

Town planners have created sad state with our access roads

DEAR EDITOR:

I've been a resident of Milton for more than 30 years and I find that once again I must express my thoughts about the way our current planners seem to 'fix' things.

I'm referring to the sad state that our main access routes, both coming into and leaving town, have been handled.

Fact: People must leave town to go to work.

Fact: The same people must return to town.

This simple concept seems to elude Town Hall, as I will explain.

In the past this wasn't a problem because the road capacities were adequate. However, with the explosive growth Milton is experiencing, these very same roads can't cope with this overload of traffic — and weren't meant to.

So what do the people at Town Hall do? They close a main north/south access route — Fourth Line — to Hwy. 401.

Yes I know the residents who live along this road complained about the safety of their children because the road is close to their property, but now residents must find an alternate route both to leave town and return.

And that's not to mention the increased travel time for emergency vehicles. I hope those who wanted the road closed

remember that the next time they need a police officer, fire truck or ambulance.

Please understand that I don't blame the residents. I blame the developers for planning it and Town Hall for approving it.

With Fourth Line's closure, drivers then started driving east along Derry Road to Trafalgar Road, or along Regional Road 25 to access the 401. So now the residents who live on or near Derry Road complain about the speeding vehicles along this road. Since they now have farther to travel, people drive faster to make up the time.

Again, our fearless leaders acted and reduced the speed limit along Derry Road and install traffic signals. This now causes vehicles to be on the road for a longer period of time, causing more congestion and even longer driving times.

Drivers are now looking for an alternate route, and they found it further south. It's called Britannia Road.

Again, residents who live along this road are complaining of the increased traffic and the speeders.

Does anyone see a pattern here?

What we need are controlled access routes, both east and west and north and south near the main areas of population —

ones that are fenced with no other traffic allowed. That means no pedestrians, no dog walkers and no children.

That would help commuters access the 401 quickly and safely while removing the 'I'm going to be late' worry that caused those dreaded speeding problems.

Lastly, to compound the problem even more is the too-little-too-late expansion of Derry Road. Here we are with a mass of commuters trying to get in and out of town on inadequate roads, and now throw in construction.

Let's see, I drove on the north side to work and now, surprise, I have to drive on the south side on the way home, maybe in a mid-summer thunderstorm when visibility isn't optimal, or at night.

Maybe Town planners shouldn't allow one more house to be built until the roads are first upgraded and able to handle the extra traffic. Maybe the developers should be responsible for all or some of the upgrades costs. After all, they're making a profit by using the current roads.

We all have a vote, let's use it wisely.

**MIKE LABENCKI
MILTON**

Support of youth program by Milton Community Fund has been outstanding

• from COMMUNITY on page A6

We feel like we have great momentum now and hope that our program will continue to grow.

Youth Aiding Youth is a non-profit program that helps with the development of social skills and self-esteem for children between the ages of six and 12 years. We match these children with youth volunteers who are between 16 and 24 years old. The volunteers act as mentors and special friends for children in need.

Youth Aiding Youth also offers social skills groups for boys and girls in need of social interactions with other children their own age.

The funding from the Milton Community Fund has supported the Youth Aiding Youth volunteer recruitment efforts, helped provide supplies for the social skills groups, funded special community outings for the children and helped pay for other program expenses.

The fund has really helped Youth Aiding Youth to make a difference.

Thank you.

**KELLY GIULIANI,
PROGRAM CO-ORDINATOR
YOUTH AIDING YOUTH**

Charges laid as Victoria Day celebrations get out of hand

'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.

May 1908

Several families not long from England live in the upper stories of the brick building on the west side of the post office. They celebrated Victoria Day and rather overdid it, as there was a general row in the evening. One man flourished a knife. The result was the laying of several charges before Police Magistrate Dice. They came up yesterday and were adjourned until this evening. Another row took place on the opposite side of the street at about eleven o'clock last night and may result in another charge.

Messrs. Stewart & Witton, architects of Hamilton, are working on the plans of the P.L. Robertson Mfg. Co.'s buildings. They are expected this week to complete the plan of the machine shop and it is the intention of the Company to begin this building. (The building has been demolished.)

Rev. P.T. and Mrs. Mignot of Guernsey, Channel Islands arrived in Milton yesterday evening from Hamilton where they were guests of Judge Snider. Rev. Mignot will preach today in Grace Church which (stone church) was erected in 1895 at his suggestion and mainly through his energy. Mr. and Mrs. Mignot will leave tomorrow morning for Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Providence, R.I., Boston, New York and other eastern points.

The contracts have now all been let for the first section of the screw company's buildings. As we go to press the digging for the foundation is already completed and stone and sand are being delivered on the ground just east of the old cemetery. By Monday the masons will be at work on the foundation's walls. The building is to be of solid brick, one

Milton Time Capsules



storey high and will be well lighted and ventilated.

On Monday Thos. Aitken brought a curiosity to town. It was an ancient axe head that he plowed up in a new clearing on his farm in Esquesing, near Milton. It was something of the tomahawk pattern, but much larger than the Indian weapon. One man pronounced it a French axe, and perhaps he was right, though rust had obliterated any lettering which may have been on it, and there was nothing to identify it. At any rate, it was unlike any Canadian or American axe and doubtless it had a straight handle. It may have been owned by an Indian, as Mr. Aitken and his neighbours often plow up arrow and spear heads of flints and even more ancient than the axe, showing that Indians were numerous in Halton in old times.

A letter to the editor suggests Evergreen cemetery company build a house and give it to some reliable man, rent free, for the privilege of collecting fees from interested parties.

The band gave the first open-air concert of the season on Friday evening. The membership is larger than last year and the music is as good as ever. The band played on Monday at the annual Victoria Day picnic of the House of Providence, Toronto. The fine grounds of that institution were crowded by 10,000 people and there was a splendid program of amusements. The band played until 9 p.m. and had to stay over night at the Gladstone Hotel, as there was no train for the west until next morning.

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

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