

OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Milton has so much for us to be proud of

Dear Editor:

Regularly reading the flow of letters to the editor, I'm concerned that a new resident might think our citizens are only interested in how fast they can propel themselves from one point to another.

There's so much more to Milton, which is why so many of us have remained here.

Primarily it's about the people. Many volunteers regularly contribute to events like the Milton Fall Fair, Steam-Era Show, On the Way to Bethlehem, Studio Tour, Milton Santa Claus Parade, Canada Day celebrations and many more worthwhile community activities. Local businesses support them all. Their reward is your participation.

There's great sports activity with indoor artificial ice surfaces, ball parks, soccer fields, skateboard parks, outdoor and indoor swimming pools, skiing at Kelso, hiking trails and our curling rink.

Cultural events are also arranged. Milton Concert Productions regularly bring in professional performers. Groups like the Milton Choristers, A Cappella Showcase,

painting groups, the Milton Players and professional artists all contribute to the diverse interests of the community. The Agricultural Society — a volunteer group — maintains a large in-town park where festivals can be staged. Churches have facilities that are used beyond the worship and study groups that they regularly arrange.

I could go on by identifying Country Heritage Park, with its incredible facilities, as well as Halton Region Museum at Kelso and Waldie's Blacksmith Shop in downtown Milton. And who can forget the Farmers' Market that has been operating for many years?

Milton Seniors' Activity Centre is so busy that reading their newsletter leaves one almost breathless.

Martindale Gardens was built by a group of volunteer citizens who saw a need for assisted living for the elderly and struggled mightily to see the building constructed. Allendale, operated by the Region, provides an essential facility in a community that cares for all ages.

I'll stop after just mentioning the

shopping and restaurants. The list could go on and on. Even most of the streets are named after real people who made the community through their contributions.

There's no reason not to criticize us — those who have been here for some time — for failing to anticipate all the problems of growth. However, it would be far more constructive to get on with worthwhile volunteering in a cause in which you believe. That's how the community has been built.

Milton doesn't meet all our expectations and the pace of change is sometimes overwhelming, but with the change comes an army of new residents who should be encouraged to get involved and add their talents and skills to those regularly employed in community building.

I hope they'll be welcomed at the churches, service clubs and volunteer groups. Then they'll have an opportunity to appreciate and add to the Milton that has kept so many of us here.

Jim Dills
Milton

All Town staff don't need to be in one building

Dear Editor:

It's good to see that Town staff and the architect are going back to the drawing board regarding the proposed Town Hall addition.

I would also ask council to rethink the whole idea of putting all departments in one building. With Milton growing at an unprecedented 8 per cent per year — and more new home permits than the city of Brampton so far this year — even the proposed phase two of the Town Hall design will be quickly filled.

I would suggest considering the high cost of the project and the Town's already approved plans for a population of 150,000 people by the year 2031, and the Province's Places To Grow update announced November 24 with a future Halton population of 780,000 by 2031, the majority of the 300,000 new Halton residents will be coming to Milton, far above the Town's projections.

With the plans for a new combined public works and central fire hall underway, an existing Annex on Industrial Drive and a 100-acre sports park at Derry Road and Santa Maria Boulevard, there are a number of locations for the growing staff needs at less expense and less impact on the neighbours.

I would encourage residents to check out the City of Brampton's City Hall, which is about the same size as

the projected phase two Milton Town Hall plans, and ask their councillors if that's what they want next to a heritage residential area.

Many other communities have offices in different locations. Now with various communication technologies, there's no need for staff to be in the one building.

The phase one addition could function with the existing Town Hall, as well as a multi-level parking garage similar to downtown Oakville off Trafalgar Road. The garage could be located on the north side of Mary Street and serve both downtown businesses and the Town Hall, and blend into the neighbourhood.

The existing Town Hall and the proposed phase one 50,000-square-foot addition could be used as the central legislative, administrative and financial offices for the Town, while the planning, engineering and leisure services could be located in convenient visible locations that all residents could find.

My other concern not addressed at the recent meeting was the financing of this project. While the much-maligned City of Mississauga expanded, at least the services kept up with the growth and the new City Hall was built debt free. Meanwhile, the Town of Milton is going into debt to build this and other facilities.

Colin Best
Milton

Mother denies having son arrested for abusing her while he was intoxicated

'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.

September 1906

A.M. appeared before Mayor Higginbotham and J.H. Peacock, J.P. on Monday charged with being drunk and disorderly. He had been in jail for some days. As usual, his mother was the complainant, and, as usual, she wanted him released. She even denied that she had caused him to be arrested. The court ordered A. to be released on suspended sentence, but warned him that the penalty for another repetition of his offence would be a long term in jail. On Tuesday night Mrs. M. went to Chief Constable Bradley, complained that A. was drunk again and had been abusing her. She asked for his arrest. The chief told her there was no use in making an arrest if she would not back up her complaint in the witness box. He told her to go home. It is said that she spent the balance of the night in an outhouse.

R.B. Joyce has erected a new fish house in Oakville and will resume the fish industry there. Mr. Joyce has been connected with Bronte fishing fleet, which has done an enormous business, and as the fish have become scarce at the head of the lake the whole fleet may work this way and be more convenient to the market. Mr. Joyce owns a gasoline launch and a sailer. He is an expert fisherman, full of business, and has the necessary help to carry on the new industry. (Oakville Star)

W.H. Moore of Milton and Mr. Ruddell of Galt have exchanged their barbershops. The deal took effect on Monday. Mr. Ruddell is now in Mr. Moore's old stand and will no doubt retain all his trade. Mr. Moore will be missed in Milton, particularly in musical circles.

October 1906

The annual exhibition of the Trafalgar Agricultural Society last Friday at Oakville was well attended and a success generally.

Curling- The semi-annual meeting of the Ontario Curling Association will be held at Toronto on the 16th. It is proposed to put

Milton Time Capsules



Milton into Group No. 2 in the Tankard competition, with Hamilton Victorias, Paris, Hamilton Thistles, Hamilton Asylum, Glanford Niagara Falls, Simcoe, Brantford, Dundas and Grimsby, to play at Hamilton.

Typhoid fever continues very prevalent at Hamilton and the city health officer believes the cause to be, not water, but germ-infected milk. He advises citizens to drink no milk or water without first boiling it. In this county three cases are reported at Burlington and a number in Nelson. Milton physicians say there are none in this neighbourhood.

Yesterday evening's fall of snow has left the roads in a bad state, and this, with the prospect of cold weather and muddy grounds tomorrow, led the directors of the Halton Agricultural Society to hold a consultation this morning on the advisability of postponing the fair. The decision was to go ahead with it and perhaps it was a wise one. There is no certainty that the weather and roads would be good at any later date that might have been selected.

The annual exhibition of the Halton Agricultural Society last Thursday and Friday promised to be a record breaker, the number of entries being the largest by the Society. The elements, however, were against it. The snowstorm of Wednesday night followed by a thaw made the roads very sloppy and the weather on Friday though fair was uncomfortably cold. As it was the attendance was fairly good, the gate receipts being only \$120 less than those of last year, but the number of exhibits was only about half that of entries. The shortage was noticeable in the hall but the show of livestock, particularly horses was good. The concert at the town hall in the evening was a great success and receipts amounted to over \$100.

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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