Fire at Wm. Carradice's property on the mountain has destroyed 1,000 acres of bush, and is still burning

'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.

August 1899

On the night of Sunday the 6th, a fire broke out in Wm. Carradice's bush on the mountain in Nassagaweya and it has been burning ever since. It has run over about 1,000 acres of bush, has done a tremendous amount of damage and is still burning. Wm. Carradice is the heaviest loser. Besides his timber, his crop of peas has been burnt. John G. is suspected of starting the fire in order to force another man to leave a house of which he wished to get possession, and Peter T. is said to know something about the matter.

Yesterday morning Mayor Deacon issued a warrant for the arrest of G. and T. and gave it to Chief Constable Bradley, who, taking Chas. Jones with him as a special constable, drove to the scene of the fire. On the way they met G. coming to Milton with a load of wood and the chief constable let him go on, making up his mind that it would be more convenient to arrest him in Milton.

When the constables reached the bush they were told that T. was fighting the fire, and after a long and hard scramble over rocks and logs they captured him. He tried hard to escape, but they handcuffed him and then he weakened and admitted that about 9 o'clock on the night the fire started he saw G. going into the slashing when it first broke out.

On the constables' return to Milton they found G., arrested him without any trouble and took him and T. to jail. G. is about 35 years of age, is married and has a family of 14 children.

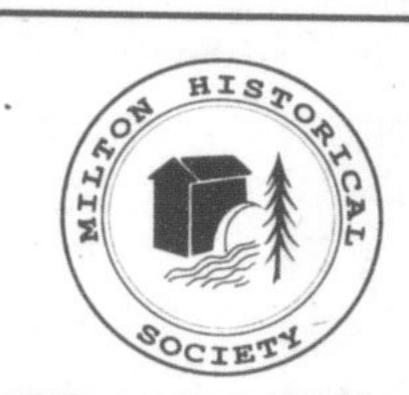
The first carload of timothy seed ever brought to town arrived yesterday for Hume Bros. It was 700 bushels.

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. . .

J.W. Elliott addressed the County Council on behalf of the Milton Musical Association, asking permission for said association to erect a band stand on the court house square. Dr. Webster moved, seconded by Mr. Andrew that the request

Milton Time Capsules



of Mr. Elliott be granted.

Baseball is very dead in Milton this season, but a game was played at the Agricultural Grounds yesterday between local juniors and another juvenile nine from Brampton. The game ended with a 16-5 decision in favour of Brampton.

The brick house on Victoria street (75), belonging to Jos. H. McCollom, of Oakville, was placed under the hammer last Friday. It was sold for \$1,700 and was purchased by Dr. McColl.

The Volunteer Firemen of Ontario formed a permanent association in Toronto yesterday. E.F. Earl, chief of Milton brigade, was elected first vice-president and R.J. McInnes was appointed to a committee on bylaws.

The bush fire which began on the mountain on the 7th of this month is still burning and is doing considerable damage. The Crown authorities, believing the fire to be incendiary, caused the arrest of Peter T., John G. and Oliver C., charging them with the offence. The defendants were tried on Thursday morning last before Mayor Deacon and Dr. Robertson. After the evidence or the Crown had been put in, Mr. Elliott, acting for G., asked for the acquittal of his client. Their Worships agreed that the evidence was not sufficient and so discharged him. Crown Attorney Matheson appeared for the Crown and with him was Mr. Dick. The two others were then discharged. It is most unfortunate that the guilty parties cannot be located, as the property owners in that section are put to a great expense in trying to put out the fire.

This material is assembled on behalf of the Milton Historical Society by Jim Dills, who can be reached by e-mail at jdills@idirect.com.

* OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

It's clear to see that it's an election year based on councillors' comments: reader

Dear Editor:

After reading some of the commentaries by a couple of our esteemed councillors it's easy to tell it's an election year.

with Rick Malboeuf's comments of late. After reading them I only have one thing to suggest: Get off the soap box and come down from the ivory tower.

I'll confess it has been awhile since I studied law in university, but if memory serves, there's a section in the constitution that guarantees equal protection before and under the law.

And that this right as with all others may only be deprived when doing so can be reasonably and demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society. Yet this is exactly what our council has done. It has deprived one business group customers while allowing another to maintain the same right.

Bar owners don't want to be the same business as the Bingo Hall, but they do want the same protection afforded by the law - something I believe they're entitled to receive.

As to the issue of designated smoking rooms (DSRs), his comments, while containing some merit, are almost as blatantly political. I often watch the Leaf games with friends at a sports bar in Burlington which has a DSR. As near as I can tell it works just fine.

