



The Canadian Champion

Established 1861



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Fanning the flames; Looking back a recurring problem

The news that Harold Penson will not become Milton's next fire chief begs several questions.

Mr. Penson has 12 years experience with the force and has been promoted to captain, and then acting fire chief. Now his future with the department appears uncertain.

He was one of only two candidates on the short list vying for the job. And yet he wasn't chosen. No one was. Why?

-Why, after a competition which lasted months, has the position not been filled? Why, when the list was narrowed down to two applicants, was not one chosen? Why go through the charade?

And what is wrong with Mr. Penson?

Mr. Main says he is looking for someone with well-developed administration skills.

By inference, it means that Mr. Penson's skills in that area appear lacking.

But what does that mean? And if Mr. Penson lacks administrative skills, why has he been acting chief for several months?

It is yet another unfortunate development in what has become an area of acute embarrassment for Milton's municipal government.

In late 1988 we had the resignation of Chief Blake Patrick, or the golden handshake (after two years), of whatever it was. Council was unhappy with Mr. Patrick. Mr. Patrick was unhappy with his lot.

A less than amicable parting of the ways was arranged, behind the scenes. Unfortunately, from the perspective of councillors and town administrator Roy Main, the controversy erupted onto the front pages of the Champion.

When Mr. Penson was chosen acting chief, many assumed it was a mere formality. Council would go through the motions, accept applications and then appoint Mr. Penson.

He is known to be popular among the rank and file. They undoubtedly expected he would be picked.

Mr. Main, on the other hand, is not popular with firefighters. They view him as having interfered with the department when the mayor's son, Dave Krantz, was hired as a full-time firefighter. At that time Mr. Main was reported to have overruled then-chief Patrick, who had picked someone else.

What does the town face now within its small-but controversial fire department?

□ The prospect of the most senior full-time member of the force, Mr. Penson, looking for another job. At present he's on vacation, quietly contemplating this assuredly unexpected turn of events.

□ Further polarization between department members and Milton's senior staff member, Mr. Main.

□ A continuation of the paralysis that has gripped town policy makers on this issue for months, if not years.

It's not much to show for seven months worth of recruitment work.



Six-time winner of the Ontario Open Golf Championship Nick Weslock shot a 9 under par 54 at Tatalgar Golf and Country Club in June, 1965. Here Mr. Weslock is being interviewed by Brian McFarlane (left) following his Ontario Open win.

Pages of the Past

One Year Ago

From the August 17, 1988 issue

□ Two people died in a car accident at the intersection of Tremaine Rd. and Steeles Ave. A 1986 Monte Carlo travelling north on Tremaine Rd. was struck by a six-axle dump vehicle travelling east. The vehicle carried 112,000 lbs. of gravel.

□ The executive of the Nassagaweya Slo-Pitch League battled Guelph radio station CHAM Saturday in a celebrity game. The day featured a dance at the Nassagaweya Community Centre attended by about 100 people. The game and the dance raised about \$1,000 for the community centre.

□ A good portion of the downtown and some residents were without electrical power for 40 minutes during a strong rain storm. Lightning struck a main feeder in the Ontario St. and Main St. area, damaging some resistors. A pole fire started but the heavy rains accompanying the storm extinguished it.

