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The Canadian Champion

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A thought

Less than two months ago, mayors and administrators from several municipalities called for the enforced closing of 24-hour convenience stores in the Metro Toronto area.

The slaying of a young man and a brutal attack on a young woman, who were operating the stores after midnight, provoked the outcry.

Yet, in the space of just a short time, the desire to close the stores is over. No one even mentions closing them down.

The outcry was more a reaction to a serious problem than a solution. The ramifications of closing the 24-hour stores after midnight began to surface and eventually take hold of what was then a highly volatile situation.

While those of us in the media have a tendency to grab hold of a "people problem", it was rather gratifying to see reason win out over emotion.

It's a thought to keep in mind.

More waste

If it wasn't enough with Milton facing three waste treatment-disposal-incineration sites and two garbage dump sites; now we find we have three of four proposed sludge storage sites.

In a report presented last week by Halton's sludge consultants, a map was issued showing where the consulting firm figures huge, vinyl-lined sludge storage tanks should be placed.

The consulting firm urges Halton to start immediately on building the site(s) because we are approaching a sludge crisis in the region along with a garbage crisis and the looming Ontario Waste Management Corporation (OWMC) crisis.

Halton once touted spreading sludge on farm fields as a perfect solution to getting rid of waste while promoting the waste as fertilizer. The system which produces sludge is now putting out more than can be spread.

While all the yelling and screaming goes on about toxic waste and garbage dumps, we think it important to keep tabs on the sludge situation because it is another source of waste which is going to be dumped someplace.

That someplace is probably going to be Milton!



viewpoint

Our symbol
the black star

with JIM ROBINSON



Mrs. Doris Ashe called on Monday to talk about the waste treatment situation in Halton.

She's an Oakville resident, who with her husband, took a drive through Milton and environs on the weekend just to get an idea of the size and scope of what the Region and the Ontario Waste Treatment Corporation are proposing.

She talked about how we all have to stick together and fight the dump(s) for the good of all Halton.

I couldn't help thinking, while listening to Mrs. Ashe, how those people in Oakville seem more committed to stopping the dump(s) than those in Milton.

They have orange garbage bags set up all around the places where the dump(s) might go.

What do we have in Milton?
The answer, is that except for a dedicated few, Milton seems to have quietly accepted the OWMC and the regional garbage dump.

Oh, I know Chris Austin and the OUT group along with Dave Katz and Al Lukachko are going to scream that I'm being unfair but let's look at what has happened.

1) Except for the original flurry of activity on the part of Al Lukachko and John Komow, I haven't heard a word one from them about follow-up citizen meetings. I haven't even received a telephone call on the subject.

2) The Tremaine-Britannia group has been conspicuous by its silence. Usually I would have heard from them by now.

3) Milton council was going to form a committee of experts to make official representation on the OWMC situation. They were also going to hire a lawyer. In fact, I heard they were hiring two lawyers but so far

nothing has happened. I expect something will come to the fore this week or next on the committee-lawyer front, but the town is cutting it very fine. The council-citizen group should have been formed two weeks ago with a meeting following the Don Chant meeting called last week.

4) The most distressing thing to this writer was the absence of interest in the OWMC-sponsored public session held over two days last week. I talked to the owner of Halton Hills Place and he said he had perhaps 100 people Wednesday. When I was there Thursday there were four women, three men and six kids. The OWMC did not let this seeming lack of interest on the part of Milton pass unnoticed.

5) Last week the region announced it has four sites picked as locations for huge in-ground, vinyl-lined pools in which to store sewage sludge. No one even said in passing they were upset, which just goes to show how inured we have all become to the waste question in Milton.

I also could not help but notice that there is currently boxcar loads of Chicago sludge headed for Sarnia and then onwards into Canada somewhere.

Lastly a proposal.
Oakville has the orange garbage bag, so I think we should have a symbol too.

What about the "little black star" that was on the first OWMC maps. The star meant Milton was equidistant from all waste sites. To Milton it took on a more ominous meaning that seems to be coming true.

I think we should all start wearing black stars on our clothes, cars, and even houses.

We need to make a very visible statement and the "little black star" may be just the way to do it.

pages of the past

One Year Ago

From the April 20, 1983 issue
Milton may be the testing ground for a new honour fare system being investigated by GO Transit. Lou Parsons, chairman of the Toronto Area Transit Operating Authority, which administers GO Transit, recently told Brampton City Council of a plan to change the fare system used by GO.

Halton's elementary teachers may have a contract settlement for the 1982-83 school year. Robert Filman, president of the Halton Elementary Teachers Association announced Friday a tentative agreement has been reached with the Halton Board of Education. Teachers will be asked to ratify the pact April 25. The trustees will be asked for their approval April 28.

