

Champion Editorial Page

Pages of the Past
From Champion Files

Scoring points

Continuing debate between Halton Renaissance and the Halton Board of Education, through the columns of the newspapers rather than in face-to-face confrontation is not really aiding the region's education system.

The most recent episode developed in planning such a confrontation. When you add up the stories of each, you still have difficulty placing the blame. But then, placing the blame is really just like playing the game to score points.

The real crux of the matter is surely what will contribute to the education system. Unquestionably the two groups are some distance apart, with the Board being challenged to defend the Renaissance compelled to attack.

We suspect that citizens are

concerned about some of the aspects of education today, which are so different from that which they experienced. Communicating those differences and explaining their reasons is a difficult task for the Board when most will prefer to listen to more dramatic portrayals.

Renaissance's appeal has been in its ability to touch the sensitive points of concern of parents. The danger is that in sustaining itself it will reach for new heights of concern that eventually strain its credibility.

While each of the groups, the Board and Renaissance, have a contribution to make, they should be discussing in more reserved terms if it takes a month to set down ground rules for a meeting we wonder if the situation isn't at the "scoring points" stage . . . rather than furthering education.

Industries needed

With 1975 a little more than half gone, it appears the current growth taking place won't improve the town's unfavorable ratio between residential and commercial-industrial assessment.

To date in 1975 the local building department has issued building permits for work valued at \$16,450,093. Of that, 77.67 per cent has been for residential development and only 2.29 per cent has been for industrial development.

Commercial development accounts for 17.02 per cent of the total. Institutional and miscellaneous construction account for 3.2 per cent.

Mayor Anne MacArthur has repeatedly noted the need for more industrial development to alleviate the property owners from a heavy tax burden. The "ideal" ratio of residential assessment to industrial-commercial is 60-40. The year's permit issues to date aren't even close to that ratio.

Commenting briefly

Don't forget us

Flipping through the pages of a publication on Industrial Locations, by the Financial Times, we found every Halton municipality mentioned but Milton. We don't know what the criteria were for inclusion but presumably there is some industrial land still available in the town and certainly there are some buildings that would be suitable.

Flag stolen

Bouquets and brickbats: A bouquet to Milton Parks and Recreation Department for the beautiful display of 13 flags at Unity Park, next to the CN Station which is Milton Chamber of Commerce's tourist information centre. The flags make an attractive appearance, one sure to please first-time Milton visitors. But a brickbat to the thief or flag-saver who shinned up the main pole and stole the Canadian flag, not long after the flags and poles were put into place. Such disrespect!

"Festival Country"

Halton is in "Festival Country". That's the term the recently organized Niagara and Mid-Western Ontario Travel Association has applied to the area that includes Halton, Hamilton-Wentworth, Haldimand-Norfolk, Niagara and Dufferin, Wellington and Brant. And when it comes to Milton, the community has a lot to contribute to tourism, as we've been suggesting for years. Four out of the seven "events" that have been listed for Halton take place in Milton such as the Winter Carnival, Rotarama, Steam-Era and Milton Fall Fair. Undoubtedly there are others to list yet, but Milton has made a significant contribution to the theme. And Milton now has an information centre for tourists too, thanks to the efforts of the town and the Chamber of Commerce.

Not breaking law

Solicitor General Warren Allmand is certainly under fire for his personal position on enforcement of the death penalty, but he is not breaking the law as some would interpret his action. The Criminal Code does allow the death penalty for killers of prison

guards or police officers but it still provides for the death sentence to be commuted by the cabinet.

"Discomforting"

Summer comfort for some may mean summer discomfort for others. The environment people in Queen's Park report some air conditioners may be keeping you cool and calm but the noise may be making your neighbors hot under the collar. Recently a Richmond Hill man took his neighbor to court over a noisy air conditioner and won his case—the owner had to move the machine to reduce the noise to the complainant. Now the environment people tell us new regulations setting a limit on this type of noise are expected to be in force by this winter—in plenty of time for next year's air conditioner season.

Who knows, maybe snow-blowers, lawn mowers and chain saws will come under these regulations too?



OLD SWIMMIN' HOLE is still popular as young people beat the heat by diving into the cool, clear water of an abandoned quarry.



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

Many people have a peculiar idea of "progress." They confuse it with change or growth for their own sakes. All too often, these things represent regress, rather than progress.

I try not to be bitter, but I have a perfect example of that kind of "progress" right outside my front door.

