

The Acton Free Press

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Easter, time of hope

Although Christmas is the religious holiday which spawns joyous celebration, Good Friday and Easter Sunday are the most significant days in the Christian calendar. They commemorate events which have been a landmark for western civilization almost 20 centuries and present a mystery.

Without Good Friday there couldn't be an Easter Sunday. Without suffering there can never be a resurrection.

Easter comes at a particularly apt time for Canadians, as the earth is reawakening from the barrenness of winter. Just when we begin to think that our days are a procession of dreary black

and white landscapes the earth renews itself, with Spring. It brings renewed confidence and hope.

Similarly, Easter with its message of hope and resurrection is a time when we should all celebrate, not with the tinselly joy of Christmas but with reverence and awe at the message of hope which began in a grave and was fulfilled in an empty tomb.

In this spirit we hope your Easter may be filled with joy and you may appreciate more fully the message which comes out loud and clear in the Easter greeting of Russian peasants.

"Christ is Risen," is the Easter greeting.

"Christ is Risen Indeed," is the affirmative reply.

A job well done

A season of learning and hard work was on display Saturday afternoon when the Acton Figure Skating Club held a 'Pop' Concert.

Enthusiasm was high for the youngsters involved in the show. If there was any disorganization, it certainly did not show on the ice. There was the usual number of spills, but most were due mainly to nervousness, and not reflecting their actual skating abilities in any way.

Much talent was shown during the show, already developed, some just getting started.

And what better place to get started than with the local club. Dedicated professionals strive to make their students another Karen Magnusson or Dorothy Hamill. They know most will not, but there is always the hope they will turn out one great success.

A few weeks ago, the club was on the verge of closure when, because of lack of interest, a board of directors could not be mustered. Everyone is willing to send their children skating, but no one is willing to help them during

their lessons. It is the same old story. Everyone is willing to volunteer to help, but when it comes time to do the work, only a handful of the 'same people' show up.

A meeting was held last week to the executive to decide whether the club should continue. Surprisingly enough, many people came out of the woodwork to help. Let's hope their interest does not wane as soon as they find out it takes work to run such a large organization and is not always fun.

There are many people who owe a lot to the Acton Figure Skating. Some have left town and gone on to other things. Some still live in Acton, and their children are now learning how to skate through the same ranks they did. Hopefully the club can keep going so that today's youngster's children will star in carnivals or pop concerts.

To all the organizers, coaches, and professionals of this season, and all past seasons, a salute for a job well done. The youngsters of Acton need you more than they think.—H.J.M.

We'll miss Dr. Oakes

Acton has lost another prominent and popular citizen with the sudden death Sunday of Dr. Frank Oakes at his home on Jeffrey Ave. Dr. Oakes had a long record of civic service to the community and in Halton both in his professional duties and in the many voluntary positions he assumed during his active years.

