

# Councils aren't representing rural Miltonians adequately

**DEAR EDITOR:**

At the time Nassagaweya was forcefully and undemocratically incorporated into the Town of Milton in the mid-1970s, many rural residents anticipated that this would lead to a lack of interest in and much higher taxes for the rural area by the new urban government.

Certainly this lack of interest has been borne out, as we have seen our councillors wage a five-year struggle to obtain high-speed Internet for the rural taxpayers. Also, taxes have risen from the \$300 to \$400 range to the \$3,000 to \$4,000 range, above the rate of inflation.

But we didn't anticipate the incompetence and extravagance of urban administration, coupled with the exceptional remuneration of the administrators.

We were most concerned to read in the April 8 *Champion* that Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr anticipates that so many staff will soon receive more than \$100,000 per annum that the reporting limit should be raised.

On the contrary, we believe that more information should be provided to the taxpayers — and customers — including public sector pensions and any special severance provisions.

We see the extravagance

every time we pass through Brookville.

Before it had two simple signs announcing its presence. These have been replaced by two huge concrete platforms announcing arrival in this very small village. These must have cost at least one order of magnitude, if not two, above the previous standard signs. Why were they erected?

The incompetence has been emphasized recently by the inability of the administration to organize something as simple as a garbage pick-up. By the way, this is a service that wasn't wanted by many rural residents who took their garbage to the dump at no cost to taxpayers.

This new service was announced in 2007 when we were informed that there would be a new garbage system and we were to receive new green garbage containers by the end of March.

On No. 20 Sideroad, west of the Fourth Line, we have received none. On April 7 we called and were told they would be coming. We called again, yet as of Wednesday the containers and instructions/calendars for garbage pick-up still haven't arrived.

These containers are

required for the new scheduled garbage pick-up, which began April 10. The pick-up of our Blue Boxes only finally took place on April 13.

This is being done by a new contractor. What practices were used in the procurement of the contractor? Is there a communication plan between the Region and contractor? It would appear not. Why is the contractor not using any of the basic principles of project planning readily accessible on the web?

If this criticism of the Region and Town staff seems unfair and concerns only a few items, then where are the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) by which they can be better judged? In other public sector segments, for instance community colleges, KPIs are available to the customers and taxpayers.

KPIs should be set out by departments so that instead of automatic raises for staff there could be merit raises based on actual measured and evaluated performances visible to the customers and taxpayers.

**HENRY GARWOOD,  
DONNA AND FRED  
DUIMSTRA  
MILTON**

# Man fined for indecent exposure after bathing in creek in daytime

*'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.*

**July 1911**

Magistrates' Court. On the charge of indecent exposure, bathing in the creek in the daytime in rear of the carpet factory (south of Main Street) without a bathing suit, A.E. pleaded guilty and was fined \$10 and costs or 30 days in jail.

...

At a special meeting of the town council on Tuesday evening a bylaw to raise \$12,000 by debentures for additional water for the town's system was read a first and second time.

The freeholders of the town will vote on it when it will be carried as a matter of course. It will be remembered that previous councils declared that no sufficient supply of water could be got from the mountain, that a filtration scheme was proposed and when it was found to be unpopular, money was expended in drilling for water in rear of the Town Hall with the idea of forcing it up to the reservoir and that all that came of this was a hole filled with undrinkable water.

The present council is more practical. It engaged an engineer, who located springs with a total daily capacity of 200,000 gallons, the water from which can be conducted to the reservoir at an expense within the amount of the debentures and options have been secured on them.

The Town is to be congratulated on its present progressive council and on the fact that its claim that it has an ample supply of pure spring water can be made good at all times after the addition of that on which the options are held.

...

The first clay was ground at the works of Brandon's Pressed Brick & Tile Co. last week. The siding from the C.P.R. is being laid.

...

Friday night's rain caused the postponement of the moving picture show at Victoria Park to Saturday

...

## Milton Time Capsules



evening, when, as it was wet again, it came off at the Town Hall, where there was a large, but not very liberal crowd, the proceeds being about \$10 less than the expenses. It is likely that the attempt to raise money for seats for Victoria Park by the shows will be abandoned and that they may be continued at the fair grounds under the auspices of the band, if arrangements can be made with the lessees of the grounds.

...

A lot of the wire-drawing machinery arrived at the P.L. Robertson Co's. factory. Some of it is very heavy. Men are busy on the foundations of the wire-drawing building.

...

The sale of the Willmott buildings to the Edwards Electric Co. of Toronto has been completed and deed given. Mr. Butterfield of Toronto is in town today. His business is to sell certain plant left in the building, patterns etc. for the benefit of the Willmott estate. We hope to be able to report soon that the Edwards Co. has moved to Milton.

...

There was a large gathering of Halton Liberals in Milton Saturday to select a candidate for the coming Dominion elections. Walter Harland Smith was chosen. He has a 150-acre farm to the north of Oakville.

...

The boys of the fire brigade are practicing every evening for the team races at the meeting of the Provincial Volunteer Firemen's Association at Brampton. They have also bought a natty new uniform, white duck jackets and white yachting pattern caps, which they will sport at Brampton for the first time.

*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.*

# Support for school project was great

**DEAR EDITOR:**

Last month the students at my school, W.I. Dick, were challenged to bring in at least one educational kit for the children in Africa.

Each kit was to be in a cloth bag and contain two or three spiral notebooks, four to six pencils with erasers, a pencil sharpener, a ruler, a dozen pencil crayons, a pair of safety scissors, 12 sheets of coloured paper and a small ball. We were told that family members, teachers and businesses could contribute too.

So I got busy phoning companies and going around to stores here in town, asking for donations. A number of individuals also gave money or school supplies. I was happy with the many positive responses I received. Because of the generosity of so many, I was able to assemble 105 kits.

I'd like to thank the following companies —

Sanford, Hilroy, Staples, Wal-Mart, Loblaw Superstore, Harris Office Pro, Shopper's Drug Mart, Scholar's Choice, Zellers, the Salvation Army Thrift Store, Absolute Dollar, Fifth Wheel and The Q Store — for their donations.

I'm also grateful for the contributions from the customers and staff at Ivy Arms, Flour Girls, Murray McPhail's Chiropractic, Farah Foods and 10 Below.

It was great to be part of this effort, and I couldn't have done it without the help of so many people. With the other students from my school, more than 250 kits will be sent through 'Free the Children' to children in Africa.

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