

Town's electric lighting vastly improved with new equipment

'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.

January 1906

Milton's municipal electric light plant was operated Saturday evening for the first time from the new powerhouse, with new equipment. There is a tremendous improvement in the lighting, which was always dim and unsteady under the old arrangement. There were too many lights for the limited power. Now the lights are brilliant and steady and there is plenty of power to spare for extra lights.

...

Last Sunday, being the first Sunday of the New Year, the Grace Church choir made its appearance as a surplice choir. Several members have been added and now the complete strength of the choir is 32. The careful training that they have had under Mr. Gollins was very evident. Grace Church Milton is about the last church in this part of the country to have a vested choir.

...

The annual meeting of the Milton Public Library, formerly known as the Mechanics' Institute, was held Tuesday evening. There was a good attendance including a number of representatives of the prospective Men's Club who paid their subscriptions to the library and took part in the proceedings. Directors elected: Rev. Rural Dean Belt, A. Higginbotham, E. Syer, E.M. Doull, Dr. Robertson, J.S. Deacon, Dr. Stuart, Wm. Panton and W.J. Sheppard. Directors met and elected: Rev. Rural Dean Belt, President; R. Coates, Librarian; Dr. Robertson treasurer; E.M. Doull, secretary pro tem, A. Higginbotham and Wm. Panton, Auditors. The possibility of a Carnegie library for Milton was discussed and the President was requested to procure information as to the conditions imposed by Mr. Carnegie.

...

The Library Board met on the proposed organization of a men's club. It was agreed that a men's club be formed in connection with the public library and that one-half of the membership fee be collected, those already members of the public library to pay \$1 each. It was also agreed that application be made to Mr. Andrew Carnegie for a grant towards putting up a public library building with the necessary accom-

Milton Time Capsules



modation. In the meantime an effort will be made to have an understanding with the town council for putting a hardwood floor in the reading room. The present reading room will be improved by the addition of half a dozen stools and other necessities for patrons and more magazines and papers will be provided.

The room in rear of town hall will be fitted up for a temporary recreation room by purchasing a few small tables and installing some games. A caretaker will be engaged at as reasonable a rate as possible, to keep the reading room open every weekday evening from 7 to 10 and see that rules are observed. A committee will be appointed to carry out these recommendations as soon as the sum of \$50 is collected for the purpose. The committee appointed Rural Dean Belt and Messrs. Syer, Sheppard and Doull.

...

Legal, Social- Chief Constable Bradley says that about two years ago J. M., of Nassagaweya, called on him, informed him that Mrs. M. had left him and was living with a Galt man. He says he didn't want her to go back to him but he wanted the constable to help him to scare some money out of the man with whom she was living. The constable refused, informing M. that blackmailing was not a part of his duty. M. sought consolation in the companionship of another woman. The constable reports that a short time ago a man called on him, said his name was L., and his home Shakespeare, that his wife had left him and was living with M. He asked the constable to go with him in order to get the woman to sign separation papers. The constable went. He says that when he and L. arrived at their destination M. appeared frightened and protested that the woman was living with him simply as his housekeeper; she could go or stay, he did not care which. When the separation agreement was produced he appeared to be greatly relieved and the woman equally pleased. She signed at once and no doubt is still with M. as housekeeper.

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.

OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Charging admission at our Canadian War Museum is cheap and downright shameful

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to Cliff Chadderton's letter in last Friday's *Champion* about his wife's recent trip to the Canadian War Museum.

To say that I'm seething after learning from Mr. Chadderton, chairman of the National Council of Veteran Associations, that you have to pay to get into our museum is an understatement.

I recently returned from a trip to England, where I visited the Imperial War Museum, and yes I can confirm that admission there is free. As Mr. Chadderton notes,

admission to the Australian War Museum is also free.

In my opinion, the federal government's policy of charging admission to an edifice meant to evoke remembrance — and a place that should be considered hallowed ground — is nothing but sacrilege. To me, this is worse than the coin-operated displays found in cathedrals in France or the trays sitting on counters in some retail outlets accompanied by signs reading 'Pour le service.'

There's no place, I believe, for such two-bit practices in a war

museum.

It's bad enough that the majority of Canadians can't even apply for a staff job at the Canadian War Museum because of language restrictions.

Were Canada to mobilize once again in order to participate in a major war, I wonder who would or wouldn't volunteer and who would be rejected out of hand due to a lack of fluency in one of our two so-called official languages.

Ron Bezant
Harrison Road

Tribute at golf tournament much appreciated

Dear Editor:

I'd like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the Golfing 4 Cancer Committee for the unexpected but truly heartfelt tribute that my wife and I received the night of the latest tournament at Hornby Glen Golf Course July 11.

I'll never forget the people who served on the committee, nor the golfers and volunteers who have been a part of this great event over the past 12 years.

I'd also like to thank the residents of Milton for their generous involvement in this very worthwhile

fundraiser.

You personally may not have had to deal with cancer, but we all know someone — be it a family member, friend, co-worker or neighbour — who has been touched by the disease.

My hope is that people continue to support the Golfing 4 Cancer event as they have in the past.

Once again, thanks for the wonderful tribute and for your support over the past 12 years.

Mike Boughton, former chairman
Golfing 4 Cancer

Ad for mayor's anniversary offers hint of irony

Dear Editor:

Tuesday's advertisement by the Milton Chamber of Commerce for Gord Krantz's 25th anniversary as mayor caught my attention.

I have no desire to denigrate Mr. Krantz's many contributions to Milton. However, I found it delicious irony to see that proceeds

from the event will be directed to the Chamber Legacy Fund to improve and maintain community landmarks.

This in the name of a mayor who, in my opinion, has presided over a town council that has effectively turned Milton over to developers to do with as they see fit.

It seems appropriate that the four corporate sponsors for the anniversary celebration are all developers active in Milton. No doubt they're grateful for the supportive decisions of Mr. Krantz and the council he leads.

Tom Wright
Milton

Thanks to everybody who came to our garage sale

Dear Editor:

We'd like to thank everyone who came to our recent garage sale.

Those who took an item from our free pile and made a donation helped support the Milton District Hospital Foundation.

We raised a total of \$50, which our mom generously matched. Thus, we gave \$100 to the hospital foundation.

Again, thanks for your support.

Anita and Christine
Sunnyvale Crescent

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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