

Established 1861

The Canadian Champion

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

ALAN BEECH
 Circulation Manager

JIM ROBINSON
 Editor

JIM DILLON
 Advertising Manager

Editorial Department: News Editor, Michael Boyle, Reporters, Jane Muller, Sports Editor, Rob Kelly.
 Photographer: Jon Borgstrom
 Retail Sales Manager: Vicki McCullough
 Advertising Department: Diane Miljour, Tania Wildford, Cathy Taylor
 National Advertising Sales Rep: Dal Browne (416) 493-1300
 Business Office: Office Manager, Marion Hill, Classified Manager, Ruth Baskett, Laurie Beaulieu, Shirley Day, Susan Brestel.

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.

The Milton Canadian Champion is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing Ltd. group of suburban newspapers which includes: The Acton Free Press, The Aurora Banner, The Brampton Guardian, The Burlington Post, The Burlington Weekend Post, The Etobicoke Advertiser/Guardian, The Georgetown Independent, Markham Economist & Sun, The Mississauga News, The Newmarket Era, Oakville Beaver, Oakville-Friday Beaver, Oshawa This Week, Oshawa This Weekend, Oshawa/Whitby This Week, Oshawa/Whitby This Weekend, Richmond Hill Liberal, Thornhill Liberal, The Scarborough Mirror, The Stouffville Tribune, The Willowdale Mirror and Woodbridge Liberal. Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing is a division of Harlequin Enterprises Limited.

Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with reasonable allowance for signature will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. In the event of a typographical error advertising goods or services at a wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell and may be withdrawn at any time.

Phone 878-2341

Toronto Line 821-3857

Second class mail Registration Number 0913

The grinch

The Halton Region Conservation Authority surely must be the grinch which stole Christmas from the council and people of Milton.

For the past three years there has been constant discussion and public input on a plan to turn the old courthouse and jail at Victoria Park into the new town hall. During the talks there was an understanding the conservation authority, currently in offices at Trafalgar Square, would move into the current town hall to coincide with the move of the council staff et al to the old courthouse.

Everyone assumed that an agreement had been reached. We have reported from conservation authority meetings and discussions with their staff that the HRCA was fully part of the plan. They were until two weeks ago when the shocking announcement came the HRCA has decided it does not want to move into the current town hall, but in fact would like to find another home.

They would have us believe they might want to stay in Trafalgar Square but if that is the case, why did HRCA directors decide two years ago to move out citing cramped quarters. Could it be a recurring plan to build a totally new HRCA building out in the Campbellville area is still floating around inside the minds of the staff and council representatives at the authority?

If that is the real reason for the cancellation of the gentlemen's agreement then one should ask just how the authority intends to get the money for its own Taj Mahal. Money for the HRCA comes from the ratepayers through, among other things, regional grant money.

Milton should, therefore, play the same game and renege on its promise to fund the HRCA. Milton could also consider not granting a building permit or perhaps raise taxes on HRCA facilities.

The bottom line is the HRCA has made a promise that in the eleventh hour it no longer desires to keep and for that there can be no excuse.

It's working

Halton Regional Police are quietly pleased at the results gleaned from much increased roadside traffic checks for drunk drivers.

According to Sergeant Jim Drennan, police stopped more than 3,200 cars from Aug. 1-Dec. 28 and laid only 42 charges, related to so drinking and driving.

Police make no apologies for their increased surveillance of our roads. In Milton we know of one female motorist who managed to get stopped twice in less than three kilometres by spot checks. We also know of one drinking spa owner who was more than pleased to see the end of the so-called "Happy Hour" during the holiday season.

This newspaper has long been a strong proponent of stiff sentences to be tied to offences involving drinking and driving. According to a recent televised program, the longest term a researcher could find anyone serving for death caused by being drunk and driving was five years in a penitentiary.

Increased penalties suggested by the federal government, while not as strong as many of us might like to see, are an improvement, and an improvement long overdue.

