

The



Journal ~

Volume 1, Number 2

April 15, 1985

Blohm

TOWN LOOKS FORWARD TO FIRST MOVE IN 120 YEARS WILL 'GO BACK' TO SITE OF FIRST MEETING IN 1857

Within the next few weeks the Town of Milton will be moving the Town Hall for the first time in 120 years.

Renovation and restoration work on the former Court House and County Buildings on Brown St. is in the final stages. With the exterior stone cleaned citizens had their first clear view in years of the architectural treasure that sat in the town's midst for many years. When the interior is finished the municipality will be able to move into new, larger municipal offices.

It will be a little like 'going home'. Milton, when it was incorporated as a town, held

its first council meeting in the Court Room of the County Buildings July 4, 1857. The present town hall was not built until 1865. When Council holds its first meetings in that building in 1985 it will be in the same room.

The Court House was built in 1855, after the counties of Wentworth and Halton were separated. The provincial legislation of the time stipulated that the county buildings were to be built in or near the village of Milton. So the town became the capital of the County of Halton continuing with that distinction until the introduction of regional government.

In 1877 the buildings were enlarged by the addition of a jail and jail yard. This is all included in the renovated and restored building which will become the town's administrative centre.

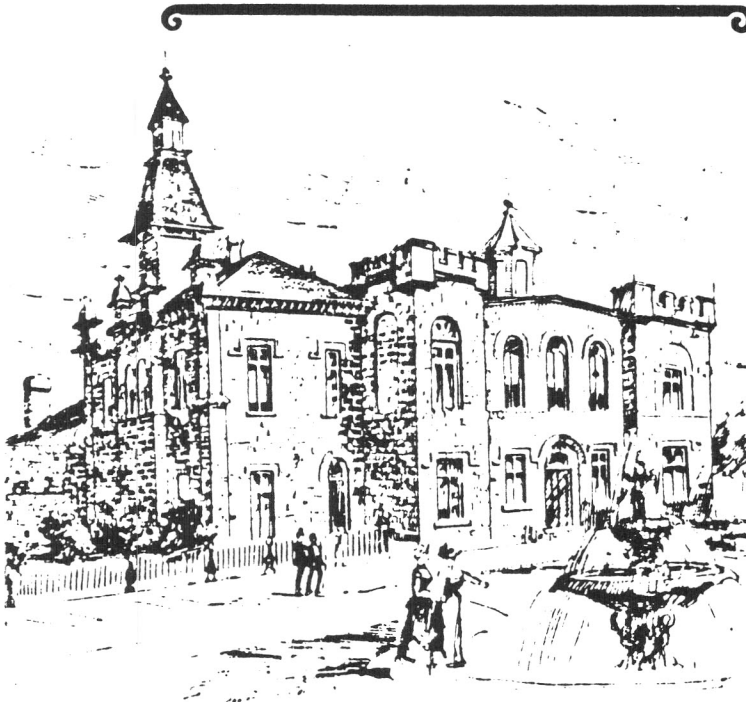
It was after the county had become the region, that it was decided the best future for the building and site was as a parking lot; that local support for preservation was marshalled. Town Council agreed to purchase the building for \$1 and later concluded its best use would be as a municipal building that the current work was undertaken.

A tour of the building, with the work progressing, supports our view that Milton will have one of the most exciting and impressive municipal centres in Halton.

Milton Historical Society played an important role in raising the public consciousness to the important heritage the building represented.

Subsequent municipal councils deserve credit for their vision in making the project a practical reality. And Architect Carlos Ventin deserves commendation for his sensitive treatment and practical approach to the conversion work.

Milton Historical Society vice president Ken Lamb is trying to arrange a tour of the new/old building for the meeting in May but much will depend on the moving schedule and work progress.



HALTON County Court House and Jail, as it was etched for an issue of The Globe, October , 1899. The building, now refurbished and rennovated, will soon be Milton's new Municipal Building. It was first built in 1855 and added to in 1877.

