

## Regional government not needed in Halton and should be scrapped

Dear Editor:

Thanks to former Halton chair Ric Morrow for raising the question of Halton's governing structure.

It was timely and important, and in my opinion has been ignored like the elephant in the corner for far too long. I would certainly agree that we don't need two levels of government in Halton. However, I believe it's the regional level that's redundant.

My sense is that people are demanding elected representatives who truly represent the interests of their constituents, and have more say in the developments in their distinct communities. A City of Halton, I feel, would give them even less of both than they have now as part of the Region.

At present, councils in Milton and Halton Hills are responsible for only about 25 per cent of the local taxpayer's regional bill. Each

community sends three representatives to the regional council of 21. Programs from the Region are spread evenly over all communities, and paid for through taxes, whether local taxpayers want them or not. In my opinion, taxpayers have lost control to the Region's bureaucracy and a new City of Halton would only make that worse.

It can be argued that the amalgamated cities of Toronto and Hamilton are disasters. Many municipalities are fighting to exit from amalgamations and regions.

It may be true that Halton Region has been building toward city status for years, but that doesn't mean we have to go to the end of the cycle before correcting the error and moving back to local control.

There may be good economics and enough similarities in communities to combine Oakville and Burlington into a single city. That's

up to them. I'm confident that the taxpayers of the two north Halton communities, if allowed to vote on it, would prefer not to be governed by the majority in the south — either as a region or a city.

My proposal would be to remove the regional level and leave four or three independent communities. Then we should co-ordinate tendering of service contracts to retain economics of scale and return control to the taxpayers.

This year would be an excellent time to review Halton's structure and hear opinions from candidates for regional chair. Why not assemble a citizens' working group with representatives from each municipality — not politicians, bureaucrats or their spokesmen — to review options for Halton's structure. Then let the people decide.

Gary Ellis  
Milton

## Phase one of Town Hall expansion being rushed through unnecessarily

Dear Editor:

This letter is just to let your readers know that, in my opinion, the Town of Milton is rushing ahead with phase one of a two-part expansion of Town Hall.

At the January 18 public meeting, about 60 people saw in the distance the sketches of the revised plans for the expansion. Some concerns have been resolved, but without details such as the view from King Street and the phase two additional drawings, council may be approving a plan without the public being able to comment on the full plan itself.

Those interested can check out the Town Web site at [www.milton.ca](http://www.milton.ca).

I disagree with the comments made by the mayor and some councillors that all Town staff should be in one building for one-stop shopping and team building. The only people who want one-stop shopping are developers who don't even live here. If team building

is such a big deal, shouldn't the fire department and public works yard also be moved into the expansion as well?

The Town has thousands of square feet of available office space at the new Annex on Industrial Drive. I find it strange that the Town is rushing to have the addition completed by August 2007 when officials state no staff are to be hired this year.

There are many concerns with this design, including the cost of \$23.8 million, of which \$4.2 million of the budget goes to parking lots. Considering the needs of other Town facilities and services, this is a high cost when other alternatives are available at less cost.

I would encourage interested residents to attend Monday's town council meeting when this expansion plan is to be approved.

Colin Best  
Milton

## Town Hall expansion should be postponed

Dear Editor:

On January 18 my wife and I attended the community open house to hear and view the plans for the Town Hall expansion.

There were a lot of questions from the audience, but I got the feeling that this expansion is more or less a done deal as far as council is concerned.

The cost is going to be quite sig-

nificant, and the design is one that some Miltonians don't seem happy with.

Some aspects of the interior design have yet to be decided upon.

Personally, I'd like to see a postponement of this expansion, and have it put to a vote during our municipal election in the fall. I received some applause when I suggested this.

Will the politicians agree to do this? In a democracy, politicians should listen to the taxpayer and not the other way around. In my opinion, there's too much money wasted by town council.

And if the expansion goes ahead, what use will be made of the Town's Industrial Drive location.

Agostino Galioto  
Milton

## Milton's hockey team delivers 14-1 beating to Acton visitors

'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.

February 1907

Acton's hockey team came to Milton last night and played an exhibition match with the locals. It was the first game of this season for the ex-intermediates. The attendance was large and there was plenty of excitement. The locals won by a score of 14 to 1 but the play was far from being as one-sided as that would indicate.

The architect employed by the Farmers' Bank to prepare plans for the coming improvements in the building occupied by it here, was in town on Tuesday, and arrangements are being made for the completion of the work within a short time. There will be fine grey stone and plate glass front and the office fixtures will be in quarter cut oak. The contractor has completed the building of a large vault.

W.O. Morse, of Campbellville, lessee of the water power from the Milton Fish & Game Club's pond, was in town on Tuesday. He says that the breaking of the dam was caused by the work of muskrats and that there is still a small body of water in the pond, about three feet deep, apparently full of trout, which are easily seen in it. He thinks that few trout went out when the dam broke. None were found on the ground on the flats below where the flood receded. Under the terms of his lease Mr. Morse is required to keep the dam in repair and he will have to replace it at his own expense.

He will do so as soon as possible and in order to prevent any more trouble from muskrats he will put a concrete wall in it. The repairs will cost him, he thinks, about \$300.

John Saunders of Agerton has been presented with a fine easy chair by his brethren of Hornby L.O.L. Mr. Saunders is an old man, but he never fails to turn out on the 12th of July. He has done so for 60 years.

