

Editorial Page

Established 1861

The Canadian Champion

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NEWS ITEM:
MANY MILTON RESIDENTS WERE UNPREPARED FOR SUDDEN SNOWFALL

Viewpoint

with JANE MULLER

Health scare



We know it's fatal and we know how it spreads — but still it does.

The number of victims will continue to grow, as long as people are unprotected. Those who have one sexual partner are not likely to be exposed to the disease unless they share a needle with an AIDS person. (As the victims of this disease prefer to be called.)

Sexually transmitted diseases are just that. Have sexual intercourse with the wrong person and you've got an incurable disease.

Promiscuous sex is largely the culprit and it is believed the use of condoms will keep those who indulge, disease-free. One suggestion is to install condom dispensers in high school washrooms. The existence of these dispensers won't necessarily promote their use nor will having condoms just a quarter away increase the sexual activity of students.

Although homosexual males represent 82 per cent of AIDS persons, everyone, regardless of his or her sexual orientation, has something to fear in the disease. Its victims are sentenced to death.

The toilet-seat transmission theory is probably still believed by some. Others continue to believe that as long as one is not gay, he's safe. Some have called for the labelling of AIDS persons. They say the public has the right to know their identity. No wonder people dying of the disease compare themselves with lepers — untouchable — segregated.

Boards of education are under pressure to identify students and teachers who have the disease. Homosexual teachers have previously come under fire and AIDS three gasoline on the flame. Knowing the identity of AIDS victims isn't going to stop the fatal illness from taking a swath through the population. Knowing that a lot of people don't know how to stop its spread, has prompted public awareness campaigns to be launched as quickly as lifeboats from a sinking ship.

Children as young as eight years of age are learning the meaning of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

They can tell you how to avoid contracting AIDS. A young student of an American school where AIDS education is part of the curriculum in Grade 4, was interviewed on television recently. She spoke frankly when expressing the common sense view of the knowledge she possessed. It was more than many adults could explain.

How would such a program be welcomed by the Halton Board of Education? Even if it were introduced, high school students are likely to miss the message, as many don't enrol in health classes. Sexually transmitted diseases and birth control are subjects only for those who select the right options. We don't appear to be willing to let young people know how to protect themselves from becoming pregnant, will we therefore be willing to tell them about a disease whose victims are mostly gay men?

The thought of eight year olds being advised about avoiding AIDS should bother us. Are kids that young engaging in sexual intercourse? One can only believe they are when they are being warned about a sexually transmitted disease; it would be nice to think this knowledge is intended for them to take away until they mature.

No doubt such youngsters have heard about the disease called AIDS. Children are as likely as adults to misinterpret information and make incorrect assumptions. There is probably no harm in enlightening children.

Perhaps educating kids about AIDS can only be described as distasteful. It has obviously been deemed necessary, at least in some areas of the United States. Such steps emphasize the magnitude of the threat of AIDS but as they are aimed at prevention, have positive grounds and hopefully will have positive results.

The attempts to heighten awareness of AIDS indicate that it poses a serious threat. We shouldn't be offended when ads promoting protection make their debut on television. We should pray these attempts to stop the spread of AIDS are successful.

Leave the pond alone

Dear Editor:

Humphrey and I have just returned from our morning stroll around the mill pond. Our particular purpose this morning was to consider the Lions Club's proposed improvements to our favourite walking spot.

Humphrey and I are different in many obvious ways. I wear a pair of well-worn jogging shoes on our walks, while he prefers to hike in his bare feet. I spend the time in awe of the sights, sounds and smells of my surroundings, while Humphrey presses nose to leaf and tree determining the important events of the previous few hours.

I carry the plastic bag and he, in the line of duty, fills it. Humphrey is a two-year old Basset Hound, and I am his somewhat older day-time walking companion.

Humphrey and I do have one thing in common though, we both love the beauty, the solitude and the naturalness of Milton's mill pond.

Why must our society be so concerned with "selling" products to the multitudes? The mill pond is there, it's beautiful and those of us who need places like it to help keep our lives in some sort of perspective are there too. Working people taking a lunch-time break, nature lovers, people devoted to healthful living, photographers or people taking a quiet moment for themselves.

We don't need boardwalks or concession stands or parking lots or water jets to make us aware of nature and our place in it. We need gnarled old tree roots and leaves to kick and grass and quiet, open water.

It's sad to see progress rearing its ugly head in Milton again. Mary Street mourns her dying

trees, Victoria Street is bare after the recent butchering of her trees and Mill Street awaits, in fear, her turn to be improved.

Surely Miltonians can resist the urge to tamper, in the name of progress, with one of Milton's loveliest spots, the Mill Pond.

to improve the living situations of seniors where improvement is needed, thus the attention of the press will have been helpful.

I am writing to commend the staff of Halton Centennial Manor for the kindness and gentle care they have shown every day to two members of my family who have been their guests for some time.

Yesterday, one of them passed away peacefully after a long struggle with Alzheimer's Disease, a difficult condition to cope with. The care she received was wonderful and the family shall always be grateful to the many staff members who showed her such great compassion and understanding.

Although the structure may be outdated, administrator Margaret Weightman and her staff have created a warm and cheerful atmosphere with the addition of pretty wallpaper and other softening home touches.

