

## We salute our volunteers, who give gift of their time

April 12 to 18 is a special week devoted to saluting those who donate their time and energy to their fellow citizens — our volunteers.

National Volunteer Week raises awareness of the vital contribution volunteers make to communities and the country.

Milton's volunteers serve on boards and committees, mentor peers, organize cultural and recreational activities, support the elderly, provide shelter, counsel youth, clean parks, coach teams, read to children, and so much more.

National Volunteer Week was first proclaimed in 1943. In Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver, Women's Voluntary Services organized special events to draw the public's attention to the vital contribution women were making to the war effort on the home front.

In the late 1960s, the idea of a designated week to honour volunteers was revived and the focus was broadened to include all community volunteers.

With local community organizations taking the lead, National Volunteer Week promotions and celebrations continue to grow, and for good reason. Findings from the most comprehensive study on giving and volunteering (2013 General Social Survey — Giving, Volunteering and Participating) reveal that Canadians continue to be generous by volunteering close to two billion hours in 2013.

Volunteering those hours were 12.7 million Canadians, according to the survey.

Volunteers do the work they do because they believe in causes, equal opportunities, clean, healthy and safe community spaces, active living and helping others. Simply put, volunteers strengthen our community.

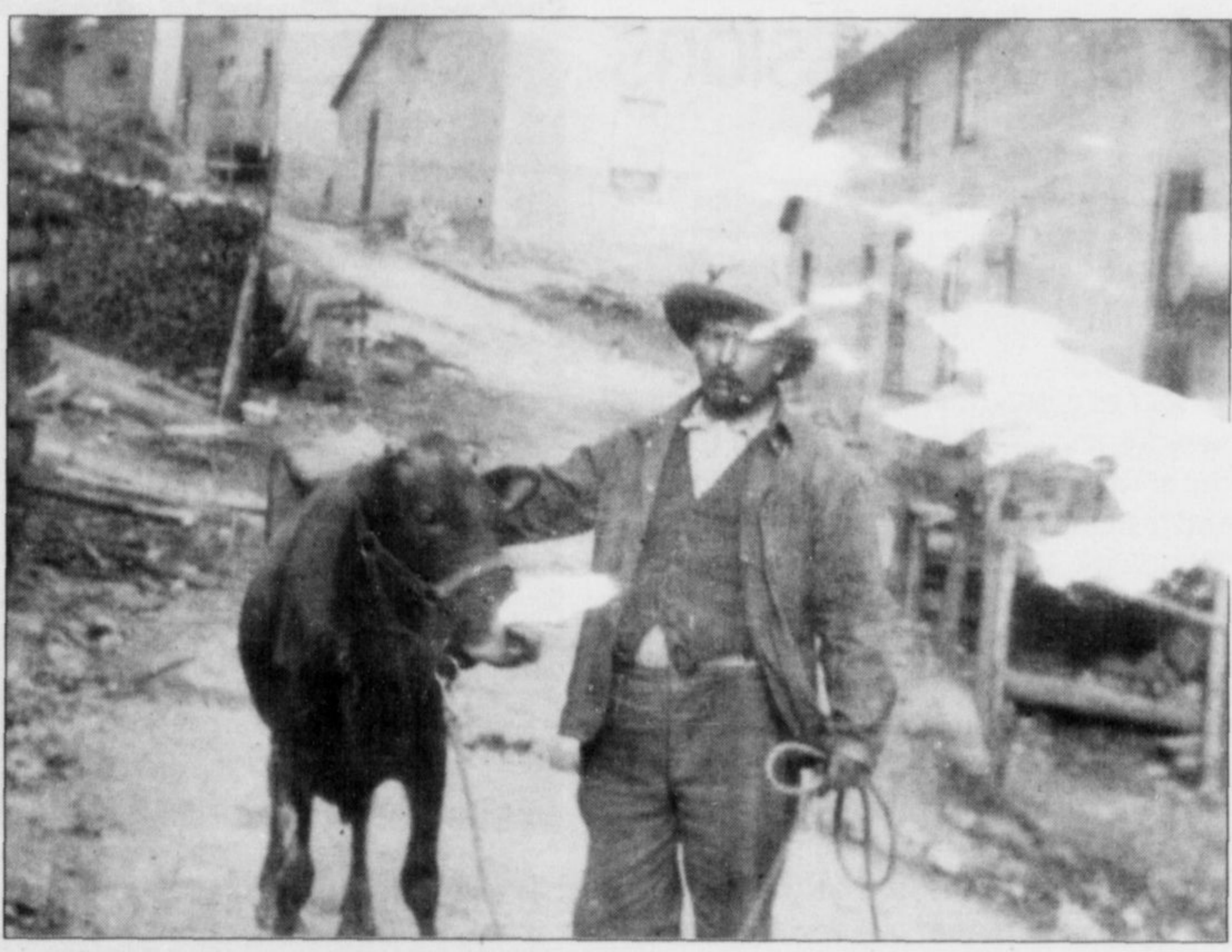
For example, what would Halton Healthcare do without the 288 adult, student and youth volunteers supporting more than 30 services offered by Milton District Hospital?

