

# Students Came But The School Teachers Didn't

Some played cards, some read, some wrestled, and some stayed home.

This was the description voiced by Michael Furlong, principal of Georgetown District High School, in speaking about yesterday's teacher walkout.

"About 40 or 50 kids came to classes," he said. "They could do whatever they want. I toured the school and found many doing different things like playing cards or reading." It was the same story all over Halton County as teachers failed to show up favoring to support the CSSTF in its battle with the province to retain the right to strike.

However, Mr. Furlong said he did have four teachers come in who weren't delegated to do so. "I guess they just couldn't bear to forget their responsibility," he added.

Nevertheless, every school had some students come prepared for classes. Dave Katz, principal at Acton High School, said 25 or 30 students came to school, but no teachers came in.

"I guess all our teachers decided to support the OTF, and I can't say that I blame them. They are looking at the long range implications of this government legislation."

Although the walkout is intended to make the government change its mind, the government is saving money by the move. School boards all over the province have decided to dock the teachers for the day off, so the province saves one day of salary for Ontario teachers.

One teacher said he would support the boycott even though he didn't favor it because he didn't want to be blacklisted. He wished to remain unidentified.

The principal at Centennial Public School spent the day entertaining the 14 children who came to school, and couldn't go home until the bus came to pick them up after hours.

Schools sent notes home with students on Monday advising parents of the province-wide teacher walkout, and said there was no need to send their children to school unless they so desired.

However, Mr. Katz said he didn't feel any teacher would be blacklisted for not supporting the boycott.

"There is too much professionalism involved here for any such nonsense as blacklisting. I know if a few teachers felt a compulsion to come to classes today, they would not have lost any respect."

# Christmas Rush Reaches The House Of Commons

As with most people, the last two weeks before Christmas are frantic ones for Parliament and its members. Many of the committees have recently reported bills back to the House and others are just about to do so.

Once returned from committee there is a natural inclination to complete the usually less time-consuming last few steps to becoming law prior to Christmas. It appears that the recess may well last 8 to 10 weeks.

Ministers and House Leaders are jockeying to obtain priority placings for their own preference legislation.

The government is naturally anxious to compile a respectable legislative record for the First Session and the Opposition parties are equally anxious to give all Bills as close scrutiny as possible. Thus the bargaining gains intensity as the last sitting day, December 21, approaches.

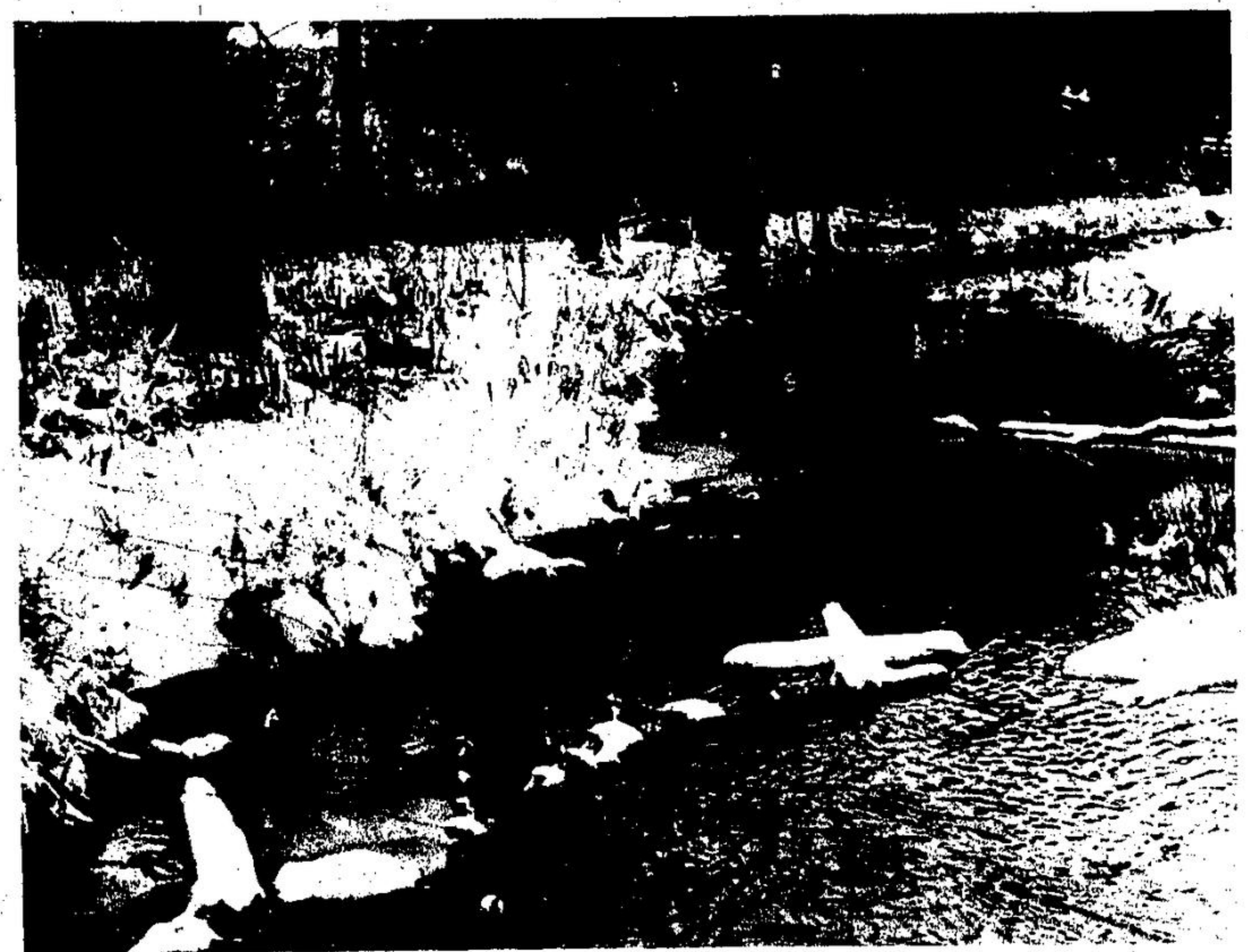
As of writing this, the Election Expenses Bill, which I am piloting through the committee on behalf of our party, is about to be sent back to the House. After nearly 50 meetings which dealt with more than 155 amendments to the Bill, I can't say I am sorry to see it go. The Act should be finally passed by Christmas in much improved form over that which was introduced to the House back on June 22.

