

# Christmas in holy land, Papillon's trip of lifetime

by Helen Murray  
Christmas in Bethlehem, washing his feet in the exact spot where Jesus Christ was baptized and a New Year's Day mass celebrated by Pope John Paul II were the highlights of a 17 day tour through the Holy Land for Acton's Peter Papillon.

It was a full day of travel for Papillon and the 10 other Canadians on December 17. They flew to New York City where they caught a connecting flight to Copenhagen, Denmark.

There, Papillon started two weeks of intensive sightseeing visiting Christianborg Palace, the Harbour, the Little Mermaid Statue, the Organ Church, the National Museum and Tivoli Gardens and saw the Royal Ballet at the Royal Danish Theatre.

Cairo, Egypt was next on the agenda for December 19. Enroute they had a short stopover in Rome, where the group saw their first armed soldiers at the airport, reportedly looking for members of the Red Brigade terrorist group.

Upon arrival at their hotel in Cairo, Papillon got his first look at a pyramid, which was flooded against the night sky. It was only a 10 minute walk away.

The next day, December 20, Papillon marvelled at the Great Pyramid of Cheops, a 450 foot high structure built in 2690 B.C. by King Cheops, the Second Pyramid and the Sphinx, with the body of a lion and the face of a man, thought to be King Chephren. The Third Pyramid of Mycerinus and the Granite Temple were also taken in before they headed back to Cairo, travelling along the Nile.

Right in the city of Cairo, they visited the Museum which houses the most complete and beautiful collection of Pharaonic

Antiquities, and the Mosque of Mohammed Ali and the Citadel. That evening, Papillon enjoyed a sound and light spectacular of the Pyramids.

Gun placements and army training camps checked the route to the city of Suez on December 21, Papillon recalls. The 93 mile trip from Cairo to Suez was almost entirely across the Sahara Desert.

What impressed Papillon the most about Suez was that the buildings and homes are still pockmarked from the shellfire during the invasion by Israel in 1976. Seven years later, he noticed people still living in bombed out apartment buildings.

Another constant reminder of the violence is an army tank which has been left on the streets of Suez. One side had been shot at, immobilizing it. Papillon figures the tank will never be moved, and has become an historical site.

It was back to Cairo that evening, where they become stuck in traffic. The Actonian was told there are nine to 11 million people in the city, and the people drive and park wherever they feel like. It is also common to see flocks of 25 sheep being shepherded down the middle of the street slowing the already chaotic traffic.

The 11 Canadians flew first class to Amman, Jordan, the next day. For some reason, they were exempt from going through security, unlike some future border stops on the trip.

In Amman they saw the columned streets, monuments, temples, arches, Byzantine churches and baths.

December 23 they left Amman for Jerusalem, by bus, via Jericho, the Dead Sea and Bethany. Papillon says their Moslem guide refused to go into Jerusalem,

even though he had family there. At the border, the Canadians were asked if they were taking any messages or objects into the city for anyone who lived there.

Once in Israel, Papillon said, it was like being in an army camp with the soldiers and guns in many places. The group was met by soldiers at the Allenby bridge, which separates Jordan and Israel, where they were forced to go through four searches before getting clearance into the country. One of the searches, Papillon remembers, was done in private with the soldier frisking the tourists to ensure they were carrying no weapons. He heard cases of people actually being undressed.

Even though the Israelis readily admit tourism is their number one industry, Papillon said, one would never know it by the way visitors were treated. After two-and-a-half hours at customs, the Canadian were finally freed and allowed to enter Israel.

Lunch that day was in Jericho. Papillon said he looked around at the sights and just couldn't believe he was really there. To actually see the sights he only saw in books and read about in the Bible overwhelmed him.

He saw where Jesus endured his 40 day fast, and where the historic scrolls were found a few years ago. He also visited the Elijah Springs and the Jericho Valley, and saw the lowest spot on earth—the Dead Sea.

