

Lots of accidents

In a one week period beginning December 18 and ending December 24, Guelph OPP investigated 46 motor vehicle accidents including one fatality near Elora.

Police say there were seven personal injury accidents, 26 property damage accidents (over \$400 damage), and 12 non-reportable accidents (under \$400). There was only one accident on Christmas Day, and five on Boxing Day.

\$6,000 damage

Guelph OPP estimate there was a total of \$6,000 damage to two cars in a collision on Highway 7, 1.1 km. south of Wellington County Rd. 29 in Eramosa Township December 18 at 5.10 p.m.

Police say Jeannette Montgomery, 63, of Eden Mills was taken to Guelph General Hospital by a private car after the car in which she was driving was in collision with a vehicle driven by David Hoy, 22, of Guelph.

Pottery expert says his work is his art

To most people ceramic cups and plates are common items used in day to day routines, but to Larry Davidson, a local potter, his work is more of an art than a simple utensil.

Working out of his home at Crewsons Corners, Davidson creates mugs, bowls, plates, wall hangings, jugs and lamps that are as beautiful as they are functional.

Davidson was first introduced to pottery while still in university studying philosophy and sociology. His wife was taking a part-time course in the craft and talked him into coming along to a few of the classes.

"At that time it was nothing more than a passing interest," said Davidson. After graduating from his university studies, Davidson began a career in social work. For a few years he was too busy with a family and career to bother with ceramics until the pressures of the job forced him to stop and consider another line of work.

"I was burned out," recalled Davidson, "and I decided to take up pottery again as a hobby. That was 12 years ago and I've been trying to improve my work ever since."

Davidson said he spent a year-and-a-half teaching himself the crafting of stoneware pottery and for six months he went to Japan to study under Tatsuzo Shimoka, a master of the art.

According to Davidson, Japanese craftsmen consider handcrafted goods to be an art

rather than a trade.

"For example," said Davidson, "Tatsuzo gave me a small bowl made with the same techniques I use. That bowl would cost between \$700 and \$800 dollars in Japan. In North America I'd probably be lucky to get \$10."

"To make stoneware," said Davidson, "is a fairly simple process, it just takes a lot of practice to get it right."

To start, Davidson buys clay powder in 50 pound bags. The clay he uses must have a very low iron content so the process works properly, he said.

