

"Big John" king of privies

by Jeff Andrew

Every business has its ups and downs, but for Johnny-on-the-Spot toilet rentals in Limehouse, there are more than just the obvious sort.

While employees take a lot of ribbing from friends and the units are an occasional attraction for vandals, Harry Kemper and Debbie Anderson, who work at the outlet, say the privy business is a veritable gold-mine.

"It's a good business," nods Kemper. "I wish I owned it."

The humble endeavor brings in about \$50,000 a month for the firm's owners, William A. Reynolds and Assoc. of North Tonawanda, New York, estimates Anderson.

It's no wonder either. The Limehouse road location alone services the entire Burlington-Oshawa area with over 600 units. Nature's most basic of callings

means a healthy business as construction firms, fairs, barbecue and even wedding organizers join the line-up for service.

And if you think the lowly outhouse is something technology has overlooked, you are sorely mistaken.

That cold, drafty, ripe-smelling hut of the past has been replaced by sleek, sanitized fibre-glass stalls, flush toilets, heater equipped units for those frigid winters and a massive five-staller for especially big crowds (aptly named The Big John).

There now exist specially adapted units for the handicapped, though Anderson admits, "We don't get much call for them because most people don't know we have them."

Inevitably, their line of work makes employees the target of jokes which has made them a trifle sensitive.

"People ask the servicemen what they are carrying when they make a delivery

and they say telephone booths," laughs Anderson. "But when they drop them off the people ask, 'Where's the telephone?'"

Unfortunately in the business, the slings and arrows of vandals are something to be contended with. In the past units have been stolen, smashed-up, burned and abused in countless other ways. The occasional unit also finds its way to someone's cottage. This proves costly for customers since they are responsible for the units, which cost upwards of \$1,500 to replace, depending on age.

Of course, there are also the practical jokers.

"Some people like to put them on high school roofs," says Anderson. "How they get them up there I don't know."

Getting them down is no doubt an even bigger dilemma. The riches that rain down on Johnny-on-the-Spot have their price, after all.



Harry Kemper stands beside a fraction of the Johnny-On-the-Spots that are rented out at the company's Limehouse location. They may be a drab sight but there is a lot of money banking on them.

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Georgetown/Acton, Wednesday, September 14, 1983

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By-election likely Oct. 24

October 24 is the favored date for a by-election for ward two (Esqueving) voters to elect a replacement for Councillor Tom Hill who died recently.

Mayor Peter Pomeroy said the firm date hasn't been nailed down yet because the Town is having a little trouble obtaining voter notification cards.

Last Tuesday night council voted unanimously to hold a by-election.

Council could fill the vacancy by appointment or by-election, both methods have been used in the past, but because over two years remains in this term councillors decided a by-election was the way to go.

Staff has estimated the cost of a by-election for ward two at about \$9,000.

A report from clerk-administrator Ken Richardson indicated if the election is held before November 3 then last year's list of elector, updated for the by-election can still be used.

If the vote is held October 24, then nominations for the seat would close October 3.

Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson observed that there is more time left in the current term than there would be if there was still a two year term instead of three years. She favored a by-election.

The time remaining in this term was the key factor in prompting Councillor Harry Levy to also support a by-election.

Councillor Russ Miller observed he has received calls about the appointment versus by-election question and most people felt there should be an election.

Two losing candidates had spent time and money showing considerable concern and interest in the last election just last November. Councillor Finn Poustrup noted. He feared if a by-election was held there would be special interest candidates running. Anyone who wanted to sit on council for ward two had the chance to run last year, he said.

Both Serjeantson and Mayor Peter Pomeroy noted there have been some new, controversial issues crop up in ward two and there may be more people interested in running now than there were last year.

Councillor Mike Armstrong, who has been appointed to Halton Hills and Halton region councils once each said he didn't favor appointments. The appointed councillor goes through a lot of aggravation, and unpleasant remarks are often made to the sitting councillors who make the appointment. Council is rarely right in the public's eyes in making an appointment.

Pomeroy said there was nothing the matter with single issue candidates and hoped Esqueving voters would have the choice of five or six candidates. If council is making decisions it will always be accused of being wrong by someone, but in this case a by-election was the proper action.

Devine pleads guilty to theft

Dennis Devine, 29, of Georgetown has pleaded guilty to taking over \$16,000 from the Pioneer Gas Bar in Acton last December.

