

Comment

The Canadian Champion

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New trail to enhance lives of Miltonians

Along with the fairly recent restoration of the Mill Pond and surrounding grounds, the proposed multi-use trail sounds like one of the nicer projects the Town of Milton is providing for residents.

As reported elsewhere in this newspaper, the Town has unveiled plans for a walking/bicycling trail from James Snow Parkway to Regional Road 25.

Conforming with the Town's parks and facilities master plan, the trail, we believe, will enhance enjoyment of the community for Miltonians.

It will be a great place for families to enjoy the outdoors together during a leisurely Sunday walk, an ideal route for dog owners to exercise their pets and a safe haven for bicyclists to go for a ride.

During a recent open house to show the plans to the public, suggestions for the path included creating a delineation for bicyclists and pedestrians, installing benches along the trail, planting lots of trees and shrubs for residential privacy and addressing safety where the trail crosses streets.

Those are all good ideas. Bravo to the residents who took the time to come out to the meeting and give their input.

This is your path, Miltonians. Further suggestions can be made by downloading a comment sheet from the Town's Web site.

Time Caps provide great window into Milton's past

When The Champion first introduced its page 7 Time Capsules a little over three years ago, I was quite excited about the idea.

Like editor Karen Smith and Jim Dills — who gathers the information on behalf of the Milton Historical Society — I thought it would be a great addition to Friday's paper. But there was another reason, much more selfish in nature, behind my encouragement.

You see for years now I've been on a rather frustrating and completely unsuccessful quest to upstage a certain bartender pal of mine at Jeopardy during regular visits to Oakville's Holiday Inn.

Hellbent on toppling my university educated foe but unwilling to actually crack open a book, I figured these Time Capsules — which I lay out and help edit — would be another way to pick up a few potentially useful facts without a great deal of effort.

After all, back then community newspapers like The Champion dealt a lot more with national and international events and how they affected the local landscape.

Well it's three years later and not one piece of information I've acquired, on a variety of issues like prohibition to the Boer War, has brought me any closer to victory.

Yet not all has been in vain — not by a long shot.

For those Champion readers who simply breeze past our page 7 Time Capsules each Friday, you don't know what you're missing.

Always insightful and often entertaining, this section has become one of my favourite parts of the paper and a source of some lively discussions in our newsroom — especially when we can write headlines like 'Farmer's pants catch fire after lighted pipe left in his pocket' and 'Rural father and son committed for medical evaluation

Our Readers Write

Help in retrieving dog greatly appreciated

Dear Editor:

I'm sending this letter in praise of a young man who to me is an angel.

On Sunday I was visiting a friend with my two chihuahuas. Both are exceptionally well behaved, but were in a spot to which they're unaccustomed.

My friend accidentally let go of my little female who was startled by his very playful and loving rottweiler. When he playfully started to chase her, she was terrified.

Normally when she's called she will sit in an instant. With this 120-pound dog behind her she stopped for nothing, running out into the road. Even when the rottweiler stopped she was too scared to hesitate for an instant. I tried to go after her, but being asthmatic I was soon

out of breath in the hot, humid air.

I tried to stop several cars, but all flew by, not even slowing when they passed this tiny dog. The more traffic that came the more frightened she got and the faster she ran.

Then a young man in a silver car did slow down and stop. Not only did he stop, but he also helped me look for her. Once my friend arrived this young man whom I now know as Darren Foster carried on the search with my friend while I went to get my car.

To my great relief, this man whom I'd never met before went through mud, water and into the fields to catch my baby. He even cut his arm, which I didn't find out until later that day. I will forever be in debt to this wonderful guy. I called

Darren later that day, offering him a reward. He wouldn't accept. He said it had made his day to help and totally refused to take a thing.

I'm writing this letter to tell the family and friends of Darren that he truly was a hero to me that day. He's the kind of person who shows that there's so much good in this world, even when people tend to focus more on the negative.

Without Darren I know my baby wouldn't be snuggling in my arms today. Even though she's micro-chipped, she would have never lasted the night outside among traffic and coyotes.

Darren, I will never forget you. God bless you for your kindness.

Diane Stanley
Wilson Drive



Up
front

with STEVE LeBLANC

following their claims of being omnipotent'.

Granted not every Time Caps excerpt is comical or intriguing, but to me there's enough good stuff in there — everything from labour issues to how crimes were dealt with back then — to keep me reading, and not just because it's part of my job.

And as a reporter, I find it particularly interesting to see how different writing was in the late

1800s and early 1900s. To me that's one of the biggest windows into our past.

The personalized style and literary licence taken in those days couldn't be considered objective journalism — at least not by today's standards — but it's certainly good for a chuckle now and then.

And while at that time this community was more of a hamlet than a sizeable town, Miltonians were making significant global contributions even back then.

I bet you didn't know that local doctors and nurses helped treat Boer War prisoners in Bermuda, or that one area engineer was recruited to help supervise the construction of a water station in Russia in 1901.

So for those Champion readers who skip over our Time Caps each Friday, you may want to check it out. Just don't expect it to help your Jeopardy game.