

Miscommunication during hunting trip leads to tragedy

'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.

November 1905

An appalling calamity happened to the Milton hunting party on Pickerel River Mills Township Parry Sound District in the death of W.A. Clark, Manager of the Toronto Cream & Butter Co. on Thursday of last week. The men in the two camps of the party had arranged for a "combination still hunt" and were all supposed to be following parallel lines in search for deer. In some way Mr. Clark came across the line followed by Wm. Panton, proprietor of the Champion, and the latter, mistaking Mr. Clark for a deer, unfortunately took aim, firing, killing him almost instantly. The fawn coloured coat worn by Mr. Clark and his movements behind a log, with the overhanging branches completely concealing the lower part of his body deceived Mr. Panton, experienced huntsman as he is. Mr. Panton was terribly overcome when he realized what had happened.

When able to do so he started off to find a team and driver to convey Mr. Clark's body to the steamboat landing. This being procured after a walk of ten miles, he went with the boy himself, Mr. John Pirie accompanying him as far as Burks Falls and remaining in charge until he could place it in the hands of friends in Toronto. Since his return home on Sunday morning, after three days of intense anxiety and distress, Mr. Panton has been unable to attend to any business, his nervous system being completely unstrung and the Champion is edited this week by a substitute who is responsible for this article.

The Annual Plowing Match of the Halton Association was held on the premises of Wm. Scott, near the G.T.R. station yesterday (Bronte St. N.). About sixteen teams competed and some very good plowing was done.

Commerce- Messrs. J.P. Lawrason & Co.'s new wagon has been started out under the charge of Mr. J. Perriton with a full line of drugs, fancy goods, etc. Mr. Perriton will take the north part of Nassagaweya township first and work down towards Milton. He expects to be home at frequent intervals to pick up various supplies. "John" is very popular throughout the County and should do a

Milton Time Capsules



good business.

Rev. C.T. Bennett and J.M. Bastedo got home on Tuesday morning after hunting deer in Muskoka, camping with three other sportsmen. They report unpleasant weather but good sport and brought home their complement of deer. J.D. McGibbon got home on Friday evening from the Magnetawan river, Parry Sound District. Business required his presence here and he had to cut short his outing. He brought home a fine deer.

The Bank of Hamilton's new office (site of current CIBC) is about ready for occupation and will be opened within a few days. All the furnishings are of the finest description and altogether the building does great credit to the bank.

The Warden at County Council read and presented an illuminated address to Wm. Panton, county clerk, and Mr. Cook presented him with a gold-headed cane on his having completed forty years of service as county clerk. Mr. Panton spoke briefly thanking the council for the honor done him, for the handsome mementos given him and for the kind things said of him.

The Stevenson Block (Bergsma's) has been sold this week to Bastedo & Co. We understand the firm intend to have it fitted up for one large store and when completed it will be quite an improvement to the Main street of our town.

Messrs. O'Heron & Fletcher have completed arrangements for the opening of the Milton Marble and Granite Works about Jan. 1st on the premises on Main St. formerly occupied by Fred Wales, butcher. They will move the shop back from the street so that they can display their goods in front of it. They will import and manufacture a full line of foreign and domestic marble and granite.

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

'Shake the trees' plan just plain ridiculous

Dear Editor:

I'm writing concerning a campaign that just began in my area of town which I learned of through a pamphlet in my mailbox.

At first I saw the hilarity of the proposal, and then I became vexed — not only about the principle of what was being suggested, but also because it was a blatant insult of my intelligence.

I'm of course referring to the 'Let's Get Rid Of Those Birds!' campaign that started last weekend in the Dorset Park area.

Despite the positives they bring, the birds — starlings — are a bit of a nuisance, and I'll certainly admit that. And this letter isn't about taking sides in this matter. What I do want to comment on is what I consider to be the sheer stupidity of what's being proposed. Let's just take a look at the methods these people have set in motion.

They're asking people to tie a rope to a high branch in an occupied tree and pull on it every 15 minutes before everyone goes to bed, so "the birds will become so sleep deprived they will have no choice but to leave."

Boy that's absolutely brilliant. First of all, let's deal with the obvious. Many of those trees, including the ones in my backyard, are close to 80 feet high. How is it they pro-

pose I climb the 70 feet to reach these branches without incurring more risk than this is really worth?

Also, the writers of this pamphlet are quick to point out that this will shake droppings out of the tree, but this shouldn't be of concern because the wind does this anyway.

Wait a second, if the wind does this anyway and the birds still haven't left, on what basis is this plan supposed to work? I've seen birds tolerate shaking from even mild winds that would be far more grievous to any tree dweller than a simple shaking every 15 minutes.

When doing this shaking, we're also supposed to dress in something similar to a full nuclear suit to protect ourselves from potentially deadly droppings. I'm assuming I'm supposed to just leave this suit on so I can go and shake my trees between every commercial break.

The pamphlet also calls for us to tie a piece of wood to the trunk of the tree and hit it with a sledge hammer every 15 minutes until the birds leave. Again, I'll be the first to admit that the birds can be an occasional annoyance, but not nearly as annoying as 100 homeowners smacking sledgehammers against every tree in their garden every 15 minutes — a process which the pamphlet instructs us to start at 10 p.m. each night.

Anyone smacking anything with a sledgehammer at this time of night will be quick to know about it, not only from myself but I'm sure from many others.

The pamphlet continues by informing us about how dried particles of bird feces are polluting our air and pose a significant health threat from the well-known disease Histoplasmosis.

