

No one seriously hurt as train jumps tracks near local station

'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.

May 1903

About 2:20 a.m. Monday a double-headed freight train of 55 cars ran off the G.T.R. track just east of the base line between Trafalgar and Esquesing and about a mile north of the Milton station. Seven cars were ditched and some of them were badly smashed. An empty car was thrown over the fence. A wrecking train was soon at work, but the track was not clear until evening when traffic was resumed. The only man hurt was the conductor of the train, who received a slight cut on his forehead. The cause of the accident is a matter of speculation. All along the lines of the different railways the heat is playing havoc with the rails. In a number of cases the expansion has been as great as three inches. This has thrown the track out to such an extent that it takes hours for repairs. Trackmen are constantly engaged patrolling the lines to straighten the rails and put them in their proper place. Occasionally it is necessary to cut as much as one or two inches from rails that they may be kept in their proper place.

...

Finlay Chisholm of the Massey-Harris Co. has sent issues of the Calgary newspapers. He says the company is doing a large trade at Calgary in agricultural implements and he is selling a great many wagons. The Calgary Albertan reports that an exceptionally large number of desirable settlers are locating near Calgary, more than double as many as in any previous year. The great trouble with them is to get houses, and some are moving further on for that reason.

...

The open air concerts given on the two last Saturday evenings have given convincing proof that the band is playing better than ever before. For the high standard now attained the chief credit must be given to their capable leader, R.E. Gollins, who, besides being a fine cornet player, brings to his duties a good musical training.

...

It has been plain for years, on account of the increased price of lumber, that the making of permanent walks was economically notwithstanding the greater cost in the first place. The recent rise in the price of lum-

Milton Time Capsules



ber, however, has been so great that a wooden walk now costs more than 50 per cent of the price of a pavement and our town council has come to the wise decision that it is time for a change. A bylaw for Main St. walks, however, failed to pass third reading. This does not mean that it was voted down. The difficulty was the proposed variation in the width of the walk. Such a variation is unavoidable in the part between Brown Street and Geo. Laing's store as there is not room for an 8 foot walk there, but this is not the case in front of Knox Church and Dr. Stuart's residence and in the two latter portions the proposed walk, if only six feet wide, would have a very peculiar appearance.

...

G.H. Harbottle had a very successful barn-raising on Saturday last. A. Coulson and C. Gunby were captains and a spirited race was participated in. Mr. Coulson's side winning. Mr. Gunby's side, however, gave them a close shave. Hall Gunby was the framer and for a person who has been out of the business for 15 years it is certainly a credit to him. The barn is 50 by 72 feet and the frame consisted of 95 pieces.

...

On Monday E.C. Featherstone photographed the family group of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Howard, of Nassagaweya, and their fifteen children.

June 1903

On Monday evening the town council passed the pavement by-law after having amended it so as to provide for a walk eight feet wide from Brown to Charles street except for a short distance at its southerly end where the space available is only six feet wide. The proposal to narrow the walk opposite Knox Church and Dr. Stuart's residence was dropped. It may be taken for granted that as the wooden sidewalks in other parts of the town wear out they will be replaced by pavements and that in a few years Milton's walks will compare favorably with those of all other progressive towns.

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

Impaired driving should be key election issue, says local MADD chapter president

Dear Editor:

As active members of our community, MADD's Halton/Peel chapter wants to ensure that our local candidates in the upcoming federal election make impaired driving a priority issue.

It's remarkable that the number one criminal cause of death in Canada doesn't receive more attention from our federal members of Parliament.

Drinking and driving costs our communities far too much pain and suffering for the surviving victims, their family members and friends.

It's essential for our members of Parliament to act on MADD Canada's three-point policy agenda. MADD Canada supporters are looking for a clear commitment from our federal leaders in regard to three specific areas.

- Introduce a new .05 per cent Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) Criminal Code offence and sanc-

tions that will reduce impaired driving fatalities and create safer roads for all motorists. The MADD Canada proposal for a new Criminal Code offence would introduce measures that would get impaired drivers with .07 per cent BAC readings and higher off the roads, and the impaired motorists would be ticketed with a summary conviction offence.

- Enhance police powers to better enable Canadian law enforcement agencies to effectively apprehend and charge impaired drivers. Police must be given the necessary tools — including current technology — to detect and apprehend impaired drivers, as well as the appropriate statutory authority and a streamlined charges process to ensure more effective enforcement and prosecution.

- Address sentencing issues for impaired driving that are making a mockery of our Canadian judicial

system. MADD Canada wants conditional sentences eliminated for the crimes of impaired driving causing death and impaired driving causing bodily harm.

Impaired driving remains the number one criminal cause of death in Canada. It kills an average of four Canadians a day and seriously injures another 200 daily. In our own community, impaired driving has caused irreparable grief. This crime is a national tragedy and it demands action from our elected representatives.

There are impaired driving solutions that our future members of Parliament can move on. We're asking our local representatives to commit to stopping this violent crime during the election campaign — and act on their commitments once elected.

Jeff Gareau, president MADD Halton/Peel

Defending Ontario Liberals for their broken promises shows absolute blindness: reader

Dear Editor:

Perhaps The Champion should have printed John Griffin's June 1 letter in red, since that would be the only way his Liberal bias could be more clear.

If criticizing the Liberals on their broken tax promises shows ignorance of mathematics and short-sightedness, then defending them surely shows absolute blindness.

After all, Ontario NDP leader Howard Hampton showed the House of Commons a consultant's report done for the Liberals that indicated a deficit as high as \$5 billion. Yet even with this information exorbitant promises were made about not raising taxes.

Now let's look at the Conservative 'liars', as Mr. Griffin refers to them.

How much revenue was lost due to a drop in tourism associated with last year's SARS outbreak? How much unanticipated funding was required by the healthcare system to deal with SARS? How much additional funding was required to pay for last summer's blackout?

Although I'm certain the Liberals will blame the Conservatives for these events, the math still adds up to a significant shortfall of funds coming in and a significantly larger than expected outflow of funds.

Combined, these events will result in a larger than anticipated deficit. And as the holder of an M.B.A., I understand both math and finance.

If one really wants to speak of political liars, please explain how a larger deficit can be blamed for all the broken promises such as lowering 407 tolls or stopping the Oak Ridge Morraine development.

As for covering the hole left by the former provincial government, what about the mess the Conservatives inherited from the Peterson-led Liberals?

Now as to answers about how to raise money without raising taxes, how about reducing government consultants, eliminating a significant portion of the six-figure salaries at publicly-funded institutions like Ontario Power Generation and eliminating unnecessary payments to people who abuse the welfare system.

The Liberals should also make it easier to do business in Ontario to increase the tax base and bring accountability to public works projects. While perhaps not filling the entire void, these practices would certainly make a significant start.

Jim Timbers Milton



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