



# The Canadian Champion

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## Too much to ask?

In Toronto Tuesday both a television station and one of the major newspapers were making much of a poll they jointly conduct on national affairs. The poll offers them a window into the minds of Canadians, they contend, and perhaps rightly so.

We have not been queried by pollsters but we do have some ideas on what would be of benefit to the country. A few examples follow.

If a Goods and Services Tax genuinely makes Canadian manufacturers more competitive and imposes only a one-shot minimal increase on the cost of living, as the federal government contends, then we can accept it, although it is almost heresy to utter such a thing. We would prefer to see the tax implemented now and have the chips fall where they may in the next national election.

We would like to see some sort of concrete, long-range strategy created to grapple with the disturbing public debt, which now hovers around \$350 billion. The federal government could hardly be more unpopular than it is, so it might as well tender such a plan now. It would also lend more credence to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's claims that he plans on doing the right things, rather than the politically expedient things.

We would welcome some sort of equitable arrangement with the native people, who have been estranged and impoverished for centuries amid plenty. All outstanding land claims could and should be settled within a decade.

The Indians will not get everything the more militant among them want, but they will get more than they have now. And in the long run that will be to the country's benefit, since healthy, happy people are an asset and disgruntled, dangerously armed people are not.

We would dearly love to see government officials spurn limousines in favour of mid-size cars. We would appreciate it if Mila Mulroney jettisoned her staff and just went about the challenge of raising her children instead of running an office on taxpayers' money. We would abolish the Senate and then reconstitute it as an elected, equal and effective body.

This being a wish list, we might as well go the whole hog and ask that the Prime Minister: a) Stop harkening back to a government Canadians abandoned in 1984 as the source of all his and the nation's troubles; b) attempt to at least appear a little more genuine and down to earth when he talks.

Is that asking too much?

## Too bad

The courts are clogged and have been for years and finally something is being done about it, although many would argue that the cure is worse than the ailment.

In essence, the Province has decided to ignore many less consequential criminal cases stockpiled and awaiting court action in hopes of clearing the backlog on the books. The Province has taken the action in the wake of a Supreme Court decision which saw a serious case wiped from the docket because it had taken 34 months to come to trial.

The solution isn't the best one. The best one would have been less drastic and would have been acted upon sooner. But under the circumstances it's probably the only one. It's just too bad some deserving individuals will, because of this, never see the inside of a jail or bear a hefty fine.

### Pud



by Steve Nease

## Looking back



In the backlash of Hurricane Hazel, rampaging flood waters washed out this bridge on the Base Line, east of Hornby, in October, 1954. An unsuspecting motorist, picking his way through the storm, dropped nose first into the gapping crevice. One passenger in the car was hospitalized, but not seriously injured.

## Pages of the Past

### One Year Ago

From the November 1, 1989 issue

□ Town finance director Jim McQueen anticipated a seven per cent hike in property taxes for 1990 to service Milton's needs. But the overall impact would probably be greater because it appeared both Halton Region and the boards of education wanted more than that. Mr. McQueen noted that Halton was "contemplating a 10 per cent" increase while provincial Education Minister Chris Ward pledged \$180 million in additional school funding within the five years beginning in 1990.

□ Emergency crews moved into place after several Martin Street residents reported a gasoline smell in their homes. Residents of three homes were evacuated briefly until fumes were ventilated. Deputy Fire Chief Harold Penson said that all precautions were in place and the situation was being taken "very seriously."

□ Santa Claus was coming to town, but he wasn't going to have much of an escort unless more Milton corporations helped out. The annual Milton Santa Claus Parade cost \$13,000 to mount, but only \$4,000 in corporate donations had trickled in.

### 20 Years Ago

From the November 4, 1970 issue

□ An outbreak of senseless vandalism kept Milton OPP officers busy on Halloween night as gangs of youths lit fires, broke mailboxes, wrecked signs and tossed a variety of eggs, apples and other vegetables around the north Halton countryside. One OPP spokesman said it was a pretty hectic night, although he had seen worse.

□ A Halloween night fire at a Moffat district farm owned by Ontario Minister of Social and Family Services John Yaremko was deliberately set, according to investigators from the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office and Milton OPP. The barn was located on a Second Line farm where Mr. Yaremko was renovating an old stone house.

□ Shocked by vandalism in a cemetery in the north section of the township, Councillor Alan Ackman won Nassagaweya Township Council's support for a resolution that would post a reward of \$1,000 for information leading to the conviction of vandals.

### 50 Years Ago

From the October 31, 1940

□ A \$10 reward was offered by W. A. Chapman to any person giving information leading to the conviction of the person or persons who damaged the windows in the barn and other buildings on his lands on Mill Street.

□ Frank Wilde and Joseph Arthur of Toronto were found hunting without a permit in Esquevasing, by Game Warden Leslie Bray. They were fined \$10 each and costs.

□ James A. Milton was assessed \$10 and costs or 10 days for having liquor in an illegal place. A portion of a bottle of wine was found in his car, which was found abandoned on Seventh Line in Trafalgar.

□ Wm. A. Boyle, 18, of Georgetown was given a suspended sentence by Magistrate Woodliffe for being drunk at a barn dance in Chinguacousy Township. "We got the liquor in Norval," claimed the accused. "You should know better than to go into a beverage room at your age," declared the magistrate. "Don't you know that the hotel proprietor and many other people will get into trouble if you keep that up?"