



The Canadian Champion

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Pipe dreams and excuses

We are ardent supporters of democracy — the least effective form of government over the short term and the only viable one in the long run, as proven by countless revolutions.

However, there are times when we must question the direction of some of the functionaries in a democratic government, be they elected officials or bureaucrats. This is one of those times.

At municipal council Monday night Halton regional bureaucrats provided Milton councillors with a flimsy list of excuses as to why a regionally-administered watermain on Derry Road keeps breaking.

Among their entertaining rationales for this phenomenon were: 1) Somebody keeps opening the fire hydrants; 2) People who pay for the water are using too much at once (on purpose, no doubt); 3) Somebody keeps tinkering with "abandoned control valves" which, it appears, influence water supplies even though they are "abandoned."

A good investigator must attempt to draw a sketch of the culprit or culprits, a composite providing clues to the mystery. Who? Why?

Are they vandals? Are they disaffected ratepayers or businessmen? Those are the most likely candidates. Vandals would actually perform these senseless exercises and most businessmen in Milton are disaffected with government, or at least claim to be around their peers.

Do we need picture Brian Johnson, the plant manager at Canadian Meter, telling all his employees to flush at once so as to blow up the pipeline? No, the chilling thought is too real.

Do we need contemplate black-clad teenagers intent on malice skulking through cornfields to open fire hydrants and play with the hard-to-find abandoned control valves? No, it's too easy. These kids know where those valves are.

Or, perhaps, subdivision homeowners hoping for the greenest lawns in Halton tap into hydrants by night to sprinkle their turf in summer or cobble up a quick skating rink in winter? We wonder. We worry.

The above is, of course, offered in an attempt at satire. At least, the speculation concerning the culprits is. The rationale from the region is accurate, unfortunately. And while that has its amusing aspects, it is also disturbing.

It's most disturbing because Milton District Hospital is serviced by the balky pipeline. That service was interrupted over the summer due to water contamination. The region, in what at least one councillor (Brian Penman) lampooned as a suspect excuse, attributed the contamination to dead birds lodged in a grating.

We are acquainted with many in Milton and have spent considerable time in the community. We have yet to see anyone suspicious looking playing with fire hydrants or experimenting with pipeline control valves. Nor have we encountered that peculiar form of urban terrorism in which bad guys rupture pipes by all showering at once.

However, we are aware of the fact that Milton public works director John Matthews knows there is "lots of corrosion," in watermains servicing the relatively new Dorset Park subdivision. In fact, on one street in the subdivision (Elliot Crescent) all the pipes will be replaced, he said.

We are also aware that several councillors feel heavy vehicle traffic is having an adverse effect on aged trunk pipelines, which in turn could possibly be affecting the newer watermains inside subdivisions.

But that just doesn't make as much sense as the rationales advanced by the region, does it?

Looking back



Miss Domignon of Canada, Jean Kmita holds an 1899 copy of The Champion which was displayed at the newspaper's booth which was part of the 1963 Chamber of Commerce Trade Fair. The fifth annual event was held in October of that year. Plans have begun for the local Chamber's 1990 trade show to be held next May.

Pages of the Past

One Year Ago

From the October 5, 1988 issue

Halton-Peel Progressive Conservative candidate Garth Turner received what amounted to a benediction from Brian Mulroney. The Prime Minister kicked off the national election in Georgetown: Brian Mulroney choose to highlight what he saw as the potential for free trade's success. Mr. Mulroney said free trade meant jobs "for you and your kids."

Ward 2 Councillor Rose Harrison announced she would not run in the November election. Milton Mayor Gord Krantz, who had been informed of the situation earlier, immediately asked her to reconsider her decision and said "I sincerely think she should think about it. She definitely makes a contribution."

A woman was put in hospital after she was injured in a car accident on Fourth line north of No. 15 Sideroad. The woman was treated for major injuries and was listed in stable condition. The man driving the vehicle which hit the woman, was in high-speed police pursuit at the time. The man driving the vehicle faced two counts of criminal

negligence causing bodily harm and driving while suspended.

20 Years Ago

From the October 8, 1969 issue

One Milton youth was killed and two more people were injured, one seriously, in an accident on Highway 403 opposite Kelso Park in the evening.

Laszlo Juhasz was a proud and determined man. He and his family lost their home to a fire one week and started to rebuild after a week.

When Mrs. Shepherd's German shepherd disappeared, it took another shepherd to find it. Mrs. Shepherd was horrified to discover the no-draft window on the wagon had been forced open, and her dog Queenie missing. The dog was found the following day by another shepherd trained as a tracking dog. Queenie was found in less than an hour tied to a tree with a man's belt.

50 Years Ago

From the October 5, 1939 issue

Crown attorney A. G. Davis of Brampton announced a charge of manslaughter has been laid against Wm. Yarrahton, superintendent of the Peel-Halton House of Refuge, following the death of an inmate. The commission in charge of the home met and ordered the suspension of Mr. Yarrahton. An official investigation has been ordered into the death of James Cation, aged inmate of the home, who died September 10.

A book written by Adolf Hitler entitled *Mien Kampf* was listed in a line-up of new books available at the Milton Public Library. Other books included in the list were *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* by Walt Disney and *Madam Currie* by Currie.

An automobile driven by a Milton man crashed into a car owned by a Hamilton man on Brant Street in Burlington. Both machines were slightly damaged. The Hamilton car, parked at the side of the road, was hit when the Milton driver swerved too sharply to avoid crashing into another car which pulled out in front of him.

Pud

by Steve Nease