We are also pleased to see the general tone of agreement on Parliament Hill by the three parties. If these amendments can get swift reading in the House and even quicker passage by the Senate, then policemen in Halton and around the country can start bringing even more force to bear on curbing the scourge of drinking and driving.

Our Readers Write

Alternatives

Much has been written and more has been said about disposing of Ontario's hazardous waste. Unfortunately, little constructive words have been written or said.

We have cried "Not in My Backyard". There has been some criticism of the technology. Unfortunately, we in opposition haven't come up with any alternative.

This is where local groups and individuals should be employed. A local council can only use experts who are willing to testify before a hearing board, a panel or a court of law. There expertise is not much help if they are unwilling to testify however well-meaning or accurate their input is.

Panels, hearing boards or the courts don't accept second-hand information. Legal beagles on both sides cross-question witnesses and therefore presence is necessary.

This is not to say that advisory groups and individuals don't have an important role to play. Such people with their enthusiasm and diversified expertise, be it letter-writing, making phone calls or technical expertise, have an exceedingly important function to perform.

This function must be co-ordinated otherwise every one is going in different directions

and little is accomplished. The first step (after an advisory group is formed) should be the appointment of a co-ordinator - someone who can get the advisory committee what information council requires to put the mosaic together. It could be the mosaic that will put together a case to fight the OWMC (if necessary).

To do this, the town must find, explore and research the alternatives, if any.

Let us look at a couple of alternatives.

Alternative No. 1 - Destroy all hazardous liquid wastes.

At source, this could mean using the "Plasma Arc System", according to the current issue of *World Wastes* (a publication devoted to waste disposal). The plasma arc will be used to clean up the Love Canal mess.

Pollution Engineering has an article on a plasma-arc system now in operation in Landskrona, in southern Sweden. The company behind the project is Scan Dust A.B. The plant was built and equipped by SKF Engineering. This plant processes 70,000 tons of waste per year. The waste is dust, though it is mixed in to a slurry for processing.

Metals are recovered and it produces hot water for district heating. This is where the advisory group could be extremely valuable. They could assign someone to research this plant, contact local groups, find out if they

have any members of Swedish origin who will dictate or write letters directly to Sweden, contact SKF in Canada and assemble all the information they can get on the system, ascertain if it is more efficient than the rotary kiln, check the pros and cons to see if this system can be housed on one site and will not mean using farm land, and to see if the end result is inert and useable in road bedding or landfill.

There are many questions to be asked. Alternative No. 2 - Is OWMC's proposal, which is well-known, able to be investigated further for comparison with other alternatives?

Alternative No. 3 - Is shipping hazardous wastes to Sarnia a possibility? It's a facility which already exists in the area, and consequently has been accepted by the public and the Ministry of Environment.

There is more than enough capacity, an abundance of blue clay and a high-temperature incinerator. It is owned and operated by Triell. The plant was dedicated by the Ministry of Environment by Hon. Andy Brandt, the area member, in October 1983.

One thing is for certain - that with the plant and disposal site in the minister's area, the operation would be impeccable. What the advisory committee could research here is the cost, i.e. take OWMC's

cost to date plus capital cost of land acquisition, road upgrading, construction of incinerator facility, engineering consultants' fees, actual engineering, site preparation security, etc. in Halton and weigh them against the shipping cost of utilizing the existing Sarnia facility.

