

Miltonians must continue to make their voices heard at town meetings

DEAR EDITOR:

At the January 30 council meeting, I feel Councillor Brian Penman complained at length about the inefficiency of delegations appearing at council.

To me, his comments implied that, with all the work and considerations that are done on council matters before they actually reach council, there should be no reason for citizens to inefficiently take up council meeting time with concerns and comments.

Yet, I consider merely one issue — the Town Hall expansion. At the last public meeting hosted by the Town Hall expansion committee, many residents voiced strong concerns and reservations about the parking situation. Some questioned why more than \$4-million was being

spent on parking, others voiced heartfelt fears about potentially unsafe underground parking access and others voiced strong concerns about service vehicle access and increased automobile traffic.

These fears and concerns were not resolved at the meeting — Mr. Penman brought the meeting to a close.

At council, neither Mr. Penman nor councillors Wendy Schau or Mark Curtis — all of whom are on the Town Hall expansion committee — voiced the concerns that residents had raised about parking and traffic.

Based on Mr. Penman's council complaint, it would seem that their silence in bringing forth the concerns of the residents to council was for efficiency, rather than what I believe

was an arrogant dismissal of the public voice. Or possibly they did bring the concerns forth in secret, or in this "Old Boys Club" I have read about, out of the public's seeing and hearing, without avail. Whatever the reason, there was certainly no representation for, or airing of the public's expressed concerns at the council meeting.

I suggest that this is a clear example of why residents must appear before council and exercise their democratic right to voice concerns. These concerns wouldn't be heard in council otherwise.

Mr. Penman's comments would imply this is inefficient. Possibly so, but it surely is necessary.

**MICHAEL GRIMWOOD
MILTON**

Amalgamation simply not a good idea

DEAR EDITOR:

I'm responding to former regional chair Ric Morrow's letter in which he posed the question of Halton possibly becoming a single-tiered government by amalgamating the municipalities of Milton, Oakville, Burlington and Halton Hills into a single city.

The idea might look fine on glossy financial paper, but in reality I believe it's more of a nightmare as clearly demonstrated by the growing degree of disdain shown by those who have been forced to amalgamate under the guise of glossy projected financial savings.

Democracy isn't about projected financial savings, it's about citizen representation — nothing else.

It seems that every group of communities that have been forced to amalgamate are now fighting to be de-amalgamated. There must be some truth in this unfolding reality.

Time-drawn conclusions about amalgamation speak for themselves. It appears that a few players might win, but in reality I feel the citizens actually lose because they lose their hands-on local representation, have increased taxes and to boot have a dramatic loss of usable services. We know who wins, but it's not the citizens.

Yes, somebody does gain from amalgamation, but in reality most lose. Is that what we really want?

**BOB BEYETTE
CAMPBELLVILLE**

Are developers controlling Milton's growth?

DEAR EDITOR:

It's with extreme displeasure that the 'Original Milton Homeowners' are watching the deterioration of places like Country Heritage Park and the Tremaine home that was mistakenly torn down.

Has Milton grown too fast and the present representatives are unable to handle the task, or have developers out-foxed our politicians?

This last episode of the Tremaine Road house being torn down by mistake is ridiculous. And why will the developer not return phone calls? A full investigation of the Tremaine Road house and the one-person complaint against Country Heritage Park storing cars on its lot in the winter is in order.

We realize progress is progress, but it shouldn't come at the expense of the town.

Why should the developer not be forced to replace the home brick by brick, or as an alternative why can't the developer who made the mistake and tore down the Tremaine Road home be penalized by contributing the same yearly storage charges the Toronto Auto Auction was paying to Country Heritage Park?

**MILTON CONCERNED
HOME OWNERS**

Man praised for bringing team of runaway horses under control

'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.

April 1907

Mr. Brandon, who was delivering coal yesterday afternoon, left his team for a few minutes. They became frightened and started up Victoria Street, striking a post near Judge Gorham's. They broke the front axle of the wagon, turning the corner to James Street, which they followed to Main, and were making fairly for a plate glass window in the sitting room of the Hotel McGibbon, when Geo. Patterson rushed out and, catching the off horse by the rein, succeeded in bringing them to a halt. The horses were in no way injured. Mr. Patterson deserves much credit for his presence of mind and bravery.

R.W. Humphries, Guelph, tea peddler, was brought before Mayor Anderson and Reeve Higginbotham on Thursday for selling goods in Milton without a license. Chief Constable Chapman was the complainant. A number of witnesses were examined and judgment reserved. The court gave its decision on Saturday, which was a fine of \$20 and costs. The defendant was the second tea peddler to be fined under the town bylaw respecting "peddlers and transient traders." The local grocers are likely to have a monopoly of the tea trade in future.

Stinson Bradley, of the Ontario License Department, was in town last week and returned to Toronto on Monday evening, taking his family and household effects with him. Mr. Bradley was born in Milton about sixty years ago and has lived here ever since. He claimed that he was the oldest resident of the town. For a number of years he did good service as chief constable. The family will be missed, particularly by the congregation of Grace Church, in which Mrs. Bradley was an energetic worker,

Milton Time Capsules



while two of her sons were members of the choir.

