

# OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

## Halloween attack on young boys simply disgraceful; assailants should be ashamed

Dear Editor:

On Halloween my family experienced yet another consequence of our ever-growing town.

I think I speak for many long-time Milton residents who are fed up with our traffic congestion, speeding motorists and the crime section of our newspaper, which seems to be escalating like a bad infestation of locusts.

Every week car thefts, vandalism, house break-ins and stabbings are reported in our public houses. What next?

My comments aren't directed at the newcomers to Milton, as we welcome our new friendly neighbours. However, I feel a need to express my observations.

I look at our situation and come to the conclusion that our town leaders and administrators are more focused on turning over a fast dollar in allowing such rapid development without any adequate infrastructure to support and match this growth.

Do we need to beef up our law enforcement? Do we need more police officers on the street? Yes. We have never had this need in the past.

But to quote Bob Dylan, "The times, they are a changing." Yet we shouldn't be forced to face all of the negative elements that will surely come to pass as our small town embraces all those so-called 'desirable' factors of big-city living.

My boy, who shall remain nameless, is a bright, well-mannered and polite young man who sits on Mayor Gord Krantz's youth advisory council. He was with his friend trick-or-treating on Bell Street on Halloween when they were attacked, assaulted and

mugged by eight older youths.

These young men snatched their candy, ripped my boy's glasses off of his face and threw them to the ground — not to mention that they were pushed and kicked while they were down.

All of this for candy? Honestly.

The two boys were very frightened, humiliated and traumatized by this unprovoked attack, but more to the point, were shocked by how this could happen in one of our oldest, quietest and safest areas of town.

My sincere thanks goes out to the kind citizen on Bell Street who came to the aid of the boys and had the decency to wait until the police and myself arrived on the scene. Kudos to you, sir.

To the eight youths responsible for this attack, you must be hard cases — real tough nuts. Look, you made the headlines.

You make me sick, and I'm totally disgusted. I wish you didn't live in my town, and I wish your parents had raised you with a higher moral standard toward others and their property. I wish your mothers would have to go through the same pain and anguish over you as my boy's mother did on Halloween.

But most of all, I wish that one day you'll become parents and experience how it feels when your child is hurt, frightened and alone. You feel powerless to help them.

My boy had to get new frames and lenses. Plus he lost a day of school because he couldn't do his studies without his glasses. Also, his friend had to get x-rays for injuries he sustained from the attack.

To the powers that be, is this situation and others like it to come going to be the legacy of our once

quiet, peaceful town?

Personally, you can keep your Wal-Mart, Loblaws, Zellers and Canadian Tire superstores. How on earth did I manage without them in my 23 years as a Milton resident? Easy, I supported small, long-time established stores that have now been stamped out by the arrival of the big conglomerates. I wonder if the safety, security and way of life of our town is going the way of the small shopkeeper.

I can only hope that the people elected and put into office by the residents of this once fine town will finally and publicly admit their shortcomings, particularly how the growth and expansion of Milton has been mismanaged.

Had the Town allocated the appropriate funds in a more constructive way, the people who attacked my son and his friend might have had someplace else to go that night other than the streets.

Where is a movie theatre? Where is a bowling alley? Where are our youth centres?

There's no public transportation to get these people out there doing something productive. Instead they walk our streets vandalizing personal property, mugging innocent kids and stealing from neighbours — all for kicks.

I have to sit back and watch my son and my family cry over something that could have been avoided if the Town of Milton could have thought about the youth of our town.

I sit back and watch as nobody takes a stand against these bullies. All I can call them is cowards. Who in their right mind steals candy from kids for kicks?

Gary Metcalfe  
Milton

## School board actions have been like a soap opera

Dear Editor:

Watching the soap opera that has materialized with the political leadership of the Halton District School Board, it's no wonder the board is in such a fiscal mess.

All this spirited debate about lawyer's fees, severance packages and leaks of confidential information certainly has led me to believe that next November when we go to the ballot box to vote for our trustees we should turf the whole lot of them.

I think the first person who

should be shown the door is Chair Paul Tate. The last straw for me was when he was quoted in The Champion as saying, "I don't need to be held to a standard that wasn't followed by anybody else."

Has Mr. Tate not watched the recent events in Ottawa, Queen's Park or Toronto? Politicians are continually being held to higher standards, and in this case — with all the secrecy behind the scenes — while he didn't do anything illegal, the perception is certainly apparent when he attempted to keep things

quiet.

