

# A bigger overall commitment needed for town's youth sports

**DEAR EDITOR:**

In one of its recent editorials the *Champion* made mention — as all media sources do every four years when the Olympics are on — of the lack of adequate sports facilities in Ontario, and laying blame justifiably at the door of the federal and provincial governments.

It's now time to turn our sights closer to home and ask what our Town has been doing while our population has more than doubled over the past several years.

*Champion* assistant editor Steve LeBlanc wrote in your paper last January that I was an outspoken member of the audience at the Milton Sports Centre when the Town announced its plans for expansion of the facility.

I have a passion for sports and a passion to ensure that kids have all of the facilities that they require so that they are able to excel to the best of their abilities in the sports of their choice, and I will continue to fight until someone does something to ensure this happens.

Turning specifically to swimming, I have — as the president and a board member of the Milton Marlin Swim Team for the past 10 years — been warning the Town that they have been running out of time regarding the building of a new swimming pool.

It seems that every year,

when meeting with Town staff, we are told the date for the new pool has been pushed back. In 1998 a new pool was to be built in 2004, while at the above announcement at the Milton Sports Centre the date is now 2012.

As of last year, the Milton Leisure Centre pool is at capacity, Town run swimming lessons are full, open swims are full and the Marlins (17.5 rental hours per week for 10 months) and Milton Masters (30 person waiting list) are unable to rent enough time at the facility to properly run their programs.

While the Town continues to expand at breakneck speed, we have seen no movement regarding the planned new pool. With all of these programs full, what are residents supposed to do for the next four years? Where will their kids learn the important life lesson of swimming? Where will they compete?

For many years the Marlins have also been renting the pool at E.C. Drury High School, now rented for the maximum 12 hours per week.

Recently the Marlins have been informed that the Drury pool will be closed for at least a month, and that there's a chance it will be closed permanently due to severe maintenance problems.

The Town has been relying on this pool to take the overflow of Marlin swimmers as the town

has expanded. The loss of the Drury pool will affect more than 100 swimmers and could destroy our feeder system that turns young kids into competitive swimmers.

Without a feeder system, the competitive team will likely die — affecting a further 50 kids. Why has it come to this?

As Milton grows, it's the responsibility of the Town to meet the leisure needs of its residents. As a town of 70,000 expanding to 120,000 in the next several years, we have reached a point where these facilities must be built within Milton rather than the Town relying on larger neighbouring communities to support our residents' needs.

New residents will lead the way with an increasing demand, not only on sports currently catered for in Milton but for new sports such as squash, indoor soccer, indoor tennis, a proper skateboard park, a BMX facility and the aquatic sports of diving, water polo, scuba diving, kayaking, synchronized swimming and life guarding to name just a few.

It's time for the residents of our town to question our politicians as to their apparent lack of action regarding youth sports facilities.

**RICHARD DAVIS,  
PRESIDENT  
MILTON MARLINS  
SWIM CLUB**

# Milton hospital should follow Sick Kids' lead with regard to energy efficiency initiatives

**DEAR EDITOR:**

Milton District Hospital has a flat roof structure that could be a valuable asset in the hospital's efforts to reduce energy costs.

In Toronto, the Hospital for Sick Children (Sick Kids) has shown how this can be done. In partnership with a private company last year, Sick Kids installed a 92-panel solar hot water converter that will generate three-quarters of a million pounds of steam annually.

Ontario has been the leader among the provinces in encouraging renewable energy, and has even initiated a 42 per cent kilowatt subsidy.

It's hoped that the hospital's administration will take the lead in initiating a project to utilize all the sunshine that's otherwise wasted.

Even more interesting is the possibility of using vacant land in the area for generating solar power.

**DOUG DEANS  
SOMERVILLE TERRACE**

# Vast supply of high-grade oil discovered near brick works

'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.