Devine was the subject of a Canada-wide warrant for his arrest last December after a police investigation revealed over \$32,000 was missing from the Gas Bar receipts.

At a preliminary hearing in June, vice president of Pioneer Robert Allen of Scarborough, testified about \$32,000 was missing between December 10 and 20 after he had done an audit on the gas pumps. In those 10 days, Allen told County Court Judge William Sharpe, he attempted to get in touch with Devine three times. This statement was backed up by Pioneer employee Michael Steadman, who had relayed the messages to Devine.

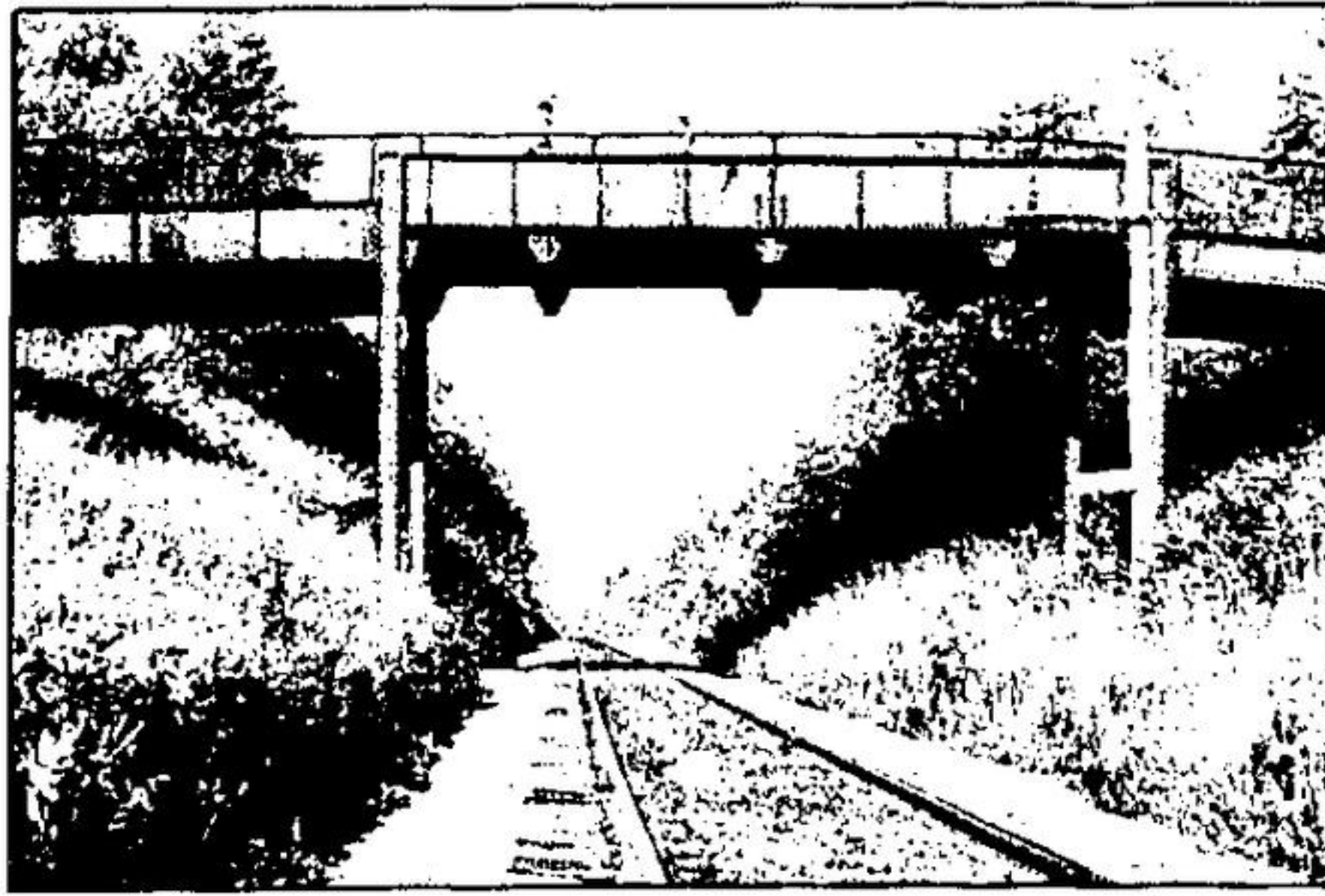
Allen told the court Devine was guaranteed to make \$500 a week, and he was making \$700, out of which he paid his employees. Daily deposits are company policy, the vice president explained and if cash is short, the manager must make up the difference.

