

The



Journal

Blowin' in

Volume 1, Number 6

September 10, 1986

CAR HISTORIAN GETS US INTO GEAR AS HISTORICAL SOCIETY STARTS NEW SEASON

Anyone with the slightest interest in cars is sure to enjoy our first meeting of the fall season, Thursday September 18 at the Milton Public Library.

Our speaker is Herman L. Smith of Oakville, the only Canadian ever to have served as president of the 50,000 member Antique Automobile Club of America. This consuming interest in antique cars led to his present position as historical consultant with Ford of Canada. This is his 19th year in that role.

You'll enjoy his unique approach to the evolution of the automobile—even if you've never read a dipstick.

As usual the official meeting begins at 7.30 a.m. But many of us will be on hand from 7.30 p.m. to say hello to fellow members and enjoy a cup of coffee. Let's get the season off to a flying start **Thursday, Sept. 18.**

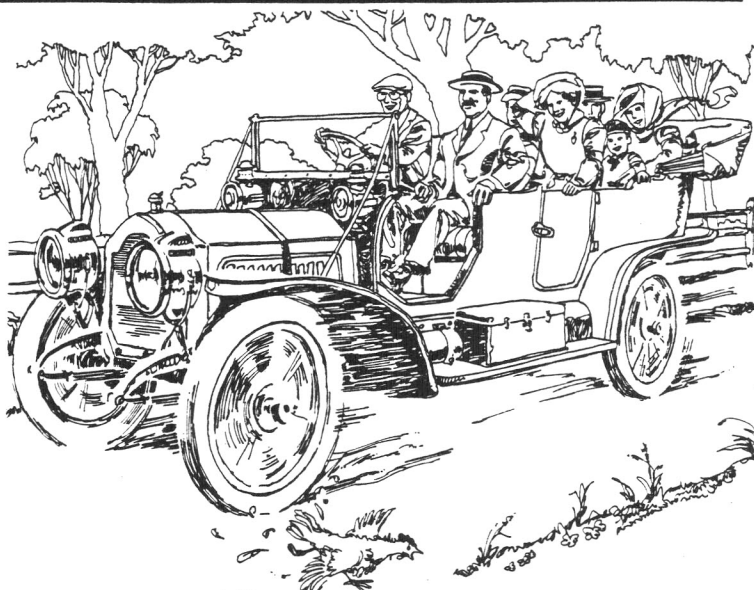
STUDY UNDERWAY NOW TO DECIDE HALTON MUSEUM'S FUTURE

A study that will decide the future of the Halton Regional Museum has been underway since July.

Curator Ernie Buchner says the feasibility study by a firm of consultants likely will be completed early in the new year. After that a report will be prepared for the Regional Council.

The physical examination of the buildings in the Kelso Conservation Area has been completed. But much remains to be done, including interviews with representatives of the Historical Societies in the Region. Our organization undoubtedly will make its views known.

Ernie says the study is wide-ranging. One of the important decisions Halton Council will have to make over the next few years is this: to spend large sums of money to bring the Kelso buildings up to provincial standards or to house the valuable collections elsewhere.



MALL VISITORS SEE HISTORIC HOMES DURING SOCIETY'S DISPLAY

Visitors to the Open House at the Milton Mall August 16 enjoyed the Society's new slide show on historic buildings in the community.

The show included all 36 homes marked by the Society's plaques as well as the old and new town halls.

Photographs were taken within the past few months by President Len McNeil who spent considerable time in research and in assembling the material.

The presentation will be valuable to illustrate to groups the heritage that surrounds us.

Members who helped out at the Society's booth at the Mall included Len McNeil; Past President Don Hayward; Secretary Jean Butts; Treasurer Jessie Hamilton; Researcher Brenda Whitlock and Bus Norrington.

LET'S TOUR TWO HISTORIC TOWNS; WILLIAMSBURG AND JAMESTOWN

Marsha Waldie kept fellow members in mind during her visits to historic Williamsburg, Virginia and Jamestown.

She took some beautiful slides and will share these with us at our meeting in the Library, Thursday October 16.

Recollections of Early Resident

Provide Window on the Milton of 1847 - 1849



In earlier times people wrote their recollections and gave us a window on the past.

