



The peaceful comfort of listening to a Christmas story, while hugging a soft cuddly toy, is a lovely way to spend an hour at Halton Hills libraries. Here children's librarian Joy Showell, with a little one on her knee, reads "How the Grinch Stole Christmas". Surrounding her are Anne and Heather Bowman, Jennifer Stocks, Meg Whitton, Daniel, James and David Young, and Leah and Janelle Goetz.

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The Most Rev. Paul Reding, Separate School Board trustee Irene McCauley and director of education Cliff Byrnes cut the ribbon to officially open St. Joseph's School Wednesday evening. Father Ralph Diolati looks on.

600 witness opening of St. Joseph's

St. Joseph's Catholic School was officially opened last Wednesday evening amid a fanfare of music, speeches and pageantry. Over 600 people jammed into the school to witness the historic occasion.

The Most Rev. Paul Reding, DD, Bishop of Hamilton, led by altar boys Sean Pratt, Kevin Caswell and Chris Graham blessed each room in the school, while parents and other interested people were entertained by students.

School board trustee Irene McCauley cut the bright red ribbon at the doorway, assisted by Bishop Reding and director of education Cliff Byrnes. Students Carolyn Montgomery and Bryce Marshall held the ribbon.

Students of St. Joseph's, under the leadership of teachers James McGeragie, Carol Caverley and Pat Rothero, performed several songs. St. Joseph's School Choir, directed by Mary Margaret Dickinson, also entertained with a variety of songs.

A Knights of Columbus Honor Guard led the processional in and out of the gymnasium, where all the speeches and entertainment took place.

"This is a great day in the life of this community," Bishop Reding told the large audience. He recognized the efforts of the late Hazen Allen, who was principal of Robert Little school when St. Joseph's was first set up.

"The community did not become divided when the Catholic school became a reality in their midst," the Bishop noted. "The community was wise enough to realize the value of a Catholic

education." He thanked the parents for the trust and faith they showed.

"It was you who were willing to risk accommodation in a less than perfect building (the Stone School) until the Ministry freed up funds for a new school," he stated.

Bishop Reding pointed out the school was named after the first patron saint of Canada, St. Joseph, who was a simple workman. He said he hoped the children of the school will appreciate the value of St. Joseph in their lives.

"All good things come to those who wait," Trustee McCauley told the parents, and credited their diligence and dedication for bringing about the school.

Chairman of the Halton Separate School Board, Father James Mihm noted "it was evident of the faith of the people of this community to have erected in their midst an educational institution which would further the Catholic education of their children."

Father Mihm reminded the parents they fought hard for the school and urged them "not to forget the purpose of why they fought so hard." He pointed out the local school is the furthest from the board office (in Burlington), but it was not forgotten.

John Storey, regional director of education out of the Central regional office in Toronto brought greetings from the Ministry of Education. He noted of the \$1.26 million to build the school, local taxes only put in \$145,839.

"This (the school) has been a long time coming

and you all should be congratulated, especially Irene McCauley," Halton regional councillor Dave Whiting said, on behalf of regional chairman Jack Rafitis.

He then presented school principal Fred Springer with the regional flag.

"Irene (McCauley) deserves a lot of credit," Halton Hills mayor Peter Pomeroy echoed. "She is a very dedicated worker on your behalf. The board of trustees have done an equally good job in the assembly of this school." He noted the people of Acton are very grateful for these efforts.

In a short speech, principal Fred Springer thanked Robert Little principal Ron Chatten for the years of co-operation when the two schools shared the same playground and facilities. He also pointed out the school's first principal Sean Briggs was present for the opening. He introduced all the teachers on staff.

Armed robbery at Rockwood

The R & M Shoppette in Rockwood was robbed at gun point on Friday night at 8:46 p.m.

Two masked men entered the store at 154 Main St., produced a gun and robbed the store of \$500 cash. The two men left on foot and were last seen running behind the store. The incident is still under investigation by Guelph OPP.

Town hall saved

Halton Hills won't be tearing down the town hall for a parking lot since the municipality won't own the historic building much longer.

By a surprisingly wide margin of 9-4 Halton Hills council Monday night voted to sell the building to a soon to be formed non-profit corporation comprised of Actario and Restoration Committee members for \$1.