Of course in the end the children and teachers lose out because of this crazy mess. There's less funding for text books, less funding for special education and less funding for literacy.

Hopefully, a new slate of trustees next November will change things. Until then, we're stuck with this crew.

It's too bad for Halton and Milton.

Joe Henry  
Lancaster Boulevard

## Fire causes heavy damage at pressed brick company

'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.

August 1906

On Thursday night between 9 and 10 o'clock a fire broke out in the engine room of the Toronto Pressed Brick and Terra Cotta Co.'s works. As Thursday was Milton's civic holiday the works had been shut down with two men in charge. The boiler and engine were inspected during the day by an expert, sent by an insurance company. The origin of the fire is a mystery, but it is thought that it may have been caused by spontaneous combustion. As soon as the fire was discovered the whistle of the works gave the alarm followed by that of the Milton Pressed Brick Co., a short distance away, but the flames soon shut off the former.

The employees of both companies, assisted by a number of other men, did splendid work in fighting the fire. As the force pump was in the midst of the flames it was unavailable. The pipe from the pond to the engine room was cut and water was carried to and thrown on the fire by a bucket brigade. By tremendous exertion the fire was confined to the engine and press house but unfortunately they were the most important of all, especially the press house. All the brick-making machinery was either destroyed or badly damaged. Mr. Smith of Toronto, who owns the buildings and most of the machinery, will rebuild as soon as possible, but Mr. Lewis, the lessee, does not expect the plant to be in perfect working order within four months. Part of the machinery, costing about \$6,000, was owned by Mr. Lewis, who within the last few years had replaced antiquated machines with the newest and most modern. His insurance was \$2,000. Mr. Smith's was \$4,000. Though Mr. Lewis must lose heavily on his machinery, his loss through the shutting down of the works will perhaps be heavier. This is the busiest season in brick-making not only because of the heavy demand, but on account of the favourable weather. Fortunately the burning of a very large number of bricks had been completed the day before the fire. The handling and shipping will keep some of the employees busy for a short time and there will be work for those employed on fancy terra cotta until their prepared clay gives out, but, except the above, there will be little or no work for about 50 hands until the new machinery is installed.

The old Main Street bridge, having been removed to be replaced by a stone and cement one, a temporary foot bridge has been built across the creek just clear of the water. The descent is quite steep and steps have been dug in the banks. These were slippery after last Sunday night's rain and most of the congregation of the Grace

## Milton Time Capsules



Church, with others who had to cross the creek, went around by the Pine Street bridge rather than take chances of an accident.

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Agent Turner of the C.P.R. Campbellville says that though the lumber business at that station is much smaller than usual this season, a shortage of snow last winter causing a shortage of logs, the total receipts are as large as ever. He says that travelers have as good accommodation as they had before local option went into force, the temperance hotel being well managed.

...

Rev. T.R. Earl, who just returned from San Francisco, Cal., will give a stereopticon lecture, descriptive of the earthquake and fire at San Francisco on Thursday. Mr. and Mrs. Earl were among the victims of the disaster, which overtook that city.

...

J.E. Bate, contractor for the erection of the new stone and cement bridge on Main Street, is using very large blocks of stone in its construction and it promises to be solid enough to last for ages. The temporary bridge for foot passengers is unchanged. It is a wretched makeshift, though an incandescent light has been placed at each end of it, making it significantly less dangerous after dark. Many people, particularly old people, are shy about taking any chances with it. Rather than cross it, they go to Pine Street, two blocks away and cross there.

...

Messrs. Snelgrove & Matthews, who bought and shipped apples here last season, are here again ready to buy this season's crop of all grades. They are building an evaporator on the G.T.R. property corner of Main and Bronte streets which they have leased. The evaporator will be of the largest capacity and latest model, with paring, slicing and coring machinery, run by a gasoline engine. It will be ready to run within a few days and will run until about Dec. 1st in each year. It will be welcomed by the local apple growers, as there is no other evaporator nearer than that at Burlington. Messrs. Snelgrove & Matthews are not manufacturing their own barrels, as they did last year, but buying them from C.H. Garson, of Palermo. They will pack and ship the choice fruit at the orchards and bring the lower grades here to the evaporator.

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

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