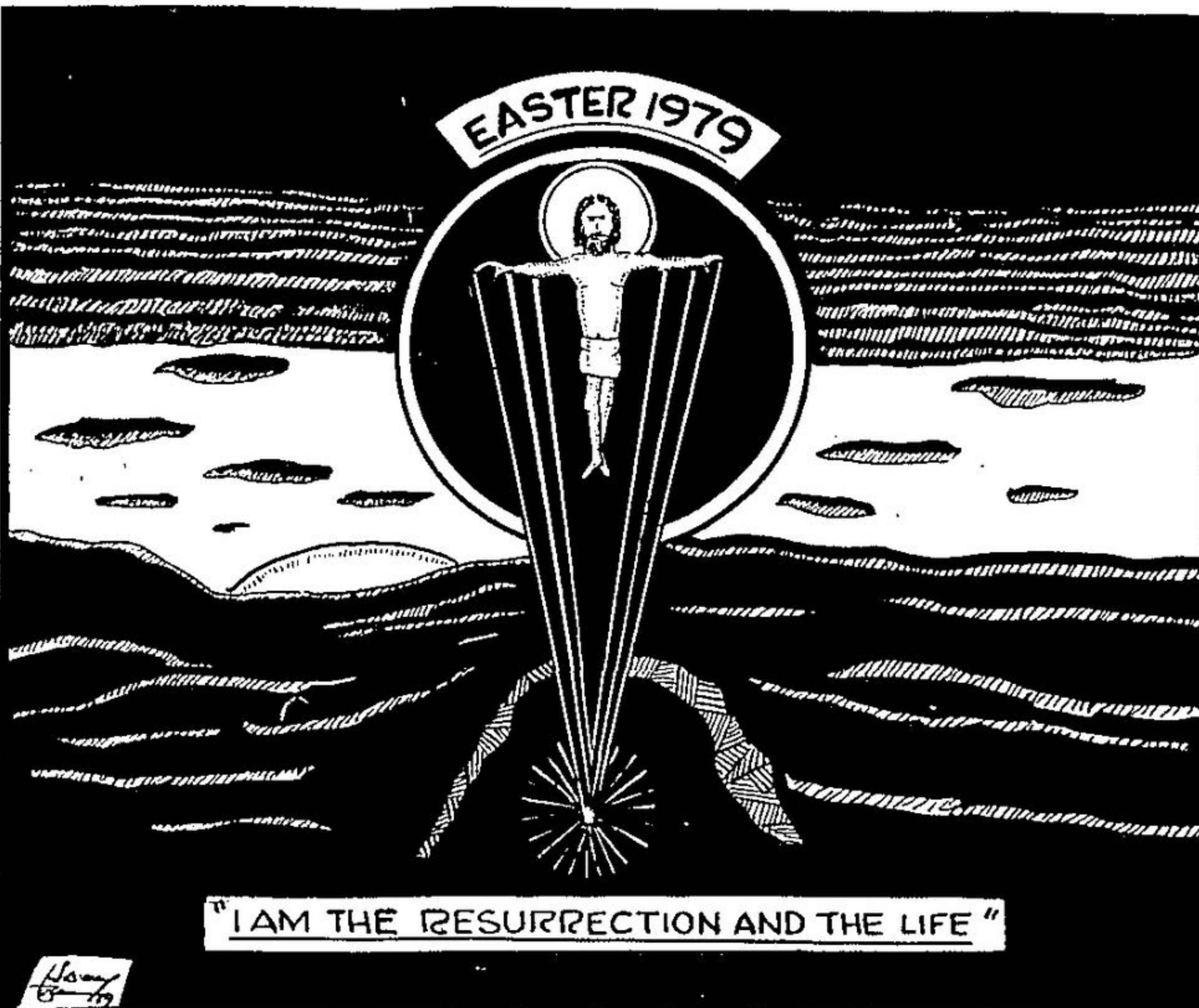
He had a cheerful disposition that made him popular not only as a veterinarian but as a politician and member of many community organizations. A fiscal conservative, he served responsibly on town councils for the former town of Acton where his knowledge of finances inevitably chose him as chairman of finance committees.

Dr. Oakes was also a sports fan who enjoyed hockey and baseball when his busy practice allowed him the time to attend games. His interest in all facets of community life made him many friends and acquaintances who were shocked to hear of his sudden death Sunday at 67 years of age. He'll be missed not only by his



Dr. Frank Oakes

family and friends but by all of us who knew, respected and liked Frank Oakes when he was among us.



Whoever wins Halton carries the country

When the polls close on the evening of May 22, marking the end of Canada's 31st election, Halton voters will probably have elected a Progressive Conservative candidate to represent them in Ottawa.

However, that is only provided they follow the pattern their voting has taken in the three previous elections during the Trudeau years.

A surface analysis of the general election results for Halton 1968, 1972 and 1974 reveals Halton voters tend to elect either a Liberal or Progressive Conservative candidate who has been untried in the riding, rather than return their incumbent MP.

As a result, Halton was represented by a Liberal after 1968, a PC after 1972 and a Liberal after 1974.

In the 10 general elections dating back 33 years from 1968, a change in Halton during one election almost seemed to forecast a change in Ottawa after the next. But Pierre Trudeau's emergence as leader of the Liberal party put a stop to that.

On July 8, 1974, Dr. Frank Philbrook, a Liberal, was elected to office in his first attempt, defeating the incumbent Progressive Conservative candidate Terrence O'Connor.

Philbrook captured 23,479 votes in Halton, compared with 21,556 by O'Connor in one of the riding's closest battles in recent years. NDP candidate Archie Brown ran a distant third.

It is interesting to note Philbrook and O'Connor each polled 1,833 in the

advance poll. O'Connor successfully ran for Halton MP in the election of July 1972, in his first attempt. His total topped the votes polled by the incumbent Liberal Rud Whiting by some 2,200. Carolyn Holstein of the NDP came far back in third.

O'Connor's election marked the first time Halton was represented by a Progressive Conservative at both the federal and the provincial levels. MPP Jim Snow was Minister of Government Services.

Robert Stanfield, PC leader at the time, gave O'Connor's campaign a boost when he kicked off

his own southwestern Ontario campaign before an overflow crowd at the Oakville Arena.

Present at the rally were notable PC personalities, Premier William Davis, Paul Hellyer, former Ontario Justice Minister Alan Lawrence and current Halton PC candidate Otto Jelinek. At the time, Jelinek represented Toronto High Park.