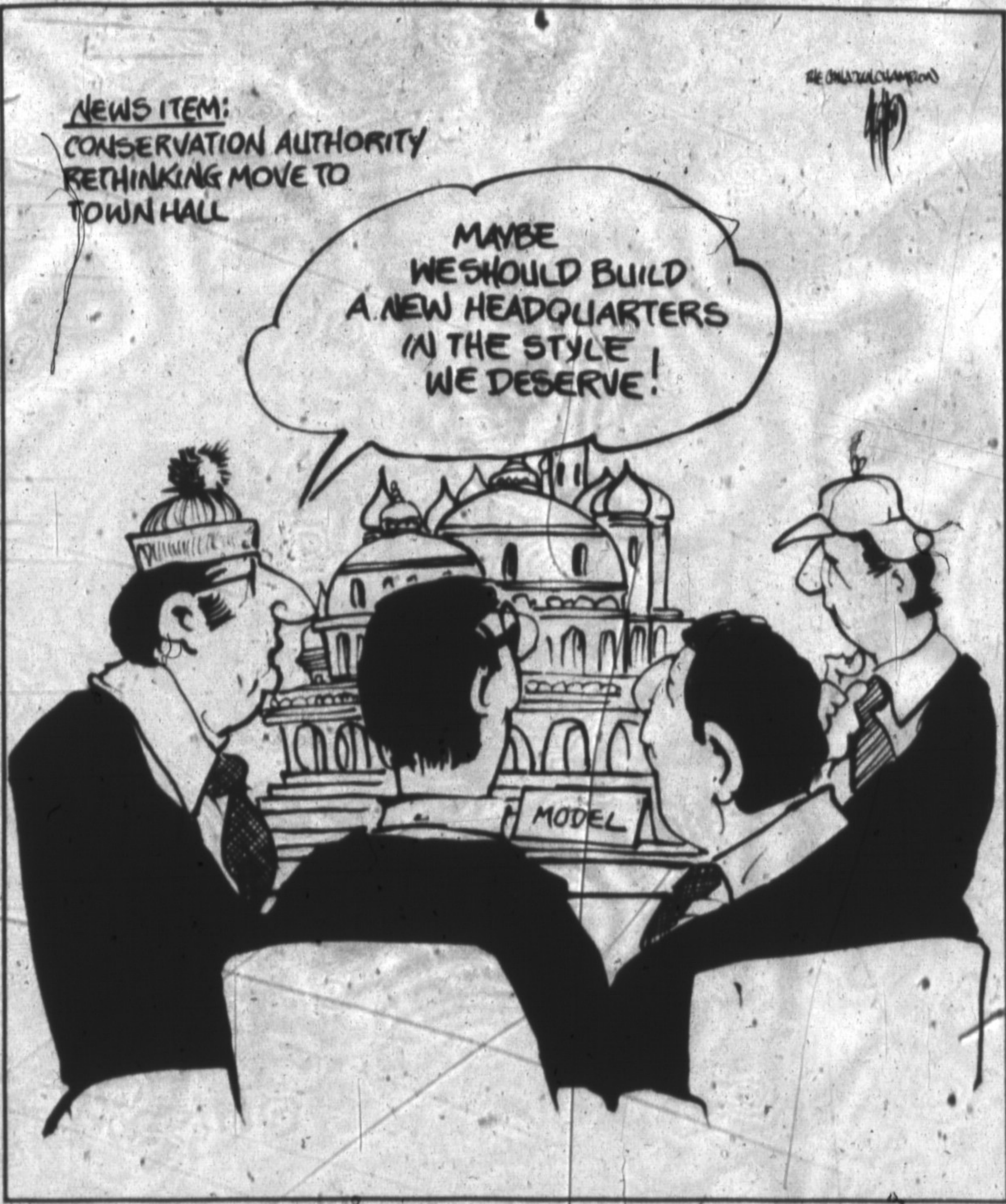
Some research can involve on-going statistics which can be tabulated. When the OWMC does finally come forward with something concrete to work on if the site or sites are in Milton, we can quickly make comparisons and fortify our case with hopefully irrefutable facts.

One thing is certain. The effort must be co-ordinated. The co-ordinator must have the confidence of the council and the group or individual research the information requested in spite of its triviality.

Sometimes it's necessary to restructure advisory groups into technical committees, communications (letter writing, telephone tree), researchers, speakers (for public meetings) and very important fund-raisers.

I know people say we are all in this together. Therefore, the town should foot the bill. However, finance is extremely important and I have yet to meet a successful group that didn't have a bankroll to match its expertise.

BILL JOHNSON
 RR 2, Rockwood, Ont.



