

The Canadian Champion

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Krantz, and Best are squaring off

Acrimony bubbled and simmered softly through Monday night's municipal council meeting as Mayor Gord Krantz and councillor Colin Best feuded. It isn't the first time they have crossed swords and we doubt it will be the last.

The subject of the controversy was supposedly construction of a new interchange at Highway 401 and Town Line in Milton Heights. But the real subject was who will control council and town initiatives, and how the body politic in Milton will operate.

Mr. Best tendered a report demanding broad and sweeping action on the interchange idea, which has been a back burner project for several years among council members. It is usually touted as a way of diverting Milton's heavy quarry truck traffic onto the provincial highway almost as soon as the trucks trundle out of the escarpment's open pit mines.

In that manner, councillors have reasoned, both municipal and regional roads will not take the pounding from such vehicles that is the current norm.

But it's more than questionable whether any savings would be realized, at least at this point. If Tremaine Road became a major north-south access, for example, would not that pose a whole new set of traffic problems?

And while the interchange, all politicians seem to agree, will be cost-effective at some point, many will argue that the timing is wrong for it. Milton's proposed residential subdivisions west of Bronte Street should at least first come onstream, they believe.

Mr. Best knows this too. But in presenting his report we see him as tackling a personal objective. He is beginning a concerted attempt to become a major influence in council's direction, whether Mayor Gord Krantz likes it or not. And Mr. Krantz does not like it.

That was obvious in the cooly combatative posture Mr. Krantz adopted in the face of Mr. Best's inititative. Again and again he took issue with the young councillor, going as far as to indicate Mr. Best "might" be "misleading" both council and taxpayers.

on his own personal fiefdom, the complex and often subtle politics of interaction with provincial elected officials and civil servants.

He insisted that onging negotiations, ones in which he represented the town's interests, have completely covered the ground Mr. Best probed.

That the mayor would be put in such a position is a demonstration of to what degree Mr. Best is willing to play hardball. Implicit in Mr. Best's actions is an undertone; that Mr. Krantz is failing to provide leadership. Mr. Best is willing to fill that perceived void.

Whether he is capable of doing so is another thing. But the cocky young councillor is subtly playing out the hand.

We think Mr. Best is interested in Mr. Krantz's job. At present he denies it. But time will tell. The councillor won far and away the most votes in the last election.

Mr. Best is certainly not the most respected council member among his peers. But he enjoys substantial respect in the community. The evidence has been in the ballot boxes. He will, we suspect, try to make that evidence tell again when he challenges for the mayor's chain of office.

Looking back



Judges at the 1956 Milton Fall Fair were kept busy with the larger than usual entry in sheep classes. Ram amb class from right, whibitors were; Emerson Lowden, Gerald Comfort, Fred Hampton, Russell Bell, whose sheep place in that order. The judge, standing at rear, was Anson Balsam. The 136th Milton Fair gets underway Friday with official opening ceremonies beginning at 7 p.m. The three-day event will feature livestock competitions and much more.

Mr. Krantz stubbornly protected what his saw as an attack Pages of the Past

One Year Ago

From the September 21, 1988 issue

☐ Sunday's Terry Fox Run was the biggest and best so far in Milton. About 270 walkers, runners and cyclists came out to raise money for cancer research. A total of \$9,235 was raised compared to \$7,300 in the 1987 run.

A local Jiu-Jitsu teacher received \$1,000 from Milton council to help send his defending world champion team to Australia. Council turned down the \$2,500 donation requested by Bob Kranstz, head instructor at the Milton School of Jiu-Jitsu which was founded 15 years ago. The team won the world championship in 1984 and again in

Town councillors decided to supply funds to combat devastation caused by Hurricane Gilbert in Jamaica. Council planned to donate \$500 in municipal funds to assist the island in its effort to recover from the most powerful hurricane on record.

20 Years Ago

From the September 24, 1968 issue Milton council rejected an appeal to permit billiard

rooms to be open Sundays from 1:30 to 9:30 p.m. The move was defeated on a 6-3 recorded vote following a heated and emotional debate. Councillor Gord Krantz observed the present by-law governing the operation of pool rooms was approved in 1914. 'It's time we revised our thinking," he suggested. Mayor B. Best said the billiard room by-law definitely needed review but he was opposed to the open Sunday résolution until he could be assured of a properly supervised operation.

The mystery letter writer who recently criticized the Coulter family for accepting the gift of money given to them by the people of Nassagaweya after they were burned out of their store, was verbally chastised by members of Nassagaweya council at a meeting. Reeve Anne MacArthur and council further agreed to send a letter of apology to the Coulter family for the comments made in the letter published by two area daily newspapers. Mrs. MacArthur went on to say the Coulter family didn't ask for the contribution given to them.

Nassagaweya Council Monday night gave a firm answer of no to the two applicants seeking re-zoning in order to allow them to build sites for mobile homes or trailer camps.

50 Years Ago

From the September 21, 1939 issue

Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church celebrated the 103rd anniversary of its founding. The church was thronged with people whose forefathers helped erect the kirk over a century ago. The special preacher at both services was Rev. John Riddell of Milton. The interior of the church was decorated for the occasion and special music was supplied by the choir of Knox Presbyterian Church.

Seven Trafalgar township men were fined one dollar and costs of three dollars each when they appeared before Magistrate Woodliffe last week charged with gambling on the Lord's day at Bronte. The same charge against six others was withdrawn."

A large sum of money and 50 articles of clothing were donated by Milton residents at a special meeting of the local chapter of the I.O.D.E. held at town hall. The donations were for school children evacuated from the big cities in Britain.



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