Construction now complete on state-of-the-art watering system on Nassagaweya farm

'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.

May 1898

Adam Alexander, of Nassagaweya, has one of the finest farms in the township (Kelso Conservation area) and is one of its most progressive farmers.

He has just completed the construction of a system of waterworks for his own use. He has laid four-inch pipes from a spring on the slope of the mountain about 300 yards above him, down to his buildings. A five-horse power motor will run his machinery and he will have an abundance of the best water for domestic purposes.

June 1898

Owners of lots in the cemetery are requested to attend at the grounds on Saturday June 4 at 2 p.m. to cut the grass and fix up their lots. Please give this your attention. — by order of committee.

. . .

New drug store. J.R. Zimmerman, the successful Hamilton druggist is starting a business here in the Porter Block and the place is being fitted up in grand style. It will be lighted with acetylene gas, one of the Hamilton Acetylene Gas Company's machines being put in. A handsome soda water fountain will also decorate the place and cool drinks will be served to the public in city style.

A large frame shed has been erected (at the end of Court Street North) in the pig yard of the C.P.R. a comfort denied the hogs that went there before.

. . .

. . .

The Milton Creamery Co. is receiving weekly about 150,000 lbs. of milk for which something like \$1,000 is paid to the farmers. Three tons of butter packed in boxes was shipped from the factory on Tuesday for export to London, England.

Chas. Hartman of the Thompson House has put in a new bar and fixings to the amount of \$200.

Purchasers of Deering Machinery were

. . .

Milton Time Capsules



banqueted at the Commercial Hotel by Wm. Peacock, agent. A procession was formed in front of the Commercial Street and proceeded along Foster Street up Queen Street to Hugh Street.

When the front of the procession reached Martin Street they were halted to be photographed by our able artist, Mr. Featherstone after which the procession broke up and sought shelter from a storm of rain approaching. Unfortunately for many of them there could not be found sufficient shelter for both teams and loads of implements and they had to stand the shower which continued for about two

. . .

The 20th Lorne Rifles went to camp at Niagara on Tuesday. No. 7 (Milton) Co. marched from the armoury to the G.T.R. station headed by our local band, which played a quickstep in excellent style. The special train arrived at 11.45 a.m. with Cos. Nos. 2 and 3, was boarded by Nos. 6 and 7 and stopped at Burlington to which place No. 1 had gone by rail from Oakville. The regiment fell in, marched to the wharf, headed by its two bands, brass and bugle, which played alternately and boarded the steamer for Niagara.

Alonza Jones wheeled to Toronto on Sunday morning, attended Godfrey's sacred band concert on the Island and returned the same evening.

. . .

The public school here closed for the summer holidays on Friday last. Miss Maclean, teacher in the fifth department and Miss Bowes, of the third, will spend their vacation in the Old Country. Miss Maggie White and some Hamilton friends will accompany the young ladies.

The party sails from New York tomor-

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

Martin Street School closure would be a panic reaction to board's funding crunch, says reader

Dear Editor:

If fixing something that isn't broke is silly, what should we call destroying something that isn't broke? The Halton District School Board calls it their policy.

What's not broken is Martin Street Public School, an historic institution that's been around since 1920 when Milton was a small village. Even the board agrees it's still an excellent little school where the children are learning, the parents are satisfied and the teachers enjoy their jobs. It ought to be seen as a model school community.

And because it's a French Immersion school, its enrollment is nearly full.

But the board planners feel compelled to scrap Martin Street Public School because of their interpretation of the board's 'put the schools where the people are' guideline.

They think this compels them to give this thriving little neighbourhood school to newcomers elsewhere in Milton. In order to give them their school in the future, the board needs to scrap Martin Street now and scatter its students to different locations next September. Destroying this school now will allow the board to claim it's one school short when it goes to the Province for funds.

The planners defend this policy

as rational, democratic and principled. But it's none of those things. It's just a panicked reaction to a scary funding crunch. In their single-minded pursuit of scarce dollars, the board seems to be forgetting all its other values and duties. It's forgetting, for example, that it serves the community, should reflect community values and should co-operate in achieving community goals.