When we moved to this house, it was on a quiet, residential street, a leafy tunnel of voluptuous maples and stately oaks, with a green boulevard on each side of the street. It was gentle and pleasant and safe for children.

The town council, in the name of progress, tore out the boulevard, cut down some trees, and widened the street.

Results? We now have a speedway out front, and you can scarcely risk crossing the street to the mailbox. The squeal of tires makes the nights hideous, as the punks try to proclaim their dubious manhood. The remaining trees are dying because their natural environment has been disturbed and because they get a heavy dose of sprayed salt from the snow-plow each winter.

Much beauty lost and the only ugly things on the street, dead cedar poles for telephone and hydro, left standing in their nakedness.

Just to complete the picture, there has been a "development", which is synonymous with progress in many small minds, at the end of our street. What was once glorious bushland is now an asphalt wasteland inhabited by supermarkets, a gaggle of gas stations, and the inevitable hamburger joints and milk stores.

Because of the "development" and its accompanying "progress", traffic on our street has quintupled about five times, with the accompanying multiplication of stink and noise.

Tough luck, says you. Right, says I. But this is not just a private beef. I've seen this sort of thing happen so often on handsome old streets in pleasant small towns that it makes me sick.

First move of the progress-happy morons is usually to cut down the trees, some of them 70 years old, so that they can widen the road. Grace and shade and dignity are sacrificed to the number one god of North America — the car.

In the cities, the same process holds. Potential parklands are turned into instant parking lots. Throughways slaughter miles of greenery.

answer his call, for the future of our Canadian women and their babies is in jeopardy!

Mrs. Bette Hamon
Vice President
Resources Director
Halton Pro-Life
364 Aurora Cresc.
Burlington

Coverage appreciated

Dear Roy:
Coverage of activities at Halton Region Museum by you and your staff has been most appreciated by not only us, but from all reports, by your vast number of readers. After the page spread by Joyce Beaton on the "Friends of the Museum" Festival, we have had many visitors express their disappointment that they missed it. Those who attended mainly came from far-away places—England, Holland, U.S.A., Newfoundland, Alberta, Barrie, Nanticoke, Elmwood, Jarvis, Bradford, Brantford, Inverkip, Hagersville, Fergus, Bolton, some from Halton, and even a few from Milton. Possibly we take for granted what is in our own back yard! The volunteers and Museum staff worked very hard for this important aid to the Museum and we thank you for taking an interest and your reports on the efforts.

May we take this opportunity of congratulating The Canadian Champion on the beautifully renovated offices which reflect the friendliness of your operations.
Yours sincerely,
HALTON REGION MUSEUM
Erla Brittain,
Curator.

Ranking high among the villains are the "developers". In more enlightened cultures, they would be called ecological rapists. They take a section of beautiful bushland, fertile farmland, or lush fruitland. They send in their bulldozers to ensure that the property will look like no man's-land. They then carve it into 50-foot lots and jam in the jerry-built houses, cheek by jowl, give the whole thing a fancy name, spend a fortune on advertising, and flog the swollen-priced abortions to poor suckers who are so desperate for a house of their own they shoulder a mortgage they can never possibly get out from under.

This, when Canada has more land that is useless for anything else but building than it can ever use. That is "progress."

Oh, "progress" has many faces, and many sounds, and not a few smells.

Far below the roar of the over-sized, over-priced cars burning up precious energy as they whoosh down the super-highways may be heard the whimper of starving children.

Behind the smiling face and honeyed words of the Public Relations Department can be seen something not unlike a mountain range — huge, ever-growing piles of non-returnable bottles, rusting cans, and indestructible plastic garbage.

And the stinks! "Progress" will take a cool, clean, sweet trout stream and poison it with chemicals and detergents and other toxic elements, because "We need the industry." And the big, belching smokestacks go right on belching their nauseous gases from their rotten stomachs, laughing hilariously when the government slaps them on the wrist with a staggering \$25 fine.

"Progress" hoists, again and again, the taxes on booze, because governments would fall without that revenue, and sets up a cheap and panty-waist program barely hinting at the evils of drink.

"Progress" produces bigger cars that go faster and burn more fuel on bigger highways, the vehicles propelled, in many cases, by drivers who couldn't handle a crisis in a kiddie-car race.

"Progress" taxes everything but the living breath of the working stiff, but encourages the plumpies with the expense accounts and the credit cards to go out and live it up and lie and cheat on their taxes.

