

Milton's property values double in just a few years

'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.

April 1906

Councillor W. J. Dewar has sold his brick residence on Victoria Street (103) to Mrs. D. Scott, formerly of Nassagaweya. The price was \$3,000. Milton real estate has doubled in value since a few years ago, when Mr. Dewar tried unsuccessfully to find a buyer for this property at \$1,800 and the Andrews residence on Mill Street (121) was sold for \$1,400. There is not an inhabitable house in town that is unoccupied. There are none to rent and few, if any, for sale. He who wants a house can build as cheaply as he can buy it. This state of affairs speaks well for the prosperity of the town.

The Port Huron Engine & Thresher Co. is preparing a steam road-roller which will be sent here for the road machinery competition on 3rd May. The Good Roads Machinery Co. of Hamilton has given notice that it will not compete, but it is understood that the Climax Co., of New York, will send a rock crusher.

Special services were begun in the Methodist Church last Sunday, under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon of Ottawa. The evangelists were greeted by large congregations. The morning service was conducted by Mrs. Gordon. She is an eloquent speaker and her singing added much to the interest of the service. Mrs. Gordon also gave a temperance address at the town hall in the afternoon, which was well attended. Her subject was reminiscent of her visit to the World's Convention of the W.C.T.U. held in Edinburgh. In the evening Mr. Gordon conducted the service, preaching a very earnest sermon on the subject of Christian rejoicing. The services are being conducted at the church each evening at 8 p.m. with Bible readings in the afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Stephen Conway will leave Milton with his younger son, Harold to make their home at Vancouver. Mr. Conway is a native of Milton. He has been foreman of the Champion office for about a quarter of a century. He has been a member of the band for about 30 years and is noted for his

Milton Time Capsules



ability as a euphonium soloist. The band and citizens gave him a banquet at the Commercial Hotel.

Edward Bastedo, of Buffalo, N.Y. died yesterday. He was a brother of J.M. Bastedo, of Milton, a native of Halton and a veteran of the war of the rebellion.

Maple Syrup just arrived from the woods. Guaranteed to be absolutely pure. \$1.20 gal., 30¢ quart. Bastedo & Co.

The Milton Rifle Association has been disbanded by the militia authorities, too many of its members having failed to put in their practice last year. They object to walking four miles for each practice, two to the range and two back. An order has been received for the return of the rifles and unused ammunition to the keeper of militia stores at Toronto.

The spring show of Halton Agricultural Society held here last Friday was favoured with fine weather, but the attendance was smaller than it would have been a week earlier. The farmers were busy with their seeding which had come on late, so that there was no time to spare. The number of entries was not large.

By direction of the town council the space between the front of the power house and the roadway of Main Street has been levelled up with earth and is being sodded. It promises to look very well.

There is talk of re-organizing the Milton baseball club. Most of the old players are still here and there are some new men who are said to be at least equally good. The players being available and a good ground ready for them, the team should be re-organized.

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

Ongoing preoccupation with high-density housing is simply not healthy for our town

Dear Editor:

What's the matter with Milton council? Do we have a bunch of yo-yos for elected officials or serious-minded individuals with a grand vision for turning Milton into an economic powerhouse like Mississauga or Waterloo?

Why are Town planners, councillors and the mayor so preoccupied with condos and high-density development — even in the absence of industry, infrastructure and meaningful employment opportunities for Miltonians. Why don't we for once hear that council has attracted a high-tech company or manufacturing plant to Milton?

Why haven't we heard that council has lobbied for an institution of higher learning in town so we don't have to send our kids to Laurier, McMaster or Ryerson and pay for their accommodations while there when we could send them to a college or university here in Milton?

Day in and day out we're bombarded with news about high-rise and high-density development, even when the idea has already been shot down once because it's a bad one. In my opinion, the proposal to build high-rise apartments at Derry Road and Fourth Line doesn't fit and must be stopped dead in its tracks.

Milton developers keep telling council that there's a high demand for affordable housing by low-income earners. It's my belief that 90 per cent of Miltonians own their

own homes, so the remaining 10 per cent or so can't be characterized as high demand.

Equally important to note is that Milton wannabes from Toronto and Mississauga want to move away from high-rises and condos, gang violence and shootings to a quiet and less dense community to raise their young families.

Where will the so-called low income earners get meaningful jobs in Milton if there's no land designated for industrial growth? Will they have to drive to Toronto for jobs like most of us do? And if so, where will they find the money for a car to do so?

Furthermore, since when did developers become compassionate about low-income earners, or for that matter about anybody? Developers shouldn't mask their real motives. They want a large return on a small property — pure and simple. In economic terms, it's called maximization of profits — nothing more and nothing less.

Typically, high-rises and condos are built in the downtown area to revitalize that part of the town, not in existing neighbourhoods. Milton's planners, in my opinion, need to reject these high-rise proposals prior to sending them to council and wasting council's time debating these bogus proposals.

It's amazing to me that Milton planners and town council are actually buying into these developers' preposterous assertions of high

demand for affordable housing.

Instead of earmarking certain areas as business and industrial parks and then lobbying business leaders to invest in Milton — thereby spurring economic growth and meaningful employment for Miltonians — council wastes precious time debating about high-rises and condos.

