The Journal

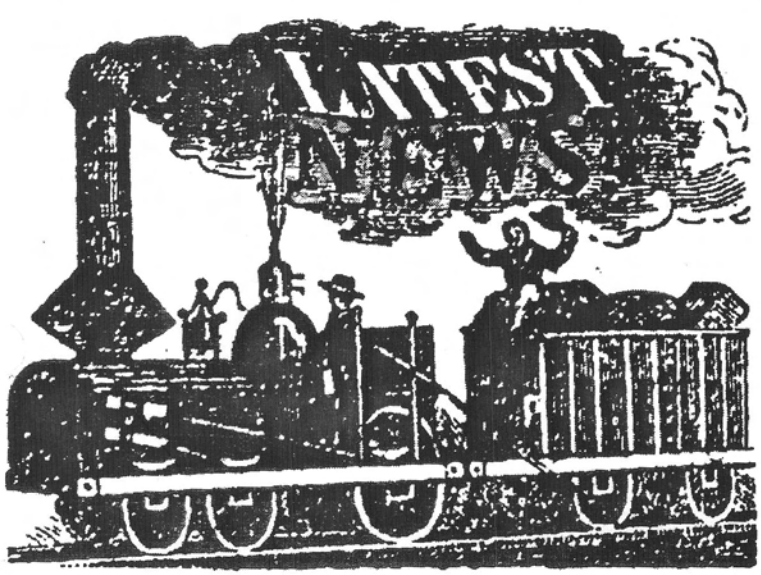
Published by the Milton Historical Society

Volume 16 Number 4 December 13, 2001

Visit our website at www.hhpl.on.ca/sigs/mhs/index.htm



The Milton Historical Society would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday. The post card shown above was sent to my grandmother, Orpha McClenahan, in 1908 when she was a little girl living in Appleby. Mother and Father evergreen seem extremely proud that Junior has been selected as a Christmas tree. This card is certainly quite different from the usual fare of cards showing Santa with presents or children playing in the snow. (John Duignan Post Card Collection)



- BLACKSMITH SHOP RESTORATION PROGRESS
- MARSHA WALDIE WINS HERITAGE AWARD
- POST CARD CONTEST ANSWER
- HERITAGE AWARDS NOMINATIONS SOUGHT
- M.H.S. MEETING HIGHLIGHTS & SCHEDULE

M.H.S. 2001 EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT-Mirella Marshall

PAST PRESIDENT-Helen Comber

SECRETARY-Amy Baier

TREASURER-Gloria Brown

MEMBERSHIP-Sue Paul

PROGRAM-vacant

WALDIE RESTORATION-Mandy Sedgwick

RESEARCH-Jim Dills, Elizabeth Norrington

PLAQUE PROGRAM-Marsha Waldie

GENEALOGY-vacant

PUBLICITY-Sue Henderson

LIAISON-Audrea Lear-Costigan

JOURNAL EDITOR-John Duignan

ARCHIVIST-Gail Richardson

SPECIAL EVENTS-Bruce Carlin

PUBLICATIONS-Ken Hassard

LACAC LIAISON-Lynda Leaver

SOCIAL-Jessie Hamilton

TELEPHONE COMMITTEE-Carolyn Goodall, Lou Bradley, Gail Pearson, Gerri Faggion, Mike Ledwith, Lois Thomson

Lois Knight – Our Genial Genealogist

We are very sad to have to report the passing of M.H.S. genealogist Lois Knight. Lois had taken over the post from Alex Cooke when he retired from the M.H.S. Executive. An active member of the Halton-Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society along with Alex, Lois ably took up the task of researching local family history and answering queries submitted to the Milton Historical Society. Lois will be missed not only for her go-getter attitude but for her ready smile and always cheerful manner. Her memorial service was a testament to her active involvement in family and community life. The numerous photographs displayed reflected this positive attitude and recorded a very vibrant life. Personally I was especially sad that I could not ask Lois about many of the photos because I'm sure she would have had a great story to tell about each one. We'll surely miss her.

Len McNeil Recognized For Many Contributions

by Ken Lamb

Len McNeil received wide recognition November 26th for his many gifts to Milton's heritage. The auditorium in Allendale, where Len and his wife, Helen, are residents, was well filled for the ceremony chaired by Jim Dills.

Our president, Mirella Marshall, presented Len with a life membership. Other tributes and awards came from the Ontario Historical Society, Mayor Gordon Krantz, and representatives of MPP Ted Chudleigh, and Premier Mike Harris. Councillor John Challinor represented Heritage Milton (LACAC). The "Song Spinners" from the nearby Seniors' Centre, led by Joyce Hayward, added a musical tribute.

Len, a former School Superintendent and Inspector, has been a Milton resident since the 1950's.

Len spearheaded a campaign in 1986 to honour P.L. Robertson, local inventor of the Robertson screw. This led to wide publicity and a huge celebration at the Robertson company plant; the Ontario Heritage Foundation erected a plaque on Bronte Street honouring the career of "P.L.". The Historical Society sponsored a plaque near the former Robertson home on Margaret Street.

Len had the distinction of being named a "Citizen of the Year" in Milton. He was also one of the first to receive a Heritage Award from our Society for producing many slide shows on Milton's past.

While acknowledging his most recent awards, Len paid tribute to his wife, Helen, for an outstanding career as a music teacher and solo performer.



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ny Skeletons in Your Closet? Marie Sutcliffe Told Us How to Find Out

Our meeting on September 20th featured M.H.S. member Marie Sutcliffe's introduction to researching family history. Marie provided numerous handouts as guides to sources of materials and research methods and strategies. She displayed her own family trees along with heirlooms and photo albums. She recounted her own trials and tribulations in piecing together her family history. She obviously met with much success in her efforts judging by the detail and how far back she has been able to trace her roots. Thanks Marie for a very interesting and informative presentation. Marie included in her handouts the following which I think our members would appreciate.

Bequest

My great-grandmother, rest her well, loved me more than tongue could tell.
And so she left me, when she died, all the things that were her pride:
Her locket, her four poster bed, her recipe for making bread, her wedding ring, her box of jade, the cradle that great-grandpa made, some old love letters tied in blue, a woolen shawl, a baby shoe, the wedgewood cups three brides held treasure, great-grandmother loved me beyond measure.
My great-grandmother, in her will left half her farm to cousin Bill.
She left my uncle John the rest, knowing I'd know she loved me best.

Our Speakers Seemed So Young to be Such Antique Experts

by Ken Lamb

Anyone with the slightest interest in antiques would have loved our October 18th meeting – speakers Jamie and Fiona Norris got a lot of information across in an entertaining way. They even tested our ability to value antiques. The couple displayed nine items from their own collections, including furniture, silverware and pottery. We were given nine valuations ranging from $150 to $1500 and were challenged to match them with the items displayed. Most of us had a poor sense of values but Jim Dills was right on the mark five out of nine.

Members brought more than 30 of their own treasures. Our speakers gave estimates on many of these; on several, however they felt that they needed more information. They took photos of these and promised to report back. We'll surely hear if someone hit the jackpot.

Jamie and Fiona outlined the factors, such as scarcity, age and condition, that determine an antique's value. But they strongly advised us not to buy an antique as an investment. Buy it because it has personal significance and promises lasting enjoyment.

The couple arrived in Milton in mid-2001, partly because our area is known as a hotbed for auction sales. Although in his mid-20's, Jamie claims 20 years' experience in the auction business, much of it because his parents were avid collectors. Fiona has a professional training in the field.



Jamie & Fiona Norris, at right, speak with our President, Mirella Marshall.

John McDonald Salutes Local Health Pioneers

by Ken Lamb

At our November 14th meeting author/historian John McDonald highlighted Milton's two pioneer hospitals and honoured the outstanding people who founded them. John, a member of our society, supported his talk with numerous slides.

The Rasberry Nursing Home (72 Martin Street) opened in the early 1930's. From 1933 to 1943 some 500 babies were born in that house on the Millpond. (The building today is a private home.) John explained how Dr. Keith Stevenson, who came to Milton in 1929, had strongly supported Robert and Margaret Rasberry in their venture. Margaret completely devoted herself to her patients and was known for "never turning anyone away" – this at a time when unmarried mothers found few open doors. Her many tasks made for a very long day. Sometimes when she just had to take a break she stretched out on the stairway so she could answer a call for help from either floor.

Five members of the Rasberry family attended. John often invited them to confirm his identifications as he sketched a family history that can be traced to the mid-1200's in Devonshire. William Rasberry arrived in Canada in 1835. For four generations the family lived on land now owned by the Royal Botanical Gardens. Their former home, known as Rasberry House, today is the headquarters of the Bruce Trail organization.

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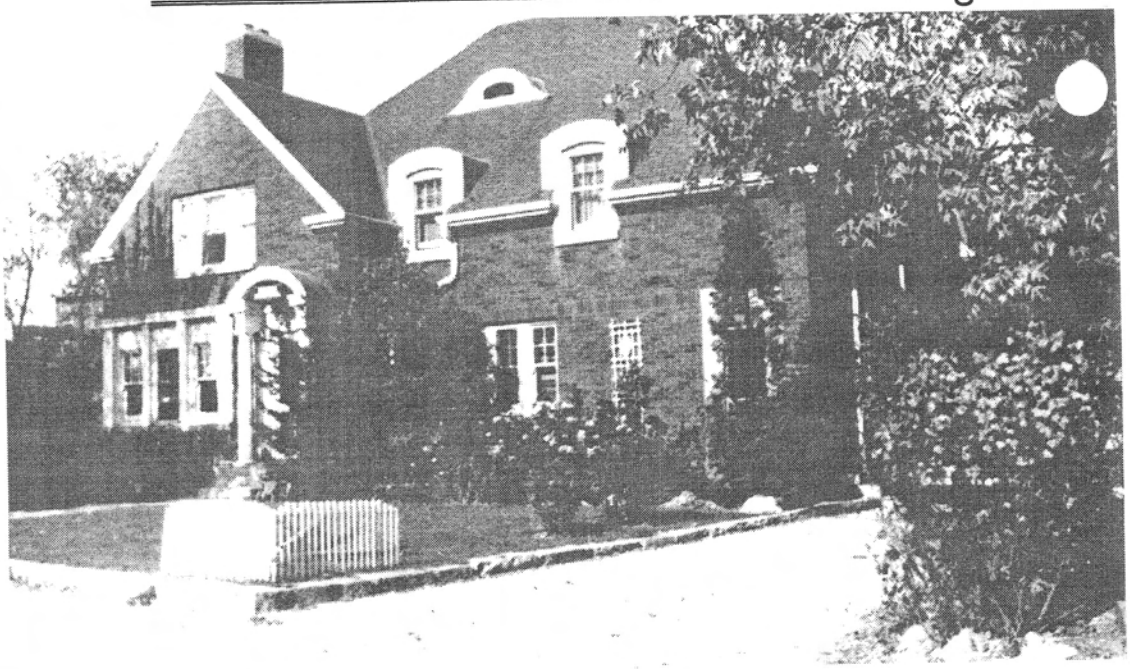
A Huge Contributor

After Dr. Stevenson converted his Martin Street home to the Milton Hospital in 1943 he delivered babies there rather than at the Rasberry site. Several years later, however, when Dr. Stevenson was having his hospital repainted, John McDonald was a late arrival at the Rasberry home. Dr. Stevenson's hospital with 12 beds and four or five bassinets served our town until Milton District Hospital opened in 1959 with Dr. Stevenson as head of surgery.

John explained that Dr. Stevenson was a man of many talents. He was a painter and a singer; he also served as a Town Councillor and actively supported St. Paul's United Church where a memorial chapel bears his name. (His pioneer hospital on Martin Street was demolished in the 1980's to make way for Carriage Square.) Sylvia Santor of Hamilton, one of Dr. Stevenson's three daughters, was on hand to share memories with numerous friends.

Above right photo shows the Stevenson Hospital while the bottom right photo by Rex Sutcliffe is of the Rasberry Nursing Home.





On a Personal Note

Many of our readers knew the editor's father, Bill Duignan, who passed away on November 10th. Bill joined his father-in-law Bruce Fitzgerald in the insurance business in 1958. Born in Peterborough, Bill was a fixture on Main Street, serving the community for 43 years. He was active in many things including the Milton Public Library Board, serving as its chairman for a number of years. He was the first chairman of the Milton Downtown Improvement Area. Those who knew him remarked on his good humour and kind and gentle manner. He will be sorely missed. I would like to thank the members of the M.H.S., particularly the Executive, for the care and compassion shown my family at this sad time.



In Loving Memory
of
William John Duignan

†

Born
May 16, 1929
Died
November 10, 2001

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord make me an instrument of Thy peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Marsha Waldie to Receive Heritage Award

An Ontario Heritage Foundation Award will be presented to Marsha Waldie in the new year. The award recognizes her work in researching plaques for local buildings and authoring the second volume of Historic Homes and Buildings of Milton.

The award is the result of a nomination filed by Heritage Milton (LACAC) through the town's planning department and is part of the Foundation's Community Heritage Recognition Program.

The award will be presented to Marsha on January 28th at 7:30 PM at a meeting of Milton Council. I'm sure we'll all want to attend to applaud Marsha for this outstanding achievement.

Past recipients of the award have included others who have authored local works, Jim Dills, Alex Cooke, Jack Charlton and Ken Lamb.



Hey, What Happened to the Downtowner? First off, I should correct myself and refer to the DBIA paper as Milton Downtown. After our first issue someone from a rival publication claimed that they owned the rights to "downtowner", and hinted at legal action, so we renamed it. (Never knew that you could copyright a word from the English language!?) At any rate we soldiered on with the newspaper centred around historical items and columns provided by various retailers. (Our inspiration had been the success of the North Halton Compass and its highly popular Shoebox Memories.) With a shoestring budget the paper promoting the downtown business area did reasonably well, even turning a profit while huge newspaper corporations bled red ink. So what happened? In short, the fellow responsible for putting the paper together and soliciting advertising, switched professions. As a result the paper went dormant for a while and has proven difficult to resuscitate. Our new publisher came on the scene too late to tap into the Christmas advertising budgets of local retailers which had been gobbled up in a well orchestrated blitz by the "Megabland Newspaper Group". As well, many retailers had been told that the 'Downtowner' (oops, better not use that – I might be sued) was dead. I guess they forgot to tell the old editor here that he had been fired. (Lucky I kept my day job, eh?) In any event it was a great deal of fun writing for the paper and hopefully it served its purpose promoting downtown business and Milton's history. There is talk of reviving the paper in the spring but we'll have to wait and see. Personally, I'm not holding my breath. I've been disappointed before. I've been waiting for the Leafs to win the Stanley Cup since I was a little kid.

MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Milton Historical Society
Nominations Requested for Heritage Awards!

To recognize individuals or groups who have completed a heritage project in the following categories.

- Written (Books, Newspaper Article, Poem)
- Visual Arts (Paintings, Prints, Models, Craft)
- Educational (Class or Club Project)

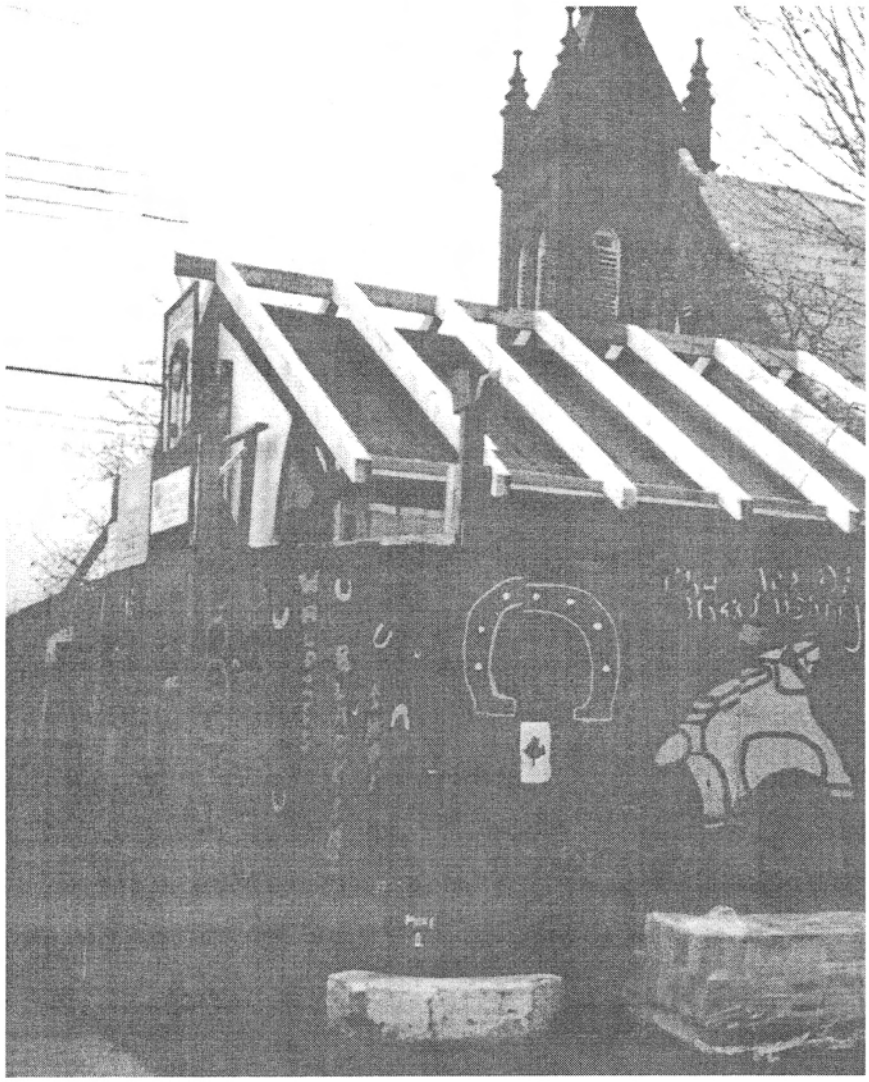
To nominate a person or group, simply send a letter with the nominee's name and project details or phone Bruce Carlin at 905-875-4588

Mail nomination by Dec. 31st to the Milton Historical Society P.O. Box 85, Milton, Ontario L9T 2Y3



Mayor's Levee On New Year's Day

January 1st, 2002 The theme of this year's display at the Town Hall Council Chambers will be the Waldie Blacksmith Shop restoration project. Numerous artifacts will be laid out for examination. There will also be detailed plans and drawings by restoration expert Tom Murison. Tom will be on hand to explain the project's progress so far. Future plans will also be displayed. As always there will be refreshments and food along with musical entertainment. The Mayor's Levee runs from 1:30 to 3:30 pm.