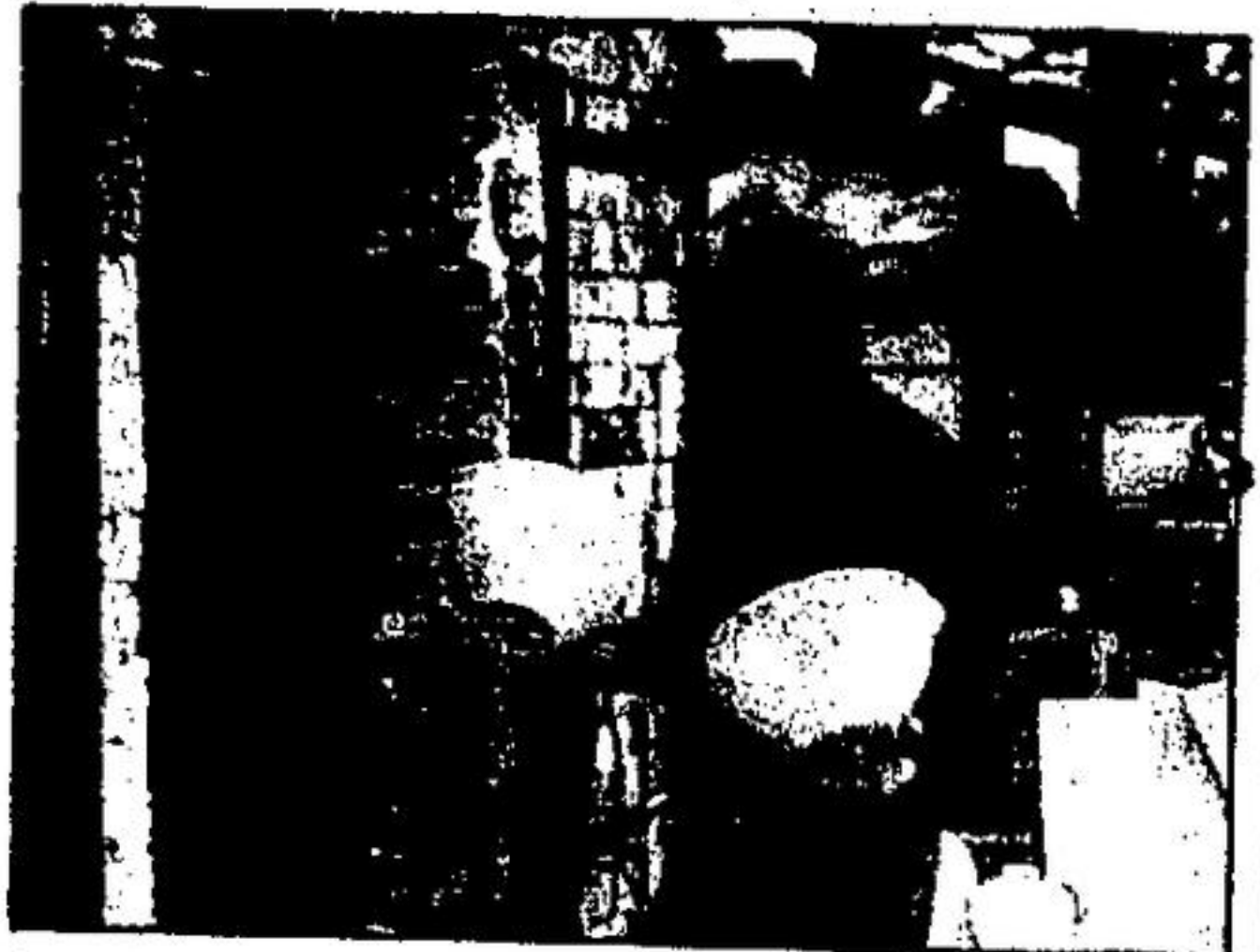
"I mix the powder with water until it reaches a consistency I like," explained Davidson, "then I let it age for a month or so until it becomes pliable."

After the aging the clay is ready to be thrown. Davidson forms the items on a wheel using only his hands and eyes to shape the object.

When the piece is done it sits until leather dry. "Leather drying," elaborated Davidson, "simply means half dry, but because it feels and looks like leather the term is used."

When completely dry the pottery is then ready for the kiln and glazing process. The propane fired kiln holds up to a month's worth of work and heats to an incredible 2350 degrees Fahrenheit. When the kiln reaches the optimum temperature Davidson will throw in several pounds of salt to glaze the pottery.

"It's so hot," remarked Davidson, "the salt vaporizes



Larry Davidson, a potter by trade, says his work is more of an art than a trade. Davidson sells a great deal of his work through craft shows in Toronto but he markets his goods from his home on Highway 7, between Rockwood and Acton, as well.

and covers everything in the kiln. The more salt I add, the more textured the glaze becomes."

The finished product has a dull gloss and a leather like feel. "The salt glazing process also causes the blotchy coloring that is characteristic of my type of stoneware," said Davidson.

Unlike other pottery, such as earthenware, the stoneware produced is a much harder, more durable product, said Davidson.

"Blue Mountain Pottery, for example, would melt at the high temperatures that stoneware is fired at," remarked Davidson. The local potter said his work

is making a name for him among Canadian potters and he has won several awards for his handwork.

"Right now I'm selling most of my pottery at craft shows, but several stores in Toronto are buying my goods and it's selling quite well!"

As well as selling through craft shows and Toronto retail outlets, Davidson has a small display at his home.

"Hopefully in the future I'll be able to sell most of my pottery out of my front door," continued Davidson. "It's a good profession," he concluded, "because I enjoy what I do and I like being my own boss."

