

# North Halton council planned

North Halton service groups took the initial step Thursday evening in setting up a social planning council that will co-ordinate volunteer services in the area.

Those attending the first meeting to discuss the matter, however, were told that if they thought such a council is a good idea they will have to "carry the ball" themselves.

Those attending the meeting included Judge Kenneth Langdon, Ray Andrews of Halton Regional Police, Principal Peter Oprica, Recreation Co-ordinator John Cooper as well as represen-

tatives of the Georgetown Big Brothers the board of Health and North Halton Contact Centre.

In his introduction to the council Dr. Rick Edwards the Milton representative of the Regional Human Services Council, which will sponsor the project said it will co-ordinate volunteer services in much the same way as Action's new community services centre.

Such councils, he said, already exist in many areas. Peter Marks of the Addiction Research Foundation who was instrumental in setting up the Action Community Services

said that the social needs in North Halton will soon become evident in a report being prepared by the Human Services Council.

When the study terminates in June, he said, a social planning council could address itself to the needs of the study outlines.

"There is no body in North Halton that is co-ordinating a consistent level of volunteer service," he said. "We are behind South Halton in this area. The situation there is much better because of the existing councils." Helen Horn of the Peel

Region Social Planning Council pointed out that funds are available to help set up a local council. She said that many service clubs such as Rotary, Optimists and Lions have helped out in other areas.

Suggestions for organizing a council for North Halton included the selection of a steering committee made up of five to seven professionals and non-professionals and the defining of priorities that the council would have to handle.

Though Nancy McPherson of the Human Services Council, another planner behind the Action Centre, offered her

assistance it was agreed that the local representatives of that council Mr. Marks, Dr. Edwards and Rev. Peter Barrow are already too busy with other matters to take on organizational duties.

"If you think it's a good idea," Dr. Edwards told the meeting "you'll have to carry the ball."

A follow-up meeting will be held at the Hornby Hall on Steeles Avenue Jan. 21 at 8 p.m. Representatives of the area's service clubs will be invited to attend along with interested members of the general public.

During the initial meeting Mrs. Horn described the development and structure of the Peel Region Social Planning Council and the changes it has undergone since its founding 11 years ago.

"There is sophistication in this area," Mrs. Horn said. "That was not present in Peel when we started."

In North Halton, she said, the Human Services Council already has a firm working affiliation with the courts, the boards of health and social services organizations. She said money, however, is the significant problem.

Mrs. Horn said that after four years of operation, the Peel Region council joined hands with Brampton's Red Feather branch of the United Appeal.

In this manner, she said, the problem of funding was placed in the care of a joint board of directors, made up of clergymen, businessmen and representatives of volunteer agencies.

The council was then free to deal with social problems such as housing and child care. The Jan. 21 meeting is designed to plan a course of action.



**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS.** The head table was long and impressive at the tenth anniversary banquet of the Georgetown and District Christian School. From left to right are: Mr. and Mrs. Jack Fennema; Mr. and Mrs. Westeyn; Rev. and Mrs. Wally Postman; Rev. and Mrs. Joosse; Mr. and Mrs. George Petrusma; Julian Reed, Dr. Frank Philbrook and Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Sykes.

## Remarkable growth in first 10 years for Christian School

About 400 supporters of christian education came together in the basement auditorium of the Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church last Friday evening to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Georgetown District Christian School, which has been in operation during the last decade, offering a distinctly christian education to children of all christian parents in the Halton Hills communities.

In an historical overview, Mr. Wm. Gerrits, the chairman of the board of the Georgetown District Christian School Association, pointed out that although board members, parents, and teachers had been involved in the area of christian education, it was God, Who had given the growth and increase during the past decade.

From a three room school with three teachers and 99

students on its Opening Day in 1965, it has grown to a seven room school, with seven full-time staff members and an enrollment of 214 students. The chairman also announced that parents and members had pledged so far \$30,000 toward the cost of another two room addition, which would triple the size of the school next fall, since its opening in 1965.

The master of ceremonies the Rev. Wally Postman, introduced guests at the head-table among which were town councillor Mr. Ernie Sykes, the Hon. Dr. Frank Philbrook, M.P. and the Hon. Mr. Julian Reed, M.P.P. Each of them offered best wishes and congratulations and possible assistance on behalf of the municipal, provincial and federal government.

Mr. Bert Osterbrook, president of the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools,

representing 50 christian schools on the elementary level and secondary level in Ontario, and Dr. Jack Fennema, the educational director of the Ontario Alliance gave congratulatory messages, expressing God's blessings upon the work of the christian school community.

Other highlights of the evening, besides a sumptuous banquet prepared and served by Mrs. A. Lefterink and her helpers, were the performances of the school-choir under the direction of the music teacher, Miss Groat, who also sang a few solos, the slides on the construction of the school taken by Mr. Jack Vander Meer, two selections for trumpet and piano performed by Mrs. A. de Kleer. Along with the introduction of the past and present staff members; the singing by the audience accompanied by Mrs. Postman, piano, and Martinus Otten, drums; the introduction of the beautifully illustrated commemoration booklet by Mrs. I. Simpson.

The address by Mr. George Petrusma, the principal emphasized the harmonious relationship between board, staff, and parents in the past in providing christian education, and the love and concern for the unique talents for each individual child endowed by its Creator. Each teacher ought to have to fulfill his or her God-given task in the classroom. Out of appreciation for the work done over the past ten years, the principal and his wife were presented with a portable typewriter and a bouquet of carnations.