A significant portion of the staff is the same now as before the DSR. None of the ones I've spoken too

object to working in this environment, in fact a number are smokers themselves. The reality is you will always have people willing to work in such an environment regardless of the risks or reasons.

Lastly, Mr. Malboeuf's comment that a few owners are looking to gain an advantage over their less affluent competition. Isn't that what free enterprise is about?

First of all what business does council have interfering in a free enterprise system?

Does council have supporters who will be hurt if DSRs are allowed and that these are the interests truly being protected by not allowing DSRs?

Our economic system is survival of the fittest, cruelly Darwinian perhaps, but it's our system and I think our council should respect it and stay out of it. I may be naive, with a significant base of smoking but it seems to me that business should be allowed to decide for themselves whether or not to allow smoking.

> Since it's profit that drives a business, if an owner sees that allowing smoking costs more business that it gains he or she will likely ban smoking out of simple self interest. By doing so, establishments will eventually sort themselves out into smoking and non-smoking and both groups' rights will be protected because what council seems to want to ignore is that lost in all of this rhetoric is one basic point.

> Smoking and tobacco is legal and those who choose to consume it do have the fundamental right to do so without harassment from

politically-motivated officials. Further, I'm amazed at the double standard Mr. Malboeuf has displayed. He feels that adult entertainment establishments should be above Hwy. 401 so they're not near schools or residences.

Whether this idea is in and of itself right is a topic by itself for another day, so I'll leave it for now.

However, he and council don't seem to have any problems with tobacco being sold in convenience stores and smoke shops in the middle of school and residential areas. Teen smoking is on the rise and yet the moral guardians who sit on council seem to feel that it's okay to sell tobacco in school areas. It seems that a much greater threat is being allowed near our schools than the one being banned.

And anyone who attended W.I. Dick Middle School with me will certainly attest to the issue of underage drinking and driving and the costs associated with it.

So here's my suggestion to Mr. Malboeuf and the rest of council: Stop playing politics and get down to the business of doing what is right for the people of Milton instead of raising a finger in the air and using the wind direction to determine policy.

As I learned a long time ago, what's right isn't always popular and almost always has a price attached. And if this council won't pay that price then maybe the community needs to consider new representation.

> Jim Timbers Milton

Will The Champion's new reporter still like community once CN's intermodal terminal is built? asks reader

Dear Editor:

I'm glad Stephanie Thiessen is enjoying small town Milton.

I wonder if she will still find it as appealing if CN gets its way and establishes the proposed intermodal terminal in south Milton.

With the dust and danger from 1,000 truck trips per day to start, and light and noise pollution from the terminal, she may then begin to feel as if she's still back in big city Brampton.

> Nan Gent Tremaine Road

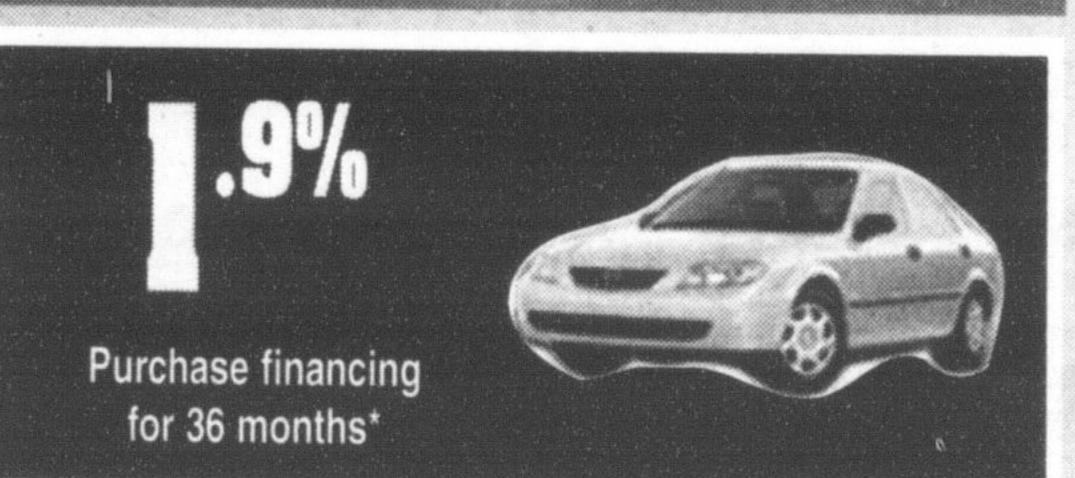
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