The Elves and the Shoemaker was the theme of a skit put on by Speyside grade one and two students December 18, (bottom). From the past to the future, grades three and four took the audience with their Comet Claus play about a futuristic Santa travelling the galaxy. All the grades took part in the Christmas concert.

Proposal

Planning process change

If a change in the planning process suggested by town staff is adopted by Halton Hills planning board, a developer will no longer bring a presentation of a new development to planning board as the first step in the process.

Instead a plan of subdivision would go to the regional planning staff, who would then send it on to the Halton Hills clerk administrator.

Council would be advised there is an application for development, but no details would be known until the plan is circulated to all agencies, their comments returned and a report submitted by the planning staff.

At this point a developer could make a presentation to planning board if so desired, but is not necessary, said the planner.

A report from Clerk Administrator Ken Richardson on the suggested change, claimed the applicants would have to research their projects more thoroughly, and have more detailed engineering plans, than they have at present.

Councillor Roy Booth wondered if developers might feel they have a better chance by making a presentation themselves at the onset of the planning process, as they do now.

Richardson pointed out there is still the opportunity to appear, but under the proposed procedure the plans may have been revised and may be more acceptable than at the initial stage.

"With the present practice sometimes a development is prejudged without staff reports," he commented.

Councillor Ross Knechtel contended the developer should know the contents of staff reports before planning board meetings, and pointed out they may have thousands of dollars at stake. "Planners are sometimes wrong," he remarked.

Councillor Pete Pomeroy said it might make more sense to him to have the planning department make a simple list of advantages and disadvantages of a proposal and without comment submit it to the planning board.

The clerk administrator replied there would be no need of a planning staff if there professional opinion is not asked. "Any clerk could do what you're suggesting." He said the change in process would not affect the political decisions to be made by elected officials.

"I don't want staff making political decisions," stated the mayor.

Councillor Harry Levy wondered if there would be an unnecessary load on staff, who would spend their time preparing reports and council might not want the development anyway.

Councillor Walter Biehn maintained the public would not know about an intended development in their area as quickly as they do now, and might tend to think something was being put over on them. He said it bothered him to "wash out the first presentation to the public," and claimed there is nothing wrong with public reaction at the beginning. He said he saw no advantage in the suggested change.

Booth suggested information would be kept from councillors longer this way, and hinted they would not be able to see "secret files." He foresaw problems when staff reports favored and council disagreed. "If an appeal is made to the OMB it would show council has turned it down, but staff reports favor the plan."

A vote on the proposed change was deferred to give planning board members more time to study the suggestions.

Parks system proposed

The Niagara Escarpment Commission in its Proposed Plan to maintain the Escarpment, is recommending the creation of a 116-parks Niagara Escarpment Parks System.

The proposed 95,844 acre system would be made up of 67,174 acres currently in public ownership in addition to 28,670 acres which the Commission recommends should be purchased by the province.

The Commission recommends that the province allocate funds over a five year period to complete the acquisition of the parklands and that Wintario be used in part to assist in the funding of the program.

The Commission also recommends that the acquisition program include additions to the Bruce Trail as landowners indicate a willingness to negotiate trail easements or to sell strips of land for the Trail.

The Commission's Proposed Plan describes the Bruce Trail as "an essential component" of the proposed Parks System.

agreements in which the Bruce Trail Association would manage the Trail in a professional manner.

The agreement, the Commission says, should include provision for litter clean-ups, trail wardens, landowner relations, public information and trail development.

In the Parks System, the Commission says, the Bruce Trail would link parks and natural features on the Escarpment.

Currently, 45 per cent of the Bruce Trail—320 kilometres (200 miles)—is on public roads, and the Trail is no longer continuous as it was once *before some* landowners refused the Trail passage through their properties.

"The challenge" says Commission Chairman Ivor McMullin, "is to achieve a gradual reconstruction of the Trail in a suitable location".

The parks in the proposed system would be divided into three classifications:

—Nature Reserve Parks to be preserved in as close to a wilderness state as possible;

—Natural Environment Recreation Parks for moderate intensity recreation including camping, trails, hiking, scientific and *educational uses;*

—and Intensive Recreation Parks offering a full range of recreation activities from camping to downhill skiing.

The proposed Escarpment Parks System would form a sub-system of the provincial parks system with individual parks to be managed by the Ministry of Natural Resources or by con*servation authorities.*

$2873 in taxes

A total of $8,400.14 will be written off Halton Hills tax rolls. The taxes are deemed uncollectable. The town's share of the tax write-off amounts to $2,873.42, the region's to $1,237.86 and the board of education's to $4,288.86.

Thirty-three businesses either ceased operations or relocated while only five of them declared bankruptcy. In a few cases of tax write-off error had been made in tax certificates, or assessments had been duplicated.

Licence stickers are available

Renewal stickers for motor vehicle licenses went on sale Saturday, throughout Ontario, Minister of Transportation and Communications James Snow said today.

There are no increases in 1980 motor vehicle licence fees which remain at $50 for a four-cylinder car, $45 for a six and $60 for an eight with an engine displacement of less than 6.5 litres. Owners of eight-cylinder cars with an engine displacement of more than 6.5 litres, registered after Dec. 1, 1977, will pay $80.

1980 stickers will be blue on white in colour.

For the first time, trailer owners will pay a one-time fee of $25 good for the life of the vehicle. They will also receive reflectorized plates.

Motorcycle registration fees remain at $20.

