

Hospitals help to fight Christmas loneliness

many having the day off. She explained however, that all the staff work either Christmas or New Year's. If they worked Christmas last year they will have it off this year.

The ill have not been left out of Christmas festivities at least not the ill in Guelph's two hospitals which service Acton residents.

At Guelph General hospital, doctors attempt to send home all the patients they can to enjoy Christmas at home. Those who are bedridden on Monday will get a chance to visit with Santa. They also will get a special turkey dinner, with one relative also being invited to stay.

St. Joseph's continuing care unit have had a busy month with a different activity happening almost every day. Patients have been busy being entertained by such groups as the Guelph Concert band, and other musical groups in the Royal City. Some people were taken to see the dress rehearsal of the play "The Messiah", while others enjoyed a tour of the city to see the Christmas lights.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, the Salvation Army brought baskets of candies and nuts in to each patient. The Young People's Pantomime from Owen Sound

treated the children the day of the Guelph Santa Claus parade, and Beardmore of Acton brightened the children's Christmas also by their good will.

School children from Guelph have gone carolling in the halls. Director of Nursing, Evelyn Curtis told The Acton Free Press staff is treated as if it were a weekend, with

Council changes

A change in the committee structure of Halton Hills council eliminates the two separate committee meetings and establishes one general committee of the whole council, which meets every other Monday, between regular council meetings.

The chairmanship of the committee will change every month, operating on an alphabetical basis.

The Guelph Rotary Club, the Salvation Army and the Brownies have been carolling in the hospital halls and the Knights of Columbus have helped brighten Christmas up.

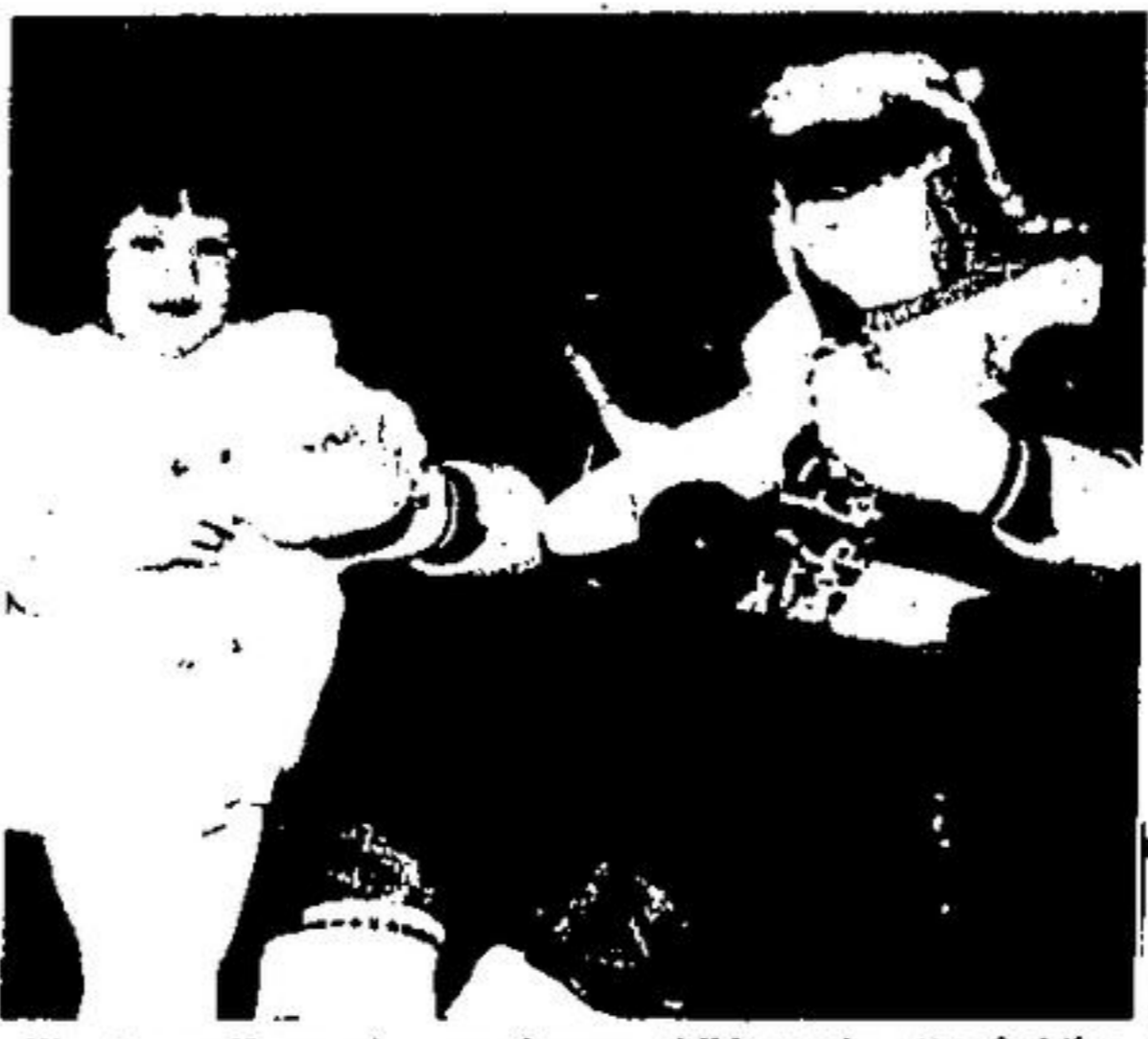
A tree trimming party was held recently and the nurses, hospital recreation department and volunteers decorated the halls and the doors. Christmas day, a special dinner will be served. Each patient will be allowed one guest, courtesy of the hospital.



