

# Our Readers Write

## Horsemen's next step is a fence

Dear Editor:

It's time for the horsemen to take a stand and protect their interests in the Milton Fair Grounds.

The executive of this year's fair board have seen fit to disrupt the day-to-day operations of the horsemen who rent stables at the fairgrounds.

After the horsemen received an eviction notice and refused to leave the barn, the fair board turned off the hydro and dumped tons of garbage on the track.

It should be noted that both the barn and the track were built by the horsemen.

This continual harassment by the fair board has to stop immediately.

The fair board is aware the horsemen hold a deed to part of the fairgrounds that the horsemen believe is legally binding. The horsemen have had continual use of the fairgrounds for more than 100 years and have no intention of giving up the deed or the right of anyone who wishes to drive horses on the property or be a member of their association.

I would suggest the fair board arrange to do the following:

- 1) turn the hydro back on in the

## Horsefly in fair board's ointment

Dear Editor:

Everyone is aware by now that the Halton Agricultural Society is trying to sell the Milton Fair Grounds, however, horse owners who rent stables at the fairgrounds refused to sign off and advised this society they had no intention of moving aside.

Now that really put a fly in the ointment. Halton Agricultural Society hired a lawyer, issued eviction notices, shut off the hydro and now advises the water will be shut off.

It seems this society is going out of its way to remove the horsemen and all the while telling people

the fairgrounds is not for sale. Well, folks, it is for sale if the society ever gets clean title. If the society is so sure of itself why not just go to court and follow through on the eviction notice.

Now to the rescue of the horsemen comes Sherry Johnson and a petition supporting the horsemen.

I would suggest the fair board arrange to meet with Mrs. Johnson's group and the horsemen without further delay. She means business.

**Norman Shea**  
Past president, Acton Fair Board  
RR #1, Acton

horse barn;  
2) remove all the garbage from the race track;

3) arrange to meet with the horsemen in an effort to resolve everyone's grievances;

4) forget about selling the property that we don't believe they own.  
If the fair board still feels it's not going to do any of the above, they leave us no alternative but to fence off our area. This will, of course, disrupt Steam-Era and the fall fair. It is with deep regret that we will take this action. However, this fair board has given us no choice.

They can't sell it if they don't own it!

**Gord Harker**  
RR #3, Milton

## Fairgrounds belong to Milton

Our fair ground is part of the history and heritage of Milton. We are concerned residents who want to see the horsemen remain on the property. They are part of the rural character of Milton.

Steam-Era, Milton Fall Fair, the auctions and the dog shows each contribute to the unique atmosphere and the enjoyment of the grounds.

The current dispute between the horsemen and the agricultural society has deteriorated like preschoolers fighting over a sandbox. Dumping dirt on a track is nothing but child's play. This, however, is a serious matter.

As concerned citizens and neighbours to the fairgrounds we would like to see this dispute settled. The matter of ownership of the portion of land the horsemen claim is theirs

should be settled with or without legal and/or municipal or provincial government action. Responsible adults should be able to resolve this issue.

To help us keep part of Milton and Halton's cultural and rural heritage in place we made a petition available at the Farmer's Market on Saturday. If you didn't sign it, the petition is available at 94 Robert St. (corner of Bell Street).

**Hilary Flynn, Dick Hass**  
**Sherry Johnson**  
Fairgrounds neighbours

## Why we need GST

Dear Editor:

I had never bothered to claim the excise tax refund for gasoline I was entitled to before. I was, and still am, very upset with the proposed GST, so in January, even if the rebate wasn't worth the work, I decided to do all the necessary paperwork to

claim my excise tax rebate. My calculations came to \$17.59.

About two months later I received a letter from the government offices in Hamilton stating they wanted to audit my return. I made an appointment with the auditor, spent one and a half hours explaining how I arrived at my figure and left the pile of receipts with her.

About six weeks later my receipts were mailed back to me, at a cost of \$4 — with a letter stating I had been allowed a claim of \$14 and told how the appeal process could be applied for. How any calculations could come out to an even \$14 is beyond my comprehension. Is it just a policy to reduce a claim by a few dollars and return it? The reduction didn't even pay for the return postage.