Add to all of this normal pre-Christmas flurry, the energy policy problems of the three major parties. One gets a picture of some pretty haggard ministers and Members.

Over the next few weeks I will provide some personal assessments of the successes, failures and effectiveness of the First Session of this 29th minority Parliament.

May I extend to all my very best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous 1974.

# Say Best Chief Was Not Selected Two Councillors Are Disappointed



**RURAL BEAUTY**  
Although last week's snowfall caused many a problem for motorists, it was a sight to behold through the rural areas of Halton County. Here, a slow-moving creek winds its way through snow-covered banks and trees. Sightings like these are found while hiking, a favorite pastime of many local residents, after the snow arrives. (Herald Photo)

Tom Hill, mayor-elect of Halton Hills, says Georgetown Fire Chief Ken Buikema will have to stand in line just like anybody else if he wants a job with the new regional fire department.

This followed a decision last week to appoint Acton Fire Chief Mick Holmes to the post of Halton Hills fire chief. Mr. Holmes has been chief of the Acton volunteer corps for 13 years.

In a closed session of the regional council the decision was made to appoint Mr. Holmes.

"There will be other jobs coming open on the Halton Hills Fire Department," said Hill. "But if Ken wants one, he will have to apply just like anyone else, and I can't guarantee he will get a position."

**NO REASON**  
Mayor-elect Hill said he could not give a reason for the appointment, and would not comment on the validity of the choice, saying he is a personal friend of both men. He did not vote on the issue.

Fire Chief Buikema said this morning he had received no notification any decision had been made, and added he could not speculate on what his intentions were for the future in light of that decision.

However, two area councillors from Georgetown say politics, and not professionalism played a major role in the choice.

Councillor Ric Morrow, who is outgoing reeve of Georgetown, said he was wholly opposed to the decision to employ a fire chief with volunteer experience over someone with years of service in a permanent position in fire protection.

"The most qualified person has not been chosen," he said yesterday, pointing out he was speaking outside council because he did not want the public to think the selection of fire chief had been unanimous.

**FAVORED BUIKEMA**  
He added that he favored the appointment of Chief Buikema for the position because he was better qualified. When Buikema was hired in April 1972 for the Georgetown Fire Department, his ability was tested by the Ontario Fire Marshall, and he passed with flying colors according to Councillor Morrow.

"This was not the case in the current hiring," said Councillor Morrow, pointing out no test had been given to Chief Buikema. Councillor Roy Booth said he

polled a majority of members of the Georgetown volunteer fire department, and almost all favored Buikema for Halton Hills chief.

**BEST NOT CHOSEN**  
"I think it has come down to a question of ability and experience," said Councillor Morrow. "Chief Buikema has the technical knowledge that will be required for the fire chief of Halton Hills."

Halton Hills needs the best man for the job, declared Councillor Booth, who added he didn't feel the best man had been chosen.

