

# Tax hike is indeed necessary

DEAR EDITOR:

I just read Murray Townsend's column where he asks why a tax increase is necessary to support the new branch library when the Town is receiving tax money from the "zillions" of new houses.

I have often been asked similar questions and am sure other Miltonians besides Murray would be interested in an answer.

There are two reasons why the income from the new growth does not fully cover the costs of providing the facilities and services needed.

The first reason is that there is a two to three year delay in the Town receiving the full tax revenue from new properties, both residential and commercial/industrial.

The delay in receiving taxes

is caused in the following way. Until the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation assesses their property and passes the info on to the Town, owners of new houses and industrial/commercial properties pay taxes on the value of the land alone, not the whole property.

Once the Town receives the assessment, it sends the property owner a catch-up bill, so the Town does receive the money eventually. However, during the time Milton is only receiving taxes on the value of the land, the property owners are using services like road maintenance, recreation facilities, fire service, etc., at the same rate as other residents.

You can see that this presents us with a financial challenge.

The second reason is that the previous provincial government

brought in changes to the Development Charges Act that reduced what municipalities can charge developers. For instance, they cut the number of facilities that could be included when development charges are calculated.

The cost of administrative buildings, like the Town Hall expansion, and the proposed arts and entertainment centre, are no longer eligible. The changes to the act also stipulated that once the charges were calculated, municipalities were to take 10 per cent off the top. Unfortunately, the present provincial government has not yet reversed this.

I hope that Murray and the readers of the *Champion* find this information helpful.

WENDY SCHAU  
WARD 4 COUNCILLOR

# MDHS reunion simply wonderful

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• the business and private sponsors of the reunion who make the event financially feasible;

• all of the past and present teachers and staff, who nurtured all of us as students and individuals and helped each of us make a difference in the world;

• the inspiring speakers at the opening ceremonies last Friday evening (facing the challenge of an excited crowd in a hot gymnasium!);

• the owners and staff of the facilities that hosted the Decade Alumni Gatherings (the Legion Hall, Post Office, Ivy Arms, Dickens, Bryden's and MDHS cafeteria);

• all of the individuals who took the time (and in some cases the expense and the challenge of long-distance travel) to participate in the event;

• and finally, all of those individuals who couldn't be there with us due to illness or death.

I hope I didn't forget anyone.

Thank you for the extras too, like the

nametags provided at registration. I'm not the only one who had to peek to figure out who I was talking to after all those years. The program full of historical facts and photos made a nice keepsake, and the food, drink and facilities, and especially the company at the reunion, were all superb.

Many people have no idea what it takes to make an event like this happen. One of the organizers told me the reunion almost didn't happen because only 400 people had registered by the start of the summer. Imagine the stress level of the Reunion Planning Committee on July 1.

And yet well over 1,800 people were registered by Saturday. I hope we'll all jump on the next opportunity for a get-together with our old friends right away.

Thanks for the memories (which continue in photos at [mdhs\\_reunion@hotmail.com](mailto:mdhs_reunion@hotmail.com))!

TARA (HUNTER) BONIN  
MILTON

# So many memories come flooding back

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ver in his hair and, perhaps, like me, a few 'laugh lines.'

Mr. Boichuk was at the *Post* to discuss publicity for Nelson High School's 50th reunion slated for September 21 to 22.

He mentioned he was now teaching the children of former

students — a not-so-gentle reminder that the years were fast turning into decades. As I listened to the reunion plans, I once again saw Mr. Boichuk as the teacher and me the student.

Some things never change.

The 50th festivities will kick-off with the introduction of the

Wall of Distinction on Thursday, Sept. 20 and all attendees should have registered at [nelson50th.ca](http://nelson50th.ca). Thanks to Mr. Boichuk's visit, I have already had an important reunion.

Halton Division Editor-in-chief Jill Davis can be reached at [jdavis@haltonsearch.com](mailto:jdavis@haltonsearch.com).

# Area couple appointed to run Peel-Halton house of refuge

'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.

