

Health official changes mind — food poisoning "highly likely"

It is "highly likely" that 66 people ill after a party at the Acton Legion, were struck with food poisoning.

Dr. Peter Cole, Medical Officer of Health, has reversed his statement in last week's paper that the employees of Smith and Stone, Georgetown, were suffering from the flu or after effects of the party. Further investigation last week into the December 5

incident has cast too much evidence pointing to food poisoning, he said.

Only one person originally reported being ill after the party to the regional health department, Dr. Cole said. Tests were done on this one person, but Dr. Cole said she had the same symptoms as flu sufferers that same week. He did not know when speaking to the press that 65 other people had missed

work that same day, all with the same symptoms.

Because the investigation centred on the one person and the food handlers, he did not test the other sick employees. He admitted the investigation was not as thorough as it should have been.

"Food poisoning is extremely hard to prove though," he said.

Senior Health Inspector for the region, Neil

Pattullo is "quite suspicious" it is food poisoning, based on the symptoms, absence from work and all ate the same food at the same event. Had everyone been examined, there still would not necessarily be positive results," the Health Officer said.

Dr. Cole admits he spoke to the press prematurely last week when he said for a fact there was no poisoning. "But it becomes obvious as time goes on that it was a food poisoning episode."

Cross-contamination is being blamed, Dr. Cole said. He explained there were eight turkeys involved, and they believe one bird was contaminated. It was probably spread on the cutting board by not properly wiping the board clean after each turkey had been carved, he stated.

The Legion has been instructed on how to avoid this incident from happening in the future, Dr. Cole added. They (the Legion) will be "kept on their toes," now.

Most of the people affected recovered within days, however, some took several days before they were back on their feet. Some, however, were quite ill, he said.

While it wasn't that serious in terms of illness, and it wasn't a dangerous organism involved, Dr. Cole said, "I take it seriously, it shouldn't have happened and shouldn't happen again."

"All food poisoning is serious and anything like this should be reported in the press."

Beverly Mattocks, chairperson of the Smith and Stone Social Club stated:

"The Smith and Stone Social Club was disappointed that the suspected food poisoning at the Acton Legion was not given a more thorough investigation. The Social Club turned over a list of 65 people that had taken ill to Mr. Pattullo of the Halton Regional Health Unit. He will keep us informed of the (test) results. Dr. Peter Cole's remarks about the after effects of the party were incorrect due to the fact that some people left as early as 9.30 p.m. and others were non-drinkers and they were still ill. The Smith and Stone social club didn't want this incident to reflect on the Acton Legion and is distributed by the publicity this incident is getting."

Legion officials declined to comment on the matter.

Tuesday at press time the Health Unit called to report for Dr. Cole that test results are back and were negative, however this does not rule out the "likelihood" that the incident at the Legion was a food poisoning episode.

Profiles

with Jennifer Barr



Mrs. Santa Claus is tired at this time of year but her spirits are still high.

"It's like working on a newspaper," she says, "you gear up for a deadline and crash when it's all over — only our deadline comes once a year."

Mind you this sweet white-haired grandmother of a lady has been "gearing up" for over 300 years. Looking like someone who could do commercials for teabags, Mrs. Claus is bustling around the warm homey kitchen getting her last minute baking done. With all those hungry elf-mouths to feed, Mrs. Claus needs a pile of short-breads. Fortunately, she doesn't have any trouble storing her goodies. She lives in the world's largest natural freezer — the North Pole.

Santa gets a little testy this close to Christmas, Mrs. Claus admits, "but, of course, he's always patient with the boys and girls. He only gets a bit cross when his elves take extra coffee breaks. There's just so much more work to do this year — what with the baby boom and all."

Mrs. Claus met her husband 319 years ago in Sweden. She was then an apprentice pastry cook working in a popular travelers inn. She met young Nicholas (later he became known by his saint's name) at a social for apprentice saints. Little did she know then that she'd end up mothering a bunch of elves and travelling by reindeer sleigh all her life.

Christmas Eve is "D" day for Santa and his wife. Last minute orders are filled, the Santa sack is stuffed with names on every gift. Filling the sack is not an easy process. Gifts have to be filed according to country, town, street and house, just like a mailman's bag only on a grander scale. One mistake and some child is disappointed for a year.

Elves have a tendency to become temperamental during the last hours and Mrs. Claus finds herself being a frequent arbitrator. At such times, her baking instincts come to the fore. Many a sulky elf has been soothed by an apple strudel or a butter tart.

