



Acton Citizens' Band and Acton High School Band joined forces Sunday night to present a superb holiday season concert at the high school.

## Bands' concert fills air with Christmas spirit

Those who braved the biting cold and occasionally blowing snow to attend Sunday night's Acton Citizens' Band and Acton High School Band concert were richly rewarded.

An appreciative audience of over 200 took in the 120 minute free performance at Acton High School.

The evening was billed as a concert offering music for all tastes—and it was certainly that. Christmas music predominated. There were the traditional Christmas carols and popular tunes, but there were also a number of pieces which aren't usual Yule fare. The selection was excellent and the performance delightful.

The Citizens' Band took the stage first, offering eight pieces.

Charles Wright conducted the band for a rousing march, 'Imperial Echoes'.

A Gregorian Advent plain chant, 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,' was the second number by the band. Under the direction of Nancy Patterson, this 12th Century work brought visions of monks parading around the monastery. It was the first of several pieces of music with a Christmas flavor.

George Elliott conducted for the next five numbers. The first, 'Crusader's Hymn', also had a Christmas slant. The title, which prompts images of brave knights going off to liberate Jerusalem is really a work which appeared in Germany for the first time in 1852. The hymn, with Christmas theme lyrics like 'fairest Lord Jesus', also had a definite military beat.

Next the band presented Seascapes, a work which won them first prize at the CNE last August and portrayed images of the sea.

The 1920s produced a lot of good, popular music, music a lot of the audience could remember and many in attendance wished they'd been around to hear when it was current. A montage of songs from the 20s like Bye, Bye Blackbird, Tea for Two and Carolina in the Morning, proved to be a delightful change of pace in the fifth band offering, 'T-ventina.'

Life of the Bohemians residing in the Latin quarter of Paris towards the end of the 19th Century was the subject of Pucini's La Boheme. The band's (Continued on page B7)

# The Acton Free Press

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## Chief welcomes Acton's input

by Gord Murray

If Acton residents want their police station open more hours each week they'll have to convince Halton Regional Police Chief James Harding, the Halton Police Commission and regional council there is a need.

Harding said he realizes having an open police station gives a community a feeling of "comfort" and possibly that is all the justification that is really needed to spend the extra money which would be needed to keep the station beside the town office on Mill St. East open more hours than just 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

This was just one of the subjects Harding, deputy chief Bob Middaugh and Inspector John Barratt discussed in a 90 minute interview Monday afternoon. Most of the questions asked of the top brass of the regional force were based on comments and complaints reporters at this paper have heard from readers in recent months. Repeatedly they asked for Actonians to bring their concerns to the attention of the brass.

Harding emphasized even though a brand new police station, with cells, will open for Halton Hills

down the road in Georgetown soon there are no plans to close up the store front operation in Acton.

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## Free Press out Tuesday

Next week The Acton Free Press will publish one day earlier than normal.

The paper will be in stores and delivered to homes on Tuesday, December 23, instead of the usual Wednesday.

The deadline for submission of both news and sports material for publication for the December 23 issue will be 9 a.m. Monday, December 22. Anything received after the deadline will appear in the next week's paper.

The deadline for classified advertising is also moved up, to noon on Monday, December 22.

The Free Press office will be closed December 25 and 26.

The following week the paper will resume Wednesday publication with the editorial and classified advertising deadlines being back to normal, 12 noon Tuesday. The office will be closed January 1 and 2.

### Meet chief tomorrow

Citizens and businessmen planning to attend the meeting tomorrow (Thursday) afternoon at the Halton Regional Police headquarters in Oakville are asked to meet at the Y building on Mill St. East at 12:30 p.m.

Regional councillor Dave Whiting, who is leading the local delegation, said he expects six to 10 people will attend representing Acton.

The meeting has been called because of recent concerns voiced about policing here. It is an opportunity for Chief James Harding and his top brass to hear more about Acton's concerns as well as explain the regional police operation more fully.



Weighed down by the gallons of water in her bloomers Councillor Terry Grubbe needs help getting out of the pool from Harold Townsley, Councillor Dave Whiting and Mayor Peter Pomeroy. Looking on is another member of council's swim team, recreation co-ordinator Joy Gwilliam. They laughed it up at Friday's water show. More pictures inside.



Junior classes at Robert Little School presented Christmas concerts Wednesday and Thursday nights to packed audiences. Here are the stars of the afternoon kindergarten class which performed Thursday night. Front row, left to right, Jennifer Noseworthy, Tracey Thompson, Sarah Franklin, Robin

Engelby, Kim McIsaac, Heidi Dempsey, Lisa Johansson, Melody Pilgrim, Cass Samms and Christy Kruger. Back row, Brent MacKenzie, Matthew Wilson, Jamie Goy, Gary Pye, Ricky Demone, Joey Neely, Jason Brown and Joe Scarangella. Photo by GORD MURRAY

## Salvation Army responds to needy families' pleas for help

Without the Salvation Army many needy families in Acton and Georgetown could face a bleak Christmas.

