

# Man given six-month jail sentences for recent theft

'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.

September 1903

In Mayor's Court J. A. was tried for stealing chickens and a rug from J.S. McCannell. He was found guilty and sentenced to six months in the Central Prison on each conviction, the two terms to run consecutively.

...

S. J., a widow aged 93, sent to jail as a pauper from Acton four years ago, and kept there ever since, died on Saturday. The law requires an inquest. The verdict was death from natural causes. Four of Mrs. J.'s daughters and three of her sons are living. Though they allowed her to go to jail for want of support they claimed her body on Saturday and had it buried at their own expense.

...

County Judge's Criminal Court. By request of Judge Gorham, Judge McGibbon, of Peel, came here on Saturday to try Chief Constable Bradley on the charge of assaulting W. W. and striking him with a loaded "billy" while arresting him. The evidence was practically the same as that given at the examination, which was fully reported. Jailer Van Allen swore that he saw the assault at the jail door and that W. was not resisting when it was made. Charles McNair partly corroborated Mr. Van Allen's evidence, but he was outside of the court house door at the time of the alleged assault and did not see it, though he swore that he heard the blows struck and afterwards saw their effects.

The chief constable and Charles Downie swore that W. was resisting and choking Bradley when he was struck. The Judge found the prisoner not guilty on the ground that the evidence was contradictory and that the weight of it was in favour of the defense. W. was not at the trial as he was still at the Western Hospital Toronto, where his right arm was amputated after being mangled by a C.P.R. train at Streetsville Junction on the 2nd inst. His deposition, however, was put in and his story of the assault at the court house corroborated those of Messrs. Van Allen and McNair. Judge Gorham has instructed County Attorney Matheson not to return Chief Constable Bradley his "billy." The judge says that the billy is not a fit weapon for a

## Milton Time Capsules



constable, and that Chief Bradley should, if he wants a weapon, procure an ordinary baton.

...

The Forest City Paving Co. finished a section of the new pavement yesterday, from the corner of Brown St. to the McGibbon House. It looks well. If favoured with fine weather the contractors will complete their work within about 10 days.

...

Alex Willmott entertained about 40 young people of Milton and its vicinity at his farm on Monday evening, and treated them to a corn roast. The guests gathered corn in a field and took it to the woods, where large fires had been lighted, over which they roasted it. They relished it greatly and afterwards spent several hours very pleasantly at Mr. Willmott's house.

...

Complaint is made that flowers and shrubs planted on graves by owners of lots in Evergreen cemetery have recently been dug up and stolen. The managers of the cemetery should look into this matter.

...

Edward McCann announces that when the new elevator at the G.T.R. (CN) station (on Bronte St.) has been completed, which it will be within a few days, he will be prepared to buy any quantity of grain or hay at the elevator.

...

There was a lively football match, Association rules, yesterday afternoon between the 1st and 2nd and 3rd and 4th concessions of Esquesing. The first named team won by 2 goals to 0. It was captained by a crack English player, who has recently come to Canada, and has taught his players a good deal about the fine points of the game. Art Stark played particularly well for the losers. A very strong team could be picked from the two.

*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

## Kindness of fellow hikers greatly appreciated

Dear Editor:

Recently my friend and I decided on a last-minute hike on the Niagara Escarpment, along a section of the Bruce Trail that's about 15 km long.

We went out totally unprepared, something neither of us usually do, so you know what that meant — Murphy's Law was in effect.

About halfway through the trail, I sprained my ankle. This was the same ankle that had just healed from a sprain one month earlier.

My friend ran up ahead to check the direction of the trail while I dragged myself into the shade. I was dehydrated, trying to take some deep breaths because my leg was shaking so badly from the

pain.

I was wishing that I had taken my backpack and was wondering how we were going to get out of our predicament, when at that moment a group of female hikers came out of nowhere.

It was just like in the movies, where help arrives in the nick of time.

These hiking angels supplied me with a tenser bandage for my ankle, as well as water, food and pain medication. They even offered to split up their group and help carry me out.

I declined the ride, feeling that I would be able to manage with a walking stick. They wouldn't accept anything for their kindness

except our thanks, saying maybe we could return the favour by offering our help to someone else who might need assistance in the future.

Both my friend and I were grateful, not only for the help, but also because during our previous careers in law enforcement we had seen people do terrible things to each other.

So it was a wonderful reminder that there's still much kindness in the world.

So this is a heartfelt thank you to my anonymous hiker angels who gave me much more than they thought.

Sandy Serwatak  
Commercial Street

## Development doesn't belong on town's west side

Dear Editor:

So the time has come for the developers to start tearing up the countryside west of Milton.

Can anyone tell me why some of the best farmland in southern Ontario is being used for housing developments? Why, when there's already horrendous congestion on the highways and side roads leading into Mississauga and Brampton, do our politicians allow thousands more homes to be built on the west side of town?

This will add thousands of additional vehicles to roads that weren't built to handle the current volume of traffic. Of course these same politicians don't have to commute to work, so they probably don't think about

this. Rush hour in Milton was unheard of until the last couple of years.

If you think it's bad now, just wait.

Can someone tell me what happens to all the displaced critters that call these fields and woodlots home? Doesn't anyone care?

Yes, I'm upset about this development, as are many other people I speak to. Why is this happening?

Why can't the development remain on the east side of town and leave the west side of town — nestled at the base of the escarpment — alone. Ah, but I forgot, silly me — it's always about the money.

S. Hewitt  
Appleby Line

## Nine-year-old boy's trust lost with recent theft of bike

Dear Editor:

On August 3, somebody stole my son's bicycle, which was a birthday present, from our front lawn and likely tossed it over the bridge into Sixteen Mile Creek.

How do I know this? — because a few children in the area have said they saw his bike in the creek.

This child has had his best toy and birthday present — not to mention his mode of transport to school

— taken away from him.

First it was damaged a while back by another child, requiring repair, and now this.

There's no money for another bike for him and this has caused us many tears — my son and I both.

What kind of an act is throwing a child's bike over a bridge going to score you on the cool metre?

I hope that the person who did this is reading this letter and under-

stands that not only is theft wrong, it's also unkind. However, I fear that you will never truly understand what you've done. You crushed a nine-year-old boy's life.

I pity anyone that has to deal with the pitiful likes of you, and may you cower in the despair, loneliness and disappointment that will certainly be your destiny.

Jill Johnson  
Milton

## Letters welcome

The Canadian Champion welcomes letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit, revise and reject letters. Letters must be signed and the address and telephone number of the writer included. Letters can be e-mailed to [miltone@haltonsearch.com](mailto:miltone@haltonsearch.com), faxed to (905) 878-4943, or dropped off at 191 Main St. E.

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