

# Town not to blame for tax hike

DEAR EDITOR:

In the December 26 *Champion*, the front-page headline proclaimed 'Region approves budget for 2008,' with the subhead reading 'Tax hike less than estimated.'

A large portion of this savings was in the Region shifting \$6.1 million in infrastructure spending onto the municipalities.

If these were tax dollars the Region had been collecting and they no longer have the expense, what happens to these dollars? Are they also 'shifted' to the municipalities, or do the municipalities have to increase their local taxes to maintain the same level of service?

So now the Region looks good and the local councils are the bad guys for excessively raising our taxes.

There are three areas on your tax bill — Town, Region and education.

We have a tendency to look at the total tax bill and lay the blame for the amount on our local representatives when in fact the regional portion is almost twice the cost of the town portion. Milton currently enjoys the lowest municipal tax rate in Halton and our service level may be suffering as a result.

Milton is the fastest growing community in Canada and, unfortunately, with growth comes expenses.

In a recent letter, Mike Rank suggested that Councillor Wendy Schau was a "tax and spend advocate," when in fact she was only echoing the words of a senior town employee from a number of years ago who felt

the Town had to maintain a minimum 4.5 per cent tax rate increase each year to meet the growth demand. This is a warning previous councils ignored and our current and future councils may have to address with higher than normal increases to meet our needs.

The old saying "pay me now or pay me later" is alive and well. If the former employee's advice had been heeded, your Town tax portion would have grown to be about 55 cents per thousand dollar assessment higher than it is currently, but we might be enjoying more services. In addition, the houses in the newer subdivisions are generally assessed higher and therefore they are paying their "fair" share.

**MARSHALL HORNER  
SUNNYVALE CRESCENT**

# Several children and one adult affected by scarlet fever 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.

February 1911

There is an outbreak of scarlet fever at Terra Cotta (Milton Heights). Several children and one adult, John Appleyard, have it. There will be no services in All Saints' Church until further notice and the Sunday School will be closed also.

Milton Lodge, No. 92 I.O.O.F is having an electric sign put up today.

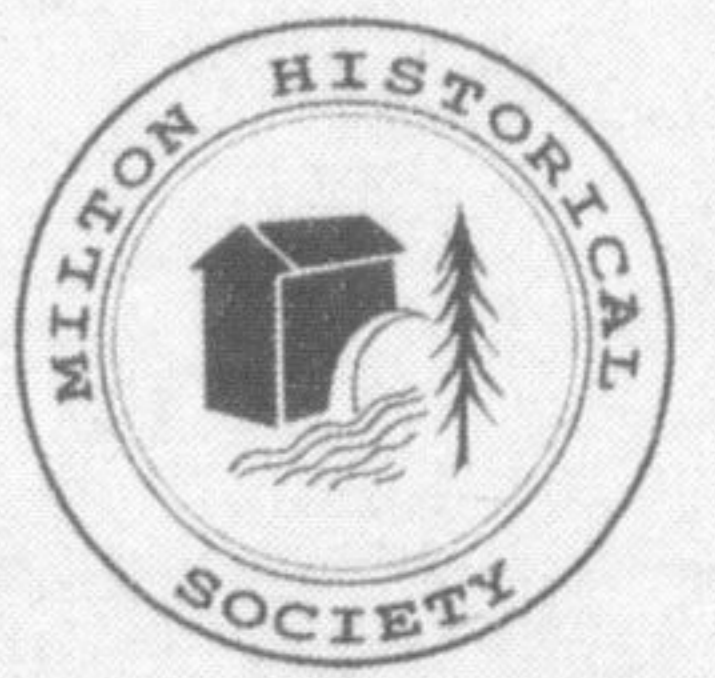
Rev. D.S. Houck, of Wellington, Prince Edward County, will preach at the anniversary services in the Methodist Church Feb. 12th. This anniversary will mark the 59th of the old church and 21st of the new.

Oakville has received two old four-ton cannons from the Old Fort, Toronto for decorative purposes. They have been placed on the lake bank. One or two would look well in Victoria Park here and they can be got by application to the government.