20 Years Ago

From the August 20, 1969 issue

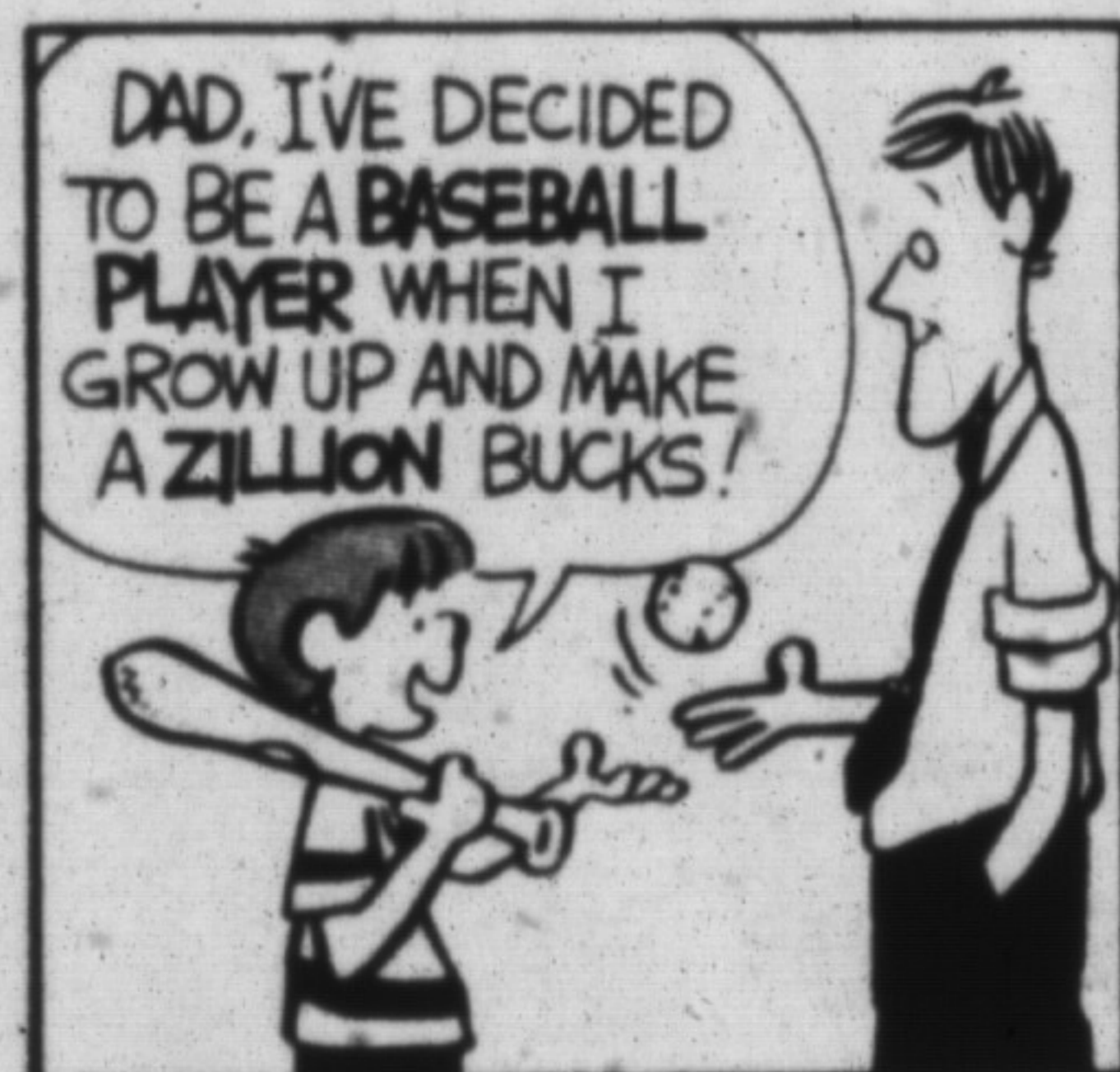
□ One person was injured and a sewage pumping station on Robert Street was demolished after an explosion which caused more than \$100,000 damage. George Prior, a works employee, suffered second-degree burns to his arms and legs and 30 per cent of his body. The explosion blew out brick walls and lifted the roof off the small building.

□ A blinding rain storm flooded ditches, blew fuses and knocked out transformers. The Milton area received an estimated four to five inches of rain which flooded the Fulton Street treatment plant and the municipal works building. Water cascaded over the entrance road to Johnson Bros. Trucking, off Hwy. 25 and Main Street east of Martin Street.

□ Fifty head of Holstein cattle were rescued when the barn on the farm of Charles Baynton, north of Campbellville, was destroyed by fire during the electrical storm. Firefighters were able to save an adjoining pig pen and auxiliary building in the fire, which destroyed 5,000 bales of hay and 1,000 bushels of wheat.

Pud

by Steve Nease



50 Years Ago

From the August 17, 1939 issue

□ The dedication of flags, also the presentation of Charter to the first Campbellville Boy Scouts, was held on the Masonic lawn in the town. The speaker was Mr. A. E. Paddon, field secretary of provincial headquarters, Scouts of Halton County.

□ Members of Milton Fire Brigade, accompanied by visiting brigades, paraded to Knox Presbyterian Church for the 11 o'clock Sunday service.

□ R. W. Philip, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Philip and Mrs. Charles Bundy of Milton motored to the airport at Milton, where they saw the airliner leave for Vancouver, B.C.

□ Mr. and Mrs. James Beeho and Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Beeho and family of Milton, spent Monday at Mr. George Duller's.