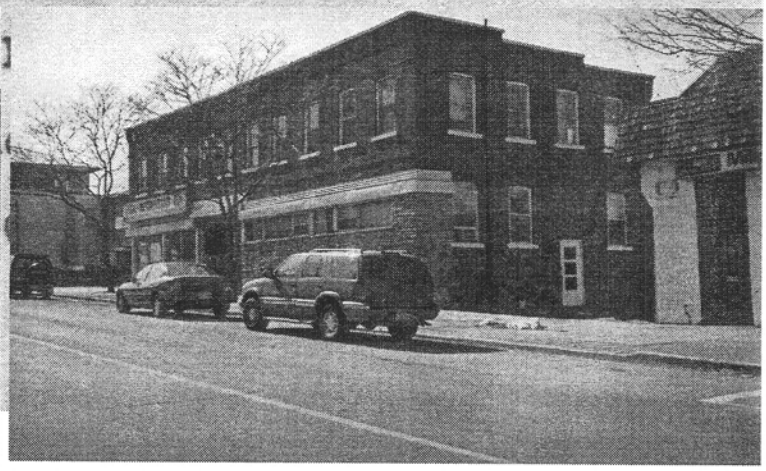


Many of our members may have driven past and noticed that the Waldie Blacksmith Shop is starting to resemble a real building. There are walls and a roof! Tom Murison has remarked that the project has been more of a resurrection than a restoration. I would have to strongly agree with that statement. We have been extremely lucky with the weather so far. A new roof was constructed over the old one with weather proofing just completed by Mac and Dave Phillips prior to our first snow fall. Masonry expert Peter Devine has been busy recreating the infill stone walls from the original material, while Tom nails plank walls to the rear of the shop. The smithy should be fully enclosed before winter undoubtedly arrives with a vengeance. Above left photo shows the rafters for the new roof constructed on top of the original. Top right photo will give readers some idea of the massive top plate beam. In the bottom right photo Tom Murison guides a girt into position. One of the perils of photographing the progress is that you might be pressed into service hoisting a beam. The editor didn't mind, but they wondered back at the office why I was covered in sawdust.

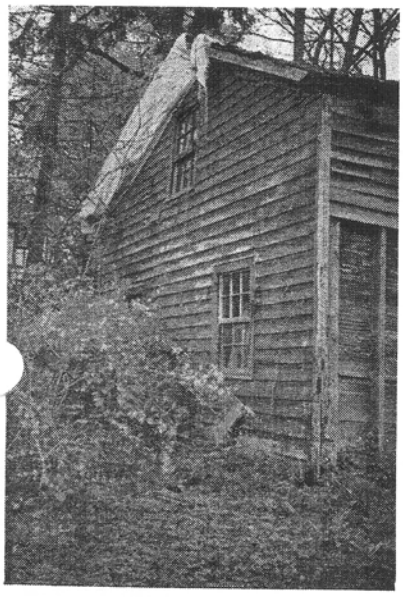
POST CARD CONTEST #7 ANSWER





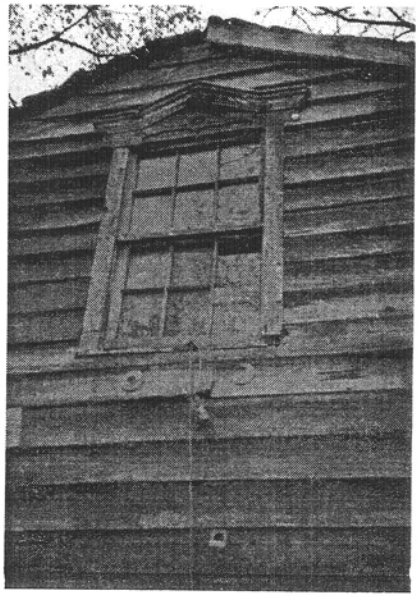


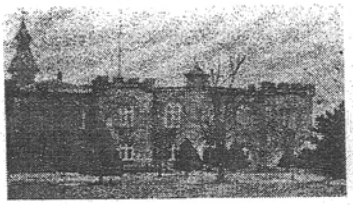
Contest number seven should have been an easy one. I'm surprised that many could not identify this building at 179 – 181 Main Street East. It was constructed in 1892 for the Winn and Company Shoe Factory after Town Council lured the enterprise to Milton with some financial inducements. (That is a whole story unto itself that Jim Dills has been writing about recently.) It was also home to a knitting mill and carpet factory before its present incarnation as a restaurant and office block. Winners of the contest may claim their prize – a dinner for two – at the Lido Restaurant. Unfortunately prize winners will actually have to pay for their meals as the contest budget was consumed so to speak at the annual M.H.S. Executive lavish luncheon at Harveys. While you ponder your fortune cookie prediction we'll try to figure out what kind of mystery meat those burgers were made from. (Burp!)



THIS OLD HOUSE CONTEST

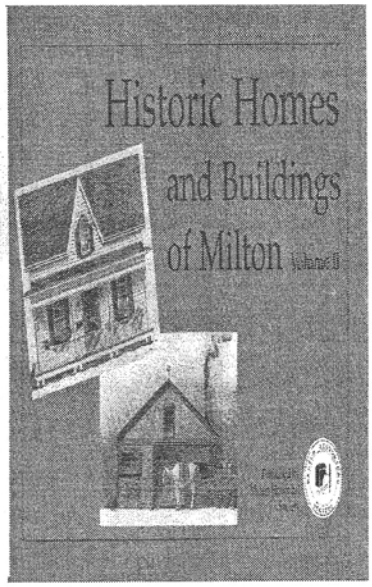
Welcome to a brand new contest. The challenge is to try to date this house. Located off Martin Street, an old one-and-a-half storey frame dwelling located off Martin Street that time forgot (until a neighbour complained that it was an eyesore) is the subject of this newly minted contest. A close runner-up in the decaying building competition, (which the Waldie Blacksmith Shop won hands down), this was the birth place of Jack Charlton who authored the first M.H.S. book Historic Homes of Milton. Aside from the fact that Jack was born in it in 1914, and that it had been located at one time on Martin Street, little is known. Presently Tom Murison is trying to determine the building's age using dendrochronology – the comparison of tree ring growth patterns. What's your guess? Prize winners will have the honour of helping the editor hurriedly resurrect the building in the race against a demolition order.

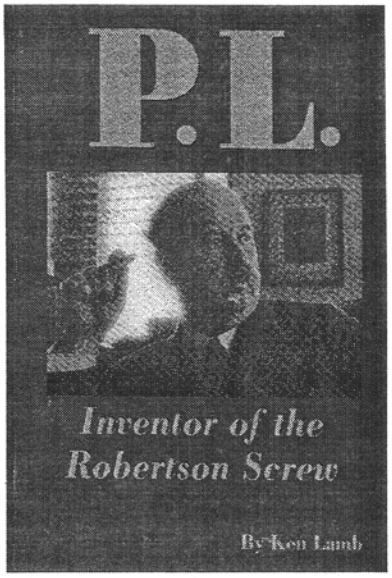


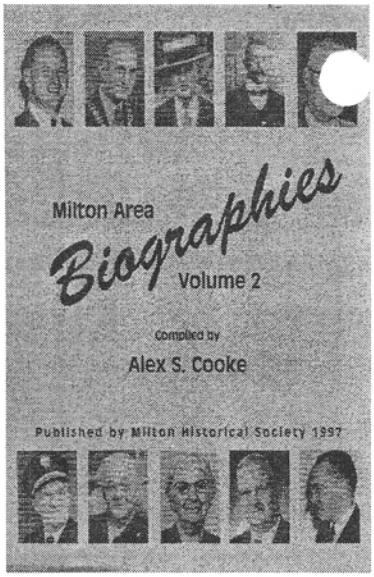


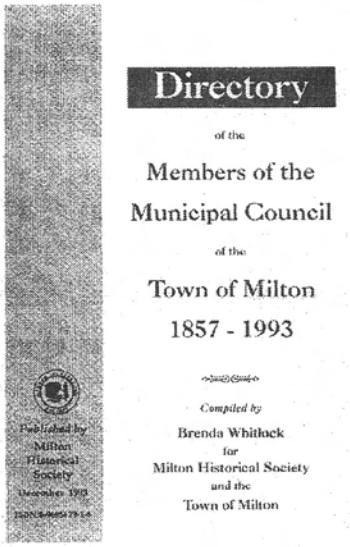
A Different Time... Milton's Victoria Park

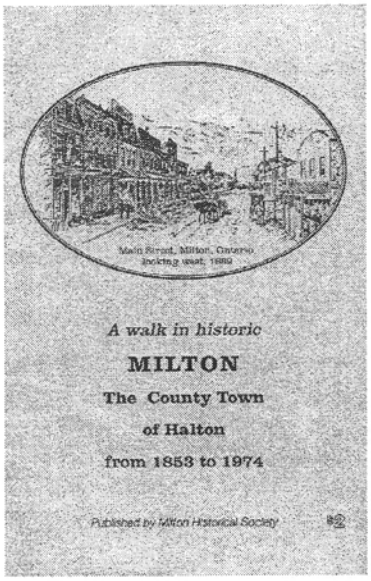
Co-produced By:
Sandy French, Cogeco 14
Jim Dills, Milton Historical Society

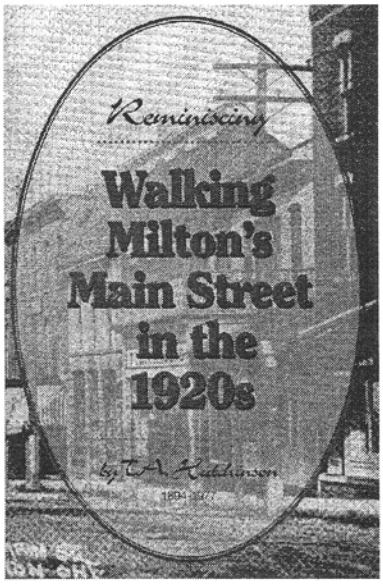


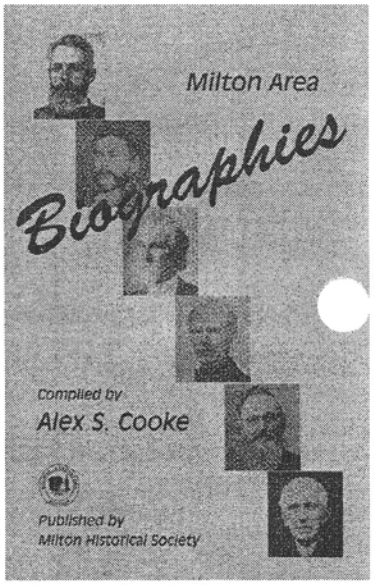




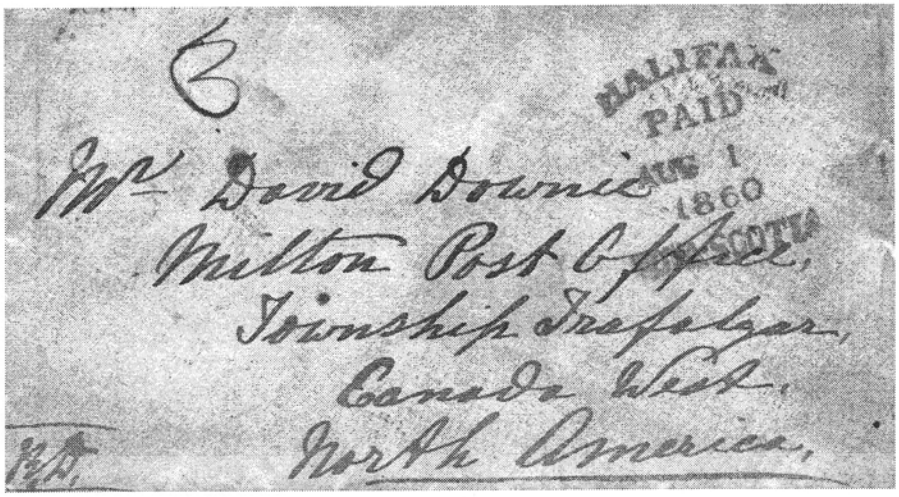








A GREAT GIFT IDEA OR KEEPSAKE The Milton Historical Society has a number of its own publications for sale. There is even a video available. Prices are as follows: Biographies Volume1, 2 , P.L.Roberston $25 each; Members of Council, Thomas Hutchinson on Main Street $5 each; Milton Remembers WW 2 $20; Milton Walking Tour $2; Historic Homes Volume 2 $20; Victoria Park video $15. These are available at local book stores or by writing to P.O. Box 85, Milton, Ontario L9T 2Y3.



New 2002 Membership Rates Still a Bargain

At $10 for individuals and $15 for families membership in the Milton Historical Society is still a pretty good bargain. Your renewal ensures that you continue to receive The Journal. We realize that many people can not make it to our regular meetings. In l' of that we try to keep in touch with our newsletter. We hope that it is informative and entertaining. Send your cheque to P.O. Box 85, Milton, Ontario, L9T 2Y3. For more information about membership please call Sue Paul at 878-0657.

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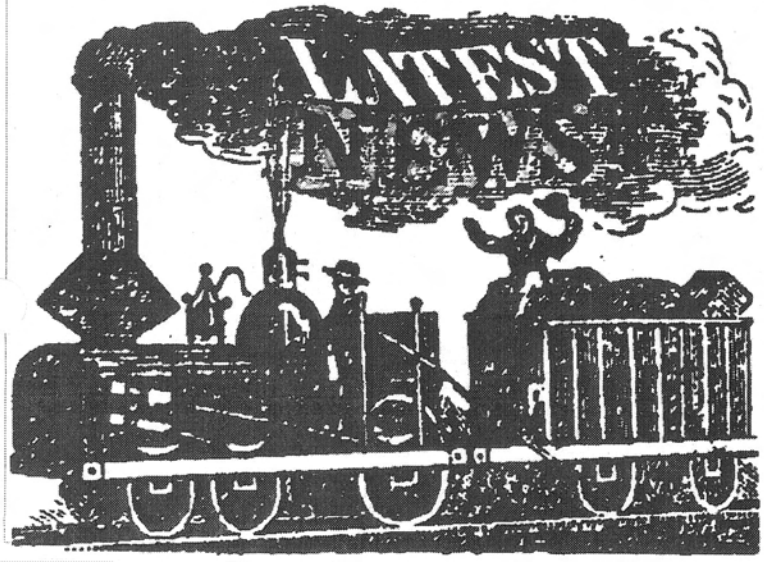
I really must apologize to our readers for choosing a winter scene for the next post card challenge. We're hardly finished summer but the Christmas catalogues have been delivered so I guess we'd better accept the fact that you know what is coming. This building is still on Main Street and once again doesn't pose that much of a challenge to identify. Notice the livery stable next door. This view was produced by F.K. Hunter of the Hunter Studio who operated from 1909 to 1915. The last Journal issue featured the home of Don and Marcelle Lambert at 79 Martin Street. This magnificent brick house built in 1892 was featured in the 2000 Historic Homes Tour . (John Duignan Post Card Collection)



- BLACKSMITH SHOP RESTORATION PROGRESS
- TOWN OF MILTON GRANTS $50,000.00 TO PROJECT
- MATTAMY HOMES DONATES $10,000.00
- WALDIE GADGET ANSWER & CONTEST
- M.H.S. MEETING HIGHLIGHTS & SCHEDULE

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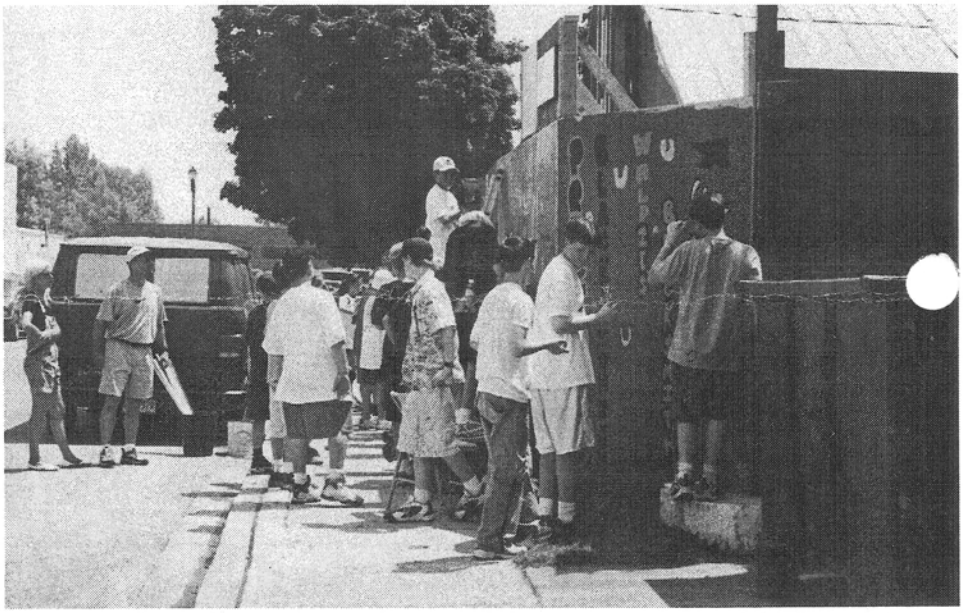


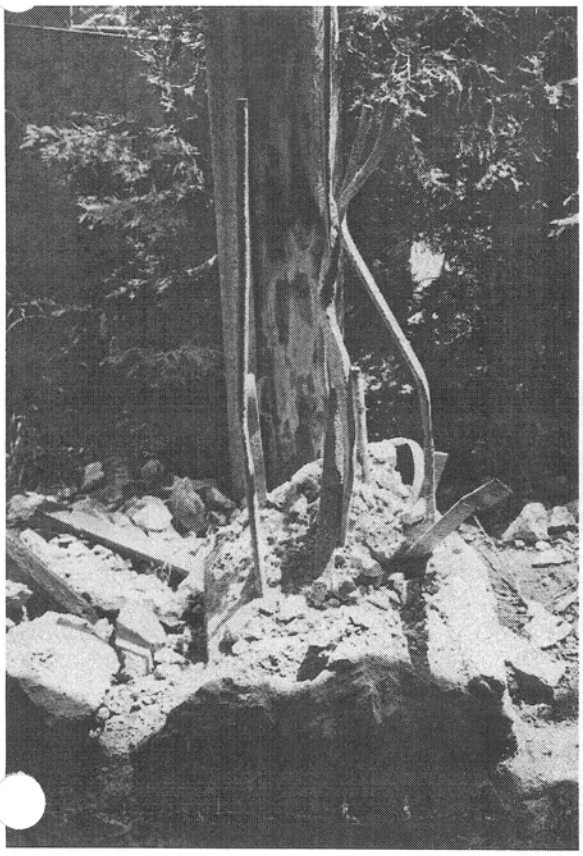


At right, Denise McCann's Grade 7 class from Holy Rosary School decorates the hoarding surrounding the Waldie Blacksmith Shop. Others participating in the painting in June were Joyce Frank's E.C. Drury class and the grade 8 classes of Ms. Singer and Ms. Weinstein of Holy Rosary. The students did a fine job. The artwork is certainly eye-catching and brightens up the construction site. It seems that they did their homework in researching the history of blacksmithing. Many thanks to the teachers and students for making this a true community project. Special Events Coordinator Bruce Carlin deserves much credit for the idea and organization.

