

# It's Christmas at home for many residents

By LORI TAYLOR  
Herald staff writer

Christmastime is family time everywhere, and Halton Hills is no exception, with most of the local citizens planning to spend Christmas at home, with family and friends.

The Herald contacted a number of well-known Halton Hills residents to ask them about their plans for Christmas, and also to ask them to describe their most memorable Christmas.

Walter Blehn, Halton Hills councillor: "I'll be having two-thirds of my family home. My daughter, grandson and granddaughter will be coming from London, and my son-in-law's mother will be coming from Caledonia. My son and his wife will be here, but my other daughter and grandson, who live in Vancouver, won't be coming this year."

My most memorable Christmas would be the first year I was married, when we went to Windsor and all my family was together, as it happens, although we didn't know it, for the last time. Before the next Christmas, my father died and my brother was sent overseas. We had a picture taken which is still one of my most treasured possessions."

Heley Cornell, chief librarian, Halton Hills Public Library: "We'll be leaving to visit my husband's mother in Deep River for Christmas. She has 18 acres of bush near Ottawa, and we'll be enjoying winter sports, such as cross-country skiing, snowmobiling and skating."

There have been so many good ones, it's hard to pick the most memorable Christmas, but I guess I'd have to say it was probably the one where I discovered that Santa's writing bore a very strong resemblance to my mother's."

Betty Fisher, Halton Hills trustee, Halton board of Education: "We'll be having a whole lot of people on Christmas afternoon, family and friends."

**MOST MEMORABLE**  
"The most memorable Christmas I can think of would be the ones spent with my grandparents. We always loved going to their place for dinner, and every year, Grandpa would put colored logs on the fire, that burned with a colored flame. And he always gave us one of those toys that you opened, and something popped out at you, and every year, we kept opening them."

George Gray, president, Georgetown Chamber of Commerce: "I'll be going to visit my mother. Our two children will be home from University, and we'll be going to my wife's mother's home in Peterborough for Christmas Day."

"The Christmases I remember best are the ones when the

children were old enough to appreciate what Christmas really was."

Tom Hill, former mayor of Halton Hills: "I have no plans for Christmas yet, but I'm not figuring on going away."

"I wouldn't remember one particular Christmas, I've had so many. They're all been good as far as I'm concerned."

Dave Keatner, owner of Keatner's Dairy Bar: "We'll be taking the phones off the hook, December 25th is the one single day we absolutely refuse to do catering. We'll be having a Christmas party for a few friends on December 24. We'll be having both our families for Christmas breakfast, and we'll be going to my parents' for dinner and to the children's godparents for the evening."

"My most memorable Christmas, I can't remember how old I was, about 8 or 10, and I came down on Christmas morning and found a wind-up train, with the tracks set up on a piece of plywood, running in and out around the presents."

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Walter Louth, retired: "I've got our tree put up, but we're going to spend Christmas with my daughter and her family."

"None of my past Christmas really stick out in my mind."

John McDonald, Halton Hills councillor: "I'll be spending Christmas with my family, of course. Most or all the members of my family live in Halton Hills or the surrounding area, and some of them will be coming to our house. I'll be visiting my mother on Christmas Day, too. I'll be on holidays for the week after Christmas, and I may do a little skiing."

**FIRST WITH SON**  
"I have two memorable Christmases, I suppose. One was the Christmas of 1967, after my father passed away, and we had our first Christmas without him. The other year was the first Christmas with my son."

Ric Morrow, former Halton Regional Chairman: "My wife's parents will be visiting from Picton, and I guess we'll be having your standard happy family Christmas."

"I guess our most memorable Christmas was a number of years ago when we were first married, and we spent Christmas at a ski lodge in the Laurentians."

Father P.A. Oullett, priest at Sacre Coeur Church: "I'll be spending Christmas at home, in case people need me, and I'll be visiting some of my parishioners and friends. This is my first Christmas in Canada after eight years in a tropical country."

My most memorable Christmases would be the ones I spent in the West Indies, where it's a hot Christmas, with no snow and ice, just flowers and mosquitoes. It's quite a different Christmas, but it's Christmas, and it's the same."

Frank Philbrook, MP for Halton: "We'll be staying at home as we do every year. It's a family time with our two

oldest girls home from university, and the one at high school home. We'll do a lot of things together, like skating, and things like that."

"All our Christmases are memorable, but the first one overseas in India would probably be the most memorable. We were in Kashmir, with a small minority of Christian Indians. We had a big Christmas bonfire at the church, and the Christmas dinner was curried lamb instead of turkey."

