



BOBO THE HOBO created several balloon animals during his Christmas entertainment of Firefighter children Sunday. Bobo followed in the steps of Santa Claus who also visited the annual get-together.



HELPING THEMSELVES to their pre-Christmas dinner Acton Firefighters and their families celebrate during their annual party Sunday. The children had already gone down the line of seasonal foods on tables set up in the firehall.



DORIS AND Alf Duby and their grandson Michael Shannon enjoyed the firefighters' Christmas gathering.

Nass. crash

Two persons suffered minor injuries Friday afternoon in a two-car collision on 15 Sideroad, a half-mile east of the First Line in Nassagaweya.

Milton OPP said Ronald Gawley, of 171 Main St. S., Apt. 3, Georgetown, was driving a 1974 Dodge which was in collision with a 1970 Oldsmobile driven by Michael Moffat of Moffat.

A passenger in the Gawley car, 20-year-old Catherine Hoare of 185 King St., Georgetown, was treated in hospital for cuts and bruises.

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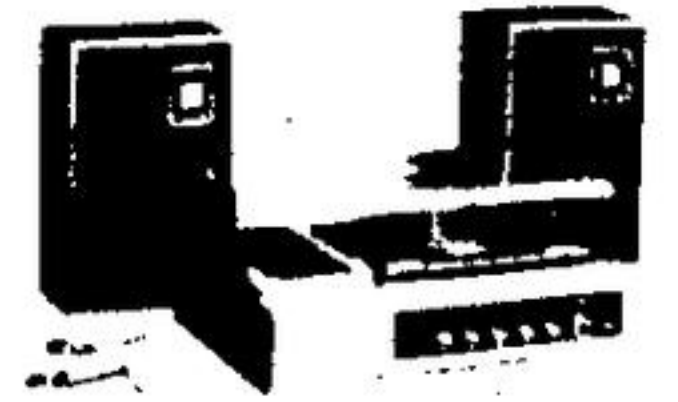
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Disgruntled landowner

Calls NEC plan 'land grab scheme'

"After all the restrictions put on land in the Niagara Escarpment all that is left for the private landowner to do without prohibition is to walk on the land, dig on it with a hand shovel, grow food or flowers on it, take pictures of it, or lie down and die on it."

This is the opinion of G. Frank Harshman of Britannia Rd. as he presented it to the Niagara Escarpment Commission's public meeting in Milton Dec. 10.

Mr. Harshman and his wife Alfie were two of many landowners and organizations who presented their views to chairman Anne MacArthur and a panel of NEC members. They called the NEC plan a "camouflaged land grab scheme on a par with stock manipulation."

"In the summer just passed we offered for sale to the City of Burlington 25 acres of magnificently beautiful se-

cluded and forested land in valley of the Twelve Mile Creek," Mr. Harshman explained. "This land had previously been designated by the Department of Recreation Services as the first priority for acquisition as park land. The land was assessed at \$4,000 per acre. This fair and reasonable offer was not just turned down by the Council but Mayor Harrington in reference to our land took the occasion to state the follow-

ing, '\$1,500 was enough to pay for land which cannot be built on'."

No democracy
The Harshmans complained this remark by Mayor Harrington was seriously depreciated in the eyes of the public the value of the property. "In this democracy it is shameful and incredible that such autocratic procedures should be allowed," he said.

"The denial of accepted and basic rights of property owners to sell their lands by the imposition of despotic and repressive controls, leads one to the inescapable conclusion that the primary objective is to destroy the market for these lands thus depreciating their value, at the expense, hardship or even bankruptcy of their shackled victims."

Worth more
Mayor Ivor MacMullin of Caledon, acting chairman of the commission, disagreed with Harshman and said NEC hadn't devalued land and was no more restrictive than municipalities. "I predict to you that land will ultimately be worth more in the Niagara Escarpment area when the plan is official," he said.

There will be more demand for land in controlled areas," Rod Pinkney on behalf of the South Esqueving landowners said the commission should "just buy the land and pay an honest price if they are as concerned as they say they are."

Farmers in the area objected to development within the escarpment because of pollution dangers. William Shields, a Derry Rd. farmer at the base of Rattlesnake Point said "Fifty years ago

you could drink from the creek and today you can't stand the smell. This has happened from the 38 houses already on the Escarpment."

Harold Middlebrook objected to a proposed development scheme Clembrook Estates. "There are six streams running through farms from the headwaters of Indian Creek to the Twelve Mile Creek. If this type of development goes through there'll be pollution," he said.

Refused sale
Clembrook Estates would involve 28 lots on 49 acres of land on Rattlesnake Point. The property is owned by E. B. Clements of Milton who claimed to have "credentials as a conservationist."

"In the past I have refused to sell Rattlesnake Point for quarrying," he told the meeting. "At considerable financial sacrifice we refused to have gravel mined there. We live there and we don't want that to happen."

Mr. Clements argued his plan of subdivision would preserve the area. "When I bought it in 1946 I thought I was doing something for conservation. I looked on it as a responsibility to the future, we can't really own land only have charge of it for a certain length of time."

Mr. Clements sold Rattlesnake Point to the Conservation Authority in 1961 at \$300 per acre—"a give-away" he said. He accused the people at the meeting as being "affected with an empire-building bug, it seems to be the nature of our civilization. The bigger the budget, the more we spend and the more we change things," he said. "I'm not a speculator, I think our

plan will preserve the land."

