## Man arrested after knocking out boisterous house guest

'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.

#### July 1903

On Friday evening A. R. went to W. W's house and, being somewhat exhilarated, made so much noise that W. ordered him out. He refused to go and a scrap ensued, in which A. R. was knocked out by a blow from a club which cut his head badly. Chief Constable Bradley appeared on the scene, arrested W. and took him to jail and, it is alleged, after getting him there smashed him over the head with a "billy" though said smashing was unnecessary. W. was paraded before Mayor Dice on Tuesday, charged with "assault, occasioning bodily harm," but His Worship, on hearing the evidence dismissed the case on the good old principle that a Briton's house is his castle.

Tomorrow morning the chief constable will appear before Squire Hume charged with an assault on W. occasioning bodily harm. The information was laid by High Constable Frazer on the information of Jailer Vanallen. So far R. has not been prosecuted, perhaps on the ground that the clubbing he received was sufficient punishment for his offence. Constable Stinson Bradley was committed for trial and bail was accepted for his appearance. The "billy" in question was about a foot long, an inch in diameter, covered with leather and loaded with lead at the outer end. The constable testified he received it from the chairman of the town committee about ten years ago. He has been chief constable for about 20 years.

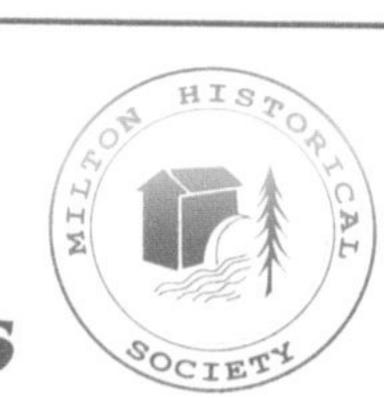
On Monday morning a train arrived at Toronto from Montreal bearing 100 immigrants and there were 200 farmers or their deputies waiting for them. All the immigrants were soon engaged, going with the highest bidders, and contracts went as high as \$22 per month.

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Wm. Clements came to town from his Clarkson farm on Tuesday. He reports an enormous yield of strawberries on the lake shore. The railway station at Clarkson has been crowded daily with teams delivering berries and he has seen as many as 70 crates in a load, each crate containing 54 boxes. The strawberries came in about June 1st and picking is still going on. The

### Milton Time Capsules



huge raspberry crop is fast coming in. The land at Clarkson was so poor a few years ago that it would hardly grow white beans but many carloads of manure from Toronto were dumped there daily and sold to farmers for the cost of transportation. The land is now wonderfully rich and Mr. Clements says that as much money can be made off 10 acres in the neighborhood of Clarkson as off 100 further back from the lake. Land without buildings is worth about \$140 per

Yesterday was the hottest in two years. The mercury at Toronto observatory stood at 92. July 8th was the hottest day last year. The temperature was 91. In 1901, 97 was recorded on June 27th and in 1900, 98 on Aug. 6th.

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The plans and specifications for Milton's new permanent walks have been completed for 13,000 square feet of cement and are at the town clerk's office. The council is advertising for tenders and the contract will be closed and the work commenced as soon as possible.

Ed. Syer, who has been at Wyoming for some time, has returned to Milton to manage the factory of the Canadian Carpet Co., his brother, S. Syer, being business manager. Mr. Syer's many friends are glad to have him with them again. Mrs. S. Syer, whose health is delicate, is in Muskoka.

Yesterday morning half a dozen cows belonging to Milton citizens got out of their pasture field and were regaling themselves in Chief Constable Bradley's unfenced cabbage garden on Victoria St. They were rounded up and driven to the pound. The damage was fixed at \$2 and was being paid among the owners of the cows, which were then released.

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.

# OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

### Article on school closure study incorrect

Dear Editor:

The front-page article in last Friday's Champion described the Minister of Education allowing school boards to hold off closure studies.

The article stated, "On the list of potential closure/consolidation discussion is Martin Street School." would like to state categorically that Martin Street School wasn't listed as a school for closure study before the Halton District School Board at its special meeting, held late last month.

In October, the Martin Street Parent Council — with the support of Colin Best and myself brought forward information to the board that clearly showed Martin Street School would be impacted by the development of the Sherwood Survey.

trustee, Erica Andrew, on the strength of that information, brought forward a motion stating that Martin Street

the Town of Milton had made final decisions on the Sherwood Survey. That motion passed.

The simple fact is that we need the seats available in Martin Street School to meet the demands of rapid growth.

The board's plan currently doesn't have any schools scheduled to be built within the Sherwood Survey.

Obviously schools will be built in the survey sometime in the future, but I have every expectation that we will have new folks moving into that area within three years, and we almost certainly won't see a new school in that area for 10 years or so.

Martin Street School is just 1.3 km from the eastern edge of the survey, and therefore is a logical site for those new students to

It should be noted that on the eastern side of town, Chris is not. Hadfield School is adding a porta-School wouldn't be reviewed until pak with 10 classrooms to augment

the three portables already at the school.

A school like Martin Street, which has a French Immersion stream, is an alternative for parents who want a smaller, more intimate learning atmosphere for their child.

Each time a school gets identified for closure it hurts that school's community. That's why I have fought against closing Martin Street School — first as a civilian and now as a trustee.

At the special meeting of the board I announced that I'll bring forward a motion in September that will establish a new committee to study the accommodation crisis that we're facing and the criteria under which we might close schools.

