

# The Second Section

Established 1861

## The Canadian Champion

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## Why the wait

The provincial government has done a good job of hurrying up to wait for the completion of the bridge of James Snow Parkway over Highway 401.

It has been almost exactly four months since a tragic accident and fire destroyed the bridge. Now we discover it'll be at least another eight months — and probably a year — before the bridge is rebuilt. Add it up. That's 16 months to reconstruction.

What took so long? Design drawings, we're told. Fortunately, the bridge is not a high-priority item. Had it been the Highway 25 bridge over the 401, then we'd be looking at a second disaster had the wait been this long.

We'd bet that if this bridge was located in Toronto, it would be approaching its completion date soon.

The extended wait will force the contractor to do only preparation work before winter sets in. Then, the contractor will wait for the frost to leave the ground before continuing his work in the late spring.

Certainly there must be ways to speed the process. Opening the ramps last week was a positive, albeit late, sign. There is no excuse for the delay for the bridge, though.

## Water now

The Town of Milton, the business community, and some residents are hoping to hear we have a major industry coming to town to increase industrial assessment and sufficient housing for all.

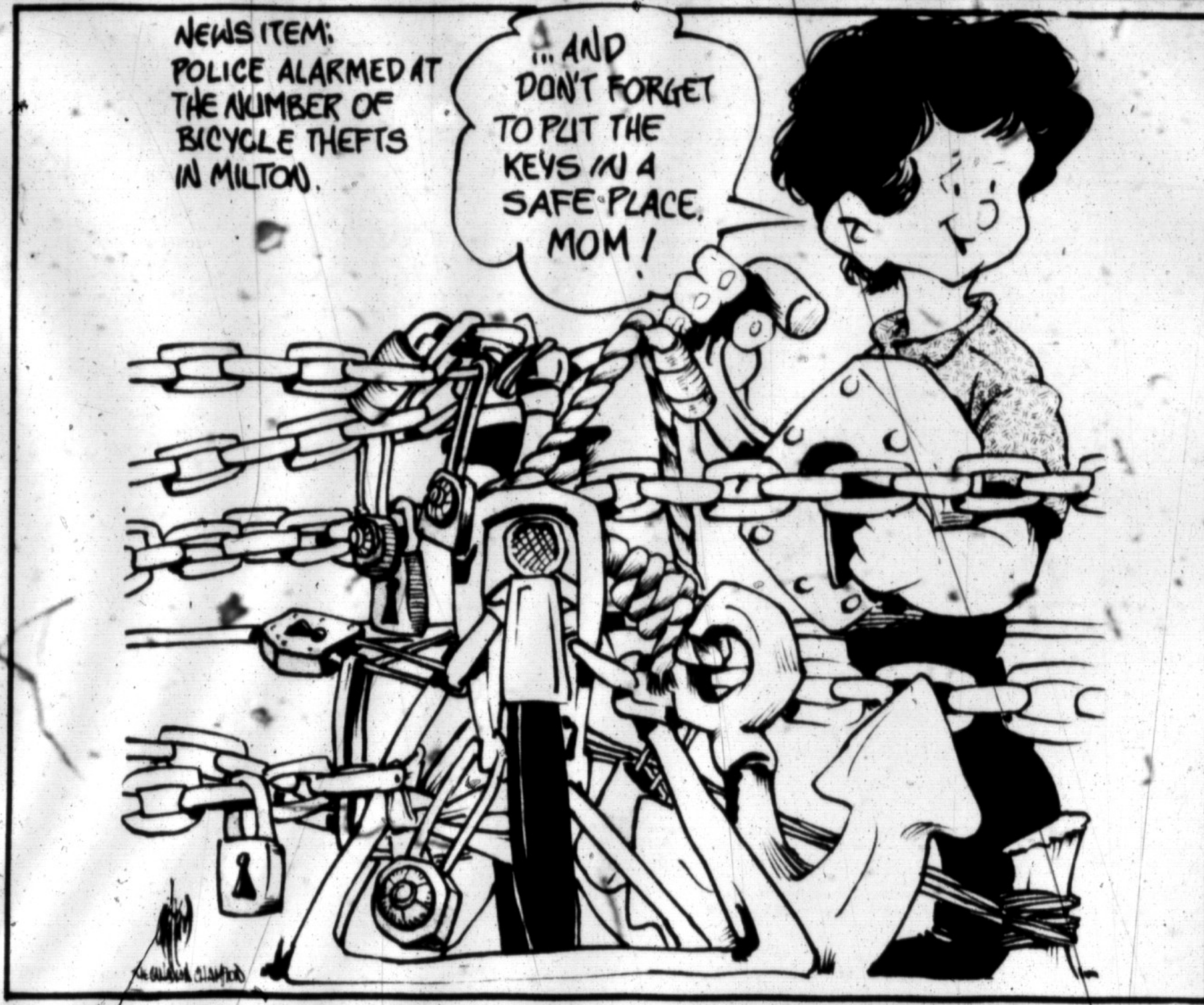
That is not the case. In a recent Royal LePage housing survey, homes in Cambridge (where a auto company is building a plant) have shot up by more than one-third in value in just six months. Anyone looking at the real estate ads in The Champion doesn't need to be told housing prices seem to be at what the market will bear and that is an increase similar to that in Cambridge.

