

Local couple unharmed as steamer bound for China goes off course

'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

Dr. and Mrs. Edgar Robertson, en route from San Francisco to China, were passengers on the steamer Manchuria which ran ashore at the Sandwich Islands on the 20th inst., the captain having got off his course. There were no lives lost and nobody was badly hurt. The vessel is being repaired, but will not be ready to resume her voyage until September 10th. In the meantime the passengers are on shore in Honolulu.

...

Mrs. McCaulley, daughter of John Ramshaw died. Her father was one of the very early settlers on the mountain on the farm which her son, W. Shields, now occupies and where she and her family lived the greater part of her life. She married Wm. Shields but her husband drowned with Chas. McDowell while crossing Burlington Bay to Hamilton on the ice. She married Alexander McCauley who predeceased her about three years ago. Her family consists of 10 children. Her house was always open to Methodist ministers making their rounds on horseback. In the building of the Mountain church, Wm. Shields was active in providing material and helping. He was one of the first trustees. The frame building was of heavy timber and required a number of men to do the raising and of course nothing of that kind could be successfully done without whiskey, so the whiskey was provided, but it was discovered that a difference of opinion prevailed, some even at that early day holding that there was something wrong about drinking whiskey at a mountain church raising. After considerable discussion a compromise was agreed to, that the whiskey was not to be drunk at the church, nor until after the raising was done.

So accordingly the jug was taken to the house of John Harris (a log house in the woods) and for safe keeping placed under the bed, but as soon as the frame was up no time was lost in attending to the whiskey. So from earliest days until now the old church holds up its weather-beaten front to the world in undying opposition to the debasing influence of the liquor traffic. Although preaching service has not been

Milton Time Capsules



held for some years past, there is still a well-conducted Sabbath School, which is largely attended. (The building was removed some years ago.)

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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.

...

The Misses Panton will re-open their private school on Monday, Sept. 10th.

...

Wm. Panton, proprietor of the *Champion*, underwent an operation for appendicitis at the Toronto General Hospital on Sunday. Mr. Panton had not been feeling well for two or three days. He went as far as Toronto on Friday, intending to go on to Oakville for the meeting of the Halton Press Association, but was obliged to return home. On Saturday night an operation was decided upon, and Mr. Panton went to Toronto early on Sunday, when the operation was performed. We are glad to be able to announce that Mr. Panton is getting on as well as can possibly be expected.

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

OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Can Town justify ongoing tax increases?

Dear Editor:

The hottest topics these days in any Canadian media is the Gomery report, the Liberal money scandal, calls for government accountability and the upcoming federal election.

In Milton, the vast majority of opinions expressed in *The Champion* seem to be about the appalling state of Milton's roads, traffic congestion, council's lack of foresight in managing growth and its inability to attract business investment.

With 2005 coming to a close, my prediction is there will likely be property tax hikes next year. The calls for infrastructure expansion and improvements and the recent property tax assessment notices delivered to Halton residents — reflecting a 14.08 per cent increase in residential property values versus a provincial average of 12.68 per cent — in my opinion seem to be the perfect excuse for the Town to justify hiking our taxes.

But before the mayor and council pick pocket us, we must ask ourselves, 'What did council do with our previous and current year's taxes?' If already spent, why isn't it evident in our roads? Council owes us an explanation on how tax money is being spent.

For three years now, council has increased our taxes while Miltonians obediently paid and asked no questions. We naively believed that council would act in

our interest and do what is best for our community. But that doesn't appear to be the case.

Our roads are either in shambles or falling apart. Visitors driving through Mississauga or Oakville into Milton almost always know they're in Milton as soon as they hit the third world-like roads marked by narrow roads, pot holes and no turning lanes.

It's so typical of Milton that one wonders if Milton is allergic to wide roads and on a far more serious note where tax money is going.

The problem is further compounded by the new developments that are built right to the edge of the existing roads, leaving little or no room for future road expansion, much less sidewalk construction. How this is allowed to happen is a question that can be best answered by Town planners and Town Hall. If these building patterns continue, it's unlikely Milton will ever see four or five lane streets.

To get a sense of the Town's infrastructure development strategy, Miltonians need to look at the Town's budget. The budget usually tells about the Town's priorities and where tax dollars are directed.

With most governments and municipalities introducing and implementing accountability and transparency acts, finding Milton's budget is however a very tall order. I've been on Milton's Web site, searched everywhere and cannot

find the Town's budget. Is the budget exclusive to council only?

In my opinion, information on the Town's fiscal activities needs to be made available to the public. I believe fiscal transparency will not only strengthen Town Hall's credibility but will provide Miltonians with an understanding of Town Hall's policies and choices.

It will lead to better-informed public debate about our Town's direction. It will make Town Hall more accountable for the implementation of policies articulated in the budget and it will contribute to good governance.

As it stands right now, it's my opinion that Miltonians have lost faith in Town Hall. A Town Hall with, I feel, such credibility issues and apparent lack of moral authority may find difficulty justifying tax increases even if it's necessary.

Miltonians on the other hand may not be too willing to accept tax increases from the current Town Hall, given that there is nothing or very little to show for our previous year's tax money.

In my opinion, Town Hall urgently needs to restore its credibility with Miltonians by becoming less secretive and more transparent. Otherwise Miltonians will fairly or unfairly draw a parallel between Town Hall and some elements of the Liberal Party.

**Khamis Doka
Milton**

Price hikes at arena snack bars disheartening

Dear Editor:

What's with the new prices at our local arena concessions?

At Milton Sports Centre, a hamburger and bottle of water will now cost you \$5.50, up from \$4.50 last season. Several other price hikes include pizza for \$3 and nachos for \$3.50 — up 50 cents and a dollar respectively.

However, it's the price for a bottle of pop that tops it off and has many people wondering if they're being ripped off. For \$2.50 you can now purchase a 600ml. bottle of pop, while that same product can be purchased for only \$2 less than 20 feet away in the vending machines.

Meanwhile, the justification provided by the Town's Director of Corporate Services, Jim McQueen, stating

that the Town has to abide by federal legislation and can't discriminate against out-of-town businesses seems like a good way of protecting town council's actions.

However, it continues to become more apparent that council had many other alternatives and ways to work around this, and could have easily voted in favour of not only maintaining great service-by Scooter's Snack Services at the rinks, but at the same time continue to support one of many locally-developed businesses.

Well done, council. It's decisions like these that keep Milton citizens puzzled as to what direction their town is headed.

**Kyle Walker
Milton**

The Canadian Champion

welcomes the
2nd Milton
Girl Guides



The Canadian Champion is proud to have welcomed the 2nd Milton Girl Guides to a tour of their office.

The Girl Guides had the opportunity to see first hand how advertising, production, editorial and distribution work together to produce *The Canadian Champion* newspaper.

The Canadian
Champion

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