

Milton celebrates 200th anniversary as settlement

**(Prepared from the notes and writings
of Jim Dills and William Cook and additional
research by John McDonald and Marsha Waldie)**

With his arrival in October 1821 on 100 acres of Crown Land granted to him by Lieutenant-Governor Sir Peregrine Maitland and his establishment of a grist mill in November 1822 that would bear his name, Jasper Martin (1797-1833) founded the community that would formally be known as Milton upon its incorporation in 1857.

However, Mr. Martin was not the first settler to inhabit this area of Trafalgar Township as Thomas Harrison was granted land on August 21, 1821. His property was located on the south of what is now Main Street, along Bronte Street South. The Harrison family began our agricultural farming community, clearing their land for planting.

But, the Milton we know today first developed around the Martin lands, hence that family's recognition as the founding family of this community.

Mr. Martin was accompanied by his wife, Sarah (1797-1830) and their two sons, John (1815 - 1871) and Joseph (1818-1900) from Newcastle, England, in 1818, where he was an elder son of an undistinguished miller, wrote local author and historian the late Jim Dills in his seminal 1993 book about Milton's history, entitled *Moments In History: Reflections of Halton's County Town 1833-1864*. After a three-week stay at Fort Frontenac (Kingston), the Martin family moved to York (Toronto), where Mr. Martin worked as a labourer.

The family's land holdings included a part of the Sixteen Mile Creek watercourse. Mr. Martin decided to harness that water power to drive a flour mill by initially digging by hand what is now the Mill Pond and damming and re-routing a portion of the creek there.

Construction of the frame mill and building the earthen dam on the creek to create water power was completed in 1822. The mill created an important service to this community's settlers. The development of a saw mill soon followed. Mr. Martin also cleared a few acres of land around the mill for agricultural purposes, as required by the settlement duties under which his land was granted.

At his death at age 36 in 1833, Mr. Martin owned a 200-acre piece of property that included the flour and grist mills, the ashery and farmland. He had added to his 100-acre Crown grant by purchasing 100 acres from his neighbour, John Whitfield. The Martin property ran approximately from Bronte Street on the west to Ontario Street to the east and Main Street to the south and Woodward Avenue to the north in what was then known as Trafalgar Township.

In 1837, concerned about their community's future, the residents of Martin's Mills, as the settlement was named at that time, convened a meeting to rename it, wrote William Cook in his 1977 book, *Milton, Welcome To Our Town*. Mr. Martin's four sons attended that meeting and, because of their prominent position in the community, their suggestion that Martin's Mills be renamed Milton was well received and quickly adopted by their fellow citizens. They said the name Milton was preferred by their family because that would honour the English poet, John Milton (1608-1674), whom they were partial to.

On December 1, 1856, Halton County Council was asked to petition the Ontario Legislature to incorporate Milton as a town. On May 27, 1857, an Act to incorporate the Town of Milton received Royal Assent. On July 4, 1857, members of the first Milton Council held their inaugural meeting and the rest, as they say, is history.



There are no photographs or sketches of Jasper Martin. He died at 36 in 1833. However, MHS director Nancy Cuttle created a sculpture of her perception of what he could look like. This sculpture is displayed at Milton Town Hall.

Blacksmith courses restart after pandemic shutdown

By Bruce Carlin

After a long closure caused by the ongoing pandemic, we restarted the blacksmith courses in mid February. All told, 10 beginner courses have been planned this spring in addition to two advanced courses in April and June.

Participants in these courses come from a variety of backgrounds. Some participants have been gifted the course as Christmas presents, some are fathers and sons, and some are people with a trades background who want to try a unique experience. Sometimes we have a group of friends who want to spend a day together doing a fun event. Thanks to our two teams of blacksmiths who share the blacksmith course instruction duties.

The Ontario Artists Blacksmith Association annual February meeting at the Waldie Blacksmith shop was canceled again this year due to the ongoing pandemic. This event normally includes a chili lunch prepared by MHS volunteers. We hope that in 2023 we can resume this event.

Plans are underway to have some volunteer blacksmiths



This coat rack was completed by a student at the Beginner Blacksmith course this winter! Pretty good for a beginner!

demonstrating on Saturday mornings this spring at the Waldie Blacksmith shop.

We plan to also have blacksmith demonstrators at the Spring Garage sale and at the Milton Street Festival in June. If you have a moment, come and watch the blacksmiths!

Special volunteer blacksmith demos

MHS is pleased to offer several blacksmith information demonstrations on a number of Saturday mornings at Waldie Blacksmith Shop.

We have two blacksmiths Don Thomson and Stephen Wallace who are volunteering on the dates below.

Don and Stephen will be operating the forges and demonstrating the techniques of the traditional Blacksmith.

Milton Historical Society greeters will also be on hand to answer questions about the Waldie Blacksmith shop and the Milton Historical Society.

Saturday April 30 – Don Thomson

Saturday May 21 – Stephen Wallace

Saturday June 4 – Don Thomson

Saturday June 25 – Don Thomson

Saturday July 9 - Stephen Wallace

Saturday July 30 - Stephen Wallace

Saturday August 6 – Don Thomson (Tentative)

Saturday August 27 – Don Thomson



Student makes good use of his blacksmith course

Patrick O'Reilly attended a blacksmith course and made these fine works. Here are his comments:

“The forging tools we made (from top to bottom of picture) were a coal shovel, a poker, a clamp and a coal scraper.

The tools were all forged by heating steel rods and using various hammering techniques, and the anvil to shape the tools. Once completed we used a wire polisher to add a shine.”

MHS rebounds with full slate of activities

After a number of false starts, we're back with a large variety of events

The Milton Historical Society is looking forward to resuming its entire slate of programs for 2022.

Throughout these pages are listed the events in more detail. However, here's a brief recap.

The Monthly Speakers Series resumed in March. For May,, noted Milton historian John McDonald will talk about Henry Cargill, a lumber pioneer from Nassageweya. Our speaker series is only open to members and they must pre-register online. Attendance is limited to 25 members. Masks must be worn.

We anticipate having a full slate of speakers this year.

As well, MHS is happy to restart its Heritage Education Series. The first session will discuss Heritage Gardens on Wednesday May 4. The second session will address Milton's Charming Older Homes on Wednesday May 18.

Both take place in the Carriage Room at Waldie Blacksmith Shop and start at 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$10. Registration is available online or drop off the fee to the MHS office.

And after a two-year absence, MHS will hold three sessions of Digging Into Milton History.

On Saturday May 14, the topic will be Milton's History for New Miltonians.

On Saturday Sept. 24, the topic will be the History of Milton Schools.

On Saturday Oct. 22, the topic will be Milton's Early Settlement.

There is no fee for any of these sessions. They all start at 10:30 a.m. in the Carriage Room.



