

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

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## The Acton Free Press

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FOR THE SECOND YEAR in a row, Nancy Wong earned the Halton Board of Education award of merit, for being the provincial champion in the Knights of Columbus basketball free throw last year. Coach Sharon Preston was on hand when school board trustee Bert Hinton presented Nancy with her certificate.

### Nancy Wong does it again

For the second year in a row, Nancy Wong has received an award of merit from the Halton Board of Education. Nancy, now an Acton high school student, received the award for outstanding achievement while a student at Robert Little School last year. Nancy had placed first in the Knights of Columbus free throw basketball, for girls 12 years of age and under. For the second time, Nancy walked off with the provincial championship. Her coach was teacher Miss Sharon Preston. School board trustee Bert Hinton presented Nancy with a certificate last Thursday during an informal gathering at Robert Little. She was too old to participate in the event this year.

### Fund started

## Four homeless at Eden Mills

As a result of a bad fire, four people were left homeless. Last Thursday night a fire broke out in the home of Mrs. Marie Mitchell of Eden Mills. Her three children managed to get out safely and no injuries were incurred. Estimated damage to the home was \$18,000. Fire Chief Carl Meadows of the Rock-

wood Fire Dept. said that the bedrooms were gutted, the living room and kitchen were badly smoke and water damaged. Right away many volunteers started a fund-raising drive to help the family through Christmas. Within a couple of hours after the blaze, apartments and money

were donated. The family spent the night at the home of Mrs. Betty Marshall before making any decision where to go for Christmas. Volunteers walking door to door collected quite a bit of money and clothing for the family. The Eden Mills Community Hall was opened all day for the money donations of clothing, bedding, and furniture. The response was well noted as donations poured in from Guelph, Eden Mills, Rockwood and surrounding areas. Donations of money are still being accepted. Donations of clothing, bedding, etc. are at a standstill as

the family has to see how much they have attained and what is needed. Two Christmas hampers were donated by the Salvation Army and the Rockwood Lionettes. The family will be staying in Rockwood until a new home is built. "This proves that our community spirit has not died, in such a crisis as this one. Many of the supporters and donors felt just a tiny bit better as Christmas came. The support came from everyone's heart and it is good to know that most people still can put forth a helping hand to a friend in need," Mrs. Marshall said.

## ICG pins hopes on Supreme Court action

Citizens groups opposed to the Ontario Government's efforts to push through the Bruce-Milton hydro corridor hope to use the Supreme Court of Canada as a barricade.

The groups in the north, central and south sections of the 500 kV line will work closer together to get a case to the Supreme Court, Interested Citizens Group (ICG) member, John Schneider said Monday.

The groups are trying to get clarification of an Ontario Supreme Court decision which stated information concerning alternate routes should be heard during expropriation hearings.

The ICG's bid to get an appeal before the high court comes in the wake of the Ontario Government's refusal of an independent review of alternate routes to the one chosen by Ontario Hydro. The public utility wants to build a corridor from the Bruce nuclear generating station on Lake Huron to Milton.

The ICG wanted a review of the Bruce-Milton line plus a line going to Kitchener, one of the original choices of Ontario Hydro.

Energy Minister James Taylor said he consulted Ontario Hydro and checked the facts before deciding to back the government's choice of route in the cabinet. He said it would take from two to four years for an environmental study of a line to Kitchener. ICG spokesman wondered why the line to Kitchener needed study, when they are not accorded the same rights.

Citizens along the north section of the line will make an appeal to the Supreme

Court of Canada, and the south and central parts of the line will give the north financial support, Schneider said.

The high court will decide early in January whether or not to hear the appeal, Schneider said.

Regardless of the January decision by the federal court, the Ontario divisional court appeals for the south and central portions of the line will be in place, Schneider said.

If we lose the case of the north before the federal court, then we will take the other two sections to the divisional court. If the cases are in Hydro's favor in the south and central parts, then we will again appeal to the higher court, Schneider said.

The cabinet's confirmation of the Bruce-Milton route follows closely the release of a report by a private consultant which shed doubt on the appropriateness of that line.

For about four years the ICG has opposed the idea of a Bruce-Milton line, mainly because the citizens group wanted an independent study of it and alternates. They pointed out that the Nanticoke-Pickering line, to which the Bruce-Milton line is planned to link up at Milton, had such an independent study by Dr. Solandt.

The ICG often argued that a better path for taking power from the nuclear station would follow a line roughly from the generator to Essa, near Lake Simcoe.

The consultant's report, prepared by Slater Energy Consultants of Toronto, states the Bruce-Essa line has "better overall prospects" than the Bruce-Milton line.

## Christmas bus has 1134 riders

The Christmas shopping bus saw 1134 passengers between December 14 and December 24, according to Ted Tyler, owner of the bus lines.

The town was divided into three routes consisting of route one, Glenlea, route two, Crescent area and Bovis subdivision and route three, Kingham and Lakeview, Mr. Tyler explained.