Viewpoint

with JIM ROBINSON

More studies



Over the holidays, I was sorting out the large number of reports I have saved from the thousands I have had to read during the last five years of covering regional council.

The file on the regional dump stands about two feet in height, and that's only the ones worth saving because they contained some form of information which would be of interest to our readers.

In fact, the history of the regional dump goes back so far and has been repeated so many times that readers, except for a highly concerned few, are really no longer willing to get good and mad about the fact this town can almost assuredly expect a report due next week. It will cite the lands at the intersection of Tremaine and Britannia Rds. to be the "preferred" dump site according to a study which is supposed to be in the hands of regional councillors as you read this.

In November, Burlington councillor Joan Little said the region seems to be awash with reports prepared by consulting firms. Several times last year she said consultants are having a "field day" in the region. And she is correct.

The November statement dealt with the consulting firm of Walker-Wright which, as it happens, is completing the study on the regional dump site. At the end of last year, that firm had been paid something like \$667,500, in your regional tax dollars, to work on a report. Its contents, many of us in the Halton press gallery assume, is a foregone conclusion and has been since 1980 when Harry Parrott mixed the region's plans in the bid to put the dump at Tremaine and Britannia.

But getting back to the report situation, Burlington mayor Roy Bird for two years has been asking for what he calls a "spread sheet" on the total amount spent on consultants by Halton.

Entitled an "Inventory of Regional Studies", it covers the period of Jan. 1, 1976 to Dec. 31, 1983. The amount for Walker-Wright covers that amount of time. So for the past year we have no idea of what that firm has spent, although an estimate at this time is \$1.2 million. Mrs. Little likes to refer to Halton giving out an "open-ended cheque" at a time when fiscal restraint should still be in force no matter how well the councillors and staff have done at pulling back from the deficit days of 1979 and 1980.

Many of the studies are important and they could not have been done internally. Yet some of them make me wonder why the information was not available from inside the region's own computer banks.

For instance, we paid \$37,300 for a "Population Forecasts Update", and then there was \$2,500 for a domed stadium study. So later this week or next when the crunch comes on the dump site and who will get it,

we can expect the consultants to come to town. There is not real estimate of what Halton has spent on the Environmental Assessment Study since Harry Parrott's edict prior to the last provincial election, although some sources estimate it to be as high as \$5 million. Certainly it will be that high by the time all the hearings are completed and that doesn't take into account the legal and court costs which can be expected if Milton digs in its heels and fights the situation right to the last court of appeal. That, of course, could take years and that's exactly what the senior staff inside regional headquarters fear at this time.

As reported last week in *The Champion*, there is a move afoot to try to get all parties to consider mediation as a way out. Milton will never go along with that, at least that is what our three members representatives have said and that certainly goes for the others on council.

But what should you be concerned about and what can you do about it anyway?

Are all the consultants' studies - and resultant fees - worth it? Surely you wonder if the money paid on the environmental assessment is warranted in light of the assumption, on the part of this writer, that it has been something of a smokescreen to allow the region to do what it wanted all along. Chief Administrative Officer Dennis Perlin has made no bones about his feelings on the issue and he has been objecting to the assessment since it was ordered.

If you are not concerned with the amount of the money, should you be concerned with the future of our town with regard to the garbage dump?

The simplest way of answering that is to look at the recent agreement with the Occidental Chemical Company of Niagara Falls, N.Y. That company wants to burn as much garbage as we can produce. Halton likes the idea because it gives the region time to find a dump site and fight all the court battles while sending as much refuse as we can out of the country.

Why not send the garbage to the United States indefinitely until we can set up our own, proper energy-from-waste plant based on Occidental's technology? In fact, why not get into a co-operative venture with Occidental to build an EFW plant in Halton beside the Mid-Halton sewage treatment plant?

The bottom line is it's going to cost taxpayers a great deal of money when the rate is set at the region. You should know what you are paying for so I urge you to read the dump-site report when it comes down. That report won't be the beginning of the end of the dump search, but in every sense it'll be just the end of the beginning.

