



COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Box 248, 191 Main St. E.
Milton, Ont. L9T 4N9
(905) 878-2341
Fax: 878-4943
Classified: 875-3300

Ian Oliver *Publisher*
Neil Oliver *Associate Publisher*
Rob Kelly *Editor*
Karen Huisman *Circulation Manager*
Teri Casas *Office Manager*
Tim Coles *Production Manager*
Shaun Sauve *Director of Advertising*
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 / Astor 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



It was final examination time at Milton District High School in June, 1963. Betty Kingdon and Deva Smith got out of the heat of the examination room and into the shade of a tall tree to study.

A smart move

Today's paper contains a story about how former Liberal MPP Walt Elliot plans to help organize a major fundraiser to keep the Ontario Agricultural Museum open.

This is a tall order, because the provincial government is planning to close the museum, by cancelling its government funding. Mr. Elliot is part of a group that appears to believe they can keep it open without provincial money.

To that end, Mr. Elliot is helping to organize a giant fundraiser that could deliver as much as \$250,000, or one-fifth of the requisite annual museum budget, in a fell swoop.

That's a noble goal, but is it realistic? And is it realistic to expect that such a feat, or its equivalent in steady revenues, will be repeated five times over a year?

There may be a certain naivete in Mr. Elliot's approach on first blush, but perhaps he is not so naïve after all.

Off the top, we do not dispute Mr. Elliot's attachment to history. He is a member of the local historical society and a rural resident. Undoubtedly, this figures largely in his decision to assist in this venture.

But Mr. Elliot is also a loyal Liberal, a longtime party back-room organizer as well as an elected representative, and he knows how to play politics. He may be playing a little politics here, in a cunning manner.

By casting himself as flag bearer in the move to save the museum, he has adopted a cause that is popular with Milton's large rural constituency, and one opposed to the prevailing provincial government's agenda.

We submit that no longtime Tory would have taken on this job, for fear of being branded a traitor to his party by publicly embarrassing it. Mr. Elliot, of course, would like nothing better than to embarrass the Tory majority while endearing himself to a big voting bloc.

That voting bloc, by the way, will largely register and cast ballots come the next provincial election, because angry constituents almost always vote — it goes with the old axiom — new governments aren't voted in, old ones are voted out.

Mr. Elliot has, political observers will remember, stated publicly that he will not run again, after the thrashing he took at the hand of Ted Chudleigh (or more properly Mike Harris) when the Tory tide rolled in last summer.

But people change their minds, and electioneering never really ends, it just stays in low gear between campaigns.

Besides, even if Mr. Elliot opts not to run again, he will have done his party an immeasurable service if he can deliver to it disgruntled rural voters en masse.

Those who would find this a bit disappointing shouldn't, really. Politics is a business, like any other, and in the end various ends are served, most of them reasonable, some even positive.

We don't fault Mr. Elliot any such motivation, should he have it. Events, to some extent, are merely evolving in his favour.

But that is only because the Tory government is making the hard and necessary economic decisions that their predecessors in the NDP and the Liberals refused to make.

— Rob Kelly

Pages of the Past

One Year Ago

From the June 21, 1995 issue

- Councillors called for a legal report on the legislation governing the Police Services Board, responsible for operating regional police services. In a closed-door session, the Police Services Board agreed to pay more than \$25,000 in back taxes owed by senior officers for the personal use of police vehicles.

- Moonlight Magic crowds danced and carried on for hours in downtown Milton during the annual summer event. A portion of Main Street was closed for the event, put on by the Downtown Business Improvement Area.

- Hundreds of quilts were hanging at the Ontario Agricultural Museum following the Women's Institute's 100th anniversary celebration. As a prelude to the 1997 anniversary, a quilt show and turkey barbecue were held at the museum, attracting thousands of members.

20 Years Ago

From the June 23, 1976 issue

- The scramble was on for fall ice time at the new Memorial Arena, following the closing of the 55-year-old Fred Armstrong Arena for safety reasons. The Ontario Ministry of Labor ordered the move after an engineering report found the building was not structurally sound.

- "Rock Around the Clock" was the theme song for the teenagers who participated in the Rock-a-thon at Knox Presbyterian Church. The rocking marathon ran for 24 hours. Participants were fed while rocking and had only a five-minute break every two hours. The purpose of the event was to raise money to support a blind girl in Kenya whom the church had sponsored for six years. More than \$370 was raised for the cause.

- The St. Clair Chapter of Milton celebrated its 100th birthday with a meeting and dinner at St. Clair Masonic Hall. The top three officers in Ontario were on hand to congratulate local chapter officers and members.

50 Years Ago

From the June 20, 1946 issue

- A garden party held in Milton Arena was largely attended. Guests enjoyed a variety of programs for two hours and voted it a fine presentation. The Milton Legion and Board of Trade engaged a group of performers to make the event outstanding.

- Mrs. Delbert Downs was hostess for the June meeting of the Hornby W.I. and the newly-formed Drumquin W.I. were guests. President Mrs. Milton Brown presided.

- The appeal for the Save the Children Fund that was sponsored by the John Milton Chapter IODE collected a total of \$583.10. Members extended their thanks to those who donated.

Pud

by Steve Nease