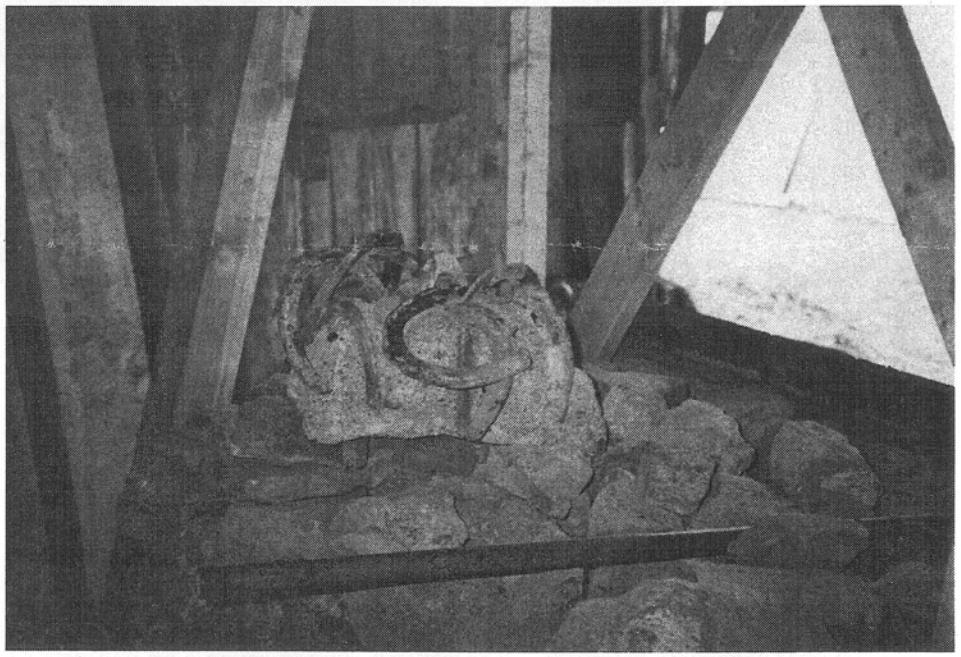
(Photos courtesy of Bruce Carlin and John Duignan)

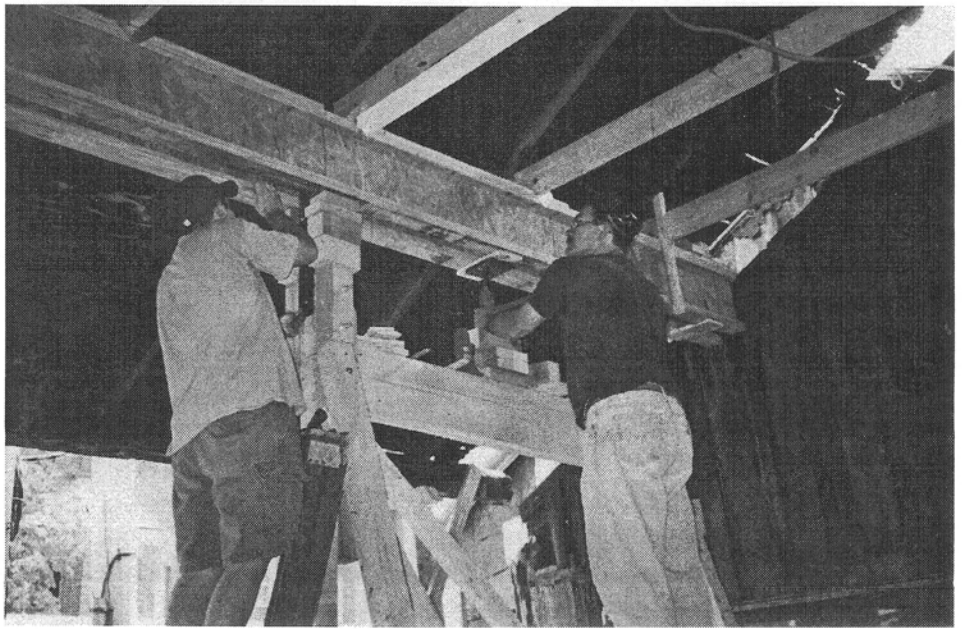
WALDIE BLACKSMITH SHOP RESTORATION

A Photo Essay by John Duignan



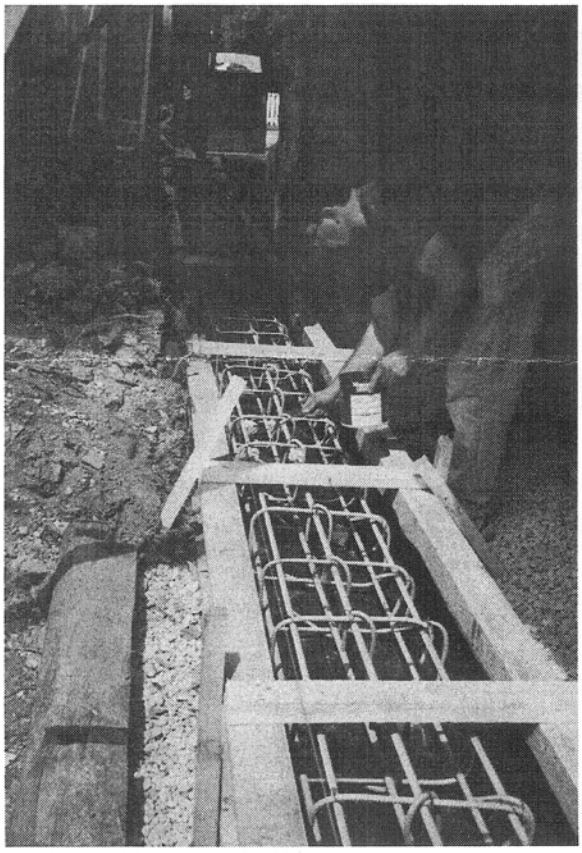


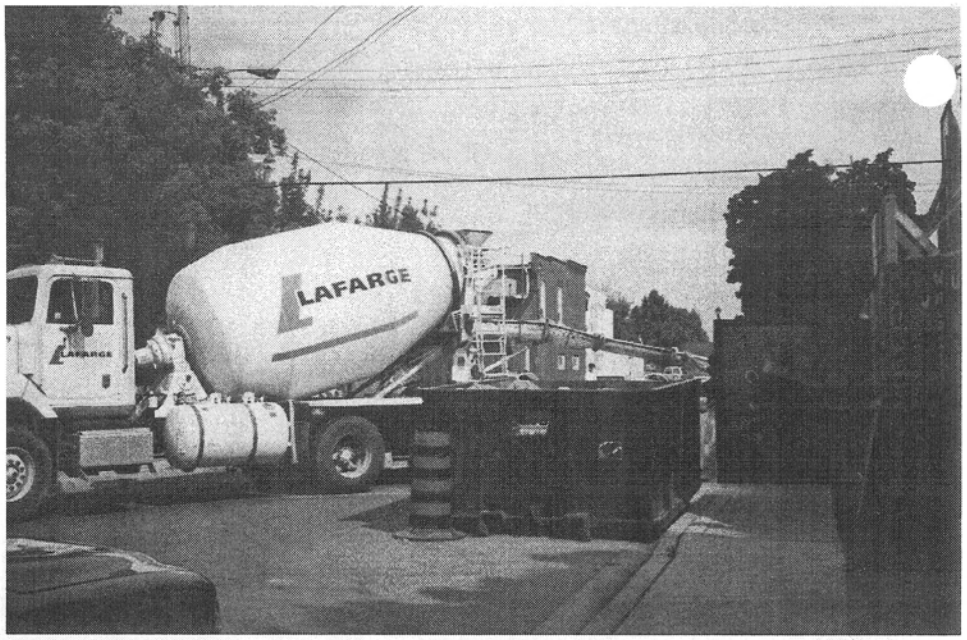


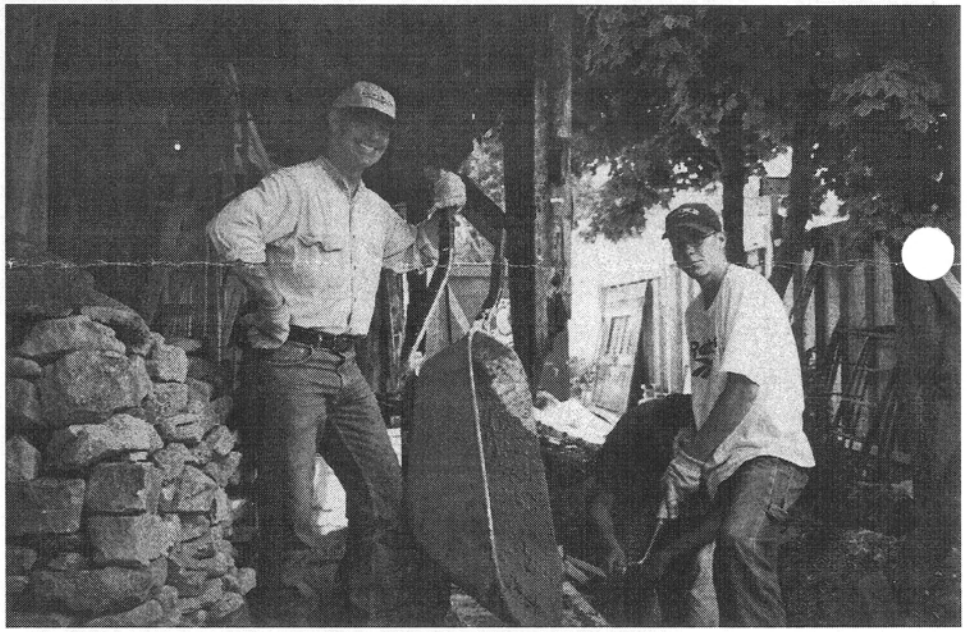


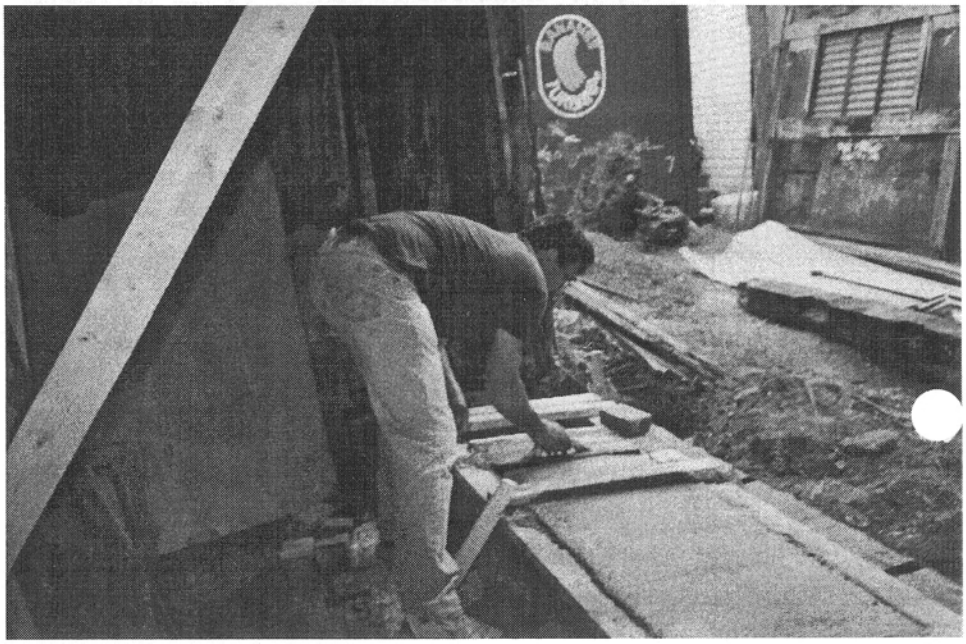
Readers may have wondered what was going on behind the hoarding surrounding the smithy. Words simply can not convey what has been found and the work in progress. Above right shows the timber and masonry infill walls completely removed. Prior to the demolition a complicated superstructure was assembled inside to support the roof. This is shown in the lower right photo. Whoever thought that the original walls would come down easily was dead wrong. The corner closest to St. Paul's United Church was heavily reinforced with iron rods and bars as shown above left. There were buggy springs, sleigh runners, and of course, horse shoes. The centre right photo shows a nest of 12 horse shoes found at the base of a chimney. The north side wall literally had a row of horse shoes reinforcing the base. Tom Murison, the restoration expert working on the shop, commented wryly that the Waldies had figured out how to shoe a building. The bottom right photo shows Tom and his assistant Doug LaRochelle gradually jacking up the roof of the shop to its original height. They said that the creaking and groaning of the building as they raised it was very unnerving initially.

An archeological dig undertaken at the site revealed numerous artifacts including a slate pencil and the bowl of a clay pipe. The dig also revealed that there was an extensive stone foundation intact under the shop. This meant a considerable savings in labour and money since the base for the walls could be formed directly on top of the original foundation. Below, Tom Murison applies some finishing touches to the extensive rebar array. I think he may have even outdone the Waldies for reinforcement but I don't think he used any horse shoes. At right a cement truck angles its way in to pour the foundation cap. Many thanks to Lafarge for their donation.

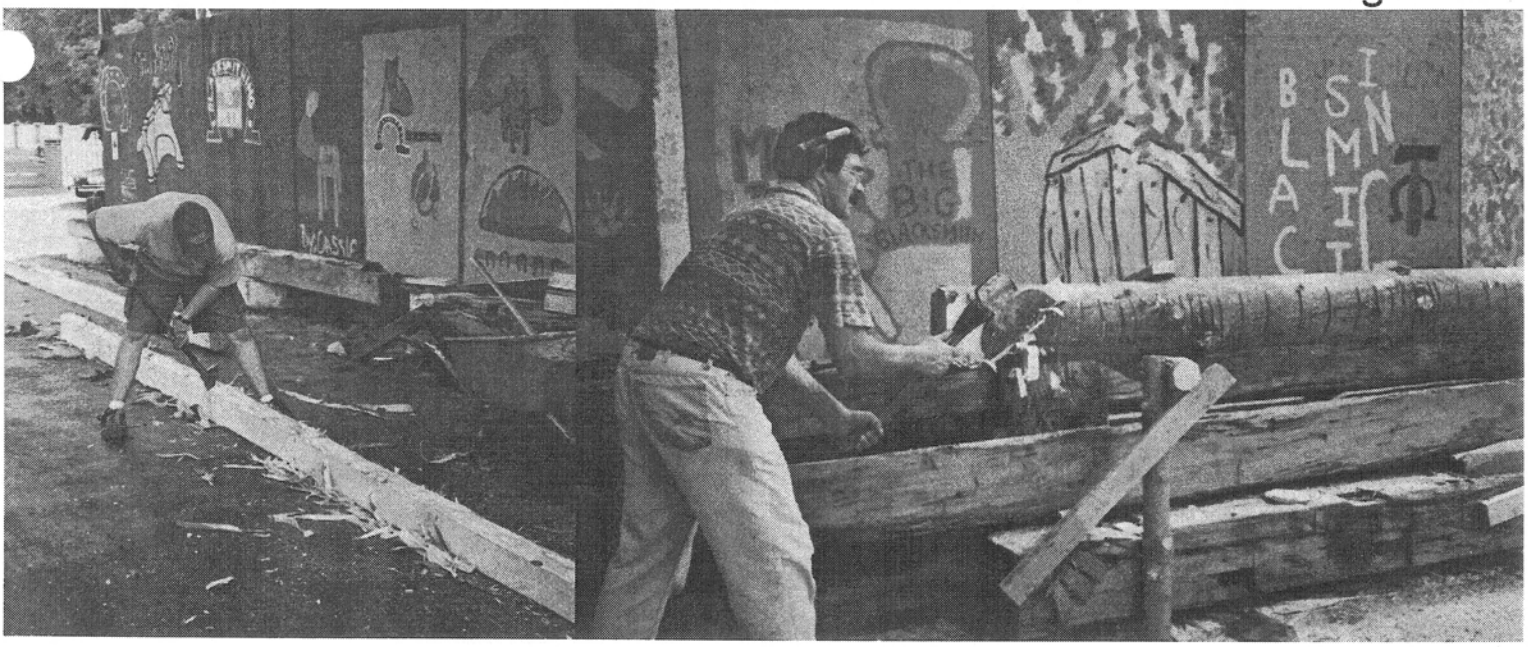








I am certainly very glad that my job that day was as photographer. The wheelbarrows loaded with cement looked incredibly heavy to push and then dump into the forms. At centre right Peter Devine, who will be doing the stone masonry reconstruction, and his son Peter are all smiles in spite of the arduous work. I think the two Peters, Tom and Doug awoke the next day with many bumps and bruises and sore muscles. It probably took them the whole weekend to recover. At right Tom Murison trowels the cap carefully. I thought better of putting a hand print in the wet cement and I am very glad I resisted the temptation since Tom

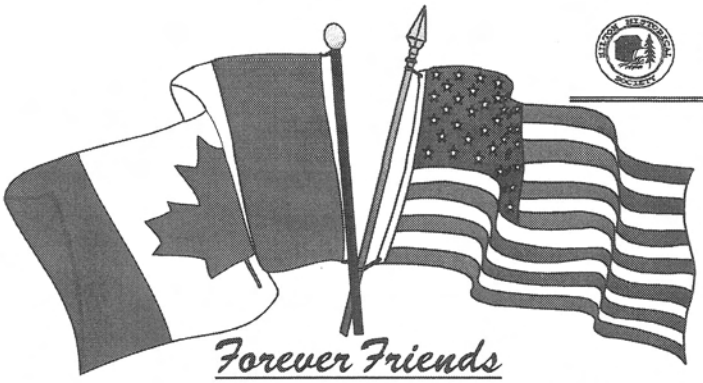


ably demonstrated his prowess with a very sharp broad axe in the following days. Above right Tom deftly squares a timber out of a tree donated by Jim Dills. The precision demonstrated Tom's skill and dedication to an authentic restoration of the Waldie Shop. At left Doug removes the remaining bark with an adze. Personally I would have wanted steel toed boots, heavy pants, shin pads and a steel jock strap before waling away with such an instrument. Currently the heavy timber beams and posts are nearly completed and will be assembled shortly. Once the timber walls are reconstructed Peter Devine will begin restoring the masonry infill walls. Following that the roof will be lowered. From there work will begin in earnest refurbishing the roof. The shop should be enclosed well before old man winter shows up this year. Watching the progress of the restoration has been both intriguing and awe inspiring. It is impossible to do justice to the complexity and detail of the reconstruction in such a short essay. At best this article might convey a feeling of the craftsmanship and care to detail involved in the restoration as well as a few peeks behind the colourfully painted hoarding. I am indeed fortunate to have witnessed the resurrection of one of the oldest buildings left in Milton.

