

GTA pooling in need of a change

(This letter was addressed to Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr and members of regional council, and a copy was filed with *The Champion*.)

DEAR EDITOR:

This letter is in regard to GTA pooling funds and Halton Region's financial support for City of Toronto social services.

The directors of the Milton Rural Residents Association (MRRRA) strongly support the resolution that the GTA pooling subsidy should be capped at the 2006 level, as recently approved by Halton regional council to readdress this matter.

Further to capping, we believe the matter of the GTA pooling subsidy should be critically reviewed to determine whether or not there are real benefits which accrue to the citizens of Halton, commensurate with the contribution they make to the funding of Toronto's social services.

Ongoing annual automatic increases or even passive maintenance of the status quo aren't acceptable. A rigorous cost-benefit analysis is required by the Region of Halton, identifying specifically the programs or initiatives in which these funds are used and how Halton property

owners benefit, and determining whether such funding should be continued or not.

Over and above the cost-benefit considerations, the concept of financing social service programs through property tax levies is highly questionable, and we feel it's totally inappropriate insofar as property owners in one municipality are required to subsidize another municipality's social service initiatives. We believe the Region's goal should be to eliminate this subsidy altogether.

It hopefully goes without saying that it's axiomatic that the funds saved through the reduction of Halton's GTA pooling contribution must be directly returned to the taxpayers of Halton, not diverted to some other regional or municipal program.

In the case of total elimination of the pooling subsidy, some \$41 million (estimated 2006 subsidy) would be returned to Halton property owners as a tangible tax-reduction benefit.

Property-based tax increases are getting out of hand and practical action to reverse the recent upward trends and provide homeowners with property

tax relief is imperative.

We note that Toronto has recently been given new powers for revenue development, and feel that these new powers should provide alternative funding opportunities for Toronto to 'self-finance'.

We strongly support Regional Chair Gary Carr in his call for an aggressive approach to the provincial government to revisit this pooling program and readdress the inequities of it, and we solicit council's continued support for his efforts.

The MRRRA is an incorporated association of rural residents of the town of Milton founded in 2003 by interested citizens. Its objective is to ensure that the voice of Milton's rural residents is heard at various levels of government on issues that affect Milton rural residents.

The directors of the MRRRA appreciate your continued attention to this matter and look forward to an early taxpayer-favourable resolution.

Thank you for your consideration.

**MICHAEL GRIMWOOD,
PRESIDENT
MILTON RURAL
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

Region wise to be considering EFW site

DEAR EDITOR:

Halton Region is currently studying the possible creation of an Energy-From-Waste (EFW) facility.

This proposal has drawn comment in *The Champion*. Waste is with us, and of course it's desirable to practise the three Rs — reuse, recycle and renew. Ultimately, however, we still have waste to deal with.

The current process, namely finding a hole and filling it, is thousands of years old, but with the increased complexity of modern waste is entirely unsuitable. These 'middens' produce methane, which may be burnt as fuel. However this methane is the result of uncontrolled complex chemical reactions occurring within the dump.

Who knows what other chemicals are produced as a result of these chemical reactions to pollute our air and contaminate our ground water? Leachate treatment is an expensive business and a continuing cost to the taxpayer for many years.

It's time that we dealt properly with our own

waste and not pass the problem on to future generations.

It can always be argued that waiting can result in improved technologies. This is merely an excuse for doing nothing. We have to use the best available technology.

EFW has many net gains versus covering ever greater areas of land with 'middens'. The argument that there's a net energy loss is untrue. It could equally well be used in the production of ethanol from corn. If one wants to consider an inefficient process, burning natural gas to produce electricity is far less efficient than burning it in your domestic furnace.

So congratulations to the Region for its forward thinking. EFW plants are already in operation around the world and, with appropriate monitoring, will reduce our air and water pollution. Remember, a malfunctioning plant can always be shut down until the problem is fixed, whereas a dump is uncontrolled.

**JOHN WOODS, PHD
TWISS ROAD**

Prospecting work delayed as oil drill gets unscrewed

'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

The drill reached a depth of 1300 feet in the Halton Oil & Gas Co's. prospective well last Thursday, but work was stopped by a section of the rod becoming unscrewed and detached 33 feet from the bottom. Tools to catch it and withdraw it have been sent for and it is expected will soon have the rod out so that work can be resumed. When the drill became detached it had just got through a large body of rock and was cutting a softer formation, in which it is hoped flowing oil will soon be struck.

The members of the Milton fire brigade, in keeping with the improvements made to the town hall, have had their room in the hall painted and its walls and ceiling papered with handsome paper, with burlap on the lower part of the walls. The room is now one of the finest in the hall and the boys are justly proud of it.

The bachelors and benedicts of Streetsville held a most successful assembly at the Oddfellows' hall last Friday evening. A party of eleven Miltonians with Mrs. M.E. Parks as chaperone attended the assembly, going and returning by C.P.R., Mr. Parks making arrangements for a coach attached to the 2 a.m. freight train for the west which was two hours late, however.

John Galbraith died suffering from Bright's disease He was 76 years of age and was born in Ireland. He came to Milton in 1863 and worked for many years as a wagon maker for the late Robert Hawthorne, as well as a woodworker in the Brothers foundry. Two grandsons, Clarence and Elmer Turner had lived with Mr. Galbraith since the death of their father a number of years ago.

