

Opinion

The Pan Am Games are coming — it's time to cheer

With the upcoming Pan Am/Parapan Am Games — July 10-26 and Aug. 7-15, respectively — just around the corner, it's time to be inspired, and to let it show. Milton stepped up June 23 as the Pan Am Torch Relay wound its way through town and to a community celebration.

Granted, the Games are not the Olympics, but they are close — and they're coming here, to Milton, which is a huge bonus.

It's not necessary to book travel plans and accommodations, and finance the same, to get in on the action... it could be as simple as paying regular ticket prices and commuting to a destination in the GTA, including nearby Hamilton, which will be hosting soccer events. Much has been said about the Games, the commuter headaches and the assorted spinoff bonuses and concerns that range from increased tourism to security concerns.

Game time

But now, it's time to talk about the Games.

Where will they be? How much does it cost to attend an event? Do you have your tickets? Which athletes are we cheering for? Who else is a contender?

For those who are suffering from Canadiana apathy, or just a lack of need-to-know info, it's time to wave the flag.

"This is a great moment for cycling in Milton with the new velodrome," said Olympian Steve Bauer, who lit the Pan Am torch off the Milton community cauldron during the June 23 torch relay celebration. "This is a great legacy for the kids, the next generation of cycling."

He's right.

"Milton is honoured to be part of this," said Milton resident Nancy Fellows. "It's a great chance to show (the world) what Milton's like."

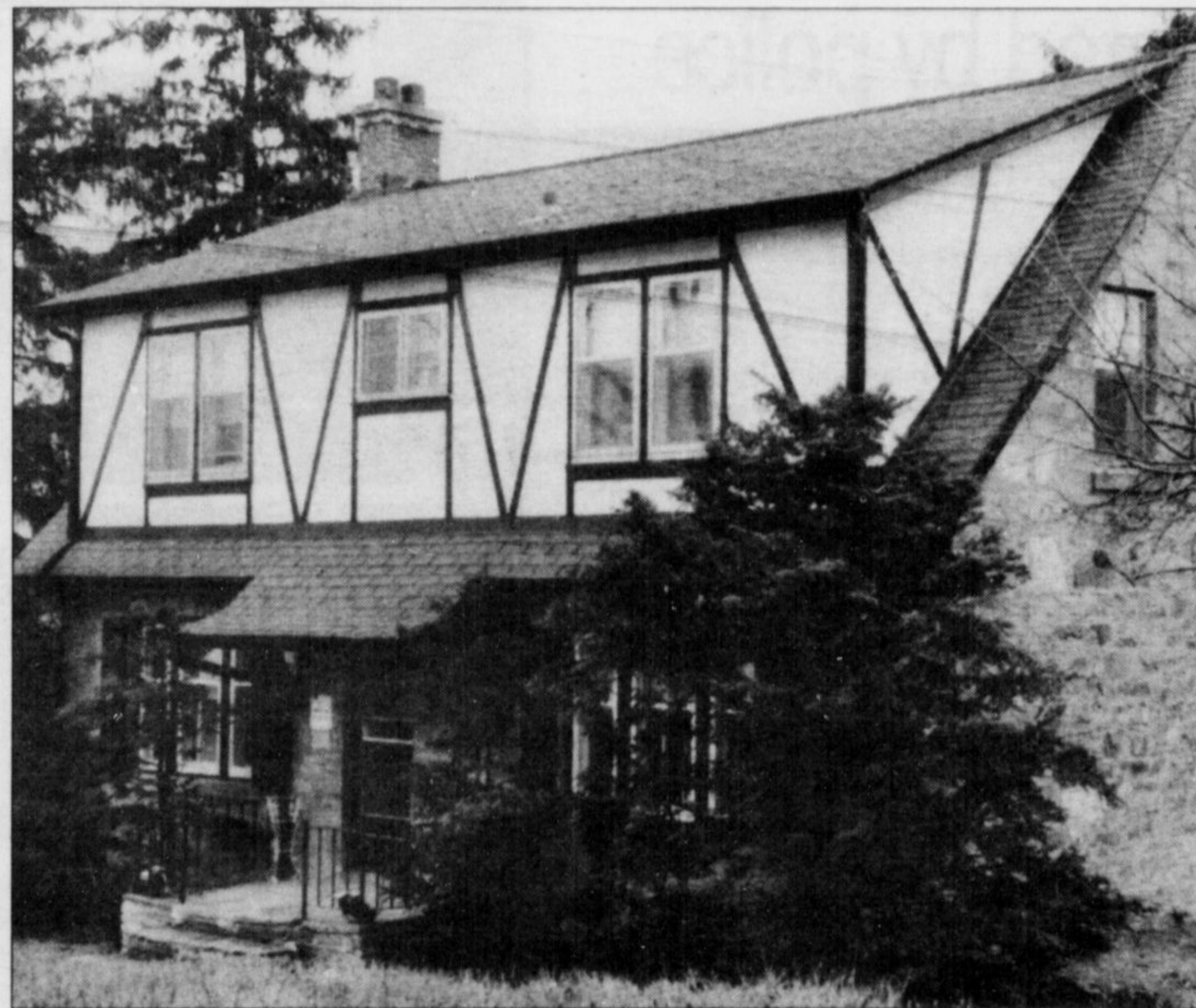
She, too, is right.

