

## Calves and houses saved from fire, but about 1,600 cords of wood lost in blaze

'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.

April 1905

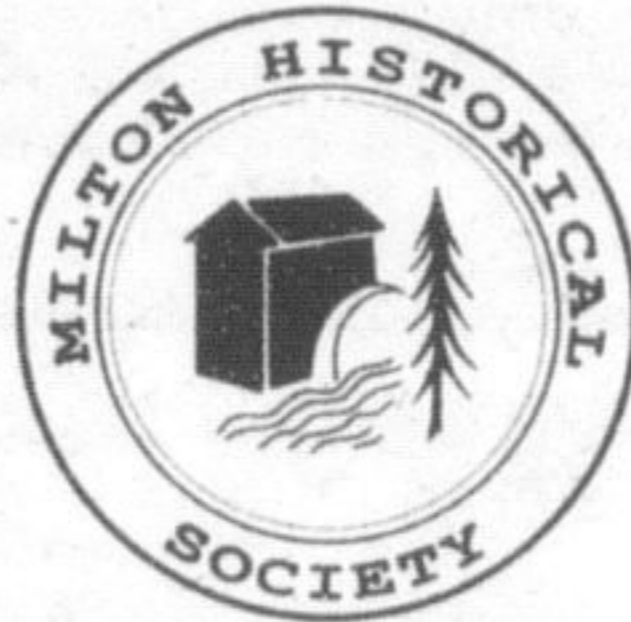
Yesterday about 2 p.m. fire broke out in the wood piles across the C.P.R. tracks from the works of the Toronto Pressed Brick & Terra Co. two miles west of Milton. There was about 1,600 cords of wood in the lot, the wind was blowing a gale and practically nothing could be done to save the wood, nearly all of which was consumed. It is said that the loss on the wood was about \$3,000. Two houses near the wood were in great danger and were saved by splendid work by the fire fighters, two of whom stood on the roofs in terrific heat until the danger was past. Their faces, hands, arms and clothing were scorched. The contents of both houses were taken out. The gale veered from time to time from the west to south-west and back again. About 700 yards to the north-east, in the village of Peru, stood two barns on Ezra Hill's farm, of which Wm. Wheeler is a tenant. A wagon loaded with straw stood between them.

The straw caught from a spark carried by the wind and the barns took fire almost immediately. They and their contents, seed grain, hay, with the wagon, a cream separator etc. were all destroyed. Four or five calves were in one of the buildings and were got out with great difficulty, their rescuers being nearly caught themselves. While the barns were burning, other Peru buildings had many narrow escapes. Roof after roof took fire, time after time. They were saved by the good work of a large bucket brigade composed of the villagers, men from the two terra cotta works and firemen sent from Milton by Mayor Higginbotham. The burning cinders blew far beyond the village and a big blaze started in a stump fence to the north-east, but was soon attended to and put out. It is said that damages will be claimed from the Canadian Pacific Railway Co.

Mrs. Mary McC. is suing her husband, Neil and his father, Robert McC., for \$200 damages for alleged detention of her personal good and chattels.

Chas. Norris and family, who have lived

## Milton Time Capsules



on the Colling farm, adjoining the town, for the past seven years, removed on Tuesday last to lot 9, town line, Trafalgar, which property Mr. Norris purchased lately. Several of his neighbors kindly turned out with their teams and assisted him in moving.

Though the Halton Agricultural Society will not have a spring exhibition this year, a grand horse parade will be held at the Fair Grounds on Thursday commencing at 2 p.m. The horses will parade in the following order: Heavy Draught, Percheron, Carriage, Road, Thoroughbred and Hackney. It is expected that there will be a large attendance of farmers and others interested in the breeding of good stock.

'Alvin Joslin,' the rural comedy that will be presented at the Town Hall on Saturday evening, April 8th tells a romantic story of love, heroism, villainy and devotion in a graphic manner. As a drama of rural life it is classed with 'The Old Homestead' and 'Shore Acres' and is justly entitled to this distinction. The band and orchestra which is carried by the company consists of twelve solo musicians and is said to be one of the finest bands travelling with any theatrical organization.

