

Scout and Guide news

By Mark Rowe

Captain Jean Vaughan enrolled five lovely lassies on December 8. Terry Duncleff, Lynn Gordon, Connie McCrystal, Donna Evans and Nadine Ewart joined the second Acton Guide company that evening.

All boys and girls are invited to the Scout hall on Saturday afternoon to watch cartoons. The Venturers are sponsoring the show, thus giving parents those final hours before Christmas to finish up the shopping. The programme will begin at one o'clock.

Parade activities
The Guides and Scouts of Acton are certainly proud to have been involved in the most successful Santa Claus parade this town has had. In the parade we started with the flags of the groups involved. Then came the Brownies dressed as Christmas presents followed by the Beavers riding their hobby horses. The cubs and scouts brought up the end of the walking section. Tyler transport's truck and trailer followed carrying the group float of Red Riding Hood. Pioneer patrol leader Eddie Blaser played the woodsman, seconder Brian Hogan was the red cloaked girl and seconder Jack Garton was the charming old grandmother. The wolf was played by none other than the Cubs totem - an actual stuffed wolf.

The new Scout hall was used for the first time, as swarms of people converged on the halls for hot chocolate and donuts. Rangers, senior Guides and Guiders dispersed the welcome drink and food.

Carolling

The Acton Cub pack spread some Christmas cheer, Monday night at the Eden Mills Nursing home. The boys sang lovely Christmas carols for the residents of the home. The First Acton Guide company will be making people happy this evening as they sing at the Maple Lodge nursing home. This goodwill and cheer is an ageless part of Christmas which we must ensure will continue in the future.

The Acton Venturer company is earning group funds for this coming year, by selling cords of wood for your fireplace. Brighten up your home and the Venturer programme by supporting the lads in this "Venture." To order your cord, ring up the chairman, Rick Jackson, at 853-1625.

From today onwards you should return your tickets for the colour television to your leader. The draw will be held on Christmas eve. All proceeds will be used for the new Scout hall.

The Scout and Guide Mothers will be holding their Christmas pot luck dinner tonight at the Scout hall. As with any pot luck it will be well worth attending.

Season's meaning
A small reminder to all those girls, boys and adults who celebrate Christmas. Look at the word and remember the true meaning of Christmas. This is one time of the year to be sure that you do your duty to God. Santa Claus is sometimes called Saint Nicholas because he certainly did not forget that evening in Bethlehem 1975 years ago.



GUESS WHAT THEY WANT for Christmas? Singers at the Dublin old-fashioned family night are Rochelle Appleyard, Angela Hunter and Nancy Norton.

Acton high notes

by Jennifer Rowe

Well, here it is...I bet you never thought it would arrive but it has. Christmas break is here and school's out at the end of the week.

Last Monday, Dean Fink our principal went to an interesting conference in Toronto where he spoke to educators from all over the United States and Canada. It involved about 120 people and Mr. Fink spoke on Effecting Change in the School System.

Every week I wrote about the upcoming dance. It was held last Thursday and was a huge success. I think everyone that attended enjoyed the music of "Charity Brown" and the general atmosphere of the dance good.

Coming up in the last week of Acton high school life is the Athletic Society's Sports Night. On Wednesday from 7:30 until 11:00 they will have games and any other fun-filled activities. It will be ending with a dance from nine until 11. Be there!

Also on Wednesday is the

classroom decorating contest. By the time you read this article the winner will already have been announced. May the best class win.

To put an end to the last week at Acton high, the grade 13's are keeping up tradition and putting on the Christmas assembly. They still promise this to be the best assembly ever. You haven't got much time left to polish up that skit and get your voices in tune for the choir contest.

We will start out the last day by once again parting with those memories of school life that we all know and love—all the valuable papers and lunches have to go during locker clean-out.

One important event coming up in January is the visit by the graduates to their Alma Mater on Grad's Day. It will be held on January 19 so if any of your past Grads are reading this, be sure to come to Acton high and tell us of your struggles for survival in the tough world. At least come down and say "Hi".



Robt. Little weekly news

By Merle McNabb

A correction made from last week. Our Christmas Dance will be held on Thursday evening starting at 7:00 p.m. and ending at 10:30 p.m. The admission is 50 cents.

The Student Council is having a raffle on a stuffed doll to be raffled this Friday. Proceeds to help our school. We thank Mrs. Garton for making the lovely doll for us. This week is busy for every

class at school. The primary and junior assemblies were held today (Wed.) and the seniors will be held tomorrow morning.

Friday morning the grades seven and eight will be having another dance in the gym as their Christmas Party and in the afternoon grades six, seven and eight will be going skating. School is then over at two p.m. for the holidays.

Free Press

Youth page

Acton pupils' work viewed

Trustees were treated to a short slide and sound presentation made by students at Robert Little School at Thursday's Halton Board of Education meeting.

