

Trying to set a canoeing record on the pool in Acton high school during Sports Day last Wednesday are Grade niner Tammy

Allsop, 14, and Bill Pearn, 15. They recorded 3 minutes and 15 seconds for their fun-filled jaunt. (Herald Photo).

# Mexican youth's first Christmas away from home is in Acton

By GEORGE EVASHUK

Herald Staff Writer Christmas Eve in Acton for Alejandro Guerca is going to be one he'll never forget-it's his first away from his home in Monterrey, Mexico.

something to remember for it's different back home, he said. "Alex" as his mates at Acton high school have named him, came to Acton in October from Mexico's major industrial city to study English.

"My family celebrates the night before Christmas," he told The Herald. Besides his parents, he has two sisters and three brothers and a dog. On Christmas Eve many "aunts and uncles come to my house."

They begin celebrating by gathering around the tree and praying, Alex said. "Then we sit down, ... " he paused, searching for the right English word, then decided on ". . chat....drink Coke or beer and after this we give out the presents."

Following the opening of presents and a roast turkey dinner, the family goes to midnight mass and following mass, Alex and his next older brother last year went to a

He laughed as he wondered what his father would do if he found out when the parties ended, "... but last year it was at six a.m.

"It's like . . " he scarched Christmas Day too will be for the right English word again, then decided to stay with his native Spanish by choosing "fiesta," He grinned.

> This year he'll be celebrating his first Canadian Christmas-although with roast turkey and a trimmed tree, Christmas in Monterrey sounds like something any Canadian could easily get used to-with John and Marie Shadbolt and their daughters Linda and Judy in Acton. In the rough and tumble verbal onslaught that occurs with two teen age girls in the house, Alex is learning to hold his

He needs to learn English to continue his studies in business administration at the university in Monterrey, he said. Text books and some classes as well are in English and having a good command of English can mean having a

better life, Alex told The

immersion method, much as what happened to Alex's brother Ricardo who studied English in Boston.

But unlike his brother who was on a five-month "special English" course, Alex said "I'd like to graduate here. It's a marvellous custom. To graduate in both countries is very good."

His brother Ricardo and a friend, Jaime Montalbo, recently visited Alex at the Shadbolt's for a few days before they returned to Monterrey, and he has fond memories of the time they spent together. As for snow in Monterrey,

it's seen only on the mountaintops, Alex said. Here, "It's nice," he said, "but at first I didn't like it.'

And since the first snowfall this season, Alex has enjoyed "skidooing," skating and looking forward to trying skiing. In Mexico he plays halfback on his school's soccer

"For me, it's the first year away from home," Alex said. Of course, he'll be thinking of

His father believes the best his family on Christmas day, way to learn English Is by the he said, "but, for example, in



Have a merry Christ mas hotidas tilled with beautiful things. We want to wish the best to all of our froc patron-

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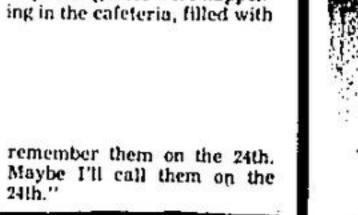
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remember them on the 24th. Maybe I'll call them on the my country it's the 24th, I'll



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Fun, gala dance at sports night

barnyard golf, ping pong, hop ers.

Actua high school's second

annual sports night Wednesday saw fun-filled athletic antics wind up with a gala dance.

Both spectators and particlpants enjoyed the events in the pool: canoe obstacle race, inner tube relay, water jousting

The boys dressed up like grandmothers for the old lad-

ies race in the gym while the girls donned oversized sweatshirts and shin pads for the

Other activities included a ski race, boxing blindfolded, walking race, still race, floor hockey, and the traditional

Group sports included a volleyball matches between Acton students and M.Z. Bennett public school pupils and a

basketball game between pre-

sent Acton high schoolers and

Quieter games were happen-

and water baseball.

hockey race.

tug-of-war.

graduates.

ome, all ye faithful...

Christ the Lord!



chess, euchre, checker, darts, scotch and shuffleboard play-

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ON THE SPOT BANK FINANCING



who is spending his first Christmas away from Linda and Judy Shadbolt. from home at the Acton home of Mr. and Mrs.

Alejandro Guerco, of Monterrey, Mexico, John Shadbolt, trims the tree with a little help

### Industrial commission

#### Continued from Page 1

Mr. Bennett made such assurances at a meeting Thursday with Mr. Gray, Mr. McDermid said.

Provincial sources suggest a regional industry commission would preferred rather than a series of local community commissions which could result in fierce inter-community competition.

"If you (Halton) do not go out and sell your community," Mr. McDermid said, "... you are going to lose out by default."

He sald several communities throughout the province have "very agressive guys"

ed either as a committee of council with a full-time commissioner or as a regional committee with local community commissions as an adjunct.

given to Halton for any needed amendment to year.

Bill 151, the act creating Halton Region, if it does not provide for this service. Regional council would first have to make a statement of definition.

Ottawa-Carleton Region has an industrial board composed of private businessmen and members of council. It is funded both by private and council funds. Sudbury has been given provision for this service in its enabling fegislation, Mr. McDermid said.

Halton Hills Coun. Roy Booth elected to regional council this month, said his platform was based on the need for industrial development of Halton and the need to maintain and find replacement employment opportunitles.

He said, however, that conversations with regional officials indicate that debate on an industrial commission is not expected before late February or March.

Burtington has been seeking creation of An industrial commission could be form- an industrial commission for the past year, A spokesman for the city Chamber of Commerce said several briefs have been prepared and presented to regional council and the body will be making a joint presentation with Mr. McDermid said assistance could be its sister organizations in Halton in the new



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