Under certain by-laws of the town of Milton, the first of which was passed in 1889, the erection of wooden buildings is forbidden within certain limits defined, unless covered with sheet iron and after special permission from the town council. The council seems to have exercised little if any discretion. There is now more fire traps within the so-called fire limits than there were before 1889.

Robt. Agnew of Nelson and Alex McEachern and Alex. McQuaig, of Milton left for the west on Tuesday.

This material is assembled on behalf of the Milton Historical Society by Jim Dills, who can be reached at [jdills@idirect.com](mailto:jdills@idirect.com).

## OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

### Recent Fourth Line closure causing many traffic problems in the surrounding areas

(The following letter was addressed to the Town of Milton's Department of Engineering Services, and a copy was filed with *The Champion*.)

Dear Editor:

I'm sure that by now the Region of Halton and Town of Milton has received a number of e-mails, letters, phone calls and faxes both for and against the recent closure of Fourth Line.

Being a new recipient of the local newspaper, and having come to this matter on the back end of planning, I can't help but write to the Town — and *The Champion* — to express my concerns over the closure.

I understand the area residents' concern about being promised by the home builder that Fourth Line would be closed, thus reducing the risk of traffic safety issues in this residential area.

However, I wonder whether other options to control traffic could have been implemented before this main access road was closed.

Shortly before the closure I saw that the speed limit had been reduced. But what about installing a stop sign midway down from the track? That would surely control the speed of traffic in the area. Or what about speed bumps? Or what about indented curbs partially into the road, thus narrowing it slightly and causing traffic to slow down.

And did anyone think about installing a set of traffic lights at

Derry Road and Fourth Line — rather than closing it completely — to reduce the risk of accidents at that intersection? Surely the cost of installing a stop sign part way down Fourth Line and one set of traffic lights at Derry Road and Fourth Line would be less than the cost of the two proposed sets of traffic lights on Thompson Road.

I'm sure you have heard all of the recent grumbings, questioning the move to close Fourth Line without an appropriate alternative route in this area.

As it stands now, Derry Road is crumbling below our tires and the expansion of James Snow Parkway — as a through street around the residential subdivision — has yet to be completed.

Furthermore, the proposed additional traffic lights on Thompson Road aren't yet in place, causing traffic chaos on Thompson and surrounding residential streets, with people trying to find any way around the situation.

And what about all the traffic now being diverted south onto Thompson Road and then east along Derry Road without benefit of an advanced signal at this intersection? Doesn't that pose a risk as well, just like not having a traffic light at the previous intersection of Derry Road and Fourth Line?

I'm sure the Region and Town have been made well aware of all these issues, as well as others.

But I wonder whether anyone has raised what I consider to be an

even bigger concern.

While heading east along Derry Road to the new video store recently — in the middle of a small flurry of snow squalls — I almost got into a head-on collision. You see, those risky drivers — who are likely the same ones who chanced turning out onto a busy Derry Road, who are likely the same ones who caused all of those tragic accidents on Fourth Line and Derry Road — are still there, and still as dangerous.

It seems as though the centre median the Town installed isn't deterring people from turning west from northbound Fourth Line and putting themselves and others at risk. I've witnessed two similar situations since then.

As a resident in this growing area, I would have expected that a little more thought would go into appeasing the residents of Fourth Line, while also taking into consideration other ensuing traffic concerns and potentially dangerous driving conditions in this area.

I think it's unfortunate that a much larger population than those living on the affected area of Fourth Line are now being put at risk by this closure.

I hope the Region and Town will reconsider this closure — either temporarily or permanently — and address the other traffic issues in this area.

Sherri Marshall  
Milton

### Petition against development simply appalling

Dear Editor:

I was completely appalled to learn that two people would start a petition against an apartment and townhouse development on the lands at Fourth Line and Derry Road.

In my opinion, this NIMBY (Not In My Backyard) attitude is not only counterproductive, but quite naive. We have to expect that as Milton continues to grow, buildings such as these are going to go up.

Moreover, signs announcing this area as a future site of development have been posted for quite some time, so pleading ignorance — I believe — is just plain idiotic.

I wonder what longtime Miltonians think of this attitude. It seems to me that we have two choices — accept it or find another place to live.

Joey Henry  
Hawthorne Village

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

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



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