MHS has planned a full slate of activities for 2022. We hope our members are pleased to resume all our programs as many haven't run during the course of the pandemic.

And we're happy to continue with our MHS Historic Walking Tours. We were fortunate to be able to continue these tours during the pandemic.

Here's the schedule:

Sunday May 15 -- Walking Victoria Park Square

Sunday May 29 -- Walking Historic Main Street

Sunday June 5 -- Walking Victoria and Mill streets

Sunday June 26 -- Walking Historic Martin Street

Pre-registration is required for all walking tours.

The plan is to resume all the activities

Directors meet to make significant plans

The Board of Directors of Milton Historical Society met face-to-face for a few hours on a cold February morning and mapped out an aggressive calendar of history-themed programs that will appeal to the widest local audience of history lovers.

Led by Society Marketing/Publicity Director Brad Collis, individual Board members shared their plans for 2022 and helped to build a wide-ranging calendar of events, including blacksmith education classes, the monthly Speakers Series, the heritage education series, the popular Walking Tours, the Digging Into Milton's History series and the

annual fundraising dinners.

The blacksmith education classes began again in February, followed by the monthly Speakers Series in March. Programs continue in April, but matters historic really heat up in May, June and through the coming fall., beginning in September.

For further information about the Society's many history-themed programs, please visit www.miltonhistorical-society.ca or occasionally peruse local media community calendars.

SPECIAL MHS EVENTS



Dave Bartlett will talk about Canada's interesting relationship and dependency on the Eaton's department stores.

Canada and Eaton's meeting open to all

Our guest speaker this month is member Dave Bartlett, who started bottle collecting in the early 1970s.

One of the first sealer bottle he received was an Eaton's sealer jar. This led him to learn more and collect more about Eaton's Canada.

During the early part of the 1900s it was the lifeline for rural Canada to grow and develop. Rural Canada depended on Eaton's. Dave has collected books and items of interest from Eaton's and he learned how important they were to small towns across Canada.

We hope you will all join us in June and learn about Dave's fascinating collection on the history of Eaton's.

Note: Members must pre-register. Confirmation will be on a first come, first served basis. Members can register up until the Monday before the meeting – confirmation to follow.

MHS Monthly Meeting Canada and Eaton's

Date: Thurs. June 16, 7:30 - 9 pm.

Location: Milton Historical Society, 16 James St.

Pre-Cautions: Facemasks are required.

Register: www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca
or call 905-875-4156



Milton is home, literally, to a number of classic historic homes. Local historian John McDonald will talk about some of them at a special meeting in May.

Local historian to talk about Milton's charming older homes

You do not want to miss this one! Local historian John McDonald will discuss many of Milton's older historic homes including the life and times of those who resided there, sharing many of their contributions to the Milton community.

If only walls could talk, what a fascinating story they could tell!

In our case Mr. McDonald will share many stories and events he discovered during his research.

Note: Members must pre-register. Confirmation will be on a first come, first served basis. Members can register up until the Monday before the meeting – confirmation to follow.

Heritage Education Series Charming Older Homes

Date: Wed. May 18, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Location: Carriage Room, Milton Historical Society,
16 James St.

Cost: \$10

Pre-Cautions: Facemasks are required.

Register: www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca or drop-off to
MHS Office.

Guest Speaker: Historian John McDonald



Milton & Area Churches

MHS president John Challinor gave a spirited presentation on Milton and area churches, past and present, to the Catholic Women's League of Holy Rosary Catholic Church on Thursday March 10. The presentation marked nearly two years to the day that the pandemic cycle of shutdowns first began. Book sales for the night was \$250 and will help MHS in its budget for this year. Mr. Challinor's speech was filled with anecdotes from all the denominations in Milton.

Council approves revised street name bank policy

Milton Council has approved a revised and improved street name bank policy developed by Town of Milton Development Services staff, with assistance from Milton Historical Society President John Challinor II.

The revised policy reflects the original intent of the street naming policy co-drafted in the mid-1990s by former Town planning director Mel Iovio, former local historian, the late Jim Dills and Mr. Challinor.

The primary focus of the naming policy is to recognize local citizens who had contributed to the well being of the community as well as those who had done so provincially and nationally. Mssrs. Iovio, Dills and Challinor reasoned that such a focus would forge a permanent link between the old and new community through Milton's rich historical past.

As part of the approval, Council rescinded all previously approved but unassigned theme street names that do not closely associate with Milton's cultural heritage, history or environment. These names consist of names under the theme of Canadian Artist, Canadian National Parks and Terrestrial Regions, Ontario Provincial Park, Western Mountains, Ontario Native Trees, Ontario Rivers, Ontario Wildflowers and Provincial/ National Canadian place names.

Garage Sale May 28

Milton Historical Society is hosting its annual Garage Sale Saturday May 28 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop, 16 James Street. All proceeds from the sale of items go to supporting the good works of the Society.

Any donations towards this sale will be welcomed to help support the society. Here are the dates that donations can be dropped off to the Waldie Blacksmith Shop:

Wednesday May 18 -- 10 am to 12 noon

Wednesday May 25 -- 10 am to 12 noon

Thursday May 26 -- 5 pm to 8 pm

Friday May 27 -- 3 pm to 8 pm

For more information: please call (905) 875-4156 or email us at info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca.

Hope to see you there!

ANNUAL MHS Garage Sale

CASH ONLY

SATURDAY MAY 28TH
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

GREAT GIFT IDEAS!

Ask about our General Membership, Corporate Membership, Blacksmith Courses & Specialty Items for purchase.

Donations are kindly accepted. If you would like to donate any items for the Garage Sale, please contact the MHS office to arrange a drop-off time after May 21st. All items collected are much appreciated.

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905-875-4156

MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
16 James Street, Milton, Ontario L9T 2P2
905.875.4156 or info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca

2022 Membership is due

Just a friendly reminder MHS membership comes due at the beginning of the calendar year. The membership form is with The Journal. You can also pay online with your credit card.

Want to mail in your membership? No problem. You can send your cheque to the Milton Historical Society, 16 James St., Milton, Ont. L9T 2P4.

If you need help, contact the MHS at info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca or call (905) 875-4156.



Kwaku Boateng



Blair Burgess



Robert Burgess



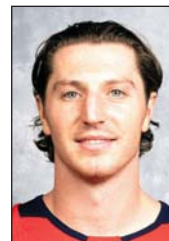
Steve Condren



Reford Gardhouse



Jim Ridley



Michael Sgarbossa



Neil Teague

Town of Milton Walk of Fame induction ceremony held April 30

The Town of Milton Walk of Fame induction ceremony took place on Saturday April 30, 2022, at Town Hall, 150 Mary Street, in beautiful and historic downtown Milton.

