

Incumbent Halton MP's re-election by majority surprises both parties

'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 1900

David Henderson was re-elected as M.P. for Halton with a majority of 143 votes. The result was a surprise to both parties, with the Liberals being confident of success and the Conservatives expecting to win by a slim margin.

When it was found at about 8 p.m. that Mr. Henderson had been elected again, that gentleman, who arrived from Acton by G.T.R., was met at the station by a number of his admirers, hoisted on a temporary platform and carried down Main Street to Town Hall. A cheering and jubilant crowd followed and the local band headed the procession.

The hall was soon crowded to the doors and on the platform was a large number of ladies and the leading Conservatives of this vicinity. Speeches were made by Mr. Henderson and J.W. Elliott, while a patriotic song was tendered by Alex Armstrong, and the band played. E.W. Boyd read the election returns and the crowd cheered.

At the close of the meeting a majority of the people made their way to the committee rooms where the outside returns were announced. Cheering and noise made by fish horns and giant fire-crackers could be heard through the town until after midnight. Then everything was as it used to be.

...

A meeting of curlers was held yesterday evening at Mr. Dick's office to consider the question of the proposed erection of a new rink to replace that which collapsed last winter due to an overload of snow on its roof. A scheme for the building of a new rink, a trifle larger than the old one, was submitted. If the necessary funds can be raised, the building will be rushed so that it will be ready for the opening of the coming season. A committee was appointed to canvass for subscriptions and will report at another meeting next Monday evening.

...

On Saturday the public school bell was tolled and its flag put at half mast as the funeral of the late D.M. Harrison passed through the town. The deceased had been a member of the school board for many years.

...

The (Burlington) Gazette reported that

Milton Time Capsules



Burlington was lighted by electricity for the first time last Saturday evening. About 140 lights on the streets and in places of business went into operation, and more will be added in residences and elsewhere.

...

At a meeting of curlers and skaters held yesterday evening, the committee appointed to canvass for subscriptions for a bonus for the erection of the proposed new curling and skating rink reported that they had secured the necessary amount and that certain responsible citizens had agreed to take over the building and assume the responsibility for the balance of the price.

It's expected that building operations will commence almost immediately and that the rink will be ready before Christmas. It will be as large or larger than the old one, which collapsed last winter, and will probably be built on Mill Street near the tannery.

...

The members of the Milton Deer Hunting Club, G.E. Saunders, John Pirie, W.A. Clark, Geo. Gastle, Geo. Hewson, Chas. Lewis and Wm. Panton, got home last Saturday from their camp at Pickereel River, Parry Sound District. They brought with them 14 deer, 5 of which were bucks and none fawns. Deer were as plentiful as usual but partridge were scarce.

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Norval's steel bridge is 42 feet long, is of steel on stone abutments and costs \$931.50. The County of Halton and Peel each paid half of that amount.

December 1900

The arrangements for the building of the new curling rink have been completed. John Somerville has the contract. The building will be larger than the former one. It will accommodate five rinks of curlers — three in the centre and one on each side. There will be abundant room for hockey matches.

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

Reader says education and common sense are best tools in fight against drunk driving

Dear Editor:

I wanted to write to thank Matthew Hunt of New Jersey for his excellent letter in the July 1 *Champion* that gave the PHP percentages of marijuana from RCMP statistics.

Recent articles and letters to the editor have offered a wide range of figures, and it's nice to get a thoroughly researched and source-documented answer on this point.

I would also like to respond to Paul Foreman's recent letter about impaired driving. I think Mr. Foreman should recognize that impaired driving can also be caused by drug use and fatigue as well as alcohol consumption.

In regard to drinking and driving, I'd like to provide some additional information on the subject.

According to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation Web site, a person can be charged with impaired driving with a blood alcohol level lower than the .08 milligram legal limit if the officer considers the driver to be impaired.

Under the Criminal Code of Canada, anyone found in the driver's seat of a car or other vehicle like a golf cart, snowmobile or riding lawn mower is considered as having care and control of a vehicle, even if the vehicle isn't in operation. Last year a Milton resident was charged with impaired driving because he decided to sleep off a few drinks and went to sleep in the front seat of his car.

The penalties are extremely stiff for impaired driving.

Drivers with blood alcohol content (BAC) levels above .08 mg. or who refuse a breathalyzer test can have their driver's licence suspended immediately for up to 90 days in addition to facing criminal charges.

Convictions can result in a driver's licence suspension for anywhere between a year for a first

offence and a lifetime for a third or fourth offence. And anyone caught driving with their licence suspended can have their vehicle impounded.

Also, alcohol-related convictions remain on a driver's record for at least 10 years. Drivers must be conviction-free for 10 years before they'll be considered to have a clean driving record.

Drivers under the new graduated licencing system must maintain a zero BAC or face a 30-day licence suspension and a fine if they breach this condition.

By contrast, I read an account of a tragic hit-and-run accident that occurred over the latest holiday weekend in Toronto. The driver was pulled over after his licence plate was reported by a neighbour who witnessed the accident.

He was driving without a valid licence and was out on bail after being charged with two driving offences in March. He killed a young couple and seriously injured their six-month-old child. He was charged with impaired driving, despite his BAC being below the legal limit, and failure to remain at the scene of a crime. He did not, however, have his licence suspended.

The amount of alcohol consumed and the period of time over which it's consumed affect BAC levels. Generally, one alcoholic beverage per hour will keep a person's BAC level below the legal limit.

Women must exercise extreme caution with this, as a study several years ago found that women lacked an enzyme in their digestive system that helps men better handle alcohol's effects.

The study revealed that two-thirds of the alcohol enters a woman's blood stream compared to only one-third for men. Drinking

on an empty stomach will also increase the amount of alcohol entering the blood stream.

The Ministry of Transportation suggests that if you're going to drive that you don't consume any alcohol at all. Since an impaired driving charge can be laid at the discretion of a police officer, this would appear to be excellent advice.

Mr. Foreman mentioned in his letter about the problems of social drinking.

I believe the responsibilities of a party host are just as important as those of the guest. As a host, it's important that you don't press drinks on your guests, and provide food as well as non-alcoholic drinks.

Remember that it takes one hour for the effect of each drink to wear off and that coffee doesn't sober someone up. It's difficult for a guest to know how much they've consumed if the host keeps topping up the glasses.

A host should identify problems early and take action to head them off. They should recognize when someone has had a bit too much and stop serving alcohol. Coffee and a long chat will let the effects of alcohol wear off.

When planning a large event such as a wedding, arranging for a venue with overnight accommodations may save lives.

Several years ago my sister saw an accident involving a wedding party. One limousine ejected one of the passengers and a second limousine ran over the victim.

The LCBO puts out an excellent brochure about entertaining and party planning. It has many good strategies to ensure that your guests have an enjoyable and safe evening.

Sophie Cheney Campbellville

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

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