SECOND PLAQUE TO MARK HISTORIC MILTON BUILDING

A second Historical Society plaque is to be placed on the former convent at Holy Rosary Church, which bears a plaque "John Dewar House".

The new plaque will honor John, Joseph and Edward Martin, millers and sons of the first miller and community founder Jasper Martin. They lived in the house from 1855 to 1875.

PUBLICITY WORKSHOP

Curator Ernie Buchner of the Halton Region Museum will lead a workshop on publicity and public relations in Toronto May 25th.

Sponsored by the Ontario Historical Society for local heritage groups, the all-day event is being held at Black Creek Interpretive Centre. Cost is \$15 for OHS members.

Milton Historical Society

P.O. Box 85
Milton, Ont. - L9T 2Y3

President - Don Hayward

Past President - Val Grimshaw

Vice-President - Ken Lamb
Program

Vice-President - Audrea Lear-Costigan
Membership

Secretary - Jean Butts

Treasurer - Jessie Hamilton

Director, Research - Len McNeil

Director, Special Events - Robin Barbetta

Publicity - Ken Lamb

Annual Membership:
Family \$10., Single \$7., Student \$5.

DWARF APPLES BECOME GIANT SUCCESS

A doctor who dispensed more than medical advice played a big role in the tremendous growth of the Chudleigh enterprise. His observation converted Chudleigh's from an apple farm into a thriving tourist centre.

We heard that story at our March 21st meeting. Tom Chudleigh said he was amazed in 1967 when the good doctor described Tom's dwarf apple trees as a "gold mine". And Tom was even more surprised to be told that city people would love to pick apples and pay for the privilege.

Soon Tom and his family came to look on their 100 acres on Highway 25 as a place for entertaining people. In his talk, Tom gave fascinating details on steps that have given Chudleigh's its unique character; pony and wagon rides; cross-country skiing; straw for kids to jump on; silver dollars for windfall pickers the giant fireplace; the gift shop etc. etc. His latest project is an art contest with the winning entries to be donated to the new wing of the Milton Hospital.

Tom traced Chudleigh's progress from the day he collected \$23 from apple pickers after appearing on Betty Kennedy's radio show, until the present when hundreds of people visit on a Saturday or Sunday. Chudleigh's employs 200 during the peak fall season. It's not quite what the family expected when they moved here from Mississauga 30 years ago.

Tom's collection of humorous and descriptive slides contributed to a most enjoyable evening.

MUSEUM STROLL AND SOUNDS INTERESTING

A new exhibit, "Sounds Interesting" opens at the Halton Region Museum April 11 in the special exhibits building.

Curator Ernie Buchner says the exhibit, which will remain all summer, features radios, musical instruments and such.

Another Museum event--the Spring Stroll--will be held Sunday May 12. The hike along the escarpment will be led by veteran trail enthusiast Bob Jackson and Morris Sorensen of the Museum. The hike starts from the Museum at 10 a.m.

SECRETARY JEAN BUTTS ON THE GREAT WALL

Secretary Jean Butts is off on a vacation to China and will be away for the next meeting or two. On her way home she will spend a couple of weeks with friends in Victoria.

Sounds like Jean is doing research for a book on "Enjoying Your Retirement".

ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM COMES TO MILTON

Five travelling exhibits from the Royal Ontario Museum are coming to Milton Public Library over the next two months.

The schedule:

Fluorescent Minerals - April 2-15
Partners in the Fur Trade - April 16-29
Ontario Gunsmiths and Firearms - April 30-May 13
The War of 1812 - May 14-May 27
Pipes of the Iroquois - May 28-June 11

the opening Tuesday of each exhibit from 10 to 3 p.m. a representative of the Royal Ontario Museum will make a presentation.

BILL GREGG NEW CHAIRMAN OF MILTON LACAC

Author and historian Bill Gregg, a member of our Society, has succeeded Don Hayward as Chairman of Milton's Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee. The group advises the Council on the preservation and designation of historical buildings.

Len McNeil, research director, is LACAC vice-chairman. President Don Hayward and past-president Val Grimshaw also serve on the committee.