The following unsigned letter appeared in The Canadian Champion in 1892 and the author attempted to reconstruct the Milton of 1847-49.

"My earliest recollection of this town was in 1847 and 1848. In 1849 I commenced to go to the Milton school and from that period my recollection in fact dates. In fact, I was only twice at the place before that - once to the post office with one of my brothers and on another occasion for a day to the school.

"My earliest recollection of the place was that coming in from the east it was farm land as far as the bridge, (on Main St.), and the only buildings before reaching said bridge were the farm house and stable of one John Huffman. The stable was afterwards used as a cooper shop and the house was immediately on top of the hill and a few years ago was used as a marble-cutter's shop. It was a very

all house. Then across the river or creek (Sixteen Mile Creek) I first met a house occupied by one John Bell, a blacksmith. The house was afterwards moved to Commercial street and refitted next to the present foundry. Next to the house was his shop, and next to that was Teetzel's store and adjoining and between that and Foster St. was the store-keeper's dwelling.

"Bell, who owned the land between the creek and Teetzel's store, made a plan of it and that plan originated the commencement of Commercial St. The old residence was afterwards moved to a vacant lot on Main St. and now constitutes the first house you meet on the left hand side on coming in from the east end of the town. The store part after its removal was for a long time used as a law office by the late John Dewar, and if not there now has disappeared to make room for new buildings.

"Foster street was merely a farm lane leading into the farms of the late Hugh Foster and the late Dr. James Cobban, respectively. (Now known as Charles St.)

"On passing Foster St. on the position of Dr. Stuart's house, was the farm house of one Henry Huffman, who afterwards sold out to one Dr. Gardiner and moved up to the neighborhood of Ashgrove, in Esquesing.

"The then next building was the tannery of Mr. S.F. Taylor, afterwards bricked over and now occupied by Mr. H. Watson. The creek crossed and re-crossed Main St. between Foster St. and said tannery. The tannery was situated at the foot of a hill and at the top of the hill was a dwelling house of Mr. Taylor. Next was the store of the late John McFerran; next the private grounds of the late George Brown (first mayor of Milton) and his general store, which was afterwards moved and is now used as a flour and feed store; then came two small frame houses, one of which was occupied by the late Thomas Bradley, cordwainer; next was the Presbyterian church, and from that to the concession was a farm field.

"There was no opened or laid out streets at that time except Main and Foster. On the west side of the road on the corner was a frame house occupied by one Pilgrim, now demolished; next was a small frame house afterwards occupied by Mr. Smiley, and still standing; next came the house of Mr. Norris, tailor, who was accustomed to act as clerk to clergymen when the Church of England held services in the school house, which was situated in the old cemetery; next to the Norris house was that of Mr. Milroy, tailor, still standing; then came Schreiber's hotel, which stood opposite to the present Wallace house; next to this was a frame house and shop and next to it was the Thompson House and next to that the Hampton House, the stable of which is still used as a livery stable; then next and at the foot of the hill was the house and wagon shop of the late Richard Montgomery, and next to that a house afterwards occupied by Mr. Benjamin Jones, which stood its ground until the opening of Martin St., when it was turned end, in place of side, to the street and in its turn was replaced by the Dewar Block.

"The waste gate of the dam was behind the present position of Mr. Roper's store,

Continued on page 4

"God's Acre" - Milton Pioneer Cemetery on Bronte St Benefits from Historical Society Attention

By Val Grimshaw
Research Chairman

It has been a full summer, but Milton's Pioneer Cemetery is finally getting a new lease on life through beautification.

If you stroll through the grounds on Bronte St. you will see a cairn 100 feet long and four feet wide. Imbedded into this are most of the broken tombstones which have been strewn about the cemetery over the past years.

At one time the cemetery was in such a state that a few families removed tombstones, and made other arrangements for them so they would be looked after.

One such family is the Martin Family. Jasper Martin is well established as the town's founder and he and his wife are buried in this cemetery. Jasper died in 1833 and

Sarah in 1830. But the tombstones are missing. They had been donated to the Halton Region Museum by the family and a copy of it made and placed in Evergreen Cemetery, Milton. There is a movement underway at present to return the stone, if possible, to the cemetery.

