

Strike at nearby Acton tannery far from a settlement; top paid employees head back to work

'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 1900

A resident of Acton says that the strike at the Beardmore tannery is far from a settlement. A few of the hands who had been paid \$1.25 per day, exceptionally high wages for the tannery, have returned to work. Those that got \$1.10 are still out. Actonians say that though the tannery has employed 200 hands it hasn't been worth as much to the village as might have been imagined. It has given no bonuses; but it secured exemption from taxation for 20 years. One resident says in his opinion, the exemption did not pay the municipality, as, on account of low wages, the employees had no money to spare; in fact many of them couldn't pay their way and the result was bad debts for local business men. The sympathy of the citizens of Acton, he says, is with the strikers.

...

R.J. McInnes and W.J. Armstrong are attending the meeting of the C.W.A. (Canadian Wheelman's Association) in Toronto on Good Friday. Each member attached to the C.W.A. will, in case of accident, receive \$5 per week for three weeks, or in case of fatal injury his beneficiary will receive \$125.

...

Jesse Atkinson and Jacob Johnson caught a wagon load of suckers at Oakville on Monday, brought them home and sold them within a short time. The sucker is not considered a game fish, but many people think it not to be sneezed at in the spring before the warm water causes it to soften.

May 1900

The annual spring horse show was held here on Thursday and was almost a failure, owing to seeding operations. Only five horses were exhibited. Farmers of Halton, we would like to see more interest taken in the breeding and rearing of horses. Now they're in demand and to all appearance will be for a number of years. Every farmer should keep a good brood-mare of some one of the classes required. Heavy draught horses would at the present time be a safe investment, as a good heavy horse will always bring a good price.

Milton Time Capsules



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The bill authorizing the loan of \$10,000 by the town of Milton to the Port Hope Carpet Co. was passed by the Legislature last Friday. On Tuesday, Mr. Syer of the company bought from John Stewart the lot and residence at the corner of Main and Commercial streets, occupied by Dr. Wickson. (Present Kentucky Fried Chicken location and car wash.) Mr. Syer will live in the house and will erect a brick building for the factory between it and the old foundry. Mr. Stewart agrees to remove the long wooden shed twelve feet farther from the east side of the Wickson property.

...

The village of Brookville, Nassagaweya, suffered very heavily by fire on Friday afternoon. The fire originated in the house of Neil McMillan, from a defective chimney. There was a high wind and the flames soon extended to Mr. McMillan's stable, to his harness shop and to another dwelling house owned by him and occupied by James Darrah.

Next Dr. Bell's and Dr. McTaggart's houses and stables took fire. The latter buildings were all owned by J. Milne, of Toronto, formerly of Nassagaweya. All the above mentioned buildings were burned to the ground in spite of the exertions of about 80 men, who did all that was possible under the circumstances and saved most of the contents of the buildings, though in a more or less damaged condition.

C.A. Elsley's store took fire no less than five times, but the volunteer bucket brigade saved it, and removed its contents. Ex-Warden D. Hutcheon and Jos. Eastman, who were among the workers, were cut off by the flames while in an upper room in Dr. Bell's house, but escaped, somewhat scorched, by jumping from a window. All of the buildings were insured and the loss has already been appraised by representatives of the companies concerned. Most, if not all, of the buildings destroyed will be re-built.

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

Malboeuf says town council took a step backward with its latest ruling on DSRs

Dear Editor:

Your front page article of May 2 stated designated smoking rooms (DSRs) would be allowed in all work places except municipal buildings. That is not the case.

Council did show a bit of common sense by limiting DSRs to bars, restaurants, Mohawk Racetrack and the Bingo Hall.

However, I would like one of those councillors who supported allowing these DSRs to explain to me why they gave consideration to protecting the health, safety, and well being of Town employees and the assembly line workers at Karmax, but gave no consideration at all to those that work in the bar and restaurant industry.

Should they not have been given the same protection and consideration?

Mayor Gord Krantz's response is that if they don't like it, they can work somewhere else. In today's job market, that's easier said than done. I guess if the mayor had his way, there would be no legislation governing health and safety in any workplace.

The mayor and members of council who voted in favour of this bylaw showed a blatant disregard for the evidence provided illustrat-

ing the harmful effects of second-hand smoke and the inability of DSRs to protect anyone.