About \$15,000 of the money was received when a deposit was made to the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce on December 20.

Judge Sharpe declared at the hearing there was enough evidence for Devine to stand trial, which was set for last Tuesday, at which time the guilty plea was entered.

Devine will be sentenced October 11.

Devine was a candidate in the 1982 municipal election seeking a local seat representing Acton.



Limehouse bridge will be repaired

The old bridge in Limehouse is going to be repaired so it can again take heavy loads. A public information meeting was held at Limehouse School Thursday evening to give residents a chance to express their opinions and ask questions about CN's plans to "reinstate" the bridge to its former specifications over the railway tracks in the village.

The bridge, built in 1907, was assessed last January and load limits were reduced to five tonnes from ten because of structural deterioration.

John McKay, Halton Region's Manager of Maintenance, said the work, which should commence October 27, should be completed by December 10.

John Bond, a CN engineer overseeing the project, told the meeting the railway inspects all bridges and structures on CN property once a year. It was during this annual inspection the bridge was found to be structurally weak.

According to Bond, some supports made from tubular steel had corroded and weakened the structure. The damaged supports will be removed and replaced with stronger, more durable, heavy steel. The wood planking that covers the deck has become split and worn and will also be replaced.

The structural re-inforcement will be done by CN crews and the wood deck, to be asphalted, will be done by the Halton Region's Works Department at the expense of CN.

As a further improvement to the bridge, the north approach which now has a large dip in it will be elevated to create a smoother access to the main span.

"The repairs will cost CN an estimated \$60,000 and," Bond remarked, "CN will be doing the work at as little cost to the railroad as possible."

During the repairs a temporary walk-way will be constructed from scaffolding and wood planks to allow pedestrian traffic safe access across the tracks.

An average of 500 vehicles a day crossing the bridge will be rerouted via Highway 7.

About 20 Limehouse residents attended the meeting, voicing a variety of concerns.

Brent Marshall of Halton Region's public works department recalled about 10 years ago old Halton County and CN came up with a plan which would have seen the bridge

greatly improved, but residents were against improvements. Then the whole issue of the bridge improvements was just left on hold. That is why the region and CN is only going to make minor bridge improvements this time.

One concern Limehouse citizens expressed was the danger of the bridge being under construction longer than 45 days if weather is a problem. The project is supposed to start October 27 and end December 10. Weather wouldn't slow work up much.

If the bridge reconstruction is completed on time, but asphalt isn't available then because of winter, then the paving of the wooden bridge can wait until spring.

Residents aren't keen on the idea of gravel trucks using the bridge. That's why major improvements were rejected in the past and are again being rejected this time, Marshall said. He explained the bridge will have a new weight capacity to handle empty, single axle trucks, but not loaded gravel trucks.

Some residents said they hope a permanent catwalk is built on the bridge. Marshall said this is being considered, but it may be a problem because a catwalk wouldn't leave enough room for school buses to use the bridge.

Residents have also suggested lighting of the temporary walkway across the bridge.

Another suggestion was that lighted detour signs be used on the Fifth Line just north of the bridge to warn drivers in advance.