Many members will recall the interesting visit to Bill Gregg's Rockwood farm several years ago to see his collection of historic military vehicles.

One of LACAC's current projects involves research on Victoria Park in connection with renovation of the old courthouse. Len and Val are active in this work. Val has made a proposal to LACAC to have the park re-named Foster Park or Foster Square to honor Hugh Foster, pioneer landowner who donated the four acre site to the County in 1855.



PLAN NOW FOR JUNE OUTING TOUR THE SEAGRAM MUSEUM

Set aside Sunday June 23 for our trip to The Seagram Museum in Waterloo. We'll be leaving from the Milton Library parking lot at 1.30 p.m.

The Seagram Museum opened in 1984 after four years and six million dollars of preparation. The collection, housed in a renovated warehouse dating from 1870, contains 1200 artifacts related to distilling. And that doesn't include the 742 empty liquor barrels in a courtyard display in front of the Museum.

Special Events Director Robin Barbetta says car pools will be formed for the trip. Non-drivers will be asked to make a nominal contribution to offset gasoline costs.

LET'S HEAR IT FOR NATIONAL PARKS

Our National Parks are many-sided. They're historic, their beginnings are linked with nation-building and the completion of the trans-Canada railway. National Parks are also front and centre in many donnybrooks about resource exploitation, property rights, animal rights and goodness knows what else. And to millions of Canadians the Parks are islands of peace and contentment.

This intriguing mixture is the subject of our April 18th meeting -- 7.30 p.m. for coffee first in the Milton Public Library. Ken Lamb's presentation is in honour of the 100th anniversary of Canada's National Parks. Besides Ken's talk, the program will include one or two short films about individual parks.

It should be a colorful hour or so and chances are you'll go home with several new ideas for Vacations.

HARDY PIONEER WOMAN ESTABLISHED FIRST SCHOOL

Elizabeth Harrison is a name that deserves recognition in any history of Milton and area.

It's difficult for us to comprehend the times in which she lived but the brief facts we know tell us something of a person with an indomitable spirit.

A native of England, she emigrated with her husband Thomas and settled on lot 12, New Survey, Trafalgar in 1820. They built the first home in that part of the County.

Their first home was built by splitting and hewing the slabs from the logs. They were clearing the land of a sturdy crop of forest.

The County Atlas of 1877 reports that Mrs. Harrison was six months in the township before she saw another white woman.

The nearest shop was at Little York (Toronto) where a woman was known to walk for a pound of tea, going one day and returning the next, then inviting any neighbors in to partake of the luxury.

Five years after their arrival in this country her husband died and she was left with six children, the oldest 17. She persevered as there was no school for miles around, so she organized one and taught there for many years.

This school was located in a log building near today's pioneer cemetery and the P.L. Robertson plant on Bronte St.

Long before there were religious services she conducted a Sabbath School that was popular enough to attract settlers for miles around.

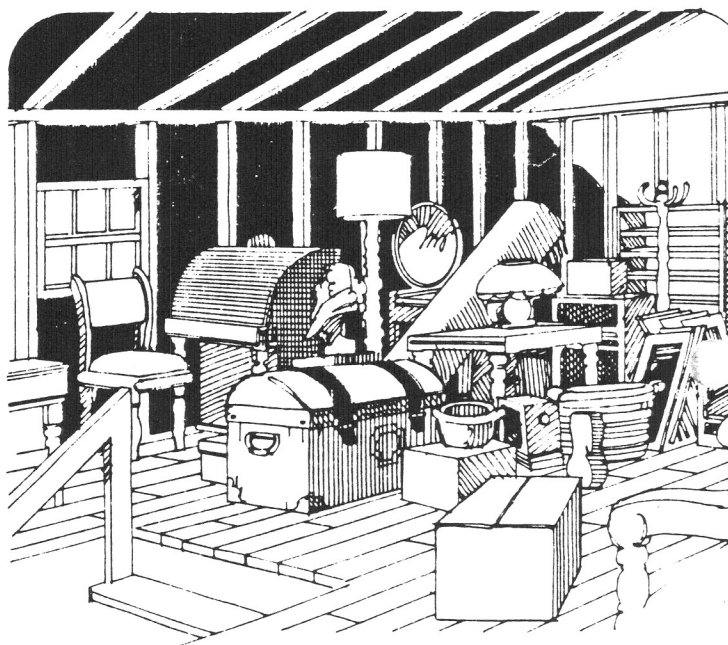
The Harrison family continued to play an important part in the life of the community and Elizabeth Harrison, the town's first teacher, lived to 85 years of age. She died June 5, 1867 and is buried in the pioneer Cemetery on Bronte St., very close to the site of her first school.

