

# Christmas Greetings

To all, we extend warm and happy greetings in the spirit of this most joyous season.

## Acton Free Press

NINETY-NINTH YEAR NO. 25

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1973

Forty-Six Pages—Fifteen Cents



SPECIAL CHRISTMAS decorations made for the tables at the Baptist church dinner delight Nelson Hammond, a year old; Tammy Hammond, two, and Jennifer Henderson, who's all of three. They joined the congregation for the supper and program Sunday.

### Santa's sure to make it

Christmas is not humbug as far as Acton school children are concerned. If you want the straight facts on whether Santa's going to make it or not this December 25 see what some of them have to say.



"Oh go on!" and Diane Savard knows that Santa won't pass her house and she'll be listening for the sleigh bells because "after all that's how you know when Santa's around." Diane wants an Easy Bake for Christmas and that's about all.



Jacqueline (Jackie) Roach: "Now let me think! I'd like a Barbie doll and a big fat turkey for Christmas dinner and I like Santa Claus for presents!" Jackie is certain he'll not have problems arriving this December 25 and would like to see him herself.



Jason William Peter Stanbridge is the name and, frankly, he likes Santa Claus. "If you ask me what Christmas is all about," says Jason William Peter Stanbridge, "I like Christmas trees standing up all decorated." Jason hopes Santa will bring him a Weeble Wobble Don't Fall Down and a Big Jim's Sport's Camper.



Karen Watreck, 5, "I like Rudolph about Santa best" and is quite sure there will be lots of snow for Christmas. If it's Christmas dinner you want to know about, she likes plum pudding and Santa will be coming for sure with all his reindeers.



Gary MacEachern, 5, self assured, has no doubts about old Santa Clause making it on time this year. "That's what I like about Christmas," says Gary, "Santa Claus and Rudolph." If there isn't any snow and Santa can't make it Gary won't worry because he'll simply put in his time by playing.

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### Board frowns on plaza

A request for a zoning change on Main St. North for a 12 acre shopping plaza of 80 to 90,000 square feet of store space was frowned on by members of Acton Planning Board at the final meeting last Thursday.

The request came from Angelo Papastramos, represented by a Streetsville real estate firm, who said he had purchased the property from Diston (Canada) which lies north of the CN tracks on Main St. and includes a farmhouse and the ruins of a barn. The plaza would have two large stores, many

smaller ones and parking spaces for 700 to 900 cars. The house and barn would be removed to make room for the plaza. There is an 800 foot frontage.

Mr. Papastramos' firm is building a similar plaza in Orangeville now and it was his contention through his agent that it would improve the area without hurting the downtown merchants. He said it was the firm's experience that the downtown core improved when a plaza was built after only a few months when business lagged. It was explained existing business places

change to a more exclusive area such as the downtown Oakville now has.

Frank Simioni of the board, said it was his feeling there was no need for a plaza in the west end of town and the recent study by the board bore this contention out. He pointed out all residential development would likely take place at the east end of Acton and they had recommended a large shopping plaza be built in the east end. Simioni noted the area north of the CN tracks had been discussed and planners and engineers had strongly recommended it be kept for manufacturing. He felt a plaza that close to the downtown area would interfere with downtown stores.

We have been forced to think along these lines by engineers and planners, he said.

Secretary Hugh Patterson, anticipating the request, read replies from Project Planners and R. V. Anderson, town engineer, regarding their reaction to a plaza on Main St. N. Planners said it would be too close to the downtown area and noted the conceptual plan envisaged six residential neighborhoods and two business areas—downtown and east.

The planners also suggested Highway 7 and the CN tracks were too close and could cause concern for

vehicle access. Their final objection was based on the fact the area does not conform to the official plan and zoning by-law.

Creek course The engineers noted there was a small creek running through the property which could cause a drainage problem unless it was channelized to the School creek. Sewers in the area were near capacity and would require relief. They also felt the location presented a traffic problem because the intersection would be inadequate for the traffic generated by a shopping plaza.

