



# The Canadian Champion

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## Looking back



This sea of smiling faces belongs to the employees of P. L. Robertson Manufacturing who posed for this group photo in November 1951. Among the faces is that of Robert McGinnis, father of Milton resident Carol Cowan. Ms Cowan offered the photo to *The Champion* for publication. P. L. Robertson was the inventor of the Robertson screw who was honoured for his contribution to local history in 1986 when two commemorative plaques were erected. One stands near the Bronte Street location where the plant still operates.

## Compromise is all he should expect

At what price development? That is the question town planning director Bob Zsadanyi and his staff have been wrestling with for a year. Finally, Monday night, Mr. Zsadanyi told councillors the risk was too high for the anticipated return, at least until further notice.

What Mr. Zsadanyi proposed, was slowing rural development to a trickle for five years. He sugar-coated it somewhat, saying all applications now in the works will proceed, but he wants the door slammed shut on rural estate subdivision proposals. He wants the moratorium until a five-year study into how much water there is in Nassagaweya, and how much septic runoff the land can handle, is completed.

That proposal is probably not politically realistic, as more than one councillor indicated Monday night. The two Nassagaweya councillors present, Bruce Attenborough and Barry Lee, both waved warning flags that this measure would be more than a hard sell. In essence, it robs their constituency of the only real growth it ever gets.

And that growth has in many important ways been good for Campbellville, Moffat and Brookville in the last decade. Those little rural

settlements have grown more sophisticated, less insular, more capable of resisting some of the bad ideas that may have otherwise been foisted on them, and more capable of lobbying for the good ones.

We respect Mr. Zsadanyi's opinion in this matter and believe his caution stems from a genuine concern, a concern which can be substantiated through evidence.

In both Acton and rural Milton (at Kelso beach) lakes have been closed because of high bacteria counts, pollution now believed to have originated upstream, and possibly partially from septic runoff.

And the water supply has been conspicuously lessened of late in some areas, notably near strip-mining quarries.

But a five-year moratorium on new subdivision proposals in Nassagaweya pending a huge water study is asking too much. The politicians probably won't let it happen. Some compromise will likely be struck. And whatever the long-term consequences for the water supply, we'll all have to live with it. It's a calculated risk, a compromise, and we wouldn't be surprised if in his heart Bob Zsadanyi knew all along it was the most he could expect.

## Pages of the past

### One Year Ago

From the February 1, 1989 issue

- No new rural subdivision plans would be considered by Milton council during 1989 and probably all of 1990 if a decision reached by general committee was ratified at the next council meeting. A tense 5-4 vote came after more than three hours of discussion and input from half a dozen delegations.
- Arson was cited as the cause of a fire which gutted a home at 80 Town Line in January. The Ontario Fire Marshal's Office confirmed the fire was deliberately set. Inspector Gordon Muggford ruled out accidental causes for the blaze. He said the fire started in the kitchen of the house owned by Randy Fretz. It then spread to the bedroom and vented out a rear window. Mr. Fretz, who was in California when the blaze started, said he suspected the fire could be the work of an arsonist because he received a threat on New Year's Day.
- Property taxes were set to go up 7.1 per cent if Halton's proposed budget was approved later in 1989. In a preliminary document, regional staff announced they would try to toe the line close to the 7 per cent increase they had set as a target for 1989 in 1988. Since then, though, provincial unconditional grants had been frozen.

### 20 Years Ago

From the February 4, 1970 issue

- Possibility of an investigation into staff problems and allegations of sabotage of equipment at Milton District Hospital were hinted by the Ontario Hospital Services Commission (O.H.S.C.). Milton Hospital Board of Directors chairman J. M. Ledwith reported he would welcome such a study with open arms. The O.H.S.C. was to meet with the Hospital Board to review recent circumstances at the hospital to see if a full-scale investigation was necessary.
- Milton's first licenced cocktail lounge was officially opened at the Charles Hotel on Main Street in a dual ribbon-cutting ceremony that also officially opened the hotel's new dining lounge.
- Promoters of a proposed \$2 million Indianapolis-type speedway between Third and Fourth Lines in Esqueping, met with the nine of 10 ratepayers who live close to the site with an offer to purchase the property.

### 50 Years Ago

From the February 1, 1940 issue

- Many housewives in Milton waited for some time for their usual delivery of Harrop's milk. Jim Tait, who drove the milk wagon, was unavoidably detained. His wagon and its contents were spread over Martin Street on the outskirts of town. The wagon was struck by a car driven by Walter Bradley of Milton who was driving north on the street which was also known as Highway 25. Bradley's car, badly damaged, careened into a deep ditch after the impact. Both drivers and a passenger in the car, D. Maskell, escaped uninjured.
- Charles E. Galloway, a well-known citizen of Milton, celebrated his 89th birthday in January. Mrs. Galloway was in her 88th year. The aged couple had 13 sons and daughters, 36 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.
- At the first meeting of Milton High School Board for 1940, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Chairman, George E. Elliott, Vice-Chairman, Jos. H. Willmott; Secretary-Treas., F.D. Dewar; Chairman of Property Committee, F. Pearen.

## Pud

by Steve Nease