What the pamphlet doesn't address is that the disease is in fact quite rare, and even if the disease is contracted it's usually not serious enough to warrant any kind of treatment.

What these people also fail to recognize is that even if the plan succeeds — which I can guarantee will not — they're simply making it somebody else's problem, which in the interest of being good neighbours I'm sure is contrary to what they're trying to achieve.

If your bird situation is that intolerable, simply have your tree pruned, or if it means that much to you, cut down. Otherwise, do as we do and simply jet wash the trees periodically.

At the end of the day, it's not that big of a deal. And please, next time don't put such complete and utter rubbish in my mailbox.

John Gordon Jr.
McCrae Court

Theft of son's lacrosse stick truly disappointing

Dear Editor:

I'm writing this letter on behalf of my 14-year-old son who on Saturday at about 1:30 p.m. had his lacrosse stick stolen at John Tonelli Sports Centre.

The theft occurred while the poor kid was using the washroom.

Our son paid for that lacrosse stick with the money he earned timekeeping lacrosse games. He could have quite possibly kept time in a game for the person who stole his stick.

It seems times are changing here in Milton. The days of watching out for each other seem to be disappearing. My son was born and raised here, and he's

shocked that someone would do something so hurtful to him. Unfortunately he's learning that our community is changing, and maybe not for the better.

To the person who stole my son's lacrosse stick, please return it to Tonelli arena. There'll be no questions asked.

To all parents, please check your kids' lacrosse sticks to see if they have a new orange and brown stick with lime green shooting string. If so, chances are it's my son's stick.

We can be contacted at (905) 875-5910.

S. Herder
Milton

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 miltone@haltonsearch.com, faxed to (905) 878-4943 or dropped off at 875 Main St. E.



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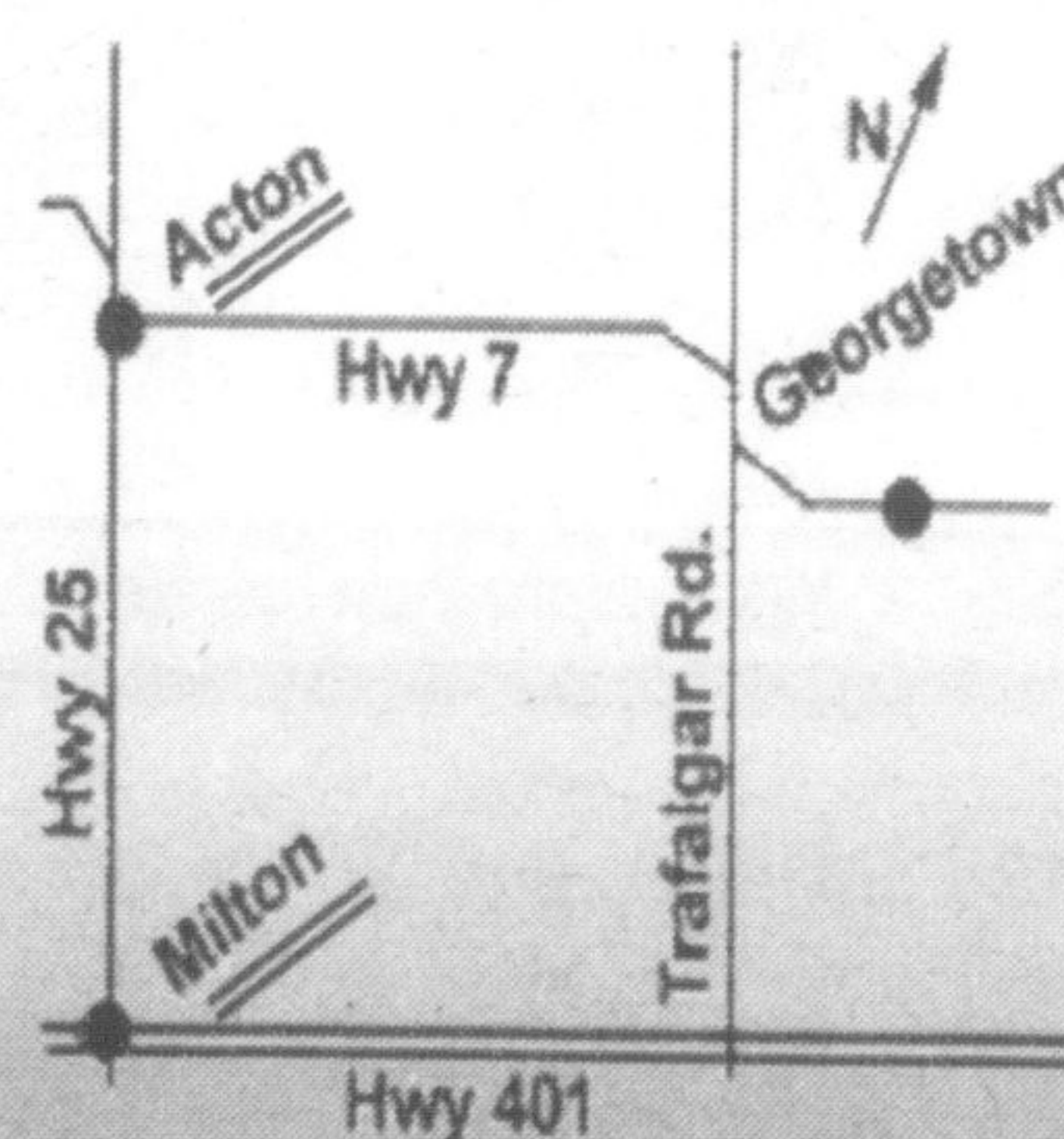
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