



Merry Christmas



Shortage of snow disappoints exchange student

by Helen Murray

Jenny Nunan only has one regret about her year in Canada—she didn't get skiing or snowmobiling. The 17-year-old Rotary Exchange student from Australia had her heart set on seeing the mounds and mounds of snow Canada is noted for. However, arriving last January 16, she was shortchanged in the snow department.

Snowfalls were at a minimum last winter, and so far, this year, the pattern is the same. She did get skating, but one out of three isn't a very good record.

Jenny leaves for home in Alexandria, Victoria, December 30 and has dejectedly accepted the fact she didn't get skiing.

When she first heard about the exchange program, Jenny chose three countries she would like to live in, Sweden, Canada, and the United States. She admits Sweden was her first choice, but now that she is here, she is glad she got her second choice.

She wanted to go someplace where English was spoken so her energies could go in retaining what she had learned in the last year of school at home, and not in learning a new language.

Her year away from home has been a busy one. She has had numerous speaking engagements, babysat, worked as a leader in training (LIT) for the recreation department, gone to New Orleans, learned how to play the clarinet and played in the High school and Acton Citizens Band, taken piano lessons from Mrs. E. Hetter, and kept up with her school work.

She was so busy, Jenny admits, she hardly had time to get homesick for her parents and younger brother Michael. She had been warned to expect to get homesick in the first three months of the stay, but it just didn't happen she says. There was a time, however, during the mail strike when she had no communication from family or friends that she started to feel the pangs, but the job as LIT helped erase any time she may have had to miss anyone.

She also spent two weeks travelling to New Orleans with Ken and Terry Grubbe in the summer to keep her mind off the lack of mail during the strike.

Letters from home have been very frequent, and there have been the odd phone calls home—collect of course.

Canada is not too much different from Australia, Jenny says. She quickly got use to the small differences, such as electrical sockets. At home, she says, they have to be turned on like a light switch after plugging something in. Homes are kept warmer here, she says, and Australians are more strict with their children than Canadians. However, Canadians do not leave their children at home alone as much as Australians. Babysitters cannot make a fortune at home, Jenny laughs.

The houses are different also, the high school student says. There are few basements in Alexandria and even fewer upper floors. Most homes are on one floor. Small cars are more abundant in Australia; and there are no Chevrolet's at all, but the Australian made Holden is predominant.

Because of the gravity pull, she has noticed water goes down drains in the opposite direction here than at home.

Canadians sound very much like Americans to an Australian, Jenny says. Even the southern Americans are reputed to have the same "accent" as Canadians, unless there is an American and a Canadian in the same room talking. Jenny admits she

has picked up a lot of the Canadian accent and feels she will be centred out when she returns home.

But overall, Jenny says, her home country and her temporarily adopted country are very similar. The cities are the same, and the school system is basically the same. Christmas is exactly the same at home as here, she says, with the same commercialism, the same shopping panic, even music and decorations.

She didn't miss the hordes of flies at home, nor the poisonous spiders and snakes. She didn't say whether she missed the Australian version of fish and chips—the fish is shark meat. She did hint however that she missed the fried dim sims and chips (similar to wontons).

But now she can return home boasting of such Canadian delicacies as moose meat, venison, maple syrup, salmon steak, pumpkin pie, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and french toast. She has various opinions of all of these new found foods, but prefers to keep them to herself.

Jenny's first home in Acton was with Terry and Ken Grubbe on Queen St. After three months there (Continued on page 2)



Jenny Nunan

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St. Alban's Sunday school performed a Christmas play Sunday morning. The participants were Greg Auger, Shannon Bailey, Pamela Bailey, Kerry Butler, Toby Cash, Melanie Cook, Bryan Creasey, Todd DeForest, Diana Frehs, Michael Frizell, Adam Frizell, Karen Geneau, Blair Gilbert, Brydon Gillis, Stuart Ginn, Matthew Ginn, Kevin Grubbe, Rachel Haggert, Tracy Haggert, Garnet Holmes, Jason Hunter, Anne Marie Kinnon, Catherine Kinnon, Michael Kinnon, Caroline Kinnon, Phillip Landriault, Evan Landry, Laura Masales,

Ryan Masales, Brian McCallum, Scott McKee, Paula Mitchell, Adam Ouwendyk, Jason Ouwendyk, Kim Owen, Sherri Owen, Dale Patenaude, Lonnie Patenaude, Jennifer Pearce, Patricia Pearce, Carolynne Porte, Angie Priestman, Kevin Priestman, Karen Robson, Steve Robson, Ian Robson, Katherine Thomson, Eileen Thomson, Kevin Tribe, Daina Vaughan, Sarah Williamson and Philip Williamson.

Residents object to baseball diamond, final decision to be made in February

A final Halton Hills council decision on the recreation department proposal to develop a ball diamond on Beardmore land at the end of Poplar Ave. was deferred Monday until February.

Besides deferring the final decision council decided last night (Monday) that funds approved in the 1981 budget for a new playing field in Acton would be set aside in a reserve fund.

Former councillor Ed Wood asked council for the deferral, noting he was speaking for a number of residents who wished to consider the matter further. The residents want to canvass the entire neighborhood and gather all opinions and facts about the ball diamond proposal. Many residents only learned of the plan in a story in this newspaper last week.

