

Established 1861

The Canadian Champion

191 Main St. East, P.O. Box 248, Milton, Ontario L9T 4N9

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Published every Wednesday by Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing Ltd. at 191 Main Street East, Milton, Ontario, L9T 4N9. Telephone 878-2341. Price: Store copies 30¢ each; Home delivery 30¢. Subscriptions \$15 per year by carrier, \$15 per year by mail in Canada; \$75 in all other countries.

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Toronto Line 821-3837

Second class mail Registration Number 0913



pages of the past

One Year Ago

From the Jan. 1, 1984 issue
The Milton District Hospital expansion fund-raising campaign passed the \$600,000 mark at year-end. A further \$50,000 is expected in January, bringing the total to \$654,364.

Milton has two babies to greet the new year. Both infants, born Jan. 1, 1984, are doing well at Milton District Hospital. Meghan, Michelle Colgan tipped the scales at eight pounds, eight ounces and was born at 10:21 a.m. to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Colgan, of Jasper St. Second was Matthew Dean Parrott, eight pounds, eight ounces, born at 12:11 p.m. to Mr. and Mrs. Murray Parrott, of Queen St.

Regional employees can expect to feel a pinch in their salaries if their performance isn't up to expected levels in the future. Members of the administration and finance committee last week agreed to restrict the salary increases of employees who are evaluated at less than the level of performance expected for their job.

It's a good thing Memorial Arena has a steel-girdered roof because anything else would have been blown off as Banvil Blades goalie Steve Wiczaryk made a sensational shoot-out save to retain the Milton Beaver Hockey Tournament Minor Bantam Trophy.

20 Years Ago

From the Jan. 6, 1965 issue
A request for a 50-bed addition to Milton District Hospital has been reduced to a 15-bed chronic care wing.

The hospital board had presented plans for a wing with 15 active treatment beds for medical and surgical procedures plus another 35 beds for chronic care.

Hospital board chairman, John W. Ostler, said he was "very unhappy with the decision" and it is expected the hospital board will try to appeal.

Jack Elliott Auctioneer! After 34 years in the Milton area, Jack Elliott will be retiring. Although his auctioneering days are through, Jack says he intends to keep working as an agent for the realty firm of J.A. Willoughby and sons.

Mayor S.G. Childs presided at the first council meeting of 1965 and the main discussion, indicative of what has been happening in the past few years, was in Mayor Childs' words "to discuss with Oakville our annexation proposals as soon as possible."

50 Years Ago

From the Jan. 3, 1935 issue
The fight for the mayoralty and reeveship is on. The contest promises to be a real hot and interesting one. As all four candidates are well known citizens and are experienced in municipal affairs. Let every voter vote.

Lumber valued at \$400 and the truck upon which it was loaded were stolen from the yards of W.B. McCulloch planing mills, Brampton, on Sunday night. Police later discovered the truck and lumber in different places.

On Monday next the electors of Milton will have an opportunity to vote on the following question: "Are you in favour of Daylight Saving being proclaimed in Milton from midnight, June 15th, 1935 to midnight, Sept. 2nd, 1935?"

Fire, which threatened several buildings in the business section of Georgetown last Thursday, did \$500 damage to the barber shop of Jack Williamson. The fire was discovered when a clerk in an adjoining store noticed smoke. The cause of the blaze is unknown.

100 years ago

From the Jan. 1, 1885 issue
In Milton at the county courthouse, Magistrate Cahill listened as the constabulary described how Charles Yates, of East Flamboro kept an unlicensed house.

A quantity of lager and whisky was seized and Yates was fined a total of \$75 on all offences. The liquor was destroyed on the order of the court.

This newspaper's editor is pleased after he caught the editor of the rival Halton News in a bit of unwarranted trumpeting. The Halton News in big black print said it has the most readers in the county.

"We question if the News has more than half as large a circulation as is enjoyed by either the Acton Free Press or Milton Champion," said a story in the Jan. 1, 1885 edition of The Champion.

Mr. William Scott Jr., the "enterprising leasor of the skating rink here" is negotiating for an exhibition of fancy skating by F. Caisse "Champion Skater of New York."

Be counted

In about two weeks Milton will be faced with the first of two major announcements regarding waste disposal in our area.

That first one will involve the "preferred" site for a garbage dump somewhere in Halton region. It has taken more than 10 years and millions of dollars to come up with the place where we will try to bury the waste we produce.

Milton almost got tagged with the dump in 1981 but a provincial election and fast action on the part of Milton council and the Tremaine-Britannica Citizens Group changed the rules of an environmental hearing so that the region had to go back for an extensive study which has taken since then to complete.

Will Milton get the dump? We shall know shortly and it is likely the Walker-Wright consulting firm will settle on the infamous "Site F."

