

Town gets new generator for its electric light plant

'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.

December 1905

The new generator for the Milton municipal electric light plant arrived on Tuesday. Everything necessary for the new power house is now here. A telegram was sent to Montreal asking that an expert be sent to superintend the removal of the machinery now in the old power house and the setting up of it in the new power house. It's expected that the plant will be in operation in the new power house within a week. Four new arc lights will be installed in parts of the town that are at present insufficiently lighted. The expense would have been \$132 if they had been set up by the old company. Lights which have been out of order for some time will be attended to and a morning service from five o'clock until daylight will be commenced and continued until the days lengthen so that it will be unnecessary.

The managers of the local hockey team have made satisfactory arrangements with the owners of the rink and their intermediate team will be a strong one. There will be no age limit as there was last season with the junior team. Milton will have plenty of the fastest of hockey. Tom Lewis came home some time ago and will take his old position in goal. Lister, Fleming, Campbell, Field and White of last season's team will be available as well as a couple of new men who promised to do well.

Thos. H. Hume is pushing building operations on his new brick residence on Mill Street (71 Mill St.) They have been favoured so far with mild weather.

The Sproat farm at the north end of Milton has been sold to Alex Wilson of the Scotch Block, price \$9,250. There are 200 acres, less about an acre taken for the C.P.R. right-of-way. The outbuildings are not in first-class condition, but the farm is a particularly good one.

Something went wrong with the lighting apparatus in the Methodist Church last Sunday, necessitating the withdrawal of the evening service. The cause of the trou-

Milton Time Capsules



ble has been remedied.

Trafalgar council is progressive. It has decided to submit a bylaw for the commutation of statute labour to the vote of the ratepayers. It should be carried. The old statute labour plan is an old fraud.

Councillor G.A. Hemstreet has retired from the town council after 15 years' service. The council, however, is likely to have the benefit of the experience and ability of ex-Mayor Dice, who retired some years ago. Mr. Dice is a candidate for councillor and it is expected that he will head the poll.

The curling club held a meeting on Tuesday night and the membership fee was fixed at four dollars. There are few curling clubs in the province with so low a fee.

The cantata, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, was given at the Town Hall on Friday evening by the Young People of Knox Church. The weather was unfavourable and the roads bad, which must have prevented many people from outside the town from attending, but yet there was a large audience and the receipts were satisfactory. The young folks sang their choruses very well indeed, showing that they had been well trained and their costumes were appropriate and tasteful. The opening grand march by 16 young girls was a feature. Miss Sherk, contralto, scored a success with her solos, as did also Miss Jardine, soprano.

The third annual military ball of No. 4. Co. 20th Regt. Lorne Rifles was held in the Town Hall in Brookville. Major Beattie was presented with a handsome chair and address recognizing his promotion from the captaincy of the company to the higher and more responsible position of major of the battalion.

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

Criticism over issues facing Halton District School Board should be directed elsewhere

Dear Editor:

I continue to read *The Champion's* articles surrounding the recent resignation of the Halton District School Board's director of education, Dusty Papke, with continued frustration.

Now *The Champion* is printing letters about it, as well as editorials attacking certain trustees at the board.

Well, enough is enough.

It's time *The Champion* and those writing to or being quoted in the newspaper start questioning the trustees that were involved in arranging the terms of Mr. Papke's contract.

They don't include current board Chair Paul Tate and Vice-Chair Peggy Russell, who have been in their positions for less than a year.

Halton Hills Trustee Ethel Gardiner and Oakville Trustee Mary Chapin were the chair and vice-chair respectively in 2001 when the director's contract was rewritten — for what reason I don't know.

Those of us who are hot about the board having to dole out \$600,000 had better get their attention off the current chair, who simply had to honour the terms of the contract.

It's time to start posing the tough questions to Ms Gardiner and Ms Chapin. Both of these trustees were deafeningly quiet when the media

was present at the recent budget meeting and the year-end board meeting when details of the severance package were made public.

The *Champion's* July 8 editorial tore a strip off of Mr. Tate for his so-called involvement in Mr. Papke's buy-out and merely quoted Ms Gardiner and Ms Chapin's dismay. Interestingly, these are two of the trustees who opposed the vote to change police governance at the boards June 22 leading to Mr. Papke's departure. They were also instrumental in the implementation of this policy governance only a few years ago.

