfortunately, city crime.

Milton has recognized the need for more services, and countless issues and opinions have been raised over whether or not this expansion is a good thing. It's not like we can do anything now but accept the change. Countless new homes have already been built and a large amount of the budget has been spent on preparing for the incoming citizens.

Despite this, new problems keep arising.

We're all familiar with the controversy surrounding these changes, including the opening of certain new businesses and the ridiculous zoo that is Main Street.

But the issue I want to raise is that of the safety of Miltonians themselves. What is being done to prevent the problems that always accompany a city? I think we need to put some attention, and perhaps some money, into improving some areas of the town that have become unsafe. There are some nice bicycle paths along the backyards of properties, surrounded by trees and other shrubbery, and along the stretches of road on Bronte Street and surrounding areas.

They're perfect for walking dogs, biking or just going out for a stroll. But is it fair that these roads can only be used in the daylight hours? Recently, on a walk from the hospital down Bronte Street, I was forced to walk on the road, often jumping back to the grass to avoid speeding motorists.

Here there was this path built so pedestrians didn't have to walk on this busy street, and I couldn't use it. The reason? It was past sundown and I couldn't see through the darkness of the path. I may be a teen aged female, but I've lived in the big city long enough to know that no one should walk down dark, secluded alleys. I'm sure that these sidewalks were a past project to improve the town of Milton, so why weren't certain factors taken into consideration — like nightfall, for instance? Where are the lights for the path? I know a lot more people would use these paths if they could see where they're going.

I bring this to the Town's attention, not only because it's so easy for predators to hide in the shadows or tree lines, but also because concrete isn't exactly the best place to land when you've tripped over a fallen branch.

