

County Attorney W.I. Dick takes oath of office in T.O.

'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 1904

County Attorney W.I. Dick went to Toronto on Tuesday and took his oath of office before J.R. Cartwright, Deputy Attn. Gen. Mr. Dick will not take possession of the County Attorney's office in the Court house at present, as it is not ready for him, but will be found at his office in the Dewar Block. He commenced his official duties yesterday evening when he went to Burlington to attend an inquest on the body of a little girl who drowned.

...

The old building of the Church of Scotland was purchased some time ago by the owner of the Bennett House, who received permission from the town council to remove it along the streets to the rear of the hotel. It was placed in position on Monday. The work of removal, along Main, James and Mill streets, was tedious. On James Street, which is very little wider than the building, shade trees suffered. Some damage was also done on Mill Street. The council appears to have neglected to have measurements made before granting the permission for removal and may be asked to pay damages.

...

Town Council received tenders for granolithic (cement) walks: The Guelph Paving Co. 15¢ per square foot; the Orangeville Co. 16¢; the Forest City Paving Co. 11.95¢. The Forest City Co.'s tender was accepted. Streets are to be sprinkled from G.T.R. station (Bronte St.) along Victoria Avenue and thence to the fair grounds by 3 p.m. on July 16 for the Halton Old Boys reunion.

...

Mr. Syer, of the Canadian Carpet Co., has purchased the pad manufacturing business of Wm. S. Morgan of Hamilton, and took possession on Saturday. This industry employs a number of hands and this town may profit by Mr. Syer's enterprise, as he says he intends to remove the manufacturing plant to Milton as soon as he can secure a building suitable for it.

...

Milton wore a gay appearance on Saturday, on the occasion of the visit of the

Milton Time Capsules



Old Halton Boys' Association of Toronto. Not only the public buildings and business establishments, but many residences were decorated with flags, bunting, etc. The Old Boys arrived by a special G.T.R. train at 4 p.m. and were met at the station by the Milton band and a number of citizens. A procession was formed, headed by the Milton band, with that of the 48th Highlanders a little in its rear, and the two bands played alternately on the march to the fair grounds. At the grounds welcoming addresses were delivered by Mayor Anderson, Warden Peacock and Public School Inspector Deacon. Dr. Fraleigh, President of the Old Boys, Alderman J.B. Hay and Dr. Harrison responded.

...

Wm. Gould of St. Paul, Minn. was in town with his sister. Mr. Gould was in the carriage making business here in the '50s and '60s at first as a member of the firm of Little & Gould and afterwards by himself. He has been a resident of St. Paul for 34 years. He was a prominent figure in Milton in the old days and was known as a great joker. Old friends reminded him on Thursday of some of his jokes, such as advancing the clock in the town hall on the day of a municipal nomination, with the result that the time limit having apparently expired, his victim, a candidate, made a speech of thanks to the electors, after which the clock was put back and another candidate nominated who was elected on polling day, thanks to a great extent to Mr. Gould's assistance. Mr. Gould was a member of the dramatic club organized by the late Thos. Regan, which played *Henry IV* in 1860 and old timers say, played it well.

August 1904

Edward Core is removing the cottage that has stood on the corner of Main and Brown streets, next to Wallace House, (former Milton Inn) to the south end of the town. Its removal will improve the appearance of the hotel, which will look well, when the improvements now underway have been completed.

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 muzzling a step in the right direction

Dear Editor:

I'd like to congratulate members of town council for the excellent work they've done in passing the new animal control bylaw, which among other things makes it mandatory for pitbulls to be muzzled when out in public.

I commend councillors for seeing through the smoke screens and — in my opinion — the irrelevant, inaccurate nonsense that was put forth by the few people who aren't happy with their sensible choice of action.

I appreciate the fact that I can now take my kids for walks north of town without loose dogs bounding down the trail toward us, only to see their inconsiderate owners walking far behind. I appreciate the fact that people can now walk through the Milton Fair Grounds without dogs running toward and jumping up on them.

