

OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Boys fined for their recent assault on new area family

'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.

June 1903

County Attorney Matheson went to Glenwilliams last Thursday to take charge of the prosecution of three boys who were charged with assaulting a man named Darrans and his boys, all new arrivals from England. It was proved that the boys pelted the Darrans family with stones and other missiles and made use of abusive language. Magistrates Beaumont and Evans fined John Lewis \$3, Frank Evers \$2 and Joseph Tracy \$1, and gave them a stiff lecture.

...

The 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson Harrison was celebrated at the old homestead, Court View, now the residence of Robert E. Harrison, where 50 years ago the now venerable couple settled down as a youthful married pair. Among the guests were representatives of the four pioneer families of the vicinity of the Harrisons, Willmotts, Bowes and Coates, all of whom were settled here in the early years of the last century.

...

The celebration here yesterday under the auspices of the Milton Fire Brigade was a decided success though the attendance was not quite so large as that of last year, farmers being very busy at present with their hay. The sports were held at the Agricultural Society's grounds where the band discoursed sweet musing during the day. They also gave a concert in the evening when there was a fine display of fireworks at the grounds. One of the principal attractions of the day was the baseball competition for cash prizes. The Acton team had undertaken to compete but was compelled to cancel much to the disappointment of the holiday makers. As it was there were three teams, the Crescents of Hamilton and the White Oaks and Canada Biscuit Co. of Toronto.

...

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Milton Time Capsules



Our agents will call in a few days and explain our method.

July 1903

According to the report of the Provincial Medical Health Officer, Esquesing has the highest rate of cases of appendicitis of any township in the province.

...

Wet Saturday evenings have interfered with the band's free concerts, but the weather was just fine last Saturday evening and a choice program was played in fine style. Is there any reason why a band stand could not be erected in the park on the Court House Square and the concerts held there?

...

The boys continue to catch large black bass in the pond. The other day Stuart Jones caught two, one weighing a little less than four pounds and the other about half a pound lighter. All the bass are of the large-mouthed variety. The pond was stocked with both kinds, but it has a muddy bottom, unsuitable for the small-mouthed bass and all of that variety left it.

...

This week we publish the photograph of probably the oldest resident of Halton County, Abram Bell, who is 100 years and 11 months old. Mr. Bell was born at Clones, Monahan Co. Ireland in the year 1802 and hence has lived under the rule of five British sovereigns. He emigrated to Canada in the year 1847 and settled on lot 5, concession 6 N.S. Nelson Township where he still continues to reside. His farm, which at that time was a dense forest, the haunt of wolves and bears, is now in a beautiful state of cultivation and where stood the primitive log cabin there now stands a beautiful stone residence erected by his own hands. In early life Mr. Bell married a Miss O'Brien, also a native of the Emerald Isle. Eight children was the result of this union. Mrs. Bell died some five years ago. The second son William resides on the old homestead with his father.

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.

Clarification

In the July 2, 2004 edition of The Canadian Champion, we published a letter to the editor commenting on an earlier published letter to the editor by Jim Timbers of Milton under the headline 'Defending Ontario Liberals for their broken promises shows absolute blindness: reader'.

The Canadian Champion has no reason to doubt that Mr. Timbers' letter was written honestly and in good faith and that it represented his sincere views on the matters of public interest set out in his letter.

Tax increases indeed reality

Dear Editor:

In Melanie Hennessey's recent article entitled 'Councillors have mixed reactions to tax report', she quotes Ward 4 Councillor John Challinor as saying that he feels his fellow councillors need to do their homework if they consider a 4.7 per cent projected tax increase on the low side.

Firstly, with no disrespect to Mr. Challinor, I do believe our councillors do their homework and that their view of growth-related tax increases is in many cases reflective of electorate sentiment.

To imply that those who feel differently to Mr. Challinor's view of potential growth costs in Milton need to do their homework is in my view akin to acting somewhat self-righteous and overbearing on this issue.

Secondly, as more people move to Milton and start using local services, these services will need continuous upgrading that'll require tax increases for current residents. We need not camouflage reality — tax increases are coming because of growth.

It appears that the ratio of taxes collected per person who will be using services within Milton will be going down, as rising housing densities — or smaller homes — will reflect lower assessment-values per person, while the population is growing on the other side of the scale. This clearly translates into less per person collected by the Town, and the same time increased outgoing costs to cover rising demands of the Town's supplied services as Milton's population grows. My math homework says taxes are to be going up and will most likely be well above the projected 4.7 per cent yearly average. We dare not gamble that growth will pay for itself, as we've been told. Rising taxes are coming.

I'd suggest to those councillors who say our taxes won't be going up because of growth put their jobs on the line to show their strength of conviction. Also, we shouldn't mask all rising operational costs with the phrasing of 'improving levels of services', as many of these costs have to do with our increasing population.

Though the Town has said revenues garnered from the Mohawk Slots aren't aimed to cover growth, many think otherwise, as much of the increased demand that will be placed on operations will in actuality be caused by our population growth.

Councillors have the democratic right to echo what their constituents feel and say, and what they themselves believe is reality as well.

Councillors and residents have done their homework.

Bob Beyette
Milton

Treatment at restaurant disappointing

Dear Editor:

I have a bone to pick with downtown Milton.

I've lived either on the outskirts of town or right in Milton for 45 years. I brag about our town to friends on the Internet and to my family about how Milton continues to be the friendly town that it has always been.

Once a month, for the past six months, several of my friends and I have been meeting at a downtown restaurant so that we may share a meal together.

Now I don't want to hurt anybody's feelings — and my friends are aware that I'm writing this letter — but a couple of my friends tip the scales a little on the heavy side.

