

ReadersWrite

E-mail your letters to editorial@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

Proposed smoking ban at parks full of holes, tough to swallow

DEAR EDITOR:

After reading the letter entitled 'Smoking should be banned at local parks,' I'm astounded by the lack of forethought on the part of the author.

I'm also greatly disturbed by the author's decision to cloak his attack on the rights of a minority group under the guise of child welfare.

Let's examine each point with logic as opposed to emotion. Firstly, of course support for such a bylaw will be positive. The fact is, it's politically correct to target and single out smokers and take away their rights. This is a very simple case of political correctness not being morally correct.

Next, the author states, "No more do you have to worry about smelling second-hand smoke" (referring to recently-instated ban at parks in Barrie, where he now lives). Personally, I'm more concerned with the exhaust fumes from all the vehicles in town and — by next year — the emissions of the nearby power station than I am about

the second-hand smoke one will encounter at a park.

Then there's the comment, "or watch your two-year-old pick up a very toxic cigarette butt and chew it." I have a simple answer; watch your child. I grew up when smoking was common and acceptable, so my exposure to such things were far greater than most of today's children, and somehow I've managed to hit my late thirties healthy.

However, let us give the author his due, and ban anything potentially harmful that children may pick up and put into their mouths. So I guess there'll be no more gum, dogs, beverages in bottles, small toys, almost anything wrapped in plastic... and the list goes on. My point is that no matter how much we want to, we can't protect our children against every possible hazard.

Then there's the scientific point that children who aren't exposed to the 'normal' contaminants of life can have problems later in life due to insufficient

immune systems. And my final issue is with the remark, "Let's see if the Town of Milton has the guts to make this a bylaw."

First off, our town council has rarely had the guts to do the right thing so I suspect you'll get your wish. It will probably do what's politically correct instead of what's morally correct.

Let me conclude with a couple of simple points. Tobacco is a legal product, which means that like it or not smokers have the same rights under the law as non-smokers, and they should be respected the same. Now if all of the non-smoking advocates want something that's fair, then lobby the federal government to put tobacco on the list of prohibited substances.

And before I'm accused of being biased, I'm not a smoker and never have been. I also had to watch as a parent suffered with and eventually succumbed to smoking-related lung problems, so I do understand the hazards of smoking.

JIM TIMBERS
MILTON

Readers get chance to be of 'avian service'

• from PLEASE on page A6

for seeds beneath her bird feeder.

Meanwhile, Brian Johnson saw BV on Frobisher Boulevard.

Sandra Shore first noticed BV on Woodlawn Crescent.

I was also pleased to see so many people were concerned about the bird's welfare, particularly if/how BV would survive over the winter. Some even contacted wildlife agencies, although none seemed to be much help.

Many of the responses were amusing as a couple of people who identified the bird correctly

asked if they had won a prize.

And noting that chukars aren't native to the area, one reader said BV must have hitchhiked here.

Jim Biggar thanked the *Champion* for giving readers the opportunity to be of "avian service."

I would now like to thank readers for being of "avian service." I'm clearly not alone in my interest for our feathered friends.

Residents, please keep a bird's eye on BV this winter. You're all he's got.

Karen Miceli can be reached at kmiceli@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

Far too many cases of drunkenness seen in Milton under the Scott Act

'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.

January 1914

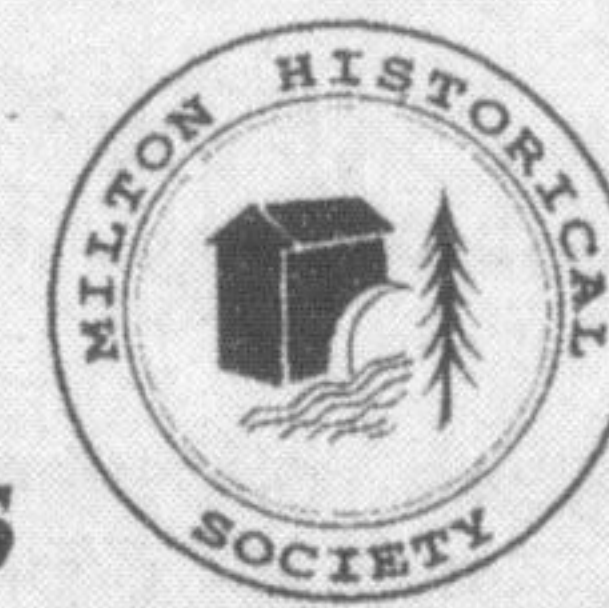
Editorial: In Milton, under the Scott Act, women were often seen drunk on the streets and in one case a woman was carted through the streets to jail in a democrat wagon, lying helplessly drunk in its rear end. In another small boys got drunk on whiskey and one was so far gone and in such a serious state that a doctor was called in and relieved him by the use of a stomach pump. In another while a man and his wife were on a protracted drunk, having imported a jug of whiskey, the woman died.

A little later the man got another supply. He lived by himself, the weather was cold, he let the fires out and his feet were so badly frozen that he was laid up until late in the spring. On getting out he went to Streetsville, got a jug of whiskey, came back drunk, started to walk westward from the C.P.R. station, fell off the trestle bridge near it, which has since been replaced with a stone arch, broke his back and died within a short time.

Scott Act and local option towns can be called "whiskey" towns more appropriately than those under license. In the former beer and other mild beverages are replaced by the stronger and less bulky spirituous liquors. The Canada Temperance Act was repealed in Halton in 1888 because it was a rank failure. The farmers' vote did it. In the towns the majority against the Act was smaller than it had been in 1881 and 1884.

The keepers of the numerous dives and the men who hawked whiskey by the bottle naturally voted in their own interests against repeal, and on what some good people

Milton
Time
Capsules



called the 'side of the Lord.'

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Provincial statistics for 1912: In Halton there were 420 births, 204 boys and 216 girls; only five illegitimate births. Halton had 160 marriages in 1912, 33 of which were in June. 229 deaths of which 106 were males and 123 females

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The Milton Pressed Brick Co. presented their married employees with a goose each for Christmas. Single men each received a dollar bill.

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On account of the large number of men out of work, tramps are much more numerous than they have been for years. There are nine in jail over Sunday. An increase of crime, burglaries, hold-ups and stealing generally is to be expected.

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Officers and men of the 20th Halton Rifles and the people of the county generally will be glad to hear that the proposal that the 20th shall be absorbed by the 36th Peel Regiment has not been received with favour at Ottawa and new arrangements will be made. The 20th's territory will be enlarged so as to include part of the county of Peel and a new commanding officer will soon be gazetted. The 12th York Rangers will be made a camp-going city regiment. The 36th will have Aurora and Newmarket added to its territory.

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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