FIVE SOCIETY MEMBERS HONORED BY MINISTRY

Five members of the Society are being honored for service to the community.

The Ontario Department of Citizenship and Culture is presenting Volunteer Service Awards to President Don Hayward, Past Presidents Val Grimshaw and Jim Dills, treasurer Jessie Hamilton and Research Director Len McNeil.

The awards will be presented at a ceremony April 28 at the Royal Botanical Gardens.



IT'S spring and that often signals a special cleaning. If you're into the attic and come across pictures of old Milton, don't throw them out. Call the Milton Historical Society so they might be preserved. Old pictures tell so much about the past they are an important part of the town's history. Alert your friends too.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NO. _____

Family \$10 _____ Single \$7 _____ Student \$5 _____

Please make cheques payable to Milton Historical Society and mail to Audrea Lear-Costigan, Stonehedge Farm, P.O. Box 23, Milton, Ont. L9T 2Y3 or bring to the next meeting.

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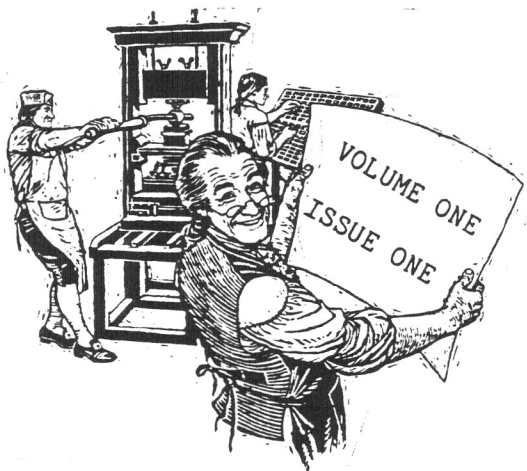


Journal

Volume 1, Number 1

February 15, 1985

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER TAKES ON NEW 'OLD' LOOK FOR '85



The Halton Journal was the proud name of Milton's first newspaper. It was founded in July 1854. The last known issue was of April 23, 1888.

When Milton Historical Society was considering a name for its newsletter it was thought appropriate to choose the name of The Journal to honor the tradition of early publications. Those publications give us today the precious opportunity to sense the past, to research the town's beginnings and to understand better what we have today in this community.

The Canadian Champion is the town's oldest continuing publication. It was established May 13, 1861. Copies of issues dating from 1864 are the valuable reference source that makes possible much of the historical research which anyone can undertake. Microfilm of The Champion, early copies of The Halton Journal and others are on file at Milton Library in the local history room.

Newspaper names like the Halton New Era, The Sun, Halton News, Milton Reformer, Milton Standard and Milton Tribune were seen by Milton readers over the years. At one time there were four newspapers competing in Milton for the attention of Miltonians.

your new year's resolutions included early renewal of your membership in the Milton Historical Society, it's time to act. Audrea Costigan is chairperson of membership and will be pleased to accept your renewal or new membership.

MUSEUM CURATOR IS SPEAKER FOR FEB. 21 MEETING

Curator Ernie Buchner of the Halton Region Museum will combine the new with the historic in his February 21st talk to the Milton Historical Society.

As we know Ernie has made lots of good things happen since coming to Milton from Muskoka - that's "Miller country" now - more than two years ago. He has instituted numerous programs and activities at the Museum.

