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The Canadian Champion

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Pages of
the Past

One year ago

From the November 26, 1980 issue
An eight-month strike is not easy to put behind. Both Rockwell company and plant employees have some fairly vivid memories of bitter confrontations and failed talks. There still exists resentment among some workers. The signing of a new three-year contract meant work for only 80 employees. More than 300 lost their jobs during the strike.

Failure to remove high voltage power lines dangling near a greenhouse under construction, led to the electrocution death of a 17-year-old Beeton youth on Sept. 9, 1980, it was learned during an inquest last Tuesday evening. Donald Smith was hoisting 12-foot bracing rods onto a metal roof when a rod touched an 8,000 volt line, killing him instantly.

Halton homeowners are going to pay up to 25 per cent more for sewer and water services to cover budgeting errors made by the outgoing Regional Council. Councillors approved a recommendation last week to increase the rates in order to cover a projected deficit and save themselves from possible lawsuits.

Jack Raftis has survived a concerted challenge by two Regional councillors Monday afternoon and is now, for all intents and purposes, the Chairman of Halton Region for 1981 and 1982. Mr. Raftis was acclaimed to the post in 1979.

20 years ago

From the Nov. 23, 1961 issue
Dr. C.A. Martin may seek a municipal post this year it was learned Wednesday. A former mayor of Milton with experience as reeve, and in countless other civic positions, Dr. Martin indicated he might seek the position of reeve at the nominations scheduled for Milton Town Hall Thursday (tonight).

Administrator Reta McKenzie and director Mrs. Frank McNiven were hostesses Saturday afternoon for Milton District Hospital's second anniversary tea and open house. About 100 or more attended and made an inspection of the hospital, accompanied by board members Dr. C.A. Martin, John Ostler, Jack Charlton, Bruce McNab and Ron Harris.

The first sod was turned Thursday of last week symbolizing the start on the new County Building—being built just north of Milton on a 10-acre lot. Warden A. Phillips and Judge G.E. Elliott turned the sod in the dismal grey weather while Acton's Reeve R.J. Hargrave, chairman of the county building committee, presided for the brief ceremony.

An estimated deficit of \$2,246.97 on the town's \$661,742.74 operating budget is predicted in the interim financial report presented to Milton Council at the weekly meeting Monday.

Candidates were plentiful for council, public utilities and board of education positions in the new town to be composed of Oakville and Trafalgar, at the nomination meeting held Monday at Trafalgar Hall.

50 years ago

From the November 26, 1931 issue
Mr. Glen Ryder, who lost the ends of both thumbs in a machine at the tannery, is getting along nicely now, and the injured thumbs are healing well.

While playing ball at school last Friday, Dorothy Phillips was accidentally struck in the face with a bat. One tooth was knocked out, two others were chipped and her lip was badly cut.

Now that the Communists have been sentenced and will be a worry no longer to law and order, wouldn't it be just as well, in general interests, to cease the publicity of their martyrdom?

Following are the results of the Milton and District Softball League's double-header, played in the arena here last Monday evening. In the first, Tuxis Boys defeated A.Y.P.A. by 6 to 5 and Lowville defeated Millionaires by 4 to 3.

Owing to so many teams in the district wearing red uniforms, the Acton Hockey Club has decided to adopt new colors for this year. The new outfits will likely be gold, trimmed with black. Last year's team has returned and has another newcomer in Frank Terry, who came to Acton late last season. The boys are holding regular practices on artificial ice before the arena is ready.

75 years ago

From the Nov. 22, 1906 issue
All lovers of music may enjoy the piano recital to be given by Miss Marion Brandon, of Toronto, in the Methodist Church, under the auspices of the E.L. on Monday evening, Nov. 26.

Two G.T.R. freight trains collided at Georgetown on Saturday morning. Conductor John Armstrong, Brakeman H. Sheerer and Fred Peters, and Fireman Muirhead were hurt, the first two seriously. They were taken to a Guelph hospital. The engines were thrown across the track and five cars went down the bank. Some of them took fire, but the Georgetown fire brigade turned out and subdued the fire.

J.W. Buck J.T. Jarvis and the two other members of their party got home from the north on Friday with their complement of two deer each. G.E. Saunders, John Pirie, Oscar Downs and Fred Wales got home on Monday with two deer each. They were delayed by ice, part of their journey being by water.

Fire which broke out in the barber shop of A. Alton, Waterdown, about 1.30 a.m. Friday morning last did considerable damage. It spread to the premises of W. Greer and thence to the tailoring establishment of H. Clark. Fortunately there was no wind, or the loss would have been much greater, as the fire was in a group of wooden buildings.



Referendum needed

The question of fluoridating Milton's water supply has become almost as nagging as a neglected abscessed tooth.

Allowed to go unanswered for a decade, particularly in view of the fact the number of users of this excellent but limited resource has doubled, the question is creating a climate in town this newspaper finds both unnecessary and objectionable.

