

Gun registry just a big waste

DEAR EDITOR:

Regarding last Friday's letter to the editor entitled 'Thoughts on guns tough to swallow', I find it very hard to believe the writer's thoughts.

The gun registry did very little, if anything. In that time, gun imports increased, the costs for the program skyrocketed and gun crime became a bigger issue.

That said, I can't see the need to blame the trashing of the registry nor the government that correctly killed off the ineffective program as the cause of this increase.

I cannot see Johnny Gangster running and registering his gun, nor can I see his procuring one that is illegal being hampered by the registry.

Point blank, the registry was a huge waste of money and never came close to achieving its goal.

How many gun crimes were solved with the registry that would not have been solved without one? How many shootings were prevented by the registry? I can't believe that many, if

any, were, because I can't see gang shooters and bank robbers saying "Oh, before I commit this crime, I need to register my gun," or "Oh, I can't get a legal gun, forget it then, even if I can get one on the street."

The gun collectors with the registered guns are not the main source of the shootings — the guys who buy stolen or smuggled guns that are unregistered are.

If it's the fault of the federal government, how come we're not seeing gang gun fights in Nunavut or Flin Flon? Why?, because gun crime is a result of other symptoms like poverty and despair, ineffective crime prevention and enforcement and allowance of these guns to exist in society.

Stop blaming Stephan Harper for every little thing that Dalton McGuinty and the Liberals cry about. If you have to blame someone, it is those that are in charge of the area — McGuinty and Toronto Mayor David Miller.

Maybe a little bit of investment in the areas affected by this is more prudent than Miller

getting a pay hike and begging the police to cut services for it.

Maybe instead of giving the auto sector chunks of cash, McGuinty could throw a little toward improving the lives of these people who feel the need to get a gun or to hire more cops.

Control of guns cannot come from pieces of paper — the Liberal government's expensive attempt at this absolutely proves that point.

Control comes from the banning of the guns, effective smuggling counters and increased police enforcement with very stiff penalties that are actually upheld by the courts.

The gun registry was an expensive failure, yet another waste of taxpayers' cash by the previous federal government, and it's wishful thinking if one believes that it would have removed all the handguns out there.

It never would have — never.

**DAN LARRIVEE
MILTON**

Woman charged with resisting quarantine order for small pox

'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.

May 1910

A daughter of Mrs. E. V., of Kilbride, got home from Hamilton a few days ago after visiting a house in which there was said to be a case of smallpox. The matter was reported to the provincial health authorities and orders were received to quarantine the V. house at the expense of the City of Hamilton, the health authorities having been lax in letting the girl go home. Reeve Griffin, Clerk Richardson and Sanitary Inspector George Forth, went to V's to put up the quarantine card, but Mrs. V. it is alleged, met them at the door with a breech loading shotgun, broke it open, put in two cartridges, closed it, and said: "Now put up the card."

They didn't put it up, but came to Milton and laid an information against the woman, who appeared here before J.H. Peacock, J.P. on Tuesday, accompanied by her husband and with a child in her arms. She was not ready for trial and the case was adjourned until next Tuesday. Mrs. V. is said to be an expert with the gun. She had no lawyer but was quite competent to speak for herself. She had plenty to say to the magistrate. Later that month Mrs. V., of Kilbride, pleaded guilty before J.H. Peacock, J.P. on Tuesday to the charge of resisting health officers and threatening them with a shotgun. Her counsel, E.H. Cleaver, barrister of Burlington, pleaded on her behalf that she was a poor woman, with five children and unable to pay a fine. He promised that she would not again offend. The magistrate ordered her to be released on suspended sentence.

Taylor Statten, of the Y.M.C.A. Toronto will deliver an address to boys this evening at the Methodist Sunday School room, the free use of which has been kindly given for the occasion. The expense of establish-

**Milton
Time
Capsules**



ing a branch of the Y.M.C.A. in Milton would not be heavy and the benefit to the boys and young men of the town would be great. Messrs C. Earl and H. Barron will sing. Silver collection

The sad news of the death of King Edward VII was received here shortly after it occurred on Friday night and spread quickly through the town. Next morning the flags on the court house, town hall and a number of other buildings were half-masted and they have remained so ever since. His Majesty's death was mentioned especially in all the churches on Sunday. In the evening there was a memorial service at the Methodist Church. A union service on the 20th the day of His Majesty's funeral is proposed, the ministers of all three churches to take part.

The J.I. Case road roller was brought to Milton a few days ago to be used to level Victoria Park, better known by many perhaps as the court house park. Just as it got opposite the door of the court house (now the town hall) a plate broke and disabled it. It still stands in the middle of the street.

D.S. Robertson got home on Saturday from Frank, Alta. He was about five weeks there, establishing branch lime works for his firm.

A statement prepared by the census and statistics branch of the department of agriculture shows that among wheat-producing countries of the world Canada now ranks fifth. In 1908 Canada ranked tenth.

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

We need to plan ahead for teens

• from LACK on page A6

Since moving here in 2000, I have heard the constant lament of teenagers that "Milton is boring" and that "There's nothing to do here." If you're not into athletics, that seems to be close to reality.

Let's imagine what this will lead to if we have three times the number of bored, restless teenagers living in our community.

We now have a unique opportunity to plan ahead as a community — to develop the infrastructure and to create the programs that will engage tomorrow's teenagers.

The alternative of doing nothing and calling for greater police presence to quell increasing crime 10 years from now does not appeal to me.

**SERGE TREMBLAY
BEATY TRAIL**

I've never been so glad for a vacation to end

• from TRIP on page A6

are able to turn their heads from side to side.

"I'm going to give you a needle or two," said the good doctor. "Necks don't like needles so you may feel nauseated."

Three hours and seven needles later and after passing out and losing my breakfast, I was on my way, determined to have some fun.

I did get some relief from the

treatment and began to feel better. But within three days, while visiting the Monterey Aquarium I suddenly could not swallow. Sweat poured off me. Did I pick something up at the clinic or was it another symptom?

"Can we go to Starbucks for a coffee?" I squeaked.

"What's wrong now?" hubby asked.

"I can't swallow."

I was never so glad for a vaca-

tion to end so I could see our family doctor who, impressed with my soaring fever, prescribed antibiotics.

"Remember," I said to my husband as he handed me another popsicle, "you married me in sickness and in health."

And, I am so grateful he wanted to marry me.

Halton Division Editor-in-Chief Jill Davis can be reached at jdavis@haltonsearch.com.

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