

Christmas idea — help Halton Women's Place



By Jim Robinson
Halton Women's Place (HWP) is preparing for its first Christmas but those preparations are going to fall short of what is needed, without the donation of much-needed items by Halton residents.
Those items include all manner of toiletry items, hand cream, vitamins, blankets and sheets, craft supplies and—most of all—a Christmas turkey.
Halton Women's Place Director Loretta Costigane also said a real Christmas gift would be for volunteers to come forward and help transport clients of HWP to counselling sessions in other parts of the region and in other municipalities.
Halton Women's Place officially opened in Milton Oct. 20 and acts as a "home" for women and their families who have been battered and abused.
Since the opening, 11 families have used the facilities of HWP and there are two families in the hostel right now.
Most of the women have had time to make the major adjustment of leaving their homes and husbands and have been successful with a variety of counselling problems.

But Mrs. Costigane said the major problem is getting the women to these services.
Transportation from where we are in Milton to say, Burlington is not easy.
"But if we had someone who could help by driving the women to where they need to go, that would solve a major problem we have."
"Ideally it would be someone familiar with the area, who could also help in finding accommodation and know where things are and the best ways to get there," she said.
Christmas is not normally a time when a woman, after months of, even years of abuse, decides to leave home.
"Most of the women tend to stay for the sake of the family and for the sake of the children," she said.
Nevertheless, HWP is open 24 hours a day and 365 days a year to accept a woman and her family if the pressure and emotional upset are too much to bear any longer.
"They come here because they know it is safe."

"For the first couple of days they just need someone to talk to and a place to think things over in their own minds," she said.
HWP even acts as a centre where women facing problems at home can just come and talk and get advice.
"We act as a sort of drop-in centre too."
"We have people who come here and say they don't want to stay, but they want help in working out things at home," Mrs. Costigane said.
"As long as they reach out to someone, that's important."
There will be a Christmas for the two families currently in HWP and plans are set in case more people have to be accepted.
They have a Christmas tree, stockings and toys for the children, and other items which have been donated by the community—all unsolicited.
But Halton Women's Place could use many things, especially the volunteers.
Anyone who would like to help can contact Mrs. Costigane at 878-7757.

Sweeps make chimney safe for Santa

It's no great surprise to hear knocking on your chimney this time of the year, but those two men on the roof are not Santa and eight little reindeer.
They are more likely to be Peter Buna and Jeff Wilson of Halton Chimney Sweeps, based in Acton.
Buna and Wilson started their chimney sweep business in October, because they said there is no other company around Halton Hills offering the service, and there are still a lot of chimney fires.

Also they added, while delivering wood, many people would ask if they cleaned chimneys as well.
So, said Buna and Wilson, they thought about it and with the experience they gained in sweeping their own chimneys, decided it was a good business to start.
Buna said he and Wil-

son talked to the fire department before starting operations and learned chimney's should be swept two or three times a year.
Even if chimney's are rarely used, they should still be cleaned at least once a year.
They said they have spent close to \$300 on equipment—brooms, different sizes of steel brushes and numerous steel rods, not to mention new coveralls and matching black bowlers.
Buna said it takes about half-an-hour to 45 minutes to clean an average chimney, but cleaning a stove chimney takes longer because the elbows have to be removed.
Halton Chimney Sweeps is a sideline business for Buna and Wilson. Wilson works in construction and Buna is a mason.

Austrian traditions

In the mountain regions of Western Austria, entire villages join in carol singing on Christmas Eve. Beginning with the family living farthest from the village church, torch-bearing carollers form a procession. At each house along the way greetings of "Froehliche Weihnachten" are exchanged and the inhabitants fall in line. Eventually, the whole population is part of the parade as it arrives at the church steps in time for Midnight Mass.

Star of Bethlehem

The Star of Bethlehem: was it really a star?
Through the centuries, there have been many explanations of the bright sign in the sky which led the Three Wise Men to the stable in Bethlehem where the Christ Child was born.
Some have called it an exploding star. Others have called it a meteor.
Some scholars have expressed the belief that it was not a star at all, that when the Wise Men said they followed a star, they were making reference to the guiding light of a spiritual experience.
Among the more popular explanations is that the Wise Men did not see one star, but several that appeared to come together in the heavens. Possibly they are now seen as the planets Jupiter, Saturn, Mars and Venus.
Astronomers say that in 6 B.C. there was an apparent grouping of planets that happens only every 805 years—and this may have resulted in the brilliant "star" which started the Magi on their famous journey.



