

Local soldier succumbs to his injuries following fluke train/truck accident

'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 1905

On Monday evening Fred Hilson, aged 19, son of Thomas Hilson, of Nassagaweya, went to Campbellville station with his aunt, Mrs. George Forbes, to see her off for her home at Galt. He boarded the train with her between 5 and 6 p.m., left her satchel with her, then jumped off after the train had got under way. He struck a truck, which he had not noticed, and fell back upon the rails. Both his legs were practically cut off and so was his right hand, except the thumb.

He was taken to Guelph General Hospital, where the amputation of his legs was completed but the shock was too great and he died at 9:30 p.m. on the same evening. The unfortunate young man was an employee at the works of the Toronto Pressed Brick & Terra Cotta, near Milton. He was at Camp at Niagara last month with No. 4 Co., 20th Regt. He was a steady young man and a good soldier. The funeral took place yesterday from the residence of his brother Geo. Hilson, Main St. The CPR, although not responsible, gave his family \$85 to pay expenses connected with his death.

James Ruddy, the second son of John Ruddy, Milton, went West in the 1880s and for the past 14 years his whereabouts had been unknown to his people here. He was given up for dead. His father has received a letter from him from Oregon where he now resides, stating that he is alive and well. Jimmy enlisted some years ago in the U.S. army and saw service in the Philippines.

S.P. Panton, formerly editor of the *Champion* and latterly of *Montana*, is now representing the New York Life Insurance Co. in the Canadian Northwest, with headquarters at Medicine Hat.

Milton businessmen have agreed to close their places of business during every Wednesday afternoon and evening up to Sept. 20th. The agreement took effect yesterday. The half-holiday was greatly

Milton Time Capsules



enjoyed by the business men and their employees, and other people, who had been duly notified, were not inconvenienced. It is predicted by some people that the agreement will not be carried out to the end of the term on account of the jealousies of some of those who are parties to it but it is to be hoped that this will prove to be a false prophecy.

On Monday evening the C.P.R. passenger train for the west, which went through Milton at 5.22 p.m., was wrecked at the works of the Milton Pressed Brick Co, a mile west of the town. As the train approached the works a boy employed by Messrs. Gay Bros., dairymen, was driving cows across the track. One of the cows was struck by the engine and her head was cut off. The engine was derailed a little east of the siding of the brick works. It tore up the track and smashed rails and ties. On reaching the switch it followed the siding, struck a flat car, wrecked it and finally rested partly on it...The engine driver and fireman stuck to the engine and miraculously escaped any serious injury, none of the passengers got anything worse than a shaking and a scare.

Residents of the South Ward complain that their gardens have been invaded and vegetables eaten by cows which have been allowed to run at large in defiance of the cow by-law. They also object to the practice of tying cows to stakes on the streets to allow them to pasture there, and incidentally, to defile the sidewalks.

A few days ago Nicholas F., who lives near the Terra Cotta works, had a warrant issued against George T. for the alleged seduction of Minnie F. The warrant was given to Chief Constable Bradley, who went to Toronto, where T. was supposed to be, could not find him, and was told that he had gone to the United States.

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

OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Milton needs new urban planners in light of ongoing problems with town's layout

Dear Editor:

In my opinion, Milton's urban planners should be fired.

Now before you think this is another letter about the closure of Fourth Line, it isn't.

I believe the layout and planning of Milton is becoming drastically pathetic. The issue with Fourth Line is just a symptom of a much larger problem.

As Miltonians, I feel we're already on our way to becoming another Brampton, which chokes

itself with its own traffic. We permit the urban planners of our beautiful town to make decisions that, in my opinion, will cost us lives and wasted dollars.

How many times have you seen someone pass on the right dirt shoulder by going off the roadway to get around a car turning left? Milton's urban planners allow this to happen by not creating proper turning lanes.

And where are the cycling lanes? Why were none added to a repaved

Britannia Road?

Where are the passing lanes? And why aren't there advanced green lights at more local intersections?

How many more families are going to be hurt by senseless injuries or deaths as the volume of traffic increases and our hurried lives rush us along Milton's carriage-sized roads?

James Smith
Edwards Avenue

Gay and bi-sexual people need a place in town where they can go and feel safe and welcome

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to Melanie Hennessey's front-page story in the May 6 *Champion* entitled 'Some diverse groups don't feel accepted in Halton: research'.

I'm an openly gay man in Milton and think it's about time there was a place for gay people to go and feel safe.

I myself have a big gay rainbow flag in my window right downtown and have people always honking when they go by. I know there are a lot of gay and bi-sexual people in town who want to be free to be themselves.

However, there are still ignorant people who need to

grow up and get into the times we're in. It's not a sin to be gay; it's the way we are.

If only Milton had a gay-friendly place, I think it would make a difference. I for one wouldn't be afraid to go there.

Once straight people are comfortable with gays and bi-sexuals they'll see we're not out to hurt anyone, just to live our lives. For the most part we're very friendly and fun people.

I'm glad *The Champion* printed the story on diversity and hope there are follow-up stories on this issue.

W. McCready
Milton

Motorist's littering on Ontario Street just shameful

Dear Editor:

At 2:30 p.m. on May 9, I was travelling north on Ontario Street and had just stopped in the turn lane at the right light on Pine Street.

There I spotted two crunched

sheets of white paper being thrown out the driver's window of a lovely late-model black Altima in the next lane.

There was no wind, so the paper floated gently to the pavement just below his or her window.

And this happened just a couple of weeks after our residents did such a great job cleaning up the litter.

What a shame.

M.E. Hutter
Tremaine Road

Region's annual compost giveaway a wonderful program

Dear Editor:

I made my first pilgrimage to Halton's compost giveaway at the nearby waste management site recently.

I call it a pilgrimage because I joined about 50 or so other families who were filling up every container imaginable with compost.

I felt proud to be a Halton resident that day as staff collected donations and money. The program is another fine example of the Region's commitment to the environment.

Way to go, Halton.

Tim Szumlanski
Edwards Avenue

Be sure to include your name, address and telephone number when submitting a letter to the editor for publication.

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