But it is all pegged on the hope of GM/Suzuki or Nissan picking Milton as the sight for a major car plant. We had expected the word on the Suzuki deal two months ago but now everything seems to be fading.

A reason any carmaker is bound to look elsewhere is not just the lack of housing (which we have pleaded with council to increase in several recent editorials) but the need for water for these industries. The only answer to that is the long-discussed water pipe from Lake Ontario.

But instead of waiting for some firm to pick Milton and then build the pipe, why doesn't council act now and start the ball rolling in advance of any announcement.

Council should move now and get on the record as demanding the region and the province and the federal government start pulling together to pull in jobs for Canadians.



## Viewpoint

with RON BEZANT

### Doggie-Doo



It's almost all to our boundless good fortune that the town's population swelled some tenfold during a generation marked by a frenetic interest in the ecology.

One manifest consequence is the proliferation of greenery that the town's planners saw fit to preserve parkland. Alas, on closer inspection one discovers that said parkland has been transformed into poodle privies; in places, it's a veritable minefield out there.

One such murky matrix abides, nay, lurks behind Sam Sherratt School, where, during a recent girls' T-ball game, a youngster of six or seven slipped on a boobytrap and fell to the ground. She arose with the indescribably repugnant evidence smeared from knee to toe.

You've got to be pretty callous, not to recognize such an incident as just a little heart-rending. An innocent, trusting youngster in the care of well-meaning adult volunteer coaches and organizers, fallen prey to the hazards of extraneous excrement courtesy of an anonymous dog owner's dereliction.

Ever since an experience in Paris, several years ago, I've had some rather strong feelings about abandoned poodle-poo. Wife and I had successfully negotiated the sidewalks for most of a long weekend, thanks mainly to a fundamental facility at hopsotch, when my number came up and I slid three feet down a steep hill near Sacre Coeur in my deep-treaded sandals. (You simply don't do this sort of thing on a hot Parisian afternoon without developing the sensation that something has followed you back to your hotel room.)

My life passed quickly before my eyes as I hoped against hope that I wasn't about to expire of a distended sacroiliac, of all afflictions, in Napoleon's "Jewel of France," of all places.

I believe that, upon recovering my balance, I turned to my wife and uttered the imitable words of the distraught father, who, when his single, teenaged daughter sashayed into the parlour and announced her pregnancy, turned to his wife and said, "Isn't that lovely, dear? Isn't that just lovely?"

For a really bracing fling at participation, however, try flying a kite in Laurier Park. With a stiff breeze in the right direction, you can skid clean across the grass for a good 100 yards. Wonder what kinds of responses would be forthcoming if the guilty owners were canvassed?

"Well, it wasn't my dog's. You see, he always goes over there, closer to the fence."

"Not mine, either. She's only a Chihuahua. Let's face it; her stools are only a fraction of the size of those."

"Nope, me neither. I hardly ever bring my dog here,

Usually I take him to Sam Sherratt. Nobody flies kites there. Check the guy with the weimaraner. He's around here everyday."

"What are ya? Some kind of nut? There's dog dirt all over the park. There's about as much chance that it was my mutt's movements as there is of you finding a duck with lips. That's it. Show me a duck with lips and I'll take the blame. Maybe."

"Well, as soon as the rest stop bringing their dogs here to do their thing, I'll stop bringing mine, okay? You just let me know when the rest stop, eh?"

"How do you even know it was dogs? You can't prove it. I saw a raccoon right over there, once."

