

Opinion

Daffodil symbol of hope

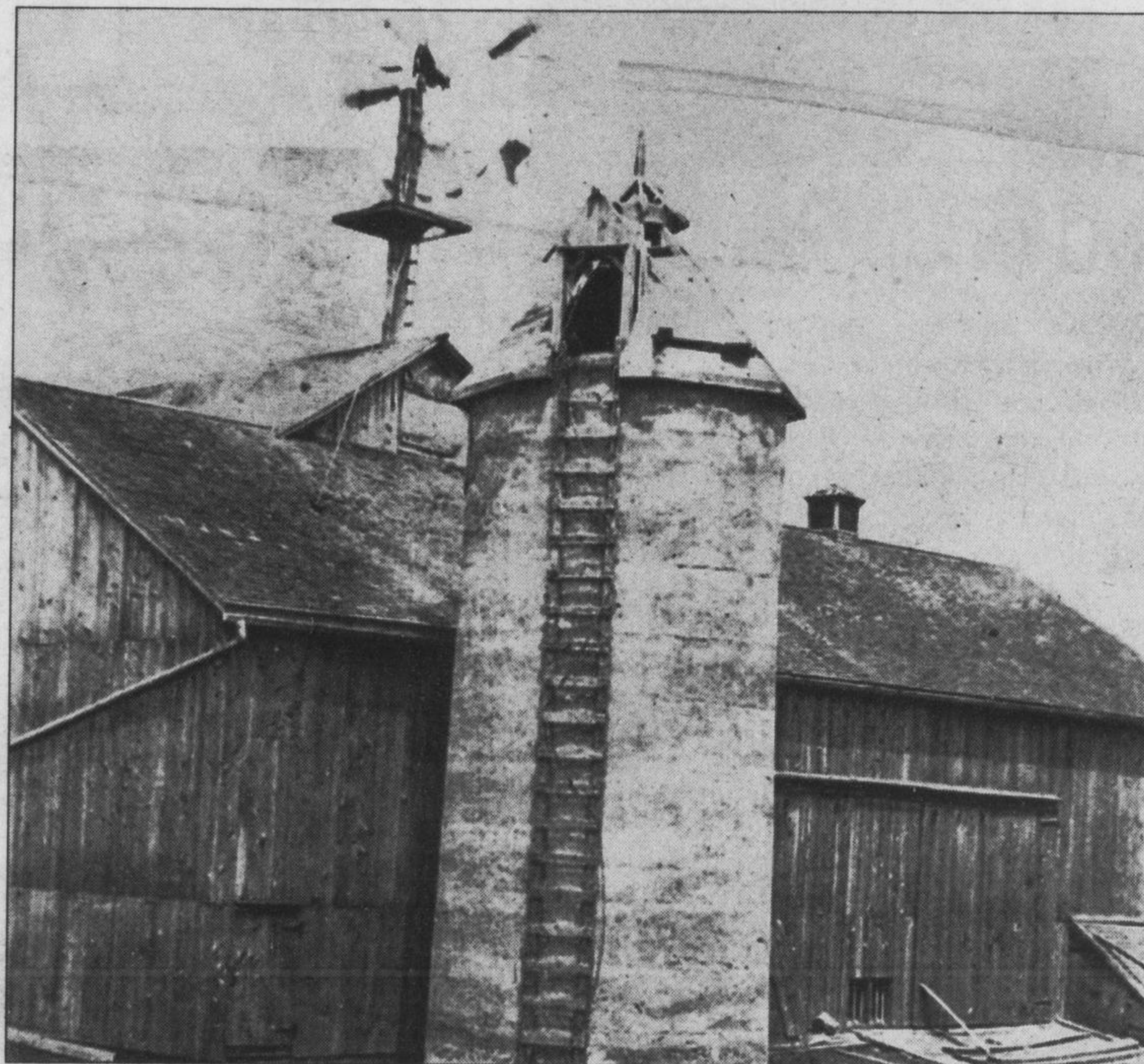
The sunny yellow daffodil is the harbinger of spring. One of the first flowers to bloom after a long, cold winter, the mighty daffodil is always a reminder of better things ahead.

