

The Second Section

Established 1861

The Canadian Champion

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Published every Wednesday by Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing at 191 Main Street East, Milton, Ontario, L9T 4N9. Telephone 878-2341.

Price: Store copies 30¢ each; Home delivery 30¢. Subscriptions \$15 per year by carrier; \$15 per year by mail in Canada; \$75 in all other countries.

The Milton Champion, published every Wednesday, at 191 Main St., Milton, Ont. is one of the Metroland Publishing & Distributing group of suburban newspapers which includes: The Action Free Press, Ajax/Pictorial News Advertiser, The Aurora Banner, The Brampton Guardian, The Burlington Post, The Elmhurst Advertiser/Guardian, The Georgetown Independent, Markham Economist & Sun, The Mississauga News, The Newmarket Era, Oakville Banner, Oshawa/Whitby This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornton/Vaughan Liberal, The Scarborough Mirror, The Stouffville Tribune, The Willoughby Mirror. Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing is a division of Harlequin Enterprises Ltd.

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Showcase '86

Milton has come a long way in the past half decade. From a pleasant, little rural town, Milton now is on the verge of becoming one of the next great urban centres of Ontario.

We have people living here who are committed to the Milton-style or living as they are to putting the town on the map.

Nowhere can this be better seen than during Thursday-Saturday as the Milton Chamber of Commerce presents Showcase '86, the made-in-Milton Consumer Show.

For three days the people who work and live in Milton will be showing their wares and services. You can win prizes such as fabulous trips and there are thousands of giveaways at the show. There is our own pancake breakfast Saturday morning where we invite you to come out for a meal of pancakes, sausages and eggs for only \$1.

Take the kids up for a hot air balloon ride or look at a real Indy race car. See the products for home and business and find out about the many services being offered right here in town for you.

The Chamber of Commerce had hoped to make this year's edition of Showcase better than last year and they have succeeded by a wide margin. We urge you to read the special Showcase supplement inside today's Champion and that should be enough to get you and the family out this weekend to one of the best consumer shows in Ontario.

Our seniors

Among the lesser accomplishments of western society in the 20th Century is the way people are treated once they have completed their time in the work force. We're talking about senior citizens.

Although the situation is marginally improving, it's a shame that western society really does not treat seniors with the respect and honour a lifetime of work and sacrifice deserves.

Canadians are particularly poor in this respect. There are more senior citizens living in institutions, as a per capita percentage, than in any other western country.

Seniors in this time have not enjoyed the easy life of their children. They contended with a depression which rocked their souls and then watched many of their friends and family members die in the Second World War. Then when the times became financially better, they were too old to enjoy the times in the way they could have — and perhaps should have — in their younger days.

Milton can't do a whole lot to reverse this trend. But it can do a little. A week in June is devoted to seniors — Seniors Awareness Week. Maybe the Town of Milton and local businesses can band together in some way to show their appreciation. After all, it is through the fruits of their labour that we can enjoy the good times.

The town can hold special events. Businesses can offer week-long discounts. Schools can hold special classes informing youth of the accomplishments of seniors.

We owe it them. We must repay our debts.



NEWS ITEM: MILTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOSTS SHOWCASE '86, MAY 22-24 WITH CHICKEN BARBECUE ON FRIDAY.

Viewpoint

with RON BEZANT

Oh see can you read

If you've been duly exercising your sense of civic awareness of late, it should be as clear as a honker full of semoling salts that the prospect of industrial growth is breathing down the nape of the "road to nowhere" in the undeclared race for hottest-topic-in-town award.

How utterly dichotomous that Milton craves the fame and fortune promised by a large industrial base, while the town's biggest potential crack at a place on the map is jeopardized by the suggestion that the James Snow Parkway be rebuilt.

So far, yours truly thinks that he's the only local to recognize the apprehended merits of the missing span, although reports that others are taking up the "road to nowhere" chant in opposition to the parkway's restoration to its former, six-lane grandeur have me more than a little suspicious. Quite simply, what I have in mind is the transformation of the missing link into the most monumental tourist attraction to hit the continent since Disneyland opened in Anaheim. How's that?

Well, just for starters, American tourists would succumb in droves to their own curiosity as they scan the Ontario road map and discover two short segments of limited access freeway interrupted by Highway 401. At a production cost of something under a buck a map, that's cheap compared to the money that each tourist is bound to part with after he or she decides to visit the area and find out what's going on with the weird map.

Tourists, as we know, must spend money for food and accommodation, and they like to spend money for souvenirs to let their friends and enemies aback home know they could afford to go somewhere and, better still, where it was they went.

