



Cheryle Greenly

## Exchange student Cheryle Greenly Cartoons helping her learn Portuguese

by Helen Murray

Little did Cheryle Greenly know in August that she would spend her summer holidays watching cartoons—to learn Portuguese.

Cheryle is currently in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on a one year Rotary Exchange Program, and right now is in the middle of a three month summer holiday. While her new language is progressing very well, she finds morning cartoons very useful in grasping the language even more.

The trip to Brazil was not exactly a quick easy flight, Cheryle writes. The Acton Free Press. The Greenly family, of RR 1 Acton, took Cheryle to Buffalo airport the morning of August 31, where she caught a flight to J.F. Kennedy airport in New York. After an eight hour layover, she left New York at 9 p.m., arriving in Rio at 8 a.m. From there she caught another flight to Sao Paulo and finally arrived there at 9 a.m.

Her adopted Brazilian family did not speak any English, making communications difficult at first. She is living with her new mother and a little brother. Another child in the family is in Toronto, also on a Rotary exchange.

Cheryle is not alone in Sao Paulo. There is another exchange student

nearby, from Chicago.

When school resumes in March, Cheryle will be in grade 12 at a private school. Summer holidays are December, January and February, and they also get a winter break, the month of June, off school.

School starts at 7 a.m. and ends anywhere between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., depending on subjects being taken that day. Her nine subjects last about an hour each, but some days can stretch to two hours. There is no practical work, Cheryle writes, it's all book work and writing from the board.

But now that it's summer, Cheryle usually sleeps in until about 9 a.m. and watches cartoons until noon, when she has lunch. After that, she heads to the country club and swims until about 4 p.m., after which she plays basketball for a couple of hours. During the evening, she says, she either watches television, or goes out.

On weekends, Cheryle spends her time with friends her own age going to dances or bars. There are dances every Friday and Saturday night, starting at 11 p.m. and ending at 4 or 5 a.m.

Meals are a bit different from home Cheryle confesses. Breakfast is a very light meal, followed by a large lunch,

which she compares with Canadian suppers. At night there is another light meal.

Lunches consist of rice and beans every day, and usually a fried meat mixed in an egg and cornflour mixture. They also have vegetables and fruit.

Houses are very different than in North America also, Cheryle points out. Most are one storey with flat roofs. The rooms are mostly tiled with marble. The rich families, she says have two storey homes.

Most of these abodes don't have any backyards, but all have a wall of some kind around them, with a gate containing either spikes or nails. Cheryle explains there is a very high robbery rate and this gives them a bit of a sense of security.

Sao Paulo has a population of about 50,000. Within the city is a city which the government has built for the poor. It's set aside from the rest of the town.

Since her arrival in Brazil, Cheryle has visited Rio de Janeiro for ten days. She describes it as being very touristy, and very beautiful. "They get more people on the beaches than the population of Acton," she writes.

Cheryle is planning a trip to the south of Brazil and to the border between Argentina and Brazil.

Cheryle reports her Portuguese is "coming along fine." She says it is easy to learn a new language when "you're living it."

She doesn't hear much news about Canada and what she does hear usually comes from her family.

Christmas seemed strange because they don't go all out the way North American's do. There are no decorations in the town, and no Christmas trees.

In her family, everyone got together in the afternoon of Christmas Eve and opened presents about 9 p.m. After that a large meal with many kinds of rice was enjoyed. They talked and listened to music and at midnight said Merry Christmas to each other. A prayer is said and then life goes back to normal.

Cheryle hasn't had too much time to get homesick. Except for Christmas and other special days, she is usually too tired after thinking in a foreign language all day to wonder what friends and family are doing. She does miss seeing snow though, she admits.

Cheryle will be coming home in June, which is a school break down there, and a good time for her to leave. She'll no doubt have many stories to tell and souvenirs to show and will enjoy escaping the monotony of hot weather and rain.

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One Hundred and Ninth Year — Issue 35

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 1984

38 Pages — Thirty Cents



### Leap year baby

It will be four years before Ryan Jacob DeGraaf can celebrate his first birthday, but right now he couldn't care less. Leap Year baby Ryan was born at 8:33 p.m., Wednesday, February 29 at Guelph General Hospital, son of Jack and Catherine DeGraaf, 66 Kingham

Rd. He made his debut three weeks early and only tipped the scales at five pounds, one ounce. Sisters Leanne, 4½, and Aimee, 3 are just delighted to have a baby brother.

## Stevens land Citizens' group want more studies

The Citizens' Committee opposing the purchase of the Steven's property doesn't intend to let up in its battle, despite the passing of the bylaw authorizing the land deal.

They want the bylaw amended to delay the closing until improvements and expansion to the Georgetown sewage plant rate a Ministry of Environment certificate approving a 40,000 population capacity.

They also want an Environmental Impact Assessment Study to be done by the Town, since part of the land may be sold and developed as residential units.

The committee points out it is generally believed the land contains the remnant of an early cemetery, which may have historical value. They are asking that all agencies be notified and all approvals be obtained before closing of the land deal.

The letter from the committee to the Clerk Administrator points out cemeteries come under the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations and the Ministry of Health.

