Quick spring thaw leaves streets quite water-logged

Milton Time Capsules

'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.

March 1904

We got our first spring weather on Tuesday after more than four months of steady winter. The high temperature and bright sun melted the snow very quickly and there was a great deal of water on the streets. Men were employed on Main Street cutting passages for it through the ice, and the sidewalks were kept tolerably free from it, but there was a small flood in the south and west ends which covered the sidewalks and flooded cellars. Patches of bare ground appeared in many places outside the town and as, on account of the great depth of snow throughout the winter, there is not much frost in the ground, it is likely that farmers may be able to commence their spring plowing earlier than was expected.

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Gordon, only surviving child of Judge and Mrs. Gorham, died this morning at 6 o'clock, in his tenth year. During his long illness his physicians had given little if any hope for his recovery though they were somewhat encouraged within the last week by an apparent improvement in his condition, which lasted until yesterday, when a change for the worse set in. Judge and Mrs. Gorham have the heartfelt sympathy of the people of Milton in their bereavement.

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A large number of the blacksmiths of Halton met in Milton on Friday evening, formed an organization, elected officers and fixed on a scale of prices for work.

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On Monday last Messrs. Winn & Co., shoe manufacturers, got in six more new machines making a total of about twenty lately. All the machines are of the very latest pattern and of American manufacture. When they are all in operation they will do practically all of the work of making shoes, the operatives merely feeding them. They will increase the output of the establishment at least 50 per cent without an increase in the number of hands, but more employees will be necessary to handle the goods. Milton's shoe factory is one of the most modern in Canada and leads in the quality, style and finish of its production.

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The thaw and partial breaking up of the ice in the creek last Friday caused something of a flood in the East Ward. There was an ice jam at the Pine St. bridge and the water backed up and flowed through the old creek bed just below and north-east of Foster St. (Charles). The water was very deep around several houses particularly that of Arthur Pitcher, who complained that certain parties had broken up the ice near the grist mill and had thus increased the jam. Some firewood floated off, but no great damage was done. The water subsided the next day.

April 1904

The officers elected by Halton blacksmiths at their organization meeting were President, D. Peer, Palermo; Vice Pres., Wm. J. Stuart, Tansley; Rec. Sec., Alex MacDonald, Oakville; Financial Sec., Thos. E. Weir, Milton. Executive Committee: L. Thurston, Palermo; A.W. Kemp, Oakville; C.H. Bundy, Milton; E.G. Paige, Burlington; Chas. Brown, Drumquin. The organization is a branch of the Horseshoers' Association of North America.

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J.S. Deacon, Public School inspector, presented his annual report to the county council on Tuesday. There was some little discussion on two points; the general removal of the old-time platforms for teachers, which were formerly in general use, and the refusal of the trustees of some sections to fly the British flag on their school buildings. Mr. Deacon approved of the removal of the platforms. He objected to the constant ascending and descending of steps by teachers made necessary by the platforms and said that if the teachers remained on their feet during school hours, as they generally do, they could see their pupils quite well enough to keep them in order. He did not think that the trustees who failed to fly the national colors were at all disloyal but rather that they were economical.

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

Pitbull ban useless, unfair and doesn't address real problem behind dog attacks

(The following letter was addressed to Ontario Attorney General Michael Bryant, and a copy was filed with The Champion.)

Dear Editor:

To Ontario Attorney General Michael Bryant: It's with a heavy heart that I write this letter to you.

I expected that there would be some amendments to legislation regarding the ownership of pitbulls, but I certainly didn't think that a man with as much education behind him as you could be so lacking in common sense.

Ignorance breeds fear, and for the most part fear is due to ignorance.

Your latest decision to ban pitbulls is in my opinion based on nothing more than politics and ignorance. I find it very odd that in spite of all the information the media, certain animal rights organizations and I have managed to come up with that you still managed to feel that banning a breed was the way to go.

Did you actually read any of the information? Did you really do any research? I'm doubtful.

Did you know that in Winnipeg, where pitbulls are banned, there has been an increase in rottweiler attacks? Hmmm... I wonder why that is.

Could it be because the problem doesn't lie with a type of breed, but rather with ownership and responsibility of dogs in general.

I guess your next move should be to ban all men between the ages of 18 and 25 from driving sports cars, because based on statistics they cause the most accidents.

Or maybe ban Siamese cats. They're a moody breed of cat and those claws could be dangerous. And while you're at it, why don't you pass a law where people can't smoke in their cars anymore.

My point is simple — we need tougher legislation on irresponsible dog owners and breeders, regardless of whether it's a pitbull or a toy poodle.

You're wrong, Mr. Bryant, and you know you're wrong. Now you need to fix what you've broken.

I haven't had a decent sleep in nights because you've essentially taken away my God-given right to own any type of dog that I want. Are we living in Canada or China?

This is a blatant violation of rights, period. We have the right to be safe from idiots who own vicious dogs, but this ban isn't going to help that.

And do you know how I know this? Well, research for one, and for another I work at a veterinary clinic. I have been there almost seven years and before that I was a volunteer cruelty agent with the Peel Region Humane Society.

I've never encountered a pitbull in all that time that was vicious by nature. It's the jerks who own them that deserve the ban you've now put in place. You've banned the wrong animal.

So having said that, I would like to personally invite you to come to my place of employment and work with me one day.

I want you to see how ignorant and lazy some animal owners can be. I want you to see the six Jack Russell terriers we have as patients, of which only one of them doesn't need a muzzle when he comes in.

I'd also like to introduce you to several Labrador retrievers, chihuahuas and some mixed breed mutts that patronize our clinic and would truly enjoy taking a chunk out of your face.

Not one of those dogs is a pitbull.

Then I'd like you to visit with the veterinarians at my clinic and several others in the area and get their input.

I happen to know that they would agree with me, because we've discussed it.

You can't get any closer to a dog than being in veterinary medicine, and most of us think your ban is a joke.

I'd also implore you to actually visit the Toronto Humane Society and see how many pitbulls are in there that would make fantastic family pets.

I don't condone any dog to be vicious and wholeheartedly agree that vicious dogs should be euthanized in an effort to keep people safe and to keep from breeding bad blood lines and traits.

But there's bad in every living thing.

You haven't, in my opinion, done anything more than try to earn some votes and publicity for the Liberals.

I don't believe you're speaking on behalf of the majority of the population — dog owners or not.

So I certainly hope to hear from you soon as to when you'd like to visit my clinic.

I will make sure I'm armed with information that supports this ban as completely useless and unfair.

Julie Cascagnette
Cooke Crescent

Letters welcome

The 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 miltoned@haltonsearch.com, faxed to (905) 878-4943 of dropped off at 191 Main St. E.

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