

# Unprecedented growth causing Milton to lose much of its appeal

**DEAR EDITOR:**

Almost a decade ago my wife and I moved to the Milton area, lured by the abundance of recreational opportunities.

It really was a small oasis within the GTA that provided its residents with all the virtues of escarpment life. Southern Ontario isn't blessed with mountains or oceans, and our lakefront is polluted to levels that greatly exceed health standards, so our escarpment is our only natural bounty.

For this reason alone, those of us who participate in an active lifestyle saw Milton as a jewel for what it had to offer. The mountain bikers, road cyclists, skiers, climbers and hikers alike made Milton the choice destination for their pursuits — and many others like us made it their home.

It wasn't long after we moved here that we started to realize that Milton was at a tipping point in its growth, and most of us pre-Big Pipe residents still can't believe the rate at which the growth has occurred.

As I stand high above our town on one of our escarpment

peaks, I try to take stock of our future, and try to imagine what my sons will see if they stand on this peak in 10 years time.

As they look toward the 401 corridor to the north, they will be shocked at the industrialization of what was once rich farmland. Millions of square feet are being built as I write.

That will bring unprecedented levels of truck traffic into our community, and that brings only congestion, dangerous roads and pollution.

Looking up further to the north, my sons will see what little remains after Dufferin Aggregates further expands. Our precious escarpment is being hauled away a truckload at a time. Over a thousand trucks a day will continue to haul away an area that has been designated a world biosphere site.

Travel up Sixth Line and see the kind of widespread damage this quarry has caused. It's enough to make you ill.

To the south, the ruin will continue. Tremaine Road will become a veritable four-lane highway to accommodate the

traffic that all the high-density housing and proposed CN intermodal station will bring. Several cyclists have already been killed on this designated bike route on Tremaine. I can't imagine what the future holds.

To the east, big box retail will dominate the landscape. In my opinion, nothing tears a small community apart faster than these non-descript, homogenous retail outlets. We could have refused their entry as other towns have done before us, but that would be too progressive a mandate for a town council and mayor whose proficiency lies only in posing for pictures.

If anyone is looking for a place to point the finger of blame regarding a suffering downtown core, point it directly at Town Hall. Fortunately, my children won't bear witness to this decay and destruction of what was once a precious and beautiful area.

I moved here to escape from the high-density homogenous communities that surround the GTA, and now I'll do it again.

**TOM BJELIC  
MILTON**

# Majority seem to want pesticides bylaw

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ly supportive of a bylaw.

That echoes the message that people across Canada are sending — that they want restrictions on the use of non-essential pesticides due to what they believe are detrimental health and environmental impacts associated with their use. People don't want to be exposed unwillingly to these chemicals.

We thank those who took the time to share their concerns with us, including the small minority who don't favour a bylaw at this time. We would also like to thank Loblaws for agreeing to let us collect signatures at that location.

We commend Councillor Wendy Schau for so strongly advocating for the development of a bylaw. She has clearly been doing her research on the issue and been carefully considering the community feedback that all councillors have been receiving. We truly appreciate her for standing up and speaking for the majority of citizens in Milton, and demonstrating her own commitment

to a healthy community.

Councillor Mark Curtis has also been extremely supportive over the past years, attending events such as Pesticide Free Week and spending time discussing this issue with us. He has communicated his strong feelings in support of a pesticide bylaw, given pesticides' cancer-causing effects.

We urge concerned community members to participate in the public open houses on cosmetic pesticides that will be upcoming next year. It's important that your voice be heard, especially if we hope to get a strong bylaw. More information can be found at [www.pesticidereform.ca](http://www.pesticidereform.ca), including a link to organic lawn care tips.

Finally, we must thank Town legislative administrator Meaghen Reid for all of her prompt and friendly administrative support over the past few weeks as we prepared for our presentations, and The Champion for all of its coverage of this important issue.

**ERIKA RISTOK, PRESIDENT  
PESTICIDE ALTERNATIVES FOR MILTON**

# Local communities pushing to get county house of refuge

'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 1908

Not long ago, Dr. Bruce Smith, Inspector of Prisons and Asylums took the county of Wentworth to task for neglecting to provide properly for the poor of the county, some of whom, he said, had been sent to jail as vagrants. He urged the establishment of a house of refuge. He is likely to be heard from in Halton before long. A Milton man — disabled by disease — has been in jail for about two years on successive committals of three months each, and a short time ago a Georgetown man was sent down as a vagrant. He has a disabled knee and his lungs are in such a bad way that he has to be kept in bed and requires constant nursing. He is a subject for a hospital rather than a jail, and Sheriff Clements has reported his case to Dr. Smith. It looks as though Milton and Georgetown want the Government to insist on a county house of refuge and each hopes to provide a site for it.

Contributions for the relief of the needy have been freely made. Now the adults are fairly well clothed, and a considerable quantity of bed clothing has been distributed. There is still need of some children's clothing and a few blankets and quilts and fuel and food are being sent where needed.

Although the weather was unpleasant on Saturday and the roads bad, the attendance at the convention of Halton Liberals here was so large that an adjournment had to be made from the Royal Templars' Hall to the town hall. Major Beattie, president of the Halton Reform Association was chairman. R.D. Warren, publisher of the Georgetown Herald and ex-Warden of the county, was the unanimous and enthusiastic choice of the convention as candidate for the Legislature of Ontario in the coming

## Milton Time Capsules



general election which may come off next June.

The Guelph Herald says straw is so scarce at Guelph that it sells for \$15 per ton.

The banquet to be held in Knox Church School room on the evening of Feb. 28th, under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid Society, will consist of a most attractive menu, including creamed chicken in shredded wheat baskets, jellied fruit sandwiches with whipped cream, shredded wheat ice cream, cold ham, pickles, tea and coffee, besides other delicious preparations. The menus were furnished entirely by courtesy of The Canadian Shredded Wheat Co. Ltd. A good program will follow. Admission 25¢, children 12 years and under 15¢.

Milton and Acton hockey teams played at the rink on Tuesday evening. Kitchen was away from home, there was no one to take his place and the locals had to play six men against seven. As Acton had not lost a match this season, having defeated Guelph and Georgetown, it was not expected that they would lose here, but the local boys surprised their friends by their snappy play and effective combination, and won by a score of 9 to 6.

Since the last time it drifted every one seemed afraid to break the track on the road from James Peddie's gate to Peter Peddie's gate (Regional Road 25 south of No. 5 Sideroad). A youth from up north tried to show people how to break it, but when half way through his horse got down, the cutter upset and he had a sorry time for a while.

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

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