

Established 1861

The Canadian Champion

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Wind of change

There was a wind of change felt on Main St. Wednesday evening.

More than 80 downtown merchants assembled in the Charles Hotel to come together, at last, to talk about keeping Main St. a viable commercial core.

The meeting got off slowly, but once people started speaking their minds, it worked as an amalgamating influence, not a destructive one. The older merchants and the newer ones agreed they have to make big changes and work together to get those changes to become realities.

One of the first signs of working together was the near unanimous straw vote calling for the Chamber of Commerce to assist the Downtown Business Improvement Area (DBIA) in moving the farmer's market from the municipal parking lot near the old courthouse, to Main St. from Brown St. eastward to Martin St.

The merchants feel the farmer's market should be downtown as was originally proposed in the DBIA-funded, Turners-Lyon report of some four years ago.

The DBIA, if it wants to make that change, is going to have to work and lobby for that change with the Milton Chamber of Commerce, which operates the farmer's market.

This will be the first true test of the new spirit on Main St. If the DBIA can convince the Chamber to move the market, the DBIA will have gone a very long way in re-establishing itself as a marketing area with spirit and determination.

After that, almost anything is possible. There is a new spirit on Main St., and it's long overdue.

Day-care crisis

There is a looming day-care crisis in Halton which could be solved now if a sense of fair play is forthcoming from the Province of Ontario.

The province is limiting its grants payments to very strict guidelines on inflation. In many cases the increase is far less than five per cent. When it comes to grants to help regional governments with subsidized day-care, the amount is just not enough to keep the private day-care operators interested in dealing with Halton.

A large day-care study of the region has just been introduced and what it says is not news. The report notes long waiting lists of parents seeking day-care spaces. It also notes the fact private day-care operators are about to cease being in association with subsidized day-care programs. The report notes the private operators can, and probably will, charge more directly to the parents who are willing to pay because two salaries are needed in order to cope with today's economy.

If the private operators drop subsidized day-care, Halton is going to be left with a lot of subsidized children and nowhere to put them.

If the province does not give us the money, the only option Halton will have is to build its own day care centres and operate them at regional (your) expense.



pages of the past

One Year Ago

From the March 2, 1983 issue
Halton Regional Police Force has set its sights on a \$17.1 million budget this year—a 7.6 per cent increase over 1982. The request, which will be sent to the region for approval, actually represents an 8.2 per cent spending increase.

Some unfinished paper work at town hall will not deter the opening of Greenmount, a group home for teenaged girls.

Although a zoning amendment has not been passed by Milton council, which would allow for the operation of a group home at 734 Main St. E., the facility will open March 7.

A 22-year-old Guelph man is in fair condition in Milton District Hospital following a fire at Roxul Insulation Manufacturing Company early Monday morning.

William Hart, of 29 Inverness Dr., Guelph suffered severe burns to his left arm and chest and lesser degree burns to his face. Halton Regional Police said the employee was attempting to light a Cupola gas furnace when a "blowback" occurred, causing an explosion.

20 Years Ago

From the Feb. 27, 1964 issue
Milton Public Library should be moving into its new home in the former R.S. Adams store around the first week of May. Library Board chairman Bob Reed announced this week.

Halton County's fire truck population increased by one this week, when the Halton County Mutual Aid Association was presented with a welcome gift—a 1953 Chev. 500 gallon pumper complete with equipment that will be available for training and emergency use.

The eventual amalgamation of Milton, Oakville and Burlington under one council was suggested by Oakville Mayor Allan Masson when he addressed the members of the Ward 1 Ratepayers' Association of Oakville at the Percy Merry School Friday evening.

Milton Area Fire Department answered 106 fire alarms during 1963, a commendable decrease of 26 alarms over the previous 12 month period, Milton Fire Chief A.E. Clement reported Tuesday.

Despite the decrease in fire alarms, however, the fire losses increased. The 1963 loss was \$167,300, which included two large fires, the Robin Hood Flour Mills at \$110,000 and the McDuffe Farm Equipment building at \$30,000.

