

More government help needed for affordable housing in town

DEAR EDITOR:

I have written several times in the past about the severe lack of affordable housing in Milton.

Despite Milton's dramatic increase in population, there has been no increase in subsidized housing for people with low incomes for many years.

Now, any prospect of that situation improving is threatened by the federal government's intention to allow several existing programs — some in partnership with the Province — to end on March 31, 2009. No additional funding was provided in the last federal budget.

The programs that are now under threat include the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program. That program is providing funds, managed by the Region of Halton, to build two projects in Halton — one in Halton Hills and one in Burlington. The Region had recommended a third project called Regenesis, in Milton, for any future funding that became available.

If the program isn't renewed,

that's no longer a possibility.

The last Milton statistics that I have received from Halton Access to Community Housing state that there are 49 senior households and 223 non-senior households on the waiting list for subsidized housing, and a total of only 222 existing units in the whole town.

That's correct, 272 households on a waiting list for 222 units, all of which are currently occupied. Shelter allowances aren't a good alternative in Milton because we have a very low vacancy rate for rental apartments caused by an unusually limited supply.

Though generally not as severe as in Milton, the shortage of affordable housing is a problem across Canada. The best way to address it is through a National Housing Strategy that includes concrete targets and timelines.

Every other modern, industrialized country has one, including the United States. In August, Peter Hume, the president of the Association of

Municipalities of Ontario, urged representatives at their annual convention to push the federal government to move on this.

Recently, the Right Reverend David Giuliano, of the United Church of Canada, wrote to all church members with the same message, that the Province and municipalities don't have the capacity to provide this essential service on their own.

Now that a federal election has been called, Miltonians have an opportunity to make the candidates for all parties aware of the urgency for action.

Think of all those seniors, and others whose incomes are too low to afford a decent home and who are using our local food bank, staying with friends and family or cutting back on other essentials to pay the rent.

Please ask the candidates what their party's position is on a national housing strategy.

**WENDY SCHAU, CHAIR
MILTON AFFORDABLE
HOUSING COALITION**

Dogs have no place in school yards

DEAR EDITOR:

I'm writing to voice my frustration at the parents who are bringing dogs onto the school yards.

If one insists on bringing a dog onto school property during school hours, the dog should be muzzled. That's using good judgment.

Some children are afraid of dogs. Fears are personal and everyone is entitled to their fears. We must remember that schools are for children and they should feel completely safe when on school grounds.

Recently I saw a man in the Hawthorne Village area walk across a park full of children with two unmuzzled pit-bulls in tow, clearly with no regard for the safety of the children or regard for the law — and with disturbing arrogance.

I urge the people of Milton and surrounding areas to call animal control services should they see pit-bulls that aren't wearing a muzzle.

I'm disgusted at the blatant disregard that some pit-bull owners have for the safety of others. They know full well the laws and yet flat out disrespect them.

To those who own pit-bulls, the community has now been reminded of the rules. I suggest that if you love your dog, you obey the law and purchase a muzzle.

And bear in mind that should your dog maim anyone, you will be held criminally responsible and your dog will be euthanized.

**PHIL TAYLOR
LAUGHREN CRESCENT**

Expense would be passed along to customers

• from HAND on page A6
this "little thing" could add up to a big expense, which of course would be passed on to the consumer in the form of

higher prices.
Since SARS, I have purchased my own hand sanitizer and wipes and keep them in my car so I have them available to use

when I feel it's necessary. Perhaps Lapointe should do the same.

**CATHY KURCEBA
MILTON**

Initial oil extraction conducted; nitro glycerin used for blasting

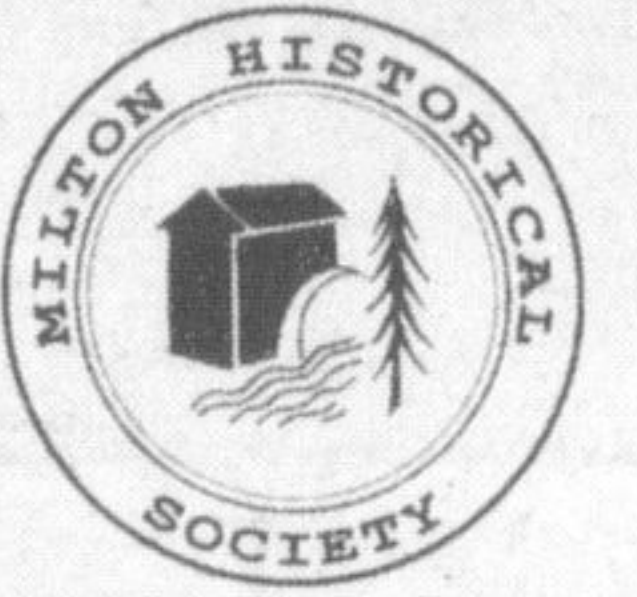
'Time Capsules' are gems of information extracted from past issues of the *Champion* and other publications in order to provide a window into Milton's past. Explanatory comment is sometimes provided to place the situation in context.

