

ReadersWrite

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Church more than just a building

(The following letter was addressed to Mayor Gord Krantz and members of town council, and a copy was filed with the *Champion*).

DEAR EDITOR:

This is in response to Jane Copeland's July 15 letter entitled 'St. Paul's much too valuable to let it just be demolished.'

We agree, with the headline at least. St. Paul's United Church is too valuable to risk losing.

We disagree, however, with how Copeland — and many others — are defining 'church.' A church is the people and the work, not the building in which those people meet.

If Heritage Milton recommends designating the St. Paul's United Church 'building' as a heritage building, and Milton council agrees, then the building might be saved, but the 'church' might well be lost.

Copeland makes one point in her letter that's true. She writes, "If maintenance had been done when problems first arose, costs

wouldn't be so daunting now." She's right. But the fact that non-essential (at the time) repairs weren't done speaks to the priorities of the church.

For decades, non-essential maintenance has ranked at a lower priority in our budgets than the work of the church — our ministry to our congregation and the community. There hasn't been sufficient money coming in to fund both priorities, and the 'people' have consistently voted to spend the available money on the work of the church, as all Christians have been charged to do.

You won't find any reference in Jesus' teachings that requires his followers to build and maintain meeting places.

Loving our God and our neighbours is the work of St. Paul's United Church, not maintaining a building, and that's articulated in our vision of being a welcoming, transforming and serving community of faith.

So, if the building is saved

and the 'church' is not, will those — like Copeland — seeking to 'save St. Paul's' feel that they have been successful in preserving our heritage?

The sad fact is that successful churches can no longer afford these extravagant buildings of our ancestors. Many of the dwindling numbers worshipping on Sunday morning are seniors, and we're losing them too. When they're all gone, who will sit in those heritage pews on Sunday morning?

Young folks aren't attracted to the message, "Join our church and help us pay for this lovely old building." It's not a priority for them, and it shouldn't be for anyone else either.

LORNA TURNER, DAVID WENTZELL, NICOLETTE PARANT, SHARON PYLE AND MAVIS O'NEIL, MEMBERS OF ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH AND SUPPORTERS OF THE REDEVELOPMENT PLANS

Seniors must speak up about library move

DEAR EDITOR:

Many seniors who live downtown are extremely concerned about the possible loss of the Bruce Street library when the new main branch opens at Main Street and Thompson Road next year.

The fact that most of the seniors' apartments and private housing are located near Bruce Street surely should be taken into account.

I realize that the main library will be attached to the new arts centre, but keeping Bruce Street as

a branch library for these citizens — who've lived here and supported Milton for most of their lives — must be a priority.

It seems that money can be found for 'new Milton,' so how about a little for the seniors?

There's a municipal election coming up in the fall, so I encourage seniors to attend the meetings and let their voices be heard.

DAWN FRANKLIN MILTON

Review break-in prevention tips on two websites

• from **THIEVES** on page A6 not physically anyway.

They installed an alarm system after that, and it took a long time for them to feel safe in their own home.

They'll probably never feel

totally comfortable in their home again.

A list of break-in prevention tips was published on the editorial page in Tuesday's *Champion*. You can check out the *Champion's* website at

www.insidehalton.com (under editorials) to review the list, or visit Halton police's website at www.haltonpolice.ca.

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

None under 16 allowed in building during crowded recruiting sessions

'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.

February 1916

Because of the overcrowding of the recruiting meetings at the town hall no one under 16 will be admitted. The *Champion* has constantly repeated the danger of fire in this building with inadequate escapes.

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Pte. Archie Galloway, 14th Battery 4th Brigade Canadian Field Artillery in Belgium wrote that when good weather comes there will be a big push. He said they were sleeping in tents now, much better than the barn. We sleep in our clothes. Healthy bunch of men. All we have to do when we want to go to bed is to spread out blankets on the floor, take off our shoes and roll in. We never think of taking our clothes off. The only time we take our clothes off is once every week or two when they take us to the village for a bath and clean clothes.

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Red Cross had a record attendance at their rooms Friday when about 80 took tea. Attendance at teas is increasing steadily.

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The removal from old to new registry office began this week. The first document filed in the new building was on Thursday by W.I. Dick, Crown Attorney.

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Another returned soldier. Pte. Anson Ellis, 1st Batt, nephew of Mrs. Ribey Ellis, Mrs. Chas. Hill and Mrs. Ezra B. Hill at whose home in Peru he is visiting. He was brought up at Peru and attended Ligny School. Enlisted at Windsor in the first contingent. At the Battle of Festubert his left fore arm was broken by a bullet.

Milton Time Capsules



Another broke a rib and went through a lung. A leg was wounded and a bayonet thrust in right side. He was slightly wounded at Ypres, where he saw the body of Capt. Bastedo carried out. He has been visiting his mother at Fort William.

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The organization of a band for 164th is well under way. Instruments are being donated by the Board of Management of St. George's Society of Hamilton. A Fife and Drum Band is organized and practicing in Orangeville. Full set of fifes and drums donated by citizens of that town.

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Mr. and Mrs. McPhail's three sons have enlisted. First to go was Calvin, recently Harold and John.

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At the annual meeting of Milton Library the following Directors were elected: Mrs. V. Chisholm, Mrs. Ptolemy, Mrs. E.E. Yates, W.J. McClenahan, W. Panton, C.H. Stuart, F.S. Cochrane, W.B. Clements, J.M. Denyes. President is Mrs. V. Chisholm, Secretary Mrs. Ptolemy, Treasurer F.S. Cochrane, Librarian, Miss Mackenzie. Auditors are W.J. McClenahan and Wm. Panton.

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John Mills, Bank of Toronto, son of John Mills, Milton, has enlisted as a signaller in the 95th Batt.

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Pte. Duncan Paterson is reported as suffering from shell shock.

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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