Other sights visited by the Canadians were the Inn of the Good Samaritan, where the good Samaritan took an injured man who had been set upon by thieves and the Tomb of Lazarus, whom Jesus raised from the dead. Father Burns, leader of the Canadians said Mass at the Church of St. Martha



Peter Papillon looks over his slides of his trip to the Holy Land at Christmas.

and Mary in Bethany.

Before the day was completed, the group found themselves in Bethlehem, where they went to a Jewish folklore theatre.

Christmas Eve was spent touring Bethlehem and area. Papillon was surprised while touring the J.F. Kennedy Memorial to see Kennedy's sister-in-law Joan Kennedy and her son Patrick.

From J.F. Kennedy Memorial, the group went to the Hassada Hospital where they viewed the stained glass windows and on to Ain Karim where John the Baptist was born. Other famed tourist spots were seen by the group, before they headed to a kibbutz for lunch. From there they went to Mount Zion, and into the room where the Last Supper was held. They also visited the room where

the Blessed Virgin slept and died, Papillon said, at the church of Dormition, and the wailing wall of St. Anne, in the area where the Blessed Virgin was born.

Also on the list of sights that day were Bethesda, where the Lord told men to rise and work, and the Church of Condemnation, where the Lord was condemned to death. They also visited the Palace of Pontius Pilate which is now occupied by the Sisters of Gen, and the Jaffa Gates, where the stations of the cross are located.

At midnight, Papillon and his friends went to midnight mass at the Church of the Nativity. This one building contains three religious sectors, he pointed out: Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, and Armenian Orthodox.

It was standing room only, Papillon recalls, and the Canadians were lucky enough to get in the second standing room row, just three rows away from Joan Kennedy and her son, who were in the last row of seats, on the other side of the church.

However, on the way to Midnight Mass, the group was reminded of the violence plaguing the Middle East. They were stopped and searched by soldiers and police.

Even though they did not return to their hotel until 2.25 a.m. the group was back up and leaving for a tour of King Solomon's tomb at 7.30 on Christmas morning.

December 25 they also visited the Mosque where it is traditionally supposed to be the spot where Abraham was going to sacrifice his son Isaac some 3900 years ago. They toured Mount Marja, and then the church where Jesus taught the Lord's Prayer. It was then on to Gethsemane, where Jesus began his preaching. Nearby is an olive tree

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After the mild weather, Halton Hills ski buffs like Kris Doherty and Karen Bruton are happy to see some snow. They look a little shaky here practising their skills, but are having fun anyway.

## Board must cover \$4 million Crown Trust deposit in '83

by Gord Murray  
Regardless whether or not Halton Board of Education gets its \$4 million deposit back from Crown Trust sometime in the future, some provisions must likely be made to cover the matter in the 1983 budget.

Currently the board's finance committee is only keeping up with information trickling out about the Crown Trust situation. No firm plans have been determined yet regarding what it will do if it loses its \$4 million.

It came to light recently that the board's finance staff had invested \$4 million with Crown Trust and this money was tied up when the province seized the firm in connection with the Cadillac-Fairview apartment deal.

Monday the subject was raised by Councillor Dave Whiting at Halton Hills council. He is concerned, in light of last year's staggering education tax hike, that the board would have \$4 million sitting around to in-

### Costs \$71,000 5% staff pay boost

Halton Hills has followed federal and provincial wage guidelines in giving its 45 non-unioned employees a 1983 pay boost.

Monday night council approved a five per cent raise for almost all of its workers who aren't covered by a collective agreement. Ottawa and Queen's Park set five per cent as the wage boost limit for civil servants for this year.

The total of all raises for 1983 for all of the 45 employees will cost the Town \$71,000.

Eight employees who earn less than \$15,000 a year will receive pay raises of \$750, the other 37 workers covered by this council decision will get five per cent increases. The wage hikes took effect January 1.

An employee earning \$40,000 last year would receive a \$2,000 raise, a worker earning \$30,000 in 1982 would get a \$1,500 raise and an employee making \$20,000 previously would receive a \$1,000 raise.

vest at the start of the budget year.