At our February meeting Ernie will give us a rundown on where the Museum is headed and how he expects to get it there. We'll also have a chance to question Ernie on Museum topics and more general historical subjects.

In the second part of his presentation Ernie will describe research he has recently begun on three families that settled in Halton in the early years. He will show how succeeding generations of these families have helped shape our region.

As usual we'll meet in the Milton Public Library at 7.30 p.m. for coffee and chatting; the formal program starts at 8 p.m.

ROCKWOOD ACADEMY IN THE MOVIES

Rockwood Academy - the subject of a tour by Society members several years ago - Will soon be on the movie screen.

The Academy, built in 1853 as a private boys' school, took on the role of a convent for shooting of the film "Agnes of God". Several temporary features, including a tower topped by a cross, were added to the building for the filming. Directed by Norman Jewison, the movie's cast includes Jane Fonda, Anne Bancroft and Meg Tilly.

Architect Josef Dreinters, who owned the building and conducted a fascinating tour for us, died in 1983. The Academy, on Highway 7 in Rockwood, is now owned by the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

SOCIETY FEES ADJUSTED TO KEEP UP TO RISING COSTS

Inflation has caught up with the Society's membership fee schedule.

At the annual meeting, members approved an increase of two dollars across-the-board. Annual fees now are Family, \$10; single member \$7; Student \$5

FIREFIGHTING IN MILTON COLORFUL HISTORY TOPIC

Colorful and exciting incidents in the history of the Milton Fire Department were highlights of our January meeting.

Chief Jim Coulson, former chief Babe Clement interviewed by Jim Dills, and firefighter Roger Clement, all made presentations. And many pieces of fire equipment and early photos were on display.

Chief Coulson spoke about fire-fighting technology. He mentioned that the most common cause of home fires today is the improperly cared for wood stove or furnace.

One of the appealing moments in Babe Clement's recollections was his description of a lively discussion with Council. Babe wanted \$1 a day. The council said OK reluctantly, but said no pay for Sunday. But Babe insisted the fires could occur on Sunday just as on any other day. "Pay me for Sunday or get another chief", said Babe. Somehow Council found the extra dollar and Babe went on to a glorious career.

An interesting evening.

ANNUAL MEETING RETURNS EXECUTIVE FOR 1985

Don Hayward will again guide the activities of the Society in 1985.

At the annual meeting in January Don was elected to a second term as president; all other members of the executive, except for Lori Holdridge who has moved to Oakville, were also re-elected.

Here's the complete slate: President, Don Hayward; Vice-President (programs) and acting publicity director, Ken Lamb; Vice-President (membership) Audrea Lear-Costigan; Director (research) Len McNeil; Director (special events) Robin Barbetta; Secretary, Jean Butts; Treasurer, Jessie Hamilton; Past President, Val Grimshaw



APPLES IN MARCH? MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW

What is Milton's best known "institution"? Without an elaborate survey we'll never know for sure. But a strong challenger would surely be Chudleigh's Apple Farm. Busloads of the curious regularly visit the combination farm-gift shop-restaurant-ski trail.

There's an interesting story behind the development of this thriving business. And Tom Chudleigh will be with us at the March 21st meeting to tell us how he has managed to generate so much traffic on Highway 25.

PAST PRESIDENT VAL FULLY RECOVERED

Past President Val Grimshaw pronounces herself "as good as new" following an operation in early January.

With the benefit of several weeks rest at home, Val launched into her normal schedule the week of February 11. Val is now a member of the Parole Board along with a multitude of other interests and activities.



BRING AND SHOW

Perhaps you have an item or a photograph from the past. Why not bring it to the meeting so others may see it. Historic pictures of Milton are always of particular interest.

PROGRAM DATES PLANNED MAKE SUGGESTIONS NOW

Society meetings are held the third Thursday of each month from September to June. Why not circle these on your calendar right now?

If you have a suggestion that would make a suitable program contact Ken Lamb either at the meetings or at home (telephone 878-6391).