If the decision is approved in the new year, Chief Buikema's position in this area may well disappear. However, if he is let go, a year's salary will still be coming to him.

The choice of Holmes was made from amongst four candidates vying for the position.

Chief Holmes said he was very pleased with his appointment. "It hasn't really settled in yet. I've been working at MacKenzie Lumber for so long, it doesn't seem possible I will be a full-time fire chief in one month."

Chief Holmes has been with the Acton Volunteer Fire Department for 25 years, and in his present position for 13 years.

Although regional council has chosen its new fire chief, no other details have yet been worked out, said Mayor-elect Hill. "We don't know where the headquarters will be, and actually we don't know much as yet." However, Mr. Holmes said he felt the headquarters would likely be situated in Georgetown. Mr. Holmes is to begin his duties on Jan. 31.

Fire Chief Buikema submitted a letter to The Herald, perhaps the last public document he will issue as fire chief of Georgetown. It reads as follows:

**THANK YOU**  
"May I take this opportunity to wish you and your staff the best of the season and for the New Year."

"During 1973, your assistance in our efforts to promote fire safety awareness has undoubtedly contributed to our record low fire loss for the year."

"On behalf of the Georgetown Fire Department, I thank you and all the citizens of Fire Area No. 1 in Georgetown and Esquesing for making this possible. Again thank you, and a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year to all." (Ken F. Buikema.)

# Ratepayers Want A Salary Decrease

A Ratepayers delegation claiming that regional councillors will be the highest paid per capita in Ontario, appeared to have no effect last week.

The delegation, who brought with them briefs and statistics, asked the regional council-elect to reconsider the \$4,500 raise they voted for themselves.

W.S. Thomson, a former Burlington mayor presented a list of six regional governments. Of the six, only the salaries taken by councillors in Hamilton-Wentworth match the

scale established here in October.

In both Hamilton-Wentworth and in Halton, councillors draw annual paychecks totalling \$8,500 for their work with the region. That amount is above and beyond salaries paid in their home municipalities.

Mr. Thomson noted the Hamilton-Wentworth council represents a population twice the size of the Halton region.

If you know anything about public opinion, you know what a substantial prejudice you have aroused to get this kind of written response, he told the council.

He accused councillors as well of having "prejudiced your own success by getting people concerned about this mix up of your priorities."

"You have run the danger of establishing a bad climate for regional government."

Council remained unmoved the presentation from Mr. Thomson and from Leo Haber, representing the Burlington regional involvement committee.

Members of the citizens group packed the council chambers awaiting a response to the briefs but gradually trickled out of the room over the next several hours when it became apparent no reply would be made.

One councillor, Rick Morrow, observed, "they came, they saw and nothing happened."

Morrow was an outspoken critic of the increase in October.

The group had hoped council would either drastically reduce their raise, or at least authorize the appointment of an impartial citizens committee to seek out and recommend a suitable salary for regional councillors.

According to Mr. Haber, the committee would be representative of all four areas of the region.

Mr. Thomson accused the councillors of setting their own pay scale prematurely.

**NO FACTS**  
Even before the regional budget had been set, "your

resolution was adopted very quickly without any factual basis to justify the salary level at which you arrived," he said.

"You lacked any substantial knowledge of budget revenues, expenditures, and the true workload involved."

Mr. Haber contributed to the statistics presented by R. Thomson.

He noted that the per capita payment in Halton is set at \$1.03 per ratepayer, as compared to:

# NEWS IN BRIEF

**HALTON COUNTY ANIMAL** control officer, George Harrington, said this week there have been two cases of rabies uncovered in the county this year. They were discovered while answering an abnormally high 665 calls to investigate dog biting cases. More than 300 dogs have been impounded this year with 216 being destroyed. Mr. Harrington advises to keep pet dogs under control around the house to avoid attracting packs of dogs which are hard to control.

**THE FATE OF THE Terra Cotta Inn**, in Terra Cotta, remains unknown at this time, says manager Edward Rawlins. There is something in the wind, admitted Mr. Rawlins, but said he didn't know enough to be able to say what is going to happen. He said, however, that the Inn would not likely be closing.

**HALTON BOARD OF EDUCATION** last week turned down a proposed senior credit course in Greek and Roman history that would have had to be paid by the required 25 students put a halt to the course because trustees felt it would attract those with money rather than those with a deep interest in history.

**AN INMATE OF THE Ontario Training Centre**, in Brampton, turned himself in last weekend after a week of freedom following his escape the week before. Donald Harrington walked into the Oakville police station and was returned to the centre yesterday.