Medical "progress" means turning a great number of adult neurotics into drug addicts by socking the pills to them, and with the other hand giving a stiff-arm in the face to the dirty, sick, frightened kids of the drug age.

A pretty dim view of progress? It is, as many people look on the word.

But surely there are enough of us left who believe in the real meaning of the word — moral, social and intellectual progress — to try to do something about the spreading sickness.

Same time next Sunday, please. In the meantime, on guard against the "progress" people.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, July 14, 1955

Shape of things to come for Acton, Milton and Georgetown was envisioned as big and prosperous Tuesday night, when members of the North Halton Urban Board pondered Halton's future growth, but at the same time cast worried looks at the immediate future of the District High School Board. Georgetown's Mayor Jack Armstrong, who described himself as the "world's biggest optimist," stopped in the middle of a discussion on the possible unwieldy size of the District High School Board to foretell Halton's progress. He said he was convinced that in 20 years there won't be a township operating as such in the county, industrial growth will have so filled out its boundaries. Considering all the favorable aspects of situation and services, the Georgetown mayor guessed that Halton County would be in an area which would even succeed the Ruhr Valley as the world's largest industrial basin.

George Swann, Milton, who is with the Milton Milling Company, was one of 35 hatcherymen and feed dealers who completed a four-day Poultry Short Course in poultry diseases and management. This course was held from July 5 through July 8 at Dr. Salsbury's Laboratories, Charles City, Iowa.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, July 9, 1925

Directory of services listed: H. Wheeler, Music Teacher; Dr. G. A. King, Dental Surgeon; Dr. Stanley Braund, Dental Surgeon; Dr. F. E. Babcock, Dental Surgeon; William I. Dick, Barrister, Solicitor, and Conveyance; C. G. Crowe, Attorney; Thomas A. Hutchinson, Barrister, Solicitor, Conveyances, Notary Public; R. J. Armstrong, Live Stock Dealer; Sam Henson, Builder and Contractor; T. G. Ramshaw, Valuator and Auctioneer; Drs. McColl and Sutherland; R. K. Anderson, M.D.; Marshall E. Gowland, M.A., M.B. and J. Leslie King, M.B.; Dr. A. G. Bremner, Physician and Surgeon; A. M. Nielsen, D.C., Chiropractor; C. R. Turner, Funeral Director and Embalmer; W. F. Dewar, Insurance.

Promotion Examinations: S. S. No. 8, Trafalgar; To Jr. IV - Margaret Bussell 77 per cent, Victor Hall 74, James Hamilton 68, Catherine Hall 66, Albert Marchmont 60, Frank McCarron 58, Wilbert McCurdy 52, Jr. III - Doris Sanford 83 per cent, George Hall 55, Cecil McCarron 48, Sr. II - Isabel Bussell 70 per cent, Margaret Hamilton 52, Senior I Lloyd Hall and Ivan McCurdy, equal, Leo Sanford, Arthur McCarron, on trial, Jr. I - Laura Hamilton, Pr. Sr. Annie Hall, Pr. Jr. - John Bussell, Gerald Marchmont, Freddie Robertson, A. H. Bradley, Teacher.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, July 5, 1900.

MASONIC: On the 23rd ult., at Vancouver, W. M. Bro. Harry H. Watson, of that city, was installed Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia. M. W. Bro. Watson was born in Milton and is the eldest son of the late W. M. Henry Watson, a past master of St. Clair Lodge No. 135, G. R. C. Though the newly installed Grand Master was not initiated in St. Clair, the brethren of that lodge may fairly regard him as one of its sons and they will be proud of the great honor that has been conferred on him. Milton has now turned out two Masonic Grand Masters, M. W. Bro. John Leslie, a past master and still a member of St. Clair Lodge, and M. W. Bro. Watson. Few other Canadian towns, if any, can make a similar boast.

ZIMMERMAN: The weather is extremely cool here just now. Most of the farmers in this vicinity are busily engaged cutting hay. Lost, strayed or stolen, on July 1st, from this place, one of our popular young ladies. Any information concerning her whereabouts will be thankfully received at this office. The "wandering young man" was seen driving furiously down one of our streets with his head bent low. He was evidently on the war path again, for he had on his best suit, best buggy and best smile, and was travelling down a new road. We wish him success.

OMAGH: Richard Biggar spent Dominion Day with his daughter, Mrs. J. Brownridge, Davenport.

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