VICTORIA PARK GUN HISTORY IS RESEARCHED

The Society recently provided the town with a history on the Victoria Park Gun for their work in Victoria Park.

The gun is a German 77 mm field gun. It was constructed in the Kaiser's service in 1917. It served near Queant France on the Western Front. Its range was nearly seven miles.

It was captured Sept. 27, 1918 by the 3rd Infantry Battalion of Toronto and held for shipment to Canada aboard the SS Batsford.

It was catalogued as No. 9563 and allotted to Milton as a souvenir of World War I.

A CPR bill of lading records the 2 1/2 ton machine arrived in Milton June 10, 1920.

The June 17, 1920 Canadian Champion reports: "Milton is indebted to Dr. R.K. Anderson, M.P. for a German field gun as a war trophy which was delivered last Friday. It is a 77mm field gun No. 9563, a 'whiz-bang' firing a 15 pound shell and is in perfect condition, having been made in 1917, been little used and kept well oiled...At present the gun stands between the post office and the Town Hall but its permanent place will be in front of the soldiers' monument in Victoria Park or elsewhere."

NEWSPAPER REMINDS US OF LOCAL PERSONALITY

It's not unusual for restaurants to have a unique form of menu. Doug and Hilda Hill sometimes visit The Shaftsbury Steak House on Manitoulin Island. The restaurant reprints on one side a page from The Manitoulin Expositor dated April 17, 1880.

From that page comes this interesting extract:

"From the Manitoulin Expositor of March 20, we learn that R.A. Lyon, Esq. M.P.P. had not reached home at that date, though he left Toronto on the 6th. He found the ice too unsafe to cross to the Island, and had to wait for the opening of navigation. The Manitoulin member earns his allowance, for he has to tramp on snow shoes 150 to 200 miles and camp out on the snow several times on his way to attend the Session, and in seasons like the present put up with much vexatious delay on his return, for if he attempted to wade across he would get his feet wet sure." Milton Champion. For the information of our coterie, we would say that our member is having a balloon manufactured for the special purpose of crossing the channel between Michael's Bay and Tobermory and he thinks he can get gas enough in the Champion to run it".

Weekly newspaper editors of the day were often inclined to treat their contemporaries with some derision, as in this article.

The real interest is in Mr. Lyon, a resident and active member of the Milton community. We'll profile him at a later date. His grave is in Milton Evergreen Cemetery and he was an important figure in the town.

JUST A REMINDER ABOUT MEMBERSHIPS

1985 memberships are now due. Please join at the February 21st meeting. Or send your cheque to Audrea Lear-Costigan, Stonehedge Farm, P.O. Box 23, Milton, Ont. L9T 2Y3. Make cheque out to Milton Historical Society. See page 2 for new fee schedule.

The



Journal

Volume 1, Number 3

September 10, 1985

Halton Agricultural Society Dates Origin to 1853

Ready to Present 132nd Milton Fall Fair This Month

The bounty of the harvest that symbolizes the fall season should remind us of the strong agricultural focus of Milton's early years.

Indeed again this year, as since 1853, Halton Agricultural Society will be presenting Milton Fair.

In the beginning there were five agricultural shows in Halton where farmers and their wives exhibited their best produce, fancy work and animals.

After the fair had been held in each township or area, gentlemen in their best hats with neatly combed beards, ladies with parasols and long skirts would climb aboard their wagons and head for the county fair to compete for the final awards in Milton.

The first show, we're told, held in Milton, was in the Farmers' Market just behind the former post office. Most of the exhibits were stock, grain, merchants' and ladies' home-made articles. Then just across Martin St. in an old wooden work shop the women exhibited butter, eggs, bakery, fruit and many other articles. The shoemakers and tailors were also there with their handicraft and workmanship.

The heavy horses and colts were shown up and down Main St. while the light and road classes were driven down the first line Trafalgar (Bronte St.)

