

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Ring out, sing out happy holidays live in our
wishes for a bright New Year. hearts through every season. prevail—in families and
among all mankind.
May the comfort and joy of the May peace and brotherly love

Ring in 1984 at town hall Saturday night

The nearly refurbished town hall will be the scene this Saturday night for a public function for the first time in many, many years.
At midnight Citizen of the Year Ted Tyler will ring in the New Year using the old town

hall bell which was put back up in the tower just last week.
The celebration, complete with free hot chocolate for all citizens who go downtown for the bell ringing and the release of 200 helium filled balloons, is being sponsored by

Halton Hills and its Ontario Bicentennial committee. 1984 marks the 200th year of the settlement of Ontario.
The bell ringing, hot chocolate serving and release of the balloons ceremony will also be staged at the same time in Geor-

town.
Chairman of the Bicentennial committee, Councillor John McDonald said the fun gets underway at 11:30 p.m. and "this will be an opportunity for groups of people to take time out from their parties and for families to be-

ing in the New Year together with their friends and neighbors."
The committee is planning other fun activities and celebrations during 1984. The year also marks Acton's 110 birthday and Georgetown's 120th anniversary.

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Conflicting opinions

Is Acton's snow service as good as Georgetown's?

Is Acton receiving adequate snow plowing and snow removal service? Is Georgetown receiving better service than Acton?

Winter is just barely underway and there's only been two major storms so far, but already those two long debated questions are being raised again and there's conflicting opinions.

Councillor Rick Bonnette says he has received a number of complaints from business people and residents already and has started investigating the situation.

However, Councillors Dave Whiting and Ross Knechtel say they haven't heard complaints and defended the service Acton has been receiving.

Even BIA board members haven't formed a unanimous opinion. Chairman Ed Wood is more concerned with the fact some merchants and downtown residents aren't cleaning their sidewalks than he is about municipal snow removal service. A board member, Beryl Bennett, thinks the Town's service leaves a lot to be desired while another board member, Larry Greaves feels it could be better but acknowledges the municipality may have more important snow removal chores to perform than downtown Acton streets.

Staff of this newspaper has also been hearing complaints from readers about snow plowing and snow removal, including complaints from two Actonians (who must remain nameless because of connections with Halton Hills) who are in Georgetown on

a regular basis and reported that after the first winter storm Georgetown's downtown was cleaned up within a couple of days while downtown Acton was left a mess.

Within a couple of days of the storm last week municipal works crews had removed snow banks from downtown Acton.

Bonnette said after hearing complaints he contacted engineer Robert Austin and was told there was some snow removal done on Maple Ave. in Georgetown, in downtown Georgetown, and in the area of the white bridge in Georgetown after the first storm. However, Bonnette said, he was told "nothing substantial was done." In addition he was informed that some snow removal was paid for by the region and the Town has overspent its 1983 snow budget despite the fact last winter was pretty tame.

Judgment call
While the Town has a snow maintenance policy, Bonnette said he was told by the engineer that what snow removal work is done is a "strict judgment call on the part of staff."

He has pledged to pursue this matter further, adding he doesn't like hearing there was a preference for downtown Georgetown after the first storm.

If work can't be done in both areas at the same time after every storm, then Bonnette thinks Acton should be done first one time and Georgetown the next time.

Bonnette said he'll be keeping a close eye

(Continued on page 10)



Joyce Sprowle and Captain Wilson Perrin of the Salvation Army, were busy last week preparing Christmas hampers to go to the needy of Halton Hills.

85 needy families are given food hampers

Between 85 and 90 Christmas hampers were delivered to needy families last week thanks to members of the Lakeside chapter of the IOOE, the Salvation Army and the Acton Rotary Club.

Captain Wilson Perrin, of the Salvation Army, estimates about \$5,000 worth of food and toys were distributed to Halton Hills residents who otherwise faced a bleak Christmas. The Army donated \$3,500 worth of food and he says another \$2,000 was

through cash donations.

Salvation Army members and IOOE members gathered the goods and put them in household boxes, with the amount depending on the size of the family. Rotarians made most of the actual deliveries. Captain Perrin says each hamper was worth more than \$50, and where possible included toys for children. Those wishing one were given a Christmas turkey also and most received bread and other staples.

Peace Camp hearing is January 10

Halton Hills council has authorized staff to testify against International Peace Camp (IPC) at a hearing early next year.

IPC has appealed the rejection of its proposal for a major ethnic cultural-recreation centre south of Speyside for a hearing.

Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) turned down the IPC project to be built on the old Twin Lakes property in November. The hearing will be held starting at 10 a.m. on January 10 at the Milton town hall.

NEC cited strong objections from Halton Hills and Milton councils as the primary reason for rejecting the IPC plan. In addition municipal staffs filed lengthy reports. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Halton Region Conservation Authority expressed concerns. The region's Environmental and Ecological Assessment Committee urged a full environmental impact study and the region's health department also expressed concerns.

IPC plans a central activity area; day use area; sports and play area; a demonstration farm; weekend tent camping area; maintenance area; pit privies; barbecues; roads, water supply system; picnic areas, etc. on its 240 acre property.