It's also the symbol of hope, strength and courage for the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS).

Throughout April, volunteers across the nation sell the blooms as part of its year-long fundraising strategy. This is the first year, however, that the Ontario Division of the Cancer Society isn't selling fresh bunches of the flowers across all of Ontario, including Halton. Instead, the sale of live blooms has been handed over to Loblaw Companies Ltd.'s grocery stores.

The division is focusing its energies on selling the plastic version of the daffodil to be worn proudly by supporters of the work carried out by the society. Ontario Division hopes the lapel daffodil will become as successful as the Royal Canadian Legion's poppy and the society's pink ribbon sold to raise awareness of breast cancer. The society notes fresh daffodils were costly and not all sales were as successful as those in Halton. For some three decades, local volunteers had no problem fanning out across Halton selling both the fresh-cut daffodils and pins at grocery stores and other local outlets. Buying bunches of daffodils from cancer society volunteers is, perhaps, a tradition that shouldn't have been dismissed. There's something special about buying stems of tightly-closed daffodils in honour of a loved one who's battling the disease or lost the fight. A plastic pin raises public awareness, but it doesn't replace seeing fresh daffodils in a vase or in a place of remembrance.

The exclusive deal with Loblaw will net the CCS \$400,000 and better allocate its resources for other initiatives while continuing to offer fresh flowers to those who want them, explained Martin Kabat, CCS Ontario Division CEO, who visited the Halton unit last week. Kabat said he recognizes there are only a few Loblaw chain stores in Halton, however, the daffodils deal has room to grow in the future with Loblaw Companies Ltd. acquiring the Shoppers Drug Mart chain. Joan Gibb, who has been a familiar CCS volunteer in both Québec and Ontario for more than 45 years, is among those disappointed by the society's decision. The Oakville resident, who mobilized the local community to start selling the flowers some 30 years ago, said it's been a successful campaign here and one that everyone looks forward to, especially after a long winter. We agree with Gibb. The CCS should give special consideration to the Halton Unit and its volunteers who sold fresh daffodils to raise critical funds and shine a spotlight on how far we've come in beating this awful disease.



Heritage Matters

The Thomas barn, located on Second Line, was built in 1866 by Edward Thomas. The family had emigrated from England in 1820 and eventually settled in Nassagaweya in 1835 with a Crown deed for their property. The windmill mounted on the barn roof pumped water from a well below for livestock. The farm is still owned by the Thomas family.

— Submitted by Heritage Milton and Nasagieweya Historical Society

Editor's Desk

Lots of opportunities for spring cleaning right in own backyard

I'm a spring cleaner.

I don't like clutter and if I haven't used something in a while, I tend to get rid of it. But that doesn't mean I toss it in the garbage.

I know from holding many a garage sale that one man's junk is another man's treasure.

So before I dispose of something that I think could be someone else's 'treasure' and otherwise might end up in the landfill, I see if a friend or family member would like it. If not, I pack it up and off it goes to a church or charity that accepts donations of household items.



Karen Miceli
Managing Editor

But even if something has had its day, it doesn't necessarily mean it will end up at the dump. That's because once again it's time for Halton Region's special waste drop-off events, which divert countless items from the landfill. And it's free!

Among acceptable items for drop-off include pesticides, paint, motor oil, anti-freeze, propane tanks, computers, stereos, TVs, DVD players and VCRs.

Last year, Halton residents disposed of 87 tonnes of electronic waste and 86 tonnes of household hazardous waste during the special drop-off days. Due to continued waste diversion efforts, the landfill's life has now been extended to about 2044. Now I call that a treasure.

For the waste drop-off day schedule, call 311 or visit www.halton.ca/dropoff. Karen Miceli can be reached at kmiceli@miltoncanadianchampion.com or on Twitter @ChampionEditor.

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