March 1912

The Brandon Syndicate's oil well was "shot" on Tuesday at 1:30 p.m., by the exploding of 50 quarts of nitro glycerin in it. The explosive had been brought by sleigh from Petrolia and had been on the road since Friday. It was put into five tin cylinders, each five feet long, with a point at one end and a cavity at the other, so that they fitted into each other. They were exploded by a long fuse and a cap. The shock was barely noticeable, the ground being slightly jarred. Owing to the depth of the well, a little over 1,500 feet, nothing appeared for nearly a minute. Then a quantity of oil shot about 100 feet into the air and fell on the snow, which was spotted for some distance to the leeward. The many spectators kept to the windward and thus escaped having their clothing soiled. The shot is believed to have been a complete success.

The well was at once capped and outsiders were kept away from it, but the *Champion* reporter was favoured by being admitted into the shed and by a demonstration. The valve was opened very slightly, and the escaping gas made a loud noise. The expert in charge estimated the pressure at from 150 to 200, but there was no test gauge available and the exact figure could not be ascertained. It was stated that the pressure had been light before the shot. Later in the day, when the sand pump was put down, it was found that there was about 40 feet of broken rock obstructing the lower part of the well. Some broken stone and a few gallons of oil were pumped up. The regular pumping of oil will not begin for a day or two. Until it does, the capacity of the well will not be known. The drilling outfit is being removed about 400 yards to the south, where another well will be drilled immediately. A number of outside locaters are here and it is

**Milton
Time
Capsules**



reported that they have secured a good many options or leases, but one of them, Mr. Aikins, complained that the land owners generally were too suspicious and would not listen to offers. He maintained that no oil field of any account had ever been developed without the expenditure of a great deal of outside money and that the Milton field would not amount to much without it. He said that some of the biggest operators in America were here in person or had representatives here and that they were ready to spend money on a large scale in well-drilling if given the opportunity. Mr. Aikins is said to be a big capitalist and a well known operator. The land owners should be careful about signing leases or options, but the wisdom of turning down all offers without enquiry into the standing of the bidders is doubtful.

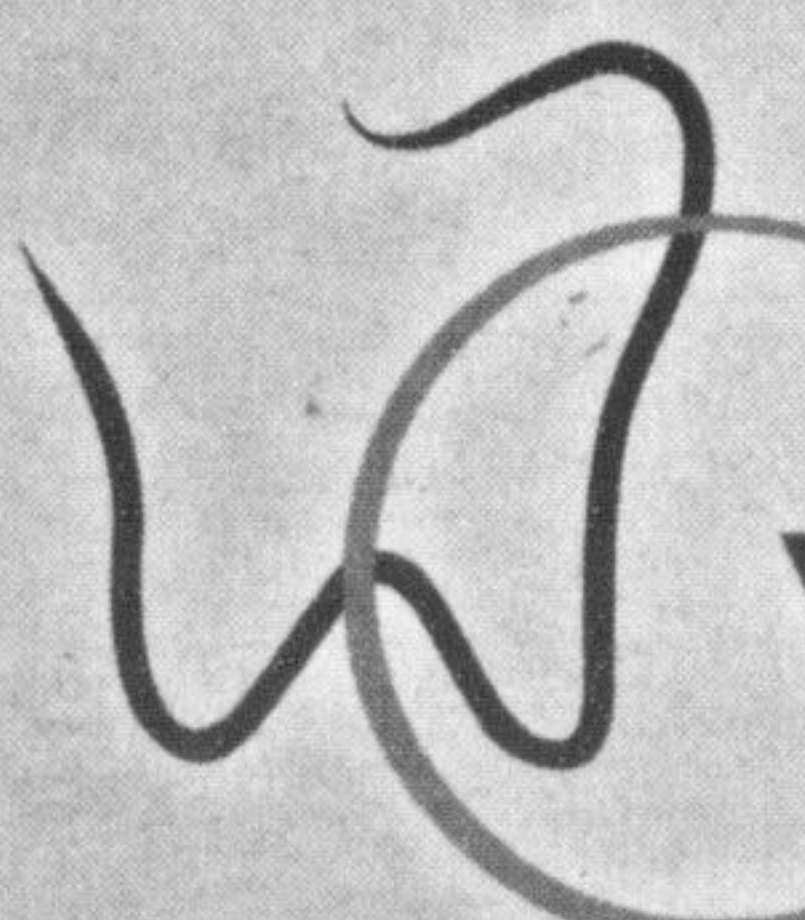
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One of Halton's oldest and best known residents, Benjamin Waldbrook, died on Friday at his home in Trafalgar. He was 85. He was a son of the late Robert Waldbrook, one of Halton's pioneers and was born on the original homestead between Omagh and Milton. Mr. Waldbrook was a staunch Liberal, an able speaker and took the platform in support of the late John White, M.P., Wm. McCraney, M.P. and other Liberals in election campaigns besides speaking in favour of the Credit Valley and Hamilton and Northwestern Railway bonus bylaws. Latterly he lectured on old times in Halton, being a walking encyclopedia of events in the early history of the county.

