



# The Canadian Champion

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## Lay down the law

It used to be that the appearance of Santa Claus in shopping malls marked the start of the Christmas season. Now the most profitable season for retailers is heralded by the defiance of the Retail Business Holidays Act.

Those who lobby for the right to operate their businesses seven days a week couldn't choose a better time to measure the long arm of the law. Some merchants have reasoned that the profits from Sunday sales offset the cost of fines.

Although fines can run up to \$50,000, the average penalty is between \$500 and \$5,000 in Halton. Despite the most recent challenge to the Retail Business Holidays Act, launched by four major food store chains, operating on Sundays and not closing another day of the week is against the law.

It is little wonder that the laws as they exist today are being challenged. A&P in Milton had its aisles open wide on Sunday and no charges were laid by police. Local law enforcers say next week things will be different.

If these law breakers needn't fear prosecution, then what's to stop them from defying the law again and again. Nominal fines won't deter those who would challenge the Act.

The province has put the issue of Sunday openings squarely in the lap of Halton Region. Peter Pomeroy, chairman of Halton Region says "fine them". Of the 80 grocery stores that remained open Sunday across the province, charges were laid against 62. All 80 are expected to be open again this Sunday.

Will each Christmas gift-buying season present a new battle ground for proponents and opponents of Sunday shopping? Unless the lines of defense are enforced, neither side will conquer.

With the Retail Business Holidays Act in place, we expect the courts to be raising a lot more money through the collection of fines than those who defy the law will at their tills.

## Pay for your parade

Santa Claus won't be banished from Milton if his parade on Sunday runs over budget.

The threat of canceling our annual Santa Claus Parade has been made however and with some justification. Donations haven't exactly been pouring in this year, in fact only half the usual amount of funds have trickled in to the organizing committee.

It's hard to convince the parade-watching public that the event is in fact supported solely through donations. The town's treasury adds not a single penny. Volunteers run the annual crowd-pleaser and financial support must come from the community.

It's also hard to convince people that the parade carries a \$13,000 price tag. The marching bands and majorette groups don't come cheap. But consider that at least 5,000 residents will line Main Street on Sunday afternoon to watch the parade. One looney from each member of the crowd and the bills can be paid.

Last minute contributions are being counted on and to accommodate generous members of the crowd, Rotarians will travel the parade route with donation buckets. Balloons will also be sold along the way by clowns in an effort to boost parade coffers.

The people who work nearly a full year to plan this event are counting on us to show our appreciation through our pocketbooks. Milton's Santa Claus Parade is a tradition worth continuing.

## Looking back



These three little pigs had a scary encounter with the big bad wolf at Milton's annual Santa Claus Parade on Dec. 5, 1959. From left to right, Dawn Moreau, Dieter Claer, Don Joyce and Shirley Watson participated while 7,000 people came to see it. Now 30 years later, Milton is getting set for yet another parade on Sunday starting at 2 p.m.

## Pages of the Past

### One Year Ago

From the November 16, 1988 issue

□ A patron at Papa Nick's Hotel was threatened with what he believed to be an authentic gun. The Milton man, who did not want to be identified, said he went to the washroom in the tavern and two men put a gun to his head. "I walked in and there were two guys standing there. They had some coke (cocaine) on the counter. The one guy pulled a gun on me and said 'I didn't see a thing.' I told him I didn't see a thing and convinced him to put the gun away. I said I wouldn't tell anybody." When the man left the washroom, he called the police. Two men were arrested and taken into custody.

□ Milton Council acquired three new faces as a result of the municipal election. Rookies Barry Lee and Bruce Attenborough (Ward 3) and Mary Long (Ward 2) were voted in while all incumbents ran successfully as well.

□ When the deer hunt check station in Milton closed, 70 deer had been brought in by hunters. At the Cambridge station of the Ministry of Natural Resources office, 130 deer were processed by the time it closed. There were 575 eligible hunters selected by lottery to participate in the hunt between Nov. 7-10.

### 20 Years Ago

From the November 19, 1969 issue

□ An election for all Milton council positions was assured when nominations were received at Martin Street School. Uncommitted prior to the meeting, Reeve A. Ledwith chose to contest the position of mayor with incumbent Mayor Brian Best. Councillor Colin Smillie would oppose Deputy Reeve Ron Harris for the position of Reeve and in a surprise move, Esquering township councillor Ken Marshall would oppose Milton Councillor Percy Barr for the town's deputy-reeveship. A slate of seven would vie for the six council seats. Incumbents Sidney Childs, Gordon Krantz and Charles Fay would join in the contest by Charles Johnson returning after a two year absence from council and first time contenders Art Melanson, Frank Miller and William Woods.

□ Leonard Scotland left his Tremaine Road farm to go into town for a couple of hours and when he came back his barn was up in a raging blaze, burning his crop of oats and hay. Estimated damage was \$50,000 and even at that Mr. Scotland was just lucky to have saved his 23 head of cattle. A passing motorist noted the blaze, stopped, freed the cattle and minutes later, another motorist happened by and notified Oakville Fire Department from his car which had a radio-telephone.

□ The Omagh bones, or at least the bones which were found under Omagh General Store, have still not been identified. Store owner George Wells found the bones as he and a workman were digging a cellar under the store. They spilled out of an old box buried in the ground when they were struck by the blade of the bulldozer doing the digging. Oakville police sent the bones to the Centre of Forensic Science in Toronto and they expect to have some results back from their investigation within one or two weeks, said an Oakville detective.

### 50 Years Ago

From the November 16, 1939 issue

□ Robt. Charlton, barber, has gone to Listowel where he has secured a good job in a barber shop. Several young men and women from Milton are now working in Listowel which is one of the most beautiful, progressive and up to date towns in western Ontario.

## Pud

by Steve Nease