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BARRIE BRONCOS VS. GEORGETOWN CHRYSLER RAIDERS

FRIDAY, DEC. 30th 8:30 P.M.

Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena

ADULTS \$4.00 SENIORS, STUDENTS, CHILDREN \$2.00

AT THE DOOR

Last game Barrie played here they almost upset the Raiders.
This should be a real barn burner.

Happy New Year's Everyone

Buy Your Advanced Tickets at
DELREX SMOKE SHOP THOMAS VIDEO & McDONALD'S

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BINGO
Holy Cross Church Auditorium

NO BINGO
Dec. 29/83

Happy New Year
Next Bingo Jan. 5, 1984

SEASON'S GREETINGS

As you kindle the light of hospitality in your heart and hearth, may every bright delight of the holiday be yours.

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF
THOMPSON FUELS
LLOYD McINTYRE AGENT
44 Young St. Acton 853-2174

the Chateau Restaurant

367 Guelph St., Georgetown
(in front of the Georgetown Motor Inc.)

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL
DEC. 28 UNTIL JAN. 5
SUN., THURS. ONLY

Junior Filet Mignon
with mushrooms, potatoes, vegetables, french or garlic bread & salad bar.

\$6.25

WE WILL BE CLOSED NEW YEAR'S DAY

MONDAY-FRIDAY TRY OUR BUSINESSMAN'S LUNCHEON

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Public Skating Times

HALTON HILLS ARENAS

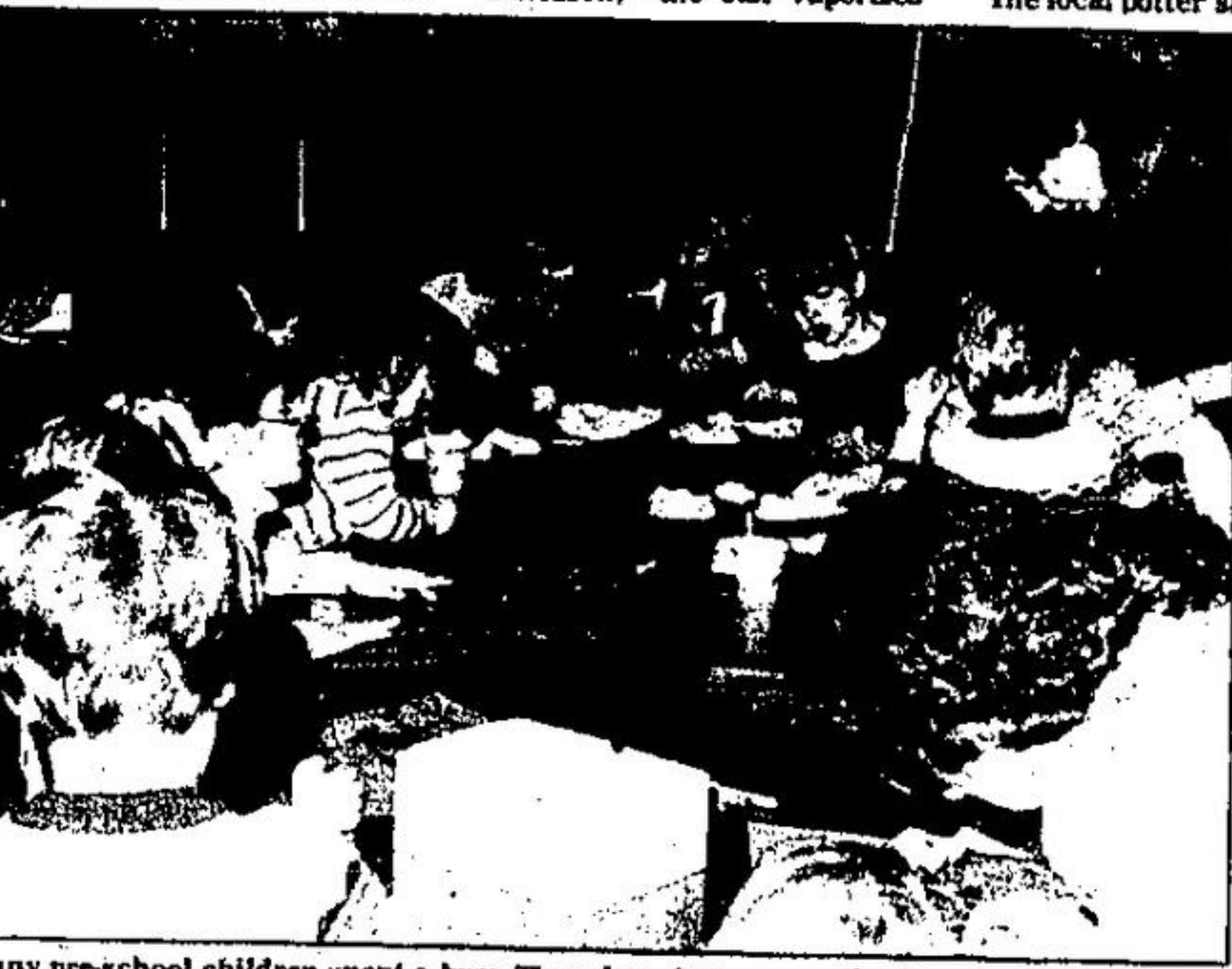
FREE PUBLIC SKATING
COMPLIMENTS OF ACTON ROTARY CLUB, GEORGETOWN OPTIMISTS, GEORGETOWN & ACTON LIONS.

ACTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
• December 28, 29, 30
2:30-3:50 p.m.

GEORGETOWN MEMORIAL ARENA
• December 29, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

GORDON ALCOTT ARENA
• December 28, 30, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Season's Greetings



Many pre-school children spent a busy Thursday afternoon putting beards on Santa's picture and coloring in his rosy cheeks at the Pre-school craft party held at the Acton Library last Thursday.

Halton has new judge

Halton has a new judge in the County Court. Thursday, at a ceremony attended by 140 people, Judge James Clarke of Cobourg was sworn in, replacing Judge J.K. Blair who retired recently.

Halton Law Association hosted a reception at Harrop's and presented him with a Halton County Atlas and a water color painting "Summer in Kilbride." Judge Clarke paints in watercolors and has had several exhibitions.

A lawyer in Cobourg, Judge Clarke was appointed a QC in 1976, and was president of the Northumberland Law Association in 1981 and 1982.

The father of seven, including one foster son and one adopted Vietnamese daughter, spent a year's sabbatical working with Jean Vanier and the mentally retarded in France. From this experience he authored "L'Arche Journal". Judge Clarke is fluent in French and English.

He will start in duties in Milton, at County Court in approximately two weeks.



Kelly Holmes holds up a picture of Santa that just received a cotton beard at the Pre-school craft party at the Acton Library last Thursday.

Legion happenings

by Al McKerracher

Your membership chairman, Comrade Ab Irwin, reminds us that the Early Bird Membership Campaign ends December 31. There is still time to pay your 1984 dues at the bar.

One of the highlights of the holiday season will be the New Year's Eve dance at the Branch. There are still some tickets left at the bar. "Zac and Bing" will be supplying the entertainment in the games room with "Detour" in the main hall. This will be followed by the President's Levee on January 1. This will get underway at 2 p.m. and Kent Toucher will be on hand to provide the music.

Your president and members of the executive would like to extend their good wishes to all members and families for the holiday season and may 1984 fulfill your wishes for health and happiness.



Phillip McIntyre shows off his picture of Santa Claus that he colored at the Pre-school craft party sponsored by the Acton Library last Thursday.

LAST SALE OF YEAR - THURS. FRI. SAT.

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Meanderings

by M. E. Barkman

People are looking toward 1984 with more trepidation than any year I can think of except perhaps the years when they were told the world would end.

