



Santa's local contact has his hands full

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

North Pole toy-makers aren't the only ones whose workload is now moving into high gear. Santa Claus' personal "aide de camp" in the Halton Hills area has his hands full at this very minute preparing for St. Nick's annual visit to Georgetown this Saturday.

Georgetown's Jim Young has developed plenty of hours around this time of the season every year since 1959 setting up Santa's itinerary.

This jolly fellow will be in town Saturday to visit Halton Hills and old friend Jim Young, who annually prepares Santa Claus' Georgetown itinerary for the Lions Christmas parade.

for a yearly visit to which he says Santa looks forward just as much as the community's youngsters.

"There's more participation in the parade these years," Mr. Young told The Herald in a weekend interview, "but Santa feels that each parade seems to be as

good as the others and the biggest thrill for him is to talk to the kids."

Santa's been part of the Georgetown parade for the past 50 years under the kind sponsorship of the Georgetown Lions Club. This year, he'll join various service groups, local organizations

and business interests to help the Lions celebrate the "Golden Christmas" parade as it weaves through town.

"Santa likes to drive down the parade route before things get started," Mr. Young said. "That way he gets the feel of the parade's

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Lions celebrate 50 years of helping Santa

The onerous task of organizing Georgetown's Santa Claus parade—this is the 50th year the event has been sponsored by the local Lions Club—has fallen to Lion Bob Ezard, and while he awaits many more entries for this year's celebration, residents can expect to see old favorites return with a few new ones.

Entitled "Golden Christmas" in recognition of the 25th anniversary of the 24 councillors were returned to office—Mr. Perlin said it is something council must be aware of.

Although regional council had hoped to wait for joint regional-area municipality staff response to a Price Waterhouse study on the region's sewer rate structure before moving against the deficit, Mr. Perlin said raising the sewer rates in January will mean that everyone gets the same number of bills at the same rates. Increasing rates in mid-year would confuse the consumer, he said, adding that if the budget recovery were tacked on to the region's mill

rates, tax bills would increase substantially.

The \$500,000 deficit was incurred in 1979 when projected revenues from sewer and water rates were substantially less than expected, partly due to restricted government grants.

The Price Waterhouse study recommended maintaining the sewer rate system by which residents in Halton pay about the same rate for service. Under the user-pay rates, Halton Hills residents would have to foot the \$5 million bill for a recently modified sewer treatment plant, which could double sewer and water bills here.

The Lions have organized awards for the best overall float, best service club and best non-commercial float. The parade will be televised by Halton Cable TV (channel 4) at a later date.

Mr. Ezard said that groups or individuals planning to enter this year's "Golden Christmas" event, should give him a call at 877-6394.

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THE BIG PAPER WITH THE BIG CIRCULATION

COVERING GEORGETOWN AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES.

ABOUT THE HILLS Christmas light contest

The Elks Club of Georgetown, Lodge 540, is out to brighten the community's Christmas with two seasonal projects, one involving cash prizes for the best home Christmas light displays and the other bringing Santa Claus himself on a casual ride through the neighborhoods of Georgetown.

Elks publicist Jim Barrett announced this week that a club committee will be touring the residential areas between Dec. 14 and 24 to choose the three best-decorated homes. Owners of the most attractive lighting display will receive \$35 from the club at a later date, while second place will command \$20 and third place \$15. Homeowners will be notified following the tour and results will be announced in the Dec. 24 edition of The Herald.

Although a specific date has yet to be chosen, the Elks will be transporting St. Nick around town about Dec. 14 to wave to the youngsters and let them know he's not always confined to the department stores. More information will appear in The Herald as it becomes available.

Raftis seeks re-election

Winding up his first term as Halton regional chairman as of today's (Wednesday's) regular meeting, Jack Raftis says he plans to try and hang on for a second term in office. Speculation continues around Oakville headquarters, however, that the chairman of the region's health and social services committee, Walter Mulkewich, may offer Mr. Raftis some competition this year. Terry Mannell, who represents Oakville's Ward 2 constituents on council, has also been named as a possible contender for the chairmanship.

Defeated councillors liable? Legal wrangles shadow regional sewer deficit

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

Sewer and water rates could increase in January to offset a \$500,000 deficit in the region's 1980 sewer budget if regional council approves a recommendation drafted by acting chief administrative officer Dennis Perlin.

Mr. Perlin warned members of the region's finance and administration committee last week that if council does not move against the deficit at today's final regular meeting of its current term, it could conceivably face legal action from the new council.

Contacted by The Herald Monday, Mr. Perlin explained that the current council, including members defeated in the Nov. 10 civic elections, could be held liable for the sewer deficit because they were "trustees of the public purse."

While the possibility of the new council bringing action against the old is extremely

remote—17 incumbents of the 24 councillors were returned to office—Mr. Perlin said it is something council must be aware of.

Increased water expenditures will likely amount to only \$5 on a bi-monthly bill for Halton Hills residents and will cover \$10.5 million in anticipated expenditures on the regional sewer program including the recovery of the \$500,000 deficit.

Mr. Perlin emphasized that the sewer deficit and attempts to correct have nothing to do with the \$600,000 operating budget deficit discovered earlier this year. Through program cutbacks and savings

made with regional departments, the operating shortfall has been narrowed to \$37,000.

Although regional council had hoped to wait for joint regional-area municipality staff response to a Price Waterhouse study on the region's sewer rate structure before moving against the deficit, Mr. Perlin said raising the sewer rates in January will mean that everyone gets the same number of bills at the same rates. Increasing rates in mid-year would confuse the consumer, he said, adding that if the budget recovery were tacked on to the region's mill

rates, tax bills would increase substantially.