The committee wants the Environmental Impact Study and the clarification of the cemetery land as conditions included as an

amendment to the bylaw. Copies of the letter are being sent to the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations Cemetery Branch, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and to Mayor Russ Miller.

Erie Robersshaw, Manager of Engineering Services at Halton Region, explained the Ministry of Environment has agreed to the expansion of the sewage plant to accommodate 40,000 people. He said the Ministry states the creek will be able to assimilate the effluent of a 40,000 population, when the expansion is completed.

The Citizen's Committee contends the three issues were never properly considered by council so feel the proposed amendments are legitimate.

"Following council's response to the brief submitted by the citizen's Committee, it appeared that the only alternative left to the group was a court challenge", the latter states. It goes on to say the lack of funds for legal and court costs make that option unlikely.

The Committee is determined to continue challenging the Steven's land purchase, and is investigating other means of doing so.

## In Rockwood Water, sewer bills jump 41 per cent

Water and sewer bills in Rockwood have taken a 41 per cent jump this month, thanks to the provincial Ministry of Environment.

For the majority of customers, those on a flat rate, water alone is increasing 10 per cent, from \$10 a month to \$11. However, sewer charges are leaping from \$7.50 to \$13.75, for a 83 per cent increase. The nine meter customers in the village will be paying \$1.77 per 1,000 gallons of water used.

In a letter sent to homeowners by clerk-treasurer Lloyd Hindley, residents were told the provincial government's water and sewer charges for last year were \$84,000, which were paid by the township from the individual bills. However, for 1984, Hindley explained, the province wants \$148,000, which is an increase of \$64,000, or over 76 per cent.

In order to cushion the blow to homeowners, the clerk-treasurer said, \$20,000 will be taken out of surplus funds to go towards

the bill, and another \$9,000 provincial grant will "help to defray a portion of the increase." But this still leaves \$35,000 which must be paid by the village's 359 customers, and raising the monthly rates.

Flat rate customers previously paid \$17.50 a month, but now face \$24 monthly.

This has been the first increase in sewer and water rates since their installation in 1978, according to Hindley, with the Ministry of Environment billing the Township of Eramosa on a flow basis and projected growth. "Due to lack of housing growth," Hindley told customers, "the Ministry, for 1984, have billed the municipality on a dollar basis."

The Ministry has suggested to the township various ways to lessen the impact on the local consumers but the only viable one, according to the letter, is increased growth in Rockwood. Currently, the system is only running at 30 per cent capacity.

## High winds, heavy snowfall create nightmare, chaos for motorists

Winter returned to Ontario with a vengeance last week, and while Acton missed the full brunt of the worst storm in four years, mother nature wreaked havoc everywhere.

Schools were closed Wednesday, many commuters did not make it home Tuesday night, or found themselves taking several hours longer than usual, and many motorists had to abandon their cars.

The near blizzard-like conditions began in Acton around 8 p.m. Monday evening, four hours earlier than predicted. Strong winds blew the snow around, making visibility poor.

However, by Tuesday morning, the snow had tapered off. Snowplows had been on the job since about 3:30 a.m. making the driving fairly good around town. The men stayed on the job until 6 p.m. Tuesday.

But Tuesday's flurries turned into trouble about 2:30 in the afternoon when 75 kilometre winds and a heavy snow fall created the worse storm since December 1, 1979. That evening, Halton Board of Education

staff, and associated bus lines decided to call school off for the next day as weather forecasters were predicting the storm to only get worse into Wednesday. Radio and television stations in the area were notified of the closures.

Plow operators were back on the job at 3:30 a.m. Wednesday, but found the going rough, according to Frank Morette of the Halton Hills Works Department. Visibility was very poor in many areas, he said, and abandoned cars slowed down their progress considerably, mainly in the rural area. In many spots throughout town, drivers couldn't get into their driveways and were forced to park on the road. This however, was expected, he noted.

All available men worked until about 4 p.m. Wednesday and then told to go home until midnight, at which time they were to report back to work for snow removal of downtown Acton and Georgetown.

Traffic on the Fourth Line, between 15 and 17 Sideroad was chaotic for a while in the afternoon after a snow plow went in the

ditch. Morette explained the operator had to go around an abandoned car, misjudging the road. A grader was unable to pull it free, so a tow truck was called. The truck had to be tied onto the grader and the two vehicles were eventually able to dislodge the plow.

Morette estimates there was about a foot of snow dumped on the area, with drifts as high as four feet. However, because of the drifting, it was difficult to tell exactly how much fell.

Snow fences in the area were no good, he admitted, mainly because an east wind in uncommon and the fences are located on the west side of the road where they are generally more useful.

**Inside**  
The World Day of Prayer service was held Friday. Turn to page 2.  
The Brookville School Science Fair caught the eye of our roving photographer. See *Through the Lens* on page 1.

The Leathertown Market will be part of Ontario's bi-centennial celebrations. Read about it on page 5.  
A Rockwood arthritis victim is an asset to his community. Story on page 7.  
Sports fans can turn to page 9.

**R22**  
It's all very well for the government to demand daily pollution checks... they've got to move our lives.