But look — someone in Ottawa had to write a letter and send the claim to Hamilton. Someone in Hamilton had to write to me, talk to me on the telephone, spend an hour and a half with me, then write me and return my invoices. They also had to write Ottawa to inform them to send me \$14.

What did it cost Canadian taxpayers for these civil servants to "save" \$3.59 (less than the postage) and I think the \$3.59 was quite debatable.

The cost, if properly allocated, amounts to several hundred dollars and it started over, at the most, \$17.59.

Why do we need the GST? One of the many reasons is to pay for an incompetently managed civil service.

**R.D. Pinkney**  
RR #3, Georgetown

## John White wins with huge majority in Halton

Wed. June 24, 1863 Milton West — John White has been returned as Halton's Member of the Provincial Parliament after two days of polling on Monday and Tuesday. His majority over former Sheriff Levi Willson was a dramatic 813.

White won every municipality in the county and claimed a total of 1,116 votes to Willson's 285. In Milton the voting was 98 for White to 16 for Willson. Nassagaweya turned in its usually heavy Grit vote with 193 for White to 21 for Willson. Other results were equally lopsided. Trafalgar was 275 to 74 and Esquesung was 317

to 45. Nelson and Oakville were slightly more evenly balanced. Oakville was 55 to 21 and Nelson 178 to 108.

The official declaration of the poll will be on Saturday at 12 noon. Mr. White was leading the poll from the first day of voting having accumulated a majority of 576. Mr. Willson had only obtained 145 votes on the opening day of polling and was totally swamped by the second day.

Political strategists stress that one vote before noon on the first day is worth two votes after that, since the trend is usually set. The Toronto Globe stressed the importance this time of men not leaving the poll without first voting in the opening morning.

It now appears the Ministerialists will have about 43 seats in Upper Canada and 29 in Lower Canada for a total of 72. The opposition will have just 17 seats in Upper Canada but 32 from Lower Canada. Eight members are yet to be accounted for but it is assumed the final result will be about 76 seats to 54 seats or a clear majority.

If the "double majority" is to be applied, however, where acts require a majority in both Upper Canada and Lower Canada the government can still be thwarted in some of its programs.

The outcome of the election in Halton was somewhat predictable. There was no candidate to oppose John White until a short time before the nomination meeting on Saturday June 13. At that time Levi Willson came forward as a Moderate. Even the supportive Hamilton Spectator acknowledged he was late in the field and observed "there is no saying what his chances may be".

Following the speeches, the show of hands was clearly in favour of Mr. White and Mr. Willson demanded a poll.

Spirited speeches have since indicated the Reformers are for economical administration, for the opening of the North West, for representation by population, for no sectarian grants and for a national university. While it is difficult to insure all Reformers will support each of the planks it is conceded there will be general support for the government.

The only issue that seemed to emerge during the local campaign revolved around the 1858 vote of appreciation tendered by local magistrates when Levi Willson retired as Sheriff. Mr. Willson had said he retired with a "unanimous vote of thanks." One of Mr. White's supporting newspapers had suggested there were only five Magistrates present for the vote and two of them opposed. A copy of the minutes of the Quarter Session of 1858 showed 24 magistrates present and voting in support with eight absent asking that their names be added.

Sequel — John White was sworn in as representative of Halton on Aug. 13, 1863 when the 8th Legislature of the Province of Canada assembled for its first session. There were five sessions for this Legislature, the final one ending Aug. 15, 1866. It was during the life of this Legislature that the terms of Confederation were developed and it was the final Legislature of the Province of Canada. It was, however, a time of political turmoil. The Government's gained seats in Upper Canada and lost seats in Lower Canada left them in a weak position and by 1864 it was clear to J. S. Macdonald his regime could not govern effectively. Other administrations followed.

Sixty-eighth in a series of historical facts, sometimes sprinkled with imagination, to reflect Milton's past. Research assistance by Jack Charlton and Alex Cooke.

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