

# Area farmers hit hard by thunder and hail storm

'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.

July 1906

There was a heavy and destructive thunder and hail storm in this neighbourhood on Sunday afternoon. As it was coming on the sky took a peculiar yellowish metallic appearance and it became so dark that lamps were lit in most houses. There was not a breath of wind, but clouds were flying in different directions and it looked as though there might be a cyclone. There wasn't but there was a very strong wind, a great deal of lightning and a fall of large hail stones which cut leaves off the trees and battered vegetables generally. The lightning did no damage in the town but Clarkson Joyce's fine barn in the Scotch Block was burnt. It was struck just as Mr. Joyce and his brother were about to enter it. They saved some of the content but a quantity of last year's hay, a seed drill and other articles were burnt. Mrs. Joyce pluckily saved a pair of horses that were in the building. The insurance was \$2,000 and the loss considerably greater. James Peddie's barn, also in Esquesing, was struck and damaged considerably but did not take fire. In Nassagaweya A. McPhederan lost five cows, which were struck by lightning.

About 400 people, children and adults, took in the union excursion run to Burlington Beach on Tuesday, by the Methodist and Presbyterian Sunday Schools. Many of the excursionists went by steamer to Toronto or Hamilton. The enjoyment of those who remained on the Beach was greatly marred by heavy rain. There was little shelter, and many people had their clothing soaked. Aside from this, the excursion was a success.

The contractors are making fast progress in laying cement walks on Main St. from the Hotel McGibbon (Brown St.) to Bronte St. The fact that the boulevard plan has been dropped and that the walks follow the lines of the old wooden ones gives general satisfaction. So do the walks themselves. They appear to be the best laid in Milton so far.

There was another wreck on the G.T.R.

## Milton Time Capsules



(CN) on Tuesday. A freight train going south became separated and the last half of the train ran into the front part just above Mansewood at about 4 a.m. Eleven cars were thrown off the track, four of which were so badly damaged that they had to be burned. The track was blocked until about 6 p.m. The people around Mansewood were wakened by the sound and thought an earthquake had arrived.

J.E. Bate, contractor, has begun work on the Main St. bridge, which is now closed to traffic. The bridge will be a solid structure of massive stone and cement top. It will take six weeks or two months to complete it.

J.J. Wilson, First Line, Trafalgar, importer and breeder of large English Berkshires, shipped a very fine brood sow yesterday to a breeder at Woodstock, for which he received \$100. Mr. Wilson placed an order in the old country in June for a bunch of breeding sows in farrow and has instructed his agent there to buy only the best that can be found. He expects them to arrive the latter part of August.

On Monday a man, who said he hailed from Toronto and gave his name as Robert Montgomery, applied to Mrs. Osborne, of Martin Street, for board and a room. He appeared to be about 35 years of age, was clean shaven and his nose was slightly crooked, as he himself proved to be later. On Tuesday morning he left, as he said, to take a look at the town. He did not return at noon and Mrs. Osborne supposed that he had gone to the brick works. In the evening a lady boarder, while dressing, missed a gold ring and some coppers that had been left in a drawer. Mrs. Osborne then took stock of her belongings and found that a gold watch was gone valued at \$40. Mrs. Osborne laid an information and a warrant was placed in Chief Constable Bradley's hands, but so far Montgomery has not been found.

This material is assembled on behalf of the Milton Historical Society by Jim Dills, who can be reached at [jdills@idirect.com](mailto:jdills@idirect.com).

# OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

## Town Hall expansion shouldn't compromise architectural appeal of the neighbourhood

Dear Editor:

Once again, I think town council has shown a complete lack of regard for its citizens and buildings of old Milton.

Town Hall is without argument the most beautiful building in Milton. Its architecture, surroundings and character define the historic nature of the town and the craftsmanship that was common in days gone by.

However, the Town has decided to expand the existing Town Hall offices in an effort to deal with the need for increased staff, which has arisen. Representatives of council, anticipating the concerns of local citizens, have voiced assurances that any plans for expansion would fit in with the current architecture of the building.

Really? Are they planning on using 150-year-old reclaimed stone? Not likely. Call me cynical, but this is the same town council that, when confronted with residents' concerns about growth and expansion, claimed our taxes wouldn't increase, that development would occur at a pace that wouldn't strain the town's resources and that emphasis would be placed on maintaining the heritage of Milton.

Is it any surprise that the residents of old Milton are a little wary

of the promises made by council?

Another problematic issue is the need for increased parking spaces. One such solution which has been presented is to tear down three existing century-old homes to make way for new parking lots. These homes have been part of the community for close to 100 years. As such, to tear them down would be criminal.

This would also be a huge detriment to the visual appeal of the neighbourhood. One only needs to look at the empty lot behind the post office to get an idea of what the residents of the area will get to look at every day — the backside of Main Street's buildings and stores, not to mention their dumpsters and clutter.

A more logical solution would be to construct underground parking in the present parking lot. Yes this would pose a great expense to the town, but given the millions of dollars we have recouped from the Mohawk slots, this seems like a small price to pay in an effort to maintain the esthetic value of the older part of town.

Allowing the three existing homes to be moved or destroyed would set a dangerous precedent. Will other homes be sold and torn down for parking? It would also send the message that the Town

doesn't value these old buildings.

Perhaps they should find a way to utilize these homes as part of the Town Hall expansion, much like the University of Toronto and the University of Guelph have incorporated older homes and buildings into their campuses.