Miss Panton has re-opened her school after the Easter holidays and is prepared to take more pupils.

The vestry meeting at Grace Church approved an expenditure, not to exceed \$700, in repairing and improving the Sunday school house.

Dr. K.D. Panton arrived in town on Tuesday morning having come via Portland, Seattle and Vancouver from Columbus, Wash., where he had been superintendent of a Northern Pacific Railway hospital since Jan. 1906. He will leave about the end of this month to take a post graduate course at London, England.

The Board of License commissioners for Halton met at the court house on Saturday afternoon to consider hotel licenses for the year 1907-08. Milton results: Fergie Martin, Hotel Royal, granted; J.D. McGibbon, Hotel McGibbon, granted; J.P. Kelly, Commercial Hotel, granted. The Board passed the following resolution: "the board deplores the fact that the towns and villages are not better policed. A good deal of drunkenness could be prevented if the constables were more vigilant. They are responsible for the good order of the municipalities and not the Inspector."

Stanley Mills & Co. Hamilton offer another five-cent excursion from Oakville to Hamilton over the Radial Electric Railway on Friday May 10, 1907.

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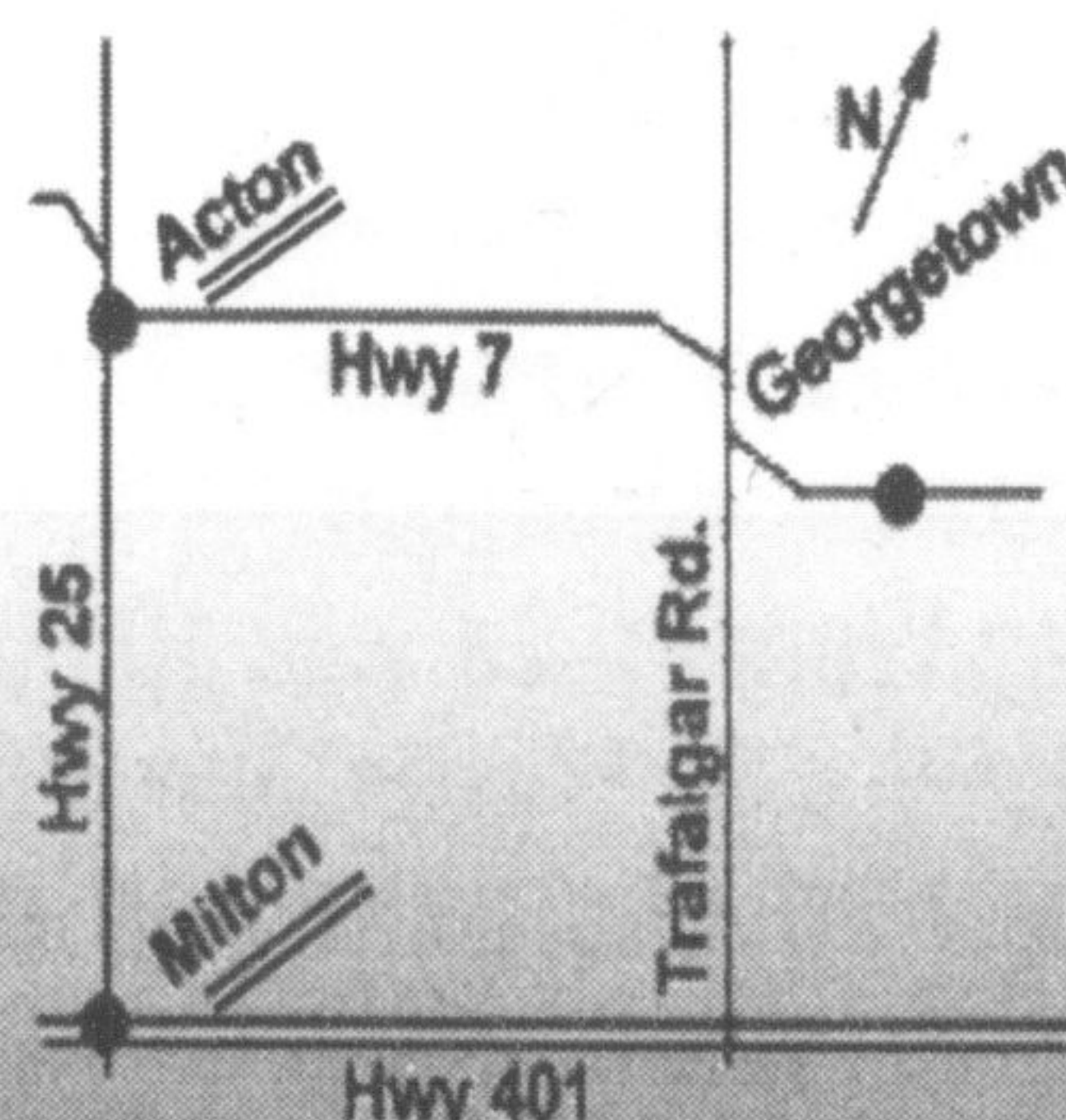
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