

COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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LOOKING BACK



A fund-raising barbecue for the Hornby Park Board attracted about 300 people in August 1961. Among those at the annual event at the park were Karen Brigden, Marg Hume and Doreen Carney.

Answer deserved

Has Halton Region done all that could be done to make certain people living around the new 250-acre landfill in south rural Milton aren't being adversely affected by massive excavation works going on at the dump?

Irate residents living in the landfill vicinity say definitely not. And according to Ray and Annette Winter, who have reportedly been victimized by poor water supplies for almost six months, what Halton has mostly provided is a bureaucratic runaround.

Brian Penman, and other Milton municipal councillors, said they have received half a dozen complaints about a lack of well water from residents in the landfill area, none of whom had problems of this magnitude previously.

To their credit Monday night, Milton councillors supported the idea of a public meeting to bring together the various stakeholders in the matter with a view to at least airing out all the problems and formulating a plan for solving them.

That's more than Halton has so far volunteered to do. To date all Halton has done is denied any apparent link between water problems in homes near the dump and work going on at the site.

While regional bureaucrats state that no direct relationship has been established between their huge project and water pressure loss in adjacent wells, we find ourselves questioning just how mightily they laboured to examine all the evidence of a connection. After all, the only change of substance that has occurred in the vicinity is the excavation for the landfill.

We can understand the Region not wanting to open a Pandora's box of potential legal problems with a blanket admission of guilt in sapping area water away from wells. But we expect Halton to vigorously investigate any and all complaints from residents in the dump's vicinity, and to expedite those investigations.

These people are burdened by living next door to something they fought for years at great cost. They are due more consideration than they appear to be getting.

More taxing times

The taxman cometh, again.

With dwindling revenues due to the recession, governments at every level are attempting to collect tax dollars wherever they can. Milton, being no exception, is hiring someone who used to counsel corporations on how to avoid taxes to make sure the municipality doesn't get short-changed.

This is all to the good, we would like to think, as long as the matter is kept in perspective. Already Milton has succeeded in gleaning roughly \$130,000 in what amounts to property taxes from other government agencies that have holdings that were reportedly undervalued in Milton.

But let's remember something. Those other government agencies, such as utilities and provincial ministries, only have one source of revenue — that same hard-pressed taxpayer. And if Milton's next targets, commercial-industrial taxpayers and area businesses, are forced to pay more they will simply pass on those costs to customers.

Granted, every extra dollar collected from these people is one less charged residents in property taxes, but in the end, one way or another, the cost is usually passed on until it stops squarely on John or Jane Q. Public's doorstep.

PAGES OF THE PAST

One Year Ago

From the June 19, 1991 issue

□ The number of welfare cases in Halton Region continued to climb, and was up more than 76 per cent from one year ago. Currently, 2,414 people were on social assistance, said a committee report tendered by Bonnie Ewart, the regional health and social services commissioner. At the same meeting, Ms Ewart obtained authorization to hire 10 more employees to deal with the heavy and climbing workload in the regional welfare departments.

□ Star attractions and perfect weather added up to a fun time downtown. Milton residents flocked by the thousands to Moonlight Magic on Main Street. The event was a tremendous success, according to Sandy Martin, executive director of the Milton Downtown Business Improvement Area (DBIA) which annually organizes Moonlight Magic. For shoppers, downtown merchants staged a giant sidewalk sale which didn't end until 11 p.m.

□ A gigantic oak tree on McColl Court in the Derry Road and Holly Avenue area was toppled by lightning during a storm. No one was injured in the incident and there was little damage as the tree missed a parked vehicle by less than a metre. "When it fell down, the doors inside the house swung open," said local resident Pam Scarfe. "It seemed so calm afterwards, there was no wind or anything. It was really eerie."

20 Years Ago

From the June 21, 1972 issue

□ Reconstruction of Milton's Main Street between Martin and Bronte streets was proceeding "on schedule," said Paul Brown, project supervisor for McCormick-Rankin and Associates, the consultants on the job.

Crews started by installing a new 12-inch watermain along the north side of Main Street and it was complete to Elizabeth Street, a block east of Bronte Street.

□ Thanks to a generous donor, a plan to build a unique stone cairn to commemorate the founding fathers of Nassagaweya became a reality. The cairn project was the brainchild of Gus Goutouski of Moffat. Mr. Goutouski appeared before Nassagaweya Council at its May meeting and asked for \$500 for the project. Council agreed to consider the request, but later they were contacted by a donor who offered to pay the \$500.

□ Fire Chief A. E. Clement issued a temporary order banning the use of clearance fires by a construction firm working at the site of the Barber-Greene Canada factory near Steeles Avenue. His order came in the wake of a brush fire which occurred at the back of the factory site. "It was a bad fire — not much damage but we had to work for almost three hours to douse it," stated Chief Clement.

50 Years Ago

From the June 18, 1942 issue

□ The barn near Bert Jones' greenhouse, which was owned by the late J.H. Peacock on King Street, was torn down last week.

□ Twelve ewes and eight lambs were killed and 40 ewes and lambs were injured when dogs attacked a flock of 70 sheep owned by Fred Nurse and pastured on an isolated farm on the Erin-Caledon town line.

□ The Grand Valley Star and Vidette editor was nursing a very sore hand. While operating the Intertype, his left hand came in contact with the moving parts of the machine, and a portion of the second finger was amputated.

PUD

BY STEVE NEASE