Jeff Wilson, left and Peter Buna dancing of the rooftops of Acton and area. The pair have formed Halton chimney sweeps, a new chimney cleaning service.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
A winter wonderland of happiness and quiet contentment awaits all our dear friends and neighbors.

Print Media Design
Alex and Claire Chidley
57 Geneva Crescent
Kitchener, Ont. (519) 742-1832

Frontier Florist & Gift Shop
R.R. 2, Guelph, Ont.
Highway No. 7 West of Rockwood
(519) 822-2361
Floral Designs — Weddings — Funerals

Best Wishes

May the season be blessed with love and happiness... peace and hope. We wish you the very nicest of holidays!

FREE DELIVERY TO HOSPITALS NURSING AND FUNERAL HOMES IN THE ACTON, ROCKWOOD & GUELPH AREA

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

As you kindle the light of hospitality in your heart and hearth, may every bright delight of the holiday be yours.

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF
THOMPSON FUELS
LLOYD McINTYRE AGENT
44 Young St. Acton 853-2174

Warm Wishes for Christmas

Deck the halls with boughs of holly, fill your homes with lots of cheer. May this season be warm and jolly, for our friends and patrons dear.

BILL STUCKEY
Photography

MERRY CHRISTMAS

May your Christmas be a bountiful feast of harmony and joy with your loved ones. Serving you is always a pleasure... thanks.

Cam and Betts CATERING

Home for CHRISTMAS

As you gather round your hearth to celebrate a radiant holiday we send you greetings and thanks.

GRACE ROBERTSON & HELEN MEDLAND
Robertson's
FLOWER SHOPPE
853-3720

Christmas Bounty

Hope your holiday bill of fare includes large portions of HEALTH, WEALTH and HAPPINESS! Thanks to all.

FAMILY RESTAURANT
853-0300

GREETINGS at Christmas

We're wishing you all the pleasures of an old-fashioned Yule, complete with long-lasting peace and joy.

Drs. Robt. S. J. Steen DDS, A. Mikeenas DDS and Staff

Merry Christmas
Wishing you all the blessings of a joyous holiday season. Thanks for shopping in Acton.
Larry and Heather Porte
Larry's House of Buys

Wishing you all At his time of the year. A plentiful measure of

YULETIDE CHEER

RUSS-MAC BEAUTY SALON
4 Main St., S. • 853-2750

Old Santa's stocking is full of our appreciation for our customers and friends.

Denny's Insurance Agency
17 Mill St. West, Acton 853-0160

Scots celebrate Hogmanay, Day of First-Footing

What's Hogmanay? It's the Scottish name for New Year's Eve—and first footing is what they call the tradition that dictates Scottish hospitality for the New Year Celebration.
The first person to cross the threshold of any house on that occasion is supposed to do so bringing gifts to his or her host—gifts of food or coal, both tokens of

warmth and friendliness. In return, the first-footer receives a drink.

But that's not all. People used to compete vigorously for the honor of being a first-footer and ran races from door to door. Their hosts might or might not be happy to welcome the visitors. If the first-footer were a woman, it meant bad luck for the year. But it

was good luck if the first person across the threshold were a man, especially one known to have been born feet foremost—still better if he happened to be dark rather than fair.

Why the word, Hogmanay? That's a mystery still—similar words occur elsewhere, but origins are uncertain at best.

BECAUSE THE GOOD WILL OF THOSE WE SERVE IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR SUCCESS IT'S A REAL PLEASURE AT THIS HOLIDAY TIME TO SAY "THANK YOU" AS WE WISH YOU A FULL YEAR OF HAPPINESS AND PROSPERITY

MANAGEMENT & STAFF

PARK LINCOLN MERCURY
Georgetown 877-2261

BEST WISHES for the **HOLIDAY SEASON** and in the **COMING NEW YEAR** are **HEARTILY EXTENDED** FROM ALL OF US TO ALL OF YOU

THE MAYOR & COUNCIL of HALTON HILLS

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

It's Christmas... families gather 'round the tree... friends exchange greetings — and best wishes to all.

ACTON BOWLING LANES
Bob Heatley and Staff