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Friday, November 20, 1981



THIS WEEK IN GUIDING

Proudly wearing their new scarves and gold elf pins, seven new Brownies smile by a toast. Sara Harley, Denise Hannah, Clady Rouillard, Angie Akers, Heather Emson, Emily Hamilton and Renee Fishbein, all six-year-olds, have graduated from being "teenies" to full-fledged Brownies.

(Herald photo by Anl Federian)



"We're the Brownies, here's our aim, lend a hand and play our game," chanted seven new members of the first Georgetown pack of Brownies Tuesday evening. Forming a Brownie ring is a part of their ritual, opening their meetings.



Taking part in a ritual that is the first step in becoming "Brownies", which are really elves, Amanda Tull, Andrea Gaul and Lisa Fitzpatrick get their official scarves tied by Diane Crawford, district commissioner for Georgetown West. Leanne Henschwood and Amy Kerlake also enrolled Monday night into the Brownies.

Venditti resigns town post after eight years

Planning director Guelph-bound

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

After eight and a half years as Halton Hills' first planning director, Mario Venditti has stepped down from the post to become Guelph's new director of planning and development.

"Halton Hills' loss is Guelph's gain," planning board chairman Mike Armstrong told town council Tuesday night as he regretfully accepted Mr. Venditti's resignation and wished him well in his new job. "People of Mario's abilities are not easy to come by."

Mr. Venditti, 34, joined Georgetown's municipal staff in March, 1973, as planning chief and, following the formation of Halton Hills in 1974, became planning director, immediately in charge of building an entire planning department for the fledgling municipality. Council acknowledged that he leaves behind an admirable list of achievements which have contributed to the town's growth.

"Mario has always performed to the full level of his abilities," Mayor Pete Pomeroy said. "The city of Guelph will be that much better having him on its staff."

Guelph city clerk Gord Hall told The Herald Thursday that there are several pressing issues which Mr. Venditti will

face when he officially assumes the city post Dec. 14. Guelph's 25 member planning department is currently working on an extensive downtown redevelopment program, including a large Eaton Centre proposal.

The city is also involved with Wellington County planning policies, especially as they affect the city's fringes, Mr. Hall said, and Guelph is hoping for additional industrial expansion.

Under Mr. Venditti's administration, the Halton Hills planning department organized the town's first official plan, a difficult task which is still continuing and involves amalgamating Acton, Esquesing and Georgetown official plans into one document.

This year, the town has also conducted studies regarding the future development of Georgetown's Highway 7 corridor and the Acton and Georgetown Business Improvement Areas, both of which Mr. Venditti hopes will be used as planning guidelines. He has also been part of the Urban Area Review steering committees for Acton and Georgetown — other important studies carried out in co-operation with Halton region to determine exactly where boundaries should be drawn for the town's two major urban communities.

Coun. Pam Sheldon, who chairs the town's official plan task force, praised Mr. Venditti for his work on the body, which is now putting the finishing touches to the document, readying it for approval by the province's housing ministry.

Clerk-administrator Ken Richardson added that "his knowledge will be greatly missed."

During the next month Mr. Venditti said he hopes to complete more work on the Urban Area Studies and the official plan. He applauded the Pomeroy administration for taking a particularly "aggressive" approach to filling gaps in the town's planning policies.

"One of the things I've noticed," Mr. Venditti told The Herald, is that Halton Hills' municipal councils have been more progressive in nature. When they wanted studies, they got them."

A York University graduate who worked briefly with a Toronto development firm before joining Georgetown's municipal staff, Mr. Venditti says one of the most difficult tasks in his eight years here was organizing the planning department.

Georgetown generally relied on private consultants to handle planning-related problems, he recalled. Those early months after becoming planning director for Halton Hills were spent sifting through dozens of files, clarifying planning information and forming the basis for a new planning department. Meanwhile, he was working on his Masters thesis on intra-urban migration around Toronto.

For the time being he and his wife Jacqueline and their two children, Jennifer and Robert, will remain in Georgetown.

Although he and his planning department staff have been subjected to some pretty stiff questioning, particularly earlier this year when the province insisted that the town's official plan needed some clarification before it could be approved, Mr. Venditti assured The Herald that the move to Guelph is strictly professional.

"I've always felt that council has afforded (the planning department) the greatest respect," he said.

McDermid set to greet area protest buses

By JUDI McLEOD
Herald Special

Brampton Georgetown MP John McDermid will greet some 1,200 Peel region voters tomorrow (Saturday) in Ottawa as part of a nationwide protest against record-high interest rates.

