

## Some Miltonians not happy with new electricity rates

'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

The Corporation of Milton made a good investment when it bought the electric light plant. The income is most satisfactory. However, some of the users of the lights complain. Formerly they paid a flat rate. Now their accounts are regulated by meters. They are said to be much higher than they were and doubts are expressed as to the correctness of the meters. If there is any good reason for doubt the meters should be tested.

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The Young Women's Christian Temperance Union recently organized in Milton held the first meeting in the R.T. of T. hall on Monday afternoon. There are already 27 members with a staff of officers made up of representatives from the different churches, with Miss M. Hollinrake as president. The "Ys" are planning practical work, and are hoping for the hearty cooperation of all the young ladies in the neighborhood in carrying out their plans. Dr. Edgar Robertson will give a short address at the next meeting.

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The adjourned vestry meeting of Grace Church was held on Monday evening. The increase of membership during the year was 85. Average attendance has largely increased. The mortgage debt of the church has been decreased to \$1,200. There has been considerable extra outlay for repair of the roof, excavation, etc... all paid.

May 1906

Halton Historical Society wrote Toronto Mayor E. Coatsworth urging that the greatly neglected Fort York buildings be improved. The Mayor wrote "the city council has no thought whatever but to take the very best care of it..."

...

The hotel at Campbellville has been closed for two reasons — the going into effect of the local option bylaw on Tuesday and the insolvency of its lessee D.A. Black, whose liabilities are said to be unaccountably heavy considering the large trade which he is said to have done. The supporters of the bylaw have now an opportunity to go into the hotel business and to demonstrate that a temperance hotel can be

## Milton Time Capsules



made a success.

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On Monday night or early on Tuesday some person or persons broke into Jasper Martin's saw mill in the East Ward (Fulton St.). Nothing of any consequence was carried off, but apparently matches were lit in the search for spoil, for when the men went to work at 7 a.m. a fire was found to be smoldering in some saw dust. The discovery was made just in time.

...

Operations have been commenced on the erection of an addition to Messrs. Winn & Co.'s shoe factory at its rear and running its full length (Lido Restaurant building). There will also be a new engine house, in which a larger engine than that now in use will be placed, together with a dynamo for a private electric light plant. When the building operations have been completed the machinery now in top flat of the present building will be moved to the main floor and new machines added. The cutting and bindery departments will be moved to the top flat. The output of the factory will be doubled and there will be work for a number of new hands if quarters can be found for them in the town. Messrs. Winn & Co. are particularly anxious to be in a position to engage married operatives, which they are unable to do now on account of the house famine. It is a pity that the operations of this enterprising firm and those of other local industries should be crippled through this famine. Money invested in the erection of dwellings to be rented at moderate rates would bring sure and large returns.

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The promoters of the proposed \$5,000 Carnegie public library for Milton are looking for a suitable site. They hope to decide on one shortly and having selected it will apply to the town council for the necessary 10 per cent guarantee for maintenance. There should be no difficulty about getting it. Milton is not less progressive than Brampton or Burlington.

*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](mailto:jdills@idirect.com).*

# OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

## Our town's growth not being controlled

(The following letter was addressed to town councillors, Mayor Gord Krantz and Town Director of Community Services Jennifer Reynolds, and a copy was filed with *The Champion*.)

Dear Editor:

I feel I must share my concerns with you regarding the issue of growth in Milton.

I understand that many of the decisions regarding the changes in Milton are very difficult. The pressure on Milton to grow is tremendous and doesn't make the job of town councillors or Town of Milton staff easy or enviable.

However, I believe the pace of growth that we're experiencing is rendering Milton dysfunctional. It's time to consider the residents — both old and new — as well as the business owners in town. The Town of Milton should be for the people, not for the developers.

The traffic is congested, chaotic and extremely dangerous in some areas. There have been many articles in *The Champion* on this topic. I just hope there isn't a tragic accident before there's a realization on the seriousness of this problem.

We want to attract more people to the downtown core, and yet there's a proposal to install parking meters. The logic in this completely escapes me. Also, contracts for Town services are being awarded to businesses out of town. Town staff should set an example and support local business.

