



COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Box 248, 191 Main St. E.,
Milton L9T 4N9
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Toronto Line 821-3837
Fax - 878-4943
Classified Advertising: 875-3300

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Fix the plant, quickly

It's nice to know officials who supposedly keep up with this sort of thing have gotten around to discussing a troublesome and apparently potentially dangerous situation regarding the storage of chemicals at an abandoned Milton plant.

On Monday night, town councillors pointed fingers at the provincial Ministry of Environment and Energy, foisting the blame towards that agency for failing to apprise town officials about the chemical inventory and lack of security at the former Pigment and Chemical plant on Main Street.

Maybe it is all the ministry's fault and not at all the town's, but town officials, frankly, should know what's going on in their own municipality. And if they don't, they should find out. We find the posturing evident Monday night by councillors slightly strained.

Whatever degree of blame for the current unhappy state of affairs belongs wherever, hopefully there will not be some typically long bureaucratic bickering process before somebody, somewhere, gets around to doing something about this problem.

Let's get an accurate idea of just what is in the defunct plant, what risk it presents, and how best to minimize that risk. Quickly. It's possible there is a certain degree of over-reaction in this, given the near hysteria that surrounds environmental matters these days, especially at the provincial government.

This is the same government, remember, that introduced such ridiculously stringent workplace safety rules that everyday materials such as window cleaner and postage stamp glue are supposed to be investigated by an employee safety committee to ascertain what fearful chemicals may be contained therein.

The plant in question has been an eyesore for many years, even when it was fully operational. Now it's at the eye of a controversy as well. A facility that was an embarrassment to look at is now the focus of genuine concern over safety. That's too bad. It is to be hoped the whole sad legacy will end soon.

It was an ambush

Oakville-Milton Reform Party candidate Rick Malboeuf served in Viet Nam during the war there, so he knows an ambush when he sees one. He saw a heck of a political ambush last week.

People who obviously dislike Mr. Malboeuf profoundly circulated, anonymously, damaging allegations concerning his financial responsibility at probably the most critical moment of the federal election campaign, with less than a week remaining.

Well, we've seen political ambushes before too. We felt duty bound to print the story that runs in today's paper, given the gravity of the allegations and the need for fair play in the election. We could do little else. If we had not done the story, Reform's political opponents could have accused us of bias for ignoring evidence.

That said, we think Mr. Malboeuf offered strong documentation refuting the charges. And he did so quickly and readily in an interview. We trust readers will weigh the story carefully, and with an open mind.

LOOKING BACK



Casper the Friendly Ghost, who hung out in the belfry of Milton's Town Hall and was only seen around midnight on nights of the full moon, was a little childish — just like the rest of us. He was caught in the plaza smoke shop where Caspar was looking over a selection of masks in October, 1964. The shot was believed to be the first recorded picture of Milton's friendly ghost. Caspar will be dolled up like a gypsy on Halloween. Apparently, he always wanted to be something other than a ghost.

PAGES OF THE PAST

One Year Ago

From the October 21, 1992 issue

□ Milton citizens received apples as rewards for supporting local scouting as the Milton Boy Scouts held their annual Apple Days. Beavers held an "Apple Polish" at the Milton Fair Grounds, while older Cubs and Scouts manned stationary points throughout the commercial area downtown. A special ceremony was also held to mark the occasion. Activities included the saluting of the flag, singing of the national anthem by Rev. Elaine Longland of St. Paul's United Church and a best decorated apple basket contest. The aim of the event was to donate apples to the citizens of Milton and Campbellville in appreciation of their support for Milton District Boy Scouts.

□ Art fans were given the opportunity to meet Robert Bateman at the Harrop Gallery. Mr. Bateman, formerly of the area, was at the gallery for an art show and sale featuring a selection of more than 200 different Bateman images, gift books, calendars and the "Retrospective of Limited Editions 1978-1991." His latest work, Winter Trackers, was also available.

□ Milton's Jason Near, one of the youngest judo black belts in Canada, took first place in the under 160 pounds, 16-year-old category of the prestigious American Juyaki East Coast Judo Championships in Newark, New Jersey. Jason was an E.C. Drury High School student competing out of the Shin Bu Kan club in Etobicoke. Competitors in the championships came from all over the United States as well as Quebec. Jason had earned his black belt in July.

20 Years Ago

From the October 24, 1973 issue

□ Carol Somerville of Acton was crowned Queen of

the Furrow at the Halton County Plowmen's dinner. Carol was to represent Halton County at the International Plowing Match to be held near Georgetown the following year.

□ About 200 hourly paid employees walked off the job at Polysar Corporation's Building Systems Division in Milton. Workers complained of poor morale and claimed their main complaint surrounded two raises given recently to men in one division of the work force. George Cleeland, a spokesman for the workers, said that workers were disgruntled when the company negotiated raises with 12 men and left the others out of the negotiations. Polysar workers had voted 95-27 to reject a company proposal to return to work and begin negotiations.

□ A 230-unit single family housing development at the north-east corner of Bronte Street and Derry Road was approved by Milton Council. The frequently revised plan was presented after discussions and approval by the planning board and the development committee. Changes to the plan included the elimination of culdesacs and the reduction of the number of access points on Derry Road. The development was to include a 5.8 acre town house site, a large park site and a school site.

50 Years Ago

From the October 21, 1943 issue

□ The Junior Red Cross was holding a dance at Ligny School. Lunch was served and admission was 25 cents.

□ A special bingo was being held at the I.O.O.F. Hall with proceeds to buy cigarettes for soldiers stationed overseas.

□ Milton's Victory Loan headquarters opened at S.A. Fay's former tin shop, one door east of T.G. Ramshaw's Real Estate and Insurance Office.

PUD

BY STEVE NEASE