"I only bring my dog here to let him run. He never goes on the grass."

"Now, do I look like the kind of guy whose dog would do a thing like that?"

"Say, you're not the guy who tied the Ziplock bag full of poo to my doorknob, are you? The one with the note?"

Pray tell, what do we do with the unmindful dog owner? The nonchalant knucklehead holding the leash subtended by the unknowing canine assuming the physical stance of a bullfrog about to leap? The one who stands, scooperless, pretending to be oblivious, admiring the cloudless sky while his pet spreads its trophies about? The T-ball players' and kite-flyers' nemesis.

The problem puts me in mind of a candid vignette seen on Sesame Street a few years back. One at a time, various individuals strolled across camera, each dropping an item of litter along the way. Cut to a couple of hours later and behold the ground awash with litter. When the resultant conglomeration of trash was pointed out to the interlopers, each one said, "I didn't make that mess."

Maybe we should take our cue from Sesame Street and produce an analogous commercial. Run it at mealtimes and make it mandatory viewing fare for the perpetrators. Just so they can see themselves as others do.

Of a patrol helicopter equipped with an electronic megaphone, blaring our indignities like: "You there, in the yellow shirt. Did your mother teach you to do that?"

And then there's always my late father's methodical solution. He once scooped a load of dalmation dung off his front lawn, rang the owner's doorbell and announced, "Pardon me, but I believe this belongs to you." Ceremoniously tipping the shovel and tapping the blade on the doormat, he turned and ambled on home. I've always fondly recalled the incident as poo-etic justice.

## Pages of the Past

### One Year Ago

From the July 24, 1985 issue  
 • For two days last week, Miltonians turned out in large numbers to give a belated honour to one of its favourite sons by celebrating John Tonelli Days.

The two-day celebration attracted large gatherings to four major events as the town honoured the hero of the 1984 Canada Cup Invitational hockey series. "It was an unbelievable success overall," said organizer Bruce Hood. "Everybody seemed to go out of their way to tell me how much they enjoyed it." The weekend of activities began Friday morning with The Canadian Champion-Labatt's Charity golf tournament for Milton District Hospital.

Almost \$9,000 was raised for Milton District Hospital when The Canadian Champion and Labatt's hosted its fourth annual charity golf tournament Friday at Hidden Lake Golf Club in north Burlington. A record number of golfers — 176 — battled brief afternoon rain to participate. The previous three tournaments had raised \$19,000 for the expansion fund. However, this was the first tourney with the fund completed.

Completion of a new apartment building near Ontario St. at Main St. is expected for the middle of fall. It is the first apartment building constructed in town in almost a decade. With the town facing a vacancy rate of rental housing of virtually nil, the apartment building will supply some much-needed space to the town. The apartment is a co-operative effort between Tridel Corp. and the Domus Charitable Foundation. It will result in a 138-unit building in the area of Court and Ontario streets. The access road was built during the construction of the Canadian National underpass and is currently used by Milton Chrysler Dodge.

### 20 Years Ago

From the July 27, 1966 issue  
 • Spotty rainfall in the county during the past few days has cooled off thermometers, but it hasn't yet come close to making up for the damage caused by a near six-week drought. The farmers are suffering the most.

"Delayed seeded grain crops have already been damaged to a certain extent," said Halton's assistant agricultural representative Geoff Taylor, "but although most crops could be a lot better, this is nowhere near being a disaster area."

Six members of Campbellville Merchants senior baseball team were named as starters or reserves to the all-star team of Halton County Senior League. Catcher Al Wingrove, outfielder Bill Elliot, and veteran hurler Harry Hamilton were named to the team. Reserves from Merchants are first baseman Earl Cairns, third baseman Stu King and lefthanded pitcher Jack Roberts. Milton Red Sox placed popular outfielder Doug McCutcheon to the reserve.

### 50 Years Ago

From the July 23, 1936 issue  
 • A motorist, who has been convicted three times on reckless-driving charges and twice for being drunk when in charge of a car, shouldn't be allowed to drive anything more dangerous than a wheelbarrow.

As a result of the extremely hot weather Guy Munson, apiarist, at Burlington, lost 100 pounds of honey and two hives of bees. The heat caused the honey to melt and the bees were drowned in the honey.

Believed to be due to the carelessness of a passing motorist throwing away a lighted match or cigarette butt, 20 acres of hay owned by R.K. Grimshaw on the south side of Dundas Highway was burned last week.