Chairman Vic Bristow told the three man delegation the board could take no action other than a recommendation to the new council of Halton Hills and it would not likely be favorable. "It doesn't look good to change the zoning in the area."

The secretary also asked whether the company would consider a grade separation since it might be necessary so the area could be rezoned. Cost for the separation, it was suggested, could run close to a million dollars.

The board discussed it further after the developer left and passed a resolution stating they were not in favor of a shopping plaza on Main St. N. and made the recommendation to the council of Halton Hills.

### Select Holmes Halton Hills chief



Mickey Holmes

Acton fire chief Mick Holmes has been slated as fire chief for the new town of Halton Hills over three other applicants.

The selection was made at a closed meeting of Halton Hills council last Wednesday evening and no official announcement has yet been made, but the appointments were "leaked" to press and public. The position is a full time one.

Mick Holmes has been with the Acton Fire Department as chief for the last 12 years. He served as deputy chief prior to his appointment as chief, when Chief Jack Newton left the community. He has been the manager of the Acton yard of J. B. Mackenzie.

### Reeve objects

In a blunt statement to this newspaper, Georgetown Reeve Ric Morrow blasted the decision by Halton Hills council, made behind closed doors—last Wednesday, to hire Mickey Holmes of Acton as Fire Chief of Halton Hills.

The reeve stressed he had nothing personal against Mr. Holmes and described him as a fine man, but he vigorously attacked council for overlooking Georgetown Fire Chief Ken Buikema's

qualifications. "Buikema has proven his ability and gained the respect of the men in the fire department. He is the only one of the four applicants fully qualified for the position", said the reeve.

He pointed out that when Georgetown hired a fulltime paid chief they insisted on the applicants writing an exam set by the Ontario Fire Marshal's office. "Buikema came

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### Power off, Bower shivers Monday

A burnt-out transformer left Acton residents on Bower Avenue without hydro for approximately two and one-quarter hours during Monday night's frigid temperatures. It took from 6 p.m. to 8:15 in the evening to complete repairs.

Also involved in a cold weather cut-off were occupants of the Diplomat Apartment building on Church Street. Supervisor of the building, Mrs. R. Rody said that a frozen sprinkler had burst and sprayed water in the furnace room, extinguishing the gas furnace.

Summoning the Acton Fire brigade the water was shut off immediately and, after the water had been pumped out of the basement, the United Gas Company from Georgetown re-lit the furnace and everything was back in operation by 9:45 p.m.

### Lake ice is not safe yet

Ice on Fairy Lake is dangerous. Police remind young children and their parents this week. They have received a couple of complaints from concerned people.

Youngsters playing in the creek also ended up wet and cold this week.

### Mail volume heavy

The yearly Christmas rush is underway at the post office and the staff has little spare time to do their Christmas shopping.

Added to the roster for the rush are Mrs. Ellen Holmes, Wilbur St.; Mrs. Susan Farr, Maria St.; Mrs. Jean Jackson, Tyler Ave.; Mrs. Heather Morton, Main St. and Mrs. Iris Wilson, Tyler Ave.

### Damage to cars

There were two accidents investigated in town during the past week. On Dec. 13 a parked car owned by Mahlon Howson, Acton, parked on St. Alban's Dr. was struck by an unknown vehicle. Damage was estimated at \$100 to the Howson car.

On Dec. 16 two cars went in collision on Peel St. Drivers were Stanley Robinson, R.R.2, Acton with estimated \$50 damage and Hilda Immerman, R.R.3, Acton, with estimated \$100 damage.

### Acton principals back teachers

Acton's schools were open as usual on Tuesday with the difference being most of the classrooms were empty with only a minimal staff on hand to officiate over the few children attending.

At the Robert Little public school there were 12 students attending with the principal, vice-principal, office staff and caretaker on duty.