And I greatly appreciate that pitbulls and mixed pitbull breeds will be muzzled until they're gone. It's obvious that our new provincial and municipal dog control legislation will evolve over time and improve, but this is a great start. Banning pitbulls is a big first step for many reasons, and is long overdue.

In my opinion, pitbulls have become a symbol of defiance for their owners. Many pitbull owners are simply attracted to the status that their dog provides.

Many pitbull defenders would like you to believe they're guard dogs. This, I believe, is a lie. From what I understand, pitbull breeds

lack the intelligence and genetic stability to be guard dogs. There are other breeds that are much more suitable if that's what you prefer.

In my opinion, pitbulls are fighting dogs, and there's plenty of evidence in history to back that up.

The first pitbulls were of British descent and used for a sport of entertainment called bull-baiting. Back in the 1700s, British pub owners would often rent 'bulls to be baited' to draw large crowds to their business. This wild affair included 15 to 30 dogs and one mean bull. These ferocious dogs would attack the bull, bite and hang on for dear life.

The crowds would roar in delight as the bull would fight back and fling dogs up to 20 feet in the air, only to land on the ground and attack the bull again. On occasion, these dogs would have their bellies split open and continue to attack as their guts hung out. In 1835, bull-baiting was banned.

Now let's move on to the 'rat pit'. This was the sport where the 'pit' in pitbull was first derived. Dogs were tossed into a pit with hundreds of rats. The objective was for the dog to kill as many rats as possible in the shortest amount of time. However, this seedy sport never gained the popularity of bull-baiting.

Today, dog fighting is a common sport of entertainment in Third World countries. The dogs used, including pitbulls, have attributes that are similar. They attack without warning and will continue the

assault at all costs. And they quickly go into a frenzy that's all but impossible to stop.

It should be noted that in Third World countries the owners of fighting dogs don't consider their animals as pets and wouldn't expect them to be in the public realm.

Only in our western society where dog fighting is illegal do owners feel it's their right to own fighting dogs, keep them as pets and parade them in public.

In North America, pitbulls were never a popular family pet. Owners of these dogs need to be highly experienced and responsible. This breed, in my opinion, is not suitable around children.

However, pitbulls have become mainstream and now represent 3 per cent of dogs kept as pets, and according to my research now account for nearly 50 per cent of dog attacks — bringing new meaning to the term mauling.

It's not surprising — but certainly unfortunate — that many pitbull breeders refuse to recognize the problem with this breed. Some pitbull breeders claim to sell 'human friendly dogs', but it's too late.

The only hope for pitbulls is a massive culling. A few of the most submissive pitbulls should be saved and bred under controlled conditions, away from the public. It will take a number of generations, I believe, to tone down their dangerous genetic traits.

T. Andrews
Milton

Here's complete budget for library's 150th celebration

Dear Editor:

The continued interest in Milton Public Library's 150th anniversary celebrations is appreciated.

I hope everyone knows that any time they have questions regarding the library's operations, they can contact me directly, or chief librarian Leslie Fitch.

When the library board approved the list of monthly contests, events and special programs related to the 150th anniversary celebration at our September meeting, we did so by establishing a budget of \$30,000. At the same time, we asked staff to find ways to bring the celebrations in under this maximum amount.

The approved budget — funded via the library

reserve — is as follows: \$2,300 for contests, \$5,850 for publicity and marketing, \$9,000 for legacy projects (including a published history of the library), \$4,850 for the Milton Santa Claus Parade (which includes the purchase of six special book trucks to be used at the library following the parade), \$5,000 for promotional material and \$3,000 for a special event during Ontario Public Library Week in October 2005.

The Milton Public Library board and staff are excited about 2005, and look forward to sharing our 150th anniversary with the people of Milton.

