

Milton Then and Now

# Dr. Robert King Anderson

**By Mel Robinson**  
 Prior to his death July 3, 1960 in his 91st year, Dr. Robert King Anderson was a well-known and respected figure both in the town of Milton and in the county of Halton. His parents were John and Mary Anderson who lived on a farm Lot 13 in the Sixth Concession of Trafalgar, about four miles east of the centre core of Milton. He had five sisters and a twin brother who died of appendicitis at age 30.  
 Apparently Robert Anderson was an excellent student at the local school, but his father felt that he should stay home and help with the farm work. The boy was determined to continue at school and walked 12 miles to Oakville to try his High School Entrance Examination. Like many ambitious students in those days he completed his high school education, and went on to qualify as a school teacher. He taught school to earn the money he needed to continue his education at college.  
 After graduating from Victoria College he continued at the Toronto University Medical College. He graduated from that institution in the class of 1888, which included Dr. Hugh McColl who also became a well-known medical practitioner in this town. In 1889 he qualified as a member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. He pursued his postgraduate studies in Edinburgh, New York, and Chicago, and was admitted as a Fellow to the Royal College of Surgeons. After his postgraduate work he returned to Milton.  
 Dr. Anderson's mother died in 1891 and his father on January 7, 1892. In October 1894 his father's estate purchased the property at the north-west corner of Court and Main St. It is likely that the young doctor was in practice in Milton by that time. In June 1898 there was a professional notice inserted in The Champion by Drs. Stuart and Anderson, but from that time on each of the doctors inserted his own notice. Dr. Anderson's residence and office were listed as at Main and Court Sts. In 1909 he became the registered owner of that property.  
 Prior to that, in 1906, the doctor apparently decided to have an office in the centre of the town. From the Booth Estate he purchased the

premises at 216 Main St. which he held until January 1949 when he sold the property to F. W. B. Fitzgerald. He also purchased from the estate a small lot, No. 19, on Mary St. which may have provided him with a stable for his horses.  
 In those days the local doctors made house calls both in town and in the surrounding country. They often returned from long drives to be greeted with a request for another long drive with a fresh horse. There were road hazards in those days too. In February 1909 Dr. Anderson was met by a fast driver at Martin St. and Steeles Ave. The other driver did not pull out properly and the wheels of the buggies caught. The doctor's head was cut in the accident and he was confined to bed for several days.  
 In the years starting 1911 motor cars began to appear on the streets of the town. The doctors, of course, were quick to take up the use of cars. In May 1911 motor car dealers from the south were in town looking for customers here. The Champion reported that Drs. McColl and Anderson were getting lots of free rides with demonstrators. In April 1912 Jas. Houston reported that Drs. Anderson and McColl were among the four customers who had ordered new Ford cars from him.  
 In the spring of 1912 he was also busy with plans for a new home. It was to be built for him at the north-east corner of Martin and Millside Drive by Samuel Henson, who had recently become a building contractor. The building of this fine buff brick home was an important project for the doctor, and he appeared on the site early each morning during the construction.  
 As a young man, the doctor was very active in the life of the community. He was a member of L.O.L. No. 2835, Milton, and quite active in St. Clair Masonic Lodge. He received his 50 year pin from that lodge in 1948, and there was a Masonic funeral at his graveside. He took an early interest in politics. He was on Milton's Town Council 1904-7, serving as Mayor in 1904 and again in 1907. For eight years he was Chairman of the Milton Hydro Electric Power Commission.  
 In 1917 Dr. Anderson was elected to

represent Halton County in the Canadian government. He retained his seat for the Progressive Conservative Party in the elections of 1921, 1925, 1926, and 1930. In the 1936 election Hughes Cleaver won the seat for the Liberal Party. Shortly after that Dr. Anderson retired from federal politics. As a member of parliament for those many years Dr. Anderson earned the respect and support not

only of the people of this area but also the rest of the county and at Ottawa. Mrs. Anderson (nee Lavina Cowan) predeceased the doctor by three years. They were survived by their daughter Marjorie who continued to live in the family home on Martin St. with Stella Teasdel. Marjorie died Dec. 20, 1978. The Andersons had one son Jackie, who died of pneumonia at the age of five.  
 Local drivers planning to enter the annual demolition derby at Milton Fall Fair Sept. 26, should get their entries in soon. The event was popular when it was introduced last year and fair board secretary Mrs. Marj Hall said she can only accept the first 40 entries this year.  
 The derby will be run by the Hell Drivers organization from London, and promises to be a "smashing" good show.  
 The fair board is also anxious to get entries in now, for the two tractor pulling contests to be featured Friday evening, Sept. 25 at the fair. One class is for antique tractors, the second is for out-of-field (or ordinary farm tractors).  
 President Don Heath is accepting registrations and giving out information on the tractor pull events.  
 The derby and tractor pull are just two of the highlights of this year's fall fair, a three-day

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Block buster. There was plenty of action Saturday at the Gowland Cresc. block party with most of that street's residents taking part. An afternoon of games was followed by a mammoth barbecue for the 50 families involved. Thom Palmer passes pop to Rhonda Noel (left), Nicola and Emma Cason.