The other spectre is a toxic liquid waste treatment-incinerator-landfill facility to process the dangerous chemicals produced by industry in Ontario. Milton has three of eight sites deemed "candidate" for the facility by the Ontario Waste Management Corporation (OWMC). It seems inevitable Milton will get at least one component of the treatment centre, but it could be all three components, treatment, incinerator, and toxic dump.

Although many Milton residents have been prompted to educate themselves to the pluses and minuses of these two dump plans, there are many more who will act simply on emotion and fear if Milton should get dumped on by the region or the OWMC.

We urge residents to go to town hall or the three citizen groups in Milton and learn about what we will probably all be fighting. Only educated arguments are going to win the dumps fight.

It's up to you.

Experience

Despite the constant reminder of George Orwell, we made it past 1984 and into 1985. At least most of us made it.

The past year was filled with many events which gave Orwell's predictions a good run for their money. The country of India alone went through enough troubles to make Beirut look like Club Med.

Iraq and Iran were still at war, the Russians were still "helping their friends" in Afghanistan, scores of people died needlessly in Lebanon, the Olympics came and went without incident — except for the Soviet Bloc's absence — and Canada elected a new PC majority on which to blame its problems.

Locally, as readers of the respective look at Milton this week will discover, was marked by several major events, some happy but most sad.

As Charles Dickens said in *A Tale of Two Cities*, "it was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

A new year brings fresh hope and desires. We must at all times ensure our goals become realized and not lost by the experience we have picked up in the previous year.

In the immortal words of Matthew Green (1696-1737), "Experience joined with common sense, to mortals is a providence."

viewpoint The irony of it all

By JANE MULLER



Peace on earth good will to men.

A beautiful thought which comes and goes with the Christmas tree and carols. The halls are barely undecked by the time a new year rolls around and the shopping day countdown is back to a three-digit figure.

The warm emotions roused as December 25 drew near, those pleasant greetings heard from cashiers and the like are only memories now. The goodness of the human species shines through but only creates a brief glow before it loses its lustre.

It is hard to be genuinely nice to people throughout the year with personal and world problems tugging at our thoughts. It really is more of a challenge to be pleasant than miserable especially when one is out of practice. At Christmas perhaps we try a little harder to battle back the ugly side of life which rises to our consciousness while watching the evening news or scanning the papers.

It is possible to shield ourselves from these sources of bad tidings, although their origins will still be there. A glimpse of the hunger-ravaged bodies of Africans or military troops roaming the streets of numerous warring nations is enough to turn joy into the pain of helplessness.

If Boxing Day wasn't enough to put an end to the spirit of Christmas euphoria, the quest for more knowledge of one of the blacker areas of our society was.

How does the slogan "sex before eight or it is too late" grab you? For some it is an edict. Those who live by this rule are likely to be members of the North American Man Boy Love Association (NAMBLA).

This powerful group and others like its members who feel children are acceptable sexual partners, are busy promoting their beliefs. What better way to convince a child certain behaviour is acceptable than showing him or her photos—or better yet movies—depicting such behaviour.

Newsletters are a handy way to reinforce deviant behaviour and provide new sources of young flesh. These methods of communication replaced over-the-counter sales of such trash in the United States only seven years ago when child pornography was outlawed.

The fight for tougher laws governing the use of minors in sexually explicit publications has been quietly under mined by NAMBLA. The organization's members are from all walks of life including such professionals as doctors and lawyers. Don't doubt the

strength of these gay guys as political lobbyists.

Neither this organization nor the practices of pedophiles are new to me. The article which explained their aims and sexual preferences provided little new information but was somewhat more explicit than reports carried in more conservative publications.

I couldn't help sense the irony of reading about the exploitation of children in a magazine which does the same thing to women. Much of what horrified the author of the article when it applied to children was typical of accounts of heterosexual and homosexual adult relations depicted in the publication he was writing for.

Only a few pages past the words which condemned the tactics of pedophiles, the same tactics were being applied to an entire gender left alone generation. Sex crimes were at an all-time low before the appearance of "girly" mags in the early '60s.

Sexy shots of robust women were not new to the eyes of the masses. These magazines used these as well as editorial content to promote promiscuity while at the same time keeping women in their place.

How can a publication damn parents who have oral sex with their children on one page and show the former Miss America taking part in similar acts with another woman on the next. Did the irony strike many readers?

It is doubtful many readers of "men's" magazines realize they are detrimental to women and their relationships with men. Are they not objects of sex put on this planet to serve and please?

The image of women perpetuated by these publications has been ingrained and to some extent accepted. What of the image of children as active sex partners. Will it too be ushered in as innocently as those of scantily-clad females?

