



COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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LOOKING BACK



Students were called on to encourage the use of Milton Public Library back in April 1965. A poster contest was held during the annual Library Week to get the message across. Of all the entries, the poster created by Moira Jones, a Grade 7 student at Holy Rosary, earned top honours. From left, Agnes Bonin shows off her entry, Miss Jones displays the winner along with Mrs. K. Y. Dick of the library and Wanda Guay holds her poster.

Civic awards tarnished

The Milton Chamber of Commerce is to be commended for its renewed effort to attract interest in its civic awards, and to be condemned for concocting a ceremony guaranteed to embarrass worthy recipients and their friends.

The Chamber is proposing a black tie affair in April this year, at which three potential Citizens of the Year will dutifully (if all goes according to plan) appear and anxiously await selection of a winner. It will be akin to an awards ceremony like the Oscars.

When the moment of truth arrives there will be one victor and two game yet crestfallen also-rans, who will be comforted by friends while the winner strides to the podium, presumably pulling out an acceptance speech enroute.

This is a bad idea when it comes to recognizing community volunteers.

Why turn volunteerism into a competition? Each of this year's potential recipients — Barb Snow, Joe McCann and Walt Elliot — are worthy in their own right. Why should they have to square off against one another? Since when did community service become a contest?

Granted, there is an element of selection in the process already. A panel pores over nominees and makes a choice. But it is done discreetly, privately, charitably. A spirit of sensitivity prevails, and that is as it should be.

In its quest to market its annual civic recognition ceremonies more effectively the Chamber of Commerce has produced an innovative plan. That spirit is welcome. But the format is singularly inappropriate for the occasion.

This type of awards structure is, no doubt unwittingly, the cornerstone of one-upmanship, not citizenship.

The only effective remedy for this situation is to honor all three recipients in each category (there are also civic improvement and organization nominees) equally this year and then scrap this novelty.

If the Chamber wants to market its awards ceremony more effectively it should cut the quantity and duration of dull speeches, then concentrate on good food, drink and entertainment. That's what works for everybody else.

Just don't start

Kicking the smoking habit isn't easy. It's an addiction and a strongly imprinted behaviour. The best way to keep from getting hooked on this unhealthy, not to mention expensive habit, is not to start.

That's the thrust of the Halton Council on Smoking and Health mandate for '93. Alarmed by the increasing numbers of teenagers, mostly female, taking up the habit, the council is determined to have the age limit (18 years) for purchasing cigarettes enforced.

It should be as difficult for someone underage to purchase cigarettes as it is to purchase alcohol.

Smoking related illnesses are well documented and new research has confirmed the risks of second-hand smoke. There's no good reason to smoke.

PAGES OF THE PAST

One Year Ago

From the January 22, 1992 issue

□ Milton's first baby of 1992, Chelsea Lefler received the first 'Wrap it Up' towel being sold for \$100 each to benefit Milton's new Leisure Centre. The towel was donated by Brenda Catalano, owner of Milton's Vanity Fair, the local shop supplying the towels.

□ The town's youth was doing their part during National Non-Smoking Week. The world's longest poster for a smoke-free planet was being signed by local school children. Posters were being signed all over the province. Tanya Kulnies, a member of the Halton Council on Smoking and Health had said that afterwards Halton's posters would be joined together with posters from other cities across Ontario. The length was expected to be well over 2 kilometres.

□ The Milton Curling Club's junior mens rink of skip Jay Hutton, vice Ryan Whalen, second Chad Tummon and lead Scott Hart had advanced from the zone playdowns in Shelburne to the regional playdowns to be held in Galt. Orangeville had also advanced.

20 Years Ago

From the January 24, 1973 issue

□ A postal strike in Toronto had slowed down mail in Milton. Eleven employees of the Milton Post Office had been told not to report to work, because there was very little mail being received. Postmaster Walter Ball said most of the incoming mail came via Toronto and the airport and both those terminals were being picketed by striking union workers. Outgoing Milton mail was not being accepted in Toronto either.

□ In a letter to Milton Council the W.D. Ratepayers Association had complained that W. I. Dick school was overcrowded and there was no intention by the Board

of Education to build a permanent school to handle the increase of Milton population. However, the Council had said that the Ratepayers were obviously unaware that a school site had been purchased by the Board in the Dorset Park Area. Bruce Lindley, superintendent of the finance of the Board also claimed that W.I. Dick had a capacity of 285 students and in September 210 were enrolled. Later two portables had been added on adding an extra 70 students to the capacity, while enrolment had increased by 44 students. The Ratepayers had also complained about the portables, saying that students had to go out of the portable and into the main school to use toilet facilities. Mr. Lindley had explained the board had 53 portables all being used by students in the same situation.

□ New regional government proposals had been released, that carved Halton into four area municipalities and established the county as a two-tier regional government. The province had accepted Milton's arguments for a four-borough region and proposed the town as the focal point in a 92 square mile municipality with a projected population of 14,500, the smallest of the four. The regional municipality of Halton was to cover virtually all of Halton plus Waterdown and East Flamborough Township. A small part of Oakville on the eastern boundary would be transferred to Peel. Milton Mayor Brian Best was pleased with the new proposals.

50 Years Ago

From the January 21, 1943 issue

□ Rural mail deliveries had been held up by the snowblocked roads several days in the past week after a major blizzard.

□ There was to be a dance and cards at Bell's School under the auspices of Bell Literary Society.

□ There was to be a "Burn's" Tea and sale of homemade baking hosted by the Maple Leaf Circle.

PUD

BY STEVE NEASE