Postponed from its original date during Ontario Heritage Week in February, all systems went ahead to celebrate the induction of eight new members to the Walk of Fame, including Kwaku Boateng, Blair Burgess, Robert Burgess, Steve Condren, Reford Gardhouse, Jim Ridley, Michael Sgarbossa and Neil Teague.

The latest induction will bring to 70 the number of Walk of Fame members. The Walk of Fame will also celebrate its 15th year this year.

The Walk of Fame was established as a Town of Milton 150th Anniversary legacy project recognizing Milton's best – current and former citizens of the community who achieved national and/or international recognition as top achievers in top-level fields of endeavour, including athletics, arts and entertainment, business and industry, government and public service and health and science.

To be nominated and approved for induction into the Town of Milton Walk of Fame, a candidate must meet the following nomination criteria:

- Nominee must be born in Milton or spent formative or creative years here;
- Nominee must have lived in community for minimum of ten years;
- Nominee's accomplishments must be national and/or international in scope;
- Nominee's achievement must be best-in-class in his/her best-in-class field of endeavor and extended for minimum two calendar year period; and
- Nominee's achievement must fit into following fields: athletics, arts and entertainment, business and industry, government and public service and health and science.

To nominate an individual for induction into the Walk of Fame, please visit Walk of Fame Nomination - Town of Milton.



The 2022 recipients of the Milton Walk of Fame display their plaques at the ceremony recently.



Walk of Fame 2022

The ceremony included a number of local political dignitaries. Presenting the awards were Milton mayor Gord Krantz, Halton Region chairman Gary Carr, Milton MPP Parm Gill, and Milton MP Adam van Koeverden. MHS president John Challinor II was the master of ceremonies.

Left: Here are the special markers for the eight new members of Milton's Walk of Fame.

Centre Left: Kofi Boateng, brother of Kwaku Boateng, and his mother, Afua, accept Kwaku's award on his behalf.

Centre Right: Blair Burgess.

Bottom Left: The dignitaries.

Bottom Right: Steve Condren shares a joke.

Photos by Mike Miller





Retired detective Bill McGrath spoke about the history of the Halton County Courthouse (now Milton Town Hall) at the March session of the Monthly Speakers Series. He brought along a number of artifacts (right) from that time period.

Photos by Mike Miller

MONTHLY SPEAKERS SERIES



Bill McGrath kicks off 2022 Speakers Series with address on former Halton County Jail in Milton

Retired Halton Region Police Services forensic detective Bill McGrath kicked off the 2022 Monthly Speakers Series in March with a presentation focused on the jail portion of Halton County Courthouse, now the 167-year-old Town of Milton Town Hall.

Mr. McGrath explained to Milton Historical Society members who gathered at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop for his address that, from the jail's construction in 1855, it was basically condemned by provincial inspectors for its poor ventilation, inadequate sanitary conditions and deficient cell accommodations.

Solid wooden doors were installed which hampered oversight and men, women and child prisoners were not kept in separate quarters. It was replaced in 1878 with the jail we are familiar with today. A number of debtors and vagrants were accommodated at the County Jail because Halton did not have a House of Refuge,

Mr. McGrath described some of the daring prisoner escapes through the years as well as the responsibilities of the Halton

County Sheriff. Tribute was paid to the Joshua Van Allen family, who served at the jail for more than 50 years and made it one of the most efficient penal institutions in the province.

(Prepared from notes by local author and historian John McDonald)



A capacity crowd attended the presentation by Bill McGrath. In an effort to maintain public safety, the attendance is masked and separated within the larger blacksmith shop.

Town of Milton Mature Neighbourhoods Study fully implemented across community

As part of the third and final phase of the Town of Milton's exhaustive Mature Neighbourhoods Character Study, Milton Council approved the amendment to the Town's comprehensive zoning bylaw, introducing new standards that aim to preserve the character of the Dorset Park and Timberlea neighbourhood areas and protect them from incompatible development, while still permitting change that is sensitive and respectful of their character.

Town of Milton Development Services staff carried out a Mature Neighbourhoods Character Study over the last four years to review the Town's Official Plan policies and regulatory framework relating to the construction of new dwellings and additions to existing dwellings in mature residential neighbourhoods within Milton's established urban area. Following that review and considerable public consultation, Town Development Services staff recommended appropriate changes to protect the character of these areas.

The study analyzed the elements and qualities that contribute to residential character of and assessed whether the policies of the Official Plan and the regulatory framework of

the Town's Zoning By-law are effective in managing development and maintaining the character of mature neighbourhoods.

The study was carried out in three phases and the findings of each phase informed improvements to the Town's regulatory tools.

Phase 1 completed the review of local Official Plan policies for character areas and mature neighbourhood areas and the zoning by-law standards that apply to low-density residential development in the downtown character area.

Phase 2 covered the Mountainview neighbourhood and the residential sections of Old Milton located outside of the downtown character area and west of Ontario Street North and South.

Concurrently with Phase 2, stage one of Phase 3 assessed a small portion of Old Milton directly outside the downtown character area and the Fallingbrook, Forrest Grove, Bronte Meadows and Valley View neighbourhoods. The last stage of the study assessed the Dorset Park and Timberlea neighbourhoods.



Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
canadien

MHS receives \$5,000 Canadian Heritage grant

Milton Historical Society has received a \$5,000 operating grant through Heritage Canada's Museums Assistance Program, Reopening Fund for Heritage Organizations.

The funding will be used to help the Society recover from a difficult 2021, where the Waldie Blacksmith Shop was closed nine of 12 months as well as put the pins in place for a strong re-opening in 2022.

The Board of Directors of the Society sincerely thanks Seema Jethalal, Regional Director General, Ontario Region, Canadian Heritage, and her team for coming to the Society's aid in its hour of greatest need. Canadian Heritage staff were very sympathetic to the Society's challenge in operating a privately-run urban museum and its staff were great to work with.

The Society looks forward to welcoming members and all Miltonians back to the Waldie Blacksmith Shop and having them participate in the many history-related programs planned for the coming year.



The relocation of the Hogg Stone House from Tremaine Road onto King Street Milton is underway. The existing property was demolished in the fall and the new frame for the stone house is being constructed. Once the framing is done, the dismantled stones will be carefully laid to the dimensions of the original home. An addition will be built as well. Some of the heritage features of the interior have been carefully removed, numbered and stored, to be incorporated into the new structure.

SNAPSHOT IN TIME

Omagh Maple Leafs baseball team from 1889

Baseball has a long history in the area. Here's a picture of the the Omagh Maple Leafs taken on July 1, 1889. The eleven players are:

Back row (l-r): R. Freed, Albert Hall, John Buck, Fred Tuck.

Middle row (l-r): Oscar Hood, unnamed man in dark suit holding glass trophy, Ed Buck, D. Wilson, Barry McGuire.

