



# The Canadian Champion

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Milton's Business of the Year for 1989

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## On school funds

Our schools have become catch-all environments provided for the children of people who no longer have enough time for their children. And that is almost everyone.

So it is no surprise that board budgets keep rising at crippling rates; witness today's front page story in which the Halton Board of Education sponges up an increase amounting to almost 15 per cent.

Schools are to provide instruction in academics, sports, after-hours hobbies and even to a large extent moral values. Schools are to monitor the progress of promising pupils as well as that of those who offer only problems in place of such progress.

A deeply committed education professional once confided in one of this newspaper's reporters that the public demands more and more of its youth educators. That in turn indicates the public demands less and less of itself in this area.

But who is to be faulted? Parents, both of whom work in order to feed the gaping maw that is their mortgage and set aside a pittance? It's difficult to affix a great deal of blame there.

Is the education system itself too flabby? We feel the bulk of teachers are dedicated professionals seeking the best for their students. There are not enough shirkers in the system to hobble it.

What the education system needs now is cost cutting in capital acquisitions. That which is trendy today must still be a useful tool tomorrow, not forsaken in the face of a new wrinkle on an old idea.

Vehicles must last longer, buildings must be punched out in assembly line-like uniformity to cut down on design fees, or older buildings purchased and refurbished, and equipment must be made to last longer.

It does no good to cry about lack of funding from government levels above, as Halton trustees have done. They must learn to make do with less. The sooner school boards confront the economic climate they face from their government-funding partners, the better able they will be to cope in that environment.

## We need Highway 403

One need only travel Highway 25 south past Highway 5 during the evening rush hour to see the shape of things to come on Halton's roads. Traffic is backed up, sometimes for more than a mile, westbound on Highway 5.

In 10 years or so Milton will probably face similar problems as growth gains momentum again in this community. That's why Halton Region is to be commended in its push to have the Highway 403 extension through the area move ahead as quickly as possible.

Currently the new stretch to Highway 25 from Hamilton is set to open in 1998, but it is not yet set in stone when the remainder of the roadway, through to Trafalgar Road, will be completed.

We hope it is soon after that. There are what some call ambitious plans and others label dire forecasts coming out of the provincial government these days for Halton Region. The population could climb to 600,000 in 30 or so years, more than double the people who live in the area now.

Milton needs growth, controlled growth. The town has every right to benefit from expansion, especially since it was completely dealt out of residential growth in the last boom real estate cycle due to a servicing freeze.

But we will all need roads like Highway 403 or the next boom will simply choke on glutted second-rate traffic corridors.

## Looking back



A giant Easter egg with a \$35 camera inside was Patsy King's prize as the winner of a draw back in April 1968. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andy King had her name drawn by Bill Patterson and her prize presented by Mr. and Mrs. Alfonso Crisci.

## Pages of the Past

### One Year Ago

From the April 12, 1989 issue

□ Barring some stunning upset, the town's long-awaited \$4.8-million recreational centre will be built next to Bishop Reding Roman Catholic High School near the corner of Thompson Rd. and Main St. The council's general committee approved the site during an in-camera session. Those same councillors are expected to rubber-stamp that approval at the next full council session.

□ Several correctional officers surprised Halton North Liberal MPP Walt Elliot Friday morning by staging a picket in front of the politician's Milton office. The correctional officers, members of the Local 234 of the Ontario Public Service Employee's Union, set up the picket line to show their dissatisfaction with current contract negotiations between the provincial government and OPSEU.

□ The air pollution index in Milton may drop this summer as the town enacts a sweeping no-smoking bylaw applying in most public places. The council's general

committee meeting approved in principle a bylaw which will have all town restaurants designating a non-smoking area, and all retail shops ban smoking. A non-smoking policy will also be enforced in municipal buildings, in elevators and on escalators.

### 20 Years Ago

From the April 15, 1970 issue

□ Resignations of 54 Milton District Hospital registered nurses, which were to become effective on Friday April 24, were handed back to the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario representatives last week, and were immediately torn up. The same day, the RNAO's grey-listing of the hospital was officially lifted.

□ About 200 employees at P.L. Robertson Manufacturing Co. Ltd. will be taking a forced April holiday when the firm shuts down its Bronte St. manufacturing plant. Employees will not lose a week's salary, but will have to take a week of their holiday pay for the shutdown. There are only a few employees on staff receiving one week's paid holidays — most receive two or three weeks holidays, and so will have one week or two of holidays left to use later in the summer.

□ A host of invited officials and dignitaries were on hand when Education Minister Bill Davis opened the new Sheridan College of Applied Arts and Technology Campus at Oakville. The completed visual arts wing, a \$2,000,000 project, will represent one-fifth of the total space the college will occupy when all buildings are completed.

### 50 Years Ago

From the April 11, 1940 issue

□ The past week has been a rather difficult one for cars in the district to travel on some of the side roads in the country.

□ Mrs. A. B. McLean had the misfortune to fall on the icy sidewalk and fracture her left wrist. Friends and family wish her a speedy recovery.

□ Parcels addressed to Canadian soldiers in France will be admitted by French Customs without duty if it was announced by the French Department of Foreign Affairs.

## Pud

by Steve Nease



NEASE