The first hall was the building later

occupied by Bundy and Halm as a blacksmith shop, then just erected by Robert Hawthorne. Later the hall used for the occasion was the first town hall, which was afterward a shop of the late William McKenzie.

In 1864 the directors and a racing committee which had been organized, purchased eight acres of land which is now part of the Fair Grounds and erected a two story hall with an L attached to the east corner.

In 1902, 1912 and 1951 the land was expanded with the 1951 addition of about six acres more being the last expansion to the grounds.

Buildings on the grounds have changed, the race track has been added since the first grounds were purchased. Exhibits and midway rides are different now, the crafts exhibited have changed over the years but there is still an emphasis on the best in agriculture from the area whether it is from the gardens or farms.

Agriculture in the Milton area is vastly different from what the pioneers of 1853 could have anticipated but the annual Milton Fair's continuation for 132 years makes it one of the town's oldest continuing organizations. In itself it is an ongoing salute to agriculture.

For those who want to see that early agriculture, Milton is fortunate to have the Ontario Agricultural Museum on its doorstep. It's always worth a visit.



RAILS BOUND CANADA TOGETHER ARRIVED IN MILTON IN 1879

The time was 9.22 a.m., Nov. 7, 1885, at the little station of Craigellachie in Eagle Pass, high up in the Selkirk Mountains in British Columbia, when the stroke fell 100 years ago.

"The rails from the Pacific and those from the prairies had met, and the final hammer stroke echoed through the mountains as Donald A. Smith, later Lord Strathcona, drove the spike which effectively riveted Canada together from east to west. The impossible, as declared by many pessimists, had been accomplished." (Quoted in the book *The North-West Mounted Police*.)

Canadian Pacific Ltd. is preparing to mark the 100th birthday of CP Rail which is now one of its divisions.

In Milton, what is now the CP line over which hundreds of commuters regularly ride the GO trains, it began as the Credit Valley Railway.

That railway was formally opened by his Excellency the Marquis of Lorne, Governor General of Canada, at Milton on September 19, 1879, according to "Credit Valley Railway" by James Filby. The Marquis of Lorne spent less than an hour in Milton, including having his picture taken in the midst of the official group.

Even before the formal opening of the railway in 1879, we're told, regular trains were running between Milton and Parkdale, with a bus service from Parkdale to the Toronto Union Station carrying about 600 passengers per day to and from the Toronto Exhibition.

The railway didn't come to Milton without cost. In June 1871 ratepayers, hungry for the arrival of the railway that spelled progress, voted in favour of a \$30,000 bonus for the builders of the Credit Valley Railway. A railway was just considered essential if Milton, located well back from the lakefront waterfront, was ever to progress.

And on the date of the next meeting of the Milton Historical Society it will actually be the 106th anniversary of the arrival of the Credit Valley Railway in Milton and the official opening by His Excellency the Marquis of Lorne, Governor General of Canada.



Milton Historical Society

P.O. Box 85
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132nd Milton Fall Fair
September 27, 28, 29, 1985



ENGLISH OAK AND ANTIQUES

Ever thought you'd like to get into the antique business? Or learn something of furniture finishing? If so, our September 19th meeting is exactly your cup of tea.

Wendy and Tom Gush, who recently opened Classic Antiques in Campbellville (at the historic Crawford Lumber mill site) have invited us to visit their operation. Their specialty is English oak furniture of the late Victorian and early Edwardian periods (late 1800's to early 1900's). Wendy regularly visits Britain to buy suitable pieces. They also have some Canadiana items.

We'll learn the inside story of the antique business--Wendy and Tom took part in 3 Ontario antique shows in preparing to open their business last March. They'll also give some advice on caring for and finishing furniture.

We'll meet at the Milton Library at 7.30 p.m. for the drive to Campbellville. You'll hear more about this by phone.

Let's get the season off to a good start by attending our September 19th event.

1400 YEARS OF HISTORY

The Order of St. John, which serves in dozens of countries, traces its origin to about 600 AD. We're probably most familiar with its first aid activity but that is only one of its many services.

