

Milton's former mayor set to challenge current one in the municipal election

'Time Capsules' are gems of information extracted from past issues of *The Champion* and other publications in order to provide a window into Milton's past. Explanatory comment is sometimes provided to place the situation in context.

January 1901

The municipal and school trustee nominations were held on Monday. Mayor Deacon is again a candidate for mayor and will be opposed by former Mayor Dice. R.L. Hemstreet was nominated but withdrew. Both candidates addressed the electors. Mr. Dice is seeking election because of his seven years' experience as mayor and because he had a good deal of spare time — more than his opponent — to devote to the business of the town, promising to look after it faithfully, as he claimed he did when in office before. He considers Mayor Deacon a little selfish in asking for re-election.

Mr. Deacon, in his reply, said that though he might have less spare time than Mr. Dice might, he didn't think that anyone could say he had neglected his municipal duties. Some people could get through more work in a given time than others. He didn't think he could be fairly accused of selfishness. He had offered publicly at the nomination to withdraw in favor of Mr. Hemstreet.

He thought he had as good a claim for re-election as Mr. Dice, who had held the mayor's position longer than he. Both gentlemen discussed the municipal business of the town very good-naturedly and the few shots they took at each other were not at all vicious.

On Christmas day each employee of the Milton Pressed Brick Company was presented by the company with a turkey as a Christmas gift. It took 42 to go around.

The men all expressed their great appreciation of the kindness on the part of the company.

Engineer Frank Brothers died last week in Cuba, where he was engaged in the construction of a railway. He was well known in this county in the early '70s, when the first grading of the Credit Valley, now C.P.R., line was done. He was walking boss and superintended the work of the steam shovel.

He left a widow and a son 17 years of

Milton Time Capsules



age, who live at Toronto.

The beginning of the 20th century was duly observed in Milton. Special services were held at Grace Church, commencing at 10.15 p.m. and closing after midnight. The attendance was large. At midnight the town bell rang, the carpet factory whistle was blown and there was a lively fusillade, either of giant firecrackers or guns. The noise was fairly deafening, but it didn't last long.

Wm. Elliott and Robert Dewar, who left Milton together in June 1899 for the Northwest territories, both returned home last week, though they didn't travel together. Mr. Elliott was the first to arrive. He has been employed on a steamer, which runs on the McKenzie River. Mr. Dewar, after being in Brampton a day or two, got here on Tuesday. He was in charge of a fur trading post in Fort Good Hope, 1,600 miles north of Edmonton and about 400 north-east of Dawson.

He was the only white man permanently stationed there and had no neighbours except the Indians with whom he traded. He and two other men walked from Fort Good Hope to Edmonton with dog trains and covered the distance in 80 days. He heard last July that there was a war in South Africa, but that was all he knew about it until he reached Edmonton. Mr. Elliott will return to his steamer shortly.

Residents of Terra Cotta (Milton Heights) complain that last Sunday a number of Milton youths played a lively game of hockey on the pond of the Toronto Terra Cotta Works, and say that if the aforementioned youths appear there on another Sunday they will find the locality no more healthy for Sabbath breaking than that of Milton.

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 he questions if municipal government is needed at all in Milton

Dear Editor:

While I'm thrilled to see a new crop of political wannabes adding their names to the upcoming fall election, I've yet to see or hear anything resembling new thinking, visionary thinking or even found someone offering leadership potential.

As for the old boys' network, our mayor and his cohorts promised that growth would pay for itself, yet here I am reading in *The Champion* that tax increases are being proposed.

What other great things have our visionary rubber-stampers done for us?

Well, there's a new arena on the way with insufficient seating. How brilliant.

Our water park at Rotary Park will cost Milton taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars, but it's closed this summer because the weather wasn't conducive to repairing the pool in the spring. Why did they not consider this possibility and allocate the time for rebuilding the pool last fall?

Election candidate says thanks to Hunter for his service

Dear Editor:

Three years ago I ventured into local politics for the first time. I ran against three gentlemen who had all been there before.

And yet when the election was finished only one of them took the time to offer something more than the expected "good race" comments.

Councillor Wally Hunter took the time to offer both

Again, this shows no vision and bad planning. And frankly I don't think the pool needed to be replaced in the first place. It worked.