To The Champion, please don't tell your readers that the school is under closure study when in fact it

Paul Tate, Milton trustee Halton District School Board

### School board's optional attendance policy flawed

Dear Editor:

In April, I requested optional attendance for my fouryear-old child to Martin Street School.

To date, we haven't been granted admission, but have been advised to wait until after school starts in September. Speaking candidly with the school principal, I got the impression that our chances of getting in aren't good.

Optional attendance is a policy of the Halton District School Board, which facilitates the transfer of a child out of their home school to a different school. This policy is accessed by parents when they perceive the best interest of the child is served by studying at a school other than their geographically-designated home school.

Readers may think, "So what's the big deal? All our Milton schools are excellent. Send your kid to your home school."

The big deal is that our home school doesn't offer French Immersion — a program I want for my child. So in grade 1, when the French Immersion program begins, she will be attending Martin Street School anyway. But providing a stable school environment doesn't figure in to the optional attendance policy, so if I want my child in French Immersion, I have to uproot her in two years' time, when she's done kindergarten.

The bigger deal is that her older sibling already attends Martin Street School. In my opinion, keeping primary age children from the same family together in the same school should be a priority for the school board. Evidently, it isn't.

I believe separating my young child from her sibling can only have a negative impact on her schooling, as can moving her to a new school after her kindergarten years. Perhaps keeping French Immersion children from attending their target school from day one, I feel, makes the business of running the schools easier for administrators. Sadly, it's at the expense of the children and their families.

I've spoken to many school board employees, from school principals to Education Director Dr. Dusty Papke himself. Everyone sympathizes with my plight, but no one can help.

One voice won't change policy, not even a policy as flawed as I believe this one to be. I know there are other families in the same situation, and I would urge them to call their local trustee, Paul Tate, and voice their concerns.

Together we may succeed in ensuring that families are schooled together and children aren't frivolously disrupted.

Better policies that put kids first means better education. This is something we all have a stake in.

Carol Dougherty Milton



357 Queen St., Acton 519-853-0200

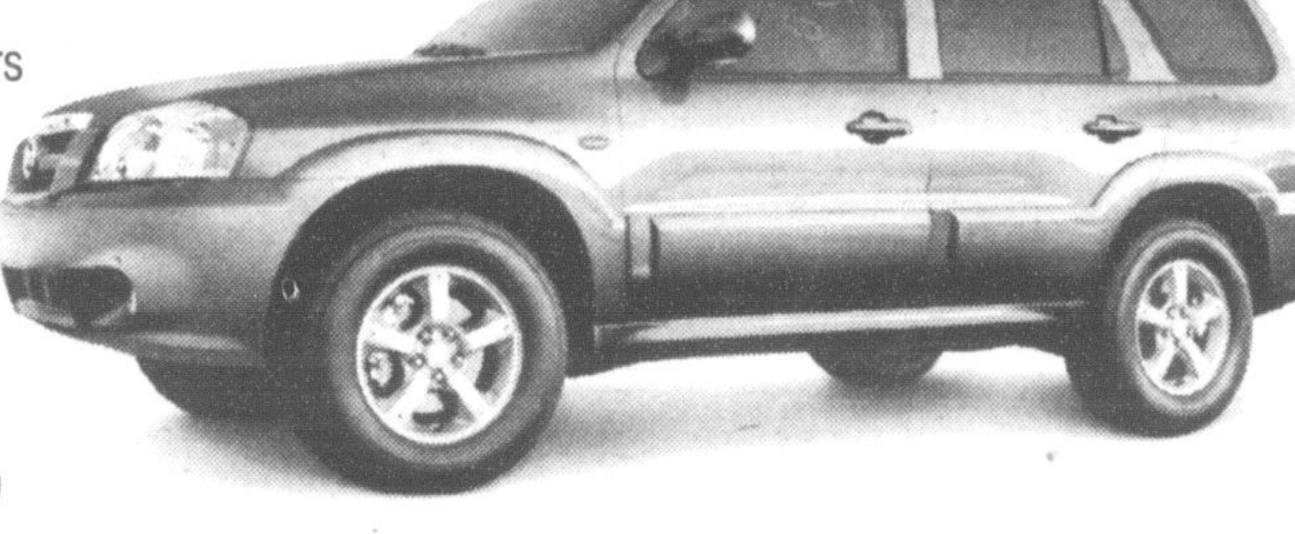
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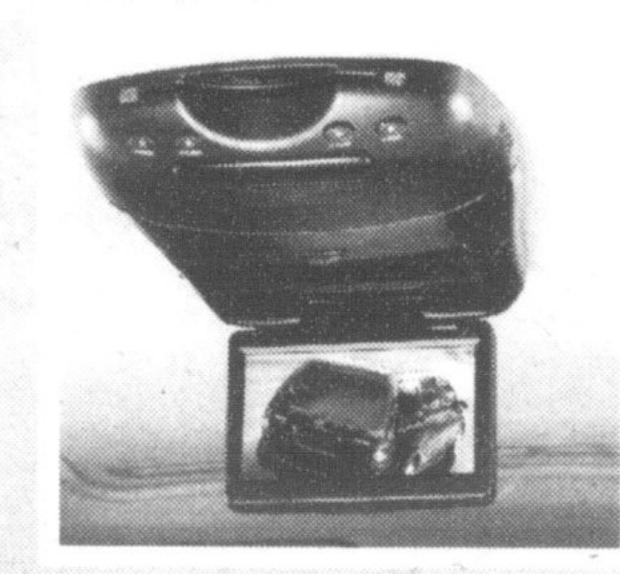
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