

halton hills YOUTH

YOUTH SPEAK

THE REAL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

Sean Gaffey, Grade 8
St. Francis of Assisi School

Christmas is almost upon us, and everyone is busily running around town getting last minute gifts. You can always tell when it's Christmas time because everywhere you look you see other people doing shopping just like you. Millions of lights and displays, television commercials, the new crop of Christmas gifts, toys and giveaways just meant for this time of year are everywhere. So the atmosphere is created—spend, spend, spend!

But I suppose that's expected. After all, everyone is meant to prepare for the 'big day.' People expect you to put up lights and a tree. That's all part of the festivities, and these days festivities seem to be the most important thing.

Naturally, everyone gets caught up in this 'commercial flow' because we all need a 'break' from everyday worries and problems. We all want to enjoy the holiday—a rest from school and work. But are we really relaxing? Are we enjoying the Real Meaning of Christmas or have we lost it in the hustle and bustle of shopping malls?

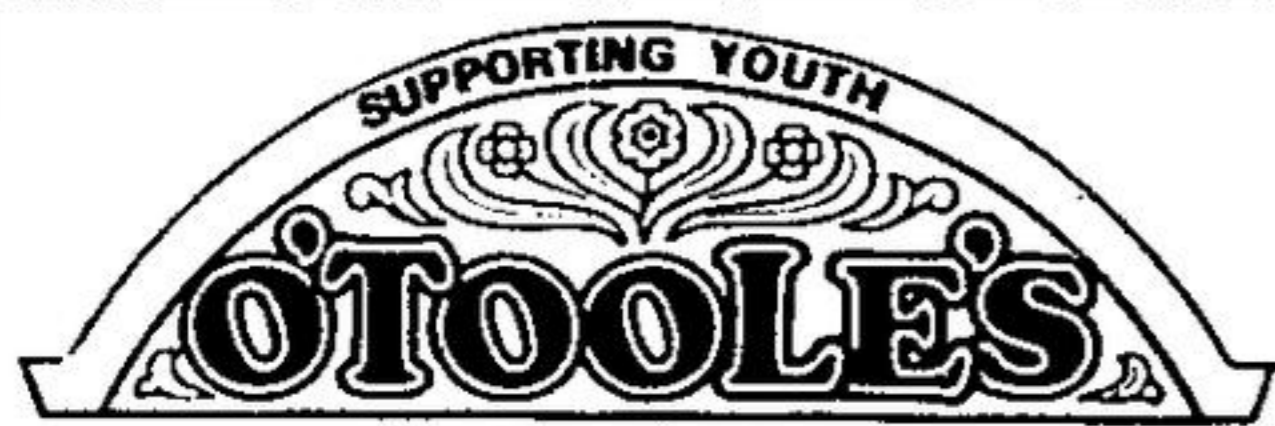
But how can we attempt to find something that we've lost when we don't even know what it is? How do we achieve the Real Meaning of Christmas if we don't understand it? It's something to think about.

In the world today, there seems to be two versions of the Real Meaning. One version is that we should virtually forget the religious part of Christmas. We should, in fact, just enjoy the festivities, the parties, the food and gifts. The other version seems to be that we should go to the opposite extreme. Christmas then becomes a time for prayer and praising God—nothing more. But doesn't God work through people? Doesn't he really expect us to be happy and joyful on the occasion of His Son's birthday? I believe that he does!

So let's not just forget about Christ but let us remember that we are celebrating His birthday. I'm sure that He would like us to do this by being happy and sharing gifts. Not only material ones, but also those of care, love and concern for others. In this way we can keep this important day as a true celebration—where prayer and attendance at church is important. But also where we let our happiness and joy spread to others. In this way we will truly find the Real Meaning of Christmas.



S' is for Santa Claus. Karen Freier, 4, waved her magic wand and spell 'Christmas' during Speyside School's pre-schooler Christmas play. Kristopher MacDonald, 4, wore the 'S' and Cory Constant, 3, played the jolly old man himself.



PROFILE

Watch Our Community Grow

by Laura Langridge
G. 8 St. Josephs

Angela was born in Mississauga General and lived in Mississauga until she was seven.

She has a younger sister who was one when Angela and her family moved to Acton. She has lived in Acton for five years. It sure doesn't seem that long!

This young lady has many responsibilities around the house and out at the barn. Angela's dad owns a dog kennel and sells and breeds German Shepherds. After school she has to tidy up the house, give the dogs water, and clean the puppies.

Angela has held several jobs at her mom's gas station during the summer. She sold ice cream cones and then worked in the pay booth. Angela has earned quite a bit of money doing this.

During the school year she tries to earn money by babysitting. Recently Angela was



offered a babysitting job by the neighbors. She usually looks after the three kids for three days a week. Angela is very good with small kids and very trustworthy. Angela is fun to be around and is rather humorous. She respects other people and is very kind. When people are having problems in school, she will give up her working time and will try to explain what is to be done. Angela is very considerate and tries to cheer people up when they are feeling down in the dumps. She gets along with most people.

I am very glad to have a friend like her!

People that you can trust and depend on are very special people to know and to have around!!!

SALUTE TO SERVICE Sponsored by: TD Bank

Sean Gulstini—Gr. 7
Pat Miodozenc—Gr. 7
St. Francis of Assisi School
Constable Beaumont was born in Brampton. He attended public school at Wrigglesworth, junior high at Centennial and the Georgetown High School.

Constable Rod wanted to become a police officer because he thought it would be a challenge and enjoyable as well as different every day. The most interesting thing about his job is dealing with people, and the various other jobs he does, like drugs and safety in schools. His job is pretty well a freedom job. He can basically design and plan his own programs. The job he is doing right now is not dangerous, but some of his recent jobs in the police force were very dangerous, such as stopping cars on the road and midnight shifts.

Constable Beaumont went through a great deal of training to become a police officer. First he had to complete an application form, as well as a psychological test, mathematical test, and interviews. When you are accepted as a police officer you spend fifteen weeks at the Ontario Police College where you are taught how to use different weapons and self defense. He was then placed with a division of the police force and spent three months with a training officer, observing

everything that goes on. He then went back to the College and the teachers to see if he remembered everything he was taught while he was in training.

When Constable Rod became a police officer he decided he would like to work in his home town because he thought he could help people more when he knew the area and most of the people. Constable Rod has been a police officer for eight years

and we enjoy his programmes at our school.

When Officer Beaumont tried to convince us to become a police officer, he said, "These days it's sort of hard to convince a person because so many police officers are getting shot." He would also tell a person that it was up to them. When you're a police officer, and when you're on patrol in the car you are your own boss. You can let someone off on one day, and then the

next day charge another person for the same thing depending on the circumstances.

Officer Beaumont mentioned that if you want to be your own boss this is the job to have. Being a police officer means that you have a variety of duties; one day you can investigate a break and enter, and the next day the biggest thrill is chasing cows off the road.



Peace On Earth.
Goodwill To All Men.

With old-fashioned warmth, we'd like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas season, filled with peace and joy. Thank you for being so nice.

the staff at
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May you drive through the holidays with our best wishes of the season, and our thoughts of thanks to all!

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Klaus & staff

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We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

GREETINGS

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