Pete Pomeroy, Halton Hills mayor: "We use the Christmas season to see many people we don't get to see very often the rest of the year. We'll be having brunch for family and friends in the morning, and Christmas afternoon is for enjoying Christmas with my wife and children."

"All my Christmases have been good. I couldn't isolate one. I enjoy all Christmases, and I couldn't pick one I've enjoyed more than any other."

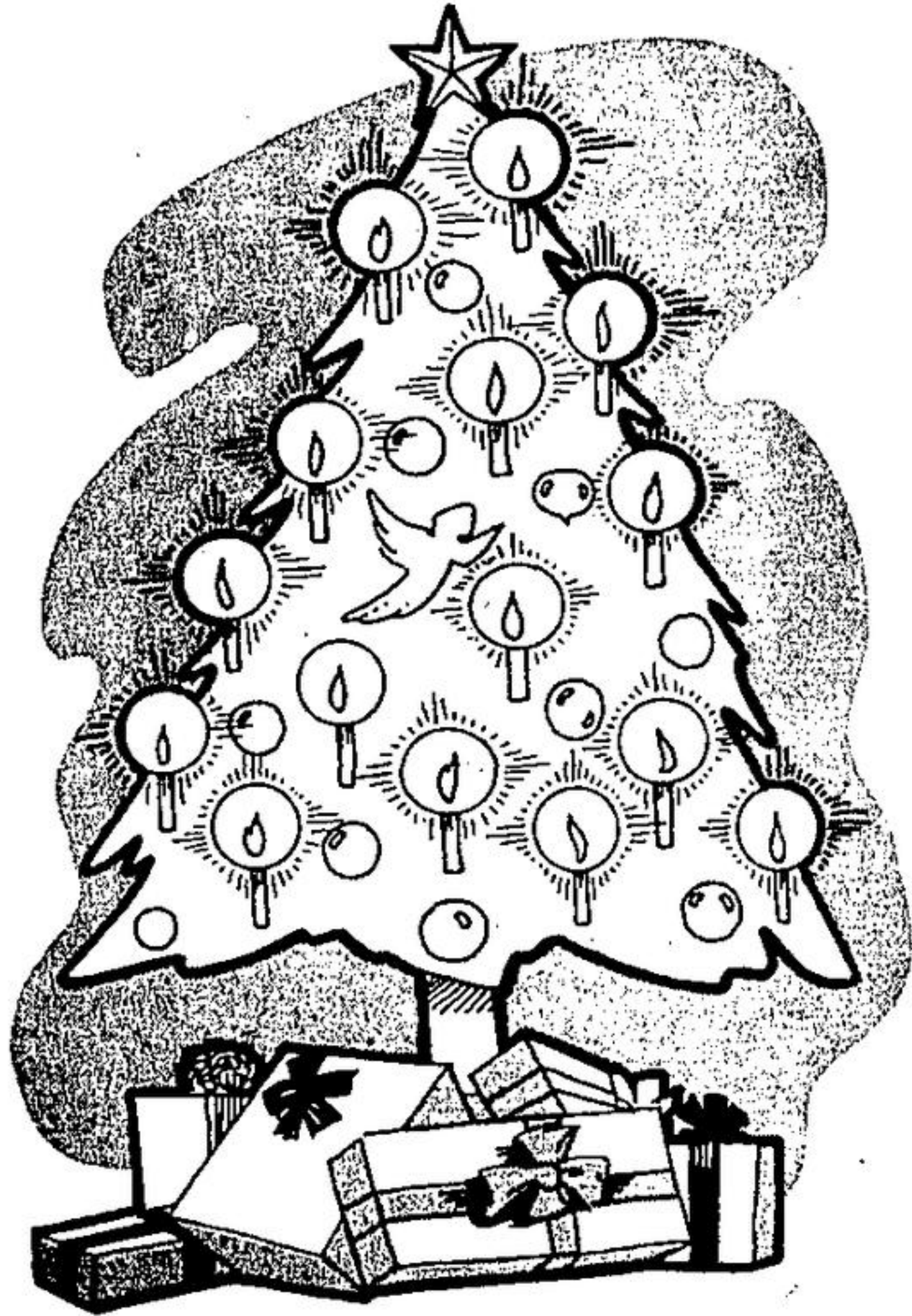
Julian Reed MPP for Halton-Burlington: "Christmas is always a family time for us. We won't be going away. Christmas Eve will have a few of our very closest friends in the way we always do. Christmas Day we spend with the family and Boxing Day we travel to the relatives. We have a quiet time. We don't indulge in big parties."