We have many people to thank:

1. Red-D-Mix Cement Co., Milton plant for providing the cement at a reasonable price

2. Dick Hendricksen of Milton Parks and Recreation who oversaw the work, doing much of it himself. Larry Arbic's Parks and Recreation Department have been very co-operative.

3. Copeland Lumber, Milton provided wood for framing the cairn at a price we could afford.

4. Maplehurst Correction Centre, Milton provided the muscle and labour to find the stones, clean them and prepare them for imbedding. They worked hard on landscaping, spreading topsoil, and removing unwanted vegetation all under Bob Groom's direction.

5. Matthews Bronze, Milton provided a great looking plaque in a hurry.

6. The Martin Family donated \$500 toward the cemetery restoration.


7. Langholm Nurseries and Putzer Nurseries, both of Milton donated four large locust trees, to be planted along the fence line bordering the P.L. Robertson property.

Our sincere appreciation to all of them for their assistance in this very worthwhile project.

The last official survey of the cemetery, taken Nov. 7, 1860, showed that of the original 61 lots, 40 were taken and 20 were still available.

On **November 8, at 1.30 p.m.** the plaque and cairn will be officially unveiled and the cemetery handed back to the Town of Milton for maintenance and care. The cemetery, established in 1829 is the last resting place for a number of the town's early citizens.

Everyone is invited November 8.



Milton Historical Society

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

President - Len McNeil

Past President - Don Hayward

First Vice-President - Ken Lamb
Promotion, Publicity

Second Vice-President - Marjorie Powys
Chairman of Program

Treasurer - Jessie Hamilton

Secretary - Jean Butts

Membership - Audrea Lear-Costigan

Special Events - Shirley Dills

Research - Val Grimshaw

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

TWO SIGNIFICANT EVENTS NOV. 8 FOR MILTON AND HISTORIC SOCIETY

We have an opportunity to attend two important and historic ceremonies Saturday November 8.

Two unveilings will honor P.L. Robertson, the internationally-known inventor who place such a prominent role in the life of this town.

(For a THIRD event see Val Grimshaw's story about the Bronte St. cemetery on November 8.)

A plaque marking the P.L. Robertson manufacturing plant honors Mr. Robertson as the inventor of the recessed socket head screw. This invention and its manufacturing here in Milton has meant jobs for hundreds of local people over the years.

A second plaque is being unveiled at Martin and Margaret streets. This will recall the many years Mr. Robertson lived in the John Martin House overlooking the mill pond. The plaque is being placed at Martin Street, rather than on the house itself, for the benefit of visitors who otherwise might easily travel busy Martin Street without being aware of the historic building just a short distance to the west.

In arranging these ceremonies the Society has been working closely with the Ontario Heritage Foundation as well as representatives of the town and the P.L. Robertson firm.

We're expecting a large attendance at these events.

Among those invited are The Hon. Lily Munro, Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Culture; MPP Don Knight and Gordon MacKenzie, former president of the Company and adopted brother of P.L. Robertson.

ANECDOTE OF NOTE

From the Readers' Digest, Sept. 1984

"Each morning as I walked to work, I would stop for a while at the garden of a big house and chat with the old gardener. He would pick a flower for me, and I would share some goodies from my lunch bag with him. We fast became good friends, and I told him of my hopes and aspirations.

He suggested that I apply for a job with the nearby P.L. Robertson factory. The pay would be better there than what I was making, he assured me. I told him he should do the same, so we both agreed to apply on the same day.

On that day, while I was filling in my application form, the old gardener walked in. Much to my surprise the office staff stood up and said in unison, "Good morning, P.L."

"Needless to say, I was hired." -Theda Lazar.

RECOLLECTIONS OF EARLY RESIDENT PROVIDE A WINDOW ON MILTON'S EARLY YEARS

Continued from page 2

and a short distance to the east of them was an ashery. The dam ran from the present bridge on Martin St. to a point at the foot of the hill immediately behind the stables of the Hampton and Thompson hotels, and all the land where the tannery now is was a mill pond.

"Then came Martin's house and mill, a frame one, and a Miller's house; then came the old 'Speed the Plough' Inn kept by Henry Orcutt; the stable was next to the bridge, east of which there was no building except the old brick school house built in 1848, the land being used for farming purposes.

