

## Nearby rink collapses under weight of snow

'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 1905

The (Georgetown) Conservator says that the skating and curling rink at Georgetown collapsed under the weight of snow last Thursday. The building was not very old, but had been considered unsafe for some time and had not been used this winter.

...

The Merchants' Retail Association of Milton was organized on the 24th and on Monday evening met and elected the following offices: President, A. Higginbotham; First Vice President, A. McKay; Second Vice President, G.A. Hemstreet; Treasurer, J.W. Bews; Secretary, E.F. Earl. Similar associations have been organized in other towns. The object is the advancement of trade and mutual protection. The latter object is affected by the different local organization reporting customers who fail to settle, so that if they attempt to trade elsewhere they will be spotted.

...

The County Clerk has received returns of the assessment and population of the County as per assessment rolls of 1904. Population: Trafalgar 3,301; Esquesing 3,282; Nelson 2,585; Nassagaweya 2,073; Milton 1,450; Oakville 1,740; Georgetown 1,307; Acton 1,490; Burlington 1,232. Total 18,459.

...

All arrangements had been made for the playing of the return match between the Acton and Milton young ladies' teams at the rink this evening and the band had been engaged. The match was called off when it was found that the lessees of the rink made what was considered an unreasonable demand, forty per cent of the gross receipts, all expenses to be paid out of the remaining sixty per cent. The young ladies were greatly disappointed and so were many people who had hoped to see the match, but as the team was organized late in the season there was no arrangement about matches, and the lessees were in a position to ask as much as they pleased.

...

The Canadian Carpet Co. are installing

## Milton Time Capsules



power looms in their factory and doing away with the greater portion of their hand looms. This will enable them to turn out a larger quantity of carpets than heretofore. The new machinery being installed is worth about \$7,000. The Canada Sweat Pad Co., of which S. Syer, of the Canadian Carpet Co., is the head is turning out 40 dozen sweat pads daily.

...

Wm. Harbottle was elected secretary and Dr. Robertson treasurer of Halton Agricultural Society. Spring shows having been unprofitable for some years it was decided not to hold one this year. It was also decided that at next fall fair members who are non exhibitors shall receive four admission tickets on surrendering their membership tickets at the gate.

...

It is the intention to establish a lodge of Daughters of Rebecca shortly in connection with Milton Lodge, No. 92, I.O.O.F., and preparatory to doing so, the lodge gave an "at home" at the Oddfellows' hall last Thursday night. The Rebecca degree is a side degree in Oddfellowship for the benefit of Oddfellows' wives, sisters and daughters, and membership is open to the brothers also. The attendance at the "at-home" was from 125 to 150, fully half of those present being ladies. There was good music, the carpet had been taken up and the floor waxed, and all enjoyed themselves greatly. It is expected that the Rebecca Lodge will be instituted within a few weeks with about 40 members. The work of initiation will be performed by a team of 24 ladies from Galt. Oddfellowship is booming in Milton.

...

Fred Wales of Milton exhibited 68 birds last week at the Eastern Ontario Stock and Poultry Exhibition at Ottawa. He carried off 68 prizes- 26 firsts, 13 seconds, 17 thirds, and 2 fourths.

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](mailto:jdills@idirect.com).

## OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

### Same-sex marriage issue is about protecting individual rights, not about minority rights

Dear Editor:

I'm disappointed to see that the same-sex marriage debate is being referred to as protection of minority rights.

Despite their conflicting views, both Canadian Minister of Health Ujjal Dosanjh and Mary Cummings refer to the issue of same-sex marriage as one of minority rights. However, in my opinion, same-sex marriage has absolutely nothing to do with minority rights, but everything to do with individual rights.

The legal battle being fought these days in the House of Commons is whether or not two people of the same sex have the right to make a public commitment to each other for the rest of their lives.

If you examine the United Nations Declaration of Rights and our own Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the answer to this question should be simple. By denying same-sex couples the right to marry, we're violating individual rights.

No one's forcing religious groups to perform the ceremonies. Religious groups' rights are protected. It's a choice of the individual.

The protection of our individual rights has allowed our nation to

grow socially, and that's what separates us from Third World nations.