Front row (l-r): John A. Beatty, Dr. Bob Heaven.



Province of Ontario COVID shutdown forces MHS to hold 2022 AGM online in January

Milton Historical Society held its Annual General Meeting online on January 27, 2022, for the second consecutive year because of further lockdowns required by the Government of Ontario as a result of the continuing global COVID-19 pandemic.

Recognizing the unprecedented times the Society is struggling through, the vast majority of Board members agreed to serve for at least one more year to help the organization not only deal with the current economic climate created by the pandemic, but prepare fully for the future.

"If 2020 was a strange and difficult year, 2021 was considerably more difficult, given that the Society was effectively shut down for the first eight months of the year," said Society President John Challinor II.

"I want to thank all Board members for their hard work and commitment during these challenging times and, in particular, for focusing on the Society's members and continuing to deliver excellent historical content to them, most notably through monthly historical presentations via the MHS Youtube channel, the quarterly Journal publication and other initiatives like the Walking Tours, ChristmasFest and the Spirits fundraising dinner.

"The fact that membership and corporate sponsorship for MHS were sustained illustrates how well the Board supported MHS members in 2021."

The Society lost a considerable amount of money in 2021, but previous annual surpluses and its financial investments will help it to remain reasonably financially healthy through 2022.

"The Society needs to get back to a normal programming schedule in early 2022 to avoid operating in a fiscal deficit position, as it did in 2021," added Mr. Challinor. "The Society is not in a financially sustainable position beyond 2022 if the current circumstances continue."

Mr. Challinor indicated that his focus for the coming year will be helping to sustain the Society financially, attracting new members and volunteers to the organization and encouraging new programming that is relevant to the greatest number of Miltonians.

He thanked former Board member Brenda Bousfield for her many years of service to the organization and, in particular, for her leadership in the archives as well as her guidance to the Treasurer on financial matters.



Do You Know Who This Was?



For more than 50 years, Mike Boughton was “Mike The Barber” on Main Street. He started cutting hair in downtown Milton on Feb. 1, 1966 and didn’t stop until being struck down by cancer in 2018. Mike was a three-time Milton town councillor and the founder of Golfing for Cancer which raised more than \$1 million to support transportation for cancer patients and their families. He was a proud member of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 136, was voted Businessperson of the year in 1994, Citizen of the Year in 2000 and received the Lifetime Achievement award in 2011. Mike was famous for his Christmas Eve visits as Santa Claus amongst many other works of community service and for his love for the people of Milton. This picture is from 1971.



Blacksmith student realizes special project

One of our blacksmith students, Deborah Lauper Stewart, just finished this unique one of a kind project in early May.

She has been working on this during many one-on-one sessions with Waldie Blacksmith Shop instructor Megan Carter.

Deborah start this project before the COVID-19 pandemic but persevered and what a proud moment to finally see it completed!

Way to go Deborah, it is cool!

UELAC office, archives moving to Cornwall

The board of directors for the United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada will relocate to the historic city of Cornwall, Ontario, in spring 2022.

The historic significance of Cornwall will be familiar to many UE Loyalist descendants, as in 1784 New Johnstown (now Cornwall) was established by those looking to begin anew after the American Revolution.

The catalyst for this move is the opportunity to expand access to our collection, outreach through projects and events, and the collaborative nature of the City of Cornwall, and particularly, the SDG Historical Society, which operates the Cornwall Community Museum.

We look forward to welcoming you to our new home.



For 17 years, a number of vehicles raced up dusty Appleby Line trying to outdo each other in a classic road race. It was popular with racers and spectators alike.

Photos by Ross Pearen

Remembering the Rattlesnake Point Hill Climb

The goal of these motorists was to climb the 300 foot hill in less than a minute

Earlier this year, local resident Michael Fox approached Town of Milton Ward 1 Regional & Local Councillor Colin Best and Milton Historical Society President John Challinor II about the Rattlesnake Hill Climb, which took place from 1950 to 1966. While Messrs. Challinor and Best grew up on the Niagara Escarpment, the hill climb was most popular when both were adolescents.

Mr. Challinor turned to two longtime friends, brothers Don and Brad Clements, for their recollections, as they are a little older and grew up on a farm in the lee of Rattlesnake Point, which was also adjacent to Appleby Line. For the Clements boys, the hill climb was one of many fond memories from their youth, as the enterprising duo sold food and beverages for a few years in the 1950s to drivers who competed in the climb and spectators who came to watch it.

In the current environment, where the Niagara Escarpment has been under the management of the Niagara Escarpment

Commission since 1973, was designated a biosphere reserve by UNESCO in 1990 and numerous residential homes now dot both sides of Appleby Line where the hill climb once occurred, it seems unlikely that such an event would ever be sanctioned again. The climb was originally approved by Nelson Township. The area did not become part of the Town of Milton until 1974.

For readers who want to get a sense of the actual hill climb, Milton Historical Society has uploaded a three-minute colour video of actual climb footage on its YouTube channel for public viewing. The film was produced by Tin Shed Productions.

Accompanied by photographs from Brad Clements' collection and the lens of the late local journalist and former Milton councillor, Ross Pearen, the Society has re-published an article about the climb written by automotive historian Rupert Lloyd Thomas in 2013 for the Ontario Hill Climb History website.



Hill climb began when sports club chairman flew over the area in a small plane

By Rupert Lloyd Thomas

First run by the British Empire Motor Club in 1950, the Rattlesnake Hill Climb was soon taken over by the newly-formed Sports Car Club (Toronto), founded 1950.

The Sports Car Club's first competition chairman, Tom Pearce, an ex-test pilot and avid fan of anything connected with great automobiles, set himself the task of finding a suitable climbing hill for enthusiasts. Tom flew his Piper Cub airplane over southern Ontario and charted every possibility on a map.

The chosen venue was in the Halton Region of Southern Ontario, near Milton, in Nelson Township, on Appleby Line. The course was some 4/10 of a mile in length on a dirt road, climbing the Niagara escarpment.

Tom Pearce was a founder member of the Canadian Automobile Sport Committee in 1951 (from 1958, Clubs, CASC). Pearce was a printer by trade, operating Northern Miner Press Limited from an address at 122 Richmond Street West, Toronto. This company, which served the mining and financial communities, also printed race programmes.

1950: The first event had 24 entries:

More than 1,000 people lined the roadway and hair-pin turns at Rattlesnake Point roadway last Sunday to watch an exciting hill climbing contest sponsored by the British Empire Motor Club. The huge audience didn't seem to mind the clouds of dust churned up by the midget cars as they rounded curves at break-neck speed. Bob Todd, of Aldershot, with his sleek roadster, who made the 300-foot climb in less than a minute, precisely 0.9742 seconds. Officials of the event said the course was one of the best and most hazardous in this part of the province.