As a Milton resident for 11 years and parent council chair for three years at Martin Street Public School, we fought to have our school kept open and won. We've become all too familiar with policy governance at the board, which in my opinion has simply divided the current board.

Under its recent form, the board staff was tasked to do most everything at the board and then provide data and options to the trustees to vote on. That might be an oversimplification of the situation, but it gives you an idea of the problem.

We found that most trustees wanted the facts prior to making these difficult decisions, but having to educate them on the issues of Milton's growth was an excruciating process.

Our school's parents were being updated monthly by Town staff for free on these issues, but according to Town officials the school board wasn't receiving the same up-to-date information — although trustees were being told otherwise at board meetings.

As far as we can tell, board staff were providing trustees with out-of-date growth projections.

I believe the director of education and his staff were keeping trustees in the dark in order to strengthen their stand on the need to close older schools and get ministry funding to provide for new school construction.

This I feel was a trigger to vote down the policy governance by certain trustees. In my opinion, it's this lack of transparency between providing options to trustees and wanting to maintain the policy of building new schools quicker that led to Mr. Papke taking his leave.

The board staff's job is to provide options to the elected trustees, not to decide the direction they want to go and then provide data to suit that. In the future, I think the residents of Halton are entitled to more digging before newspapers start trashing some of the elected trustees and calling for the ministry to step in and take over.

**Mark Wallis, parent council chair
Martin Street School**

Carr's vote represented majority of his constituents

Dear Editor:

In her July 5 letter, Melissa Cameron mischievously shoots from the hip in criticizing Halton MP Gary Carr's vote on the same-sex marriage issue, stating that he supports the rights of only some of his constituents.

It's my opinion that Mr. Carr supported the views of the majority of his constituents when he voted against same-sex marriage. Regardless, elementary logic suggests that no MP will fulfill the wishes of all constituents on any given issue.

The results of various national polls preceding the vote on Bill C-38 showed that a high percentage of Canadians were against same-sex marriage. That led me to conclude that the matter was an excellent candidate for a referendum.

However, that would have been a step toward eliminating what I consider to be the 'democratic deficit', which combined with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms is the real destructive force in this country.

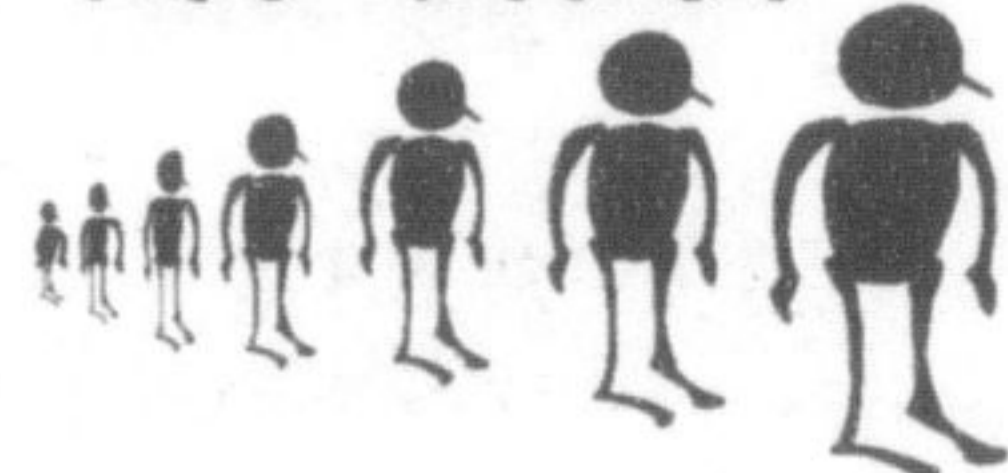
Paul Martin had the gall to claim that Bill C-38 would entail a 'free vote' in the House of Commons. However, I believe he pressured his cabinet ministers to vote in favour of it and thus guaranteed its passage.

I'm sure that Lester B. Pearson was speaking with great foresight when he said, "A Canadian prime minister with a majority government is the nearest thing to a dictator ... if he wants to be one."

In my opinion, this country has seen far too many prime ministers ready to fulfill just such a role.

**Ron Bezant
Harrison Road**

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