



Roland Height decided to share his love of sleigh-riding with the general public and has a booming business on his RR 1 Acton farm with sleigh and hay rides. Horses Doc and Roy play an important part in his success.

Sleigh bells ringing at Roland Height's place

The air is crisp and the partier's breath can be seen as he exhales. The sound of crunching snow under heavy hooves is drowned out by the singing, and the laughter.

For Roland Height, it's all in a day's work. To transform people back a century, away from the bustle and bustle of traffic, honking horns, and energy problems.

A good old fashion sleigh ride—Height's favorite pastime, is rapidly becoming a favorite pastime of others, thanks to the RR 1, Acton farmer.

Business is booming since he decided to go public with his horses and sleighs. Even in the summer, with his hay rides, people flock to his 25 Sideroad farm.

Until recently, Height confined his sleigh rides to close friends and relatives. But last summer, he offered hay rides to groups and decided to do the same for sleigh rides in the winter.

People come from as far away as Toronto and Burlington to have an hour sleigh ride around Height's 100 acre farm and Nor Halton park, next door. A minimum of 10 people is required for a ride, the maximum is 35.

Each sleigh holds 18 people, and if needed, a second sleigh will be taken out. Height himself takes the sleigh out, and son Tim or neighbor George Stull are on hand if a second one is needed.

A sleigh ride is great fun for a birthday party, Height says, and many people have taken advantage of his inexpensive fares. Senior citizen groups have booked him, and even a New Year's Party. The freezing rain of December 31 did not deter the partiers' fun. Schools, Scouts, Guides, Brownies, or company parties are

welcome to ride with him. If riders are dressed warmly, Height says, a good time is in store for them. He recommends snowmobile suits and a second pair of socks. Hot chocolate and coffee are available afterward to kill the chill.

Four horses are now broken to harness, with another soon to be. Height says, Doc and Roy and Queenie and Rusty, four of his ten Belgian horses, have become a big hit with the riders.

With the help of his son, Height has built seats onto each of his sleighs, for the comfort of his passengers. The hay rides offer the seats or the convenient bales of hay, depending upon preference.

Height's been busy every weekend since the snow came, and it doesn't look as if business will let up until spring—and he loves it. He says he doesn't even notice the cold, because he's doing something he wants to do and it is worth it.

Sleigh and hay rides are obviously not his only source of income. Besides his 10 horses Height raises beef cattle, but chuckles when adding that even the cattle do not pay the bills. He is into the rockery stone business, hauling rocks mainly to Niagara Falls and the St. Catharines area.

Wife Peggy is a nurses' aide at Eden House nursing home, in Eden Mills, where she teaches ceramics. Eventually she hopes to sell her own handmade wares to sleigh riders.

Anyone travelling in the 25 Sideroad Townline area who hears sleigh bells ringing, people singing and children laughing, is not hearing a Christmas song. The winter wonderland is at Roland Height's. And you can be a part of it.

Vegas trips not fraud, but beware

Both of Acton's travel agents have been swamped by calls from residents wondering about cards they received at their homes last week saying they had been "selected for a vacation in Las Vegas" but police say it isn't a fraud.

Rick Bonnette, Acton Travel, contacted police last week when customers first informed him about the cards which showed up in mail boxes all over town. Staff Sergeant Les Graham, Halton Regional Police, said the authorities investigated and "it is not a fraud."

The cards show the Vegas Marina Hotel on the front and on the back it says: Congratulations. You have been selected for a vacation in Las Vegas. Imagine, 3 days, 2 nights deluxe accommodations for 2 adults. (Must be over 21 years of age. Offer good until Dec. 31). Plus as a special bonus we will include a \$1,000 V.L.P. voucher which consists of approximately 20 free meals, drinks, shows, slots galore, bingo, keno and cash (Service processing fee \$39.95) But you must call 1-800-661-7232 toll free within 3 days from now (7 days a week) for confirmation. Have Fun. Holiday Vacations International 7206-101 Ave. Edmonton, Alberta.

A recent provincial government warning stated "consumers should be on the lookout for boiler room operators who are selling Las Vegas tour extras which are complimentary at most hotels there. They call people at random telling them they have just won or been selected to receive a three day, all expense paid trip and tour extras worth \$1,000. This package contains coupons for free drinks, shows, dinner and gambling chips. But what people don't

realize is most of these coupons are available to customers at Las Vegas hotels... without the \$39.95 service fee."

It would appear the only difference between what Holiday Vacations is offering and what the government warning describes is \$30 and the fact Actonians were contacted through a post card and not over the phone.

This newspaper called Holiday Vacations and the person on the phone said they need 14 days booking notice, transportation is not included, there are no Saturday arrivals allowed and the coupons aren't valid two days before or after an American holiday.

The person on the phone noted the price of \$39.95 is for a couple and the hotels make money on the gambling so they can afford to give rooms away.

Also the person must pay \$60 to guarantee the hotel, but there was no mention of giving a credit card number over the phone as some who have called have been informed.

Graham emphasized there is nothing "illegal" happening, but added people should be aware they could get the coupons for free at any hotel in Vegas. Ted Tyler of Tyler Travel said he has the same kinds of coupons at his office now for people booking for Vegas.

