



The Canadian Champion

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Milton's last stand

What price victory?

A steep price, by any reckoning and for either side. At stake in the current and hopefully final chapter of Halton's landfill saga are all the elements of political drama; influence, opportunity, power and money.

In a quiet courtroom at Toronto's Osgoode Hall, Milton wages one last battle against playing host to all of Halton's non-recyclable garbage for the next two decades. It is, as far as the town is concerned, the last act. Milton officials have set aside \$50,000 for legal expenses relating to anti-dump defence, probably not enough to carry the campaign to the Supreme Court of Canada. That would be Milton's court of last resort should they lose this week in Ontario's Supreme Court.

And Milton Mayor Gord Krantz has already said he does not favor going to Ottawa. So the argument will probably end at Osgoode Hall, one way or another. Which is just as well.

We suspect that Milton will end-up with Halton's landfill, despite the excellent presentation given Monday against that choice by lawyer Eleanore Cronk, who represents the landowner of the other candidate site in Burlington. That owner, National Sewer Pipe Investments, would happily sell its holdings to Halton Region for a dump.

Ms Cronk argued that hearing board officers Harry Lancaster and Dr. James Kingham ignored evidence as to the suitability of the Burlington site and basically decided to apply their own criteria for choosing a dump, with those criteria unknown to those arguing before the board for one site or the other.

Let's suppose what Ms Cronk says is accurate. Let's suppose that the two hearing officers did commit her "jurisdictional error" by ignoring evidence that Burlington is also a suitable dump site. It means little to the people of Milton.

Because even if the three Supreme Court judges uphold her contention regarding Burlington, we feel it is unlikely they will dismiss Milton as a suitable site. And if they tender a slap on the wrist to Dr. Kingham and Mr. Lancaster by saying they erred in dismissing the Burlington site, it does little to lessen the legitimacy of the Milton choice.

Ms Cronk introduced plenty of evidence relating to the suitability of the Burlington site, but comparatively little against the Milton dump selection, save to say the proposed containment system for potentially leaching contaminants might, conceivably, fail. There is little in this world that might not, conceivably, fail.

From Burlington to Oshawa and Unionville to Union Station, garbage disposal is a problem in the Greater Toronto Area. If indeed the Supreme Court judges decide Burlington's site would work just as effectively, or almost as effectively, or marginally more effectively than Milton, all it would mean is that there are two good sites in Halton.

If the judges decide the hearing board was remiss in discarding the Burlington choice, National Sewer Pipe Investments may have the options of either developing it as a private landfill or selling it eventually to Halton Region.

The Region is under pressure to pick a 'contingency' landfill site for use by other communities within the Greater Toronto Area. That same pressure is being exerted, as part of a joint agreement among the municipalities, on each member community in a loose affiliation of Greater Toronto Area municipalities grappling with shared concerns, such as garbage disposal.

It's more than too bad that the pretty rural lands in south Milton which form a doorstep to the Niagara Escarpment will probably become a landfill site. But we certainly would not be surprised, and the people of Burlington should not be either, if their Aldershot site becomes a landfill eventually, too.

Looking back



Intermediates ready

The Milton Charles Intermediates were the local WAAA entry in the winter of 1964, and this picture was taken on Thursday March 5th, 1964, getting ready for their 3 round play-offs in Acton. The players from left are; in the front row, Bob Sales, Ron Phillips, sponsor Ted Gabinivitz, Fred Leaver, coach Enlo Schlizzi, Don Kearney, Stu Hannant and Gord Bell. In the second row, assistant trainer Syd Dance, Bob MacKay, Phil Alcumbrack, Don Wilson, Jack Roberts, Brian McDuffe, Jim Forbes, John Helpel, Bob McKay and Ken Pollock. In the third row, club president Mike McConnell, Gord Hasselfeldt, trainer Pete Gates, club vice-president Alan Parton, Wayne Timbers, equipment manager Ivan Shepard, club executive members Murray Hood, Clay Jubb and Don Clarkson.

Pages of the Past

One Year Ago

From the February 15, 1989 issue

Organizers were touting it as one of the most successful carnivals to date. An estimated 2,000 people attended the 1989 Milton Winter Carnival at the Mill Pond.

Dave Krantz, a full-time firefighter with Milton Fire Department, received second-degree burns to his back when a ceiling in a burning house trailer at Milton Heights Campground collapsed on him.

The Fourth Annual John D'Amico Skate-A-Thon at Maplehurst Correctional Centre raised \$25,000 for Easter Seals.

20 Years Ago

From the February 18, 1970 issue

Esqueving Council once again held up any final decision on whether to allow a building permit to be issued to the race track promoters who hope to establish an

Indianapolis-type road circuit-dragstrip between Esqueving's Third and Fourth Lines, near Milton.

Friday the 19th was an unlucky day for Gastone Fantuz of R.R. 3, Georgetown and it could have been an unlucky day for the whole area. According to police, Fantuz' car left Base Line Road, hit eight fence posts, ripped off a wire mesh fence and uprooted a tree. His car came to a rest close to a natural gas relay station and if it had hit the pipes protruding above the ground, the results could have been disastrous. Mr. Fantuz suffered bruised ribs, a possible concussion and facial lacerations and abrasions.

After nine years as a member of the Milton District Hospital Board, 1969 chairman J. M. "Mike" Ledwith announced he would be leaving the board at the end of March. The board chairman said his decision to retire from the hospital board was made some time ago and was not as a result of the recent controversy surrounding Milton District Hospital.

50 Years Ago

From the February 15, 1940 issue

George Sullivan of Milton was injured when his auto was in collision with a truck on the Dundas highway, near Trafalgar. The truck was driven by Ernest Renick of Nicholson, Ont., police said. Sullivan suffered lacerations and body bruises.

Bound hand and foot severely beaten, Thos. Storey, bachelor farmer of Nassagaweya township, was found in his home after a 17-hour ordeal. Edward Watt, a neighbour, found him. Storey told police that he came in from his chores to find a young man waiting. He was attacked and after putting up an uneven struggle, was beaten up and bound. The thug got \$17 and then heated a poker. He waved it in front of his victim's eyes and threatened torture unless he got more. Storey convinced him there was no money in the house and he departed, leaving him bound.

John Gallagher, 23, of Nassagaweya township, was sentenced to 60 days in the county jail when he pleaded guilty before Magistrate W. F. Woodliffe to a charge of breaking and entering and theft.

Pud

by Steve Nease