Milton fire brigade answered two alarms this week, one at Mack's service station on Sunday evening, which was caused by defective wiring; the other at Graydon Stover's, Robert St. on Tuesday afternoon. Both were extinguished before the arrival of the firemen, who made record runs.

### 120 Years Ago

From the July 26, 1866 issue  
 • We have on exhibition one of the celebrated Remington Naval Revolvers and we can highly recommend it is just the thing for use against the Fenians. It will carry almost like a rifle and would make an excellent hunting weapon. It is cheap and is got up in A No. 1 style. See advertisement this page.

John Carradice announces to the farmers of Halton that he has bought a machine and is prepared to thresh anything in the county. His long experience of 14 years in the business is a sufficient guarantee of his skill.

We visited the Milton oil well on Monday last and all is going well. The depth is 315 feet and the indications are excellent. The sand pump brought up quantities of a dark greasy substance called by the contractor "soot" which he says is always found before oil. He is now in a new stratum called black slate. The water is still very salty. We wish that the shareholders would call and pay up at once as the money is urgently required.

## Our Readers Write

### No booze in stores

Dear Sir:  
 We should not make alcohol more readily available by putting it in convenience stores as well. Since alcohol is already our number-one drug problem.

Most accidents and highway deaths are alcohol related. Fifty-two per cent of hospital patients are admitted because of alcohol abuse. We live in an age where we are facing a national menace of alcoholism.

The idea of selling it in convenience stores, especially those stores open 24 hours, will no doubt contribute to all-night drinking parties, thus making drinking and driving worse.

Since convenience stores are already an easy target for robbery, this will make it even worse. The poison of spirits so accessible to our youth will cause more hostility and destruction in our society.

I can only sympathize with the police force if we allow this extra burden to be forced on them. It seems that common sense doesn't make sense anymore. It's inconceivable to me how our MP at Queen's Park could possibly consider enlarging the already existing problem.

Instead, Health and Welfare Canada should put warning labels on bottles of alcohol as they have done with cigarette packages. They should also take drinking commercials off television and radio. They should be equally concerned, if not more so, about drinking as they are about smoking.

BETTY VANDERENDE  
 Sixth Line, Hornby

### Good-bye, students

Dear Sir:  
 What a difficult letter to write. This is a letter to say good-bye, as my husband has been

transferred to Goderich, and it really is too far to commute. I wish we had known about this before the school year ended so I could have said good-bye properly, but this will have to do. (Please do not let Mrs. Dryden see this, as it's probably full of grammatical errors.)

I'll miss all of you, but think of all the memories that I'll have:

First of all, the lessons themselves and the wonderful discussions we had because of your interesting minds, the mysteries presented (who was organizing the spit-ball competitions?), your visual expressions and sound effects during dissections, and the comments written down during tests and lab exams.

Your lack of any sense of humour as shown when I shared my favourite jokes with you and the hustle and bustle of science fairs followed by the exhilaration when they were over and you had, again, done well.

Your confidence in me when you confided problems or fears to me, and coming to just

talk between and after classes. The dances, even those that were above the pain threshold on the decibel scale.

The pride felt as you went up on the stage during commencement.

There are so many more, none of them bad. (Is this what leaving does to the memory?)

I wish all of you well in your future at school, at home, in your personal life, in your chosen career. I'll miss all of you — the good students, the average and the challenges.

KRISTINA McCLORY  
 Milton District High School

### Applauds coverage

Dear Sir:  
 On behalf of the Milton Branch of St. John Ambulance, and Milton Division 488, I wish to express our thanks to The Champion and especially to Jim Robinson, for the excellent coverage on the occasion of our 20th Anniversary Awards Night.

Your continued support is very much appreciated.

HELEN MILLER  
 Secretary-Treasurer, St. John Ambulance

### Auxiliary says thanks

Dear Sir:  
 On behalf of the Milton District Hospital Auxiliary, I would like to extend our thanks to The Champion for the excellent coverage given our recent Strawberry Fair both prior to the event and the pictorial coverage following.

Special thanks to Jane Muller who, through her enthusiastic approach in her stories, sparked the interest of Miltonians to turn out to enjoy the day and make it another successful one for us.

JOYCE FOWLER  
 Strawberry Fair Convener  
 Milton District Hospital