Town of Milton Grants $50,000 to Waldie Blacksmith Shop Project, Mattamy Homes Donates $10,000- Donations Big and Small Pour In



M.H.S. Town Liaison and Waldie fund raiser Audrea Lear-Costigan was presented with a cheque for $50,000.00 by the Town of Milton in aid of the Waldie Restoration Project. The grant distribution from Milton's share of the Mohawk Raceway slot revenues certainly gave the project a well timed shot in the arm, allowing work to continue in earnest. Another major contribution came from Mattamy Homes. At left Peter Pomeroy on behalf of Mattamy hands over a cheque for $10,000.00 to the M.H.S. In attendance at a ceremony in front of the shop were from left to right Marsha Waldie, M.H.S. President Mirella Marshall, Tom Murison, Audrea Lear-Costigan and Peter Pomeroy. Absent from the photo are Waldie fund raisers Bill Rowney and Tom Logie and Waldie Committee Chair Mandy Sedgwick Bill and Tom have been instrumental in securing corporate and in-kind donations respectively. Keep up the great work! Details of those donations will follow in the next issue.



Forever Friends

In Memory of September 11, 2001

M.H.S. Meeting Highlights

Jim Dills Walking Tour of Downtown Milton in May

M.H.S. researcher and author Jim Dills led members on a very informative and interesting walking tour of downtown Milton at our May 17th meeting. Starting out from the new Town Hall, the former County Buildings, Jim described the history and the people behind the construction of the numerous historic buildings in and around Main Street. Jim peppered his talk with many amusing anecdotes such as the hapless would-be tightrope walker who only managed to demolish a tall brick chimney, raining the bricks down on top of the old Champion office. It was a very entertaining evening. For those who could not attend, there will soon be a video released of Jim's walking tour. I'm looking forward to that.

June Potluck Dinner at the Eadie Home

Anne and Walter Eadie's spectacular and spacious home was the venue for our potluck dinner on June 21. Everyone pitched in bringing delicious main courses and desserts. (The editor did his usual cooking at Loblaws. It saves other members from food poisoning.) After dinner Walter gave a history of the house and answered members' questions. The house at 60 Mill Street is noted for its ornate brickwork and fancy gingerbread. The interior is just as stunning and the Eadies eagerly led members on tours of their historic home built in 1894 for John Pickett, a painter and paper hanger. Judging by the expansive dwelling, he did quite well. Thank you Anne and Walter for your hospitality.



Anne and Walter Eadie's historic home at 60 Mill Street. Photo by Konrad Richter. Note the ornate brickwork and gingerbread.



Upcoming M.H.S. Meetings

September 20, 2001 M.H.S. member Marie Sutcliffe will give a talk about genealogy at the old parish hall at Holy Rosary Church on Martin Street. This will be an introduction to tracing your family tree. Marie will have some invaluable handouts for her audience.

October 18, 2001 This will be a show and tell night where members are invited to bring their treasures or whatever else they may have around the house. We may have a few auctioneers on hand to aid in identification and appraisal. It should be very entertaining.

November 15, 2001 M.H.S. member and author John McDonald's topic for the evening will be the Stevenson Hospital on Martin Street. The facility served Milton before the construction of the new hospital on Derry Road. If you've read John's books you'll know that it will be an interesting evening.

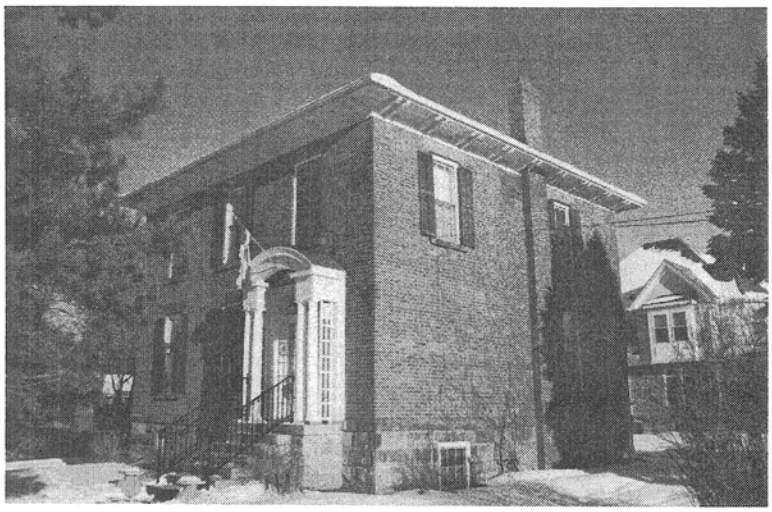
December 20, 2001 Our annual Christmas potluck dinner. Time and place still to be decided.

Meetings usually begin at 8 pm at Hugh Foster Hall unless otherwise noted. Coffee is served at 7:30 pm.



The stamp shown to the left was found between the floor and ceiling of a house just off Margaret Street. This was the house that Jack Charlton was born in. The stamp has seen better days but it is remarkable that it survived and was found. It dates from 1870 and bears the head of Queen Victoria. It likely fell through the cracks between the second storey floor boards after being removed from a letter. Perhaps a patriotic mouse decorated his or her nest with a portrait of the Queen.

Historic Homes Tour Another Success Story

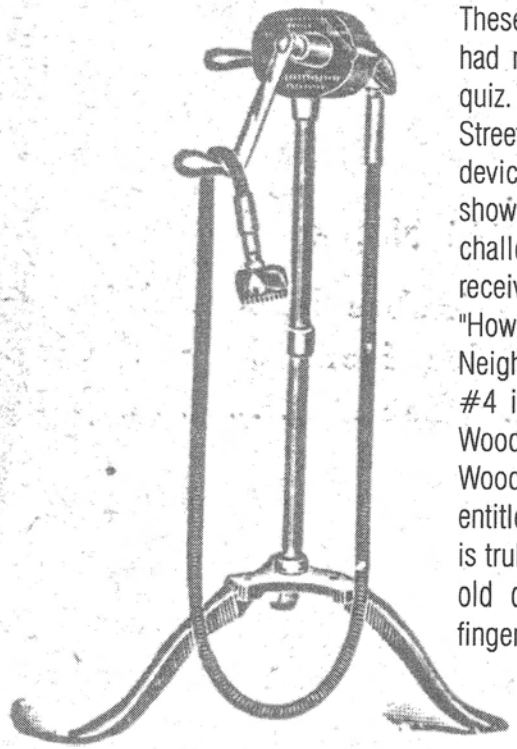




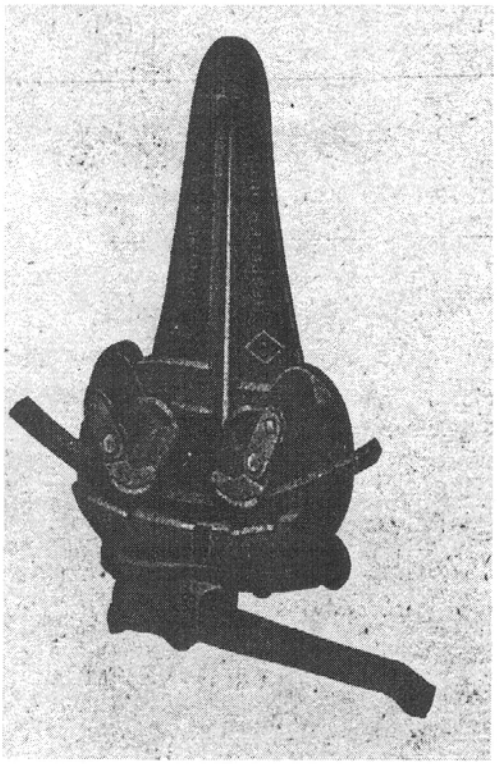
M.H.S. member and professional photographer Konrad Richter took these beautiful photos of two of the homes on the tour. They also appear in the second volume of Historic Homes and Buildings of Milton published by the M.H.S. Above left is the home of Malcolm Phillips at 216 Sarah Street. Above right shows the home of Don and Ann Corker of 94 Victoria Street.

The annual Historic Homes Tour on June 9th was another success raising well over $4000.00 for the Waldie Blacksmith Shop Restoration project. Once again the weather was beautiful if a little bit hot. The tour comprised five homes and Grace Anglican Church. It was very interesting to see the restoration efforts put into these fine homes by their owners. Many thanks go to the homeowners for throwing their doors open to the public. It involves a tremendous amount of work to put on such a tour on the part of both the owners and M.H.S. organizers. It's a lot of work but well worth the effort. Our thanks to Don and Ann Corker of 94 Victoria Street, Marjorie Powys of 121 Mill Street, Malcolm Phillips of 216 Sarah Street, Sheila and John Edwards of 130 Charles Street, Lou and John Bradley of 23 Court Street North and Grace Anglican Church. All of them should be very proud of their beautifully restored and maintained homes.

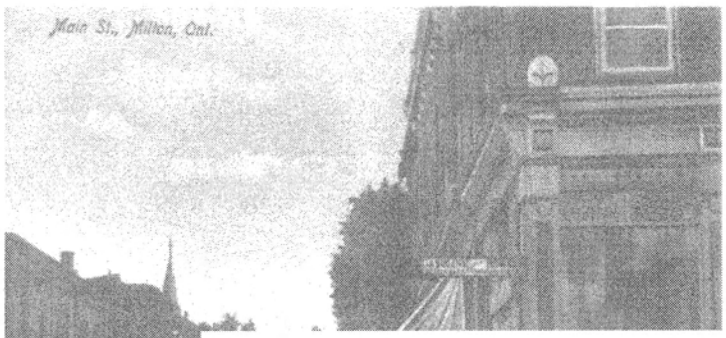
THE WALDIE WHATCHAMACALLIT CONTEST #3 ANSWER & CONTEST #4



These contests may be getting too easy as we had numerous correct answers to our last quiz. The winner was Duncan Dewar of Queen Street who correctly said that this was a device for shearing animals. Contest #4 is shown at right and hopefully is a bit more of a challenge. The winner of contest #3 received the latest Martha Stewart book, "How to Build a Palatial Log Home With Your Neighbour's Woodlot". The prize for contest #4 is a book by Woody Knotts, "Antique Woodworking Tools and Their Proper Use". Woody is also known for his other fine work entitled "Timber Framing With Chainsaws". It is truly impressive to see Woody fire up the old chainsaw without the benefit of any fingers.

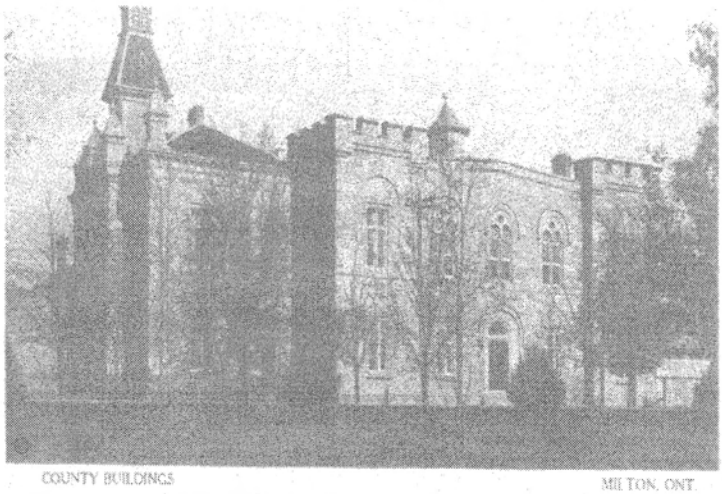


A view circa 1913 of the first Milton Town Hall constructed in the years 1865 to 1867 at a cost of $5000.00. Town





The south side of Main Street looking west circ 19
Visible in the foreground is the Metropolitan Bank w
site of the Bank of Nova Scotia), and further along, si
for The Reformer newspaper (on the false store front)



This beautiful

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It was actually Milton's third school, the first b
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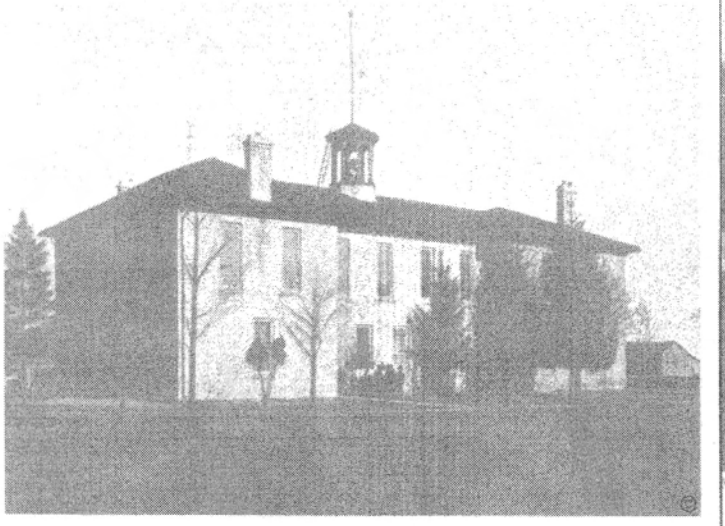
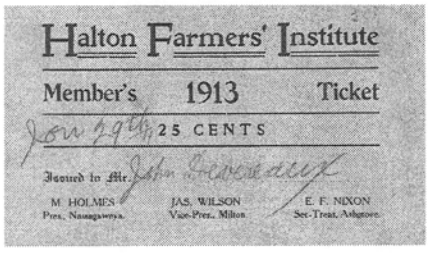






A GREAT GIFT IDEA OR KEEPSAKE The Milton Historical Society is offering for sale a set of note cards with six different post card views. A fund raiser for the Waldie Blacksmith Shop Restoration, the cards are printed on heavy bond paper and bear a historical description on the back. The inside of the cards is left blank. The sets are available from the Society at a cost of $9.50 each.


Halton Farmers' Institute
Member's 1913 Ticket
Jan 29th 25 CENTS
Issued to Mr. John Greenaway
M. HOLMES, Pres., Nassagaweya — JAS. WILSON, Vice-Pres., Milton — E. F. NIXON, Sec-Treas., Ashgrove

Have You Renewed Your Membership for 2001?

At $7 for individuals and $10 for families your renewal ensures that you continue to receive The Journal. We realize that many people can not make it to our regular meetings. In light of that we try to keep in touch with our newsletter. We hope that it is informative and entertaining. Send your cheque to P.O. Box 85, Milton, Ontario, L9T 2Y3. For more information about membership please call Sue Paul at 878-0657.

The Journal

Published by the Milton Historical Society

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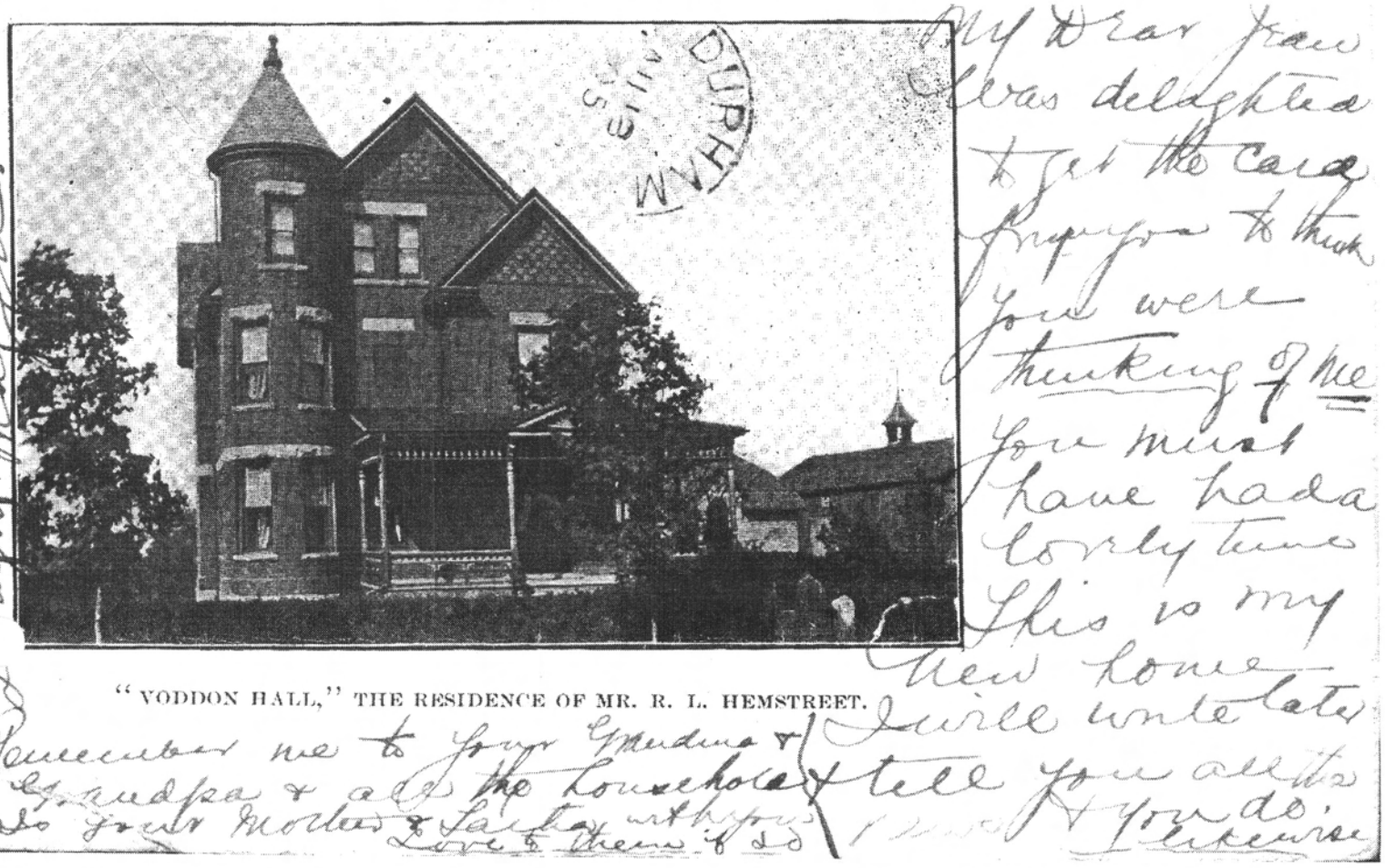
Visit our website at www.hhpl.on.ca/sigs/mhs/index.htm



"VODDON HALL," THE RESIDENCE OF MR. R. L. HEMSTREET.

