Mr. McLean's horse escapes injury when swallowed up during the latest mill cave in

'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.

April 1897

The old tailrace of the grist mill runs underneath Commercial Street, the timbers above it have decayed and occasionally there is a cave in. One of these occurred on afternoon opposite the Tuesday Commercial Hotel and swallowed the horse of Wm. McLean of Esquesing. Mr. McLean had just gone into the hotel, leaving Mrs. McLean sitting in his buggy holding the horse.

The earth gave way beneath the animal and he disappeared into a hole about 12 or 14 feet deep, the harness breaking and letting him down. A crowd gathered in a few minutes and it took the greater part of an hour to get the horse out, which was done by hoisting him with ropes after enlarging the hole with pickaxes. The animal was apparently unhurt. The hole was filled yesterday morning.

May 1897

The Toronto Globe reports that the proposition to make the Queen's Birthday (24th of May) a permanent holiday in Canada was first made by G.E. McCraney, of Milton in the October number of the Canadian Magazine.

Subsequently, Mr. David Creighton made the same proposition in a letter to the Globe. Inquiry showed that Sir John Macdonald was induced to take up the idea by an English newspaper, but the date at which the paper took it up showed that Mr. McCraney is entitled to priority in the mat-

The former practice of watering the streets of Milton from a cart appears to have been at least temporarily abandoned and the result during the last week or so has been anything but agreeable.

A prominent merchant argues that the watering should be done at the expense of the corporation, and that there is no reason why public money should not be spent on this as it is on local improvements generally.

This point is worthy of consideration by our town fathers and it is to be hoped the nuisance will not be allowed to continue all

Milton Time Capsules



The National Creamery Co., which has been sending all cream bought here to Toronto, has commenced to make butter in Milton.

. . .

All the farmers between Peru Road and Campbellville have agreed to allow no trout fishing on their premises and have posted notices to that effect. If they will stand by their agreement for a few years they will have good fishing where at present nothing but fingerlings are to be

There was a great turnout of Rev. John Pickering's old friends and admirers, and others, on Tuesday evening to listen to his lecture on the holy land.

. . .

The lecture was given in the Methodist Church of which Mr. Pickering was the popular pastor, before his removal to his present charge at Woodstock, and every seat was occupied. It is needless to say that the lecture was an able one; but it was the more interesting from the fact that Mr. Pickering spoke from the standpoint of an eyewitness, having made a tour of Palestine, Greece and other countries last

Fifteen Miltonians were attired in eastern costumes brought home by Mr. Pickering and he also exhibited a fine collection of oriental curiosities collected during his

Toronto voted in favor of Sunday streetcars last Saturday by a majority of 321. The Star and Saturday Night were the newspapers that advocated the Sunday cars and the first named commenced the agitation for them ten years ago.

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

Dumping of garbage on rural roads is shameful and should stop, says reader

Dear Editor:

Thank goodness the problem of illegal garbage dumping in Milton is now being looked at by The Champion editor.

When I retired I bought a house short stretch of the Nassagaweya/Puslinch Town Line. It's a rough, dusty and muddy gravel road that you would think people would stay off if they possibly could.

But it seems to be very handy for dumping stuff you don't want.

Every day I take a walk down this road, across Leslie Road, to the 11th Line to Wellington and up, then across Little Road back to the Town Line, and every day I see a new collection of detritus left by our drive-through friends from more urban areas.

Besides the usual day-to-day stuff like beer bottles and cartons, plastic drink bottles and plastic bags full of garbage, (sometimes actual garden-sized heavy duty plastic garbage bags), I would like to mention a few items that really have stood out on these walks.

• The gutted remains of a red Ford Escort that had been chopped and dumped into the forest on the side of the road on 11th Line.

 A refrigerator that had been left on the side of the road at the Shanahan Tract (a conservation area). The door was on the topside and free to be opened and entered by any curious child — a death trap waiting to happen. I rolled it over and tied it with a rope. Milton public works, to its credit, cleared it away within a couple of days.

 A huge veterinarian-sized hypodermic syringe that was still full of an evil-looking amber liquid.

· The butchered carcass of an adult deer (well out of season)

wrapped in a clear plastic sheet and alive with maggots and flies — a real find for my dog who accompanies me on all my walks.

 Two to three hundred empty boxes that were wrapped up to look like Christmas presents that littered the ditches for about a kilometre along Leslie Road and up 11th Line. It appeared as if Santa had had an unfortunate accident in north Halton.

 A dead German Shepherd puppy that had been stuffed into a garbage bag. Obviously it had been tossed out of the car as it was going a fast clip because the bag had ripped apart as it slid along the rough roadway and some of the skin and fur was left behind. The dog was half in and half out of the bag with its neck broken. Most likely it was someone else's beloved pet that had been struck by the owner of the car that deposited him and had been picked up, driven to our part of the country and disposed of in this callous manner.

Recently some punk decided it would be fun to shatter the contents of a case of beer — one bottle at a time — against the rocks that mark the fence line at the front of our property.

I suppose they must have made very entertaining popping sounds as they hit. I had to clean up every last shard in case my dog should innocently wander that way.

I should also mention one time when I was walking south on Town Line and a car went by in the same direction.

As I watched in amazement, all four windows were rolled down in unison and the remains of four MacDonald's meals were flung out of the windows.

Unfortunately, I didn't have time

to memorize the licence plate number, but I did notice the car had been purchased from a Milton car dealership.

Then there was a memorable time that a car stopped right at the end of my driveway. The driver took out his ashtray and a litter basket and was in the process of dumping their foul contents on the asphalt surface at the end of my driveway.

When he saw and heard me running and hollering down the driveway toward him, he took off in a cloud of dust and gravel.

However, to me the worst cases are when people dump tires, chemical containers and building materials, etc. into the Moffat swamp on the side of Little Road.

This is a fragile wetland area that is home to families of great blue herons, ducks of all kinds as well as varieties of turtles and frogs. This is behaviour that really turns my stomach.

I'm just hoping that some folks will recognize themselves in this letter and perhaps feel even a twinge of shame.

I would just like to know by what mental process these people come to the conclusion that such behaviour is acceptable — or if they're even in possession of a brain.

Please, keep your garbage to yourself and dispose of it in legal and acceptable ways.

We don't want it spread along our roadways, our wetlands and our conservation lands and spread along the front of our property up here in Nassagaweya.

> John Griffin R.R. 1 Moffat

Miltonian thanks local police for their prompt response

Dear Editor:

I'd like to offer special thanks to Halton Regional Police for their prompt response on Friday, June 28.

It was greatly appreciated.

Alma MacIntyre Milton

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