

NEW YEAR Greetings

And best wishes to all our readers in 1977



the HERALD

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1976

26 PAGES

Arena to open this Thursday

Georgetown Memorial Arena will officially re-open its doors Thursday following almost a year's closing.

The arena has received a \$200,000 facelift to its roof, main entrance area and the first and second floors.

A full day of festivities have been scheduled to coincide with the event. These will include figure skating, broomball and hockey exhibitions as well as an official opening ceremony at centre ice at 8:30 p.m.

Mayor Tom Hill is expected to declare the facility open after he is presented with a

scroll honoring the efforts of the Halton Hills community in raising funds for a Wintario grant application which will pay the entire cost of the repairs. Approval has been given for \$101,000.

Public skating is scheduled from noon to 1:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Hockey games between Acton and Georgetown teams, including girls teams will follow from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The arena will close until 6:30 p.m. to allow for cleaning and maintenance, facilities superintendent Pat Sheehan said.

A broomball game between the Georgetown Volunteer Ambulance Service and the Lions Club will start the evening's festivities and will be followed at 7:15 p.m. by a figure skating demonstration by members of the Georgetown Figure Skating Club who will take part in the Central Ontario Sectional Figure Skating Competitions next month.

Wintario grant committee members, master-of-ceremonies Coun. Ernie Sykes and Mayor Tom Hill will be piped onto the ice

surface by the Georgetown Girls Pipe Band for the official opening at 8:30 p.m. A plaque commemorating the role of the public and business community has not been received and a scroll has been substituted. The plaque, which will be mounted at the arena, is expected shortly into the new year.

Georgetown NHL star Bob Goldham will drop the puck to start the highlight of the evening: an exhibition game between the Intermediate A Raiders and the Junior B Geminis.

The occasion will also be marked by souvenirs and buttons purchased for the re-opening.

The Georgetown Memorial Arena was closed in the spring following an engineering report which showed it did not conform to standards set by the provincial ministry of labor.

Also planned is a "hot stove lounge" for those attending the festivities.

The evening admission is adults \$2.50; children \$1 and students \$1.50.

GOAL IN SIGHT, BANKS DONATE \$500 EACH

Halton Hills treasurer Ray King reports more than \$49,000 has been raised for the reconstruction of the Georgetown Memorial Arena.

Downtown merchants and three chartered banks have donated a total of \$2,220, he said. The Toronto-Dominion Bank, Royal Bank and Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce each donated \$500.

The goal of more than \$50,000 will be realized, but Mr. King would not speculate on whether the proceeds from the official opening Thursday will push the total over the top. Halton Hills has received approval for \$101,000 from Wintario to cover the cost of repairs.

"Any proceeds from the official opening night will be placed in the fund and will assist in meeting the over all goal," he said. Public participation will be the key to success.

Pause to reflect, 1976 was action-packed

With the 1976 final issue of The Herald put to bed, there's been time for a quick tour of the year's headlines and stories that made front page news and inside news, too.

When the new year got underway, town council tried again to get some control over the education budget, Ontario Hydro was closing in on Halton Hills and Domtar Fine Papers Ltd. and Abitibi Provincial Papers Ltd. made front page stories.

Also in January, grocery stores over 2,400 square feet were closed on Sundays and the Meals-on-Wheels program started rolling in Georgetown.

The Herald's shop foreman, Garfield "Mac" McGilvray, retired after 49 years

service. The Region decided it needed a \$2 million headquarters to govern in.

FEBRUARY

The Herald hit the headlines twice in February. The first was when it announced that after 111 years of paid subscription, it was going free to over 11,000 homes in Halton Hills. Following this achievement, The Herald learned it had been judged to be providing the best news and feature stories, best composition and layout and best editorial page by the Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association for its circulation class in 1975 and achieved third overall standing.

Continued page 2



"THANKS, SANTA"

Four-and-a-half-year-old Heather Cunningham seems to be saying, "Thanks Santa" as she leans to kiss the good, old man. Heather caught her Santa during a Christmas party at Cedarvale for Maple Nursery School. Herald photo by George Evashuk.

Home with a difference, the key is communication

By Karen Ward

Foster homes have become a necessity in our society helping families cope with severe problems. Problems which stem from lack of communication between parents and children.