The event was won by George Barrett, from Galt, Ontario, in a supercharged MGTD, #13, in a time of 0.961 min. In second place was R. Todd, MGTC, #8, 0.9742 min; third was Jim Fergusson in an MGTC, #11, 0.9757 min. They used this curious method of timing in the 1950s, i.e. thousandths of a minute.



1952: Saturday, June 7 – B.E.M.C. Car Hill Climb, located at Rattlesnake Point, about 5 miles northwest of Milton, Ontario. Start at 1 p.m. Open to B.E.M.C. members and invited clubs.

1953: 40 entries. Results, Class G: (750 c.c. to 1,100 c.c. unsupercharged – blown cars were moved up one class) Don Brailey, modified Morris Minor, 65.0 seconds; J.B. Harris, Morris Minor, 74.8 seconds; Peter Dillnutt, Austin A30, 76.75 seconds. Class F: Tommy Hoan, M.G. TC, 52.71 sec, L. France, Porsche, 55.05 seconds.

A varied selection of machinery contested the 2-3-litre class. Ian Sword in the ex-Wheaton DB2 Aston Martin going up sleek and fast to win in 55.41 seconds. A TC with V8 60 engine, handled by Neil Bryson, did 58.79 then 57.51, to become runner-up, and a Sunbeam Talbot was third. Over 3-litre: Vern Jeffries, Jaguar XK120 coupe, 51.89 seconds; G. Farrow, Jaguar; Peter Hayes, Jaguar.

1954: Peter Dillnutt driving a Singer Roadster, registered 3D 596, won the Class 1 Production Car Category in 62.34 seconds. An advertisement in The Toronto Star trumpeted his success: "In a hill course



Singer Roadster vehicle

rising 400 feet in 900 yards, against all high-powered British, European and North American cars under 1500 CC, the

Continued on next page ➡

Climb remained popular with auto enthusiasts

• Continued from previous page

new Singer Roadster surged to first place in Rattlesnake Point Climb.”

No account of the Hill would be complete without recalling the late Peter Dillnutt, a former treasurer of the S.C.C., who made his most exciting runs in the first Formula III Cooper to enter this country. After Peter’s tragic demise, in a manner completely unrelated to fast motoring, some of his ashes were spread on the hill that had given him so much enjoyment.

1956: Forty-nine entrants took part in the hill climb on June 2, among them many of our perennial keen types driving all types of cars from a stock Morris Minor to an AC Ace with Bristol engine. Don Clarke’s Cooper 500 was in good shape and made very good time once the engine was started. That compression! Incidentally, it is the first time we have actually seen this car in competition, and the aroma of Castrol R brings back memories.

1960: With the record-holding Jordan Special hors de combat when driver Dan Shaw broke the left rear wheel in purposely using the banking on the last corner to retain the car on its way to what would likely have been a new record, the path was cleared for Klaus Bartels in his Carrera. In setting a time of 46.20 seconds, Bartels came within .09 second of

equalling the record, set last year by Don Haddow in the 998 cc Vincent motorcycle-engined Jordan Special. In a gravel-spattering effort, Ernest Graf pushed his VW-Porsche to a time of 47.35, good enough for second overall, followed by Ed Bradley at 48.00 seconds in the third rear-engined car, an 896 cc DKW Canada Class machine.

1962: The May programme cautions: A comparison of winning times over the years is meaningless as starting points have varied and weather and road conditions are never similar.

The events staged by the Burlington Autosport Club were called the Burlington Hill Climb.

• • • • •

Rupert Lloyd Thomas is a motor racing historian and renowned autophile. He has been obsessed with motor cars since a small boy. His first article was published in England in 1971. He has been a commentator on TV and radio and has been published in The Daily Telegraph and the South China Morning Post. He has watched cars racing on four continents. More recently he has been documenting the history of motor sport in Ontario, and nearby (including parts of the U.S.). He specializes in the obscure, preferring to cover ground ignored by others. Hence the interest in hillclimbs, rallies and races at long forgotten venues, tracing old race cars, finding films and photographs in musty basements.



BLAST From The Past

In November 1991, many members of the Milton Historical Society took a tour of Queen’s Park. It was very well attended. Former MPP Walt Elliot greeted the group and led the tour. In the picture, he’s in the back row, fourth from the right wearing a dark suit. Elliot was the MPP for Halton North in David Peterson’s Liberal minority government from 1987-1990.



Former Halton Hills Mayor Kathy Gastle (right) gave a well-enlightened presentation on the life and times of famous author Lucy Maud Montgomery's time in Norval.

MONTHLY SPEAKER SERIES

Lucy Maud Montgomery focus of address by former Halton Hills mayor Kathy Gastle

After two years and three attempts to have her address the Milton Historical Society Society Monthly Speakers Series, former Halton Hills Mayor Kathy Gastle waited out the latest wave of the global COVID-19 pandemic and delivered a uniquely insightful presentation about fellow Norval alumnus, acclaimed Anne of Green Gables author Lucy Maud Montgomery.

Ms. Montgomery (1874-1942), lived in the north Halton village from 1921 to 1935 and was, arguably, at the most prolific stage of her career while there, post the Anne of Green Gables novel she wrote in 1908 while living in her home province of Prince Edward Island. She published 20 novels as well as 530 short stories, 500 poems and 30 essays during her life.

Ms. Gastle said that, beyond her global reputation as an author, Ms. Montgomery was also an accomplished culinarian, diarist, essayist, historian, illustrator, journalist, needleworker, poet, photographer, public speaker, scrapbooker and teacher.

Ms. Montgomery's time in Norval, which came about when her husband, the Rev. Ewan MacDonald, was appointed Minister of Norval Presbyterian Church, saw her actively engage in each of those pursuits from her home in the stately, red-brick Presbyterian manse that overlooked the Credit River, a grove of pine trees and two local parks.

Ms. Gastle recounted Ms. Montgomery's active participation in the community, organizing numerous church activities, music concerts and plays, and keeping a very explicit jour-

nal of her experience in Norval, much to the embarrassment of some members of the small rural community when it was published following her death.

While a significant volume of her writings and memorabilia can be found today at her Cavendish, P.E.I. home, now a national historic site, the largest collection of her work can be viewed at the McLaughlin Library's Archival and Special Collections at the University of Guelph. Other locales where Ms. Montgomery's life have been faithfully documented include the Leaskdale manse in Uxbridge Township, now also a national historic site, and the Bala's Museum with Memories of Lucy Maud Montgomery, found in Bala, Ontario.

But, a growing collection of Ms. Montgomery's published work and personal effects can now be found in Norval, with more to come. Ms. Gastle explained that the Montgomery Heritage Society, a committee of the Heritage Association of Halton Hills, purchased the manse in 2017 from a pair of Presbyterian churches in the area. The Society has sympathetically redeveloped the manse and property into a museum and literary centre, which now includes a garden and historic 1840s' salt box cabin.