Wood pointed out many residents thought the proposal was a long way down the road and then learned that through the paper, general committee gave it a green light. Wood said he didn't know how many people on the street are opposed to the ball field plan. He said the extent of concerns isn't as

simple as the recreation department report outlined in last week's paper indicated.

Residents' concerns also include vandalism; besides noise, increased traffic, and safety worries.

Shepard and treasurer Ray King agreed there was no reason for council to make a final decision Monday night as long as a reserve fund was set up for the ball diamond funds approved for 1982. If the money wasn't put in a reserve fund it would be budgeted again in 1982.

Wood suggested a ball diamond could be located (Continued on page 5)

Beardmore waste runoff study is complete — MOE

A consultant has completed over six months of study of the environmental impact of chemical waste disposal runoff at Beardmore both on and off the tannery property.

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment directed the tannery to undertake the study last May and spokesman for the ministry, John Budz, said the consultant's probe has been completed and should be in the hands of the province by the end of this year.

After receiving the report the ministry will review the test results and other findings before going back to the firm to discuss any possible action.

Budz said samples were taken to determine "the extent, if any, of contamination." It is "difficult" to contemplate what action Beardmore might be directed to take, Budz said, until the study is thoroughly examined.

Beardmore was one of 11 industrial waste disposal sites identified as having chemical waste runoff problems by a consultant for the province who studied 52 Ontario potential problem sites in 1980.

Following a series of meetings with ministry officials Beardmore agreed to undertake the study in the spring.

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By 7-6 vote council says No to town hall

By a slim 7-6 margin, Halton Hills councillors last night (Monday) rejected municipal restoration of the town hall.

Councillors Harry Levy, Marilyn Serjeantson, Walter Blehn, Mike Armstrong, George Maltby, Russ Miller and Pam Sheldon rejected complete restoration of the hall with tax dollars, public raised funds and provincial grants, while Mayor Peter Pomeroy, and Terry Grubbe, Ross Knechtel, Dave Whiting, John McDonald and surprisingly Roy Booth backed the plan.

There was no attempt to bring forth a motion to tear the building down, though Armstrong said that was his preference.

The idea of selling the building to community groups was discussed and staff will examine all ramifications of this option while Actonians have a chance to come up with proposals.

The decision came after over two hours of citizen presentations as well as council debate of the town hall issue.

Ed Footitt, representing the residents who organized a recent weekend survey of most areas of Acton which produced nearly 400 signatures against tax dollars being spent on restoration made the first presentation. He noted only 18 residents declined to sign the petition and suggested the sampling showed it was "probable" most residents are against ratepayers footing the bill for restoration. He said people realized what they were signing, but like councillors they didn't know really how much restoration will cost them. He added most people said forget the hall period, it just isn't needed.

Ted Tyler made an impassioned plea to save the hall, backed up by endorsements from Ed Wood and the BIA; John Alkinson for the Chamber of Commerce; Chip Petrillo on behalf of Leathertown; and George Elliott for the Restoration Committee. Council was also told the Acton Optimists, Rotary Club and others in the community support restoration and a letter of support went to council from the Acton Cancer Society.

The Acton chairman said Halton Hills was a three pod pea will all three areas different in size, texture and flavor. Acton wanted to help preserve its identity by saving the oldest municipal building in the community and he suggested not only could the hall be saved but also be very functional for municipal offices, even council meetings.

Provincial grants made the town hall a good deal, and when Acton was smaller 2,000 people wanted the town hall saved. Tyler said if he wanted to be

could tear the recent petition against the hall to shreds, but all council really had to do was keep in mind that with any project there are always (Continued on page B7)

Fatal hit-and-run hearing adjourned

The preliminary hearing for an Acton man facing three charges in connection with a fatal hit-and-run accident near Rockwood in 1979 was adjourned in Guelph Provincial court Friday.

Barry Alexander Wilson is charged with criminal negligence causing death, failing to remain at the scene of an accident, and impaired driving.

Assistant Crown Attorney John Meagher explained in early October one day of the preliminary hearing was held and the case was adjourned to the next open court date, December 18. The judge adjourned the case Friday because one of the investigating officers was hurt Thursday night in a car accident.

The case has been adjourned until January 12 when Wilson will appear again to have a date set for the continuance of the preliminary hearing. Preliminary hearings are held to determine if there is sufficient evidence to warrant a trial. No details of evidence at a preliminary hearing may be published. There was too much evidence to introduce at the first day of the hearing for the case to be completed.

Wilson surrendered to Guelph OPP in May and was charged in connection with a fatal hit and run accident in September 1979 in which Guelph resident James Cowan was killed. Cowan, police say, had stopped his motorcycle on the shoulder of County Road 27, about a mile north of Rockwood, when a northbound truck left the road hitting the motorcycle and killing Cowan instantly. The truck fled the scene.



Even babies like Rachel Andrews love Santa. Bob Andrews and his daughter were the first to visit with Santa Sunday afternoon at the Acton Legion children's Christmas party. Mary Dalgle and the clowns helped Santa with his chores.