Pages of the Past

One Year Ago

- From the Jan. 11, 1984 issue
 - Vandalism in Milton has dropped more than 58 per cent over the past three months, thanks to a unique anti-vandalism program initiated by Halton Regional Police in October. Statistics released Friday, indicate Milton has shown the most dramatic decrease of vandalism in north Halton with a 58.3 per cent drop in reported cases, compared with the same time period one year ago.
 - The fourth annual Halton Regional Police spot-check program came to an end last week and though police pulled over a greater number of motorists this year, there was a noticeable increase in the number of impaired drivers. More than double the number of drivers, however, were issued 12-hour suspensions this year (a total of 70 compared with 33 in 1982) as a result of additional roadside breathalyzer tests - 152 this year compared with 92 last season.
 - New life has been breathed into the local Block Parent organization by more than 70 supportive people. This type of support has previously been "unheard of" according to the group's chairman Dorothea Downs. The organization which was about to crumble as a result of general apathy in December, has since attracted enough people to keep the service active in Milton.

20 Years Ago

- From the Jan. 6, 1965 issue
 - Scottish dancing expert Kirk Brush, of Milton, has performed at hundreds of competitions, but he recently got his first television break. He and Ann Ness, of Toronto, did two numbers on Channel 2, Buffalo, on the Pica-Polka Show.
 - The session of St. Paul's United Church is currently seeking a charter for the establishment of the 5th Milton Boy Scout and Wolf Cub groups. Rev. J. L. Graham has announced a group committee has been set up and leaders have been chosen. Serving as scout master will be Albert Pentose with the assistance of Leonard Jackson and Doug McFadden.
 - Leon Stickle has joined the Milton Merchants line of Dick Marshall and Jim Keane. Stickle comes from the Sarnia junior team and replaces the hard-skating Roger Wildford.
 - The Honourable James Allen was the guest speaker on Monday evening at the annual meeting and banquet of the Halton County Plowmen's Association. Mr. Allen, Treasurer of Ontario, brought greetings to the meeting which was held in St. Stephen's Church in Hornby.

50 Years Ago

- From the Jan. 16, 1935 issue
 - Residents of Milton are not taking any chances with burglars, according to the number of guns and revolvers registered with police. To date, 30 weapons of assorted varieties, have been registered by Provincial Constable George Cookman and Chief Hadfield, the required licenses being issued.
 - Ex-Mayor Syer states that while in office he saved Milton \$3,000 in Hydro rebates and that a surplus was evident in its operations. We hope his successor, Mayor Elliott, will continue the good work.
 - Reeve Irving states that he has placed \$12,000 in cash in factories in Milton to assist the town and unemployment.
 - Ex-Reeve T. G. Ramshaw says that financially Milton is the best off of any town in Ontario, and he has done his best to make it so.
 - Deputy returning officer and poll clerk for the past 65 years, Charles Jones, of Milton, despite his 85 winters was on duty at the polling booth on Monday last. "It's the best return of votes in municipal affairs of Milton I can recall," Mr. Jones stated. "The way I feel now, I will see many more terms of this work."

100 years ago

- From the Jan. 8, 1885 issue
 - Mr. Henry Cargill, of Nassagaweya, has been successfully elected Reeve of the Township of Greenock. Mr. Cargill, who now lives there, won the contest by a majority of 99.
 - Mr. James Lindsay, who has been nominated as a councillor for the East Ward, withdrew and as Mr. W. Clements was found to be disqualified, there was no poll on Monday last. Therefore the mayor, reeve, and councillors were all returned by acclamation.
 - The annual meeting of the Society of Halton Agricultural Country will be held here in the Town Hall on Wednesday the 21st of January, 1885. A full meeting is desired by the officers and all interested in our annual fair should realize there is a proposal to purchase more land.
 - Mr. Joseph Fetherston has purchased from Messrs. J. & R. Miller one of their prize Suffolk pigs. Mr. Fetherston intends to exhibit the pig at the New Orleans Exhibition.