

Allendale staff's caring nature made Dad's passing much easier

DEAR EDITOR:

Recently we lost our mentor, our role model and our hero. Our 82-year-old dad died in the arms of a health-care worker at the Allendale Long-Term Care Facility.

Although we will miss him terribly and will think of him every day, this letter isn't about death, but about the living.

Our mother also lives in Allendale. Understandably, after 64 years of a truly romantic and loving marriage, she mourns her loss along with the rest of us.

Arriving in a flurry of panic following our father's passing, my sister and I were completely overcome by the outpouring of care and sympathy that the front-line staff of Allendale provided. At every turn, someone was there, reaching out to us with a hug, a touch or sincere words of kindness.

What's important is that this outward expression of kindness started long before Dad was gone. About 18 months ago, we relocated our parents from Mill Bay, B.C. to Milton, as Mom had been diagnosed with a rare spinal disorder and we anticipated that she would need extra care. Within six months, it was evident she could no longer live with Dad in the small bungalow they had purchased, and we

found a place for her in Allendale.

Since that time, the care workers in Halton House have been an unbelievable source of comfort, care and companionship for Mom — who's now confined to a wheelchair. They have helped to make her small room become her new home. Everyone knows her by name and they drop in whenever they can to share a joke, a story or a tear. Although seriously overworked, these individuals go far beyond the call to make Mom feel loved, appreciated and respected.

Dad was admitted to Sykes House at Allendale just a few months ago after a series of compromising health issues prevented him from living alone. His health deteriorated quickly and through each stage of his illness we were always kept abreast of what was happening and what we could collectively do to make his life as comfortable as possible.

As his illness progressed, it was evident that it became more challenging to care for him, and we watched the staff as they went about their tasks, stopping in to say hello, puff up his pillows to make him more comfortable or comment on the family pictures splashed all over his

bulletin board.

During this terrible time, it's such a comfort to my sister and me that they were always only a 'button-push' away. We know that they will be there to help Mom through the ups and downs, and they will do so with the smiles and words of encouragement that have become so important to her — and to us.

We don't know how we can recognize and extend our appreciation to these tireless, selfless individuals who help us carry on in spite of our loss, but we do know that Mom is still very much alive, and knowing that she's in the hands of such warm, capable and compassionate individuals has somehow made this dreadful ordeal much easier.

Our only hope is that when we're ready to take up residence in a nursing home someday, there will be a support staff like the ones in Halton House and Sykes House — and probably all of the other houses at Allendale — to welcome us.

Thank you for your caring, your dedication and your tireless commitment. Your efforts are much appreciated, not just today, but every day.

LINDA MILLAR AND
DONNA BARTLIFF
CAMPBELLVILLE

Horse fatally struck by train: neither whistle nor bell heard

'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.

July 1909

On Tuesday morning Mr. and Mrs. Jackson Agnew were driving on Martin Street to Milton from their home, the old Dempsey farm (Rockwell property). They reached the Martin Street crossing of the C.P.R. and saw the 10:21 train coming from the west. It was close and Mr. Agnew saw he could not get across in time to avoid it. He stopped his horse and tried to back him up but before he could get the animal clear the engine struck it on the shoulder and threw it aside. After taking a few steps the horse fell and died. The shoulder was not badly cut. The buggy shafts broke when the horse fell but no further damage was done. Mr. Agnew valued the horse at \$125, having refused that price for him some time ago. He says he heard neither whistle nor bell. The crossing is dangerous when approached from the north-west as the track is concealed by Mr. Campbell's stone dwelling, now occupied by Mr. Sanders.

The band has made arrangements with the Harry Rich Concert Bureau of Toronto to furnish four weekly concerts in Livingston Park, commencing next Tuesday evening with a moving picture entertainment, the like of which has never been seen in Milton. It is expected that these concerts will draw large crowds as the talent is the best.

The existence of a big leak in the water main at the corner of Main and Martin Streets has been known for about a year. The flow from it was tested a few days ago and the daily loss was computed at 8,000 to 10,000 gallons, a much larger quantity than is used in Milton for domestic purposes. This morning workmen began digging to find the leak. It was high time. The dry season is

Milton
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Capsules



approaching and further neglect would have brought on another water famine.

Halton is to acquire a half interest in the county of Peel's house of refuge. A bylaw to that effect was passed at last Friday's meeting of the county council and the report of the commissioners appointed to value the farm buildings, stock etc. was accepted. The valuation was \$18,635.50 and Mr. Mason, architect, estimates the expenditure on the additional buildings which will be needed, including plumbing and heating, at \$12,000. Halton's expenditure, therefore, will be about \$15,000. Of this it is expected twenty-five per cent will be repaid to Halton by the government. The county council of Peel met on Tuesday and passed a bylaw to provide for the sale to Halton.

The oil drill of the Halton Oil & Gas Co. has reached a depth of 1,650 feet. It has passed through in succession, strata or red medina, Utica shale, etc. and it is now boring through Trenton limestone. The granite is supposed to be about 200 feet below. Mr. Crewson is confident that oil will be struck before the granite is reached, but should it not be struck, the indications are so encouraging that the drill is pretty sure to be put to work elsewhere near Milton. The granite cannot be bored with the ordinary drill.

The old foundry on Commercial Street has been rented by S. Dice for a cooper shop, and coopers are busy making apple barrels.

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

Town's main core needs grocery stores

DEAR EDITOR:

I moved to Milton eight months ago, and in that time have become discontent with the growth and what it will eventually do to our downtown core.

I agree with the letter from M. Taha in the January 23 *Champion*. Are the council members considering the small business people at all? They should.

The A&P has left central Milton and Loblaw's will soon be gone to Thompson Road and Main Street. This has increased business for Food Port, which is great.

However, the fact remains we need more local grocery store access.

Has there been any consideration at all for the seniors who live close to the downtown core and

who do not have easy access to the new grocery stores? These people will need to use taxi service both ways, which will increase the cost of their grocery bills.

It's not just the many seniors but the stay-at-home mums with no car available, and a lot of other residents in the same situation. Now, where are all the long-time residents to grocery shop that is of a reasonable walking distance?

It would be very sad to see, as time goes by, all big business be too far away from the main core and its residents. Eventually, Milton would become a ghost town, like a lot of other nice little towns, because of big business moving in.

Don't let this happen.

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