Those who have read "Brave New World" and those who have heard about it can hardly believe the year foretold has actually come to pass. They will probably be disappointed if it turns out to be an ordinary year, with some good and some bad in it.

My first New Year's Resolution is to assume that it is a year that will turn out to have happy memories and peace will stay with us for many more years to come.

Motel assault

A 35-year-old woman was assaulted by a 34-year-old man living at the Cedar Springs Motel on Highway 7 at 9:30 p.m. Thursday. The incident occurred at the motel, according to Halton Regional Police.

Chimney fire

Volunteer firefighters' Christmas morning was interrupted when they got a call about a chimney fire at a Fifth Line of Halton Hills home, about 11 a.m.

Monday evening they responded to a resuscitator call.

Brisbane accident

Eighteen-year-old Robert Leitch, of RR 1 Guelph, escaped injury when the car which he was driving rolled over onto its roof at 8:10 p.m. Christmas Eve, on Highway 25 400 metres north of Brisbane. Guelph OPP estimate damage at \$1,500.

Snow service...

(Continued from page 1)

on winter snow service in the future and he appreciates hearing the observations and opinions of Actonians on this matter. He said he was particularly pleased that some residents are monitoring the service in both urban areas.

Whiting said the only comments he has heard this winter were a couple of compliments from downtown businessmen about the excellent and speedy job done by Town staff last week in cleaning up from the last storm. He noted snow removal must be done in off hours and because of overtime wage rates is quite costly.

He noted he was told by staff it's a tough job this year because of freezing rain after snowfalls and it's difficult to clear away banks once they're iced over.

The same types of equipment are assigned continually to the two urban areas and rural area, Whiting explained, and crews go out in each area at the same time. He says because of equipment breakdowns there may be delays in some service in different areas from time to time.

Whiting observed councillors hear the same complaints every time there's a rough winter and added the concern that Georgetown receives better service is raised regularly and it always proves not to be based in facts.

No complaints
Knechtel said after the first big snowfall he was in the downtown areas of both Acton and Georgetown and snow conditions were exactly the same. He added he just doesn't think it actually happens that one area receives better service than the other.

He's received no snow complaints this year and recalled there were some a couple winters back but investigation proved the concerns were of "no substance."

The Town has a "formal plan" determining when and where snow maintenance is done and in which order work is carried out.

He wondered why people with complaints don't go directly to the source, the municipal staff, with their concerns.

Knechtel said he suspects parts of Georgetown have a similar complaint as Acton, that Acton receives better service, and he believes snow service varies with each snowfall.

Bus routes get plowed first, he added. Wood said he's received no complaints from downtown merchants, adding snow might not have been removed after the first storm because Town staff "weren't tuned" in yet.

Halton Hills only has so much equipment so the job takes time and he doesn't think complaints are valid.

Wood noted the BIA has hired someone to take care of parking lots and sidewalks downtown, but the person doing the walks only skims off the surface and he's concerned about merchants and residents downtown who don't shovel their sidewalks. "You've got to spoon feed people."

Ms. Bennett said she feels in most cases snow removal downtown has been "very slow" and service in the various Acton subdivisions hasn't been too great either.

She described as "just awful" the snow removal from the sidewalk in front of the Town office in the Y building, suggesting just as it took months to replace broken glass in lights on the front of the building this is further evidence that council isn't too concerned with its public image.

In her view she sees no reason why when downtown and other areas of town are such a mess in winter that seniors don't just "retreat" indoors for the winter. The snow banks downtown have been hard to get over for young and old alike. "Very definitely the Town has been falling down on the job."

Greaves said he isn't that pleased with snow being left on the streets for days after a storm but allowed the Town may have higher priorities like hospital parking lots, etc. He things a "little more effort" is possible from the Town and observed Acton's tax dollars are worth just as much as tax dollars from other parts of town so we should be getting 100 per cent value.

Christmas Eve assault

A Main St. North woman was bruised about the ear in a domestic dispute Christmas Eve. Police say the victim was the common-law wife of the suspect, who has since left for Red Lake, Alberta.