Just as Ms. Gastle is back in the larger Halton community -- post the latest COVID wave -- sharing the life of Ms. Montgomery with interested audiences, she is confident her native Norval will shake off the effects of the pandemic this year to reveal much more about a time in its history when it was home to Canadian writing royalty.



Moffat Pioneer Cemetery is well kept and still maintains a prominent place in the hamlet of Moffat. It's on No. 15 Sideroad west of Guelph Line.

MOFFAT PIONEER CEMETERY

History of Moffat reflected in its cemetery

The history of the hamlet of Moffat and the Moffat Pioneer Cemetery are forever intertwined.

Settled by farmers from Scotland and northern England in the first half of the 19th Century, Moffat was first known as Gomorrah. The nearby hamlet was known as Sodom in the early 1800s, mostly because there were drinking establishments between the two settlements. It was said the road between these two settlements was not safe to travel upon after dark.

The two settlements were both located along No. 15 Sideroad. One was near Guelph Line and the other was west of the First Concession. Sodom later became Haltonville.

In 1872, when the local post office was opened, the name of this community was changed from Gomorrah to Moffat. The new name was in honour of the local blacksmith James Moffatt, spelled with two T's, who hailed from a hamlet by the same name in his native Scotland.

Moffat was a close-knit community of hard working farmers who would supply grain to the local feed mill. There was also a busy sawmill that once operated in Moffat. The focal point of the community was

the church, which was the venue for church socials, dances, picnics and garden parties. There was also a local school and a ball park.

The original church was a simple building, with a row of very crude, rough seats up each aisle and in the centre. There was a huge box stove for heat in the middle of the back. The accompanying cemetery was first used as a burying ground in 1852 for Rachel Williamson, then only 27. Sadly, three years later, her four-year-old son James died and was buried next to her.

George Allison (1809-1885) emigrated from Yorkshire and settled in Nassagaweya in 1831, on land he purchased from the Canada Company. His son, Jacob Allison, sold part of his land to the trustees of the Bethany Methodist Episcopal Church in 1877. A new brick church was built and still stands. The congregation later changed to Moffat United Church. The church building became a private residence many years later and continues to this day.



George Allison settled in Nassagaweya in 1831. His son Jacob, owned land that became the church and cemetery. He died in 1885.

Moffat Pioneer Cemetery is well kept. Although most of the burials took place for 100 years from the first burial in 1852 there was one burial in 1990.



Top Left: The Moffat Pioneer Cemetery sign with the church, built in the 1870s, in the background.

Top Right: Tombstone of Sarah King who died in 1858 at the age of 34.

Left: The Allison family is quite prominent in this cemetery. Two fairly recent burials include William Allison who died in 1981 and his wife Eileen who died in 1990.

Bottom Left: Here's the brick church built in the 1870s to replace the original church. It's now a home.

Bottom Right: The tombstone of Jacob Allison, the landowner who donated the land for the cemetery, who died in 1917.

Murray Ray Andress • 1930-2019

Milton's first police chief

Submitted by Marsha Waldie UE

Murray Ray Andress was born in Cultis, near Simcoe, Ontario. He and his siblings were raised by Ida (Becker) and George Andress. He was known as Ray throughout his life.

Ray and his first wife, Yvonne, raised three children, Garry, Mona and Cindy, in Milton. The family resided on Heslop Road and Ray became involved in various community sport leagues. He joined the local softball industrial league, a bowling league as well as coached children. Ray enjoyed playing tennis and became a member and later president of the local tennis club, located on Main Street. He was also a member of the local St. Clair Masonic Lodge.

In 1953, Ray joined the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and first served with the Dundas, Ontario, detachment. Later that year he was transferred to the Milton detachment headquarters. On March 1, 1957, he then joined the North Halton OPP detachment serving the Acton, Georgetown and Milton areas.

Milton had grown to the extent that the OPP could not continue to police Milton as the population exceeded 5,000. In 1960, Milton Town Council decided it was time for the town to have its own force and Ray Andress was named police chief. The agreement with the OPP was that as one local officer was hired, one OPP officer would be removed so the transfer was seamless.

In November 1960, during the Council meeting, Mayor Childs welcomed

the new force. It consisted of Chief Ray Andress, Sergeant Robert Moreau and constables Len Pickett and Keith Robertson. The chief started September 1960 and the others started December 1. They were joined in April 1961 with Constable Joe McCann, bringing the force up to five officers. The police department office was located at the back of the old Town Hall at 251 Main Street.

For years, the officers walked the beat and became known by everyone. They visited schools and giving talks on safety. Elmer the safety officer, issued bicycle licenses. They lived in the community, becoming involved in various aspects. Mr. and Mrs. Cannon, who lived near the Town Hall, would dispatch calls as they came in for either police or fire.

In 1974, with the establishment of regional government, policing in Milton changed. The old force was replaced with Halton Regional Police Services. In 1975,

Ray was given a medal for 20 years of service.

Murray Ray Andress died on January 4, 2019, at the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital and was interred in Fairview Cemetery, Port Rowan, Ont.



MILTON THEN & NOW

Welcome to Milton Then & Now. MHS member and talented photographer **Mike Miller** has tackled a project of taking identically placed photos from originals in our archives. Many thanks to Mike to taking this on. Many thanks to our members who have supplied the photos. Most of the original pictures were accumulated by the late Jim Dills over many years of research for his books and Milton Historical Society.



In 1970, Milton Public Library was located at 264 Main Street. Now it is the home of, Hutchinson, Thompson, Henderson and Mott lawyers' office.



Wm Little Saddler and Bon-Ton Shaving Parlour have become Rock Star Ice Cream and Tony's Barber Shop.



The Milton Department Store of 1951 has become Southside Community Church on Main Street.

