



**DINNER HELD**

Marjorie Norton checks to make sure Vi Preston, left, and Millie Fry are enjoying their dinner. The two ladies were among the first diners at the roast beef dinner at St. Alban's Church in the Glen last Saturday afternoon.

**Handel's Messiah--an encore by choral society**

By LORI TAYLOR  
Herald staff writer

For the second time, the Georgetown Choral Society will be presenting Handel's Messiah as part of its Christmas concert.

Dale Wood, conductor of the Choral Society, said that normally the society doesn't like to repeat itself musically.

"There's no challenge in repeating something," he said. "But we've had a lot of requests for it, so we decided to do it again." The society performed the Messiah two years ago.

The Hallelujah Chorus, probably the most famous part of the Messiah, will not be performed with the main program but may be done as an encore.

"The Messiah is actually made up of three parts," Mr. Wood said, "the Christmas part, the Easter part, and a general summing up. The Hallelujah Chorus comes right at the end, and it isn't normally done with the Christmas part because musically it doesn't make sense."

This year, the concert will be held on Dec. 2, 3 and 4, instead of the normal two-day run. Each of the performances will be held at Knox Presbyterian Church. The opening song will be "O Come all ye Faithful" as is traditional. However, Mr. Wood said he is toying with the idea of having the audience sing the first verse by itself.

"I may just walk out, introduce the song, and tell the audience they'll be singing the first verse alone," Mr. Wood said. "I haven't made up my mind yet. I may just do it one night to see how it works out."

Mr. Wood has been the director of the Georgetown Choral Society since 1975. Before that, he was the assistant conductor and accompanist of the Etobicoke Centennial Choir. Two months before taking over the directorship of the Georgetown Choral Society, Mr. Wood had made an appearance as tenor soloist.

"The Georgetown Society asked me to be their director, but I said 'No, I can't because your practices are on Tuesday

nights, and Monday night is the only night I have free," Mr. Wood said. "So they went away, and then came back and said, 'We've changed our practices to Monday night. Will you be our director?' So I agreed to take over."

The choir is presently 68 voices strong, and Mr. Wood is aiming for a 70-voice choir. Members of the choir come from all walks of life, Mr. Wood said. Some are housewives, some school teachers, truck drivers, and farmers.

"The choir has grown in leaps and bounds over the years in what they're able to accomplish," Mr. Wood said. The youngest member of the choir is 16, and the oldest is over 60. There is no age limit for joining the choir.

"It's voice maturity and emotional maturity that I would have to decide on if

somebody was exceptionally young," Mr. Wood said.

The society is for the most part self-supporting. They raise money for needed supplies such as music sheets, accompanists and guest artists through ticket sales. They received a Wintario grant as well. In addition, for the first time, local businessmen were asked to advertise in the society's program.

"It's the first time we've asked for help from local business and we got a tremendous response," Mr. Wood said. "I want to thank the local businessmen for that, because we couldn't do it without their help. Their assistance is needed and greatly appreciated."

Mr. Wood said he would like to start a young people's choir to accommodate the interest of young people in the community, but he says at the present,

he doesn't have time. "The town really needs something like that," he said. "I think something like a young people's choir would be accepted here."

It is a love of singing which

brings people into the choir, according to Mr. Wood.

"The members of the Choral society have one common goal," he said. "We're there to enjoy singing, and we do."

**Holy Cross bazaar winners**

Holy Cross Bazaar winners last Saturday included a number of Georgetown residents. George Basha won a 10-speed bike, Fred Weaver, a sculpture, Joan Pearson, a skateboard, Georgette Milliere, an afghan, J. Lerch, a rug, and H. Callaghan, a stove. The Sunlight London Show Tour for two went to Tea Uth of Hamilton.

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**Social agencies reps discuss local needs**

Representatives of several North Halton social service agencies gathered at the Acton Community Services Centre Thursday afternoon to compare notes on their experiences with youth in Acton, Georgetown and Milton who are confronted with a variety of personal problems.

Peter Gillespie, director of Halton's year-old Youth Services Network, invited the agencies to attend the meeting, and help the network's North Halton sub-committee to identify local problems and set priorities.

Those who accepted the invitation included the Halton Hills Recreation Department and town council, the Children's Aid Society, Acton High School local clergymen and the Ontario Youth Secretariat. Several Acton high school students were also on hand, along with Terry Grubbe, co-ordinator of the community services centre.

Mr. Gillespie reported that the committee and participating agencies recognize a definite need across the region for preventative programs aimed at anticipating problems associated with young people. The region, he explained, has spent a great deal of money on rehabilitative programs that confront the problems only after they cause trouble. That money, the sub-committee agrees, would be better spent stopping the problems in their initial stages before any harm is done.

Mr. Gillespie claimed there is an apparent need in North Halton for a youth forum through which young people can discuss their problems either privately with an appropriate counsellor or in group conferences with others from their peer group. Counselling for those 16

years of age and over, particularly high school drop-outs, seems to be a high priority need, he added.

Having spent almost every Friday in Acton since he became network director three months ago, Mr. Gillespie has concluded that vandalism, drinking and drug abuse and a lack of informal, unstructured activities for young people are the prime problems facing the community.

Far from being the last to admit that such problems exist the youth of Acton themselves have recently taken the initiative in providing a solution by establishing a coffeehouse in the basement of the Murray Memorial YMCA building.

An energetic group of teenagers has named the coffeehouse "The Mug" and is currently renovating the premises in the style of an English pub. Alcohol, however, is banned, as are drugs and drunks. Enforcement of such rules is to be left up to the youthful proprietors, although adult chaperones will be present.

The committee that has directed operations at The Mug last week earned \$200 from town council for its obviously enthusiastic presentation of plans at a finance committee meeting.

Members of the youth committee are Mark and Kathryn Beaton, Deb Wellwood, Charlie Kinal, Dave Hannah, Peter Zions, Miriam Beaton, Karen Rosenquist, Corinna Moreau, John Watson, Jo Ann Miller, Rick Van Fleet and Dave Pichl.

Acton young people also seem keen to get started on a proposal by Art Meunier, newly arrived in the community after his release this summer from prison. Mr. Meunier will present details of his proposal to build a multi-million dollar boys' town nearby at a rally next Wednesday at the high school. A nine-member committee of high school students and other teenagers has been formed to support the proposal locally.

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