If we were to examine the women's movement in the 20th century, we can draw some similarities to the same-sex marriage debate. Agnes MacPhail fought hard for the right of women to vote. The basis for her argument was, why not? She argued that there was no real reason why women shouldn't be allowed to vote.

Today that's easy to comprehend, but in 1919 many people objected, including some women — who argued that they couldn't comprehend the complexities of government. We know today that that's simply ridiculous, but people once believed it.

Another example is the 'Persons Case' in 1928, when women were denied the right to hold public office on the basis that they weren't 'persons', and that only qualified persons could hold office.

The 'Famous Five' took the case to the Supreme Court of Canada and lost. Only after this group appealed to the British Privy — where they overruled the Supreme Court of Canada, describing the ruling as outdated — were women considered 'persons'. Today, it's easy to comprehend that this original classification violated women's rights.

How different are these examples from the same-sex marriage debate today? In my opinion, they're not.

One of the most misguided arguments against same-sex marriage debate, I believe, revolves around the protection of family. First of all, by today's standards people don't get married just to procreate. Many heterosexual couples get married knowing that they never intend to have children. And that's okay.

By contrast, many couples that aren't married have children. And by today's standards, that's okay as well.

So to use the argument that studies show that opposite-sex marriages are the best environment for raising children is, in my opinion, misleading. Today, marriage is about more than just raising children. It's about two people making a commitment to each other for life.

What's great about living in a democratic nation is that we have the right to debate. But we need to be very careful that we don't take away people's rights. That's why the world created the Declaration of Rights and our country created the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, to hold us accountable.

Brent Austin  
Milton

### Closing Fourth Line is stupid and irresponsible

(The following letter was addressed to the Town of Milton's planning and public works department, and a copy was filed with *The Champion*.)

Dear Editor:

I can't believe that, with the Town's support, the Region has closed Fourth Line before the infrastructure to accommodate the overflow of traffic has been put into place.

How can this road be closed before Derry Road has been upgraded, and before lights and sidewalks are installed between James Snow Parkway and Thompson Road? No additional traffic lights on Thompson have been installed at Laurier Avenue and Childs Drive.

The poor people trying to get out of these streets already have a hard time, and now — in my opinion — it will be an absolute nightmare.

Why would the Region and Town close Fourth Line without any new roadways in place? What about the added cost for cabs to go the long way around to the Wal-Mart plaza or Bishop Reding Secondary School.

I just can't understand this. It makes no sense to me and quite frankly, I think closing Fourth Line is just plain stupid and irresponsible on the part of the decision makers of the Region and Town. They should be ashamed of themselves for not thinking this through.

Heather J. Kirton  
Milton

E-mail your letters to the editor to [miltone@haltonsearch.com](mailto:miltone@haltonsearch.com).