This magnificent brick house built in 1892 was featured in last year's Historic Homes Tour. The owners, Don and Marcelle Lambert, opened up all three floors for visitors. This post card view from around 1904 is all the more interesting because of the writing. Richard Hemstreet was a prominent local merchant. "Vodden Hall" referred to his mother's maiden name. It shouldn't be much of a challenge at all for our readers to identify the location of this home. (John Duignan Post Card Collection)

IN THIS ISSUE:

POST CARD QUIZ ANSWER

WALDIE GADGET CONTEST

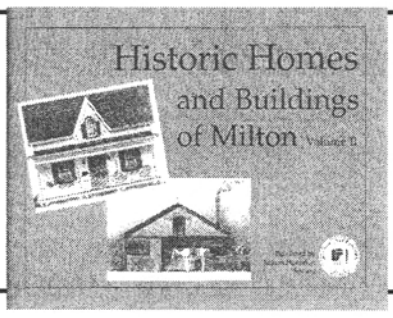
WELL, WE KNOW THAT EVAPTORS BURN WELL!

A TRIBUTE TO M.H.S. RESEARCHER ALEX COOKE

M.H.S. MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

M.H.S. MEETING SCHEDULE

HISTORIC HOME TOUR



JUNE 9, 2001
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

M.H.S. 2001 EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT-Mirella Marshall

PAST PRESIDENT-Helen Comber

SECRETARY-Amy Baier

TREASURER-Gloria Brown

MEMBERSHIP-Sue Paul

PROGRAM-vacant

WALDIE RESTORATION-Mandy Sedgwick

RESEARCH-Jim Dills, Elizabeth Norrington

PLAQUE PROGRAM-Marsha Waldie

GENEALOGY-Lois Knight

PUBLICITY-Sue Henderson

LIAISON-Audrea Lear-Costigan

JOURNAL EDITOR-John Duignan

ARCHIVIST-Gail Richardson

SPECIAL EVENTS-Bruce Carlin

PUBLICATIONS-Ken Hassard

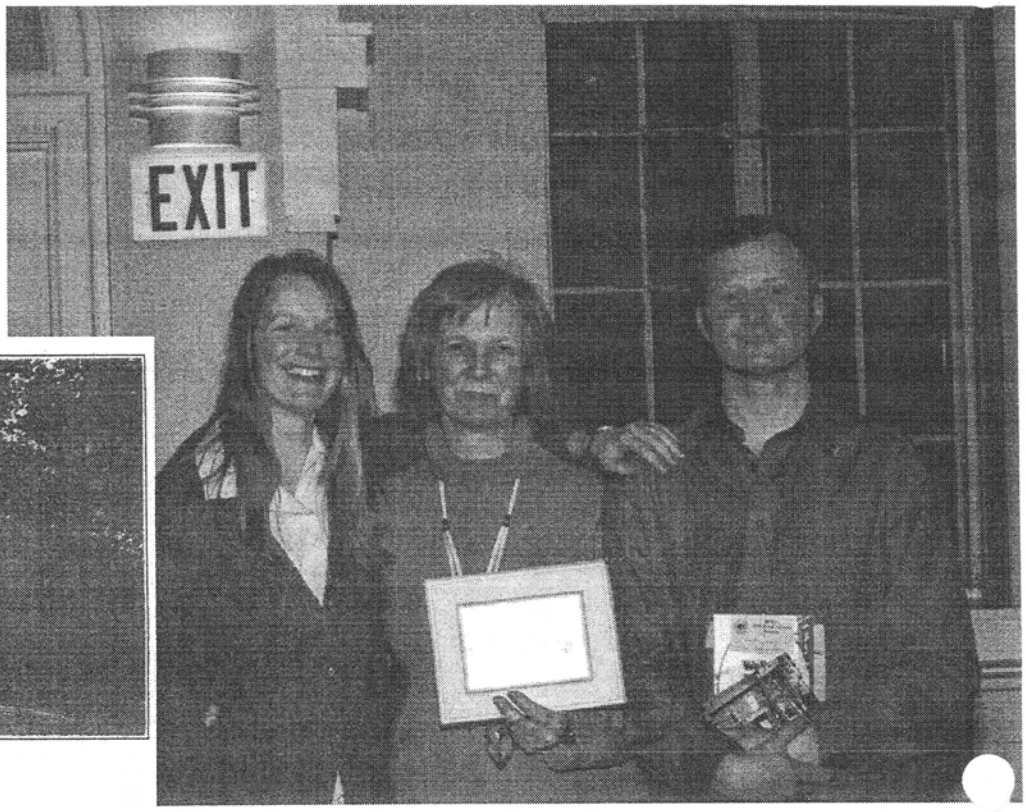
LACAC LIAISON-Lynda Leaver

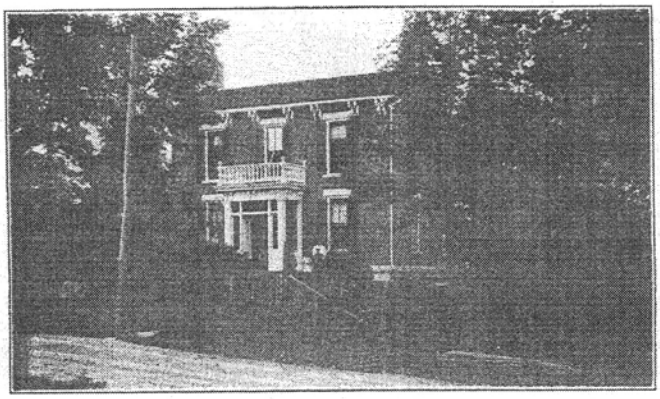
SOCIAL-Jessie Hamilton

TELEPHONE COMMITTEE-Carolyn Goodall, Lou Bradley, Gail Pearson, Gerri Faggion



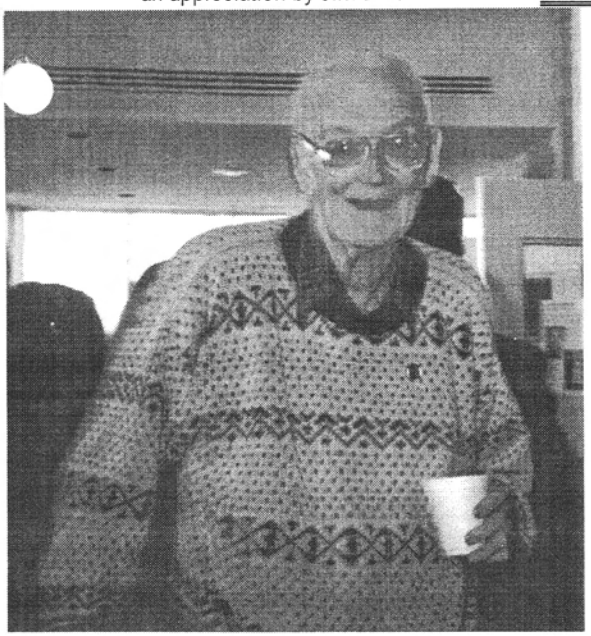
At the Mayor's Levee MHS Special Events Coordinator Bruce Carlin displayed a collection of photos he took of events in and around Milton in the year 2000 to commemorate the Millennium year. According to MHS Town Liaison, Audrea Lear-Costigan, it was very well attended with 132 people signing the guest book. Attendees included Mike Ledwith and Jim and Shirley Dills. (photos above and below courtesy of Bruce Carlin)





Residence of C. W. Martin

The speakers at our January meeting were Mildred and Jasper Martin. Mildred, the daughter of Dr. Carl and Marie Martin recounted what life was like growing up in the Martin household. Mildred is pictured above centre along with Sarah and Jasper Martin. Jasper is busy restoring the family home on Martin Street and brought the audience up to speed on his progress. The Martin residence as it appeared in the 1907 Milton Semi Centennial Souvenir book is shown to the left. We look forward to the refurbishment of the founding family's home.



He was active on research for the Milton Historical Society, compiling background detail on local properties and assisting in the two volumes of "Historic Homes and Buildings of Milton". He assisted Jack Charlton and Jim Dills in compiling the book "Moments in History" published in1993.

For the Halton Region Museum he was involved in the 200 page genealogy and History of the Zimmerman family and a 60 page book on the history of the Buck family. A regular Thursday volunteer at the museum, he often answered inquiries from families and assisted staff and volunteers.

He listed the stones in Evergreen Cemetery in Milton as part of his work with the Halton-Peel branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society. His Cooke and Stewart family history and family trees are each six inches thick. A regular attendee at branch meetings, he had an enviable network of contacts through mutual assistance.

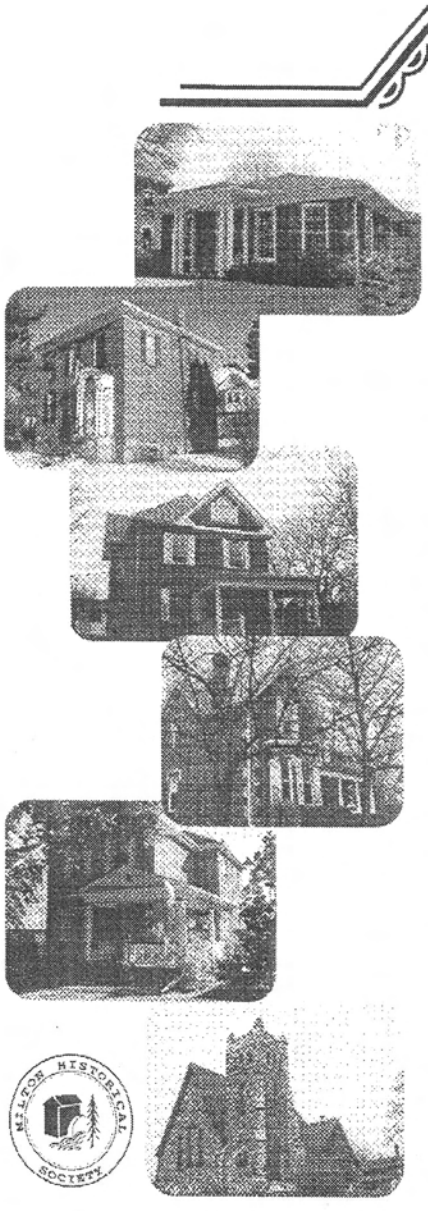
Alex was predeceased by his wife Ruth. According to his wishes a private family interment took place at Evergreen Cemetery.

Local Genealogist, Historian Alex Cooke's Legacy

Those in Halton's heritage community, and friends in his lifelong hometown of Milton, were saddened by the death recently of Alex Cooke as he neared his 85th birthday. Alex never stopped contributing to the ɔrding of Halton history and the encouragement ot others.

Alex contributed to Halton Region Museum, Milton Historical Society and the Halton-Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society in many helpful ways over more than 40 years. He has responded to genealogical requests for information from around the world and travelled to Scotland in search of his own family roots which he traced to the nearby Scotch Block. In earlier years he was active in assisting sports teams and serving on provincial sports executives. For several years he was a member of the Milton Public School Board.

Alex was recognized in 1997 with the Ontario Heritage Award that came from his years of involvement. He was a founding member of the Halton-Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society, a member of the first board that established the county museum at Kelso, a contributing member of the Milton Historical Society and author for them of the two volumes of more than 220 biographies of ɹl people. He was enthusiastic in meeting school children and helping them with local history projects. Many found him in the local library and received valuable advice in searching out their own family history.



Historic Homes Tour ...

Presented by
Milton Historical Society

Saturday
June 9, 2001,
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

You will be welcomed at six properties including five homes built between 1856 and 1917 and Grace Anglican Church, dedicated in 1895.

Tickets $15 available at:
Bergsma's, From Our Farm,
Jo'Leen's, Finials,
Delacourt's, Harris Stationery
Peggy's of Milton (Mall)

Heritage Winners Acclaimed

by Ken Lamb

Our Heritage Awards ceremony February 17 at Hugh Foster Hall had it all - highly qualified winners, near capacity attendance and fine entertainment. Mayor Gordon Krantz and M.P. Julian Reed provided celebrity status.

Two members of our executive were honoured. Marsha Waldie won the Writers award as author of "Historic Homes and Buildings Milton", published last fall by the Society. Konrad Richter was the winner in the Visual Arts category. Konrad designed a poster for Heritage Milton and produced a drawing of the Waldie Blacksmith shop and the nearby Waldie home. He also took photos for Marsha's award-winning book.

Barney and Susan Henderson were recognized for an addition to their historic home on Victoria Street. The addition, which superbly matches the original building, made the house wheelchair-accessible and provided an extra ground floor room.

Co-winners with the Hendersons were John and Loni Brechin of Mill Street. Their L-shaped addition provides a lot more family space while maintaining the home's traditional charm.

Diane Robnik, the Education Award winner, used the Bronte Street Pioneer Cemetery as her model for a paper on long-term cemetery care. Diane, a student at a Peterborough college, worked at Halton Region Museum last summer.

The award for an in-fill home in a Heritage District went to Margaret Lawson for her Victoria Street bungalow, completed last year. The lot backs on Rotary Park.

Following the Heritage awards, Gail Richardson, our archivist, was recognized for her work in helping obtain a $75,000.00 Trillium Foundation grant to restore the Waldie Blacksmith Shop.

The 12-member Kitchen Band from Milton Seniors' Activity Centre entertained the audience. So did two Brampton youngsters - piper Emma Watson and her drumming brother Jamie - who led the award-winners' procession.

Len McNeil, an Early Winner

Len McNeil, the Society's third president, won an award at our first Heritage Celebration February 18th, 1990. Len was honoured for producing four slide presentations on local historical subjects. Other 1990 winners were the Friends of Halton Region Museum, reporter Bonnie Mullen and houseowners Robert and Kathryn Webb. Then, as now, the copper plaques were attached to limestone slabs from historic Bruce Street School; Brad Clements provided the limestone and still does.

Milton Historical Society and Heritage Milton award winners. From left to right: Loni and John Brechin, Margaret Lawson, Marsha Waldie, Konrad Richter, Diane Robnik and Barny Henderson. (Take the photo already! These rocks are heavy!)



The Journal
Published by the Milton Historical Society
April 30, 2001





The Kitchen Band from the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre entertained the audience. At right MHS President Mirella Marshall presents a plaque to Gail Richardson in recognition of her outstanding success in obtaining a $75,000.00 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation for the restoration of the Waldie Blacksmith Shop.

M.H.S. Meeting Highlights by Ken Lamb

Treasures Retrieved

At our February meeting John Duignan displayed scores of fragments dug from the bed of Milton's Mill Pond - a small sample of the "treasures" unearthed after the pond was drained in a weed-dication program. Talk about variety. A spittoon, curling stone, snowplow, metal tools, chamber pot, tea cups, plates, crocks and dozens of medicine bottles.

John amused his 40 listeners by reading patent-medicine advertisements from The Canadian Champion of about 120 years ago. The stuff in John's bottles - so the ads claimed - could cure just about anything. But the speaker hinted the pain-killing ingredient likely was alcohol.

John said the early immigrants were advised against bringing fragile items like plates and pottery because they likely would be broken in transit. Most of such goods in early Milton homes were imported from the Staffordshire district of England through wholesalers in Montreal, who supplied local retailers.

Some of the pieces retrieved date from before 1850 but most, in John's opinion, are from the 1860's to the 1890's.

John and Craig Gamache spent countless frigid hours last fall digging at the pond edges. John will keep his retrievals, along with his extensive postcard collection, as another clue about how early Miltonians lived.

Other news from the meeting:

Mandy Sedgwick reported that a large sign was being built to promote our $250,000 drive to restore the Waldie Blacksmith Shop.

Ken Hassard said our "Historic Homes and Buildings of Milton" published last fall, has become a best seller with more than 500 sold. (750 were printed)

Sue Paul reported we had 138 members at Dec. 31; so far this year 99 had renewed.

1850's Spelled Change For Early Miltonians

Colourful characters made dramatic things happen in Milton in the 1850's; at our March meeting Jim Dills told us how they did it.

Jim concentrated on Mill and Commercial Streets, both arteries to the historic Martin Mill, which put Milton on the map in the 1820's. His cast of characters included, among others, land developers Matthias Teetzel and Hugh Foster, politician-industrialist John White, and the Martin brothers Edward, Joseph and John.

Rebuilding of the fire-destroyed Martin Mill in 1856 - a huge project costing $30,000 - gave us the millpond as we know it today and the "straightening" of 16 Mile Creek south of Main Street.

Milton was incorporated as a town in 1857. Jim described the uproar eight years later when Joseph Martin resigned from the town council and built the original Town Hall for $5000. (It was clearly money well spent since the building was the heart of our community for more than 125 years and is still a high quality rental building on Main Street.)