The eight-month campaign encouraged 83 per cent of Halton's eligible voters to go to the polls.

In the election of June 25, 1968, Whiting, in his first attempt was elected MP by a comfortable

margin in Oakville and Halton over PC candidate Peter McWilliams and Miltonian Murray Kernighan of the NDP.

Whiting led the Halton Liberals in 1968 after the incumbent Liberal MP, Dr. Harry Harley retired after three successive and successful campaigns.

At the Liberal nomination meeting, Whiting edged present-day Councilor Mac Anderson, a former mayor of Oakville, on the fourth ballot. McWilliams was making his first and only attempt to be elected Halton MP.

In the elections of 1935, 1940, 1945 and 1949 Halton elected the Liberal candi-

date, Hughes Cleaver of Burlington as the Grits swept the country. William Lyon Mackenzie King led the party to victory over the Conservatives and R. B. Bennett in 1935 and held the leadership through 1940 and 1945 until he was replaced by Louis St. Laurent before the election of 1949.

While the country again went Liberal in 1953, Halton elected Sybil Bennett of Georgetown, a member of George Drew's PC party with 9,914 votes of 29,680 ballots cast.

Four years later with Alexander (Sandy) Best, son of the late Dr. Charles Best, the co-discoverer of insulin, leading the Halton PC party, the riding continued with the Conservatives.

The country, too, voted PC and John Diefenbaker became Prime Minister for the first of his three successive terms in office.

Best took 17,795 votes of the 30,730 cast on June 10, 1957 to defeat his Liberal opponent by more than 7,500 votes.

He was re-elected MP on Mar. 31, 1958 with 21,056 of 34,950 votes cast as Diefenbaker and the PC party were returned to office.

But on Monday, June 18, 1962 Best was defeated by Harley by only 98 votes, foreshadowing the fall of the PC government in the following election.

Less than one year later, on April 8, Harley was returned to office with 25,482 votes of the 49,368 cast and Lester Pearson and the Liberals formed the government.

The Independent Conservative candidate in Halton picked up 500 votes in the election. On Nov. 3, 1965, Harley was re-elected to a third term as Halton MP and Pearson returned as Prime Minister.

Harley topped the PC candidate, Oakville Mayor Allan Masson, Kernighan of the NDP and Independent Conservative representative Harry Timmins.

For Masson, it marked the beginning of a disappointing six week period. On Dec. 13, Masson was defeated by Mac Anderson in his bid for re-election to the office of Mayor.

Back issues

10 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Free Press of Thursday, April 16, 1969

"Organized bedlam" was the school ice carnival at the community centre as two Acton schools and Speyside contended for winners. Arena manager Townsley arranged the final ear-splitting event and helping were assistant manager Don Price, Iton McKnight, Don Ford, Norm Price, George McPhail, Ed Leatherland and recreation and parks board members Brendan Aherne, Bob Laughlin, Will Duval and Phil McCrill. Among the winners were Kevin Marcoux as a headless hockey player, Darlene Leblanc, Brian Warnfield, David Stull, Colleen Spielvogel, Ron Moore, David Drinkwater, Bernice Dugan, Sylvia and Gordon Scott, Denis and Leslie Glendering and Judy and Jim Pink.

Nassagaweya township council will continue to oppose the removal of service from Guelph Junction.

Smith Griffin celebrated his 99th birthday Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. William Ballentine celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

The mill rate has soared to 85 mills. The eight mill increase was blamed on education.

There were 14 grass fires on the weekend, most of them in Nassagaweya.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Free Press of Thursday, April 9, 1959

New Calumet Mines have purchased 250 acres in Esqueving near Dolly Varden. They will establish a quarry to produce crushed stone. Land was purchased from Stalkers at R.R. 4. Harvey Kirkwood and the Scott place.

Elizabeth Force, Acton, and Bronwyn Brothers, Stratford, of Guelph Figure Skating Club, have moved into the Gold Figure and Gold Dance divisions of the Canadian Association. This is a first in the history of the club.

Gail Roszell, pupil at the Robert Little school, had her essay on the recent bus trip to Toronto judged first. Andrew Smith won for the M. Z. Bennett school.

Over 110 members of Y's Men's clubs from across the region gathered at the Acton Y last weekend for the annual spring conference. H. Arbie was conference chairman. New officers were installed by G. W. McKenzie, International Director for Ontario.

Orville Chapman says the Chamber of Commerce now has over 100 members.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Free Press of Thursday, April 11, 1929

The Duke of Devonshire I.O.D.E. had an enjoyable and well-attended bridge party and dance in the Town Hall last week. Prizes were won by Mrs. R. P. Watson, Miss F. Hurst, Messrs. William Arnold and E. J. Hassard.