Afternoon classes showed only nine.

Hazen Allan, principal of Robert Little was firm in his statement that he very much supports the stand taken by teachers. "I think the teachers who went out demonstrating not only showed a real concern for children but for the society in general in opposing a bill

which would make teachers subject to punishment for an action they took, which, at the time it was taken, was legal and proper."

Mr. Allan said he was referring to the point that teachers resigned from their position as they were legally entitled to do on November 30 and the Minister has introduced legislation in this

bill which would not only make void those resignations, but make teachers liable to a fine of up to \$500 a day should they honor their own resignation.

The principal said further that he prefers negotiation but if a settlement cannot be reached within a prescribed time period then "I would not be opposed to referring it to compulsory arbitration for settlement."

"In my view," he continued, "the settlement must be reached prior to May 31 and November 30 as the case may be, so that teachers will know where they stand and still be able to exercise their civil right to resign if they are dissatisfied."

Gary Dawkins of the M.Z. Bennett Public School said that only 20 children were in his school in the morning diminishing in numbers to 4 in the afternoon. The children were reading library books in the resource centre during morning sessions and, in the afternoon, the four children, all same grade members.

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### No tears, regrets council dissolves

With the bang of a broken handle Stanley on a Parks Department bench Mayor Duby adjourned the last full scale council meeting on Tuesday night. With few tears and apparently no regrets a hundred years of municipal government in Acton wound up without any further ceremony or spontaneous emotional outburst.

For the final meeting Mayor Duby's chair of office and desk had been removed from the council chamber and in its place a slivered park bench had been installed. It was from this precarious perch the final business of the community was dispatched.

Former councillor Ted Tyler Jr., the only spectator at the final meeting, complimented Mayor

Duby on his choice of furniture, asking if it was "colonial or what else?"

Mayor Duby's reply was that somebody "got the message - I'm an outdoor boy."

The park bench bore a sign saying "thanks for the furniture, Tom."

In reference to the announcement that Halton Hills would like the council furniture for installation at Esquesing Township Hall.

The council meeting, a routine house-keeping meeting, saw council pass 11 by-laws and a vast quantity of resolutions to finalize the business before the end of year.

No new legislation or proposals were brought forth at the meeting.

### Paper next Thursday

Next week's Free Press will be published on Thursday, Dec. 27 instead of the usual Wednesday publication, owing to the Christmas and Boxing Day holidays. The first issue in the new year will also be published on Thursday, Jan. 3.

The Free Press office will remain closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day, Dec. 25 and 26 and will also be closed on Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

Advertising and news deadlines for next week's issue are as follows: display advertising and New Year's greetings ads, 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 21; classified advertising, 12 noon Monday, Dec. 26; news, Monday, Dec. 24. The news department will be working Wednesday next week.

All news and advertising for the Jan. 3 issue should be submitted to the office by Friday, Dec. 28.



### Bishop home first in Acton Hydro contest

The home of the Cyril Bishop, 201 Elmore Drive, Acton, was judged the most attractively decorated and won the \$75 first prize in Acton Hydro Commission's Christmas outdoor residential decorating contest.

Second prize of \$50 went to Joe Brown, 90 Acton Boulevard, and third prize of \$25 to Ray Thornhill, 40 Alice St.

Judge was Jack Armstrong of the Georgetown Hydro Commission. He also picked the home of Mrs. Bertha Faulkner, 257 Mill St. East as a runner up. He commented on the excellent displays of previous winners,

the Ray Arbics, Mrs. Norman Braida and Colin MacColls. Previous winners are not eligible in the contest. All users of the Acton Hydro residential system were eligible. Judge Armstrong toured the town Monday evening before making his selections, noting the job got progressively harder as the contest goes on. There was some speculation that the contest may have to be called off because of an energy shortage but the Commission decided to continue until such time as Ontario Hydro decided there was a power shortage in the province.