Early the past summer, council voted narrowly not to seek grants and put municipal money into restoration of the building after a consultant's study indicated full restoration as a public recreation centre would cost over \$400,000. Later in the year council again narrowly voted against a plan which would have saved the building and decided to demolish the building for a parking lot. The last rejected plan would have seen the building leased or sold to restoration supporters with the Town buying it back for \$1 after it was refurbished.

Monday night new councillors Phil Carney, Rick Bonnette, Finn Poulstrup and Tom Hill joined long-time town hall supporters, Mayor Peter Pomeroy and Councillors Ross Knechtel, Dave Whiting and John McDonald in voting to sell the building. In addition, Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson, who had previously voted against saving the hall, switched and supported selling the building.

Car hits train, people unhurt

Two Rockwood residents escaped injury when their car hit a train Thursday morning.

Bob and Karen Lazenby, 256 MacKenzie St., were travelling northbound on Halton-Wellington County Line at 7:25 a.m. when the mishap occurred.

As they approached a railway crossing their vehicle skidded and they struck an eastbound train.

Guelph OPP estimate there was \$1,000 damage to the car and no damage to the train was visible.

Councillors Pam Sheldon, Russ Miller, Harry Levy and Mike Armstrong maintained their opposition against the hall.

Later in the meeting council voted not to make about \$35,000 set aside several years ago for demolition available at a later date to the restoration committee. Actually about \$40,000 was earmarked for demolition of the building, but the cost of the recent Heritage Conservation Review Board hearing as well as the consultant's study of the building was to be subtracted from the grant to the new owners. The money wouldn't have been turned over to the restoration body until council was satisfied they were going to succeed in fixing the building up. Only Pomeroy, McDonald, Hill, (Continued on Page 2)

Inside

An oversight means 63 homeowners are going to have a surprise. Page 2.

For more St. Joseph's School opening ceremony pictures, turn to Page 3.

The family of a drowning victim sues the town and life-guardians. Page 3.

Have trouble driving on Acton streets this week? Turn to page 6 for the reason.

Sports this week. Page B1.

District news is on Page B2 and Outdoors is on Page B4.

An Acton area man gets caught in a Hawaiian hurricane. Page 2.



MNR's Pope coming here

Rural residents angry about the threat of a land freeze and possibly more gravel pits and quarries in the Acton area in the future will be able to get the answers they want from the top man, Natural Resources minister Alan Pope, when he visits Acton next month.

Saskia van Tetering, Fifth Line Nassagaweya, president of the Young Progressive Conservatives of Halton-Burlington, announced this week she has tentatively arranged for Pope and possibly Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Claude Bennett, to attend a public meeting at Acton High School on January 17.

Miss van Tetering met Pope at a convention last month in Burlington when she attended a workshop on natural resources.

She told him about the controversy in north Halton over the aggregate issue, the last public meeting attracted a crowd of about 300 angry landowners. She says Pope "expressed great interest" in the concerns of Halton Hills and Nassagaweya residents and he was "aware of the situation." Saskia suggested the ministry's position has been misunderstood by citizens and Pope asked her to arrange a public meeting so he can come out here and clarify his ministry's position on the issue.

The meeting has been tentatively set for Acton High School for 7 p.m. on January 17, though the date could still be changed. It isn't confirmed yet that Bennett will also be attending.

Miss van Tetering is meeting with Pope's assistant, Marc Perrault, and will be turning over to him 10 or 12 questions she has heard from worried citizens and will get the answers back as soon as

possible. Then she plans to publish a flyer containing the answers to these questions and distribute it to as many rural residents as possible prior to Pope's visit here.

3-year-old shot father charged

A three-year-old Acton girl is in satisfactory condition in Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children after being shot in the chest by a pellet from a .22 calibre pellet pistol last Tuesday.

The girl's father has been charged with criminal negligence causing bodily harm and will appear in Milton Provincial Court January 10.

Halton regional police were called to a Queen St. home at about 6:30 p.m. December 14. The victim was rushed to Georgetown and District Hospital and then transferred to Toronto, according to Staff Sergeant Les Graham.