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Anniversary year comes and goes

Milton bids farewell to year of celebration

The Town of Milton will ring out Milton's 150th anniversary year in keeping with its annual tradition, the New Year's Eve Bell Ringing.

All are welcome to gather around the historic bell in Victoria Park, downtown Milton Monday at 11:45 p.m.

The bell ringing tradition began in 1967, when Jim Dills — then the publisher of the *Champion* — suggested ringing the bell that adorned the former Town Hall on Main Street as a special way to celebrate Canada's centennial year.

The event continued annually, but ceased when the municipal offices were moved to their current location at Victoria Park in 1985. However, in 1991, the ringing resumed when the bell was installed in Victoria Park.

Following the bell ringing, warm refreshments will be available in Hugh Foster Hall next to Town Hall, compliments of Starbucks.

The bell ringers assisting Mayor Krantz will be Craig, Shona, Lennon, Fiona and Jamey of Team Harrison, the winning team from the Amazing Race event held October 13.

More than 70 teams participated in the Amazing Race, which was one of several events organized by the 150th Anniversary Master Committee to commemorate Milton's 150th anniversary in 2007.

"I'd like to congratulate the 150th Anniversary Master Committee, and in particular the chair, Karin Muller, and the vice-chair, Kevin Brackley, for their tremendous efforts in organizing Milton's anniversary celebration," said Mayor Gord Krantz. "Without their hard work and devotion, this year would not have been such a great success."

Other highlights of the 150th anniversary included:

- The official mascot, Milly the Millstone, designed by Michelle Job, and the slogan '150 years - Celebrating Milton's Roots' created by Rose Brooks
- Winterfest, February 4, 2007
- Downtown Street Party, June 9, 2007
- Partnership with the Milton Historical Society for the Walk of Fame Program, launched at the Canada Day celebration (July 1, 2007)
- Town-sponsored Milly the Millstone Story Writing Contest, June 2007.

Residents and visitors are invited to join Mayor Krantz, members of town council and the Milton Historical Society as they welcome 2008 at the New Year's Day Levee, to be held Tuesday from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Hugh Foster Hall.

The theme this year is a celebration of Milton's streets, held in conjunction with the historical society's recent book release on the subject.