Witness the glossy ads featuring seductive five-year-olds who market everything from perfume to blue jeans. Girls seem to be looking more like women than the grown-ups.

Twenty years from now, if the threads of morality hold together, parents won't have to fear their children will be seduced by a stranger. The threads are already weak as some of society's members have a history of sexually abusing their own children.

Did these victims feel the joy of the season these past few weeks? We can only hope.

Happy New Year!

our readers write

An interruption

A fire call came through Christmas Eve and after my husband left I was unable to sleep and decided to write a poem dedicated to the firefighters.

After more than twenty-three years a firefighter's wife I know this has not been the first Christmas they have spent battling fires.

I would like them to know we appreciate their brave deeds.

It's Christmas Eve and a little past midnight, Most people are asleep and dreaming of Santa's flight, When what in the firefighter's ears does he hear, But his pager calling him a fire's in high gear.

Out of his bed he springs in one motion He didn't want to make a commotion, As he dons his clothes he hears the sad news, "It's a house fire!" and that is his cue, Dress warmly, this could be an all night affair You can't be half-dressed with snow in the air.

The wind is howling all 'round the house As he steps out the door quiet as a mouse, He has left his dear children asleep in their bed

And did not hear the prayer his wife said, "God, make sure no one's trapped in the fire, And keep my man safe 'cause he's sure to tire"

With urgency he arrives at the fire hall And hears the dispatcher repeating the call, He quickly puts on his firefighting gear And as the truck leaves he jumps on the rear, The sky is aglow as they race up the road, He knows they'll be faced with a heavy load.

With air pack strapped on he is ready to go, Someone could be inside, you never know, All night long he works 'til he's weary, His eyes are all sore, blood-shot and bleary, It's been a bad fire, two lives were lost, But it's too two many, no matter the cost, It's back to the firehall to clean the hose, They have to be ready when the next alarm goes.

Then it's home to wash and crawl into bed, It's been a hectic night and he feels half dead, But first he checks in his little one's beds, And thanks God they're safe as he sees their small heads, He just settles down and feels someone licking his ear, It's his children exclaiming, "C'mon Dad, Get Up! Santa's been here!"

A MILTON FIRE FIGHTER'S WIFE

The Canadian Champion welcomes Letters to the Editor. We do, however, reserve the right to edit, revise, and reject letters. In cases where revisions are called for, or where a letter is to be rejected, the writer of the letter will be telephoned and the reason explained. We ask that all letters to the Editors be signed and the address of the writer and the telephone number be included. Unsigned letters will be rejected.

did you know

Board of Ed workers were unionized

Halton Board of Education office workers have had their own independent union since September 1980 but despite a number of accomplishments, the executive are far from satisfied.

Apathy among the 250 members is a problem. As president June Remington points out, "We have to convince not only the Board but also the membership we're serious."

The Office Personnel Association (OPA) started forming in 1979 as a result of the Board's salary package which gave raises of 6 per cent to all but the office positions which received 5.5 per cent.

"It was a difficult decision," says Mrs. Remington who calls herself a person who used to be "dead against" unions. But the feeling was that without an organization, office personnel would continue to be second-class citizens, looked on as the second wage-earners in households and discriminated against at the bargaining table.

The union, which includes technicians as well as office workers, signed its first contract in September, 1980 and its most recent one on July 1, 1984. With Anti-Inflation Board regulations dictating the last two settlements, salaries are still not competitive with administrative positions, the executive say.

The majority of their membership earn between \$8 and \$10 an hour. Starting salary is \$250 for a 35-hour week. The ceiling of \$26,000 annually applies to technicians with over four years' experience.

Hiring procedures and promotions were

another area of concern that prompted OPA's formation. Jobs were not always posted, say the executive, and standardization was non-existent. The union now has representatives on a Board committee working on job descriptions. Their goal, they say, is consistency.

Another improvement that OPA takes partial credit for is the placement of one or more office persons in each elementary school for a minimum of 30 hours weekly. The Principals' Association and principal Carl Hamilton were also instrumental in this change, they point out.

Monthly meetings between union executive and the Board executive and director of education, Wally Beever are described by both sides as beneficial. Mr. Beever calls the union's approach, "fair, reasonable and open" and OPA, in turn, finds Beever informed and helpful.

Monthly meetings with superintendent of employee services, Rae Stoness help OPA understand Board positions not previously clarified. The union credits Stoness with helping to provide for individual flexibility within their membership, something Stoness agrees is mandatory considering the 90 buildings the group represents.

Being a part of the Five-Year Plan, implemented by the Board in 1983, also gave OPA the satisfaction of input.

Other improvements OPA can tick off include running their own Professional Development Days for the past two years, securing Board funding for courses and the first secretary exchange, now underway.