Ron Banyai, chairperson
Milton Public Library board

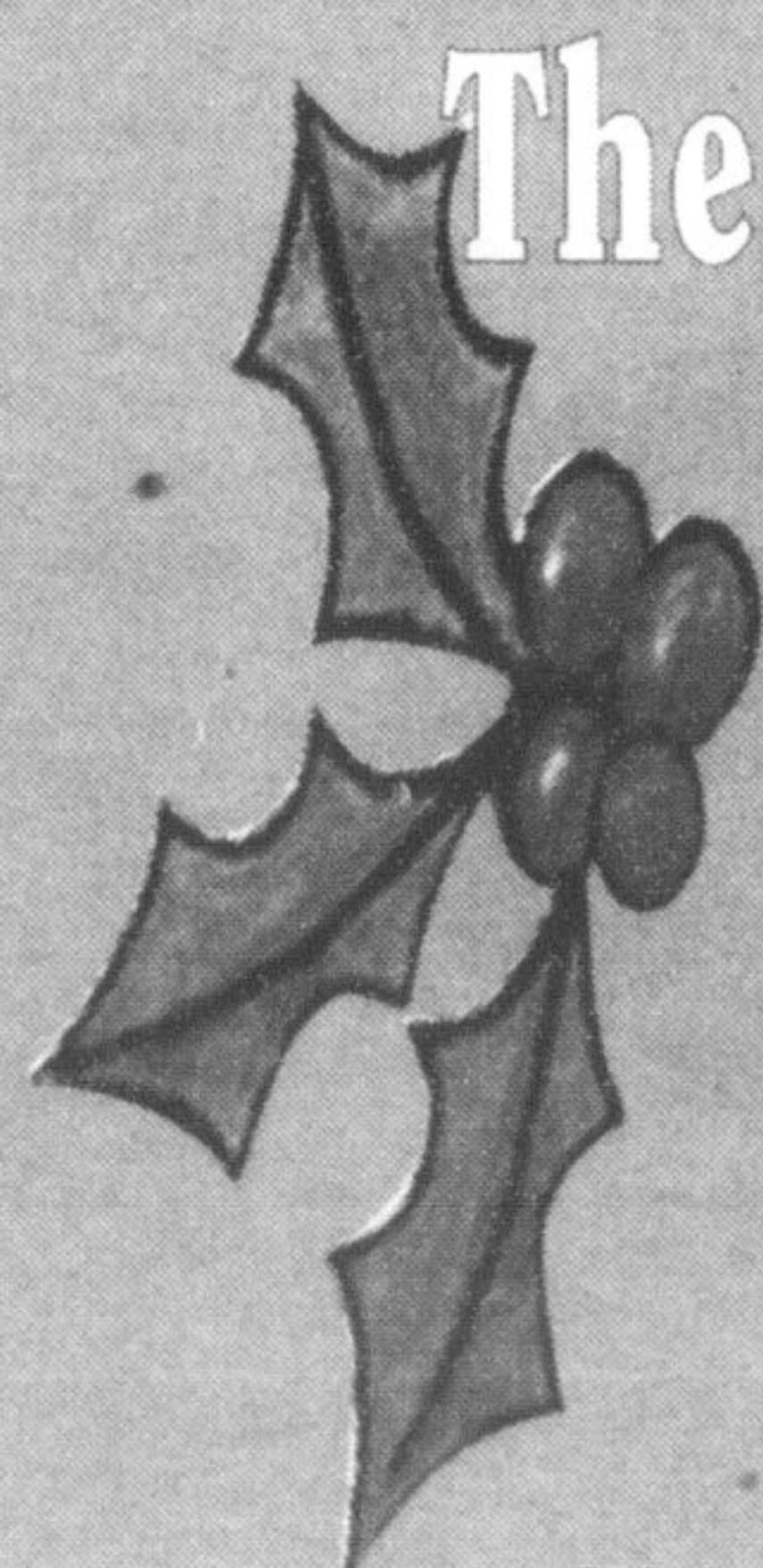


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remind you to drive safely!

Happy Holidays!