Instead they will be sitting down to a turkey dinner with all the trimmings and each child will receive a present, thanks to the Salvation Army's annual Christmas hamper program.

Each Christmas the Salvation Army answers pleas of help from needy families with a box full of food and toys.

Lieutenant Lorne Pritchett, head of the Halton Hills Salvation Army, said so far he has received 26 applications for aid from Acton alone and approximately the same number from Georgetown for Christmas hampers.

Since he is relatively new to the Acton area, Lieutenant Pritchett said he's not sure if the need for hampers has increased. Last year, he added, the Army delivered 20 hampers.

The money for the hampers comes out of the Salvation Army's welfare fund. Lieutenant Pritchett said stocking only 30 hampers has already cost \$1,500.

He packs a turkey, potatoes, carrots or cabbage—all the dinner trimmings and a gift for each child. They are delivered personally on Christmas Eve.

Applications are reviewed carefully to ensure a need exists and gifts are chosen with each child in mind.

Money in the welfare fund comes from the funds collected at the Sally Anne kettles.

Unfortunately, said Lieutenant Pritchett, donations are down this season.

"They (the public) are not as responsive as last year," he said. "I sincerely believe people are sick of rising prices. They are trying to provide Christmas for themselves and find it difficult to give that little extra to charity."

"But I've never known a community to leave the Salvation Army in a position unable to render adequate service to the community."

"I hope people respond and support us."

Lieutenant Pritchett said the idea behind the Christmas hamper is to make the day a little brighter and less burdensome on a needy family already poor financial resources.

"As long as the Salvation Army has one dollar in the welfare account," he said, "I will see to it that every truly needy family has the best Christmas we can sensibly give them."

Lieutenant Pritchett said he hasn't tallied the money from this year's kettles, but the Salvation Army did receive a "generous" donation from the Ziegler Flour Mills in Acton. They are donating a bag of flour for each hamper and making use of their van for the Christmas Eve deliveries.

Last year, said the Lieutenant, they didn't need as

much money because they only took care of Acton. But this year the addition of Georgetown's needy coupled with the rising cost of hampers and other programs has put a strain on the Salvation Army's finances. They need more.

The Lieutenant pointed out the money collected at Christmas time is used throughout the year to finance the welfare fund.

Last year, through the fund, the Salvation Army was able to refer a lady of the community to a home for unwed mothers and send another young man to Harbor Light, a center for alcoholics.

Salvation Army kettles can be found at the Brewers' Retail every Thursday, Friday and Saturday in Acton and at both the Brewers' Retail and

Zeller's in Georgetown.

Lieutenant Pritchett said if anyone wishes to donate anything, call the Salvation Army or drop in at their Thrift Store.

The Salvation Army is also busy this week delivering what they call Sunshine Bags and singing carols to senior patients at the hospitals and residents at the senior citizens' homes. They'll be holding Christmas service for themselves.

Lieutenant Pritchett said he would like to thank those who have responded to the Army's call for assistance. "Every compliment we have received for the social work in the community is really compliment to the community we serve."

## IODE help for past 20 years

Christmas is always a busy time of the year for Mrs. Joyce Sprowl, Mrs. Bessie Musselle and the rest of the IODE Christmas hamper committee.

It is an annual project between the Lakeside Chapter of the IODE and the Rotary Club of Acton, providing food and toys to the less fortunate families here.

The Lakeside chapter, said Mrs. Sprowl, receives a list of families needing their help from the Ministry of Social Services plus a few referrals from local ministers.

The members then proceed to gather turkeys or chickens, tea, coffee, canned goods and toys either through donations or bought with funds they have collected throughout the year.

Mrs. Sprowl said hampers are packed according to the size of the family. The IODE packs the hampers and the Rotary Club delivers them. They share the expenses.

The Lakeside chapter is in touch with the Salvation Army which also runs a hamper program at Christmas, to make sure there are no duplications. They have received donations from McKenzie-Smith Middle School and Acton High School plus a

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### inside

Beardmore held its annual children's Christmas party Saturday afternoon. See photos on page 5. Sewage storage or a dam upstream of Acton are two suggested solutions to lifting the limits to growth here. Details on page 7.



Fran Baines

## Fran Baines seeks Tory nomination

Fran Baines well-known figure in political circles, will try for the Progressive Conservative nomination for Halton-Burlington in the next provincial election.

Fran has lived in the riding for the past 20 years, and has been actively involved in many community organizations and has held most of the top posts in both provincial and federal PC associations.