June 1910

The Superintendent and Matron of the Peel-Halton house of refuge were elected or selected by ballot at the joint meeting of the two county councils at Brampton last week. (The sharing of a facility was arranged between the two counties.) It was not until after the eleventh ballot that the Halton couple, Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong, were declared unanimously appointed. They will be ready to begin their duties within two weeks. In the meantime Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, who have resigned after being in charge (of the Peel facility) for some years, are continuing their management.

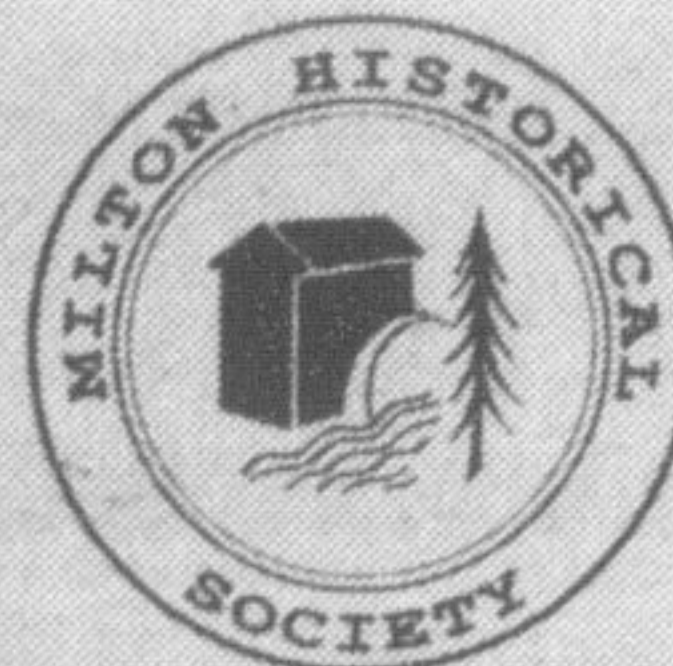
After the selection the members of the two councils and county officials with Mr. Blain M.P. for Peel and Mayor Thauburn of Brampton drove out to the house of refuge. They inspected it throughout and were unanimous in their satisfaction and admiration for the way in which the contractors had carried out their work under the supervision of Messrs Earl and Jackson, Commissioners. The inspection concluded, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson invited all the visitors into the fine dining room in their quarters where they had a banquet prepared.

After the banquet the visitors met in the chapel or room for religious services. Warden Smith of Halton declared the new house of refuge opened and called on a number of the members of both councils for speeches.

On June 1st the Hamilton Radial Railway started running a half-hour service between Burlington and Hamilton.

Milton's assessment roll for 1910 shows a total assessment of \$501,906, an increase of about \$18,000 over last year's figures and a

Milton  
Time  
Capsules



population of 1,675, an increase of 44.

Incandescent lamp globes were put in place on the band stand on Victoria Park last week in readiness for the season's concerts. By last Tuesday one had been broken, one taken off and left on the floor and several were missing.

The 15th annual excursion of Halton Farmers' Institute to the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, will leave per C.P.R. on Saturday 18th as follows: Lisgar 8:05 a.m., Hornby 8:10, Beaty 8:15, Milton 8:20, Campbellville 8:35, Guelph Junction 8:45. Fare from Milton and return, adults 65¢, children 35¢. Tickets good on special train only.

G. Company Milton and D. Company Campbellville of the 20th Halton Rifles, with their officers, marched up Main Street on their way to the G.T.R. station (Bronte St.) on Tuesday to board the special train which conveyed them and their comrades to camp at Niagara. Neither company was up to full strength, recruiting being difficult this year on account of high wages and the brisk demand for labour, but the boys looked well in their natty new uniforms and flat-topped peaked caps.

Advertisement: 3rd Annual Soda Fountain Opening at Mackenzie's drug store. Harold Rich, one of Toronto's best pianists, furnished the music at Mackenzie's Ice Cream opening, afternoon and evening.

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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