

## Wind storm causes havoc but not in town

Old man winter took a holiday last week but in his absence strong winds raged through the area at 60 miles per hour, toppling trees, damaging hydro wires, and pushing Saturday's record temperature of 58 back to 25 degrees. Police, firefighters, hydro linemen and the town's works department were kept busy answering calls concerning fallen trees and burning wires. Many rural areas were left without power.

Georgetown firemen were called to the Sixth Line about 1 p.m. Saturday where a large evergreen, which had fallen across hydro wires, was burning. Firemen were powerless to do anything until Ontario Hydro could be contacted because the tree was live. Firemen remained at the scene until after three o'clock. Fire Chief Ken Bulkema said, "We can't put water on a live powerline but were required to stand by to keep spectators away and to prevent fire from spreading by high winds."

Meanwhile, Ontario Hydro had seven crews out throughout the Halton Hills region

answering complaints from people whose power had gone off. Keith Matthews, manager of the Brampton area which encompasses the northern section of Halton and Peel from Highway 50 to the Guelph Line, said his department answered nearly 700 calls between 9 a.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. Sunday.

"The phone never stopped ringing. We no sooner put it down and it would ring again," he said. "The main problems were two-fold: winds snapping overhead wires together put conductors in motion causing power to go out, and fairly heavy tree branches and even some whole trees fell onto hydro lines and catch fire." Because the crews were working elsewhere they were unable to get to the tree fire on Sixth Line until more than two hours after it started. Linemen then shut off the power, firemen extinguished the blaze, and the town's work crews cleaned up the debris.

Another large limb landed on an individual house service on McNabb St. Leaving the occupants without power. Strangely enough, this was the only call received by the Georgetown Hydro. A spokesman explained that hydro men had previously removed all dead trees and branches to avoid such emergencies.

Saturday morning shoppers were detained for a while on Main Street South when a large pine blew down and blocked the road between Park and Maple Ave. There were no damages and no injuries.

A Christmas tree and an automobile found themselves victims of the gusting winds when the tree fell from the roof of the Georgetown Market and landed on a parked car owned by Betha Floin, 4 Stockman Cres. causing \$400 damage to the car's roof, trunk and right fender.

The tree-lined property of an 80th Street resident was near disaster Saturday after ten 40-foot cedars toppled all in one clump, sideswiping the white frame house. Fortunately the shallow rooted trees were clear of the building. "But it's the other six that were ready to go over that had us worried," claimed owner Ron White, as he and his children and neighbors tried to anchor them with cement blocks, and patio stones.

The incident occurred at the exact moment of the fire on the Sixth Line and firemen and workmen were not available to help. If the remaining trees had fallen they would have landed directly on the house and hydro wires. Mr. White happily reports, "The trees are still standing. Everything seems to be okay, and we will just chop the fallen trees for firewood."

## Smile!

Dust off the old camera. You could win some valuable prizes.

This week, and for the next three weeks, the Herald will be accepting entries for the new Herald photo contest.

Rules for the contest are simple: The contest is open to anyone living within Halton Hills.

Prints must be black and white, any size, mounted or unmounted.

Entries must agree with the current theme for the month.

Pictures will not be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is included with the entry.

Pictures should have your name, address and phone number on a separate sheet.

Judging the contest will be Peter Moss, manager of the Photorama store, Kevin Bandler of the Halton Hills Camera Club and Richard Fowler of the Herald staff.

The theme for January is Winter Fun.

The final deadline is midnight February 5, 1975.

The winning entries will be printed in the Herald and prizes awarded.

For prize information and further rules, read next week's edition.

## Pinned by car

Three Georgetown resident were injured while attempting to start a stalled car on Guelph Street Friday. A second car was being used to help re-start the car, owned by William Milward of Delrex Boulevard when a third car was in collision with the Milward vehicle.

Cheryl Milward and Brian Nutall were caught between the two cars when the collision occurred. They were taken to hospital for examination. A third man, Charles Chambers, was also injured in the collision.