The sight and sound project done by Acton pupils included some of the work they have done in the field of electronic music.

The students work was shown to the board as part of a report presented by the Creative Arts Program Council.

Pool plebiscite urged

MILTON—Before a new indoor pool is built in Milton Councillor Jim Watson wants a plebiscite. "Ask the people, do you want a bloody indoor heated swimming pool?" Watson says. Mayor Anne MacArthur pleaded with council not to kill the pool idea and suggested the town at least contact Halton Board of Education to see that when the new high school is built there are provisions for a pool. Watson is among the slim majority of councillors who are opposed to building a pool.

The Reincarnate

Fleeting thoughts of days gone by,
Race through my mind, I don't know why.
Ancient happenings are in my mind
These were my lives, now they unwind.

I remember once seeing a man on a cross
Giving his life so we wouldn't be lost.
And through our believing in what this man said
The early Christians were laid in their final bed.

As a witch I've been burned,
Through all my deaths I've learned,
That by being something not understood
You're destroyed by the rest, whether bad or good.

In this present life, they call me insane,
They put me away and greater is the pain,
But I've died a hundred times before,
It will not hurt to die once more.

Ron Ingles



JOLLY OLD SAINT Nick was the centre of attention at the Y Saturday afternoon. Balloons and children were everywhere, making Christmas spirits high.

Fire dangers at Christmas

"Christmas brings temptations to many parents, while visiting with neighbours or completing last minute shopping, to leave small children unattended for short periods," says Acton Fire Chief Mick Holmes.

"At the same time, decorations, trees and wrapping paper bring an increased threat of fire danger unless constant care is exercised."

The fire chief urges all

parents to recognize the fire danger of this season, and not to leave small children alone in the home even for a moment. He points out that the Criminal Code of Canada forbids such action which endangers the life or health of any child under the age of ten years.

Take care
Parents are further reminded that under certain conditions a Christmas tree can be ignited by a single

match to burn furiously to charred wood in a few seconds. Care must be taken to keep huts of natural trees immersed in water and to ensure that the tree itself does not obstruct access to a door or window. Families are also urged to review their home fire-escape plans for quick exit in an emergency.

As another year wraps itself up, the Acton Volunteer Firefighters will be enjoying the holiday season with their families. They hope everyone enjoys the next few weeks and have a safe new year.

CHRISTMAS CANDIES

- Creams • Jellies • Festive Mix • Cut Rock • Chocolate Drops • Toffees • Jelly Beans • Humbugs • Fruit Drops • Scotch Mints • Bridge Mix • Licorice • A.D. Mints • Caramels • Butterscotch Etc.
- For The Stockings • Chocolate Bars • Cracker Jacks • Lollipops • Life Savers • Gum • Etc.

HINTON'S

Toronto students to Erin

ERIN—Students kept out of classes because of the Toronto teachers' strike can attend classes at Erin High School and other Wellington County secondary schools. The students will be admitted to classes if they pay a monthly fee and there is room for them. Several Toronto students have applied to take classes in Wellington.

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Drinking and driving are bad combination

So you're going to be the affable "ho ho" host again this Christmas? And everyone knows you mix a lethal martini, and some of last year's guests couldn't even remember where they put their cars. It's a malpractice they got home at all.

They were lucky. Many drinking drivers never do make it home—especially at this time of year. But, as a host, you shouldn't trust to luck; rather, you should play an active part in ensuring your guests' safety.

How? By recognizing that the festive spirit doesn't all come out of a bottle.

Talk. Sing. Mingle with friends. Celebrate. Give. That's what the Christmas spirit ought to be about, and surely it doesn't take being boozed to the gills to achieve it.

Not that the host has to be Scrooge-like; but it's possible to offer alternatives to alcoholic beverages—tomato juice or perhaps, a non-alcoholic punch.

When it comes to pouring alcoholic beverages, you're not doing any favors by doling out random, generous amounts. Keep party drinks to measured one-ounce shots—

and even reduce their size, while increasing the amount of mix, as the evening wears on.

At some point in the party, serve food or coffee, or both. Contrary to popular opinion, neither will sober up a drunk, but at least coffee or food will take him away from the booze and allow his body to metabolize some of the alcohol it has consumed.

Neglect them
As a further inducement to this process, the good host can also engage in benign neglect of guests whose glasses appear constantly empty.

And for the last hour before your guests are ready to leave, refrain from serving any alcoholic beverages.

If you need help in deciding who goes home under their own steam—anything more than two or three drinks will impair ability to handle a car safely. If you need reassurance that you're right to deter anyone who's had more than that amount... remember that the drinking driver and his car form a potentially suicidal—or homicidal—combination, and that more than half of all auto accidents in Ontario involve alcohol.

O, Holy Night

We wish you a Christmas rich in love and peace. Thanks, friends for allowing us to serve you.

Mr. & Mrs. G. Baird
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