



The Canadian Champion

Established 1861

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The Canadian Champion, published every Wednesday and Friday at 191 Main St. E., Milton, Ont. L9T 4N9 (Box 248), is the of The Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing group of suburban companies which includes: The Acton Free Press, Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, Aurora Banner, Barrie Banner Advance, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, Erin/Hillsburgh Echo, Etobicoke Guardian, Georgetown Independent, Halton Hills Weekend, Kingston This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, Mississauga News, Newmarket Era, Oakville Beaver, Oshawa/Whitby This Week, Peterborough This Week, Richmond Hill Liberal, Rockwood Review, Scarborough Mirror, Stouffville Tribune, Today's Seniors, Uxbridge Tribune, Vaughan Liberal, and The Willowdale Mirror. Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing is a division of Harlequin Enterprises Ltd.

Price: Store copies 40 cents each; Wednesday edition home delivery 40 cents weekly, \$20.80 annually. Friday edition \$75 annually by mail in Canada; \$85 in other countries.
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Here's hoping

What will Milton be like in the year 2000, when the decade now dawning has run its course? One thing is for certain. The Milton of 2000 will differ from the Milton of 1990 markedly, probably much more so than the Milton of 1990 differs from the town of a decade ago.

In 1980 most of the residential growth that brought the town to a population of approximately 33,000 had already taken place. What lagged behind were the bells and whistles that accompany growth, such as new restaurants, theatres, schools, a bigger hospital, a better library and more recreational facilities.

As the 1990s begin the town is still working to increase its level of service. The long-awaited recreational centre is only now taking shape, at least on paper, and with funding. A cultural facility has yet to become a formal municipal commitment.

Milton is light years ahead today of the town that was in 1980 as far as the aforementioned restaurants and schools go. The library has been improved too, and the hospital is a living monument to the dedication of people throughout the community, who worked long and hard to turn it into a modern and well-equipped institution.

But many challenges hover in the decade ahead. They are urban planning challenges, environmental challenges and tests that will try sorely our municipal leadership.

How will our leaders cope with pressure from developers to accelerate the pace of population growth once Milton's servicing problems are solved? When, not if, it becomes possible to support a doubling of the population through a pipeline from Lake Ontario, will Milton leaders be able to handle the pressures brought to bear by developers? They say they can, but no one can prove that. And where are the examples in communities around us that politicians have been successful at controlling development? Are our people different? Better?

Does our political leadership have the will to protect the Niagara Escarpment, to stop quarry operators from blowing the rock-face west of Milton proper into a shell of its former self? Does our provincial representative, Walt Elliot, have the stomach for that fight, especially if he becomes a voice in the wilderness of his own majority government?

Here are two alternatives for Milton circa 2000: In the first, the worst-case scenario, we have a town of perhaps 50,000 people snarled in traffic on inadequate roads travelled each day by their children going to crowded schools subsidized to the tune of 55 per cent of every tax dollar.

On the Niagara Escarpment, Lac Minerals is operating its new quarry a stone's throw from the company's played out mine. Dufferin Aggregates has bought and is levelling the agreement forest tract north of the quarry they owned in 1990.

The Canada Brick plant operating on the northeast corner of Tremaine Road and Steeles Avenue now has access to a new source of raw material as the province has approved a mining permit for a wide swath of land on the shoulder of the Niagara Escarpment, only an unfortunate possibility in 1990, as were the quarry expansions.

A provincial official plan directive imposes new growth on Milton, with a ceiling of 200,000 residents.

On the other hand, it's possible the quarrying companies will be frozen in their tracks and told to go elsewhere for a change and that Canada Brick won't get a chance to smash up some more of the escarpment face.

It's possible the ongoing Halton Urban Structure Review will lead to a carefully planned and balanced community growing at an even pace without too much interference from developers and provincial power brokers.

It's possible Milton will become something of a showpiece community, the best-planned and last frontier in the Toronto area. And wouldn't that be nice?

Looking back



Campbellville man Brian Goutouski posted "Deer Hunting Welcome" signs around his farm in November, 1981. He lost valuable crops to marauding deer.

Pages of the Past

One Year Ago

From the January 4, 1989 issue

□ A tentative agreement was struck between striking ambulance officers and management of the Halton/Mississauga Ambulance Service.

The agreement was reached after a day-long bargaining session at Howard Johnson's Hotel in Oakville. Union membership was scheduled to vote on the offer. The strike began Aug. 10, 1988.

□ A 33-year-old Milton man was seriously injured in an avalanche near Lake Louise, Alberta. David Franklin of Ontario Street North suffered a broken ankle and internal injuries.

Published reports stated that Mr. Franklin spent four hours dragging himself from the sight of an ice avalanche to a railway line where he was near death until being spotted by a freight train crew.

□ Sarah Lynne Macfarlane was the 1989 New Year's Baby, born at Milton District Hospital January 1 at 1:22 p.m. Her parents, Wandalyn and Scott Macfarlane, needless to say, were quite proud.

20 Years Ago

From the January 7, 1970 issue

□ A vague proposal by Ontario Hydro to place a hydro line through the north west corner of Nassagaweya Township, left councillors both puzzled and angry. Deputy-Reeve Gordon Agnew speculated that the plan was a cover-up for a super highway to connect Hamilton to a new jet airport.

□ Thousands of Christmas trees collected from Milton homes went up in smoke at the town's second annual Twelfth Night Christmas Tree burning ceremony at Milton Fair Grounds. Town workmen collected all the trees and piled them for the burning which celebrated the end of the holiday season.

□ The old year ended tragically for the Hugh O'Connor family of Hornby when their home on Trafalgar Road was extensively damaged by fire. A small electric hotplate in the back porch of the home is believed to have caused the flash fire.

50 Years Ago

From the January 4, 1940 issue

□ A dandelion in full bloom was found growing on the grounds of the Halton registry office here on December 27 by Frank McNiven, jail governor. While residents shivered in the streets from the zero temperature, Governor McNiven picked the bloom and took it into the courthouse where its healthy appearance amazed county officials.

□ Milton and Guelph Junior "C" teams played to a 4 all tie here Friday night last before one of the largest crowds to ever witness an opening game in the local arena. The game was in good shape and the play was exceptionally fast for the first of the season.

□ After a few week's illness there passed away one of Milton's most highly esteemed and popular citizens. Bertha M. Bews, widow of the late Samuel R. Bews, died at her home in Milton January 2-1940.

She was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Harrison, who belonged to the earliest pioneer families of the county of Halton.

Pud

by Steve Nease