Let's look at the impact of this growth on the young people in town. We have schools that are over capacity right from the day they open. How do teachers teach

and how do students learn under these conditions? This creates a chaotic and at times perhaps even an unsafe environment. Town of Milton staff must accept some responsibility here, as they're the ones issuing the building permits at an accelerated pace.

The public facilities are also near capacity. Currently there's no more pool time available for the local swim team. What will happen in two years' time when the population has grown by another 20,000 residents and no new pool is in sight?

Also, many of the young girls in town playing hockey have to drive to Georgetown for their games, even though Milton put in two new ice pads only two years ago. If our population is increasing quicker than expected, are new public recreation facilities going to be built ahead of schedule? Right now our sports facilities are strained, essentially shutting out many children from much-needed activity. As we all know, child obesity is a real concern, with its impact being felt down the road in our health-care system.

The Town Hall expansion plan seems fraught with problems as well, including the issue of parking — which in my opinion is nowhere near being resolved.

At the October 5 meeting regarding the expansion, many residents suggested some very good ideas regarding the plan, and I believe that the architect is truly trying to work with the public.

However, he and Town staff must realize that architecture isn't only about floor plans but also

about the scale of the building and how the project fits in to the neighbourhood aesthetically. Let's remember that Town Hall is situated in a residential area.

Perhaps it's time that Town staff, councillors and the architect looked outside of the box and design something besides a two-storey monstrosity with — I believe — a short life span that may not work with the neighbourhood. It's time the Town of Milton takes the upper hand and listens to what people are saying. Staff must listen to what the residents are telling them, or the residents will no longer care about the town that they live in. I think we're all tired of 'sharing our vision' with Town staff and the sharing only going one way.

The people of Milton offer a valuable resource of information and ideas. The residents want a town that's livable. The residents and the user groups of public facilities are offering lots of good, free advice — with no consultant fees attached.

Maybe it's time someone took the helm to slow down this juggernaut of growth until things can be brought under control.

I understand that change must come, but there has to be a reasonable pace to this change. Council and Town staff must become proactive — not reactive — to the issues that arise from growth.

For everyone concerned, I think it's time that we stopped and reassessed where we're going with this unchecked growth.

Sue Leeder  
Milton

## Champion's criticism should be directed elsewhere

Dear Editor:

At a time when Canadians are shocked at the excess spending and waste in Ottawa — with David Dingwall in the cookie jar, with Pierre Pettigrew sending his chauffeur on trips and with the Gomery report about to finger more scandal and corruption — what is *The Champion* trying to tell us?

The *Champion's* October 4 editorial cartoon of Conservative leader Stephen Harper falling out of a tree was, in my opinion, as absurd as it was misleading.

It's not Mr. Harper who's burning up taxpayers' dollars with government jets that cost \$20,000 an hour to fly. Mr. Harper's not the one with an apartment in Paris costing taxpayers \$10,000.

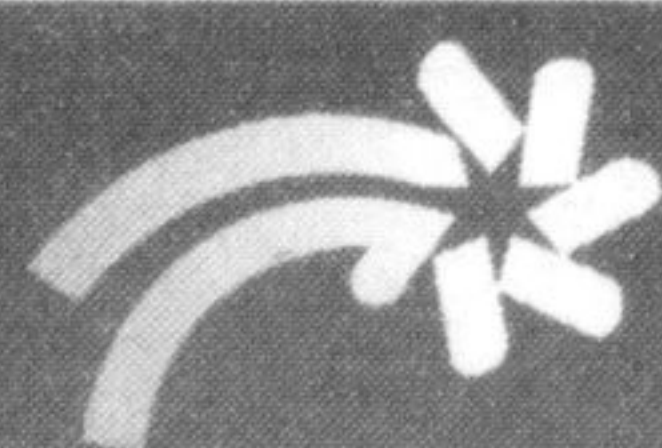
And Mr. Harper doesn't rack up \$700,000 in annual expenses, or appoint his friends to head Crown corporations they then loot.

Maybe *The Champion* should serve its readers by taking shots at the people who deserve it.

Garth Turner  
Halton Conservative Candidate

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