

Area judge claims justice system is too expensive

'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.

February 1906

In his address to the county council last Friday, Judge Gorham said that the present system of the administration of justice was too expensive. One set of jurors would be sufficient. The County Court and General Sessions had been deprived of their powers so that they had become of little use. County Court judges were associate judges of the High Court. There was no reason why at assizes, after close of High Court, the County judges should not sit and dispose of minor cases. The sheriff might take over the duties of high constable and could have deputies throughout the county. He should handle all executions. Under the present system county constables run up heavy bills of costs, which should be reduced. The County Court should be dropped and the Division Court retained. The work of the Division Court clerks could be centered in the hands of the Clerk of the High Court and the fees of crown attorneys should be commuted and salaries paid instead. They should be paid by the Provincial Government. At Judge Gorham's suggestion a committee was appointed to enquire into the expenses of the administration of justice in Halton during the least ten years and to prepare a memorial to the Ontario Government asking for changes on the lines stated.

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Mount Nemo is the name of a new post office in Nelson. Edward Thomas is in charge of it.

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On Tuesday evening 15 freight cars jumped the G.T.R. track near Mansewood and traffic was delayed until late in the night.

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Mrs. Ross, president of the Dominion Woman's Missionary Society, is in town. Her visit recalled pleasant memories to the older residents. Her father, the late Rev. Dr. Williams was here as pastor of the Methodist Church in the '60s. Dr. Williams and his family were very musical. Occasional concerts were given in connection with the Mechanics' Institute by home talent with which the town was well supplied. Mrs. Ross, then in her girlhood, had

Milton Time Capsules



a particularly fine soprano voice and she and two of her brothers, Dr. Watson Williams and Edward, later Rev. Edward Williams, were, while they remained here, the leading singers at the concerts, which were held at the court house. The town hall was not built until a few years later.

...

On Friday evening the pipe organ lately installed in Knox Church was opened with a recital by Arthur Blakeley of Toronto. Mr. Blakeley is the organist and choirmaster of the Sherbourne St. Methodist Church and is also known as one of the leading organists of Ontario. The organ, built by The Karn Co. of Woodstock, has a very handsome appearance, the case being in dark quartered oak and the design though simple is pure and effective. Of the equipment and resources of the organ itself we are not able to speak enough to say that it was sufficient to meet the exacting demands made upon it in the program rendered by Mr. Blakeley. In addition to vocal music the choir contributed anthems. The people of Knox Church are to be congratulated on the organ which they have installed. The various stops have been well chosen, the melodia and oboe being especially pleasing. The tubular pneumatic system is used, the console with manuals being just inside the choir railing, some 20 feet from the organ proper. The advantages of this system are quite manifest. There are now a couple of very good pipe organs in town and we would suggest that in the future recitals should be frequently given, at which competent soloists might be heard.

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The improvements in the reading room in the town hall required more time than was expected but they are completed and the room is open today for the first time. There is a new, varnished hardwood floor and the walls and ceiling have been papered. The room looks much neater and brighter than it did.

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

Tremaine Road indeed a safety concern

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to The Champion's August 26 article entitled 'Cyclists say some roads in biking guide unsafe.'

Cyclists are absolutely right to be concerned about the safety of Tremaine Road. The traffic on this road is growing steadily and drivers are speeding and passing other motorists with little regard for cyclists or those living in the area. It's a hazard just to walk on the gravel shoulder with my kids when drivers are speeding in my 50-km zone.

However, the safety concerns on Tremaine Road are old news that my family and neighbours have known about for years. Maybe someone should have asked the people on Tremaine Road what their thoughts were on the matter.

What causes me to shake my

head — but doesn't surprise me — is that there's an ongoing environmental assessment of Tremaine Road between Derry Road and Campbellville Road, and that bike lanes may be part of the expansion of Tremaine.

For those who don't know, within the next two to 10 years the area between Campbellville Road and Steeles Avenue will be heavily developed and Tremaine Road will be diverted to include an on-off ramp to Hwy. 401.

As it is, this isn't a safe area for cyclists, as everyone could see by the picture in *The Champion*. The cyclist had a large truck behind her and I don't think adding a couple of feet for the cyclist will make the situation much better.

All this future development is saddening to me, as this is such a beautiful area. Isn't it enough that

we have huge craters in the escarpment, with further expansion of these craters afforded to Dufferin Aggregates in the near future?

My point is the environmental assessment of this area has been ongoing for years and is probably costing taxpayers thousands of dollars. Why spend more money on environmental assessments when, in my opinion, poor decisions have already been made and the environment has already been laid to rest here on Tremaine Road?

This letter is intended to warn cyclists to be very cautious on Tremaine Road and to give another example of wasted taxpayers' money.

Oh, and one more thing, come and enjoy the escarpment now before it's too late to enjoy.

Lisa Rigo
Tremaine Road

Tree shaking campaign no longer comical

Dear Editor:

I can no longer see the humour in the current crusade for Dorset Park residents to rid the area of the starling population.

Thankfully I return to school next week and will no longer have to deal with the idiocy of the constant fireworks, eagle calls and banging of tree trunks with sledgehammers.

One of the residents has even cut down two gorgeous and very mature maple trees in a bid to rid the birds from his garden. Does this not seem a little excessive to anyone?

Nothing's more tiresome than stupidity, and this whole situation is getting very old very quickly.

Have these people ever stopped to think just why the European starling is so successful as a species, and thus able to so terribly inconvenience their lives?

Basically it's because of its adaptability, the effectiveness of its gregarious lifestyle and its efficiency at determining true treats.

These people should really watch the birds the next time they set off fireworks beneath a tree. Initially about half of the starlings will leave but then quickly return. The second time about half again will fly away, but the third or fourth time they're hardly even bothered.

The only ones these people are bothering are myself and others in the area. The birds are making a total mockery of these people every evening.

Unfortunately, this small amount of comic relief hardly measures up to the outrage this disruptive behaviour is causing. Take a day off, people.

John Gordon Jr.
McCrae Court

Editorial cartoon on gun violence was offensive

Dear Editor:

I feel compelled to write to you about the cartoon that appeared in the August 19 *Champion*.

As a new resident of Milton, I was appalled at the cartoon, which seems to imply that blacks are violent. It's rather belittling to decent, law-abiding blacks.

Nearly every picture in the paper was lily-white, except for the cartoon. What kind of message are

you sending to the community at large? I'm sure it wasn't your intention to alienate blacks, but it would appear that way from the cartoon.

We're fully aware and concerned about the spurt of violence in Toronto over the past several weeks. Many black leaders are trying to help law enforcement officers to apprehend the criminals and stop the insanity.

However, blacks don't have a corner on violence and shouldn't be portrayed as such.

The population of Milton is growing and many people of different racial backgrounds have moved into the community over the past two years. The *Champion* needs to be aware that it now serves a diverse group of readers.

E.L. Anderson
Milton

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