

Opinion

Ranking no surprise to us

Are Miltonians living in one of the top places in all of Canada?

According to a nationally-distributed personal finance magazine they are.

Milton is ranked ninth among small Canadian cities — those with populations under 100,000 — in MoneySense's just released 2013 Best Places to Live report. In the same magazine's overall ranking of 200 Canadian cities of all population sizes (big, mid-sized and small), Milton came 22nd, up from 78th place last year.

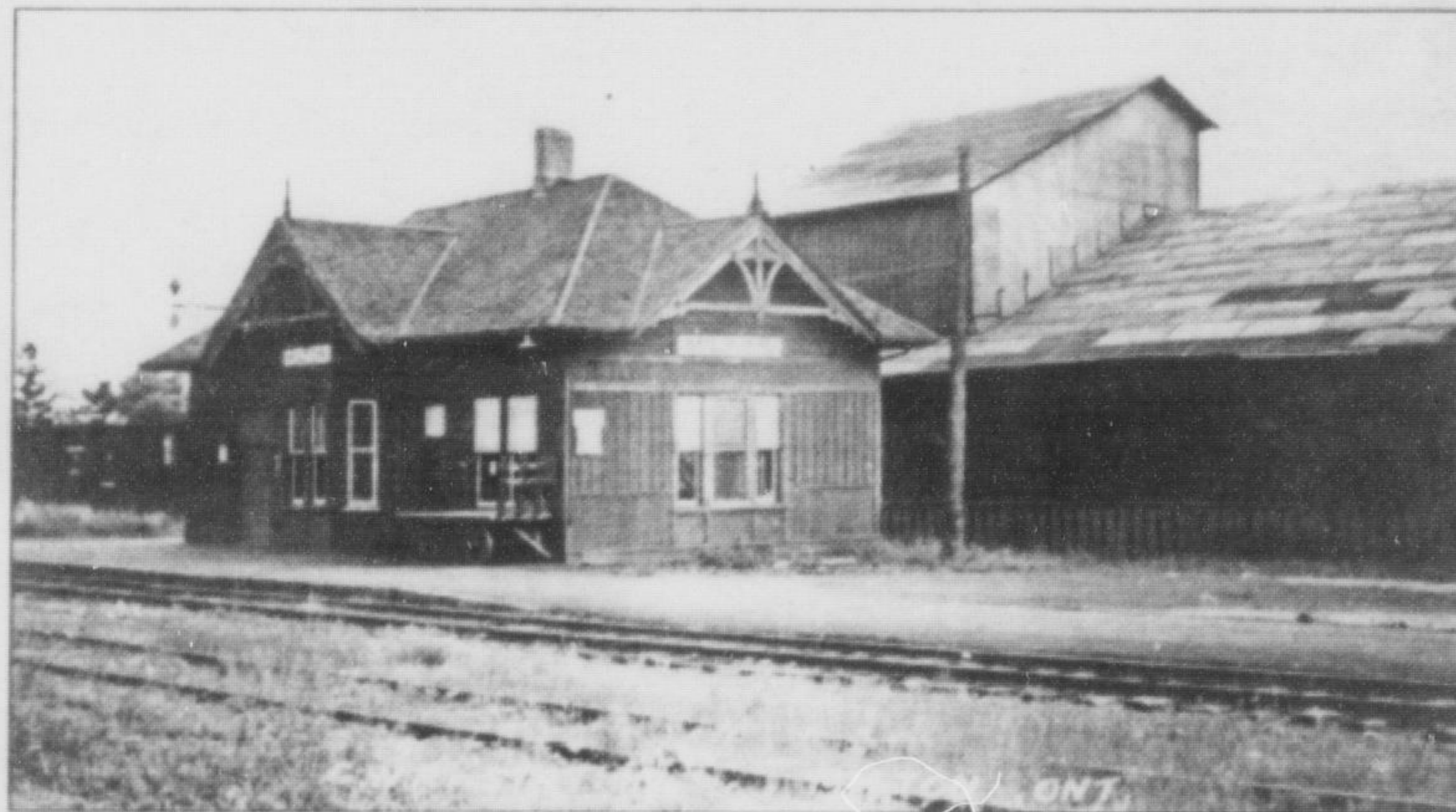
That's quite a jump.