Viola! Enter the proliferous kiosk. Here's where the tourist can choose from an appealing array of T-shirts bearing slogans such as "My parents went nowhere and all I got was this stupid T-shirt." Or "Where the heck is the road to nowhere?" Wall pennants reading: "Nowhere" and label buttons with nothing at all on them — just plain, white, enamelled buttons.

A season or two of steadily blossoming acclaim, with its attendant influx of tourist dollars, and all sorts of new establishments will spring up, heralded by signs like "Last chance for gas before nowhere." "Last motel before nowhere. Wake refreshed." "Last chance for film. Be sure to get a picture of nothing."

Guided tours will begin on one side and end on the other, with a stopover for lunch in downtown Milton. This could be the world's only tour from nowhere to somewhere and back again to nowhere that doesn't end

up where it started. In fact, tourists would need to take the tour twice to get back to their cars.

With fame will come the really big names, like Evel Knievel seeking to add to his 433 bone fractures as he turns the parkway into a household name like the Snake River Canyon. Or Alain Jean Prieur of France looking to better his motorcycle long jumping record of 212 feet. The Great Wallendas might also decide to drop in.

Then there's the National Film Board which, as we recently learned, spent \$400,000 of the taxpayers' money trying to expunge the record of Billy Bishop, one of only a handful of Canadian heroes. The NFB should be able to make hay at a small fraction of the foregoing cost with a subject that doesn't exist in the first place.

In the longer term, I foresee a big production parody of "The Bridge on the River Kwai," in which the prisoners of war will be playing by the provincial Liberals, the camp guards by the Conservatives, and the rescue force by the NDP. The prisoners defy their overseers by building a four-lane bridge, instead of six, and the rescue force arrives too late to keep a demented prisoner from blowing up the bridge. Daily performances from May through September.

In the manner of his literary classics such as "Airport" and "Wheels," Arthur Hailey can be expected to produce another bestseller, probably entitled "Chasm." ABC-TV is certain to follow up with a sequel to "North and South," and Hollywood, ever on the alert for a story with box office potential, will churn out "The Yawning Chasm."

Once Milton spells big tourist money, we can of course anticipate that the fast-buck artists will converge on the town in droves. "Pst! Wanna buy a gap?" This, in turn, will lead to an increase in the population of the area's correctional institute. Because prisoners have been lobbying for more rights, rights like color television sets that is, local sales of color sets should mushroom and Milton — or Nowhere, as it'll be known by then — is sure to attract a big TV maker like Sony or Hitachi.

There's only one possible snag to the idea. As soon as Milton is famous as Nowhere, it will no longer be Nowhere, but rather it will become Somewhere, and everyone goes somewhere for their holidays, even if it's only as far as their backyard. There's nothing unique about that.

Then again, Sony and Hitachi will be somewhere and that could be the start of something big. On second thought, never mind.

Pages of the Past

One Year Ago

From the May 22, 1985 issue
 • The Halton Region Conservation Authority will not be able to use the current Milton town hall for its full authority meetings after the end of May.

Milton Town Clerk Roy Main, in a letter dated May 2, said the current town hall, which is used for full authority meetings, "will be available to your organization for the month of May. However subsequent meetings thereafter will require an alternative location."

One alternative location won't be the new council chambers of the new Milton Town Hall (old courthouse and jail) into which the town will move in June. Mr. Main, in his letter, notes a council resolution which states "the council chambers and the committee room in the new town hall shall be used exclusively by council-appointed committees, municipal quasi-judicial bodies and other government agencies or committees only."

An excellent overview of the Milton business community will be laid out for inspection this weekend when the first annual Showcase Milton '85 unfolds at Memorial Arena.

The consumer showcase featuring 77 exhibits, thousands of give-aways, a pancake breakfast, hot-air balloon rides, entertainment and \$10,000 worth of draw prizes will be held at the arena on Thompson Rd. Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Showcase is a project of Milton Chamber of Commerce, with financial assistance from the Town of Milton.

20 Years Ago

From the May 18, 1966 issue
 • Increased provincial grants toward hospital construction were welcomed this week by officials of Milton District Hospital Board, even though the announcements of extra grants seemed ambiguous.

"This will certainly help us a great deal," said hospital board chairman John W. Ostler. "It makes construction possible without so much effort on the part of the board."

The hospital is in the throes of an expansion program which would add 30 beds and bring the building up to an 83-bed capacity.

Milton Council has decided to build a pond waterfall spillway as its centennial project but is wavering on the design and the amount of money it will spend. Council is considering designs varying in price from \$4,000 to \$14,000.