\$1,800 damage was done to the Milward vehicle while a car owned by John Pearce of Queen Street suffered \$900 damage.

A collision in the Georgetown Market Centre parking lot resulted in an estimated \$250 damage to a vehicle owned by Murray Crocker and \$200 to a vehicle owned by Michael Dickson.

A rear end collision did \$150 damage to a car driven by Roy Harder of Hale Drive, Georgetown. Driver of the other vehicle involved, John Pearce of Queen Street, was northbound on Mountainview when the collision occurred.

The driveway to Kinney's Shoes was the scene of an accident last Thursday. Anne Lindsay of Weston and Petra Bath, Main Street, received damages to their cars.

\$800 in damages were sustained by two cars in an accident at the A&P parking lot. Ted Wroblewski and Sharon Eastwood were involved in the collision at the retail wall.

A car parked at Consumers Distributing received \$400 damage by an unknown driver. The damaged vehicle was owned by Spectrum Electric.

Two trees and a hydro pole were damaged by a car owned by John MacDonnell of Mississauga. The car was travelling along Moore Park Crescent, lost control damaging the pole and trees. Paul Morin of Weston has been charged with failure to remain at the scene.

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## Trees trash

The skeletal remains of the many Christmas trees that decorated Georgetown living rooms through the past holiday season will hopefully be made faint memories as the last collections are made this week by the town's works department.

According to Alf Duby of the works department, most of the trees should have been picked up by last Friday.

"We have been picking them up with the regular garbage pick-up throughout Georgetown and Acton, said Mr. Duby.

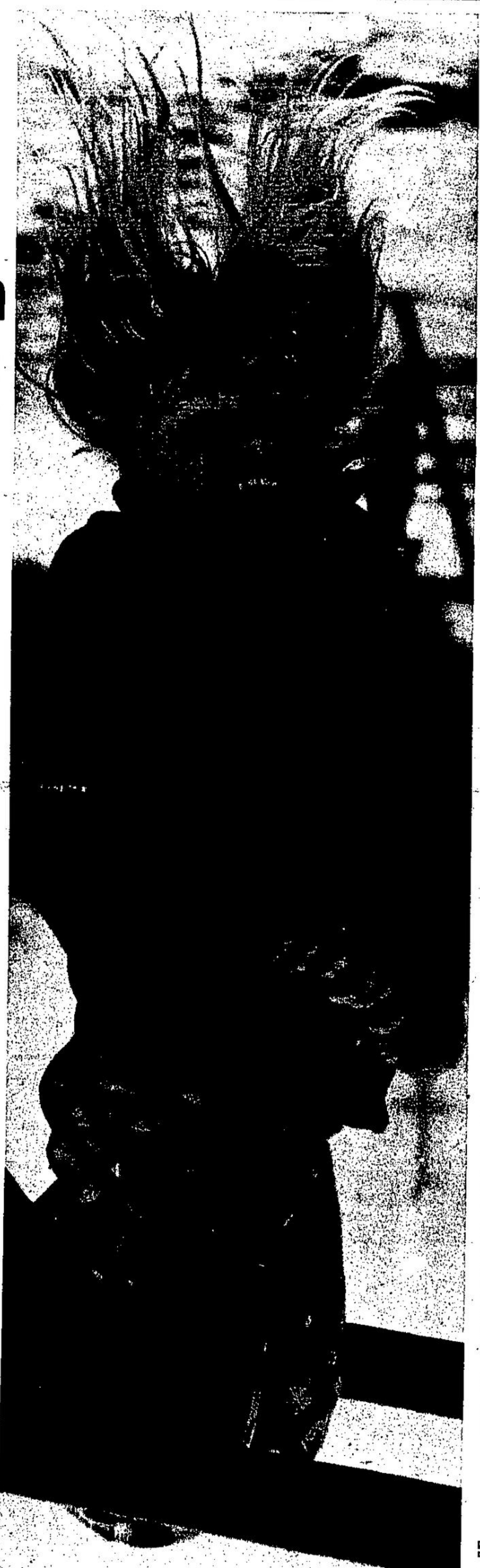
Trees collected will be taken to the landfill site on Armstrong Avenue and treated as regular garbage. Since a bylaw

was passed forbidding open fires, Halton Hills have conducted no mass tree burnings as part of the 12th Night of Christmas.