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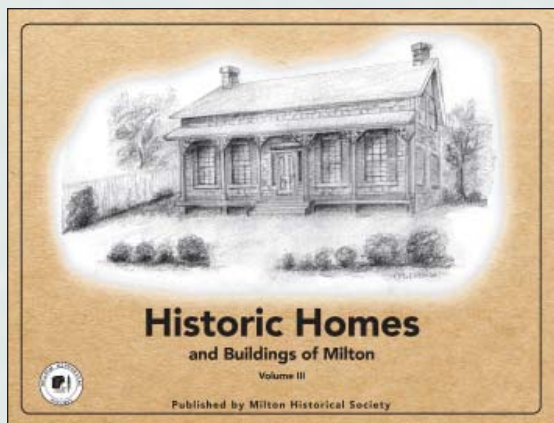
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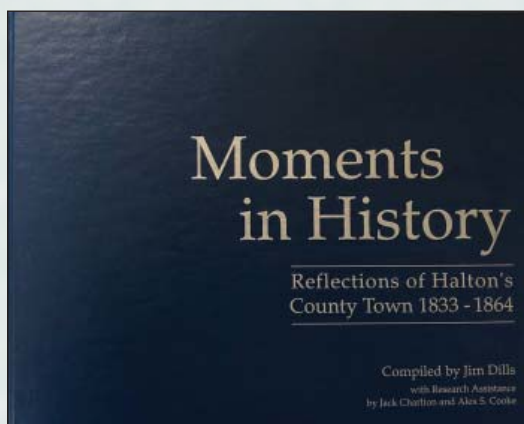
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*To contact MHS executive members, email
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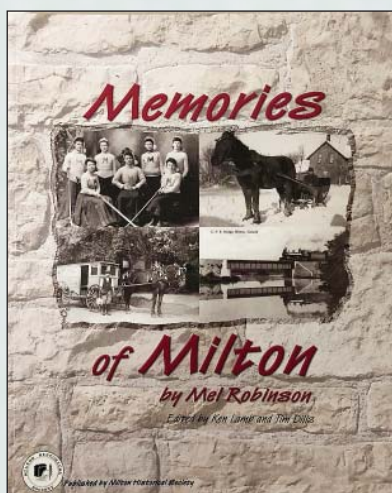
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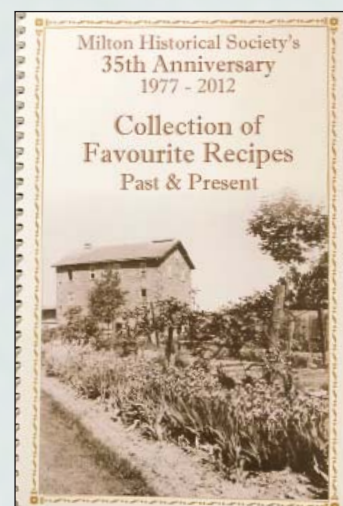
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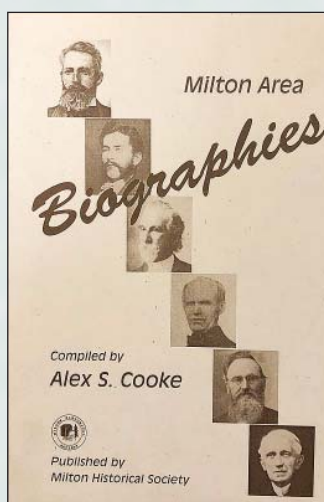
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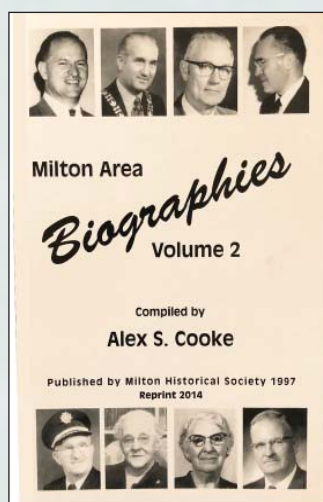
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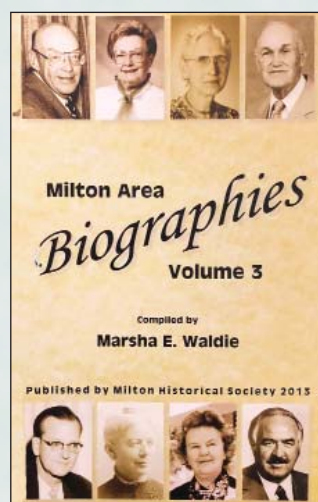
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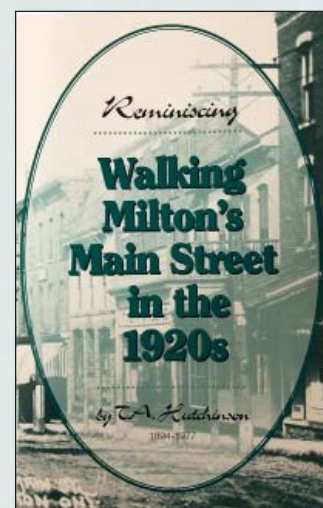
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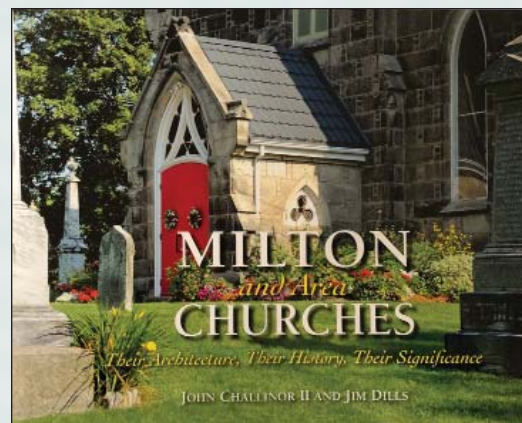
Milton Area Biographies Vol. 2 - \$25



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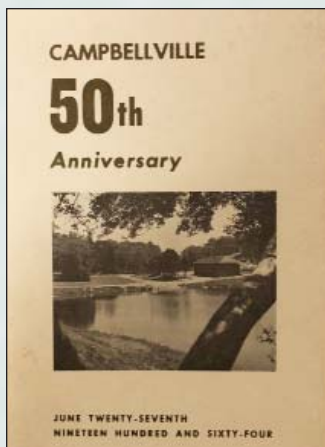


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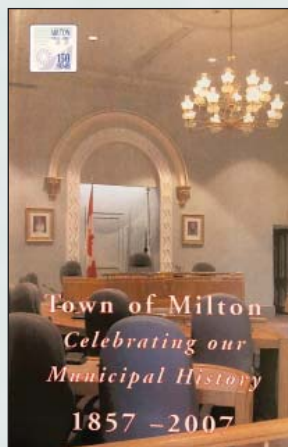
*All these books (and more) are available for sale from the Milton Historical Society's website with payment and delivery options.
For more information, or help with ordering, please contact
Mike Boyle at mikeboyle539@gmail.com.*