"The population, including the school teacher, who did not live or board in the limits now comprised within the town limits, numbered from 100 to 105. --Communicated"

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.

The



Journal

Volume 1, Number 5

April 7, 1986



SWEET SOUNDS AND NOSTALGIA RECIPE FOR SOCIETY'S APRIL MEETING

Sweets sounds and nostalgia are the ingredients for our April 17 meeting.

The Choristers from Halton Region Police will open the program with about 30 minutes of song. Then we'll hear from well known police figures from Milton's past. Historic displays and police equipment will set the atmosphere for what should be an excellent evening. It's the same format that made the P.L. Robertson and the Firemen's programs so popular.

BRENDA WITLOCK GETS INTO RESEARCH MORE HOUSE PLAQUING ON THE WAY

Brenda Whitlock is working with Val Grimshaw on researching historic homes.

Both visited the Registry Office on Steeles Ave. a couple of weeks ago to begin backgrounding the Sweet family home on Town Line just north of highway 401.

SOCIETY DISCOVERS PLENTY OF INTEREST IN MILTON HISTORY AT MALL DISPLAY

The society's booth at Milton Mall's open house in mid-February generated plenty of interest. Shoppers showed special interest in Jim Dills' historic Milton photos. Len McNeil's slide presentation was another high point.

Two new members joined our group during open house --Kay Tromm of Oakville and Gary Banks. Others who joined us recently are Dorothy Gould, president of the Horticultural Society and auctioneer Alan Odenbach. Welcome all.

ERNIE BUCHNER IS BACK AS CURATOR AT HALTON REGION MUSEUM AT KELSO

Ernie Buchner, only a few months after resigning, returned Feb. 1 as curator of Halton Region Museum. Good news for all.

The next year or so will be a critical time in the life of the Museum. Consultants this year will be looking at the Kelso buildings as well as other possible museum sites. Their recommendations will go to Region officials by fall and by about year-end we should know whether the Museum will remain where it is or be moved.

In either event, there will be major improvements in facilities. And the earliest date for a move--should it take place--is 1988.

PICNIC OR TOUR IN THE WORKS FOR SOCIETY'S JUNE OUTING

Special Events arranger Shirley Dills is looking into the possibilities for a June outing in place of the regular meeting.

Things are far from final but a trip to Niagara-on-the Lake is one of the possibilities to be checked out now that better weather has arrived.

Another alternative is an old fashioned picnic lunch and opportunity to tour the grounds of the Ontario Agricultural Museum, which is right here on our doorstep. This year there are new buildings in place and the Christie School-house has been moved and re-erected.

Shirley promises more details in the near future but if you have a preference, let her know.



OD'S ACRE" ON BRONTE ST. TO GET MORE ATTENTION THIS YEAR

By Val Grimshaw
Director of Research

In Bronte St. Pioneer Cemetery rests many of Milton's first citizens, some important, some not, but all of them once dear to someone.

They are resting in what I like to think of as "God's Acre".

Some of the stones have fallen over, other memorials have been desecrated, others tilted by time and climate should be straightened. At the moment Bronte St. Pioneer Cemetery is a sad looking place.

Since I have been involved with cemetery restoration talks with the Town over the past few years I decided to follow up with a letter to Mr. Larry Arbic, Director Leisure Services. I inquired if the Town had any immediate plans to assist the Society with

restoration. I asked him to seek a reply from Council as to what extent we can expect support.

It must be noted, that the Town has always been very co-operative and genuinely interested in the cemetery. But priorities exist and budgets must be adhered to and sometimes an important project has to be put on the "back burner". Larry Arbic and his Parks Department men have been excellent in their co-operation in keeping the cemetery tidy and the grass cut.

Last year I was able to arrange for a crew of men from Maplehurst to paint the fence with paint donated by Canadian Tire. The Parks Dept. erected a wooden plaque to identify the location. (This will be replaced as it wasn't the best.)

This year I have been able to get a commitment from Maplehurst's Bob Groom, to put a crew, two days a week, on the job as soon as weather permits. The men will match stones, clean them and place them in a pile for final embedding into a cement cairn.

The amount of \$2500. (from two house tours) has been set aside by the Society for restoration, and hopefully, with the help of Town Council and any private citizen who wants to become involved, we can make "God's Acre" a place of dignity.