Trees used to be burned in the field located at the plaza where Zellers now stands, in Acton similar burnings took place. Milton still conducts tree burnings with coffee and hot chocolate for those attending.

"There are less trees each year with more people buying the artificial trees or buying none at all," added Mr. Duby.

Trees still awaiting pick-up can be put out with the regular garbage and will be disposed of at that time.



**SHOCKING NEW HAIRDO**, sported by this week's cover girl was just to fool you. The young lady is really Miss Crystal Crosby, 7, Grade two pupil burning up excess energy during recess in the school grounds of Howard Wigglesworth Public School. The monkey bars are a popular attraction of the playground equipment provided.

## Staff not at fault in fiery hospital death

Staff of Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital were credited with "exemplary" action in handling a bed fire which resulted in the death of an 82-year-old town resident on Dec. 13.

A coroner's jury, under coroner Dr. A. E. Macintosh last Wednesday night absolved Georgetown hospital administrators and staff of all blame in connection with the incident.

They however, recommended that hospital patients incapacitated by strokes and other illnesses should not be allowed matches or lighters when supervisors are not present.

The jury also concluded that the province's ministry of health should establish mandatory fire prevention procedures for hospitals.

Edward McGonigal, of Hyde Park Rd., Georgetown, died in Toronto Western Hospital. The jury found that the blaze occurred while the elderly man was trying to use matches to light his pipe. Because he had a stroke several days before, he was unable to put out the fire himself or call others for help.

The stroke was a contributing factor in his death, concluded Dr. Michael Quinn-Hill, a provincial pathologist. Signs of the stroke were detected during an autopsy. An enlarged heart and hardening of the arteries were also detected.

Dr. Quinn-Hill reported that Mr. McGonigal suffered burns to the right side of his face, the back of his head, his chest, body and right leg. The burns extended to the full thickness of the skin.

The man was alone. Another patient in a room across the hall noticed the fire and alerted the staff.

Louise Verner, a nurse on duty that night, heard the other patient's shouts. When she got to Mr. McGonigal's room she found the bed on fire.

Orderly Edward Schubert also went to the room. He said flames were a foot off the bed. He immediately got an extinguisher from the hall and doused them.

Another nurse, Bernice Tomkinson, helped Mr. Schubert remove Mr. McGonigal from the bed and rushed him to the hospital's emergency ward.

Dr. Bruce R. Duff recognized the seriousness of the man's condition and promptly arranged for his transfer to Toronto Western.

Tom Dewhurst of the Ontario Fire Marshall's office believed a box of matches caught fire while Mr. McGonigal was lighting one. Most of the matches in the box had ignited, he said.

James Stevens an engineer from the fire marshalls office said an intense fire would have resulted when the matches were ignited.

The jury's recommendations echoed the opinions of Michael Manson, a fire prevention consultant with the ministry of health. Mr. Manson stated that regulations should be

adopted by the province to ban smoking by patients who were under sedation or were aged or infirm, except under staff supervision.

Members of a hospital's staff, he said, should be authorized to remove matches, cigarettes and smoking materials from such patients.

He pointed out that after continual washing cotton materials become extremely flammable.

"It's a matter of educating the public, through every means possible, about the hazards of smoking in these situations and of giving matches and smoking materials to these patients," he added.

Alfred Morris, administrator of the hospital, said that the hospital had formed a fire safety committee and practiced monthly fire drills. But smoking in bed, he said, could not be banned. "You would just drive it underground," he said.

## Top citizen

The Georgetown Lions Club is again looking for the town's "Citizen of the Year", someone who has given unselfishly to the community.

This will be the third year that the Lions have carried out the search for our top citizen or citizens. The first recipient chosen in 1973 was Peggy Treahy, selected for her outstanding work with retarded children and young people.