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The C.P.R. has opened a telegraph office in F.B. Smith's drug store.

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.

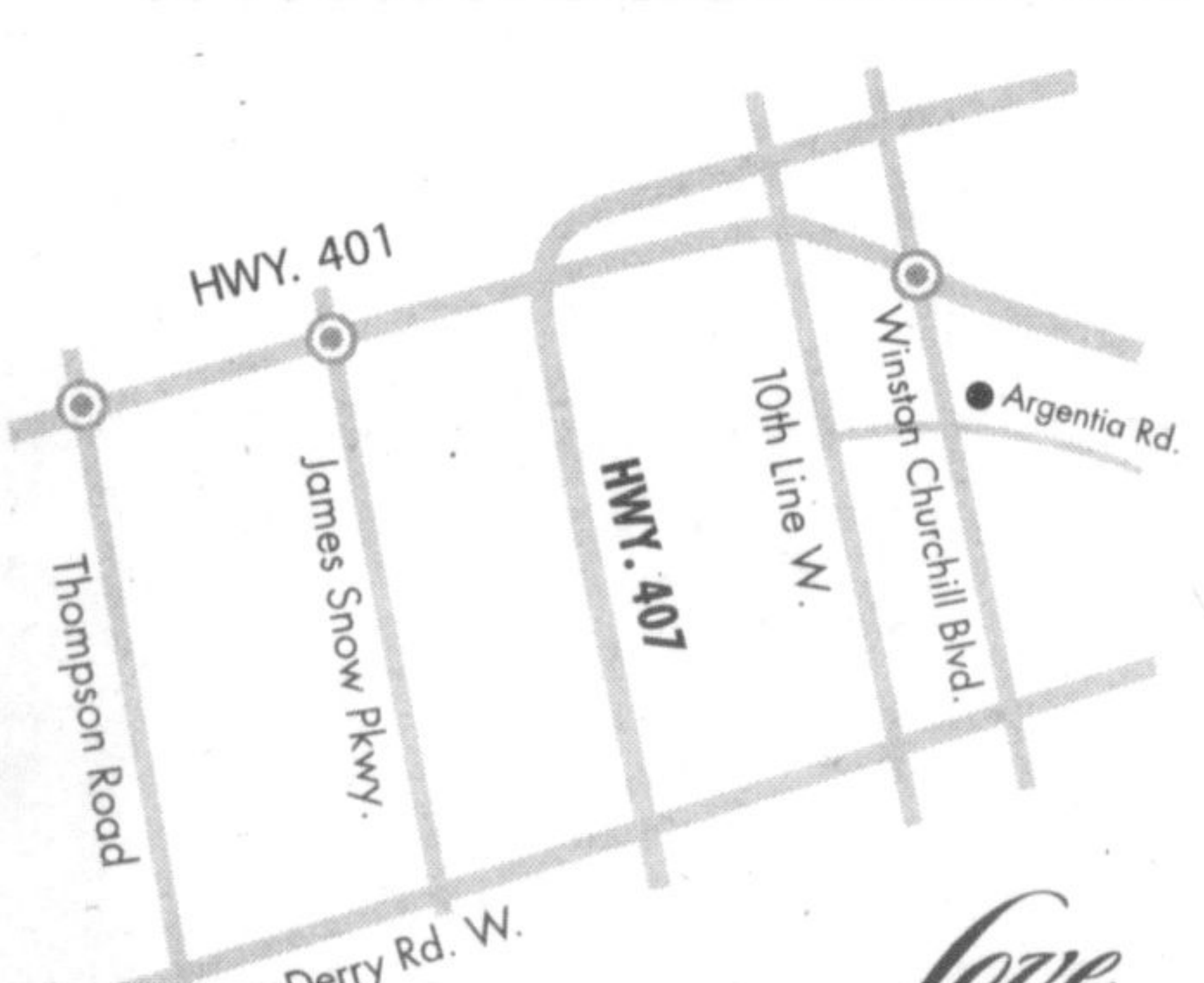


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