

Care and generosity displayed at benefit concert was amazing

DEAR EDITOR:

Once again, I am in awe at the resiliency, caring spirit and generosity of our youth and the quality and dedication of their teachers.

And once again, I am reminded of the importance of coming together as a community when tragedy strikes.

I am speaking of the recent musical tribute to Jeannette Wilson by her current and former students and colleagues. Although billed as a fundraiser to help create a trust fund for Mrs. Wilson's grandson, Caleb, it was so much more.

It was a wonderful example of the care and mutual respect between students and a teacher, who has inspired them and taught them not only to love music, but to commit to something and to respect themselves and others. The event also showed all of us, young and old, how one young person can encourage others to join together to really make a difference.

I wish to applaud Keryll Brown, a Grade 8 student at W.I. Dick, for having the courage to transform an idea into a reality. I

wish to congratulate Stephen Maule, a music teacher at Milton District High School, for investing his time and talent in pulling Mrs. Wilson's current and former students together for late night practices in preparation for the performance and then, with them, delivering an incredible evening of music and coming together to show we care. It was a very moving evening, growing out of tragedy, but evolving into community.

Because my son was fortunate to have had Mrs. Wilson as a teacher, I had the opportunity to witness her incredible way with students. I marveled then how she was able to quiet a room full of noisy and excited adolescents, each practising their own instrument, without raising her voice.

Mrs. Wilson can get the attention of every student in the band with just a smile. She can hold it with the raise of an eyebrow. Her laughter and 'jumping' makes learning fun. Her students respond and engage. She respects her students and they respect her back.

I knew it then, but it struck me with such force at the per-

formance when they came out in droves to play for her. When they were done playing, they lined up to talk with her. They needed her to know they care. They needed to see for themselves that she is okay, as okay as anyone who has suffered the loss of a child can be. They wanted to let Caleb, Mrs. Wilson's 'little miracle', know how special his grandma is to them and how lucky he is to have her in his life.

Already, some students are talking about holding an annual benefit concert. I'm confident that the students have the commitment and the ability to pull it off and that the adults in their lives will do what we can to lend our support.

To Mrs. Wilson, thank you for all you have done for your students and for us, their parents. To Caleb, thank you for sharing your grandma with us. Please know our thoughts, our love and our appreciation are with you and your family.

**WENDY ROBERTS,
PARENT OF W.I. DICK
GRADUATE AND
MDHS STUDENT**

Changing street names not necessary

(The following letter was addressed to the Town of Milton, and a copy was filed with the Champion.)

DEAR TOWN OF MILTON:

I request that the town of Milton should change its name to 'Mattamy Village'.

We might as well forget about our history and the reason our name is what it is because, after all, we could use a little change in our town. We should embrace the ever-growing new population in Milton and honour our new inhabitants.

Now of course this seems drastic and even a bit ridiculous, but that is exactly what you are doing to members of your community. By imposing street name changes on your citizens, you are creating more problems for yourself.

You say that you want to make things easier for the emergency response system, but how can you possibly call them improvements when you rename streets? Some of these street names have remained the same for decades, so what makes you think that it is so important to change them now?

There has never seemed to be a problem with our street names before in terms of hindering emergency response vehicles, and one would think that making new names would only lead to more problems. Not only will we, the residents, have to deal with a learning curve of remembrance of the new names, which will more than likely create a backlogged postal system, but there will also be the expensive task of changing all of our identification, which I assume you will not be compensating us for.

Perhaps the money that you wish to spend on new maps and street signs can be put to better use in upgrading the emergency response system. Or how about the novel idea of putting more money toward our hospital, which is being bombarded with our massive population growth.

One would think that the town has greater things to worry about than implementing unnecessary changes.