# Weak Vote Upsets Northern Views

The relative weakness of the northern partners of Halton County became evident last week in a vote that decided to move regional government headquarters to the south.

Councillors from Halton Hills and Milton voted to preserve the present administration building, but the more numerous representatives from Oakville and Burlington voted for its sale.

The deal is not yet completely final. It hinges on provincial acceptance of a new purchase price to be sought by the council. The much amended resolution authorizing the sale seeks a buying price of \$1,850,000, a \$245,000 increase over the provincial offer made earlier this year of \$1,615,000.

Meanwhile a regional site plan committee has been authorized to seek out and lease temporary headquarters for the government until new facilities can be constructed. The committee was instructed to find a location offering 30,000 square feet of office space.

**TO THE SOUTH**  
The sites, so far recommended by that committee are mostly located in the south. The only potential site investigated by the committee in Milton will be eliminated by the 30,000 square feet stipulation. The Milton location offers only 10,000 square feet.

The only two sites so far recommended by the committee that qualify with adequate space are both located in Oakville.

An earlier proposal that the region accept a provincial offer of \$1,500,000 for the county building and half the property that goes with it, seems now to be completely rejected.

Under that scheme, the region would have purchased more property adjoining the administration building to create an adequately sized site for the construction of a new

administration center.

Inquiries made to the Alliance Corporation, owner of the adjoining property, have revealed that a five acre parcel, sought by the region, would cost either \$30,000 for land at the rear of the building, or \$40,000 for land to the east.

Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett blamed Milton for the high prices.

"Milton negated this location as a suitable site for anything when it zoned it industrial," he said in reference to rapid industrial development in the area with a resultant rocketing escalation of land prices.

The arguments made by northern representatives centered upon the decision to sell the current site while no alternative location either temporary or permanent, has yet been located.

**COST \$400,000**  
Councillor Ric Morrow called for renovations to the county building that he estimated would cost \$600,000.

"If we stay here, we're going to be tight," he said. "But pressure is going to be off us to drop the ball," and go looking for a new location.

The provincial interest in the county building stems from the court facilities there. Courts, legal offices, and a registry office occupy 80 per cent of the building.

"I'm fully opposed to renting interim headquarters," he said.

The final decision to seek a sale to the province was sparked in a warning from Chairman Allan Masson, who told councillors the province may not have the money next year.

Estimates of time to be spent in the temporary location wherever it may be, ranged from a year and a half to three years to allow for land to be purchased, architectural plans to be drawn up, and for construction to be completed.

**Weak Vote Upsets Northern Views**

# First Coaches Arrive For GO Train Service

TORONTO—The first of 20 new coaches for the Georgetown-Toronto GO Train service was commissioned Tuesday afternoon.

First three coaches of the 20 coach order arrived in Milton service yards on the Lakeshore in Toronto. For the next two to three months, the new cars will be used to provide additional coach capacity for the Canadian National Railways between Pickering and Oakville.

This break-in period will allow for minor adjustments prior to the start of GO service.

Officials of the Ontario Ministry of Transportation and Communications expect the

Georgetown-Toronto GO Train service will begin during the last week of February or the first week of March. Exact date will be announced.

**Thief Steals Two Trees**

Someone with an outrageous sense of Christmas has made off with two trees from the front lawn of the Gerry Inglis home, 353 Guelph St., Glen Williams.

The trees were cut down one night a short time ago. One of the missing trees is a blue spruce. The other is a plain spruce. Both had been growing for a number of years in front of the Inglis home.

Mrs. Inglis reported that the family is upset about the loss, but holds little hope that the three thieves will ever be found.

The trees will be replaced, Mrs. Inglis said, but this won't make up for the initial loss.

**HERALD HOAX**

Diner: — "I see, waiter, that tips are forbidden here."

Waiter: — "Yes sir, so we apply in the Garden of Eden."

# This Week We Saw

- Kirsten Mogg with trophy... Jim Massena with tears of joy... Raj Swaminathan announcing spot dance... Ron Golly with car problems... Ric Morrow discussing stop signs... Floyd Schwantz explaining difference between laundry and dry cleaning... children skating at Remembrance Park... United Church Men's club with Christmas trees... Georgetown scouts on hike... "Perk" Perkins playing high-powered checkers... Glen Cater dispensing pennies... Chriq Schouten in fine voice.

**Season's greetings**

It's Christmas once again! May the season be a truly joyous one for you, our many fine customers.

Thank you for your loyal patronage.

— from —

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DAVE HASTINGS		

AND THE CARRIER BOYS AND GIRLS

## INSIDE

**THE GEORGETOWN FIGURE Skating Club** met during the weekend, and many members received trophies. See pictures on Page 4 in the first section.

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