

# ReadersWrite

E-mail your letters to [editorial@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:editorial@miltoncanadianchampion.com).

## St. Paul's church sanctuary indeed worth preserving

DEAR EDITOR:

We feel it's necessary to respond to letters from members of St. Paul's Church Council that have appeared in the *Champion* in recent weeks.

The letter to the editor from the chair of St. Paul's Church Council illustrated some of the flawed thinking behind the demolition of this historic sanctuary. Any long-sighted financial analysis would indicate that saving and restoring the sanctuary portion of St. Paul's United Church represents excellence in financial decision-making as the cost of repairing and maintaining what exists is far less expensive than building new.

Saving the 1891 sanctuary also demonstrates environmental responsibility within the global community and would preserve a Milton landmark that has historical significance to the congregation and residents.

St. Paul's sanctuary is a Rolls Royce in every sense of the word. Tossing it in the garbage bin of life because it needs an oil change is astonishingly shortsighted.

The excessive maintenance costs complained about don't come from the sanctuary but from the lift problems in the adjacent new addition and the heating system in the 40-year-old education wing. The only significant problem with the sanctuary is the roof structure. It requires some identified repairs and new roofing material.

Contrary to the rumours that have been circulating, St. Paul's church isn't falling down. As a matter of fact, according to the heritage report prepared by an architect, the church building is generally in good condition except for the needed roof repairs.

A large portion of the estimated repair costs have been raised and are currently sitting in a special fund, the 'Raise the Roof' fund, waiting to be used for the purpose for which they were collected four years ago — to repair the roof.

As a congregation, we seem to engage in financial decision-making processes that go something like: We want it, so, we get it and we don't always think about what we might really need. It's our steadfast use of "sexy" decision-making practices that has resulted in the sanctuary's roof not being properly repaired in 100 years.

In point of fact:

- Roof shingles have fallen off because repairs, which we knew were required at least five years ago, haven't been done.

Furthermore:

- New buildings need maintenance. Building a new building doesn't eliminate maintenance costs. If a new building is erected will it too be torn down when it loses a shingle?

- A new modern church wouldn't be built in the same manner as the current sanctuary — it was built to last.

- We are already accessible. We spent \$400,000 to make St. Paul's accessible by installing a lift and wheelchair access to the sanctuary.

- The cost of preserving the heritage items and re-installing them, if this is indeed possible, hasn't been identified. There will also be costs to rent alternate space during construction and costs related to decorating and re-furnishing the interior of the new church.

- An architectural firm has provided an estimate for repairing and upgrading the entire site of St. Paul's at \$1.85 million. To repair and upgrade only the sanctuary is considerably less than this. And while we need to do work now, we can do the necessary work over time. In contrast, we don't have a cost for building a new church, although the developer would cover the cost of putting up the walls. There are many other expenses associated with building, a fact known very well by the many Miltonians who have built new homes.

- An eight-storey, life-lease building with a small modern church facility isn't what most of Milton is looking for in this location.

In view of the intention of the current church leadership to demolish it, the only way to ensure that it's preserved is for the Town of Milton to designate it as a heritage property based on its historic and cultural significance.

So, when you see a petition around town — think about what the community of Milton would lose if we allow it to be torn down. Please consider signing the petition.

**DON CLEMENTS AND TORY HANDFORD  
SAVE ST. PAUL'S SANCTUARY COMMITTEE**

## P.L. Robertson set to open Toronto branch and expand Milton factory

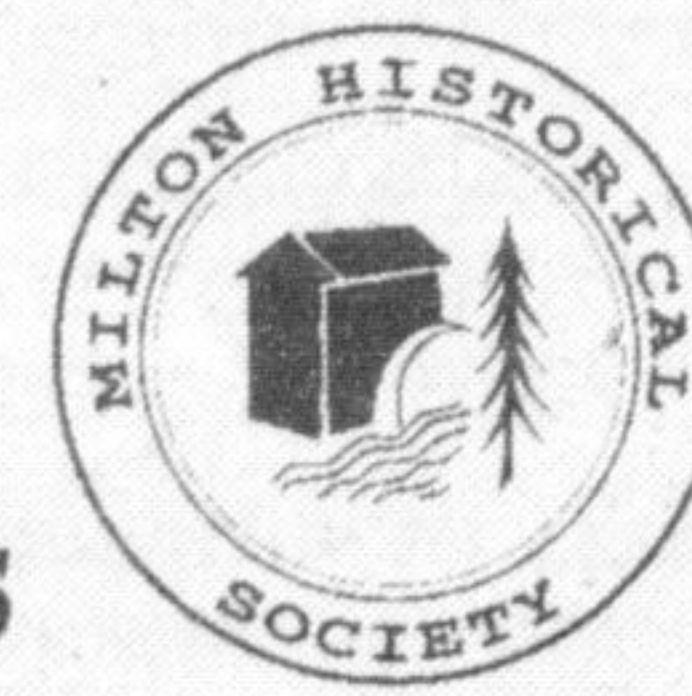
'Time Capsules' are gems of information extracted from past issues of the *Champion* and other publications in order to provide a window into Milton's past. Explanatory comment is sometimes provided to place the situation in context.

