

Five young hoboes given jail sentence for vagrancy

'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.

January 1904

Last month five hoboes — Frank R. B., James M., James C., John D. and Owen C. — were sent to jail from Oakville as vagrants to serve from 60 to 90 days each, with hard labor. All are young able-bodied men, well able to work. B. and M. are Americans and the other three English. During the cold snap they were allowed to toast their shins before the stove in the corridor (at the jail in the present town hall), but last week they were ordered to go to work, some to break stone and some to cut wood. Their working hours were very short, but they are high-grade tramps, look upon all work as degrading and instigated by B., they determined to go on strike. On Sunday they turned up their noses at the jail menu, on the ground that the soup was burnt and unfit for food.

They did again on Monday and refused to work, B. standing on his rights as an American citizen and demanding that his case should be laid before the nearest U.S. consul. On Tuesday they were brought before Dr. Robertson, J.P., charged with a breach of jail discipline and were committed for trial. Yesterday they were arraigned before Judge Gorham. B. repeated his demand for a U.S. consul, but was told that no such official had anything to do with his case and that he was to elect whether he would be tried before the judge, or wait for a jury. In the latter event he would have to remain in jail until April 11th. He chose the more speedy process and pleaded guilty. So did the other four. The judge told them that the maximum penalty for their offence was five years in penitentiary, that he would probably send them where they would have to work, no matter how they were fed and that he would sentence them next Monday.

They were marched back to their cells looking very crestfallen. (They were later sentenced by Judge Gorham to one year each at Central Prison as an example to others to teach them that as long as they lived under the British flag they must obey British laws.)

Milton's electric lights were shut off last night and the night before. The plant is being repaired.

Milton Time Capsules



Monday was the coldest day in Ontario for a number of years, 15° below zero was reported at Toronto observatory. In Milton 20° below was recorded, but perhaps the thermometers were not quite accurate.

Thomas W., a farm hand, came to Milton one day last week and left for the house of his employer, but as he was drunk he did not reach it. He slept in Wm. Dixon's barn and had both his hands badly frozen. (His right hand was saved but attempts to save the forefinger and thumb on the left hand were futile and the left hand was amputated at the wrist.)

The first championship game of the hockey season will be played at the rink (Mill St.) tomorrow evening between the Guelph juniors and the Milton juniors. The first hockey match of the season was played in the Milton rink on New Year's night between the Old Halton Boys of Toronto and the home team. Hockey appears to be on the upward move in town. Two teams have been placed in W.O.H.A. junior and intermediate series.

Ice cutters have been busy on the mill pond during the last week and the ice is unusually thick.

James E. Tout, C.P.R. engineer, was crushed between his engine and the roundhouse at London on Tuesday afternoon. Both his hips were injured. He was engineer of the first train that crossed the diamond at the junction here and has been on the line ever since.

At the annual regimental meeting of the Lorne Rifles, held in Milton, the officers unanimously voted to discard the Glengarry headdress and resolved to use the service cap instead.

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

Population problems in Milton and GTA shouldn't be blamed on new immigrants

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to the motion tabled by Town Councillor John Challinor regarding immigration.

Mr. Challinor is concerned about the rapid population growth in Milton and the GTA, as are many others. However, he assumes that this growth is mainly a result of the 125,000 new immigrants who arrive in the GTA each year.

The implication is that new immigrants to Canada are contributing to the immediate growth being experienced in Milton. However, we at the North Halton Cultural Awareness Council suspect that the people who are coming to Milton to buy new homes, like those of previous generations, have been established in Canada for some time before making the move to this community.

There, how much of the population boom and the extra costs of services resulting from it are affected by new immigrants? Yes it's

true that some new immigrants are coming to Milton, but very few.

It's certainly true that an increasing population puts greater demands on a community's infrastructure. However, people won't move to a community where housing is prohibitively expensive because of limited supply.

Milton is a popular destination right now because it has a generous supply of new housing. Blaming new immigrants for the construction of new housing makes no sense whatsoever.

The new residents who arrive in Milton come here because there's access to a large job market — the GTA — and because there's affordable housing. Developers build new housing here because there's a large job market that'll attract homebuyers.

The GTA continues to attract new residents because it's the country's largest job market. People move to this area in order to secure stable and/or lucrative

employment. At some point, the Province, regions and municipalities will have to limit growth.

When that happens, demand for housing will exceed supply, the price of housing will go up and employers will have a harder time attracting qualified candidates to move to this area. Then employers will begin considering locating their businesses to a more affordable market. When that happens, other urban centres will begin to experience stronger growth, and growth in the GTA will level off.

Canada's declining birth rate and aging population mean that new immigrants are essential to help ensure the availability of a skilled labour force down the road. Immigration isn't the issue that needs to be tackled here — land use planning is.

Judy Scannell,
North Halton Cultural
Awareness Council

More education needed to curb dog biting

Dear Editor:

The Champion's September 14 editorial made some good suggestions regarding dog bite prevention.

However, there's one additional strategy I'd like to mention — one that's most often recommended by experts and was featured prominently following the 1998 mauling death of Courtney Trempe.

This strategy is education — education for children in schools, dog owners and parents.

According to Health Canada statistics, more than 400,000 Canadians are bitten by dogs each year. More than half of them are children, with the vast majority by family pets at home.

According to 2001 statistics from the Centre for Disease Control in the United States, only about 17 per cent of dogs bites are reported and there are more children up to 14 years of age seen in emergency rooms for dog bites than for burns, drownings, pedestrians accidents, motorcycle accidents, poisonings of suffocations.

Our own data from Doggone Safe from an informal survey of Milton area children found that of 177 children between the ages of five and 13, more than half had been bitten and in more than 90 per cent of the cases the dog that bit them was their own, a friend's or

neighbour's.

We have founded the non-profit organization Doggone Safe in town to address these education issues. Doggone Safe provides school programs as well as education programs for parents, expectant parents and those who encounter dogs on the job

Doggone Safe programs are being delivered in various communities across Canada and the US. Unfortunately, we didn't qualify for a grant from the Milton Community Fund, which we were hoping would allow the 'Be A Tree' program to be brought to all grade 3 students in Milton.

We'd like Miltonians to be aware that Doggone Safe programs are available in the community and that anyone interested in finding out more or sponsoring programs can visit our Web site at www.doggonesafe.com or call (905) 854-3232.

The Web site has a wealth of information about how to read a dog's body language, as well as teach children how to be safe with dogs, prepare your dog for a new baby and solve common puppy problems in a way that doesn't promote aggression.

Joan Orr, president,
Doggone Safe
Campbellville

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