Better yet, why not leave the homes where they are and donate them to the Milton Historical Society? I'm sure they would be able to utilize them in some capacity, perhaps as a place to display works and artifacts that reflect the heritage of the town.

If this doesn't seem feasible, perhaps the Town should look at relocating the entire Town Hall to another part of town where parking and architecture wouldn't be an issue.

It's time that council began to listen to the residents of this neighbourhood, not just present the façade of democracy by holding meetings and asking for input from its citizens just to plow ahead and do whatever they please in the end.

They need to do the right thing and solve these issues without damaging or destroying the historic look of Milton in their quest to meet the demands of continued growth.

B. Cross  
Robert Street

## More business could be done on-line at home

• from TOWN on page A6

and studied from home.

Imagine having an on-line educational campus where new Canadians could learn English as a second language on-line at any time of day or night using interactive software. A mature student could get a degree without having to quit his or her job to attend school full-time during the day.

Instead of having thousands of students in class, an on-line campus could help tens of thousands of students get an education and the skills needed to keep Canada globally competitive.

It's now likely that workers will have to change

careers several times during their lifetime. Does it not make sense to design services to fill the future needs of the citizens of Halton and to make education accessible to all levels of income?

As Gordon Brown, Britain's chancellor of the exchequer, recently wrote in the *Wall Street Journal*, "In this new global era, none of us can afford to stand still."

In short, there are many other ways that \$127 million could directly benefit the citizens of Halton.

Sophie Cheney  
Campbellville

E-mail your letters to the editor to [miltone@haltonsearch.com](mailto:miltone@haltonsearch.com).

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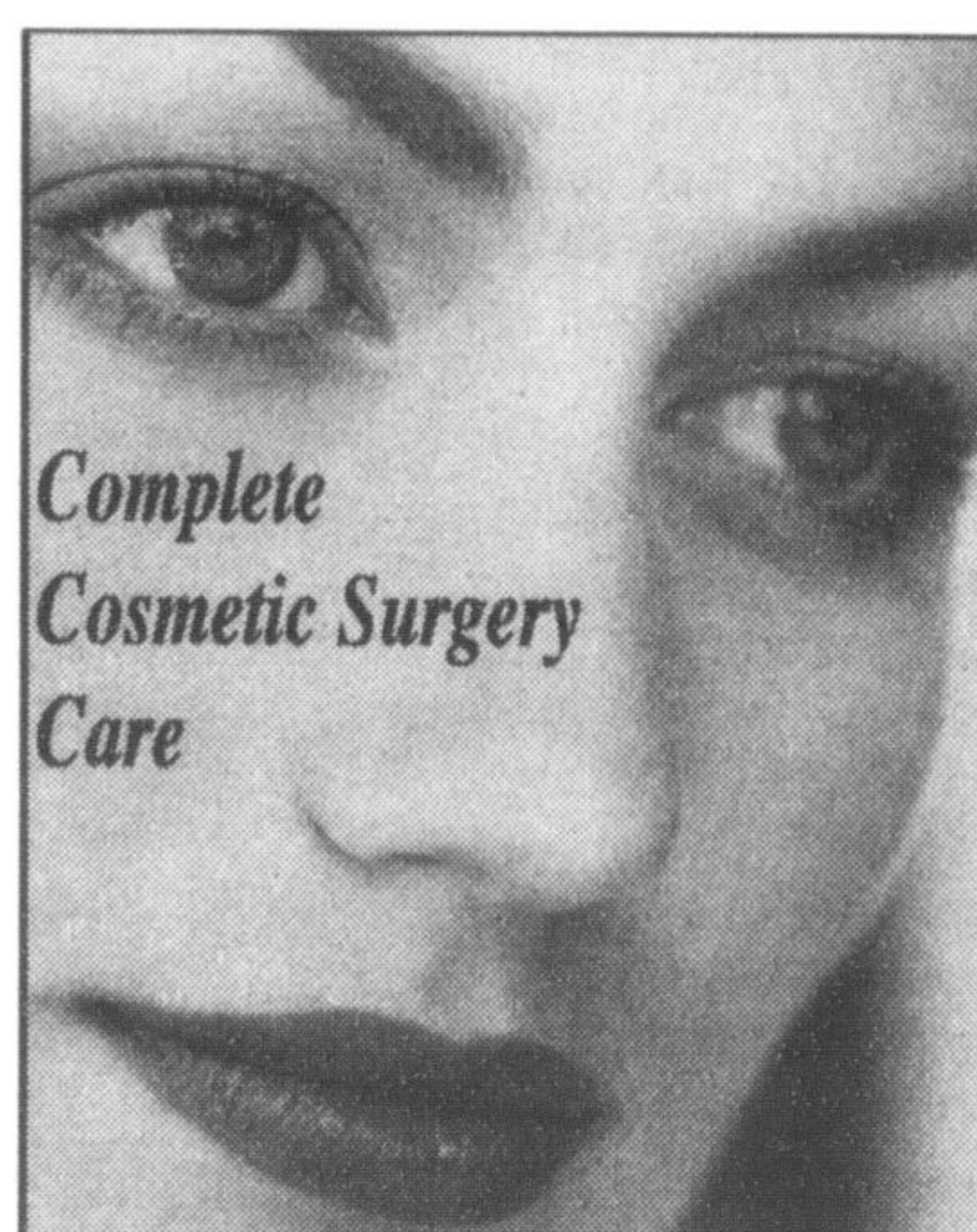
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