IPC has been in hot water with NEC as well as Milton and Halton Hills several times for blocking roads, starting fires, building new roads and other aspects of their development without permits.

Special steps taken to help Acton's swans

Special efforts were made by town staff, councillors and even some citizens to keep a bit of water open at Fairy Lake so the swans could survive this extremely cold weekend. Councillor Rick Bonnette announced Tuesday morning that a bubbler-compressor was being installed Tuesday morning to keep an area of water behind the poultry

barn and rink at Prospect Park open for the birds.

A small machine was used Thursday for six hours to open up the water and then removed and returned to the works department. Bonnette said he hasn't been able to learn why the machine was removed.

Over the weekend he and Esther Taylor and some other citizens went over to the swans' area several times to break up the ice. Mayor Russ Miller was called to the scene Monday to see the problem and he returned again on Tuesday morning. Worried citizens called both Bonnette and Miller at home about the problem over the long weekend.

On Monday afternoon after being called, a crew of Town workers promptly arrived on the scene and broke open a large area of ice for the birds and thankfully the swans, which can't fly south because their wings are clipped in accordance with federal regulations, survived another extremely cold night.

Last year action was taken to keep the swans in open water after Bonnette raised the matter at council to choruses of laughter. When the jokes died down Mayor Peter Pomeroy and council directed recreation director Tom Shepard to come up with a

permanent solution to the annual bird dilemma, before this winter.

Bonnette said the problem this winter has been that a proper compressor ordered from the United States hasn't arrived yet. However, considering he started asking about what was going to be done with the swans this winter back in October he said he is disappointed that in the past year Shepard hadn't done more to ensure the problem would be solved. It's wrong that again things were left late.

The use of the improper but adequate compressor for a time until the proper one arrives puts the swans' care "back on the right track, at least we'd better be," Bonnette declared.

Bonnette noted when he and others went out Christmas Day to break up ice there wasn't enough room remaining in the open water for all the swans, some were on the shore and vulnerable to attacks by other animals.

Christmas babies

A Rockwood couple are the proud parents of this area's Christmas baby. Sheri McPherson, wife of Craig, gave birth to a baby boy at 3:40 a.m. Christmas morning at Guelph General Hospital. Ten minutes short of 24 hours later, a

former Acton resident became the father of a baby girl in Royal Victoria Hospital, Barrie.

Kevin Marcoux, son of Fran and Jean Marcoux, and his wife Susan, became parents at 3:30 a.m. December 26.



Dave Sale sits in front of one of the computers he uses to teach students music theory and composition. Sale has also marked several of his programs to help students learn music.

Sale uses computers to teach music

A local music teacher has devised a unique way to teach his students theory and composition with the use of modern technology.

Dave Sale, a 14 year teaching veteran at the Acton High School, has been programming computers to aid music students to understand music and to help them compose new works.

According to Sale the students spend five to fifteen per cent of their classroom time using the computers while the remaining time is taken up with practice and actual teacher-student relations.

"The computers have the advantage of giving students instant feedback," said Sale, "and the kids aren't as intimidated by a machine as they would be by a teacher." Sale started combining music and computers four years ago and since has devised numerous programs, some of which have been marketed for sale.

"I think the use of computers as a teaching aid is an extremely valuable tool," remarked Sale. "When a student wants to compose a piece of music a computer program will set up a bass and treble clef and allow him to place notes in a sequence. When the piece is complete the computer can change the information into sound and the pupil can hear whether or not the composition will work."

Sale continued, when a student needs to learn music theory the computer programs will teach the basics just as well as its human counterpart.

Not only does Sale teach music, he also runs a computer lab, and the school band.

The lab is basically a means for students from McKenzie-Smith School and AHS, who are more advanced in the computer field, to gain more knowledge on the subject than they would formal classroom time. "The school band," continued Sale,

Inside

The Halton Hills parking authority has folded and the Town will assume its role. See story on page 2.

The judge has now viewed video tapes seized from H and H Video and the trial will be held next month. More on page 6.

Today's paper contains a feature on accomplished potter Larry Davidson of Creweans Corners. Story and photo on page 10.

A local man has made a big name for himself pitching semi-pro softball in the United States. See sports on page 11.

Bill Smiley is on page B2.

Halton police may soon have their own 'crime stoppers' TV commercials. See News-makers.



"takes up a great deal of my time. Right now we are preparing for several Christmas concerts and this spring we have a major musical production called Grease."

Sale is no stranger to the music business having received his B.A. and M.A., from the University of Toronto, majoring in music.

Sale says his favorite instrument is the oboe and he played for a time with several prominent orchestras, including the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony.

Sale is also involved with a quartet, playing at area churches and parties classical music that he finds to be a challenging and satisfying form of music.

"I also worked for the Canadian Music Centre supervising the production of music," said Sale. "That was one job I found particularly interesting."

Sale concluded he is a busy man with his teaching and the band, but perhaps with the advent of faster and better computers his job will become less time consuming.