The issue has been permitted to decay to the point where some telephone calls and letters are void of facts, choked with emotion and border on hatred.

For an issue like fluoridation—a bona fide non-issue in the rest of the province—the events of late are curious and somewhat disheartening for a community of this stature.

Historically, the residents of Milton have spoken overwhelmingly against mixing their water with fluoride, a mineral just like the substantial amount of lime found in our water.

In 1971, 1,284 Miltonians voted against fluoridation while 456 supported the proposal. A survey conducted in 1978 by this newspaper, albeit an informal front page ballot, indicated that 93.1 per cent of 600 respondents rejected the

proposition of fluoride in their water while 6.9 per cent favored the notion.

The latest survey, again an informal sampling of opinion conducted by Fanshawe College dental hygiene student Kim Shepherd, revealed that 61 of 126 respondents favor fluoridation.

But, we believe the key to this nagging issue can be found in an answer given to this newspaper in a supplementary question—asked in the 1978 survey—that of settling the issue, once and for all, by plebiscite.

A whopping 84.6 per cent of those 600 Miltonians who answered the 1978 survey said they would like to see the question of fluoridation settled through the medium of a referendum.

And, frankly, so would we. Therefore, we are proposing that the question of fluoridating Milton's water be added to the ballot during Milton's next municipal election in December 1982—a scant 12 months away.

A poll of Milton Council indicates the majority of councillors are opposed to this idea, but really, it's up to you.

Choose your sides, the question begs to be answered.

\$2 million tug-of-war

In its continuing effort to generate at least as much money as it spends, Halton administrators have come up with the idea of extracting a special levy from industrial developers.

The proposal, presented by Regional treasurer Gerry Lawson, was for a special levy of \$2,040 an acre on industrial developers in the region.

The money would be used to finance the development of water and sewer services.

As soon as the proposal was presented, a protest was raised by Milton councillors concerned over the effect it would have on the Milton-401 Industrial Park and industrial development in the region as a whole.

While the proposal has certain merit, for example it would save the region from issuing debentures for the development of some works, it does not take into consideration the special circumstances of Milton.

As Mayor Gord Krantz pointed out in an interview after the last Regional council meeting, the developers concerned with the Milton-401 park have already been hit hard by the town in subdivision negotiations.

The goal of that entire process, Mr. Krantz stressed several times, is to ensure that the public would not have to finance the costs of industrial development.

Setting aside, for the moment, the Region's driving concern for income and the motherhood issue of saving the taxpayers from financing new development, there are other factors to be considered. While the provincial law which

established Halton Region makes industrial development and the provision of water and sanitary sewer services a responsibility of the Region, it is not an area that people removed from the Milton scene are particularly well qualified to deal with.

It should be left to the individual municipality to decide the level of the hard services that will be provided, understanding, of course, that this decision will have a direct effect on the kind of industry that will be attracted to the area.

Secondly, we question the wisdom of the old idea that taxpayers should be saved the costs of new development, especially industrial.

New industry means new jobs, which means less is spent on unemployment insurance, welfare and other social services costs. People who are working and paying taxes of their own have money to spend on other consumer goods, thus creating demand and stimulating economic growth in other sectors.

This natural economic stimulation is perhaps the only way to solve the problems currently facing us and is certain to be more effective than the artificial stimulation of government.

In the final analysis; it may not be to the benefit of all taxpayers to put road blocks in front of industrial development.

That is certainly the case in Milton where the special levy proposed by regional staff amounts to nothing more than double taxation.

Editor's Note:

WITH JOHN CHALLINOR

The Paper



The paper, its sections fanned across a hardwood floor warmed by the brilliant mid-afternoon sun of late winter, was undergoing a level of scrutiny that could only be applied by a young boy looking for his name in the minor hockey summaries.

Jim's Jottings, Down(s) In This Corner and Sugar And Spice would have to wait, perhaps never to be read for many years, until the assist earned the previous Saturday (while anchoring the defence of Knight's Mens Wear) had been confirmed and cut out.

It had become a ritual. Enough was somehow saved from the weekly parental stipend of 25 cents for its purchase.

The paper, which could often be found at 4 p.m. each Wednesday still bundled on the counter at McEachern's Esso (at that time, it was the corner service station we incorrectly called Kelly's), was carefully crammed into the upper section of an old metal lunchpail once inhabited by a now broken thermos (much to my mother's chagrin).

The trek west along Given Rd. into "the country" (our house was actually just a little more than a mile away from the old Post Office, but the kids in town decreed it was a rural locale), was often a bone-chilling experience in February and March.

However, the anticipation of seeing one's name in the paper often had the effect of increasing the gait along that lonely stretch leading to Rattlesnake Point. That magic, a feeling shared by most, if not all, print journalists I have since encountered, went a long way towards removing the sting of the biting winds whistling down the Niagara

Escarpment. The warm rays of the sun beaming through the large dining room window, complemented by strategic placement of my feet near the hot air register, eliminated any cold not erased by the hockey summaries.