I believe Milton is crawling with professionals capable of developing this town into an economic powerhouse, yet council is turning us into a labour force for Mississauga and the GTA by having little or no vision at all for attracting investment and employment to our community.

Town council needs to have a grand vision for economic development in Milton — like Mayor Hazel McCallion in Mississauga — and turn that vision into a reality. Ms McCallion single-handedly transformed Mississauga into an economic giant. Milton council must emulate that. Otherwise we'll continually live in the shadows of Mississauga.

If council continues to be preoccupied and obsessed with high-rise/high-density development, I suggest to my fellow Miltonians that we become more preoccupied and obsessed about the next municipal election. Somebody is going to have to answer for their preoccupation and obsession.

Khamis Doka
Milton

Recent editorial on rising gas prices misleading

Dear Editor:

I'm writing this letter in response to *The Champion's* September 23 editorial 'Give us a (tax) break.'

The editorial suggests that higher retail prices for gasoline translates into greater tax revenue for the Province. In Ontario, this is not the case. Indeed the exact opposite is true; as gas prices rise, Ontario's revenue from gas goes down. Here's why:

Ontario's gasoline tax is a flat tax. The tax is a fixed charge on each litre of gasoline sold. Unlike other sales tax, it's not a percentage of the price charged. Whether a litre of gasoline is sold at 72 cents or \$1.20, the Ontario gasoline tax is exactly the same, 14.7 cents per litre. As gas prices rise, Ontarians consume less. The

result is less revenue for the Province.

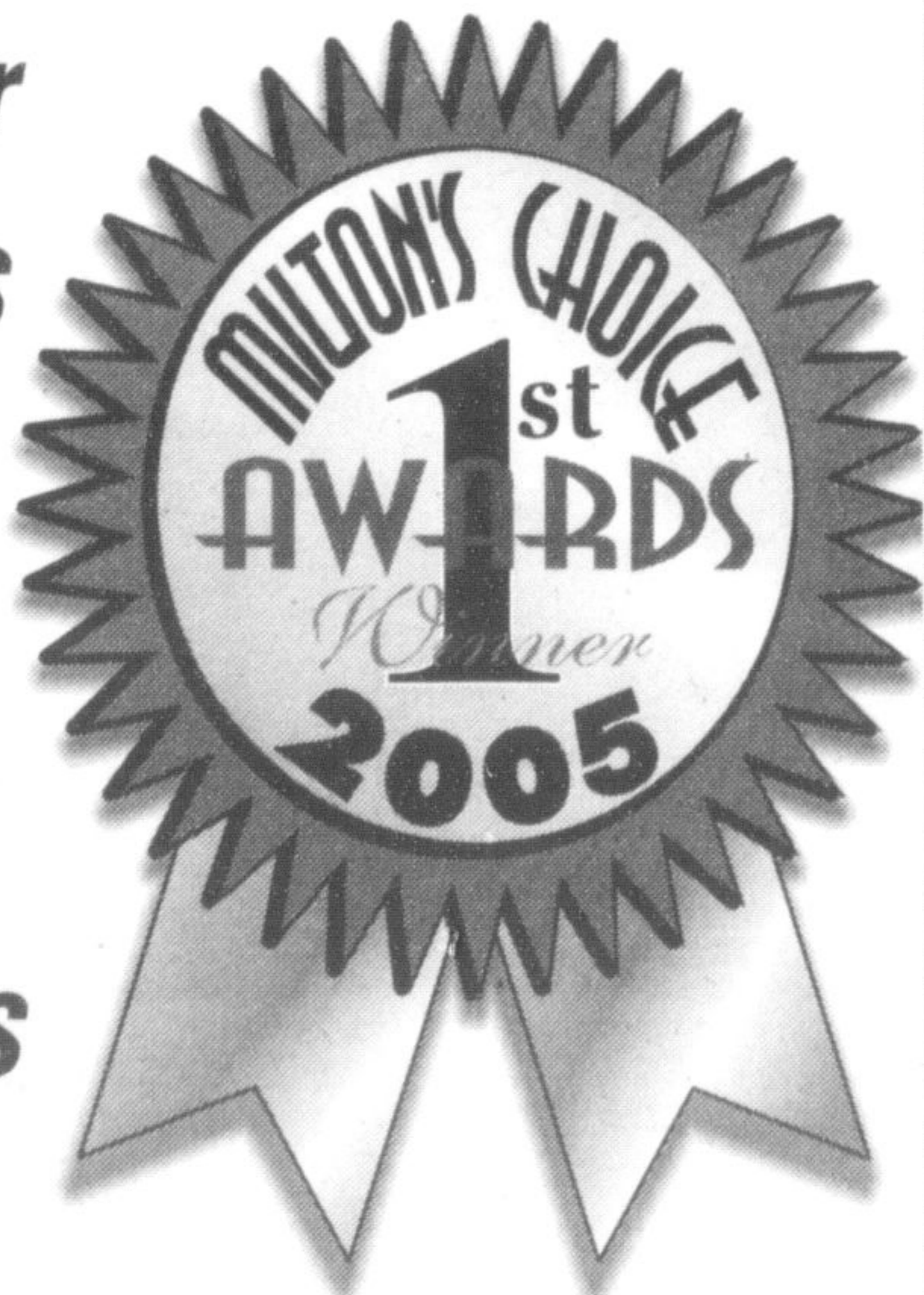
I think it's also important to note that over the next five years our government has committed to investing more than \$1 billion of the provincial gas tax in 83 transit systems serving 110 municipalities in Ontario.