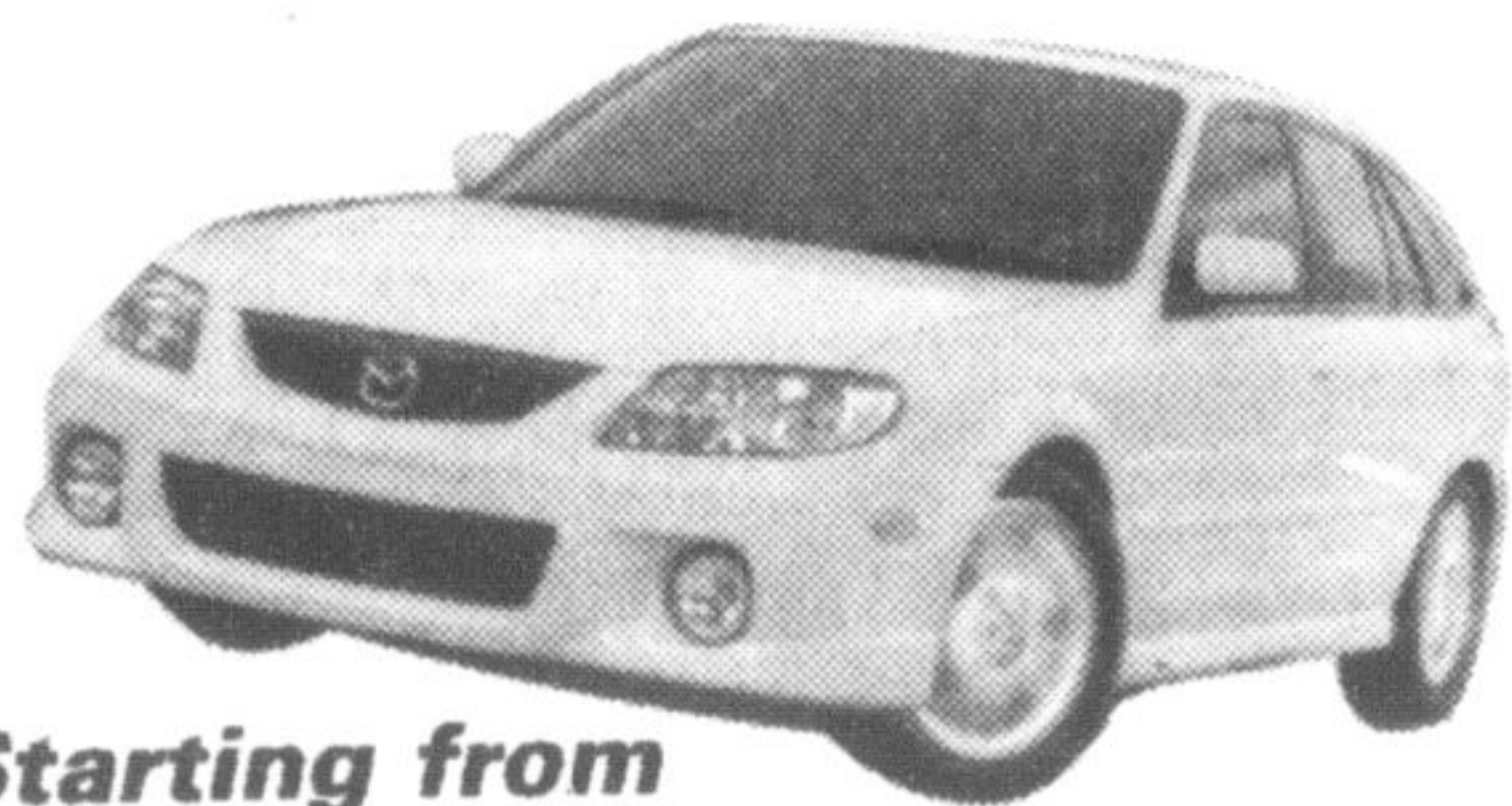
Dana Lacey
Milton

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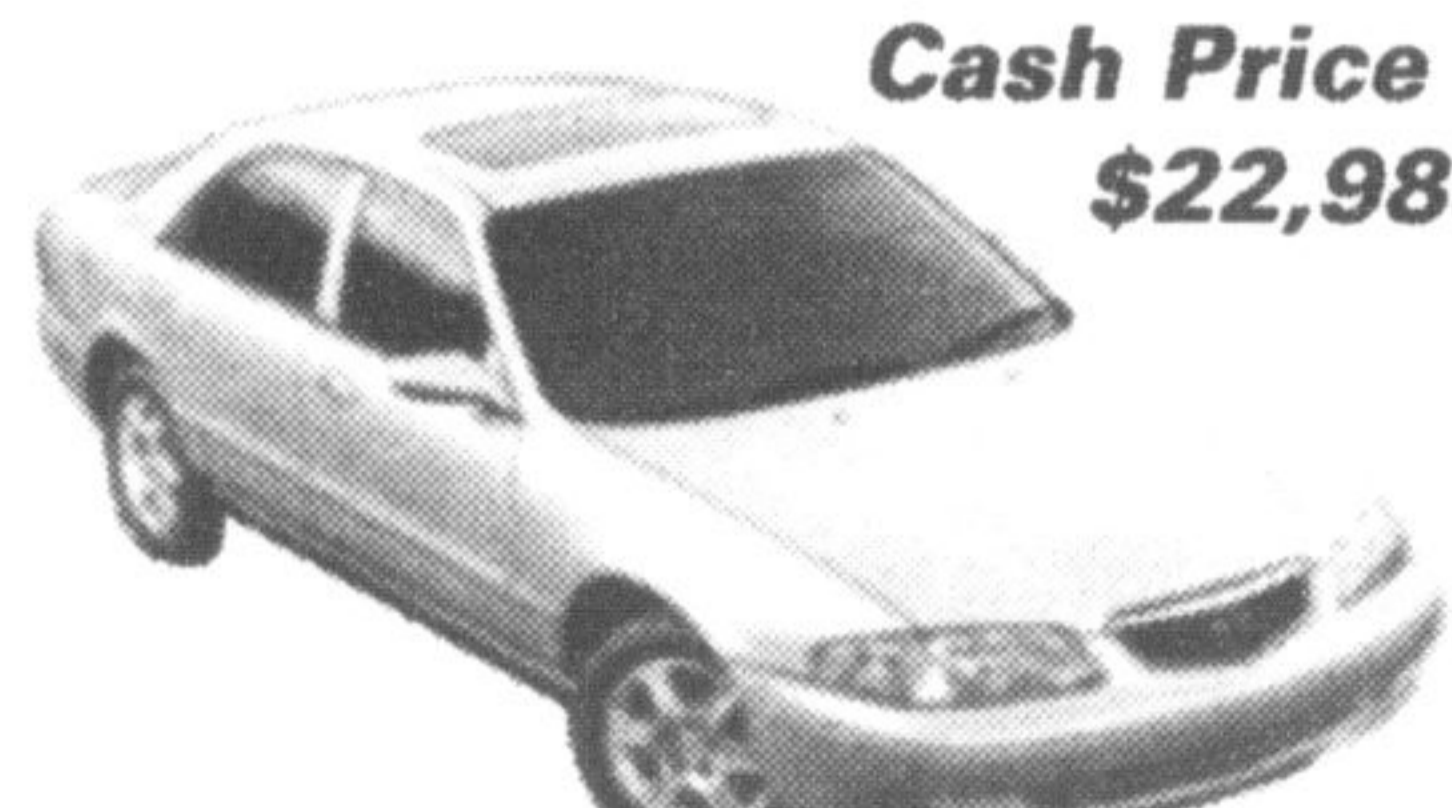


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