

# Town continues to discourage use of Bronte Meadows Park

(The following letter was addressed to John Bryant, Manager of Parks and Open Space for the Town of Milton, and a copy was filed with the Champion.)

**DEAR MR. BRYANT:**

I am writing in protest regarding the recent letter I received from you, representing the Town of Milton, advising me that the lights for baseball and tennis at Bronte Meadows Park are to be removed this month because they "had reached their life cycle."

I am appalled at the Town of Milton to taking yet another deliberate step to prevent the use of Bronte Meadows Park. I live on Laurier Avenue, directly facing the park, and for the last 25 years the people of Milton have thoroughly enjoyed the use of this space.

However there have been rumours circulating for some time that the Town wishes to rezone this space to allow for residential development.

One wonders if certain individuals would stand to profit from this? The steps to reduce the use of the area by residents started about three years ago with the removal of the basketball nets from the lighted John Tonelli Sports Centre parking lot. This was a low cost, highly physical activity that kept dozens of youth in the area occupied and out of trouble.

I immediately voiced my concerns to council that the loss of this extremely popular teen activity could lead to an increase in vandalism and crime. After several follow-ups, I was

assured by the Town that they had decided to convert one of the lighted tennis courts into a new basketball court. Three years later it still hasn't happened, and I needn't remind people about the increase in vandalism and crime we have seen in the area.

Last year council targeted soccer moms. The parking enforcement officer would show up at the same time he knew that the moms would be parking at the specially-widened section of Laurier Avenue to take their kids to soccer practice.

Yes, we all know the signs have read "No Parking" for 25 years, but everyone in the community also knows that for the last 25 years, during those couple of hours on the weekends or evenings, while the little kids were playing soccer, the Town and local residents turned a blind eye.

After all, Milton used to be a community with a heart.

Last summer, myself and other local residents appealed to our councillor to have the bylaw changed to allow the soccer moms to park there, but the ticketing continued.

As residents, we began warning the soccer moms when we knew the ticket officer was in the area, and on one occasion — while he was handing out tickets — tempers flared and the police had to be called in to break up a potentially nasty confrontation.

More was to follow. After 25 years of also allowing local residents to park overnight at the Bronte Meadows parking lot,

the Town sent their officer to start ticketing us. A protest to Town Hall resulted in the parking tickets being cancelled because they had to admit that they were wrong, there was no sign in place to indicate that overnight parking wasn't allowed.

However, despite appeals from residents to continue parking in the same lot where they had parked for 25 years, our heartless council responded by erecting a "No Overnight Parking" sign so they could continue to legally ticket residents and their visitors.

In the letter to residents, you indicate that the Community Services Area Master Plan will decide in late spring whether there is a future need for lighting at Bronte Park, and that if recommended it will be subject to council approval and a public consultation process.

This is nonsense. How can council possibly question the need for a facility that was justified 25 years ago and has been in constant use ever since, especially with the town in the midst of a huge population boom.

Let's look at this picture; they have removed the basketball nets, discouraged soccer by ticketing moms, stopped residents using the parking lot overnight and are now removing the lighting for tennis and baseball.

I believe it's time for council to start providing rather than taking away services, or to be honest and tell us the real plans for Bronte Meadows.

**BRIAN GALLIGAN  
LAURIER AVENUE**

## Support for MS walk much appreciated

**DEAR EDITOR:**

On behalf of the MS Society of Canada, I would like to thank the Champion for its support of the 2007 Milton-Halton Hills Super Cities Walk for MS, held on April 15.

The annual event was a great success, with over \$108,000 raised toward MS research and services — surpassing last year's total of \$97,329.

And donations are still coming in.

The Champion's support played a significant role in this record-breaking year.

**BRIAN LIM**

**CO-ORDINATOR, FUNDRAISING EVENTS  
MS SOCIETY OF CANADA,  
ONTARIO DIVISION**

## Schools closed as children hit with diphtheria outbreak

'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.

September 1909

A number of cases of diphtheria have developed in Milton within the last week. All the children are pupils of the public school. The infected houses have been placarded and all the necessary precautions against the spread of the infection have been taken. The schools closed at noon today until Monday or later if necessary.

Miss Jean Elliott has opened a Millinery Parlor above Mr. John Lawson's Store, Milton.

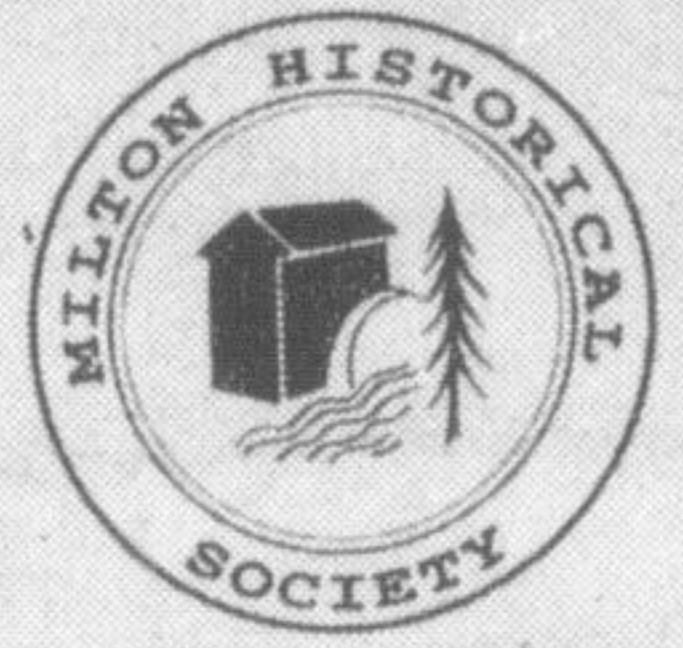
Joseph Tock has invested in an automobile which was delivered to him on Saturday.

Mr. and Miss Livingston gave a corn roast to about fifty of their friends old and young at Livingston Park on Tuesday night. The corn was roasted over an open fire and eaten as soon as done. The guests were also treated to melons and ice cream. The night was fine and warm, the park was illuminated and the scene very pretty. All enjoyed themselves greatly.

A new camp, Canadian Order, Woodmen of the World, was instituted here on Tuesday evening. About a score and a half were presented to form the new camp, all of whom are stalwart and enterprising citizens of the town.

For Milton Fair it was wet and entries were down. In the grounds there were the usual refreshment stands and ball-throwing and other games for cigars, etc. but the great source of attraction was a huge merry-go-round that was loaded by boys and girls every trip. A gipsy fortune teller, picturesquely dressed, had a small tent near the hall but did

**Milton  
Time  
Capsules**



not seem to be busy or to have her hand "crossed with silver" as often as she wished.

Sheriff Webster has been in search of a house to suit him and for sale, or failing that a building lot. He has been unable to find either. The corporation of Milton is too small for its population. There should be money in an addition sub-divided into building lots and put on the market this autumn or next spring by a hustling real estate agent.

October 1909

The C.R. Willmott Co.'s main building will soon be ready for occupation. The windows are in and a cement floor is being laid this week.

A complaint is made that after funerals thieves visit Evergreen Cemetery and steal the ribbons off the wreaths left on graves.

Messrs. R. & C.H. Burling, furniture dealers, and E.J. Wilson, grocer, have had their verandas torn down this week. Main Street is almost clear of verandas now and looks more modern than it did.

The county's stone crusher has been at work on the side of the mountain, near Milton, for a week and teams have been busy conveying the broken stone to the road from Main along Ontario Street and the second line to George Denoon's. This has long been one of the worst bits of road in the county when the mud was deep and the change from a mud to a well-made stone road will be most welcome.

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

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