

Car 'modifications' shouldn't be banned because of a few idiots

DEAR EDITOR:

I take exception to Champion reporter Stephanie Thiessen's June 2 column.

First of all, Thiessen states she has a modified car and that she doesn't street race, but then goes on to paint everyone who has a modified car with the same brush and essentially label us as street racers by calling for a ban on car modifications.

Let me make one thing clear. I'm not defending street racing. In fact, I despise it, almost as much as I despise drunk driving. I have a mildly-modified car, but I don't street race. I'm simply a car enthusiast that enjoys 'tuning' my car, but according to Thiessen I — and herself — shouldn't be permitted to do this because of a few idiots that modify their cars with only one intent.

I choose to satisfy my 'need

for speed' through the completely-legal avenues of grassroots motorsports, namely Solo 2 (Autoslalom) and Solo 1 (Solosprint Time Trials) — both sanctioned by ASN Canada, the same organization that governs the Canadian Grand Prix in Montreal. All of these disciplines are within the law. In fact, the local police detachments are informed of the events ahead of time and the events take place at closed venues.

Furthermore, do you really believe banning modifications to cars will stop street racing? I know kids who will race their mom's Buick simply because they pull up to a red light and some other kid wants to see whose Buick is faster. Perhaps we should ban Buicks too?

Further in her column, Thiessen states that her 'modifications' are purely for aesthetics.

I beg to differ. A lowered suspension provides greatly increased handling, and frankly is perfectly safe so long as a proper kit is used and the springs are not simply 'cut'. In addition, a performance exhaust has been shown to add anywhere from 5 to 15 horsepower depending on the quality of the after-market system. I guess she must be a street racer since the modifications to her vehicle improve performance.

Essentially, what I'm getting at is that just because a car is modified doesn't mean the owner is a street racer. In fact, I'm willing to bet that the majority of 'tuners' despise street racing. I for one don't agree with Thiessen that we should be forced to give up our hobby because of them.

KEITH COURVILLE
MILTON

Milton at a crossroads; town facing a number of problems

'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.

December 1907

At present the prospects for a satisfactory council for Milton for 1908 are not bright. The mayor and reeve and the councillors generally talk of retiring. Taxes are still high and careful and competent management is necessary. The water supply is insufficient and it will be necessary to provide for increasing it. It is possible that a new industry or industries may be established in Milton within a short time and their promoters may have arrangements to make with the corporation. The present mayor and council have given good service. The longer they remain in harness and the more experience they gain the more competent they will become.

John Stewart has sold his engine, boiler, etc., part of the plant of the old Milton Electric Light and Power Co., to S.L. Douldell, of St. Mary's formerly of Montreal, for a good price. The outfit will be removed on January 2nd.

At last Thursday's meeting of the county council Jas. G. Wilson of Freeman, ex-Warden was appointed Superintendent of County Roads, at a salary of \$600. Mr. Wilson has been an enthusiast on the subject of good roads and has made a study of the latest and most approved methods of road making. The work in Halton could hardly be in better hands. The salary on which he begins is low for efficient service, but is likely to be increased after he shows his efficiency. In Wentworth the Road Superintendent began on \$600 and it was stated at the meeting of the council here that he gets \$1,100 now. Mr. Wilson's appointment will take effect on Jan. 1st 1908.

The water is so low in the reservoir that it is being shut off until further notice except between 7 and 8 a.m. and 5 and 6 p.m. As there was

Milton
Time
Capsules



so much rain in November the springs should be stronger instead of weaker than usual. There must be something wrong with the in-take pipes or leaks in the mains.

Special Christmas music was sung at both services at the Methodist Church on Sunday. There were solos by Mrs. J.W. Bews, Miss Gertrude Hollinrake, Miss Florence Deacon and Mr. Cecil Earl, there were trios and quartettes and the full choir sang anthems. The choir has been greatly strengthened lately. There are about thirty voices and improvement has been rapid under the efficient leadership of Miss Deacon.

A public meeting will be held at the town hall this evening at 8 o'clock to discuss the proposed establishment of an industry in Milton, to begin with about 150 hands, and eventually employ about 1,000 hands. The gentlemen from Toronto and the United States who make the proposal will be present to explain terms and show samples of goods to be manufactured. The proposal is one that vitally concerns the future growth and prosperity of the town and the attendance should be large.

January 1908

The new year was ushered in by the ringing of the town bell, which was first tolled for the death of the old year and then rung merrily for the new. The principal amusement during the day was skating. The ice was not in condition at the rink, but there was a fine sheet on the pond. Two rinks of curlers had a good game there, the first of the winter. The skips were J.F. Little and R.L. Hemstreet. Mr. Little won 10-8.

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

Time seems right for change on our council

DEAR EDITOR:

Milton is no longer that quaint little town of 5,000 people that it was when I first settled here in the 1960s, when any local person who happened to be popular could successfully run for council — or even mayor.

With higher costs of living, as well as much higher costs of running government, people are looking for and deserve a higher calibre of representation at all levels of government. Every week when I read The Champion, I note the remark in the letters section that 'we need change'.

In my opinion, some politicians couldn't care less what you and I think or say. Once elected, they're there for the duration, and you can't do anything about it. They'll only take note when

they see your name on the ballot form.

The next municipal election will result in our representation holding office for a four-year term, so if change is what people want they better do something about it now.

With the unprecedented expansion of the town, there must be many people who would be interested in running for office.

All you have to do is put up \$100 and declare your intention to stand. You may not get elected, but every vote you get is one less for an incumbent that you wish to replace, and you did your part for that 'change'. Never doubt we get the government we deserve.

BOB MOREAU
HESLOP ROAD

Traffic has indeed become big problem here

DEAR EDITOR:

I agree with the recent letters regarding the stretch of road on Derry between Thompson Road and Fifth Line.

People sit in traffic and try to be patient, but there are people who decide that they're more important than the rest of us and feel the need to drive down the right-hand lane.

They know that this lane will end. It's the same people everyday who do this, like the lady who drives the dark gray Toyota RAV4. This drives me crazy.

There are also some people who decide to cut the lights at Trudeau Drive and Derry Road and go through the plaza. This has got to stop. If it doesn't, someone is going to get hurt —

by road rage. Please, block off that right-hand lane, maybe with the same obstacles that were used to block off Fourth Line.

It would also be nice to see a police officer sitting in the plaza every now and then to stop cars cutting through there.

CHRIS BROWN
BENNETT BOULEVARD

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