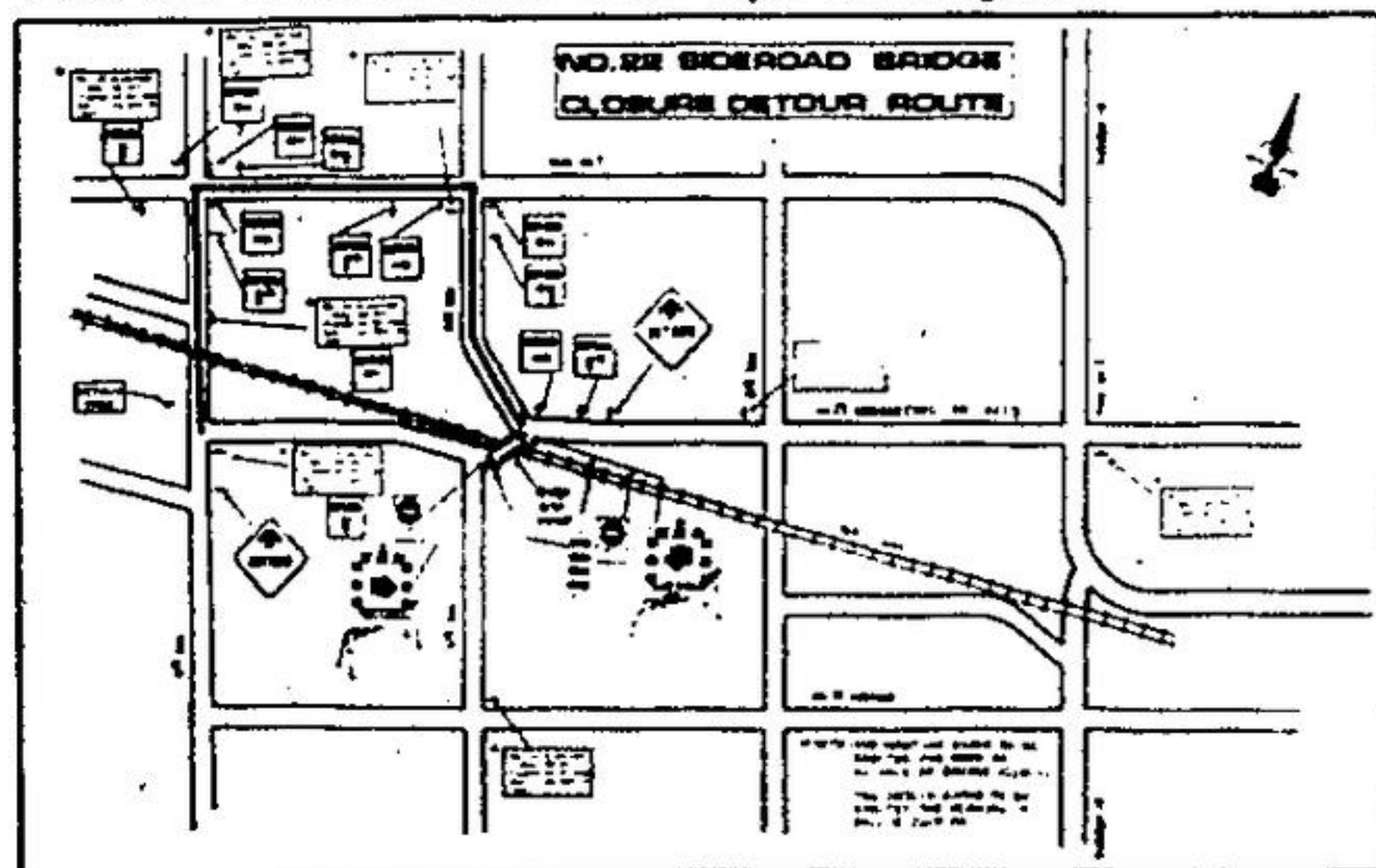
According to Hank Bouwman, a nine year resident of Limehouse, the general feeling among the residents is one of cautious optimism.

The people, explained Bouwman, while generally pleased with the work being done, don't want to see a large number of heavy vehicles running through their quiet rural village when the work is completed.

Since the load restriction has been in effect, school buses couldn't use the bridge and bridge repairs would mean easier access for buses to the school, he said.

The residents, continued Bouwman, would like to see a permanent walk-way built on the one lane bridge in the near future for their children's protection. But as far as CN is concerned, the bridge will remain much as it has for the past 76 years.

Freight and passenger rail service using the tracks below will not be affected by the repair work being done.



St. Elizabeth nurses approved in region

The St. Elizabeth Visiting Nurses Association has been given the green light to move into Halton, though nobody can say for certain what effect they will have on chronic home care service in the region.

By a narrow vote of 13-12 last Wednesday, council voted to allow the association, currently based in Hamilton-Wentworth, to serve Halton on a "non-referral" basis. That means patients will only be directed to the association if they request it.

The St. Elizabeth nurses will have little impact during the remainder of 1983-84 on the Victorian Order of Nurses, which currently serves Halton, predicted Medical Officer of Health, Dr. P. Cole. But he could not be sure what effect they will have in the long run.

"I think it is possible for both to live within the program," he said. "But certainly it's possible that St. Elizabeth will have a greater impact."

In a presentation at the start of the meeting Mrs. Margaret McLeod, Director of the Victorian Order of Nurses, disputed the view that there is room for two agencies in Halton.

"This year has not seen significant growth (in caseloads) as previously predicted," she said, adding that the VON had incurred operating losses for July and August. She said that if there was any increase in servicing drop-offs for the VON due to the addition of St. Elizabeth's service, cutbacks in professional and support staff would result.