An accurate daily tally was kept by driver Ken Budd who said route one saw 115 shoppers in the mornings, and 323 riders in the afternoon. Route two had 93 morning riders and 259 afternoon passengers and route three had 114 riders in the morning and 230 in the afternoon. Mr. Tyler said their statistics showed more users went directly to the main shopping area in the morning than in the afternoon, ex-

plaining that in the p.m. people would use the free transportation to get from one end of town to another.

The most popular day was December 23, with the weekends also being busy. Mondays were slow, Mr. Tyler said, but Fridays were busy. He attributes this to the fact that most people are paid on Thursdays.

Poor weather only made the going rough for one day, according to Mr. Tyler. Tuesday, December 20, the bus had one wheel slide off the road, where it was stuck on the ice. Not even a tow truck could speedily pull it out of its mess, throwing off its entire schedule.

The bus could be flagged down anywhere along its routes, which it covered at 20 minute intervals. Riders were free of charge, compliments of the Acton Business Improvement area.

## Special insert today's paper

Don't miss the insert in today's Free Press!

It's one to be kept and referred to throughout the coming winter and spring season.

The 12-page special section lists all the courses and sports groups available at Acton Y, arena, schools, parks and pool.

Organizations co-operating in listings are the recreation department, Board of Education, Y.M.C.A., Health Unit, Contact Centre, Red Cross and Credit Valley Artisans.

The classes are in both Acton and Georgetown, easily listed together for convenience.

Special events announced are the ladies' activity workshops at Acton Y, skating on natural ice rinks, the region winter carnival, the town of

Halton Hills recognition night, and a community recreation conference.

The folder also informs young people about jobs available with the recreation department.

Every copy of the Acton Free Press and the Georgetown Independent will contain a copy of the insert this week.

In Acton and immediate area, extra copies will also be available at the town office, Ed's In and Out store, Royal Milk Store, Becker's Store, Jockey's Village Variety, C.K. Browne's and Gail's Gulf service station on Highway 25.

There will also be spare copies at the Free Press. There is no charge for them.

Every home should have one!

## Night school courses begin week of Jan. 16

High school night school will resume in the new year after an absence of several months, according to organizer Boris Shean.

Because of the construction of the new school, and various other problems, there were no courses offered in the fall. At that time, it was promised the programs would return in January.

Classes start the week of January 16, with registration held January 5 at the school.

Monday evenings sees Ian McGillivray teaching book-keeping for small business, microwave cooking with Marlon Matthews and Blair Beemer once again in charge of the First Aid for St. John Ambulance. Basic sewing is also Monday evenings with Kay Hannah, Sally Hamilton with off-loom weaving, and Murray Swanston with wood-working.

Tuesday night features Brush Up Office and Typing Skills taught by Joan Kroll and crocheting with Mrs. McGeraghe. Clarence Rognvaldson will head the Electricity for the Home Owner class, and Ruth Wilson

teaches the interior design course. A very popular course from last year, landscaping, has returned with Rudy Schubert as the instructor. Members of the high school staff will be teaching metrication. Palmistry will be headed by Pam Manatou and June Levy will be teaching pottery. Joan Williamson will be instructing woollen toy making.

Bill Coats will teach bridge and Jean McArthur is in charge of fitness and recreation. Sally Hamilton will head the macramé class and Jim Goring will be teaching oil and water painting. Kay Hannah is heading the sewing with knit fabrics class and the theatre arts for the community of Geoff Sansom. Joan Kroll is teaching the typing for beginners. Melanja Bray teaches beginners' yoga Wednesdays and continuing yoga on Thursday. Both are held at Robert Little school. All courses are eight weeks in length except microwave cooking which is five weeks and metrication which is a three week course.

## No town pickups garbage still goes

When merchants discovered too late there was no garbage pickup on Friday, they were able to solve the problem easily this year.

With bags and cartons all set out for the regular Friday pickup on the main streets, the shopkeepers realized the town staff had a holiday Friday and there would be no garbage pickup until Tuesday - five days away.

Business Improvement Area chairman Henry Stachyra took the bull by the horns and called private contractor Don McIntyre to come and do the job instead of the town men.

We'll figure it out later, Mr. Stachyra said. Meanwhile, the garbage was not sitting out on the streets all over Christmas weekend.

## McKenzie calls for fire plan

Acton Councillor Pat McKenzie has called for a plan that will assure that Acton has the best possible fire protection in times of emergency.

Mr. McKenzie made his plea during a public works meeting after becoming concerned about a situation that occurred Dec. 6 in Acton when a major water main broke.

Mr. McKenzie told the committee that certain parts of the town were without water

from 4.30 one afternoon to 7.30 the next afternoon.

He noted there were no major fires during the night but expressed fear about what would happen if one had started and the town was without a proper water supply.

He praised the regional works crew for working through the night to restore proper water pressure and to repair the main. "It is not just Acton I'm concerned about. It could happen anywhere in the

region". The committee agreed that the fire department should be alerted so firefighters could stand by ready for a quick response.