For anyone who hasn't had an occasion to visit the Manor lately, I would suggest you drop in to see an old friend and appreciate the remarkable changes.

ANNE D. PTOLEMY
Milton

Appreciate coverage

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the officers and cadets of 2990 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps, I would like to thank you and your staff for the superb coverage of our recruitment drive at Milton Mall.

The articles and pictures you published are most appreciated, and we have had four new recruits sign up since seeing your articles in print.

Thank you for your continued support of our Corps.

MARILYN SHARPE, C.I.
2990 R.C. Army C.C.

Give to fund

We talk about the commercialism of Christmas and even dread the annual event when we remember the expense of the celebration.

The true meaning can get lost in the rush. Giving is an important part of Christmas and we tend to forget it's the thought behind the gift and not its price which counts. While some families are looking for ways to cut their spending, others know they can't afford to celebrate Christmas in the traditional way.

Last year 86 Milton families were in that position. They were able to enjoy a Christmas dinner and open gifts but it took some giving on the part of their neighbours. More than \$10,000 was collected last year for the Salvation Army through The Champion Christmas Bureau Fund. In the case of this annual fund raiser — money can buy happiness.

The Army predicts it will need another \$10,000 this year to provide for Milton's less fortunate. We predict Miltonians will demonstrate the spirit of giving — which makes this time of year so special — and donate to the fund as they have in the past.

Our Readers Write

Pud



Pages of the Past

One Year Ago

From the Nov. 27, 1985 issue
• Halton Regional Police are looking for the remains of Marianne Schuett, a 10-year-old Kilbride girl who disappeared in 1967. A building has been moved to allow for the excavation of a site at an undisclosed location south of Milton.

"Some information has come to our attention," said Halton Police detective squad Inspector Bernard Ward, "that has made it a requirement for us to perform a dig." He added that chances of turning up anything substantial are "one in a million."

Witnesses who saw the missing girl for the last time claimed she was getting into a small, foreign car on April 27, 1967. Police deduced at the time that the car was a Renault. The disappearance triggered one of the largest search operations ever in Ontario. The search party was made up of 18,000 volunteers who foraged through 600 square miles of territory in the Milton, Burlington, and surrounding area.

The Grey Cup football game was no competition for Milton's Santa Claus parade Sunday, judging by the thousands who witnessed the event. Santa Claus himself took up the rear, riding in his sleigh and waving to his many fans. He followed more than 60 floats and walking groups and 11 band and majorette entries along the parade route. Judges determined Becker's entered the best theme float with their huge train. Milton Choristers' float, which depicted the three wise men, was runner-up in that category.

20 Years Ago

From the Nov. 23, 1966 issue
• A detailed study of Milton and Milton Heights will be made, probably in the new year, to determine if door-to-door postal delivery can be introduced. It might be possible to extend the door-to-door delivery of mail to Milton and area following the survey.

Two Milton children made their initial appearance as television performers Sunday on Channel 11's 'Tiny Talent Time.' George Cescon, 9, and sister Mellize, 6, did a tap-dancing routine duet on the program.

Milton has apparently accepted Sunday movies not only as a legality but also as a popular means of entertainment. The managers of the Roxy Theatre say they were well pleased with the crowd Sunday, the first official Lord's Day showing of movies.

Six 4-H Club members from Halton, including one from Milton, competed in the annual Queen's Guineas Competition at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair Friday. Doug Gardhouse, of Milton, and Bill and Bob Lasby, of Rockwood, competed in the Shorthorn section and advanced to the final eight, although their final placing wasn't known.

50 Years Ago

From the Nov. 26, 1936 issue
• The Maher Shoe Stores will open a fine new store in the location formerly occupied by the Selrite Store, opposite the Post Office, this Saturday Nov. 28. Mr. Edward (Teddy) Graham, who was in the shoe business in Milton a few years ago, has been appointed manager.

Mrs. Batten, of Milton, has been engaged by the Public School Board to take charge of Miss Harrison's room for the next few weeks.

The Christmas Cheer Committee of the I.O.D.E. are calling a public meeting at the town hall on Monday evening, Nov. 30 at 8 p.m., to which representatives from local organizations, merchants, businessmen and any individual interested in distributing Christmas cheer throughout the town are invited.

The deer hunters have returned from the north country and in most cases brought back their allowance of deer.

120 Years Ago

From the Nov. 29, 1866 issue
• Mr. Wm. Barron, of this town, told us the other day that he had chewed tobacco for 40 years, but finding it did him great injury, decided to give it up. In doing so, he took to chewing hoohound as a substitute. Every since he has carried a pouch in his pocket containing a supply of his favourite herb. When he feels like taking a chew, he finds it answers the purpose going him good instead of injury. Tobacco chews try it!

The Pacific Railway is being pushed on rapidly with 12,000 Chinamen at work on it and 10,000 to follow.

John Morrissey, the pugilist, has beaten Horace Greeley, the philosopher, by an immense majority in the contest for Congress. Greeley deserved no better fate for prostituting himself to the Fenians. He sold himself but did not get the Fenian vote.

There was an informal gathering of the council Monday evening last. They had been summoned by the Mayor who informed them that Mr. Martin, the contractor, for the new town hall wished them to occupy the council chamber as it was now ready for their reception. The council, however, was of opinion that it would not be safe to enter until the contract was completed. The council meets on Monday next.