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QUICKLY NOW, WHERE IS IT?

The residence of John Dewar is pictured here as it was drawn for the 1875 Atlas of Halton County. The house bears two plaques from the Historical Society marking its builder and the tenancy of John Dewar. Next hint, it's on Martin St. Now you're on your own. If you're still stumped, ask Val Grimshaw at the next meeting.

POST OFFICE BUILDING CONTINUES AS DOWNTOWN LANDMARK IN MILTON

Milton's 1915 post office building will continue as a downtown landmark thanks to the wisdom of developers of the new Carriage Square development.

The substantial masonry building, built at an original cost of \$21,000, will take on a new life as part of the development that will encompass the post office building and the 1865 former town hall.

Although it was not opened to the public until 1915 an important ceremony took place on July 27, 1914 when crowds gathered for the laying of the building's corner stone.

David Henderson of Acton, M.P. for the County, officially laid the cornerstone. Police Magistrate Dice read a lengthy speech outlining the physical details of the building and listing for posterity the town and county officials in office at that time.

In 1964 staff of The Champion sought the location of the corner stone. William Randell, who had served as postmaster until his retirement in 1963, was able to point out the approximate spot it occupies. It's situated at the south-west corner of the structure, rather two or three stones above the present level of the sidewalk.

Mr. Randell also recalled that Robert Stewart was the first postmaster and Ernie Fay rented the first box. Prior to the building of the new Post Office postal service was offered in quarters next to Delacourts as well as in other store locations in the community at various periods. George Brown, the town's first mayor, and a storekeeper, was listed by postal authorities as the first post master.

But what was the Milton of 1914 like?

Magistrate Dice's "lengthy" speech covered a lot of the details.

The cost of the contract for the building was \$21,000. The cost of the land on which it sits was \$2,000. Contractor was Samuel Henson of Milton and work commenced in the month of June 1914 to be completed within eighteen months.

Milton's population was 2,053, assessment of the town totalled \$633,457 and the tax rate was 26 mills. The town's gravitation stem of waterworks was installed in 1887 and the town hall building was valued at \$10,000.

Manufacturing industries in Milton were the P.L. Robertson Manufacturing Co, Canada Carpet Company, Imperial Foundry Company, Janes and Martin Planing Mill and Lumber Yard, F.J. and C. Martin, Flour and chopping Mill, Milton Shoe Co. and just outside the town The Milton Pressed Brick and Sewer Pipe Company, The Toronto Pressed Brick and Terra Cotta Company, The Branden Pressed Brick and Tile Company, The Boyd Pressed Brick Company Limited.

The site on which the 1915 building was built had previously been occupied by the J.T. Moore, stove and tinware shop.

Emile Marchand, local jeweller and practical watchmaker started the post office clock August 15, 1915. It was with pleasure members of the Milton Historical Society learned in a recent presentation by Carriage Square representatives, that the clock is still in good operating condition.

In March of 1961 a new \$61,000 addition was tacked on the side of the original building to provide more space to meet growing demands and a larger community. That addition has now been removed to return the building to the original proportions envisioned by the original architect D. Eweart of Ottawa.

In May of 1967 letter carrier service was inaugurated for Milton from this building. At that time Member of Parliament Dr. Harry Harley reported that the Milton post office grossed \$93,580. compared to \$2,207 at the turn of the century. Seven carriers brought the letter carrier service to the community.

With the capacity of the Main-Martin building long outgrown, a completely new building was opened in 1980 at a cost in excess of \$900,000.

Long located adjacent to each other in the core of the town the post office and the town hall, have now come together again as neighbors. The Post Office occupies the site of the former Fred Armstrong Arena on Brown St. and the town the former County Buildings in Victoria Square.

It is gratifying that the 1915 post office and the 1865 town hall will continue as vital parts of the downtown development and find new life within Carriage Square. It is also a tribute to the developers and groups like the Local Architectural Advisory Committee which recognized the importance of these elements in the future of a viable central business district.

-Jim Dills

MILTON'S PIONEER DOCTOR DIED IN BRONTE ST. CEMETERY

By Jim Dills

Dr. James Cobban is one of the town's pioneers who rests in the Pioneer Cemetery on Bronte St.

