



The Canadian Champion

Milton's Business of the Year for 1989

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Court action is the only answer

A dispute that shows disturbing signs of escalation must go to the courts — and soon.

We refer to the ongoing quarrel over who owns what land at the Milton Fair Grounds. The adversaries are the Halton Agricultural Society and the Milton Horsemen's Association. The former states that it owns all the land commonly known as the fairgrounds while the latter lays claim to a disruptive sliver of the same turf.

So far the agricultural society, a responsible and community minded group in all endeavours save this, has served an eviction notice on the horsemen, turned off their hydro, threatened to lock them out and retained a lawyer should push come to legal shove.

As well, a load of dirt appeared across the fairgrounds track Tuesday, effectively preventing the horsemen from training their animals at the facility where they and their predecessors have toiled for 100 years.

It would be laughable if it wasn't so sad. The horsemen believe they are being spurned by an entrenched, wealthy organization intent on selling the land from beneath them without their consent or any compensation.

The agricultural society, on the other hand, sees the horsemen as posturing on a shaky legal premise (that they own some of the land) in order to extract concessions from them.

If genuine grounds exist in law to support the contention that the ownership question should at least be examined, then the legal forum is where this dispute should be resolved.

If the fair association is so certain it is right, that is the course its members should have already followed. Instead they have apparently opted for the bullying tactic of eviction.

It is not as if the horsemen are without a shred of credibility in their claim to a small parcel of land. They have a deed to that effect, they contend, although there is some question as to whether that century-old document is valid. But it is a claim nonetheless, one that has not yet been tested.

We find the behaviour of the Halton Agricultural Society a bit high-handed, as well as petty, in this affair. They have not been forthcoming with this newspaper. They have referred questions to legal counsel but as of this writing have taken no legal action beyond that.

The society has created the impression that it would be happy enough to intimidate the horsemen into leaving without the chore of proving them wrong and their claim at least erroneous.

But it is the society's responsibility to press its claim in a legal forum, and the sooner the better. The society has taken the lead so far in attempting to remove the horsemen from the grounds. Let them take the lead too in resolving this matter, legally.

To date in this affair they have proved adept only at confrontation. It is not an image this otherwise honourable body should wish to foster.

Looking back



The Robber Hotzenplotz and other assorted characters entertained an audience of more than 100 children at Victoria Park in August, 1969 when the South Central Region Library group's touring puppeteers visited town. Adults performed Hotzenplotz and several young teenagers from Hamilton's Kenilworth Library acted out a play called Serenade. The puppeteers were touring various libraries in the system, with free performances designed to interest children in both puppets and books.

Pages of the Past

One Year Ago

From the August 9, 1989 issue

□ Young skiers from as far away as Ottawa and Thunder Bay spent last week at Kelso Conservation Area practising ski jumps. Nine youths skied off of a ramp set up over Kelso reservoir. Participants were training to perform free-style skiing aerials on snow. Most students eventually hope to make provincial and national teams.

□ Mark Degner, is the director of alternative housing for Halton Adolescent Support Services (HASS), an organization providing shelter for young people from troubled homes. Tomorrow, HASS and local officials will turn the sod on a 3,600 sq. ft. residence at 245 Commercial St., to be operating in March and provide refuge for nine youths with few or no other choices.

□ Home turf advantage proved to be the difference for Howie Scannell Jr. and the Scannell racing team as they powered to their best finish of the year, fifth at Cayuga Speedway in the Players-GM Motorsports Series Sunday.

20-Years Ago

From the August 12, 1970 issue

□ Nassagaweya wants the right to appeal if a quarrying licence is granted by the Minister of Mines over the objection of the local municipality, and may take the matter to the floor of the Ontario Municipal Association conference in Ottawa.

□ A three-car garage at the corner of Main and Elizabeth streets will be used as a collection depot for the Operation Survival bottle drive. The group plans to sell the old bottles to Glass Container Council of Canada for \$15 a ton, to be used as glassphalt paving beds. Money collected will be used to purchase informative books for the group.

□ Renovations are expected to get underway this week as Halton Regional Conservation Authority undertake improvements at the ski chalet at Glen Eden ski area.

50-Years Ago

From the August 8, 1940 issue

□ Streetsville firemen will hold a street dance and carnival on Friday. R. Elderfield's Orchestra will supply the music.

□ Frightened by a low-flying aeroplane the team of Lewis Landes, attempted to run away from the barnyard with a load of hay. Mr. Landes was thrown from the load, some ribs were broken and his left wrist fractured.

□ A night of fun and frivolity at the monstrous Street Fair in Milton next week. There will be dancing in the Street and Hall, all kinds of games for everyone, and a draw for wonderful prizes. Proceeds from the tickets will go to help our boys lick Hitler and his gang.

□ A patriotic platform dance in aid of Hornby Women's Institute war work will be held at the home of Harry Robertson, Hornby on Tuesday, August 15. Doris Hull's orchestra, refreshment booth on the grounds. Admission adults 25 cents. Lucky number admission ticket and a draw on a quilt. In case of rain the dance will be held Friday night.

Pud



by Steve Nease