Registration fees for privately-owned passenger cars and motorcycles in the northern half of the province will continue to be $10.

For vehicle registration purposes, "northern Ontario" consists of the territorial districts of Algoma, Cochrane, Kenora, Manitoulin, Parry Sound, Rainy River, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Timiskaming and the portion of Nipissing lying north and west of Algonquin Park.

Limehouse

95 year old Mrs. Mills dies

by Mrs. A.W. Benton

We regret the death of our dear friend Mrs. W.J. Mills (Gertrude LePoidevin) aged ninety-five years on December 12. We extend sympathy to the family.

Due to the illness of Rev. P. Barrow, Rev. W.A. Douglas of Brampton preached here on Sunday. At noon the Sunday School pupils enjoyed a Christmas party with games, making decorations for their tree, and ended with a sit down dinner party.

The Limehouse Public School students held their annual Christmas concert "Christmas Around the World," with songs, recitations, dialogues, and dances all well acted to a capacity crowd on Monday evening.

We wish to extend Season's Greetings to all those associated with the Georgetown Independent and Acton Free Press, and its numerous readers throughout the countryside.

by Mrs. F. Hannah

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts will be finishing their fall program this week with a combined Christmas campfire in Limehouse Hall. Each section is taking part in the program and there will be a singsong and refreshments. This will complete a fairly busy month for them.

Five first year Cubs attended a District Craft Workshop where they learned 3 new crafts.

Beavers and Cubs, their leaders and some parents attended the play "Mother Goose" put on by the Georgetown Little Theatre. Everyone enjoyed it very much.

Group Committee purchased a Christmas tree this year and the Beavers decorated it. It looked so nice it was used in the Hall for the Scouters Club pot luck supper. The Beavers had a Christmas party last week complete with Santa Claus.

The Cubs have spent the last 3 weeks working on a special Christmas craft.

The Scouts had a night out swimming and also attended a District Scout Fun Night at Joseph Gibbons School in Georgetown. The Fun Night was organized by the Limehouse Scout leaders.

Group Committee had their Christmas meeting Dec. 13 in the Hall with a social evening following but only 8 people showed up. There will be no paper pickup this month.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Environmental guidelines passed

Environmental guidelines designed to give the region some leverage in controlling residential and industrial development have been adopted in total.

The need for guidelines was brought home to the Regional Planning Committee recently when the Ontario Municipal Board ruled in favor of a developer seeking to build in a section of the region which had been declared environmentally sensitive.

The OMB in its decision said the lack of any environmental guidelines at the region had forced the OMB to accept the developer's environmental assessment.

The guidelines were adopted unanimounsly

FOR ALL OF CANADA'S BUILDING NEEDS
MACKENZIE BUILDALL
GEORGETOWN 6 James St. 877-2207
ACTON 12 Church St. 853-1880

A HAPPY NEW YEAR
Offering thanks for your faith and trust and wishing you *a Happy New Year*
CARPET CORNER

From our house to Yours
Anticipating the pleasure of the year ahead, shared with dear friends, we wish a happy New Year to all.
To the Canadian Legion, Acton; Salvation Army, Guelph; IODE, Acton and Churchill Church and Choir, Lions Club. . .thanks for a joyful Christmas!
SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR FAITHFUL STAFF
MAPLEVIEW LODGE
Joan Waldie, Staff and Residents

79
Saying thanks for the pleasures of our day to day relationship and wishing you the happiest New Year ever!
GRACE ROBERTSON
Robertson's FLOWER SHOPPE

LAKEVIEW CENTRE
Carpet and Flooring Specialists
Installers On Staff
We Feature Carpet From
"RICHMOND"
"CORONET"
"VENTURE"
"OZITE"
"CALLAWAY"
Hard Surface and Cushioned Vinyls from
"ARMSTRONG" and "G.A.F."
FREE ESTIMATES
Lakeview Centre
126 Main Street North Acton 853 1190

Guelph's Largest Specialty Lighting Store
CHATELAINE LIGHTING
240 York Rd GUELPH
824-0401
Multi Bright Ideas For All Your Lighting Needs
EXTENSIVE SELECTION OF HOUSE FIXTURES
Table Lamps – Door Chimes – Swag Lamps
Vanity Cabinets – Firescreens & Accessories
Central Vacuum Cleaning Systems – Wiring Devices – Lamp Parts Etc. – Ventilation (Hoods, Fans, etc.) – Marble Tables
* FREE PARKING *
OPEN DAILY 8:30 - 5:30 FRI. 'TIL 9 SATURDAY 9 - 5

Happy New Year
A toast to the brand New Year! May it hold many good things for you. Thank you for your loyalty.
FROM ELSIE AT THE
BLUE SPRINGS FLOWER SHOP
46 MILL ST. – ACTON

HAPPY New Year
Starting the New Year in fun and friendship.
Pete's Barber Shop
27 Mill St. E. • Acton • 853-3510

THE 70'S...the way they were
SPORTS & SHOW BUSINESS
THE MUSIC MAKERS
PEOPLE & PLACES
POLITICS & SPEECHES
NEWS & HEADLINES
24 HOURS SUNDAY DECEMBER 30.
CFRB presents the joys, sorrows, ups, downs, achievements, disappointments, events and music that combined to give us the seventies. A 24 hour farewell to the decade, all day Sunday December 30.
CFRB 1010
THE PEOPLE PEOPLE LISTEN TO