

# Treasurer supported in attack

Tues. Dec. 14, 1858, Milton West - The County Council, meeting here today, expressed strong support for County Treasurer George Brown, denying the need for a special investigation of the county accounts by M.P.P. John White.

Last June the Reeve of Esquesing, John McNaughton, charged the treasurer with something like a falsification of the County Accounts, although they had been duly audited and passed by the County Auditors.

The charges were referred to the Finance Committee which reported the books as being correct and satisfactory.

The report was passed and to all appearances the Treasurer's character was cleared.

Anonymous attacks continued in the Halton Journal, petitions were circulated among the ratepayers and there was considerable agitation.

M.P.P. John White was called by friends to examine the accounts of the county and he requested that County Council appoint a man to assist in the examination.

At the meeting today there were several attempts to accomplish this. The names of Thomas Baxter deputy reeve of Nelson, the Warden and John Stewart were named as possible appointees.

Unable to reach a decision in the forenoon, council adjourned for lunch, leaving the decision to the afternoon session. The appointment of the Warden was defeated as was the appointment of John Stewart and Thomas Baxter.

Also defeated was a motion by the Esquesing and Milton representative that the treasurer not make any further investment of county funds except under authority of council.

Instead Council approved a motion "tendering their thanks to the treasurer, Mr. George Brown, for his practical business ability in carrying out the views of this council by purchasing the outstanding debentures at such a satisfactory rate of abatement as shown by his statement furnished."

The approval of the motion was opposed only by John McNaughton from Esquesing and Ransom Rowe of Milton.



## Moments in History

with JIM DILLS

To clarify the issue of a review of the county accounts and the involvement of the M.P.P. John White, a further motion was passed.

"The Finance Committee having examined the treasurer's books and finding them correct, and it being the privilege of Mr. White or any other ratepayer within the county to have free access to the records and accounts of this council if it is the opinion of any of said ratepayers that the treasurer's accounts are incorrect it is their duty to examine the accounts and show wherein the inaccuracy exists and the treasurer and clerk are hereby instructed to give every facility for prosecuting such examination."

It has been suggested the whole affair has been instigated by Mr. White who has undertaken a political vendetta against Mr. Brown, a prominent Tory.

It has also been suggested the time is past when Mr. White could play the part of dictator. The County Council is no longer under his control. They have acted nobly in defending a person of such high character as Mr. Brown.

Sequel: Mr. White, with John Stewart, did examine the county books and publish a 35 page paper on the investigation. In January 1859 White was also returned by Milton to County Council and the vendetta continued. Mr. Brown continued as treasurer until his death August 4, 1860 at which time, Mr. White was accused of "hounding him to an early grave". He was 52.

Thirty ninth in a series of facts, occasionally sprinkled with imagination, to reflect Milton's past. Research assistance by Jack Charlton and Alex Cooke.

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# Our Readers Write

## Teachers angry with pension fund

Dear Editor:

People in this community may know that teachers are furious with the Ontario Liberal Government, and we want to tell you why.

The Government of Ontario used the power of its majority position to deny the teachers of this province our right to an equal voice in the management of our own pensions.

The 121,000 member Ontario Teachers' Federation had been in "negotiations" with the government for over a year in an attempt to achieve an equal partnership in the management of the teachers' pension plan.

Negotiations were terminated by the government several times on the issue of a dispute resolution mechanism which we think is vital to any equal partnership.

The teachers in Halton Region believe real partnership in the management of our pension funds is a basic right. The Government of Ontario has just passed legislation that gives them complete control of teachers pensions.

The government sets contribution rates, benefits and investment policy. Robert Nixon has stated, Ontario will claim any surplus in the fund. Teachers are permitted to give input, but final decisions rest solely with the government.

Mr. Peterson - you can expect our input on election day!

John Conlin,  
Spokesperson,  
Halton Teachers' Federation

## Trustees barge ahead with unwanted school

Dear Editor:

Without Ministry of Education approval to build a new Oakville high school, the Halton Board of Education trustees from Milton, Halton Hills and Burlington voted to spend \$400,000 for sketches of a new Oakville high school to be located south of the Queen Elizabeth Way.

Last June, one of Oakville's modern high schools located south of the QEW was closed because of declining enrollment in this 1,007 capacity high school.

Now the trustees of Milton, Halton Hills and Burlington have voted, over the objection of two-thirds of Oakville trustees, to request funding for a \$25-million high school which would be located a few kilometers east of the "moth-balled" high school and again, south of the QEW.

Ignoring the stated intent by the Ministry of Education to announce within the next 100 days what funding, if any, would be available to build this 1,500-student capacity high school, the trustees have voted to commit the taxpayers' money to finance Oakville's unwanted Christmas gift costing \$400,000, without Ministry assistance. Will they vote for millions of dollars for Oakville in the next 100 days?

Unfortunately, along with the double-digit percentage increase in school taxes, this \$400,000 Christmas gift was not returnable on Boxing Day!

George Pickios,  
Lancaster Drive, Oakville

# WANTED!

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