

## Hedge around Hemstreet's plot at town's new cemetery damaged by recent clean-up of especially long, dry grass

'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 1898

While cleaning up the new cemetery lately the long dry grass was fired and the result was considerable damage to the hedge around R.L. Hemstreet's plot and to other ornamental bushes.

...

Town Council. Jas. Landsborough presented his report relating to enforcement of the curfew by-law. A petition signed by 187 townspeople was received from the W.C.T.U. asking for the continuance of the curfew bell ringing. Mesdames Robertson, Inman and Harrison addressed the council on the matter, which was referred to the committee on police who were instructed to confer with Landsborough in regard to the better enforcement of the by-law and give him instructions as to his duties as defined in the curfew by-law and the Ontario statutes. The committee on finance recommended the payment to Landsborough's account of \$18 for six months.

...

The salary of Postmaster Hannant for the past year was \$1,000.13.

...

The Oakville Star says that Mrs. G.A. Jacobs left on Saturday to join her husband in British Columbia. Mr. Jacobs has purchased a part interest with Martin Bros., formerly of Milton, in a large tract of grazing and timber land. He will act as the manager.

...

Star Bicycle Works. S. Lounsbury has opened a bicycle works shop on the Stevenson Block, where he will keep on hand bicycle sundries and will do all manner of repairing and all kinds of vulcanizing of tires. Bicycles will be available for sale or for rent.

...

John Somerville has received the contract for the erection of the new church at

### Milton Time Capsules



Munn's Corners and expects to have everything complete by July. Mr. Maxted, of Norval, will attend to the brick work in his usual masterly style. The old church is down and the foundation ready for the new building. The corner stone of the new building will probably be laid this month. Service is at present held in the township hall.

May 1898

The Milton Creamery Company will move their butter-making plant on Saturday into the rear part of the large stone building on Commercial Street, the front part of which is occupied by the Electric Light and Power Company.

John Stewart, who owns the building, has fitted it up in first-class style, sparing no expense. There are few creameries in this county as well equipped.

...

The price of wheat is higher now than it has been since 1888. The rise may be partially due to the war (Spanish-American) but the chief cause is the fact that the supply in Europe is found to be insufficient.

...

Charles Hughes has been awarded the contracts for two bridges in Trafalgar Road — one at Drumquin and the other at Willmott's. He is busy at his quarry getting out stone to fill the orders.

...

On Monday John Featherstone shipped from Milton to Toronto a double-decked car-load of hogs and a car-load of butcher cattle. Mr. Featherstone paid out \$2,500 for them. To day he ships 40 head of the choicest cattle that have ever left Milton.

They were bought from Geo. Anderson, Geo. Erwin, J. Peddie and Jas. Moffatt. Mr. Featherstone paid \$2,200 for them and they will go to the British market.

*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@direct.com.*

## OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

### An important piece of Milton's heritage ends if Martin Street School closes, says reader

Dear Editor:

A sad thing may be about to happen to Milton.

Martin Street School is in danger of closing and if that happens, 81 years of community history will become a small chapter in the local history books — soon to be forgotten. This may happen in a community that's set to grow from 35,000 to 80,000 inhabitants within the next few years.

It will be a shame if there are no more kids going to school where four or five generations of Milton's youth went before them.

If the school is knocked down, there will be no more local landmark with its handsome facade — not even a bell to mount on some concrete stand. It'll be just another piece of local history blotted out without a thought.

This doesn't need to happen. Despite the school board's desire to ignore growth to the west, it's coming — and soon, maybe as little as three years away and less than a kilometre from Martin Street School, well within the school catchment area. Also, even though the board doesn't want to acknowledge it, due to its unique way of looking at the numbers, the school is running close to capacity right now.

In addition to this, according to the school board's own data, Martin Street School is a low cost school to run (fourth cheapest in the region per square metre), with a well-maintained facility (with the current main-

tenance budget small by any standard for a public facility) on a paid-for site.

As if this were not enough, if Martin Street School is closed and its French Immersion pupils added to the existing French Immersion population at the two remaining sites, E.W. Foster and Robert Baldwin, both of these schools will become hopelessly overcrowded.

Parents of Martin Street School children have been given two weeks in which to make an airtight case for saving their school.