Dr. Zimmerman, dentist, is at his office professionally every day between 2 and 5 p.m. and can suggest several good investments in the great Northwest to those shy on bank stock and also to those who wish to recoup themselves.

Belleville Ontario: If Sir James Whitney wishes to gain the lasting gratitude of his countrymen and go down to history as the benefactor of his race he has only to pass the most rigid regulations against all forms of municipal bonusing. Belleville has had her satiety of bonusing. 'After giving lavishly to every smooth-tongued promoter who came along the showing was: no industry that employed two dozen hands, several unoccupied bonused buildings, and half a million dollars of debt. She gained her wisdom by traveling over

**Milton  
Time  
Capsules**



the thorny road of experience.'

Guy Martin arrived in town on Thursday from his father's home in Michigan and left on Saturday for Hillsdale. After a short stay there he will go back to Michigan and thence, about the end of this month, to settle on a quarter-section homestead in Saskatchewan, on which he registered last fall, when he spent two months in the west. His land is about 140 miles west of Saskatoon and 13 from the railway. It had been taken up, but was thrown open on account of the previous settler failing to carry out the regulations. Mr. Martin says he was lucky to get it, as unimproved land in its neighbourhood is worth about \$16 an acre. The surrounding country is well settled by Canadians, Americans and Germans.

On account of the snow storm on Tuesday Messrs. Winn & Co. gave their girl employees a sleigh ride. They hired the bus to drive them home from work. This was much appreciated by the girls.

A.W. Peene, architect of Hamilton was in town on Monday. He has been engaged to prepare plans for the remodeling of the three-story brick store and dwelling next door west of the post office and the erection of a large extension on its west side. There will be a Masonic hall 50 by 30 on the third floor of the double dwelling, with banquet hall, ante room etc. into which St. Clair Lodge and St. Clair R.A. Chapter will move as soon as possible, probably in June if the lodge and chapter make the necessary arrangements with Mr. Peacock as expected.

This material is assembled on behalf of the Milton Historical Society by Jim Dills, who can be reached through the society at (905) 875-4156.

# Acts of kindness were heartwarming

DEAR EDITOR:

My family and I are fairly new residents to the town of Milton and over the holidays had our first two experiences at Milton District Hospital's emergency room.

I want to thank all the wonderful staff who were so kind and patient. Despite working all hours of the morning on a holiday, they continued to wear a smile.

To our nurse on Christmas night who hugged me and made me smile while I looked through tears at my five-year-old son who hadn't slept in days, thank you for taking the time to make me smile. To the x-ray and lab technicians, thank you for your understanding and patience.

To the doctor, thank you for being so thorough and patient. You were wonderful with our son. Having a child with autism isn't easy, and making a trip to the ER with our son was difficult.

Also, thank you to the couple who gave up their seats so that we could sit down with our son. Not sleeping for days must have shown on our

faces. To those who smiled our way and looked away, thank you for not staring or judging.

To the other individuals who were waiting to see a doctor while we were in the waiting room and couldn't think of anything better to do than stare at our son, shame on you all. Our son was screaming in pain and hitting because he was not able to communicate with us what was wrong. He was not misbehaving and we are not bad parents.

Autism is a neurological disability that affects communication, behaviour and social skills. Based on recent studies by Canadian researchers, the prevalence rate of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is 1 in 165. In Ontario, there is an estimated 70,000 individuals with ASD.

Our son will most likely not be your last encounter with an individual with ASD. The next time you encounter a child behaving differently, don't judge or stare but instead offer a lending hand or a smile.

**TRACY REIGEL  
MILTON**

# Handguns won't disappear by banning them

• from FOCUS on page A6

putting more effort into criminal prosecution and sentencing of those who use a weapon in the commission of a crime. This should apply to handguns, rifles, slingshots, baseball bats, hockey sticks, samurai swords and motor vehicles.

We've banned drinking and driving, but people still do it. We've banned pit bulls, so now people have to mistreat other breeds to make them dangerous.