The patio chairs provided in the establishment that I'm referring to aren't large enough or strong enough to withstand the added weight of my friends.

Inside the restaurant that day it was even muggier than outdoors, so I volunteered to go in and ask the owner if he would kindly allow us to bring two of the sturdier chairs outside to the patio.

Returning the chairs indoors when we were finished, I felt, wouldn't be a problem.

The waitress asked the owner, who took a quick look at me and loudly, firmly and bluntly said "No!"

I was stunned. I said to the waitress, "I suppose he would expect my friends to pay for damages if the plastic outdoor chairs were to break when sat upon?" Only her eyes could answer, and I might add with sheer embarrassment.

My husband and I have dined at this restaurant many times, but we won't go back now. Neither will my friends and I meet there ever again for a meal.

Restaurants should be prepared for customers from all walks of life and not discriminate against people with health issues.

Since we were not accommodated nor treated with the respect that good and loyal customers deserve, we walked up the street and took our business elsewhere.

We won't be back.

Kathy Christie
Milton

Is she your neighbour?

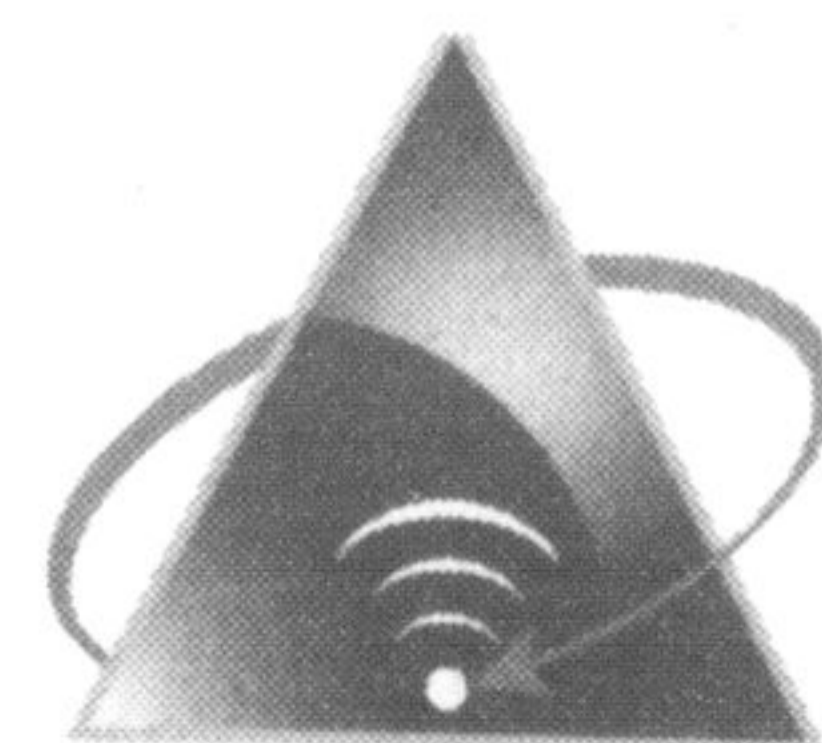
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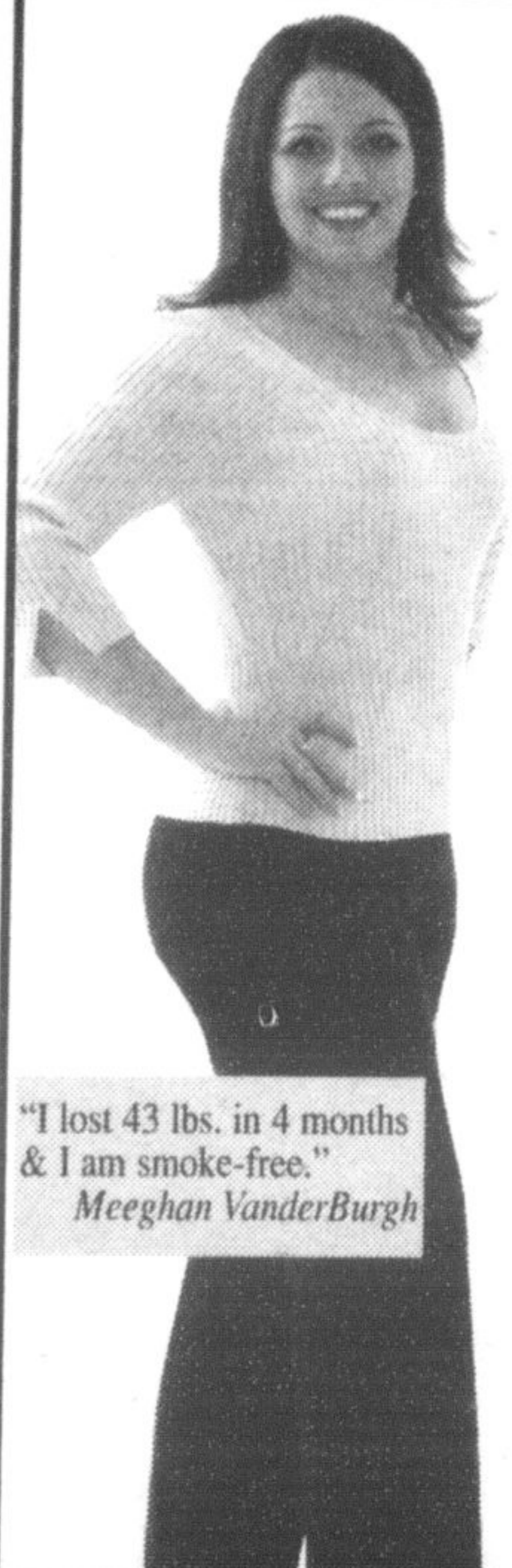
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