

# A&P move leaves town without grocery store in its central core

DEAR EDITOR:

It pains me to say it, but Murray Townsend's comments about the grocery store situation in Milton may have inadvertently hit the nail on the head.

When I first moved here 13 years ago, I was a new mother with a husband who commuted to Toronto. Because we only had one car and I rarely felt like getting up early enough to drop him off at the GO station, I spent most of my weekdays without a vehicle. Happily, our house on Commercial Street was within easy walking distance of everything I needed — the post office, bank, drugstore, Harris Stationary, several parks and, most importantly, a fully-stocked grocery store.

Today Quality Greens is gone, the A&P has moved out to the far edge of town and Loblaws will soon be moving as

well. The south end of town still has FoodPort and LaRose, but both are considerably farther than I care to walk with armloads of groceries.

If this trend continues, the time will come when no one will be able to live in Milton without driving. The Milton Transit system is improving, but is still focused mainly on getting people to and from the Go station, not the grocery store. And when people have to drive to get food, they tend to drive to get everything, especially when all the other stores form a ring around town rather than are situated in the central core.

This is the kind of town planning that's killing the planet and making us all fat. It's not just the location of the housing developments or the Wal-Mart, although both contribute to the problem. No, it's the exodus of

grocery stores to the outskirts of town that will ultimately turn Milton into yet another suburban wasteland.

I can't tell you what the solution is, or even if one is possible at this late date. I do know that council should have moved heaven and earth to either help Quality Greens stay in business or ensure it was replaced with another grocery store.

As it stands, there are some beautiful boutique stores and many wonderful restaurants in downtown Milton, but not a grocery store to draw local people there on a daily basis. I fear that the downtown core will become — at best — a quaint and lovely place to bring the relatives when they visit.

At worst it will become a ghost town.

**JENNIFER SMITH  
COMMERCIAL STREET**

# Town's forced growth must be curbed

DEAR EDITOR:

Canadians as a whole now view our environmental situation — both in the world and Canada — as an even greater concern than our health care and our future economic picture.

Our federal government has acknowledged this number one citizens' concern and has now made environmental improvement a top priority.

We have an environmental improvement opportunity right here in Milton now by curbing over-zealous growth. This in turn would reduce the quantity of cars using already choked highways and producing tonnes of pollution, and also reduce new developments from being located over prime ecosystems and farmland.

We don't need any more forced growth here in Milton, which will clearly cause the

need for more highways, more development and more cars.

If we indeed do need growth, we need intelligent growth, not forced growth. Growth needs to be linked to environmental improvement, not to the eventual destruction of our environment.

It's time to be environmentally proactive.

**BOB BEYETTE  
MILTON**

# Transit service in older part of Milton lacking

• see WEST on page A6

station and left.

It's obvious that Route 2 is a longer route and has a requirement for additional service that's not being accounted for. It seems to me that the bus service is accommodating the new development, while ignoring the needs of old Milton.

Since in my view the new residents of Milton are not as keen on using public transit, would it not make more sense to provide additional service — at least during rush hours — to the areas of the town that truly need it?

I believe that Route 2 can use two buses run-

ning the route at rush hour. The wait times have become unbearable, and the service provider is doing nothing to help riders. The drivers are rude and the supervisors seem unwilling to become involved in solving the matter.

Milton also needs a way of contacting the transit supervisors to get status on a particular bus line. Right now Oakville Transit doesn't answer any calls for status on Milton Transit lines after hours. We need better service at the west end of Milton. This needs to be addressed, and soon.

**MAURICE RIVAS  
MILTON**

# Area roads in horrible shape, with mud hub deep in places

'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 1909

Halton's good roads are said to be in the worst of condition now, the mud being hub deep in many places. This fact is likely to be used as an argument by the supporters of the good roads bylaw in reply to the deputation of anti-good roads men who will appear at county council.

...