**KENDRIE RICHARDSON
MILTON**

Quick work of fire brigade contains blaze to one building

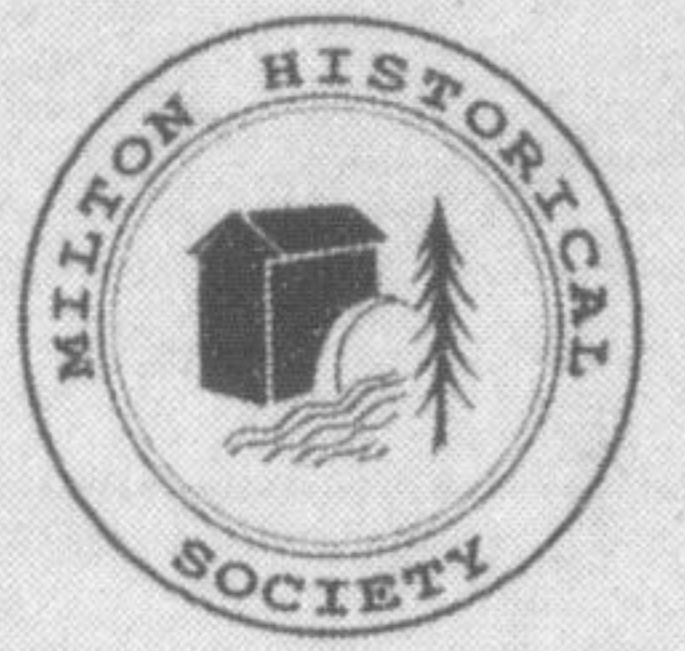
'Time Capsules' are gems of information extracted from past issues of The Champion and other publications in order to provide a window into Milton's past. Explanatory comment is sometimes provided to place the situation in context.

August 1909

Between 1 and 2 o'clock this morning Agent McBride, of the Farmers' Bank, heard a crash like breaking glass, but could not locate it. He lay awake and after some time smelled smoke. He got up but could find nothing wrong. He got up again, looked out about 3 a.m. and saw smoke issuing from Messrs. A. & A. Winn's storehouse, the building formerly occupied by the late W.H. Lindsay as a general store. He fired four shots from a revolver and ran to the town hall to ring the fire bell. At first the fire did not seem to amount to much. It appeared to be principally in the basement, but Chief Earl, of the fire brigade, who entered the building as soon as he reached it says he found a big fire on the first floor, where it was hidden by piles of boxes of shoes reaching nearly to the ceiling. He thinks it smoldered there for some time, finally working through the floor and a mass of burning matter dropped down.

In a short time the flames got into the upper storey and then through the roof. The smoke was so dense that the firemen could not work from the ladders and had to throw the water up from the ground. They did splendid work, had plenty of water, three streams of it, with ample pressure, and managed to confine the fire to the storehouse, though it stood in a solid block of stores with wooden buildings in rear. Fortunately there was no wind. The building was completely gutted and none of its contents were saved. Messrs. A. & A. Winn compute their loss on stock at \$22,000 with \$17,000 insurance. The loss on the building is about \$2,000, insurance \$1,400. The origin of the fire is unknown, but as Mr. McBride heard the crash and as the iron grating above one of the front cellar windows was found to have been removed and left on the pavement, it

**Milton
Time
Capsules**



is possible that burglars may have been at work and may have accidentally or purposely started the fire. The members of the firm of A. & A. Winn are Alfred and Miss Winn. They are wholesale dealers in shoes of all kinds, made in Milton and elsewhere.

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An Ontario Act forbids the employment of women or girls in shops after 6 o'clock in the evening of all days except Saturdays and the days before holidays.

...

On Saturday evening John Widwell was sun struck on Pearl Street as he was on his way from the brick works to his boarding house, A.B. Chisholm's. People who saw him reeling on the street carried him to the house where he died within an hour. He was a powerful man, about 35 years of age. He wore two shirts, one a heavy woolen one, two coats and a tweed cap and the physician who attended him says that his unseasonable clothing may have been the cause of his death. He came from Toronto last week and had worked three days for the Milton Pressed Brick Co. A man who came with him, worked and boarded with him did not know his name, but it was found in the books at the brick works. Widwell was a native of Whitehaven, Northumberland, England. As he had said that he had a brother travelling with Barnum & Bailey's circus, a telegram was sent to the managers of the show.

August 1909

E.D. Martin and H.M. Belcher will represent Winnipeg at the Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, which will open at Sydney, Australia, in September.

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



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