



Happy New Year. I hope your Christmas was totally satisfactory, full of love and old friends. For the first time in my life I had the thoroughly comfortable feeling that I didn't want a thing for Christmas—not even an extra dose of spiritual things—I had all I needed. It's almost frightening to feel that way. You keep wondering when the rain will fall on your parade. Despite requiring nothing for Christmas, I did receive some delightful gifts, the most unique of which was five peacocks. Yes, FIVE!

The peacocks come back to Peacock Sideroad. Magnificent in flight. A mama peahen and her four almost-grown chicks (two of each sex) came to live with us a few days before Christmas and are certainly dressing up the barn. Mama was previously named Harriet but we had the fun of naming the babes. We call them Aaron, Gabriel, Ruth and Naomi—biblical names for biblical birds. So, now, we're learning all about the care and feeding of peacocks.

The other animals have adjusted to the addition of these enormous birds admirably well. By now, they are so used to a constant stream of various beasts the old horses just shrug and keep eating.

For the first couple of days, the birds flew around the barn a great deal. They had been used to the upper part of a huge old-fashioned barn, roosting in the tip-top beams and flying thirty or forty feet high.

What a surprise when they came to our little stable. The sight of five turkey-sized glorious birds in full flight around a 30 x 24 foot barn was quite something.

However, they've settled in now and we're keeping everything crossed hoping to raise them through till spring.

Incidentally, out of the magnificent green and gold throat of a peahen comes the most awful sound you've ever heard.

Speaking of that little barn, it was certainly full this Christmas. We have only three horses now, two old girls (one we've had for seventeen years), and a retired Thoroughbred belonging to friends.

The two donkeys and the hinny spent a noisy Christmas asking for carrots at every opportunity. Believe me, when a hinny asks for a carrot, you oblige.

There're also two-and-a-half cows belonging to Patrick and all the hens. I just wish we could train the hens to stand on a Christmas tree for decoration. The colour of their feathers would surpass any glass ornament. From the gold of the pencilled Harburs, the deep mahogany of the brown Leghorn, to the gold of the Buffs, the cascade of colour on the banty rooster, the partridge coloration of the banty hens and the vivid blue faces of the Silkies. What a display they would make.

In the house live two guinea pigs, three persian cats (one's a Himalayan), one old dog, and four fairly new people.

We spent most of Christmas replacing icicles on the tree—one of the cats is a lively kitten. The tree is supported in a pail filled with rocks and Erica elected to fill that pail with water. When I noticed her trickling a few ounces of water from a teapot into the large water pail, I remarked she would need many many teapots full to provide enough water.

Looking from the teapot to the tree, she said, "Okay, tree, suck on the rocks." And it did.

M.Z. Bennett school Christmas concert highlights



Last day of school



Plan course on farm management

By Henry J. Stanley
A special eight session course on farm management and income tax is being scheduled for the Agricultural Office early in the new year. This course is open to the first 35 applicants from Halton and vicinity and will be held every Tuesday evening from 8 to 10.00 p.m. in the Agricultural Office, 181 Main Street, Milton.

Staff from the local Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, assisted by special guest speakers, will discuss the following topics— Farm Accounting and understanding of terms (Net Farm Income, etc.); Cash Flow and

Net Worth Statements; Budgeting; Succession Duties, Gift Tax; Capital Gains Tax; Income Tax—Livestock Inventory, depreciation, etc.; Transferring Property, Life Insurance.

The goal of this course is to provide farm people with a better basic knowledge of the topics so that they might avoid problems in the future and be more successful in their farm business.

Office closed

The Free Press office will be closed Friday and open again Monday.

Sanders out all night

Region sand trucks were out all night Monday during the snowfall.

Road reports at 637-5625

Road condition reports can be obtained by phoning the Ministry of Transportation and Communication offices in Burlington.

Milton OPP report they have received a number of calls for road conditions and people interested in this information should call 637-5625.

The service is available 24 hours a day for any part of the province, between November and April.

Milton OPP are supplying the above number to motorists asking for road reports and they suggest all motorists make a note of this number.

Renovation

Work will begin soon on renovations to the Erin arena. A tender for \$34,200 has been accepted. Ice could be provided within a couple of weeks.

The arena will be brought up to the Ontario Department of Labor standards. Erin Agricultural Society president Ken Leitch said that the Society feels this is the only possible course, since it needs a building for the annual fall fair and other society-related functions.

The public is being asked for financial support.

AT THE FAMILY BARBER SHOP



BARBARA DUNN tells Santa just what she wants during the M.Z. Bennett School concert last Wednesday. Santa's helpers are Lisa Near and Karen Glenn.

History of Alton

The history of the village of Alton is included in a new school textbook, The World of People. The book was published this fall by McGraw-Hill and is written by Mrs. Susan Kil. The book is written for grade six students. The part about the village of Alton is written as an example of how students can study their own communities.

DANCING

Every Saturday
9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
at the Acton Legion

JAN. 8 — NO DANCE

JAN 15 — Wheels	FEB 5 — Persian Market
22 — Country Syde	12 — Wheels
29 — B.J. Wright	19 — Country D's
	26 — Guardsmen

Admission: \$4.00 per couple

Happy New Year
ENTERTAINMENT IN LOUNGE EVERY FRIDAY
NIGHT 9 P.M. — 1 A.M.

Visit the Friendly Merchants at MILTON MALL

Milton Mall is open today and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Friday Dec. 31, From 9:30 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Beginning Monday, Jan. 3 Milton Mall will be open 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Saturday 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

MILTON MALL
Highway 25 and Main Street
Milton's only enclosed shopping area. Shop in climate-controlled comfort. Acres and acres of free parking

The New Year bells ring out... our hearty wishes for a prosperous New Year!

VAN'S WELDING

COME ONE - - COME ALL ENTERTAINMENT GALORE

AT THE RE-OPENING OF THE OLD GEORGETOWN MEMORIAL ARENA

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30th

FREE ADMISSION FOR AFTERNOON ONLY!

PROGRAM INCLUDES -
12 NOON TO 1:30 P.M.—PUBLIC SKATING
2 P.M. TO 5 P.M.—HOCKEY GAMES—ACTON vs GEORGETOWN GIRLS' HOCKEY ALSO ON PROGRAM

— EVENING PROGRAM —

ADMISSION: ADULTS \$2.50 : CHILDREN \$1.00 : STUDENTS \$1.50
DOORS OPEN 6 P.M.

6:45 p.m.—BROOMBALL GAME
7:15 p.m.—GEORGETOWN FIGURE SKATING CLUB
8:30 p.m.—"OPENING CEREMONIES"
9:00 p.m.—Hockey

INT. "A" RAIDERS VS. JNR. "B" GEMINIS

ALSO
PLAN TO ATTEND THE HOT STOVE LOUNGE
EXTENSIVE REPAIRS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED ON THE OLD ARENA - - COME OUT AND SEE THE WONDERFUL CHANGE