

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

From the management, staff and 106 carriers of The Herald



## the HERALD

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1978

THREE SECTIONS—32 PAGES



### 'Twas the Night Before Christmas . . .

Visions of sugar plums dance in head. . . Three-year-old Darren Whitten seems delighted with the prospect of Christmas and all it represents as he sits reading the Night Before Christmas at the Acton Library. Herald Photographer George Evashuk captured the young fellow in a peaceful pose during one of his frequent trips to the Acton area. With only three days to Christmas, it's easy to imagine the thoughts running through the young lad's mind.

### FIRM'S YARN MILL ONLY

## Beaumont mill closes

Beaumont Knitting Mills will close its yarn plant in Georgetown Feb. 18. Thirteen workers are affected by the plant closing.

Co-owner Doug Penrice said the influx of work socks from South Korea has led to a 20 per cent drop in business for the firm in the past 18 months.

Imported socks retail at about 99 cents a pair, while Beaumont can only retail at about 30 cents more, he said.

The closing affects only one in two plants operated here by the firm. A knitting mill in Glen Williams may expand, he said.

The first sign that foreign competition was hurting Beaumont's business came 14 months ago when the yarn mill eliminated one shift, laid off five employees and reduced

weekly production by 50 per cent to 400 pounds of yarn.

Mr. Penrice said it is uneconomic to run a small-scale yarn operation when purchases can be made from a large modernized manufacturer at less cost.

The building has been listed for sale for six weeks and three pieces of equipment have been sold.

One employee has been transferred to the knitting mill, expanding its staff to 25.

Mr. Penrice is attempting to re-locate other employees.

"We don't want to starve the importers," Mr. Penrice said, "but if Canada is to have a viable textile industry, it would be protected."

Aware of adverse effects of foreign competition, the Canadian Textile Institute, which includes the Knitting Association of Canada, approached the federal textile and clothing board 18 months ago seeking protection, Mr. Penrice said.

The result was implementation of quotas in August but these quotas include "the peak shipping season" dating to February 1976, Mr. Penrice said. Efforts are continuing for hosiery to be included in 15 categories of quotas announced for imported textiles by Trade Minister Jean Chretien Nov. 29.

The 1977 quotas will hold imports at the 1975 level of five million dozen units which "is still too high," according to Mr. Penrice. The 1976 levels increased by about 52 per cent over 1975, a spokesman within Mr. Chretien's office told The Herald last week.

The board's August recommendations call for the limiting of hosiery imports from Taiwan to 200,000 dozen units but yet to be established, the federal spokesman said is a bilateral agreement with South Korea with a possible yearly quota of 300,000 dozen units.

Mr. Penrice said yarn used in the production of the work socks and other product lines at the Glen Williams plant will be purchased in Canada from George Andrews Company, Waterford. It is a subsidiary of the Sunbeam Corporation.

Beaumont Mills will consolidate its product line, which includes the phase out of the Lamb Street plant. The company will now concentrate on moving more into promotion and sporting socks, he said.

A spokesman for Glen Knitting Mills was unavailable for comment. Glen Knitting Mills (1965) is the only other mill in operation in Halton Hills.

Beaumont Knitting Mills was established in 1878 by Sam Beaumont at Glen Williams. In 1969 the plant expanded its yarn production to a building on Lamb Street, Georgetown, because the firm's building in Glen Williams could not adequately handle the production of yarn and sock knitting.

The firm is owned by Sam Penrice and his son Doug.

### Happy holidays

Christmas is traditionally a time for family gathering, joy, happiness and laughter.

It is with just one week prior to the New Year a time when many pause to reflect on the year that is slipping into history and to speculate on the future.

It is with this in mind that the Herald wishes all its readers its contributing columnists and its correspondents a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous 1979.

A special thanks must be made and best wishes extended from all departments of the newspaper: editorial, display and classified advertising, production and circulation to the untiring efforts of our carriers who make their rounds early each Wednesday morning. To all of them goes a very special wish for an enjoyable Christmas.

### 'Strong need' industrial commission

A call has been made for the creation of a regional industrial commission for the second time within two weeks.

George Gray, president of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, said the announced closing of a portion of the Beaumont Knitting Mills production shows the "strong need for an industrial commission in Halton."

Earlier last week, Mr. Gray, attending a meeting to discuss the closing of the Domtar Fine Papers coating mill operation and a 50 per cent cutback in manpower at a similar operation at the Abitibi Provincial Paper Plant, called for creation of such a commission.