In an interview Tuesday morning Acton Trustee Arlene Bruce said the money deposited with Crown Trust may be funds set aside in the 1982 budget to pay for teachers' wage boosts from September to December. The pay increase hasn't been settled for September 1982 to June 1983 yet.

Finance committee chairman Bill Priestner said it is hard to nail down specifically what the \$4 million invested with Crown Trust was for, nothing in particular he thinks. He stated it is difficult to determine how much cash the board needs at any specific time to pay its bills. It's just money

he said, explaining funds are moved around and it is simply a bookkeeping matter. He guessed that most of the money is from pay raise funds set aside earlier and surplus funds.

Priestner predicted the board will have to cover the \$4 million in some way in the 1983 budget because he doesn't expect the whole situation will be settled before the budget must be struck. Priestner said he would be "extremely surprised" if the board knows the fate of its \$4 million by March, adding problems like the Crown Trust matter

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## Keep politicians out of United Way

Politicians shouldn't be involved in the launching of a United Way in Halton Hills, according to Councillor Dave Whiting.

The recently suggested Halton Hills committee to look at establishing a United Way here was discussed at length at Councillors' drop-in for Acton on Friday when resident John Mowatt attended to voice support for the United Way.

Mowatt explained he feels a United Way would be beneficial since residents would only have one person each year coming to the door collecting for charity instead of up to 11 as is the case now.

However, the Frederick St. resident noted, all the charity groups would have to be behind the United Way for it to be successful.

Whiting, who has been researching United Way operations in the rest of Halton, pointed out a United Way in north Halton has been talked about at both Halton Hills and regional councils since the 70s and a target of a region wide United Way is for 1985.

He feels 1985 isn't realistic, 1990 or later would make more sense.

Aiming to have a United Way in Halton Hills in 1984 also doesn't make a lot of sense, he says. A United Way was pushed last year in Milton and flopped miserably, the drive fell way short of its target because the appeal had been rushed, Whiting claimed. He said he has heard concerns that the same kind of failure could happen in Halton Hills if the United Way is rushed. Some people think Milton's United Way must become more established before one is launched in Halton Hills.

Politicians shouldn't be involved in the United Way, it "leaves the wrong impression," Whiting declared. He feels a better approach than a council committee would be to have a citizens' committee made up of three citizens from Acton and three from Georgetown then plan the course of action for a United Way in Halton Hills.

He said he has been advised that a Halton Hills United Way ignore the rural area and concentrate on simply becoming established in the two urban areas. Councillor Russ Miller noted Esquering residents could make contributions through their place of em-

ployment.  
If a United Way is started in Halton Hills it won't work unless every group now canvassing for financial support is involved, Whiting said.

Councillor Rick Bonnette was worried not as much money will be raised through the United Way. He suggested a resident might give \$2 each time a canvasser comes to the door, so about \$20 per household is donated annually now. However, if there was a United Way drive and only one canvasser coming to the door annually a lot of people might give just \$2, leaving a large funding shortfall.

The new Acton councillor also wondered if the dedicated people who have made the cancer, heart fund, etc. drives here so successful will work with the save "vigor" for a United Way.

While all United Way drives are falling short of their targets because of the poor economy, the Milton drive was particularly disastrous, raising just \$30,000 when the target was \$119,000 Whiting said. Milton  
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Ted Tyler, chairman of the town hall fund raising committee signs the last of the paper work for a \$133,000 Canada Community Development project grant while George Elliott, chairman of the Acton Town Hall

Restoration Committee and Anne Campisi, project officer for this area, look on. The work begins next Tuesday, February 1, on the 100 year old building.

### Inside

The region should give priority to grants for groups helping senior citizens not children according to Councillor Dave Whiting. Turn to page 5.

The YMCA held its annual meeting last Wednesday and we have full reports, including guest speaker Councillor Ross Kuechtel's remarks. See page 6.

"Motor" Murray is the interim coach of the Sabres. Details on the management shuffle on page 11.

Two Acton men were convicted this week of drug trafficking. Turn to stories on pages 2 and 9.

Kalinavik students are looking for Acton billets again. Story and photo on page 2.