May 1913

P.L. Robertson's Milton industry will in future have a Toronto branch. The company has purchased the assets, plant and business of the "Toronto Wire, Nail & Tack Co.," of West Toronto, situated in the heart of the manufacturing district of the city and making wire and nails of all kinds. The newly acquired factory is well equipped and a going concern, as reported to the *Champion*, good for 12 tons of wire and 100 to 150 kegs of nails daily. The site is reported to be valuable, a bargain having been obtained through peculiar circumstances. The Milton company has already taken possession and is running the business. The intention is to erect a warehouse at the Toronto plant for a portion of the output of the Milton works, and as the company will be in an excellent position to serve Toronto users of wire products and screws, it will do a large part of the selling from that end, being in a better position than any competitor to serve the Toronto market. It is announced that some building will be done here this year, new bolt works being contemplated in the near future. It is also intended to make such additions to the Milton works in the early part of 1914 as will provide 50 per cent of the screws used in Canada.

Charles Jarvis, of the Jarvis homestead, Boyne, met with a heavy loss on Saturday night by the burning of his barn and contents. He passed by the barn at 11 p.m. and saw nothing wrong. Ernest Henderson had been at a neighbour's and on his return passed the barn about midnight.

**Milton  
Time  
Capsules**



There was no sign of fire then, but just as he got home, ten minutes later, he saw a glare and within a few minutes the building was in a blaze. He ran back to Mr. Jarvis's and gave the alarm. Mr. Jarvis and his brother, Cecil, managed to save some cattle and four horses, but seven cows and seven young cattle and five horses were lost, also grain, implements etc. The four horses saved were badly burnt, but will get over it. Mr. Jarvis estimates his loss at \$6,000. Unfortunately the amount of insurance was light. It is supposed that the fire was caused by tramps who had got into the barn to sleep there. There appears to be no other explanation.

On account of the epidemic of measles, Miss Bowes's department, the primary class, of the public school was closed on Tuesday when only five pupils turned up and yesterday all the departments were closed for fumigation. Miss Elliot's room has been closed since last week on account of her illness.

Extensive improvements are being made to the Methodist Church. The Sunday School room is being remodeled and decorated and the auditorium of the church will be redecorated, the cost of which will amount to about \$2,000. An effort is also being made to raise money by subscription to wipe off the indebtedness on the church, which is meeting with a good response from the congregation.

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.

# Discover Country Heritage Park

**KIDS COUNTRY • JULY 11 & 12, 12-5PM**

**Features Pedal  
Harness Horses  
for Kids & Adults**

- Pedal Tricycles
- Heritage Homes
- Heritage School House
- Country Canteen Open
- Kids Scavenger Hunt & Prizes

**ALL COLOUR ANTIQUE TRACTOR & TOY SHOW**

GATHERING OF THE ORANGE SHOW & INTERNATIONAL COCKSHUTT CLUB SHOW

**July 17th  
12pm-9pm  
& July 18th  
& 19th from  
10am-5pm**

**FRIDAY PROGRAM**  
• Lawn Tractor Pulls  
7:00pm-8:30pm  
• Tractor Displays  
• Club Souvenirs  
• Park Exhibits 12-5pm

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY PROGRAM**  
• Antique Lawn & Tractor Pulls  
• Tractor Parade  
• Lawn Tractor Races (Sat)  
• Toy Show & Sale  
• Vintage Cars/Trucks  
• Swap Shop  
• Machinery Demo

**Kid's Pedal Tractor Pull**  
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• Parks Exhibits Open  
• Country Canteen Open  
• Miniature Horses  
• Features Massey Exhibits  
• Kids Scavenger Hunt & Prizes

**HERITAGE DISCOVERY DAYS • JULY 25-26 12-5PM**



- 1830 Cassin Farmstead
- 1870 Lucas Farmstead
- 1910 School House

- Blacksmith Shop
- Apple Industry Building
- Milk on the Mooove Building
- Massey, John Deere, Case IH, Cockshutt, Ford, Allis-Chalmers tractors & equipment
- Carriage Works Shop
- 1928 Women's Institute Building
- McDuffe John Deere Dealership
- Ford Garage
- Kids Scavenger Hunt & Prizes

Check out our website for all program updates...

[www.countryheritagepark.com](http://www.countryheritagepark.com)

**8560 Tremaine Road, Milton**

**905-878-8151 or 1-888-307-3276**

Daily admission: Adults \$7, Seniors \$6, Children \$4, Family Package: \$20 (some events differ) Programs subject to change.

Country Heritage Park is open all year for school daytrips, youth programs, corporate events, weddings, group tours & facility rentals. Call for details or email [info@countryheritagepark.com](mailto:info@countryheritagepark.com).