That would be a tall order for full-time staff. How can a rag-tag bunch of parents, who have full-time occupations of their own, hope to do this in such a short period of time without all the facts available? The message is clear — Milton is growing, but the board wants to close schools. The request from many parents in our community is clear — please don't close an efficient school that works in a growing community. Why break something that works?

If anyone in the community has any ideas which might help us in our efforts to preserve Martin Street School for future generations of our children, and avoid overcrowding at other existing schools in our town, please let us know. Or stand by at your peril — your children's school could be the next one to receive such high-handed treatment.

Tom Dusmet  
Milton

### Reader says possible school closures upsetting

Dear Editor:

There have been a number of letters and articles recently on possible school closures in the Milton area.

This is really rather stunning news since it's abundantly clear to everyone, who's not an ostrich, that there's rapid residential growth in Milton. Unfortunately, with the accommodation process, the Halton District School Board must conform to regulations set forth by the provincial Ministry of Education.

Essentially, the rules surrounding new school construction are pretty simple. New schools will only be funded by the Province when it's demonstrated that the school board has every pupil seat in existing schools filled. This is the common sense approach that has appealed to many taxpayers.

Unfortunately, what experience is showing the people of Halton, and dare I say many other rapid growth 905 regions, is that this policy is wholly inadequate.

In the areas of Ontario that have the most need, where parents have made upwardly mobile strides into new housing communities, we will fail a gen-

eration by placing them in overcrowded schools and classrooms.

My son is in a class of 33. His future is for more crowding in his schools defined by the shortsighted policies of the Common Sense Revolution.

We in Ontario have been presented with common sense solutions from our government in many areas including education, health care and hydro privatization.

It seems to me that experience has shown that this government's common sense doesn't work very well.

The most telling tale of this common sense failure is the government's lack of learning from its experiences and the many complaints of its people.

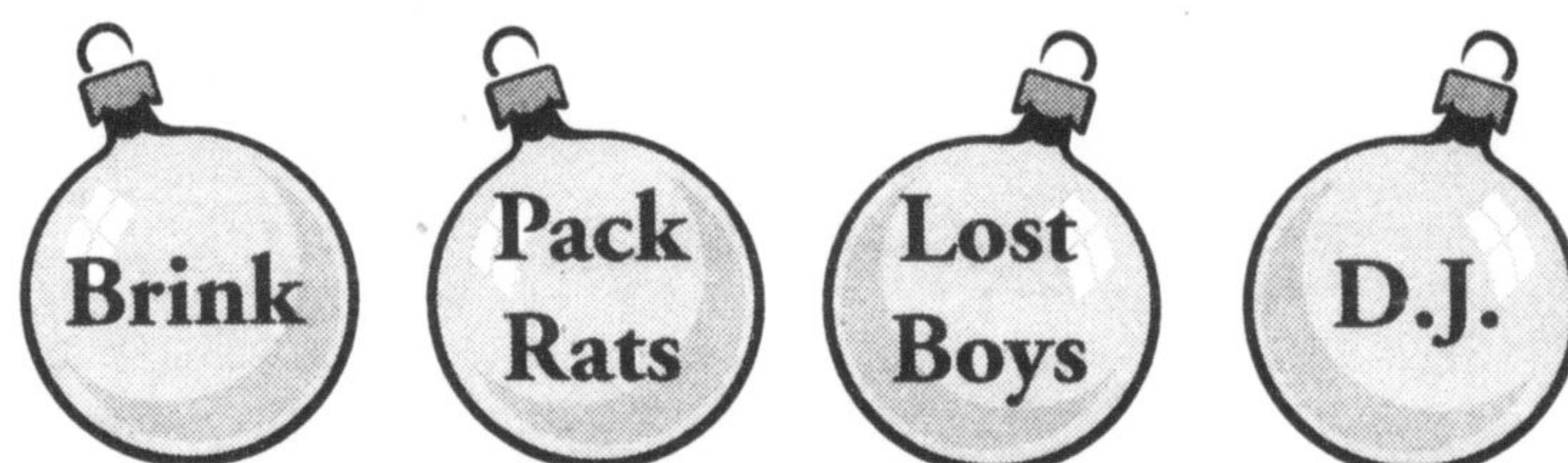
Common sense requires that we learn from our mistakes. I imagine, come next election that many Ontarians who possess common sense will recognize from experience that politically at least, common sense is merely a vacuous and dangerous slogan.

Paul Tate  
Sunnyvale Crescent

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