It was also suggested that neighboring fire departments be alerted to the possibility of an emergency so that tankers could be ready to respond.

Mr. McKenzie noted the Halton Hills tanker truck is in Georgetown but one is being purchased for Acton and will be stationed at the Acton Fire

Hall once renovations are completed there.

Director of Public Works Bob Moore said the region is still waiting on final approvals before hooking up the pump-house at Prospect Park in Acton. Had that pump-house been in operation at the time of the break it wouldn't have been nearly as threatening, he said in a staff report to the committee. That station is expected to be operative in the near future.

## Collision on Mill St. W.

A couple of vehicles backing out of driveways collided on Mill Street West Christmas Eve afternoon.

One vehicle was driven by Donald Seal of North Bay. Police estimate damage to his vehicle at \$200.

A van driven by Margaret O'Hara of 55 Greenore Cres. was the other vehicle involved in the mishap. Police say no damage was sustained by the van.

# Acton new home for newspaper calling for Croatian independence



MEHMED BASIC leads a busy life as editor of the Croatian Voice.

A call for Croatian independence heard in 57 countries around the world goes out from Acton every week as the newspaper the Croatian Voice has found a home in this town.

Mehmed Basic (pronounced bos-itch) edits the paper from cramped offices on Mill Street, where the operation moved October 15 of this year. The office is decorated with a bullet and a few dried flowers from the graves of 300,000 Croatians murdered by Russian communists in 1945, and Mr. Basic speaks with feeling of the movement for independence and democracy of Croatia.

"The Croatian Voice" he says, "is the official organ of the Croatian Peasant Party." The party was founded 75 years ago by Stjepan Radic (pronounced Rod-itch) with his brother Ante Radic.

Radic shot When Croatia was made part of Yugoslavia after World War I by the Versailles

Treaty, Stjepan Radic fought for Croatian independence. "When the Serbians saw Radic was going to gain freedom, they shot him in Parliament," said Basic. Two MP's were killed instantly in the raid, which occurred in June 1928. Radic himself died in August of the same year. The party has since been banned many times in Yugoslavia, but its leaders have fought "even from jail" for independence, according to Mr. Basic.

During World War II they were underground, and their leader spent four years in a concentration camp. After the war their army was tricked: they laid down their arms and were massacred by the Russians at Bleiburg.

Mr. Basic came out of Yugoslavia then, after having been wounded in the massacre, and went to England, where he edited another Croatian paper. He lived there until this year when he went to Winnipeg to edit the Croatian Voice. The

operation was moved here in October.

Great Weapon The newspaper is the greatest weapon the Croatians have, said Mr. Basic. "Our main fight is the press. We're a peaceful party." He added the Croatians do not believe in riots and demonstrations, saying "That would give the communists a rope to call us fascists."

Basic says the papers are being published in places like Canada and England on the advice of Radic, who believed that a free people can fight where the Croatians could not in their home country.

There are 8,000 to 9,000 political prisoners out of a total Croatian population of 9,000,000 in Yugoslavia. This compares with an equal number of political prisoners out of the 240,000,000 population of Russia, according to Mr. Basic. He said that Croatians are not allowed to speak anything

against the government or they will be put in jail.

Because of the oppression in Yugoslavia, generally thought of as one of the progressive states in the communist sphere, Croatians have spread out throughout the world to work for freedom.

"Radic's democratic fight for the independence of Croatia still lives on in Croatians all over the world," said Mr. Basic.

Many Groups "There are organizations in many Canadian towns, including many around here" continued Mr. Basic. He mentioned Toronto, Hamilton, Windsor and Rockwood as places which housed Croatian groups.

They have all been active in Canada, and when a banquet was held recently in Toronto, communists protested the appearance of the speaker of the house James Jerome at the ceremonies.

They were commemorating 50 years of the Croatian Peasant Party in Canada at

the dinner. The Croatian Voice had been printing for 75 years before it reached its present home.

Six People The paper is produced by a staff of six people, led by Mr. Basic, who collect all the advertising, do the editing and type setting.

General manager of the paper is Vlatimir Mance of Rockwood.

Ena Petty, who works for the Free Press, helps out with the typesetting duties for the Croatian Voice, although she cannot speak or read Croatian.

Mr. Basic has started an English page on the paper, and hopes to have a second one after Christmas. "A lot of younger people like to read both Croatian and English" he says.

In Disguise The job of editing a newspaper is hard enough in normal circumstances, but

Mr. Basic has some additional problems to face. "While visiting Germany I have to go in disguise" he said. "As editors, we are the biggest target." He is afraid of being found by the Yugoslavian secret police, UDBA.

"Here I can breathe," Mr. Basic sighs. "I am not afraid here, not really. Acton is a warm and friendly town, just the place for us."

Although he left his homeland years ago, he still keeps his drive for her independence strong. He knows that the peaceful methods the Croatians are using will take a long time to work, but also that they are more likely to succeed than riots and demonstrations.

"I may never see a free Croatia," he concluded. "We want to keep fighting so our grandchildren can see the same democracy as you have in Canada."