Some Christmas stands out in Mrs. Claus' memory. The year of the great fog when Rudolph saved the day with his bright red nose. The year Santa gained thirty-two pounds and couldn't get into his suit (all that good strudel!). Then there was the year the elves went on strike, Mrs. Claus solved that dispute with homemade chocolates.

Does she like her life? "Oh, yes," she says, "Look at the important job I have to do — where would Santa be without me keeping him happy, jolly, well-dressed and over-fed."

Speaking of over-feeding, here is one of Mrs. Claus' recipes for Santa's favorite meat turnovers.

SANTA PIES

Pastry for a double crust pie
1 lb. hamburger
one chopped onion
mushrooms, chopped green pepper, clove garlic
two cups cooked mixed veggies
lett, pepper, worchestshire sauce
safflower or canola oil
Roll pastry to 1/4 inch thickness and cut in five inch rounds. Saute onion, mushrooms, green pepper and garlic in a little oil. Remove from pan and brown hamburger. Add sauted vegs and cooked vegs along with seasonings to taste. Moisten filling with enough gravy to keep it together without making it sloppy. Put a small amount of filling on each pastry round, fold over, moisten edges and seal. Bake at 400 degrees till golden brown (about 20 minutes). Grated cheese can be substituted for the hamburger for vegetarian turnovers. Just saute your veggies and mix in a bowl with cheese and other ingredients.

Merry Christmas to all from Jenny, Mack, Pat, and Erica Barr.



Mrs. Santa Claus hangs her husband's image on the tree.

Obituary

Clifford Storey

Clifford Earl Storey of Halton Centennial Manor died suddenly December 8 in Joseph Brant Hospital, Burlington, the day before his 84th birthday.

Mr. Storey was born December 7, 1896, in Mona Township, the son of Charles Storey and Annie Dawes. He attended schools in Caledon. On April 3, 1930 he married Edith Maud Barlow in Orangeville.

A farmer all his life, Mr. Storey lived in the Caledon area until 1951, when he moved to the Acton where he farmed until his retirement. He retired to Crewson's Corners, and later Bower Ave. in Acton. He had been a patient at Morrison Nursing Home and Halton Centennial Manor for the past one-and-a-half years. His wife is currently residing at 17 Elizabeth Dr. Acton.

Mr. Storey was a life member of the Acton Fall Fair Board, with the sheep division a special interest. Each year he would present a trophy for sheep. Mr. Storey was also an elder at Churchill Community Church where he was a member and a member of the Acton Golden Agers.

Funeral service was held December 9 at Churchill Community Church with the Rev. W.A. Fosbury officiating. Interment was at Churchill Cemetery.

Left to mourn are his wife Edith, children Alice, (Mrs. Robert Szoke) Burlington, Wesley, Acton, Edward, Orillia, Marguerite (Mrs. Harry Connors), Victoria, Ont., and Bruce of Barrie, brother Fred, Brampton and sisters Violet, Barrie, and Edna, Vancouver, B.C. He was predeceased by his parents.

Flowerbearers were Frank Oudelus, Moffat, Ray Storey, Toronto, Don Ferrell, Peterborough, Tom Schouten, Burlington.

she headed out to Doug and Janice Freads, Bower Ave., followed by Jack and Anita Melnen, Doby Road. Her stay with Lynda and Ray Nellis, RR1 Acton completed her Canadian families.

Alexandra, Jenny's hometown is much smaller than Acton, she says, but is completely independent. Even though the population is only about 2,000 it has its own hospital, high school, primary school, Catholic school, three doctors, police department and fire department. The drinking, driving and voting age is 18.

Jenny plans to spend four days with an aunt in Kamloops, B.C. on her way home, and then spend a few days in San Francisco before taking the final flight to Melbourne, about 80 miles from home.

When she gets back, she will enjoy the last few weeks of the school's summer holiday before plunging into grade 12 the first week of February. She does not get any credits for her schooling in Canada.

One of the first things Jenny is going to do upon her return home is visit Jodie McFarlane, of Edith Vale Victoria.

Jody leaves in January to spend a year in Acton, also as a Rotary exchange student. Jenny feels it is very important for her to reassure Jody of all the small details that caused Jenny some concern before leaving home.