Dr. Cole disputed the significance of Mrs. McLeod's claim, saying requests for nursing service always drops off during the summer holidays. He said that because St. Elizabeth will be available to patients only on request, the association will have to work hard to develop a reputation in the region. While stating that he hated the term competition, he said this would spur-on both organizations to improve efficiency and the quality of health care.

Mrs. Sharon Campbell, Executive director of the St. Elizabeth Association and a former regional health nurse in Halton, told council that as long as she has been with the association there have been requests for service from patients in Halton.

"Prior to the start of negotiations (with

the region) we reviewed about two or three requests per month," she said. "Since negotiations began, not a week has gone by that there hasn't been a dozen."

Campbell admitted that the association would have growing pains in Halton but was confident that organizational improvements at the Hamilton office put them in a good position to adapt. She stated that the association currently has no nurses living in the Halton Hills-Milton area and that this would pose a problem initially.

"Initially we are prepared to fight the problem of having patients scattered all-over but I do not think it will last long," she said. She explained that the staff will be divided into geographic teams to cover the region. One of the conditions placed on the association by the region is that they service all of Halton.

Milton councillor William Johnson opposed the agreement with the St. Elizabeth nurses, saying he feared it would result in lay-offs at the VON.

"We've not seen a single request for this service in writing," he said. "It will be a duplication of service."

Oakville councillor Jackie Cutmore said, "I feel that loyalty to a good service (the VON) is enough of a reason to stay with them. They are doing an adequate and worthwhile job of covering the needs and the needs of the patients come first."

But Oakville councillor Ann Mulvale countered saying that demographically society is getting older and so should see an increased demand for health care.

Said Burlington Mayor Roly Blrd, "I believe in free enterprise and in my view competition improves service and the user is better off for it."

Sunday, Sept. 25

Erect crosses as memorials to lives taken by abortion

Roman Catholics of Hamilton diocese one of the largest dioceses in English-speaking Canada, will gather around outdoor crosses after all Sunday masses on September 25 to affirm the right to human life and their opposition to abortion. Halton Hills Catholics are in Hamilton diocese.

Bishop Paul Reding of Hamilton, currently vice-president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, has asked that wooden crosses be erected on church property as a "memorial of the lives taken by abortion" and as a "sign of the commitment we make... to respect every human life."

Parishioners will observe a moment of silence, and pray for a "deep respect for all life." They will also pray for the "conversion of those responsible for the abortion."

Bishop Reding has directed that a pastoral letter be read and/or distributed at all Masses that Sunday. In the letter, he calls abortion an "appalling evil," and an "effort and an insult to God our Creator and Father."

He says that if "tomorrow's children" come to see abortion as a "right," then "we will, sooner or later, betray ourselves, our children and their future."

"If we decide in Canada that one age-group; namely, the unborn, can have decisions about their "lives and deaths" brutally taken from them by their older and more powerful brothers and sisters, will this not have dangerous and far-reaching consequences?"

"The elderly and infirm are frequently without advocates. Will we fall into the trap of willingly ending their lives in the name of "compassion"?"

"Will the retarded and handicapped have a future, a share in the "better life" we are pledged to build in Canada? What will be-

come of genuine mercy, patience and forgiveness?"

"Medical research is today giving us dramatic insights into the human genetic code. We are beginning to use such knowledge to identify, and sometimes cure, inherited diseases and defects. The effort required to continue on this awesome and hopeful path will be monumental."

"It will also be costly. We must ask ourselves if the easy availability of abortion will seduce us into abandoning such efforts in the name of "economic realities."

Salvation Army

Open Citadel September 24

Special ceremonies opening the new Halton Hills Salvation Army Citadel on Mill St., East in Acton will take place September 24, at 2 p.m.

The service will be conducted by Col. William Kerr, Territorial Property Secretary, Guelph Citadel Band and Reg Broughton, Divisional Staff from Hamilton, will assist in the program.

Also that evening the Guelph Salvation Army Band will present a special program at 7:30 p.m.

The next day, Sunday, there will be a special Holiness Meeting at 11 a.m.; a Praise Meeting at 3 p.m. and a Salvation Meeting at 7 p.m.

Major James Reid from Hamilton will be a special guest soloist for the weekend celebrations.

Souvenir mugs and plates commemorating the building opening will be on sale Saturday.