



# COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Box 248,  
191 Main St. E.,  
Milton, Ont. L9T 4N9,  
(905) 878-2341

Fax: 878-4943

Classified Advertising: 875-3300

**Ian Oliver** *Publisher*

**Neil Oliver** *General Manager*

**Rob Kelly** *Editor*

**Karen Huisman** *Circulation Manager*

**Teri Casas** *Office Manager*

**Tim Coles** *Production Manager*

**Ted Lindsay** *Retail Sales Manager*

The Canadian Champion, published every Wednesday and Friday at 191 Main St. E., Milton, Ont., L9T 4N9 (Box 248), is one of The Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing Ltd. group of suburban companies which includes: Ajax / Pickering News Advertiser, Barrie Advance, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, City Parent, Collingwood / Wasaga Connection, East York Mirror, Etobicoke Guardian, Georgetown Independent / Acton Free Press, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, Midland / Penetanguishene Mirror, Mississauga News, Newmarket / Aurora Era Banner, Northumberland News, North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Orillia Today, Oshawa / Whitby / Clarington This Week, Peterborough This Week, Richmond Hill / Thornhill / Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Uxbridge / Stouffville Tribune, Today's Seniors. Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with a reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. The publisher reserves the right to categorize advertisements or decline.

# Looking Back



Ready to cheer whenever their Mustangs' junior football squad scored in 1969 were these three enthusiastic cheerleaders, Monica Andress, Sue Pope and Debbie Sim, of Milton District High School. The girls had plenty to cheer about that season, particularly when their team downed the T.A. Blakelock Junior Tabbies 16-15 to jump into second place.

## Get it over with, soon

Even the most fiscally conservative among us can take no joy in yesterday's massive layoff announcements by the Halton Board of Education.

Granted, there is an element of the political in the timing of the thing.

Similar cutback statements are being released across Ontario. This is at the urging of the provincial school board lobbying group, in order to pressure Queen's Park into releasing its so-called 'tool kit' for coping with provincial austerity.

In that sense, the layoffs aren't final. That is, while the coming cutbacks will be profound, since the school boards aren't privy to provincial thinking, it is not known exactly if this particular number of employees, in these particular work groups, will be so deeply affected. But the end result will be something similar, so there is really no cause for hope. The bus is going to crash. There will be casualties. Many. Who they are though, isn't certain yet.

As it stands now, 572 teachers in area elementary and secondary schools have been told they will be out of a job at the end of the school year. Also facing unemployment are two superintendents and 53 contract teachers primarily involved in adult education.

Mixed in to this menu of misery are various office workers, janitorial staff and some others. To come in mid-May are management staff cutbacks on the order of 25 per cent.

At this point, the provincial government appears to have clumsily overtaxed the patience of Ontario's public school boards. Faced with the reality of having to offer 16 weeks notice of layoffs to its employees, the Halton board has done so, as have other public school boards.

As rage burns brightly in the board rooms, Education Minister John Snobelen gives the Nero-esque appearance of fiddling uncertainly with his 'tools' in some Queen's Park garret.

It would seem at this point that Queen's Park has little substantive to offer school boards regarding how to cope with the coming cutbacks. In truth, the boards may have been mostly grasping at straws anyway by expecting much.

The system is going to be so profoundly altered that massive dislocations will result, no matter what powers to tinker with it Queen's Park offers the boards.

And so a most unpleasant episode begins to unfold across Ontario, haltingly and amid even more rancor than necessary, since the provincial government has fumbled and lost momentum on the issue, at least for now.

Bumbling and political jockeying aside, one thing should now be apparent to even the most myopic among us. This protracted process, together with most of the other coming provincial cutbacks, must be completed as quickly as possible. To do any less is cruel and cowardly, a shameful shrinking in the face of daunting, unpleasant, cold, hard reality.

— Rob Kelly

## Pages of the Past

### One Year Ago

From the March 8, 1995 issue

- Scouts Canada held a garage sale to raise money for the Canadian Red Cross Society. More than 1,000 items were available. Richardson Chev-Olds at Derry Road and Ontario Street donated the space.

- International Women's Day was celebrated around the world, a tradition that started in 1910. Local celebrations focused on the Women's Information and Support Centre of Halton, which opened in Milton in October, 1993.

- The Town of Milton planned to increase some of its fees for leisure programs and facility rentals. Council sanctioned the move based on the general committee recommendation.

### 20 Years Ago

From the March 10, 1976 issue

- Roy Bennett, president of Ford of Canada, officiated at the official opening of Gallinger Motors Ltd. The new Lincoln-Mercury dealership was located at the corner of Main Street and Wilson Drive.

- The Milton District Hospital Auxiliary in conjunction with "by bettianne" shop of Georgetown presented a musical fashion show at the E.C. Drury High School auditorium.

The Milton Chansonettes choir and trio provided musical background at the event.

- Barbara Y. (Royle) Ford of Milton, the first woman to ever receive a Master Breeder Shield from the Canadian Holstein Association, was honoured at the club's annual meeting in Toronto. The award was the highest attainable by a Holstein breeder.

### 50 Years Ago

From the March 7, 1946 issue

- Milton Public School pupils presented a concert in the high school auditorium. There was good attendance at both shows. The program consisted of drills, dances, plays, recitations, gymnastics and selections by the school choir.

- A meeting of the Halton Milk Producers was held at the court house in Milton. The primary question under consideration was the proposed Milk Marketing Agreement. It was decided that no action would be taken by producers in regard to contracts until another meeting of the producers was called.

- The February meeting of the Mountain Union Women's Institute was held at Bell School. Ten ladies and eight visitors were present. Opening exercises were read and school children provided musical numbers.

## Pud

by Steve Nease