"I guess my best Christmas memories centre around when I was a kid in Montreal between the ages of six and ten. My dad was a storyteller and when we were little he made up a continuing serial for us. I guess my memories revolve around the magic he created for us with those magic creatures he made up around the farm and the city. Dad was deeply religious although he wasn't much on organized religion, and he always saw to it that we went to see concerts and Christmas plays and music through the season. He was very much a traditionalist and it sort of sparked my interest in music. I think."

"We didn't have much but we always got something at Christmas that was fun for us and helped us to develop skills. I remember when I got my first set of skis. They were new skis with leather harness and that was the year I taught myself to ski."

Marilyn Serjeantson, Halton Hills councillor: "We'll be staying at home with our family, and having relatives for Christmas dinner."

"I guess the most memorable Christmases would be the ones with the children, especially about two years ago, when they were really excited about Christmas, and the Christmas spirit, looking forward to seeing relatives and that kind of thing, and not just waiting to open their presents."



Kyle Wheeler, left, Jane Windsor and William Hackney, have their own puppet show with puppets they created at Glen Williams Public School last week. The school held Christmas activity workshops instead of a Christmas concert this year, to allow all the children to be involved in some form of activity. The students will have a chance to try a different activity this week when the schools hold another activity day. (Photos by Lori Taylor)

## CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES DAY AT GLEN WILLIAMS SCHOOL



Michelle, Andrea, Darcy, Glen, Robert and Billy worked at making their Christmas stockings to hang up for Santa Claus. With no chimney handy they decided to display their stockings on the tree in the classroom, but it wasn't exactly suited for bearing the weight of it all.



Barry Yerxa shows off his completed piece of string art at the Glen Williams Public School Christmas activity days last week. Barry was one of the first to finish his plaque, and he assisted his fellow students with their work.



Jean Rtoe assisted her son, Kevin, with his string art at Glen Williams school. Parents assisted the teachers and the staff with the activity days, heading groups of macrame, baking, crocheting and other crafts.

# Zapping and zinging toys are popular this Christmas

By MICHAEL HOLLETT  
Herald editor

Halton Hills parents will have to contend with a roomful ofphasers and star fighters this Christmas morning as space toys have rockets to the top of local children's Christmas lists.

According to local toy retailers futuristic toys, and especially anything related to Star Wars have been the top sellers during this year's local Christmas toy rush.

"Anything to do with Star Wars is selling big this year," according to Vi Norton at Georgetown's Trio Discount Mart.

She said the stores has sold out its Star Wars supply numerous times.

"We have to keep re-stocking," she said.

Ms. Norton also said that games are big sellers this Christmas for Trio.

"Backgammon and chess are still our biggest selling games."

Old stand-bys like Fisher-Price toys car racing sets, train sets, and Barbie dolls are also selling well this year according to Ms. Norton.

It's the same story at Georgetown's Zeller's according to Donna Hatcher.

**BATTLE CRUISERS**  
"Micronaut battle cruisers and anything to do with Star Wars are selling well."

Zeller's has had to re-order Star Wars toys three and four

times according to Mrs. Hatcher.

"I think every boy in town wants something from Star Wars."

She said electronic games have cut into the sales of games like Monopoly, backgammon and chess.

Mrs. Hatcher agreed that Barbie and dolls in general are still holding their own in Christmas gift sales.

Huck Kim at the Stedman's store in Georgetown says he is selling plenty of toys in general although space toys are his biggest sellers.

The Toy Magic store in Georgetown specializes in educational toys, but that hasn't stopped the space toy boom from hitting.

"Everyone has been asking for Star Wars fighters but we don't carry them because we carry mostly educational toys," said Toy Magic's Marlon Manning.

Despite the lack of space fighters, Toy Magic is selling a lot of Star Wars games.

The Fisher-Price medical kit has been Toy Magic's big seller this season. Ms. Manning also said she has been pleasantly surprised by the increased sales of children's books this year.

"We are selling a lot more than in 1977," she said.

Barbie is feeling the heat at Toy Magic as her competitor, Cindy has been sneaking to the top of that store's doll sales.



Six year-old Kristine Hayes of Terra Cotta checks out this year's holiday hit, Star Wars toys. Kristine went along with her parents this week for a last minute look through Zeller's Christmas toy selection. The space toys were moving fast. Photo by Michael Hollett.