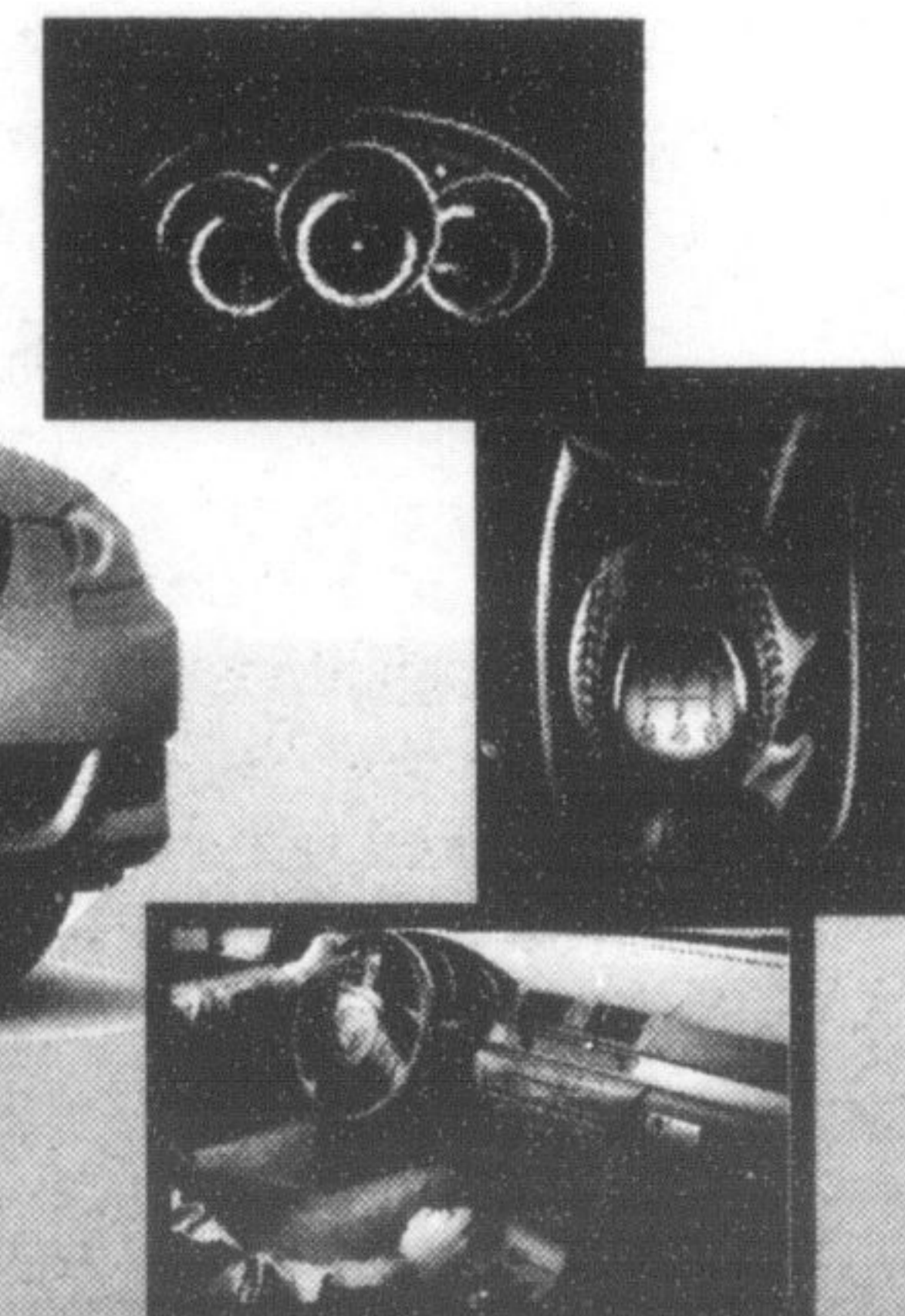
## A Reminder ... Good things come in "3"



ACHILLES  
MAZDA

This 2005 Mazda3 GX Includes:

- ✓ Powerful 2.0L 4 Cyl Engine
- ✓ Automatic Transmission
- ✓ Power Locks
- ✓ Keyless Entry
- ✓ 15" Wheels
- ✓ Convenience Package
- ✓ Air Condition
- ✓ 60/40 Rear Seats
- ✓ Steering Wheel Audio Controls
- ✓ Engine immobilizer
- ✓ AM/FM CD Stereo
- ✓ 4 Wheel Disc Brakes
- ✓ Tilt/Telescopic Steering
- ✓ Independent, Multi-link suspension
- ✓ Electrostatic Power Steering
- ✓ Advanced Air Bag System
- ✓ Intermittent Wipers
- ✓ Tachometer
- ✓ Japanese Built
- ✓ Plus Much More



Finance From:

0%

24 Mos.

Mazda3 Starting from \$16,295.  
As shown \$18,990.

Advertised model D4XS85 AE00. Leases also available. Selling prices subject to freight, P.D.E., license and taxes and registration fees. COB for 24 Mos on \$10,000 is \$0.00. Limited quantities available. Offers available from March 1, 2005 for a limited time only. Lease and Finance O.A.C. for qualified customers only. Call ACHILLES MAZDA for details.

2005 Mazda3 GX

357 Queen St., Acton

519-853-0200

[info@achillesmazda.ca](mailto:info@achillesmazda.ca)

Our Dealership is not the biggest, our goal is to be the Best!!