A special guest, the Rev. Jim Joosse from Edmonton, who had been very much involved in promoting the idea of a christian school in this community at the time of his charge, expressed his great joy to be able to present at this happy occasion and donated his film on the construction and Opening Day to the library of the school.

The evening of celebration and fellowship came to a close after the thanksgiving prayer, offered by Rev. Jake Corvers of Acton, and the singing of the national anthem, O Canada.

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Nursery service 9:15 and 11 a.m.

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### Clergy Comments

# The greatest gift

By Tom Brelford  
Mountainview Baptist Church

It won't be long now. Just a few more weeks, and we'll be asking each other, "What did you get for Christmas?" or "Was Santa good to you?"

And we'll answer in terms of the material gifts we were given. We'll say, "Oh, I got a new pair of socks, or a new dress, or a car or a TV set" or something like that.

We probably won't tell anyone that we were given a special show of love from our parents, or found new peace by discovering what the season is all about, or were given new friends, or received the joy of seeing the family all together again, or received greetings from old friends we've long been separated from.

We don't think in those terms. We tend to think in terms of "things" of the material gifts we receive. And when we give, we tend to think our love is shown by the things we give.

Often, we give because we have to—it's expected of us. We spend frantic hours, or even days, searching for the "right" gift. And sometimes, our children, or our wives or husbands or friends would be a lot happier if we forgot the "thing", and gave ourselves to them, our time, our love, our concern, our understanding.

But we think in terms of things. And besides, often it's a lot easier to give a present than to give ourselves. God didn't take the easy way out when He gave us our Christmas present. He gave His Son. Just as He had promised.

Have you ever had to wait a long, long time for a gift? You knew it was coming, but you had to wait weeks for it, or maybe months, or even perhaps, years. You knew you wanted the present but you couldn't have it yet. You knew it was coming, but it wasn't there. Like, an engagement ring, or the birth of a child. That's the way it was with the gift God gave us.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulders; and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. (Isiah 9:6)"

It was over seven hundred years before the birth of Jesus that Isiah made this prophecy. The people had waited a long time to see it fulfilled. A lot of them gave up hope. And when the child was born, they didn't believe it. A lot of people still don't believe it. They have never really understood that God loves us so much that He gave us a great Christmas present one day in Bethlehem.

Of course, a Christmas gift isn't much use to anyone if it isn't accepted. We cannot wrap something that we

don't accept ourselves. Imagine how you would feel if you placed a gift under the tree on Christmas Eve, and it were still there two weeks later, when you were ready to throw the tree out, because the receiver didn't feel like taking it? Perhaps, he said, "I don't want it yet. Bring it back in a few years.", or "Who wants a gift from you anyway?", or "I don't need your gift: I've got some other nice toys here to play with."

God has heard similar to these when His Gift has been presented to people. Have you accepted His gift? And have you begun to unwrap that gift to discover just how great a gift He has given us? The present, too many people, is still wrapped up, unopened.

It's nice to look under a Christmas tree, and see all the gifts, beautifully wrapped, with pretty ribbons and colorful paper. But we don't like to leave them that way for long. We get rather impatient wondering what's inside. Maybe, when nobody is looking, we kind of shake the present, and try to see if we can read the box through the wrapping, and find out what's inside that colorful paper.

The gift is nice to look at, all wrapped up, but the really big moment occurs when we take off the wrapping paper. Sometimes, I think that we haven't begun to take off the wrapping of God's gift and discovered the greatness of that gift. It's still wrapped up, under the tree, or, more accurately, in the manger.

But the really great thing about the Christmas gift God gave us is that Jesus didn't remain a little baby in a manger. If we think about it, it would have been quite gruesome, if He'd remained that way. Nor did He grow up to be just another man.

That would have been common, and nothing worthy of remembering, nor of any use to us. But He fulfilled His name.

As the angel told Mary and Joseph, His name was called Jesus, "for He shall save His people from their sins." That's why He was born. That's why He was given. And those who have trusted in Him have found Him to be more than a baby in a manger...Indeed, He is the King of Kings.

Those who believed have found His counsel—unlike the advice of so many—is "wonderful", and that He really is "the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

Have you begun to wrap that gift to discover just how great it can be to allow Jesus to be placed on the throne of your life, to bear the government of your life upon His shoulders?

## Church helping Vietnamese celebrate

The Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees in Georgetown are approaching their first Canadian Christmas. For many it will be difficult.

Christians in Ontario and many from Georgetown want to make it easier to bear. The Georgetown Alliance Church

joined with others across Ontario this past Sunday, November 30, to send gift-wrapped articles of new winter clothing to Montreal to these people.

Each church family was encouraged to bring one gift. The gifts will be collected and taken to Montreal where a

giant Christmas reception is planned for these new Asian Canadians. It is hoped that there will be a gift of warm clothing for each guest, and that the spirit of the Christ of Christmas will touch many.

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### Tenders for sewage expansion finally let

The Georgetown Water Pollution Control Plant expansion is finally off the drawing board and in the slow process of becoming a reality. Regional public works director Bob Moore reported to the works committee that the ministry of the environment has advertised the expansion tender. Closing date for tender submissions is December 8.

The information was the last bit of news local representatives had heard about the badly needed plant expansion in many months. The tenders call for an addition that will increase the plant's processing limits from 1.5 million gallons per day to 3 million. Estimated cost for the project is in the neighbourhood of \$4 million.

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