Jim spoke of the many stirring debates in Temperance Hall on Mill Street. Long since a private residence, the "hall" is now home to Joe and Olive Bergin.

Jim described a dispute involving Matthias Teetzel and the business team of John White and Edward Martin; the controversy eventually led to Teetzel's conviction on fraud charges and his emigration to Michigan.

Teetzel, incidentally, gave Court Street its name, presumably expecting Halton's Court House to be located there. But, Jim explained, Hugh Foster re-wrote the script when he donated four acres to Halton County and effectively placed

(continued on page 6)

M.H.S. Meeting Highlights by Ken Lamb

(continued from page 5)

the Court House where it stands today as our Town Hall.
(Alex Cooke, while sorting documents at Halton Region Museum more than ten years ago, found the original Foster letter outlining his offer to the County.)

Jim described many of the businesses developed on Mill and Commercial Streets by the 1850's. They included a foundry, blacksmith shops, a creamery, farm implement and wagon manufacturers and a tannery.

Other news from the meeting:

Alex Cooke Remembered-President Mirella Marshall and Jim Dills paid tribute to the late Alex Cooke, who made so many contributions to our Society, the Halton Region Museum, the Halton-Peel Genealogical Society and other community endeavours.

Mirella reported on the excellent coverage in the Canadian Champion on the Waldie Blacksmith Shop. In fund-raising developments, local artist Chris Burnett has donated a print of her painting of the Glen Eden ski hills, and efforts are under way to solicit corporate donations. Our April 28 bus trip was another fund-raiser for the blacksmith shop.

Marsha Waldie Digs Into Background of Evergreen Cemetery

The colourful history of Milton's 120-year-old Evergreen Cemetery was the highlight of our April 19 meeting.

Marsha Waldie, a Cemetery director, told us the first burial took place November 17, 1881. The deceased was Mrs. Ellen Freeman. In the early 1900's some bodies from the Pioneer Cemetery on Bronte Street were reburied at Evergreen.

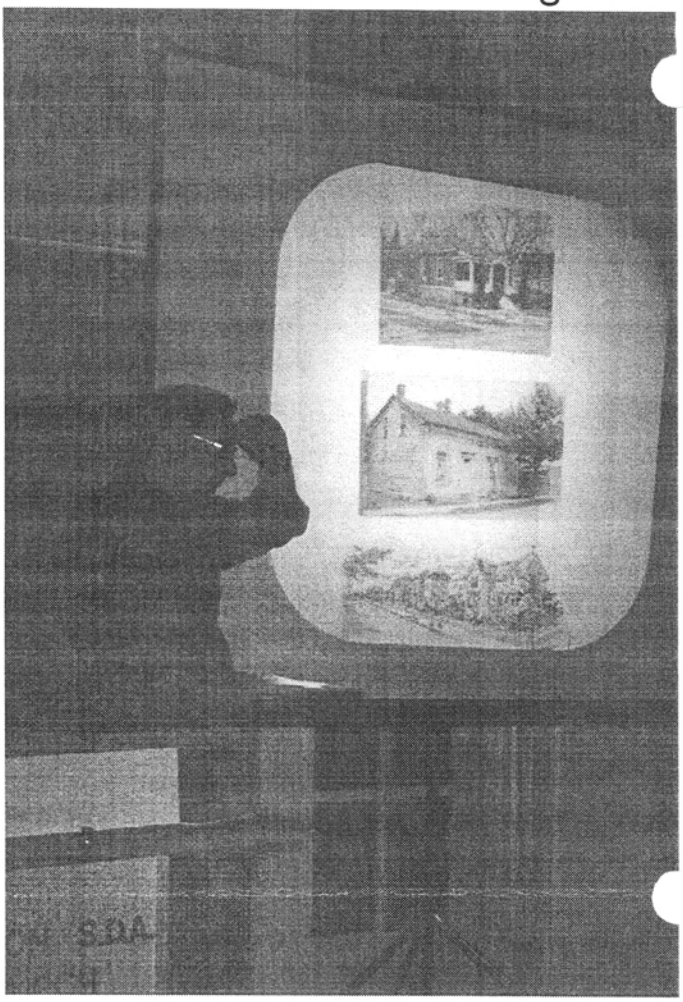
In that era grave digging cost $2.50 ($2.00 for a child) ; that was when digging was by hand rather than by the modern backhoe.

The original site of eight farmland acres expanded to 18.3 acres in 1951. Today there are about 7000 graves with enough space to serve the community for another 50 years. Directors plan to add a crematorium to the site, which already offers a Columbarium for cremated remains.

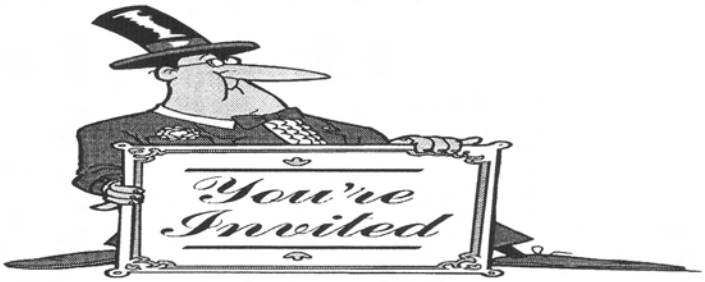
Marsha explained that although many people believe the cemetery is operated by the Town, it is, in fact, entirely controlled by the eight unpaid directors. (Members of our Society have played a big part: Marsha and Jim Dills are current directors. Marjorie Powys served for decades and Mike Ledwith was president for 21 years.)

Marsha gave brief biographies of dozens of prominent Miltonians and showed slides of their gravesites. These incuded the Martin family, builder John Hunter, Dr. Clarkson Freeman, merchants John Bews and James Hollinrake, judges William Lyon and Thomas Gorham, musician Richard Gollins and educator James Denyes.

The Cemetery's main entrance for many years was off Prince Street. Present access from Ontario Street dates from the early 1950's.



Jim Dills' presentation at our March meeting included many photos and illustrations displayed with an overhead projector.



Upcoming M.H.S. Meetings

May 17, 2001 MHS researcher Jim Dills leads a walking tour of historic downtown Milton beginning at Hugh Foster Hall at 7:15 pm. For those who can't make the walk there will be a screening of the video about the history of Victoria Park.

June 2, 2001 MHS Annual Garage Sale at St. Paul's United Church. Sale goes from dawn until all gone!

June 21, 2001 Our annual potluck dinner. This time it will be hosted by Walter and Anne Eadie and Ken and Dorothy Hassard at their homes on Mill Street. The feast begins at 6:30 pm provided everyone remembers to bring food.

Another Milton



Readers might be interested in an item the editor picked up a while ago in his quest for all things Milton. It is a button about three and a half inches across from Milton, Washington. This Milton was incorporated in 1907 and presently the city boasts a population of 5,765. It is located about 10 minutes from Tacoma. The city's website notes that "Milton is a unique community, unlike many others in the Tacoma-Seattle corridor, because of its small-town atmosphere and character." Sounds familiar doesn't it? It would appear from the celebration of "Milltown Days" that it derived its name from its sawmill. With all the logs floating around in our Mill Pond after it was refilled, some mischievous-minded people (certainly not the old editor) suggested having a log rolling competition as part of Canada Day activities. One Milton Councillor suggested that it might be a very popular event, especially if the editor was to enter the contest and go for several dunkings. "Too late", the editor announced. Not only was he the first one out in a boat on the newly dredged pond but also the first to go for a swim - unintentionally though. It's mighty brisk swimming in March!



June 2 - M.H.S. Garage Sale at St. Paul's United Church



That Mysterious Evaptor on Martin Street

A few issues back we ran a photo of a structure called an Evaptor. The old Milton Town Hall is in the background. From that we could tell where the building was located. However we wondered what an evaptor was. Most figured it was an evaporator for drying out fruit. MHS Researcher Jim Dills passed along a news item that appeared in the November 29th, 1906 issue of the Champion about an evaporator burning down. "EVAPORATOR BURNT.- The fruit evaporator built by Mr. Snelgrove at the south end of the town a few months ago took fire shortly after 10 o'clock Thursday night. The building was wooden, was very dry on account of the constant heat kept up in it and it burned like tinder. The nearest hydrant was a block away, at the corner of Main and Elizabeth Streets, and though the fire brigade turned out promptly, before they could get their hose laid across the block the roof had fallen in. The water was turned on the blazing ruins and on a telegraph pole which had caught fire. On account of something having gone wrong with the hydrant the pressure was very light and the water failed to reach the top of the telegraph pole. Mr. Snelgrove estimates his loss on the building and plant at $1400 and on dried stock, which had not been removed, at $600. The two furnaces were practically uninjured and the gasoline engine can be put into repair for about $50. The insurance was $1000. There is general sympathy with Mr. Snelgrove and regret for the burning of the evaporator, which made a market for a great deal of such fruit as had in former years been allowed to go to waste. It will not be rebuilt. It was the third loss by fire for its owner, who says he will never build another." I really can't say that I blame poor Mr. Snelgrove. I'm surprised that he was able to obtain insurance with such a record of bad luck. Jim wondered where this evaporator was located so I did a bit of poking around. The August 23rd, 1906 Champion announced that Messrs. Snelgrove and Matthews were building an "evaporator on the G.T.R. property corner of Main and Bronte Streets which they have leased. The evaporator will be of the largest capacity and latest model, with paring, slicing and coring machinery, run by a gasoline engine. It will be ready to run within a few days and will run until about Dec. 1st. in each year. It will be welcomed by the local apple growers, as there is no other evaporator nearer than that at Burlington." (continued on page 8) 1906.

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Page 8

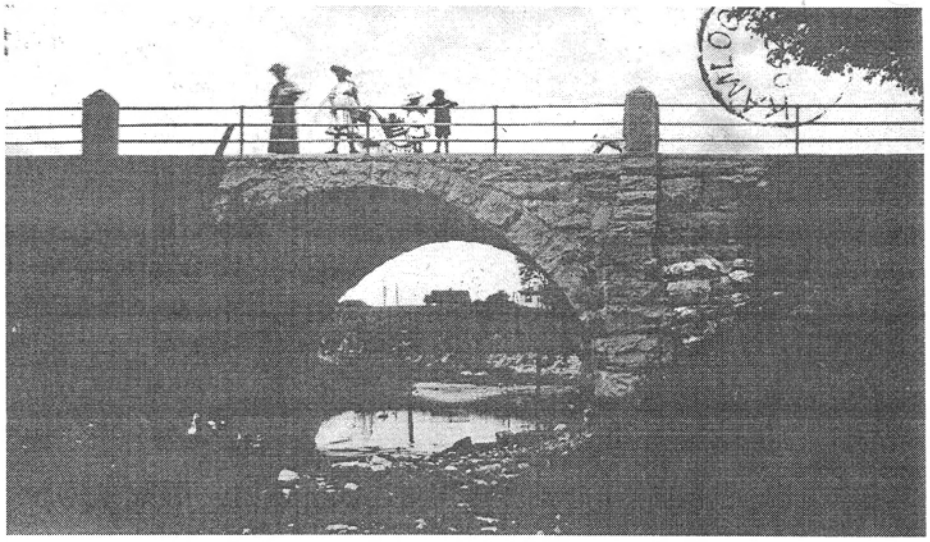
Well we know that this was not the Evaptor that appears in the post card. We do know now for certain what an evaptor or evaporator was for. The pile of produce next to the building is most likely apples. In spite of Mr. Snelgrove's hard luck this Evaptor was in operation the next year. The following ad appeared in the October 3rd, 1907 Champion. "APPLES WANTED - At the Milton Dryer. We will pay 30 cents per cwt. for any quantity of apples on and after Monday, the 23rd September. Also women help wanted. Apply at the Dryer, Martin St, Milton. T.D. Warner, Manager." I guess they were trying to steer clear of the term evaporator, given Mr. Snelgrove's blazing success in the prior year.

By 1908 it was known as the Milton Evaporator and was run by Town and Case. Ten thousand bushels of paring apples were wanted. Each fall ads would appear in the Champion promising top prices for apples at the Milton Evaporator. Town and Case appeared to have managed the 'Evaptor' until 1913 when John Marriott took over. As always they advertised for apples and help at the evaporator.

The following year the ads for the Milton Evaporator disappear. No conflagration is noted anywhere in the newspapers. More likely the building was moved or demolished when construction of the Post Office at the corner of Main and Martin got underway in 1914. The old stores at this corner were moved to where the Evaptor had been sitting. It is likely fortunate that the apple drying operation was discontinued at this location given the tremendous fire hazard. The whole downtown core could easily have been lost. Low water pressure and leaking fire hoses were as common then, I suppose, as brown water is today.

June 25, 2001 on the Discovery Channel at 10 o'clock there will be a program airing which will include excerpts from MHS author Ken Lamb's book on P.L. Roberstson. The program may only be available in the U.S. but those with satellite dishes might be able to pick it up. Perhaps P.B.S. may run it. Keep your eyes peeled.

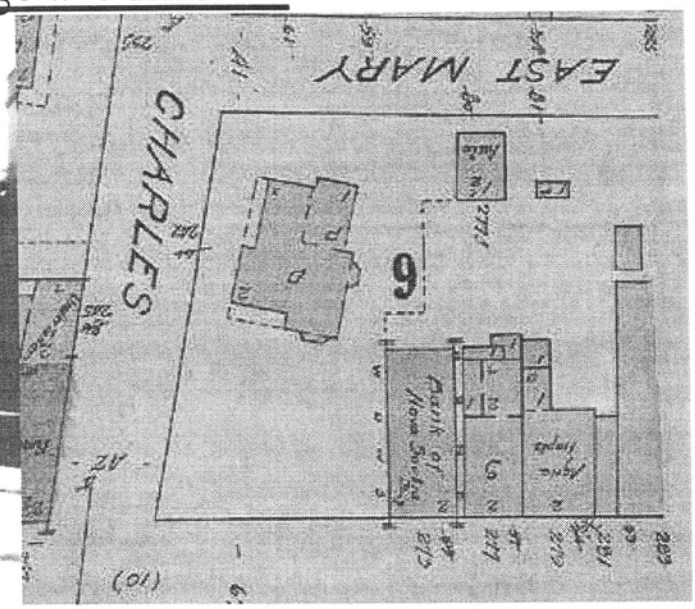
The "New" Bridge on Main Street



In my research about the Evaptor I came across some news items about the Main Street bridge, a photo of which appeared in the Journal a while back. In those days the Champion reported on the comings and goings of townspeople, who bought what house, and various construction projects underway. Many of the subjects were mundane and some downright boring. But that's what people wanted to read and that sold papers. The editors of the Champion sometimes relieved the tedium by having fun with a story. The construction of the new Main Street bridge in 19 was one such event. While careful not to offend, the reader wouldn't have much trouble seeing the potentially comical side of the story. Maybe I just have a warped sense of humour but I'll let the reader decide. The July 26th paper reported that "J.E. Bate, contractor, has begun work on the Main St. bridge which is now closed to traffic. The bridge will be solid structure of massive stone and cement top. It will take six weeks or two months to complete it." The August 2nd Champion noted "The old Main Street bridge having been removed to be replaced by a stone and cement one, a temporary foot bridge has been built across the creek just clear of the water. The descent is steep and steps have been dug in the banks. These were slippery after last Sunday night's rain and most of the congregation of the Grace Church, with others who had to cross the creek, went around by Pine Street rather than take chances of an accident." It doesn't state whether anyone fell in the creek but the imagery is clear. The hymn 'Shall we gather at the river ' instantly pops into my mind. I can just see Miltonians in their Sunday best trying to navigate such a precarious path. The August 23rd Champion advised that "The temporary bridge for foot passengers is unchanged. It is a wretched makeshift, though an incandescent light has been placed at each end of it, making it less dangerous after dark. Many people, particularly old people, are shy about taking any chances with it." I'm sure a light at each end really made crossing the creek much safer. I can just imagine locals making their way home from their favou watering hole late at night and three sheets to the wind, stumbling down muddy bank, across a plank and up another set of mud stairs. There must have been a fair bit of late night splashing about in the creek!

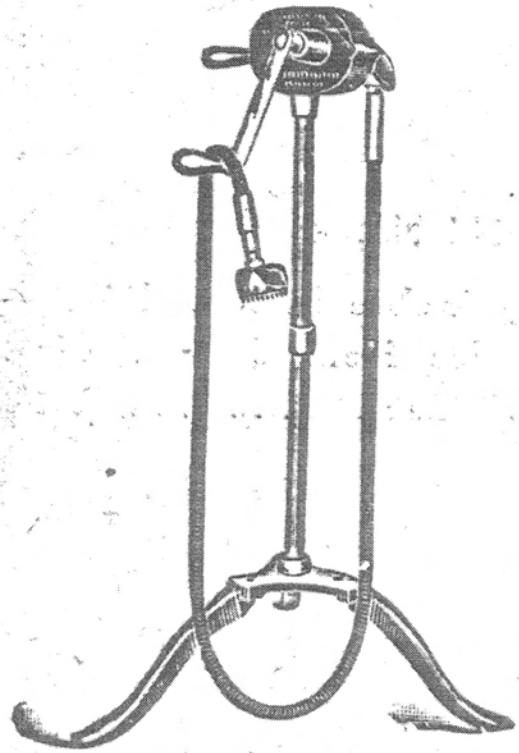
Milton Post Card Challenge # 5 Answer

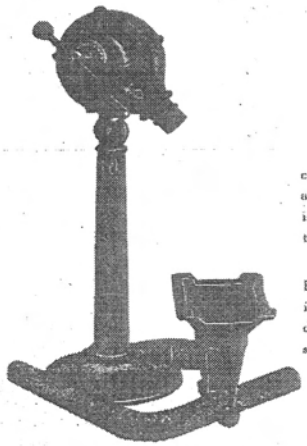




Challenge five was a bit more difficult as this house was torn down in the mid 1960's. Some of our members complained that the contest wasn't fair because the building is no longer standing. Our older members would no doubt remember this as the Gowland residence which occupied the lot bounded by Mary, Charles and Main Streets. More specifically, the location is now the parking lot behind Canada Trust and adjacent stores. The Milton Fire Map of 1927 shows the house and its location with respect to the present day Bank of Nova Scotia. The residence was built for Dr. Peter Stuart in 1886. It replaced an earlier dwelling on the same site that for many years was the home of Dr. Charles Gardner. (Charles Street is named after Dr. Gardner.) It seems that this was the 'Doctor's Corner' in Milton. Dr. Marshall Gowland lived here later and tended to his Milton patients from 1907 until his death in 1931. The Gowland family continued to live here until 1963. Many of our members remember and were friends of 'Doc' and Lillian Gowland. The prize for contest #5 was a pair of water wings and a long handled shovel for digging in the Mill Pond. (Hey, the editor found lots of junk - so can you! It's just a matter of holding your breath while you're down there shovelling.)