Graham urged people read what the card says "carefully" and then they will realize if they think they have won anything they have been reading things into it. "It's not saying you won a trip." The card advertises "freebies" and the fee covers the firm's paperwork for giving the freebies away.

Tyler said people who take the deal are buying something which "is already free."

The hotels are using the free rooms and coupons as loss leaders and they make their money on the gambling. He said anyone can rent a room at a hotel downtown and a little off the strip at the same price Holiday Vacations is offering.

He said a lot of people think they are getting something for free and he has received a lot of calls from residents wanting to know if it is legitimate. Bonnette says he has been averaging about 30 calls a day and "it has really created an interest in Vegas trips."

"Be very cautious before you sign on the dotted line. Check it out," Tyler advised. Bonnette urged people not to give a credit card number over the phone before they have some kind of documentation or brochures in their hands from Holiday Vacations and added he knows of one person who did give their credit card number over the phone.

He said since transportation isn't included there are much better deals available. A regular flight to Vegas costs \$419 return while a charter and hotel starts at \$398 return.

He noted the coupons are only good at certain times, for example a free drink at one place is only available from 3 to 3.15 p.m. and a breakfast at a hotel from 6 to 8.30 a.m. A person can be kept running ragged trying to use the coupons at the times stated as well as spend a lot on taxis getting from one place to another. He added when he went to Vegas he only used about five per cent of the coupons he got there.

Merchant can't believe police missed burglars

A local merchant can't understand how burglars escaped with over \$2,000 in merchandise when the police were right on the scene.

Henry Stachyra, owner of First Line TV, attended Friday's councillors' drop-in to complain about the Halton Regional Police's handling of a recent break-in at his business.

He said it isn't easy to break the thick glass in his well lit windows and the thieves couldn't have too quickly removed the jagged glass before entering the store and stealing \$2,155 worth of stereo equipment and a television.

A police officer was right in the area, even heard the glass breaking, and then after a back-up officer arrived they checked Acton Pharmacy instead of going to First Line TV.

Halton Regional Police north Halton crime prevention officer Scott Pringle, who also attended the drop-in session, said the thieves were "lucky" and the police "unlucky" in this instance.

The policeman, who Pringle described as a young officer, went where he thought the sound of breaking glass was coming from and found the First Line TV break-in within 15 minutes.

Golden Agers Enjoy Niagara trip

by Edith Frankland
On January 13 members of the "Golden Age Club" went by bus to Niagara to see the lovely film "Show Boat."

In spite of the terrible weather, the outing was enjoyed by 39 members who braved the elements. We arrived home safe and sound about 6 p.m. and agreed we had had a lovely day. Our thanks go to organizer

Isabel McDonald, and we are looking forward to another trip in the near future, but without snow please.

Appointments
Pat Little of Acton and R.J. Snow of Georgetown were named by Halton Hills council Monday to sit on the Halton Region Safety Council for 1982.

Ministers change spots

Acton ministers took part in Week of Prayer for Christian Unity by exchanging churches on Sunday.

Evangel Pentecostal minister Cliff Hodgson and Trinity United minister Chuck Beaton preached at each other's churches, as did St. Alban's Art Tribe and Acton Baptist's Jean Stairs. St. Joseph's Ralph Diodati and Salvation Army Lt. Lorne Pritchett traded services also.

Bethel Christian Reformed's John Cooper and former Knox Presbyterian minister John Robertson were to have changed places, but due to the recent resignation of Rev. Robertson, there was no exchange.

\$4,000 damage to car

There was an estimated \$4,000 damage to a car driven by an Acton resident when it rolled over on Highway 25 Sunday at 2:30 a.m.

Randolph Hunt, 14A John St. South, was driving north on Highway 25 and the accident occurred in the area of Chudleighs, Milton OPP report.

The vehicle veered off the east side of the road and went through a cable restraining barrier and rolled into Oakville Creek. It landed upright in the creek. Hunt wasn't hurt.

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Sunday closing exemption extended for Hide House

A six month extension of the old Hide House's Sunday store closing exemption as a tourist business has been approved by the region's administration and finance committee.

Acton councillor Dave Whiting says besides giving the Hide House a six month extension on their exemption the committee directed staff to come up with a policy statement on Sunday store closing exemptions throughout Halton.

The report, involving all departments, including business development, is due in two months. All four area municipalities will also be asked to comment.

Whiting said the guidelines and policy could conceivably permit all Acton shops to stay open Sundays if the town becomes a tourist area. If Queen's Park were to designate Acton as a tourist area, something MPP Julian Reed has been urging, then the region policy wouldn't be needed; shops would be able to stay open Sundays.

The 1982 edition of the telephone directory for Halton and Peel Regions, Dufferin County and surrounding area becomes available beginning January 26.

W.C. Salmon, Bell manager, said almost 4,200 directories will be delivered this year in the Acton exchange, about 300 more than in 1981.

Deliver phone books soon

Delivery is scheduled to be completed by February 24.

The directory introductory section lists changes in telephone numbers for Bell's business office, which become effective February 22 in Acton. Residence customers will then phone 837-3400 and business customers 837-1200.

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