"I think we have just seen the tip of the iceberg," Mr. Gray said. "I think we will have other problems with local industries."

He said efforts by five regional Chambers of Commerce to pressure for an industrial commission will continue with the next attempt set for regional council's inaugural meeting.

Combined total of workers affected by the decisions of the three companies is 269. Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed said the Beaumont announcement also reinforces his drive to have a regional industrial commission created.

There's a need for a trade commission "not so much to promote growth, but to maintain and replace existing jobs," he said.

Imports from Korea are attributed as a major reason for the closing of the Beaumont Mills yarn operation, co-owner Doug Penrice said.

Mr. Gray labelled the closing a result of "poor leadership" by Ottawa in not following through with tariff and quota protection for Canadian industry.

Until the energy crisis of 1973, Canada was fearful of retaliatory action from foreign countries, he said.

Mr. Gray also condemned the export of raw materials later returned to Canadian markets as manufactured products. He said more emphasis must be placed on developing secondary industry in smaller Canadian centres.

However, Mr. Reed, said the third world, which is actively seeking more exports must ensure it not adversely affect the Canadian economy. He said the third world countries must appreciate that they require a strong economy in the developed world to provide growth.

Meanwhile, the provincial ministry of industry and tourism is prepared to provide advice and assistance in developing an industrial commission, John McDermit, executive assistant to Minister Claude Bennett says.

Continued on Page 3

## OSSTF places embargo on Halton board

Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation (OSSTF) has placed an embargo on its members from applying for or accepting "positions of responsibility" in the Halton board of education's controversial reorganization of high schools.

The embargo, a precedent setting move, will prevent the hiring of teachers for a chairmanship organization the board has ruled to be implemented in nine Halton schools by Sept. 1. Seven schools, including Acton high school, are currently under the chairmanship structure. Hiring is scheduled to start in January.

OSSTF is opposed to the mandatory nature of the reorganization vice-president

Peter Norman told reporters at a press conference Thursday, just hours before the board met for its final meeting of the year. Mr. Norman is part of a three-man special action committee which assumed negotiating powers for the Halton chapter, Dec. 9.

It opposes the chairmanship scheme replacing the headship system. In the past five years education has shifted away from total flexibility and back to more traditional structures, Mr. Norman said, yet "the Halton trustees want to continue the grand experiment of the 1960's." He demanded the board produce some evidence that a chairmanship scheme is sound.

"We can't understand why," Mr. Nor-

man said, "with no savings in cost, no proven advantage to students or support of staff. . . with no evidence of educational value," the board continues its policy. "What's the rush?"

Ray Primeau, OSSTF executive assistant and member of the three man negotiating team, said "it is simplistic to say that the right of elected officials is threatened." The trustees' reaction to the issue "dismayed" him, he said.

He said people are tired of "untested theories" in the classroom.

The third team member, Peter Judd, chief negotiator and teacher at Burlington's General Brock high school, said the

organizational scheme had created "confusion and demoralization on the very people charged with carrying out the scheme."

The complete re-organization of the school system requires more research on each application by those who must make it work, he said.

He said a meeting with board chairman Judy Alexander scheduled for Dec. 13 had been cancelled because the board needed to determine its legal position. No new meeting date has been set.

Although no teachers would lose jobs in the re-organization, the number of positions of responsibility in the high schools would decrease from 200 to 120, Mr. Judd said. "The

board has never said to us that this is going to save us money," he added. "It would in fact cost more money."

In a statement to trustees at the board meeting Thursday evening, Judy Alexander defended the mandatory imposition of re-organization. A thorough evaluation of all aspects of the first school in Halton to have the chairmanship program was completed in November, 1975, with the full co-operation of the OSSTF and the ministry of education, she said.

It was never the intent of the board to make the chairmanship program optional, she said.

Relations between the board and OSSTF

are "a different ball game now," she said to reporters after the board adjourned. A meeting between the two was not possible until the board received legal advice on its position, she said, possibly this week.

If the embargo is successful there won't be a chairmanship program, she said adding that not all alternatives were known yet. The board may grieve before the Education Relations Commission, she said.

As well, the issue may be "a stumbling block" when OSSTF and the board begin contract negotiations. The collective agreement expires the day before mandatory imposition of the program will occur.

Additional story on Page 2