



COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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On vandalism

It's too bad there are no veterans' cemeteries around here because when and if the people who besmirched the war casualty memorial at Victoria Park are caught, they could, hopefully, spend a few months tending such a place as work program punishment.

We can't think of anything more fitting than to have these undoubtedly youthful offenders forced to confront at least a hint of the sacrifice represented by the monument they apparently so casually defaced.

We have yet to meet anyone unmoved when confronted by the sheer enormity of wartime cemeteries — the seemingly endless rows of simple headstones or crosses that stand in mute testimony to the cost of large-scale armed conflict.

It would be appropriate to have the thoughtless vandals who tarnished the Victoria park cenotaph forced to reckon with the scope of that sacrifice, especially as it stands in stark contrast to their own mean-spirited and petty actions.

Vandalism indicates two significant societal failings; the obvious one being on the part of the generally young people who do it, the other being a certain culpability on the part of the vandal's caregivers — parents, teachers, adults in general, really, for fostering an environment in which vandalism flourishes.

Vandalism can be a barometer of an area's social wellbeing. Witness the American inner cities, where it flourishes, as opposed to the more affluent and accountable suburbs, where it generally does not.

Milton is not burdened by an overabundance of vandalism, but it is far from free of it. We must ask ourselves if we have done all that we reasonably could to deter the crime.

Do our young people respect the property of others, the rights of others, indeed themselves, as much as they could or should? Are they gainfully occupied most of the time and relatively content? Are we all even certain just how Milton's teens do feel? When was the last time we demonstrated to them that we actually care?

This is not in any way to excuse the actions at Victoria Park. Justifiable anger is the emotion of the moment, punishment is the short term answer to the crime.

But the exercise of punishment, should the opportunity present itself, is not a full solution. All of us in some small way bear accountability for a heightened level of vandalism, and we believe it has heightened in Milton over the last few years. If our young people are bored, restless, destructive, it is our fault as well as theirs.

We propose no solutions. We merely highlight what may be a problem, and suggest that those who can speak effectively to young people do so, and that those who can't, or haven't in a long time, make an attempt to do so.

Deserved pride

Terry Fox was in many ways an average young Canadian, which makes the courage he displayed perhaps that much more remarkable. Last weekend so many Miltonians honoured his memory, in aid of a good cause, that the community should be proud. One can only hope that Mr. Fox, somewhere, is proud as well.

LOOKING BACK



Summer fun in Milton centred around the community swimming pool at Rotary Park in July, 1972. Youngsters flocked to the pool daily, if not for lessons, for afternoon public swimming.

PAGES OF THE PAST

One Year Ago

From the September 23, 1992 issue

More than 130 people circled the E.C. Drury High School complex one way or another in the Terry Fox Run. About \$8,000 was raised for cancer research. Sam Perry of Churchill Avenue raised \$2,010 while Betty Ingle, representing Remax Miltowne Realty, collected \$1,000 in the run. Participants, ran, walked or cycled the course.

The Milton Chamber of Commerce chose Carole Budworth as their Businessperson of the Year. For the previous three years, Ms Budworth had been a real estate agent with Royal LePage and before that ran the St. Clair Paint and Paper store in Milton, which she co-owns with husband Brian. However, it was the time and effort Ms Budworth put into the community that earned her this honour. Ms Budworth had served on the Milton Chamber of Commerce and the board of the Milton District Hospital. Ms Budworth had said she was surprised and thrilled by the award.

John Fletcher showed why he was the overall points leader at Flamboro Speedway in hobby club car racing, as he won the End of Season Championship race. The Milton racer, driving a '39 Plymouth, started in the pole position and led for the entire race. Jason Shaw of Guelph was second, while Milton's Al Haringa and Gary Colling finished third and eighth respectively. In the little feature event, Mr. Colling finished a close second to Ron Eason of Oakville.

20 Years Ago

From the September 26, 1973 issue

Rain had dampened the spirits of organizers, cut the attendance and many of the activities at the Fall Fair, but the show went on nevertheless. Many of the events planned on the track and the dirt infield had to be cancelled because of the muddy conditions. It was noon on Saturday before the midway could operate because of high winds and heavy rain. Friday night crowds, however, were higher than in other years, helping to offset the low Saturday attendance.

Verna Fisher and Joanne Wilson won the 4-H Queen and Princess Competition respectively. Both were honoured at the opening ceremonies of the Milton Fall Fair. The two were 16 year-old students at Milton District High School. The girls were judged on projects they undertook throughout the year. The queen received a trophy presented by George Brown of the Royal Bank, roses from the fair board and a sterling silver bracelet. The princess received a pen and pencil set from the Bank of Commerce and a corsage from the fair board. All the girls in the competition received charm bracelets.

Voters in the newly created Central Halton borough were going to the polls. All but two of the 11 Central Halton seats were up for grabs. Depending on a voter's place of residence, he would have as few as three or as many as five ballots to mark. There was also a race for the Milton ward's school board seat plus a plebiscite on the name for the new town — Milton or Mohawk were the ballot's choices.

50 Years Ago

From the September 23, 1943 issue

More than \$2,700 in prizes were being offered on the Milton Fall Fair prize list, besides a large assortment of special prizes.

The Doris Hall Orchestra provided the entertainment at a dance at Brookville Hall, sponsored by the Busy Bees.

Mr. Randall and Mr. Morley had leased the old Bank of Toronto building next to the Selrite store and were having it made into an up-to-date butcher shop.

PUD

BY STEVE NEASE