It was a terrific year for Jenny, but she admits she is glad to be going home. But she'll be back in about five years for a visit.

up old A-B building

The Acton BIA continues to look at ways of improving the appearance of the exterior of the old A-B building downtown.

Chairman Ed Wood has contacted Acton High School about having art students decorate the front of the building and the school is examining it as a future project. However, sign painter George Gray has advised the BIA he doesn't have the time to take on this project.

New secretary

Donna Bottos was recently named as Janet Fleming's replacement as recording secretary of the Acton Business Improvement Area (BIA) Board of Management.

Jenny Nunan...

(Continued from page 1)

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| OLD SOUTH 12.5 oz. frozen unsweetened Florida grapefruit or orange juice | .98 |
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| MRS. SMITHS 700 g. frozen mincemeat pie | 2.39 |
| OCEAN SPRAY 14 oz. jellied or whole cranberry sauce | .89 |
| KRAFT 8 oz. ass't flavours chip dip | .89 |
| BIRD'S EYE 1 litre cool whip | 1.39 |
| MAPLELEAF 28 oz. mince meat | 2.69 |
| 6 oz. country, traditional or southern style Stuff N Such | .98 |
| 500 ml. detergent Ivory liquid | 1.29 |
| BICKS 1 litre sweet mix or yum yum pickles | 1.79 |
| BICKS 1 litre ass't dill pickles | 1.49 |
| KRAFT 500 g. plain Cheez Whiz | 2.39 |
| KRAFT 375 g. smooth or crunchy peanut butter | 1.48 |
| WESTON 12's brown-in-sauce or soft-in-sauce rolls | .78 |
| FOODLAND 24 oz. white sliced bread | .59 |
| PEEK FREEN 400 g. ass't. flav. biscuits | 1.58 |
| PLANTERS 325 g. jar dry roast peanuts | 2.29 |
| PLANTERS 350 g. tin mixed nuts | 4.39 |
| TV TIME 8 oz. popcorn | .78 |
| BIRD'S EYE 1 litre frozen cool whip | 1.39 |
| GREEN GIANT 10 oz. tins fancy cut wax beans or green beans | 2/85 |
| GREEN GIANT 10 oz. tins niblets kernel corn or cream style corn | .39 |
| HEINZ strained regular varieties baby food | 2/69 |
| WESTON pkg. of 8 English muffins | .79 |
| WESTON pkg. of 12 brown 'n serve rolls | .79 |
| WESTON pkg. of 12 soft 'n crusty rolls | .79 |

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| 24 x 10 oz. tins sprite regular, sugar free tab or coca cola | 4.99 |
| FOODLAND 48 fl. oz. tomato juice | .89 |
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| 1 lb. bag regular, auto drip, or filter drip Maxwell House coffee | 2.58 |
| REDPATH 2 kg. granulated white sugar | 1.39 |
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| Quality 1/2 Vac Pac a.p. cottage rolls | lb. 1.69 | Grade "A" Frozen Self Basting GOLDEN BASTE turkeys | lb. 1.39 |
| BURN'S Vac Pac Whole or Half ready-to-serve Vintage hams | lb. 3.59 | Lean counter served cooked ham | lb. 2.09 |
| SWIFF'S 1 lb. pkg. skinless wieners | 1.39 | DEVON 500 g pkg. sliced breakfast bacon | 1.79 |
| Store Pak pork sausage | lb. 1.39 | | |



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Obituary

Elsie Harris

Funeral service was held at Shoemaker Funeral Home November 28 for Elsie Ann Chapman Harris of Rockwood in her 92nd year.

Mrs. Harris died in Hyde Park Nursing Home, Guelph, November 28 after a lengthy illness.

Born in Eramosa Township on March 30, 1890, she was the daughter of James Chapman and Elspeth Taylor. She attended Eramosa No. 1 school before marrying Charles H. Harris in December, 1913. She lived in Rockwood her entire married life.

Mrs. Harris is survived by her sons Stanley, of West Garafraxa; Gordon, Erin Township; and Elmer and Arthur of Rockwood. She was predeceased by her husband Charles, children John and Agnes, brothers William, Arthur and Frank Chapman, sisters Margaret and Florence and her parents.

Pastor J.E. Donaldson officiated at her funeral. Interment was a Rockwood Cemetery.

Holiday Greetings

Here's hoping your Christmas season is decorated with love and brotherhood... peace & many happy moments. Have a merry!

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