Don and Doris MacKillop run a different kind of foster home in Georgetown geared towards families with a special type of communication problem. The invisible problem of deafness.

This couple understands the difficulties well ... for they are both deaf.

The MacKillop's home generates a warm and loving atmosphere, which new arrivals quickly sense. Children come from varied backgrounds, and are bewildered with their new surroundings.

Deafness is one of most neglected disabilities by all levels of government, courts, hospitals, and social agencies, because of a lack of knowledge.

Children were previously placed in mental hospitals, institutions for the mentally retarded and even old age homes; homes like the MacKillop's now offer an alternative.

The couple teach children sign language, which they use constantly. The MacKillop's also have three hearing children of their own.

Only one baby born Christmas

Michael William Joseph Morris was the only baby born Christmas Day at Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital. He arrived weighing eight pounds, 94 ounces at 8:20 a.m. Michael is the son of councillor-elect and Mrs. Peter Morris of Wilson Court.

Doris noticed soon after their birth the children were startled by noise. She said very few deaf parents conceive deaf children.

The foster children range from ages five to middle teens, and attend Ernest C. Drury School in Milton. Parents visit their children and are taught sign language.

Although the hearing children do have an advantage, Doris explained other sense become sharper to compensate. Deaf people rely on sight, and are usually very observant. When a deaf person is gently tapped on the shoulder to attract their attention, they notice right away; while a hearing person sometimes needs a good punch. Deaf people feel vibrations, the same vibrations hearing people feel if their ears are plugged.

Don and Doris rely on their eyes to answer the telephone. A lamp lights up when the phone rings. The phone is hooked into a teletypewriter, and deaf people all over North America with these machines can send messages back and forth. It is a real blessing to deaf people Don Says.

Don was born deaf, but Doris became deaf at age three when she had spinal meningitis. Don is the supervising counsellor of senior boys at the Ernest C. Drury School, works with church groups for the deaf, is a director for the Ontario Camp for the Deaf in Parry Sound. They have been foster parents for three years, and feel their life has never been so meaningful.

Don and Doris learned to speak in a school in Halifax, by feeling the teacher's throat and nose. Doris finds "S" hard to pronounce, and "P's" AND "B's", make no noise, so have to be learned by holding a piece of paper and saying the letter over and over

and over again.

The MacKillop home is used as a church once a month for deaf adults in Brampton and Georgetown, and Milton area. Rev. Bob Rumball conducts the service and his wife and daughters teach Sunday school for the children downstairs.

Rev. Rumball, founded a camp for the deaf in Parry Sound, in 1960, designed to meet the needs of young and old deaf children. A natural outgrowth of the camp was the development of the foster home program and special group homes. He is in charge of matching children with suitable homes.

Don and Doris find giving a child up hard, but accept it as being part of the role of foster parent. Doris is glad they have never taken in a baby, for she is afraid she would not want to give the child up.

There are three other homes, a pilot project was started in Milton called the Ontario Farm Home for Deaf Children, managed by Henry and Anne Duck. This couple has three deaf children of their own.

A Youth Hostel in Toronto was founded for young deaf adults who were in need of treatment and training in a supervised atmosphere. This residence is run by a deaf couple, under the direction of Joy Fotts.

The third project is a Group Home for school-aged children in Woodbridge. Paula and Jim Hardy a deaf couple provide an atmosphere of learning and growing for these children.

The generosity of the Lions Club has made these homes possible. Deaf children and adults are now leading happy normal and meaningful lives and will continue to do so.



ACTON HIGH SCHOOL DANCERS WIN \$2,000

Acton high school students who "Bumped for Life"—a dance to raise research funds for cystic fibrosis—received a \$2,000 cheque and a trophy Dec. 22 for their efforts. They raised \$3,300, an average of about \$5 per dancer. That high pledge-per-dancer ratio was enough for

the Acton dancers to win out over 17 other high schools in south-central Ontario Nov. 23. Sponsored by the Kinsmen Club, the event raised a total of \$37,000. Pictured above is Audrey DeVerie, accepting a cheque and trophy from Gus Elliott, treasurer of the Kinsmen Club in Georgetown.