An estimated 20,000 Ontario homeowners are expected to participate in the protest, organized by the Ontario Federation of Labor; most transported to Ottawa by specially chartered buses, the demonstrators could form Canada's largest ever mass protest. The Herald has received no reports of any Georgetown residents taking part.

Number 768 is the flagship of two buses leaving Shopper's World at 6 a.m. Saturday that will carry the only independent group in the country planning to attend the National Day of Protest on Parliament Hill.

About 260 buses from across the province — at least 100 from Metropolitan Toronto alone — are also ready to roll to Ottawa for the 50,000-strong protest.

In addition to the busloads from Ontario and Quebec, and the carpools that had to be arranged because of over-booked buses, thousands of protesters are due to arrive in Ottawa from the west and east coast via air and rail.

Although the Labor Council of Brampton-Mississauga paid for the two buses carrying the local homeowner group, the council respects the group's wish to be allowed to attend the protest as independent Brampton homeowners.

The two independent buses will bear window signs reading, "Brampton homeowners are hurting" and "Brampton will fight back!"

Dozens of different themes have been printed on about 100 placards. Just ask 17-year-old Scott Grant and his Mom, Marlene, a local homeowner protest leader, who have been working on signs for the past three weeks.

TALKIN PROUD
"But on every second sign is a word we're all proud of — Brampton," Scott said.
Early Saturday morning, the 100 homeowners will be seen off by Mayor Jim Archdekin and Ald. Eric Carter. On arrival in Ottawa, they will be met by MP McDermid, who in September presented a 7,000-name petition on their behalf in the House of Commons.
Elsewhere on the local front,

250 people of Local 1967 of the United Auto Workers (UAW) from McDermid Douglas, 100 people from UAW local 673 office workers from both McDermid Douglas and deHavilland, 100 workers from Northern Telecom, eight busloads of Admiral workers, and about 60 employees from Ford also plan to attend the protest under the OFL banner.



Town planning director Mario Venditti will end eight years of service to local citizens when he leaves the position next month to begin directing Guelph's planning and development. Hired by the former town of Georgetown, Mr. Venditti became Halton Hills' first planning director when the new town was incorporated in 1974, and has since been instrumental in preparing the municipality's most important planning documents. Below, The Herald's 1973 report of Mr. Venditti's initial hiring.

Mario Pasquale Venditti, Secretary of a TriPLICATE

...the town of Georgetown... the province's housing ministry... the town's first official plan... the future development of Georgetown's Highway 7 corridor... the Acton and Georgetown Business Improvement Areas... the Urban Area Review steering committees... the National Day of Protest on Parliament Hill... the Ontario Federation of Labor... the UAW... the OFL banner...



Three times every year, Santa Claus visits Halton Hills. He'll be here for the Big One Dec. 25; he'll be here a week from tomorrow to say hello to his friends in Acton; and he'll be here tomorrow (Saturday) for the 51st annual Lions Club parade through Georgetown. Participants involved with the 29 different entries booked for the parade from Moore Park to the Georgetown Market Place are asked to start assembling at noon, and keep in mind there are refreshments planned for them at the Lions Hall behind Memorial Area following the parade. And if Santa isn't all "jollied out" by the lengthy journey down Guelph Street, he may have a few "Ho-ho-ho's" left over for you.

(Herald file photo)

First of three visits for Santa tomorrow

Deck old Georgetown with boughs of Holly, Santa's going to be marching through tomorrow beginning at 1:30 p.m. from Moore Park Plaza.

local youngsters about gift ideas.

All those participating in the parade are asked to start assembling at Moore Park at noon.

It's the 51st anniversary of the Lions Club Santa Claus Parade and enthusiasm for the annual event shows no signs of waning. Parade marshal Steve Harlow told The Herald Thursday that about 40 entries — floats, bands, majorettes and all the other kinds of paraphernalia which goes into making a parade — have been included on his list.