The stormy night somewhat decreased the attendance at the Acton Lodge I.O.O.F. At Home. Artists entertained for the evening and music for dancing was supplied by Mrs. Byrne and Messrs. Rudolph Spielvogel and L. G. King.

Mr. F. L. Wright is in Toronto this week writing his examinations under the auspices of The Institute of Chartered Life writers of Canada.

Reeve and Mrs. Mason with Mr. and Mrs. James Algie motored to the flower show in Buffalo. Mrs. Algie is president of the Dale Estate at Brampton, which swept the boards with their exhibits of roses.

Is your house all upset, too, with spring cleaning?

The river at Rockwood attained flood proportions on Sunday. Mr. Fred Hamilton, highway overseer, and his men had their hands full repairing washouts.

After only a week of illness from pneumonia, Mrs. Rachel Sprowl, widow of the late Alexander Sprowl, passed away on Monday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. L. L. Mullin.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Free Press of Thursday, April 24, 1879

The alarm of the fire bell was sounded this morning when it was ascertained that the wood pile of R. Adams was on fire. The destructive conflagration consumed seven hundred cords of wood and the buildings in the vicinity were only saved by the strenuous efforts of our citizens. A Guelph engine was telegraphed for, which arrived after the danger was over. A gang of notorious tramps are the incendiaries. They had been put off a train, and were seen running from the fire, saying they did not give a damn if the whole town burned. Later—Six suspicious looking characters were arrested in Guelph and Messrs. R. Wallace and Thomas H. Campbell have been sent up to identify them.

The new Presbyterian congregation at Ballinad have an average attendance of about 250.

On Sunday last two barns were burned at Campbellville, which caused quite an excitement.

Passenger traffic on the railroad is unprecedented. It is not unusual to have nine or ten coaches going west.

Free Press Letters

Red Cross still short

April 10, 1979

The Editor,

On behalf of the Georgetown and District Red Cross Branch I would like to extend congratulations and thanks to all who were concerned with the Red Cross Campaign-for-Funds last month.

Special thanks to the rural and Acton organizers and canvassers, who helped make this year's house-to-house campaign more successful.

To those who gave, warmest thanks! You may be assured that what you gave will go to help with the many services, offered in this area, including emergency disaster preparedness and response courses and training, and with national and international disaster and other emergency aid.

At this moment in Georgetown and

district we have received approximately \$13,000. (target \$16,500.). Moneys are still to come in from various industries, business and professional and some residential donors. Further contributions to Post Office Box 106, Georgetown, Ontario, L7G 4T1, would ensure, that we reach our objective.

We would like to take this opportunity to also thank the various news media for informing the public of the campaign and the Acton and Georgetown public libraries for the showing of the Red Cross display.

Yours very truly,
John Wickens,
Chairman Campaign Committee,
Georgetown and District Branch,
The Canadian Red Cross Society.

Toss bouquets to Region, town works crews

A bouquet must be tossed in the direction of the Halton Hills and Halton Regional works departments crews, who work around the clock clearing streets and highways during the winter.

Sometimes, crews are fighting a losing battle as the roads are covered as quickly as they can be plowed. Still, the plow operators push on, at times up to 24 straight hours.

These men must put up with parked or abandoned vehicles on the side of the road, or in some cases, in the middle; long hours; the inevitable complaints; and bad weather. At times, when everyone else is safe in their homes, letting old man winter blow furiously outside, the operator is out in sub-zero temperatures trying to keep the plow on the road, in spite of zero visibility. If there is snow on Christmas day or any other special holiday, it is work as usual.

Many times during the winter, the operator stops to offer aid to a stranded motorist. Either by pushing themselves, or using the plow, operators have saved many people from a long cold night in a car. Some people stop and thank the driver, others just drive on.

Some felt this week's clearance of snow was slow, but hockey fans, returning from Port Elgin Sunday night actually breathed a sigh of relief as they reached Halton roads. A foot of snow covered the highway in some counties, ice in other areas made driving just as treacherous. Some minor hills needed a second and third run at before a car could reach the top. Snow drifts completely filled in some lanes, and rarely did the speedometer get past 20 miles an hour.

However, as soon as Halton roads were reached, it was like a different world. Not only had the plow been out, but sanders as well, a welcome sight at 2 a.m. after a three and a half hour drive.

There are times when one wonders why the streets haven't been plowed as quickly as they felt they should have been. Or driveways plugged with snow after the plow went past. But in spite of the complaints, we should appreciate the fact we can be mobile during a snowfall and not cooped up at home because the roads are snow laden.

Thanks works departments. You really do a good job.—H.J.M.