Halloween rather uneventful in terms of criminal activity, with only the odd gate being carried off from local homes

Milton Time Capsules

'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.

November 1897

Halloween passed off very quietly in town, with just an odd gate or so being carried off. The boys seem to have more sense than their fathers had when they were boys and apply their time at something more creditable than upsetting their neighbor's outhouses and other foolish work. Or perhaps the fear of the police kept them in?

• • •

Col. J.P. Whitney, the Conservative leader, addressed a good-sized meeting in the town hall last night. A large number from the surrounding district came to town to hear the new leader of the party. Mr. Whitney arrived on the 5.55 p.m. train on the G.T.R. accompanied by Lieut.-Col. Kerns M.P.P., a deputation meeting them at the station composed of Mayor Dice, Wm. Clements, President of the Conservative Association, Senator McKindsey and J.W. Elliott.

Quite a number of ladies were present. Wm. Clements acted as chairman and on the platform were Mr. Whitney, Lieut.-Col. Kerns, David Henderson, M.P., Mayor Dice, Warden Hutcheon, Messrs. Fred Kerns, J.W. Elliott, E.W. Boyd, D.F. Elliott, Geo. Allen, Geo. Winn, Wm. Patterson, Wm. Little, R.L. Hemstreet, Phillip Walker, Jas. Henderson, J.F. Richardson, G. Joyce, T. Henderson, Mat. Dice and G.L. Henderson.

• • •

The band, in years gone by, after the fall fairs were over, discontinued practice until late in the following spring and were therefore unable to take up anything when they started again with quicksteps, simple waltzes, polkas, etc.

Now it's about time that they should make a change and practice during the winter months at least one night in the week.

Members who will not attend regularly should be bounced bodily as they keep better men out of the band and keep the others behind. Let practice start at once and we will have a first class band for the next season.

The bandmaster has made them a fair offer; why not take advantage of it.

December 1897

The Guelph hotel keepers have adopted and published the following tariff: Owing to the advances in the price of liquors the hotel-keepers in this city have adopted the following price list: — Brandy, rum, gin, Scotch and Irish whiskey and all case goods to be 10 cents per glass or three for 25 cents.

Ginger beer and whiskey and ginger ale and whiskey 10 cents. Collins drinks, 15 cents or two for 25 cents. All hot liquors 10 cents.

• • •

William Johnson, a shoemaker, who has been in the employ of Thos. Wilson and Son for a few years, died on Sunday. He had been suffering for some time with cancer. His remains were interred in the new cemetery (Evergreen) at the expense of the town on Monday. The deceased leaves a widow and one child in very poor circumstances.

Here is a chance for those charitably inclined, as Mrs. Johnson is in poor health and the boy is a little fellow about six years of age.

• • •

At the entertainment at Ligny School on the evening of the 22nd a number of youth organized in an attempt to break up the gathering. The chairman, Rev. Mr. Finney, called them to order but was treated with contempt and insulted. Some school furniture was smashed and the decorations prepared by the teacher and pupils were torn down.

About a dozen of the young men will parade before Mayor Dice tomorrow on the complaint of the trustees of the school.

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

Provincial government's increase of long-term care costs is ridiculous, says reader

(The following letter was addressed to Premier Ernie Eves and a copy was filed with The Champion.)

Dear Editor:

I'm absolutely appalled and outraged by the recent announcement from Queen's Park regarding the unbelievable increase in rates for residents in long-term care facilities.

First of all, I received the notification July 5 from the director of long-term care facilities that stated "the facilities are required to provide at least 30 days written notice and that the rate would increase August 1, 2002."

I believe that's not a 30-day notice. Secondly, many of these residents don't have the large pensions that are received by more recent retirees or that are paid to retired elected government officials/employees.

Many of them are also veterans who have already served their country and don't receive recognition for this as their income exceeds their means. Now our elected officials stab them in the back, ignoring their own advisers and demanding residents who are able to pay, subsidize those who are unable to pay.

I understood that this is the government's responsibility and why we already pay such hefty taxes. Rates at Allendale, in the region of Halton, have in our case risen from $1,764.18 to $1.977.80 per month — 12 per cent increase or $65 more per day.

On top of this, we must also pay for those drugs not covered by the government, which amounts to approximately $200 per month.

As well, where one spouse resides in the facility and the other in the community, the cost for accommodation is totally out of control.

It's totally ludicrous to put this burden on people who are already vulnerable, no longer wage earners and that are already experiencing a vast decrease in any investment interest income they may have.

It appears the government will ensure there are no funds left, and make them more dependent on the government — taking away whatever dignity and independence they may have left.

Shame on Queen's Park. I believe one must remember this when election time comes around. If the private sector ever tried this, I wonder how long they would get away with it.

This should be reconsidered immediately.

Rita Ward
R.R.6 Milton

Reader says rampant ticketing is merely another opportunity to beef up Town's already bloated staff

Dear Editor:

Whoopee, I just got my first made-in-Milton parking ticket — $30 for parking longer than three hours on the street. I phoned the clerk's office and was told that the three-hour limit is anytime — not just overnight, which falls into a separate category.

Think about it. You go to a friend's house for dinner but unless they have a big enough driveway you can only stay three hours. And what about parties? There's a three-hour limit for those who can't fit into your driveway. And forget family dinners and birthdays, as you'll just have to catch up on family gossip with e-mails.

For those of you in the new development where available parking is a disgrace, you have a grace period, or so I'm told, until the town assumes the roadways.

We in town are generally three-car families and teenagers can add to the number, yet we're building as if everyone can take public transit. In spite of complaints of congestion by emergency services our council approved high-density housing without adequate parking. It was tax greed rather than common sense.

Parking on busy streets or during snowfalls, which can impede traffic or prevent snow clearance, should be addressed and fines issued. Other than that, this rampant ticketing just seems like another employment opportunity to bolster our already-bloated Town staff.

This is just one of the many poorly-handled issues we're facing as we grow, and the many complaints are due solely to a lack of hands-on government from our municipal council. As I've said on many occasions, I think the staff and their consultants run the town and the council are merely along for the ride. It's a pity.

Patrick Kelly
Milton

There's more newsworthy things than Exxxotica: reader

Dear Editor:

I'm a 39-year-old mother of three. I've lived in Milton for 10 years, loved it 10 years ago and still believe it to be the ideal place to raise a family — porn stores and strip joints or not.

I don't believe it to be my business or anyone else's business who frequents these establishments, nor do I feel that it lowers the tone of the town.

I've read The Champion twice weekly for 10 years, but I've never read such a bunch of crap until recently. Could we please get onto something more newsworthy?

Michele Brown
Milton

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