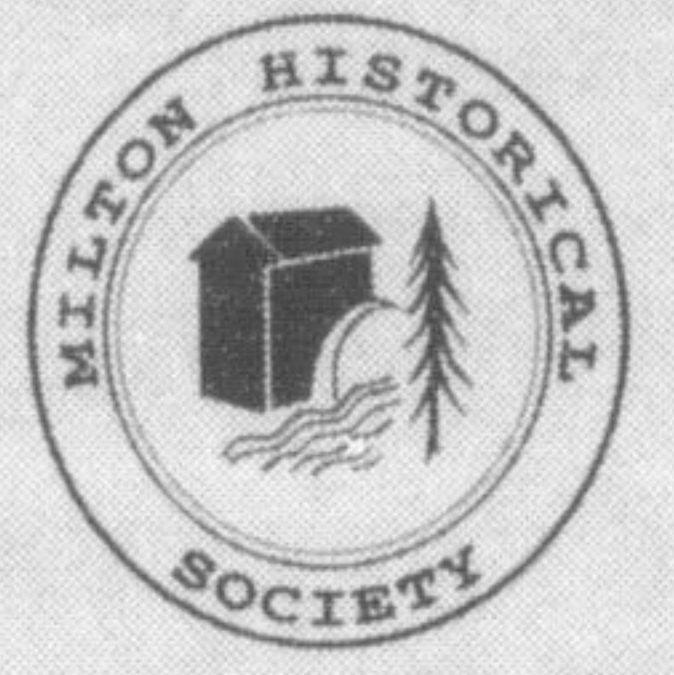
Mansewood: The Scotch Block football association has re-organized for the coming season and elected the following officers: Hon. President, Reeve J. McGibbon; President, Rev. J.R. Watts; Captain, G. Dobson; Managing Committee, G. McNab, C. Robertson, N. McCallum; Secretary-Treasurer, W.F. Winlaw.

...

On Tuesday afternoon at the meeting of the county council the court room was crowded with those interested in the good roads question, the great majority opponents of the county system and the issue of debentures. Messrs. W.A. McCartney, Alex Porter, Wm. Agnew, Paul Campbell, John D. McGregor, R.E. Hall, Richard Graham, John Wrigglesworth, John B. McGregor, Jas. Aitkens, Thos. Moore, Jas. Little, Jas. Mahon and Peter McDuffe addressed the council in support of the big petition for the repeal of the good roads bylaw and against the issue of debentures and H.W. Cook, J.F. Richardson and John F. Brownridge spoke in favour of the county system and in support of the bylaw.

The speakers did not always confine themselves to the points at issue and some of the opponents of the bylaw devoted a large part of their time to discussing Mr. Cook. The proceedings were lively at times and interruptions frequent, particularly when Mr. Cook had the floor. Little or nothing was said in the council about the bylaw or the issue of

**Milton  
Time  
Capsules**



debentures after the departure of the deputation.

No instructions were given for the preparation of a debenture bylaw and as the council will not be meeting again until June 15th it does not seem likely that any debentures will be issued this year. It may be expected that more or less work will be done on the country system of good roads and that in June a bylaw will be passed to levy a rate to cover the expenditure. Possibly it may not be as large as that of last year, one mill on the dollar, but it may be that nothing less will answer.

...

There has been plenty of excitement here during the past week over the boring operations by the Halton Oil & Gas Co. Last week, owing to a strong smell of coal oil from the well, which had reached a depth of over 1,100 feet, there was a demand for shares at the office of the company here and a number of them were sold. On Monday evening fresh interest was created when one of the boring experts brought to town a mixture of earth and crude oil taken from the well. The oil was dark in color and the odor was enough to satisfy anyone. The expert said he had never seen better indications and a flow of oil might be struck any day. Preparations have been made to take care of it when it comes.

...

Mansewood: Last week's high wind did considerable damage around here. Among those who lost their barn roofs are Robert Stark, Sr., Robert Stark Jr., Wm. Allen and Alex MacNabb. James Murray and Wm. Stark each had their windmills blown over.

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

 **Halton Beauty Supply & Hair Studio**  
Tues-Fri 9-6, Sat 9-4 • PERMS • COLOUR • CUT

**Chantal is back!**  **PERM & COLOUR SPECIAL \$45 & UP**

**150 Main St. E., Milton (ACROSS FROM CIBC) 905-875-0313**

**Here's your opportunity to save lives.**

Milton Blood Donor Clinic  
Milton Sports Centre 605 Santa Maria Blvd.  
Thursday, January 18, 2007  
1:30pm - 8:00pm

Call 1 888 2 DONATE  
for more information or to book an appointment. [bloodservices.ca](http://bloodservices.ca)