50 Years Ago

From the March 1, 1934 issue
Many a weird find has E. Wilkinson, tailor, made while fishing through his customers' pockets during the past 60 years.

They include fancy toothpicks, knives, lead pencils and odd pieces of money. He still remembers the thrill he received when he found a roll of bills, worth \$57 in a back pocket of a pair of trousers brought in for repair by an "English gentleman of culture." But even Mr. Wilkinson was recently startled when he reached deep into one pocket.

He felt what seemed a silver dollar, but was shocked when he got it out to find it was a mouse that had been squeezed as flat as a pancake when sat upon a long time ago.

Competing in the oratorical contest held at the high school on Friday, Miss Bernice Lawrence won the junior contest with her address on Beverley Nichols's book, "Cry Havoc." The senior honors were captured by Omer VanSickle, president of the school Literary Society.

75 Years Ago

From the Feb. 25, 1909 issue
The people of Halton will be glad to hear they are not likely to be forced to go to the great expense of erecting and maintaining a house of refuge.

Dr. W. Bruce Smith, Inspector of Hospitals and Charities, told the committee from the county council, who waited on him last week, that the Government would be satisfied if the county would arrange to have Halton's indigents cared for in the house of refuge of some other county, not by the minor municipalities.

Milton's unemployed have been making the reading room of the Public Library their headquarters this winter, monopolising the daily papers and disturbing the regular readers by their noisy discussions.

Last Friday night Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Erwin of Nelson were thrown on the road by their runaway horse and Mrs. Erwin was rather badly hurt.

It is reported that Landlord Brush, of the Queen's Hotel, Burlington is about to receive an important appointment.

The total immigration into Canada for the ten months ending with January was 125,653 compared to 240,892 for the same period last year.

viewpoint

For the hospital

with JANE MULLER



If you haven't answered your phone to hear the voice of a volunteer calling on behalf of the hospital, you will.

Chances are high that if you are reading these words you are well aware of the purpose these telephone calls serve.

The person-to-person telephone campaign has been publicized on these pages in various forms and the need for public funding of the hospital expansion has been in the news for months.

This is the reason I was prepared for a little tongue biting as a volunteer caller last week.

Could I resist plugging the community newspaper if and when the person on the other end of the line pleaded ignorance?

As things turned out the members of this community I contacted did not make my worst fears come true.

Telephone soliciting is a tactic which serves to reinforce negative impressions of people involved in sales.

No one enjoys having the serenity of an evening disrupted by the offer of gifts and demonstrations in exchange for the correct answer to a skill testing question.

I can imagine some of the responses given to this type of call.

What I couldn't imagine was the reaction to a request to buy a hospital room or a \$200 brick.

Putting myself at the other end of the line I'd think that brick must be something pretty spectacular.

As a measure of public awareness the calls are proving a success.

Most people admitted to knowing Milton has a hospital which is being expanded.

Most received an information package detailing the need for funds and the various donation programs.

In case you haven't heard from a volunteer caller, the first order of business after the appropriate introductions is to ensure the caller received the information.

In speaking with other callers, my experience was relatively the same. Reactions from the public were generally positive and polite.

That was something I hoped for but my cynical side shadowed the optimism with doubt.

That cynic inside was waiting for replies like "I gave at the office" or "I get sick out of town".

There was only one response which I felt was rude and based on the odds that's not a bad average.

Fellow callers who have been busy since mid-month, have found little resistance to the cause they promote.

If you haven't been involved you could get a good idea of the kind of job the telephone canvassers have by checking out the Campbellville Milton section of the telephone directory.

That's a lot of numbers to dial and people to connect with.

One of the outstanding callers has been Rose Harrison who was averaging 30 calls per hour.

That's pretty good use of time and tongue—no wonder the lady is in politics.

The majority of Miltonians are either considering making a donation to the hospital expansion fund or have already done so, judging by responses made to callers.