50 Years Ago

From the May 21, 1916 issue
 • Alfred Scadding, who contracted trench feet from his Moose Mine incarceration, is to have his toes amputated. It is said he took the news with a grin and said he was lucky to be alive.

The Women's Association and the "Rosalind Goforth" Auxiliary of Ormagh Presbyterian Church held their joint meeting at the home of Mrs. Cecil Patterson on Thursday, May 14th, with an attendance of 32. Miss Johnson and Mrs. J. Dolby led the devotional periods and Mrs. Andrew led in prayer for the mission fields. After the usual business Mrs. Thos. Galbraith gave a very interesting talk on her trip to Florida last winter. At the close of the meeting the hostess served a dainty lunch and an enjoyable half hour was spent.

Found guilty of stealing chickens from the Claude Fox estate at Bronte on April 29th, last, Les Alton, Burlington, was on Tuesday last, sentenced by Judge Munro to six months in the Ontario Reformatory at Guelph.

120 Years Ago

From the May 24, 1866 issue
 • Two weeks ago we mentioned the case of the poisonings in Rockwood. We beg publish the finding of the jury of inquest which is as follows:

"That the deceased daughters of James Barrie, of Rockwood, came to their deaths from the effects of strychnine administered to them in the form of medicine on the morning of the 21st of April, 1866, verbally prescribed by Dr. William J. Pasmore and prepared by James McMillan.

"We unanimously agree in saying that the said William Pasmore has shown indifference and carelessness in verbally prescribing such medicine and in allowing an inexperienced young man to prepare the medicines. For such he is culpable in the highest degree as such mistake took place whilst he was present.

"And we also find that James McMillan has taken strychnine instead of santonine in preparation of the worm medicine which caused the death of the deceased children though gross neglect and that he is culpable of such neglect.

"In consequence of the many such mistakes which have taken place in the Province, we recommend that some steps be taken by the Legislature of the Province to hinder inexperienced persons from dispensing medicines and that such deadly poisonous drugs should be kept in a place by themselves."

Our Readers Write

Our Day in court

Dear Sir:
 I would like to express a few of my views on the comments made by Milton councillor Rick Day regarding agriculture in Halton in an article in The Champion (April 30).
 • The 1981 census statistics for Halton indicate 289 farmers had farm sales more than \$25,000. This would tell me that substantially more than five farmers in Halton earn the majority of their income from farming. It is interesting to note that 109 of these farms are located in the municipality which Mr. Day represents.
 • The value of farm sales in 1984 was \$77 million. A total of 950 farms reported farm sales giving an average of \$81,000 per farm.

This makes agriculture a significant contributor to the economy of our region.

• Marketing boards do not control farming in Ontario and Canada. The purpose of marketing boards includes:

- 1) Stabilize farm prices in keeping with the costs of production;
- 2) Assure the continuity of supply of a quality product; and
- 3) Stimulate a more efficient marketing system.

Marketing boards are beneficial to the consumer, particularly in supplying a continuous supply of high-quality produce Canadians have come to enjoy. Marketing boards have been — and will continue to be — an integral part of the farm commodities they represent.

4) The policy statement of Foodland Preservation has been proposed to ensure a healthy and productive agriculture industry with minimum disruption to agriculture from incompatible land uses.

This statement will project the farm community from urban pressures because municipalities will need to explore all options and justify the use of agricultural land for development if no other viable alternatives exist.

I would like to extend to Rick Day an invitation to join the Halton Agricultural Advisory Committee's farm tour this fall. This day is planned for regional and municipal mayors, councillors and planners.

The purpose of the farm tour is to make peo-

ple, who are making decisions about the direction of this municipality, more aware of agriculture and how their decisions can affect the farm community.

We need people on our municipal councils who know the facts and make decisions based on these facts — not those who voice opinions based on "I bet".

PHYLLIS McMASTER
 Agricultural Representative
 Halton Region

Generous gift

Dear Sir:
 An article in a recent edition of The Champion noted the donation to Milton District High School of an annual scholarship. The Town of Milton made this most generous gift.

As the principal of Milton District High School, I would like to express the appreciation of the school for such public interest in the success of its young people. Everyone realizes that the future of our society is dependent on the education and encouragement that we give our teenagers, and it is most gratifying to see our local councillors take an active interest in their welfare.

Another sign of healthy public interest in education is the opportunity given to students in your new Friday (Weekend) edition. Already, several students from MDHS have had letters published. I am sure they are encouraged to develop intelligent points of view on public issues by your policy of printing their material. I would like to thank you for the support.

PAULINE LAING
 Principal
 Milton District High School