THE WALDIE WHATCHAMACALLIT CONTEST #2 ANSWER & CONTEST #3





HAND BLOWERS

JARDINE No. 2

Helical Gears on High Speed Shafts

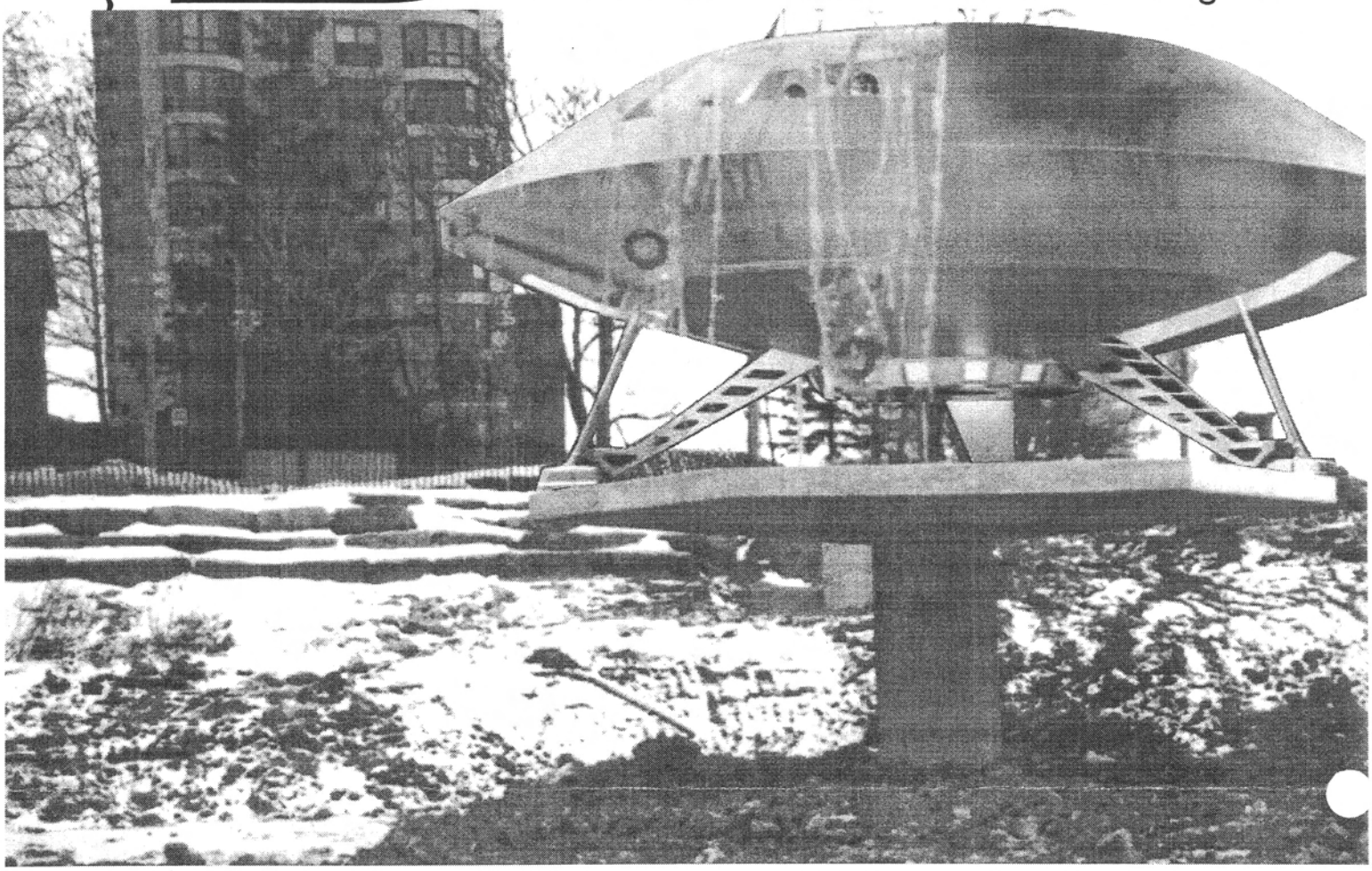
The gears are cut on the best automatic gear-cutting machinery, and the shafts ground straight and true to fit bearings reamed to exact size—insuring wearing qualities and minimum of friction. All wearing parts automatically oiled.

A full set of jigs and tools got up for the Blower make all parts interchangeable. The Fan is 12 inches diameter and can be run in either direction. It gives a blast, ample for any blacksmith fire.

Weight, 140 lbs. Price 64.00

Jardine No. 2

Many of our readers guessed that the Waldie gadget was a hand blower. Obviously the contest was just too easy and therefore there will be no prize given. (In such a scenario the MHS constitution stipulates that the Journal editor gets the prize. Oh boy! All the Milton bricks from the Waldie Shop that I can fit in the trunk of my car.) Since contest #2 was so easy this issue's Waldie mystery device, shown to the left, will be a little tougher. (And no, gadget #3 has nothing to do with hand cranked enemas.)



MILTON: THE BEST OF TOWN AND COUNTRY AND MARS.

Many of our readers are aware that the Town of Milton is currently constructing a gazebo over the Mill Pond off Centennial Park in conjunction with the dredging work recently completed. Town officials also announced a contest to name the new structure with the winner officiating at the grand opening on July 1st. (The editor's offering was "Monty Pylon" which was quickly rejected. Go figure?) What started out as a simple contest took a bizarre twist on the weekend at the end of March when construction workers were confronted with squatters who had taken up residence on the cement pad early Sunday morning. Halton Regional Police were called in to resolve the situation but quickly determined that the RCMP and Immigration Canada were required when the Robinson family requested refugee status. It was thought originally that the Robinsons were tourists from Toronto, clothed in the latest gortex ski suits, and looking for Glen Eden, who had become lost and parked their shiny Lexus in the wrong spot while seeking directions. Police soon determined that the Robinsons were in fact aliens after a squad car was vaporized by a ray gun brandished by one of the members of the family. The situation calmed down when a patron of the Dickens, fluent in Klingon and Molsonese, was brought in to act as an interpreter. The Robinsons were persuaded to park their vehicle on the helipad atop the nearby Village Park on the Pond. They were allowed to keep their ray guns when they complied with federal firearms regulations and promised to register each weapon by the end of 2002. In a related incident, gamblers at the Mohawk Casino bolted for the exits after a wayward six foot tall robot became infatuated with one of the slot machines which began firing loonies and toonies through the air. Robby the Robot was reunited with the Robinson family later that day and all are happily ensconced in the Jupiter 2 atop 100 Millside Drive in downtown Milton. A hearty welcome goes out to our new neighbours.



Have You Renewed Your Membership for 2001?

At $7 for individuals and $10 for families your renewal ensures that you continue to receive The Journal. We realize that many people can not make it to our regular meetings. In light of that we try to keep in touch with our newsletter. We hope that it is informative and entertaining. Send your cheque to P.O. Box 85, Milton, Ontario, L9T 2Y3. For more information about membership please call Sue Paul at 878-0657.

The Journal

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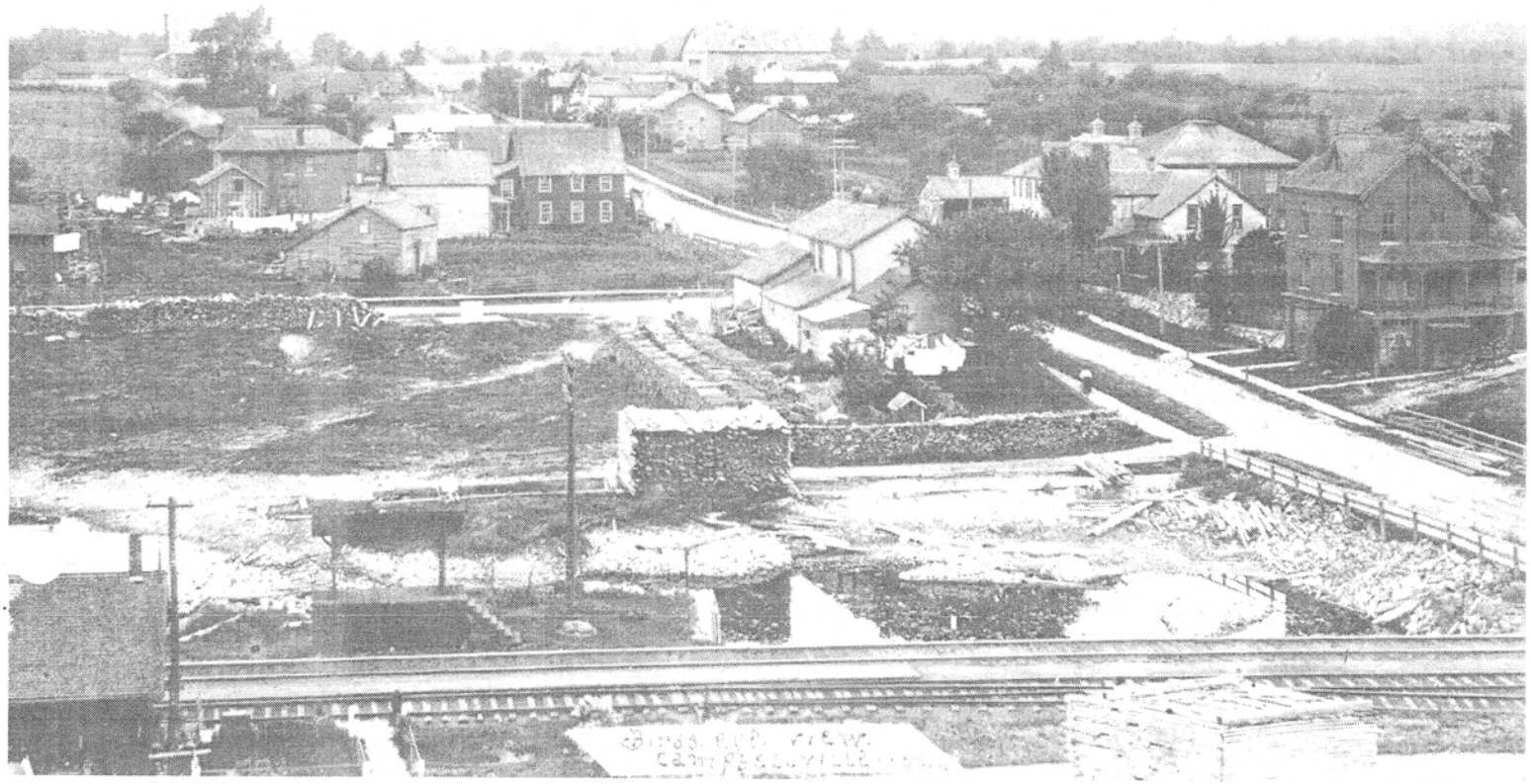
Visit our website at www.hhpl.on.ca/sigs/mhs/index.htm



This post card sent in 1908 is a "Bird's Eye View of Campbellville" looking north up Guelph Line. The contest this time is to identify as many buildings as you can. Many are still there but many are long gone. The editor promised more views of Campbellville in the coming issues, so here you are. Just be glad one of my New Year's resolutions was not to procrastinate. (Let's see how long that lasts, eh? The year is still young!) (John Duignan Post Card Collection)

IN THIS ISSUE:

YEAR IN REVIEW

WALDIE GADGET CONTEST

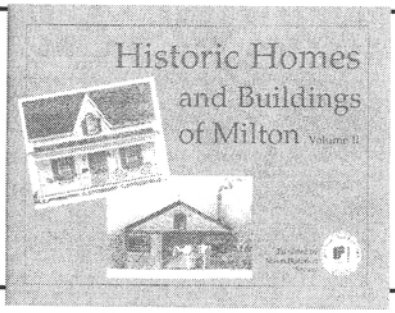
MR.McCOWAN'S MILL POND DUNKING

EARLY CRIME AND PUNISHMENT IN MILTON

M.H.S.MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

M.H.S.MEETING SCHEDULE

VOLUME 2



AVAILABLE

A Winter Chill

February 28, 1889 Mill Pond - On Monday Mr. McCowan of Esquesing who was getting out ice at the pond here, slipped through a hole made by the cutters. The water was deep and he went out of sight but on coming up again was assisted out and made for the Commercial Hotel as fast as possible. As the day was bitterly cold he was badly chilled and had his clothes frozen as hard as boards before he got there. After changing his clothes and getting a thorough warming he was very little the worse of his ducking. Canadian Champion (editor note: The Commercial Hotel was on the corner of Commercial Street at Main Street. It is now the Knight Cap.)

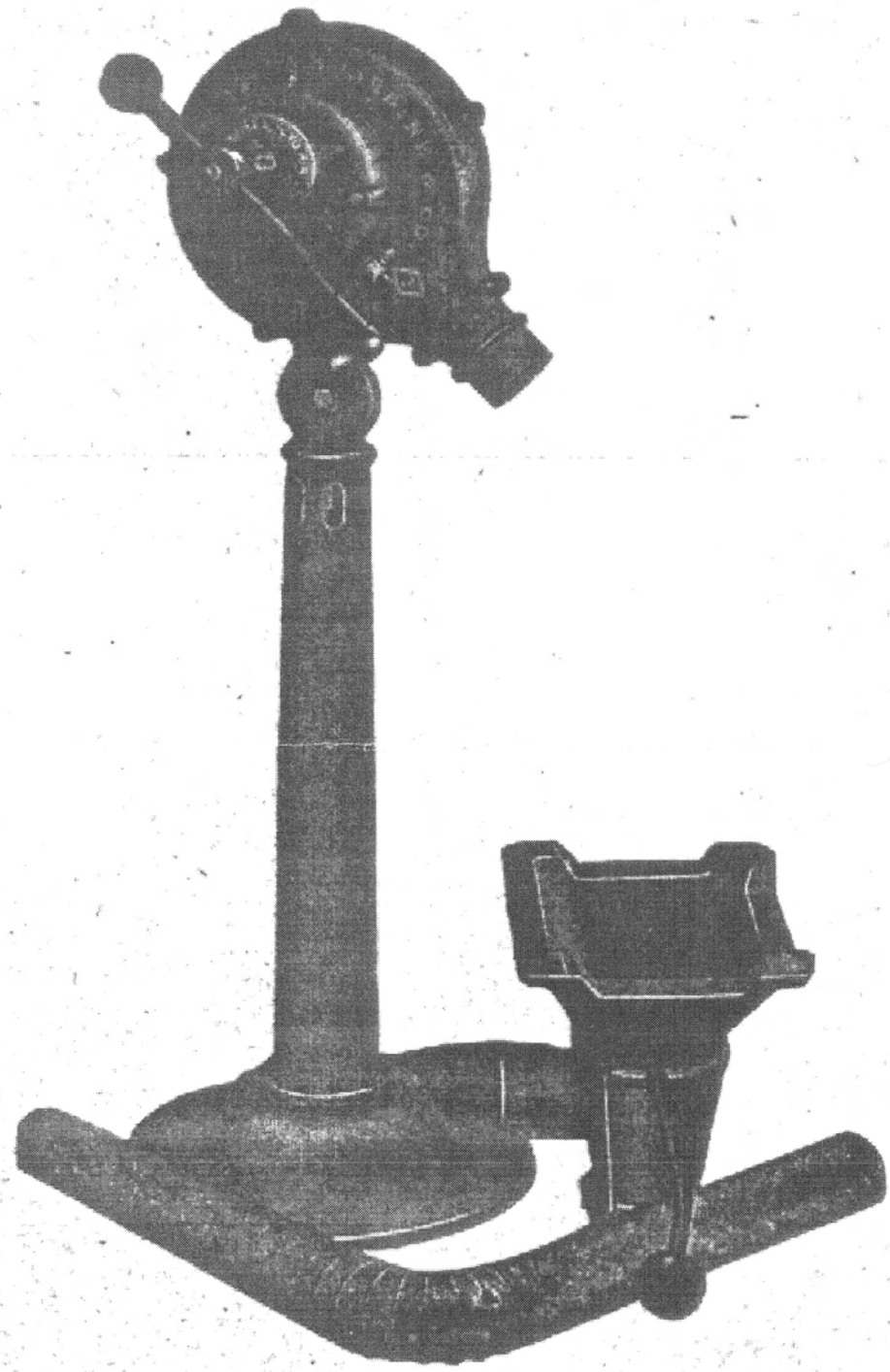
Law and Punishment

April 4, 1889 Legal - Walter Pierre, the English youth who was convicted at the last assizes of an indecent assault on Ethal Melvina LeBarr, of Oakville, a child seven years of age, received his ten lashes on Monday in the jail yard. They were administered by one of the guards of the Central Prison, who did not strike quite as hard as he might have done, but hard enough to make the convict squirm and howl for mercy though when strapped to the triangle was anything but nervous and had a small silk handkerchief in his mouth on which he no doubt intended to clinch his teeth. His back was not cut, but was covered with weals, the blood showing through the skin and he suffered a good deal of pain after returning to the jail. Canadian Champion

Hallowe'en

November 6, 1884 Education, Social - The young hoodlums of Milton were out in force on Hallowe'en night and committed depredation on the property of many of our townspeople. One of the principal suffers was J.H. Crewson, teacher, whose gate was carried off and thrown into the pond, the fence in front of his house badly smashed and the sidewalk torn up. We learn that a reward has been offered for the detention of the young rascals...Canadian Champion

THE WALDIE WHATCHAMACALLIT CONTEST #2



What in the world was this contraption used for? All we can say is that it was used in the blacksmith trade. Send your answers in early. The first correct answer received wins the prize. For contest two the winner gets all the horseshoes he or she can carry from the Waldie Blacksmith Shop. Contest number one ended in a tie which had to broken with a weight lifting competition involving anvils. Unfortunately both contestants went home wearing trusses. (Hey, we never said this was going to be easy!)