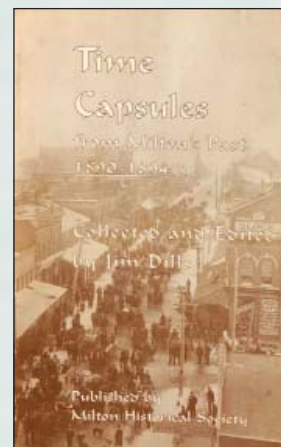
Campbellville 50th Anniversary \$ 20



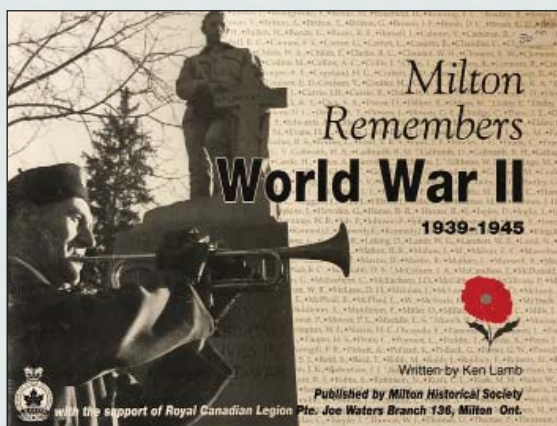
Milton Centennial \$20



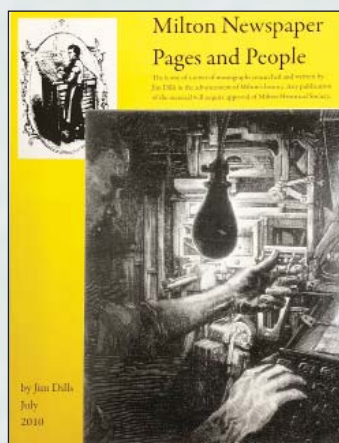
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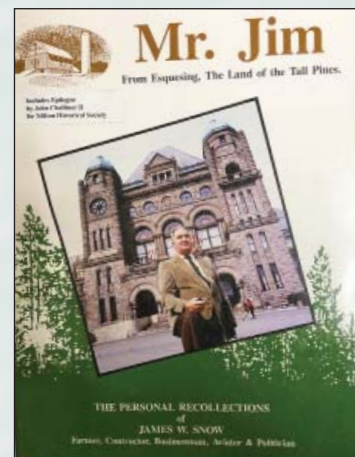
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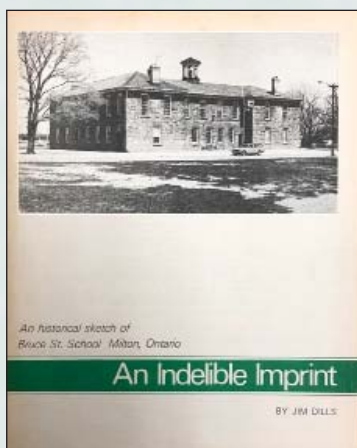
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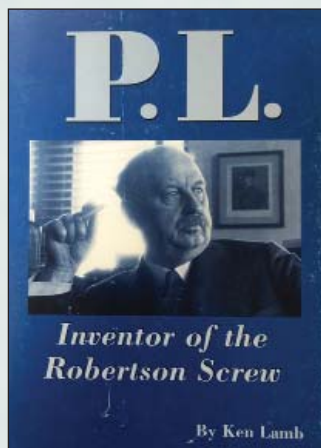
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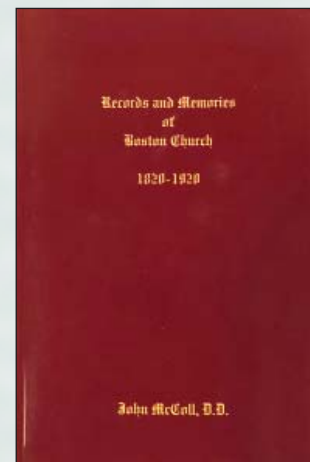
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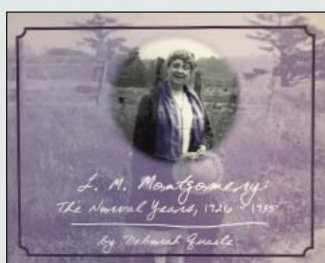
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THE MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Preserving Milton's History for Future Generations

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I wish to make a separate donation to MHS in the sum of _____.

Donations and payments can be made on line through **PayPal** from our website.

(A tax receipt will be issued for all donations totaling \$25.00 or more)

Note: The Milton Historical Society has set up a foundation
under the "Community Foundation of Halton North" (CFHN).

You can also donate through this foundation towards the Milton Historical Society.

Please contact our Society for further information.

The Milton Historical Society is a registered charity # 110041358RR0001

Please make cheques payable to Milton Historical Society Mail completed form/remittance to: The Milton Historical Society 16 James St., Milton, ON L9T 2P4

HELP SUSTAIN MILTON'S RICH HISTORY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME!

The Milton Historical Society was founded in 1977 to encourage appreciation of, and promote knowledge of, the historical and cultural heritage of the Town of Milton. To that end, the Society organizes popular community activities throughout the year and undertakes numerous projects including:

- The restoration and operation of the Waldie Blacksmith Shop
- The publication of books on the history of Milton
- The operation of the Cooke / Dills Archives
- Research and plaquing of Milton's historic properties
- Walking Tours of historic Milton neighbourhoods

To help fund these worthwhile projects, the Milton Historical Society is actively seeking to engage members of Milton's business community as sponsorship partners through our Corporate Membership Program. As a Corporate Member, you will not only help to support a vital and high profile local cultural organization, but you will also receive recognition and benefits including:

- Name mention in The Journal (the Society's quarterly newsletter)
- Name mention in the monthly e-Newsletter (Launching this Fall)
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- 10% off Guided Walking Tours
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- One free employee activity evening at Waldie's Blacksmith Shop
- Company presentation by the MHS President



Note: Visit our website for more details and how to take advantage of these special offers.

Becoming a Corporate Partner costs only \$100 for businesses with 10 employees or less, or \$200 for those with more than 10 employees. By the way, Single memberships are \$25 and \$40 for Family. These memberships are a great way to get your employees involved. We are always looking for Volunteer Support at our numerous events around town.

Note: These prices are for a year and renewed on their anniversary date.

Also see us around town at various events • Display at the Milton Downtown Classic Car Show • Display at the Milton Downtown Farmers Market • Float in the Milton Santa Claus Parade • Pot Luck Dinners for MHS Members • Festivities surrounding MHS Heritage Week • MHS Garage Sales (please visit our website for more details).

As a registered charity, the Milton Historical Society will be happy to issue a tax receipt for your contribution (Our registered charity # 110041358RR0001).

Please make cheques payable to Milton Historical Society. Mail completed form/remittance to: The Milton Historical Society 16 James Street, Milton, Ontario L9T 2P4

On behalf of the MHS Board, we very much appreciate your support and working together to advance our historic mission!

Brad Collis – Community Marketing Lead



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~ MHS ~
OVER 40 YEARS
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- Preservation
- Education
- Recognition
- Celebration



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Member-level access to the Cooke/Dills Archives

Free attendance at Pot Luck Dinners

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Free attendance at Sessions on local history

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Contact: Susan Platt, Community Membership Lead
info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca



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PLUS MORE!

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MORE
TODAY!**

**Volunteer Greeters are appreciated.
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