

## Second bank opens in Milton to surprise of many residents

'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

The surprise of this week is the opening of a branch in Milton of the Metropolitan Bank, with W.B. Clements as agent. Milton has been well served by the Bank of Hamilton and its popular agent Mr. Luxton, but the business is prosperous and increasing here and no doubt there is plenty for two banks. The Metropolitan Bank, though recently organized, is one of the strongest of Canada's financial institutions and is the first of the banks to commence business with a reserve equal to its paid up capital.

Agent W.B. Clements is a native of this neighborhood, has lived in Milton ever since his boyhood, has long been one of the town's leading and most successful business men, stands high in the estimation of his fellow citizens and will doubtless be a success in his new vocation. He will be assisted by Messrs. Fletcher, late of the Bank of Commerce, Guelph and Harrison, late of the Standard Bank, Parkdale both of whom are experienced in the banking business. It is located in the building on Main Street formerly occupied by Bastedo & Co. (Now the Bank of Nova Scotia).

...

"On Monday last Sir Wm. Mulock, Postmaster-General, received a communication from a gentleman residing in Milton, alleging that he had authoritative information to the effect that the recently appointed postmaster at that town had obtained the position over his rivals through influence secured from person by reason of a monetary consideration. The Postmaster-General considered the charge so serious as to demand a thorough investigation in order to find whether or not there has existed any such wrongdoing as is charged. Accordingly he has obtained authority from his Excellency in Council for the issue of a royal commission to Judge Gorham, Judge of the County Court of Halton, directing his Honor to at once conduct a public inquiry into the charge. The commission is now in course of preparation."

The above appeared in the Ottawa correspondence of this morning's *Globe* and has caused quite a sensation here. The trouble is the result of the spoils system and the dangling of the Milton postmastership before

## Milton Time Capsules



the noses of a number of applicants for more than a year to keep them in line while a provincial election and subsequent bye-elections were pending. Government appointments should not be used in that way, and still less should provincial elections be allowed to interfere with the filling of Dominion offices.

If the vacancy had been filled by the capable man immediately after the death of the late incumbent and if merit rather than "pull" had been considered there would have been fewer soreheads, little trouble and no scandal. In saying this there is no intention of belittling the merits of our newly appointed postmaster. Merit, however, is a secondary consideration when government appointments are made. (The man appointed was Robert Stewart who went on to hold the position for a number of years.)

...

Corp. Minchin, the Halton old boy and hero of Hart's River (in the South African War), has received \$20 as his share of the Guelph banquet surplus. An effort is on foot to secure him a life pension.

...

A Yorkshire sow belonging to O.C. Pettigrew, of Boyne, had a litter of 20 young grunners last year and raised 18 of them. Last week she went one better with a litter of 21. She lay on and smothered 3 of them, but her owner expects to raise the other 18.

...

The carnival at the rink on Friday night drew a larger attendance than any preceding one of some years past. There were sleighloads from Brampton, Oakville, Georgetown, Streetsville, Palermo, Campbellville and elsewhere. The ice was in fine condition. The number of costumes was not large, but some were very good indeed. The races were well contested, but there was some disappointment on account of the principal one, not coming off. Those who were ready to compete refused to pay the entrance fee of 50 cents each. The band played fine music.

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](mailto:jdills@idirect.com).

# OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

## Few key points were overlooked in recent editorial on school board trustees: reader

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to the recent editorial regarding five trustees of the Halton District School Board's boycotting a meeting in protest to the board's lack of a gifted program for high school students.

The editorial fails to mention that these trustees don't have a voice in the day-to-day governing of the Halton District School Board — to which they were elected by the public — due to their board's adoption and adherence to a policy governance model.

Unlike any other board in the province of Ontario, this particular skewed model takes away their democratic rights as taxpayer-elected members of the board to question any board decision on education.

As far as I'm concerned, they're effectively silenced as representatives of the electorate they serve.

These trustees can't oppose board policy. Thus the part of the editorial that states "We have no qualms with trustees opposing board policy. One of the vital roles of these elected officials is to help shape the school system so that it meets the needs of our ever-changing world" is misleading.

This particular policy governance by the Halton District School Board doesn't allow for dissent or discussion, and trustees who do object have no recourse for their dissension but to try and bring the matter to public attention.

These trustees have voiced their opposition to the wasting of taxpayers' funds in taking the provincial educational tribunal to court, and their voice has fallen on deaf ears at the board.

When all is said and done and after all the legal bills are paid, I wonder if it wouldn't have been cheaper to simply create a new

gifted class at the high school level.

As for deducting wages for this so-called "willful neglect," perhaps the Halton District School Board could deduct 50 cents from everyone's yearly salary.

I'm sure this princely sum would help the board pay back their wasting of thousands of dollars in taxpayers' funds that they're using to oppose the tribunal's order.

I believe that the trustees should be there for all children, including the special needs students whose voices have to sometimes be heard louder than the rest because they're being marginalized by the very people who were elected to represent them.

It's hard to address conflicts like grown-ups when the Halton District School Board's policy treats them like children.

Dr. M. Josling  
Toronto

## Girls softball president says he's frustrated at neighbours' unwillingness to amalgamate

Dear Editor:

There has been a lot of press in *The Champion* since the new development began about Milton now trying to greet the newcomers.

However, I have a good example of how this doesn't go both ways. Recently, the Milton Girls Softball Association contacted Georgetown, Oakville and Mississauga to see if our two teams could play in one of their leagues.

It turns out that Oakville and Mississauga are already playing baseball together.

In years gone by, we used to have six or seven teams of our own in Milton. But as our small town grew, so did our kids and the new developments seem to be mostly younger families.

As well, soccer seems to be growing in popularity. Yet for the kids who have been honing their skills since little league, baseball is still their first love.

Since putting out the call to join a neighbouring league, here have been the results:

- Georgetown Girls Baseball Association didn't

return our calls this year. Last year, they played three exhibition games with us;

- Mississauga Girls Baseball Association didn't return our calls;

• Oakville Girls Baseball Association didn't return our calls at first, and when we finally did get to speak to them, we were turned down since they felt it would be too much work to amalgamate;

- Last year Acton took their baseball teams to Rockwood/Guelph after we had set up our schedules with them. They didn't even call and let us know that they no longer wanted to be part of the Milton Girls Softball Association.

I thought baseball was suppose to be about good sportsmanship, and I thought volunteering was about the kids.

So maybe the people from Milton are friendly, but I guess our gestures just aren't returned.

Steve Sherwood, president  
Milton Girls Softball Association

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



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