

## Our Readers Write

### 'I' bothers me

Dear Editor:

Being an "octo" myself, I really enjoyed and appreciated your article in the Connections section of the Wednesday, Feb. 7 issue of *The Champion* on beauty.

But with all due respect, I feel that, as a writer, you should brush up on your use of the English language! In two places you mention "Barney and I" whereas it should have read "she invited Barney and ME to tea" — also "she entertained Barney and ME". Where would you say "she entertained I"?

I hope you are not one of those folks who always use "myself" instead of ME! So many people do not know that the word "I" must be used in a sentence with "myself". One would think these days that the word "me" was a disgrace.

I live in Oakville, but agree heartily with what you say about Milton, as we live so close and feel it is really "our town".

Kindest regards and wishing you lots of luck in your work.

Best wishes from my husband and ME!

Gladys Milligan  
Burnhamthorpe Road, Oakville  
P.S. No. 1 was never a school teacher.

### Board sends congrats on winning award

Dear Editor:

I noted with interest in the last Milton Chamber of Commerce newsletter your newspaper's award as business of the year.

I wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate you as editor and all of the other people of *The Canadian Champion* who have kept the community informed for 130 years.

In particular, I want to thank *The Champion* for its extensive coverage of education in Halton. Your close attention to school events and activities in your area has been noted by Milton trustees, students and principals.

I think it's fair to say that at both a school and board level, the Halton Board of Education has developed a strong partnership with *The Canadian Champion*. Your award is much deserved and I personally look forward to an on-going positive relationship.

Bob Williams  
Director of Education  
Halton Board of Education

### Overpass sidewalks need to be cleared

Dear Editor:

I am writing in regard to the appalling conditions of the sidewalks under the overpass on Ontario Street just north of Main Street. There is absolutely no way for a person with a baby carriage or a wheelchair to pass under the bridge.

This is the only way for pedestrians living north of Main Street to gain access to Milton Mall and downtown Milton. The ice and snow is from four to six inches deep and very dangerous.

This is a main thoroughfare for pedestrians and as such should be cleaned and made passable, before a serious accident occurs.

William Harvey  
Ontario St. N., Milton

## Halton horse captures inaugural Queen's Plate

Wed. June 27, 1860 Milton West — Don Juan, a five-year-old bred and owned by James and John White and bred at their Woodlands Farm at Merton, north of Bronte, claimed the newly established Queen's Plate today in its first running.

John White is Halton's MPP and a Milton resident. His brother James is at the farm at Merton.

Establishment of the race followed the application of the Toronto Turf Club, through Governor General Sir Edmund Head, to Queen Victoria. The Club has been attempting to renew interest in the sport of horse racing. The plate of 50 guineas was approved to be run for in Toronto.

Today's race at the Carleton oval course has been the result of that work. The course (200 yards south of Dundas St. and west of Keele St.) is more than a mile round, has three low, wooden stands, weighing rooms for jockeys and refreshment booths. It has been the headquarters of the Toronto Turf Club since 1859. It was designed by William Keele in 1857.

The race offered 50 guineas for horses bred in Upper Canada that had never won public money. It consisted of three one mile heats. Eight horses were entered in the race which was certainly the main attraction of the day. It is estimated that there were from two to four thousand on the grounds for the event.

People arrived by excursion train, carriage and on foot. The ladies' stand was filled.

Shortly after 2 p.m. preparations were made for the start of the race and the grounds were filled with carriages and wagons in every direction.

Each horse got away in capital style, with the exception of a horse owned by Dr. Kirwin, which kicked and plunged savagely and threw his rider before he had gone a hundred yards. The horse, however continued the race.

Bob Marshall, owned by J.E. Ewart of Etobicoke beat Don Juan by a length in the first Plate heat. Wild Irishman was third and Queen was an indifferent fourth. The other horses were eliminated.



### Moments in History

with JIM DILLS

The horses were allowed 20 minutes to cool off before Turf club President Casimir S. Gzowski rang the bell for the second heat. Betting had become more active.

Charles Littlefield, the jockey thrown in the first race, donned the White's scarlet silks and mounted Don Juan.

A skilled jockey, Littlefield displayed his ability and his riding brought out the full power of the horse to win the second heat without difficulty.

Prior to the third heat the betting was all in support of Don Juan with the odds of 5 to 4 being offered. Heavy betters from Cobourg and Montreal found it difficult to obtain takers on their terms.

Don Juan is described by experts as an exceedingly handsome specimen of horseflesh and from the time the blankets had been removed at the beginning of the first heat he had attracted favourable attention.

The third heat was won without difficulty and James and John White claimed the first Queen's Plate victory at Carleton.

The White family has been active in improving horse stock in Upper Canada. The foundation mare of their breeding operations is Yellow Rose, a Virginia bred mare that was brought into Canada in the early 1850s.

Whites have also imported sheep and cattle for breeding from England and the United States.

Forty-seventh in a series of facts, sometimes sprinkled with imagination, to reflect Milton's past. Research assistance by Jack Charlton and Alex Cooke. (Copyright Jim Dills 1990)

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