Singing in a cheap bar in small town Ontario is not a route to stardom, according to one entertainer who has travelled that road. Eddie Eastman, recently awarded a second Juno award as male country vocalist of the year, is a Milton resident heading for a stellar career in entertainment.

20 Years Ago

From the April 16, 1964 issue
Milton Council dropped the town's mill-rate one mill for 1964, despite a finance committee recommendation that the rate be cut by two mills, at a marathon budget-setting session Monday.

Total estimated expenditures for the year will be \$809,894.72. This will be offset by revenue of \$192,409.66 leaving a deficit to be picked up by the taxpayers of \$617,485.06.

Milton's plan to annex 2,500 acres from northern Oakville met its first stiff opposition from Oakville Monday night. Oakville council has decided to oppose the Milton land bid and attempt to cut it down to about 1,600 acres in size - and councillors there feel eventual amalgamation with Milton is the only logical solution.

A proposal for one-way traffic on Main St. and Mill St was submitted to Milton Council at its regular meeting Monday.

J. E. Porter, RR 6 Milton, explained that after driving for six months in Milton it was felt traffic congestion could be reduced by having Main St. from Martin St. to Bronte St. for west-bound traffic, and Mill St. in the same length for eastbound traffic.

Council referred the proposal to the police committee for study.

50 Years Ago

From the April 19, 1934 issue
Official War Pictures, owned and operated by the Dominion Government, will be shown in Milton in the near future, under the auspices of the Milton Legion.

Unaware that valuable antiques and coins lay within his reach, a thief who broke into the home of A.G. McNabb, 7th line, Trafalgar Township, on Saturday last, entered the room of Miss Mary Peddie, school teacher of the Boyne school, 7th line, who boards at the McNabb home, and stole \$20 in cash. Provincial police are investigating.

Direct relief will be suspended on May 1st, it was decided at a meeting of Trafalgar Township Council. \$357 was expended on relief in March, compared with \$1,299 for the same month a year ago, it was announced.

The lawn bowling and golfing season will soon be here. One good feature of these games is that they keep men from becoming nuisances about the house.

Harold "Red" Holmes who has been attending the OAC at Guelph, has completed his first year's term, and returned to his home here last week.

75 Years Ago

From the Apr. 15, 1909 issue
At 4.45 p.m. on Thursday evening the engine and two cars of a freight train, going east, were derailed between the CPR bridge and the diamond. They were not got on again for some hours.

The Goderich train going east and the train going west from Toronto, which cross here at 5.12, were delayed until about 11 p.m.

Dear Mr. Editor—I notice in your last week's issue that someone has been complaining about the nuisance of hens running at large. Let me tell you that so far as our part of the town is concerned myself and my neighbours have been annoyed for years and it is quite time the nuisance was put a stop to. I sincerely hope now that the matter is started, it will be kept up until every hen in the town is driven into her coop—and the neighbours will all be the better for it.

Another Ratepayer

John Hooker was found dead in his bed at his home near Tansley on Friday morning. He was an old man. He had come to Canada from Shropshire, England, a few years ago.

He had had heart disease for some time. News of his death has been sent to relatives in England.

our readers write

The tragedy

Dear Sir:
Last Friday March 30 a terrible tragedy occurred. Six teenagers lost their lives that night at a railway crossing. I, like many others, have been hearing about it since.

Your article in the April 4 edition read, "Who's to blame?". This really got me thinking. I cannot speak for the rest of your readers, but I truly believe that we are all to blame.

It has taken this tragedy for us to open our eyes. Why does it always have to be this way? Apparently there have been many accidents and/or fatalities which have occurred at this particular railway crossing throughout the years. Requests and petitions have been put in to try to correct the problem too. Yet, when these requests and petitions are turned down, the fight seems to disappear until another tragedy occurs. What is wrong with us?

Adolescents are not alone when it comes to this kind of tragedy. Adults have died this way as well. It does not even matter whether the person driving was being irresponsible or not. It still happens!

We all need to set aside the anger and the pain that we have experienced with these deaths so that we can think rationally. We all need to work together and stick together. If our requests, petitions, demands or whatever

you want to call them are denied, we still have to fight.

I have a few ideas as to how we can approach the problem. Maybe they're not practical but at least they are ideas.

First, I believe we need to lower the speed limit at all railway crossings. The signs will have to be situated far enough away in order to be effective.

Secondly, once speed limits are lowered (or even if they are not) the police can set up speed traps in order to catch those who decide to take their chances or those who just decide to speed.

