Pair of local curling teams make journey to Toronto; both returned victoriously with wins over Lakeview

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.

March 1899

Two rinks of the Minto Curling Club of Milton went to Toronto and played with the Lakeview Club winning both games. The Lakeview curlers showed the Miltonians plenty of hospitably and at the conclusion of the night game entertained them in the snug club room at the rink — treating them to an excellent lunch with coffee. After this had been disposed of, the time until the 11.20 p.m. train for the west was due was spent in toasts and songs.

• • •

The entertainment given under the auspices of the Epworth League in the lecture room of the Methodist Church on Monday evening was well attended. The programme consisted of an illustrated lecture on the "Lights and Shadows of New York," by Mr. Sewery, as well as views of the Spanish-American war and music by the gramophone. The lecture was both entertaining and instructive, particularly to the young.

• • •

The annual report of J.S. Deacon, Public School Inspector, presented to the county council on Tuesday, contains the following memo for teachers: 1. Give prominence to the three R's with proper development of the physical, mental and moral faculties, including self control. 2. Teach literature before reading and thus avoid guessing and stumbling. 3. Insist upon round, regular writing, evenly spaced in every form. 4. Give no exercise that will tend to deteriorate the writing. 5. Avoid so much transcription that pupils become careless as to form, size and neatness of letters and words. 6. Have all tables learned thoroughly and impress every rule by an abundance of simple problems solved mentally. 7. Teach so thoroughly and keep pupils so well employed throughout school hours that home work can be wholly discarded or reduced to a minimum.

• • •

The snow fall of Friday night was a blessing to farmers having wood and logs to deliver, a large number of the latter having been brought to the sawmill in town — with over 100 per day being the average.

• • •

Milton Council: Ex-councillor G.A. Hemstreet spoke on the subject of a municipal grant towards the salary of a night watchman.

He said that many of those who had been contributing towards the salary of the present night watchman were withdrawing their subscriptions and that without financial aid from the council, the town would soon be without the services of a night watchman.

April 1899

On Friday a portion of the floor in the Messrs. Hannant Bros.' sawmill in the east ward collapsed. D.D. Scott, head sawyer and W.S. Armstrong, one of his assistants both went with it, They fell about 10 feet and some machinery fell on top of them. Both men had their heads slightly cut. The floor was repaired and the mill was back in operation again on Monday.

May 1899

Town Council appointed Charles Downie as night watchman and curfew bell ringer, and fixed his salary at $174.

• • •

A meeting will be held at the Town Hall on Tuesday evening at 8 p.m. to organize a local historical society for the County of Halton. The object of the society will be to collect all possible information about the early settlement of the county including social, religious, political and educational progress, agricultural societies, fraternal orders, early records of township births, deaths and marriages or any other records of interest.

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

Champion's council reporting has at times been unbalanced and misleading: Malboeuf

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to Richard Vivian's recent column comparing Milton council to a circus.

I, as a member of that council, would tend to agree with him — at times it is a circus. I would also add that at times it reminds me of Jurassic Park, with the dinosaurs in charge.

Having said that, there were a few comments made in the column that I take issue with. Yes, we have had problems with enforcement of the smoking bylaw, but the problems we're experiencing are no different than those experienced in other jurisdictions following the introduction of new smoking restrictions. Hamilton, with far greater resources available to them than Milton, is experiencing the same enforcement problems we are. Hamilton has taken steps to address those problems, as we have. The problem is due to a few irresponsible bar owners who refuse to obey the laws of this community. I question why The Champion hasn't been as aggressive in its editorials and reporting in condemning the illegal actions of this group as it has been in attacking council on the issue.

Could the fact that these bar owners purchase advertising space in The Champion have anything to do with this lack of balanced reporting.

Mr. Vivian ends his column with a referral to the 37 per cent increase council approved for itself and attributes the statement "I don't support it, but I'll take it" to me. This is not only misleading, it edges on being slanderous.

I made my position quite clear on this issue. I had no problem with the salary level being proposed, but my support of the increase was on the condition that council approves my recommendation for a review of the current ward boundaries as well as a reduction in the number of councillors.

We have too many councillors. Municipalities with much larger populations function quite well with fewer politicians.

With this latest salary increase, Milton council's compensation budget is one of the highest among comparative municipalities, while at the same time having the lowest population.

On a per capita basis, we pay more for our politicians than any other surrounding municipality. The current ward boundaries are unfair and disproportionate, and don't allow equal representation on council. One ward has close to 20,000 residents while another has 6,500, but both wards have the same number of councillors representing them on council.

This isn't fair to the residents nor is it fair to the councillors. The workload isn't equally distributed. Milton should be divided into six wards with one councillor per ward.

The practice of electing two councillors per ward should be ended. Milton council is one of the few jurisdictions left where a politician can come in second in an election and still win a seat.

As a regional councillor I must win my election. If I come in second, I lose my seat.

The same should hold true for local council. Council didn't support my request for a review and so I voted against the salary increase, and though I don't agree with the decision of council, I will accept the increase.

I believe I work as hard if not harder than most other members of council in serving our community, and so I feel I'm entitled to receive the same compensation as they do.

That is what I said on the salary issue, and Mr. Vivian knows that. Why he chose not to say that in his column, only he knows. Yes, at times Milton council may resemble a circus, but similarly the accuracy of the articles in The Champion could at times be considered a joke.

Rick Malboeuf
Town and regional councillor

Woman says thanks to all those who helped out during her recent mishap on Derry Road

Dear Editor:

It was late one night in Milton.

I was travelling down Derry Road, impressed by Mattamy Homes and all the houses popping up. Call it silly or call it what you will, but the sign indicating that the road ahead was curvy and bumpy made me think I could go straight ahead.

The oncoming traffic seemed to only indicate one way direction, so I drove on and got stuck in the mud.

In the news you see nothing but bad news for the most part, sometimes even in Milton. But what's nice is that two gentlemen stopped and asked if I was okay. One offered his coat and to get gas, since it appeared after trying to get out of the mud, I was running low.

He wouldn't even take any money. All I know is that his name was Ross and he was with his buddy in a pick-up. I called Mr. Rescue, my $4-a-month service (similar to CAA) and they were great. They even called later to see if I was okay.

Also, thanks to Durante's, who was Mr. Rescue's designated local tow truck service. They were quick and helpful and I was out in a jiffy. And finally, thanks to my good friend Tara — who was in the middle of her meal — and Lenny and Scott who came all the way out from Mississauga to see if I was okay. Just wanted to let people know that nice people still exist.

Tamara Jong
Guelph

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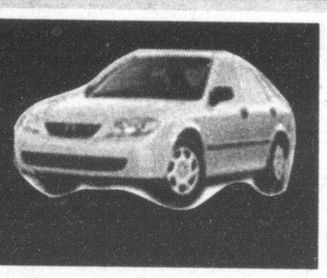

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