The Pan Am/Parapan Am Games offer community residents an opportunity to cheer on our athletes. It's also an opportunity for us to see that dreams do come true — with some hard work, dedication and perseverance.

Milton has two athletes in the Games. They include triathlete Kyle Jones and Parapan Am table tennis competitor Asad Murtaza.

Let's show them how proud we are by cheering them on, as they go for gold this summer.

For more on the Games, visit www.toronto2015.org.



Heritage Matters

Located at the foot of the Niagara Escarpment on the south side of 14th Sideroad, is this lovely storey and a half stone house built in 1861. It was originally built as a single storey and then altered for Wm. Walker circa 1878. The farm was sold to Thomas Reid in 1921. Mr. Reid grew apples and raspberries and also drove the mail route out of the Milton post office. In the 1930's, Fred Babcock, a craftsman and builder, redesigned and remodeled the stone house including the addition to the second storey. The Costigans purchased the property in 1968 and have continued to restore this home often referred to as Stonehedge.

— Submitted by Heritage Milton and Milton Historical Society

Up Front

Pan Am Games will offer an exciting glimpse at potential velodrome holds

Milton is just seven days away from hosting the best track cyclists from across the Americas.

This in itself is cause for celebration.

But as highly-anticipated as the upcoming competition at our locally-based velodrome may be for racing fans, I'm even more eager to see what the long-range benefits will be of having this world-class facility in our own backyard.

Granted, the payoff for this is still years — even decades — away. But it's definitely intriguing to think how the Mattamy National Cycling Centre (or the Cisco Pan



Steve LeBlanc

News/Sports Editor

Am/Parapan Am Games Velodrome over the next several weeks) could put some Miltonians on the international track cycling map. A glimmer of promise for that has already peaked through with a strong initial turnout for both the youth program and adult drop-in sessions held this spring at the velodrome.

Granted, I'm no expert in this sport, but some of the regulars at these drop-in sessions looked pretty impressive to me.

As the *Champion's* long-time sports scribe, it's been exciting to see the early development of local stars like Travis Gerrits and Darren Haydar — seeing their rise from gifted youngsters to international standouts.

The coming years offer plenty of hope for similar success stories at the velodrome, which Olympian Curt Harnett called a 'game changer' for Canadian track cycling. I couldn't agree more.

the Canadian Champion

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905-878-2341

Advertising Fax: 905-876-2364

Classified: 905-875-3300

Circulation: 905-878-5947

www.miltoncanadianchampion.com

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