Thirdly, the lights at any railway crossing, especially the one where the tragedy occurred, need to begin flashing earlier. I was up that way recently and a train was coming. It was close enough for me to know I would not make it over the tracks by bicycle before the lights began flashing. Aside from that, each train comes at a different speed. It could be so far down the track at one point and be on top of you before you know it.

Fourthly and lastly, why not create more jobs by sitting up stations at each railway crossing. At each station there could be one attendant who would be able to manually operate flashing lights if and when they are malfunctioning. As well, the attendant would be able to aid in catching those who break the law by crossing in front of a train.

Hopefully these ideas will help others to stop and think some more if they are not already. I truly hope that someone of authority is reading this so that if any of the suggestions could help that they would be acted upon.

However, it takes more than one person to create a change. Let's all stick together until we win.

I know that I am not alone when I say that I send my deepest sympathy to those families who lost their loved ones. I only hope that we can prevent further losses.

JACQUELINE RICHARDSON
Coulson Ave., Milton

Coverage

Dear Sir:
I spent my childhood in Milton during the 1950s and 1960s. I am happy to have been raised with a charming and sensitive community newspaper under the management of the Dills family.

As a regular visitor to Milton now, I am sad when I see what has happened to The Champion. I have often been appalled by the content of many articles and shocked by the attitudes of your reporters.

The issue of April 4, 1984 achieved a new low in bad taste. I am so insulted that you assume that Milton's people want to see pictures of families grieving at the graves of their teenage children.

Even worse, how dare you, with your presence and your clicking cameras, invade the privacy of these families in the midst of such suffering? Your insensitivity is shocking.

Your newspaper's treatment of this tragedy was identical to the "sensational" approach of some big-city newspapers. But this is Milton. Things should be different here.

Lauriel Sinclair
Kitchener

Thanks

Dear Sir:
On behalf of the Public Fund Raising Committee of the Milton District Hospital Expansion Campaign I would like to thank the following groups and individuals for their help in making Milton's Wintario night a success.

The Halton Board of Education; Mr. Ray

Waters; Milton District High School staff and students; Mr. Max Spicer; The MDHS Reunion Committee; Mr. Barry Coe; The MDHS Band; The A.M. Dance Company; Mr. Roy Downs; 2990 Milton Army Cadet Corps; The Milton Jaycees; Milton St. John Ambulance; Milton Public Works Dept.; local Wintario ticket sellers; and a terrific audience.

COLIN BEST
MDHS Hospital
Expansion Committee

OWMC

Dear Sir:
In the event of a toxic chemical accident, Milton would be unable, due to limited resources, be capable of treating its injured and burned citizens or quickly evacuate those in the danger zone as effectively as other proposed sites.

I have no doubt that the proposed dump site chosen by the Ontario Waste Management Corp., will possess the most modern of safeguards.

My area for concern, however, is in where I believe the weakest link of the safety chain exists. That link is in the transportation of toxic waste through the town enroute to the dump site. At this point human error on the part of the individual truck or train operator could result in a major toxic-chemical spill and in the worst possible scenario, major burns to a large number of citizens.

This scenario of a disaster would not be unique to Milton alone. Since anyone of the proposed communities could use this same argument I doubt if the OWMC would listen. However, unlike some of the sites Milton does not possess the resources or the capability to handle an accident of the above magnitude. Milton with its single ambulance, volunteer fire department, small police force and modest community hospital would be unable to provide rapid treatment to the immediately injured.

Peel and Halton regions are no strangers to largescale disasters and evacuations. Let's put this dump site in an area that has a proven track record in dealing with accidents, and all hope together that their resources never be needed.

WILLIAM SIMMONS
Hudson Court, Milton

Family responds

Dear Sir:
We would like to express our deep gratitude to all those people who helped us to face the loss of Bruno.

Although we do not know many of you personally, your presence at McKersie's and at the funeral meant more than we can say. The beautiful flowers and letters of condolence gave us all a very special feeling knowing Bruno was loved so much.

Our family would like to express our sincere condolences to the families of the other children Kim Burns, Traci Snow, Jo-Anne Varr, Chris Redden and especially to the family of Sean Zardo, who was Bruno's best friend, that they also may try to accept their loss to God's will.

Our prayers also go out to Kelly Simon and her family in hope that she recovers quickly both physically and emotionally.

We would like to thank, in particular, all the staff and students of Milton District high school for their support and thoughtfulness for giving us a beautiful memorial plaque.

Our thanks also to the Halton Region Police for making the funeral and it's procession a beautiful and honourable one.

Bruno brought a lot of happiness and love to our lives. We miss him terribly but knowing we have the support of so many caring people is a great comfort.

Thank you all.

THE GAZZOLA FAMILY
Giovanni, Antonietta,
Oscar, Walter, Ivana