**March 1912**

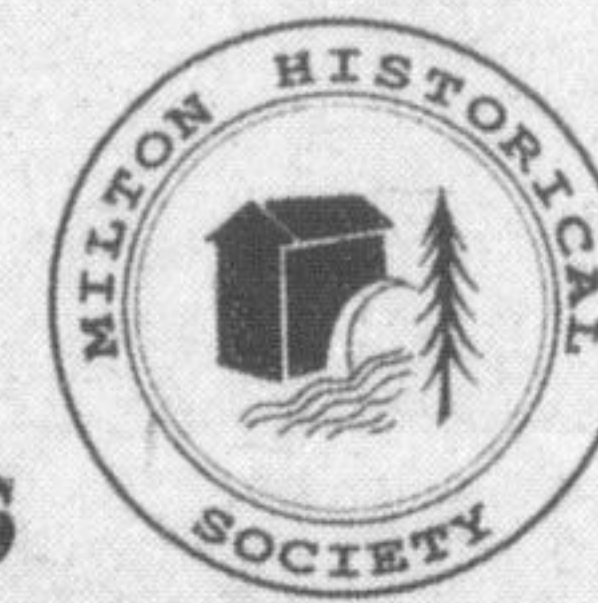
There have been developments since our report of last week that oil had been struck near the Brandon brick works. A sample of the oil was sent to Toronto for analysis and the verdict was received yesterday — specific gravity .45 (that of Petrolia oil is .32) quality the highest grade of lubricating oil, equaled at Cleveland, O., only and worth from 30 to 33¢ a gallon. A pump was produced and was put into operation yesterday. The flow was approximately 100 gallons or four barrels an hour, value \$10 a barrel. With this splendid flow there is no intention of shooting the well. Yesterday's pumping was of accumulated oil and may not have been an exact test, but a steady yield of 35 or 40 barrels every 24 hours is expected.

There is a big invasion of oil men from various places. Some such as Dr. Fairbanks of Petrolia, who is represented, are real and heavy operators, but some are fakirs who are trying to secure options on land on the chance of selling them. They have been interviewing farmers as far away as Hornby, 5 miles, but, it is said without much, if any, success. The farmers are said to be wary. They should be wary, slow about giving options... A depth of 1,480 feet was reached before stopping. It was said last week that the indicator showed that oil or something had risen 50 feet in the hole bored which is between 4 and 5 inches in diameter. The fact was that there had been a rise to 500 feet. This increased to about 700 feet before pumping began. There will be many drills in operation soon, among them one operated by the Halton Oil & Gas Co. which is busy raising funds from its members. Ten large tanks, capacity 400 gallons each, arrived here this morning for the Brandon well.

**March 1912**

The carnival which was held at

## Milton Time Capsules



Edgar McDougall's rink, base line, on Tuesday night was a great success. The night was ideal, the ice was in good condition and a large crowd assembled. Skating commenced at 8 o'clock and continued till eleven. Much interest was taken in the races, but more amusement by those in fancy costume. Fastest Lady skater, Miss Annie Lawson; green lady skater, Miss Jean Elliott; best looking lady in the arena, Mrs. Edgar McDougall; fastest skating couple, Miss Annie Lawson and Norman McDougall.

The hurdle race was won by Barney Elliott (he being a high jumper). Fastest gentleman skater, Norman Benjamin McDougall; green gentleman skater Wm. Lawson. Edgar McDougall won the prize for the best looking man, with Michael Lawson a close second. Seaward Wilson, though seriously handicapped by a contrary pair of skates, carried off the honors for best fancy costume. Wm. Hamilton (Drumquin) won the prize for load. Credit to the judges J.H. Wilson, A. Robinson and G.E. Bousfield, for the manner in which they performed their duties.

**March 1912**

Following is the result of the vote on church union in Hornby and Omagh Presbyterian congregations: Hornby- Members for union 56; against 13. Members for basis 49, against 16. Adherents for union 10, against 3. Adherents for basis 10, against 3. Omagh- Members for union 50; against 10. For basis 40; against 10; Adherents for union 6; against 0. For basis 5, against 3. In both congregations—Elders in favour of union 9; against 1. Total membership 145; members voting 120.

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.



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October 7  
Tuesday & Thursday (4 weeks)  
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November 1, 2, 8, 9  
Saturday & Sunday (2 weekends)  
9:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.



\*Simulator not exactly as shown

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