We'll hear this fascinating story at our October 17th meeting. Our speaker will be Doug Kirkwood, an officer of the Order and its Superintendent of Training for southern Ontario.

Doug has been associated with St. John for a quarter of a century. He has just returned from a trip to Malta and region where the organization had its beginnings.

Let's give Doug and St. John a warm welcome October 17th.

AN ELEVATING EXPERIENCE

Great effort are under way in the Hamilton area to rescue two ships from the bottom of Lake Ontario and to establish a suitable historic park. The vessels met their end during the war of 1812.

How they met their end and what's being done to rescue, restore and recognize them is a warm and exciting story. We'll hear all about it -- and see some outstanding photos -- at our November 21st meeting.

Keep that date open.

Have you talked to your friends
about joining the
Milton Historical Society?
Why not do it now!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE NO. _____

Family \$10 _____ Single \$7 _____ Student \$5 _____

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THE ANTIQUE TRAIL

MAJOLICA WARE

By Val Grimshaw

Mariann K. Marks, author of *Majolica Pottery*, begins her book with a lively introduction that describes pottery beautifully.

She says: "Welcome to the wonderful world of Majolica, where cauliflowers turn into teapots, fans become ice cream dishes, pickles are served from begonia leaves and sugar is spooned from a pineapple".

The brightly coloured lead-glazed earthenware pottery produced by our ancestors, was as popular during the Victorian era as it is today.

Victorian Majolica is actually a copy of a copy of pottery made 500 years ago. The original Majolica was a tin-enamelled earthenware with painted decorations. It was made in Italy from the 15th to the 17th centuries.

During the 16th century a French potter, Bernard Pallissy, attempted to duplicate the coloured glazes of the Italian pottery. He too, called his ware "Majolica", moulding the clay into naturalistic shapes, depicting fish, lizards, snails and snakes.

The popularity of Majolica declined in the early 19th century and for 50 years there was little or no interest in either its production or collection. However, Majolica again became a craze when it was reintroduced by Minton & Co. of England, and it was grandly exhibited at the famous London Exposition of 1851.

It's difficult to find a good piece of Majolica pottery anywhere these days. Antique stores, shows and flea markets occasionally have a piece but often they are cracked. An avid collector will buy it in almost any condition. Most of the Majolica that is available today dates from the mid 19th century. Earlier pottery seems to have found its way into museums and private collections.



BRING AND SHOW

Perhaps you have an item or a photograph from the past. Why not bring it to the meeting so others may see it. Historic pictures of Milton are always of particular interest.

HIKE FOR HERITAGE

The Halton Region Museum has scheduled a five-hour hike for Sunday, October 6th. Rattlesnake Point and the recently-completed Indian long house at Crawford Lake are on the route. Bob Jackson, member of the Bruce Trail with a vast knowledge of the local countryside, will lead the group. The walk starts from the Museum at 10 a.m.

There's no charge but hikers are asked to register in advance by telephoning Morris Sorensen at 878-3232 (days) or 878-5130 (evenings).



DELICATE WORK IN CAREFUL HANDS

If it's Thursday and you're looking for Jessie Hamilton or Bus Norrington, you'll find them at the Halton Region Museum.

They have taken on the task of researching the Museum's china collection. And when they have completed that they're going on to the glass and silverware.

Jessie estimates the work will take "year or two". So far the oldest item Jessie and Bus have recorded is a gaily painted (flowers) cheese dish made in England in the 1750's.



JIM DILLS AND SOCIETY WORK RECOGNIZED

Many members of the Society attended the official opening of the new Town Hall in Victoria Square in July. It was an impressive outdoor ceremony attended by about 200 Miltonians.

Highlight of the event, in our opinion, was the statement by Mayor Krantz that our former President, Jim Dills and the Society had played a leading role in launching this most significant heritage project.

People already look on the renovated court house as a "winner" and it will grow in stature with the years. Future residents will celebrate the vision of Jim and Historical Society members in the same way that Montrealers and Vancouverites honor their early leaders for "saving" Mount Royal and creating Stanley Park.