About Friends We Will Miss

an appreciation by Jim Dills

Former members contributed to the strength of the Society. Over the past months our Society has lost several members who played parts through their interest or involvement with the Society in the history of the community.

Bill Gregg served as an earlier program chair and delivered some fascinating programs for Society members. He was keenly interested in the history of Nassagaweya and predated that with a strong interest in World War II military vehicles. The Society made one of its early field trips to Bill's collection, housed in buildings at his farm in Nassagaweya. Bill also published several books for his Canadian Military Historical Society before donating the collection for display in Winnipeg. Bill died June 18.

Shelagh Conway was an early supporter of the Society and its first life member. Shelagh, as librarian, was one of those who spearheaded establishment of the Society. Shelagh died August 2.

Dr. George Clement was a member and supporter of the Society enjoying attendance at meetings and activities. His years in the Scotch Block generated a keen interest in Boston Church and the background of that area. George died during the summer.

And just before the old year ended Frank Chisholm, a font of knowledge on the Hornby area, died suddenly in his 89th year. Frank could always be counted on to assist in information and insight as he joined local historical walks and activities.

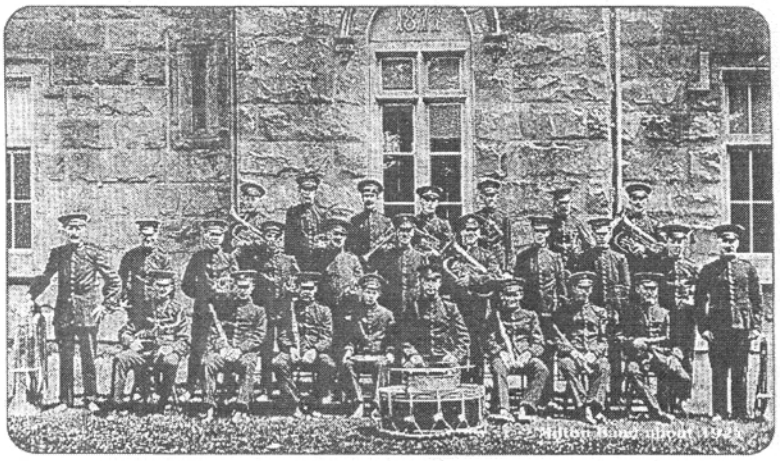
MHS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

by Ken Lamb

September-Questions, Anyone?

If anyone had any questions about the restoration of the Waldie Blacksmith Shop, our September speaker had just about all the answers. Tom Morrison, an Oakville restoration specialist, has made a thorough study of the shop. Helped by many illustrations, Tom explained the various restoration stages; many of the building's

(continued on page 4)



You are invited to the annual presentations of

Milton Heritage Day

Sunday, February 18, 2001

Hugh Foster Hall, Victoria Square

2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Heritage Awards Presentations

to recognize

Heritage Projects in Writing, Visual Arts,
Education and Architectural Restorations

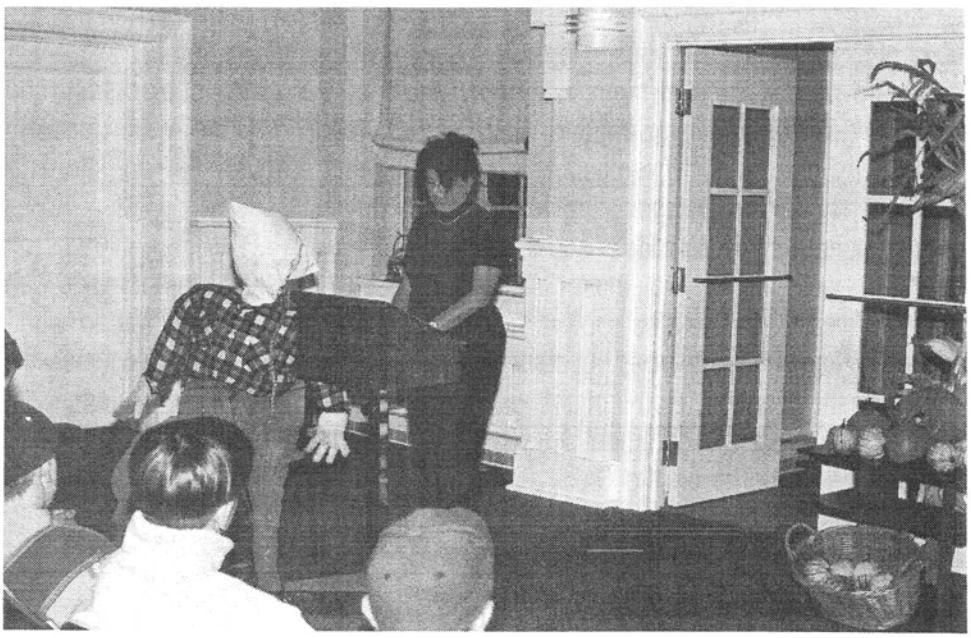
Entertainment provided by

The Kitchen Band

Refreshments Served Free Admission

Sponsored by the Milton Historical Society

and Heritage Milton, L.A.C.A.C.



Program Coordinator, Mirella Marshall introduces a special guest at our October meeting. Jim Dills spoke about the last hanging in Milton's jail yard.

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January 12, 2001

features were common in the medieval era. In the past couple of months Tom has made several similar presentations, including one to Mayor Gordon Krantz and the Town Council. More recently Tom began working at the James Street site, taking the first step on the long restoration road. No doubt our recent $75-thousand grant from the Trillium fund has brought the horizon quite a bit closer.

October-A Scary Tale

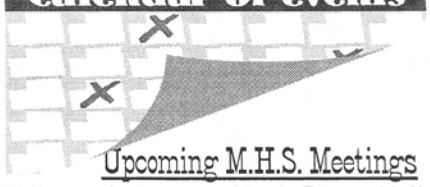
It's not often that we have an overflow crowd at our meetings, especially with children sitting on the floor. But that's the way it was at our October meeting. And Jim Dills had a scary subject for the Hallowe'en atmosphere - the last of the three hangings that took place in the old jail yard. Unlike the earlier executions which were held before scores of spectators, the final hanging was attended only by officials and witnesses required by law. Jim explained that the hangman likely arrived by train as inconspicuously as possible. To help keep the identity of the executioners secret, all were known by the surname "Ellis". Jim said many people had thought that one or more of those executed had been buried in the jail yard. Recent searches, however, had found no trace of human bodies.

November-Let There Be Light

Most of us remember the types of lamps used in pre-hydro days - some of them today may be antiques-but they were ultra-modern compared to those displayed at our November meeting. Bob Crawford showed us a fascinating lot of early lamps - none with glass shades - some of which, he said, were similar to those used three thousand years ago. He also showed how wax, whale oil, kerosene and other substances were used over the centuries. Bob brought with him a type of rush (not the common bulrush) that grows near his home on the Credit River, and which our ancestors could have used as a source of light. Bob is a down-to-earth historian; some of us also have known him as owner of Crawford's Village Bakery in Norval.

(More highlights follow on Page 5.)

Calendar of events



Upcoming M.H.S. Meetings

All meetings are at Hugh Foster Hall next to the Town Hall unless otherwise noted. Coffee is served at 7:30pm and presentations begin at 8:00pm

February 15, 2001 John Duignan (a.k.a. the editor) will display many of the items that he and others have retrieved from the sediments of the Mill Pond . Bring your books along to help identify the artifacts. This will also be a 'show and tell' evening so bring all your treasures.

March 15, 2001 Jim Dills will speak about the history of Sarah Street. Those who attended Jim's talk on Victoria Street in May can attest to the night's success. With overheads and various anecdotes it was most entertaining and informative. Don't miss it.

April 19, 2001 Marsha Waldie presents a slide show featuring the houses of South Carolina, Williamsburg and Jamestown. (Are there any shots of blacksmith shops I wonder?) Bring your popcorn for what should be an illuminating evening.

May 17, 2001 Join us for a walking tour of downtown Milton with Jim Dills. (The hope is that there will be a video made as we go along that may be played back at Hugh Foster Hall for those who can't make the trek.) The downtown has many interesting stories to be told.

June 21, 2001 This is the date for our pot luck dinner. Details are to be announced.

MHS 2001 EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT-Mirella Marshall

PAST PRESIDENT-Helen Comber

SECRETARY-vacant

TREASURER-Gloria Brown

MEMBERSHIP-Sue Paul

PROGRAM-vacant

WALDIE RESTORATION-Mandy Sedgwick

RESEARCH-Jim Dills, Elizabeth Norrington

PLAQUE PROGRAM-Marsha Waldie

GENEALOGY-Lois Knight

PUBLICITY-Sue Henderson, Dorrie Murdoch

LIAISON-Audrea Lear-Costigan

JOURNAL EDITOR-John Duignan

ARCHIVIST-Gail Richardson

SPECIAL EVENTS-Bruce Carlin

PUBLICATIONS-Ken Hassard

LACAC LIAISON-Konrad Richter

SOCIAL-Jessie Hamilton

TELEPHONE COMMITTEE-Carolyn Goodall, Lou Bradley, Gail Pearson, Gerri Faggion

HELP WANTED!

The positions of secretary and program are currently vacant. If you can read and write or if you can dial and talk on a telephone you're qualified. Just kidding. These positions are quite a great deal of fun. Join the team in preserving a promoting local history. (The editor position may become vacant if I keep horsing around, right?)

It was one good thing after another at our January meeting.

Our new president, Mirella Marshall, took office two days before George Bush did, but no one questioned our voting. We heard a warm story about life in Carl Martin's home. And for the first time since the Historical Society started up in the late 1970's, our accounts showed a $50,000.00 item.

Mirella, formerly program director, is our tenth president, succeeding Helen Comber, the only person to serve two terms. Susan Henderson joins the executive as publicity director. Elizabeth Norrington has joined Jim Dills in research and Gail Pearson and Gerri Faggion have joined the telephone committee. The rest of our executive has stayed on. These positions are listed on page four.

Our speaker, Mildred Martin, daughter of late members Carl and Marie Martin, gave us a delightful account of what must have been a busy life at the family home on Martin Street - a happy life, too, except perhaps for Carl's swimming lessons. Carl tied a rope around his youngsters before tossing them into the deep pool with a stern warning to "keep your legs and arms moving".

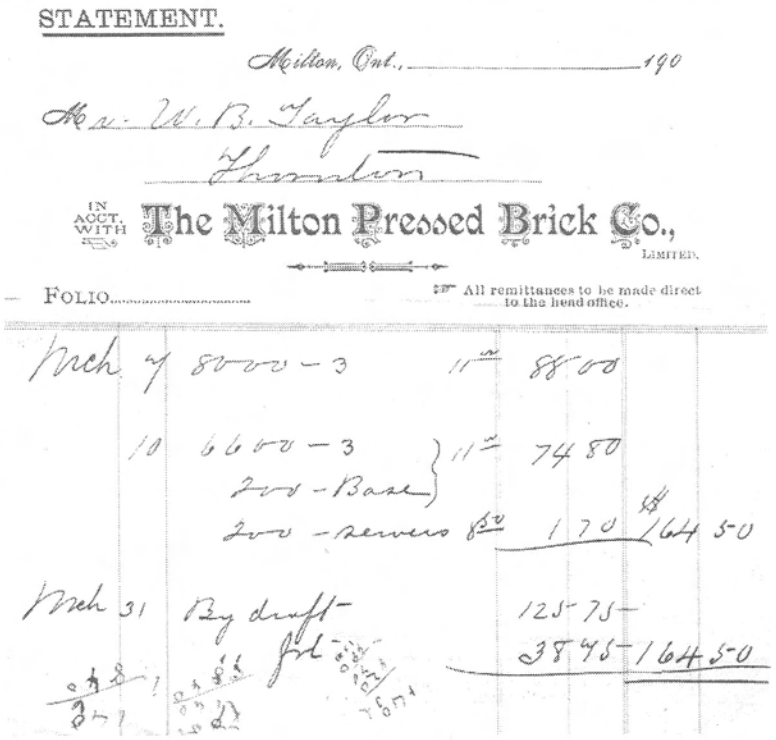
The Martin home is on the original homestead acquired by Jasper and Sarah Martin about 180 years ago. Today that home is being restored by another Jasper Martin, the nephew of our speaker; Jasper told us about the work in progress.

The historic home is just north of the former family mill, which was Milton's birthplace. Following Mildred's talk, a video showed the spectacular fire that destroyed the stone mill in 1963. That was shortly after the Martins sold the mill to the Robin Hood firm. (The Robin Hood plant was demolished several years ago; the land is now the site for the proposed Millennium seniors residence.)

Helen Comber and treasurer Gloria Brown had encouraging news about money matters. Our second volume of "Historic Homes", published late last year, is off to a fine start: more than 400 of the 750 copies printed have been sold, leaving the publications account well in the black.

Arrival of a $50,000.00 installment of our $75,000.00 grant from the Trillium Foundation has led to full-time restoration work on the Waldie Blacksmith Shop.

Editor note: Our readers may have noted some changes in our program schedule. Unfortunately Ron Brown wasn't able to make our January meeting. Hopefully we can reschedule Ron in the fall. Also please note that the Heritage awards have been shifted back to Hugh Foster Hall. Things change at the last minute but we'll try to make sure our members are kept as up to date as possible. I would also like to thank Jim Dills and Ken Lamb for their contributions. Jim always manages to uncover some new interesting material. And Ken Lamb does a bang up job covering our programs. Your help is greatly appreciated. John Duignan


STATEMENT.

Milton, Ont., 190

Mr. W. B. Taylor
Thornton

IN ACCT. WITH The Milton Pressed Brick Co., LIMITED.

FOLIO

All remittances to be made direct to the head office.

Mch 7 8000 - 3 11 88 00
10 6600 - 3 } 11 74 80
200 - Base
200 - sewers 8 50 1 70 $164 50
Mch 31 By draft 125 75
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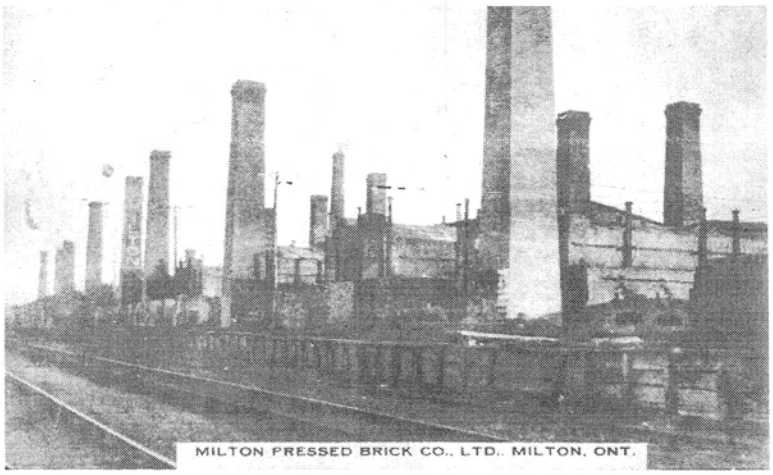
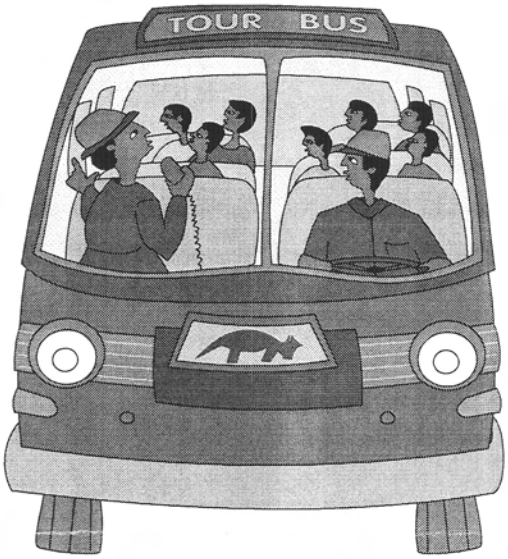


One of Milton's early industries was the Milton Pressed Brick Company. There were a few different brick plants established here to take advantage of the local clay. Just dig in your backyard here in Milton and you'll immediately understand why the clay makes such good bricks! The post card view above shows the plant around the late 1910's. It must have been an impressive sight. The statement shown above is interesting as it shows the types of brick ordered and the cost. It seems like a pretty good deal by today's standards. On the back of the statement the builder has calculated how many bricks he needed for a Mr. Hughes house. The builder was a Mr. W.B. Taylor of Thornton which is south of Barrie and north of Cookstown. It might not be all that hard to track down the house that was made of Milton brick. It's amazing what a scrap of paper can reveal. (And it serves as a reminder that every piece of paper that might be discarded as garbage is somebody else's treasure. The McClenahan side of my family never threw anything out and it was an unbelievable archive when we had to clean out the house after 60 years of occupancy. What made it even more interesting was the fact that when they moved to Milton in 1913 they brought all their accumulations from Appleby where the family had lived for a couple of generations. As you might well imagine the editor doesn't throw much out himself either.)

HOMES WANTED!

Saturday, June 9 is the date of our annual Historic Homes Tour. Proceeds go to the Waldie Blacksmith Shop restoration. Interested homeowners should contact Mandy Sedgwick at 878-4197. It's a great fund raiser and an excellent opportunity to show off all the hard work that you've put into your home.



Bus Tour - April 8th, 2001

Mark your calendars now! Tentative plans call for visits to Dundurn Castle, Whitehern Historical House, the Hamilton Museum of Steam and Technology, followed by a visit to the Royal Botanical Gardens. Tickets sold out quickly for our last tour which covered the Niagara area. Don't be disappointed so reserve your seat now. For more information call Marsha Waldie at 878-1146.



The Halton
Rural Young People's Association
request the pleasure of your company
at their
First Annual Dance
to be held in the Town Hall, Milton
Monday Evening, November Fifth
nineteen hundred and thirty-four.
Music by The Martin-Ramsay Orchestra.
Modern and Old Time Dancing 9 to 1.30.
Admission 35c. Lunch Provided.
ADMISSION BY INVITATION ONLY.

Have You Renewed Your Membership for 2001?

At $7 for individuals and $10 for families your renewal ensures that you continue to receive The Journal. We realize that many people can not make it to our regular meetings. In light of that we try to keep in touch with our newsletter. We hope that it is informative and entertaining. Send your cheque to P.O. Box 85, Milton, Ontario, L9T 2Y3. For more information about membership please call Sue Paul at 878-0657.