

## Milton joins rest of Empire in mourning death of Queen

'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.

February 1901

Milton joined the rest of the Empire on Saturday in mourning for the Queen. Business was suspended. The courthouse, Town Hall and the windows of a number of business establishments were draped and mourning badges were worn by men and women generally. The memorial service at Grace Church began at 10.45 a.m. The building was well filled. Rev. A.J. Belt read the burial service of the Church of England, after which he preached an able sermon on the great reign and good life of Queen Victoria. Appropriate music was sung by the choir and at the close of the service the organist played 'The Dead March'.

The union service began at Town Hall at 3 p.m. and was attended by many people from the surrounding country as well as the residents of the town. There must have been at least 600 people in the hall. Though a large number of extra seats had been provided, there weren't enough and those who arrived late had to stand. Rev. Geo. Richardson of the Methodist Church acted as chairman, opening the service with prayer and then gave out the hymns which were sung by a union choir. Rev. E.F. McL. Smith of Knox Church delivered the first address. He spoke eloquently on the reasons why the Queen was mourned — not only throughout the Empire but the civilized world — dwelling particularly on her successful efforts to preserve peace between Britain and other nations. He was followed by Rev. A.J. Belt of Grace Church, whose subject was "The Influence of the Queen." He paid a glowing tribute to the Christian and womanly virtues of the Queen and the great and good influence of her example on her subjects. At the conclusion of the service Rev. A.J. Belt pronounced the benediction and the congregation joined heartily in singing "God Save the King."

The Skating Rink Association, after having had mortifying delays owing to unfavorable weather and an insufficient supply of water to form ice, had a grand opening on Friday afternoon and evening. The rink is perhaps the largest in Ontario in a town of the size of Milton, accommodating five rinks of curlers. A curling match was

### Milton Time Capsules



played in the afternoon between Milton and Brampton. In the evening the rink presented a brilliant appearance. It was illuminated by five lines of incandescent lamps and numerous others in the dressing rooms and the band stand above. There was a good turnout of skaters, twenty-five of whom appeared in fancy dresses hired from a Toronto costumer and took part in a grand march and May-pole dance, both of which were very pretty. The Milton brass and reed band provided first-class music. Though the weather was extremely cold, the attendance was very satisfactory, with Georgetown, Oakville and other neighboring points sending representatives. The Rink Association will arrange for carnivals and skating races.

James Thompson died in jail on Saturday evening in his 79th year. An inquest was held on Monday by Dr. H.A. McColl, coroner, and the verdict was that the cause of death was collapse and senile decay. The deceased had been a resident of Milton for more than 40 years, was a tailor and a first-class workman, but was improvident in his habits. When, owing to age and infirmity, he became unable to work, he took refuge in the jail, being committed as a vagrant for the first time in 1894, and spending his winters there ever since.

The first meeting of the Halton Women's Institute was held in the mayor's chambers, Milton on Saturday, Feb. 2. The officers elected were: Mrs. J.S. Deacon, president; Mrs. (Dr.) Robertson, vice president, Mrs. W.J. Cottrell, secretary treasurer. The following were elected directors: Mrs. J.S. Warren and Mrs. A.T. Mann, Acton; Mrs. (Dr.) Zimmerman, Mrs. John Dicken, Mrs. F.C. Willmott, Mrs. W.J. Clements, Mrs. David Hartley, Miss Jessie Elliott, Miss McGregor, Milton; Mrs. A.W. Peart, Freeman; Mrs. D. Campbell, Tansley; Mrs. R.A. Fleming and Mrs. W.T. Brown, Trafalgar; Mrs. W. Fisher, Burlington; Mrs. John Wrigglesworth, Ashgrove; Mrs. M. Crawford, Campbellville and Mrs. J. McPhedran, Nassagaweya.

This material is assembled on behalf of the Milton Historical Society by Jim Dills, who can be reached at [jdills@idirect.com](mailto:jdills@idirect.com).



## OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

### We should expect more from election hopefuls than usual politically-correct responses: Kelly

Dear Editor:

I think R. Collen's suggestion in last Friday's Champion that I "couldn't do a worse job than the stumblers and bunglers we have now" as Milton's mayor was meant to be a compliment, and if so, I say thank you.

In the past, I, like many others, have considered running for public office at the municipal level. When I moved to Milton 23 years ago the people running the town were for the most part Miltonians, and councillors appeared to be more active and visible in the community. I can't say that today.

In my opinion, hiring practices have destroyed the hands-on relationship between senior level staff and Miltonians, and councillors consider themselves to be a board of directors — rubber stampers rather than civic leaders.

I believe an ever-growing bureaucracy approved by council is now running the show.

The major problem as I see it is that there's no real job description for councillors. Twice over the last few months I read in The Champion that those interested in running in the upcoming election can go to Town Hall and get an outline of the duties and responsibilities of being on town council. So twice I went to find out and dis-

covered that no such description exists. As can be found on the Town's Web site, it outlines who does what and describes various committees, but nowhere does it state any mandatory duties for a town councillor.

As a result, I believe, they're often found wandering off into areas where we already have elected officials at higher levels performing similar duties.

An example of this is our very expensive Official Plan, which in my mind isn't worth the paper it's printed on since it's trumped by the Region's Official Plan. So why do we bother?

I have more than a few friends and acquaintances who don't consider Milton 'open for business', and who have said categorically that if they had to put up a building again it wouldn't be in Milton.

The main complaint among my friends and acquaintances is that the planning department is inconsistent and micro-manages just about everything. I believe the mayor and many members of council know these same people and have heard their complaints, yet the status quo remains.

So what can we do as citizens? Ask your municipal candidates what they're bringing to the table and why they think they can do a

better job.

In my opinion, any politically-correct responses should immediately eliminate them from your consideration.

I believe this is strictly a cut the grass and clean the roads level of government. If town council strays from these core duties then it's wasting your tax dollars.

Terms like 'I'm concerned' and 'I'm listening' should make you suspicious of town council hopefuls, although I believe that basically defines the actions of our current crop at council. Sure they are concerned and listen, but they have to wait for the bureaucrats to let them know what it is they can do.

Contrary to popular opinion, I like most of our town councillors and I like our mayor, which is why I'm somewhat swayed by the argument that it's the job itself that is the problem.

Fixing that is up to the Provinces, but we can ask our candidates what it is they are going to do and how they plan on accomplishing their objectives.

That's a tough question, but I'm doing it and I actually enjoy my involvement with town councillors. But to spend every Monday night? Heck, I'd rather play poker.

Patrick Kelly  
Milton

### Bylaw won't solve standing water problem, says reader

Dear Editor:

I was amazed to read recently in The Champion that Town staff are proposing a bylaw in which pool owners would be required to open their pools by a certain time of year.

This is in response to complaints that the Town has allegedly received from residents about standing water.

It seems some residents are nervous about the possibility of mosquitoes infested with West Nile virus propagating in swimming pools.

If the Town was really serious about eliminating standing water, it would take care of the ditches on Thompson and Derry roads, both of which are constantly full of evil smelling water.

In fact, both ditches are so water-logged that they have a healthy crop of bulrushes growing in them. As any school kid can tell you, bulrushes grow in swampy areas and love standing water.

I guess the reason that this isn't a priority is because some petty power-hungry civil servant doesn't get to order any of the local populace around.

Before the Town starts enforcing Big Brother rules on residents, it needs to clean up its own act. Incidentally, I don't have a pool but have been bitten by mosquitoes while walking along both Thompson and Derry roads.

Phillip Seaborne-Davies  
Milton

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