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READY FOR THE SLOPES

Jill Windsor, a member of the 1st Glen Williams Guide Pack, tried out a pair of ski boots at the scout and guide bazaar Saturday in Glen Williams. The bazaar, held at St. Alban's Church, was to raise money for the various projects of the scouts and guides.

(Herald photo by Lori Taylor)

WHAT'S UP?

HE: WILL YOU MARRY ME?
SHE: NO, BUT I ADMIRE YOUR TASTE.

MAN WITH HAND ON T.V. DIAL: - DEAR, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY BEFORE THE FOOT-BALL SEASON STARTS?

IF YOU THINK FISHERMEN ARE THE BIGGEST LIARS JUST ASK A JOGGER HOW FAR HE RUNS EVERY DAY!

(Herald photos by Lori Taylor)

Gravel pit extension approved by council

Bot Construction of Oakville has been given permission to haul 18,000 tons of stockpiled gravel out of a wayside aggregate pit near Limehouse, despite original plans to close the pit by Nov. 7.

Town council approved a motion Monday night allowing Bot to continue to empty the Pilutti gravel pit, located on the Fourth Line north of Sideroad 17 of prime granular "A" material until Dec. 6. The gravel, Bot says, will be used on a road reconstruction project at the intersection of Highway 403 and Queen Elizabeth Way.

Under the terms of the resolution, Bot must complete most of its pit infilling program, except where the stockpiled gravel is located, by 6 p.m. Nov. 20. Landscaping, reseeding and tree-planting have to be finished by May 30 next year.

Fourth Line residents living near the pits—the Pilutti pit on the east side of the road and the Ordorico and Vincent pits on the west—have been angered by a series of unkept promises from the ministry of transportation and communications (MTC) to control the Pilutti pit and eventually close it. Residents met with members of the town's pits and quarries committee, representatives from Bot Construction, the ministry of natural resources (MNR) and the MTC last

month to finally hammer out the Nov. 7 pit closing.

Upset that the town was ready to consider extending the pit closing date one month, resident spokesman Tony Harborow warned council about letting its control over the wayside pits slip out of its hands.

"It's very important that council appear consistent in this matter," he said. "If you give into this request, the MNR will have little sympathy for your views in the future."

Residents, officials from Bot Construction and ministry representatives met with the pits and quarries committee last week and eventually agreed to extend the pit closing deadline.

Acton expansion defies all trends

Herald Special

Polypenco Canada Ltd. is defying economic trends by continuing to grow and expand.

The 14-year-old firm casts industrial nylon parts such as bearings and bushings for the Canadian market from its single plant on Frederick Street.

Last week it acquired the assets of Acton Tool and Die at RR4, Acton, including the equipment, the lease on the building and its two employees so that it could get into fabricating parts jobs which have previously been farmed out to tool and die shops elsewhere.

About 60 per cent of the work which has been done by other machine shops can be done on equipment acquired through this purchase.

Michael Worthington, Polypenco manager, says the company will gradually purchase additional equipment for installation at the tool and die shop until most of its needs are met.

Staff, now standing at 16, will also be increased as necessary.

"We use a variety of lathes this facility doesn't have," Mr. Worthington said. "As our expertise and our equipment increase we should be able to do about 90 per cent of our own work which we are now contracting out."

The business has grown about 17 per cent annually over the past four to five years, he said.

Acquiring their own fabricating equipment will give them direct control over production schedules. Ensuring their products are available on schedule can sometimes be a more important factor in their competitiveness than price, he added.

High interest rates are forcing the companies who use their parts to reduce their inventory to zero. Retailers are also reducing inventories as are manufacturers.

In the end when a breakdown occurs the customer is often more concerned to get his machines into production again quickly than to quibble over a few dollars difference in the price of a part.



Constable shares credit

Cunningham nominated for medal

Halton Regional Police Constable Bill Cunningham has been nominated for the Ontario Medal for Police Bravery for his part in rescuing an unconscious woman from a smoke-filled room in the McGibbon Hotel Nov. 6.

Constable Cunningham, 33, and David Crichton, a resident of the hotel, together located the source of smoke in the hotel. They broke into the room and dragged the sole occupant, Margaret Harrington, 33, to safety. Constable Cunningham continued to search for other victims until he was himself overcome by smoke. He was taken to Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital to be treated for smoke inhalation.

The fire, believed caused by careless smoking, was burning in a mattress. Damage in the fire was estimated at \$200. Mrs. Harrington suffered burns to her arms, chest and back.

"The hero of the whole thing, and he should get credit for it, is Mr. Crichton," Constable Cunningham said. Staff Sergeant Paul Chapman has recommended Mr. Crichton for a civilian award. Those involved also cite the contribution of Colin Gibson, another hotel resident and former Herald sports editor, who helped extinguish the fire.

Constable Cunningham said the smoke in the room was very thick, so thick, in fact, that when Mr. Crichton moved into the room, the constable lost sight of him.

"It's not a matter of what they did so much as the manner in which they did it, the professional manner in which Constable Cunningham acted, which is a credit to him," Staff Sergeant Chapman said.

"Without their fast action, there is no doubt the lady would have been dead," Inspector Matt MacPherson, District 1 commander, said. "Minutes count in that kind of situation, and without quick action, the consequences would have been most grave. Their actions saved the lady's life."