Born in Aberdeen Scotland, Sept. 27, 1802, he was admitted to the degree of Master of Arts at the age of 16. During the time he attended lectures in medicine he was also an apprenticed pupil of Alexander Irvine M.D. from 1816 until the end of his curriculum.

He went to London to complete his medical education and on October 5, 1821 he became a member of the Royal College of Surgeons.

Dr. Cobban practised in Greenland then went to Jamaica where he practised for nine years arriving in Canada in 1832.

In Nov. 1832 he was "gazetted" and announced that he had taken up residence on the Sixteen Mile Creek and would serve residents of the area. His home was on Commercial St. at the south east corner of Heslop and he farmed the land in that area.

At that time he was the third pioneer doctor between the city of Hamilton and Toronto, the two others being at St. Ann and near Port Credit.

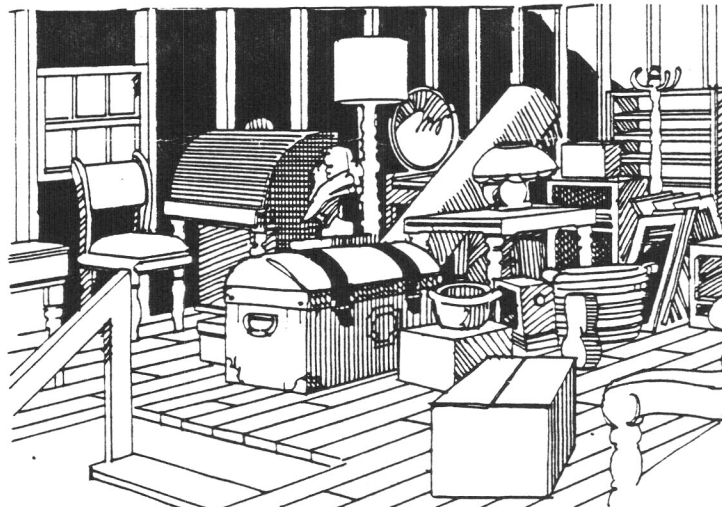
Dr. Cobban died February 21, 1857 in the same year Milton was incorporated as a town.

His obituary tells us that he "displayed extraordinary fortitude and resignation during

the severe illness (valvular disease of the heart) which terminated in his death".

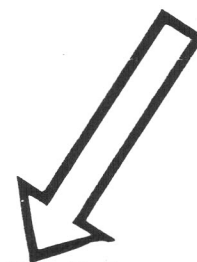
"His mortal remains were followed to their last resting place by a large concourse of people some of whom came from a distance to pay their final tributes to one whom they long loved and respected", the Halton Journal reported.

His widow, Catherine Ann Jarmy, survived him by only six weeks.



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.

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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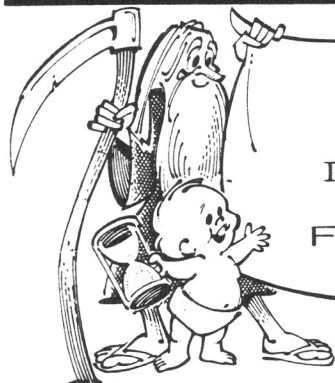


Journal

B. White

Volume 1, Number 4

January 6, 1986



ELECTIONS IN JANUARY FOR SOCIETY

We are coming up to the annual meeting again, January 16, 1986. We trust there will be a good showing of old and new members at the meeting. As you know, it's your Society and it is as good as you make it.

A recommended slate of officers has been drawn up by the Nominating Committee and we hope you will take a good look at the list.

welcome your recommendations. You have the right, as a member, to vote for, or against, or nominate from the floor on January 16. If you wish to make a suggestions before that date, kindly call Val Grimshaw at her home 878-8329 in the evening.

Here is the slate for your consideration. The bracketed information indicates how long that person has held that position.

Past President - Don Hayward

President - Len McNeil

First Vice-President - Ken Lamb (3)

Chairman Promotion, Publicity

Second Vice-Pres. - Marjorie Powys

Chairman of Programing

Treasurer - Jessie Hamilton (4)

Secretary - Jean Butts (3 years)

Directors of Committees but not on the executive:

Membership-Audrea Lear-Costigan (4)

Special Events - Shirley Dills

House Dating (research) - Open.

