

Church services relocated as area fuel famine goes on

'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 1903

On account of the fuel famine, making it impossible to heat Grace Church, both morning and evening services were held in the Sunday School house last Sunday and all except communion services will be held there during the cold weather unless fuel becomes more plentiful.

...

The stained glass window placed in Grace Church by Mrs. Heaven as a memorial of her late husband, H.G. Heaven, was dedicated at evening service last Sunday. Mrs. Heaven and her father James McCraney of Oakville were present.

...

Sam Brush, employed by the Milton Pressed Brick Co., was at work at an empty kiln yesterday. He was on the ridge pole, which broke, and he fell 25 feet to the brick bottom. He was badly bruised and shaken.

...

Milton's hockey team played its first match at the rink on the evening of New Year's Day against that of the Toronto Old Boys. There was a goodly number of spectators and plenty of excitement. As the visitors were all Milton old boys with one exception, they had as many friends as the locals. The locals had the advantage in weight and won by 6 goals to 4 but the lighter visitors played a better combination game. The first game of the W.O.H.A. intermediate series in this district was played at Preston on Tuesday evening between Preston and Milton, the former winning 7-3.... Both teams were handicapped on account of the electric light plant breaking down about 7.30 and the game had to be played by light of oil lamps which was darkness compared with what Milton is used to.

...

The postmastership of Milton has been vacant since the death of the late incumbent, Solomon Hannant, in September last. Ernest J. Wilson has been in charge of the office and it has never been managed more satisfactorily than by him. He has been quick, obliging and made no mistakes. There were many applicants for the appointment which has been deferred on

Milton Time Capsules



account of the Ontario elections. The Globe announces this morning that Robt. Stewart of Esquesing, President of the Halton Reform Association has received it. Mr. Stewart will no doubt make an efficient postmaster and his selection for the position will be perhaps as popular as any other could have been, as he has a great many friends.

...

The high winds of the early part of this week drifted the snow badly. Railway trains were delayed and the county roads were so badly blocked that travelers pulled down the fences in many places and drove through the fields. The Lowville stage did not reach Milton on Tuesday until 2 p.m.

...

Neither of Milton's coal dealers has any stock on hand at present. Both are hoping for the filling of orders which they sent in long ago but cannot tell when it will be done and some of our citizens whose bins are empty, or nearly so, are on the anxious seat. The citizens of Arcola, Ill., held up a coal train on Saturday, helped themselves and made arrangements for payment. It is said that other towns will do the same thing. If so, coal destined for Canada may not get through. On Tuesday Hamilton dealers raised the price of anthracite to \$11 per ton.

...

One day last week Charles McGregor, Sr. of Omagh went into the stall of one of his horses which is inclined to bite. The animal nipped a piece off the top of one of his ears and dropped it into the straw on the floor. Mr. McGregor found it, brought it to his physician and had it sewed on, but it was dead and had to be removed.

...

E.E. Benson, late of Hamilton, has gone into the manufacture here of carriages, buggies, wagons sleights &c, at the old stand of the late Wm. McKenzie, corner Mill and Martin Sts. He carries a complete stock in the above lines and will make a specialty of Rubber Tire Buggies.

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

OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Reader says breaking down stigma attached to mental illness is key to helping sufferers

Dear Editor:

I'm writing to respond to Ryan Clark's letter to the editor last Friday.

While I agree with Mr. Clark that the announcement that Halton's private and public groups will be working together on the problem of suicide is very positive, I was concerned about two of his statements.

He referred to "prescribing emotional painkillers" and asked "what sort of life is worthwhile under a chemical haze?"

I was concerned that he might be suggesting that medications used to treat major mental health illness such as schizophrenia, manic depression and clinical depression were emotional band-aids rather than medically-necessary drugs. The text wasn't specific enough to deduce the intended meaning.

Major mental illnesses are illnesses just like hypertension or diabetes. People who suffer from mental illnesses aren't emotional weaklings, but have a serious illness like any other. One would certainly never suggest that someone with diabetes snap out of it or stop taking their medications.

Advising a patient to self-medicate or not take medication is not appropriate and is highly dangerous. As I understand, a major cause of suicide among those suffering from manic depression is that they

stop taking their medication.

The development of tricyclic drugs in the 1980s caused a revolution in the treatment of mental illness and proved conclusively that brain chemistry was involved in these illnesses. Subsequently, altering that brain chemistry through medication improved the patient's condition.

As far as I know, the theories of Dr. Sigmund Freud regarding mental illness have largely been discounted, as research on neurochemistry and neurobiology has expanded our knowledge of the intricate workings of the brain.

Unfortunately, Dr. Freud's theories have imbedded themselves in the popular imagination and help to create a great many misconceptions. He didn't treat major mental illness such as schizophrenia, but rather just those suffering from more minor conditions like phobias. He was a brilliant student but being Jewish, he wasn't welcome at the university laboratories that he had worked in as a student.

As a result, his theories were based on personal observations from his private practice rather than controlled studies. Anyone who's interested in this subject would find 'The Broken Brain' by Dr. Nancy Andreasen enlightening reading.

The really unfortunate part of

mental illness is that the patient is often blamed or labeled, or the patient blames their family for the condition. This climate of recrimination isolates the patient from the support of their family, friends, co-workers and employers.

I read an article about a corporate executive who suffered from a major depression episode and he spoke to other executives who had gone through the same experience. He wanted to start a support group to help employees, but those same executives said that they didn't want their names revealed under any circumstances, due to the stigma associated with mental illness.

Health-care professionals and public groups can only go so far in replacing a supportive family or community. Hopefully, together we can help — whether it's through listening or getting sufferers to a health-care professional.

Sometimes we'll succeed, sometimes we won't recognize the signs until it's too late and sometimes we'll be powerless to help — but we'll at least have done our best.

At least, we won't live in the knowledge that we turned our backs and walked away. That's a wound from which few souls can recover.

Sophie Cheney Campbellville

Decision puts Miltonians at risk: former councillor

Dear Editor:

For the sake of \$30,000, Milton council is putting Milton residents at risk — especially those in the rural areas.

A while back, the Halton Regional Police Service agreed to a pilot project that would have seen heart defibrillators placed within the police cars servicing the Milton area.

Halton Regional Police would have trained their officers and provided space in the vehicles if council would provide the defibrillator units.

The cost of the seven units needed was less than \$30,000, yet Milton council said no.

This council said no to purchasing this life-saving equipment, yet agreed to spend \$32,000 to distribute a newsletter throughout Milton telling us what a great

job they're doing. It seems this council puts a higher priority on their own self-promotion than they do on protecting the lives of Miltonians.

The police are usually the first ones on the scene of emergency situations, arriving four to five minutes from the time a 911 call is placed. The average response time for an ambulance is between 10 and 12 minutes. The chance of survival for a heart attack victim greatly increases if a defibrillator can be applied within eight minutes.

Due to the decision of this council, the chances of a Milton resident surviving a heart attack is virtually nil.

I guess our councillors feel the life of a Miltonian isn't worth \$30,000.

Rick Malboeuf Milton

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