That type of feedback is needed when the telephone receiver begins to rattle the ear.

Even those who don't plan to financially support the project were far from rude.

It was my experience that they simply explained a donation was unaffordable.

They could just hang up or say they have already given but it seemed instead they would be straight forward and at the same time strengthen by faith in humankind.

The non-donors and supporters alike expressed appreciation for the call.

An experience like that makes people like me (I am usually not one to volunteer) understand what volunteers mean when they say they receive more than they give in that capacity.

our readers write

Supportive

The following is a letter addressed to the chairman and councillors at Halton Regional headquarters. A copy has been filed with The Canadian Champion for publication.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you and congratulations for your recent motion of support for Prime Minister Trudeau's peace initiative.

A few months ago, Canadians overwhelmingly voted "Yes" for nuclear disarmament in referendums held here and across the country.

Since then, hundreds of peace groups have emerged, including several here in Halton, attracting members of every age and interest.

Through the nationwide "Peace Caravan" campaign, we hope to make global nuclear disarmament a major issue in the next federal election.

We hope that those councillors who made light of this motion will not take lightly your voters' deep concern for the preservation of this planet.

We believe that no issue is more urgent or important in the world today.

JANET DUVAL
Halton Hills Action
for Nuclear Disarmament

Auxiliary thanks

Dear Sir:

We would like to express our appreciation to Jane Muller and staff for celebrating the 25th Anniversary of our auxiliary with us. The editorials and pictures were not only

greatly appreciated by the auxiliary, but I am sure aided the community in gaining appreciation for the work of the auxiliary.

JOYCE FOWLER
Corresponding Secretary
Milton District
Hospital Auxiliary

Dog (not) gone

Dear Sir:

Last week's early thaw was a welcome relief from the snowdrifts and slippery sidewalks.

It was finally possible to get outdoors and enjoy our town's parks and playgrounds.

Unfortunately the disappearance of the snow showed evidence that many dogs had already made use of the parks and their owners had neglected to clean up after them.

Milton has a by-law No. 28-79 (April, 1983) which states, "Any person who owns, harbours, or possesses any dog, shall clean up any excrement deposited by their dog."

Because Milton does not have a by-law enforcement officer, citizens can help in enforcing this by-law.

If you are aware of a dog that uses a park or playground, and its owner fails to clean up, find out the owner's name or at least the address, and phone this information to the deputy clerk's office at 878-7211.

The owners will be notified by mail of their responsibility and hopefully, this situation will not recur.

If you are concerned about this problem, voice your opinion to the clerk's office and also to your town councillor. With enough public opinion, town hall may consider hiring a by-law enforcement officer.

It would be better and cheaper though, if the citizens of Milton took the responsibility of keeping our recreational areas and sidewalks clean by cleaning up after pets or by speaking to those owners who don't.

BARBARA McFARLANE
Milton

Shoplifting

Dear Sir:

Regarding the article in Feb. 15 issue of the Champion on shoplifting.

I feel that shoplifting is a major crime. For one reason, if you let it grow it will not stop.

Constable Crawford of the Halton Regional Police Force and Gord Finney manager of Zeller's in Milton have the right idea.

Shoplifting is a crime and if caught you should be charged automatically.

I think that parents must emphasize to their children the cost of being caught shoplifting.

It was a very good article. Keep up the good work Champion and let's hope that people who read this article change their minds next time they go in a store to shoplift.

Mr. A. MAS
Burlington

Booster

Dear Sir:

In recent issues of your paper you have commended Milton's business community for its generosity and benevolence in support of the Christmas Fund and the Hospital Expansion Program.

The Canadian Champion welcomes Letters to the Editor. We do, however, reserve the right to edit, revise, and reject letters. In cases where revisions are called for, or where a letter is to be rejected, the writer of the letter will be telephoned and the reason explained. We ask that all Letters to the Editors be signed and the address of the writer and the telephone number be included. Unsigned letters will be rejected.