The Georgetown Volunteer Fire Brigade was honored with the award in 1974 in recognition of a century of fire prevention services in Georgetown.

The Lions Club, however, wants some help from you in picking our most deserving citizen or group for 1975. A committee, chaired by Ron Johnson of 61 Shelley Street, 877-2607, is now accepting any suggestions you might have for the honor. Contact him or committee members Eric Hooton, David Frayre, Doc Russell, Dick Licata, Clare Francis, Gob Collier or Fred Zorge before the end of this month and tell them of your suggestion.

The winner of the award will be made known on Friday, March 21 at a dinner dance to be held in St. George's Anglican Church hall. The public is invited to attend the special evening, tickets for which are now available.

## Ontario Street lights on again

New street lights on Ontario Street from the creek easterly to the top of the hill continue to be an on again, off again problem for town council.

A recommendation made last week by the town's works committee which would have seen the cancellation of the proposed Ontario Street project was rejected at Monday night's committee of the whole meeting. It has been turned back to the works committee for further study.

The works committee's earlier recommendation, was questioned by councillor Roy Booth. He noted that the committee's original reason for turning the idea down was that costs would be too high. It was originally reported that the estimates for the lighting work did not include the costs of installing poles for the lights.

However, councillor Booth noted that his investigation has revealed that the quoted prices did, in fact, include the poles. "There seems to have been some confusion as to whether the quote prices included the pole standards," he said. "They actually did."

Citizens in the area, he continued, felt strongly that lights were needed on the street particularly on the steep hill.

"I could, if council wishes, go out and get a petition signed by all the residents of that area showing their feelings but I don't feel that council should have to work that way. I still feel convinced that this is a

necessary thing, especially now that ice and snow are on the ground and it gets darker much earlier in the evenings and stays darker later in the morning."

A number of people, he explained, use Ontario Street to walk to and from factories in the area, including Smith and Stone and Abitibi.

The road narrows into a narrow gully which forces pedestrians to walk on the roadway. Mayor Tom Hill noted that the situation could be extremely dangerous on Ontario Street, particularly during the winter months.

Councillor Erv Hyde explained that when the works committee decided not to carry out the project, continuing costs were a major factor against it. "We should remember that each and every time a new light goes up the municipality's light bill goes up."

"This was not just considered at an initial cost."

Councillor Mike Armstrong also explained that the stretch of road being considered is located on a flood plain. Under current building regulations no homes can be constructed on a flood plain, thus there was little need for the street lights other than helping workers travel to and from their jobs.

Councillor Booth conceded that an extensive lighting system for that area might not be necessary. "Even just one light would help."

## '100% unknown'

Labels are sometimes confusing. A label attached to knitted work socks produced in Georgetown indicates they are made of 100 percent unknown fibres.

"We use reclaimed fibres in the manufacture of that line of socks," explained company president, William Schenk of Glen Knitting Mills. "The fibres we use are all good but we can't test each batch for content and produce a product at the price. We know that there is perhaps rayon, wool or acrylics in the sock but we can't be sure of the proportions," he furthered.

Glen Knitting Mills has been producing socks in Georgetown since 1951 and now produces 25 lines of socks which are sold to wholesalers representing large retail chain operations such as Zellers and Sledmans.

"If we produced the same sock in 100 percent wool the cost would be triple for the materials alone. The cost of labor is the same to produce the socks," said Mr. Schenk.

Under Section 31 of the Textile Labelling Act which went into effect about a year ago, the law specifies that, where the fabric is in whole or in part unknown, the label must simply say so.

Each pair of socks indicates in French and English "100 percent unknown fibres-100 percent fibres inconnues."

"This labelling complies with the regulations," added a spokesman from the department of consumer and corporate affairs.

Mr. Schenk noted that he has had several calls from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation regarding this label and added that several Montreal sock producers have been using reclaimed materials and labellings similar to this before.

"This is the least expensive sock we produce and sells for \$1.98 for three pairs," added Mr. Schenk.