event Friday to Sunday, Sept. 25-27.  
 Friday highlights include the judging of exhibits all day, with open house in the exhibit halls at night; the Holstein cattle show, and the tractor pull.  
 Highlights of Saturday include a children's pet show, 4-H club judging, junior horse and pony classes, beef cattle, heavy and light horses, dual purpose cattle, other dairy breeds, a children's bike decorating contest, harness races, the official opening ceremonies, a livestock parade of champions and the demo derby.  
 Sunday features a Pinto horse show, junior hunter show, 4-H horse club achievement day, Jersey show, firefighters' waterball and bucket races, and the Hell Drivers show.  
 The fair grounds buildings and midway will be open 7 to 10 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, and 10.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

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## Block party fun

People replaced traffic on Gowland Cresc. Saturday when blockades were erected to mark the boundaries of a block party there.  
 Despite threatening skies, about 200 residents representing 50 of the 70 families on Gowland Cresc. joined the activities of the day. It began with a morning baseball game and the losing team had to shuck the 25 dozen cobs of corn purchased for the party.  
 Organizer Janet Smith said in the end everyone pitched in to make the job less of a chore. Mrs. Smith explained much of the food and drink for the party was supplied through employers of residents.

## Halton joins

Halton will pay \$920 to continue memberships in four health related organizations.  
 Memberships continued include: Ontario Medical Association, \$450 fee; Society of Medical Officers of Health, Ontario, \$50 fee; Canadian Public Health Association, \$70 fee; and the Association of Ontario Boards of Health, \$350 fee.

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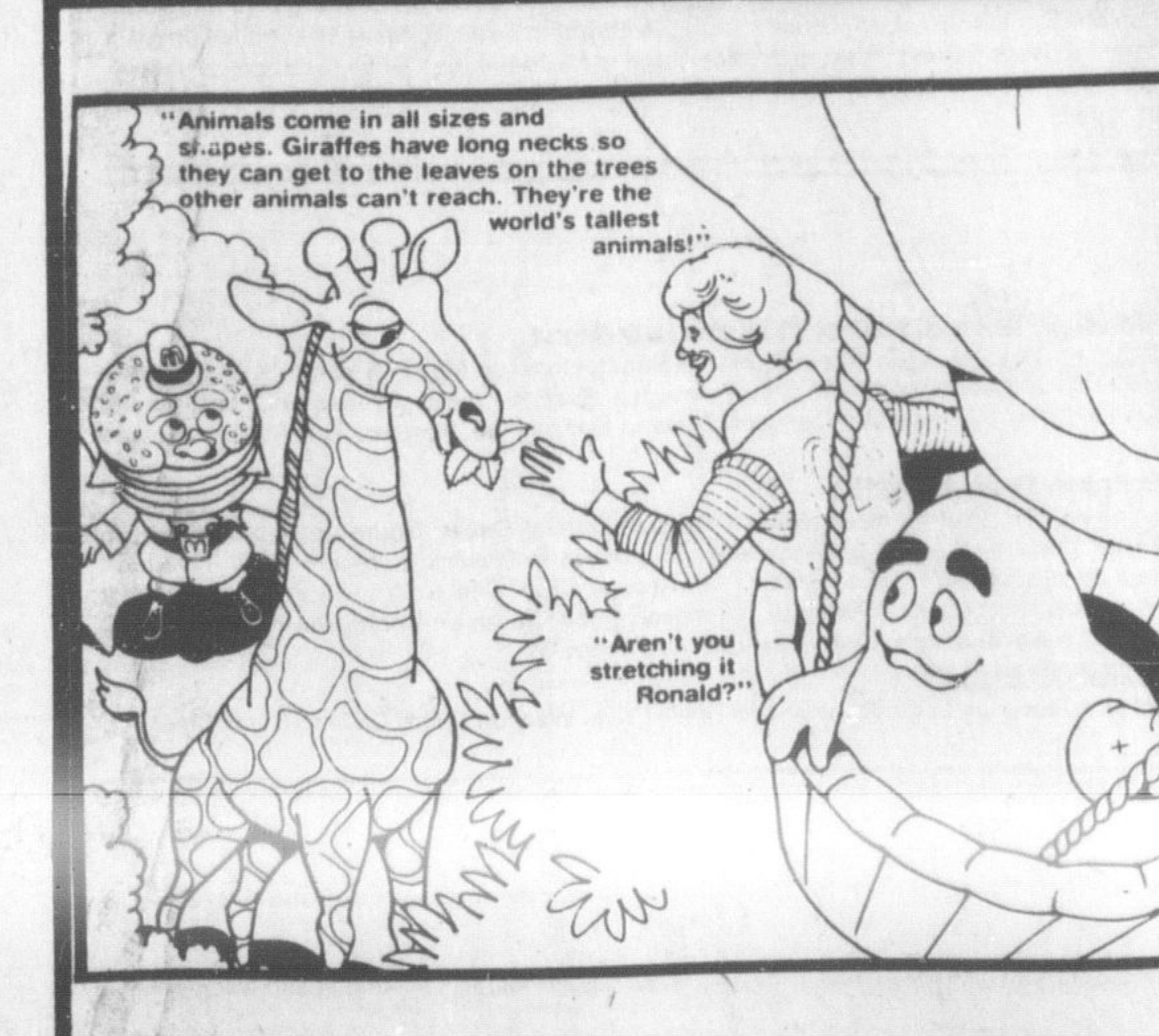
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