If you're new to town, try driving from Mississauga into Milton. Mississauga built four-lane roads to handle the already planned expansion of new housing.

The roads — and visionary planning — stops at the Milton border.

Hey, Derry is a regional road. We have our mayor and two councillors sitting on regional council. I guess they couldn't see that far ahead.

It's my opinion that this town has been run by consultants and Town staff for at least the last half-dozen years. I believe our councillors and mayor are in support of everything, just as long as they don't have to think about it first.

But what about the new crop of wannabes? What are they bringing to the table? Do the wannabes have any tangible skills, or are they just part of the local popularity contest?

In my opinion, our town council-

lors really aren't in charge of much other than street cleaning and keeping our parks in good order, yet they think a new Town Hall is necessary to carry out these duties.

Old residents thought the old boys' network would protect them, yet I believe they've caused most of the confusion and cost primarily because they're simply in over their heads.

New residents unfortunately don't know all of the promises of "doing it better" and "no tax increases," but they can see the congestion and confusion even if it's just following all the dumb lines on the pavement pointing every which way in downtown Milton.

Sadly, it's time to consider if we even need this level of government. We have four levels of government, which I believe is more than exists anywhere else in the world. But what do I know?, I'm just a taxpayer.

Patrick Kelly
Milton

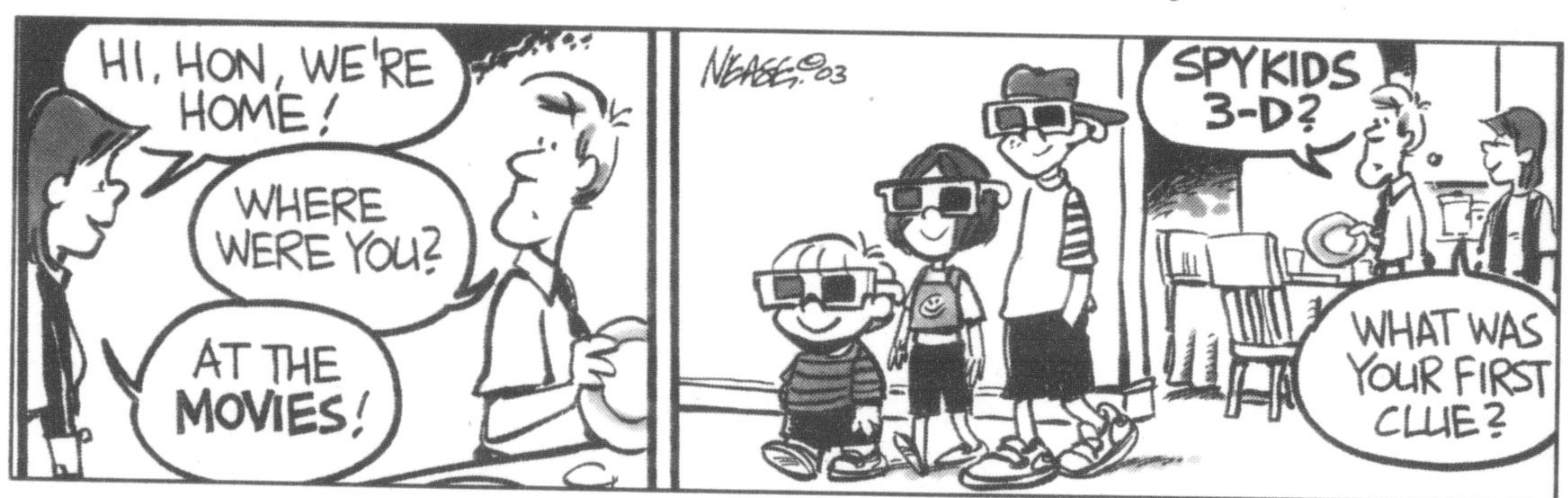
support and counsel on things I could do better if I were to enter into the political arena again. I will try to remember the advice and apply it to this campaign.

While I admit I didn't always agree with him, I never doubted his sincerity. Mr. Hunter, you have my thanks and respect for your time and service.

Jim Timbers
Milton

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by Steve Nease



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