Why did councillors John Challinor and Rick Day reverse their position from having originally supported 100 per cent no smoking to now approving DSRs?

Why did Councillor Ron Furik, who says he supports 100 per cent no smoking, vote in favour of once again allowing smoking in the bars and restaurants of Milton?

Could the lobbying from a tobacco company or a few bar owners have influenced them?

Your article quoted the mayor as saying that it was a matter of choice. What ever happened to the concept of the greater public good? What ever happened to representing the wishes of the majority? What ever happened to protecting the health and safety of our citizens? — which is the primary responsibility of government.

That's why governments maintain jurisdiction over the military, police, fire, ambulance and health departments.

Leaving health-related issues to the for-profit private sector is a concept that fell by the wayside years ago.

The mayor has stated several

times that he doesn't believe it's necessary nor is it the role of municipal government to pass bylaws protecting its citizens from the health hazards of tobacco smoke, but he had no problem supporting this municipal bylaw that protects the financial interests of bar owners who construct DSRs.

The mayor's position is that it's okay for the municipality to protect the financial interests of bar owners but it shouldn't involve itself in protecting the health and safety of its citizens.

Mr. Krantz's position on this issue demonstrates once again that he doesn't understand the modern day issues facing municipal government.

The role of municipal council has changed dramatically in the last few years, due to the down-loading of responsibilities from both the federal and provincial governments.

In order for Milton to deal with these changes and the challenges associated with them, the members of council have to either change their ways or the citizens of Milton have to change their council.

Rick Malboeuf,
Town and regional councillor

Reader says that in the wake of this fall's municipal election, Milton needs a more proactive town council

Dear Editor:

As always when we get close to an election, politicians talk about what they've done.

I believe what's more important is what they haven't done that they should have.

We live in an age of dynamic situations, where change is the norm and not the exception. Like many communities, Milton is going through dramatic growth where a proactive ability within our political leadership is certainly preferable to knee-jerk reactive decision making.

A wait-and-see attitude isn't acceptable — it never was and never will be.

The residents of Milton need, and most certainly deserve, progressive leadership. Milton should be addressing tomorrow's needs today. We need proactive thinkers on town council.

As our municipal elections get closer, every voter of Milton should really ask what we have and what we need to move forward with confidence? We need to think about what wasn't done that should have been done in the past.

It appears to me that we need to move from a somewhat conformable town council to a proactive and think-out-of-the-box municipal team. Milton must be progressive, yet remain attached to the foundation of small-town, core values.

We need to ensure our elected officials have focus and tenacity to move forward, not the complacency of wait-and-see of years gone by. It's up to us to vote in those who will make it happen.

Robert (Bob) A. Beyette
Campbellville

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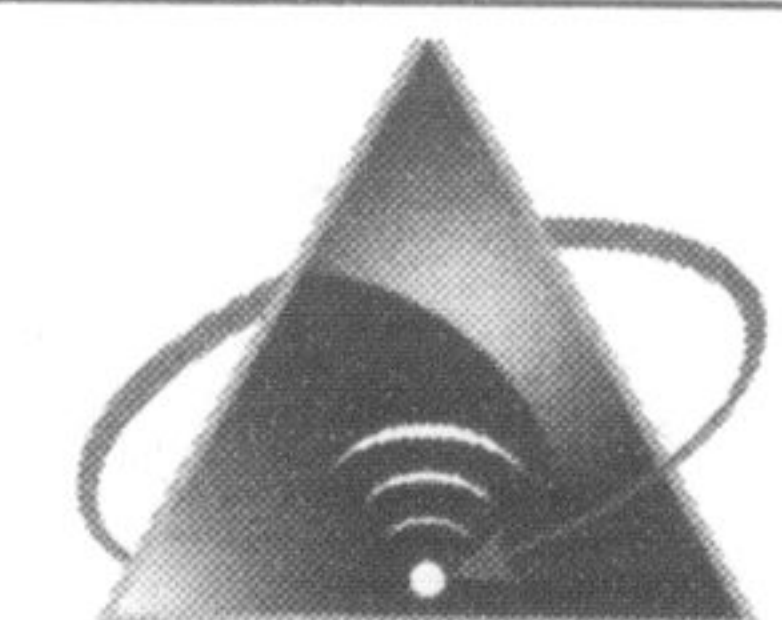
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