**Milton
Time
Capsules**

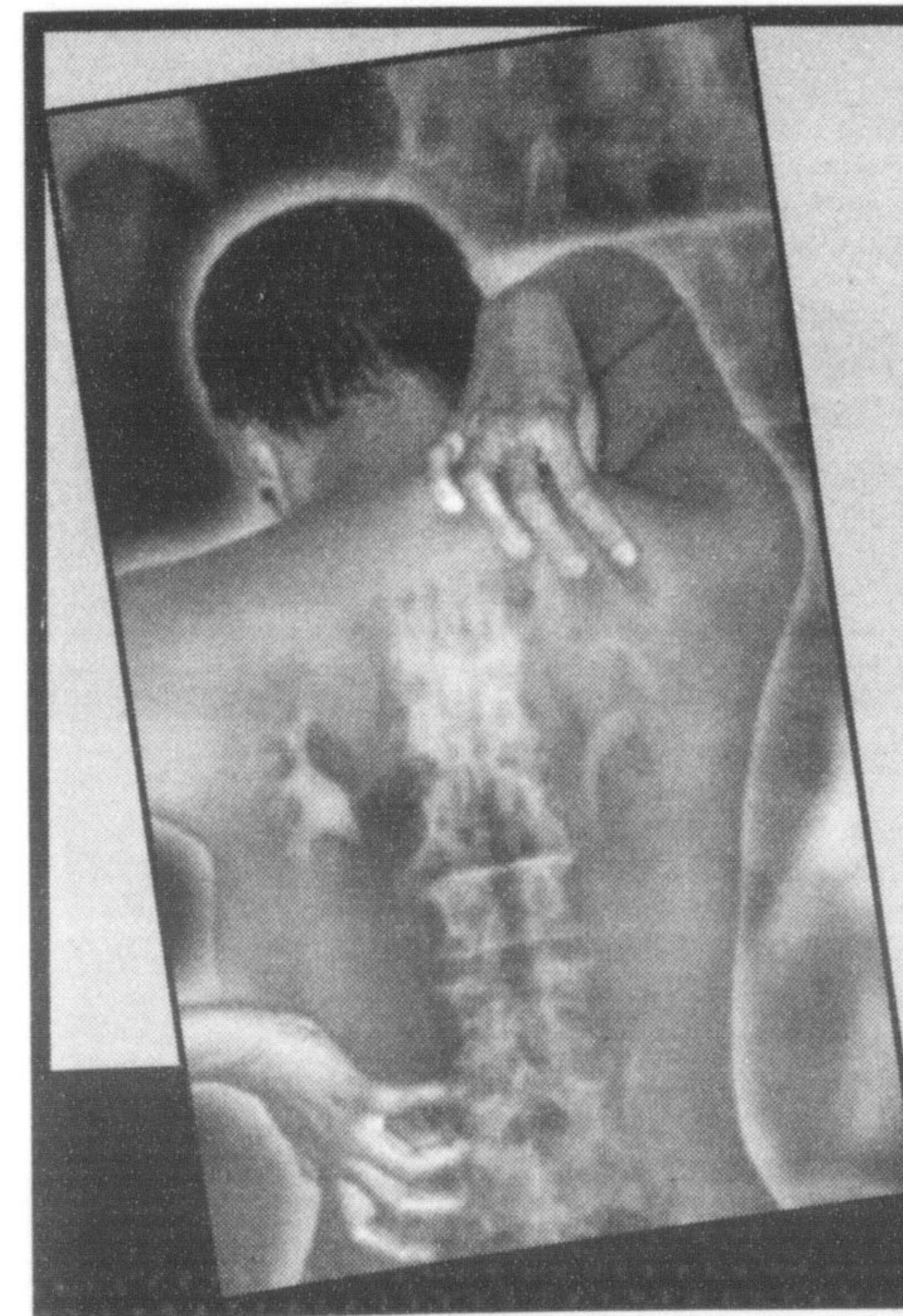


J.H. Peacock made a large shipment of hogs on Monday last. G.A. Lamb, 1st line Trafalgar, brought in 28 hogs, for which he received a little over \$420. Quite a nice sum for one lot of hogs.

The C.R. Willmott Co. Ltd., has begun work on the main building of its big implement factory, which is located near the C.P.R. station. It will be made up of the machine, wood, blacksmith and paint shops and when it is well under way work will be begun on the power house. Jas. Coulter has the contract for the excavation and L.J. Maud for the stonework. The contracts for both the brickwork and carpentering work are being let this week and after they are done the big plant will soon be in operation. The company did not at any time calculate on beginning building operations before this date. Nothing can interfere with Milton having a busy implement factory. Trade this spring and prospects for the future are just what was expected within organizing the company.

The Milton baseball club was reorganized for the coming season at a well attended meeting held on Tuesday evening. Elected: Judge Gorham, Hon. Pres.; E.F. Earl, Pres; J.W. Buck, Vice pres; R. Fleming, sec. treas; J.D. McGibbon, manager; N. Ryder, Captain; W. Panton, J.J. Peacock and J.B. Armstrong, managing committee. It was decided to join the Halton-Peel League, if reorganized and the Manager and Secretary were appointed representatives to attend League meetings.

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



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