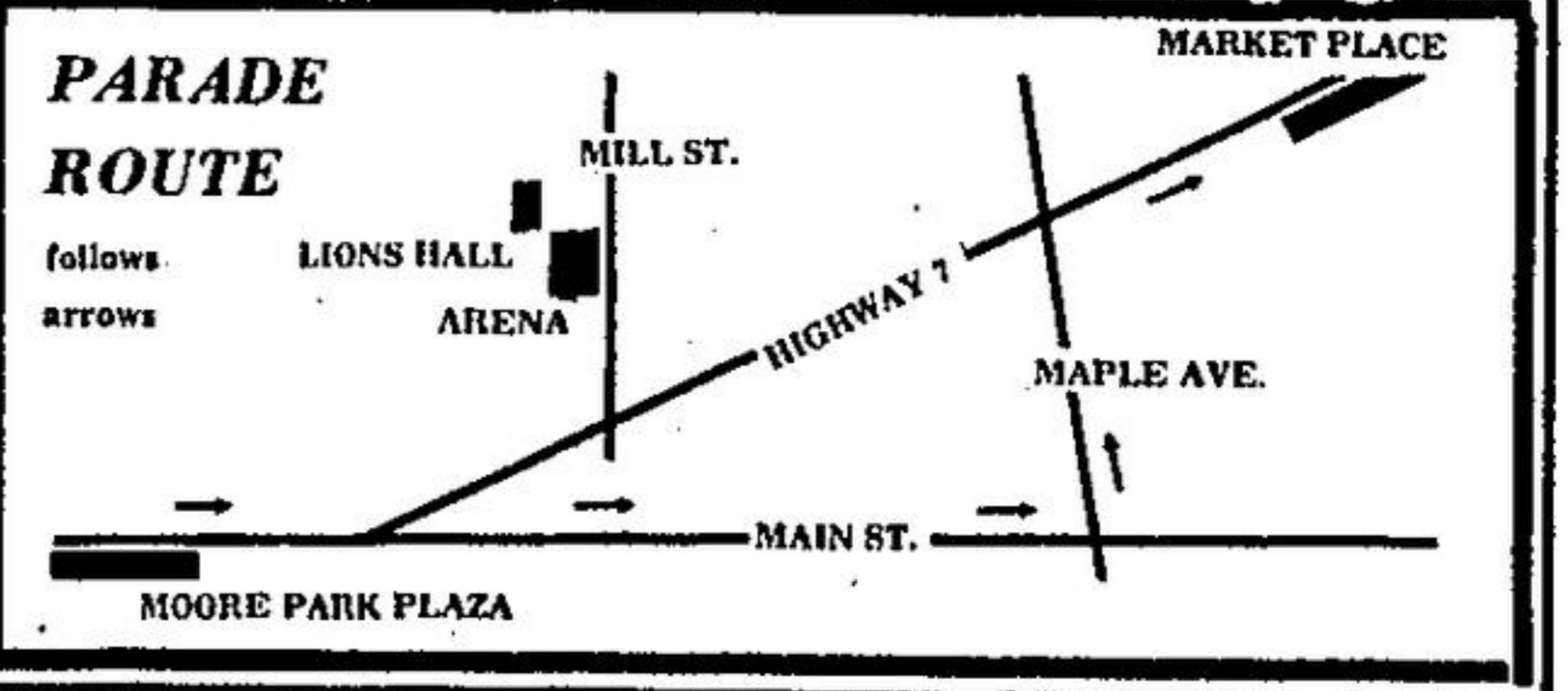
Expected to last about two hours, the parade will wind its way through Main Street after leaving Moore Park, turn left at Maple Avenue, finally heading on to the highway enroute to its Zellers destination in the Georgetown Market Place.

Of course there are clowns and lots of bands to ring in the season. With any luck, the weatherman will provide a sprinkling of snow for added festive flavor. After the parade, the Lions are holding a draw at the plaza, choosing winners for a hamper of groceries, a turkey or a basket of fruit.

Once again, Georgetown's Jim Young, who's been Santa's personal "aide de camp" during the jolly fellow's visits here for the last 22 years, is sure St. Nick will arrive on time and knows he's anxious to chat with

The 1981 parade sees the return of many favorite attractions like the Acton Citizens' Band, the Georgetown Girls' Pipeband and the fire truck entries. Keep your eye out for the Lions color party which will be near the front of the parade, Mayor Pete Pomeroy riding aboard an antique car and floats from many other organizations.

For parade participants and those feeling the cold edge of winter, the Lions and Lionesses will open up their hall on Mill Street (behind Memorial Area) just north of the Guelph Street intersection. Coffee, hot chocolate and other refreshments and sandwiches will be served following the parade. Ho-ho-ho, see you there!



Old Tyme breakfast Sunday

As the International Year of the Disabled draws to a close, the Georgetown Jaycettes will raise funds for Milton's E.C. Drury School for the Deaf this Sunday morning, and their plans should attract both the hearty and the hungry. Banjo-playing MPP Julian Reed and noted local pianist Iva Davidson will entertain early risers at the club's Old Tyme Country Buffet Breakfast Sunday morning from 8 to 10 at St. Alban's Church hall in Glen Williams. Helping the Jaycettes serve up tasty, old-fashioned treats in a congenial atmosphere will be Georgetown Chamber of Commerce president Doug Penrice, Mayor Pete Pomeroy (Mrs. Davidson's son-in-law) and the superintendent of Drury School.