As Milton's population soars, the Town is trying to integrate its established and new neighbourhoods. "Milton, a successful blend of old and new," says the Town's Web site. In that context, the least helpful thing the board could do is adopt a policy that pits new neighbourhoods against old ones.

Our town motto is not, "Milton, where we rob from the old and give to the new," nor is it, "Milton, bulldozing our past to erect our future.

And yet because of the board's policy, Milton, with the fastest growing population in Halton, is also the only municipality facing school closings this year.

Two schools are on the chopping block. Percy Merry is the other

welcome Milton's newcomers. I hope they enjoy our town, fill up their own neighbourhoods and eventually get their own schools. In

the meantime, their children would be welcome to share the existing schools. But sacrificing my neighbourhood school now in a rush to get them a new school more quickly carries hospitality too far.

There's absolutely nothing fair or democratic in using the excuse of a sudden influx of newcomers to run roughshod over the rights of people who were somewhere first. That's not what Canadian democracy is supposed to be about. We haven't told Native People, the Quebecois or the small Maritime provinces to shut up and accept second class status because they're outnumbered

There's more to democracy than majority rule, There's also compromise, accommodation, fairness and respect for minorities and heritage. More to the point, Milton's democracy isn't supposed to be about robbing from the old neighbourhoods to give to the new.

This isn't the way our expansion was supposed to unfold. It's impossible to reconcile the board's policy of destroying the old with the Town's goals, as stated in its motto, of successfully blending the old with the new. Destroying isn't blending.

> Alan Wain Milton

Town knows smoking bylaw is being ignored by some bars but hasn't done anything about it, says restaurant owner

Dear Editor:

I can no longer remain silent. Five months ago, I fought against a new smoking bylaw which I felt was unfair and very difficult to enforce.

However, I've accepted the new bylaw and my restaurant has and will continue to abide by the law. Some bars and restaurants in our community have

chosen to ignore this new bylaw.

The establishments in Milton that have chosen to obey the law have watched their loyal long-time customers frequenting locations that openly allow smok-

The Town has been aware for months that some businesses are ignoring the bylaw.

Why have charges not been issued against the law breakers? How long will open defiance of the law be tolerated?

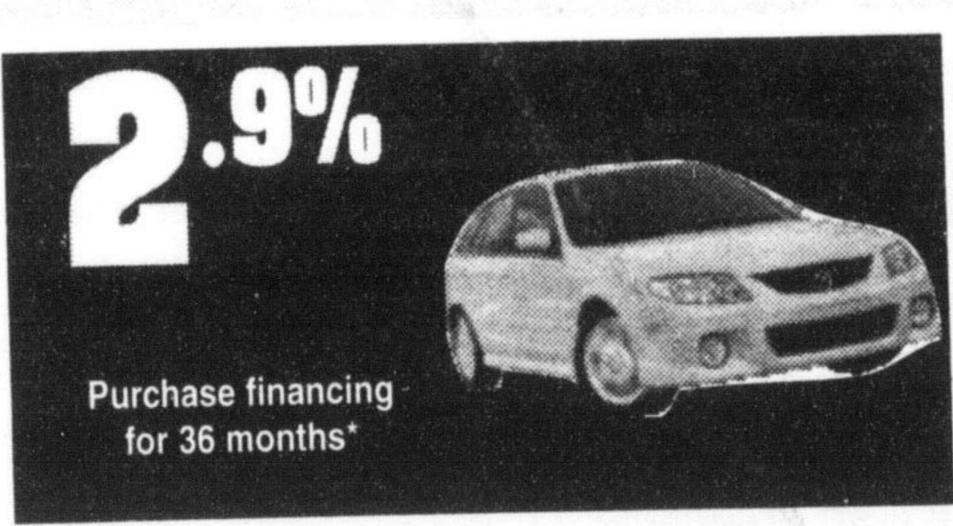
The law-abiding establishments in Milton will lose more customers now that patio season has closed. I'm sorry, but the Town's silence on this issue is deafening.

Joe Di Palma Millside Restaurant

Have your say with a letter to the editor. Please e-mail your letters to miltoned@haltonsearch.com, or fax them to (905) 878-4943.

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