Doctor-endorsed Steam Feather renovator has been operating in town for a while and is showing great results

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 1899

The Steam Feather renovator that has been operating in town for some time is giving splendid satisfaction. Judging from the manner in which its patrons speak of it, it certainly must make feather beds more healthy to have the animal matter removed from them. The doctors endorse it.

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If the enthusiastic meeting held on Monday evening counts for anything, the Minto (Milton) Curling Club will have a very successful season. Elected were Patron Judge Hamilton; Patroness Mrs. Hamilton; Hon. President Geo. Hume, President Geo. Storey; Vice President W.I. Dick; Secretary C.F. Johnson; Treasurer G.E. McCraney; Chaplain Rev. Mahaffy; Committee of management W.A. Clark, J.B. Lawrence and D.S. Robertson; Skips Duncan Dewar, J.T. Hannant, Wm. Panton, A. Duff, G. Storey and C.F. Johnson. It was decided that the club will become affiliated with the Ontario Curling Association.

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Milton Council, No. 61, R.T. of T., held their annual rally on the evening of Nov. 2nd. There was a large attendance of members, 91 answering to their names as they were called out. The membership at present is 157 and it's expected to meet the Grand Council in February with 200 members. A committee has been appointed to make the necessary preparation for the Grand Council meeting when many will visit our town for the first time.

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The town hall was not large enough to accommodate the crowd that turned out to witness the commencement exercises of the public school on Tuesday night. The pupils occupied the centre seats and the remainder of the hall was crowded to the doors. An admission fee of ten cents was charged to all the pupils and the handsome sum of about forty dollars was received. The programme was a very interesting one, the best numbers being the drill performed by the girls belonging to the schools of Misses Bowes and Lawrence.

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The firemen asked for tenders for 25 pairs of rubber boots. The town is furnishing the members of the brigade with coats, so that they will be better prepared for their work. A Council Committee recommend that members be allowed to take the coas home for convenience on becoming responsible to the corporation for their value. Also that the words "Milton Fire Brigade" be painted on each coat.

• • •

Appleby. Talking machines are becoming quite common in this neighborhood. Another has been added to the list, John Edward Moody having recently purchased one in Toronto. The machine, when operated by this scientific gentleman, excels all others that we have seen.

• • •

At a meeting of the Minto curling club it was decided to pay the lessees of the rink the sum of $100 for the use of the rink for five nights in the week. Skaters will have the ice on Saturday nights. The membership fee to the curling club is one dollar with one dollar extra for ice privileges. It's left to the management committee to decide whether or not an admission fee should be charged to non-members to witness any curling matches.

• • •

Francis L. White has secured the contract of supplying the Hamilton Gun Club with 100 live pigeons from this vicinity for their annual shooting tournament to be held on January 16, 17, 18 and 19, 1900. This tournament requires 1000 live pigeons and L. White has guaranteed to supply 100. He is ready at any time now to buy all that are saleable in this neighborhood.

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

OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Bar and restaurant owners should have say in smoking bylaw issue, says reader

Dear Editor:

Well three cheers for Fred Radcliffe of Campbellville. Let's give him a gold medal for informing us all that smoking is bad for your health.

Does he not think that everyone is well aware of the fact that smoking will damage your health? Of course they are, but they choose to smoke a 100 per cent legal substance. Whether they're addicted or do it because they enjoy it, it's their choice and they're not breaking the law.

Go on Mr. Radcliffe, close all the bars and restaurants down and see how fast the community grows. Business owners should have a choice, smoking or non-smoking — that way customers also have a choice.

Business owners are losing money hand over fist due to this crazy bylaw. A pub without smoking is ridiculous. It's like French fries without salt and vinegar. Owners are forced to spend large amounts of money for outdoor heating in minus-20 degree temperatures in the hope that customers will come. And if customers don't come, who will pay the bartenders, waiters and waitresses who depend so much on tips?

I've personally witnessed large groups of smokers and non-smokers who would have gladly gone out and spent money at a local establishment, but have decided to have a house party or barbecue for the simple reason of not being able to smoke if they go out. How much revenue have business people lost over this? Who will pay for the shortfall?

Smokers pay, Mr. Radcliffe. There's no question they pay with their health as well as with their pocket book.

At $8 a pack, they certainly contribute a good chunk to taxes. If smoking should ever be banned, be prepared to dig deep, very deep into your pockets to cover the taxes lost.

Are you ready to pay $2 for a litre of gas or $50 for a case of beer or cheap bottle of wine or perhaps 20 per cent G.S.T.

Give smokers a chance and maybe, just maybe they'll start to come back to the bars and spend money. Ban them from all establishments and they'll stay away, along with their friends, the non-smokers.

Oh, did I mention that I'm a non-smoker and like many other non-smokers who have friends that smoke (through their own choice and against my advice), I can't understand this crazy bylaw.

One thing is for sure, you won't split up friendships, so therefore people won't return to the bars and restaurants the way they did before.

On the other hand, if you want to smoke in public, go out to the local bingo hall or race track, much better to support that habit than give your money to a private businessman who's now struggling more than ever to make a living.

S. Clement
Milton

Councillors' stand on pesticides encouraging: reader

Dear Editor:

Congratulations to Oakville's town councillors.

After many hours of public meetings and council debate, they've passed a motion that will lead to the elimination of non-essential use of pesticides on private lands.

This sends a strong message that we can't be complacent about pesticide use. Of particular note is their decision to start with properties bordering schools, daycare facilities, playgrounds, hospitals, senior residences and the like. The young and the elderly are particularly at risk from pesticide exposure.

In the absence of a strong stance from those in a leadership position, many people will choose to take the path of seemingly less resistance and spray, or hire lawn care companies to spray for them.

What does this cost all of us in the long run? The answer is, we don't know.

We certainly have mounting evidence that pesticides are costing us in terms of our health and the environment. Common sense tell us that destroying a natural eco-system of micro-organisms and beneficial insects will only serve to weaken the system, inviting invasion of weeds and problem insects. We can keep trying to beat Mother Nature into submission, but we will never win.

Pesticides lead to more weeds and insects, which lead to more pesticides — and on it goes.

The solution — work with Mother Nature. Use natural fertilizers and try deep watering once a week in dry weather to promote a strong root system. These are some basic lawn care steps that will work with your lawn's natural eco-system, building a healthy lawn that naturally resists weeds and problem insects.

Think of your lawn as you would any system in nature — for example, your own body. Feed it well, limit junk food, drink adequate water and as a result you'll strengthen yourself from disease.

This year, please consider your lawn-care strategy safely. If you would like a free copy of Pesticides Alternatives for Milton's Green Guide to a Healthy Lawn, e-mail p_alternatives@hotmail.com. This pamphlet is also available around town at locations such as Paradise Natural Foods and the Milton Community Resource Centre. The pamphlet outlines lawn care strategies that will create a strong, healthy and pesticide-free lawn. Remember, the steps to health are within our own power.

Erika Ristok
Hayward Crescent

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