

# I'm from Milton, Ont. — and darn proud of it

I'm as proud as anyone when I see some name in any kind of competition as being from Milton, Ont.

I don't care if I know them, or they moved to Milton last week.

I see my own name often enough in print. Look, there it is just beside here. It stopped being a thrill a couple decades ago, but recently it became a big deal again.

Earlier this month, Seneca Niagara Casino in Niagara Falls, New York had a two-week poker event that attracted many of the top pros. There were two events each day, with varied amounts of buy-ins. My daughter and I travelled down for one of them. There were 286 people in the tournament.

My daughter went out fairly early. I did okay. I finished in 26th place. My daughter made her money back and more playing poker outside of the tournament and I made a profit, but neither one of us were happy.

She wasn't happy losing the way she did with such bad luck, and I wasn't happy because I didn't think I had played well. I wasn't happy I didn't lie, steal and bully more. It probably comes easier to some people, but if you want to win at poker you have to do it. People who don't know any better will say everything depends on your cards.

We went back the next week, both of us determined to do better. My daughter made it about halfway through the tournament.

This time, however, I lied, stole and bullied plenty, like a big kid trying to take your candy on Halloween. I rolled over the inexperienced players and sent



with MURRAY TOWNSEND

## On the loose

them on their way.

I played perfectly until I was in the money in the 18th spot. Then I played even better until I made it to the final table. I kept playing well until there were eight, seven, six, five and four left.

Then there were three, and I had myself a good payday that would double and triple for second and first. There was one guy older than me and one guy in his early twenties. The young guy and myself were about even in chips. The older guy had a significant amount more than both of us, and kept raising almost every hand, pushing and stealing.

That was okay with me. I knew how to deal with him, but first I had to get rid of the kid. The kid would have referred to both of us as old guys. The older guy finally folded a hand, and I took that as my cue to push around the kid and take some of his chips. I had a decent hand, but it wasn't great and I kept betting and the young guy kept calling. But I had gotten this far by pushing people around and maybe I wasn't thinking clearly because we had been playing for five hours, but I kept at it until all of our chips were in the

pot and he flipped over a better hand than mine. Dumb, dumb, dumb.

I've been mad at myself ever since. Until I was checking out a major poker Web site and noticed they had a link for tournament results, including the

Seneca World Poker Classic tournaments.

I checked for my name and there I was, but the part that made me proud was what was written beside it: Milton, ON, Canada.



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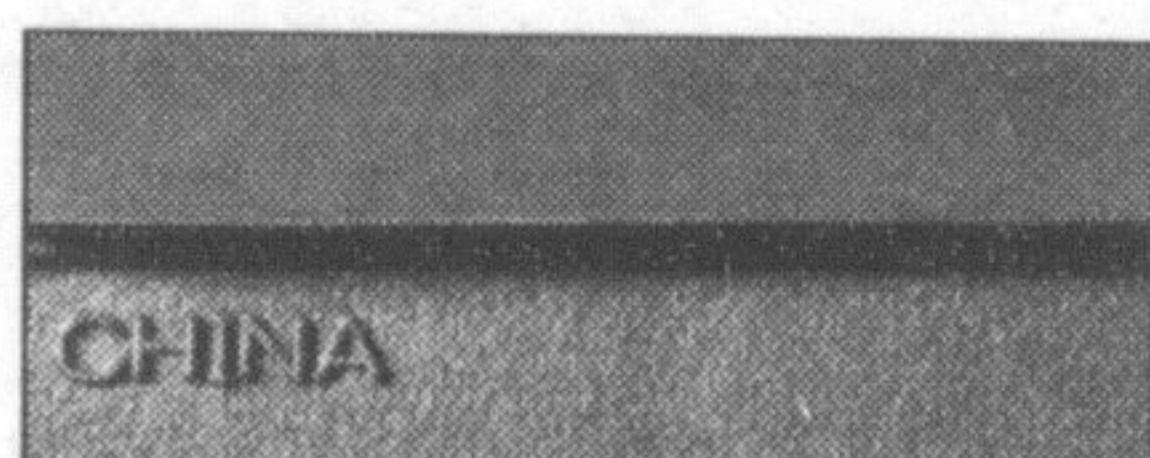
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