Would you like to work on this Committee? You learn all about the interesting homes of Milton. If you've never done it and would like to, we'll show you how--it's a piece of cake.

All positions are also open to nominations from the floor of the meeting January 16.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY 'ON DISPLAY' AT MALL OPEN HOUSE IN FEBRUARY

The Society will be taking part in the "Open House" at the Milton Mall on Saturday, February 15. This follows a worthwhile experience at the previous "Open House".

We'll have displays and a slide show to explain to Miltonians just what we do. We also hope to sign up a few new members.

We have openings for several volunteers to help with the booth. If you are able to take part, please call Don Hayward at 878-6790.




HELP, POLICE!

We're planning a "Police" night in April, similar to the "P. L. Robertson" and "Firefighters" events that proved so popular.

So far we've booked the Halton Police choir to open the program. But we want to have participation by police figures--past and present--as well as displays and mementos. Your ideas would be greatly appreciated. Please call Ken Lamb at 878-6391.



IN 1889 Milton was being lit with coal oil lamps --- about 40 of them. Each night the village constable made his rounds filling and lighting the lamps, for which he earned \$1 a day. But on December 3, 1891 The Champion reported the town was illuminated for the first time with electricity--and there were 15 street lights.



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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.

RESERVE THESE MEETING DATES

Thursday January '6, 1986

Our own Shirley Dills will combine the historic and the artistic in her program on porcelain art, or china painting. Shirley will give us the background on porcelain in general and her interest in particular--she has been painting and studying for several years.

Shirley will bring along many of her favorite pieces--some she has created, others from her collection. And she probably will demonstrate some of the finer techniques. This will be a fine evening.

Thursday February 20th

Been wondering about Carriage Square, the shopping plaza taking shape around the old Town Hall? How will the architecture fit in with the historic surroundings? What will the new area add to the local atmosphere? What effect will the development likely have on the downtown area?

You will have these and many more questions answered when Jordan Grant speaks at our February meeting. Mr. Grant is one of the main figures in the development and is in a unique position to give us a wide-ranging preview of the new plaza opening this spring.

Thursday March 20th

There's a fascinating story behind stained glass windows. And most of us have probably speculated about it when we would have been listening to the sermon.

At this meeting we'll hear where the windows originated and how they've evolved over the years.

Our spekaer will be George Williams, of Milton, an acknowledged expert. He will certainly be illuminating on this colorful topic.

CHRISTMAS PARTY SUCCESS SHARED WITH 'FRIENDS'

Perhaps we've started a new tradition with our joint Christmas party at the Regional Museum December 19th. It was a fun evening with more than 40 attending from our Society and the "Friends of the Museum".

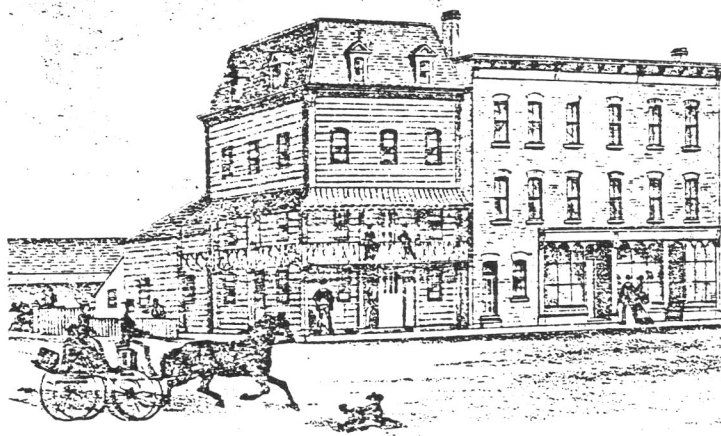
We learned how to make scones and bake them on an open fire. And how to make pomanders by sticking cloves into oranges and apples and rolling them in spices. We saw slides on the history of the museum. And we found that Len McNeil is still an expert on the mouth organ--we joined him in carol singing. The cookies, hot cider and other refreshments were outstanding.

