

Wire and roofing company to set up shop in Milton; finds town to be an ideal location for its operations

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

January 1897

We are happy to be able to announce that Milton will have a new industry in operation within a short time — the Milton Wire and Roofing Co. Ltd., with the necessary amount of stock having been subscribed and an application made to the government for incorporation.

No place is more favorably situated for industry than Milton is.

Land is cheap, rents are low and it's conveniently close to the two largest cities in Canada.

It has low freight rates, a first-class water works and fire protection with moderate fire insurance rates, low taxes and exceptional healthiness of the locality.

...

G. E. McCraney, barrister of Milton, in a letter to the Toronto Globe last Saturday suggested that in this year of Her Majesty's jubilee the 24th of May be decreed a public holiday for all time to come and that it be called Victoria Day.

Mr. McCraney said that it would not only be fitting to do this as a memorial of the Queen's long and glorious reign, but because the date of her birthday is particularly suitable for a public holiday.

February 1897

On Friday a party of Miltonians were treated to a Tallyho drive to Campbellville and back behind a spanking four in hand team composed of J.B. Scott's 13 and a half hand pair and that of Finlay Chisholm, 14 and a half hands.

W.A. Lawrence handled the ribbons and Bob Dewar tooted the horn. On Tuesday Mr. Lawrence took a party to Acton, the team doing the twelve miles to that village, a stiff up grade, in an hour and thirty minutes.

...

The anniversary services in connection with the Methodist Church were held on Sunday. Conductor Snider preached at both services and his sermons were intensely earnest.

Milton Time Capsules



The attendance at both services was large, particularly in the evening, when the church was crowded. The subscriptions and collections of the day amounted to \$300.

...

The Canadian Pacific Railway Co. has leased, at a nominal rental, a piece of ground 80 x 120 feet just east of the C.P.R. station and close to a siding, to the Milton Wire & Roofing Company Ltd. and on it the new building of the manufacturing corporation will be erected at once.

It will enclose three sides of a square, the centre portion measuring 120 x 36 feet with two wings 60 x 30 feet each.

It will be a wooden structure and will be covered with metal manufactured by the company. John Somerville is the contractor. He will commence building operations today.

The building will be ready for machinery within a very short time and some of the machinery is ready now.

Our citizens have reason to congratulate themselves on the establishment here of this industry which will be a particularly safe one financially as it will produce nothing but staple goods. As it will employ a large number of men, a substantial increase of the population of the town may be expected.

Should anything come of the scheme now on foot to erect a power house close to the grist mill, from which water can be got for steam, the building of the Wire & Roofing Company will be removed to its vicinity and other manufactories may be expected to locate here.

A C.P.R. engineer will, within a few days, make a survey for a siding to run down to the mill in the event of it being needed.

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

Milton parent voices frustration over what he sees as inadequate education in Ontario

(The following letter was sent to Ontario Premier Ernie Eves, Ontario Education Minister Elizabeth Witmer and Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh and a copy was filed with The Champion.)

Dear Editor:

I'm writing this letter to the government of Ontario to express concerns that I have regarding education.

I managed to attend local meetings and speak with an elementary school principal, I've learned that our education system is in need of immediate attention and repair.

The Elementary Schools Tracking Report 2001 had 800 respondent schools. Thus, it's statistically relevant and it clearly shows that there are many problems.

About 37,000 elementary students/children are waiting for special education services, which represents a 15 per cent jump since the 1999-2000 school year.

That's the entire population of Milton. This is because a professional must assess a child, yet access to these people has declined. Over the past four years, there has been a 41 per cent decline in schools reporting access to the regularly-scheduled visits of a board psychologist.

A local principal said that a staff of nine was involved in the assessment, but now it's down to four and

the professional comes only once every two months. This is so infrequent that the process is essentially halted.

The report continues showing an obvious decline in specialist teachers — for example music, ESL, or guidance. In fact there's no provincial funding specifically designated for specialist teachers in elementary schools.

Two-thirds of schools report that students must share texts. How can homework be done?

Schools with ESL programs are down from 58 per cent to 45 per cent from 1997-98 to 2000-01. Yet it's common knowledge that immigration is up. I presume this is the 'common sense revolution'.

School librarians have been cut as well. In 1996, a local school had one full-time librarian.

Now with a third more students and a nearby subdivision, somehow there's a librarian working there less than half the time. That version of common sense is revolting.

I find this all rather sad and preventable. We don't need another \$200 tax rebate, but proper funding for our future.

We all know that our children are our future. That's common sense. This government must learn that education is an investment, not a cost.

Improving education can't occur

Strip joint will bring 'trash' to Milton, says reader

(The following letter was sent to Mayor Gord Krantz, Councillor Art Melanson and Councillor Wally Hunter and a copy was filed with The Champion.)

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to The Champion's front page article June 14, and particularly Councillor Wally Hunter's hope that a new strip club "won't see enough business to stay open."

Unfortunately, it will get lots of business from truckers and bikers like Hell's Angels and Satan's Choice. That's exactly the kind of trash we don't want in Milton.

We already have gambling and its related criminal

activities, then an adult-only movie store opens without a licence — and now strippers.

Why not just put hookers on every corner?

Town Council has already destroyed the small town flavour with all the development that's being crammed in.

Growth is one thing, but mindless, over-development is nothing short of destructive.

Halton Region had better increase the police budget so we can have extra patrols for when the bikers and other criminals move in.

How sad.

M. Krey
RR1, Campbellville



Thanks for voting us Favourite Dry Cleaner.

Come in and take advantage of our great specials!

Shirts
99¢

(with dry cleaning)

EVERY TUESDAY & FRIDAY
Pants, skirt, blouse, sweater **\$2.99**

Dresses or 2 pc suit **\$6.99**

575 Ontario St. S.
(right at Derry Rd.)



WE DO ALL
CLEANING, ALTERATIONS
& REPAIRS ON SITE!

ONE HOUR SERVICE

1

AVAILABLE
(Before noon)

HOURS

M-F	7-7
Sat.	8-6
Sun	Closed

(905) 878-1163