Municipalities began receiving one cent a litre of the gas tax almost a year ago. This amount will grow to one-and-a-half cents later this year and two cents in October 2006.

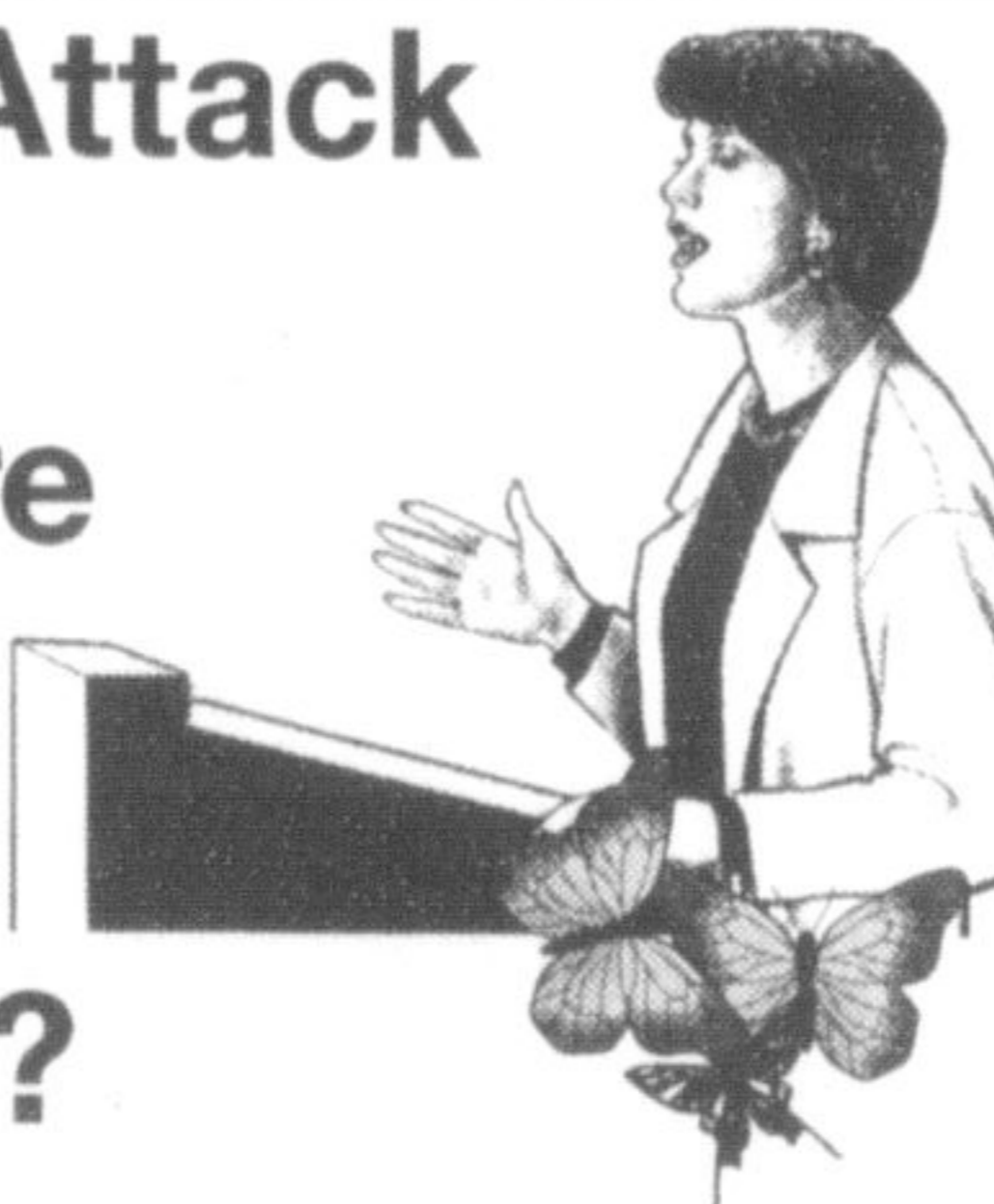
We're all concerned about the high cost of gasoline. High gas prices are not just an issue in Ontario, but across North America and around the world.

Greg Sorbara
Ontario Minister of Finance

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2005
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Section
in today's paper.



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to Speak
Before a Group?



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For more information, contact
Jamie Cunningham
905-876-2234
www.miltontostmasters.com
Refreshments will be served



St. John Ambulance

Need volunteers for the local
administrative board.

Our St. John group is a non-profit organization providing First Aid services and Therapy Dog visitations in the North Halton area.

The board assists with operational administration, public awareness, and fundraising.

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