The "Friends" made a presentation to Ernie Buchner, who recently resigned after three years as curator. Ernie obviously was taken completely by surprise. But after taking a few seconds to compose himself, he made a remarkable speech. He noted the great success of the school program at the Museum--about 4000 students took part in full-day programs at the Museum in 1985. And, of course, the attendance at the party showed the renewed strength of the "Friends" organization.

Ernie said this will be a crucial year for the Museum. Decisions are to be made on how the Museum is to meet Ontario standards for protecting the Kelso collection, which Ernie values at \$10 million. The present buildings could be renovated at considerable expense. Or an entirely new site could be chosen. Either way, major changes are coming.

FROM THE HALTON ATLAS

The Commercial Hotel, now known as The Charles Hotel is located at the corner of Main and Commercial St. The building was recently designated and plans for exterior changes are progressing.



COMMERCIAL HOTEL, MILTON.

FROM THE PAST

An extract from the files of The Canadian Champion January 7, 1867.

"Monday was an exciting day in Milton. Both sides exerted themselves to the utmost to elect their man, but as the contest was an honorable one, as a rule, the best feeling prevailed and we hope that any feeling which must arise at elections will speedily be buried in oblivion.

The votes: for Mayor, Smith 69, McGuffin 60, Lyon 8. For Reeve, McGuffin 79, Dewar 72."

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Why not do it now!

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.

MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HAD BEGINNINGS IN 1977

BUT THERE WERE EARLIER GROUPS

Milton Historical Society got its start in 1977 but it wasn't the first group to gather in the name of history.

The Champion of May 24, 1900 tells us the Halton Historical Society held its annual meeting in the town hall with different parts of the county represented.

Of particular interest it records that Secretary Robert Coates laid before the meeting a plan of Milton 1843 as he remembered it, showing locations of the 18 buildings it then contained which included 2 stores, 2 hotels, a tannery, grist mill, a shoemakers' shop and 11 dwellings, one of which was used a couple of years later for occasional Methodist services.

Does anyone know where Mr. Coates map might be found today?

In the mid 1930's there was another attempt at forming a Historical Society under the guidance of R.M.Clements. Brad Clements has the minute book for that group but it seemed to dissolve when R.M.Clements was named postmaster and obviously became too busy to continue.

The present Society came about in 1977 when Len McNeil, Shelagh Conway and Jim Dills arbitrarily called a meeting to determine interest.

At that meeting a steering committee was established to chart the origin. On that group were Bill Cook, George Jackson, Elva Newton, Heidi Nowak, Roseann Felsbourg, Len McNeil, Lyn Gonneau, Pam McLean, Ted Stover, Brad Clements, Shelagh Conway and Jim Dills.

An interim executive was chosen and met several times between April 1977 and the founding meeting in September. It was on Labour Day of that year, even before the first meeting, that the first history walk was conducted along Main St.

Len McNeil presided at the first meeting, in the absence of the first president Jim Dills, and Dr. Anthony Adamson was the speaker.

Without any attempt at writing a history of the "young" Society members can reflect on an impressive number of actions and involvement.

The Society was involved in developing a heritage policy for the town; in preserving the Court House; in preparing and presenting a complete group of photos of all the former mayors of the town from 1857; in dating and plaquing a number of homes in the town; in preliminary work on the preservation of the stones in the Pioneer Cemetery; in two house tours of local homes; in organizing the Canadian pavilion during the Festival of Countries events; in organizing the first Mayor's Levee at the town hall; in supporting the establishment of a Local Architectural Advisory Committee by Milton Council; in organizing a Sunday Afternoon in Victoria Park with a band concert; in fostering the development by High School students of a model of the mill area; and in proposing historical names for streets as the town expanded. Look for the town's first major historical marker to be in place during 1986.

In addition, of course, the Society has been busy with displays at the Mall and in downtown Milton promoting the history of the town; pot luck suppers; wine tastings; special trips to museums in the area; pleasant evenings on the Escarpment at the Norrington home; and regular meetings with interesting speakers.

The Society has had three presidents in that time. Jim Dills served from the beginning in 1977 through 1980; Val Grimshaw was president in 1981-82-83 and Don Hayward completes his term after service in 1984-85.

In addition there have been many people who have filled the executive positions and contributed strength and support through the various activities.

There is much to be done in the preservation of the history of the community and in raising the awareness of those who are now here.

Milton Historical Society has made a start.