Outside of an account written about a Martin Street senior girls basketball game, my relationship with the paper was no different than that experienced by most of my peers (Steven Dills was the exception, of course, as he was the son of the owner of the paper).

I, in fact, never wanted to be a journalist. It had never entered my mind. My understanding of the process was just about as unsophisticated as any young boy's comprehension of newspaper journalism could be—particularly if he grew up in the pre-Lou Grant era of television.

That, of course, is not to say that the successful CBS series is an accurate indication of newspapering. However, it is an indication.

I wanted to be a lawyer. A quick glance through a pre-dusted copy of Milton District High School's 1974 Astra yearbook will confirm this. It's all there on page 69 and does not necessarily prove you can't believe everything you read—you just have to put it in proper context.

Ironically, the very medium that misinformation appeared in is probably responsible, more than anything else, for the change in profession.

That, as simplistic as it is, and Steven Dills. Steven, his destiny shaped by a family devoted to a level of community journalism seldom attained and retained in this province, was out there fighting everybody else's battles, camera in

hand, before he hit journalism school.

The broad, general knowledge he had of his community excited me and I wanted to be a part of that. It seemed more intriguing than Perry Mason, anyway.

Perry has since been cancelled and, at last writing, Steven is building yet another newspaper out in the wilds of Alberta.

My last conversation with my father, about a week before his death in 1974, was about my future. I mentioned my interest in journalism and knowing I would never be the chemical engineer he was, he appeared satisfied with the prospect. He offered that it might even be a lot of fun.

For the most part, so far, it has been. Money, challenges and the opportunity for personal growth and development aside, I've kept his advice in mind—it might be and should be a lot of fun.

I left newspapers and joined others when it ceased to be fun and one of the major reasons I returned to this newspaper is it was always a lot of fun to work here.

My career, albeit while I was a student, began here and I calculated, for a number of reasons, I'd be old and gray before I returned.

Keeping in mind what my father told me, I plan to be here for a while. And, I just might venture west towards Rattlesnake Point again some day, paper in hand.

I hope the paper continues to create the warmth for you it did for me during numerous winter days not so long ago.

The paper, its sections fanned across a large desk warmed by the fading mid-afternoon sun of late fall, was undergoing a level of scrutiny that could only be applied by a young editor who has been there...

Viewpoint

WITH STEVE ARNOLD

Timid steps



Milton councillors have taken their first filtering steps toward starting a sane program for handling garbage in the town.

At the general meeting Monday night councillors approved the first interim steps in a program a source separation.

Essentially, the source separation program will require homeowners to separate the newsprint from their regular garbage.

This will either be picked up separately or may be dropped off one of four special depots to be established around the town.

Newsprint collected in this fashion by the town can be sold to offset the costs of collecting it and hopefully provide a profit for other town services.

There are a great many good reasons for applauding this move by councillors, despite the fact that they have been forced into it by a recently passed regional bylaw.

For several years now, commentators have been decrying the growth of the throw away society that tended to produce more garbage than ever before and to make the least efficient use of the scarce resources available to it.

In recent years, especially since the criminal inflation of oil prices by greedy Arab nations, an inflation which struck at the heart of so many of the items this society is based on, resource conservation has become an item of deep concern for many.

That concern has spread not only to preserving the scarce resources which are consumed in the making of glass, plastics, tin and newsprint, but also to the land used in garbage dumps.

Admittedly, the program to be initiated by the town early next year goes only a fraction of the way toward meeting the total need for recycling of materials in this area, but it is a start and for that the councillors should be congratulated.

Throughout the debate over the proposed program for the town, an undercurrent could be sensed running through the conversation, the old government catch word of "viability."

In this case, the item concerning the councillors was the currently depressed market price for newsprint. Some municipalities have been finding that the price they can get for their newsprint isn't even high enough to cover the cost of collecting it.

Part of this problem, of course, is the

family limited number of uses that recycled newsprint can be put to and part of it is the strength of the lumbering lobby.

Firstly, recycled newsprint, according to The Champion's printing experts, generally isn't good enough to be used again in a newspaper, although it can be used for paper towels, bathroom tissue and other lower grade paper products.

The newspaper industry, however, remains the primary user of newsprint and until the technology is developed to recycle the paper back into regular use the demand for it will remain fairly low.

The problem of quality in recycled products will have to be solved to a certain degree before the popularity of any kind of recycling program really catches on.

Recycling of all sorts is a move that will become even more important in future years as governments continue to fail in their efforts to control inflation and force society into recycling its resources.

This will be aggravated even further by the ever present problems of supply. It is good that in Milton we have finally taken the first timid steps toward solving part of this problem, even if we are years behind the leaders the field.