But the lofty ranking doesn't tell us anything we don't already know. People choose where to make their homes based on a wide variety of factors including affordability, proximity to vital amenities such as schools, hospitals and shopping etc., the area's crime rate, employment opportunities, even a community's natural surroundings.

Most of those factors favourably apply to Milton, don't you think?

Whether one chooses to embrace or dismiss the validity of MoneySense's annual number crunching, today Milton residents have bragging rights — at least until the 2014 list comes out.

As the town's population is now more than 100,000, it will be interesting to see where the municipality places next year.



Heritage Matters

Milton's CN station was originally east of Bronte Street near the present P.L. Robertson office building. It was relocated as a community project to the triangular land off Hwy. 25 (Steeles Avenue and Ontario Street) that was formed when the rail line was re-routed around Milton in the mid-1960s. It is now a tourist information centre.

— Submitted by Heritage Milton and Milton Historical Society

Letters welcome

The Canadian Champion welcomes letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit, revise and reject letters.

Letters must be signed with first and last name, and the address and the telephone number of the writer included for verification purposes.

Email your letters to kmiceli@miltoncanadianchampion.com or send by mail to 555 Industrial Dr., Milton, Ont., L9T 5E1, or leave them at our office.

Our office hours are Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Letters

People drive by injured man without stopping to help

Dear Editor:

As a resident of Milton for approximately 25 years (until two years ago), I marvelled at its small town feel and the fact the people you didn't know greeted you as if they did, and you could actually leave your car doors unlocked. That being said, the "older Miltonians" as I refer to them, will remember those days with fondness, I'm sure. While I was thrilled to be getting better shopping in town, I hadn't realized that with all expansion comes good and bad. It becomes a trade-off, actually.

Sadly, after having raised our kids in Milton, we found ourselves getting swept away with the growth. Being close to retirement age, we were longing for that "small town" again.

Knowing we couldn't have that where we were, we needed to move, and we did. We're now enjoying a quieter pace in Niagara Region. I still work in Milton and commute everyday.

Recently becoming partially disabled due to

a fall has actually heightened my awareness of my surroundings. On March 14 after work, I was heading down Regional Road 25 when I saw an elderly man on all fours who appeared to be in distress. Although a lot of vehicles came and went, none stopped.

I pulled over into the nearest driveway on the opposite side of the street. Realizing no one stopped for this man concerned me to say the least. Would anyone stop for me so I could help him, I thought? I took my chances and tried to stop traffic. It wasn't an easy task and certainly wasn't timely.

I finally reached the gentlemen who was hurt. He was bleeding and in need of medical attention. I, of course, in the moment forgot my cell phone on the other side of the street in my car. Fortunately for me (and him) a woman stopped asking if I needed assistance. I replied with "yes, do you have a cell phone so I can call 9-1-1." She did, and I called.

Before hanging up, police and a fire rescue car

had arrived at the scene, along with an emergency nurse who asked if she could help. Realizing he was in good hands, I left.

I'm writing this somewhat calmer now, however, I'm still shocked at how little regard people can have for another human being. An elderly man required help yet people continued to drive by. Can their lives really be more important than helping someone? Are they really in that much of a hurry to pick up milk or start dinner? Really, people?

Please be reminded, that any one of us at any time may require the assistance of a perfect stranger. But you see, what makes them "perfect" is that they will help you.

Let's not lose sight of what's truly important and remember to "pay" it forward as you never know when it will be your time to "collect" your change. Hopefully, the person you're waiting for will have the time for you.

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