Let's toughen up the penalties so that responsible people don't have to be killed, injured or penalized for the bad behav-

our of others.

I don't have a handgun, but I do have a hockey stick and baseball bat, and I would hate to think they could be banned because someone tried to use them to rob a bank.

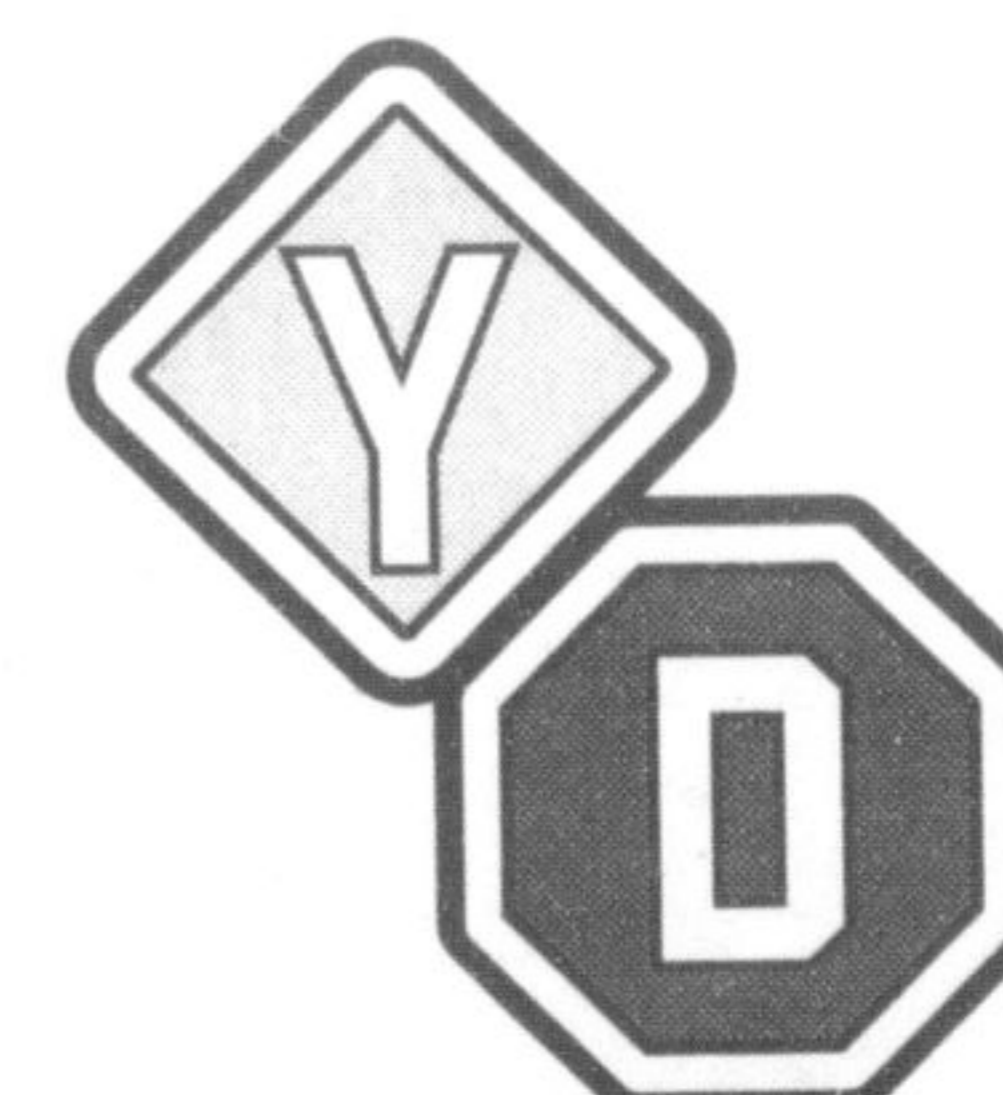
**DOUG BOUSFIELD  
COMMERCIAL STREET**

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