Returning soldier misses train and big reception in his honour

'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.

March 1901

Trooper Morrison of the Strathcona Horse, a son of Martin Morrison, formerly of the 9th concession in Esquesing who removed to the Northwest in 1882 and a grandson of the late John Jackson, of the base line between Esquesing and Trafalgar, was due home this week. He was expected to arrive in Hornby on Monday evening, after service in South Africa, for a visit to friends of his family. There was to have been a reception at the residence of Thos. J. Chisholm, where a supper was prepared and a number of sleighs with flags flying, to meet him at the C.P.R. station.

When the train from Toronto arrived and no soldier appeared there was great disappointment, but Mr. Chisholm invited his neighbours to the supper and a very pleasant evening was had. It turned out that Trooper Morrison had missed the train. He arrived at Hornby the next evening. He is in town today with Mr. Chisholm, wearing his Strathcona uniform. He is a fine looking soldier, and like the men of the Canadian contingent generally is modest about his own experiences.

A sequel to last week's column. Ron Featherstone remembered his grandfather telling of seeing a glow in the sky from his farm home, on highway 25, south of Milton. The March 1901 fire at the Readhead sawmill near Lowville was mentioned. News then didn't always travel fast. It was two weeks before the elder Featherstone learned of the serious loss.

April 1901

Lieut. Col. Otter, D.O.C., came to Milton on Friday to inspect the armory of the No. 7 Co., 20th Lorne Rifles on account of the proposal to fit it for a regimental armory, by the addition of an upper floor, arms racks etc.

He said that the work could not be completed before the June camp. The men of the Lornes, therefore, are not likely to get the Lee Enfield rifles nor the Oliver equipment before the June camp.

J.S. McCannell, managing director of the Milton Pressed Brick Co, has just returned from Pittsburgh, Penn., where he purchased machines for making paving and

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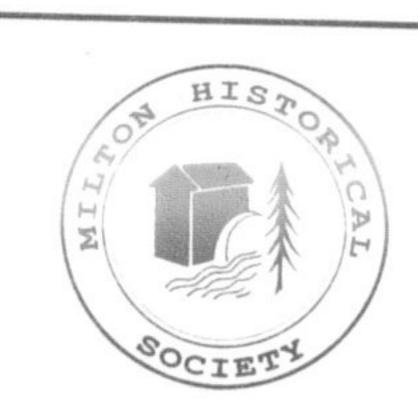
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Milton Time Capsules



sidewalk brick.

At the Milton Fish and Game Club's annual meeting an appropriation was made for the building of a club house and boat house at the club's trout pond near Campbellville. Another purchase of trout for stocking will likely be made next fall.

James Millar of Nassagaweya, an old Crimean veteran, was in town today. Adorning his breast are medals he earned for service in the battles of Alma, Balaklava and Sebastopol. He also wears an Indian mutiny medal with Lucknow clasp attached and the Turkish medal. Mr. Millar was 68 years of age last February and is quite hearty. He has no recollection of ever being confined to bed with illness. He entered the British service at 19 years of age and was in five general engagements besides many skirmishes.

The Ancient Order of United Workmen, (A.O.U.W.), which was formed in Milton over 20 years ago, is not only still doing business at the old stand but is really booming. Organizer Allen has been in town for a few days and, with the assistance of local members, is meeting with excellent success. Several new recruits were added to the lodge on Monday night and another 12 to 15 are to be initiated at a special meeting Friday night.

The number carrying insurance in the A.O.U.W. is more than double that of any other society in town. The A.O.U.W. has paid to the widows and orphans of deceased members of the Milton Lodge over \$18,000. All moral young men over 18 years and under 45 years capable of passing the necessary examination are not only welcome but encouraged to become members.

A golf club is being organized in Milton and the links will be on the flat near the old rink.

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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

Halton Liberal candidate says that blackout shows need for public services investment

Dear Editor:

People in Halton are to be congratulated for pulling together during the power blackout and its after-effects.

Whether farmers, retailers, manufacturers or people in their homes, most folks contributed to reducing electricity demand.

While the investigation continues into the cause of the blackout, it's no secret that our hydro system was already in crisis, and that crisis left us vulnerable.

Ontario's Select chaired Committee on Energy reviewed Ontario Hydro's 30-year plan for generation and transmission to the year 2025.

From that experience, it was clear to me 10 years ago that there needed to be intense concentration on developing a new supply, conservation programs and extensive refurbishment and expansion of the electrical grid.

In my opinion, the slow recovery

from this month's massive power blackout is the result of the Ernie Eves government's mismanagement of the province's power sys-

The Eves-Harris government has made no attempt to modernize our system or increase our energy supply, and that's why Ontario lagged behind other jurisdictions in restoring full power.

Mr. Eves is only now talking about the need for energy conservation. Asking our economy to run at half-throttle may be a necessary emergency measure, but it's a poor substitute for a real conservation strategy. I believe that if we had viable, conservation programs in place, this month wouldn't have been as difficult.

On the supply side, the Tory government has done nothing, in my opinion, to ensure that Ontario has a new energy contract with Manitoba since the NDP cancelled the contract in 1992. It's only in

recent weeks that Mr. Eves has signed an agreement to study the feasibility of reviving the project.

He also cancelled proposals for new hydro-electric generation at Beck III in Niagara Falls, and put a transmission line with Quebec on

Instead of upgrading the grid, Mr. Eves decided to privatize Ontario's electricity operations.

Ontario Liberals have a different approach in mind.

We will increase the supply of electricity, get serious about conservation and diversify our electricity imports by improving links with Quebec and Manitoba.

Our power grid, the central nervous system of our province, will be kept in public hands under an Ontario Liberal government.

It's time for change to a government that will invest in improved public services.

> Barbara Sullivan Halton Liberal candidate

Some serious questions and lessons arise from recent power outage, stresses reader

Dear Editor:

A few questions and lessons arise from the recent power outage.

Here are the questions.

Question: In what appears to have been a similar, if not identical, problem in 1965, much must have been learned. Was it studied, organized, documented, and made into an orderly program of improving the safeguards? Did we forget what we then learned at such a high cost?

Question: Why wasn't Quebec affected? Is Quebec smarter, richer, luckier or what? Hadn't we better find out?

Question: Do we want to play the political blame game? There's plenty of blame to go around, as each of the major parties has in turn placidly watched the monumental mismanagement of the system that has characterized the last 30 or more years. Of course, we can simplify the whole thing by blaming Premier Ernie Eves for it all. Mr. Eves just isn't pedalling hard enough to keep all those generators spinning.

Here are the lessons we should learn.

Lesson: Monster central power stations may not be as economical, all costs considered, as advertised. A modest or small power station, one of several widely

distributed, can cause little system disturbance if it goes down, can be brought back on-line in a few minutes or hours instead of days and demands no expensive, ice-vulnerable high voltage lines. Do system planners include in their cost estimates a couple of billion dollars for a total system failure made far worse by the inflexibility of the huge stations? Not likely.

Lesson: We just had a taste of what life would be like if Saddam Hussein had succeeded in his obvious plan to dominate the mid-east, and hence the world supply of oil. That megalomaniac was at one time building a super-cannon that would have dominated all of the middle east and most of Europe. Had he succeeded, we, the U.S. and the rest of the developed world would have found ourselves supplicants in Baghdad, begging him for just a little more oil, at whatever price. In about another five years, if left alone, he would have been in a position to adjust his oil taps to the degree of suffering of the Western nations that would please his insane sadistic urges and maximize his extortionate income. Perhaps now more of us can bring ourselves to offer to the United States a heartfelt "Thanks, buddy."

> Frank Gue Burlington

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