



The Canadian Champion

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Johnson is wrong

Few issues inspire such clearly delineated positions as hunting, especially in Milton, since rural Milton is where the bulk of Halton's hunting takes place.

Anti-hunters consistently and smugly attack from what they perceive as the moral high ground; hunters are innately sadistic, the activity is not a sport, and its practitioners perversely hide behind a smokescreen of conservationist platitudes.

It's lazy and sanctimonious thinking. We saw it at its most inflammatory Monday night at municipal council when Ward 3 representative Bill Johnson crudely accused hunters (male hunters anyway) of killing animals in order to compensate for sexual inadequacies.

By so slurring a legal pursuit deemed necessary by responsible conservationists and government authorities at all levels, councillor Johnson publicly introduces an element of blustering prejudice to an already incendiary topic. His actions are only a small step away, in terms of bellicose generalized slander, from declaring that black people are prone to crime or Catholic priests to child molestation.

Mr. Johnson's outburst, triggered by a report that Oakville council is considering the merits of a controlled hunt for Canada Geese, could most conveniently be credited to the councillor's penchant for speaking in headline-grabbing phrases. But Mr. Johnson, in the interests no doubt of making certain his position becomes highly publicized, has moved perilously close to losing all credibility on the issue.

If hunters are as psychologically askew as he would have us believe, they would have scant place in civilized society. He called them "Rambos." When was the last time we saw a news report about a hunter turning his weapon on innocent bystanders? Do hunters mow down elementary school students with assault rifles? Do hunters break into banks with their three-shot bolt-action rifles cradled on their hips, demanding money?

Is there an unknown correlation between those suffering some sort of sexual inadequacy and hunting? Are rapists, who victimize with violence in a search for control, among the hunting fraternity? No more than they are hockey players, or grocers, or computer programmers, we would venture.

It is unpopular to focus on the more responsible, perhaps less tangible reasons for hunting. It is unpopular to equate hunters with conservationist policies, although it is invariably true.

In Halton the time for hunting is running out, and rightly so. Subdivisions are closing in around the wildlife habitat. Roads are sectioning it off. If and when the animal population becomes so squeezed as to diminish, hunting will die, as it should.

When that time comes, and it will, the reasoning behind retiring the activity will be clear and rational.

But so long as deer bolt across our highways and an overabundance of birds foul beaches and harbors, hunting will be one of our most effective means of keeping nature's mechanisms operating smoothly.

Rather than insulting those who would assist in that effort, those who plow substantial sums into tax coffers through licences and boost local economies with their purchases, we recommend councillor Johnson sit back and take the long view.

He's going to get what he wants, no hunting, eventually. Meanwhile we suggest he take a brisk winter walk in the woods, perhaps with a hunter in pursuit of game. Maybe it will clear his head.

Looking back



Last week it was the Santa Claus Parade, now comes the flood of Christmas-related entertainment. Back in December 1965, students in the junior program at the Ontario School for the Deaf (E. C. Drury School today) performed a Christmas play titled *Santa's Toy Shop*. This year Milton Choristers will perform two concerts and the Salvation Army will present a Christmas puppet show.

Pages of the Past

One Year Ago

From the November 23, 1988 issue

□ Otto Jelinek won a resounding victory in Oakville-Milton Monday night as the Progressive Conservatives powered to a second term as a majority federal government. The outcome was never in doubt as poll after poll swung to Mr. Jelinek by wide margins. The former world figure skater sprinted ahead of Liberal opponent Bonnie Brown by more than 10,000 votes. In Milton, Mr. Jelinek won 42 of 47 polls.

□ A 50-year-old man received injuries to his abdomen when he was shot by his hunting companion early morning near Highway 25 just north of Burnhamthorpe Rd. Giuseppe Ruggiero was taken to Milton District Hospital where he underwent surgery. Charged with criminal negligence causing bodily harm and careless use of a firearm is Adamo Lupinetti, 59, of Rose Fair Crt., Rexdale.

□ Milton Fire Department responded to a garage fire at 799 Clements Dr. Sunday evening at 8:10 p.m. The estimated damage is \$2,500. No one was injured in the blaze, most of the damage was to the interior of the garage. The suspected cause is careless smoking.

20 Years Ago

From the Wednesday 26, 1969 issue.

□ An estimated 3,442 local voters are eligible to help elect Milton's 1970-71 municipal council, and 4,000 local residents aged 21 or over are eligible to cast an extra ballot on the question of licenced liquor lounges and liquor with meals, in the town's municipal election and plebiscite being held Monday. While every seat is up for grabs, according to one candidate for a seat on council, "People just don't seem to give a darn who represents them for the next two years."

□ Billy, a baby buffalo in Halton Region Conservation Authority's growing game preserve at Rattlesnake Point, is still there. The Authority had plans to ship him to a Saint John, N.B. zoo on Saturday but Billy eluded pursuers and still roams wild and free in the 80-acre enclosure below the brow of the escarpment. The 300-pound bull has been free all his life.

□ Firefighters are still investigating the cause of a fire that gutted and seriously damaged an old barn on the property of Martin Rigo, Woodward St. after 11 p.m. Monday night. Contents of the barn, including three weaving looms used for making rugs, garden and lawn tools and equipment were either destroyed or damaged.

Pod

by Steve Nease



50 Years Ago

From the Thursday Nov. 23, 1939 issue

□ Mrs. C. A. Lamb, elderly Milton resident died at her home on Tuesday, shortly after being discovered in a weakened condition by neighbors. Death was believed due to a heart attack. Failure to notice her aged neighbor in some days prompted Mrs. A. Newman to investigate where she was found on the floor. Dr. Syer was notified, but Mrs. Lamb died an hour later.

□ In police court, here, yesterday, Gordon Ezeard, 42, of Milton, was sentenced by Magistrate Woodliffe to thirty days in jail, having been found guilty on a charge of theft.

□ Added to the "Eat More Apples" slogan, we may now have to "Eat More Turkey" because shipments of the Old Country will have to be curtailed as all ships have to be conveyed and are not sailing on regular peace-time schedule. Can't make us mad for we like both apples and turkey, so what's the matter with passing up the plate for another helping.