Frozen out
Chicken farmer Brouwers said he would be directly affected by the subdivision. "I will be frozen out of business," said the owner of a 40,000 chicken-raising operation.

NEC member Jack Boeckh of Caledon said the commission had no control of plans for subdivision. "We can only comment and forward our findings on to the Minister of Housing."

"I would think you could sell your eggs to the people," he joked.

People greedy
Casey Bos of Esqueving objected to building freezes on farmland. "People are too greedy in this country," he said. "What they say is, 'I have a nice piece of land and I don't want anyone on it. The Niagara Escarpment is the best place in the world to build. At Speyside in particular you can't grow anything on it anyway.'"

Gary Harron, Reeve of Bruce County, said there are no restrictions on the building of barns for livestock as long as the plans conform to local by-laws. "Development for a farmer's son on over 50 acres would be accepted," he said.

In answer to objections of

Wants Speyside wilderness

Wilson Dale, representing three landowners with 20 acres each in the planning area of the Niagara Escarpment Commission, suggested at a public meeting last week "land separated between development control should be allowed for building."

He said he was against

snowmobiles and trailbikes on Escarpment lands and suggested a wilderness area be established at Speyside. He would like the province to buy 600 acres now owned by Consolidated Sand and Gravel Ltd. for the wilderness area.

Further suggestions made

by Mr. Dale were for a restriction of one dwelling per lot, a linear park system, a legal status of the Bruce Trail firmly established, and the area left for quiet enjoyment.

He said the land should be free of any new pits or quarries.

Caledon mayor chairman

Ivor McMullin, 54, Mayor of the town of Caledon, has been appointed chairman of the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

The appointment effective immediately was announced by Premier William Davis on Wednesday (today).

Mr. McMullin has been a member of the Commission since 1973, when it was

established and set up headquarters in Georgetown.

The NEC was established for the purpose of developing a plan for the escarpment and surrounding area. The underlying principle of the plan is that any development should maintain the natural environment of the area.

The first Commission chairman was George R.

McCague of Alliston, who resigned to run in the September provincial election in the riding of Dufferin-Simcoe.

Mr. McMullin lives in Caledon, and is a former reeve of Albion township, a former warden of Peel County, and a life member of the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

Board sells Norval school

By gosh the price was finally right.

Halton Board of Education decided Thursday as trustees accepted Halton Hills' offer of \$59,500 for the Norval school.

The only possible stumbling block now that could prevent closing the book on the 26-month Norval school saga is approval by the Ministry of Education, which board chairman Judy Alexander says is contingent to closing the deal.

On December 8 Halton Hills

council tacked an extra \$24,500 onto their original offer of \$35,000 for the school. The purchase will include the 4.5 acres of land and both the old and new Norval school buildings.

Norval school first jumped into the headlines in November 1973 when the board first announced the school would close.

Residents fought hard to keep the school open and then have it reopened but eventually were beaten and then

pressed to have the town purchase the school so it could be used as a community centre and recreation area. Premier William Davis was even brought into the battle to reopen the school at one point but the board stood firm on the closing question.

The town has agreed not to sell the land for at least five years and the purchase is being financed by lot levies.

The sale concluded months of price negotiations between the municipality and board.

Last Minute Gift Ideas

Clairol CRAZY CURL WAND \$19.59	Men's TRAVEL SET \$6.95	Eveready Various Sizes HEAVY DUTY BATTERIES 99¢
100% Cotton Various Colours BATH TOWELS \$5.99	Photo ALBUMS \$1.88	Assorted SCENTED CANDLES from \$3.50
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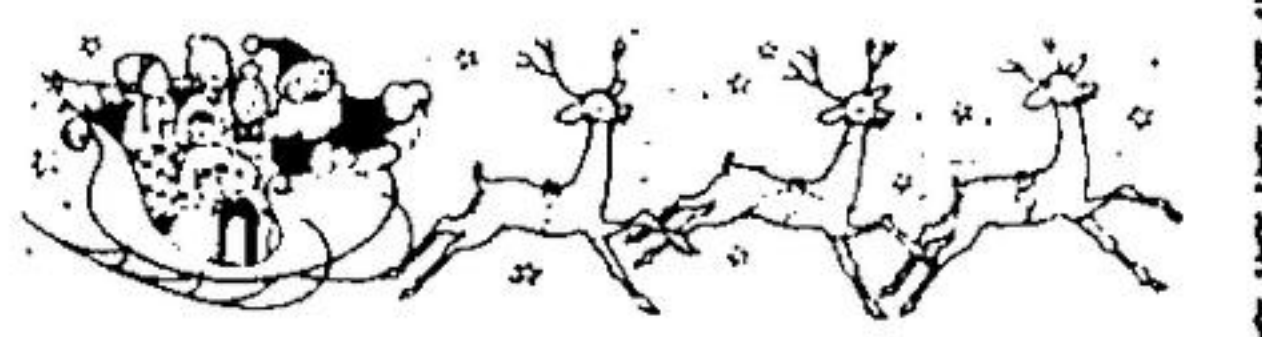
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Rudolph and two of Santa's Helpers will be posted in front of the "Village Boutique" at 124 Mill St. East, every evening this week from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The helpers are making lists and taking letters to Santa Claus. Rudolph will be leading Santa's team again this Christmas Eve and he would like to know exactly where to land the sleigh at your house. So come, and see Helper Marie, Helper Kim and Rudolph. Be sure to bring your letters to Santa Claus with you!



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