"This year's theme, 'Volunteers — A Work of Heart,' describes perfectly the contribution the volunteers make," Sharon Norris, vice-president, human resources planning and organizational development, said in a media release.

"They truly are the heart of our organization."

No doubt the same can be said for the countless volunteers who serve local charities, service clubs, schools and sports groups in this town.

Volunteers aspire to make life better for others and we honour them for doing so.



### Heritage Matters

The Robertson Lime Company was a large and successful company that built three 50-foot high natural draft lime kilns in the late 1870s. A tramway was used to carry the limestone to the kiln entrances. The quarried limestone rock supplied building stone and the lime produced was used in mortar. This 1920 photo of Frank Newell was taken south of the railway tracks off Kelso Road on land owned by D. Robertson showing the workers cottages provided by the company. Working at the lime kilns was dangerous and unpleasant work and like similar industries of the time, many of its employees were new immigrants. The Italian immigrants who came to the Milton Heights/Peru area in the early 1900s initially started working at these kilns and living together in the area.

— Submitted by Heritage Milton and Milton Historical Society

## Editor's Desk

### Talk about nose-to-beak experience

I had a Raptor Encounter on Sunday. Up close and personal, I met barn owl Shadow and a host of other birds of prey at Mountsberg Conservation Area, home of the Raptor Centre.



**Karen Miceli**  
Managing Editor

The experience — which was a birthday gift from my best friend Kim Chandler, her husband Mike and their daughter Kayla, all of Hamilton — is a program of Conservation Halton (CH).

As described on the CH website, participants in the Raptor Encounter (a fee applies) get a personal introduction to eagles, hawks, owls and falcons, and enjoy a private 45-minute presentation led by expert Raptor Centre staff.

Depending on raptor health and training, participants might even get a peak at feeding, raptor care, training, socialization, or even a behind-the-scenes tour of centre facilities. Best of all, unlike CH's other programs, the Raptor Encounter can provide participants with the opportunity to hold one of the centre's native, non-releasable raptors.

My friends and I were lucky to get both a facilities tour and the chance to hold Shadow, who was simply magnificent. Indeed our adventure was led by an expert Bobby Bowen, Raptor Centre resource interpreter, was very knowledgeable and answered all of our questions. It was clear that the centre is a top-notch facility, evident by the calibre of the staff and how well the birds are taken care of. I won't give away any more about the Raptor Encounter. You'll have to experience it for yourself.

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## the Canadian Champion

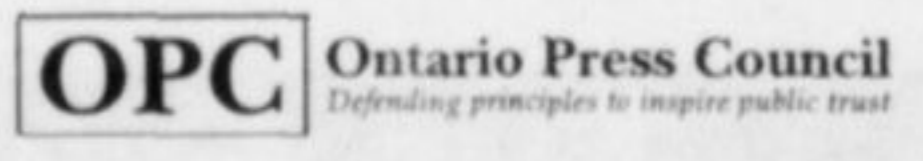
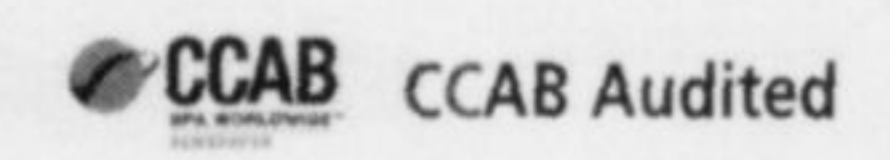
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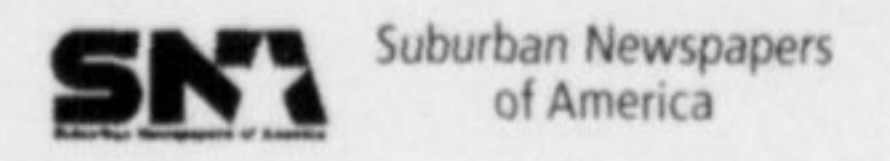
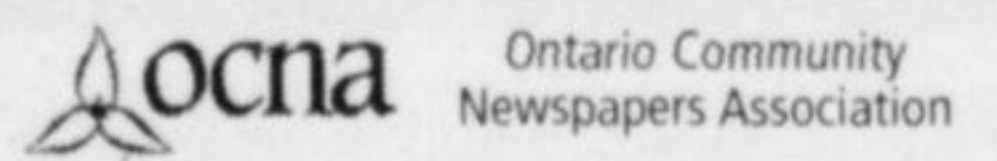
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