Milton  
Time  
Capsules



The town council finds the stone crusher, bought for \$300 by last year's council, to be practically useless, not because it will not crush stone, but because it will not pay to use it. The county's stone crusher will do the work more cheaply and it will be still cheaper to buy the stone, ready crushed at Schaw and delivered here. The council will sell the crusher if a buyer can be found for it, which is doubtful, unless it is sold as old iron.

The Oddfellows' at home last Thursday night was a great success. The hall was filled to overflowing with Oddfellows, members of the Rebekah Lodge and lady friends. The attendance was over 100, including about 25 Oddfellows and ladies from Acton.

There were games and vocal and instrumental music from 8:30 to 10:30, when the main hall was cleared for dancing. At midnight a dainty supper was served after which dancing and games were renewed and kept up until between 3 and 4 a.m. when the party broke up, everyone delighted with the night's enjoyment.

March 1907

Under a bylaw of the town council passed on Monday evening the salary of the clerk has been reduced from \$400 to \$300 a year and that of the treasurer from \$150 to \$100. The treasurer is to have the free use of an office in the town hall, which has been rented at \$30 a year, so that the net reduction in his salary is \$20.

Economy in municipal affairs is commendable but corporation officials should not be underpaid as long as their work is satisfactory. It is said the salary reductions here will be only temporary and are due to the present high rate of taxation.

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).



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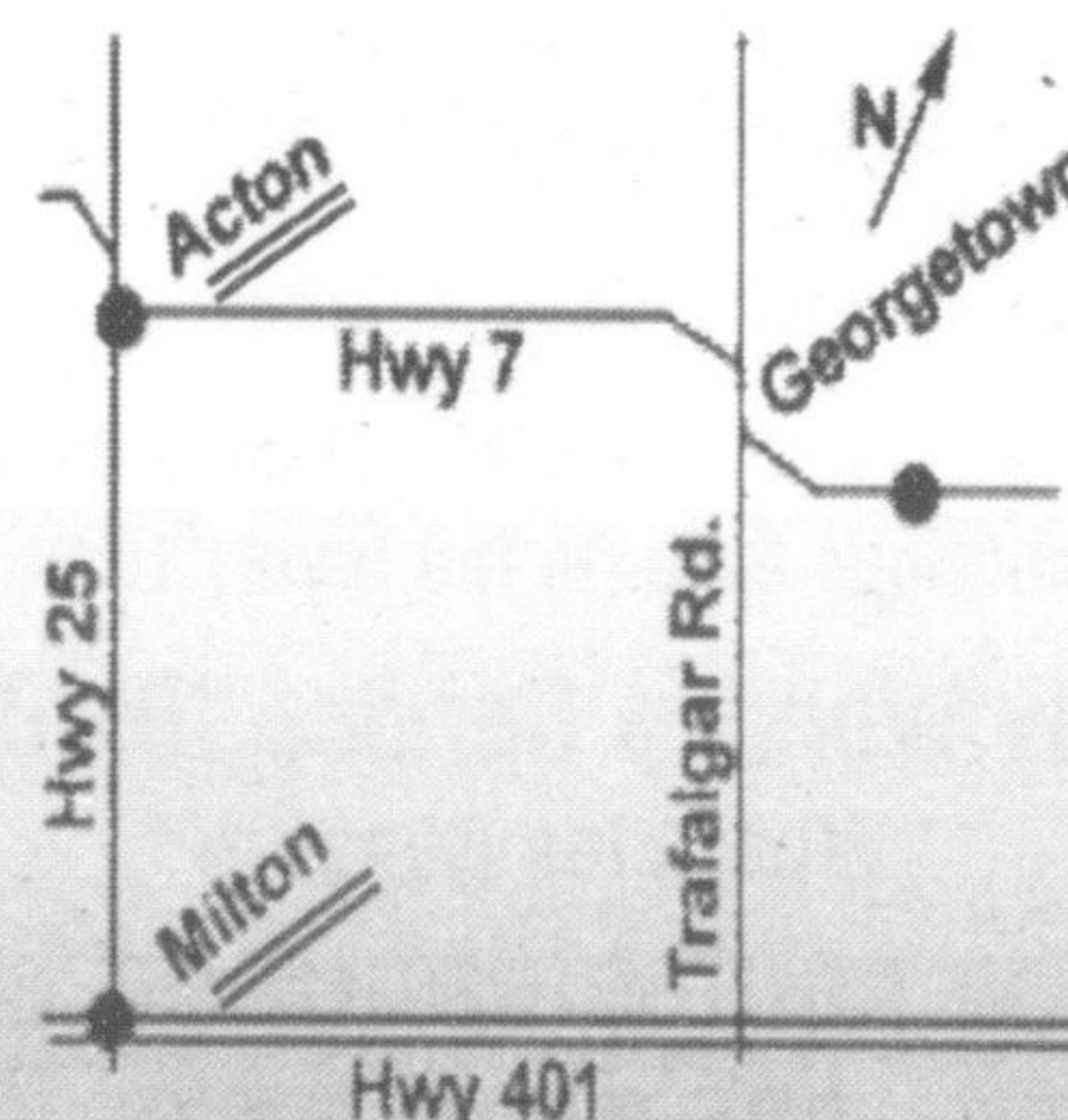
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