

# Santa tours village in cart Sunday

Hurrahs were for Santa Claus as the red velveted gentleman, with his long white beard visited the Parish House on Gzowski Street in Rockwood last Sunday afternoon and handed out packets of Christmas goodies to 67 good little girls and boys.

"Here Comes Santa Claus", "Jingle Bells" and "It's a Holly Jolly Christmas" greeted St. Nick and the teeny weenies of the Rockwood and Oustic congregations sang lustily, some shyly sitting on his knee whispering their important hopes for Christmas while others pulled back timidly, slightly awed and frightened of the lusty Santaman.

His arrival was an unusual one as he trundled through the village in a pony cart arousing the curiosity of even the most docile of spectators who had always envisioned the mythsome creature with reindeers and roof tops and chimneys and such. With a ho, ho, ho, however, Sunday's Santa allayed their surprise, waving at them with a twinkle in his eye as he skirted past in the direction of the Parish House.

After his departure fathers and mothers, and ladies of the two churches women's groups stayed on to enjoy participation in a sing song of carols and Christmas songs organized by five young Seminarians from St. Ignatius College in Guelph who had taken a guitar, a banjo, and their voices, to the party as well as a film for the children to view.

Father Elliott was also on hand to take part in the afternoon of seasonal fun and, after the program, donuts, cookies, pop, and coffee for the adults were served as prepared by Mrs. Irene Hawkins of R.R. 3, Rockwood. The culmination of the afternoon's activities were, according to Mrs. Santa Claus's report, a special treasure hunt conducted by the ladies assisting, which consisted of hunting down, matching up, discovering and rediscovering the mitts, hats, boots, and various items of wearing apparel which the children had managed to stash where they could find them. For a while pandemonium prevailed but, after all it's Christmas time and everyone knows that no one loses their cool at Christmas and the children had had a wonderful time.

Christmas Day celebrations were once forbidden by law in England and in the North American Colonies. In England Oliver Cromwell declared that, because of its pagan origin, observance of Christmas was illegal, even in churches.



SANTA tucks Scott Wilson and Claire, a little visitor from England, on his knee to talk about Christmas wishes at last Sunday's Oustic and Rockwood children's party.—(Photo by Lorraine)



OFF, OFF, AND AWAY Santa waves goodbye to all his little friends as he leaves the Sunday party at the Rockwood and Oustic Parish house on Gzowski street.—(Photo by Lorraine)



## Silent Night

Rosy cheeked carolers carry our glad message of Yule greetings to everyone.

Park Motors

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(Continued from Page B2)

sugar and someone else with food to feed the hungry through.

### True faith

Everything has been based on prayer and the Bezek story is a visual example of what true faith can accomplish. Such community ministries are not new; many forms of similar establishments are springing up everywhere, almost as if Christianity must break its bind and escape from the ecclesiastical structures of the past to reach out to newer horizons thus encompassing greater fields.

To date the Retreat centre, for that's what it is, a haven from mundane difficulties where people can relax, find themselves, and restore new energies in an atmosphere of love and accomplishment, has hosted visitors from many distant places. The mailing list now reaches over 1000 people from Vancouver to Newfoundland and, as a mission church, Bezek relies on modest contributions from Lenten boxes, individual clergymen, and other sources for her survival. "We've never gone hungry", says the enthusiastic young minister who believes that his ministry is rather like working with "the middle-age Jesus people".

Bern Warren himself, contributes through finances from his own busy speaking itinerary. He takes trips, preaching, teaching and leading retreats, thus keeping in touch with things that are happening beyond the Centre as well as restoring his own perspective.

### Various groups

Creating a home for young people with difficulties, entertaining university students and youth groups, as well as UCW and other adult groups of every church affiliation has kept the Warrens busy.

Over last summer Bezek was visited by the "Little People of Canada", a group of tiny folk who share in a bit people's world and

what kind of gifts do the Warrens require to keep it moving?

At the present time the basement building is about 100 feet long and 40 feet wide. It contains a family staff residence, kitchen, work shop, washrooms and showers with small dormitories which can accommodate about 12 residents. There is a beautiful common room which easily seats about 50 or 60 with a large stone fireplace exuding warmth and friendliness.

"The facilities are limited but flexible", according to the Bezek brochures, and the directors of the venture are hopeful that, by next spring, the main floor will have been completed.

How does it feel to live a life in a home with all the doors opened wide for the entire world to enter and how does it affect their personal family life?

The Warrens, both Bernie and Dorla, don't find it at all unusual as they have always had people living with them since the beginning of their marriage. Young people with problems, unmarried expectant mothers, and so on.

They admit that sometimes it curtails the closeness of their own family relationships but that their children still have the bedtime discussions and open talks that well adjusted family life suggests. They recognize the threats of outside influences brought in to their home but feel

that the love they can give to those who need it in a family atmosphere is a much greater power.

### Food director

Meantime Dorla, with her abundant source of strength and energy, is graciousness personified. The pretty co-director of Bezek looks after all the food preparations which such continual open-housing entails, ripping about with spontaneity making her guests feel wanted and special.

Unusual gifts to the Centre include everything from a 1962 Rambler station wagon to a hundred home-made donuts, barn boards for Bezek's rustic interiors, hampers from local farmers, and other food provisions.

Admittedly the Warrens don't have all the answers. "We only hope to keep open to the creative work of the Holy Spirit who gives power to live life rich and full and to count for something," says the Rev. Bernard Warren. They offer a welcome for everyone to visit and help fulfill their vision.

### Christmas services

Bezek's December newsletter is a reminder that Christmas

services of fellowship and communion will be held on Friday, December 24 at 8.30 p.m. and on Saturday, January 15 of the New Year there will be a special service commemorating the date of the first turning of the Bezek Centre.

The Warren family openly invite everyone to attend and enjoy an afternoon or evening visit of music and fellowship with refreshments provided — a fun excuse for community neighbors and friends to attend and see "what's at Bezek now."

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TO THE Joy World

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IT'S CHRISTMAS

It's the happy time! We send our wishes for a merry season of gatherings with families and friends. And it's the time to say thanks for letting us serve you. The pleasure has been ours. We look forward to more Christmases with you.

from all the Staff at

JOHN BOUGHTON JEWELLERS

to which Dorla and Bern's son Steve, is a member. Day groups from Fairport Beach, Ceneacle, St. John's United, Oakville, and Old-Davenport-Perth United Churches and a visit from the Sisters of Canaan in the Desert from Phoenix, Arizona; these were all included in last year's visitor itinerary.

Regular fellowship services are conducted every Friday evening at 8.15 p.m. to which all peoples are invited and whose assemblage has fluctuated from 10 to 75, with service and open discussions part of the interesting program.

What's required  
What does Bezek consist of and

Season's Greetings TO ALL OF YOU FROM ALL OF US

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

A magical season full of dreams come true... that's what Christmas is. We wish you much joy.

BLUE SPRING FLOWER SHOP

BEST WISHES FOR Christmas

Carolers sing, candles gleam, children laugh. It's Merry Christmas time...time to greet our friends with every good wish for a happy holiday. May your Christmastide be filled with many joys and rich in the blessings of love and peace.

from all of us to all of you

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