Eliza McEachern was so grateful for the gift Santa gave her at the Legion Christmas party Sunday she decided to give him a big kiss. Legion member Don Lindsay looks on



Michael Douglas wasn't big enough to go see Santa by himself, so enlisted the aid of his mother to take him. Santa visited the Legion Sunday afternoon to take part in the annual Legion Christmas party. Each child received a gift.



Wee Laura Henry was one of many children who attended the Legion Christmas party Sunday afternoon. Santa gave Laura a ride-in-toy and Laura gave Santa a big thank you.

Leather industries heel...

(Continued from Page 1) of Canada 60th annual meeting recently, the country's tanners still have production capacity. "We generally can make deliveries within five to eight weeks. This compares to an eight to ten week lead time needed by many U.S. tanners," said Mr. Dunham.

Mr. Dunham is also president of the Tanners Association of Canada and is therefore in a position to speak from an industry point of view. He assured shoe manufacturers most tanners can handle more orders.

Mr. Dunham, in an interview with this newspaper, said most tanneries were running at about 60 per cent. "Now we've met demands," he said. In the first quarter of this year, for example, deliveries were up one per cent. In the second quarter they went up 19 per cent, and in the third quarter the figure reached 26 per cent.

Within the industry there is still about 20 per cent capacity, said the tanner association president.

Behind the figures of increased leather production, there are changes in the method of buying and selling on the way.

Some of the traditional timetables for shoe manufacturers to order from tanners are being pushed ahead.

According to the outgoing chairman of the board of the Shoe Manufacturer's Association of Canada Don MacLeod, manufacturers normally meet in mid-February to plan the next fall's back-to-school lines. Instead they will meet in the first week of January. The large orders for those shoes were placed with tanners in November instead of the traditional December.

As a consequence tan-

neries, such as Beardmore in Acton, are going to have to stock large amounts of unfinished leathers, and finish them as soon as manufacturers know what they want.

"We", said MacLeod, "will have to keep feeding them (tanners) information on a constant basis, improving not only the quality of information exchanged, and the timing must be realistic."

The closer connections between the leather and shoe manufacturers is one result of the import quotas imposed by Ottawa last year. The federal government, in an attempt to breathe more life into the industries, restricted the number of shoes coming into Canada from foreign manufacturers.

In effect, Ottawa created a demand for domestically made shoes. For the next two years, imports will be held at 32.5 million pairs of shoes. In 1977 the number was 39.1 million shoe imports, without the restriction. Domestic shoe manufacturers hope to boost sales by 4.4 million per year.

Longer production runs of shoes have lessened the sting of higher prices for leather to shoe manufacturers, but the tanner is still feeling the effects of pressures especially from Japan.

Japanese buyers came to North America and put down more dollars than the going rate for leathers—thereby removing them from the local market, said Mr. Dunham. Meanwhile, some South American governments in bids to improve their domestic shoe manufacturers, also removed much of their leathers from the market. These two steps combined with the devaluation of the Canadian dollar drove up the price for tanners.

However, Mr. Dunham

said, during the past decade the cost of shoes in the Cost of Living Index, has been in line. "But over the last three years, prices have increased because of the 34 cent to 70 cent per pound of hide increase," he said. Those figures are in U.S. cents, so one must add about 18 per cent for the Canadian increase.

Shoe manufacturers have been able to absorb some of the cost of leather with longer runs.

For the shoe buyer, importers and retailers agree there are no serious problems which can be levelled on the quotas.

When Ottawa slapped on the quotas last year, they were to come off in three years. However, efforts are being made within the industry, to extend the life on the restrictions, on a specific basis.

According to MacLeod, the

industry will be after Ottawa to maintain quantitative restrictions on imports from nations which, because of low cost labor, are very competitive in Canada. Eighteen nations, including Canada, met at Brussels in September.

The Brussels meeting was hosted by the European Economic Community. From that gathering there was a

resolution for the respective National Associations of Footwear Manufacturers, to approach their governments to make the restrictions more selective. Such a step would decrease the need for global quotas which are worked into current trade and tariff agreements.

The effect of such a selective quota could mean lower prices for hides, skins and leathers.

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